



OIR IN BRIEF

The 17th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to defeat ISIS and train, advise and assist local partners to improve regional stability

ISIS Loses Last Parts of Territory Caliphate

pp. 19-22

- On March 23, the U.S.-backed SDF liberated **Baghuz**, the **final village** held by ISIS.
- The liberation took several **weeks longer than anticipated** due to efforts to avoid civilian casualties in the midst of intense fighting.
- Estimates of **fighters and family members** in Baghuz were "**vastly underestimated**," resulting in a "surprisingly" large number of detainees.

Drawdown of U.S. Forces Proceeds Despite Uncertainty

pp. 16-19

- DoD officials said that the "surprise" December **withdrawal** announcement "**caused concern** for allies" and "was likely seen as an opportunity" for adversaries.
- Despite the reduction in personnel, U.S. forces will **maintain** the "**same core capabilities**" in Syria.

Syria Stabilization Efforts Impacted by U.S. Troop Drawdown

pp. 34-42

- USAID and DoS **evacuated their staff in Syria** for security reasons following the U.S. troop withdrawal announcement and oversaw stabilization efforts remotely.
- USAID partners in Syria worried about the withdrawal's impacts on **security, stability, and relationships** with local organizations.
- USAID, DoD, and PRM participated in the third and **largest delivery of humanitarian aid** to the remote Rukban settlement in southern Syria.

ISF Training is "Reframed" to Prioritize Counter-ISIS Skills

pp. 48-51

- The Coalition shifted training to **focus** on specifically **counter-ISIS capabilities**, rather than "longer-term -institutional development."
- Training now emphasizes **addressing shortfalls** that can be corrected by **September 2020**.

ISIS in Iraq Focuses on Internal Reconstruction

pp. 44-47

- ISIS worked to reorganize its **command and control** functions, **financial networks**, and **media** nodes.
- The group is **regenerating** its force structure, logistics, and freedom of movement **more quickly in Iraq than in Syria** due to greater **local support**.
- ISIS insurgent activity continued in Iraq this quarter, with at least **44 people kidnapped**.
- ISF operations "**marginally diminished**" ISIS's **ability to operate** but the group still **evades** security forces in **rural and mountainous areas**.

Weak Economy and Lack of Services Raises Risk of Unrest in Iraq

pp. 54-60

- Iraq's failure to address the **lack of basic services**, including electricity and water, may lead to **political unrest**, especially in the province of **Basrah**.
- Iraq is unlikely to be **able to create** the **1 million new jobs** its economy needs without significant **government action**.
- **Demand for electricity** in the **summer** is projected to **outstrip supply**, limiting hours when electricity is available during the hottest months.
- **Iraq's economic interdependence on Iran** led the **United States** to extend **sanctions waivers** for Iraq to continue trade with Iran.

Oversight and Investigations

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- Lead IG agencies and partners **completed 11 reports**, including an evaluation of equipment provided to the Iraqi Border Guards and an audit of humanitarian aid for IDPs in Iraq.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in **1 contract termination**, due to the unauthorized transshipment of vehicles through Iraq, and **2 debarments**.
- Lead IG agencies and partners have **39 ongoing** and **17 planned** oversight projects and **116 ongoing investigations** as of the end of the quarter.