



# Headquarters Joint Operations

02 Jan 2018

## **Operation OKRA – ADF Airstrikes for the period 14 Dec – 27 Dec 17**

Over the period 14 Dec – 27 Dec 17, the Air Task Group continued to fly missions over Iraq in support of the Iraqi Security Forces clearance operations.

On 17 Dec 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Ar Rutbah. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh weapons storage facility with a guided munition.

On 23 Dec 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Bayji. 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.*

*The 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](http://www.defence.gov.au/Operations/Okra/ATG.asp)*

### **Media contacts**

Phone: 02 6127 1999 Fax: 02 6265 6946