

Iraq Situation Report: September 25-26 2014

1 ISIS members in the areas southwest of Kirkuk, including Hawija, Zab, al-Abbasi, al-Riyadh, and al-Rashad, continued to change their TTPs in response to U.S. airstrikes. Reportedly, ISIS moved its vehicles into residential neighborhoods, seized a number of residential homes, evacuated headquarters, and reduced the number of personnel at their checkpoints. A large number of civilian families have reportedly fled the area as well.

2 On September 25, two VBIEDs exploded near a hospital and a bridge in Mahmudiyah, south of Baghdad, killing seven and wounding 23 others.

3 On September 25, an anonymous security source in Salah ad-Din stated that ISIS militants shelled volunteer forces near Owainat village, south of Tikrit, with mortars killing eight volunteer force members.

4 On September 26, tribal fighters repelled an ISIS attempt to infiltrate the al-Jubur tribal areas east of Dhuluiya, north of Baghdad, killing one ISIS militant while injuring three tribal fighters. Reportedly, IA Aviation shelled an ISIS gathering in the al-Hur area north of Dhuluiya, located north of Baghdad.

5 On September 26, ISIS reportedly fired two mortars at a checkpoint on the Hirba Bridge, south of Samarra, killing three IP officers and wounding two IP officers.

6 On September 26, ISF units supported by tribal fighters and IA Aviation launched an operation to clear ISIS from central Ramadi and the nearby areas of al-Jazeera, Albu Aitha, al-Hamidhiyah, and Albu Obeid. The source noted that all communications networks in Ramadi were cut off to coincide with the start of the operation.

7 On September 26, Salah ad-Din tribal leader Khamis al-Jibara stated that ISIS forced displaced members of the Juburi tribe from Tikrit who are currently residing in al-Alam, east of Tikrit, to swear allegiance to ISIS at gunpoint. Jibara stated that ISIS intends to weaken the tribe through these actions.

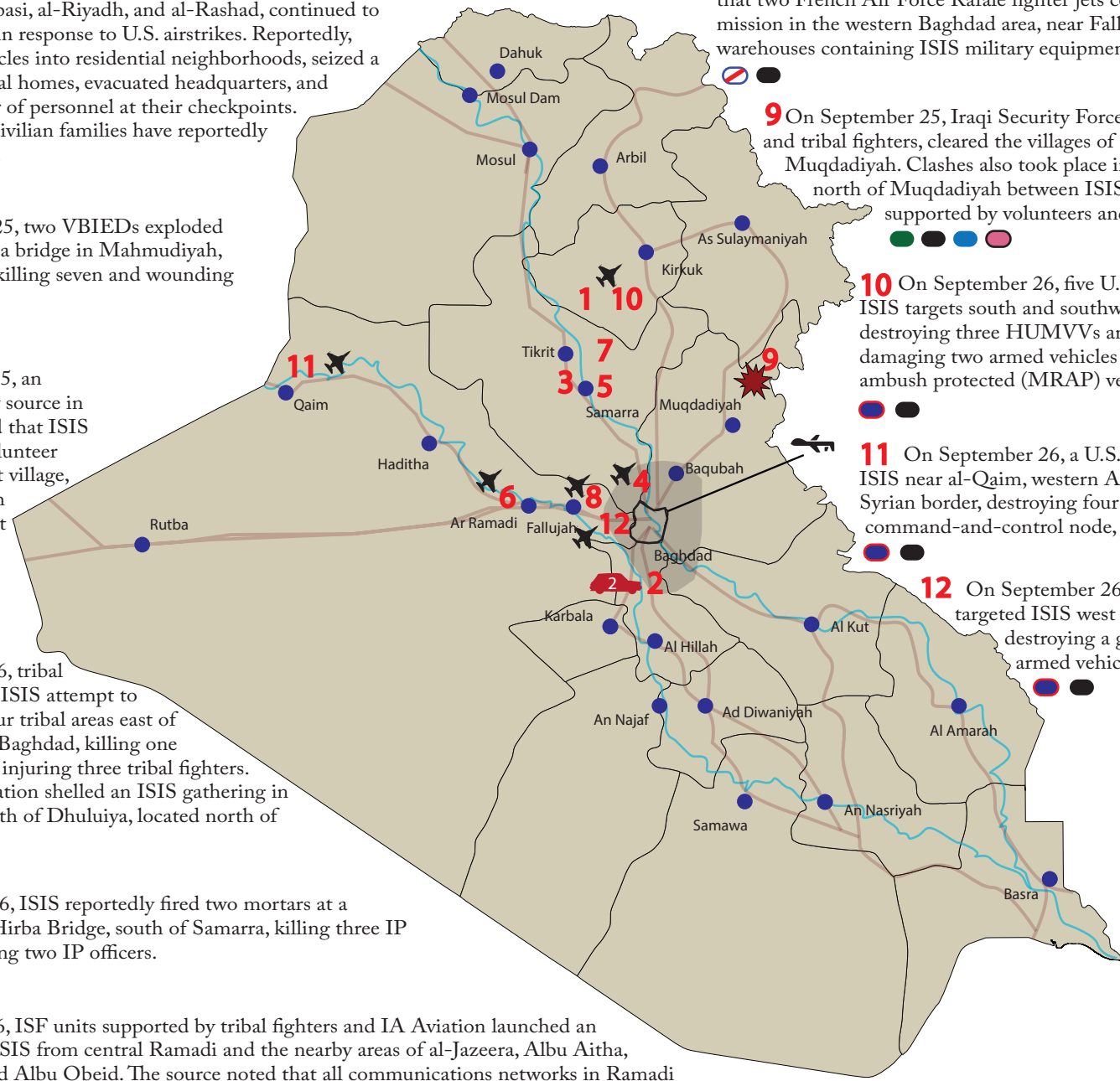
8 On September 25, The French Ministry of Defense confirmed that two French Air Force Rafale fighter jets conducted an airstrike mission in the western Baghdad area, near Fallujah, destroying four warehouses containing ISIS military equipment.

9 On September 25, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), volunteers, and tribal fighters, cleared the villages of Shohani, north of Muqdadiyah. Clashes also took place in the Tawakul village north of Muqdadiyah between ISIS and the ISF supported by volunteers and anti-ISIS tribes.

10 On September 26, five U.S. airstrikes targeted ISIS targets south and southwest of Kirkuk, destroying three HUMVVs and one vehicle while damaging two armed vehicles and a mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle.

11 On September 26, a U.S. airstrike targeted ISIS near al-Qaim, western Anbar on the Iraq-Syrian border, destroying four armed vehicles, a command-and-control node, and a checkpoint

12 On September 26, one airstrike targeted ISIS west of Baghdad, destroying a guard shack, an armed vehicle, and a bunker.



- Major Cities
- VBIED
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- USA
- France
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Iraqi Shi'a militias



Content: Ahmed Ali
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

Continued clashes in Ramadi indicate ISIS's intent to capture the city. The Iraqi Security Forces are likely pushing to ensure that ISIS is surrounded in Ramadi and not allowed freedom of movement. It will be important to see if ISIS reacts to the ISF push by redeploying its assets from Fallujah. Similarly, the clashes in Muqdadiyah are likely intended to prevent ISIS from establishing freedom of movement to launch attacks into Diyala's capital, Baqubah. In southwestern Kirkuk province, ISIS appears to be changing its activities in response to airstrikes. Reducing the footprint of its operations and shifting fighters and equipment into residential areas is intended to make degradation of its assets by air more difficult without incurring collateral damage.