



Headquarters Joint Operations

29 Aug 2017

Operation OKRA – ADF Airstrikes for the period 11 Aug - 25 Aug 2017

Over the period 11 Aug – 25 Aug 2017, Air Task Group strike operations focused on supporting Iraqi Security Force operations to clear and secure Tal Afar and Bayji from Daesh forces.

On 12 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh munitions storage facility with guided munitions.

On 14 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Bayji. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh fighting position with guided munitions.

On 15 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck three Daesh fighting positions with guided munitions.

On 19 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh weapons cache with guided munitions.

On 20 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh weapons cache, a Daesh Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), a Daesh fighting position, and a Daesh heavy weapons site with guided munitions.

On 21 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck two Daesh fighting positions and a Daesh heavy weapons site with guided munitions.

On 22 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck two Daesh fighting positions, a Daesh heavy weapons site and three Daesh Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices' (VBIED) with guided munitions.

On 23 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in the vicinity of Tal Afar. The Australian aircraft struck two Daesh fighting positions with guided munitions.

All ADF personnel comply with International Law and limitations designed to protect coalition forces and minimise the risk to civilians.

Prior to any air strike, Australia's Air Task Group undertakes a detailed and robust mission planning effort that includes approvals from Australian and Iraqi authorities. Once a mission is complete and the aircraft have returned a thorough review of each individual weapon strike is conducted to ensure that it was consistent with pre-strike approvals. If an issue is identified in this review or a credible claim of civilian casualties is made an assessment will be undertaken by the Air Task Group commander and formally reported through the chain of command.

ADF provides limited details concerning strike operations conducted under Operation OKRA in an effort to strike a balance between transparency, accountability and operations security.

The ADF has deployed an Air Task Group to the Middle East Region as part of Operation OKRA. The Air Task Group includes strike, airborne early warning and control and aerial refuelling aircraft. Further details on the Operation OKRA commitment can be found at www.defence.gov.au/Operations/Okra/ATG.asp

Media contacts

Phone: 02 6127 1999 Fax: 02 6265 6946