

Iraq Situation Report: June 26, 2014

2 ISIS elements withdrew from Alam to central Tikrit and there are reports of ISIS evacuating its elements from the hospital in Tikrit city. It is unclear at this time if ISIS is hardening its positions in the city or it is withdrawing in face of an expected assault by the ISF and increased IA Aviation attacks. Also, the CTS reportedly took control of buildings at Tikrit University, north of the city. Alam has been a watch area for being a flash point of anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni tribal resistance and it appears that ISIS was able to enter the area after negotiations and pressure from ISIS.

3 ISIS and a joint force of ISF and tribal forces clashed in Barwana, eight miles south of the Haditha Dam. IA and CTS have been reinforcing the dam since June 21 to protect it from a potential ISIS attack. ISIS took the Fallujah Dam early this year, flooding surrounding areas and cutting some water supplies. The ISF intend to prevent a repeat of this action at Haditha.

4 An SVEST detonated in the area of Bab al-Dirwaza near the shrine of Imam al-Kadhim in northern Baghdad, killing at least 22 and injuring 44 others. Attacks near the shrine are rare and will likely trigger further mobilization by Iraqi Shi'a militias in the capital.

7 On June 25 an IED, followed by an SVEST, detonated at a market in Mahmudiya, in southern Baghdad. The attacks were followed by mortar rounds killing 15 individuals and wounding 65. Mahmudiya has not been a major attack zone in the recent months. This advance is likely meant to test the ISF in the area or force them to shift resources.

1 ISIS reportedly conducted a large armed parade in Hawija. This was likely carried out to establish control after meeting resistance from tribes and other armed groups in the area.

5 ISIS gunmen took control of the Dali Abass sub-district, seven miles north of Muqdadiah, which they held for three hours. The gunmen clashed with a joint force, composed of the IA, tribal forces, and most likely Iraqi Shi'a militias. The leader of the Badr Organization, Hadi al-Amiri, stated that the joint force killed seven ISIS gunmen and burned six vehicles.

6 Mortar rounds landed on the residence of a tribal leader, who is also the first deputy governor in central Ishaki, south of Tikrit, resulting in seven deaths and injury to 25 others. Also ISF reinforcements reportedly arrived in the area.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- 🚚 ISF Reinforcements
- ✈️ Airstrikes
- 👤👤👤 Military Parade
- ISF
- ISF and Militias
- ISIS
- JRTN
- Anti-ISIS Tribes
- 🌀 SVEST



by Heather L. Pickerell, Ahmed Ali, and ISW Iraq Team

ISIS resumed its effective spectacular attacks in Baghdad, which had dropped since the fall of Mosul. The mobilization of Iraqi Shi'a militias and deployment of CTS in Baghdad have not neutralized ISIS' attack capabilities in the capital. The attacks in Mahmudiya, which has been quiet for several months, have opened a new front on the southern belt of Baghdad. The ISF will likely shift attention and resources to the south of Baghdad to meet this challenge. The situation in Tikrit remains fluid and may constitute a "meeting engagement" for ISIS and the ISF if both sides attempt to reinforce their positions. ISIS' Euphrates offensive continues. ISIS is setting conditions for an attack on the dam near Haditha, and the ISF reinforced the position on 21 June. ISIS is likely drawing the ISF into an engagement and stretching its forces thin, in Haditha and elsewhere, in order to create the necessary gaps among government forces that will allow ISIS to carry out a spectacular attack on another front.