



# ***TASK FORCE DANGER***

## ***Press Release***

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**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, IRAQ.** The 1st Infantry Division Combat Team and Task Force Danger continue to conduct operations to eliminate anti-Iraqi forces and simultaneously conduct stability and support operations in order to set the conditions for Iraqi civil and military self-reliance. The following is a summary of progress over the past two weeks. Most of this significant story is not being told. 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.

### **Making a difference in the safety and security of Iraq**

Task Force Danger continues its pattern of success in North Central Iraq. Since the Transfer of Authority (TOA) on March 16, our soldiers have conducted 9,612 deliberate combat patrols to defeat the enemy and secure population centers in North Central Iraq. In keeping with a long-term vision of a safe and secure Iraq run by Iraqis, we have conducted 1,166 combat patrols and combined operations with Iraqi Security Forces. Big Red One Soldiers have conducted 193 deliberate raids and have detained 865 anti-Iraqi forces. These raids and combat patrols ensure that Task Force Danger maintains the initiative and destroys the enemy in his sanctuary. Our raids rely on intelligence and

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precision to attack targets while safeguarding the good people of Iraq, breaking the cycle of violence against innocent Iraqi citizens.

Task Force Danger is a multi-talented organization with soldiers of 194 different Military Occupational Specialties, each performing their wartime mission with distinction. A great example is the soldiers of the 264<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group (Badgers) from the Wisconsin, Ohio, North Dakota, and South Dakota Army National Guard; an integral part of our team. Since March 16, they have patrolled our main supply routes clearing 51,257 kilometers of the roads that our soldiers travel. The Badgers are critical in the discovery and defusing of improvised explosive devices (IED) before they can detonate. To date, Badger soldiers have discovered and defused 180 of these devices, saving the lives of our soldiers and the Iraqi people. The valiant soldiers of the Explosive Ordnance Detachments deserve much credit. In addition, the Badgers have done tremendous work to improve the force protection and quality of life for our soldiers in 28 forward operating bases.

While the engineers are finding and destroying IEDs, the artillerymen of the Division Artillery (Drumfire) are cleaning up the countryside of the countless tons of explosives and ammunition cached everywhere. To date, the soldiers of the Division Artillery (DIVARTY) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 33<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery have consolidated over 1.5 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition for destruction. This is in addition to DIVARTY's standard mission of providing accurate and lethal indirect fires to destroy the enemy. The DIVARTY's radars have acquired 326 enemy mortar and rocket attacks, and our artillery has returned fire against the indiscriminant fires of the anti-Iraqi forces.

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Our maneuver units continue to perform to a high standard. The troopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> United States Cavalry (Saber) provide flexibility to the division. They have done it all; from maintaining a secure environment in their own area of operations, to rapidly deploying to hot spots around the division battle space to reinforce the main effort. During the past two weeks, Task Force Saber established a Joint Operations Center (JOC), which includes representatives from the squadron, Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC), and Iraqi National Police (INP). The JOC will serve as an instrument to increase the security of the city of Ad Duluyiah and further train the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to maintain peace with less reliance on coalition forces. The JOC will focus on coordination of joint patrols, training ISF on common tasks and reporting, and serve as a single point of contact for these agencies to dialogue with coalition forces. Also, in conjunction with several local governments, the squadron initiated projects to develop local water sources in over 20 small towns. This initiative will assist in the development of communities which are oftentimes overlooked. The city council of Ad Duluyiah made significant progress in their development as a self-sustaining government at a recent council meeting as they proposed, researched, and decided on contractors for projects in their community. This level of teamwork is an encouraging step for the local population, one that included cooperation across tribal lines.

The soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) continue to successfully maintain a stable environment in the Salah ad Din Province. Their efforts in towns such as Samarra, Balad, Bayji, and Tikrit ensure that the heart of the division battle space remains secure. On May 2, soldiers from C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry rescued KBR contractor Thomas Hamill after his escape from captivity. C/2-108

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Infantry, part of Task Force 1-26 (Blue Spaders) found Mr. Hamill while conducting a security mission near Balad, Iraq. Mr. Hamill directed the soldiers back to the house in which he was being held and they detained two suspects involved in his kidnapping. The Dagger soldiers are very proud to have played a part in rescuing Thomas Hamill and reuniting him with his loved ones after his long ordeal.

The Soldiers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Duke) are fully reintegrated into operations in the western Diyala Province after their redeployment from An Najaf in late April. They continue to display agility as they rapidly shifted focus and resumed attacking anti-Iraqi forces in Diyala. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team continues to conduct simultaneous combat and stability and support operations in the western Diyala Province.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Old Hickory), our teammates from the North Carolina Army National Guard and nine additional states, is conducting operations against anti-Iraqi forces in the important towns of Balad Ruz, Jalula, and Khanaqin in the eastern half of the Diyala Province. They simultaneously continue their work with the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement to prevent weapons smugglers and unauthorized persons from illegally crossing the Iran, Iraq border.

The soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Warrior) continue their successful operations in the At Tamim and As Sulaymaniah Provinces. They continue to perform to a high standard combating anti-Iraqi forces and deftly managing the multi-cultural population of Kirkuk, the city for all Iraqi's. They have teamed with our Aviation

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Brigade and are putting their air assault skills to use in the mountainous terrain of Northeastern Iraq.

The pilots of 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade (Dragon), Task Force Danger's aviation brigade have flown 150 combat missions in support of ground troops, part of over 400 missions in support of the division. The pilots of the Dragon Brigade and cavalry squadron have amassed over 7,200 hours of flight time since the mission began. Their mission also facilitates the division's ability to command and control the division's vast battle space, an area roughly the size of the state of West Virginia.

Command and control of such a large area is an awesome task, one that would be impossible to accomplish without the efforts of high performing separate battalions and companies. Contributing daily to division combat team operations are the 101<sup>st</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion; the 121<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion; the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery; the 106<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion; the 38<sup>th</sup> Personnel Support Battalion; the 1<sup>st</sup> MP Company; and the division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company. All these great units contribute significantly to the success of Task Force Danger.

Providing logistical support to the 22,000 soldiers of Task Force Danger are the hard working soldiers of the Division Support Command (Durable) and the 167<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Group (Granite) with soldiers from the New Hampshire, Missouri, and Illinois Army National Guard, along with active duty soldiers from Fort Lewis. To date, they have executed 842 combat logistics patrols. These missions include the transport of 348 combat vehicles around the Division's area of operation, 353 missions to haul unit equipment, containerized housing units, and force protection materials. They have

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transported and issued 7.6 million gallons of fuel, purified 2.1 million gallons of water, and delivered 18.6 million pounds of food to division soldiers--an incredible performance.

The training and equipping of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) continues. Last week, the division hosted a very successful conference in Tikrit to lay out the road ahead for the various services of the ISF. At FOB Danger, we will host our first non-commissioned officer development course when the first ICDC Primary Leadership Development Course kicks-off in June. The division will soon begin consolidated ICDC basic training. The courageous and determined Iraqis who serve in the ISF are the future of Iraqi security, and represent a huge step towards Iraqi self-reliance.

Task Force Danger continues to facilitate the repair and upgrade of the regional infrastructure with our Engineer Brigade (Devastator) leading the way. To date, over \$1.3 Billion has been spent to keep oil and gas flowing, to ensure that the Iraqi people have sustained electricity and potable water, to upgrade schools and medical facilities, and to repair damaged or destroyed infrastructure. We are working hand in hand with the Coalition Provisional Authority and the newly established Project Management Office to ensure that the U.S. taxpayers' dollars are prudently spent and that the Iraqi people receive the maximum benefit from the projects we jointly select.

### **Taking the elements of violence off the streets**

In the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Danger battle space have resulted in an estimated nine enemy killed in action, an estimated eleven enemy wounded in action, and an additional 293 detained. Nine of the detained individuals

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were targets of coalition raids. One individual was on the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division High Value Target list. Twenty major enemy weapons and ammunition caches were discovered in the last two weeks. Significant ammunition seized from these caches included over 417 rockets; 3,600 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 89 rocket-propelled grenades; one shoulder fired rocket launcher; one anti-aircraft artillery piece; and over 2,500 small arms rounds. In the past two weeks, 62 improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of anti-Iraqi forces.

### **Improving the infrastructure in North Central Iraq**

Task Force Danger, with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and the Iraqi people, continue to strengthen the civil infrastructure in North Central Iraq. Several division level “ministries” have shown great progress towards that goal.

The Task Force Ministry of Justice made significant strides toward opening the Tikrit Branch Office of the Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC). The “ministry” acquired office space adjacent to the Office of Land Registration. The Iraqi staff rolled up their sleeves and cleaned the property themselves in an effort to start the work of opening the office and processing claims within the next ten days. Likewise, the Ministry of Justice coordinated with the local judiciary, law schools, and bar association to plan upcoming legal training for Iraqi attorneys and judges. This training, scheduled to begin May 26, will include instruction on International Law, the Transitional Administrative Law, and the Iraqi Civil Code. The Task Force Danger Ministry of Justice also continues its ongoing mission of investigating crimes against Coalition Forces for prosecution before the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI). This week, four new cases from our area of responsibility were brought to CJTF-7 for referral to the CCCI,

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including a case involving an Iraqi caught with large amounts of weapons and explosives.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Education continues to select sites for rehabilitation for vocational training centers in the cities of Tikrit and Samarra. Recently, Civil Affairs teams worked along side Iraqi local government planners and staff to select two sites in the Task Force Danger area of responsibility that will serve as training centers to train local Iraqis in English, computer literacy, and a number of vocational skills. Task Force Danger will soon select contractors to refurbish these sites, and along with the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, will assist with staffing and training.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Media continues towards the goal of assisting the Iraqi people to build and refurbish their crippled media infrastructure. This will give North Central Iraq the ability to produce local news stories on radio and TV, unheard of over the past 35 years. Construction efforts on the Tikrit Media Center are expected to begin this week. We are also improving the Baqubah Media Center with the help of the Iraqi Media Network and Harris Corporation. These media projects will provide Iraqis access to true and fair media, providing them with local, regional, and international information.

Task Force Danger de-conflicted the repair of the Tigris River Bridge in Tikrit with Iraqi Telecom. On April 28, the division Deputy G6 met with Mr. Omar Jasim, the local Iraqi Telecommunications Agency provider, and determined that two fiber optic communications cables over the bridge would have to be cut in order for the bridge to be repaired. 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division leaders introduced the Iraqi Telecom Engineers to the

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Task Force Danger Engineers to facilitate the coordination for backup communications on the east side of the Tigris River while the bridge work is ongoing. Mr. Omar and division representatives also coordinated to ensure that the cables are replaced in a timely manner.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's 1<sup>st</sup> Military Police Company escorted 27 detainees from the Abu Ghraib Detention Facility to Tikrit for release. The convoy mission to Abu Ghraib started early on May 5 and ended with arrival in Tikrit later that same day. All detainees received a reintegration briefing before being released to their respective civilian leadership and families. A similar mission on May 7 brought another 26 detainees back to their communities.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Finance recently met with Mr. Richard Hanna of Champions Engineering and Hassan Kasseba of RTI to discuss the terms of a treasury project. The project includes putting in one server and two workstation computers at each of the treasury headquarters in Balad, Tuz, Shurkaat, Beji, Sammara, Dujel, and Al Dur. The treasury headquarters in Tikrit will have one server and twelve workstations. Each treasury office will have internet and LAN access. In addition, treasury employees will be trained on Windows XP and Office XP. The Ministry of Finance is developing the curriculum for accounting, budget, and cash management. This project will employ numerous Iraqis to install all of the computer hardware. Champions Engineering will also provide Iraqi instructors for all of the computer and financial training. Currently, the Iraqi treasury system employees have little or no computer knowledge and little financial knowledge. This project will pave the way for a fully automated and modern financial system.

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Soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division attended a city council meeting and school opening in the town of Al-Yachi in the At Tamim Province. The mayor, city council members, and the assistant director of education were in attendance at the meeting. Topics of discussion included requirements within the schools, school supplies, and progress with current renovations. Following the meeting with the city council, all went to the school in Merada for a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the school.

### **Conclusion**

Task Force Danger continues to simultaneously conduct combat and stability and support 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 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Combat Team 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!