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In this photo from the days of large-scale U.S. troop deployment, scouts from the 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne) keep watch as colleagues search a village in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brandon Aird)

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SIGAR's enabling legislation requires it to keep the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense fully informed about problems relating to the administration of Afghanistan reconstruction programs, and to submit a report to Congress on SIGAR's oversight work and on the status of the U.S. reconstruction effort no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter. Each quarter, SIGAR requests updates from other agencies on completed and ongoing oversight activities. This section compiles these updates. Publicly available copies of completed reports are posted on the agencies' respective websites.

The descriptions appear as submitted, with minor changes to maintain consistency with other sections of this report: acronyms and abbreviations in place of full names; standardized capitalization, punctuation, and preferred spellings; and third-person instead of first-person construction.

These agencies perform oversight activities in Afghanistan and provide results to SIGAR:

- Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DOD OIG)
- Department of State Office of Inspector General (State OIG)
- Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- U.S. Army Audit Agency (USAAA)
- U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General (USAID OIG)

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COMPLETED OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Table 4.1 lists the five oversight reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction that participating agencies completed this quarter.

TABLE 4.1

RECENTLY COMPLETED OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017			
Agency	Report Number	Date Issued	Report Title
DOD OIG	DODIG-2018-040	12/11/2017	Army Oversight of Logistics Civil Augmentation Program Government-Furnished Property in Afghanistan
DOD OIG	DODIG-2018-018	11/16/2017	Implementation of the DOD Leahy Law Regarding Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse by Members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces
State OIG	AUD-MERO-18-16	11/9/2017	Management Assistance Report: Although Progress Has Been Made, Challenges Remain in Monitoring and Overseeing Antiterrorism Assistance Program Activities in Afghanistan
State OIG	AUD-MERO-18-14	10/27/2017	Management Assistance Report: Contract Terms and Guidance for Approving Student Training Expenses Relating to the Justice and Corrections Programs in Afghanistan Require Attention
GAO	GAO-18-6	11/2/2017	Inspectors General: Documented Agreement of Certain Roles and Responsibilities Could Further Enhance Coordination in Afghanistan

Source: DOD OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/22/2017; State OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/13/2017; GAO, response to SIGAR data call, 12/22/2017; USAID OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/8/2017; USAAA, response to SIGAR data call, 1/10/2018.

U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

During this quarter, DOD OIG released two reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Army Oversight of Logistics Civil Augmentation Program Government-Furnished Property in Afghanistan

The DOD OIG determined that the U.S. Army did not provide effective oversight of Logistics Civil Augmentation Program Government-furnished property. Specifically, the U.S. Army Sustainment Command did not include at least 26,993 items provided to the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program IV contractors in the army's accountable records.

Implementation of the DOD Leahy Law Regarding Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse by Members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces

The DOD OIG conducted this evaluation in response to a request from Congressional committee staff and individual members of Congress. The DOD OIG found that, prior to specific command guidance issued in September 2015, U.S. personnel in Afghanistan may not have known of the obligation to report allegations of child sexual abuse to their chains of command. The DOD OIG identified areas for improvement concerning DOD guidance on reporting gross violations of human rights, determinations of credibility, application of the notwithstanding authority, and records management.

U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General- Middle East Regional Operations

During this quarter, State OIG released two reports related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Audit of the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs

State OIG issued a management-assistance report on monitoring and overseeing antiterrorism assistance program activities in Afghanistan.

Audit of Department of State Grants and Cooperative Agreements

State OIG issued a management-assistance report on contract terms and guidance for approving student training expenses relating to the justice and corrections programs in Afghanistan.

Government Accountability Office

During this quarter, GAO released one report related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Inspectors General: Document Agreement of Certain Roles and Responsibilities Could Further Enhance Coordination in Afghanistan

Overlap exists among the mandates of the four Offices of Inspector General (OIG) that conduct and report on oversight activities for U.S. operations in Afghanistan. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2008 established the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). Additionally, the OIGs for the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of State (State), and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)—the primary agencies with programs and operations in Afghanistan—conduct oversight of their respective agencies in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (IG Act). This results in overlap of responsibilities, as SIGAR is required to oversee and report on Afghanistan reconstruction while the OIGs at DOD, State, and USAID are required to oversee and report on their respective agencies' programs and operations, including those related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

The NDAA for Fiscal Year 2013 created a Lead Inspector General (Lead IG) role for overseas contingency operations, which is assigned to DOD OIG for Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. Because this requires the Lead IG to review the accuracy of information that federal agencies provide to support the contingency operation, potential overlap exists with SIGAR and the OIGs at State and USAID as they perform their duties and responsibilities under their general oversight authorities.

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Both SIGAR and the Lead IG are subject to statutory requirements to report on a quarterly basis on the overall conduct of the federal programs and operations within the scope of their oversight. The Lead IG is required to biannually report on the activities of the State and USAID OIGs related to Operation Freedom's Sentinel, while these OIGs are also subject to the general semiannual reporting requirements of the IG Act.

To help prevent duplication, these mandates include provisions requiring SIGAR and the other OIGs to coordinate their oversight activities. SIGAR and the other OIGs have established coordination mechanisms to help prevent duplication of oversight activities related to U.S. operations in Afghanistan. GAO reviewed the objectives of 137 audit, inspection, and evaluation reports issued by the four OIGs from January 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, and did not identify duplicate objectives among these reports. GAO also reviewed 43 special projects issued by SIGAR and did not identify any duplication between these products and the reported objectives of the reports that the OIGs issued.

However, SIGAR and DOD IG, as the Lead IG, have not documented their agreed-upon roles and responsibilities for obtaining data from agencies and other OIGs used to prepare their mandated reports. According to GAO's leading practices for effective interagency collaboration, documenting significant items that affect collaborative agreements could enhance coordination and strengthen the commitment to working collaboratively. Without documented agreement on roles and responsibilities to address overlapping areas in their reports, there is increased risk that SIGAR and DOD OIG could (1) duplicate requests for information, resulting in unnecessary burden on agencies responding to them, and (2) duplicate efforts in meeting their respective reporting requirements.

U.S. Army Audit Agency

The USAAA completed no audits related to Afghanistan reconstruction this quarter.

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General

USAID OIG completed no audits related to Afghanistan reconstruction this quarter.

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ONGOING OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

As of December 31, 2017, the participating agencies reported 18 ongoing oversight activities related to reconstruction in Afghanistan. The activities reported are listed in Table 4.2 and described in the following sections by agency.

TABLE 4.2

ONGOING OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER U.S. AGENCIES, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017			
Agency	Project Number	Date Initiated	Project Title
DOD OIG	D2017-D000PT-0186.000	9/6/2017	Military Facilities Evaluation Follow-Up Kandahar Air Field Afghanistan
DOD OIG	D2017-D000CI-0176.000	8/1/2017	Summary Audit of U.S. Direct Funding Provided to Afghanistan
DOD OIG	D2017-D000JB-0171.000	7/19/2017	Audit of DOD Oversight of Logistics Civil Augmentation Program Invoice Review and Payment
DOD OIG	D2017-D00SPO-0081.000	2/2/2017	Evaluation of U.S./Coalition Efforts to Train, Advise, and Assist the Afghan Air Force
DOD OIG	D2016-DISPA2-0195.000	8/11/2016	Evaluation of Airborne ISR Allocation Process Supporting Counterterrorism Operations in Afghanistan
State OIG	17AUD09	9/25/2017	DOS OIG Audit of the Invoice Review Process for Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' Overseas Contingency Operations contracts
State OIG	17AUD065	6/15/2017	Audit of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Aviation Program
State OIG	17AUD018	1/15/2017	Follow-Up Review of Explosive Detection Dogs in Iraq and Afghanistan
State OIG	16AUD044	10/15/2016	Audit of Embassy Kabul Construction and Commissioning
State OIG	17AUD072	8/15/2016	Audit of the Antiterrorism Assistance Program in Countries Under the Department of State Bureaus of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs
GAO	102270	8/21/2017	Defense Logistic Agency's Disposal of Excess Equipment in Afghanistan
GAO	102267	8/21/2017	Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization Transition
GAO	102261	8/14/2017	Advise and Assist Lessons Learned
GAO	101213	10/31/2016	Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Resettlement
GAO	101053	8/1/2016	Afghan Defense and Security Forces' Equipment and Capability
USAAA	A-2017-IEX-0136.000	6/13/2017	Accuracy of the Financial Data the Army Provides to DOD for Inclusion into the Cost of War Report Provided to Congress
USAID OIG	8F1C0217	8/9/2017	Follow-Up Audit of USAID's Multi-Tiered Monitoring Strategy in Afghanistan
USAID OIG	FF1C0216	5/11/2016	Audit of USAID/Afghanistan's New Development Partnership

Source: DOD OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/22/2017; State OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/13/2017; GAO, response to SIGAR data call, 12/22/2017; USAID OIG, response to SIGAR data call, 12/8/2017; USAAA, response to SIGAR data call, 1/10/2018.

U.S. Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

The Department of Defense continues to face many challenges in executing its Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). DOD OIG has identified priorities based on those challenges and high risks. DOD OIG oversight focuses on the areas of monitoring and oversight of acquisition and contracting processes that support training, equipping, and sustaining Afghanistan security forces. DOD OIG will also continue to review and assess the Department's efforts to train and equip Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

The DOD OIG-led Southwest Asia Joint Planning Group assists in the coordination and deconfliction of federal and DOD OCO-related oversight activities. DOD OIG, working with SIGAR as well as fellow Inspectors

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General and Defense oversight-community members, has issued the FY 2018 Comprehensive Oversight Plan for Overseas Contingency Operations (COP-OCO), the third annual joint strategic plan submitted to Congress describing whole-of-government oversight activities in support of the ongoing overseas contingency operations as well as oversight efforts in Southwest Asia. The COP-OCO includes the Joint Strategic Oversight Plans (JSOP) for Operation Inherent Resolve and Afghanistan. The Afghanistan JSOP includes Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS), as well as reconstruction and humanitarian-assistance programs and activities that are separate from OFS.

DOD OIG has five ongoing projects this quarter that relate to reconstruction or security operations in Afghanistan.

Military Facilities Evaluation Follow-Up Kandahar Airfield Afghanistan

The DOD OIG is determining whether U.S. military-occupied facilities supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel comply with DOD health and safety policies and standards regarding electrical distribution and fire-protection systems.

Summary Audit of U.S. Direct Funding Provided to Afghanistan

The DOD OIG is summarizing systemic challenges with CSTC-A's oversight of the direct funding provided to the Afghan government.

Audit of DOD Oversight of Logistics Civil Augmentation Program Invoice and Review and Payment

The DOD OIG is determining whether the DOD adequately monitored contractor performance and conducted sufficient invoice reviews for services provided under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program IV contract.

Evaluation of U.S./Coalition Efforts to Train, Advise, and Assist the Afghan Air Force

The DOD OIG is evaluating the U.S./Coalition progress toward—and its planned efforts to accomplish—the Train, Advise, and Assist Command-Air (TAAC-Air) mission of training, advising, and assisting their Afghan partners to develop into a professional, capable, and sustainable air force.

Evaluation of Airborne ISR Allocation Process Supporting Counterterrorism Operations in Afghanistan

The DOD OIG is determining whether U.S. Forces-Afghanistan's airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) allocation process effectively supports U.S. counterterrorism operations.

U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General- Middle East Regional Operations

State OIG has five ongoing projects this quarter related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Audit of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs' Invoice Review Process

State OIG is currently auditing the invoice review process for Overseas Contingency Operations contracts that have been awarded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

Audit of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Aviation Program

The purpose of the audit is to determine whether the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is administering its aviation program, including key internal controls such as inventory management, aviation-asset usage, aircraft maintenance, and asset disposal, in accordance with federal requirements and department guidelines.

Audit of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Explosives Detection Dog Program

The purpose of the audit is to determine whether the Bureau of Diplomatic Security is managing and overseeing the Explosives Detection Dog Program in accordance with State guidance and whether the selected contractors are complying with contract terms and conditions.

Audit of Embassy Kabul Construction and Commissioning

The purpose of this audit is to determine whether the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations followed State Department policies and guidance governing the affirmation of substantial completion and final acceptance of construction projects at U.S. Embassy Kabul.

Audit of State's Antiterrorism Assistance Programs in Countries within the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs

The purpose of this audit is to determine the extent to which the Bureaus of Diplomatic Security and Counterterrorism have (1) developed specific, measurable, and outcome-oriented goals and objectives; and (2) developed and implemented an evaluation process to assess host-country performance.

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Government Accountability Office

GAO has five ongoing projects this quarter related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Defense Logistics Agency's Disposal of Excess Equipment in Afghanistan

GAO reported in a previous report (GAO-14-768) that it is sometimes more cost-effective to destroy excess equipment in Afghanistan than to return it to the United States. However, the Federal Spending Oversight Subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is concerned that DOD is destroying new and usable excess equipment in Afghanistan that could be used by others (military services or allies) and in demand in DOD's logistical system.

This review will address: 1. What is the volume and value of new or otherwise usable equipment being disposed in Afghanistan? 2. What procedures are used by DOD to ensure that items designated for disposal in Afghanistan are not in demand in the DOD logistics system, by our allies, or elsewhere in Afghanistan? 3. To what extent are potential future orders and requirements in Afghanistan considered in decisions to dispose of new and usable items?

Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization Transition

In 2006, DOD established the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) to lead and coordinate the department's efforts to develop counter-IED capabilities to support operations primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2015, JIEDDO was designated a combat support agency and renamed the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency (JIDA). At the direction of Congress to gain efficiencies in the department's headquarters functions, DOD transitioned JIDA to the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Organization (JIDO) as a single joint organization under the authority, direction, and control of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) in 2016.

GAO will assess the transition of JIDO under the authority, direction, and control of the DTRA, including (1) the extent to which JIDO activities, functions, and resources have been efficiently and effectively transitioned and what, if any, efficiency and effectiveness gains are anticipated; and (2) how, if at all, the transition has affected JIDO's core mission and functions, including operational support to U.S. and allied forces.

Advise and Assist Lessons Learned

U.S. military personnel have been actively engaged as part of Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) in advising and assisting Iraqi Security Forces and vetted Syrian forces to counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant since late 2014. In Afghanistan, the U.S. still has more than 8,000 military personnel, many of whom are focused on advising and assisting the Afghan

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National Defense and Security Forces as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS).

GAO notes that the DOD approach to advising and assisting partner nation forces has evolved over time, transitioning from a larger U.S. military presence to now relying on a more limited number of U.S. forces on the ground. For example, the current approach in Syria uses a small footprint with a significant presence of special operations forces and reliance on key enablers such as air support, airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), and logistics. DOD continues to draw personnel from across the military services, including from conventional combat units, to serve as advisors in Iraq and Afghanistan.

GAO has previously identified challenges DOD has faced in supporting advising missions, such as selecting and training advisor personnel, balancing advising activities with other missions, and maintaining the readiness of units that provide advisors. The committee is aware of ongoing efforts to develop new capabilities, such as the Army's effort to develop advise and assist brigades.

Given these past challenges, and the emphasis that current military strategy continues to place on the importance of advising partner security forces to counter global threats, it remains essential for DOD to take steps to ensure that it: (1) has an effective approach for selecting, training, and utilizing advisor personnel in ongoing operations; and (2) continues the development of a long-term strategy that institutionalizes successful advise-and-assist approaches to ensure U.S. forces are positioned to effectively execute similar missions in the future.

Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Resettlement

Iraqi and Afghan special immigrant visa (SIV) holders who either worked as translators or were employed by the U.S. government in Iraq or Afghanistan are eligible for resettlement assistance when they are admitted to the United States. The Department of State's Refugee Admissions Reception and Placement Program provides initial resettlement services to refugees and certain SIVs, working with nine national resettlement agencies and their local affiliates. After the first 90 days from refugees' and SIVs' entry into the country, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement provides resettlement services through state-level or private programs.

The review will address: (1) how do relevant federal agencies ensure that the housing, employment, and other needs of Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders are being met, (2) what does available housing and employment information show regarding Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders' progress in achieving self-sufficiency, and (3) what factors, if any, affect resettlement agencies' ability to serve Iraqi and Afghan SIV holders.

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Afghan National Defense and Security Forces' Equipment and Capability

Since 2002, the United States, with assistance from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other Coalition nations, has worked to train, equip, and develop the capability of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. In January 2015, the ANDSF formally assumed security responsibilities for all of Afghanistan. The United States continues to train and equip the ANDSF to develop a force that can protect the Afghan people and contribute to regional and international security. A House report associated with the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act cited concerns about the security situation in Afghanistan and included a provision for GAO to review U.S. assistance to the ANDSF, including weapons and equipment and the ANDSF's capability to operate and maintain such items.

U.S. Army Audit Agency

This quarter the USAAA has one ongoing audit related to Afghanistan reconstruction.

Accuracy of Army Financial Data Provided for the Cost of War Report to Congress

The objective of this audit is to verify that the Army's obligations and disbursements reported in the Cost of War report for Operation Freedom's Sentinel are accurate and reported timely.

U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General

This quarter USAID OIG has two ongoing audits related to reconstruction initiatives.

Follow-Up Audit of USAID's Multi-Tiered Monitoring Strategy in Afghanistan

The objectives of this audit is to determine the extent which USAID has used its multi-tiered monitoring strategy in Afghanistan to manage projects and serve as the basis for informed decision making. The entrance conference was held August 9, 2017.

Audit of USAID/Afghanistan's New Development Partnership

The objectives of this audit are to determine if USAID/Afghanistan has adopted internal policies and procedures to adequately verify the achievement of New Development Partnership (NDP) indicators contained in the July 25, 2015, NDP results framework; and if USAID/Afghanistan has adequately verified the achievement of completed indicators under the NDP for any payments made to date.

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