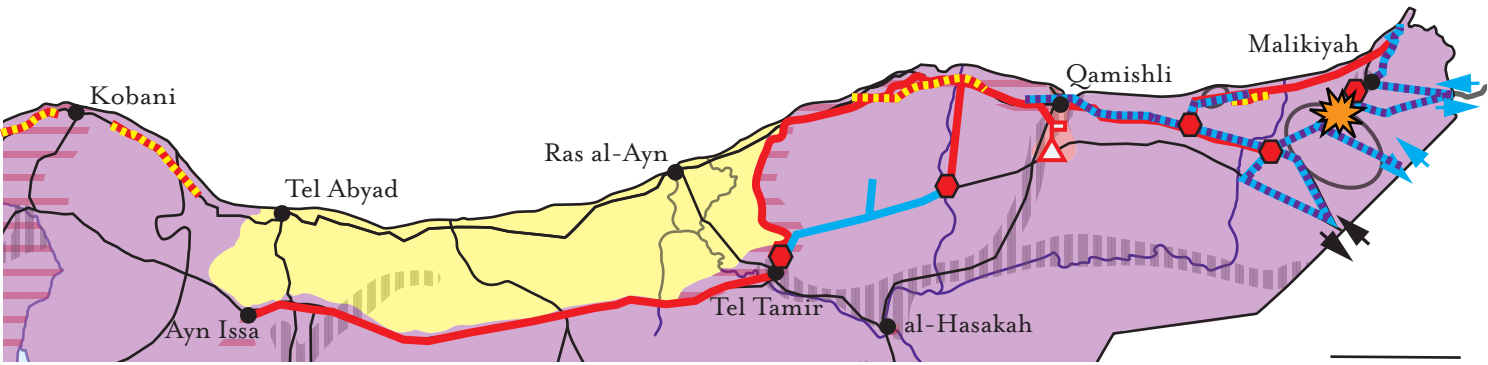


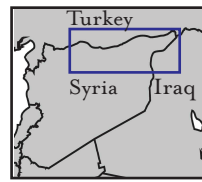
Common Patrol Routes in Northeast Syria

Control of Terrain updated as of August 26, 2020



30 km

Key			
Kurdish-Led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)	ISIS Support Zones	Border Crossing used by US forces	Approximate Location of US-Russian crash
Turkish Gains under Operation Peace Spring	Major Road	Border Crossing	Common Russo - Turkish Joint Patrol Routes
SDF Dominated, Regime Presence	Provincial Boundary	Oil/Natural Gas Field	Common Russian Patrol Routes
Russia-Iran-Assad	Contested Road Junction	River	Common US - Syrian Kurdish-led Internal Security Forces Patrol Routes
		Russian Headquarters and Airbase	Common US Patrol Routes



Key Takeaway: US and Russian forces are engaged in a competition for influence and control of the major roads in northeast Syria, threatening the safety of US personnel. Russia seeks to expand its presence toward the Syria-Iraq border in the far northeast corner of Hasakah Province to cut off key US ground supply lines between Iraq and Syria. US and Russian forces routinely disrupt each other's patrols, leading to confrontations and risking escalation between the forces. A recent confrontation in the far northeast corner of Hasakah Province resulted in several US injuries after US and Russian vehicles collided. Russian helicopters also flew over US vehicles in an attempt to disperse them. Russia will continue its efforts to pressure the US presence through confrontations like these, while also threatening the security of US ground supply lines connecting US forces in Syria to Iraq.