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The US is to station troops in Syria to assist in the fight against Isis for the first time, a reversal of President Barack [Obama's](#) opposition to basing US forces in the country.

No more than 50 troops will be sent to offer advice and support to the moderate opposition troops, [White House](#) spokesperson Josh Earnest said on Friday. He insisted it was not a combat role

“There’s no denying the serious risk they will be facing,” Mr Earnest said, “but they are not in a combat mission.” US troops have entered Syria previously for one-off interventions, but this marks the first proper deployment.

Reports said troops will also be dispatched to Irbil in northern Iraq, and that Mr Obama has also authorised deploying A-10s and F-15 aircrafts to the Incirlik air base in Turkey.

The US will also step up its military assistance to Jordan and Lebanon and will engage in further talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to target Isis’s leaders and networks, an official told Reuters.

The news came as the latest diplomatic effort to end the Syrian civil war – including for the first time a representative of Iran – got under way in Vienna. The talks focused on a way to ease out President Bashar Assad, with Iran this week for the first time signalling it would be willing to see a six-month transition period. The talks ended with a call for the UN to start a new ceasefire process between Syria’s government and the opposition with the ultimate goal of political transition.

