



OIR IN BRIEF

The 43rd report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to defeat ISIS and train, advise, and assist local partners—including the Iraqi Security Forces, Peshmerga Forces, and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)—to improve regional stability. This report covers two quarters due to the 2025 federal government shutdown.

Syrian Government Seizure of SDF Territory Adds Uncertainty to OIR Mission

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- The Syrian government rapidly **captured** northeastern Syria and **clashed with retreating SDF** in a breakdown of negotiations.
- ISIS detainees escaped multiple detention facilities during chaotic transfer of control to government forces.
- The Iraqi government agreed to accept a **transfer of ISIS detainees**, and U.S. forces began movement of 7,000 detainees.
- The **SDF withdrew** to Kurdish strongholds as integration negotiations continued under a ceasefire.

Coalition Concludes Mission in Federal Iraq, Drawdown in Syria Conditions-Based

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- U.S. forces **departed Al Asad Air Base** and transferred Union III in Baghdad to NATO.
- CJTF-OIR **ended direct advisory support** to Iraqi forces and moved its headquarters to Kuwait and Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan Region.
- The DoD temporarily **paused** the retrograde in Syria due to **“fluid nature”** of conditions there.

U.S. Forces Launched Hawkeye Strike to Suppress ISIS After Insider Attack

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- Two U.S. Soldiers and a U.S. interpreter were **killed** in an **insider attack** by a rogue member of Syria's security forces.
- U.S. forces in Syria increased artillery, attack helicopters, and air strikes **to hit dozens of ISIS targets**.

Syrian Government Joins the D-ISIS Coalition

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- The Syrian government **committed to regional stability** and countering Iranian influence.
- President al-Shara'a became the **first Syrian president to visit the White House** in 80 years and met with President Trump.

Iraq Conducts Successful Parliamentary Elections

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- Iraq's **government** formation remains **stalled** after Nov. 11 elections.
- **Iran-aligned** Shia blocs proposed Nouri al-Maliki for prime minister despite Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani receiving a plurality of seats.

Iraq Continues to Repatriate Nationals from Syria at Record Pace

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- Iraqi returnees were transported to the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Center which was near **maximum capacity**.
- **More than 11,100 Iraqis** were **repatriated** during 2025.

United States Issues New Sanctions to Pressure Iran

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- New Treasury designations targeted Iran-aligned individuals and entities in Iraq for **smuggling Iranian oil** through Iraq.
- Sanctions also targeted Iraqi individuals supporting Iran's **Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps** and **terrorist activities** in the region.

Lead IG Oversight

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The Lead IG and partner agencies issued three **oversight reports** related to OIR, including two classified audits.

- A U.S. Army audit could not verify the accuracy of payments; found payments certified without validating underlying costs.