



February 19, 2015

General John F. Campbell
Commander, U.S. Forces–Afghanistan and
Commander, Resolute Support

Major General Todd T. Semonite
Commanding General, Combined Security Transition
Command – Afghanistan

Dear General Campbell and General Semonite:

I am writing to request information regarding the analysis underlying the current and future size and structure of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). My office is tasked with, among other things, overseeing and accounting for funds disbursed from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund, which has been the source of over \$50 billion disbursed in support of the ANSF. I am making this request because size and force structure are important factors in determining the costs associated with training, equipping and housing Afghan soldiers and police officers.

According to the October 2014 Department of Defense *Report on Progress towards Security and Stability in Afghanistan*, the current authorized end-strength of the ANSF is 352,000, which includes members of the Afghan National Army, Air Force, and National Police. An independent assessment of the ANSF performed by the Center for Naval Analyses in 2014 concluded that in order to maintain national security through 2018, the ANSF would need a force of approximately 373,000 soldiers and police officers. However, in discussions with my staff, CSTC-A officers stated that a recent report on “force optimization” lays out a plan for a future reduction in the end-strength of the ANSF. This apparent discrepancy between assessments of requisite ANSF end-strength raises questions regarding the U.S. government’s ability to anticipate future costs associated with support of those forces.

So that my office may better understand the process for determining the optimal size and structure of the ANSF and the associated costs of supporting those forces, please provide the following information:

1. The capabilities assessment and other analyses used to determine the current authorized end-strength of 352,000 and the planned end-strength as defined in the force optimization report;
2. The security objectives to be supported by the ANSF as well as the concept of operations for employing those forces for the current and planned end-strengths;
3. A breakdown of corps, echelon above corps, and Special Mission Wing assignments for current and planned ANSF end-strengths;
4. In order to provide a full picture of the combined Afghan Security Institutions, please include a breakdown of personnel levels in the National Directorate for Security, the Afghan Public Protection Force, and the Afghan Local Police, as well as the civilian personnel levels in the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior;
5. A description of the metrics and/or milestones that will be used to determine the timing and degree of the planned drawdown; and
6. A copy of the force optimization report, if it has not already been provided to SIGAR in response to the January 2015 Request for Information related to SP-78.

Thank you for your attention to this request. The Afghan government is expected to face serious budgetary challenges for the foreseeable future, and the United States and other international donors will most likely be relied upon to support the ANSF for years to come. Your response will provide important information that will assist SIGAR in its mission to oversee and account for funds disbursed from the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund and other reconstruction funds used to support the ANSF both now and in the future.

Please provide your response no later than March 5, 2015. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Jack Mitchell, Director, Office of Special Projects, at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. Sopko', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John F. Sopko

Special Inspector General

for Afghanistan Reconstruction