



Combined Joint Task Force

Operation Inherent Resolve FACT SHEET

HISTORY

In the summer of 2014, a new terrorist group which had risen during the chaos of the Syrian Civil War attacked across the Syrian-Iraqi borders and seized large swaths of Iraqi territory in the Euphrates River Valley and northern Iraq. Several Iraqi towns fell to the invaders, who called themselves “The Islamic State.” By the end of summer, it seemed that Baghdad itself was threatened by IS.

In September of 2014, at a NATO conference, ten like-minded nations agreed that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, another name for the Islamic State) was a threat “to Iraq, the entire region, and the international community,” as the joint statement by the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense cited. Senior leaders from those nations agreed to form “a broad international coalition to degrade and, ultimately, destroy the threat posed by ISIL.”

The nations of the new coalition began providing air support, training, and munitions to the Kurdistan Regional Government and then the Government of Iraq. In October of 2014, several coalition nations joined the United States in launching airstrikes designed to blunt the attacks of IS fighters and to prevent their expansion further into Iraq along the Euphrates and Tigris River Valleys.

On October 15, 2014, the United States Department of Defense designated U.S. and coalition operations as “Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.” According to U.S. Central Command, the name INHERENT RESOLVE “is intended to reflect the unwavering resolve and deep commitment of the U.S. and partner nations in the region and around the globe to eliminate the terrorist group ISIL and the threat they pose to Iraq, the region and the wider international community. It also symbolizes the willingness and dedication of coalition members to work closely with our friends in the region and apply all available dimensions of national power necessary - diplomatic, informational, military, economic - to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL”

On October 17, 2014, the commander of U.S. 3rd Army and Army Forces Central Command was designated the commander of the Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE and tasked with establishing a combined, or multi-national, and joint, or multi-service, headquarters to oversee operations to degrade and ultimately defeat Da’esh (an Arabic acronym for IS with negative connotations, stemming from al-Dawla al-Islamiya al-Iraq al-Sham; it is also sometimes spelled Da’ish).

Many coalition nations contributing forces, equipment, and support to Operation INHERENT RESOLVE do so through nationally named operations.

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