

Airpower Summary

As of 30 Sept 2017

Operation Inherent Resolve – destroying ISIS in Iraq and Syria

Coalition airpower continued its annihilation of ISIS, releasing more than 3,550 weapons, a 30 percent decrease from the record high set in August. September also marked a key milestone for the Coalition, surpassing 100,000 weapons employed since OIR began in August 2014.

During the month of September, Coalition airstrikes successfully eliminated five high-value ISIS targets. On Sept. 4, Coalition aircraft killed Al-Shami as he rode a motorcycle near Mayadin, Syria. Al-Shami led ISIS' efforts to procure explosives and build bombs for external terrorist acts. The same engagement also resulted in the destruction of the bomb-making lab Al-Shami was en route to. On the same day, Junaid ur Rehman, a senior ISIS drone pilot trainer and engineer, was killed by a precision airstrike south of Mayadin in the village of Al-Asharah, Syria. On Sept. 12 and 13 respectively, three individuals tied to ISIS' unmanned aerial surveillance network were targeted and killed, including Abu Mawad Al-Tunisi, Sajid Farooq Babar and Abu Salman. The removal of these high value ISIS members disrupts and degrades ISIS' warfighting capabilities on the battlefield.

As Syrian regime forces advanced on Deir ez-Zor city, the convergence of regime and Coalition partner ground forces in this area called for increased awareness and de-confliction so as to avoid strategic miscalculations in the air or on the ground. As a result, Coalition and Russian military officials, including Coalition air planners from the Combined Air Operations Center, met face-to-face to adjust and expand de-confliction measures. The discussions emphasized the need to share operational graphics and locations to ensure the prevention of accidental targeting or other possible frictions that would distract from the defeat of ISIS.

Non-kinetic effects continue to play a critical role in our efforts to defeat ISIS. During the month of September, the Coalition airdropped more than four million leaflets in Iraq and Syria. These leaflets were instrumental in countering ISIS propaganda, informing civilians of Coalition efforts to liberate them from ISIS, and mitigating civilian casualties by telling them how to avoid being hurt by airstrikes and how to safely evacuate. According to Combined Joint Task Force- Operation Inherent Resolve, these measures were effective.

With the support of Coalition airpower, ISIS continues to face defeat in Raqqa. The SDF have now cleared more than 75 percent of the entire city. Additionally, the SDF also commenced clearance operations against ISIS in the Khabur River Valley, northwest of Deir ez-Zor. Finally, Coalition aircraft continue to support the Government of Iraq as they continue to defeat ISIS and liberate the few remaining holdouts in Iraq. More than 42,000 square kilometers have been cleared and more than 4 million people are now free from ISIS control.

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

September marked a record high month for weapons employed in Afghanistan since 2012, with 751 munitions being delivered against Taliban and ISIS –Khorasan targets; a 50 percent jump from August. This increase can be attributed to the President's strategy to more proactively target extremist groups that threaten the stability and security of the Afghan people. Additionally, the recent addition of six F-16s at Bagram Air Base, coupled with more B-52 missions dedicated to Afghanistan, offer the additional strike capacity needed to target these groups.

As part of this strategy, a key milestone was achieved in the effort to modernize and build up Afghanistan's nascent airpower capabilities, with the U.S. Air Force C-17 enabled delivery of the first two Afghan Air Force UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters on Sept. 18, at Kandahar Air Field. The UH-60s are the first of 159 that will be delivered to the AAF under the Aviation Transition and Modernization program, a \$6.8 billion, five-year effort to modernize and increase the AAF fleet. This fleet of UH-60s, as well as other strike and mobility aircraft, will provide firepower and mobility to enable the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to bring a decisive advantage to the fight against anti-government forces.

Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2012-2017 Airpower Statistics

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	3,307	2017	841

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	751				3,238

* 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	14,221
Airlift Sorties	39,000	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	8,560
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	265,000	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	63,867
Airlift Passengers	749,000	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	91,027
OEF 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	4,329
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	980	723	636	201	150	120
Aircraft Refuelings	67,020	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	12,953
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	14,780

Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2014	2,003
2015	9,912
2016	11,825
2017	9,088

	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				36,351

* 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	11,361
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	1,992	10,050	8,400	6,696
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)*	14,555	78,500	72,800	50,202
Airlift Passengers*	9,900	47,200	46,900	53,885
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	1,417,900	111,200	822,171	380,438
Tanker Sorties	4,859	14,737	13,064	10,374
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	282	912	804	599
Aircraft Refuelings	28,956	84,381	80,912	52,578

* Iraq only



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