



# Headquarters Joint Operations

15 Aug 2017

## **Operation OKRA – ADF Airstrikes for the period 28 Jul - 10 Aug 2017**

Over the period 28 Jul – 10 Aug 2017, Air Task Group strike operations focused on supporting Iraqi Security Force operations to clear and secure Al Qa'im, Rawah, and Hawijah from Daesh forces.

On 29 Jul, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in Al Qa'im. The Australian aircraft struck Daesh fighting vehicles with guided munitions and a 20 millimetre cannon over several hours of support.

On 31 Jul, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in Rawah. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh fighting vehicle with a guided munition

On 04 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in Rawah. The Australian aircraft struck a Daesh Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) with a guided munition.

On 06 Aug, Australian F/A-18 Hornets supported Iraqi forces during operations in Hawijah. The Australian aircraft struck two Daesh logistic/ oil producing facilities 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**

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