

The U.S. Must Send Ground Forces to Eliminate the Islamic State

by [James Jeffrey \(/experts/james-jeffrey\)](/experts/james-jeffrey)

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A traditional military operation is eluding serious attention for many reasons, but none hold up against the devastation experienced in Syria and Iraq.

The horrific Paris attacks, following a likely Islamic State bombing of a Russian airliner in the Sinai and coming in the midst of the crises emanating from the linked conflicts in Iraq and Syria, demand an answer to this question: When will the United States realize that it urgently needs to use real military force to defeat the Islamic State threat?

After almost eighteen months of the Obama administration's half-measures, it's obvious that defeat of the Islamic State is not going to happen absent a first-class, mobile ground force being launched to mate with overwhelming air power. That ground force does not have to be large -- the main U.S. assault force in the largest battle of the second Iraq war, Fallujah in 2004, counted only seven to eight battalions, with reinforcement and support, for a total of 7,000 to 8,000 troops...

[Read the full article on the *Washington Post* website. \(https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-must-send-ground-forces-to-eliminate-the-islamic-state/2015/11/16/685aff20-8c63-11e5-ae1f-af46b7df8483_story.html?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-e%3Ahomepage%2Fstory\)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-must-send-ground-forces-to-eliminate-the-islamic-state/2015/11/16/685aff20-8c63-11e5-ae1f-af46b7df8483_story.html?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-e%3Ahomepage%2Fstory) ❖

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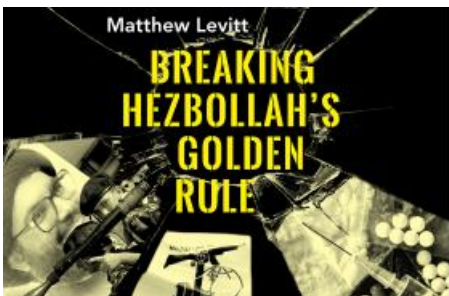
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