



Headquarters Joint Operations

07 November 2017

Operation OKRA – ADF Airstrikes for the period 20 Oct – 02 Nov 17

Over the period 20 Oct – 02 Nov 17, Air Task Group strike operations focused on supporting Iraqi Security Force operations to clear and secure the Northern Lake Tharthar region and Al Qaim from Daesh forces.

On 24 Oct 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of the Northern Lake Tharthar region. The Australian aircraft struck five Daesh defensive positions with guided munitions.

On 27 Oct 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Al Qaim. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh command and control facility with a guided munition.

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

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