



OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan this quarter, including the status of efforts to combat terrorist organizations, such as ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) and al-Qaeda, as well as U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

Taliban Counterterrorism Efforts Continue to Achieve Some Success Against ISIS-K

pp. 7–8, 10

- ISIS-K remains the **primary terrorist threat** in Afghanistan and maintains the ability to conduct high-profile attacks.
- ISIS-K attacks **targeted Taliban** personnel and members of the **Shia minority**.
- The Taliban **eliminated** several key **ISIS-K leaders**.
- ISIS-K **recruitment** has been **unsuccessful**, likely due to Taliban counterterrorism pressure.

Tehreek-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) Attacks on Pakistani Security Targets Increase

pp. 9–10

- The TTP claimed **267 attacks** against Pakistani security targets from September through November, compared to 141 attacks during the same period in 2022.
- A TTP affiliate claimed responsibility for an attack that **killed 23 Pakistani soldiers**.
- Pakistan's army chief **requested U.S. assistance** and bilateral cooperation in combatting the TTP.

Pakistani Government Plans to Deport 1.7 Million Undocumented Afghans

pp. 11–12

- The move was in response to the Taliban's inability or unwillingness to **control the TTP's activity** on its territory.
- The influx of returning Afghan refugees has likely **diverted some Taliban resources** from security to humanitarian needs.
- State funded **humanitarian response efforts** for Afghan returnees.

USAID Responds to Earthquakes in Herat

p. 25

- The four 6.3-magnitude earthquakes left at least **1,480 dead, 1,950 injured, and 131,000 displaced** from their homes.
- USAID funded the provision of **assistance**, including health services, emergency shelter, water, sanitation, and food for **earthquake victims**.

U.S. Maintains Diplomatic, Economic Pressure on Taliban

pp. 14–18

- The U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan met with a Taliban official and pressed for the release of **American detainees**.
- The U.S. announced **additional sanctions** on Taliban leaders for **human rights abuses**.
- The U.S. supported the renewal of the UN sanctions monitoring team mandate along with **asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes**.
- State updated its Integrated Country Strategy for Afghanistan to align with the U.S. National Security Strategy.

U.S. Efforts to Relocate Afghan Allies Continued

pp. 14–18

- The number of Afghans who received **Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)** to travel to the United States **increased** during the quarter.
- State issued **7,667 SIVs** this quarter compared to 4,144 the previous quarter.
- State **suspended relocation** of Afghans to **Pakistan** for visa processing following the Pakistani government's large-scale deportations of Afghans.

Oversight and Investigations

pp. 34–37, 40–46

- SIGAR completed one report related to the Taliban's restrictions on employment and education for **women and girls**.
- The Lead IG and partner agencies continued **31 ongoing and planned projects** related to OES.
- Lead IG investigators and partners **closed 2 investigations** and coordinated on **34 open investigations**.
- Ongoing investigations address allegations of procurement fraud, corruption, theft, computer intrusions, and human trafficking.
- Lead IG investigations resulted in **two debarments** related to a false claims allegations.