

Iraq Situation Report: September 5-7, 2014

1 Between September 6-7, Iraqi Security Forces and the Iraqi Sunnis tribes launched operations in multiple areas around Haditha city, including Barwana and Khafajiyah. According to reports, the ISF were able to clear the area of Barwana sub-district south of Haditha. Meanwhile, the tribal “Hamza Brigades” reportedly engaged ISIS in Khafajiyah east of Haditha. Anonymous reports indicate that ISF and pro-government tribes are now besieging the area of Alus near Haditha. The governor of Anbar Ahmed al-Dulaimi and Haditha’s mayor Abdul Hakim al-Jughaifi were injured when they were attacked by a rocket in Barwana. Reports conflict about whether Jughaifi was killed. U.S. airstrikes targeted ISIS positions near the Haditha dam, and U.S. airstrikes were reported around Qaim and Rawa, although they were not confirmed by DoD.



2 On September 5, a VBIED targeted a police patrol in Amiriyat al-Fallujah, south of Fallujah, killing three IP officers and wounding four others.



3 On September 5, a VBIED detonated at a security checkpoint leading to a mosque in the Zafaraniyah neighborhood of southeast Baghdad, killing four people and wounding six others.



4 On September 6, a VBIED detonated in central Samarra resulting in the injury of four people. On the same day, mortar rounds fell in the northern parts of the district resulting in the injury of four members of the “Popular Mobilization” which includes Iraqi Shi’a militias.



5 On September 4, an SVBIED targeted IA soldiers at the entrance of Speicher Air Base, killing four IA soldiers and wounding nine others. On September 5, an SVBIED targeted IA checkpoint near Hammadi Shihab, on the highway between Speicher and Tikrit, killing one IA soldier and wounding three others.



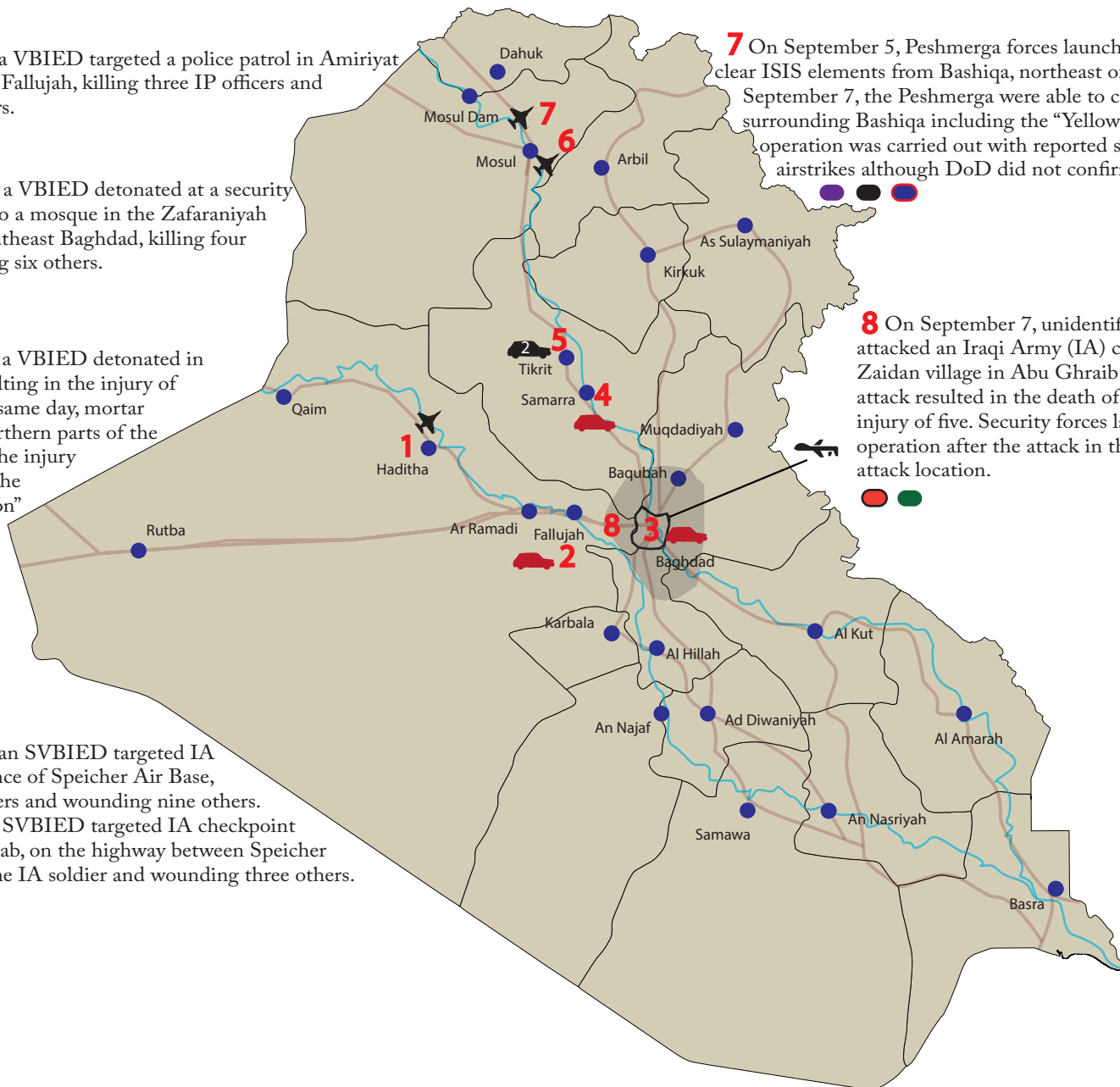
6 Between September 5-7, the Peshmerga launched a large military operation to clear ISIS from areas east of Mosul including the road between Khazir and Bartala and the Hamdaniya district, southeast of Mosul. The operation was reportedly supported by U.S. airstrikes, though DoD did not confirm. On September 7, artillery fire reportedly struck Khabat district near Khazir, launched from the ISIS-held village of Hassan Shami near Khazir.



7 On September 5, Peshmerga forces launched an operation to clear ISIS elements from Bashiqa, northeast of Mosul. By September 7, the Peshmerga were able to clear villages surrounding Bashiqa including the “Yellow Mountain.” The operation was carried out with reported support of U.S. airstrikes although DoD did not confirm.



8 On September 7, unidentified assailants attacked an Iraqi Army (IA) checkpoint in the Zaidan village in Abu Ghraib west of Baghdad. The attack resulted in the death of two IA soldiers and injury of five. Security forces launched a search operation after the attack in the areas nearby the attack location.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- 🚗 VBIED
- 🚛 SVBIED
- 🚁 Armed Drones
- Unknown Gunmen
- Peshmerga
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- ISF
- Iraqi Shi’a militias
- ISIS
- USA



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The Haditha operation represents a turning point in the counter-ISIS campaign. ISIS is now facing two significant counter-offensives in western and northern Iraq. The Peshmerga are moving to re-take villages east and northeast of Mosul. The ISF, along with pro-government tribes in Haditha, are moving to clear nearby villages. These operations have been partly successful, likely due to the deployment of U.S. airstrikes in support of these ground forces. An air-ground offensive to challenge ISIS defenses near Mosul and to halt its advance into Haditha city may disrupt the ISIS urban offensive in Iraq. Possible ISIS branch operations include reinforcement of Mosul and Haditha, though ISIS may also continue to attack in other high value locations in order to divert ISF and Peshmerga attention. For example, ISIS continues to attack into central Samarra and central Baghdad. It is too early to assess the durable success of these counter-ISIS offensives. On both fronts, the ISF, pro-government tribes, and Peshmerga will likely encounter emplaced defenses, such as booby-traps and IEDs. In the Ninewa Plains area east of Mosul, the Peshmerga will likely struggle to regain the trust of the population after the Peshmerga initially retreated in the face of the August ISIS offensive.