

# U.S. plans large-scale operation to take Mosul

A joint Iraqi-Kurdish force of up to 25,000 troops is preparing to retake the city of Mosul from Islamic State fighters in April or May. IS remains a formidable force, but appears to be on the defensive for the first time since sweeping through Iraq and Syria last year

**Kobane:** Kurdish forces and three other rebels groups have taken back about 215 villages since securing control of Kobane on January 26

**Kurdish forces expected to launch assaults on IS strongholds of Jarablus, Minbij and Tal Abyad**

**Mosul:** Held by up to 2,000 IS fighters. Main attack would be launched by five Iraqi army brigades supplemented by three Peshmerga brigades who would contain IS from north and west

**Kiske:** Iraqi Kurdish forces seized stretch of key highway in January, threatening vital IS supply line

IS support areas  
Under Kurdish control



**Raqqa:** Coalition airstrikes in response to Jordanian pilot's killing has prompted IS to set up roadblocks to curb desertions

**Deir al Zawr:** IS locked in battle with Syrian army near air base – President **Assad's** last stronghold in eastern province

**Haditha:** Recent gains by Iraqi forces putting alternative supply corridor under pressure, further isolating Mosul