**Kurdish Fighters Push Closer to ISIS Caliphate's Capital in Syria**

Kurdish forces say they seized a military base from ISIS fighters just 30 miles from the [self-declared caliphate's capital city](http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/what-life-inside-isis-capital-city-raqqa-syria-n211206) in Syria, another gain in an offensive that is pushing deeper into militant strongholds.

U.S. airstrikes and allied rebel groups helped Kurdish fighters to conquer Base 93, which is located north of Raqqa. The military site's fall to ISIS last summer provided a propaganda coup for the group.

Idriss Nassan, deputy foreign minister of the Kurdish Kobani regional government in northern Syria, confirmed to NBC News on Tuesday that Base 93 had been taken. He added that Kurdish YPG forces had also routed ISIS in the nearby town of Ain Issa and 16 other villages over a 24-hour period. Earlier, a Kurdish official told Reuters that the base was under YPG control after ISIS had been "defeated."

The development comes one week after [Kurdish forces took the city of Tal Abyad](http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/isis-broken-tal-abyad-kurds-claim-victory-key-syrian-border-n376321). Situated along the Syria-Turkey border, it had been a key crossing point for ISIS fighters and supplies.

While it is unclear if the Kurdish forces will move any further south towards Raqqa, their momentum appears to mark some progress in the campaign against the ISIS in Syria and in neighboring Iraq, where news had long been grim.

Only last month, ISIS further alarmed the international community after taking the city of Ramadi, the provincial capital of western Iraq's Anbar province, forcing almost 25,000 people to flee the violence, [according to UN estimates](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50894#.VYlk-iFVikp).

Analysts are treating the latest news from northern Syria with caution, though they say that the setbacks for the Sunni militants indicate weaknesses in the same way that past victories have indicated strength.

"We shouldn't just pay attention to their gains but also their losses," says Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, a senior fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Analysts say that ISIS has run into trouble on a variety of fronts in recent weeks.

In Iraq, ISIS has come under heavy assault by [Shiite militias outside Ramadi](http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/hadi-al-ameri-shiite-militias-fighting-isis-we-expect-more-n379571), only weeks after the militant group took the city from security forces.

And in Syria, the capture of Tal Abyad allowed the Kurds to pinch a key ISIS supply route to Raqqa and linked the Kurdish fronts along eastern and western portions of the Turkish border.

"Much has been made of ISIS' fighting prowess," Gartenstein-Ross said. "But their victories have been number one against Iraqi security forces, and [in Syria] against the battered Assad regime."

Facing an allied force of Kurdish fighters and Sunni opposition rebels, ISIS now appears to be under pressure.

Speaking with reporters last week, a spokesman for the Pentagon said that ISIS forces had "cracked" near Tal Abyad. The spokesman attributed this to "devastating air power" by coalition forces and "trained forces" on the ground.

ISIS took Base 93 last summer as part of a campaign against the army of Syrian dictator Bashar Assad that resulted in the fall of a series of military sites in northern and central Syria.

"It was a significant turning point for the group — it managed to consolidate a lot of land in a short period of time, and capture a lot of prisoners and also a lot of munitions," said Charlie Winter, a terrorism researcher at the London-based Quilliam Foundation. "They made a huge fanfare about it."