

# F-22 DEBUT

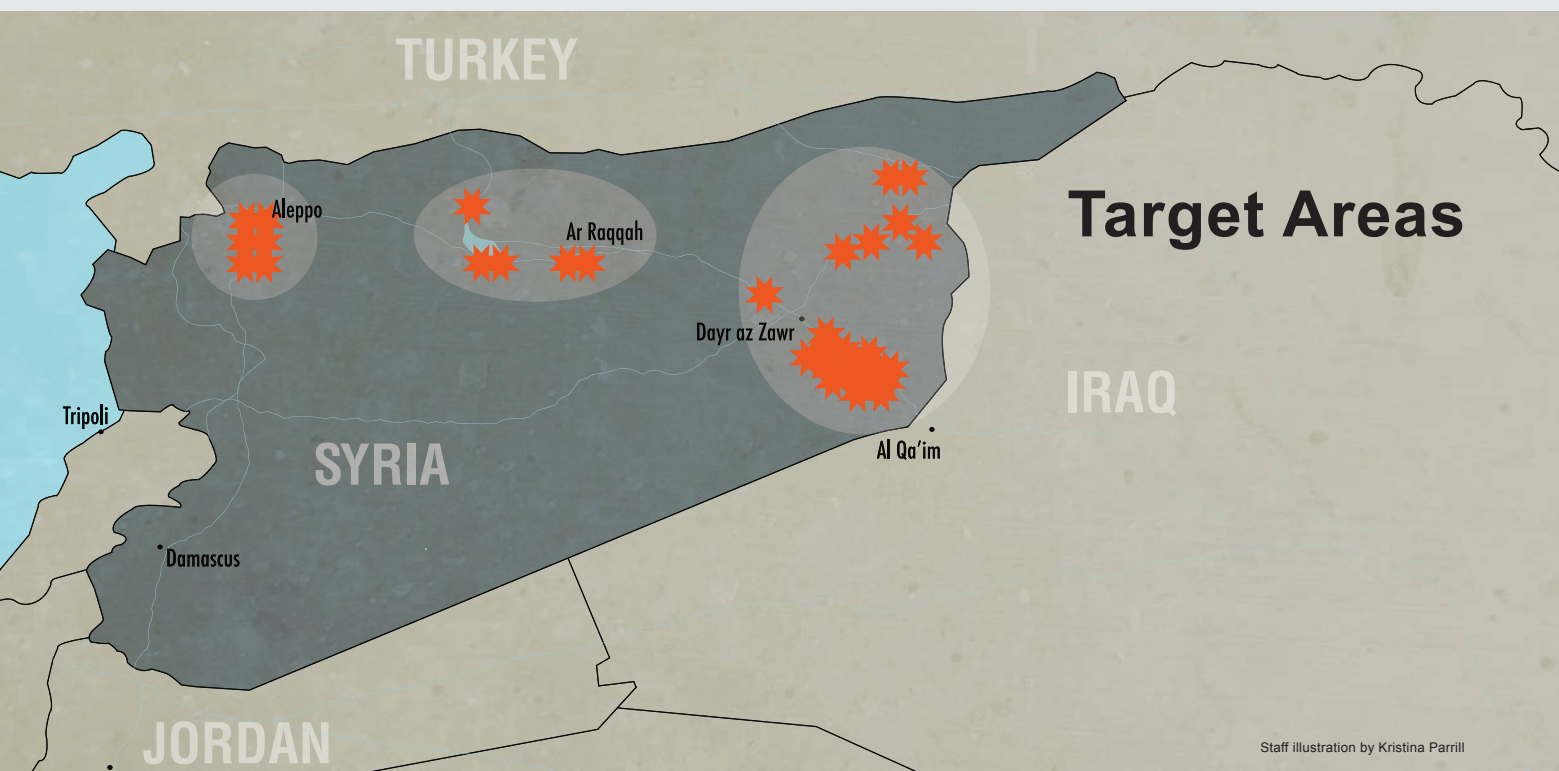
## Breaking down the initial air assault in Syria

The United States and its Gulf partners launched an air campaign Sept. 22 against ISIS terrorists based in Syria. During these strikes, F-22 Raptors, deployed to the Persian Gulf region from the 1st Fighter Wing at JB Langley-Eustis, Va., struck an ISIS command and control facility in Ar Raqqah, located in northern Syria.

This was the first time the Raptor was used in combat. Other US platforms making strikes included Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles, F-16s, B-1B bombers, as well as Navy Tomahawk Land

Attack Missiles, F/A-18s, EA-6B Prowlers, and unidentified “drones,” said Army Lt. Gen. William C. Mayville Jr., Joint Staff director of operations, on Sept. 23. USS *Arleigh Burke*, USS *Phillippine Sea*, and USS *George H. W. Bush* also participated in the strikes, which were launched in three waves.

Bahrain, Jordana, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates either launched aircraft or “supported” the strikes in the second and third waves. The majority of partner participation took place in the third wave, said Mayville.



Staff illustration by Kristina Parrill

### 1

The first wave began around 8:30 p.m. EST on Sept. 22. USS *Arleigh Burke*, operating in the Red Sea, and USS *Phillippine Sea*, operating in the Persian Gulf, launched more than 40 TLAMs at targets in Aleppo and Ar Raqqah in eastern and northern Syria. Most of the cruise missiles targeted Khorasan group compounds, manufacturing workshops, and training camps.

### 2

The F-22 made its combat debut in the second wave of strikes, which began around 9 p.m. EST, taking out an ISIS command and control center in Ar Raqqah. F-15Es, F-16s, B-1B bombers, and remotely piloted aircraft also participated in the second wave.

### 3

The final wave began just after midnight EST on Sept. 23. Regionally based F-16s and F/A-18s, launched from USS *George H. W. Bush* in the northern Persian Gulf, “among others,” attacked ISIS training camps and combat vehicles, mostly in the far east near Dayr az Zawr.