

Iraq Situation Report: May 21-22, 2015

1 On May 21, MoD stated that an IA Aviation airstrike destroyed an ISIS oil refinery facility in Rihaniyya area of Tal Afar district, west of Mosul.

2 On May 21 ISIS captured the Syrian side of the Tanf/Waleed border crossing between Anbar and eastern Syria. On May 22 an anonymous Anbar Operations Command (AOC) source stated that ISIS attacked a border post near Waleed with Suicide Vests (SVESTs) and direct fire. The source stated that Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) repelled the attack, killing seven ISIS members, including three wearing SVESTs. On May 22 the Anbar border committee chairman stated that the ISF controls the border crossing but is undermanned and that reinforcements had been requested from Baghdad.

3 On May 21, the Federal Police (FP) commander stated that MoI had "reorganized" local Anbar police and that PM Abadi had ordered the establishment of a high-level operations room. The Anbar governor stated that the ISF, tribal fighters, and the "Popular Mobilization" gathered "south and east" of Ramadi in preparation for an operation to clear Ramadi. The Nujaba Movement stated that it fired rockets at ISIS positions in Ramadi. On May 22, the MoI stated that it had replaced five police directors and officials in Ramadi.

4 On May 21, anonymous security sources reported that Iraqi Police (IP), Iraqi Army (IA) Aviation, and Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) destroyed ISIS fighters and vehicles in Husayba and Juwaiba, east of Ramadi. The Defense Minister visited the Habaniya base, east of Ramadi, with high ranking MoD officers and met with Popular Mobilization members. Clashes in Husayba continued on May 22 as ISIS launched three SVBIEDs against the town and clashed with IA and the Popular Mobilization. ISF and tribal fighters also clashed with ISIS in Madiq, east of Husayba. Also on May 22 a FP commander stated that two Popular Mobilization battalions arrived in the 70 Kilometer area, west of Ramadi, to participate with FP in operations on Ramadi's western axis.

5 On May 21, MoD stated that "thousands" from the Popular Mobilization deployed in Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah. MoD also stated that the ISF killed 23 ISIS members, including an ISIS commander, and destroyed an armored VBIED.

6 On May 22, an anonymous security source stated that a House-Borne IED (HBIED) exploded in Hajaj, south of Baiji, killing four Popular Mobilization members amid ISF and Popular Mobilization clashes with ISIS in the area.



7 On May 22 DoD stated that ISF and FP, "enabled by the coalition," cleared a ground route to the Baiji Oil Refinery where ISF members are besieged by ISIS. An anonymous Iraqi security source previously stated that the ISF had cleared "two-thirds" of Baiji district, south of the refinery, and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) leader Qais al-Khazali stated that AAH and Salah al-Din Operations Command (SDOC) forces conducted an operation at the refinery. On May 21 DoD announced two airstrikes against ISIS positions "near Baiji."



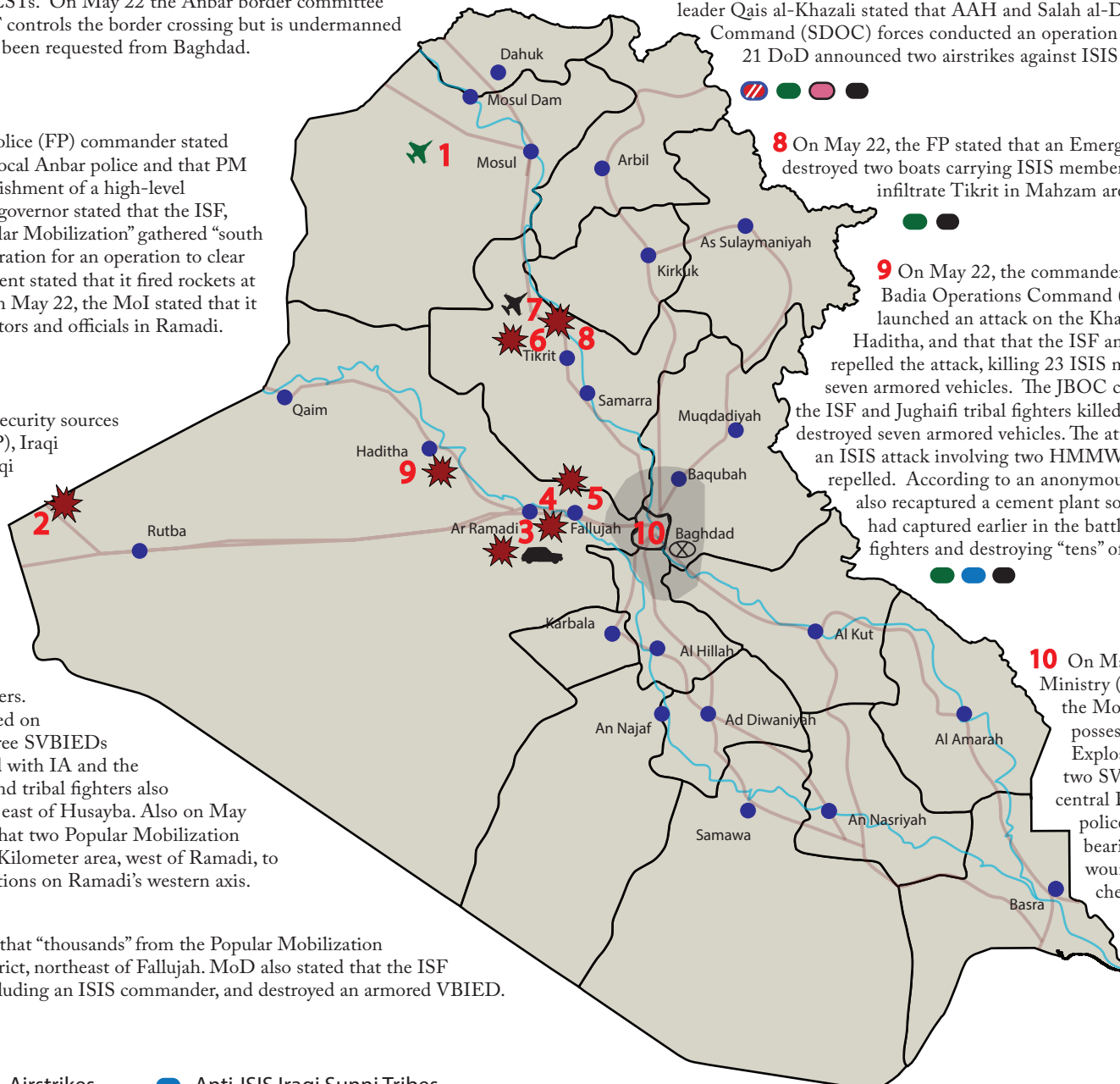
8 On May 22, the FP stated that an Emergency Response battalion destroyed two boats carrying ISIS members as they attempted to infiltrate Tikrit in Mahzam area, north of Tikrit.



9 On May 22, the commander of the Jazeera and Badia Operations Command (JBOC) stated that ISIS launched an attack on the Khasfa area, west of Haditha, and that the ISF and Jughaiifi tribal fighters repelled the attack, killing 23 ISIS members and destroying seven armored vehicles. The JBOC commander stated that the ISF and Jughaiifi tribal fighters killed 23 ISIS members and destroyed seven armored vehicles. The attack reportedly followed an ISIS attack involving two HMMWV VBIEDs that was also repelled. According to an anonymous AOC official, the ISF also recaptured a cement plant south of Haditha that ISIS had captured earlier in the battle, killing nine ISIS fighters and destroying "tens" of ISIS vehicles.



10 On May 20, an Interior Ministry (MoI) source stated that the MoI arrested an individual possessing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and two SVESTs in Karrada in central Baghdad. On May 21, a police force found a body bearing torture and gunshot wounds to the head and chest behind al-Farabi College in the Doura district of southern Baghdad.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- 🚗 SVBIED
- ✈ Iraqi Airstrikes
- Unknown Gunmen
- ★ Major Clash
- 🚩 Coalition
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ⊗ Execution
- ISF
- ISIS

Content: Jessica Lewis McFate, Theodore Bell, and Patrick Martin
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ISIS is attacking Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) positions near and far from Ramadi preemptively to compromise potential ISF counter-offensives against ISIS's positions in Ramadi, still vulnerable while ISIS is consolidating its power there. ISIS is likely not diverting resources from Ramadi to accomplish this auxiliary defense, as ISIS has depth throughout Anbar to bring to bear. Multiple components of the ISF, including Federal Police (FP), Special Operations Forces (ISOF), Iraqi Army (IA) Aviation, local police, as well as anti-ISIS Sunni tribal fighters and "Popular Mobilization" forces are combining efforts to attack ISIS on Ramadi's eastern flank in anticipation of an assault on the city. On May 21, the Minister of Defense and high-ranking Ministry of Defense (MoD) officials visited ISF and Popular Mobilization forces at the Habaniya base, which include Iranian-backed militias. This high-level visit points to the Iraqi government's stake in the operation's success, and its condoning of the presence of the militias. ISIS further secured its grip on Anbar on May 22 by capturing the Syrian side of the Tanf/Waleed border crossing between Iraq and Syria, and ISIS likely has the ISF position on Iraq side of the border surrounded. ISIS also assaulted Haditha with SVBIEDs, another prize in ISIS's intended consolidation in Anbar, but the attack was repelled by the ISF and tribal fighters. In Baiji the ISF and Popular Mobilization cleared the road to the Baiji Oil Refinery as U.S.-led Coalition continued airstrikes in the area, though ISIS is still laying siege to the refinery. The ISF in Salah ad-Din has also clashed with ISIS fighters along supply lines north of Tikrit and south of Baiji, likely in order to divert the ISF south of the ISF's current line of effort toward the Baiji Oil Refinery. This effort to divert ISF resources mirrors ISIS tactics in Anbar.