

Airpower Summary

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As of 31 Oct 2017

Operation Inherent Resolve – destroying ISIS in Iraq and Syria

Throughout October, Coalition airpower played a decisive role in partner ground forces' victories over ISIS and the rapid disintegration of the so-called caliphate, allowing Iraqis and Syrians to reclaim more than 95 percent of territory ISIS once controlled in their countries and freeing 6.9 million people. The success of the Coalition's approach of fighting by, with and through Iraqi and Syrian partner ground forces, enabled by the asymmetric advantage of Coalition airpower, resulted in so few remaining ISIS targets that the number of weapons the Coalition employed in Iraq and Syria experienced a significant drop. In October, the Coalition dropped 1,642 weapons, a 70 percent decrease from the record-high month of August in which 5,075 were released, and a 50 percent decrease from September's expenditure of 3,550 weapons.

The month's crowning achievement was the SDF-led victory in Raqqa on Oct. 20, where a force of Arabs and Kurds, enabled by Coalition airpower and Special Operations Forces, liberated the city from more than three years of tyrannical rule by ISIS. Throughout the final 20 days of the 140-day fight, Coalition airpower flew nearly 1,450 hours of close air support (CAS) across Iraq and Syria, the vast majority of that enabling the SDF to wrest control of Raqqa's final neighborhoods from ISIS fighters.

Following Raqqa's liberation, Coalition airpower helped the SDF maintain their momentum as they advanced rapidly through the Middle Euphrates River Valley in their Southward push towards Abu Kamal. Between Oct. 20-31, Coalition aircraft flew over 100 precision strike sorties and employed more than 80 weapons to clear the battlefield ahead of the SDF offensive, destroying ISIS vehicle-borne IEDs and production facilities, ISIS tactical units, logistics buildings, and bridges and highways.

In Iraq, Coalition aircraft provided 'shaping fires' and CAS in support of the Iraqi Security Forces' offensive against ISIS holdouts in Rawa and Al-Qa'im in the western Anbar province. During October, the Coalition conducted more than 590 strikes against ISIS military targets in the area, including command-and-control facilities, car bomb factories, weapons caches and a training camp.

By the end of October, SDF and ISF partner ground forces had herded and isolated the remnants of ISIS in a 15-square mile pocket in the border area between Abu Kamal and Al Qa'im. Despite the challenge of operating in a confined battlespace, Coalition aircrews continued to demonstrate extraordinary professionalism and airmanship as it targeted ISIS holdouts.

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

The agility and flexibility of airpower allowed us to rapidly transition our efforts to Afghanistan in October, resulting in a record high monthly employment of weapons – 653 – against Taliban and ISIS-Khorasan targets since the start of the Resolute Support Mission in January 2015. The jump can be attributed to increased offensive maneuvers by Taliban and ISIS-K fighters, and the combat power additional F-16s brought to the region. Additionally, the reach of B-52s and the placement of a detachment of KC-135s in Afghanistan in September afforded greater strike and loiter capacity, allowing AFCENT to be more responsive to eliminating threats across Afghanistan.

In addition to increased targeting of threats facing our Afghan partners, we continue to make gains with train, advise, assist mission. Following the late September delivery of the first two Afghan Air Force UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to Kandahar Air Field, marked with an official acceptance ceremony on Oct. 7, the Afghanistan Air Force commenced training its first class of UH-60 aviators on Oct. 2. The anticipated graduation of this first cadre of AAF Blackhawk pilots at the end of November will provide the AAF the additional capability to support their country's national security needs.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

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As of 31 Oct 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	3,765	2017	1,004

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	414	653			3,554

* 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	14,642
Airlift Sorties	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	9,352
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	69,722
Airlift Passengers	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	102,927
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	41,952,000	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	12,163
Tanker Sorties	16,007	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	4,857
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	980	723	636	201	150	137
Aircraft Refuelings	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	14,741
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 Oct 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	16,475	2017	9,539	3,600	3,439	3,878	3,274	4,374	4,848	4,313	5,075	3,550	1,642			37,993

* 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	12,316
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	8,400	7,500
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	72,800	56,077
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	46,900	60,549
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	822,171	484,060
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	13,064	11,481
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	804	664
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	80,912	58,775

* Iraq only



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