

# Iraq Situation Report: June 4 - 5, 2015

**1** On June 5, the Iraqi Air Force (IAF) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Suqur [Falcons] Intelligence Cell launched airstrikes against ISIS near Qa'im in western Anbar. According to the MoI, the strikes killed "40" ISIS members, including several leaders.

**2** On June 5, the MoI Suqur [Falcons] Intelligence Cell and the IAF launched airstrikes against ISIS in Hit district, west of Ramadi. The MOI claimed that the attack killed 15 ISIS members.

**3** On June 4, ISIS attacked the eastern Husayba area, east of Ramadi. The Iraqi Army (IA) destroyed a VBIED and killed three ISIS members, while a Federal Police (FP) force killed seven ISIS "infiltrators." CENTCOM stated that one airstrike targeted ISIS "near Ramadi". A source stated that 800 "elite" FP members also prepared to deploy for operations in the area. On June 5, a security forces operation in Sijariya and Albu Ghanim areas, east of Ramadi, and Albu Faraj, north of Ramadi, killed 19 ISIS members. The Anbar council chairman stated that IA and the "Popular Mobilization" were "preparing" to clear Warrar dam. A FP force attacked ISIS near Sidiqiya bridge, east of Ramadi, killing nine ISIS members. Security forces repelled a second attack against eastern Husaybah.

**4** On June 3, an Awakening commander stated that armored reinforcements arrived in al-Asad Airbase and Baghdadi sub-district, west of Hit district. An ISF operation killed four ISIS members in Jubba sub-district, north of Baghdadi. On June 4, the Jazeera and Badia Operations Commander stated that reinforced security forces secured "most" of the area around Baghdadi. An Awakening commander stated that ISIS was mobilizing to attack Jubba and Albu Haya area, north of Baghdadi, before attacking Baghdadi. CENTCOM stated that an airstrike targeted ISIS "near Baghdadi."

**5** On June 5, the Albu Nimr tribal leader stated that coalition airstrikes targeted an ISIS convoy disguised as the "Popular Mobilization" as it approached al-Sakran village, east of Haditha, killing "dozens" of ISIS members and destroying unspecified numbers of vehicles.

**6** On June 5, the FP reportedly killed ISIS fighters in Madhiq area "between Salah al-Din and Anbar," but one IP member was killed and three wounded when a House-borne IED (HBIED) exploded in the Jazeera area, west of Samarra. IA Aviation airstrikes destroyed ISIS vehicles "west of Samarra," while ISF and the "Popular Mobilization" destroyed ISIS camps and vehicles and killed "65" ISIS fighters southwest of Samarra, "cutting off" ISIS supply lines between Anbar and Ninewa.

**7** On June 4, a VBIED exploded near Sinai neighborhood in Bayaa area of southern Baghdad, killing three people and wounding eight others.

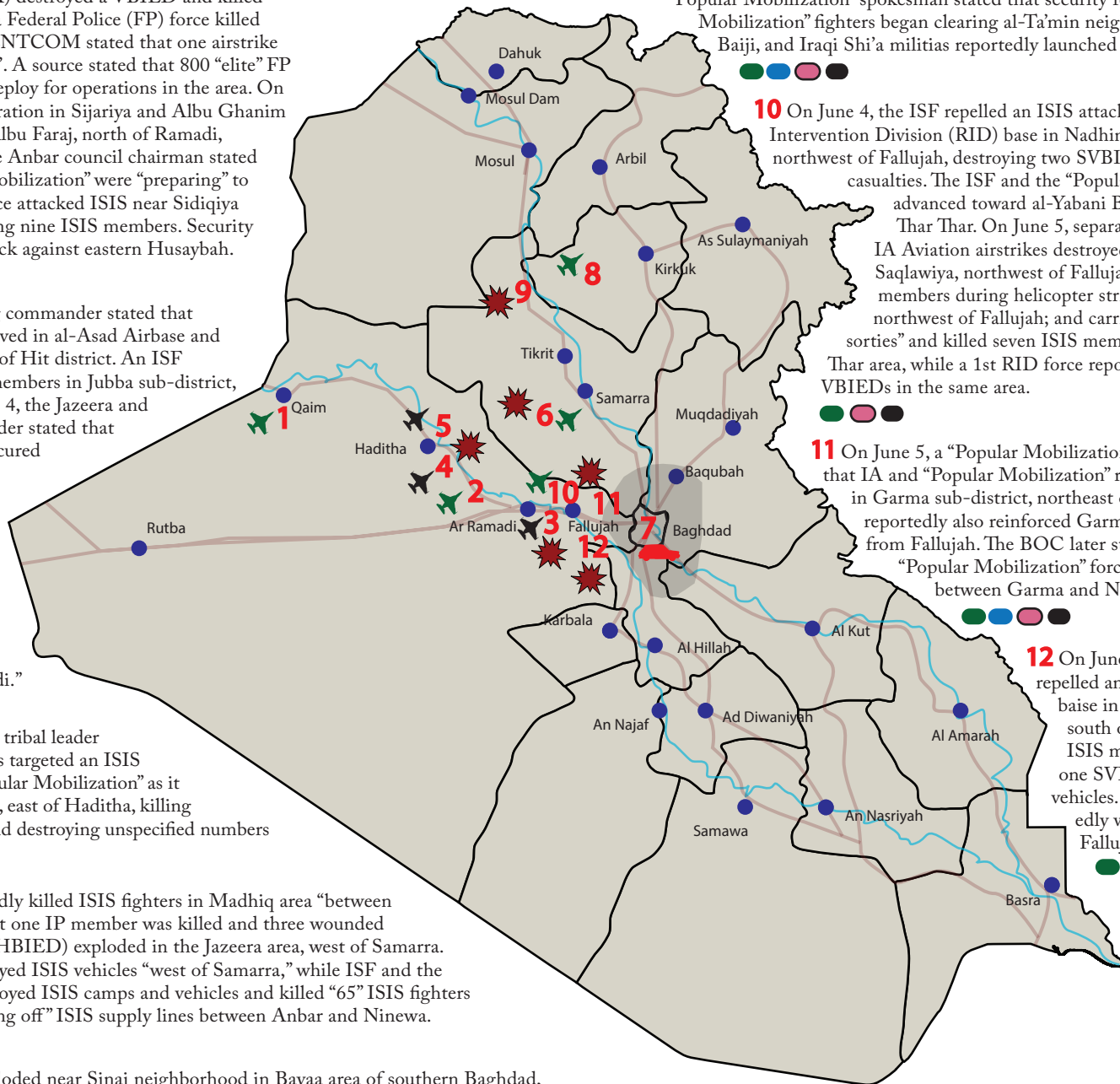
**8** On June 4, Joint Operations Command (JOC) stated that an Iraqi Army (IA) Aviation airstrike struck ammunition caches and "destroyed" the February 8, Maridh, Yarmouk, and Awan areas of Hawija district. Reports stated that Mosul hospitals received "70" ISIS bodies and "dozens" of wounded, "most of whom" were ISIS members.

**9** On June 4, the Baiji mayor stated that security forces recaptured the Fattah mosque in central Baiji. Security forces, tribal fighters, and the "Popular Mobilization" repelled an ISIS attack on the Hundai area west of Baiji. A "Popular Mobilization" spokesman stated that security forces and "Popular Mobilization" fighters began clearing al-Ta'min neighborhood in central Baiji, and Iraqi Shi'a militias reportedly launched rockets into Baiji.

**10** On June 4, the ISF repelled an ISIS attack against a 1st Rapid Intervention Division (RID) base in Nadhim Thar Thar area, northwest of Fallujah, destroying two SVBIEDs while suffering 4 casualties. The ISF and the "Popular Mobilization" later advanced toward al-Yabani Bridge, south of Nadhim Thar Thar. On June 5, separate reports stated that IA Aviation airstrikes destroyed three ISIS vehicles in Saqlawiya, northwest of Fallujah; killed 25 ISIS members during helicopter strikes in Mlahima area, northwest of Fallujah; and carried out "more than 50 sorties" and killed seven ISIS members in Nadhim Thar Thar area, while a 1st RID force reportedly destroyed three VBIEDs in the same area.

**11** On June 5, a "Popular Mobilization" commander stated that IA and "Popular Mobilization" reinforcements arrived in Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah. ISIS reportedly also reinforced Garma with 500 fighters from Fallujah. The BOC later stated that ISF and "Popular Mobilization" forces secured the link between Garma and Nadhim Thar Thar.

**12** On June 4, 1st RID forces repelled an ISIS attack on an IA base in the Nuaimiya area, south of Fallujah, killing four ISIS members and destroying one SVBIED and three vehicles. ISIS members reportedly withdrew towards Fallujah.



- Major Cities
- ★ Iraqi Airstrikes
- ISF
- 🚚 VBIED
- ★ Airstrikes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- ★ Major Clash
- 🚚 Coalition
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISIS

Content: Patrick Martin and ISW Iraq Team  
Graphics: Evan Sterling



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ISIS attacks on Iraqi Army (IA) bases north and south of Fallujah suggest a mobile defense of its positions in Ramadi. Despite ISIS closing the Warrar Dam in northern Ramadi on June 2, the ISF have made limited steps towards advancing on Ramadi, and instead have focused on reinforcing other ISF positions in Anbar. ISIS may attempt to consolidate outer Anbar while the ISF is focused upon Ramadi, and the ISF is likely launching preemptive operations including airstrikes near Hit, Baghdadi, Haditha, and Qa'im. ISIS has likely probing for weaknesses in the Haditha and Baghdadi areas with an eye on targeting al-Asad Air Base, a strategic ISF position in western Anbar. Coalition airstrikes are occurring east and west of Ramadi in support of ground operations that presumably still include Popular Mobilization elements. Preventing the consolidation of Anbar by ISIS is a critical mission for the ISF, while supporting operations in Thar Thar, west of Samarra, and in Hawija are also necessary for success given ISIS's propensity to attack on different fronts to make gains while the ISF is focused elsewhere. Meanwhile, the "Popular Mobilization" continues to prioritize re-securing the northern Baghdad belt area and contesting ISIS freedom of movement in the Jazeera desert area west of Samarra towards Thar Thar. Heavy Iraqi Shi'a militia activity has been reported alongside ISF operations, although not under the ISF's command and control structure, in southern Salah al-Din as part of the operation to clear ISIS from Salah al-Din towards Ramadi, "Labayk ya Iraq" ("We Are Here For You, Iraq").