



# 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 this quarter, including the U.S. efforts to conduct “over-the-horizon” counterterrorism activities under OES and to close out the 5-year OFS mission.

## DoD Conducts No Counterterror Strikes During the Quarter

pp. 8–9

- After the quarter ended, a U.S. airstrike **killed Ayman al-Zawahiri**, the leader of al-Qaeda, in Kabul on July 31.
- General Mark Milley said the DoD continues to conduct **surveillance** of potential **terrorist targets** in Afghanistan.
- The DIA reported no change to its assessment of the number of **terrorist fighters** in Afghanistan:
  - ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K): **2,000**
  - Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent: **200**
  - Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan: **4,000**

## ISIS-K Violence in Afghanistan Increases

pp. 9–12

- ISIS-K claimed **80 attacks** during the quarter, a **90% increase** from the previous quarter.
- Many of these attacks targeted **Shia minority** populations, including the **bombing of a mosque** in Mazar-e-Sharif that killed 31 and wounded 60.
- ISIS-K also conducted cross-border attacks on security forces in **Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan**.
- ISIS-K aims to **undermine Taliban** rule through destabilizing acts of violence.

## DoD Estimates \$7.1 Billion in U.S.-Funded Equipment Was Left in Afghanistan

pp. 33–34

- U.S. military **removed or destroyed** nearly all weapons and equipment **used by U.S. troops** in Afghanistan prior to withdrawal.
- The **Taliban seized** items from the former Afghan military including:
  - **\$923.3 million in aircraft**
  - **\$4.1 billion in ground vehicles**
  - **\$511.8 million in weapons**
- The operational state of Afghan military vehicles was unknown and **likely to deteriorate** without U.S. contractor maintenance.

## No Sovereign State Recognizes the Taliban but Many Engage Diplomatically

pp. 19–20, 25–27

- U.S. officials briefly **halted** high-level engagements with the Taliban following the decree **banning girls** from attending secondary school.
- U.S.-Taliban **dialogue resumed** in June with discussions on **women's rights, terrorism, the economy, and the recent earthquake**.
- **China, Russia, and Iran** permitted Taliban representatives to operate the **Afghan embassies** in their respective capitals, while withholding formal recognition.

## 60% of Afghans Require Humanitarian Assistance

pp. 35–42

- Continued economic and governance crisis has limited access to **food, healthcare, and education**, while household **debt** increased.
- On June 22, a magnitude **5.9 earthquake** killed approximately 770 people and injured 1,500, exacerbating existing needs for assistance.
- The **Taliban hindered** humanitarian operations, **interfering** with the designation of aid beneficiaries and imposing strict requirements on **female aid workers**.

## DHS and DoS Facilitate Afghans' Pathway to Enter the U.S.

p. 21

- The DoS issued **4,362 Special Immigrant Visas** during the quarter, nearly **4 times** the number issued the previous quarter.
- DHS and DoS announced new **exemptions** to certain **inadmissibility** factors for legal entry to the United States for fully-vetted Afghans.

## Oversight and Investigations

pp. 40–41, 48–49

- DoD OIG issued a management advisory on the DoD's use of the **Civil Reserve Air Fleet** during the **evacuation** from Afghanistan.
- Lead IG and partner agencies initiated **7** new investigations and coordinated on **50** open investigations related to **fraud, corruption, theft, and other offenses**.