

Iraq Situation Report: August 15, 2014

1 AAH members and the IA reportedly clashed near a mosque in the Qahira neighborhood of eastern Baghdad. The clashes killed one IA soldier, wounded three IA soldiers, and injured five AAH members. IA forces arrested several AAH members, prompting AAH to capture four IA soldiers in order to negotiate an exchange. An AAH spokesperson denied that the group that clashed with IA was affiliated with AAH.

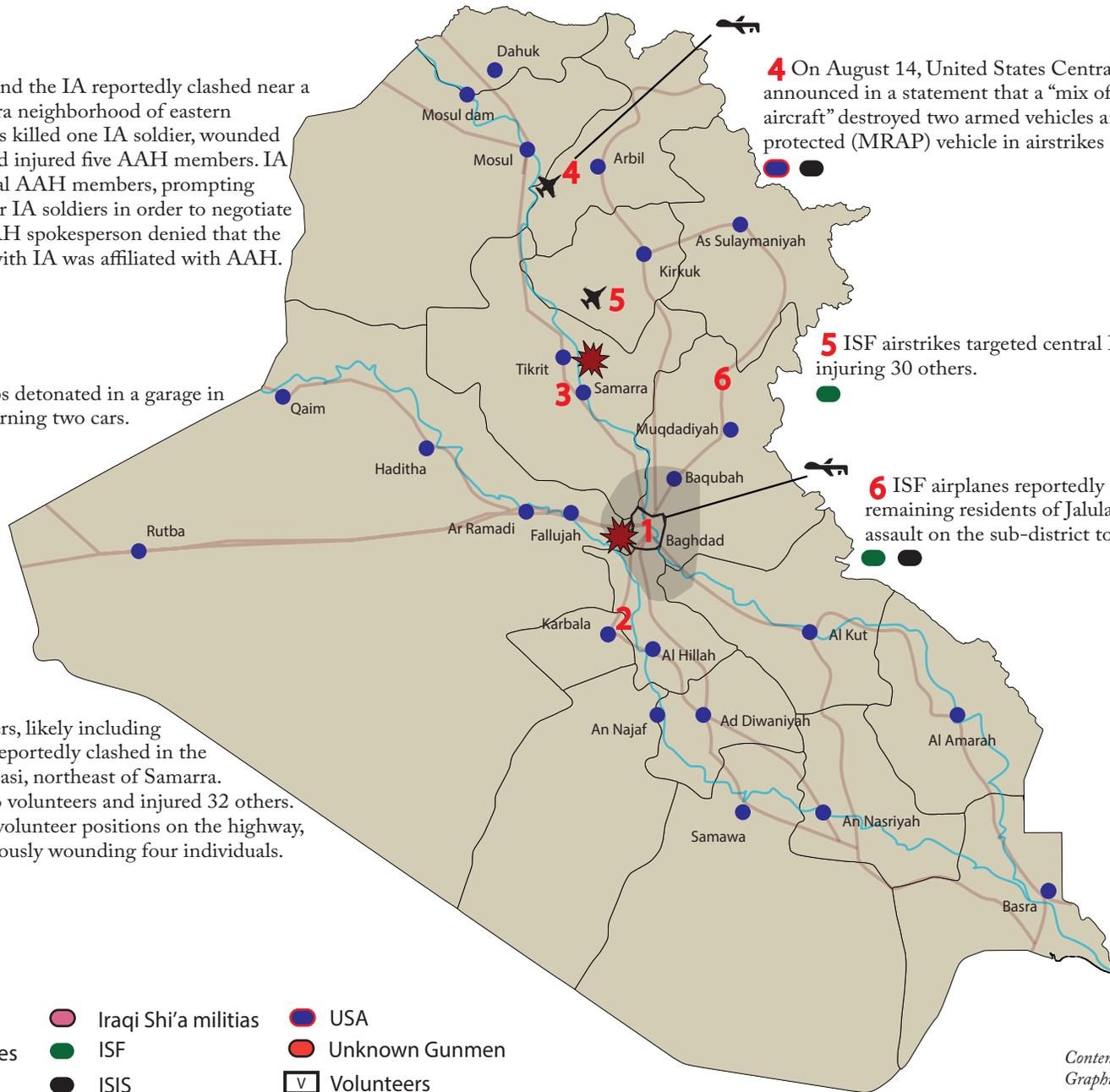
2 Two sound bombs detonated in a garage in southern Karbala burning two cars.

3 ISIS and volunteers, likely including Iraqi Shi'a militias, reportedly clashed in the area of Nahr al-Rassasi, northeast of Samarra. The clashes killed 26 volunteers and injured 32 others. Also, ISIS attacked volunteer positions on the highway, west of Samarra seriously wounding four individuals.

4 On August 14, United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced in a statement that a "mix of fighter and remotely-piloted aircraft" destroyed two armed vehicles and a mine-resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle in airstrikes near Arbil.

5 ISF airstrikes targeted central Hawija, killing 11 individuals injuring 30 others.

6 ISF airplanes reportedly dropped leaflets urging the remaining residents of Jalula to depart in anticipation of an assault on the sub-district to retake it from ISIS.



- Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ✈ Armed Drones
- ★ Major Clash
- Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ISF
- Unknown Gunmen
- USA
- ISIS
- Volunteers



Content: ISW Iraq Team and Lauren Squires
Graphics: Nichole Dicharry

On August 14, ISIS clashed with the military wing of the Sadrist movement, the Promised Day Brigade (PDB), now called the Peace Companies, west of Samarra. These clashes, in addition to the clashes that took place today northeast and west of Samarra, indicate the presence of active ISIS contingents near Samarra along at least two avenues of approach. It is unclear if these clashes were the result of PDB advances toward ISIS territory or if they were instigated by ISIS in order to draw more Shi'a resources toward Samarra. Nevertheless, these clashes have highlighted that the front lines do not lie within Samarra proper but rather within a 10km radius from the city center. This buffer zone illustrates the heightened defensive posture of the Iraqi Shi'a militias around Samarra in order to defend the Imam al-Hadi Shrine. If the clashes between AAH and the IA did take place in Baghdad, then it is important to watch whether the fighting continues or expands elsewhere in the capital. AAH has, for the most part, established good relationships with the ISF where it operates and therefore this is likely to be contained. ISW is nevertheless watching for indicators of any breakdowns of command and control of the ISF or political violence between militias as the government transitions. Meanwhile, the governor of Anbar, Ahmed al-Dulaimi stated that he spoke with U.S Embassy officials and a senior U.S. military commander regarding "joint operations in Anbar."