

AFCENT Airpower Summary

Operation Freedom's Sentinel & Resolute Support Mission

For June 2018, U.S. Forces – Afghanistan honored and supported the Afghan government's historic ceasefire, subsequent extension and calls for peace talks by suspending offensive strikes against the Taliban from June 12-29. Strikes resumed against Taliban irreconcilables June 30, and are projected to continue to keep military pressure on the Taliban leadership leading to peace talks and ultimately, reconciliation with the Afghan government.

During the ceasefire, the U.S. continued counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan against ISIS-K, Al-Qaeda and other regional and international terrorist groups, conducting more than 80 strikes against ISIS-K during the ceasefire.

In total for the month, U.S. manned and remotely piloted strike aircraft flew 685 sorties and released 572 weapons. Additionally, the U.S. airdropped 126,000 pounds of supplies to U.S. and Afghan ground forces in June, marking the third consecutive month of more than 100,000 pounds in airdrops to support ongoing operations.

The Afghan Air Force made numerous strides in June with the support of Coalition trainers and advisors under the NATO Resolute Support Mission. Afghan Air Force C-208 air crews demonstrated increasing capability in supporting ground forces in June by twice airdropping supplies. On June 1, C-208 air crews needed only six hours from mission tasking to execution to conduct their first emergency combat airdrop mission bringing ammunition to Afghan National Police and citizens fighting the Taliban in Badakshan Province. Then on June 18, C-208 air crews delivered 900 pounds of supplies via airdrop to Afghan commandos fighting in Faryab Province.

With guidance from Train, Advise, and Assist Command-Air (TAAC-Air) advisors, the Afghan Air Force began training on airdrop capabilities in October 2016 and conducted their first mission airdrops in July 2017. The Afghan Air Force capability to provide supplies to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces around the country greatly enhances capabilities across the force, demonstrates AAF commitment to fighting the Taliban and shows progress in developing a truly organic air force in Afghanistan.

"As we demonstrated by supporting the historic ceasefire in June, the U.S. will continue to support the search for an end to the conflict in Afghanistan," said Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Harrigan, Combined Forces Air Component Commander for U.S. Central Command. "Until the Taliban show they're willing to reconcile with the Afghan government, they will remain square in our crosshairs. We remain steadfast in our resolve to take Taliban fighters off the battlefield and decimate their revenue sources."

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Operation Inherent Resolve

U.S. and Coalition aircraft continued to perform strike missions, defensive counter air and armed over-watch sorties in support of Coalition and partner offensive operations to accelerate the defeat of ISIS last month. In total, U.S. and Coalition aircraft flew 1,335 strike sorties, and manned and remotely piloted aircraft released 356 weapons against ISIS targets.

"While we continue to strike ISIS fighters and positions, we remain focused on protecting ground forces from above," said Lt. Gen. Jeff Harrigan, Combined Forces Air Component Commander for U.S. Central Command. "Our Coalition and ground forces have made tremendous strides against ISIS during Operation Roundup thanks, in part, to our shaping operations against ISIS and the confidence our ground forces have that we'll be overhead."

As part of Operation Roundup which began in May, Syrian Democratic Forces with the support of Coalition forces have continued to re-take territory once controlled by ISIS in the Middle Euphrates River Valley and in the Syria-Iraq border region. Along with artillery strikes and ground maneuver, Coalition air strikes and Iraqi Air Force cross-border airstrikes into Syria continued to squeeze the remaining pockets of ISIS fighters.

Also of note, U.S. C-130s and C-17s conducted airdrops in support of Operation Roundup in June dropping 170,960 pounds of equipment and supplies to ground forces operating in Iraq. Furthermore, ISR aircraft flew 545 sorties to develop targets and maintain battlespace awareness, and tankers flew 758 sorties to extend the range of aircraft and the duration of their missions.

Finally, the Coalition Aviation Advisory Training Team continues to support the Iraqi Aviation Enterprise, as the Iraqi Air Force continues to demonstrate its combat air capability in conducting cross-border strikes into Syria to solidify the Iraq-Syria border in support of a more stable Iraq.

"Iraqi Airmen are making impressive strides in combat operations and in professionalizing their air force with the assistance of our CAATT," said Harrigan. "The Coalition team is fully committed to continued support of the Iraqi Aviation Enterprise and will work alongside our Iraqi partners to make their air forces more capable, professional, affordable and sustainable."

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2013-2018 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	3,649

Sorties with at least one weapon release

2013	1,408
2014	1,136
2015	411
2016	615
2017	1,248
2018	412

* 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	339	562	591	572							2,911

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	15,404	3,548
Airlift Sorties	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166	7,331
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208	54,433
Airlift Passengers	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554	87,908
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	33,423	453,240
Tanker Sorties	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	5,714	1,962
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	723	636	201	150	170	70
Aircraft Refuelings	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989	8,295

- 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 2015-2018 Airpower Statistics

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Strike Aircraft (manned)

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

Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release		* Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)													
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
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	19,680	2017	9,944	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	8,146	2018	461	780	747	294	254	431	356							2,862	

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

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	9,514	12,270	14,015	3,553
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	10,050	8,400	9,448	4,724
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	78,500	72,800	68,537	23,850
Airlift Passengers*	47,200	46,900	76,802	46,789
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	111,200	822,171	641,746	203,440
Tanker Sorties	14,737	13,064	13,243	4,423
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	912	804	778	366
Aircraft Refuelings	84,381	80,912	70,536	28,849

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