



Combined Joint Task Force

Operation Inherent Resolve
APO AE 09306

HISTORY

On 17 October 2014, the Department of Defense formally established Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) in order to formalize ongoing military actions against the rising threat posed by ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Fueled by sectarian conflicts and division, ISIS ascended from relative obscurity in 2013 to propagate an extremist socio-political ideology, and claimed to have created an Islamic caliphate. Its successful acquisition of conventional weapons, establishment of armed formations, rapid territorial growth and unconscionable atrocities shocked the world and destabilized the region. By June 2014, the security situation in Iraq had deteriorated with the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit falling in rapid succession to ISIS aggressors.

CJTF-OIR was established by United States Army Central Command (ARCENT), Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. On 24 June 2014, ARCENT was designated as the Joint Forces Land Component Command (JFLCC) for the conduct of operations in Iraq. This designation established the first operational headquarters since the departure of U.S. troops from the region in 2011. By August, JFLCC was engaged, taking the fight to ISIS via air operations. Defensive and offensive operations rapidly matured with the rescue of innocent Yazidi victims trapped on Sinjar Mountain, the recapture of the Mosul and Haditha Dams, and the defense of Baghdad and Kirkuk. On 17 September 2014, ARCENT was re-designated the Combined Forces Land Component Command. The command was authorized to conduct Combined Joint Operations in Iraq, which ultimately led to the formal establishment of CJTF-OIR. As CJTF-OIR grew, it encompassed the efforts and contributions of more than sixty Coalition partners throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area (CJOA) of Iraq and Syria.

III Corps assumed authority of CJTF-OIR from ARCENT on 22 September 2015 and immediately initiated an aggressive plan to increase pressure on ISIS and bring new capabilities to bear throughout the theater of operations. Logisticians sustained the CJTF and delivered more than 146,000 tons of supplies and materiel with 1,700 ground and air movements. Additionally, more than \$700 million worth of logistical contracts were executed to sustain operations throughout the CJOA.

Coalition fires were directed at ISIS leadership and infrastructure. Deliberate and dynamic precision airstrikes targeted ISIS economic infrastructure significantly degrading its ability to govern. More than 15,000 coalition airstrikes destroyed enemy military capabilities and provided freedom of maneuver to regional security and partner forces. Operation Tidal Wave II deprived ISIS of 80% of its oil collection facilities as well as \$25 million a month in oil revenue which negatively impacted ISIS military operations and halted enemy expansion. The adherence to strict rules of engagement, and the principles of necessity, distinction, proportionality and humanity, prevented unnecessary suffering among non-combatants in the conflict zones. Subsequent operations resulted in a dramatic contraction of ISIS controlled areas with the recovery of over 29,000 square kilometers in Syria and Iraq.

Increases in operational tempo, training and support to Iraqi Security Forces and Syrian opposition groups provided the foundation for broader strategic success. Iraqi and Syrian “Train and Equip Funds” provided the necessary assets and capabilities to achieve increasingly higher levels of partner participation. With comprehensive and consistent Coalition support, partner

forces steadily gained the confidence needed to fight and win against ISIS. With CJTF-OIR's operational support, 10,000 fighting personnel comprised of police, counterterrorism units and local tribal fighters acted in concert to liberate Ramadi in December of 2015.

Following Ramadi's liberation, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), supported by CJTF-OIR Advise and Assist teams, reclaimed Shaddadi, a town in northeastern Syria. Shaddadi served as a critical node for training, logistics and revenue and was the main supply artery between the ISIS capital Raqqa and the Iraqi city of Mosul. Peshmerga forces, supported by CJTF-OIR elements, liberated Sinjar and numerous ISIS controlled towns east of Mosul. After 28 days of fighting, Iraqi forces recaptured Fallujah on 26 June 2016, which forced ISIS further away from Baghdad and paved the way for the liberation of the Euphrates River Valley. Following each success in Syria and Iraq, CJTF-OIR trained Wide Area Security Forces assumed the responsibility for liberated areas, and enabled military formations to rest and transition to the next military objective.

XVIII Airborne Corps assumed authority from III Corps, on 21 August 2016. The transfer of authority sustained and accelerated the plan to degrade and destroy ISIS. On 25 August 2016, Iraqi elements seized the airfield at Qayyarah, thus positioning forces within close logistical striking distance of Mosul. Following a brief strategic pause, Iraqi forces again supported by coalition fires, air support and targeting teams began the battle for Mosul 17 October 2016, which cleared the eastern half of the city by 24 January 2017.

In Syria, CJTF-OIR expanded the train and equip program and worked with Vetted Syrian Opposition (VSO) troops in multiple regions. This anti-ISIS group fought to secure the strategic isolation of Raqqa by clearing the city of Manbij on 15 August 2016. Like their Iraqi counterparts, VSO partnered forces politically organized, policed and patrolled on previously ISIS-held ground to secure liberated territories. Near Raqqa, SDF forces relied upon Coalition airlift capabilities to transition combat forces across Lake Assad to encircle the Tabqah Dam, effectively isolating the city from the west as of April 2017. SDF began the assault on the city of Raqqa on 6 June 2017, and continue to make steady gains despite heavy resistance.

After a brief refit and consolidation of gains in East Mosul, Iraqi forces resumed the offensive 19 February 2017 to take the western side of the city. Iraqi formations fought through a multi-layered cordon of defenses, and engaged in house-to-house fighting. After nearly nine months of battle Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi declared the city of Mosul liberated on 10 July 2017. Coalition partners supported the Iraqi effort with observation, selective fires, and logistics while strategic decisions in the battle were made and implemented by the Iraqi Government and Commanders.

From October 2014 to July 2017, CJTF-OIR, Coalition, Syrian and Iraqi partnered forces working together have made enormous progress denying ISIS aspirations. Coalition forces have defeated insurgent counterattacks, reclaimed thousands of square kilometers and significantly weakened the ISIS terror infrastructure in Iraq and Syria. - *One Mission, Many Nations!*

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