

Iraq Situation Report: June 16, 2014

June 16: ISIS gunmen are reportedly present in various parts of Tal Afar, west of Mosul, and 95% of the residents have departed to the Sinjar area, northwest of Mosul. The ISF sent reinforcements from the counter-terrorism forces using aerial assets. There are conflicting reports about whether Tal Afar military airport has fallen to the gunmen or is still under ISF control. JRTN-leaning groups claimed responsibility for the attacks upon Tal Afar.

June 16: Iraqi Army Aviation foiled an ISIS attempt to storm Baiji Refinery, north of Tikrit by launching strikes on ISIS elements. Reinforcements were delivered using aerial assets to enhance security in and around the facility. Yesterday, a JRTN-leaning group reported that they besieged the ISF in the facility and were negotiating surrender.

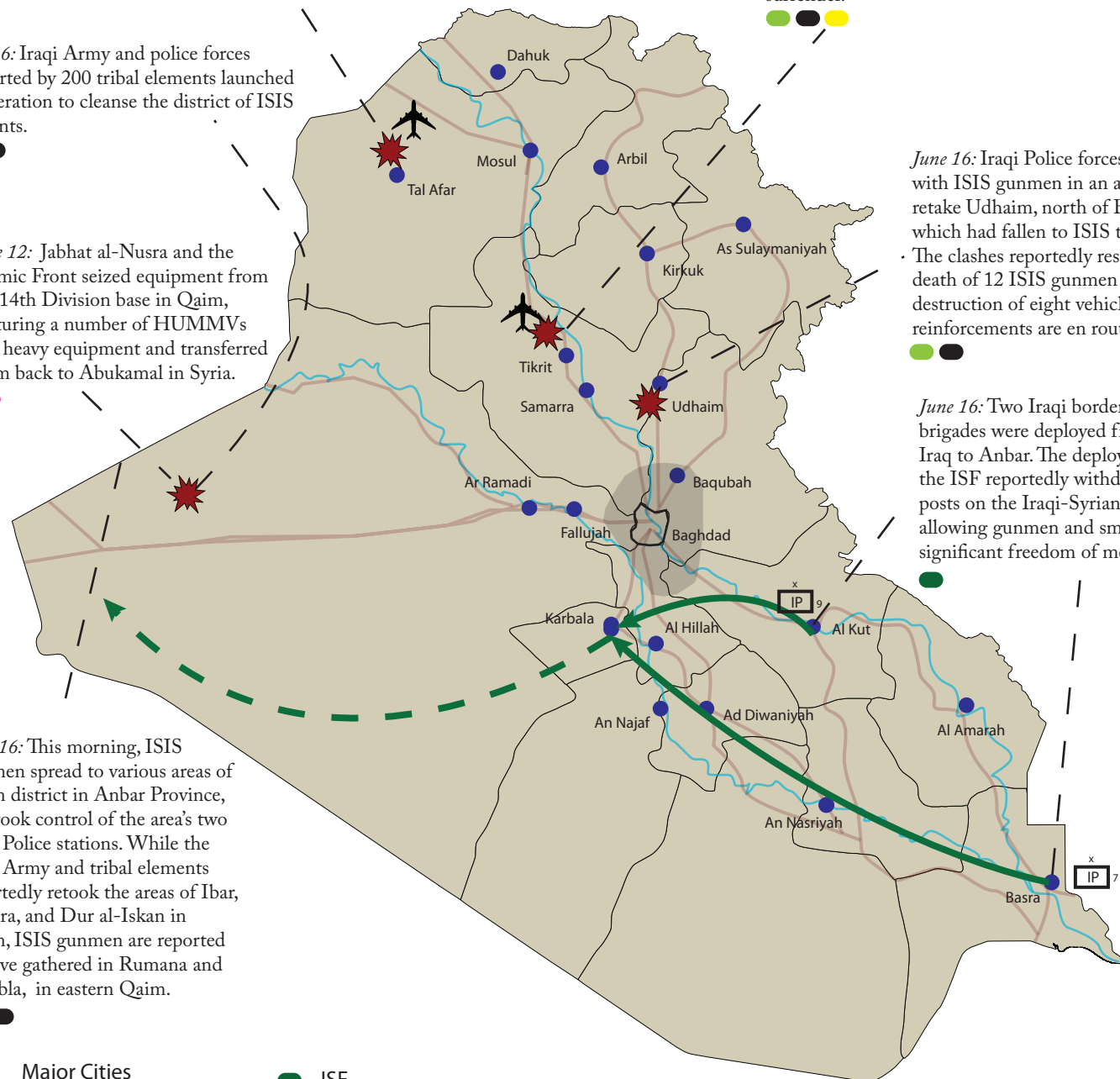
June 16: Iraqi Army and police forces supported by 200 tribal elements launched an operation to cleanse the district of ISIS elements.

June 16: Iraqi Police forces clashed with ISIS gunmen in an attempt to retake Udhaim, north of Baquba, which had fallen to ISIS two days ago. The clashes reportedly resulted in the death of 12 ISIS gunmen and the destruction of eight vehicles. ISF reinforcements are en route.

June 12: Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic Front seized equipment from the 14th Division base in Qaim, capturing a number of HUMMVs and heavy equipment and transferred them back to Abukamal in Syria.

June 16: Two Iraqi border guard brigades were deployed from southern Iraq to Anbar. The deployment came as the ISF reportedly withdrew from their posts on the Iraqi-Syrian borders, allowing gunmen and smugglers significant freedom of movement.

June 16: This morning, ISIS gunmen spread to various areas of Qaim district in Anbar Province, and took control of the area's two Iraqi Police stations. While the Iraqi Army and tribal elements reportedly retook the areas of Ibar, Jazeera, and Dur al-Iskan in Qaim, ISIS gunmen are reported to have gathered in Rumana and Karabla, in eastern Qaim.



- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- ← ISF Movement
- ← - - - Projected ISF Movement
- ✈ Airlifted Reinforcements
- ISF
- ISF and Militias
- ISIS
- JRTN
- IP Iraqi Police Brigade
- Jabat al-Nusra and the Islamic Front



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

ISIS and the ISF continued to clash over the city of Tal Afar in western Ninewa province and the city is currently contested. The Ba'athist JRTN claimed that it is also taking part in the Tal Afar operations, although that is not confirmed. If true, JRTN's claim will be further evidence that it is playing a role in the current clashes. The Baiji refinery operations illustrate that the refinery is a significant location for all groups. Movement of ISF elements to Anbar suggests an opening between ISIS and ISF in the province. ISIS has taken positions on the border of Anbar as the ISF have departed.