

Timeline prepared by Rayne and subject to change.

[illegible]

08/18/20	<p>ODD's inspector general's office released its 2020/20 report, noting the Taliban's violations of the US-Taliban agreement: "The Taliban did not appear to uphold its commitment to distance itself from terrorist organizations in Afghanistan. ISB and U.S. officials reported that the Taliban continued to support al-Qaeda, and conducted joint attacks with al-Qaeda members against Afghan National Defense and Security Forces." https://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/Article/233626/lead-inspector-general-for-operation-freedom-sentinel-i-quarterly-report-to-the/</p>
09/03/20	<p>The last 480 Taliban fighters were released from detention by the Afghan government. https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/afghan-prisoner-swap-ends-peace-talks-finally-begin</p>
01/13/20	<p>Acting Secretary Christopher Miller announced troop levels in Afghanistan had been drawn down to 2500. https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Releases/Article/2473337/statement-by-acting-defense-secretary-christopher-miller-on-force-levels-in-af/</p> <p>Afghanistan's government tells the Trump administration it has made too many concessions to the Taliban, that violence has increased just as they had warned it would after the 5000 Taliban fighters were released. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55868322</p>
09/12/20	<p>Afghanistan government and Taliban met in Qatar for peace talks which have been deferred repeatedly since the U.S. signed an agreement with the Taliban in February. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/12/world/asia/afghanistan-taliban.html</p>
09/16/20	<p>ISB: "Taliban attacks in three provinces across northern Afghanistan since Tuesday killed at least 17 people, including six civilians, and wounded scores of others seen as a Taliban political town was negotiating peace with Afghan government representatives in Doha, Qatar." https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/taliban-attacks-continue-negotiations-progress</p>
09/16/20	<p>Trump, at press conference: "We're dealing very well with the Taliban. They're very tough, they're very smart, they're very sharp. But, you know, it's been 19 years, and even they are tired of fighting, in all fairness." https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-press-briefing-september-16-2020/</p>
11/06/20	<p>Exact date TBD: Esper "sent a classified memo to the White House this month expressing concerns about additional cuts, according to his senior U.S. official familiar with the discussion. Conditions on the ground were not yet right, Esper wrote, citing the ongoing violence, possible dangers to the remaining troops in the event of a rapid pullout, potential damage to alliances and apprehension about undercutting the negotiations." The memo had been ignored by Trump's tweet which claimed U.S. troops in Afghanistan would be "home by Christmas" https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/trump-pentagon-afghan-war/2020/11/12/7ac347e-25cb-11eb-8599-40640af5bb_story.html</p>
11/09/20	<p>Trump fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper by tweet.</p>
11/16/20	<p>Republicans in Congress expressed concern that the Trump administration's plans to withdraw from Afghanistan relying on rapid draw down of troops could lead to a "saigon-type of situation." https://www.politico.com/news/2020/11/16/congress-trump-afghan-troop-reduction-438821</p>
11/17/20	<p>Acting Secretary Christopher Miller announced troop levels in Afghanistan and Iraq will by January 15, 2021 reduced to 2,500 troops in each of the two countries. https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/248864/</p>
12/02/20	<p>Afghanistan government and Taliban agreed to a framework for peace talks.</p>
12/02/20	<p>ODD's inspector general reported the Taliban continued to violate the terms of the U.S.-Taliban agreement throughout 2020/20, and that the Taliban were admitting al-Qaeda members into its leadership. https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/us-fails-much-awaited-drawdown-afghan-peace-talkshttps://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/Article/249512/lead-inspector-general-for-operation-freedom-sentinel-i-quarterly-report-to-the/</p>
01/13/21	<p>Acting Secretary Christopher Miller announced troop levels in Afghanistan had been drawn down to 2500. https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Releases/Article/2473337/statement-by-acting-defense-secretary-christopher-miller-on-force-levels-in-af/</p> <p>Afghanistan's government tells the Trump administration it has made too many concessions to the Taliban, that violence has increased just as they had warned it would after the 5000 Taliban fighters were released. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55868322</p>