



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2500

SPECIAL OPERATIONS /
LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT

SEP 25 2023

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman:

Section 1285 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 (Public Law 116-92) (50 U.S.C. § 1550) provides that the President is to submit a report every 180 days on the use of military force and support of partner forces pursuant to the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) (Public Law 107-40). The Department of Defense is submitting this report on behalf of the President, pursuant to a July 19, 2021, Presidential delegation of authority.

The attached consolidated report covers the requirements for four 180-day periods: July-December 2021; January-June 2022; July-December 2022; and January-June 30, 2023. Military action during these periods conducted pursuant to the 2001 AUMF occurred in Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Syria. Reportable support to foreign partner forces included support to several partner forces pursuant to the authority of section 127e of title 10, U.S. Code.

Section 1285 of the NDAA for FY 2020 requires certain information to be submitted in unclassified form. Because some of that information is properly classified to protect the national security interests of the United States, the information is presented in a classified annex.

The Department remains committed to transparency regarding how and in what circumstances the United States uses military force. Identical letters are being provided to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the other congressional defense committees, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher P. Maier".

Christopher P. Maier

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
Ranking Member



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Department of Defense

(U) Department of Defense Report on Use of Military Force and Support of Partner Forces for the Following Periods: July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021; January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022; July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022; and January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023

(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 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 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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(U) Department of Defense Report on Use of Military Force and Support of Partner Forces for the Following Periods: July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021; January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022; July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022; and January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023

(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 four 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 four sections describe the use of military force and support of partner forces during the four six-month periods of: July 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021; January 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022; July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022; and January 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023.

(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 four six-month periods.

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I. (U) USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND SUPPORT OF PARTNER FORCES FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021, TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

(U) During the last 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 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 was authorized to use 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 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 probably posed a low threat to the U.S. homeland and did not claim any attacks in Afghanistan during this period. Al-Qa'ida probably lacked the intent and capability for attacks abroad, and suffered leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure. Al-Qa'ida's strategy was probably focused on survival in Afghanistan until the withdrawal of U.S. forces called for in the U.S.-Taliban Agreement was complete.

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(U) The Taliban and certain other terrorist or insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida or the Taliban in Afghanistan likely posed a moderate threat to U.S. interests in Afghanistan – particularly U.S. military forces in country prior to the U.S. withdrawal – and a low threat to the U.S. homeland. These groups 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 remained highly capable of targeting U.S. interests in Afghanistan, judging from open source reporting. Terrorist groups continue to operate inside Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover and the departure of U.S. forces in August 2021.

(U) From July 1, 2021 to August 30, 2021, when the last U.S. troops departed Afghanistan, ISIS posed a direct and significant threat to U.S. and Coalition forces. After August 30, for the remainder of the reporting period, ISIS posed a moderate threat to U.S. interests as they sought to generate international attention through nearby cross-border attacks and media releases.

- (U) In August of 2021, during the U.S. departure from Afghanistan, ISIS-Khorasan conducted a suicide bombing attack near Abbey Gate at the Kabul Airport, killing 183 people, 13 of whom were U.S. service members.

(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 remained 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. counterterrorism (CT) and force protection missions, U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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.*

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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 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.* During this reporting period, al-Qa'ida probably posed a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacked the intent and capability for attacks abroad after suffering leadership losses after years of counterterrorism pressure.

(U) During this reporting period, ISIS probably posed a collateral threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Within Iraq, ISIS emphasized targeting local security forces and civilians to drive its insurgency. ISIS primarily used small arms and IEDs in attacks against local civilians and security forces.

(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 with al-Qa'ida and ISIS and continued to advise, assist, and enable Iraqi security forces conducting combat operations against those groups in Iraq during this reporting period. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USCENTCOM conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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.* Combined Joint Task Force—Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (CJTF-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, 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*

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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) 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) As reported to Congress in 2016, the factual basis for the 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 has 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.* During the reporting period, al-Shabaab probably posed a strong terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a weak-moderate threat to the U.S. homeland. Al-Shabaab was 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.

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(U) During the reporting period, the ISIS branch in Somalia probably posed weak threats to U.S. interests in East Africa and 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) conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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.* U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) coordinated U.S. military operations in Somalia with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which was comprised of troops from five contributing African nations.

- (U) AMISOM Troop Contributing Countries: 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.

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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.*** During the reporting period, ISIS posed the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacked the capability to target the U.S. homeland. During the reporting period, ISIS was the only group of the above-listed organizations in Syria that successfully targeted U.S. forces and maintained 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. ISIS remained interested in exploiting detention facilities by breaking out former ISIS fighters.

(U) During the reporting period, al-Qa'ida probably posed a low threat to U.S. interests in Syria and abroad. Al-Qa'ida continued 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 through sustained Coalition efforts.

(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) Information relevant to this reporting period is provided in the classified annex.

(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.* 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, Republic of Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Somalia, Sweden, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(U) The Department also continued to partner with vetted local Syrian groups, including the Syrian Democratic Forces. 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*

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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 JANUARY 1, 2022, TO July 1, 2022

(U) During the first six months of calendar year 2022, 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 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 Iraq against al-Shabaab 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, 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.* During the reporting period, ISIS probably posed 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) Al-Qa'ida probably posed a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacked 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 remained in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida and ISIS and enabled local partners to pursue the enduring defeat of ISIS. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force

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protection missions, USCENTCOM conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces, when appropriate.

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

(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.

(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.

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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) As reported to Congress in 2016, 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 posed a high terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a weak to moderate threat to the U.S. homeland. Al-Shabaab was 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 AMISOM to dislodge the group.

(U) The ISIS branch in Somalia probably posed a weak threat to U.S. interests in East Africa and 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

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furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection missions, USAFRICOM conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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 coordinated U.S. military operations in Somalia with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). ATMIS succeeded AMISOM in April 2022 and consists of five contributing African nations.

- (U) ATMIS Troop Contributing Countries: 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

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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 posed the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacked 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 posed 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 conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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:

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- (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.

(U) The Department also continued to partner with vetted local Syrian groups, including the Syrian Democratic Forces. 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 JULY 1, 2022, TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

(U) During the last six months of calendar year 2022, 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 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) (50 U.S.C. § 1550).

A. (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 posed a collateral threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Within Iraq, ISIS emphasized 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) Al-Qa'ida probably posed a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacked 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 remained in an armed conflict against al-Qa'ida and ISIS and enabled local partners to pursue the enduring defeat of ISIS. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force

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protection missions, USCENTCOM conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces, when appropriate.

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

(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*

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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) As reported to Congress in 2016, 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 has 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 posed a high terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a weak to moderate 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 ATMIS to dislodge the group.

(U) The ISIS branch in Somalia probably posed a weak threat to U.S. interests in East Africa and 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 remained in an armed conflict against al-Shabaab and ISIS and conducted one unilateral direct action operation against the organizations or groups described above during this reporting period.

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

(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.* On October 3, 2022, USAFRICOM publicly acknowledged a unilateral kinetic strike conducted in Somalia on October 1, 2022. The strike killed two al-Shabaab operatives. 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.* USAFRICOM coordinated U.S. military operations in Somalia with ATMIS, which consists of five contributing African nations.

- (U) ATMIS Troop Contributing Countries: 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.

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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 posed the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacked 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 posed a low threat to U.S. interests in Syria and abroad. Al-Qa'ida continued 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 conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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) The Department also continued to partner with vetted local Syrian groups, including the Syrian Democratic Forces. 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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IV. (U) USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND SUPPORT OF PARTNER FORCES FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1, 2023, TO JUNE 30, 2023

(U) During the first six months of calendar year 2023, 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 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) (50 U.S.C. § 1550).

A. (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 posed a collateral threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Within Iraq, ISIS emphasized 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) Al-Qa'ida probably posed a low threat to U.S. forces in Iraq, and probably lacked the capability to direct an attack against the U.S. homeland. Al-Qa'ida probably lacked 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 enabled local partners to pursue the enduring defeat of ISIS. As required in furtherance of U.S. CT and force protection

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missions, USCENTCOM conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces, when appropriate.

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

(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*

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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) As reported to Congress in 2016, the factual basis for determination that al-Shabaab is an associated force of al-Qaida 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 posed a high terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Somalia and a weak to moderate 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 ATMIS to dislodge the group.

(U) The ISIS branch in Somalia probably posed a weak threat to U.S. interests in East Africa and 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 remained in an armed conflict against al-Shabaab and ISIS and conducted one unilateral direct action operation against the organizations or groups described above during this reporting period.

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

(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 coordinated U.S. military operations in Somalia with ATMIS, which consists of five contributing African nations:

- (U) ATMIS 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.

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(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 posed the most significant terrorist threat to U.S. interests in Syria, but probably lacked 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 posed 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 remained 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 conducted direct action operations against the organizations or groups described above, in combination with partner forces when appropriate.

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

(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,

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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) The Department also continued to partner with vetted local Syrian groups, including the Syrian Democratic Forces. 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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