

# Iraq Situation Report: February 12-13, 2015

**1** On February 12, an anonymous security source in Anbar stated that a force from the First Rapid Intervention Division carried out operations against ISIS in the al-Harariyat area, east of Fallujah. Also, “security forces” attacked ISIS in the Hitawin area, south of Fallujah, killing five ISIS members, wounding five others, and destroying a vehicle outfitted with a heavy machine gun and an ISIS-controlled building.

**2** On February 13, ISIS “stormed” a number of houses in Rabidha, north of Alam sub-district and east of Tikrit, abducting at gunpoint 29 men from the al-Obeid tribe, taking them to an unknown location. Another source stated that some of the men were members of the Iraqi Army (IA).

**3** On February 12, ISIS attacked and took control of Dijla and Mikishifa, south of Tikrit. Fourteen “police” members and “dozens” of ISIS members were killed, while between 12 and 15 police members were wounded. ISF also destroyed five vehicles. Police members began moving fleeing residents from Dijla towards the al-Ashiq archaeological area, north of Samarra. An anonymous senior security officer stated that security forces were massing with heavy artillery north of Dijla supported by “Popular Mobilization” forces. On February 13, ISIS demolished “dozens” of houses that belonged to ISF members in Mikishifa using IEDs. Federal Police (FP), “Popular Mobilization,” and “large” military forces from Samarra Operations Command (SOC) arrived in the area and engaged in clashes with ISIS. The forces reportedly retook control of Dijla and Mikishifa, killing 16 ISIS members. These reports are initial and unconfirmed.

**4** On February 12, ISIS attackers used an SVBIED to target the Hitin power station, and two SVBIEDs to target security forces and “Popular Mobilization”

**5** On February 12, ISIS members launched an attack on al-Khasfa area, west of Haditha district, using “dozens of mortars” while attempting to penetrate the area. The attack resulted in no casualties for either side, and al-Jughaiifi tribal fighters reinforced their presence in the area.

**6** On February 12, KDP Media Official Said Mamuzine stated that ISIS launched an attack accompanied by an unspecified number of “suicide attacks” on Peshmerga positions under the cover of a vision-obscuring dust storm in Bashiqa; the Hassan Sham area of Khazir, east of Mosul; Isky Mosul village; Zammar; and Sinjar district, northwest of Mosul. Peshmerga supported by international coalition airstrikes repelled the attacks, resulting in “heavy” ISIS casualties and equipment losses. Eighteen ISIS members were killed, while the Peshmerga reported no losses. DoD stated that four international coalition airstrikes targeted an ISIS “large tactical unit,” a “tactical unit,” and a staging area, destroying two bulldozers, two vehicles, one armored vehicle, one building, and one “heavy machine gun” near Mosul.

**6** On February 12, ISIS launched a major attack on the main area of Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit. The attack involved attackers with SVESTs and, reportedly, sleeper cells from Baghdadi. ISIS infiltrated the area and attacked the Jenseya [civil affairs] office and house being used by Iraqi Police. Reports conflicted on February 12 regarding the status of the area although the defense minister stated that “failures took place” in Baghdadi and that a security force would be deployed to the area. On February 13, the Combined Joint Task Force announced through the DoD website that eight ISIS members attacked an Iraqi army (IA) facility at the Ain al-Asad (al-Asad) airbase, south of Baghdadi. The IA, assisted by coalition “surveillance assets,” killed all eight attackers and re-secured the facility. Coalition forces were reported to be “several kilometers” from the attack and were “at no stage under direct threat.” The same day, member of Anbar Provincial Council Eid Amash al-Karbali stated that a “mechanized brigade and ammunition” arrived al-Asad airbase. A source from Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that a “combat battalion and a convoy of tanks” then moved from the base toward the northern areas of Baghdadi to clear ISIS from the “perimeter of the sub-district.” According to a recent statement from Colonel Abdul-Jabar al-Obaidi, the commander of the 14th IA Battalion in the area, security forces retook control of Juba area, north of Baghdadi, and the “residential compound in central Baghdadi” where “400 families” were surrounded by ISIS. Also, “eyewitnesses” from Hit, east of Baghdadi, stated that “many” wounded ISIS members arrived at Hit Hospital coming from Baghdadi. An anonymous security source from Anbar stated that commander of the Iraqi Police (IP) in Hit, Colonel Salah al-Nimrawi was killed in Baghdadi. Governor of Anbar Suhaib al-Rawi stated that IA, IP, and tribal forces now maintain control of “all areas” of Baghdadi and that ISIS maintains control of its “perimeter.”



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ SVBIED
- ✈ Execution
- ✈ Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ★ Armed Drones
- ✈ Kidnapping
- ISF
- ISIS
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- Coalition
- Peshmerga

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ISIS has launched major attacks in Anbar, Salah ad Din, and Ninewa over the last two days. ISIS may be launching attacks when weather will obscure their movements from overhead visibility and airstrikes. ISIS remains capable of launching large and complex military operations despite the U.S.-led air campaign. In Anbar, ISIS is attacking into areas around Baghdadi and also attacked al-Asad airbase directly, where U.S. military advisors are training Iraqi Army members and tribal fighters. The ISIS main attack on Baghdadi highlights ISIS resiliency in Anbar and the limitations of the air campaign, though the security of al-Asad airbase remains intact. Meanwhile, the attacks south of Tikrit generated a significant military response by the ISF and Shi'a militias because of its potential to disrupt the ground supply line from Camp Taji, Balad, and Samarra further north toward Baiji and southwestern Kirkuk where there are forward-deployed ISF and militia units. The attacks also generated an elevated response because of their proximity to Samarra, where the ISF and Shi'a militias are concentrating defenses to protect the shrines of the Imams Ali al-Hadi and Hassan al-Askari.

