

Airpower Summary

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Operation Inherent Resolve – destroying ISIS in Iraq and Syria

As of 31 Aug 2017

Coalition airpower continued its annihilation of ISIS, releasing more than 5,075 weapons, the most of any month in the three-year campaign to defeat ISIS. The majority of weapons released were for dynamic strikes supporting partner ground forces' successful liberation of Tal Afar and the ongoing fight for Raqqah. August also marked the highest weekly total of weapons employed in OIR, with 1,471 weapons released the week of Aug. 18-24, the vast majority of those precision guided munitions (PGMs).

On Aug. 31, Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Abadi declared Tal Afar and Ninewah Province fully liberated after Iraqi Security Forces cleared the towns of Quala Bush and Al Avghani/Ayadia. Prior to the 12-day Iraqi-led offensive, Coalition planners used layered intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities to analyze patterns of life and develop a detailed understanding of ISIS targets in the area. Prior to the offensive, precision strikes successfully struck hundreds of these targets, shaping the battlefield for our Iraqi partner's and minimizing their loses. In addition to the pre-offensive shaping strikes, Coalition aircraft employed more 800 weapons during the 12-day fight in support of operations.

In Raqqah, Coalition aircraft flew approximately 600 strike sorties employing nearly 2,500 PGMs in support of Syrian Democratic Forces as they continued a nearly three-month fight to liberate the city from ISIS.

Along with the close fight in support of partner ground forces, Coalition aircraft continued the deep fight to disrupt ISIS warfighting capabilities and revenue sources. In August, Coalition aircraft employed more than 600 weapons against oil targets decreasing ISIS revenues more than 50 percent per month since the start of operations against this target set.

August concluded with the Coalition intervening to halt a 17-bus convoy carrying between 300 and 500 ISIS fighters and their families across Syria towards ISIS-held territory near Deir al Zour, after Lebanese Hezbollah and the Syrian Regime struck a deal to move the surrendered fighters away from Lebanon. The Coalition does not see the transfer of ISIS as a lasting solution as it only makes it someone else's problem, namely the Iraqis and Coalition partner ground forces fighting ISIS in those areas. To prevent their passage, Coalition aircraft conducted more than 50 strikes the last two days of August to prevent the convoy from reaching its destination, destroying dozens of armed and armored trucks and trailers, fuel trucks, staging areas, and roads and bridges to deny passage. In accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict, the Coalition has not struck non-combatants traveling with the convoy, and offered options to allow safe transit for the women and children.

Operation Freedom's Sentinel & Resolute Support Mission – advising Afghan Air Forces & countering terrorism

In August, the 555th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, the Triple Nickel, surpassed 555 bombs dropped and have now employed more than 600 weapons against ISIS-Khorasan and Taliban targets. August heralded the arrival of additional F-16s to bolster the ability to conduct kinetic strikes and over watch of friendly ground forces.

The 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron conducted the first combat airdrop in Afghanistan in more than two years. The airdrop resupplied coalition ground forces and minimized risk to aircraft by avoiding the need to land at dangerous airfields. Additionally, the 83rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron exercised with an Army Combat Aviation Brigade at Bagram and familiarized their Pararescue Airmen with the CH-47 Chinook helicopter. The training enhanced interoperability and educated 83th ERQS Airmen on army tactics and techniques.

Lastly, the Afghan Air Force expanded their airdrop capabilities by conducting their first operational night drop on Aug. 22 using their C-208. The AAF also held a targeting exercise, or TTX, to introduce senior Afghan leadership to the concept and benefits of a targeting validation board. The TTX was well received and a successful first step toward establishment of a formal targeting board.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

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As of 31 Aug 2017

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL/RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

Close Air Support*

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2012	28,760	2012	1,975
2013	21,900	2013	1,408
2014	12,978	2014	1,136
2015	5,774	2015	411
2016	5,162	2016	615
2017	2,806	2017	761

Number of Weapons Released

Less Activity  More Activity

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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	89	94	160	108	162	205	92	65	1,337
2017	54	200	203	460	328	389	350	503					2,487

* Statistics provided includes numbers of sorties (not strikes) and munitions expended by aircraft under CFACC control

Combined Data (minus OIR)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	34,937	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	12,552
Airlift Sorties	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	7,600
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	57,446
Airlift Passengers	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	77,382
OEF Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	41,952,000	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	12,076
Tanker Sorties	16,007	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	3,423
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	980	723	636	201	150	95
Aircraft Refuelings	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	10,499
Casualty Evacuation Sorties	2,171	576	115	1	0	0
Saves	1,187	219	32	3	1	0
Assists	1,646	477	84	0	0	0

- Some figures may have changed due to data re-calculation and re-verification
- Assets under CFACC control include a compilation of aircraft from all U.S. military branches of service, as well as Coalition aircraft; however, not all aircraft flying in the AOR fall under CFACC control.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

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As of 31 Aug 2017

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	21,181	2016	11,825	2,718	2,090	2,052	2,582	2,341	3,160	2,439	2,244	2,427	3,038	2,709	2,943	30,743
2017	13,109	2017	8,249	3,600	3,439	3,878	3,274	4,374	4,848	4,313	5,075					32,801

* Statistics provided includes numbers of sorties (not strikes) and munitions expended by aircraft under CFACC control

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	2,373	9,514	12,270	9,824
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	8,400	5,819
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	72,800	44,716
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	46,900	44,200
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	822,171	294,856
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	13,064	8,265
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	804	481
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	80,912	42,280

* Iraq only



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