Iraq Situation Report: June 6 - 8, 2015

1 On June 8, an Iraqi airstrike destroyed an ISIS explosives and IED factory in Hit district, west of Ramadi, killing eight ISIS members and an ISIS "IED official."

2 On June 6, ISIS launched a large attack on eastern Husayba, east of Ramadi, which the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and tribal fighters repelled, killing five ISIS members. Iraqi Air Force helicopters near Warrar Dam in Ramadi killed seven ISIS members and destroyed a "vehicle-mounted anti-aircraft weapon." A U.S.-led Coalition airstrike destroyed a VBIED and a vehicle "near Habaniya." On June 7, the Anbar Operations Command (AOC) stated that Iraqi Army (IA), Iraqi Police (IP), "Popular Mobilization", and tribal fighters continued to "besiege" Ramadi "from the east, north, and south." On June 8, ISIS re-opened the Warrar Dam in Ramadi, and Euphrates water levels reportedly returned to normal. A Federal Police (FP) media official stated that ISIS also attacked a FP position in eastern Husayba, but the FP repelled the attack and used Russian Kornet anti-tank rockets to destroy three vehicles. The Ministry of Defense (MoD) later stated that U.S.-supplied AT4 anti-tank rockets "have entered" the fight in Ramadi. PMC deputy chairman Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis also stated that the "next step" is to recapture Fallujah and Ramadi.

3 On June 6, ISIS attacked the Rashad sub-district, east of Garma sub-district . The "Popular Mobilization" repelled the attack and killed 13 ISIS members. On June 7, the IA 59th Brigade recaptured the Hamra and Camp Hamra areas, Albu Dalaf and Albu Issa villages, and al-Malali in Jazirat al-Garma, north of Garma. Meanwhile the 1st RID recaptured areas of Zijaliya, Muqala and Maamil al-Takrir, north of Fallujah. On June 8, the ISF and "Popular Mobilization" in Rashad killed seven ISIS "leaders." Also on June 8, ISIS attacked the Harariat and Subaihat areas of Garma, but a 1st RID force repelled the attack, killing five ISIS members.

4 On June 6, Iraqi Air Force airstrikes killed "more than 18" ISIS members and destroyed five VBIEDs "northwest of Samarra." The FP stated that a 5th FP "corps" force clashed and "killed a large number of" ISIS fighters west of al-Layn area, west of Samarra.

5 On June 7, an IED exploded near a school in Tuz Khurmatu, injuring four people. A second IED exploded in an unfinished structure in the same area, causing material damage.

6 On June 6, a SVBIED targeted the ISF at Nadhim al-Taqsim, north of Fallujah, but the ISF destroyed the SVBIED before it reached its target, killing 13 ISIS fighters. Also on June 6, Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri stated that Badr forces launched an operation without ISF participation to retake Nadhim al-Taqsim from two directions and came within "500 meters" of their objective. Amiri stated that IA Aviation did not participate because of inclement weather. On June 8, a security source stated that 1st RID forces used a Russian Kornet anti-tank rocket to kill eight ISIS members in a house near Nadhim al-Taqsim. A roadside IED targeted the Diyala governor's convoy in Nadhim al-Taqsim area as he "visited Badr forces," causing no casualties. Also on June 8, a Popular Mobilization Commission (PMC) spokesperson stated that on June 6 the "Popular Mobilization" lifted the ISIS "siege" on Nadhim Thar Thar and the 170 soldiers trapped at the facility.

7 Between June 5 and June 7, ten U.S.-led Coalition airstrikes targeted ISIS positions "near Baiji." On June 7, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) leader Qais al-Khazali stated that IA and "Popular Mobilization" with Iraqi air support cleared Baiji city "completely." The Emergency Response Division (ERD) commander stated that "Rapid Intervention," the FP, and the "Popular Mobilization" reached central Baiji and raised the Iraqi flag over the mayoral building. Kata'ib al-Imam Ali, an Iranian-backed Iraqi Shi'a militia, claimed to have raised the flag. ISIS fighters reportedly fled toward Mosul after significant losses. The Sadrist Peace Brigades reportedly shelled Siniya sub-district west of Baiji in preparation for an assault. PMC deputy chairman Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis stated that the refinery had also been secured. FP and "Popular Mobilization" reinforcements meanwhile surrounded ISIS fighters in the "600 area" northeast of Baiji. IA aviation also killed three ISIS members at a "fake checkpoint" on the road "between Baiji and Haditha." On June 8, a Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) spokesperson stated that the situation in Baiji is "very good" and that the only areas left to be retaken are Juyush village, the "gas station," and Siniya.

8 On June 7, six mortar shells landed in Qara Tapa sub-district in northern Diyala province, causing material damage but no casualties.

9 On June 6, a SVBIED exploded near a security checkpoint in Balad Ruz district, east of Baquba, killing four and wounding eight. On June 7, the local council chairman demanded that Balad Ruz's Emergency Battalion return from Baquba to detect ISIS sleeper cells. On June 8, unidentified gunmen killed two civilians and wounded four others in Qalat al-Hawash area, north of Balad Ruz.

10 On June 5, ISIS fired "40 Katyusha rockets" and mortar shells at Amiriyat al-Fallujah, wounding ten civilians. On June 6, the Baghdad Operations Command (BOC) stated that ISIS fired Grad rockets from Fallujah at a 1st RID headquarters in Camp Tariq, east of Fallujah, killing one soldier and wounding two others. On June 7, the Golden Division (GD) attacked ISIS members in Fallujah University campus, southeast of Fallujah, killing ten ISIS members and destroying four vehicles and one SVEST. On June 8, the FP 4th Division's "Mechanized Battalion" launched "hundreds" of artillery and rocket strikes at ISIS positions in Amiriyat al-Fallujah sub-district.

Major Cities · Iraqi Airstrikes · ISF · SVBIED · Airstrikes · Anti-ISIS Iraqi Sunni Tribes · Major Clash · Coalition · Iraqi Shi'a militias · ISIS

Content: Theodore Bell, Patrick Martin, and ISW Iraq Team
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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 battle in Ramadi in addition.