

MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2020

To: Members of the Subcommittee on National Security

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “Examining the Trump Administration’s Afghanistan Strategy”

On Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee will hold a hearing on the Trump Administration’s Afghanistan strategy and U.S. policy failures throughout the course of the 18-year conflict.

I. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will examine the Trump Administration’s current strategy regarding the U.S. conflict in Afghanistan, including ongoing reconciliation negotiations with the Taliban. The hearing will also examine how the Department of State and the Department of Defense plan to address the challenges identified in the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction’s (SIGAR) 2019 report on high-risk U.S. reconstruction program areas in Afghanistan as the U.S. holds negotiation discussions.¹

In December 2019, the Washington Post released more than 2,000 pages of documents related to the war in Afghanistan. These “Afghanistan Papers” demonstrate how U.S. officials have misled the American public for years about the war’s progress and include hundreds of pages of interviews conducted by SIGAR and memos from former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.²

¹ House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on National Security, *Hearing on the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction’s 2019 High-Risk List* (Apr. 3, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/on-the-special-inspector-general-for-afghanistan-reconstruction-s-2019-high>).

² *The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War*, Washington Post (Dec. 9, 2019) (online at www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/afghanistan-war-confidential-documents/).

II. WITNESSES

The Honorable John F. Sopko

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

The Honorable Mark T. Esper or designee (*invited*)

Secretary

U.S. Department of Defense

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo or designee (*invited*)

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

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