



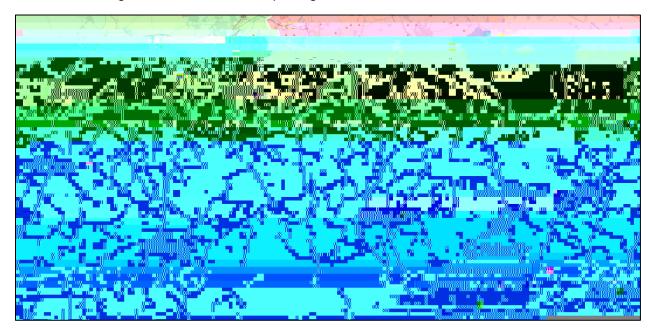
Weekly Conflict Summary November 2-8, 2017

Syrian government forces and allies fully captured the eastern city of Deir Ezzor from ISS on November 3, ending three years of ISS occupation. Pro-government forces also advanced further east along the Euphrates river, ultimately capturing the border crossing at Abu Kamal in a coordinated assault with Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs). This victory led the Syrian government to claim victory over ISS ISS still holds territory along the eastern Euphrates, in Eastern Hama, in the Yarmouk Camp district of Damascus city, and along the border with the Golan Heights.



despite (ostensibly) being in the area in part to counter HTS. So far, the Turkish observers have remained on the sideline, but may be forced to intervene should their interests be threatened by increased infighting.

Syrian Government and allied forces continue to target opposition-held areas in northern Hama and southern Idleb. These ongoing attacks, combined with new reports of troop movement in the area suggest that the Syrian government is preparing to move on Idleb, even as fighting against ISS continues in the east. The areas currently targeted suggest that this offensive may aim to take the Abu Thuhour military airbase in eastern Idleb as a first objective. The airbase is situated in the more sparsely populated east of Idleb governorate, and could serve as a valuable foothold for future operations in Idleb, should the government succeed in capturing it.



In northern Hama, clashes continue between government and opposition forces (HTS, along with Free Syrian Army affiliates Jaish al-Nasr, Jaish al-Izza, and the Central Division). The coordinated efforts of these opposition factions succeeded in capturing some territory from government forces, though most of the conflict activity remains restricted to artillery fire and aerial bombardment.

A parallel governance structure to the Syrian Interim Government has been announced in HTS-held its formation was supported by HTS-which controls or has a significant presence in much of Idleb, northern Hama, and -affiliated

Ovil Service Administration, an ostensibly independent administrative body which provides public services and maintains infrastructure in HTS-controlled opposition territory.