

AFCENT Airpower Summary

Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan

As part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan, U.S. Air Force combat forces continued operations in August to create space for political reconciliation and deny terrorist safe havens for ISIS-K. Airmen assigned to Train, Advise and Assist Command continued training and supporting the Afghan Air Force in order to increase the capability of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

"The commitment and excellence of our Airmen providing training, advice and assistance to the Afghan Air Force enables Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to maintain an offensive posture and grow their combat capabilities, limiting insurgents from achieving their strategic objectives," said Lt. Gen. Joseph Guastella, Combined Forces Air Component Commander.

In August, U.S. aircraft flew 649 strike sorties in Operation Freedom's Sentinel, releasing 715 weapons. Current year strike sorties and weapons releases have now passed 2017 totals. ISR aircraft flew 1,666 sorties enabling target development, battlespace situational awareness and dynamic strikes.

Air mobility aircraft continue to enable U.S., Coalition and Afghan operations across Afghanistan by providing refueling support to strike and ISR aircraft and by providing airlift in order to move personnel and supplies in support of operations.

Tankers flew 403 sorties and offloaded 18 million pounds of fuel to 1,432 receivers. Meanwhile, airlifters flew 921 sorties, and C-130s flew two airdrop missions supporting ongoing operations. Mobility Airmen delivered 6,213 cargo short tons and 9,385 personnel last month. Already this year, C-130s and C-17s have airdropped more than 500,000 pounds of supplies and equipment to ground forces and have moved more than 100,000 personnel to the fight.

Train, advise and assist mission successes mounting

Train Advise and Assist Command – Airmen continue to train their Afghan Air Force counterparts in order to increase their capabilities and effectiveness.

On Aug. 1, an Afghan Air Force UH-60 crew from Camp Shorab completed the detachment's first patient transfer when they completed a short notice tasking to transfer a critical ANDSF patient from Camp Nowruz to a Shorab Role 2 medical facility. With the support of 738th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group air advisors, the Shorab air operations director successfully coordinated with the 215th Afghan National Army Corps and Kandahar Air Wing leadership to conduct the mission. This mission highlights the growing capabilities of the AAF UH-60 program, as well as increased communications and mutual support across the ANDSF.

An Afghan Airman's quick thinking August 14 enabled two A-29 light attack aircraft to support an unscheduled tasking in Faryab Province the following day. An Afghan master sergeant procured replacement parts for the aircraft quickly enough to add them to the Aug. 15 flying schedule. As a result, the A-29s were available to support a critical tasking in Faryab, striking multiple enemy personnel.

Finally, 438th AEW advisors trained and certified the first two AAF military working dog handlers after they completed a five-stage certification. This development gives the AAF explosive detection capabilities, additional base security and a visible deterrent.

As of August 31, 2018

AFCENT Airpower Summary

Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria

AFCENT continues providing precision strike and force protection capabilities in support of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve’s mission to exert pressure on ISIS senior leaders and associates, as well as degrading, disrupting and dismantling ISIS organizational structures throughout Iraq and Syria.

“In support of the international coalition’s mission to ensure the lasting defeat of ISIS, the air component continues to deliver kinetic strikes, intelligence, airlift, space, and rescue in support of the Joint Campaign,” said Lt. Gen. Joseph Guastella, Combined Forces Air Component Commander. “We remain focused on defeating ISIS, while closely monitoring Syrian, Russian and Iranian activity in the region. We remain prepared to defend against any threat that emerges.”

In August, the U.S. and Coalition flew 1,257 strike sorties, topping 10,000 for the year. Force protection, including defensive counter air, armed over-watch and close air support remains the airpower weight of effort. Overall, the Coalition released 241 weapons.

ISR capabilities were vital in August in preparation for the next phase of Operation Roundup. As ground forces prepared to clear the last remnants of ISIS in Syria in the Middle Euphrates River Valley, manned and unmanned ISR aircraft flew 996 sorties to develop targets and maintain battlespace situational awareness.

Air mobility forces including tanker and airlift aircraft continue enabling operations by extending aircraft loiter times over operating areas and by moving personnel and equipment to the fight. Tankers flew 590 sorties in August while offloading 35 million pounds of fuel to 1,431 receivers.

Airlifters flew 611 sorties, while delivering 3,000 short tons of cargo and 5,615 passengers. For the year, mobility forces have now flown more than 6,000 sorties and delivered more than 30,000 short tons of cargo.

U.S. and Coalition Airmen train Iraqi partners

The Iraqi Air Enterprise achieved several notable milestones as they continue developing an increasingly integrated and lethal force. Air advisors from the 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group enabled the first-ever Iraqi F-16 aerial refueling training mission with a coalition tanker in Iraqi airspace, demonstrating the capability to increase Iraqi F-16 presence and lethality over the battlefield.

The 447th Air Expeditionary Group continued enabling the fight to secure the lasting defeat of ISIS through agile combat support including airfield management, cargo processing and personnel movement. Through the month of August, 447 AEG Airmen have directed 1,344 transport missions with 11,205 passengers and 3,919 tons of cargo in support of OIR.

"As a coalition, we are committed to working by, with and through our Iraqi partners to consolidate the gains made by the Iraqi Air Enterprise, defeat of ISIS, and establish enduring Iraqi airpower capable of playing its part in ensuring the security of Iraq," said Brig. Gen. Brook Leonard, Director of the Coalition Air Advisory and Training Team. "We are making tremendous progress daily, but there is still more work to be done if we are to truly win the peace."

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2013-2018 Airpower Statistics

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL/RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

Strike Aircraft (manned)

Sorties	
2013	21,900
2014	12,978
2015	5,774
2016	5,162
2017	4,603
2018	5,047

Sorties with at least one weapon release

2013	1,408
2014	1,136
2015	411
2016	615
2017	1,248
2018	579

* Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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	414	653	352	455	4,361
2018	378	469	396	562	591	572	746	715					4,429

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	15,404	6,530
Airlift Sorties	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166	9,168
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208	66,792
Airlift Passengers	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554	107,620
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	33,423	516,110
Tanker Sorties	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	5,714	2,857
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	723	636	201	150	170	107
Aircraft Refuelings	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989	11,642

- 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 2015-2018 Airpower Statistics

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Strike Aircraft (manned)

* Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release		* Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)												
Year	Sorties	Year	Sorties	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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	19,680	2017	9,944	3,600	3,439	3,878	3,274	4,374	4,848	4,313	5,075	3,550	1,642	1,000	584	39,577
2018	10,728	2018	506	780	747	294	254	431	356	292	241					3,395

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	9,514	12,270	14,015	4,968
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	10,050	8,400	9,448	6,090
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	78,500	72,800	68,537	30,903
Airlift Passengers*	47,200	46,900	76,802	58,681
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	111,200	822,171	641,746	203,440
Tanker Sorties	14,737	13,064	13,243	5,810
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	912	804	778	447
Aircraft Refuelings	84,381	80,912	70,536	34,809

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