

# The US and Russia Collide, while Syrians Call for US Withdrawal

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*Wednesday's collision between [the US military occupying the northeast](#) of Syria, and the Russian military legally present there, showcases the drama unfolding, as the occupiers are being handed a cue: "Yankee Go Home".*

Sheiks and elders of the Arab Al-Uqaydat tribe met at Deir Ez Zor, Syria on August 11 and gave the US occupation force, and the SDF, one month to "[leave the Arab region to the Arabs](#)".

## US and Russian military vehicle crash

The incident occurred around 10 am. Syrian time, on August 26 on a road near Dayrick in northeast Syria. Numerous [videos](#) appeared on social media which capture the encounter between two military vehicles.

In the video, a Russian Typhoon-K MRAPs collides with the front of a US M-ATV, after which the American driver honked his horn. Afterward, the Russian vehicles chased the American vehicles, who turned and left the area in a de-escalation maneuver. Four US troops were diagnosed with mild [concussion-like symptoms](#), which resulted from the impact.

The Russian military explained that their convoy was on a routine patrol of the area and that they had warned the US vehicles of their position and had asked them to back-off. However, the Americans did not heed the warning, and the situation escalated.

National Security Council spokesman [John Ulliyot](#) confirmed the details of the incident. "Unsafe and unprofessional actions like this represent a breach of de-confliction protocols, committed to by the United States and Russia in December 2019," Ulliyot said. "The Coalition and the United States do not seek escalation with any national military forces, but US forces always retain the inherent right and obligation to defend themselves from hostile acts."

Joint Chiefs Chairman [Gen. Mark Milley](#) spoke with Russian Gen. Valery Gerasimov, by telephone on Wednesday, according to a Pentagon statement.

## Previous encounters

This flare-up is the latest in a [series of events](#) beginning in February, next in June, then in July, and now in August.

“The encounters happen a few times each month and, thus far, have been resolved without escalation,” said OIR spokesman [Army Col. Myles Caggins](#).

“With Russia, Coalition forces work to de-conflict our movements through pre-existing communication channels, in order to prevent unnecessary and unplanned military interactions, and to de-escalate between forces when necessary,” he added.

## The US in Syria

The US military illegally entered and occupied Syria under the guise of fighting ISIS. While the threat of ISIS was real, the Syrian Arab Army (SAR) and the Russian military were already fighting ISIS and were capable. However, the US foreign policy on Syria prevented the US military from partnering with the existing forces on the ground, even though they consisted of hundreds of thousands of ground troops, aircraft, tanks, helicopters, and weapons of all types. Instead, the Pentagon chose to develop an alliance with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which is a militia and is aligned with the YPG, who are part of the PKK, an internationally recognized terrorist group, has killed thousands in Turkey over four decades.

The US currently has about 600 troops illegally in northeast Syria and another 150 at the Al Tanf Garrison.

US President Trump ran on a 2016 campaign promise to bring home the troops from Syria, which he tried to fulfill in 2018, but his order met with criticism, and the resignation of Defense Secretary James Mattis.

After a phone call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in October 2019, Trump ordered the withdrawal of US troops from the Turkish border.

## The SDF

Democrat and Republican lawmakers condemned Trump for abandoning the SDF, a Kurdish militia that had been the US ally in the fight against ISIS in Syria. The group received weapons, air, and ground support in the fight to defeat the ISIS. The US pulled back from the Turkish border in October 2019 which allowed the Turkish invasion, utilizing mainly Radical Islamic mercenaries who were a mixed-bag between Al Qaeda and former ISIS terrorists.

James Jeffrey, US special envoy said in 2018 that the Syrian Kurds' future would be with Damascus. The State Department described the relationship with the SDF as “tactical, transactional and temporary.”

## The Turkish occupation of Syria

The US State Department has criticized Turkey for hosting Hamas members, while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the US of alliance with terrorists in Syria, such as the SDF.

Some in the Trump administration is very close to Ankara, and the US State Department under Pompeo has always preferred Syrian terrorist groups in Syria, who are fighting to topple the Syrian government alongside extreme Islamist groups, such as Jibhat al Nusra and ISIS, which Turkey favors. To the US and Turkey, these blood-thirsty savages are just

tools to be used for political gains.

Turkey seeks to take over Kurdish areas in northeast Syria and implant non-Kurds and militias following Radical Islam. The militias Turkey employs routinely kidnap women and assassinate women activists.

Turkey regularly turns off water to northeastern Syria, causing hundreds of thousands to be without water, even though Covid-19 precautions require hand-washing.

On August 18, near Deir Ez Zor, Syria, a Russian Major General, and three Russian soldiers were killed when their convoy drove over an IED, on its way back from a humanitarian mission. Many have theorized it was the SDF who planted the IED.

If you can't stand the heat, then get out of the kitchen

On August 20, Pres. Trump met with Iraq's PM, and said the US is leaving Iraq "fairly rapidly" and making decisions on Syria "fairly soon." The Iraqi Parliament called for the total withdrawal of US troops.

A meeting of 5,000 Syrian tribal members in northeast Syria on August 11 demanded the US forces, and their SDF militia partners withdraw from occupation of the area after the SDF assassinated Sheikh Mutashar al-Hafil and his relative Dar Mihlef al-Khalaf, which provoked a wave of protests, and the call of "Yankee Go Home".

"We are calling on the international coalition to transfer control over the province directly to its Arab population, respecting Syria's territorial integrity, as well as the [rights of Syrian citizens](#)", the tribal elder's statement said.

The Syrian tribe demanded that the SDF release all prisoners and hostages, and especially women and children.

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*This article was originally published on [Mideast Discourse](#).*

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