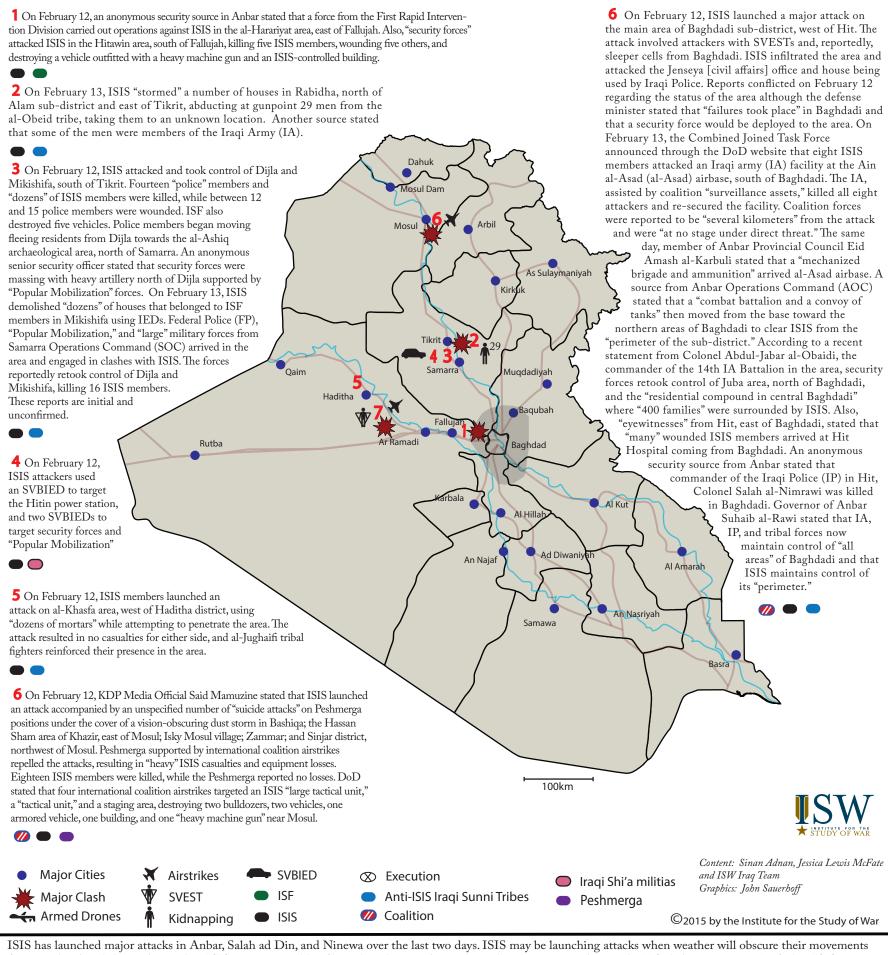
Iraq Situation Report: February 12-13, 2015



ISIS has launched major attacks in Anbar, Salah ad Din, and Ninewa over the last two days. ISIS may be launching attacks when weather will obscure their movements from overhead visibility and airstrikes. ISIS remains capable of launching large and complex military operations despite the U.S.-led air campaign. In Anbar, ISIS is attacking into areas around Baghdadi and also attacked al-Asad airbase directly, where U.S. military advisors are training Iraqi Army members and tribal fighters. The ISIS main attack on Baghdadi highlights ISIS resiliency in Anbar and the limitations of the air campaign, though the security of al-Asad airbase remains intact. Meanwhile, the attacks south of Tikrit generated a significant military response by the ISF and Shi'a militias because of its potential to disrupt the ground supply line from Camp Taji, Balad, and Samarra further north toward Baiji and southwestern Kirkuk where there are forward-deployed ISF and militia units. The attacks also generated an elevated response because of their proximity to Samarra, where the ISF and Shi'a militias are concentrating defenses to protect the shrines of the Imams Ali al-Hadi and Hassan al-Askari.