



INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Deputy DoD IG Gives Lawmakers Progress Report on Oversight of Afghanistan National Security Forces

The Department of Defense Deputy Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations told a Congressional Committee Feb. 12 that Afghan National Security Forces face sustainment challenges as a result of shortcomings in property accountability, supply and maintenance, and a lack of internal controls in the management of key commodities such as fuel and ammunition.

Michael S. Child Sr. testified before the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations that shortcomings in building adequate systems to sustain a growing Afghan defense force is a recurrent theme in the oversight work conducted by the DoD Office of Inspector General. Despite ongoing efforts to implement more reliable systems in Afghanistan, local security concerns there constrain DoD oversight, which still largely depends on self-reporting by the Afghans, Child said. “I do believe systems that have been identified and properly put in place will provide progress,” said Child.

Child said the challenge of developing a sustainable Afghan fighting force is twofold; balancing the requirement to provide near-term fighting capability against the longer-term need to build the Afghans’ capacity to sustain the force, and building effective national institutions where none have previously existed. “When policy is decided and objectives are declared, our job as oversight is to see how it’s being implemented,” Child said.

The focus of the subcommittee hearing was on assessing the development of the Afghanistan National Security Forces. The full hearing can be viewed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q04GIZCvG3I>

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