



Headquarters Joint Operations

10 October 2017

Operation OKRA – ADF Airstrikes for the period 22 Sep – 05 Oct 17

Over the period 22 Sep – 05 Oct 17, Air Task Group strike operations focused on supporting Iraqi Security Force operations to clear and secure Ramadi, Rawah, Hawijah, Kirkuk, Al Qaim and Bayji from Daesh forces.

On 23 Sep 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Rawah. The Australian aircraft struck three Daesh Boats with guided munitions.

On 24 Sep 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Hawijah. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh VBIED (Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device), two Daesh defensive positions and a Daesh earth moving vehicle with guided munitions.

On 25 Sep 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Hawijah. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh VBIED and a Daesh defensive position with guided munitions.

On 26 Sep 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Kirkuk, Hawijah and Al Qaim. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh building containing an Improvised Explosive Device, two Daesh defensive positions and a Daesh vehicle with guided munitions.

On 30 Sep 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Hawijah and Bayji. The Australian aircraft struck two Daesh defensive positions with guided munitions.

On 02 Oct 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Kirkuk. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh defensive position with a guided munition.

On 05 Oct 17, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi Security Forces during operations in the vicinity of Hawijah. The Australian aircraft struck four Daesh VBIEDs 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