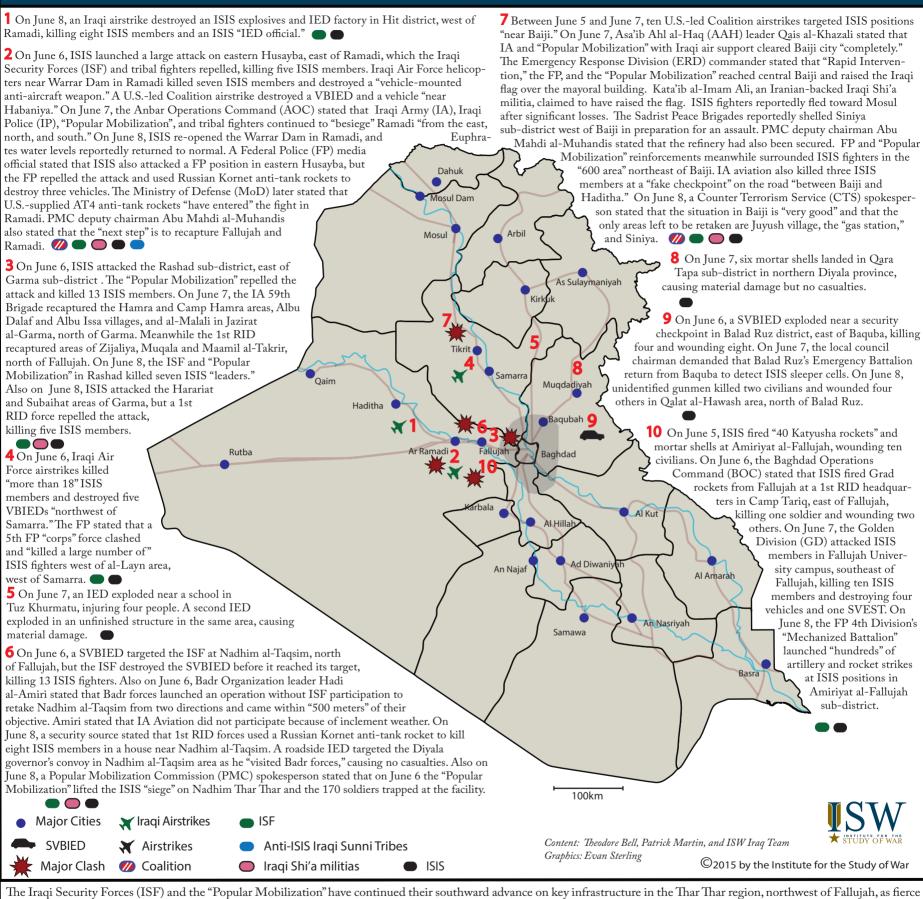
Iraq Situation Report: June 6 - 8, 2015



The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and the "Popular Mobilization" have continued their southward advance on key infrastructure in the Thar Thar region, northwest of Fallujah, as fierce clashes and ISIS continued SVBIED attacks north and east of the city. The Thar Thar region is significant to both the ISF and ISIS as a gateway to Samarra, Baghdad, and Ramadi as well as a seam among multiple ISF operations command areas of operation. The "Popular Mobilization" seeks to extend control over the Thar Thar region, including the "Tigris Arm' identified by Badr Organization commander Hadi al-Amiri as a priority, in order to secure the northwestern flank of Baghdad. ISIS seeks to retain freedom of maneuver in the region to support future operations in Baghdad or on the ISF bases north of the capital, such as Taji. The ISF and "Popular Mobilization" also advanced to central Baiji and raised the Iraqi flag, claiming Baiji's liberation. However the MoD has made no statement on Baiji's liberation, indicating an unchanged status. The same is likely true for Baiji Refinery, despite PMC deputy chairman Abu Mahdi al-Munadis's claim that it had been secured. These reported advances coincide with increased ISIS activity in Diyala province in the form of indirect fire, SVBIEDs, and small arms fire directed against the ISF and civilians in Tuz Khurmatu, Qara Tapa, and Balad Ruz. The IA airstrike on five SVBIEDs northwest of Samarra indicates that ISIS's may intend to launch attacks into Samarra city as the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" advance southward from Samarra into Thar Thar. The ISF and "Popular Mobilization," to include Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militias, are meanwhile benefiting from the introduction of new weapon systems to the battlefield. Both forces are increasingly repelling ISIS SVBIED attacks with the apparent use of Russian Kornet anti-tank weapons amid "Popular Mobilization" commanders' recent references to new, "modern" weapons. On June 8, the MoD stated that U.S.-supplied AT4 anti-tank rockets "have entered" the