

# Airpower Effects

As of 31 August 2016

The Coalition's persistent air coverage continually exploits Da'esh's weaknesses, striking their revenue streams, restricting their freedom of movement, and ultimately enabling ground forces a tactical advantage. August's airpower summary demonstrates how the Air Coalition continues to accelerate the fight while applying persistent pressure on Da'esh as well as taking away territory from insurgents throughout Afghanistan.

Through Operation Freedom's Sentinel, U.S. airpower provides a vital contribution to the overall campaign. Precision air strikes continue to enable the success of Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan counter-insurgency and U.S. operations across Afghanistan as well as providing round-the-clock protection for ground forces. Aerial refueling, Intelligence, as well as Surveillance and Reconnaissance sorties provide critical support to the operations. Resolute Support will continue to train, advise and assist the Afghan government as they take the lead for security in Afghanistan. The Afghan Air Force has been able to maintain a retention rate around 94% and has approximately 70 aircrews, which we expect to see continued growth. With the delivery of three new MD-530s, the AAF now has more than 114 attack and airlift aircraft in theater. Additionally, they have 12 A-29s currently in use at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., as training assets for AAF pilots. These aircraft will gradually transition to Afghanistan throughout 2017 and 2018.

In Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), the Air Coalition continues to strike targets with strategic effects. After months of intensive fighting, Da'esh fled from Manbij after being surrounded by the Syrian Democratic Forces, fighters recruited and trained by the U.S.-led coalition. The city has been liberated and is now under the control of Manbij Military Council. Throughout the duration of the Manbij campaign, the Air Coalition conducted more than 2,565 airstrikes, deploying more than 8,365 weapons in support of indigenous ground forces. The Air Coalition closed out August with the largest Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device factory strike of 2016. A strike package of 17 aircraft, to include USAF F-16s and B-52s, Belgium F-16s, USMC F-18s and USN F-18s, conducted airstrikes destroying 43 Da'esh facilities, aiding in shaping the battlespace in Mosul for indigenous ground forces and removing Da'esh tools of terror from circulation.

In August, the Air Coalition successfully conducted 1,789 combat strike sorties and nearly 4,145 total sorties during operations against Da'esh. The commitment of the Coalition to destroy Da'esh tools of terror, to include VBIED facilities, Improvised Explosive Devices, and weapons caches, continues as the Air Coalition continues to work to degrade Da'esh's ability to detonate these devices in population centers, in the region and beyond. Additionally, the Air Coalition continues to make progress drying up Da'esh revenue streams, impacting their ability to pay fighters as well as obtain and sell oil.

# Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2011-2016 Airpower Statistics

## 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	3,513	2016	389

### Number of Weapons Released



	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	89	94	160	108					813

Afghanistan

Combined Data (minus OIR)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	38,198	34,937	31,049	32,999	21,634	12,929
Airlift Sorties	57,000	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	6,400
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	241,000	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	41,600
Airlift Passengers	1,233,000	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	70,500
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	3,250
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	1,095	980	723	636	201	80
Aircraft Refuelings	90,476	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	9,212
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

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## 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	15,904	2016	7,871	2,718	2,090	2,052	2,582	2,341	3,160	2,439	2,244					19,626

	2014	2015	2016
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	2,373	9,514	7,233
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	5,800
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	47,900
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	30,600
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	71,321
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	8,630
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	519
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	53,633

\* Iraq only



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