



SIGAR

Office of the Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

February 14, 2017

Ms. Theresa Whelan
Performing the Duties of
Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
U.S. Department of Defense

Dear Ms. Whelan:

I am writing to request information regarding the Department of Defense's ongoing and planned infrastructure development projects in Afghanistan. Infrastructure projects have been and continue to be a significant part of the Afghanistan reconstruction effort, and the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) for 2017-2021 calls on international donors to support the Afghan government's efforts to improve the economic environment by focusing on infrastructure development, among other things, over the next five years.¹ In addition to understanding how DOD is responding to the Afghan government's call for infrastructure development, information about DOD's ongoing and planned infrastructure development projects in Afghanistan will help the new U.S. Congress and Administration understand existing reconstruction priorities and allow SIGAR to bolster our planning efforts.

Since its creation, SIGAR has conducted extensive oversight of infrastructure projects in Afghanistan funded by the U.S., and our efforts have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in cost savings. For example, as a result of our September 2013 audit examining ongoing and planned construction in support of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces, DOD took actions to more closely align infrastructure development with projected needs. DOD's actions in response to our work resulted in approximately \$600 million worth of U.S. taxpayer funds being put to better use.²

To assist us in fulfilling our critical oversight mandate, please provide, no later than March 1, 2017, a list of all ongoing and planned DOD-funded infrastructure development projects in Afghanistan. The list should include infrastructure projects funded on- and off-budget, as well as individual infrastructure projects implemented as components of DOD programs. For each project, please include the project location, cost (planned or committed, obligated, and disbursed), program name (where applicable), expected period of performance (start and completion dates), and the sector to

¹ Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017-2021*, p.34.

² SIGAR, *Afghan National Security Forces: Additional Action Needed to Reduce Waste in \$4.7 Billion Worth of Planned and Ongoing Construction Projects*, SIGAR 13-18, September 13, 2013.

which the project is expected to contribute (e.g. transportation, energy, agricultural and natural resource, etc.).

I am submitting this request under the authority of Public Law No. 110-181, and the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Should you or your staff have any questions about this project, please contact Mr. Matthew Dove, Director of Special Projects, at (703) 545-6051 or matthew.d.dove.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. Sopko', written in a cursive style.

John F. Sopko
Special Inspector General
for Afghanistan Reconstruction

ENCLOSURE I: SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESPONSE TO SIGAR-17-28-SP

On March 21, 2017, DOD provided its response to our letter of February 14, 2017. Though unclassified, the DOD response contained data that SIGAR does not generally publish, including geospatial coordinates for individual projects. In addition, DOD expressed concern that some of the information for planned projects is pre-decisional and unfunded. Given these concerns, we agreed to withhold DOD's full response from publication and instead provide a summary of the response, including aggregated costs of DOD's ongoing and planned work.³

DOD's response showed that it has 62 ongoing infrastructure projects with a total value of approximately \$1 billion. DOD's ongoing infrastructure work includes on-budget and off-budget⁴ projects to improve the energy, transportation, and security sectors.⁵

In addition to its ongoing work, DOD also has 361 planned infrastructure projects with a projected value of approximately \$338 million. Of those 361 planned projects, 313 are anticipated to be completed using approximately \$102 million in on-budget funds for the Ministry of Interior; 14 are anticipated to be completed using approximately \$17 million in on-budget funds for the Ministry of Defense; and, 33 to be completed using approximately \$218 million in off-budget funds to support infrastructure projects for the Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of Interior.⁶

³ DOD's grounds for withholding this information from public release seem weak, at best. Nevertheless, SIGAR was able to aggregate the information for the purposes of this summary.

⁴ On-budget assistance is funding that is provided directly to the Afghan government's core budget. Off-budget assistance is funding for programs that U.S. agencies directly fund and manage.

⁵ These figures include three on-budget projects valued at approximately \$335.5 million funded through the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund.

⁶ The one remaining planned project is for an off-budget project to complete improvements to a women's hospital.