

Airpower Effects

As of 30 September 2016

The Coalition's persistent air coverage continues to impact Da'esh's ability to fight and conduct operations in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. September's airpower summary demonstrates how the Air Coalition continues to use the complement of airpower available to deliver destruction to Da'esh's command and control, removing tools of terror from the battlefield.

Through Operation Freedom's Sentinel, U.S. airpower provides a vital contribution to the overall campaign. Air strikes continue to enable the success of U.S. and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan counter-insurgency 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 is expected to continue to grow. A class of 195 Afghans graduated from Pohantoon-e-Hawayee, or Air University, on Sept. 1, 2016. The students, who are now commissioned lieutenants in the AAF, spent a year learning English, leadership and general aviation studies.

In Operation Inherent Resolve, the Air Coalition continues to apply persistent pressure against Da'esh to exhaust their ability to function and sustain operations across the area of operations. In September, the Air Coalition successfully conducted nearly 1,782 combat strike sorties and more than 4,981 total sorties during operations against Da'esh. Intelligence indicated that Da'esh had converted a pharmaceutical plant complex into a chemical weapons production capability. A strike package of 12 aircraft, to include U.S. F-15Es, A-10s, B-52s, F-16s and Marine Corps F-18s, destroyed more than 50 points of interest in Mosul, removing a significant chemical threat to Iraqis. In addition, the Air Coalition used U.S. F-16s and A-10s to destroyed a convoy of 42 oil tanker trucks in Raqqa. With a significant portion of Da'esh's financing resulting from oil revenue, the use of deliberate targeting and precision airstrikes will continue to disrupt their ability to generate revenue.

Each nation's unique capabilities allow for a flexibility in airpower that Da'esh is not able to overcome. With the precision application of Coalition airpower and indigenous ground forces willing to stand and fight, Da'esh has been forced to abandon once successful tactics and, over time, they no longer have the capacity for large offensive action.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2011-2016 Airpower Statistics

As of 30 September 2016

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	3,994	2016	468

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	89	94	160	108	162				975

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	14,614
Airlift Sorties	57,000	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	7,400
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	241,000	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	48,700
Airlift Passengers	1,233,000	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	80,000
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	3,815
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	1,095	980	723	636	201	109
Aircraft Refuelings	90,476	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	12,999
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

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2011-2016 Airpower Statistics

As of 30 September 2016

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	15,941	2016	8,816	2,718	2,090	2,052	2,582	2,341	3,160	2,439	2,244	2,427				22,053

	2014	2015	2016
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	2,373	9,514	8,368
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	6,400
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	54,500
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	34,300
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	145,621
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	9,945
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	601
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	61,452

* Iraq only



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