

July 10, 2015 Release # 20150710 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Military Airstrikes Continue Against ISIL Terrorists in Syria and Iraq

SOUTHWEST ASIA – On July 9, Coalition military forces continued to attack ISIL terrorists in Syria and Iraq. In Syria, coalition military forces conducted 15 airstrikes using bomber, fighter and remotely piloted aircraft. Separately in Iraq, coalition military forces conducted 16 airstrikes approved by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense using attack, fighter-attack and remotely piloted aircraft against ISIL targets.

"Coalition airstrikes destroyed a cave network near Haditha, Iraq," said Lt. Col. Thomas Gilleran, CJTF-OIR spokesman. "We will continue to use our disciplined targeting approach to destroy Daesh wherever we find them, including underground."

The following is a summary of the strikes conducted against ISIL since the last press release:

<u>Syria</u>

- Near Al Hasakah, seven airstrikes struck an ISIL large tactical unit and six ISIL tactical units destroying four ISIL vehicles and six ISIL fighting positions.
- Near Aleppo, one airstrike struck an ISIL tactical unit, destroying three ISIL fighting positions and an ISIL bunker.
- Near Ar Raqqah, two airstrikes destroyed an ISIL structure, an ISIL armored personnel carrier and two ISIL excavators.
- Near Ayn Isa, one airstrike struck an ISIL tactical unit and destroyed an ISIL fighting position.
- Near Kobani, one airstrike struck an ISIL tactical unit and destroyed an ISIL mortar position.
- Near Tal Abyad, three airstrikes struck an ISIL large tactical unit, two ISIL tactical units and an ISIL fighting position destroying three ISIL fighting positions, four ISIL structures and two ISIL vehicles.

Iraq

- Near Bayji, two airstrikes destroyed two ISIL vehicles.
- Near Fallujah, one airstrike struck an ISIL tactical unit.
- Near Habbaniyah, two airstrikes destroyed an ISIL homemade explosive cache and an ISIL VBIED.
- Near Haditha, four airstrikes struck two ISIL large tactical units and an ISIL tactical unit, destroying two ISIL fighting positions, an ISIL cave network and an ISIL building.
- Near Makhmur, two airstrikes struck an ISIL tactical unit, destroying an ISIL mortar tube and an ISIL fighting position.
- Near Mosul, two airstrikes struck an ISIL mortar position and an ISIL rocket position.

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- Near Sinjar, two airstrikes struck an ISIL tactical unit, and four ISIL staging areas destroying an ISIL light machine gun, an ISIL heavy machine gun and four ISIL buildings.
- Near Tal Afar, one airstrike struck an ISIL tactical unit destroying an ISIL heavy machine gun, three ISIL vehicles and an ISIL building.

Airstrike assessments are based on initial reports. All aircraft returned to base safely.

The strikes were conducted as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the operation to eliminate the ISIL terrorist group and the threat they pose to Iraq, Syria and the wider international community. The destruction of ISIL targets in Syria and Iraq further limits the group's ability to project terror and conduct operations. Coalition nations which have conducted airstrikes in Iraq include Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Jordan, Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States. Coalition nations which have conducted airstrikes in Syria include Bahrain, Canada, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the U.S.

Separately, On July 8 near Idlib, Syria, coalition military forces conducted one airstrike against a network of veteran al Qa'eda operatives, sometimes called the "Khorasan Group," who are known to plot external attacks against the United States and our allies. The airstrike struck a tactical unit and destroyed a vehicle.

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For additional information contact: CJTF-OIRmedia@mail.mil COM: U.S. 1-803-885-8265 or in Southwest Asia COM: 00-965-2221-6340, then dial 430-6419# or 430-7199# <u>https://twitter.com/CJTFOIR</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/CJTFOIR</u> <u>https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/CJTF-OIR</u> <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgv7fFrpktGrcJtanYifRYw</u>



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