



TASK FORCE DANGER ***Press Release***

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Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq. The 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger continue to make a big difference in Iraq. This evening, the division will host a Freedom Day Celebration at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Danger in Tikrit with hundreds of invited Iraqi guests, to include families, as we celebrate together Iraqi freedom and American independence. The celebration will include dinner, speeches, a 1st Infantry Division Band concert, and fireworks over the Tigris River. Recent progress in the four provinces of North-Central Iraq is allowing the division to shift more of its efforts away from combat operations and place a significant amount of energy into stability and civil-military operations. The Soldiers of Task Force Danger are working to improve infrastructure, equip and train competent Iraqi Security Forces, empower local governments, and set the conditions for successful national elections in January 2005. Our intent is to inform the public of the great work our service men and women are doing in Iraq. This bi-weekly press release is an effort to inform and garner support for our Soldiers and their families.

Ishaki Health Clinic is renovated, re-opens.

Task Force 1-77 Armor participated in the opening of a health clinic on June 23 in the city of Ishaki, Iraq. The Ishaki Health Clinic, located approximately 20 kilometers



west of Balad, is the main health care center for the city and surrounding area with a population over 20,000 Iraqis. The Ishaki City Council brought the health clinic to the attention of Task Force 1-77. After an initial proposal was made, the Civil Affairs team conducted an on-site evaluation of the facility and made recommendations to the council for repairs and renovation.

The City Council, through their rebuilding committee, sought out and selected contractors and made an official request to the task force for assistance with the clinic. The clinic renovation was approved at a cost of \$32,000 and work began on April 26. The project completely renovated the existing building, providing new male and female examination rooms, a reception area, new air conditioners in all rooms, a sterilization station for medical instruments, renovation of the male and female bathrooms, and repaired an existing security wall and gate. The project was completed on June 20.

Ishaki city government and health officials along with CPT Mathew Archambault, Commander of Charlie Company, 1-26 Infantry, hosted the grand opening. The 272nd Engineer Group from LSA Anaconda attended to provide donated medical supplies to the clinic and the civil affairs team donated medical books with the help of 415th Civil Affairs Battalion Public Health Team. This event, the first in the area, was marked with a celebration at the clinic and praise for Iraqi-American cooperation. This was the first assistance this clinic had received in over 15 years and well represents the kind of effort ongoing throughout the division's area of responsibility.

Making a difference in the safety and security of Iraq.



On June 28, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) transferred sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government, taking yet another significant step towards a free and democratic Iraq. Over the past two weeks, the soldiers of the division redoubled their efforts to set the conditions for security and Iraqi self-sufficiency.

The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) recently changed its name and is now known as the Iraqi National Guard. New equipment is being issued this week from the 1st Infantry Division Support Command to the ten ING battalions in the division area of responsibility. Equipment includes 100 UAZ jeeps, 100 Mitsubishi pickup trucks, and 2,000 flak vests. The soldiers of the Iraqi National Guard are also receiving uniforms, hats, rucksacks, load bearing vest (LBV), physical fitness uniforms, and other equipment. Currently, the first basic training class is in session at the Task Force Danger North-Central Iraqi National Guard Regional Training Facility and will graduate on July 10. Three hundred and twenty new recruits are receiving instruction on basic rifle marksmanship, first aid, map reading, human rights, and individual movement techniques. With time and effort, we are confident that the ING will be prepared to meet the challenges of security in Iraq.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) continues to execute full spectrum operations while remaining totally committed to maintaining a stable, safe, and secure Salah Ad Din Province. As the CPA transferred sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government, the brigade issued the 30th Iraqi National Guard (ING) Brigade 66 vehicles which will greatly improve the ING's ability to project security throughout the brigade area of operations. TF 1-77 supports its area of operations by ensuring a water treatment project was initiated, which will filter water from the Tigris River and render it



potable for the village of Al Buhishma. Also, a key step in establishing a free and democratic society occurred on June 27, when the Salah Ad Din Province held gubernatorial elections. This was truly a crucial step forward for Iraq.

On June 24, soldiers of A Company, 1-120 Infantry were attacked while conducting a route clearance mission in the city of Baqubah. These attacks increased throughout the day resulting in all four 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Duke) maneuver battalions committed to combat throughout the Diyala Province. At the end of the day, anti-Iraqi forces were defeated and the streets of Baqubah were quiet. On June 26, violence once again erupted, but this time the Iraqi Security Forces, with assistance from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, were able to quell the unrest and maintain the peace. Finally, on June 28, the brigade turned over sovereignty to Governor Abdullah in an emotional ceremony at the Provincial Capitol. Following the ceremony, the people of Diyala shared their hope for a secure and sovereign Iraq.

The 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Warrior) conducted successful kinetic and non-kinetic operations throughout the At Tamin and As Sulaymaniyah Provinces. In the city of Kirkuk, the brigade combat team conducted Operation Gimlet Crusader, a series of simultaneous raids designed to disrupt violent anti-Iraqi forces from conducting attacks against multinational forces or Iraqi Security Forces. The raids resulted in the capture of seven individuals including one financier and one cell leader. In addition, Ambassador Bremer bid farewell to the members of the Kirkuk Provincial Council and the Iraqi Interim President discussed the future of Kirkuk and the At Tamin Province within the greater Iraq.



In the last two weeks the Gunfighters of 1-1 Aviation have supported the maneuver brigade combat teams with AH-64s in direct support of their mission. The Gunfighters have flown over 450 hours in the past two weeks performing oil pipeline security, route reconnaissance and security, convoy escort, forward operating base security, and support for combat operations. The AH-64s also supported the 3rd Brigade Combat Team when anti-Iraqi forces in Baqubah staged offensive operations. The Eagles of 2-1 Aviation continued their support of the division command group, to include two UH-60s in direct support of the ADC (M) for operations in the south in support of Task Force Dragon. Combined with the B/1-106th Mad Dogs, our UH-60 fleet has flown 900 hours in the last two weeks supporting both the command group and the remainder of the division in battlefield circulation. 2-1 Aviation has completed four UH-60 major phase maintenance requirements due to the high flight hour operational tempo. The 601st Aviation Support Battalion Typhoons have steadily supported the 4th Aviation Brigade completing over 2,000 work orders to date, assisting in six aircraft phases, and performing daily combat logistics patrols. They also executed a combat lifesaver class, which is instrumental to saving lives during their combat patrol operations. The 4th Brigade also had 22 personnel re-enlist during this quarter proving the high morale of the soldiers of 4th Brigade. As a side note, the 1st Infantry Division recently exceeded its quarterly reenlistment mission with 34 percent of the soldiers reenlisting for their present duty assignment.

Task Force Dragon, consisting of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery and 1-14 Infantry of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division conducted a deliberate Relief-in-Place in the An Najaf area of operations allowing the 2ACR to re-deploy after over a year in Iraq. The



four squadrons of 2ACR and 2-37 Armor are already on their way home. Both units operated near the Green Zone in Baghdad until they were extended for 90 days in April. After their extension, they deployed to An Najaf and Ad Diwaniyah. Recall that 2-37 Armor earned national recognition when its soldiers were featured on the cover of Time Magazine. The soldiers of Task Force Dragon worked hard to ensure the extended soldiers re-deployed on time.

The 1st Infantry Division Support Command (DISCOM) continues to provide forward and responsive support to the Division Combat Team throughout the area of operations and has recently deployed a Forward Logistics Element to MND-CS in support of Division operations near An Najaf. In addition to our support to the Division Combat Team, the DISCOM has been heavily involved in the equipping of the Iraqi National Guard. This mission is critical to the development of a viable military presence capable of maintaining security in Iraq. To date, the DISCOM has received, prepared, and issued the Iraqi National Guard over 3,000 weapons, 140 vehicles, uniforms and equipment for over 3,000 soldiers, and 2.5 million rounds of ammunition.

Taking the elements of violence off the streets.

In the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Danger area of operations have resulted in an estimated 98 anti-Iraqi forces killed, an estimated 12 wounded, and an additional 100 detained. Forty-two major enemy weapons and ammunition caches were discovered in the past two weeks. Significant ammunition seized from these caches included more than 112 rockets; 92 mortar tubes; 3,880 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 156 small arms weapons and rocket propelled grenade launchers; 42 fuses;



1,302 land mines; 130 pounds of PE-4; nine grenades and more than 1,500 rounds of small arms ammunition. Major equipment found included one SA-7 surface to air missile and one 57mm IMRLS system. Ninety-seven improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of Anti-Iraqi Forces.

Making a difference in North Central Iraq.

Task Force Danger, in full partnership with the Iraqi civil and military authorities, continues to ensure a secure and stable Iraq. Over the past two weeks, several division initiatives have shown great progress towards achieving that goal. Units at every level continue to work together with the Iraqi people to make a difference.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Public Health is facilitating a partnership between Harvard University and a local medical college. CPT Thamus Morgan, veterinarian with the 415th Civil Affairs Public Health Team, traveled to Dubai, UAE with \$100,000 and a signed Letter of Intent to formally begin an academic partnership between the Tikrit University College of Medicine and Harvard University. Pairing Tikrit University and Harvard will have far-reaching and lasting effects on the curriculum, students, staff and facilities of the local medical school. The partnership will improve medical care throughout Salah ad Din and beyond through improved medical education and communication with some of the finest medical instructors and facilities in the world.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Education reports that the "Operation I Can" website has received over 6,000 hits. This website allows for family members and friends of Task Force Danger Soldiers to mail donated school supplies to Forward



Operating Base Danger, to be inventoried and distributed to units throughout the 1st Infantry Division area of operations. The "Operation I Can" website, which is abbreviated for Iraqi Children Assistance Network, is also now available in German for our Germany based friends to also assist us in improving the lives of Iraqi school children. The website can be found at www.operationican.com. Task Force Danger received its first shipment of textbooks for university students in the Task Force Danger area of operations. The first shipment contained approximately 26 boxes of books in various subjects such as English, Math, and Science. These books are shipped by universities from throughout the United States to Iraqi students.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Justice continues the work of developing the rule of law in Iraq, receiving shipments of computers to be delivered to local courts in the Salah ad Din and Diyala Provinces. These computers will be delivered to the various courts over the next week and will help to significantly modernize Iraqi courts, making the justice system more accurate and efficient. Recently, the Tikrit Branch Office of the Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC) processed its three-hundredth claim, making it one of the busiest IPCC offices in Iraq. The Ministry of Justice conducted legal training for local Iraqi lawyers and judges. Chief Judge Najem, the Chief Judge of Salah ad Din, along with the president of the Salah ad Din Bar Association, the Chief Criminal Judge of Salah ad Din, and other various lawyers and judges met with U.S. Army Judge Advocates to discuss current legal issues. Task Force Danger staff judge advocates discussed Iraqi Civil Law, International Law, and the legal implications of the transfer of sovereignty. In turn, Chief Judge Najem and Iraqi attorney Sufian Faraq lectured U.S. Judge Advocates on the nature of Iraqi law.



On June 22, the milestone of 1,000 megawatts of electric generation was exceeded in the Task Force Danger area of operations in the Provinces of Diyala, Salah ad Din, and At Tamim. To put this in perspective, pre-war generation was approximated at 650 megawatts. Although over 1,000 megawatts are produced in our area of operations, less than 500 megawatts are used here. The rest is exported south to Baghdad and the surrounding areas. As the generation of electricity increases, more of the electricity will be allocated for the communities in North-Central Iraq.

Local Iraqi residents and Task Force Danger Soldiers recently celebrated the first edition of *The Arabic Voice*, a newspaper printed for the citizens of Bayji. The newspaper, which published its first edition on July 1, was made a reality by cooperation between the Bayji City Council, Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery and a civil affairs team. The initial cost of the project was \$9,500 and continued production of the newspaper will rely on profits gained from the sales of news and advertising. In his first Editorial Column, Sa'ad Thamir Mohammed Al-Qaisi expressed his happiness for being able to finally bring a newspaper to his town of Bayji. He promised "to be neutral in all the information and articles and will never be afraid to tell the truth." The Bayji newspaper is printed in Mosul, since there is no local printing press, and has a circulation of approximately 3,000 copies per edition. Thamir and his staff of ten local Iraqi men, worked hard to accomplish their goal of publishing the first edition in time to commemorate "the day the government transference to the Iraqi people."

During a brief ceremony at Forward Operating Base Speicher on June 30, the 30th Iraqi National Guard Brigade unfurled its colors and received 66 brand-new vehicles from Coalition Forces. Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team handed over 31



Mitsubishi 2004 diesel four-wheel pickup trucks and 35 Czechoslovakian-made jeeps. The price tag for each pickup was \$23,000 and \$14,000 per jeep. Funding for the pickup trucks was supplied by the 1st Infantry Division with the Multi National Corps-Iraq covering the costs for the jeeps. About 150 of the 2,500 members of the 30th Iraqi National Guard Brigade were on hand to pick up the vehicles. Based in Tikrit, the 30th Iraqi National Guard Brigade includes three battalions which provide security for the region. Two pickup trucks can carry an 11-man squad with the option of mounting a machine gun in the bed of the vehicle. Colonel Randy Dragon, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, was present as the 30th Iraqi National Guard Brigade and its battalion colors unfurled.

Recently, the government of Salah Al Din Province, the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, and Task Force 9th Engineers organized and held a trade fair symposium in the downtown Tikrit Gymnasium. More than 80 contractors throughout the province, including several women, attended to learn more about the bidding and award process for upcoming projects in their region. The guest speaker was Basim Hiawy, P.E., M.E. head of the Project Management Office (PMO) for Health and Education Projects in and around Baghdad. The presentation covered the selection criteria for ranking qualified companies and discussed current and previous bid and award processes. Technical capability of the company, firm history, accomplished work, location of the company related to the project, price of the bid offer, and adherence to requested time schedule are all valuable factors when determining who is rewarded a contract. During the presentation, Mr. Hiawy explained in detail how each one these factors can be properly documented and illustrated the current contractor's project application. Also, he



reemphasized the importance of abiding by Iraqi construction standards and how to prepare and submit invoices. Mr. Hiawy shared with the contractors a concern for Iraq's environmental challenges and recommended several ways to preserve Iraq's environment from over production and over development. Many companies and offices showed up for the first of hopefully many trade fairs. The contractors' symposium was attended by engineers and contractors from all over the Salah Al Din province. In all, the symposium was a success for local contractors and the municipalities because it reestablished the importance of construction and infrastructure improvements in establishing a better and independent way of life for Iraq.

Conclusion

Task Force Danger continues to simultaneously conduct combat and stability operations that are leading to a secure environment and improved infrastructure. Our Soldiers are making a huge difference in Iraq. Our family members are behind us 100 percent. The price has been high, but the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger are resolute and steadfast. We will accomplish the mission. We have made great strides in partnership with the courageous people of Iraq towards their future of civil and military self-reliance. The American people should be very proud and confident in the outcome of the Operation Iraqi Freedom mission. Duty First!



For more information on the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger: www.1id.army.mil
