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SECURITY

KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS

President Ashraf Ghani announced in February that the Afghan government is willing to hold peace talks with the Taliban without preconditions if the Taliban would stop committing acts of terror and accept the Afghan constitution.⁸¹ Following this development, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis made a surprise visit to Kabul in mid-March and said “We do look toward a victory in Afghanistan. . . . Not a military victory—the victory will be a political reconciliation.” Secretary Mattis explained that the goal of the United States is to strengthen the Afghan security forces enough to convince the insurgents that they cannot win on the battlefield, driving them to choose reconciliation.⁸² As of the publication of this report, the Taliban had not responded to President Ghani’s move toward reconciliation.⁸³

Ghani’s offer came during a period characterized by fewer security incidents across the country, but also stalemated control of population, districts, and land area. Meanwhile, the overall level of civilian casualties remained unchanged, but the number of high-casualty events in urban areas increased. An unusually intense period of violence in Kabul over the winter months reflected a shift in the insurgents’ tactics to launching successive attacks on civilians in the capital due to increased pressure from the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) in the provinces.⁸⁴

One such attack occurred on January 27 when the Taliban detonated a massive car bomb near the Ministry of Interior headquarters in Kabul that killed at least 103 people and injured 235 others.⁸⁵ The attack was similar to a car-bomb attack in May 2017 that killed over 150 people, the deadliest since the beginning of the Afghan war in 2001.⁸⁶ Earlier in January, several Taliban insurgents dressed as Afghan soldiers attacked Westerners at the Intercontinental Hotel for 12 hours, killing 22 people and taking several guests hostage before the militants were killed by Afghan security personnel.⁸⁷

Similarly, Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan, conducted a spate of deadly attacks in Kabul this quarter after the ANDSF continued to confront them in their strongholds in northern and eastern Afghanistan. IS-K claimed responsibility for an attack in January on the Kabul Military Academy that killed 11 Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel. As a result of the attack, two ANA generals were dismissed and



Defense Secretary James Mattis (left), meets with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani during a visit to Kabul on March 13, 2018. (DOD photo by Army Sergeant Amber Smith)

“In looking at South Asia and Afghanistan, we assess the overall security picture will modestly deteriorate in the coming year and Kabul will continue to bear the brunt of the Taliban-led insurgency. Afghan National Security Forces face unsteady performance, but with Coalition support, probably will maintain control of most major population centers.”

—Dan Coats,
Director of National Intelligence

Source: Testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, “Worldwide Threats,” 3/6/2018.

charged with negligence; in addition, President Ghani ordered the mandatory retirement of 164 generals in February as a further effort to reform the ANDSF and to improve security.⁸⁸ IS-K also continued their sectarian campaign targeting Afghanistan’s minority Shi’a community. On April 22, an IS-K suicide bomber attacked a voter-registration center in Dashte Barchi, an area of Kabul where many Shi’a Afghans live.⁸⁹ This followed another IS-K suicide attack on crowds gathered in Kabul to celebrate the Persian New Year in late March; that attack killed 31 people.⁹⁰

While IS-K has escalated its operations on Kabul, they suffered significant losses over the last three months. On April 5, U.S. Special Operations Forces and the Afghan Special Security Forces (ASSF) conducted a joint operation that killed IS-K’s commander in northern Afghanistan, Qari Hikmatullah. He had been the main facilitator moving IS-K fighters into the area from Central Asian states. Earlier, on March 16, an American air strike killed two IS-K platoon commanders, Omair and Abu Samaya, while they met in Sar-e Pul, and on January 28, Afghan forces captured their predecessor, Khitab Aka, in Jowzjan.⁹¹

Responding to the increasing insecurity in Kabul, General John Nicholson, commander of United States Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) and NATO’s Resolute Support (RS) mission, said security in Kabul is his primary focus.⁹² Meanwhile, the United States increased its military effort in Afghanistan. This quarter, more U.S. warplanes shifted from Iraq and Syria to Afghanistan and the first U.S. Army Security Force Assistance Brigade, designed to increase the NATO capacity to train and advise the Afghan forces, arrived in the country. Major General James Hecker, leading



A U.S. Air Force F-16C performs aerial patrol over an Afghan district in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel on March 11, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sergeant Gregory Brook).

the U.S. and NATO air commands in Afghanistan, said in February that recent successes in Iraq and Syria have resulted in U.S. Central Command designating Afghanistan as its area of “main effort.” According to Major General Hecker, the main benefit of this designation is that Coalition forces in Afghanistan will receive more support from U.S. intelligence agencies, which could improve the ability of U.S. and Afghan air forces to strike Taliban elements.⁹³

Accordingly, early 2018 has already seen an uptick in the number of U.S. air strikes conducted in Afghanistan. According to the U.S. Air Force’s Central Command Combined Air Operations Center, the United States dropped 378 munitions in January, 469 in February, and 339 in March 2018 during 215 missions. The total of 1,186 munitions dropped in the first quarter of 2018 is the highest number recorded for this period since reporting began in 2013, and is over two and a half times the amount dropped in the first quarter of 2017.⁹⁴

SIGAR’s Quarterly Report Team Meets with RS, USFOR-A, and CSTC-A Officials in Afghanistan

SIGAR sent a team from its Research and Analysis Directorate to Afghanistan in early March to meet with key RS, USFOR-A, and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A) officials, including General Nicholson, to discuss SIGAR’s persistent concerns surrounding the increased classification of ANDSF data for the prior two quarters (October 2017 and January 2018). The team also sought to better understand the process those entities use in responding to SIGAR’s data call for the quarterly report, and to reduce any undue burden on them.

With regard to the classification of data USFOR-A provides to SIGAR, according to USFOR-A, much of this data was classified or restricted from public release at the request of the Afghan government. USFOR-A said that the issue began with a request from President Ghani to General Nicholson in October to classify ANDSF casualty data. Then in December 2017, Afghanistan’s National Security Advisor (NSA) Hanif Atmar communicated to USFOR-A that the Afghan government considered classified all data that fell under seven broad topical areas: command-and-control information, personnel staffing, training, casualty data, operational readiness, equipping, and resourcing and sustainability. Because Afghanistan is a sovereign nation, USFOR-A officials said they had to respect the Afghan request and classify the data accordingly.⁹⁵

However, General Nicholson began a process in January 2018 to attempt to negotiate with the Afghan government for the public release of some of this data. USFOR-A undertook a review of 29 topical areas in the data typically provided to SIGAR that could be impacted by NSA Atmar’s December 2017 letter so that it could show the Afghans how the data would be treated under U.S. and RS classification guidelines. USFOR-A determined from its

review that 11 of these areas would be classified or restricted under the RS and U.S. classification guides. USFOR-A suggested that data concerning the remaining topical areas should be released publicly, as it would under U.S. and RS classification guidelines. SIGAR was informed that General Nicholson made these recommendations to NSA Atmar in a March 5, 2018, letter. USFOR-A told SIGAR that they also plan to meet with NSA Atmar soon to discuss the letter and the broader issue.⁹⁶ SIGAR had not been informed of a response by NSA Atmar as this report went to press.

As detailed in the following section, SIGAR's engagement with USFOR-A and USFOR-A's classification review of the data resulted in less information being classified or restricted this quarter than in the preceding two quarters. Data that remains classified or restricted from public release is either treated as such in accordance with U.S. or RS classification guidelines or at the request of the Afghan government.⁹⁷

ANDSF Data Classified or Not Publicly Releasable

This quarter, USFOR-A declassified or allowed the public release of several types of data related to the reconstruction of the Afghan security forces. While USFOR-A's action was helpful, it still entailed less detailed responses than SIGAR received previously in some areas. The data declassified or cleared for public release include:

- Authorized (goal) strength for the ANDSF, total and by force element
- Top-line (total for each force element, not lower level breakdown) assigned (actual) strength of the ANDSF, ANA, and Afghan National Police (ANP)
- Complete district, population, and land-area control data
- Quarterly trend in attrition for the ANA and ANP

USFOR-A continued to classify or newly classified the following data:

- ANDSF casualties, by force element and total
- Corps- and zone-level ANA and ANP, Afghan Air Force (AAF), SMW, and ANDSF medical personnel assigned (actual) strength (ALP and ANDSF female personnel were exempted and are reported)
- Exact ANA and ANP attrition figures
- Detailed performance assessments for the ANA, ANP, Ministry of Defense (MOD), and Ministry of Interior (MOI)
- Information about the operational readiness of ANA and ANP equipment
- Information about USFOR-A's new air campaign under the South Asia Strategy, including the number of counternarcotics-related strikes conducted by USFOR-A since the beginning of the campaign, the number of drug labs destroyed, the effectiveness of those air strikes, the number of targets associated with Taliban financing, and the financial assessment of revenue denied to the insurgency as a result of the air strikes
- Detailed information about the new ANA Territorial Force (ANATF)

USFOR-A determined the following data was unclassified but not publicly releasable:

- ALP attrition and casualties
- Detailed information about ANDSF progress on security benchmarks for the Afghanistan Compact
- Reporting on anticorruption efforts from the Ministry of Interior (MOI)
- Information about the Special Mission Wing (SMW), including the number and type of airframes in the SMW inventory, the number of pilots and aircrew, the percent-breakdown of counternarcotics and counterterrorism missions flown, and the operational readiness (and associated benchmarks) of SMW airframes

For a full list of the questions for which USFOR-A provided classified or unclassified but not publicly releasable responses, see Appendix E of this report.

United Nations Security Reporting

Record High Security Incidents in 2017

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) reported in late February that the security situation in Afghanistan remained highly unstable as conflict between the government and insurgents continued throughout the country and high-profile attacks in urban centers increased. The UN reported 23,744 **security incidents** during 2017, the most ever recorded, but only a negligible increase from 2016. Armed clashes continued to cause the most security incidents (63% of incidents), roughly on par with 2016, followed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and air strikes. The UN said that the 950 air strikes recorded in 2017 represented a nearly 68% increase compared with the same period in 2016, though the U.S. Air Force's figure (4,361 strikes during 1,248 missions) is significantly higher.⁹⁸ Notably, suicide attacks increased by 50%, and targeted killings and abductions increased by 6% compared with 2016. The eastern and southern regions of Afghanistan continued to experience the highest number of security incidents in 2017, comprising 55% of the total.⁹⁹ USFOR-A commented that the uptick in security incidents in 2017 was partially the result of increased military and police activity compared to 2016.¹⁰⁰

Security incidents: reported incidents that include armed clashes, improvised explosive devices, targeted killings, abductions, suicide attacks, criminal acts, and intimidation.

Source: SIGAR, analysis of the *Report of the Secretary-General, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, 12/9/2014.

Decrease in Security Incidents in Early 2018

From December 15, 2017, to February 15, 2018, the UN recorded 3,521 security incidents, a 6% decrease compared to the same period last year. As reflected in Figure 3.26 on the next page, this is an average of 55.9 incidents per day, a nearly three incident-per-day decrease compared to the same period last year (58.6), but nearly four incidents per day higher than the same period two years ago (52.1). This quarter's figure remains considerably lower than the daily average of 64.1 incidents over the last three years.¹⁰¹

FIGURE 3.26

AVERAGE DAILY SECURITY INCIDENTS BY UN REPORTING PERIOD, SINCE 2014



Note: The gaps in some reporting dates are due to lack of UN reporting during those periods.

Source: UN, *The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, reports of the Secretary-General, 2/27/2015, p. 4; 6/10/2015, p. 4; 9/1/2015, p. 4; 12/10/2015, p. 5; 3/7/2016, p. 6; 6/10/2016, p. 4; 9/7/2016, p. 5; 12/13/2016, p. 4; 3/3/2017, p. 4; 6/15/2017, p. 4; 9/15/2017, p. 4; 12/15/2017, p. 5; 2/27/2018, p. 5; SIGAR, analysis of UN-provided data, 4/2018.

Complex Attack: A complex attack includes the following elements: two or more attackers, two or more types of weapons with one of the weapons being a suicide improvised-explosive device (IED), i.e. body-borne IED or vehicle-borne IED.

Source: UNAMA, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Annual Report*, 2/2018, p. 1.

The UN noted the spike in high-casualty attacks in urban areas over the reporting period, in particular two high-profile **complex attacks** and a large vehicle bombing in Kabul. For more information on high-profile attacks, see pages 77–78. Despite the uptick in violence in the cities, the winter season saw a decline in the number of direct Taliban attacks throughout the country, with the Taliban failing to seize any provincial capitals or district centers during the reporting period. Afghan and international officials attributed this to the intensified air-strike campaign by Coalition and Afghan forces and more night raids by Afghan special forces.¹⁰²

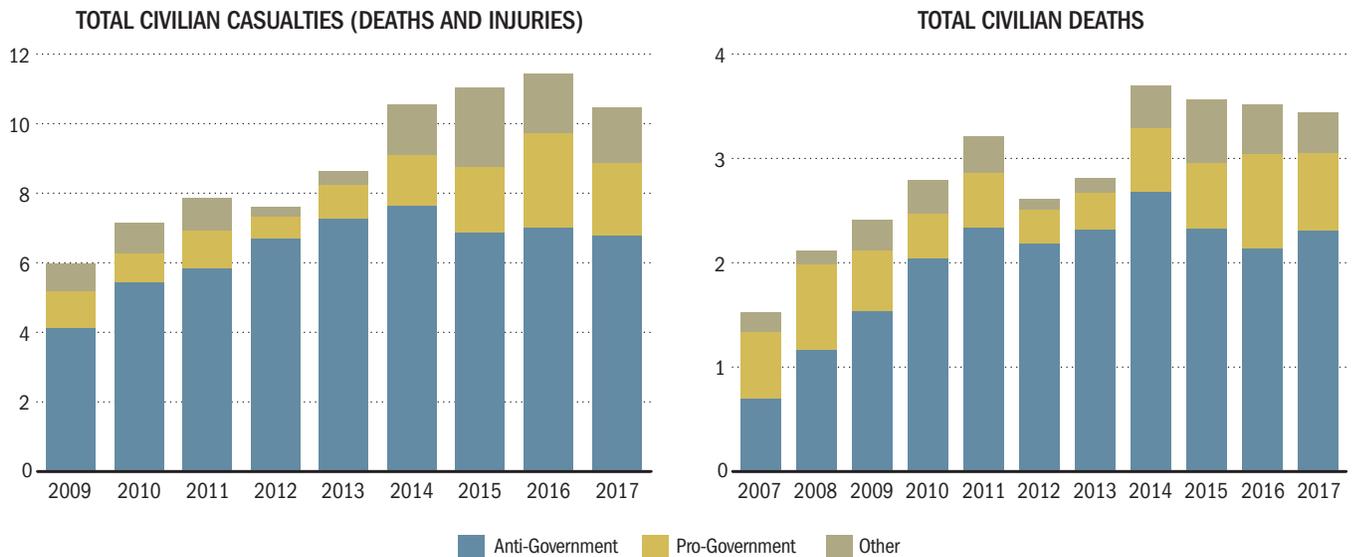
Still, the insurgency continued to place pressure on Afghan forces, with coordinated attacks against ANDSF checkpoints in Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Kunduz, Ghazni, and Farah Provinces. These attacks did not result in significant territorial gains for the insurgency, but inflicted casualties on the ANDSF and allowed insurgents to capture their weaponry and logistical supplies. As was the case throughout 2017, the Taliban continued to control some of Afghanistan’s more remote territories.¹⁰³

Civilian Casualties in 2017

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented 10,453 civilian casualties from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, an overall decrease of 9% compared to 2016 and the first year-on-year decrease since 2012. The casualties included 3,438 deaths

FIGURE 3.27

TOTAL CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND DEATHS BY RESPONSIBLE PARTY (THOUSANDS)



Note: "Other" encompasses all casualties for which pro- and anti-government elements were not solely responsible, such as casualties resulting from crossfire or unexploded ordnance. The "Total Civilian Deaths" figure on the right appears on page 5 of UNAMA's report.

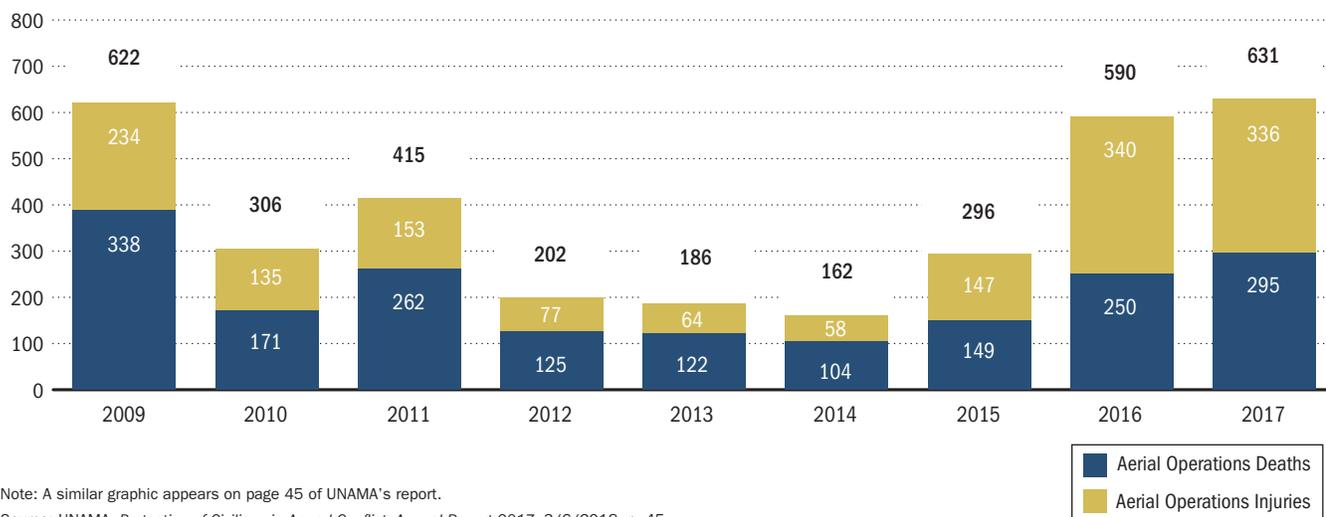
Source: UNAMA, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Annual Report 2017*, 3/6/2018, i, pp. 1, 4, 5, 27, 43, 45.

(a 2% decrease since 2016) and 7,015 injuries (an 11% decrease).¹⁰⁴ Men were the majority of civilian casualties (58%), followed by children (30%), and women (12%).¹⁰⁵ UNAMA attributed most of the 9% decrease in civilian casualties to less harm caused by ground fighting between pro- and anti-government forces—particularly less mortar use—although ground engagements still caused the majority of civilian casualties (33%). Civilian casualties from suicide and complex attacks continued to rise, causing 22% of all civilian casualties in 2017. UNAMA also recorded 38 sectarian attacks in 2017, a three-fold increase compared to 2016. Most of these were executed by IS-K against Shi'a Muslims.¹⁰⁶

UNAMA attributed the majority of civilian casualties in 2017 (65%) to anti-government groups which included civilian casualties caused by the Taliban (42%), IS-K (10%), and unspecified anti-government groups (13%). An additional 20% of casualties were attributed to pro-government groups, which included civilian casualties caused by the ANDSF (16%), international military forces (2%), and unspecified pro-government groups (1%).¹⁰⁷ As seen in Figure 3.27. UNAMA attributed 6,768 civilian casualties (2,303 deaths) to anti-government forces and 2,108 civilian casualties (745 deaths) to pro-government forces.¹⁰⁸

FIGURE 3.28

AERIAL OPERATIONS CIVILIAN CASUALTIES



Note: A similar graphic appears on page 45 of UNAMA's report.

Source: UNAMA, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: Annual Report 2017*, 3/6/2018, p. 45.

UNAMA Collection Methodology

According to UNAMA, data on civilian casualties are collected through “direct site visits, physical examination of items and evidence gathered at the scene of incidents, visits to hospital and medical facilities, still and video images,” reports by UN entities, and primary, secondary, and third-party accounts. Information is obtained directly from primary accounts where possible. Civilians whose noncombatant status is under “significant doubt,” based on international humanitarian law, are not included in the figures. Ground engagement casualties which cannot be definitively attributed to either side, such as those incurred during crossfire, are jointly attributed to both parties. UNAMA includes an “other” category to distinguish between these jointly-attributed casualties and those caused by other events, such as unexploded ordnance or cross-border shelling by Pakistani forces. UNAMA's methodology has remained largely unchanged since 2008.

Civilians living in Kabul, Helmand, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Faryab, Uruzgan, Herat, Paktiya, and Kunduz Provinces suffered the heaviest casualties in 2017. Of these nine provinces, six had an increase in civilian casualties compared to 2016, including Kabul (4% increase), Helmand (10%), Nangarhar (1%), Faryab (7%), Herat (37%), and Paktiya (154%). Kabul Province saw the majority of civilian casualties in 2017 with 1,831 casualties (479 deaths), nearly double the 991 civilian casualties in Helmand (386 deaths), the second deadliest province for civilians. Of the remaining provinces with the heaviest civilian casualties, three had a decrease in civilian casualties compared to 2016, including Kandahar (18% decrease), Uruzgan (26%), and Kunduz (41%). Of the remaining 25 Afghan provinces, the majority (18 provinces) saw a decrease in civilian casualties in 2017 compared to 2016.¹⁰⁹

As seen in Figure 3.28, UNAMA's records indicate that air operations in 2017 caused 631 civilian casualties including 295 deaths. These were all attributed to pro-government forces and were 30% of the total casualties attributed to pro-government forces. This was a 7% increase in civilian casualties caused by air operations over 2016 and the highest number of civilian casualties from air strikes in a single year since UNAMA began documenting them in 2009.¹¹⁰ In contrast, RS provided a much lower figure for civilian casualties caused by Coalition air strikes. According to RS there were only 51 such casualties in 2017, with 11 more occurring between January 1 and March 2, 2018.¹¹¹

Source: UNAMA, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 3/6/2018, i-ii; 1/2010, p. 35; 2/11/2009, pp. 4-5; and 8/2015, p. 4.

Civilian Casualties in Early 2018

UNAMA also reported a very slight increase in civilian casualties recorded from January 1 through March 31, 2018, compared to the same period in 2017. UNAMA remarked that civilian casualties remain at the high levels recorded during the first quarter of the last two years: there were 2,258 casualties (763 deaths and 1,495 injuries) in the first quarter of this year, 2,255 over the same period in 2017, and 2,268 in 2016. In a change from previous years, suicide IEDs and complex attacks were the leading cause of civilian casualties thus far in 2018 (33% of casualties), followed by ground engagements (30%) and non-suicide IEDs (12%).¹¹²

During the first quarter of 2018, UNAMA “note[d] with concern” that the number of civilian casualties caused by anti-government elements had increased significantly. Anti-government elements caused 67% of civilian casualties, a 6% increase from the same period last year. Of these, 50% were attributed to Taliban, 11% to IS-K, 4% to unidentified anti-government elements (including self-proclaimed IS-K), and 2% to fighting between anti-government groups. Anti-government attacks which deliberately targeted civilians accounted for 39% of all civilian casualties, more than double last year’s recorded amount.¹¹³

Pro-government forces caused 18% of all civilian casualties in the first three months of 2018, a 13% reduction when compared to the same period in 2017. Of these, 11% were attributed to the ANDSF, 2% to international military forces, 4% to undetermined pro-government forces, and 1% to pro-government armed groups. Also notable was that civilian casualties from ground engagements decreased by 15%, and child casualties (583, including 155 deaths and 428 injuries) decreased by 23% compared to last year.¹¹⁴

U.S. RECONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR SECURITY

As of March 31, 2018, the U.S. Congress had appropriated more than \$78.2 billion to support the ANDSF. This accounts for 62% of all U.S. reconstruction funding for Afghanistan since FY 2002.¹¹⁵ Most of this funding—\$72.8 billion—was appropriated for the Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF).¹¹⁶

In 2005, Congress established the ASFF to build, equip, train, and sustain the ANDSF, which comprises all forces under the MOD and MOI. Additionally, ASFF supports the Afghan Local Police (ALP), which falls under the authority of the MOI although it is not included in the 352,000 authorized ANDSF force level that other donor nations have agreed to fund. Most U.S.-provided funds were channeled through the ASFF and obligated by either CSTC-A or the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. According to DOD, the majority of ASFF funds are executed using DOD contracts to equip and sustain the ANDSF. The rest of the

RS Collection Methodology

According to DOD, the RS Civilian Casualty Management Team relies primarily upon operational reporting from RS’s Train, Advise, and Assist Commands (TAACs), other Coalition force headquarters, and ANDSF reports from the Afghan Presidential Information Command Centre to collect civilian-casualty data.

Source: DOD, *Enhancing Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, 12/2017, p. 27.

DOD Inspector General Audit

A recently conducted audit by DOD’s Office of the Inspector General (DOD OIG) determined that CSTC-A officials have not effectively managed and overseen the U.S. funds directly provided to the MOD and MOI, particularly in procuring and maintaining items such as fuel, ammunition, vehicles, and other commodities. According to DOD OIG, these systemic challenges occurred because CSTC-A officials did not consistently establish realistic and achievable conditions for the ministries within commitment letters, nor did they enforce noncompliance penalties outlined in the commitment letters due to potential impacts on the ANDSF’s operational readiness. CSTC-A officials stated that they could not oversee all commitment letter requirements because of inadequate staffing and security concerns. As a result, DOD OIG found that CSTC-A officials could not ensure that \$3.1 billion in direct U.S. funding was used for intended purposes. For more information, see Section Four in this report.

funds are transferred to Afghanistan's central bank to pay ANA salaries and ALP personnel costs that CSTC-A contracts. The Ministry of Finance then funds the MOD and MOI based on submitted funding requests.¹¹⁷ However, unlike the ANA, the ANP's personnel costs are paid through the United Nations Development Programme's multi-donor Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA), for which the United States also provides funding.¹¹⁸

POPULATION, DISTRICT, AND LAND-AREA CONTROL

This quarter, the Afghan government made some modest improvements to its control of districts, population, and land area. As of January 31, 2018, roughly 65% of the population (21.2 million of an estimated 32.5 million total) lived in areas under Afghan government control or influence, up one percentage point since last quarter. The insurgency continued to control or influence areas where 12% of the population lived (3.9 million people), unchanged from last quarter, while the population living in contested areas (7.4 million people) decreased to roughly 23%, about a one percentage-point decline since last quarter.¹¹⁹

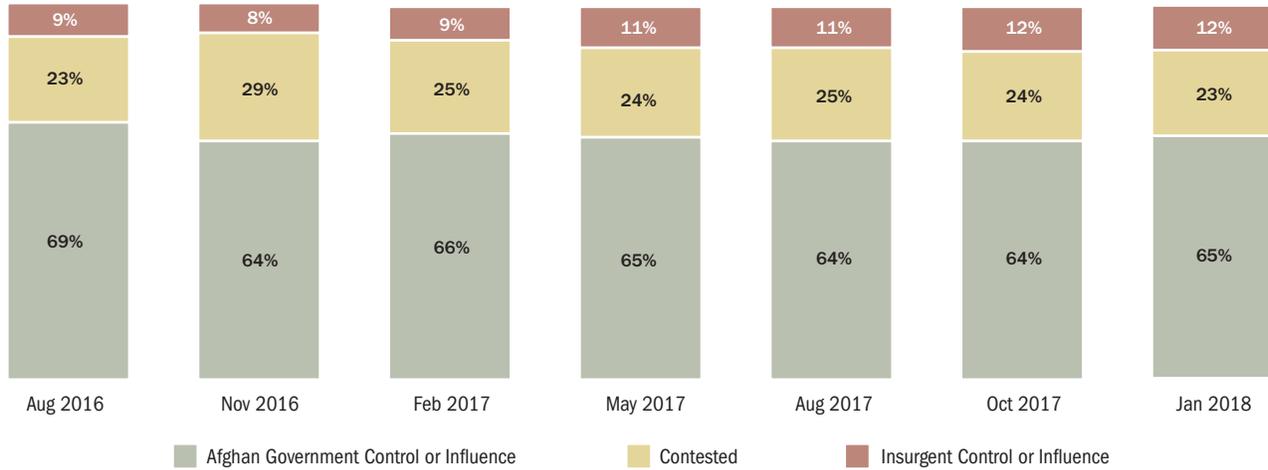
This quarter's population-control figures show a slight deterioration from the same period last year, when the Afghan government controlled or influenced 65.6% of the population and the insurgency only 9.2%.¹²⁰ The goal of the Afghan government is to control or influence territory in which 80% of the population (26 million people) live within the next year and a half. Since SIGAR began receiving population-control data in August 2016, Afghan government control has decreased by roughly four percentage points, and the overall trend for the insurgency is rising control over the population (from 9% in August 2016 to 12% in January 2018).¹²¹ A historical record of population control is shown in Figure 3.29.

Using Afghanistan's 407 districts as the unit of assessment, as of January 31, 2018, 229 districts were under Afghan government control (73 districts) or influence (156)—an increase of two districts under government influence since last quarter. This brings Afghan government control or influence to 56.3% of Afghanistan's total districts. There were 59 districts under insurgent control (13) or influence (46), an increase of one district under insurgent influence since last quarter. Therefore, 14.5% of the country's total districts are now under insurgent control or influence, only a slight increase from last quarter, but a more than three percentage-point increase from the same period in 2016. The remaining 119 districts (29.2%) are contested—controlled by neither the Afghan government nor the insurgency.¹²²

As shown in Figure 3.30, the Afghan government's control of districts is at its second lowest level, and the insurgency's at its highest level, since SIGAR began receiving district control data in November 2015.¹²³

FIGURE 3.29

HISTORICAL POPULATION CONTROL IN AFGHANISTAN

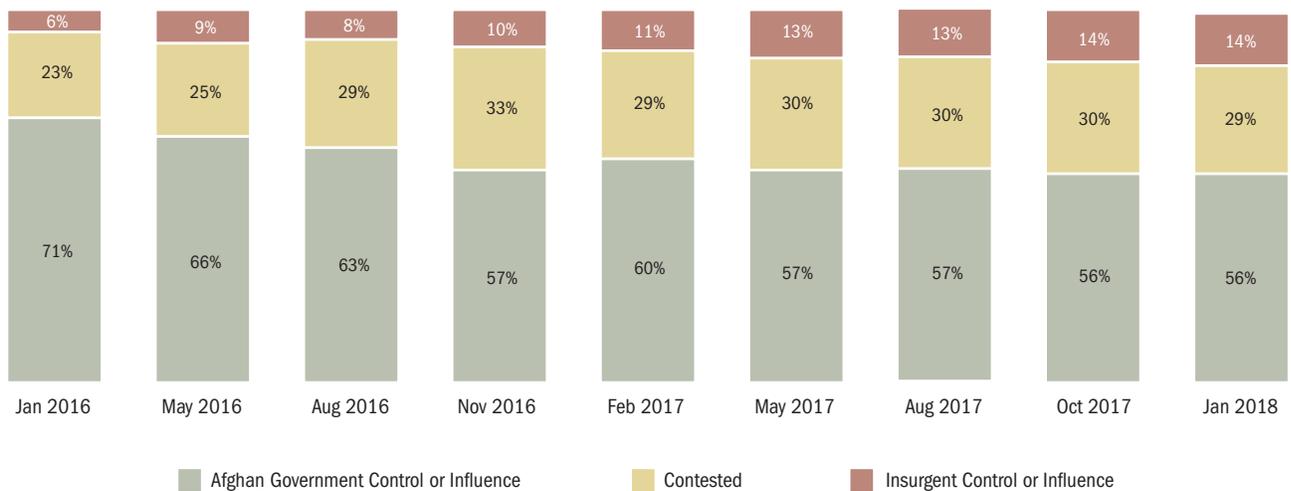


Note: Component numbers may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data call, 5/28/2016, 8/28/2016, 11/15/2016, 2/20/2017, 5/15/2017, 8/28/2017, 10/15/2017, and 3/22/2018; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/16/2018.

FIGURE 3.30

HISTORICAL DISTRICT CONTROL IN AFGHANISTAN



Note: Components may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data call, 11/27/2015, 1/29/2016, 5/28/2016, 8/28/2016, 11/15/2016, 2/20/2017, 5/15/2017, 8/28/2017, 10/15/2017, and 3/22/2018; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR vetting, 1/16/2018.

Control Metrics

There are multiple, different units of measure for expressing a district-level assessment of control that can be and are often used to assist in operational assessment and decision-making during the conduct of a wide variety of military operations. At least three major metrics can be used in judging government-versus-insurgency control in Afghanistan. They measure different factors, need not be parallel indicators, and may have different implications for progress assessments and decision-making. In no special order, these metrics are:

District Control: Whether a government has effective control of a district bears on its ability to assert its sovereignty within direct sight of the people, deliver public services like health and education, provide policing, and—hopefully—operate the instruments of governance in ways that improve public perceptions of its legitimacy and effectiveness.

Population Control: From a hearts-and-minds point of view and for the ability to monitor and suppress insurgent activity, controlling one district with a large population might be more important than controlling three with only a few, scattered villages. On the other hand, a government might have statistically verified control of every district within its borders; but if, say, 33% of the population were disaffected or actively supportive of insurgents, that government could still face a critical threat to its viability—especially

if the nonsupportive citizens are in compact groups that facilitate communication, recruitment, and planning of anti-government operations.

Area Control: Sheer control of land area, regardless of governance structures or resident population, can be an important metric, especially if hostile elements assert control over areas containing important agricultural land (including revenue-producing poppy fields), transportation corridors and bottlenecks, electric transmission, watersheds, or mineral reserves. Area control also facilitates movement and staging of forces, government or hostile, for active operations.

All three metrics are important to ascertain and assess, individually and in concert. That they are not synonymous or parallel can be easily seen, for example, in SIGAR's quarterly report of April 30, 2017. The security section of that report presented data from USFOR-A showing RS's assessment of district-level control at the time, insurgents controlled 2.7% of Afghanistan's districts, but 9.2% of the population, and 16.2% of the land area. Which indicator is most significant is not *prima facie* evident, and their comparative significance might vary with changing concerns and objectives as time passes. In any case, drawing broad conclusions from any or all of these macro-level indicators is best done with the caveat that they may contain granular but important variations in underlying detail.

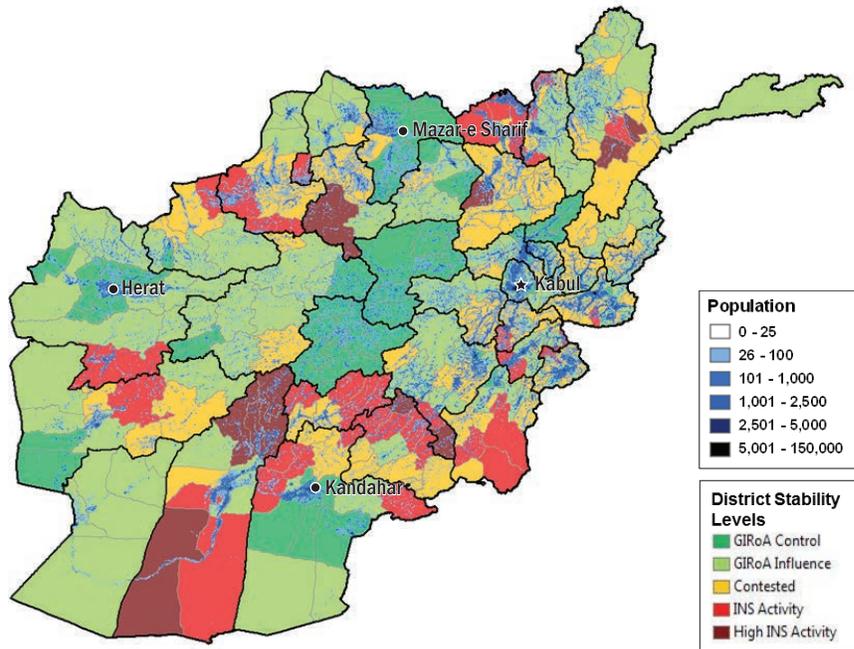
Source: Analysis by SIGAR Research and Analysis Directorate staff and by SIGAR Special Advisor Lieutenant General John F. Goodman, USMC (Ret.), 4/2018.

USFOR-A identified the provinces with the largest percentage of insurgent-controlled or -influenced districts as Uruzgan Province, with four of its six districts under insurgent control or influence, Kunduz Province (five of seven districts), and Helmand Province (nine of 14 districts), all unchanged since last quarter. USFOR-A noted again that the provincial centers of all of Afghanistan's provinces are under Afghan government control or influence.¹²⁴ USFOR-A reported that the Afghan government controlled or influenced 382,000 square kilometers of Afghanistan's total land area of 644,000 square kilometers (59.4%). The insurgency controlled or influenced 130,000 square kilometers (20.2%) of the total land area. The remaining 131,000 square kilometers is land contested by the government and insurgents.¹²⁵

As seen in Figure 3.31, USFOR-A provided a map showing Afghan government and insurgent control or influence by district. Unlike in previous quarters, they have changed the language for insurgent control or influence to “insurgent activity” and “high insurgent activity.” USFOR-A noted that this change was not due to adopting new methodology for district-control assessments, but that it was done in an effort to make the map unclassified and publicly releasable. However, the original terms were used in the numerical district-control data provided to SIGAR this quarter.¹²⁶

FIGURE 3.31

CONTROL OF AFGHANISTAN'S 407 DISTRICTS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018



Note: GIROA = Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. INS = Insurgent. The population data depicted here reflects how the Afghan population is dispersed throughout the country. However, the entire population of a given area is not necessarily under the district stability level indicated. A district is assigned its district-stability level based on the overall trend of land-area/population control of each district as a whole. The map-key categories shown here do not correspond exactly to the categories used in USFOR-A's March 2018 data responses.

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2018.

For more information on how RS assesses government and insurgent control, please see SIGAR's April 2016 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*.¹²⁷

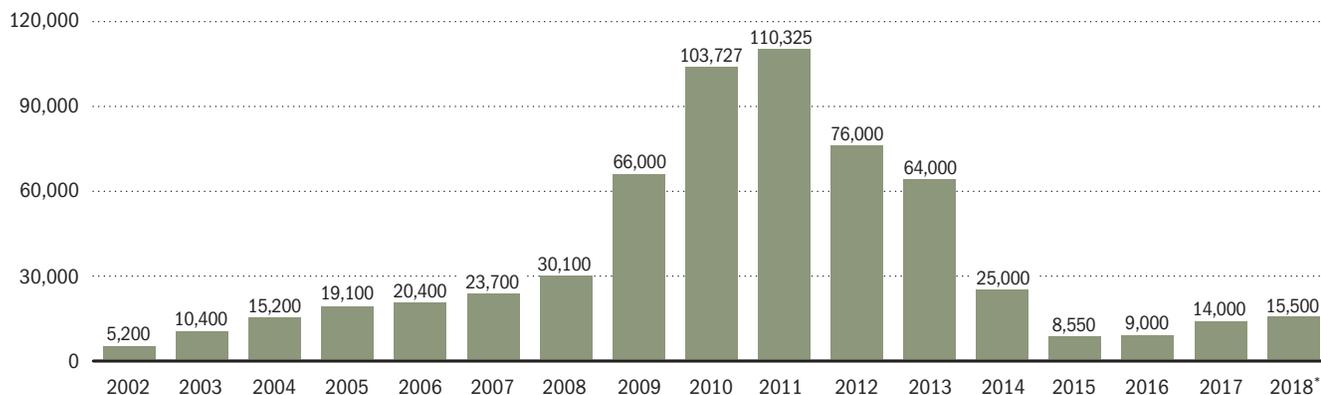
U.S. FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

According to USFOR-A, as of March 1, 2018, there were approximately 14,000 U.S. military personnel serving in Afghanistan as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), the same number reported last quarter.¹²⁸ Approximately 7,800 of these personnel are assigned to the NATO RS mission to train, advise, and assist Afghan security forces (an increase of 400 personnel since last quarter). The increase is due to the deployment of some of the U.S. Army Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) forces to Afghanistan.¹²⁹ The remaining U.S. military personnel support the OFS mission through air operations, training the Afghan special forces, and conducting counterterror operations.¹³⁰ These

SECURITY

FIGURE 3.32

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN AFGHANISTAN, 2002-2018



Note: * Projected for 2018 based on public statements of NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. According to USFOR-A, the publicly releasable U.S. troop level remains 14,000, as of March 1, 2018.

Source: CRS, *Troop Levels in the Afghan and Iraq Wars, FY2002–FY2012*, 7/2/2009; DOD, *Report on Progress toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, 10/2009, p. 18; SIGAR, *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*, 10/30/2010, p. 73; 7/30/2011, p. 71; 10/30/2012, p. 95; 10/30/2013, p. 87; 10/30/2014, p. 91; and 10/30/2015, p. 92; OSD-P, response to SIGAR data call, 6/30/2016 and 12/27/2016; USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data call, 9/10/2017, 11/27/2017, and 3/1/2018; Reuters, “Despite NATO Pledge to Increase Afghan Support, Troop Shortfall Remains: U.S.,” 11/9/2017.

figures do not account for the planned increase of roughly 1,500 U.S. personnel for the RS mission in 2018 described by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in November 2017. For a historical record of U.S. force levels in Afghanistan, see Figure 3.32 on the next page.¹³¹

The RS mission currently includes roughly 7,500 military personnel from NATO allies and non-NATO partner nations. This is also an increase of approximately 400 military personnel since last quarter, bringing the total RS personnel to roughly 15,300.¹³²

The first SFAB arrived in Afghanistan in March 2018. The SFABs are U.S. Army brigades designed for training and advising host-nation armed forces.¹³³ USFOR-A reported that the SFAB will advise ANA, ANP, and ASSF units from the corps or zone level and below; the mission will dictate the level at which the advisors operate.¹³⁴ American advisors from the SFAB will tactically report to NATO authorities at the Train Advise Assist Commands (TAAC) throughout Afghanistan. U.S. advisors will accompany *kandaks* (battalions) on operations as necessary.¹³⁵

USFOR-A reported that combat enablers, or specialized military assets, will support advisors in the field. These enablers support mission-command functions, movement and maneuver support, lethal and nonlethal fire support, supply and logistics sustainment, force protection, and intelligence capabilities.¹³⁶ USFOR-A noted that since advisors from the SFAB have only



The 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade conducted a ceremony on March 15 marking the beginning of its mission to train, advise, and assist the ANDSF at Task Force Southwest in Helmand Province. (DOD photo by Maj. Matthew Fontaine)

recently arrived in country, it is too early to provide feedback on advisory assistance below the corps level.¹³⁷

USFOR-A reported that in 2017, 11 U.S. military personnel were killed and 102 were wounded in Afghanistan. This is a slight increase from the number killed in 2015 (10) and 2016 (9), but a significant increase in the number of wounded from both 2015 (75) and 2016 (70). According to USFOR-A and the Defense Casualty Analysis System, from January 1 through March 30, 2018, one U.S. military member was killed and 19 were wounded. In total, as of April 15, 2018, 31 U.S. military personnel have been killed in action and 268 have been wounded since the start of OFS on January 1, 2015. Since the beginning of the war, 2,269 DOD personnel have been killed (including service members and civilians) and 20,318 have been wounded in Afghanistan.¹³⁸

ANDSF Strength

The ANDSF strength numbers reported in this report on the date of publication were later revised. On May 10, 2018, USFOR-A informed SIGAR that it had initially provided SIGAR with inaccurate ANDSF strength figures. The revised figures, according to USFOR-A, for the authorized strength, or the force level authorized in the *tashkil*, was 352,000, including the ANA and the ANP, as of January 31, 2018. The revised actual assigned strength of the ANDSF as of January 31 was 313,728. For further information about the ANDSF strength figures, please see the supplement to SIGAR's April 2018

Tashkil: which means “organization” in Dari, refers to the official list of personnel and equipment requirements used by the MOD and MOI to detail authorized staff positions and equipment items for each unit.

Source: DOD, *Enhancing Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, 12/2017, p. 10.

Quarterly Report to the United States Congress at <https://www.sigar.mil/quarterlyreports/>.¹³⁹

ANDSF Casualties

USFOR-A classified ANDSF casualty data this quarter at the request of the Afghan government.¹⁴⁰ SIGAR's questions about ANDSF casualties can be found in Appendix E of this report. SIGAR will report on ANDSF casualties in the classified annex to this report.

Afghanistan Compact

The Afghanistan Compact is an Afghan-led initiative designed to demonstrate the Afghan government's commitment to reforms.¹⁴¹ The Compact process consists of four American- and Afghan-chaired working groups covering governance, economic, peace and reconciliation, and security issues. For more information about the Compact, see pages 122–123.

Most of the security commitments in the Compact apply to either the entire ANDSF, or the MOD and MOI, or their main components (ANA and ANP).¹⁴² Together they lay out a comprehensive plan to reform and upgrade the capabilities of the ANDSF over the next few years. Last quarter, USFOR-A clarified that within the scope of other strategies for achieving progress in Afghanistan, the Compact and Roadmap both align under the U.S. administration's South Asia strategy as frameworks to achieve the U.S. goals of seeking an Afghan political settlement that reduces violence, improves security, enables government reform, and leads to reconciliation with the Taliban.¹⁴³

In January 2018, the Joint Security Compact Committee (JSCC), which tracks the Afghan government's progress toward meeting its goals in the security compact, met to review the milestones that were due in December 2017. CSTC-A reported that over the last year, the MOD and MOI met 194 of 198 milestones. At the January 2018 meeting, JSCC determined that the MOD milestone due in September 2017, inputting ANA personnel into the Afghan Personnel Payment System (APPS) based on the tashkil, had been met. MOI also made progress, but fell short of the agreed standard of registering 95% of ANP personnel in APPS as authorized in the tashkil.¹⁴⁴ For more information about APPS, see pages 98–99.

CSTC-A also reported that all 12 milestones due in December 2017 had been met for MOD and MOI. One of the areas making significant progress was in MOD and MOI's abilities to produce one-year recruitment plans. Other satisfactory progress had been made in: implementing the Inherent Law, which requires retirement at an earlier age, (retiring colonels under Minister of MOD authority), mitigating insider attacks (by vetting and removing personnel about whom there is derogatory information), enhancing Green Zone security (constructing a vehicle screening yard in the Kabul Green Zone), practicing countercorruption (listing

findings, corruption cases, and trained evaluators), and increasing personnel accountability (transitioning ANDSF personnel to APPS to eliminate unaccounted-for personnel).¹⁴⁵

JSCC also reviewed the MOI's Compact milestones to ensure they aligned with the MOI Strategic Plan (MISP), which was officially launched at the International Police Coordination Board on February 18, 2018.¹⁴⁶ According to a briefing provided to USFOR-A by MOI, the MISP requires developing a single, four-year Strategic Plan that is delivered through multiple annual plans; takes into account the urgent need to reform and develop the ministry; outlines concurrent efforts to reform and develop the ANP at every level; prioritizes, focuses, and sequences critical activity; and engages stakeholder support (NATO, UNDP, the European Union, and the wider international community). The briefing also clarified that the MOI's five strategic goals and the MOI portions of the ANDSF Roadmap and Afghanistan Compact are included in the MISP.¹⁴⁷

The JSCC meets approximately once a month to review the progress of prior months' milestones. SIGAR will continue to report on the Afghanistan Compact milestones in its quarterly reports.

Insider Attacks

Since responsibility for security began transitioning to the Afghan government in 2014, “green-on-green” insider attacks in which ANDSF personnel are attacked from within their own ranks, often by an insurgent infiltrator, have been a consistently severe problem.¹⁴⁸ According to USFOR-A, there were 68 reported insider attacks in 2017: 62 green-on-green and six “green-on-blue” attacks, when ANDSF personnel turned on Coalition personnel. This total also includes an additional 10 green-on-green attacks (no additional green-on-blue attacks) over last quarter from October 31 through December 31, 2017.¹⁴⁹ Insider attacks in 2017 were higher than the 59 recorded in 2016—56 green-on-green and three green-on-blue.¹⁵⁰

From January 1 through February 10, 2018, there have been eight additional green-on-green and no additional green-on-blue attacks.¹⁵¹

USFOR-A reported that from January 1 to December 31, 2017, insider attacks killed 127 ANDSF personnel and wounded 112. During this same time period, three U.S. military personnel were killed and 11 were wounded in green-on-blue attacks.¹⁵² As reported last quarter, RS, MOD, and MOI have taken steps to further protect against insider attacks.¹⁵³ Afghanistan Compact milestones related to combatting insider threats can be found in the previous section.

Updates on Developing Essential Functions of the ANDSF, MOD, and MOI

This quarter, RS began a reorganization that will change the names of its offices and their administrative structure. The RS mission had previously

been organized under eight Essential Functions (EF) intended to develop its Afghan counterparts. Since the reorganization is not yet complete, SIGAR will report on the new RS structure next quarter.¹⁵⁴ Highlights for each EF reported to SIGAR this quarter include:

- **EF-1 (Multi-Year Budgeting and Execution):** This quarter, EF-1 worked to finalize the joint MOD-CSTC-A Afghan FY 1397 Procurement Plan for ASFF-funded MOD requirements. Additionally, they worked to formulate delegated (Afghan-led) and emergency procurement authorities, allowing decentralized and expedited procurement of emergent needs for MOD at the ANA corps level.¹⁵⁵
- **EF-2 (Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight):** EF-2 reported that in December 2017, the Afghan government passed an asset-declaration law that requires all general officers and senior civilian officials to submit asset declarations within one month of the beginning of the fiscal year (December 2017). EF-2 also said nearly all MOD and MOI inspector general (IG) positions have been filled: 95% for MOD IG and 99% for MOI IG.¹⁵⁶
- **EF-3 (Civilian Governance of Afghan Security Institutions):** This quarter, MOD implemented its new Policy to Prevent and Combat Corruption, which was developed with the assistance of EF-3's Rule of Law advisors. Advisors also worked with MOD to finalize a Policy on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights, which would strengthen gross violations of human rights (GVHR) reporting and investigation processes and require MOD to train ANDSF personnel in humanitarian-law issues. The IHL policy was expected to be approved and signed in March but as of press time, it was still being considered by the minister. MOD also placed into service the database for tracking incidents of GVHR, gender-based violence, and violations of the UN's Policy for the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict. EF-3 reported no new GVHR cases by MOD or MOI this quarter. However, RS reported two potential MOD GVHR cases identified by TAAC/Task Force-level advisors: one possible extra-judicial killing of an insurgent, and one allegation of *bacha bazi*, or child abuse, committed by an ANA kandak commander. No existing GVHR cases were closed by MOD or MOI, but two MOD and two MOI cases were closed by DOD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy this quarter.¹⁵⁷
- **EF-4 (Force Generation):** EF-4 provided an unclassified response this quarter, reporting that as of January 1, 2018, MOD had approved the retirement of 162 general officers and 494 colonels from the ANDSF, as part of the government's effort to rejuvenate the force's command ranks. The Afghan National Police Academy (ANPA) graduated 354 police officers from the class of 1396 (2017) this past quarter. An additional 60 students from the ANPA Criminal Investigation Division graduated from joint MOD/MOI courses, the first such courses of their kind. The ANPA class of 1397 (2018), including 65 female students,

began on March 23. Work has begun to develop an Afghan Unified Training and Education Doctrine Command (UTED-C), which is intended to achieve initial operating capability in December 2018, to improve the capabilities and professionalization of the ANA.¹⁵⁸

- **EF-5 (Sustainment):** This quarter, the revised Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) strategy was implemented. OCIE was developed to use economies of scale in support of transitioning to a “pull”-based supply chain. CSTC-A also revised its equipment-lifecycle analysis models for basic ANDSF Humvees, calculating a 12-year lifespan rather than the previous 10 years, a change which altered procurement schedules to save about \$2 million in acquisition costs. In February, MOD signed a directive to expedite the process of estimating costs of damage, whereby destroyed, captured, or otherwise lost ANDSF vehicles are written off by corps bookkeepers. The new process will allow corps to remove lost vehicles from their inventories within 60 days, instead of the previous process that took up to two years, resulting in more accurate inventories. The first of two MOD contracts to expand the Afghan National Fiber Optics Ring was awarded, which will allow for the expansion of the MOD’s core telecommunications network, including programs such as CoreIMS, AFMIS, and AHRIMS.¹⁵⁹
- **EF-6 (Strategy and Policy, Planning, Resourcing, and Execution):** According to EF-6, the ANDSF executed Phase III and Phase IV of Operation Khalid, the annual operational plan, following Phase II completion last quarter. The successor to Khalid, Operation Nasrat, began on March 21, 2018. CSTC-A reported that the ANDSF once again prevented enemy forces from capturing any provincial centers and improved the use of the AAF and the ANA Special Operations Corps (ANASOC) in support of conventional forces. The transfer of ANCOP to MOD was also completed on March 21, 2018.¹⁶⁰
- **EF-7 (Intelligence):** This quarter, EF-7 was renamed “Intelligence TAA,” with TAA referring to training, advising, and assisting. It will retain the same mission and functions. The Intelligence TAA reported that MOD continues to emphasize and improve its Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) integration and intelligence sharing. The MOD Defense Security Service has begun sharing biometric data and enrollment records with MOI in order to prevent insider threats and unauthorized access to sensitive information or facilities. TAA advisors reported good results in the first of three training phases for the Network Targeting Exploitation Center (NTEC), a center created to target terrorist and criminal networks.¹⁶¹
- **EF-8 (Strategic Communications):** This quarter the MOD initiated a civil-outreach initiative as part of a program to train senior ANA corps personnel in community engagement, information coordination, press conferences, media interviews, and morale strategy. EF-8 reported

upcoming challenges as the MOD's restructuring will divide strategic communications and public affairs: public affairs will integrate with the Religious and Cultural Affairs directorate, while strategic communications will fall under the Assistant Minister of Defense for Strategy and Policy. CSTC-A reports that MOI deputies and spokesmen have become more active in engaging with the media. The Minister of Interior has launched a weekly call-in radio show to communicate directly with the Afghan people, which has thus far been positively received.¹⁶²

- **Gender Office:** This quarter, a female colonel from the MOI Training General Command attended the RS Afghan Senior Leaders' CAPSTONE course at the U.S. National Defense University in Washington, DC. The colonel is the first female to attend this selective course, which is offered by RS to enhance strategic leadership skills. MOI missed its March 21, 2018, deadline to deliver a finalized Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Policy; however, RS Gender Affairs personnel reported that they expect the policy to be completed and announced at the Women in Security Advisory Committee meeting in late April 2018. MOD was also expected to complete and sign a similar policy in April.¹⁶³

AFGHAN SECURITY MINISTRIES AND THE ANDSF

ANDSF Force Element Performance

USFOR-A provided only cursory ANDSF performance assessments in an unclassified format this quarter. SIGAR is unable to determine the basis for these unclassified assessments with the data provided. Additionally, USFOR-A reported that they would be unable to provide ANA corps- and ANP zone-level assessments (and below that level) in an unclassified format.¹⁶⁴ Those assessments will be reported in the classified annex to this report.

This quarter, USFOR-A reported that ANDSF leadership improved their operational planning capability in preparing their 2018–2019 annual operational plan. This included taking a doctrinal approach to planning that accounted for political, threat, and environmental variables. They noted that the General Staff still requires improved integration of the various staff directorates into a centralized planning process. The ANDSF still conduct the majority of their planning with assistance from NATO advisors, which generally takes the form of joint planning sessions between RS and MOD to ensure a unified plan. These NATO advisors independently assess ANDSF progress toward achieving the objectives set out in their annual operational plan at the TAAC and Task Force (TF) level, where they observe operational effects and determine successes in planning and execution.¹⁶⁵

Additionally the ANDSF corps achieved two other accomplishments this quarter: securing the high-profile Kabul Process conference that took place

in the capital in late February, and setting the conditions for a peaceful initiation ceremony for the TAPI pipeline project in central Afghanistan.¹⁶⁶

More detailed performance assessments of ANDSF combat elements are available in the classified annex to this report.

Ministry Performance Assessments

USFOR-A provided only cursory MOD and MOI performance assessments in an unclassified format this quarter. USFOR-A noted that limited performance assessments were available this quarter as there were no significant changes for the MOD and MOI between the winter and spring assessment periods.¹⁶⁷ SIGAR is unable to determine the basis for these unclassified assessments with the data provided. More detailed performance assessments will be reported in the classified annex to this report.

There were no updates to the MOD performance assessment provided to SIGAR last quarter. To see the latest MOD assessment, see page 95 of SIGAR's January 2018 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*.

According to CSTC-A, this quarter there have been some positive signs for the continued reform of the MOI. The new Minister of Interior, Wais Ahmad Barnak, as well as five out of eight new zone chiefs of police, provided the MOI with more effective leadership. CSTC-A said Minister Barnak began his position with a reform agenda, which he continues to pursue with zeal, and has been outspoken on his commitment to reform, candid in acknowledgement of police flaws and weaknesses, and determined to build trust and confidence in the ANP.¹⁶⁸

AHRIMS and APPS

The MOD and MOI, with RS assistance, are implementing and streamlining several systems to accurately manage, pay, and track their personnel—an effort that DOD said could greatly improve protection of U.S. funds. The United States pays the ANA and ANP personnel costs that constitute a large portion of the ANDSF's expenses.¹⁶⁹

The Afghan Human Resource Information Management System (AHRIMS) contains data that includes the name, rank, education level, identification-card number, and current position of ANDSF personnel. AHRIMS also contains all the approved positions within the MOD and the MOI, along with information such as unit, location, and duty title. The Afghan Personnel Pay System (APPS) is under development. When implemented, it will integrate AHRIMS data with compensation and payroll data to process authorizations, record unit-level time and attendance data, and calculate payroll amounts.¹⁷⁰ The AHRIMS (and in future, APPS) data is also used to provide background information on ANDSF in determining promotions and assignments.¹⁷¹ APPS reached initial operational capability in July 2017.¹⁷²

CSTC-A is overseeing the transition from AHRIMS to APPS to ensure interoperability. The process of verifying AHRIMS data includes a personnel



Afghan Defense Minister Tariq Bahrami meets with General Riccardo Marchiò, commander of Resolute Support's out-of-theater operational command, on March 6, 2018. (NATO photo)

asset inventory (PAI), a process that physically accounts for ANA and ANP personnel and issues them biometrically-linked identification cards. APPS will generate payroll information and bank-account information for accounted-for personnel. According to CSTC-A, this structure will reduce the potential for nonexistent personnel to be entered into APPS, although it will not completely eliminate the risk of paying “ghost” personnel. Routine checks will still be required to determine that personnel are properly accounted for and are still actively serving in the ANDSF.¹⁷³ Once implemented, the biometric cards will also be used to access all human-resources information for security force members, including identity, pay, APPS data, promotions, assignments, killed/wounded/absent-without-leave information, and other documents.¹⁷⁴

As USFOR-A has reported previously, there are three ongoing efforts to ensure that accurate personnel data exist in AHRIMS to support the migration to APPS: (1) “slotting” or matching a person to an authorized position; (2) “data cleansing” or correcting and completing key personnel data; and (3) a Personnel Asset Inventory (PAI) to correct the employment status of personnel retired, separated, or killed in action.¹⁷⁵

This quarter, USFOR-A reported on MOD and MOI efforts to complete their initial PAI cycle (PAIs will run continuously after the first cycle is complete).¹⁷⁶ MOD is in the final six-month PAI sweep of all ANA corps. MOI is still anticipating that the ANP’s PAI effort will continue for another 8–12 months. The delays are reported to be normal challenges of accessing remote and insecure areas and ANDSF members posted at isolated border checkpoints. Nonetheless, USFOR-A reported that the MOD’s initial PAI is nearly finished, with 90% of ANA slotted (same as last quarter) and 95% of the ANA PAI complete (up two percentage points since last quarter). The ANA is expected to be fully operational in APPS by May 30, 2018. MOI’s initial PAI is at 70% slotted (same as last quarter). USFOR-A clarified this quarter that the MOI’s current PAI cycle is now 80% complete (up from 77% last quarter). Its completion is currently expected around late September 2018.¹⁷⁷

“Unaccounted for” or “Ghost” Personnel

As a result of increased attention in late 2016 to the possible inclusion of many “ghost” or nonexistent personnel within the ANDSF rolls, U.S. officials confirmed that since January 1, 2017, salaries are paid only to MOD and MOI personnel correctly registered in AHRIMS.¹⁷⁸

The U.S. government continues to disburse funds only to those ANDSF personnel it is confident are properly accounted for. USFOR-A reported approximately \$62.4 million in cost avoidance in 2017 by not paying unaccounted-for and suspected ghost personnel in the MOD (\$49.8 million) and the MOI (\$12.6 million). In January 2018, the amount saved was roughly \$2.1 million.¹⁷⁹ SIGAR cannot verify these cost-avoidance figures because it

has not been provided with data on the estimated number of ghost soldiers in the Afghan security forces.

USFOR-A has said the attention to “ghost soldiers” is largely unfounded because there are no indications of ghost-soldier challenges within the six ANA corps as the PAI process progresses. Once the APPS is fully operational, USFOR-A believes the issue of ANA ghost soldiers will be resolved.¹⁸⁰ DOD echoed this assessment, explaining that most of the soldiers and police that were unaccounted for were performing duties and being paid, but were not properly enrolled in the AHRIMs system due to poor systems management, missing biometric data, or missing ID cards.¹⁸¹ USFOR-A reiterated this quarter they maintain their focus on validating personnel numbers, not estimating suspected ghost soldiers, as validating soldiers through the PAI decreases the possibility for reporting inaccurate personnel numbers.¹⁸²

Afghan Local Police

ALP members, known as “guardians,” are usually local citizens selected by village elders or local leaders to protect their communities against insurgent attack, guard facilities, and conduct local counterinsurgency missions.¹⁸³ While the ANP’s personnel costs are paid via the multidonor LOTFA trust fund, only DOD funds the ALP, including both personnel and other costs. Funding for the ALP’s personnel costs is provided directly to the Afghan government.¹⁸⁴ Although the ALP is overseen by the MOI, it is not counted toward the ANDSF’s authorized end strength.¹⁸⁵

As of February 8, 2017, the NATO Special Operations Component Command-Afghanistan (NSOCC-A) reported that according to the ALP Staff Directorate, the ALP has roughly 29,006 guardians on hand, 24,915 of whom are trained, 4,091 untrained, and 58 in training. These figures indicate an increase of 95 ALP personnel overall, a 57-person increase in trained personnel, and an increase of 38 untrained personnel from last quarter.¹⁸⁶ The MOI’s FY 1396 (2017) Bilateral Financial Commitment Letter obligates the MOI to have no more than 5% of the on-hand ALP force untrained, but currently about 14% of the force is untrained, the same as last quarter.¹⁸⁷

According to NSOCC-A, decreasing the number of untrained personnel has become a greater challenge since the Afghan Training General Command decertified Provincial Training Centers and eliminated the use of Mobile Training Teams. The result was that untrained personnel were required to travel to the Regional Training Centers. Many provincial police chiefs remain reluctant to release their personnel for training due to the security situation. NSOCC-A said they have been advising MOI to better coordinate with provincial chiefs of police to develop phased transportation plans to resolve the issue. Additionally, NSOCC-A noted that when APPS comes on-line over the next several months, untrained personnel will not be paid, which will encourage all involved to ensure training is completed.¹⁸⁸

This quarter, NSOCC-A reported continuing efforts to enroll ALP personnel in APPS, to transition ALP salary payments to an electronic funds-transfer (EFT) process, and to inventory materiel. The APPS transition for the ALP is currently under way, with CSTC-A deciding to phase APPS to the ALP by police zone, rather than implementing it across the force all at once, to avoid possible system errors.¹⁸⁹ According to USFOR-A, as of March 1, 2018, roughly 68% of ALP personnel have been slotted into APPS; Zone 101 is 100% slotted.¹⁹⁰

NSOCC-A noted that the MOI has initiated a two-phase process to increase the biometric enrollment of MOI personnel, which will impact the ALP's APPS slotting. Phase I began by sending 10 biometric teams, consisting of ANP and MOI civilians, to enroll up to 100 personnel per day in Zones 101, 202, and 303 (as of March 10, 2018). Phase II began shortly thereafter to enroll remaining personnel in the rest of the police zones. As with the ANA, the ALP's full operational capability in APPS is expected in May 2018.¹⁹¹

As with the ANA and ANP, CSTC-A will fund salaries only for ALP guardians who are actively slotted in AHRIMS. NSOCC-A reported a decrease in the FY 2018 estimate of U.S. funding for the ALP from roughly \$96.6 million to \$90 million (assuming an ALP force authorization of 30,000 personnel).¹⁹² Additionally, CSTC-A reported that between December 21, 2017, and February 24, 2018, CSTC-A spent \$3.8 million on salaries and stipends for ALP.¹⁹³ NSOCC-A says that CSTC-A reviews validated personnel numbers every three months and provides funding based on validated AHRIMS personnel numbers.¹⁹⁴ Like last quarter, about 86% of the ALP have been enrolled in EFT or Mobile Money to receive their salaries electronically.¹⁹⁵

NSOCC-A reported several efforts are under way to assess ALP reform, including the above-mentioned personnel reforms, as well as equipment reforms, addressing powerbrokers' sway over the ALP, and conducting district assessments. NSOCC-A noted that monthly equipment inventories have been submitted by district with a 100% completion rate since October, the same as last quarter. The ALP's two Coalition advisors who specifically assist the force in implementing logistics reforms now have access to CoreIMS, the electronic equipment and logistics management system, and are working to provide access to the ALP Staff Directorate. NSOCC-A notes this is an important step in allowing greater oversight of the logistics system as a whole.¹⁹⁶

Last quarter, the ALP's Coalition advisors submitted a report on the influence of powerbrokers in the ALP. NSOCC-A reported on November 28, 2017, that there were 195 ALP guardians under powerbroker influence, a roughly 50% reduction since August 2017. The main powerbrokers influencing ALP personnel continue to be parliamentarians, provincial councils, provincial governors, and district and provincial chiefs of police. While there are no new assessments this quarter for the number of ALP personnel under powerbroker influence (assessments are done semiannually), the monthly updates



ANA soldiers undergo special-forces training near Kabul on April 10, 2018. (U.S. Army photo by Sergeant 1st Class Felix Figueroa)

to the November report show actions have been taken in 97 cases to eliminate the use of ALP by powerbrokers.¹⁹⁷

NSOCC-A confirmed this quarter that ALP district assessments will resume in April, as CSTC-A received the approved district-assessment travel plan and waiver from the ALP Staff Directorate. These will be the first district-level assessments to take place since October 2017.¹⁹⁸

AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated \$45 billion and disbursed \$44.4 billion of ASFF funds to build, train, equip, and sustain the ANA.¹⁹⁹

ANA Strength

The ANA strength numbers reported in this report on the date of publication were later revised. On May 10, 2018, USFOR-A informed SIGAR that it had initially provided SIGAR with inaccurate ANDSF strength figures. The revised figures, according to USFOR-A, for the authorized strength, or the force level authorized in the tashkil, was 352,000, including the ANA and the ANP, as of January 31, 2018. The revised actual assigned strength of the ANA as of January 31 was 184,572. For further information about the ANDSF strength figures, please see the supplement to SIGAR's April 2018 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* at <https://www.sigar.mil/quarterlyreports/>.²⁰⁰

ANA Attrition

USFOR-A provided limited attrition information this quarter in an unclassified format. A detailed analysis of attrition by ANA force element will be provided in the classified annex to this report. SIGAR's questions about ANA attrition can be found in Appendix E.

According to USFOR-A, as of February 26, 2018, ANA monthly attrition rates averaged roughly 2% over the preceding three-month period. USFOR-A also noted that attrition rates have “remained consistent” at about 2% over the last year.²⁰¹ This compares favorably to the same period last year, when average attrition for the ANA from November 2016 to January 2017 was 2.6%.²⁰²

ANA Sustainment

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated \$21.4 billion and disbursed \$20.9 billion of ASFF for ANA sustainment.²⁰³

CSTC-A reported the total amount expended for all payroll and non-payroll sustainment requirements thus far for Afghan FY 1397 (beginning December 21, 2017) was \$48.9 million through February 24, 2018, all of which was expended on ANA salaries (\$31.4 million) and incentive pay (\$17.5 million). While no funds have yet been spent on non-payroll sustainment requirements, these usually include equipment and supplies such as vehicle fuel, clothing, and energy-operating equipment. According to CSTC-A, non-payroll expenditures typically occur later in the fiscal year.²⁰⁴

CSTC-A reported that the funding required for ANA base salaries, bonuses, and incentives for this fiscal year is estimated at \$651.6 million, but noted that the U.S. contribution to ANA personnel sustainment over the next few years is contingent on congressional appropriations.²⁰⁵ Last quarter, CSTC-A estimated that ANA sustainment expenditures over the next three years (2018–2020), will average \$667 million annually.²⁰⁶ DOD also said forecasted salary and incentives figures are for planning purposes only and are not definitive indicators of future DOD support, which will depend on Afghan progress toward reconciliation, reducing corruption, security conditions, and other factors.²⁰⁷

ANA Equipment and Transportation

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated and disbursed \$13.5 billion of ASFF for ANA equipment and transportation.²⁰⁸

This quarter CSTC-A reported on the major items of equipment purchased for and provided to the ANA over the last quarter. As seen in Table 3.5, as of February 28, 2018, these included: UH-60 (Black Hawk) helicopters, several different types of utility and armored vehicles, and two types of weapons. The equipment provided this past quarter is valued at \$169.4 million. The greatest expenditure was for procuring 443 Humvees (\$105 million), followed by 40 medium-tactical recovery vehicles (\$14 million).²⁰⁹

TABLE 3.5

MAJOR EQUIPMENT ITEMS PROVIDED TO THE ANA FROM DECEMBER 2017 TO MARCH 2018				
Equipment Type	Equipment Description	Units Issued in Quarter	Unit Cost	Total Cost*
Aircraft	UH-60 Helicopter	4	\$3,400,000	\$13,600,000
Vehicle	Medium Tactical Vehicle, Wrecker	40	350,000	14,000,000
Vehicle	30-Ton Crane	14	315,000	4,400,000
Vehicle	M1152 HMMWV (Humvee)	2	294,000	588,000
Vehicle	Water Tanker 1200 Gallon	39	247,000	9,600,000
Vehicle	M1151 HMMWV (Humvee)	443	237,000	105,000,000
Vehicle	Fuel Tanker 1200 Gallon	60	225,000	13,500,000
Vehicle	Medium Tactical Vehicle, International	28	85,000	2,400,000
Vehicle	M1082 Trailer (Cargo trailer)	116	34,000	4,000,000
Weapon	M240 Machine Gun	200	8,000	1,600,000
Weapon	M4A1 Carbine	834	911	760,000
Total				\$169,448,000

Note: *Figures were rounded by CSTC-A.

Source: CSTC-A, response to SIGAR data call, 3/22/2018.

ANA Equipment Operational Readiness

This quarter USFOR-A classified data on ANA equipment readiness. SIGAR's questions about ANA equipment readiness can be found in Appendix E of this report. SIGAR will report on ANA equipment readiness in its classified annex.

ANA Infrastructure

The United States had obligated and disbursed \$5.9 billion of ASFF for ANA infrastructure projects as of March 31, 2018.²¹⁰ As of February 20, 2018, CSTC-A reported that facilities-sustainment costs for FY 2018, covering all ANA facility and generator requirements, will be roughly \$61 million—an \$11 million increase from last quarter's amount.²¹¹

According to CSTC-A, as of February 20, 2018, the United States completed 446 ANA infrastructure projects in Afghanistan valued at \$5.4 billion, an increase of 10 projects completed since last quarter, with another 35 ongoing projects valued at \$182.5 million.²¹²

The largest ongoing ANA infrastructure projects include two Northern Electrical Interconnect (NEI) substation projects, one in Balkh Province (\$27.7 million) slated for completion in October 2019, and one in Kunduz (\$9.5 million), due to be completed in February 2019. Additionally, the second phase of the Marshal Fahim National Defense University (MFNDU), a multi-year, \$73.5 million project, set for completion in December 2017, is pending due to the replacement of 38 fire doors.²¹³

Women's Participation Program: An initiative that seeks to advance and promote women's participation in Afghan security institutions. The program promotes safe and secure facilities, proper equipment, training, and opportunities for women to increase their membership in the ANDSF.

Source: OSD-P response to SIGAR vetting, 4/15/2016.

Four ANA infrastructure contracts with a total value of \$10.5 million were awarded this quarter. The largest of these include: full-operating-capacity infrastructure (utilities, barracks, dining facility, and other essentials) for Camp Commando in Kabul (\$7.7 million) as well as for a **Women's Participation Program** (WPP) dormitory at Hamid Karzai International Airport for the Air Force Academy (\$1.1 million) and a parking and vehicle-maintenance facility at Kabul National Military Hospital (\$1.1 million).²¹⁴

There are 34 ANA projects planned valued at \$346.7 million, which include six AAF projects at \$74.1 million, seven ANA projects at \$35.6 million, 10 ANASOC projects at \$62.9 million, one Kabul National Military Hospital project at \$54 million, two MFNDU projects at 12.7 million, five Parwan Detention Facility projects at \$97.5 million, and three WPP projects at \$4.4 million.²¹⁵ The AAF projects have the highest projected costs and are aviation enhancement projects at Kandahar (\$27 million) and Mazar-e Sharif Airfields (\$32 million). This is followed by a project to expand the facilities for the ANASOC at Camp Pratt in Mazar-e Sharif (\$25.5 million).²¹⁶

ANA and MOD Training and Operations

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated and disbursed \$4.1 billion of ASFF for ANA, AAF, and MOD training and operations.²¹⁷ According to CSTC-A, ASFF is used to send ANA and AAF students to vocational training and professional military education opportunities abroad, including aviation training, special forces training, basic officer-leadership courses, captain's career courses, war-college programs, seminars, and conferences. The funds are also used to contract advisors and mentors for the ANDSF to advise, train, and mentor them in undertaking essential functions.²¹⁸

As of March 1, 2018, CSTC-A reported 28 ongoing U.S.-funded training programs for the ANA and AAF (an increase of two since last quarter) valued at \$528.4 million. Most ongoing contracts span 6–12 months and include an \$81.2 million ANA advisors and mentors program, an \$80 million Afghan special forces training program, a \$43.8 million program to provide in-country UH-60 training at Kandahar Airfield, two UH-60 flight simulators for training, and logistics support for the contractors providing the training, and a \$29 million program to train AAF pilots and mission systems operators on the AC-208 at Fort Worth, Texas.²¹⁹

Afghan Air Force

This quarter, CSTC-A provided AAF authorized strength in an unclassified format, but AAF assigned strength remains classified. As of January 31, 2018, the AAF authorized strength was 9,300 personnel, including 300 AAF civilians.²²⁰

DOD OIG Audit

DOD OIG conducted an evaluation of U.S. and Coalition progress in TAAC-Air's mission to develop the AAF into a professional, capable, and sustainable force. DOD OIG's main findings were: U.S. and Coalition forces are producing trained and qualified AAF personnel by identifying and developing priority capabilities. For more information, see Section Four.

As of March 3, 2018, the United States has appropriated approximately \$6.4 billion to support and develop the AAF from FY 2010–FY 2018, with roughly \$1.4 billion appropriated in FY 2018. A large portion (\$683 million) is earmarked for AAF sustainment costs. According to DOD’s FY 2018 budget-justification document, the \$1.4 billion includes \$709.8 million for the second year of the ANDSF Aviation Modernization (AAM) plan to continue the transition from Russian-manufactured helicopters to U.S.-manufactured UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.²²¹

Also as of March 3, nearly \$3.8 billion has been obligated for the AAF from FYs 2010–2018, with roughly \$31 million of those funds obligated in FY 2018. The majority of the funding obligated since FY 2010 continues to be for sustainment items, which account for 43.4% of obligated funds, followed by equipment and aircraft at 37.9%.²²²

The AAF’s current inventory of aircraft includes:²²³

- 4 Mi-35 helicopters (four unavailable)
- 47 Mi-17 helicopters (24 unavailable)
- 25 MD-530 helicopters (five unavailable)
- 24 C-208 utility airplanes (one unavailable)
- 4 C-130 transport airplanes (two unavailable)
- 20 A-29 light attack airplanes (two unavailable)
- 8 UH-60 utility helicopters

The Mi-17 and Mi-35 helicopters are Russian-made, with the United States procuring 33 of the Mi-17s from Russia with ASFF funds (the others were procured for the Afghans from other sources) but providing no funding or other support for Mi-35s. The A-29 planes are Brazilian-designed and manufactured in the United States. The rest of the AAF inventory is composed of U.S.-made aircraft.²²⁴

MOD’s AAF Recruitment Policy

This quarter, SIGAR asked for information about the AAF’s recruitment policy and received a signed order from August 2017 by Minister of Defense Tariq Shah Bahrami implementing a new policy. The policy stipulates that the AAF will recruit independently from the ANA and include in their ranks recruits from Afghanistan’s ethnic minorities and women (the stated goal is for 10% of the force to be women). The policy also outlines extensive eligibility criteria for new AAF recruits. The document outlines that male and female recruits must:

- Be at least 18 years old, with officers being a maximum of 24, NCOs 28, and soldiers 35 years old
- Hold only Afghan citizenship and have documents proving Afghan citizenship
- Be born to Afghan parents
- Not have spouses with foreign citizenship
- Not hold membership in political parties
- Not have convictions from political or criminal crimes
- Submit to a criminal background and associated organizations check by the Afghan intelligence service
- Have adequate mental and physical fitness
- Have no addiction to narcotics or chronic or contagious disease(s)
- Pass the physical and medical tests
- Have average scores of 80% or better for grades 10–12
- Be literate and able to write
- Speak English and pass the English-language test
- Secure two personal references from village elders or district governors (or ministry officials for existing government employees)
- Officers and NCOs must be grade-12 or higher graduates, hold graduation certificates, and pass the entry test

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR data call, 3/22/2018.



An AAF A-29 drops a GBU-58 laser-guided bomb on a Taliban compound in Farah Province on March 22. It was the AAF's first use of a laser-guided bomb in combat. (Screengrab of RS video by John Roberts)

As of March 6, 2018, seven of the 24 unavailable Mi-17s are in overhaul, four are in heavy repair, and three are awaiting extraction and assessment. Additionally, one airframe reported last quarter was removed from the total fleet because it was unrecoverable, but two Mi-17s were transferred from Fort Rucker, Alabama, in January and February 2018. Four MD-530 aircraft suffered battle damage and are undergoing repair. Additionally, one unavailable MD-530 and one unavailable C-208 are damaged due to hard landings.

In addition to the one unavailable C-208, USFOR-A noted that the six C-208s belonging to the Shindand Air Wing in western Afghanistan are overdue for periodic maintenance. Grounding them was an AAF headquarters decision; USFOR-A had suggested that they do so. Two unavailable C-130s are going through routine depot-level maintenance.²²⁵

Of the 20 A-29 aircraft, 12 are currently in Afghanistan and one is currently unusable due to wing structural issues. An additional seven are at Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, supporting AAF pilot training, weapons operational testing, and cockpit upgrades. Another six have been procured as part of the AAM. One A-29 was destroyed in the U.S. during training operations in March 2017. When the A-29 training program at Moody concludes, the remaining U.S.-based A-29s will be moved to Afghanistan.²²⁶

This quarter, SIGAR asked for additional information about the progress of training pilots and crew members on the AAF's new UH-60 aircraft. USFOR-A reported that UH-60 crew member training is progressing and expected to meet fighting-season goals. Currently, UH-60 aircraft and mission-qualification training, as well as special-mission operator courses, are ongoing at Kandahar Airfield.²²⁷

Over the next several years, the AAF inventory will grow with significant numbers of new or refurbished airframes. USFOR-A provided a snapshot of the number of purchased, but not yet fielded, airframes for the AAF's aircraft, which will include: 45 UH-60s, 30 MD-530s, six A-29s, and 10 AC-208s. USFOR-A noted that in prior quarters, both purchased and intent-to-purchase numbers had been provided.²²⁸

In view of the increased purchases of aircraft under the AAM, this quarter SIGAR asked for additional information on the AAF expansion. USFOR-A reported that there are currently two classes of cadets being trained at the Afghan Air Academy. The first class should graduate in November 2018 (194 students) and the second class in February 2019 (114 students). Among recent Air Academy graduates, 16 are awaiting fixed-wing aircraft pilot training and 83 are awaiting helicopter pilot training. Six of the helicopter trainees will be trained on the UH-60. USFOR-A reported that from November 2017 to January 2018, attrition among the 177 pilot candidates was four candidates.²²⁹

AAF recruiting processes have changed over the past six months, according to USFOR-A. Prior to December 2017, AAF recruits were direct transfers from the ANA or were assigned by MOD. AAF recruiting goals were tracked

Task Availability versus Operational Readiness

According to USFOR-A, task availability is a metric separate from but related to “mission capability” or “operational readiness.” AAF aircraft that are “available for tasking” are on hand (in Afghanistan) and able to be flown for combat or training purposes. Other metrics, like “mission capable rate” and “operational readiness,” are prone to being conflated. AAF maintenance contracts were written with different metrics (often by the same name but with different methods of calculation). TAAC-Air is working to rectify that problem, so that all maintenance contracts supporting the AAF use the same metric for measuring contract performance. However, outside

observers were conflating availability metrics with contract performance and drawing inaccurate conclusions about both contract performance and AAF combat capability. The “available for tasking” metric conveys the combat capacity for the AAF’s fleet and is most commonly expressed as a simple ratio reflecting a snapshot in time: aircraft available for tasking versus total aircraft. The task availability metric has a minimum granularity of one day, meaning that it cannot capture the possibility that an aircraft was in several states within a 24-hour period (e.g., it flies a mission in the morning but lands with a maintenance problem). However, USFOR-A notes that those transitions average out.

Source: USFOR-A, response to SIGAR vetting, 4/12/2018.

only by filling officer commissions, while enlisted recruitment remained untracked. However, as of January 2018, the AAF is tracking both autonomously from the ANA. Last quarter, the AAF met its officer goal of 120 and this quarter they currently have 130 of the desired 170 enlisted personnel.²³⁰

AAF Task Availability

This quarter, USFOR-A reported that the operational readiness of airframes is better described as “task availability” rates. The task availability rate is defined as the number of aircraft serviceable and ready to be tasked, for combat or training, compared to the number of aircraft in the operational fleet (excluding those in depot). For example, if a 12-aircraft fleet has five serviceable aircraft, two aircraft in the maintenance depot, and five in other status, this calculation yields a 50% task availability for that aircraft type. Task availability is a capabilities-based measurement for senior leadership mission planning, rather than a measurement of how contractors are performing in maintaining AAF aircraft.²³¹

AAF task availability over the reporting period remained approximately the same as last quarter’s operational readiness assessment. Two of five airframes (C-208 and A-29) fell short of mission-readiness goals and two of five airframes significantly exceeding their recommended flight hours (C-130 and Mi-17).²³²

This quarter, USFOR-A reported that the AAF flew 8,115 sorties (a sortie is defined as one takeoff and one landing) from November 1, 2017, through January 31, 2018. This is an average of 2,705 per month, with the most sorties (3,254) flown in January 2018.²³³

As in previous quarters, the Mi-17 flew the greatest number of sorties (4,765) followed by the C-208 (1,479).²³⁴ The Mi-17 continued to fly the most hours of any airframe, an average of 829 hours per month this reporting period, followed by the MD-530 at an average of 676 hours. This was a decrease compared to the Mi-17’s 858-hour average and the MD-530’s 814-hour average reported last quarter.²³⁵

In aggregate, AAF airframes flew roughly 400 hours per month (2,430) fewer this quarter than last quarter (2,845 hours per month).²³⁶ USFOR-A said its flight-hours data include all hours flown by the airframes, whether they are for operations, maintenance, training, or navigation.²³⁷

Personnel Capability

USFOR-A provided the following information on how many fully mission-qualified, or certified mission-ready (CMR) crew members the AAF has for each of its airframes. For more information about the specific training involved for crew members attaining CMR status, please see SIGAR's April 2017 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress*.²³⁸ According to USFOR-A, this quarter:²³⁹

- **C-130:** 12 total pilots, including eight aircraft commanders and four copilots. Of the aircraft commanders, there are four instructor pilots, two of them evaluator pilots; 19 total aircrew, including eight flight engineers and 11 loadmasters.
- **C-208:** 44 total pilots, including 17 aircraft commanders, 26 copilots, and one pilot not yet qualified. Of the 17 aircraft commanders, nine are instructor pilots and two are evaluator pilots; there are also two loadmasters and two pilots qualified as loadmasters.
- **A-29:** 18 total pilots, including 15 flight leads, five of whom are instructor pilots and three are wingmen.
- **MD-530:** 60 total pilots, including 20 aircraft commanders, 29 copilots, 10 instructor pilots, and one pilot not yet qualified.
- **Mi-17:** 76 total pilots, including 41 aircraft commanders and 35 copilots. Of the 41 aircraft commanders, 13 are instructor pilots; for aircrew there are 10 instructor flight engineers, 21 mission flight engineers, and 79 gunners.
- **Mi-35:** 13 pilots (CSTC-A does not track pilot qualifications).
- **UH-60:** 22 pilots, all in training, including 16 special-mission operators (SMO), who are enlisted crew members (two per crew, along with two pilots). The SMOs perform several tasks, including gunner and loadmaster.²⁴⁰

Special Mission Wing

This quarter, USFOR-A designated certain information about the Special Mission Wing (SMW) unclassified but not publicly releasable including: the number and type of airframes in the SMW inventory, the number of pilots and aircrew, the percent-breakdown of counternarcotics and counterterrorism missions flown, and the operational readiness (and associated benchmarks) of SMW airframes. SIGAR will report on this information in the classified annex to this report.

The SMW is the aviation branch of the MOD's Afghan Special Security Forces (ASSF) that provides aviation support to Afghanistan's counternarcotics, counterterrorism, and special operations forces. According to DOD,

the SMW is the only ANDSF force with night-vision, rotary-wing air assault, and fixed-wing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. The SMW's four squadrons include two in Kabul, one at Kandahar Airfield, and one at Mazar-e Sharif Airfield, and provide the ASSF with operational reach across Afghanistan. Recruiting standards are also higher for the SMW than they are for the AAF or other ANDSF elements.²⁴¹

This quarter, NSOCC-A provided narrative updates on the SMW, as of November 30, 2017. NSOCC-A stated that the SMW continues to provide fixed- and rotary-wing aviation support to intelligence-driven counterterrorism and counternarcotics operations. CN missions focus on denying the enemy funding streams derived from production and trafficking of narcotics.²⁴²

Demand for SMW support remains high across the ANASOC, the AAF, and the ANA. The Afghan Joint Special Operations Component Command (JSOCC) continues to improve its efforts to prioritize and assign missions, allowing for the maximum utilization of the SMW. As expected, SMW has experienced a reduction in missions due to poor weather in the winter months, but NSOCC-A expects missions to increase as the weather improves and the 2018 fighting season begins.²⁴³

USFOR-A said the future success of the SMW depends critically on expanding the authorized number of personnel to incorporate additional flight crews and command structure. This is necessary to support an expanded ANASOC during the 2019 fighting season while also fielding the first 10 of a planned 40 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. Qualifying recruits for their duties takes time, so authorization must precede the requirement by a year. Manning authorizations are also necessary in order to move the SMW away from contractor-provided maintenance.²⁴⁴

According to NSOCC-A, the SMW is ready to employ special ground-unit insertion and exfiltration techniques during the 2018 fighting season to counter high-profile attacks in Kabul.²⁴⁵

Afghan National Army Territorial Force

This quarter, USFOR-A provided SIGAR with basic information about the Afghan National Army Territorial Force (ANATF), a new force element created as a local force like the ALP that will be part of the MOD rather than the MOI, and will be under the command of regular ANA kandaks and brigades.²⁴⁶ Detailed information about the ANATF was classified and will be reported in the classified annex to this report.

According to USFOR-A, ANATF personnel will be recruited by the ANA Recruiting Command's (ANREC) regional National Afghan Volunteer Centers (NAVC). Because of the local nature of the ANATF, the NAVCs will recruit in coordination with local leaders, and will conduct recruitment in line with the required force level for a given district. Unlike the ANA, recruits will be from the area they are assigned to serve. The NAVCs will also be instructed to recruit 35% more than the planned personnel strength

for each ANATF company in order to account for attrition occurring during the screening and training processes.²⁴⁷

The ANREC will arrange transportation for all ANATF recruits to be in-processed and screened in Kabul, which will include a medical screening, biometric enrollment, a commission board, creation of a bank account for salary payment, provision of an ID card, and AHRIMS and APPS enrollment. Recruits will undergo the same nine-week basic training course at the Kabul Military Training Center as all new ANA recruits.

ANATF leadership will complete a three-week leadership training course at MFNDU prior to ANATF recruits' completion of their basic training. ANATF leaders will come from the ANA officers and NCO ranks, and will *not* be from the area where they are assigned to serve.

Once each company is created, it will receive six weeks of collective training at the nearest Regional Military Training Center. The process for equipping and sustaining the new ANATF will be the same as the regular ANA brigades and kandaks; the latter will be responsible for providing command and control, sustainment, and support to the ANATF companies that fall under it.²⁴⁸

As of late March, USFOR-A noted that the exact locations of the ANATF and the timeline for its creation is evolving due to the dynamic nature of the security environment in Afghanistan, as well as changes occurring at the ministerial level. Planning considerations will take into account hostile threats, local dynamics, national politics, and the overall progress of Afghanistan's security institutions. Likewise, the projected costs to stand up and maintain the ANATF have yet to be determined. As of March 2018, USFOR-A said that a company of the ANATF is expected to save 45% annually in operations costs compared to a company of the regular ANA. Expanding the ANATF up to the kandak level is estimated to save approximately 61% in operating costs compare to a regular ANA kandak.²⁴⁹



General Ahaj Gul Mohammad Chakhansori (left), deputy commander of the ANP's 505th Zone, speaks with General Benjamin Watson, commander of Task Force Southwest, at Bost Airfield in Helmand Province on March 13, 2018. (USMC photo by Staff Sergeant Melissa Karnath)

AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated \$21.1 billion and disbursed \$20.8 billion of ASFF funds to build, train, equip, and sustain the ANP.²⁵⁰

ANP Strength

The ANP strength numbers reported in this report on the date of publication were later revised. On May 10, 2018, USFOR-A informed SIGAR that it had initially provided SIGAR with inaccurate ANDSF strength figures. The revised figures, according to USFOR-A, for the authorized strength, or the force level authorized in the tashkil, was 352,000, including the ANA and the ANP, as of January 31, 2018. The revised actual assigned strength of the ANP as of January 31 was 129,156. For further information about the

ANDSF strength figures, please see the supplement to SIGAR's April 2018 *Quarterly Report to the United States Congress* at <https://www.sigar.mil/quarterlyreports/>.²⁵¹

ANP Attrition

USFOR-A provided limited ANP attrition information this quarter in an unclassified format. A detailed analysis of attrition by ANP force element will be provided in the classified annex to this report. SIGAR's questions about ANP attrition can be found in Appendix E.

As of February 26, 2018, CSTC-A noted that ANP monthly attrition has been approximately 2% over the past three months. Additionally, they noted that ANP attrition has remained consistently below 3% over the last 12 months.²⁵²

ANP Sustainment

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated \$9 billion and disbursed \$8.8 billion of ASFF for ANP sustainment.²⁵³ According to CSTC-A, the total estimated annual ANP salary and incentive costs for FY 2018 will be \$140.1 million. Of this total, the U.S. contribution will be \$46.5 million.²⁵⁴

As with the ANA, CSTC-A reported that there have yet to be any non-payroll-related sustainment expenditures for the ANP for this fiscal year, as the Afghan government normally pays for non-payroll-related items later in the fiscal year.²⁵⁵

ANP Equipment and Transportation

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated and disbursed \$4.7 billion of ASFF for ANP equipment and transportation.²⁵⁶

As seen in Table 3.6 on the next page, CSTC-A reported the major items of equipment provided to the ANP from December 1, 2017, through February 28, 2018. During that period, the ANP received several major items of equipment valued at a total of \$211.3 million. Of this amount, the procurement of 726 Humvees made up the bulk of the expense, at \$193 million. The costliest weapons purchase was for 550 machine guns, valued at a total of \$4.4 million.²⁵⁷

Equipment Operational Readiness

This quarter USFOR-A classified data concerning the ANP's equipment readiness. The questions SIGAR asked about ANP equipment readiness can be found in Appendix E of this report. SIGAR will report on ANP equipment readiness in the classified annex.

ANP Infrastructure

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated \$3.2 billion and disbursed \$3.1 billion of ASFF for ANP infrastructure.²⁵⁸ CSTC-A reported that

SECURITY

TABLE 3.6

MAJOR EQUIPMENT ITEMS PROVIDED TO THE ANP FROM DECEMBER 2017 TO MARCH 2018				
Equipment Type	Equipment Description	Units Issued in Quarter	Unit Cost	Total Cost*
Vehicle	Medium Tactical Vehicle, Wrecker	4	\$350,000	\$1,400,000
Vehicle	30-Ton Crane	2	315,000	625,000
Vehicle	M1152 HMMWV (Humvee)	367	294,000	108,000,000
Vehicle	Water Tanker 1200 Gallon	7	247,000	1,700,000
Vehicle	M1151 HMMWV (Humvee)	359	237,000	85,000,000
Vehicle	Fuel Tanker 1200 Gallon	4	247,000	988,000
Vehicle	Medium Tactical Vehicle, International	87	85,000	7,400,000
Weapon	M240 Machine Gun	550	8,000	4,400,000
Weapon	M4A1 Carbine	1,143	958	1,100,000
Weapon	M9 Pistol	1,030	698	719,000
Total				\$211,332,000

Note: * Figures were rounded by CSTC-A.

Source: CSTC-A, response to SIGAR data call, 3/22/2018.

SIGAR INSPECTION

This quarter, SIGAR completed an inspection of the construction of the Ministry of Interior Headquarters that was overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The inspection found twelve deficiencies in the work, one of which was the installation of uncertified fire doors instead of certified fire-rated doors as required by contract. SIGAR found that “false” fire-certification labels had been applied to the doors after they were installed. Other deficiencies included contractors’ unauthorized substitution of inferior materials, and design and construction deficiencies. Some of these deficiencies pose safety risks, and all raise concerns about USACE oversight of the project. For more information, see Section Two.

the estimated total sustainment costs for ANP infrastructure in FY 2018 will amount to \$63.2 million.²⁵⁹

According to CSTC-A, as of February 28, 2018, the United States had completed a total of 754 ANP infrastructure projects in Afghanistan valued at \$2.9 billion. CSTC-A noted that total ANP infrastructure values were based on approved funding, but that a review of actual project awards reduced the total costs from the \$3.6 billion reported last quarter.²⁶⁰

This quarter, CSTC-A reported 24 ongoing projects valued at roughly \$75 million. CSTC-A also reported that three renovation projects to existing infrastructure in Logar, Kabul, and Parwan Provinces were completed at a total cost of about \$739,000. During the reporting period, one project was awarded for renovations to existing infrastructure in Balkh Province for approximately \$260,000.²⁶¹

The largest ongoing ANP infrastructure project this quarter continues to be the installation of an information-technology server at the MOI Headquarters Network Operations Center in Kabul. This \$43.5 million project is now expected to be completed in May 2018 rather than January 2018 as reported last quarter. The next-largest projects are two WPP projects: compounds for women at the Kabul Police Academy to be completed by June 2019 (\$7.1 million) and a women’s training facility at the Police Central Training Command in Kabul, which is to be completed by March 2019 (\$3.9 million).²⁶²

Last quarter, CSTC-A reported that five WPP infrastructure projects were in the planning phase at a cost of roughly \$108.4 million. This quarter,

CSTC-A reported that the largest of these projects, the ANP Women's Police Town at an estimated cost of \$100 million, is no longer going to be funded by ASFF and will instead be funded by the NATO ANA Trust Fund.²⁶³

ANP Training and Operations

As of March 31, 2018, the United States had obligated \$4.3 billion and disbursed \$4.2 billion of ASFF for ANP and MOI training and operations.²⁶⁴ CSTC-A stated that \$94.6 million, an additional \$53.3 million over FY 2017, was needed to cover an increase in MOI mentors and trainers, and a life-support line for food, lodging, and utilities used by contractors.²⁶⁵

CSTC-A primarily uses U.S.-provided ASFF funds for professional military education, travel, living allowances, and medical expenses for the MOI, ANP, and GCPSU personnel to attend law-enforcement and military training in the United States. The goal of the U.S.-based military training is to increase technical skills and to enhance knowledge and leadership at all levels. CSTC-A says that the program allows the U.S. military to have a lasting influence on ANP development. CSTC-A also uses ASFF funding to recruit and hire Afghans who train, advise, and assist the ANP in a wide array of ANDSF logistics and administrative skills.²⁶⁶

This quarter, SIGAR requested additional information on the ANP training programs to include the program cost, name of contractor, and the scope of work for each contract, and the number of ANP trained by each contract. According to CSTC-A, there are seven ongoing or recently completed training programs at a total cost of about \$138.1 million. DynCorp International holds the longest and largest contract (\$74.7 million) to provide advisors for the ANP. Additionally, Raytheon holds four contracts (\$32.2 million total) and OT Training Solutions holds one contract (\$3.2 million). The remaining contract valued at about \$28 million was recently initiated, so contractual details were not available.²⁶⁷

SIGAR asked for the number of ANP trained in each contractor-provided training program. CSTC-A responded that this information was not available.²⁶⁸

Last quarter, USFOR-A characterized the RS police-training effort as "minimal" for the AUP "as the Resolute Support Mission does not provide the type of tactical, hands-on training that was the case under ISAF," the International Security Assistance Force, the precursor of RS.²⁶⁹ This quarter, SIGAR requested additional information about the extent of TAA to the AUP. CSTC-A responded by explaining that the RS Police Institutional Advisory Team (PIAT) advises extensively at the institutional level of training and education. This means that the 16-person PIAT advises over 30 officers and civilians, from major general to high-ranking civilians, at the Ministry of Interior, the Training General Command, the Afghan National Police Academy, and the Afghan National Staff College. PIAT trains and advises on a number of issues from policy to human resources and gender



General Command of Police Special Units' first female police conduct fast-rope training with the Special Mission Wing near Kabul on April 9 2018. (NSOCC-A photo by LaShawn Sykes)

integration. CSTC-A noted that there are currently no plans to increase the TAA institutional level of training and education for AUP.²⁷⁰ CSTC-A further noted that the Afghans train their own police at the 10 ANP regional training centers, at the Afghan National Police Academy, and at the Afghan National Staff College.²⁷¹

WOMEN IN THE ANDSF

According to the RS Gender Advisor Office, as of March 3, 2018, there were 4,335 women serving in the ANDSF, a decrease of 297 personnel since last quarter. Of the total female personnel in the ANDSF, 3,040 were in the ANP, 1,295 were in the ANA, 72 were in the ASSF, and 98 were in the AAF. Of the women in the ANP, ANA, ASSF, and AAF, there were 1,504 officers, 1,551 noncommissioned officers, 1,305 enlisted personnel, and 145 cadets.

The number of women in each force element fell, with the largest decrease in the ANA, which lost 110 personnel since December 2017.²⁷² The ANP also lost 180 policewomen since September 2017, which is primarily attributed to the transfer of the Afghan Border Police (ABP) from MOI to MOD control.²⁷³ Under MOD's current proposals, the number of female-only positions in the ANA is set to increase by 1,600 annually for the next four years. However, CSTC-A reports this quarter that the Minister of Defense recognized the need to increase that number, and a working group has been created to amend the tashkil accordingly.²⁷⁴ The target for ANP women's recruitment has not been finalized since last quarter.²⁷⁵

RS Gender Affairs also reported that women in the ANA are eligible to participate in all basic and advanced training courses associated with their military occupational specialization. According to CSTC-A, nearly every course taught within the ANA is gender integrated, but maximum participation of females is hampered by the dearth of positions designated for women within the respective career fields for which training is provided. This is being addressed through a working group that is optimizing the tashkil.²⁷⁶ Female ANP police officers currently attend NCO training abroad at the Sivas Police Training Academy in Sivas, Turkey. The most recent training cohort of 187 women graduated in March 2018.²⁷⁷

ANDSF MEDICAL AND HEALTH CARE

This quarter, CSTC-A reported the total cost of ANDSF medical equipment procured and fielded through funds provided directly to the Afghan government was \$910,000 as of March 5, 2018, with a projected total cost of \$36.1 million for indirectly funded medical expenditures in FY 2018.²⁷⁸

CSTC-A currently has three advisors providing training and advising at the Afghan Armed Forces Academy of Medical Sciences (AAFAMS). Additionally, the medical advising program allows ANDSF health

professionals to undergo training in foreign countries, mostly sponsored by Coalition nations.²⁷⁹

CSTC-A reported this quarter that new policies and upgraded training programs have improved point-of-injury care and reduced killed-in-action rates amongst ANDSF and civilian combat casualties. All recruits at Kabul Military Training Center are now issued tourniquets and first aid kits and trained in their use. Casualties from combat and terrorism in the greater Kabul area have been further reduced by the implementation of a mandated national emergency operations center to coordinate emergency medical resources.²⁸⁰

From December to early March, CSTC-A reported that the ANA received 850,000 vaccine doses: 140,000 for measles, mumps and rubella, 300,000 for hepatitis B, 270,000 for tetanus, 70,000 for meningococcus, and 70,000 for typhoid.²⁸¹ The ANP received 426,000 vaccine doses: 110,000 for influenza, 105,000 for typhoid, 30,000 for meningococcus, 1,000 for rabies, 90,000 for hepatitis B, and 90,000 for polio.²⁸² CTSC-A's EF-5 logistics team, working with ANA Medical Command, also determined that a high percentage of the ABF do not meet minimum vaccination requirements, leading them to develop a vaccination plan in conjunction with ANA corps and ABF surgeons.²⁸³ RS advisors likewise developed a plan to distribute vaccines to ANP units in all 34 provinces.²⁸⁴

On February 13, the AAF made an aerial delivery of critical medical supplies to the 205th Corps Regional Hospital, an operation which required extensive coordination among various ANDSF commands. TAAC-Air is coordinating with the other TAACs across Afghanistan to educate and encourage ANA corps commanders to request supplies through AAF airdrops.²⁸⁵

The Afghan National Police Hospital (ANPH) renovation project was completed this quarter, following delays last quarter, with the ANPH successfully relocating smoothly to the newly-renovated five-story building. This will relieve overcrowding in the old facility.²⁸⁶

Lastly, a roughly \$2 million contract to maintain and repair 769 pieces of biomedical equipment is currently awaiting approval by President Ghani. CSTC-A describes this contract as “critical” to the MOI’s ability to maintain its medical equipment.²⁸⁷ However, a further four packages for medical equipment and supply procurement have been approved, totaling \$4 million for the ANA and \$2.3 million for the ANP.²⁸⁸

SIGAR SPECIAL PROJECT

SIGAR issued a review this quarter examining the ANA’s process for testing the blood of new recruits for blood type and blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B and C, venereal diseases, and HIV. According to CSTC-A’s Command Surgeon and the Afghan Recruiting Command advisor, due to a lack of supplies for testing blood, the Afghan Medical Command stopped testing blood of new Afghan recruits, and the recruits were directed to have a local civilian physician perform the blood testing. This resulted in the ANA becoming reliant on test results from local civilian doctors with no assurance that lab work was actually conducted or that the results were accurate. For more information, see Section Two of this report.

REMOVING UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

According to the United Nations (UN), Afghanistan is one of the countries most affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) such as live shells and bombs.²⁸⁹ The Department of State’s (State) Bureau of Political-Military Affairs’ Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) manages the conventional-weapons destruction program in Afghanistan. Since FY 2002, State has provided \$361.7 million

in weapons-destruction and humanitarian mine-action assistance to Afghanistan. PM/WRA has two-year funding and has obligated \$1.6 million of its FY 2017 funds so far. The U.S. government's budgetary process has significantly delayed obligation of assistance funds for FY 2017 and FY 2018. Additional funding will be captured in subsequent SIGAR reports.²⁹⁰

State directly funds six Afghan nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), four international NGOs, and one U.S. government contractor. These funds enable clearing areas contaminated by ERW and support clearing conventional weapons used by insurgents to construct roadside bombs and other IEDs. As of December 31, 2017, State-funded implementing partners have cleared more than 240.8 million square meters of land (approximately 93 square miles) and removed or destroyed approximately eight million landmines and other ERW such as unexploded ordnance (UXO), abandoned ordnance (AO), stockpiled munitions, and homemade explosives since 2002 (see Table 3.7).²⁹¹

The estimated total area of contaminated land continues to fluctuate: clearance activities reduce the extent of hazardous areas, but ongoing survey activities find new contaminated land. At the beginning of this quarter, there were 547 square kilometers (211.2 square miles) of contaminated minefields and battlefields. Following this quarter, the total known contaminated area was 575 square kilometers (222 square miles) in 3,838 hazard areas. PM/WRA defines a minefield as the area contaminated by landmines, whereas a contaminated area can include both landmines and other ERW.²⁹²

According to the UN, deaths caused by ERW, mines, and pressure-plate IEDs remain high. The Afghan government must track, mark, and remove explosive remnants of war pursuant to the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V).²⁹³ Casualties from mines, ERW, and victim-activated explosive devices averaged 170 per month in 2017, an increase from 2016's monthly average of 162 casualties. The vast majority of casualties (96.4%) are due to ERW and victim-activated explosive devices.²⁹⁴

USAID, in partnership with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), provides services for victims and survivors of mines and ERW, as well as for civilians affected by conflict and persons with disabilities, most recently through the Afghan Civilian Assistance Program (ACAP) III. This project aimed to mitigate the short-term and long-term impact of conflict on civilians. ACAP III concluded on February 14, 2018; final project and evaluation reports have not been completed.²⁹⁵

ACAP was a nationwide program with a budget of \$19.6 million (revised in 2017 from \$30.2 million). ACAP III worked to enhance the government's capacity to better deliver services to the families of martyrs (the Afghan government's term for casualties from attacks and explosive devices)

and disabled persons in Afghanistan. USAID is in the process of awarding Conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilians (COMAC) to take over ACAP III's activities. COMAC, currently under procurement, is a five-year program with an estimated cost of \$39 million.²⁹⁶

Afghanistan is a signatory of the UN Ottawa Treaty on antipersonnel mines, which requires it to be mine-free by 2023. However, according to the UNMAS, Afghan government compliance is lagging, with funding dropping to 35% of 2011 levels. To help meet its international commitments, Afghanistan requested \$75 million for clearance activities this year.²⁹⁷

TABLE 3.7

CONVENTIONAL-WEAPONS DESTRUCTION PROGRAM METRICS, FISCAL YEARS 2010–2018						
Fiscal Year	Minefields Cleared (m ²)	AT/AP Destroyed	UXO Destroyed	SAA Destroyed	Fragments Cleared ^a	Estimated Contaminated Area Remaining (m ²) ^b
2010	39,337,557	13,879	663,162	1,602,267	4,339,235	650,662,000
2011	31,644,360	10,504	345,029	2,393,725	21,966,347	602,000,000
2012	46,783,527	11,830	344,363	1,058,760	22,912,702	550,000,000
2013	25,059,918	6,431	203,024	275,697	10,148,683	521,000,000
2014	22,071,212	12,397	287,331	346,484	9,415,712	511,600,000
2015	12,101,386	2,134	33,078	88,798	4,062,478	570,800,000
2016	27,856,346	6,493	6,289	91,563	9,616,485	607,600,000
2017	31,897,313	6,646	37,632	88,261	1,158,886	547,000,000
2018 ^c	4,069,441	1,335	8,404	31,873	(No data)	575,000,000
TOTAL	240,821,060	71,649	1,928,312	5,977,428	83,620,528	575,000,000

Note: AT/AP = antitank/antipersonnel ordnance. UXO = unexploded ordnance. SAA = small-arms ammunition.

Fragments are reported because clearing them requires the same care as for other objects until their nature is determined. There are about 4,047 square meters (m²) to an acre.

^a PM/WRA no longer includes "fragments cleared" as a metric reporting category.

^b Total area of contaminated land fluctuates as clearance activities reduce hazardous areas while ongoing survey identifies and adds new contaminated land in the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) database.

^c First fiscal quarter (10/1/2017–12/31/2017) results only.

Source: PM/WRA, response to SIGAR data call, 3/24/2018.