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3.4. US-led coalition

For information regarding the involvement of the US-led coalition forces in Syria prior to November 2024, see section 1.3.4. of the [EUAA COI Report Syria – Security Situation \(October 2024\)](#).

Soon after the downfall of the Assad government, the US administration of former President Joe Biden held initial meetings with the country de facto leader, Ahmad Al-Sharaa,[537](#) and the newly appointed Syrian de facto foreign minister, Asaad Al-Shibani.[538](#) As a result of these talks, the bounty on Al-Sharaa was removed[539](#) but not his designation as a terrorist.[540](#)

According to the US Department of Defense, as of December 2024, there were around 2 000 US troops in the country.[541](#) The US administration of former President Joe Biden maintained that the US would continue its deployment in northeastern Syria, where they act in support of the SDF as part of a mission to defeat ISIL.[542](#) As the United States viewed a possible ISIL resurgence as a challenge to US interests in Syria, US forces conducted multiple strikes on 8 December 2024 as a signal of continuing determination to prevent such a resurgence.[543](#) Further individual strikes by the US-led coalition on ISIL targets continued well into the second half of December 2024.[544](#)

In December 2024 and January 2025, there were also multiple reports of forces of the US-led Global Coalition transporting troops or military and other equipment to reinforce their military bases in Hasaka (including those in Qasrik,[545](#) Al-Shaddadi,[546](#) Kharab Al-Jeir,[547](#) Tal Baydar [548](#)), Raqqa,[549](#) and Deir Ez-Zor (Koniko Gas Field and Al-Omar Oil Field)[550](#) and as part of their efforts to strengthen existing bases and to set up a new base in the Ain Al-Arab area (Aleppo governorate).[551](#) Moreover, the US-led Global Coalition and the SDF conducted joint military exercises at the Koniko Gas Field base (Deir Ez-Zor) and Qasrik base[552](#) and intensified military patrols in Deir Ez-Zor and Raqqa.[553](#)

However, current President Donald Trump and government officials close to him have since voiced their interest in pulling US forces out of Syria, with two US defence officials quoted as saying by NBC News in early February 2025 that the Pentagon had started to design plans for a complete withdraw of US troops from Syria.[554](#)

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