

Fresh Russian-U.S. 'Skirmish' Reported in Syria

January 27, 2020



American troops have reportedly blocked a Russian convoy from accessing the oil fields at least four times in the past eight days. **U.S. Army Reserve photo by Spc. DeAndre Pierce / The National Guard / Flickr (CC BY 2.0)**

Russian and U.S. forces have faced off for what could be the fourth time in less than two weeks in oil-rich northeastern Syria, the local Kurdish news outlet Anha [reported](#) Saturday.

Video of the reported standoff in the Hasakah province [showed](#) a Russian-flagged armored vehicle and what appeared to be two U.S. Army armored vehicles standing on a highway off-ramp.

Embed:

US forces has blocked an Russian military patrol eastern entrace of Tell tamr city and blocked the way to M4 international road. Russian military patrol were forced

to retreat back to Tell tamr city. pic.twitter.com/XY4CfTXzYj

— Rojava Network (@RojavaNetwork) [January 25, 2020](#)

Following the “skirmish” at the entrance to the town of Tal Tamr — which lies on a highway to the region’s key oilfields — the U.S. and Russian convoys reportedly headed in different directions.

Russian helicopters and U.S. warplanes flew over Tal Tamr half an hour after the incident, Anha reported. The outlet did not say how long the standoff lasted.

American troops have blocked a Russian convoy from accessing oil fields at least four times in the past eight days, Turkey’s [Daily Sabah](#) newspaper reported Sunday. U.S. troops also “[blocked](#)” a Russian military patrol from accessing an oilfield in the Hasakah town of Rmelan on Jan. 18.

Embed:

A Russian army helicopter flies over a patrol of US soldiers in the town of Tal Tamr in Syria's Hasakeh province on the border with Turkey

☒ Delil Souleiman pic.twitter.com/gcHZwsqHdC

— AFP news agency (@AFP) [January 27, 2020](#)

The latest standoff took place two days after Kurdish forces similarly prevented Russian troops from passing through a major city to establish a military zone near the Rmelan oilfield, Turkey’s Anadolu news agency reported.

Commenting on that incident, a top U.S.-led coalition commander said "the Russians are always testing us," Anadolu [reported](#) Thursday.

U.S. and Russian forces maintain bases in northeastern Syria.

The two countries have experienced “hiccups” in their military deconfliction efforts in Syria, James Jeffrey, the U.S. special envoy for Syrian engagement and the anti-Islamic State coalition, [said](#) Thursday.

Russia has waged an air and sea campaign in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad since 2015 as Moscow's Middle East ally has grappled with a years-long civil war. The U.S.-led coalition deployed in the war-torn country in 2014.

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