





Rise of the Syrian Democratic Forces

A new U.S.-backed alliance is pushing toward the Syrian town of Shadadi, a Daesh-controlled logistics hub. Command of its strategic network of highways could help isolate Raqqa – Daesh's de facto capital

-  Control and support for Daesh (so-called Islamic State)
-  Kurdish control
-  SDF alliance control
-  Syrian regime control

Oct 10: U.S.-backed Kurdish YPG militia, Syrian Arab Coalition (SAC) and Christian Syriac groups form **Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)**. Strength estimated at 4,000 SAC, 12,500 YPG and 1,900 Syriac fighters

1 Oct 13: U.S. airdrops 50 tonnes of weapons and ammunition to SDF

2 Nov 12: SDF – backed by coalition air strikes – takes Khatounie

3 Nov 16: Al-Hawl falls to SDF

4 Dec 8-9: Democratic Syria Council – political front for SDF – established at city of al-Malikiyah

5 Target: Shaddadi, stronghold Daesh uses for military training

