

U.S. expands potential targets in Syria

President Obama's authorization to use air power to defend a new U.S.-backed fighting force in Syria, raises the risk of the U.S. military coming into direct conflict with forces of the Assad regime

Azaz, Jul 31: U.S. launches first airstrikes against Al Qaeda-affiliated **Al Nusra** fighters in response to attack on Pentagon-trained members of **New Syria Force**

New Syria Force (NSF): 54-strong unit acting as spotters for U.S. air strikes against **Islamic State (IS)**. NSF inserted into **Division 30** – force of around 1,200 fighters commanded by Syrian Army defector **Nadeem Hassan**

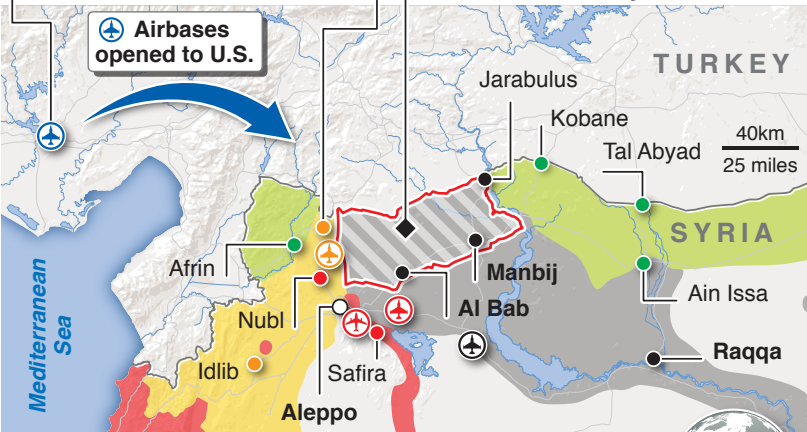
Division 30 expected to play key role in ambitious new joint push by U.S. and Turkey to help moderate rebels seize territory from IS

Incirlik, Aug 1-2: U.S. armed drones launched for first time

 **Airbases opened to U.S.**

MQ-1

Predator





AREAS OF CONTROL (*As of Jul 24)

  Syrian regime

  Islamic State

  Kurdish (YPG)

  Other rebel groups, including Al Nusra

 Contested