## **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 Ragga - Daesh's de facto capital Control and support for Daesh Oct 10: U.S.-backed Kurdish YPG (so-called Islamic State) militia, Syrian Arab Coalition (SAC) and Christian Syriac groups form Kurdish control Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). SDF alliance control Strength estimated at 4,000 SAC, 12,500 YPG and 1,900 Syriac fighters Syrian regime control 1 Oct 13: U.S. airdrops 50 tonnes of weapons and ammunition to SDF 100km TURKEY 60 miles 2 Nov 12: SDF - backed by coalition air strikes – takes Khatounie 3 Nov 16: Al-Hawl falls to SDF Ragga 4 Dec 8-9: Democratic Syria Council - political front for SDF - established **IRAQ** at city of al-Malikivah LEBANON SYRIA 5 Target: Shaddadi, stronghold Daesh uses for military training **Damascus** al-Malikiyah 4-⊚ JORDAN HASAKA PROVINCE Hasaka SDF headquarters 2 Khatounie 3 al-Hawl Tal Afar R al-Shadadi 50 Euphrates Ragga Deir al-Zawr RAQQA **PROVINCE DEIR** AL-ZAWR 50km **PROVINCE** 30 miles HOMS

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