

Airpower Effects

As of 31 July 2017

Operation Inherent Resolve – destroying ISIS in Iraq and Syria

Coalition airpower continued its annihilation of ISIS, releasing more than 4,300 weapons against a variety of targets. Although the overall weapons released decreased 11 percent from June, July 7-13 marked the highest weekly number of weapons employed in the Operation Inherent Resolve campaign – more than 1,200 – with the vast majority of those in support partner ground forces during the first week of the Raqqa offensive.

In early July, Coalition airstrikes proved decisive in helping Iraqi Security Forces liberate Mosul from ISIS, with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announcing official victory on July 10. Throughout the nine-month battle, Coalition and Iraqi aircraft provided 24/7 persistent coverage to identify and precisely strike enemy targets, ensuring courageous partner forces on the ground always had protective air support.

The Coalition confirmed in July that airstrikes successfully eliminated senior ISIS propagandists and facilitators, Abu Sulayman al-Iraqi and Bassam al-Jayfus. Through persistent surveillance of the battlespace, planners were able to monitor enemy patterns of life, develop and vet legitimate targets, and employ precision guided munitions on propaganda facilities while their key facilitators were present. These strikes disrupted ISIS' ability to produce and distribute propaganda, degrading recruitment efforts and undermining their image of invincibility.

Even as operations tapered over a liberated Mosul, Coalition airpower never relented, instead shifting focus to Raqqa. On July 3, Coalition aircraft conducted a series of well planned, precision airstrikes to breach the city's ancient wall, minimizing damage to the historic structure while allowing Syrian Democratic Forces safe entry points through which to launch the offensive to liberate Raqqa. Throughout July, Coalition aircraft have employed hundreds of precision guided munitions on carefully vetted targets, ensuring constant protection for partner ground forces while putting the hurt on ISIS, and not the people we seek to help. By month's end, the SDF controlled approximately 45 percent of Raqqa and continue to make daily progress in gaining territory and eradicating ISIS from their last stronghold.

Throughout OIR, Coalition aerial refueling tankers have proven indispensable at helping overcome the tyranny of distance, ensuring aircraft were present over the battlespace 24/7. Of note, Coalition tankers reached a historic milestone in July - 40,000 sorties flown in support of operations in Syria and Iraq since OIR commenced in August 2014. Tankers continue to provide non-stop refueling capabilities to Coalition aircraft throughout the combined joint operating area.

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

Airpower continues to play a role in degrading ISIS-Khorasan in Afghanistan, including a well planned strike by an MQ-9 Reaper on July 11, that killed Abu Sayed, the Emir of ISIS-K, at the group's headquarters in Kunar Province. Sayed is the third ISIS-K emir killed in the last year by a precision airstrike, sending a clear signal that there is no safe haven for ISIS-K in Afghanistan. Additionally, B-52s and F-16s continue to conduct precision strikes in support of counter terrorism operations in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Air Force continues to demonstrate increased capabilities this month, including AAF A-29 maintainers voluntarily took on all A-29 maintenance operations, ending the previous setup in which contract logistic support covered down four days per week. Additionally, the AAF led and executed their first C-208 phase maintenance inspection, returning the aircraft to service in six weeks. Finally, an AAF Downed Aircraft Recover Team (DART) successfully recovered an MD-530 helicopter that made a precautionary landing at an unsecured location, returning the aircraft to base for repairs the same day. Along with continued improvements in AAF combat and air drop capabilities, these improvements signal Afghanistan's increasing ability to take over the mission and security of their country.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

United States Air Forces Central Command
Combined Air Operations Center

Afghanistan

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL/RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

Close Air Support*

Sorties	
2012	28,760
2013	21,900
2014	12,978
2015	5,774
2016	5,162
2017	2,420

Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2012	1,975
2013	1,408
2014	1,136
2015	411
2016	615
2017	620

Number of Weapons Released



	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						1,245

* 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	10,708
Airlift Sorties	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	6,655
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	51,201
Airlift Passengers	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	69,449
OEF Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	41,952,000	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	175
Tanker Sorties	16,007	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	2,723
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	980	723	636	201	150	79
Aircraft Refuelings	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	8,826
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.

As of 31 July 2017

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 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	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	11,400	2017	7,244	3,600	3,439	3,878	3,274	4,374	4,848	4,313						27,726

* 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	8,448
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	8,400	4,973
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	72,800	38,473
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	46,900	36,724
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	822,171	233,820
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	13,064	7,463
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	804	433
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	80,912	38,710

* Iraq only



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