Weekly Report

National Security Division

Week ending 9 Aug 2019

National Security Strategy:

1. **Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life**
2. **Promote American prosperity**
3. **Preserve peace through strength**
4. **Advance American influence**

Click here to read more.

National Defense Strategy:

1. **Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force**
2. **Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners**
3. **Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance and affordability**

Click here to read more.

The Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2019 and National Defense

(National Defense Strategy, Line of Effort: Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal force)

On August 2, President Trump signed H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 (BBA 2019), into law. The bill raises the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) budget caps for both defense and nondefense for FY 2020 and FY 2021, the final two years of the discretionary caps. The bill also suspends the debt ceiling through July 31, 2021 and extends cuts on certain mandatory programs from FY 2027 to FY 2029.

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Prior BCA Budget Cap for National Defense (050) Base Budget	$647B*	$576.2B	$590.2B
Budget Cap Increase in BBA 2019	-	+$90.3B	+$81.3B
Newly Revised Budget Caps for National Defense (050) Base Budget	$647B	$666.5B	$671.5B
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) / Emergency Funding**	$69B	$71.5B	$69B
TOTAL National Defense (050)	**$716B**	**$738B**	**$740.5B**

** The budget cap for FY 2019 was raised from the original cap of $562.1 billion to $647.0 billion by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.*

*** OCO and emergency supplemental funding does not count toward the budget caps.*

The BBA 2019 is a two-year agreement that raises the budget caps for both defense and nondefense in FY 2020 and FY 2021. The deal increases the defense cap for FY 2020 by approximately $90 billion above the previous cap of $576 billion and raises the FY 2021 budget cap of $590 billion by approximately $81 billion.

Total national defense funding of $738 billion for FY 2020 under BBA 2019 represents real growth of 1 percent above FY 2019 appropriated levels. It is 1.6 percent less than the $750 billion requested by the Trump administration for FY 2020. However, $7.2 billion in the requested amount was designated as emergency funds for border wall construction.

The $738 billion topline thus falls between the $743 billion for regular defense activities (including $2 billion in emergency funds for hurricane relief and recovery) in the FY 2020 request and the previously projected topline of $733 billion for FY 2020 included in the administration's FY 2019 budget request.

The timing of the BBA 2019 deal also means that Congress can, in theory, pass defense appropriations before the start of the fiscal year on October 1.

This would be the first time since FY 2004-2005 that defense would have appropriations enacted before the beginning of the fiscal year for two years in a row. And because this is a two-year budget deal, it means Congress may also be able to pass appropriations on time for FY 2021, which would be the first time in at least 50 years for defense to have on-time appropriations three years in a row.

Key take away:

Under current law, there are no caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending for FY 2022 and beyond. While this means there is no longer a statutory ceiling on spending, the BCA budget caps did not act as a ceiling in practice

After FY 2021, there will be no ceiling on the defense budget and no floor. The structure and timing of negotiations that the BCA created since 2011 will no longer exist, and Congress will be left to return to regular order in the budget process.

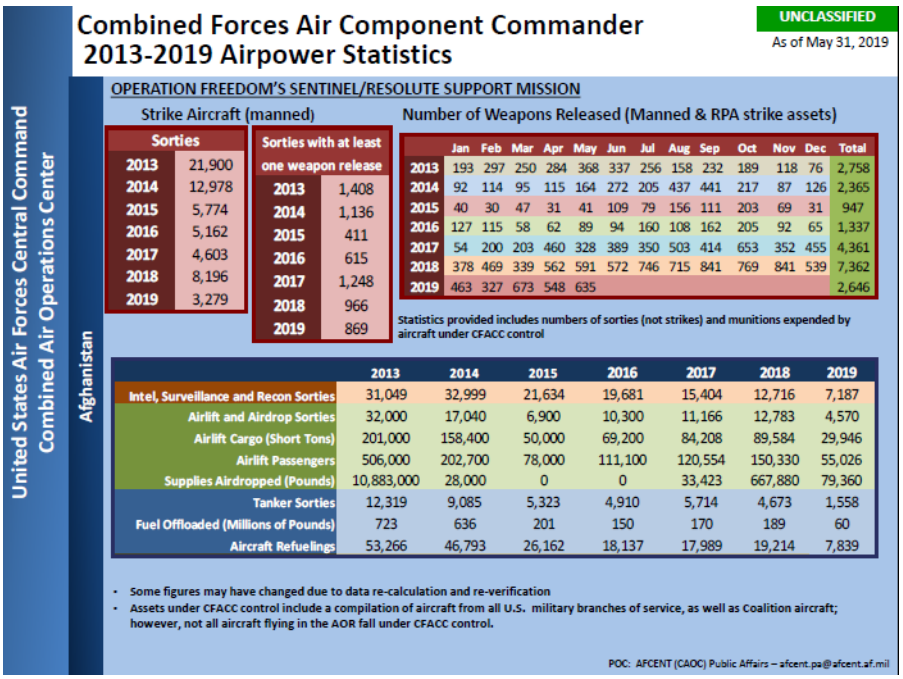
Click here to read more

CENTCOM postures for defense while strengthening partner capacity

(National Security Strategy, Line Of Effort: Preserve peace through strength)

May brought a shifting of focus in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, as the command requested additional forces due to clear indications that Iranian and Iranian proxy forces were making preparations to possibly attack U.S. forces across the region – on land and at sea. The additional forces and capabilities were a prudent defensive measure and intended to reduce the possibility of future hostilities.

These forces: the Bomber Task Force of B-52Hs, a Patriot battery battalion, and the Abraham Lincoln Strike Group, were successful in deterring the immediate threats posed to U.S. forces.



Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2013-2019 Airpower Statistics

UNCLASSIFIED

As of May 31, 2019

United States Air Forces Central Command
Combined Air Operations Center

Afghanistan

OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL/RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION

Strike Aircraft (manned)

Sorties	
2013	21,900
2014	12,978
2015	5,774
2016	5,162
2017	4,603
2018	8,196
2019	3,279

Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2013	1,408
2014	1,136
2015	411
2016	615
2017	1,248
2018	966
2019	869

Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)

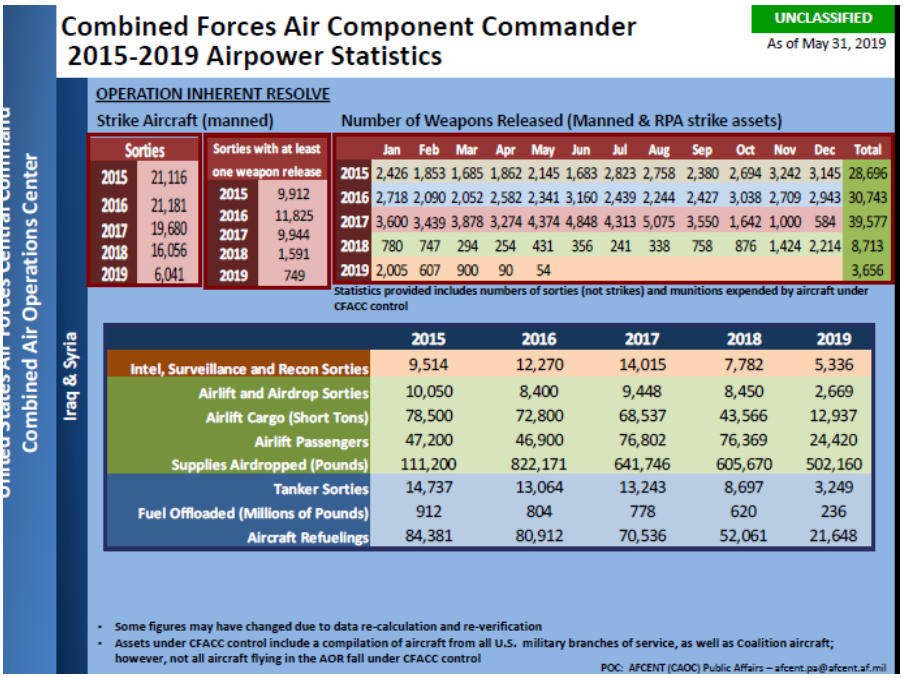
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2013	193	297	250	284	368	337	256	158	232	189	118	76	2,758
2014	92	114	95	115	164	272	205	437	441	217	87	126	2,365
2015	40	30	47	31	41	109	79	156	111	203	69	31	947
2016	127	115	58	62	89	94	160	108	162	205	92	65	1,337
2017	54	200	203	460	328	389	350	503	414	653	352	455	4,361
2018	378	469	339	562	591	572	746	715	841	769	841	539	7,362
2019	463	327	673	548	635								2,646

Statistics provided includes numbers of sorties (not strikes) and munitions expended by aircraft under CFACC control

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	31,049	32,999	21,634	19,681	15,404	12,716	7,187
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	32,000	17,040	6,900	10,300	11,166	12,783	4,570
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	201,000	158,400	50,000	69,200	84,208	89,584	29,946
Airlift Passengers	506,000	202,700	78,000	111,100	120,554	150,330	55,026
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	10,883,000	28,000	0	0	33,423	667,880	79,360
Tanker Sorties	12,319	9,085	5,323	4,910	5,714	4,673	1,558
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	723	636	201	150	170	189	60
Aircraft Refuelings	53,266	46,793	26,162	18,137	17,989	19,214	7,839

- Some figures may have changed due to data re-calculation and re-verification
- Assets under CFACC control include a compilation of aircraft from all U.S. military branches of service, as well as Coalition aircraft; however, not all aircraft flying in the AOR fall under CFACC control.

POC: AFCENT (CAOC) Public Affairs – afcent.pa@afcent.af.mil



Combined Forces Air Component Commander 2015-2019 Airpower Statistics

UNCLASSIFIED

As of May 31, 2019

United States Air Forces Central Command
Combined Air Operations Center

Iraq & Syria

OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Strike Aircraft (manned)

Sorties	
2015	21,116
2016	21,181
2017	19,680
2018	16,056
2019	6,041

Sorties with at least one weapon release	
2015	9,912
2016	11,825
2017	9,944
2018	1,591
2019	749

Number of Weapons Released (Manned & RPA strike assets)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2015	2,426	1,853	1,685	1,862	2,145	1,683	2,823	2,758	2,380	2,694	3,242	3,145	28,696
2016	2,718	2,090	2,052	2,582	2,341	3,160	2,439	2,244	2,427	3,038	2,709	2,943	30,743
2017	3,600	3,439	3,878	3,274	4,374	4,848	4,313	5,075	3,550	1,642	1,000	584	39,577
2018	780	747	294	254	431	356	241	338	758	876	1,424	2,214	8,713
2019	2,005	607	900	90	54								3,656

Statistics provided includes numbers of sorties (not strikes) and munitions expended by aircraft under CFACC control

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Intel, Surveillance and Recon Sorties	9,514	12,270	14,015	7,782	5,336
Airlift and Airdrop Sorties	10,050	8,400	9,448	8,450	2,669
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	78,500	72,800	68,537	43,566	12,937
Airlift Passengers	47,200	46,900	76,802	76,369	24,420
Supplies Airdropped (Pounds)	111,200	822,171	641,746	605,670	502,160
Tanker Sorties	14,737	13,064	13,243	8,697	3,249
Fuel Offloaded (Millions of Pounds)	912	804	778	620	236
Aircraft Refuelings	84,381	80,912	70,536	52,061	21,648

- Some figures may have changed due to data re-calculation and re-verification
- Assets under CFACC control include a compilation of aircraft from all U.S. military branches of service, as well as Coalition aircraft; however, not all aircraft flying in the AOR fall under CFACC control

POC: AFCENT (CAOC) Public Affairs – afcent.pa@afcent.af.mil

U.S. Air Forces Central Command published its May Airpower Summary.

"Increasing our air presence in the Arabian Gulf, and our ability to detect and attribute Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps malign actions is critical to maintaining deterrence," said Lt. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, U.S. AFCENT commander. "We are prepared to defend our forces, integrate allies and partners, and protect our interests."

Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan

The month of May began a historic change in the tactics of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces designed to support the Afghan-led, Afghan-owned peace talks held in April 2019. The ANDSF began moving from being a defensive force holding checkpoints to an offensive force, strategically focused on taking the fight to the Taliban.

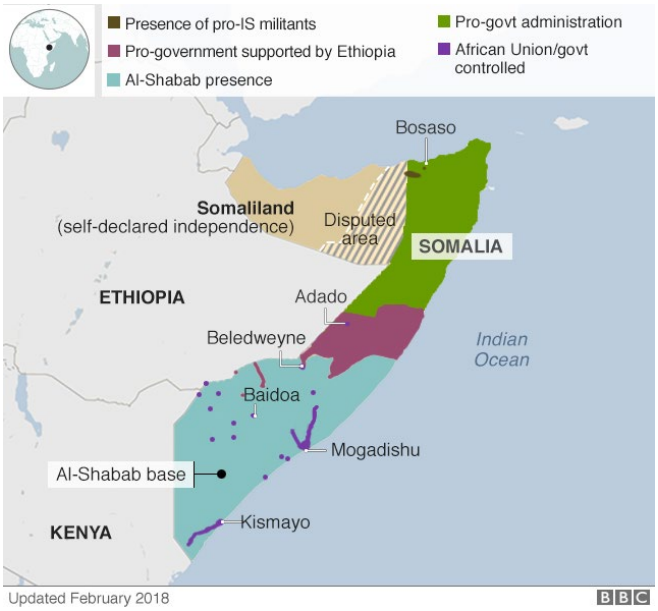
Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria

Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) continued to put pressure on Daesh in May, to prevent a resurgence following the defeat of the physical caliphate.

Click to read more here.

AFRICOM Commander visits Somalia as pressure on al-Shabab increases

(National Security Strategy, Line Of Effort; Preserve peace through strength. National Defense Strategy, Line Of Effort: Strengthening alliances as we seek new partners)



Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, the new commander of U.S. Africa Command, visited Somalia on Wednesday and pledged to continue pressuring violent extremists such as al-Shabab.

AFRICOM said Townsend's trip allowed him to assess the situation in Somalia, and reinforce AFRICOM's commitments to the region's security. "I am committed to working together and advancing our partnership with Somalia," Townsend said in the release. "Along with Somalia and other international partners, we will apply continued pressure on violent extremist organizations. This pressure creates conditions and opportunity for further political and economic development."

“We’re in the business of protecting our country from these threats,” Townsend said. “Degrading the capability of terrorists who operate here makes the entire region safer and prevents its export to other places. This is important work for our country, the Somalis and our allies.”

In a sign of how American involvement in Somalia is increasing, AFRICOM carried out as many airstrikes in the nation in the first seven months of 2019 as it did for the entirety of 2018. According to statistics from AFRICOM last month, the U.S. military carried out its 47th airstrike in Somalia on July 27 to target suspected Islamic State militants in the Golis Mountain region, which is a reputed terrorist hotbed.

AFRICOM said Wednesday that the U.S. is coordinating its diplomacy and development efforts with military activity. “They agreed on the value of security operations to liberate areas from al-Shabab and preparing Somali forces to take over from the African Union Mission to Somalia,” State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said in the release.

The Prime Minister added the partnership with the U.S. is key to reform and sustaining progress, according to the AFRICOM website.

“Through our strategic partnership and support with the U.S. government, Somalia has made tangible progress in security, reconciliation, and debt relief,” said Khaire, adding the two nations will continue to partner meaningfully in pursuit of their bilateral interests.

“The United States of America offers the best security partnership and training in the world,” Townsend said. “We invest in our partners, dedicating the time, energy and commitment to make sure they are ready for any challenge.”

Click to read more here.

Important Date: 7 August.

"In valor there is hope." - Publius Cornelius Tacitus (56 - 117), Senator and Historian of the Roman Empire

Purple Heart Day. A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. Purple Heart Day is also known as National Purple Heart Day, Purple Heart Recognition Day and Purple Heart Appreciation Day.

Click link to watch video.

POW/MIA Update

This week, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made 4 new announcements. Click on the links to read more:

News Releases
August 7, 2019
USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Savage, L.)
Soldier Accounted For From World War II (Mangan, D.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Brockett, N.)
Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Galvan, W.)

Staff Activities

- This week staff continued to developed briefing and sponsor pages for National Security Commission programs. These sheets will be used by the Marketing Division to seek corporate donors to fund The American Legion's National Security programs that promote community service.
- Tuesday, staff (Gold Star Family Coordinator) participated in a one day Caring For Military Surviving Families Forum. This event solicited ideas and practices which strengthen advocacy; while providing a united voice of caring and survival.
- Wednesday, National Security Division staff and Executive Director met with SFC Randall Pike, USA HQDA Outreach NCOIC and Richard Odom Army Outreach to continue dialogue in supporting National Commander Theater Engagements in the EUCOM and INDO-PACIFIC Area Of Responsibility. The Executive Director also thanked them for all their support for the American Legion National and Past National Commander(s) visit to the Pentagon last week.

Rhonda Powell, Director
National Security Division