

# AFCENT Airpower Summary

## Operation Inherent Resolve – destroying ISIS in Iraq and Syria

December marked a crowning achievement in the fight against ISIS with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announcing the complete liberation of Iraq on Dec. 10. As noted by AFCENT commander, [Lt. Gen. Jeff Harrigian](#), the Iraqi Security Force-led advance against ISIS was significantly enabled by the asymmetric advantages provided by a Coalition airpower team of 21,000 Airmen and 300+ aircraft from 21 nations. The synchronized airpower this team provided in 2017 to both ISF and Syrian Democratic Forces included more than 200,000 hours of manned and unmanned ISR, nearly 40,000 weapons employed, and 788 million pounds of fuel dispensed in support of approximately 20,000 sorties.

Throughout the complex fight in 2017, Coalition airpower decimated ISIS' oil production capacity with a deliberate campaign that eliminated 90 percent of the revenue ISIS used to wage war and recruit and retain a fighting force. Following the SDF's liberation of Raqqa in late October, dynamic airstrikes enabled the SDF and ISF to advance along the Middle Euphrates River Valley towards one another, squeezing the remnants of ISIS into a pocket on the Iraq-Syria border. Following victories in the major urban fights of Mosul, Raqqa, Tal Afar and elsewhere, weapon releases in December dropped to 584 – the lowest levels since the first month of the OIR campaign in August 2014. The continued decrease in weapons released further demonstrates the positive results of our intense air campaign to target and annihilate ISIS.

As the Coalition retained its focus on defeating ISIS, the shrinking pocket of ISIS resistance presented additional deconfliction challenges in December, requiring Coalition Airmen to exercise increased discipline in the most complex, dynamic and congested airspace of the conflict. Russian and Syrian aircraft frequently conducted operations that didn't match what was agreed to through deconfliction channels, resulting several intercepts and near collisions between Coalition and Russian and Syrian aircraft. Despite these challenges, the Coalition continued to leverage the deconfliction line daily to avoid a repeat of the three shoot-downs in June, where for the first time ever, U.S. aircraft downed drone aircraft that were attempting to bomb Coalition forces, and an F-18 shot down a Syrian Su-22 fighter that was bombing partner ground forces.

As we look ahead, Coalition airpower will continue to target ISIS to prevent its resurgence while simultaneously increasing its attention to the train, advise, assist mission. The goal of Coalition Airmen in the TAA mission is to develop an Iraqi Aviation Enterprise that will enable the Iraqis' ability to safeguard their country from violent extremists. The Dec. 27 graduation of the first class of Iraqi C-130J senior maintainers, trained and certified by U.S. Airmen from the 770th Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron, demonstrates this effort is producing desired results.

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

Throughout December, U.S. Forces – Afghanistan maintained pressure on the Taliban with the continued and deliberate campaign to target their revenue sources. Over the course of month, F-18s, B-52s, F-16s and MQ-9s destroyed 11 more narcotics processing and storage facilities and stockpiles in Helmand province. Since November, the financial impact to the Taliban revenue is estimated at more than \$20M. In addition to this deliberate campaign, U.S. and Afghan airpower continued to support the ground scheme of maneuver with dynamic close air support. Weapon releases climbed 20 percent from the previous month as the ANDSF continued to maintain pressure on the Taliban into the winter.

In December, the Afghan Air Force began training with GBU-58s and GBU-12s, increasing their ability to effectively target their enemies with more precise weapons. Additionally, AAF personnel are undergoing training to conduct suspended or 'sling-load' operations that enables expeditious retrieval or delivery of aircraft and equipment to and from austere areas with limited ground access.

Looking ahead, air planners are actively preparing to support the arrival of the U.S. Army Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) in 2018. Throughout December, mobility crews delivered more than 3,280 short tons of cargo and completed delivery of all required MaxxPro Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAPs) vehicles.

# Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

As of 31 Dec 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	4,603	2017	1,248

### 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	352	455	4,361

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

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	34,937	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	15,404
Airlift Sorties	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208
Airlift Passengers	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	41,952,000	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	33,423
Tanker Sorties	16,007	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	5,714
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	980	723	636	201	150	170
Aircraft Refuelings	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989
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

## OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Close Air Support/Escort/Interdiction\*

Number of Weapons Released



Sorties	
2014	6,591
2015	21,116
2016	21,181
2017	19,680

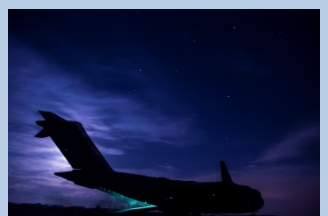
Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2014	2,003
2015	9,912
2016	11,825
2017	9,944

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2014								269	931	1,746	1,458	1,888	6,292
2015	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	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	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

\* 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	14,015
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	8,400	9,448
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	72,800	68,537
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	46,900	76,802
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	822,171	641,746
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	13,064	13,243
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	804	778
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	80,912	70,536

\* Iraq only



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United States Air Forces Central Command  
 Combined Air Operations Center  
 Operation Inherent Resolve