

# AFCENT Airpower Summary

## Operation Freedom's Sentinel & Resolute Support Mission

Throughout March, U.S. airstrikes continued to degrade, disrupt, and dismantle Taliban revenue sources and networks, and weaken the Islamic State-Khorasan group's ability to conduct terrorist activities across Afghanistan. Despite inclement weather challenges, airpower maintained relentless pressure, employing 339 precision weapons against Taliban and IS-K targets. Airstrikes kicked off the month by eliminating IS-K fighters in Jowzjan, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces, further degrading IS-K's ability to conduct terrorist activities. Additionally, deliberate and dynamic strikes by B-52s, F-16s, MQ-9s, A-10s and other platforms in March increased the loss of revenue in Taliban coffers to more than \$40 million. As of 31 March, U.S. airstrikes have destroyed nearly 60 targets since the deliberate air campaign began in November 2017, removing key command and control nodes, narcotics processing and storage facilities, and narcotics stockpiles.

AFCENT's train, advise, and assist mission continues to enable the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces' ability to safeguard their country. On March 22, the Afghan Air Force achieved a historic milestone with AAF A-29s conducting the first combat mission involving the release of a GBU-28 laser-guided bomb. The successful employment of an LGB against a Taliban compound in Farah Province demonstrates the AAF's increased progress and self-reliance, thanks to ongoing efforts by U.S. air advisors from the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing.

## Operation Inherent Resolve

In OIR, airstrikes against ISIS dropped significantly from the previous month, as a result of increased progress in Coalition efforts to annihilate remaining ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria, coupled with Syrian Democratic Forces shifting to an active defensive scheme of maneuver in Syria's Middle Euphrates River Valley. Coalition aircraft released 294 weapons against ISIS targets, primarily in Syria's MERV. The Coalition's ability to effectively target and destroy these remaining ISIS terrorists is due in large part to a constant overhead presence of various ISR platforms that continuously soak up intelligence on ISIS remnants attempting to seek refuge in isolated regions along the Syrian and Iraqi borders. As ISIS targets present themselves, Coalition forces continue to execute strikes to ensure ISIS doesn't regain its footing or find safe haven.

To assist in executing these strikes, AFCENT and the Coalition welcomed the first two B-1B Lancers to the U.S. Central Command AOR, March 31. The bombers, deployed from Ellsworth AFB, S.D., are scheduled to take over bomber duty from the B-52 Stratofortress after it departs the AOR in early April following two successful years hunting and annihilating Islamic State, Taliban and Al Qaeda targets across the region.

In Iraq, the Coalition Aviation Advisory and Training Team continued to advance its efforts to help build a sustainable and capable Iraqi Aviation Enterprise. Between March 4-8, CAATT advisors and Iraqi Forward Air Controllers conducted the first Coalition live-fire exercise at the Besmaya Range, where they successfully called in training air strikes from Coalition aircraft for the first time ever. The Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, in conjunction with the CAATT, coordinated the exercise to certify newly trained IFACs, showcasing the progress they have made since training started in December 2017. Following the exercise, 12 IFACs completed their training, with another 15 entering the training pipeline by month's end.

Sadly, March brought the tragic loss of seven AFCENT Airmen in the March 15 crash of an HH-60G Pavehawk helicopter in Western Iraq near Al Qaim. The Airmen lost included helicopter crew members and pararescue personnel deployed from Moody AFB, Patrick AFB and four members of the N.Y. Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing. At the time of the crash, the pararescue personnel were moving closer to the fight in Syria to support Coalition forces operating there. AFCENT and the Coalition are forever grateful to these brave Airmen for their contribution to the fight and their tremendous sacrifice.

# 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	1,485

Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2013	1,408
2014	1,136
2015	411
2016	615
2017	1,248
2018	215

### \* 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										1,186

\*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	1,236
Airlift Sorties	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166	3,679
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208	25,474
Airlift Passengers	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554	39,693
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	831
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	723	636	201	150	170	29
Aircraft Refuelings	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989	3,272

- 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

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## OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

### Strike Aircraft (manned)

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

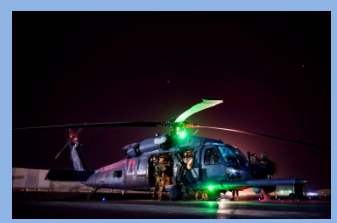
Sorties		Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2015	21,116	2015	9,912
2016	21,181	2016	11,825
2017	19,680	2017	9,944
2018	4,181	2018	309

	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	294										1,821

\*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	1,964
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	10,050	8,400	9,448	1,899
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	78,500	72,800	68,537	11,488
Airlift Passengers*	47,200	46,900	76,802	18,529
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	111,200	822,171	641,746	32,480
Tanker Sorties	14,737	13,064	13,243	2,163
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	912	804	778	162
Aircraft Refuelings	84,381	80,912	70,536	15,153



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