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Department of Defense

Department of Defense Report on Use of Military Force and Support of Partner Forces for the Following Periods: January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020; July 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020; and January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021 (U)

(U) Submitted pursuant to Section 1285 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) (50 U.S.C. 1550).

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(U) Section 1285 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92) (50 U.S.C. 1550), states the following:

SEC. 1285. Reports and Briefings on Use of Military Force and Support of Partner Forces (U)

- (a) (U) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on actions taken pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) against those countries or organizations described in such law, as well as any actions taken to command, coordinate, participate in the movement of, or accompany the regular or irregular military forces of any foreign country or government when such forces are engaged in hostilities or in situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, during the preceding 180-day period.
- (b) (U) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the time period for which the report was submitted, the following:
- (1) (U) A list of each country or organization with respect to which force has been used pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force, including the legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under such law applies with respect to each such country or organization.
 - (2) (U) An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each such country or organization.
 - (3) (U) A list of each country in which operations were conducted pursuant to such law and a description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law, including whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.
 - (4) (U) A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.
 - (5) (U) A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities, including—
 - (A) (U) a delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the Authorization for Use of Military Force; and
 - (B) (U) a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.

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- (6) (U) A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the Authorization for Use of Military Force.
- (c) (U) FORM.—The information required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form.
- (d) (U) OTHER REPORTS.—If United States Armed Forces are introduced into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, against any country, organization, or person pursuant to statutory or constitutional authorities other than the Authorization for Use of Military Force, the President shall comply with the reporting requirements under—
- (1) (U) this section to the same extent and in the same manner as if such actions had been taken under the Authorization for Use of Military Force;
 - (2) (U) the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.); and
 - (3) (U) any other applicable provision of law.
- (e) (U) BRIEFINGS.—At least once during each 180-day period described in subsection (a), the President shall provide to the congressional defense committees, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the matters covered by the report required under this section for such period.

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Department of Defense Report on Use of Military Force and Support of Partner Forces for the Following Periods: January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020; July 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020; and January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021 (U)

(U) This report is submitted pursuant to Section 1285 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 (Public Law 116-92) (50 U.S.C. 1550). It provides information about U.S. military operations executed under the authority of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40) (the “2001 AUMF”) and support of partner forces for three six-month periods.

(U) A classified annex accompanies this report. Section 1285(c) requires certain information be submitted in unclassified form. Because some of that information is properly classified to protect the national security interests of the United States, the more complete information is presented in the classified annex.

(U) The following three sections describe the use of military force and support of partner forces during the three six-month periods of: January 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020; July 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020; and January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021.

(U) The Department of Defense is submitting this report on behalf of the President, pursuant to a July 19, 2021, Presidential delegation of authority.

(U) The Department of Defense is working diligently to submit reports required by Section 1285 in a timely manner. This submission includes reports for two six-month periods that the previous Administration did not provide. Although this consolidated report does not cover the immediately preceding six-month period of July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, the Department will provide that report as quickly as possible and will endeavor to submit the reports on time for future reporting periods.

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I. (U) USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND SUPPORT OF PARTNER FORCES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2020, TO JUNE 30, 2020

(U) During the first six months of calendar year 2020, U.S. forces were engaged in a number of military operations pursuant to the 2001 AUMF. This section provides information regarding U.S. military actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria. All assessments and other information provided below are current as of the reporting period; changes that occurred in later reporting periods will be included in subsequent reports.

(U) This section contains general information about each operation, as required in Section 1285 of the NDAA for FY 2020 (Public Law 116-92) (50 U.S.C. 1550).

A. (U) U.S. military actions in Afghanistan against al-Qa'ida, Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan

(U) The following are the organizations in Afghanistan during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; (2) the Taliban, (3) the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS); and (4) certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, as well as the Taliban, which harbored al-Qa'ida.

(U) As has been reported consistently to the Congress, the 2001 AUMF also authorizes the President to use force against ISIS and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* As of this reporting period, al-Qa'ida, including al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), probably poses a low threat to the U.S. homeland and did not claim any attacks in Afghanistan during this period. Al-Qa'ida probably lacks the intent and capability for attacks abroad, and suffered leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure. Al-Qa'ida's strategy is

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probably focused on survival in Afghanistan until the withdrawal of U.S. forces called for in the U.S.-Taliban Agreement is complete.

(U) The Taliban and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan likely pose a moderate threat to U.S. interests – particularly U.S. military forces – in Afghanistan, and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. These groups have prioritized the departure of U.S. and Coalition forces from the country as part of the U.S.-Taliban Agreement, and do not wish to jeopardize the U.S. withdrawal by conducting provocative attacks. The groups remain highly capable of targeting U.S. interests in Afghanistan, judging from open source reporting.

- (U) January-June 2020: In January 2020, a Taliban improvised explosive device (IED) killed two U.S. service members in Kandahar Province, highlighting the persistent threat to U.S. forces prior to the implementation of the U.S.-Taliban agreement.

(U) ISIS probably poses a low threat to local U.S. interests in Afghanistan, and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. ISIS's threat within Afghanistan is low due to the limited remaining U.S. presence and the group's preference to attack soft targets.

(U) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and associated forces, including ISIS, and conducted combat operations against those groups in Afghanistan during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* The United States executes Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL (OFS) to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission (RSM) in

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Afghanistan, which consists of military forces from 24 NATO countries (plus the United States) and 11 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Sweden, and Ukraine.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

B. (U) U.S. military action in Iraq against al-Qa'ida and ISIS

(U) The following are the two organizations in Iraq during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; and (2) ISIS.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* Al-Qa'ida probably poses a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacks the capability to

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direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacks the intent and capability for attacks abroad after suffering leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure.

(U) ISIS probably poses a collateral threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacks the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Within Iraq, ISIS emphasizes targeting local security forces and civilians to drive its insurgency. ISIS primarily uses small arms and IEDs in attacks against local civilians and security forces.

- (U) January-June 2020: In March 2020, ISIS killed two U.S. service members while the soldiers were assisting local security forces on counter-ISIS missions in the Makhmur Mountains of northern Iraq. In early 2020, ISIS's official media highlighted reductions in the U.S. force presence and restrictions on the movement of Iraqi security forces as exploitable opportunities to increase attacks in Iraq.

(U) ***A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.*** The United States remains in an armed conflict with al-Qa'ida and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Iraq during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) ***A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.*** Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) consists of military forces from 30 NATO Allies (plus the United States) and 47 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

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- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

C. (U) U.S. military actions in Somalia against al-Shabaab and ISIS

(U) *A list of organizations with respect to which force has been used pursuant to the 2001 AUMF.* The following are the two organizations in Somalia during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Shabaab; and (2) the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* Al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qa'ida covered by the 2001 AUMF. To be considered an "associated force" of al-Qa'ida or the Taliban for purposes of the authority conferred by the 2001 AUMF, an entity must satisfy two conditions. First the entity must be an organized, armed group that has entered the fight alongside al-Qa'ida or the Taliban. Second, the group must be a co-belligerent with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners.

(U) The factual basis for determination that al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qa'ida is that it has pledged loyalty to al-Qa'ida in its public statements; made clear that it considers the United States one of its enemies; and been responsible for numerous attacks, threats, and plots against U.S. persons and interests in East Africa. In short, al-Shabaab has entered the fight

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alongside al-Qa'ida and is a co-belligerent with al-Qa'ida in hostilities against the United States, making it an "associated force" and therefore within the scope of the 2001 AUMF.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF. ISIS has spread to numerous countries outside of Iraq and Syria, including Somalia.

(U) ***An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.*** Al-Shabaab probably poses a high terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. Al-Shabaab is capable of conducting attacks in Somalia and neighboring countries and controlling territory in central and southern Somalia, despite sporadic efforts by the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia to dislodge the group.

- (U) January-June 2020: On January 5, al-Shabaab killed three U.S. personnel in an attack on a joint U.S.-Kenya military base in Manda Bay, Kenya, marking the group's first attack on a U.S. base outside Somalia. Al-Shabaab claimed the attack was carried out in response to al-Qa'ida emir Ayman al-Zawahiri's guidance and direction. In a March 27 video, al-Shabaab's emir urged supporters to target U.S. and French interests in Djibouti, which hosts the only permanent U.S. base in Africa. From February to May, al-Shabaab conducted multiple mortar attacks targeting Mogadishu International Airport.

(U) The ISIS branch in Somalia probably poses a low threat to U.S. interests in East Africa and no threat to the U.S. homeland.

(U) ***A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.*** The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Shabaab and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Somalia during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) ***A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

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(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* USAFRICOM coordinates U.S. military operations in Somalia with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which consists of five contributing African nations:

- (U) AMISOM Contributing Nations: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

D. (U) U.S. military actions in Syria against al-Qa'ida and ISIS

(U) The following are the two organizations in Syria during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; and (2) ISIS.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* ISIS poses the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacks the capability to target the U.S. homeland. During the reporting period, ISIS was the only group of

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the above-listed organizations in Syria that has successfully targeted U.S. forces and maintains the intent to conduct additional attacks. ISIS fighters typically operate in small, clandestine cells in deserts and mountains, employing small arms, IEDs, indirect fire, ambushes, and unmanned aircraft systems.

(U) Al-Qa'ida probably poses a low threat to U.S. interests in Syria and abroad. Al-Qa'ida continues to struggle to operate in Syria due to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham dominance in Idlib Province, the shortage of funds and resources since 2018, and leadership losses in 2019-2020.

(U) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Syria during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* OIR consists of military forces from 30 NATO countries (plus the United States) and 47 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia,

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Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

E. (U) Other countries where U.S. military actions have occurred

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

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II. (U) USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND SUPPORT OF PARTNER FORCES FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2020, TO DECEMBER 31, 2020

(U) During the second six months of calendar year 2020, U.S. forces were engaged in a number of military operations pursuant to the 2001 AUMF. This section provides information regarding U.S. military actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria. All assessments and other information provided in this report are current as of the reporting period; changes that occurred in later reporting periods will be included in subsequent reports.

(U) This section contains general information about each operation, as required in Section 1285 of the NDAA for FY 2020 (Public Law 116-92) (50 U.S.C. 1550).

A. (U) U.S. military actions in Afghanistan against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, ISIS, and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) The following are the organizations in Afghanistan during this reporting period against which the U.S. military has used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; (2) the Taliban, (3) ISIS; and (4) certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.*** The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, as well as the Taliban, which harbored al-Qa'ida.

(U) As has been reported consistently to the Congress, the 2001 AUMF also authorizes the President to use force against other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) ***An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.*** Al-Qa'ida, including al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), probably poses a low threat to the U.S. homeland and did not claim any attacks in Afghanistan during this period. Al-Qa'ida probably lacks the intent and capability for attacks abroad, and suffered leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure. Al-Qa'ida's strategy is probably focused on survival in

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Afghanistan until the withdrawal of U.S. forces called for in the U.S.-Taliban agreement is complete.

(U) The Taliban and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan very likely pose a moderate threat to U.S. interests – particularly U.S. military forces – in Afghanistan, and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. These groups have prioritized the departure of U.S. and Coalition forces from the country as part of the U.S.-Taliban Agreement, and do not wish to jeopardize the U.S. withdrawal by conducting provocative attacks. The groups remain highly capable of targeting U.S. interests in Afghanistan, judging from open source reporting.

(U) ISIS probably poses a low threat to local U.S. interests in Afghanistan, and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. ISIS's threat within Afghanistan is low due to the limited remaining U.S. presence and the group's preference to attack soft targets.

(U) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and associated forces, including ISIS, and conducted combat operations against those groups in Afghanistan during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term “area of active hostilities” is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* The United States executes Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL (OFS) in Afghanistan to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission (RSM), which consists of military forces from 24 NATO countries (plus the United States) and 11 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg,

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Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

- (US) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Sweden, and Ukraine.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) U.S. military action in Iraq against al-Qa'ida and ISIS

(U) The following are the two organizations in Iraq during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; and (2) the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, as well as the Taliban, which harbored al-Qa'ida.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* ISIS probably poses a collateral threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacks the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Within Iraq, ISIS emphasizes targeting local security forces and civilians to drive its insurgency. ISIS primarily uses small arms and IEDs in attacks against local civilians and security forces.

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(U) Al-Qa'ida probably poses a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacks the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacks the intent and capability for attacks abroad after suffering leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure.

(U) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Iraq during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) consists of military forces from 30 NATO Allies (plus the United States) and 47 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

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(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

B. (U) U.S. military actions in Somalia against al-Shabaab and ISIS

(U) *A list of organizations with respect to which force has been used pursuant to the 2001 AUMF.* The following are the two organizations in Somalia during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Shabaab; and (2) ISIS.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* Al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qa'ida covered by the 2001 AUMF. To be considered an "associated force" of al-Qa'ida or the Taliban for purposes of the authority conferred by the 2001 AUMF, an entity must satisfy two conditions. First the entity must be an organized, armed group that has entered the fight alongside al-Qa'ida or the Taliban. Second, the group must be a co-belligerent with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners.

(U) The factual basis for determination that al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qa'ida is that it has pledged loyalty to al-Qa'ida in its public statements; made clear that it considers the United States one of its enemies; and been responsible for numerous attacks, threats, and plots against U.S. persons and interests in East Africa. In short, al-Shabaab has entered the fight alongside al-Qa'ida and is a co-belligerent with al-Qa'ida in hostilities against the United States, making it an "associated force" and therefore within the scope of the 2001 AUMF.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF. ISIS has spread to numerous countries outside of Iraq and Syria, including Somalia.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* Al-Shabaab probably poses a high terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a low threat to

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the U.S. homeland. Al-Shabaab is capable of conducting attacks in Somalia and neighboring countries and controlling territory in central and southern Somalia, despite sporadic efforts by the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia to dislodge the group.

- (U) July-December 2020: On September 7, one U.S. service member was injured in an al-Shabaab attack in southern Somalia.

(U) The ISIS branch in Somalia probably poses a low threat to U.S. interests in East Africa and no threat to the U.S. homeland.

(S//REL USA, FVEY) ***A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(S//REL USA, FVEY) Since its October 2015 pledge to ISIS Emir Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the ISIS branch in Somalia has competed with al-Shabaab for dominance in northern Somalia, but has faced significant setbacks due to Somali CT pressure. ISIS has struggled to regain momentum in Somalia after being forced to withdraw from strongholds in the face of a U.S.-enabled Puntland security force operation in December 2016, and the group is confined primarily to operating in remote regions of Puntland. Despite these setbacks, ISIS conducted its first suicide attack in Bosasso in May 2017, demonstrating the group's ability to gain new capabilities and to conduct occasional small-scale attacks. ISIS will continue attempts to expand its influence in Somalia by pursuing higher-profile operations in the region, specifically targeting westerners.

(U) ***A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.*** The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Shabaab and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Somalia during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term “area of active hostilities” is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) ***A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in***

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hostilities. USAFRICOM coordinates U.S. military operations in Somalia with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which consists of five contributing African nations:

- (U) AMISOM Contributing Nations: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

C. (U) U.S. military actions in Syria against al-Qa'ida and ISIS

(U) The following are the two organizations in Syria during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; and (2) ISIS.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, as well as the Taliban, which harbored al-Qa'ida.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* ISIS poses the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacks the capability to target the U.S. homeland. Since 2019, ISIS is the only group of the above-listed organizations in Syria that has successfully targeted U.S. forces and maintains the intent to conduct additional attacks. ISIS fighters typically operate in small, clandestine cells in deserts and mountains, employing small arms, IEDs, indirect fire, ambushes, and unmanned aircraft systems.

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(U) Al-Qa`ida probably poses a low threat to U.S. interests in Syria and abroad. Al-Qa`ida continues to struggle to operate in Syria due to Hay`at Tahrir al-Sham dominance in Idlib Province, the shortage of funds and resources since 2018, and leadership losses in 2019-2020.

(U) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict with al-Qa`ida and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Syria during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term “area of active hostilities” is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* OIR consists of military forces from 30 NATO countries (plus the United States) and 47 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, South Korea, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

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(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

D. (U) Other countries where U.S. military actions have occurred

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

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III. (U) USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND SUPPORT OF PARTNER FORCES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2021, TO JUNE 30, 2021

(U) During the first six months of calendar year 2021, U.S. forces were engaged in a number of military operations pursuant to the 2001 AUMF. This section provides information regarding U.S. military actions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria. All assessments and other information provided are current as of the reporting period; changes that occurred in later reporting periods will be included in subsequent reports.

(U) This section contains general information about each operation, as required in Section 1285 of the NDAA for FY 2020 (Public Law 116-92).

A. (U) U.S. military actions in Afghanistan against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, ISIS, and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan

(U) The following are the organizations in Afghanistan during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; (2) the Taliban, (3) ISIS; and (4) certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, as well as the Taliban, which harbored al-Qa'ida.

(U) As has been reported consistently to the Congress, the 2001 AUMF also authorizes the President to use force against other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* Al-Qa'ida, including al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), probably poses a low threat to the U.S. homeland and did not claim any attacks in Afghanistan during this period. Al-Qa'ida probably lacks the intent and capability for attacks abroad, and suffered leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure. Al-Qa'ida's strategy is probably focused on survival in

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Afghanistan until the withdrawal of U.S. forces called for in the U.S.-Taliban agreement is complete.

(U) The Taliban and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan very likely pose a moderate threat to U.S. interests – particularly U.S. military forces – in Afghanistan, and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. These groups have prioritized the departure of U.S. and Coalition forces from the country as part of the U.S.-Taliban Agreement, and do not wish to jeopardize the U.S. withdrawal by conducting provocative attacks. The groups remain highly capable of targeting U.S. interests in Afghanistan, judging from open source reporting.

- (U) January-June 2021: In March and April 2021, the Taliban launched two indirect fire attacks on a U.S. base in Khost province and one attack in Kandahar province, probably to demonstrate the group's continued capability to target U.S. forces if necessary.

(U) ISIS probably poses a low threat to local U.S. interests in Afghanistan, and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. ISIS's threat within Afghanistan is low due to the limited remaining U.S. presence and the group's preference to attack soft targets.

(U) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and associated forces, including ISIS, and conducted combat operations against those groups in Afghanistan during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.*

(U) On April 14, 2021, President Biden announced the completion of an interagency review of U.S.-Afghanistan policy and announced the full withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan by September 2021. The United States began an orderly drawdown of Operation FREEDOM'S SENTINEL (OFS) forces on May 1, 2021, and plans to have all U.S. forces out of Afghanistan before the end of August 2021. President Biden and his Administration made the determination that the threat against the homeland now emanating from Afghanistan was at a level that can be

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addressed without a persistent U.S. military footprint in the country and without continuing to conduct combat operations against the Taliban.

(U) President Biden also announced that the United States intends to provide continued security assistance to the ANDSF. The only remaining U.S. military presence in Afghanistan will be the forces required to protect our diplomats. DoD will maintain an “over-the-horizon” counterterrorism capability to suppress further threats to the homeland. DoD is evaluating the necessary means to maintain support to the ANDSF without a U.S. military presence, including providing appropriate oversight and stewardship of the Afghan Security Forces Fund (ASFF). DoD has taken steps to implement the President’s guidance, including seeking a ten percent increase in the Fiscal Year 2022 ASFF as compared with the amount of the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.*** The United States executes OFS in Afghanistan to support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) RESOLUTE SUPPORT Mission (RSM), which consists of military forces from 24 NATO countries (plus the United States) and 11 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Sweden, and Ukraine.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that***

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participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF. Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

B. (U) U.S. military action in Iraq against al-Qa'ida and ISIS

(U) The following are the two organizations in Iraq during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa'ida; and (2) ISIS.

(U) *The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.* The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) *An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.* ISIS probably poses a collateral threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacks the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Within Iraq, ISIS emphasizes targeting local security forces and civilians to drive its insurgency. ISIS primarily uses small arms and IEDs in attacks against local civilians and security forces.

- (U) January-June 2021: On April 16, ISIS claimed responsibility for a vehicle-borne IED attack that killed or wounded 20 members of a Shia crowd in the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad. Such indiscriminate attacks pose a collateral threat to U.S. personnel in and around Baghdad.

(U) Al-Qa'ida probably poses a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacks the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacks the intent and capability for attacks abroad after suffering leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure.

(S//RELIDO) *A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Iraq during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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(U) The term “area of active hostilities” is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR) consists of military forces from 30 NATO Allies (plus the United States) and 47 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

C. (U) U.S. military actions in Somalia against al-Shabaab and ISIS

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(U) ***A list of organizations with respect to which force has been used pursuant to the 2001 AUMF.*** The following are the two organizations in Somalia during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Shabaab; and (2) ISIS.

(U) ***The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.*** Al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qa'ida covered by the 2001 AUMF. To be considered an "associated force" of al-Qa'ida or the Taliban for purposes of the authority conferred by the 2001 AUMF, an entity must satisfy two conditions. First the entity must be an organized, armed group that has entered the fight alongside al-Qa'ida or the Taliban. Second, the group must be a co-belligerent with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in hostilities against the United States or its coalition partners.

(U) The factual basis for determination that al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qa'ida is that it has pledged loyalty to al-Qa'ida in its public statements; made clear that it considers the United States one of its enemies; and been responsible for numerous attacks, threats, and plots against U.S. persons and interests in East Africa. In short, al-Shabaab has entered the fight alongside al-Qa'ida and is a co-belligerent with al-Qa'ida in hostilities against the United States, making it an "associated force" and therefore within the scope of the 2001 AUMF.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF. ISIS has spread to numerous countries outside of Iraq and Syria, including Somalia.

(U) ***An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.*** Al-Shabaab probably poses a high terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. Al-Shabaab is capable of conducting attacks in Somalia and neighboring countries and controlling territory in central and southern Somalia, despite sporadic efforts by the Somali National Army and the African Union Mission in Somalia to dislodge the group.

- (U) January-June 2021: On March 9, al-Shabaab launched a mortar attack on the Mogadishu International Airport (MIA) compound where U.S. and Western embassies are located. On May 9, al-Shabaab conducted a VBIED attack at a Mogadishu police station that killed six people, including one U.S. citizen.

(U) The ISIS branch in Somalia probably poses a low threat to U.S. interests in East Africa and no threat to the U.S. homeland.

(U) ***A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

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(U) *A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.* The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Shabaab and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Somalia during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term “area of active hostilities” is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) *A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* USAFRICOM coordinates U.S. military operations in Somalia with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which consists of five contributing African nations:

- (U) AMISOM Contributing Nations: Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

D. (U) U.S. military actions in Syria against al-Qa’ida and ISIS

(U) The following are the two organizations in Syria during this reporting period against which the U.S. military used force pursuant to the 2001 AUMF: (1) al-Qa’ida; and (2) ISIS.

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(U) ***The legal and factual basis for the determination that authority under the 2001 AUMF applies with respect to each organization.*** The 2001 AUMF plainly covers al-Qa'ida, the organization that planned, authorized, committed, and aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(U) As has been explained publicly by the Executive Branch since the rise of ISIS, the 2001 AUMF has authorized the use of force against the group now called ISIS since at least 2004, when it was known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. The subsequent split between ISIS and al-Qa'ida in 2014 does not remove ISIS from coverage under the 2001 AUMF.

(U) ***An intelligence assessment of the risk to the United States posed by each organization.*** ISIS poses the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacks the capability to target the U.S. homeland. Since 2019, ISIS is the only group of the above-listed organizations in Syria that has successfully targeted U.S. forces and maintains the intent to conduct additional attacks. ISIS fighters typically operate in small, clandestine cells in deserts and mountains, employing small arms, IEDs, indirect fire, ambushes, and unmanned aircraft systems.

(U) Al-Qa'ida probably poses a low threat to U.S. interests in Syria and abroad. Al-Qa'ida continues to struggle to operate in Syria due to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham dominance in Idlib Province, the shortage of funds and resources since 2018, and leadership losses in 2019-2020.

(U) ***A description of the circumstances necessitating the use of force pursuant to such law.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A statement whether the country is designated as an area of active hostilities.*** The United States remains in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida and ISIS and conducted combat operations against those groups in Syria during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducts direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

(U) The term "area of active hostilities" is not utilized or defined in current U.S. Government policy or DoD doctrine.

(U) ***A general description of the status of operations conducted pursuant to such law as well as a description of the expected scope and duration of such operations.*** Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) ***A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in***

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hostilities. OIR consists of military forces from 30 NATO countries (plus the United States) and 47 other partner nations:

- (U) Contributing NATO Allies: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.
- (U) Other Contributing Partner Nations: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Guinea, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(U) Additional information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A delineation of any such instances in which such United States Armed Forces were or were not operating under the 2001 AUMF; and a determination of whether the foreign forces, irregular forces, groups, or individuals against which such hostilities occurred are covered by such law.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(U) *A description of the actual and proposed contributions, including financing, equipment, training, troops, and logistical support, provided by each foreign country that participates in any international coalition with the United States to combat a country or organization described in the 2001 AUMF.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

E. (U) Other countries where U.S. military actions have occurred

(U) *A list of each partner force and country with respect to which United States Armed Forces have commanded, coordinated, participated in the movement of, or accompanied the regular or irregular forces of any foreign country or government that have engaged in hostilities or there existed an imminent threat that such forces would become engaged in hostilities.* Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

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