

Syria Situation Report: February 7 - 20, 2019

1 Feb 12: Pro-Government Militias Deploy Reinforcements Near Golan Heights

Border: The Syrian Arab Army (SAA) Fifth Corps deployed reinforcements to the 90th Brigade Base in Quneitra Province in Southern Syria near the Golan Heights, according to pro-government media. The Syrian National Defense Forces (NDF) also reportedly deployed forces to areas near the 90th Brigade Base from Daraa Province in Southern Syria.

2 Feb 8: Lebanese Hezbollah Reportedly Acquire U.S. Weapons Near Golan Heights:

Lebanese Hezbollah allegedly acquired an unspecified number of U.S. Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) from the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) Fourth Armored Division in Southern Syria, according to opposition media. Syrian Air Force Intelligence reportedly facilitated the transfer. Former opposition fighters with the Free Syrian Army (FSA)-affiliated Southern Front reportedly sold the weapons to the Fourth Division after the SAA seized control of opposition-held areas in Daraa and Quneitra Provinces in mid-2018.

3 Feb 8: Syrian Customs Raids Warehouse Owned by Prominent Pro-Government Force in Central Syria:

The Syrian Customs Administration reportedly raided a number of warehouses belonging to the Tarmeh Regiment of the elite Syrian Arab Army (SAA) TigerForces in Qomhana north of Hama City, according to local activists. Customs officials claimed that the raids were part of a campaign to combat smuggling in Syria. Syrian Customs Administration Director Fawaz al-Asaad is an associate of Maher al-Assad, the brother of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the commander of the elite SAA Fourth Armored Division.

4 Feb 19: Russian Officials Meet SDF-Affiliated Arab Tribal Leader in Syria:

Shammar Tribe Sheikh Humaydi Daham al-Jarba met with unnamed officials from Russia at the Bassel al-Assad International Airport in Latakia Province on the Syrian Coast. Jarba is one of the highest-ranking Arabs in the majority-Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Shammar Tribe's Sanadid Forces constitute one of the largest groups in the SDF's Syrian Arab Component (SAC). Russia is actively attempting to broker a negotiated settlement between the Government of Syria and the SDF in Eastern Syria.

5 Feb 18: Unidentified Militants Detonate Two VBIEDs in Idlib City:

Unidentified militants detonated two VBIEDs in Idlib City, killing at least 17 individuals and wounding at least 70 others. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast but the Syrian Salvation Government (SSG) - a political body affiliated with Syrian al Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham - blamed the attack on saboteurs affiliated with the Government of Syria.

6 Feb 14: Russia and Turkey Expand Joint Patrols North of Aleppo City:

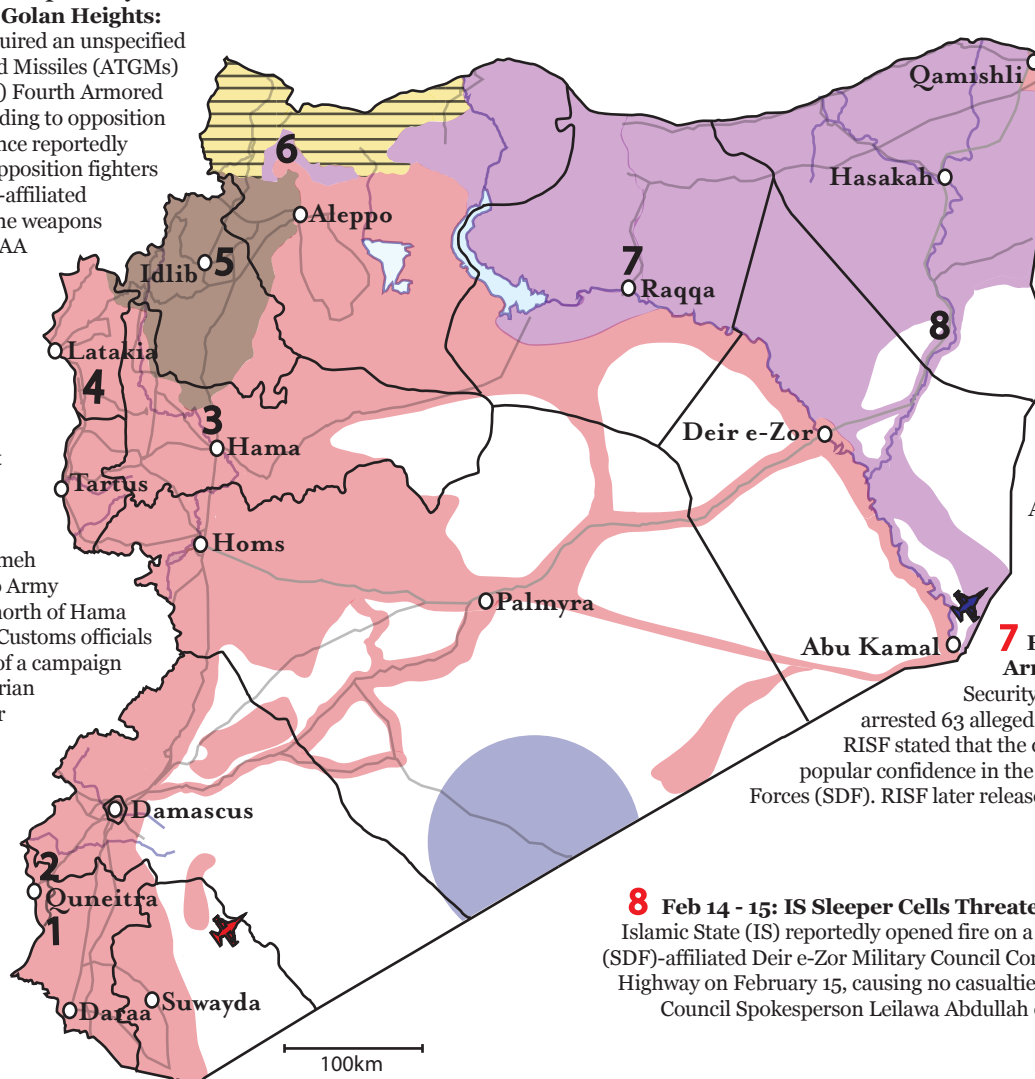
Russian Military Police and the Turkish Armed Forces conducted their first joint patrol near the town of Tel Rifaat north of Aleppo City. Tel Rifaat is held by the majority-Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Russia announced plans to expand the patrols on February 4.

7 Feb 7 - 8: U.S.-Backed Security Forces Conduct Arrest Campaign in Raqqa City:

The Raqqa Internal Security Forces (RISF) backed by the U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition arrested 63 alleged militants accused of "terrorist activity" in Raqqa City. RISF stated that the detainees were responsible for activities to undermine popular confidence in the Raqqa Civil Council backed by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). RISF later released at least 48 of the detainees following requests from local tribal officials, according to local activists.

8 Feb 14 - 15: IS Sleeper Cells Threaten Logistics Routes in Deir e-Zor Province:

The Islamic State (IS) reportedly opened fire on a convoy of vehicles carrying Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)-affiliated Deir e-Zor Military Council Commander Abu Khawla along the Hasakah - Deir e-Zor Highway on February 15, causing no casualties. IS also attempted to assassinate Deir e-Zor Military Council Spokesperson Leilawa Abdullah on the Hasakah - Deir e-Zor Highway on February 14.



Areas of Control*

- Pro-Regime
- The Islamic State
- Kurdish Forces
- Al Qaeda-Dominated
- Turkish/Opposition Forces
- U.S. and Partner Forces

Airstrikes

- ✈ Pro-Regime
- ✈ U.S. / Coalition



*AL QAEDA-LINKED GROUPS CONTROL NEARLY ALL GOVERNANCE AND MILITARY STRUCTURES IN GREATER IDLIB PROVINCE. VARIOUS LOCAL ACTORS ASSERT LIMITED CONTROL OVER ISOLATED AREAS OF GREATER IDLIB.

*Control of Terrain Accurate as of 21 FEB 2019