

AFCENT Airpower Summary

Operation Freedom's Sentinel & Resolute Support Mission

The deliberate air campaign continued to make its mark on Taliban revenue sources in February, destroying approximately 25 Taliban narcotics facilities and financial nodes, nearly as much as the total destroyed between Jan. 31 and the campaign's start in late November. In support of the campaign, a U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper performed a historic first multirole mission, Feb. 22, employing four 500-pound precision guided munitions from a single Reaper, destroying a Taliban narcotics facility in Helmand Province. MQ-9s are now operating in a multirole capacity, which means they can be tasked to execute deliberate strikes, armed over watch or close air support missions, and then flex to an ISR tasking, all in a single mission. This approach optimizes use of our RPA fleet and offers planners greater flexibility in choosing among strike platforms.

The combined effect of optimizing the RPA fleet and recent realignment of additional aircraft to support Afghanistan operations enabled the U.S. to maintain relentless pressure on the Taliban throughout the winter. In February, U.S. aircraft employed 469 weapons against Taliban and ISIS-Khorasan targets, more than double the 200 employed in February 2017. Additionally, we updated the January 2018 weapon figure – 378 instead of 321 – to accurately reflect what was employed by all aircraft on the USAFCENT air tasking order.

Mobility air assets continue to support the incoming Security Force Assistance Brigade and other operational commitments, moving more than 17,500 tons of cargo between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28. Notable in this heavy lift was the Qatar Emiri Air Force expanding the use of their C-17 fleet from Operation Inherent Resolve to Afghanistan, flying seven sorties that moved 212,000 pounds of cargo between Jan. 26 and Feb. 28.

In the train, advise, assist mission, the Afghan Air Force started phase two of UH-60 Mission Qualification Training in February, schooling AAF pilots on the tactical employment of the UH-60, including planning combat missions and weapons employment under different modes of flight and environmental conditions, and use of night vision goggles. Upon graduating, AAF pilots will be able to conduct combat operations 24/7.

Operation Inherent Resolve

In February, the Coalition announced a shift in focus in Iraq, from enabling combat operations to sustaining military gains to ensure the defeat of ISIS. A key example of this was the stand up of a Coalition Aviation Advisory and Training Team in Iraq on Feb. 1. The CAATT is a Coalition team of airmen designed to help our Iraqi partners build a capable, affordable, professional, and sustainable Iraqi Aviation Enterprise. The CAATT stand up does not signal an increase in our presence in Iraq, but instead leverages Coalition airmen currently there. Three weeks later, CAATT leadership and advisors were on hand for the Feb. 21 reopening of the Iraqi Air Force Academy. The CAATT will support the academy with mentorship on aviation safety, flight discipline, officer professional development and familiarity with aircraft technical orders.

Despite the increased focus on the TAA mission, Coalition airpower continues to support and defend partner ground forces from emerging threats, like the unprovoked attack on SDF partners and Coalition advisors in the Middle Euphrates River Valley, Feb. 7-8. During that incident, a hostile force attacked a known SDF position east of the Euphrates River with a battalion-sized dismounted formation that advanced with supporting fire from tanks and artillery. After de-conflicting with the Russians, U.S. F-15s, MQ-9s, B-52s, AC-130s and AH-64s conducted airstrikes against the aggressor force, along with surface based fires, to halt their advance. As the hostile forces turned west and retreated, we ceased fire. This unprovoked attack was not entirely unexpected as the Coalition observed a slow buildup of personnel and equipment the previous week. During that time, we used the de-confliction line to make known our forces' presence well in advance of the enemy's attack.

Lastly, Coalition forces continue to aggressively target ISIS fighters attempting to escape and find refuge, methodically hunting them with ISR and strike assets. In February, Coalition aircraft employed 747 weapons, a slight decrease from the corrected January weapon employment figure of 780 (originally 448). The correction is the result of a re-assessment of all airstrikes conducted by aircraft on the AFCENT ATO.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 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	989

Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2013	1,408
2014	1,136
2015	411
2016	615
2017	1,248
2018	146

* 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											847

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

Afghanistan

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	15,404	1,947
Airlift Sorties	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166	2,257
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208	17,525
Airlift Passengers	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554	21,669
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	33,423	0
Tanker Sorties	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	5,714	530
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	723	636	201	150	170	20
Aircraft Refuelings	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989	2,100

- 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.

United States Air Forces Central Command
Combined Air Operations Center

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

* Strike Aircraft (manned)

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2015	21,116	2015	9,912
2016	21,181	2016	11,825
2017	19,680	2017	9,944
2018	2,939	2018	247

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
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
2018	780	747											1,527

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

Iraq & Syria

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	9,514	12,270	14,015	1,203
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	10,050	8,400	9,448	1,156
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	78,500	72,800	68,537	8,053
Airlift Passengers*	47,200	46,900	76,802	12,613
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	111,200	822,171	641,746	32,480
Tanker Sorties	14,737	13,064	13,243	1,449
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	912	804	778	228
Aircraft Refuelings	84,381	80,912	70,536	10,326



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