# OES/OFS IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) and Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan, including the U.S. efforts to begin the new “over-the-horizon” counterterrorism activities under OES and end the 5-year OFS mission.

## DoD Has Not Conducted Any Strikes in Afghanistan Since the Withdrawal

The DoD plans to monitor and strike terrorist targets in Afghanistan from over-the-horizon, but this strategy faces several challenges:

- Lack of physical presence in Afghanistan or neighboring countries.
- Reliance upon neighboring states for overflight permission.
- Long distances that aircraft must fly to reach targets limits their operational time.
- Loss of human intelligence assets in Afghanistan.

## ISIS-K Remains the Top Terrorist Threat in Afghanistan

This quarter, ISIS-K:

- Had approximately 2,000 members in Afghanistan.
- Claimed 41 attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Focused attacks on the Taliban, religious minorities, and economic infrastructure.
- Aimed to undermine Taliban rule through attacks and propaganda.
- Conducted a suicide bombing that killed at least 63 and wounded 200 at a Shia mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan.

## 59% of Afghans Require Critical Humanitarian Assistance

- Food shortages caused 7 in 10 Afghan families to adversely alter their diets.
- Multiple disease outbreaks, including COVID-19, continued to strain the Afghan healthcare system.
- Taliban bureaucratic constraints and other interference, as well as security threats, crime, and logistical issues, hindered humanitarian operations.
- The U.S. remains the largest donor of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, providing more than $720 million since August 2021.

## No Sovereign State Recognized the Taliban, but Some Engaged Diplomatically

- The Taliban seek international recognition.
- Russia, China, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan accepted Taliban-appointed “diplomats.”
- The U.S. urged other countries not to normalize relations with the Taliban until it shows progress on human rights and counterterrorism.

## DoD No Longer Hosting Afghan Evacuees on Domestic Military Bases

- All Afghans previously housed on bases have been resettled in communities across the U.S.
- Approximately 2,800 Afghans remained at facilities in the UAE and Qatar.

## DoD Continues to Account for Materiel Left in Afghanistan

- DoD estimated that it left $7.1 billion of U.S.-funded weapons and equipment in Afghanistan.
- This equipment had been provided to the former Afghan military and was less sophisticated than that used by U.S. troops.
- Departing U.S. forces destroyed many major items, but the Taliban acquired some functional vehicles, including aircraft.

## Oversight and Investigations

- DoD OIG issued 9 management advisories concerning inadequate security, screening, and medical care for Afghan evacuees.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in the arrest of a U.S. Navy Reservist for fraud related to the DoS Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program.
- The IG community continued its work on 17 projects related to the Afghanistan withdrawal, evacuation, and resettlement efforts.