Iran-aligned Militia Groups Launch Sustained Attacks on U.S. and Coalition Personnel

- Militias conducted at least 134 strikes targeting Coalition forces and interests in Iraq and Syria, using one-way attack drones, missiles, and rockets.
- In response, the DoD significantly bolstered force protection measures and deployed additional defensive capabilities to the region.
- CJTF-OIR said the attacks created a “new operating paradigm” for the OIR mission.

Coalition Forces Limit ISF Advising Due to Militia Threat

- Key leader engagements were cancelled or delayed; some base operations were degraded; and advisory support to partners was adjusted due to the militia strikes.
- The Iraqi prime minister, under increased pressure from Iran-aligned Iraqi lawmakers and militia leaders, announced his government had opened negotiations on the future of U.S. forces in Iraq.
- The ISF made incremental improvements in warfighting capabilities, including conducting some independent airstrikes and using its own ISR assets for some tasks.

SDF Faces Multiple Security Challenges

- In Dayr az Zawr, skirmishes continued between the SDF and tribal militias.
- Turkish bombardments in northern Syria struck SDF personnel, civilians, and civilian infrastructure.
- CJTF-OIR said that the SDF, facing “two possibly existential threats,” paused counter-ISIS operations and guard force training in October.
- In the al-Hol displaced persons camp, security forces continued to lack professionalism despite training.

ISIS Endeavors to Rebuild, Continues Attacks

- In Iraq, ISIS was significantly constrained but continued to exploit security gaps between federal Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.
- In Syria, ISIS targeted SDF and regime forces, while coming under increased Syrian regime and Russian pressure in the Syrian Desert.

Third Party Forces Complicate the OIR Mission

- Türkiye launched a days-long aerial bombardment on suspected terrorist targets in Syria and Iraq following an October 1 suicide attack in Ankara.
- In October, U.S. forces shot down an armed Turkish drone conducting strikes near U.S. forces in Syria, prompting high-level discussions.
- Ongoing Russian military violations of deconfliction protocols in Syria, particularly near At Tanf Garrison, put Coalition forces at risk.

Repatriations, Iraqi Provincial Elections on Track

- An ordered departure of non-emergency personnel and contract workers from U.S. diplomatic facilities in Iraq diminished the ability to maintain facilities and equipment on those compounds.
- Iraq held provincial elections for the first time in a decade, but voter turnout was low.
- The U.S. Government continued to support repatriation of detainees and displaced individuals from camps in Syria, with 1,690 people repatriated during the quarter.
- Economic challenges, earthquake, drought increased stabilization and humanitarian needs in Syria.

Lead IG Oversight

- The Lead IG agencies completed two oversight reports related to OIR, including on the DoD’s management of military units’ use of biometrics to identify friendly forces during overseas operations.