

Airpower Effects

As of 30 April 2016

The number of weapons employed and missions executed are just two of the many metrics the Combined Forces Air Component Commander uses as a means of assessment. The military campaign to defeat Da'esh and other trans-regional terrorist elements requires the support of indigenous ground forces enabled by Coalition air operations. As this month's air summary reflects, the air Coalition has continued to aggressively place pressure on the enemy.

In Operations Resolute Support and Operation Freedom Sentinel, Coalition airpower provides a vital contribution to the overall campaign. The number of air strikes where weapons were employed in Afghanistan experienced a slight uptick from March. Coalition Airmen continue to actively engage in the vital advise, train, and assist mission while remaining engaged in counterterrorism efforts. With the harvest over, there is anticipation that fighting in Afghanistan will increase moving forward. Coalition air is prepared to offer precision-capability and effects.

In Operation Inherent Resolve, the air coalition is consistently focused on ways to accelerate the fight and place increased pressure on Da'esh throughout the battlespace. Progress can be seen as Da'esh has lost about 40 percent of the populated territory it previously held. The air Coalition continues to place emphasis on the deep fight, striking Da'esh before they have the ability to attack ground forces. The numbers weapons employed increased in comparison to the two preceding months. The Coalition air strikes are focused on dismantling and fragmenting Da'esh by enabling indigenous ground forces and by targeting key functions such as Da'esh headquarters/command and control, communications, finance, leadership, and logistics.

Recognizing that accuracy and precision are critically important in this fight, ninety-nine percent of the munitions delivered are precision-guided. The Coalition is placing weapons in exact spots, with an exact purpose.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2011-2016 Airpower Statistics

United States Air Forces Central Command
Combined Air and Space Operations Center

Afghanistan

OPERATION FREEDOM SENTINEL/RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

Close Air Support

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2011	34,514	2011	2,678
2012	28,760	2012	1,975
2013	21,900	2013	1,408
2014	12,978	2014	1,136
2015	5,774	2015	411
2016	1,664	2016	178

Number of Weapons Released

Less Activity  More Activity

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2011	405	341	337	339	426	610	695	516	597	663	308	174	5,411
2012	170	116	227	252	406	521	504	589	385	414	297	202	4,083
2013	193	297	250	284	368	337	256	158	232	189	118	76	2,758
2014	92	114	95	115	164	272	205	437	441	217	87	126	2,365
2015	40	30	47	31	41	109	79	156	111	203	69	31	947
2016	127	115	58	62									362

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	38,198	34,937	31,049	32,999	21,634	6,379
Airlift Sorties	57,000	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	2,600
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	241,000	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	16,800
Airlift Passengers	1,233,000	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	32,400
OEF Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	80,199,000	41,952,000	10,883,000	28,000	0	0
Tanker Sorties	19,469	16,007	12,319	9,085	5,323	1,466
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	1,095	980	723	636	201	37
Aircraft Refuelings	90,476	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	4,676
Casualty Evacuation Sorties	2,959	2,171	576	115	1	0
Saves	1,611	1,187	219	32	3	1
Assists	2,121	1,646	477	84	0	0

* Some figures may have changed due to data re-calculation and re-verification

As of 30 April 2016

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2011-2016 Airpower Statistics

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Close Air Support/Escort/Interdiction

Number of Weapons Released

Less Activity



More Activity

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release		Number of Weapons Released												
Year	Sorties	Year	Sorties	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014	6,591	2014	2,003								269	931	1,746	1,458	1,888	6,292
2015	21,116	2015	9,912	2,426	1,853	1,685	1,862	2,145	1,683	2,823	2,758	2,380	2,694	3,242	3,145	28,696
2016	7,943	2016	3,705	2,718	2,090	2,052	2,582									9,442

	2014	2015	2016
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	2,373	9,514	3,327
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	3,000
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	22,700
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	14,700
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	0
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	4,124
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	255
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	27,179

* Iraq only



- Some figures may have changed due to data re-calculation and re-verification

POC: AFCENT (CAOC) Public Affairs – afcent.pa@afcent.af.mil