



SYRIA

SECRET//REL TO USA, NATO

(U) Status of Major Combatants					
	REGIME	YPG	OPPOSITION	AL-NUSRAH FRONT	ISIL
International Support and External Influence	<p>Russia and Iran committed to supporting proregime operations</p>	<p>Receiving support from Russia and the coalition</p>	<p>Continue receiving support from coalition backers</p>	<p>Probably receives logistical, financial, and materiel assistance from elements of the Turkish and Qatari governments</p>	<p>Continues to garner pledges of support and inspire foreign fighters despite increased pressure</p>
Manpower	<p>175,000 to 331,000 fighters, including militias; slowly declining</p>	<p>As many as 30,000 YPG fighters and as many as 5,000 allied Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) soldiers; probably sufficient to hold primarily Kurdish areas in northern Syria</p>	<p>Less than 68,000 to 104,000 fighters; groups in northwestern Syria suffered high casualties during Russia-backed proregime advances</p>	<p>6,900 to 10,400 fighters; more than 1,000 fighters pledged allegiance following Russia's intervention</p>	<p>5,200 to 10,400 fighters in Syria; about 20 percent reduction in manpower since last year because of airstrikes and battlefield losses</p>
Resources and Distribution	<p>Russia ensuring key units have necessary supplies; providing more supplies to fronts where Russia is involved in operations</p>	<p>Received materiel from Russia</p>	<p>Rebels in Aleppo lost access to primary supply line to Turkish border; proregime advances threatening other supply lines in northwestern Syria</p>	<p>Maintains supply of equipment; robust facilitation network to sustain supplies, ammunition, and weapon flows</p>	<p>Airstrikes, declining tax revenue, and reduced access to the Turkish border have restricted ISIL's access to resources</p>
Battlefield Tactics and Effectiveness	<p>Russian air and artillery support improved attack effectiveness; Russia training some proregime fighters</p>	<p>Working with the coalition, the opposition, Russia, or the regime for different operations has allowed the YPG to maximize its gains</p>	<p>Assumed a mostly defensive posture; focused on protecting border crossings, supply lines, and strongholds</p>	<p>Cooperated with opposition groups and adapted to challenges to participate in key battles against the regime</p>	<p>Effectively adjusts operational plans but increasingly under pressure</p>
Cohesion and Command	<p>No indications of fracturing; Russian deployment to Syria probably strengthened belief that regime can win</p>	<p>Strong C2 and cohesion; no indications of ethnosectarian fracturing within the SDF</p>	<p>Opposition battlefield cooperation has improved; armed and political oppositionists collaborated during peace talks</p>	<p>Robust C2; al-Qaida veterans in Syria may improve the group's management</p>	<p>Strong C2 at all levels</p>

STATUS: ● Good ● Mixed ● Poor TREND: ↑ Up ↓ Down ↔ Static

Visualization: DIA, D3 Design • 1606-09391