



On the night of 7 October 2001 Operation Enduring Freedom began with the aerial bombing against preplanned targets in and around Herat, Shindand, Shibarghan, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Kandahar. Five Air Force B-1B and 10 B-52 heavy bombers operating out of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, 25 Navy F-14 and F/A-18 fighters launched from USS Enterprise and USS Carl Vinson in the North Arabian Sea, and two Air Force B-2 stealth bombers conducted the opening-night attacks, each carrying 16 2,000-lb satellite-aided GBU-31 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs) directed against Taliban early warning radars and military headquarters buildings.

SAD JAWBREAKER from K2

On 9 September 2001, Afghan Northern Alliance leader General Ahmad Shah Massoud was assassinated at Khwaja Bahauddin, Afghanistan by suspected al-Qaeda agents. Two days later on 11 September, 2001 al-Qaeda (AQ) carried out coordinated suicide attacks on the United States. On 26 September, the United States Central Intelligence Agency inserted Special Activities Division (SAD) Team Jawbreaker, flown in by a CIA-owned MI-17 helicopter into the Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul. The team coordinated with representatives from the Northern Alliance, establishing a base of operations close to Barak, communicating back to the CIA Counterterrorist Center (CTC).

The attack aircraft were supported by accompanying F-14 and F/A18 fighter sweeps and by electronic jamming of enemy radar and communications transmissions by Navy EA-6Bs. In addition, a total of 50 Tomahawk land-attack missiles (TLAMs) were fired in the first wave against fixed high-priority targets by two Aegis destroyers, USS McFaul and USS John Paul Jones; a Spruance-class destroyer, USS O'Brien; and an Aegis cruiser, USS Philippine Sea; as well as two U.S. and British nuclear attack submarines. Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) provided Tristar and VC10 tankers to help supplement Air Force KC-135s and KC-10s in providing in-flight refueling for the Navy fighters.

**AFGHANISTAN, 2001**  
**AERIAL ATTACK PHASE ONE**  
 Fixed Targets,  
 9 September - 18 October 2001

Two C-17s flying from Ramstein Air Base, Germany dropped 34,400 packets of food and medical supplies within 45 minutes after the first bombs hit their targets in the anticipation of Afghan civilians trying to escape cities during the bombing. Leaflets and transistor radios preset to a station explaining the intent of the air attacks were later similarly air-dropped by C-17s.

