

Iraq Situation Report: June 13 - 15, 2015

1 On June 15, "columns" of ISIS vehicles and fighters "disguised" as Iraqi Army (IA) forces reportedly left from Mosul towards Anbar province. Between June 13 and 15, DoD stated that eight airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Mosul." [Coalition] [IS]

2 On June 13, the commander of the Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) stated that four armored VBIEDs, "led by" an armored bulldozer, targeted a defensive berm in Garma sub-district, northeast of Fallujah. A BOC reconnaissance battalion used U.S.-provided AT4 anti-tank rockets to destroy the incoming VBIEDs. Four SVEST attackers reportedly targeted IA and "Popular Mobilization" personnel and facilities in Garma, but the IA and the "Popular Mobilization" forces repelled the attack, killing 19 attackers, including the four wearing SVESTs. Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi later inspected operations and met with ISF commanders and the "Popular Mobilization" in Garma. [IS] [Coalition] [ISF]

3 On June 14, Emergency Response "rocket battalions" targeted ISIS near Ramadi, and FP snipers killed six ISIS fighters in eastern Husayba, east of Ramadi. On June 15, an Interior Ministry (MoI) spokesperson stated that FP "field artillery and rocket battalions" killed nine ISIS fighters in eastern Husayba. The Water Resources Minister stated that the Warrar Dam in Ramadi remained shut, despite earlier reports to the contrary. [IS] [Coalition]

4 On June 13, three SVBIEDs attempted to target IA and tribal fighter positions in southern Haditha district, but GD forces destroyed the SVBIEDs before they reached their target. [IS] [Coalition] [ISF]

5 On June 13, the Jazeera and Badia Operations Command (JBOC) and Abu Mahal tribal fighters from the "Hamza Battalion" killed 10-13 ISIS members on the outskirts of Kubaisa sub-district, west of Hit, reportedly with U.S.-led Coalition air support, cutting ISIS's supply line between al-Qa'im and Kubaisa. [IS] [Coalition] [ISF]

6 On June 13, ISIS fighters attacked Baghdad sub-district, west of Hit, from Jubba sub-district, north of Baghdad. IA 7th Division and JBOC forces repelled the attack, killing 21 fighters, with IA Aviation support. The JBOC commander added that JBOC had delivered food and fuel to Baghdad and Haditha. On June 14, a Baghdad tribal leader stated that IA, Iraqi Police (IP), and tribal fighters killed seven ISIS fighters and wounded five others attempting to "infiltrate" Baghdad, and that IA Aviation targeted ISIS members trying to evacuate the fighters. Between June 13 and 15, DoD announced four airstrikes "near Baghdad." [IS] [Coalition] [ISF]

7 On June 13, three VBIEDs detonated at a military barracks south of Fallujah, killing the commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Rapid Intervention Division (RID) and wounding five soldiers. [IS] [Coalition]

8 On June 13, three SVBIEDs targeted the ISF in Hajjaj village and an ISF checkpoint in the Riashya area, both south of Baiji, inflicting over 30 ISF casualties. The SVBIEDs reportedly approached from Salam village, west of Hajjaj. Following the SVBIEDs attack in Baiji, Iraqi Air Force (IAF) strikes reportedly destroyed two ISIS vehicles and killed seven ISIS members in Siniya sub-district, west of Baiji. A separate unconfirmed report quoted the Federal Police (FP) commander as stating that the ISF destroyed "12" VBIEDs in Baiji. Meanwhile ISIS launched 27 mortar shells at Baiji district. On June 14, an IA officer stated that "Popular Mobilization" shelled Siniya. On June 15, an Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) spokesperson stated that ISIS attacked Tel Abu Jarad village, west of Baiji, but that "Popular Mobilization" forces repelled the attack, killing 19 ISIS

fighters. Between June 13 and 15, DoD announced three airstrikes "near Baiji." [IS] [Coalition] [ISF]

9 On June 12, a Patriotic Union of Kurdistan official stated that a U.S.-led Coalition airstrike targeted ISIS in Duanzah Hazar village, southwest of Kirkuk, causing "heavy casualties." Between June 13 and 15, DoD stated that six airstrikes targeted ISIS "near Makhmur." [Coalition] [IS]

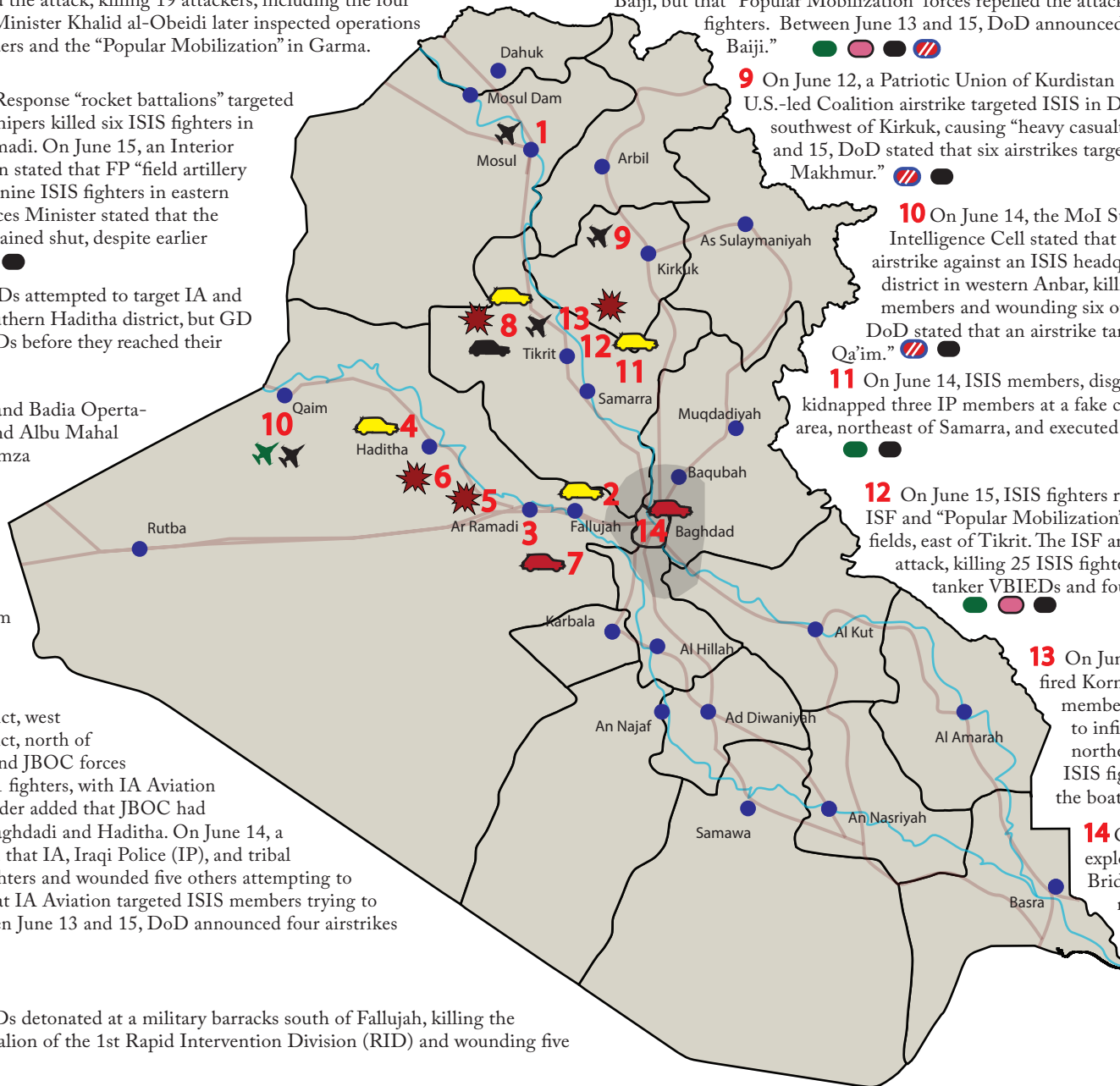
10 On June 14, the MoI Suqur [Falcons] Intelligence Cell stated that it directed an Iraqi airstrike against an ISIS headquarters in Qa'im district in western Anbar, killing "26" ISIS members and wounding six others. On June 15, DoD stated that an airstrike targeted ISIS "near Qa'im." [Coalition] [IS]

11 On June 14, ISIS members, disguised as ISF members, kidnapped three IP members at a fake checkpoint in al-Jalam area, northeast of Samarra, and executed them via gunshot. [IS] [Coalition]

12 On June 15, ISIS fighters reportedly attacked the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" in the Ajil and Alas oil fields, east of Tikrit. The ISF and PM repelled the attack, killing 25 ISIS fighters and destroying three tanker VBIEDs and four vehicles. [IS] [Coalition] [ISF]

13 On June 14, FP commandos fired Kornet rockets at ISIS members in boats attempting to infiltrate al-Fatha area, northeast of Baiji, killing 10 ISIS fighters and destroying the boats. [IS] [Coalition]

14 On June 14, a VBIED exploded near al-Shaab Bridge in the Shaab area of northern Baghdad, killing at least two people and wounding six others. [IS]



100km

- Major Cities
- ★ Major Clash
- / Coalition
- Failed S/VBIED
- ★ Iraqi Airstrikes
- ISF
- VBIED
- ★ Airstrikes
- Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes
- SVBIED
- Peshmerga
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISIS

Content: Theodore Bell, Patrick Martin, and ISW Iraq Team
Graphics: Evan Sterling



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ISIS launched a VBIED wave of at least 13 VBIEDS on Saturday, June 13 north and south of Fallujah, near Haditha, and south of Baiji. An additional VBIED detonated in northern Baghdad on Sunday, June 14, and additional attempted VBIEDs were reported in the Alas and Ajil oil fields, east of Tikrit, on Monday, June 15. In total, ISIS has launched at least 36 VBIEDS in the last ten days, including eight VBIEDs that were intercepted by the ISF west of Karbala on June 10. This is the largest set of VBIEDs that ISW has documented in Iraq during a short time interval since 2013, when VBIEDs constituted ISIS's main attack vector prior to the commencement of its maneuver campaign to control cities. The reinvigoration of ISIS's VBIED campaign may indicate final preparations for a main attack during Ramadan 2015, either in the locations shown where ISIS attempted to launch VBIEDs against ISF positions, such as Haditha, Garma, and Baiji, or in places that were not targeted with VBIEDS over the last week, such as Samarra, away from which ISIS may be attempting to divert attention. Alternatively, ISIS may also be launching VBIEDs as a reaction to recent ISF and "Popular Mobilization" successes, including the destruction or interdiction of at least 19 VBIEDs over the 10 days preceding the weekend as well as reported gains against ISIS near Ramadi, Fallujah, and Baiji. Importantly, most of the VBIEDs that were reported over the last 10 days were repelled by the ISF and "Popular Mobilization". This capability will be enhanced by U.S.-supplied AT4 anti-tank rockets, the first and effective ISF usage of which was reported over the weekend. As ISIS is reportedly regularly using U.S. armored HMMWVs as VBIEDs, anti-tank rockets will likely enable the ISF to neutralize the VBIED threat more effectively. VBIEDs have only constituted a portion of ISIS's campaign since 2013, however, and ISIS is likely using them in conjunction with other planned attacks.