



OUR STRATEGY TO DEFEAT AND ULTIMATELY DESTROY ISIL

**WORKING WITH THE COALITION OF PARTNERS THE
PRESIDENT HAS BUILT AND LED OVER THE LAST YEAR,
OUR STRATEGY IS TO:**

RELENTLESSLY PURSUE ISIL'S LEADERSHIP

We are putting pressure on, and taking out, ISIL's leadership and the planners behind their attacks. We are going after terrorist plotters wherever they seek to do us harm (e.g. strikes on Hajji Mu'tazz, Mohammed Emwazi aka "Jihadi John," Junaid Hussain, and Abu Nabil strike in Libya; Abu Sayyaf raid).

SHRINK ISIL'S SAFEHAVENS

We are shrinking ISIL's physical and digital safehavens. We have blunted ISIL's momentum on the battlefield in Iraq and Syria, which is a source of recruitment and strength, and have driven them back from territory they controlled there. We have carried out approximately 8,300 strikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria since the beginning of the campaign, providing the air support necessary to expel them from key territory—representing a 20-25% reduction over the last year (Tikrit, Sinjar, Kobani, etc).

- Just as we are shrinking and denying ISIL's physical safehaven, we are also working to develop effective strategies to deny them digital safehaven and advancing efforts at home and abroad to mitigate ISIL's appeal. This includes engaging directly with potentially vulnerable communities and supporting community partners in their own efforts to provide alternative messages from credible voices.

ENHANCE AND ENABLE OUR PARTNERS

We need partners in the fight against ISIL—in and outside of Iraq and Syria—who will not only help us to achieve success in our current efforts to destroy ISIL but also to ensure that our efforts are sustainable. We built an international coalition of more than 65 members to fight ISIL, we have strengthened our intelligence-sharing on ISIL threats, and we have provided assistance to countries around the world in an effort to improve the disruption of external plotting. We are also working with and building local partners in Iraq and Syria to help enable them to fight ISIL and sustain those gains.

- We have trained nearly 15,000 Iraqi forces, including from Peshmerga and Sunni tribes. We are also working to build the capacity of our partners in northern Syria, ramping up the supply of equipment to our effective partners on the ground, including Syrian Arabs, Kurds, Turkomen, and others. We are deploying small SOF teams to train, advise, and enable these forces.
- We are also enhancing our partnerships with countries in regions where ISIL has developed or may be developing branches in order to share intelligence, train suitable partner forces, and collaborate on efforts to counter violent extremism.

CUT OFF ISIL'S SUPPLY LINES AND RESOURCES

Our efforts are disrupting foreign fighter flows and cutting off key supply lines (e.g. Sinjar operation that we expect to disrupt the Mosul/Raqqah line). We are also going after ISIL's funding, through repeated strikes of oil facilities and hundreds of oil transport vehicles (including November 15 strikes on 116 ISIL oil trucks).

- The President led a head-of-state level session of the U.N. Security Council at which a resolution was adopted uniting the world to address the foreign fighter threat. Since then, more than 30 countries have updated or passed new legislation to deter and ultimately disrupt ISIL's activities. Among other advantages, building this coalition helps us to prevent people from traveling to join ISIL, including through arrest and prosecution, and to build intelligence sharing arrangements to ensure that the world addresses this collective problem in a coordinated fashion.

EXPAND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

The U.S. continues to lead the world in humanitarian support to the victims of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. The United States is already the largest donor of humanitarian aid to the Syrian and Iraqi people—some \$4.5 billion in aid to the Syrian crisis, and over \$600 million for Iraq. We provide life-saving support—including food, water, shelter, medical care and warm clothing—to those in need people throughout the region. As winter approaches, we're donating additional supplies through the United Nations, and we are leading the call for nations to do more to address the staggering humanitarian needs.

PUSH FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION

All of this is being done while we pursue a **reinvigorated political solution to the crisis in Syria**. While a lot of hard work remains, we have made critical progress with international partners towards a Syrian-led transition process and a corresponding UN-supported ceasefire.