

Known UK Air Strikes in Iraq and Syria, 2020

Date	Detail given	Aircraft	Country	No. & type weapons fired	Given target
10 Apr 2020	The Royal Air Force continues to fly daily armed reconnaissance missions over Iraq and eastern Syria. On Friday 10 April, one such patrol conducted air strikes in support of a counter-terrorism operation in northern Iraq. The pair of Typhoons, assisted by an RAF Reaper aircraft, identified Daesh terrorists occupying a group of fortified buildings in an isolated location west of Tuz Khurma, known to be inhabited by active terrorist commanders and fighters. The aircraft conducted a thorough check of the area for non-combatants, before using a combination of precision guided bombs to destroy the buildings.	Typhoon / Reaper	Iraq	6 Paveway IV 1 GBU-12 (Reaper)	ISIS occupied buildings
28 Apr 2020	On night of Tuesday 28 April, a pair of Typhoons, operating out of RAF Akrotiri and supported by a Voyager aerial refuelling tanker, joined other coalition aircraft in an attack on a series of caves north-east of Bayji in northern Iraq. The Typhoons targeted six cave entrances where intelligence confirmed a group of Daesh terrorists were based. Following a thorough check of the surrounding area for any signs of non-combatants, the aircraft used Paveway IV precision-guided bombs to strike all six of the caves.	Typhoon	Iraq	6 Paveway	ISIS occupied caves
8 May 2020	On 8 May, an RAF Reaper kept close watch on a bunker containing a group of Daesh fighters, west of Tuz Khumatu, in northern Iraq. When the Reaper's crew had identified the ideal moment to strike, the bunker was destroyed using a GBU-12 guided bomb.	Reaper	Iraq	1 GBU-12 bomb	ISIS occupied bunker
10 May 2020	On 10 May 2020, a pair of Typhoon FGR4s, supported by a Voyager air refuelling tanker, flew an armed reconnaissance patrol over northern Iraq. Coalition surveillance aircraft had located a cave system occupied by Daesh terrorists southeast of Hatra, on the banks of the Tharthar River. Three targets at the entrances to the caves were identified and each successfully struck by a Paveway IV guided bombs.	Typhoon	Iraq	3 Paveway IV guided bombs	ISIS occupied caves
13 May 2020	On 13 May, Reapers again saw action west of Tuz Khurmatu, when two of the RAF's aircraft used GBU-12s to destroy a further pair of Daesh-occupied bunkers.	Reaper	Iraq	2 GBU-12 bombs	2 ISIS occupied bunkers
23 May 2020	On 23 May, a group of Daesh fighters were located hiding in woods, along with stored equipment. A patrolling Reaper dropped one GBU-12, which hit its target and caused secondary explosions, indicating the likely presence of a significant stockpile of munitions.	Reaper	Iraq	1 GBU-12 bombs	Group of ISIS fighters
31 May 2020	A Royal Air Force remotely piloted Reaper investigated on Sunday 31 May a location in northern Iraq, some seventeen miles west of Tuz Khurmatu, where a Daesh group had been identified as having established themselves at a bunker situated in the mountains. The Reaper's crew conducted a thorough check of the area, finding no signs of any civilians nearby but confirming the presence of several terrorists close to the bunker itself, who were attempting to conceal themselves in heavy foliage. The Reaper therefore conducted two attacks in succession, destroying the bunker with a GBU-12 guided bomb, then hitting those terrorists who were outside the bunker with a Hellfire missile.	Reaper	Iraq	1 GBU-12 bomb & 2 Hellfire missiles	Bunker and ISIS fighters outside
3 June 2020	On Wednesday 3 June, a pair of Typhoon FGR4s, supported by a Voyager air refuelling tanker, joined	Typhoon	Iraq	1 Paveway guided bomb	ISIS occupied cave

	<p>other coalition aircraft in an operation against Daesh positions which had been identified on a mountainous ridge some thirty-five miles north-west of Kirkuk. Having confirmed that there were no signs of civilians in the area, the Typhoons provided surveillance support to a strike by coalition jets, and were then allocated a cave, occupied by Daesh, as their own target. This position was struck with a single Paveway IV guided bomb, and Iraqi ground forces subsequently confirmed the attack to have been a success.</p>				
22 Jun 2020	<p>A further group of caves, situated thirty miles north-west of Tikrit, were confirmed as being used by Daesh both as accommodation and storage for improvised explosive devices. Two Typhoons were accordingly tasked to attack the terrorist position on Monday 22 June. Having checked the area for any civilians who might be at risk, four Paveway IVs were successfully used to strike four carefully selected targets within the cave network.</p>	Typhoon	Iraq	4 Paveway IV guided bombs	ISIS occupied caves
24 Jun 2020	<p>Intensive coalition surveillance efforts were able to confirm that another group of Daesh terrorists had established themselves in a cave network in the Makhmur mountains of northern Iraq. RAF Typhoons were therefore tasked with the destruction of this terrorist base on Wednesday 24 June. After the usual precautionary check of the area for civilians, our aircraft attacked with four Paveway IVs, all of which struck their targets successfully.</p>	Typhoon	Iraq	4 Paveway IV guided bombs	ISIS occupied caves
20 Aug 2020	<p>Intelligence analysis confirmed that a Daesh leadership group had established a cave network 85 miles west of Kirkuk in northern Iraq. An RAF Reaper kept a close watch on the location during the early hours of Thursday 20 August. When terrorists were identified at the cave entrance, the Reaper's crew conducted an attack with a single hellfire missile, having first swept the areas for any signs of civilians who might be placed at risk. The missile struck the target accurately, and the blast was observed to emerge from another part of the cave network, indicating that the weapon's effect had reached deep inside the caves.</p>	Reaper	Iraq	1 Hellfire missile	ISIS occupied caves
26 Aug 2020	<p>An RAF Reaper maintained surveillance on another set of caves in the area on Wednesday 26 August, which confirmed the presence of a number of Daesh extremists at the site. When terrorists were observed at the mouth of one of the caves, the Reaper crew engaged successfully with a Hellfire missile, the provided surveillance support to a follow-up attack by two coalition fast jets which struck the rest of the Daesh position.</p>	Reaper	Iraq	1 Hellfire missile	ISIS occupied caves
6 Oct 2020	<p>On Tuesday 6 October, a small group of Daesh extremists attacked Iraqi security forces in the desert of Anbar province, west of Baghdad. A coalition air strike provided immediate support to the Iraqi troops and succeeded in destroying half the attacking Daesh group. An RAF Reaper was then tasked to deal with the remaining terrorists. The crew of the Reaper successfully located them, and at an appropriate moment, with no sign of a strike posing any risks to friendly forces or any civilians, conducted a carefully planned attack with a GBU-12 guided bomb. The Iraqi forces subsequently reported that the threat had been eliminated.</p>	Reaper	Iraq	1 GBU-12 bomb	ISIS fighters