



GLOBAL EYE INTELLIGENCE

UNITED STATES IN LEVANT



STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

OVERVIEW

Recent developments in Syria and Iraq have intensified regional tensions. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are facing a significant offensive from Assad-aligned tribal forces in Deir Ezzor, while resistance against US bases in Iraq and Syria has escalated. This report examines the current situation, historical context, and implications for regional stability.



CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

US INVOLVEMENT IN SYRIA

- US Air Operations: Intensive flights of US warplanes are reported over Deir Ezzor, Syria, including the strategic Al-Omar oil field under US control.
- Syrian Arab Forces Offensive: Tribal forces aligned with the Assad regime have launched a large-scale attack against the SDF. Key locations captured include Abu Hamam, al-Baghuz, al-Busayrah, and Dhiban, with ongoing clashes in Abu Hardoub, Hajjin, al-Bahrah, al-Tayyaneh, Subhah, and al-Hawayej.
- US Drone Attack: A US drone targeted Syrian nomadic tribal forces near Dhiban, Deir Ezzor.



- Tribal Insurgency: After a period of relative calm, tribal clans in Deir Ezzor, notably the al Ukaidat tribe led by Sheikh Ibrahim al Hafli, have intensified their offensive against the SDF. The attack has resulted in significant casualties and territorial losses for the SDF, with heavy clashes continuing and tribal fighters reportedly advancing towards the Al-Omar oil field. The US has responded by placing bases on high alert and conducting helicopter patrols.

INCREASED REGIONAL TENSIONS

- Attack on Ain Al-Assad Base: The Ain Al-Assad base in Anbar Province, Iraq, has been hit by rocket fire, marking an escalation in resistance actions.

- US Military Response: The US is deploying additional military assets to protect strategic locations in Syria, including the Al-Omar oil field and other critical infrastructure.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN SYRIA

- Pre-2011: Russia maintained a strategic relationship with Syria, including a naval base in Tartus.
- Syrian Civil War (2011–present): Russia began military intervention in September 2015, supporting the Assad regime with airstrikes and military aid. Key operations have targeted opposition-held areas like Aleppo, Homs, and Idlib.



US INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ

- Pre-2003: The US had a complex relationship with Iraq, involving military actions and sanctions.
- Iraq War (2003–2011): The US led the invasion in March 2003, leading to the fall of Saddam Hussein. Key locations included Baghdad, Fallujah, and Mosul. The occupation faced significant insurgency.
- Post-2011 and Return (2014–present): The US re-engaged in Iraq in 2014 to combat ISIS, focusing on operations in Mosul and Ramadi, and continues efforts to stabilize the region and counter ISIS threats.

US INVOLVEMENT IN SYRIA

- Pre-2011: Limited direct involvement, focusing on diplomacy and economic measures.
- Syrian Civil War (2011–present): The US initially supported moderate opposition groups and, following the rise of ISIS in 2014, launched a military campaign involving airstrikes and special operations in key areas such as Raqqa, Manbij, and Deir Ezzor.

IMPLICATIONS

STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

- Control of Oil Fields: The advancing tribal forces pose a threat to US-controlled oil fields in Deir Ezzor, including the Al-Omar oil field, impacting US economic and strategic interests.
- Increased US Presence: The US response includes deploying additional military resources to safeguard key locations and demonstrate force, which may escalate tensions further.



REGIONAL DYNAMICS

- US-Turkey Relations: Tensions between the US and Turkey persist, particularly regarding US support for Kurdish groups linked to the PKK, which Turkey considers a terrorist organization.
- PKK Influence: The involvement of PKK-linked groups within the SDF complicates relations with Turkey and impacts regional stability.

BROADER REGIONAL IMPACT

- Resistance Actions: Increased attacks on US bases and interests reflect broader regional resistance strategies aimed at pressuring the US and its allies amid ongoing conflicts.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Monitor Developments: Continuous monitoring of the situation in Deir Ezzor, the Ain Al-Assad base, and other strategic locations is essential to inform strategic adjustments.
- Engage with Regional Allies: Strengthening diplomatic channels with Turkey and other regional allies to address the PKK issue and explore potential compromises could help stabilize the situation.
- Evaluate Security Measures: Enhancing security around key infrastructure, including oil fields and military bases, is crucial to mitigate risks from ongoing and potential future attacks.



CONCLUSION

The escalation in Deir Ezzor and increased regional resistance against US bases highlight significant challenges in the region. Understanding the historical context, current developments, and strategic implications is critical for navigating the evolving situation and maintaining regional stability.



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