

## Appendix 1. PHASES OF SHIITE MILITIA DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT IN SYRIA AND IRAQ

PHASE	TIME	ACTION	BACKGROUND
1	Summer–Winter 2012	Local militias develop	The Syrian military assists in the establishment of localized/sectarian units to help control and defend specific zones. Liwa Abu Fadl al-Abbas (LAFA) is officially announced.
2	Summer 2012–Spring 2013	Hezbollah/IRGC/Iraqi Shiite advisors arrive	Smaller units from Hezbollah, Asaib Ahl al-Haqq (AAH), Kataib Hezbollah, and later Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS) are publicly announced as having been deployed.
3	Spring 2013	Iraqi and Lebanese units and recruits train and arrive in Syria	New trainees and experienced fighters from Iraq begin to be deployed in Syria. In May, Hezbollah officially states it is active in Syria during the battle of al-Qusayr. Internet-based recruitment begins in Iran.
4	Late Spring–Early Summer 2013	New Shiite militia groups emerge	Groups (likely fronts) developed from LAFA such as Liwa al-Imam al-Hussein (LIH), Liwa Dhulfiqar, and the RRF are announced in Syria. Iraqi groups such as the Badr Organization and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba (HHN) officially announce their presence in Syria. AAH announces the creation of Liwa Kafil Zainab. Internet and direct recruitment begins in earnest in Iraq.
5	Fall 2013–Early 2014	New offensives and new groups emerge	More organizations announce their presence in Syria. These groups include subunits of HHN, Saraya Talia al-Khurasani, and Faylaq Waad al-Sadiq. Developed from LAFA, Syria-based Liwa Assad Allah al-Ghalib (LAAG) is publicly declared. Offensives launched in September target Damascus and East Ghouta. In November, Hezbollah and Iraqi Shiite elements advance in northern Damascus and Qalamoun. Recruitment drives in Iraq and Lebanon are conducted, usually around Shiite holidays such as Ashura and Arbain.
6	Winter 2013–Spring 2014	Iraqi Shiite forces redeploy to Iraq	Coinciding with Iraqi prime minister Nouri al-Maliki’s Anbar offensive, Iraqi Shiite forces are flown from Syria back to Iraq.
7	Spring–Fall 2014	Hezbollah adopts a larger role	With Iraqi Shiite redeployments, Hezbollah moves more forces, including newer recruits, into Syria. Hezbollah forces in Qalamoun build a quasi-“security zone.” Afghan Shia units are increasingly deployed. By midsummer to late September Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada launches new recruitment drives to bring Iraqi Shia fighters to Syria.