

Combined Joint Task Force

Operation Inherent Resolve APO AE 09306

December 12, 2016 Release #20161212-01 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SDF initiate next phase of Raqqah isolation

SOUTHWEST ASIA – The Syrian Democratic Forces announced the start of the next phase of their operation to isolate ISIL's self-proclaimed capital of Raqqah, Dec. 10.

The SDF, made up in part by local Arabs and its Coalition trained and equipped Arab component, the Syrian Arab Coalition, and supported by Coalition advisers and air strikes began the operation to isolate Raqqah on Nov. 5.

In their march toward Raqqah, the SDF has already liberated dozens of villages and more than 700 square miles of ISIL-held terrain. Local Arab fighters continue to join the SDF and fight to liberate their own land.

During the initial phase of isolation efforts, our Syrian partners have proven their ability in battle, pushing ISIL back and destroying ISIL heavy weapons, vehicles, fortifications, IED facilities, VBIEDs, armored vehicles, technical vehicles, bridges, decoys, and caches.

The Coalition supports the SDF through training, advise and assist operations, airstrikes and material support to the SAC. Since the start of the operation the Coalition conducted more than 300 strikes delivering more than 850 munitions in support of its partners on the ground to enable the isolation of Raqqah and defeat of ISIL in Syria.

-30-

For information about CJTF-OIR contact: CJTF-OIRmedia@mail.mil COM: U.S. 1-813-529-4636 or in Southwest Asia COM: 00-965-2221-6340, then dial 430-5193#

www.inherentresolve.mil www.twitter.com/CJTFOIR www.facebook.com/CJTFOIR www.youtube.com/CJTFOIR