



# ***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 great strides in Iraq. We celebrated “Freedom Day” at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Danger in Tikrit on July 4<sup>th</sup> with hundreds of invited Iraqi guests, their families, and 309 recruits from our first Iraqi National Guard basic training class. The celebration concluded with a concert by the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Band and a spectacular fireworks display over the Tigris River. Freedom Day combined our annual Independence Day celebration with the recognition of Iraqi sovereignty. 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. As part of Operation New Dawn, and in conjunction with the transition to Iraqi sovereignty, 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 with this bi-weekly press release is to inform the public of the great work our service men and women are doing in Iraq. This is an effort to inform and garner support for our soldiers and their families.

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### **Iraqi National Guard Graduates First Basic Training Class**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division hosted a graduation ceremony on July 10<sup>th</sup> for the first class of Iraqi National Guard soldiers to complete basic training at the North-Central Iraqi National Guard (ING) Training Facility located at Forward Operating Base Danger on the outskirts of Tikrit. The guest speaker for the graduation was General Amer, the Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces. In the past, training was done “in house” by Task Force Danger battalions for associated ING battalions. The first 309 graduates completed the 20-day course taught by both United States and Iraqi drill instructors. The course is designed after United States Army Basic Training. ING recruits are instructed on wear of the uniform, military customs and courtesies, drill and ceremony, as well as basic rifle marksmanship. Instruction is based on Iraqi Army standards for marching, saluting, and even AK-47 weapons familiarization. Recruits are also taught first aid, personnel and vehicle search techniques, as well as Individual Movement Techniques. The soldiers are recruited by separate battalions throughout the Big Red One’s area of responsibility. Each battalion is allocated a certain number of slots for each class. In addition to the basic training, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division also conducts a Primary Leadership Development Course for future ING noncommissioned officers.

### **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 34 Anti-Iraqi Forces killed, an estimated 27 wounded, and an

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additional 135 detained. Significant ammunition seized from caches included more than 26 rockets; 19 mortar tubes; 1,179 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 113 small arms weapons and rocket propelled grenade launchers; 58 fuses; 13 land mines; 21 pounds of PE-4; and seven grenades. Major equipment found included 2 SA-7 surface to air missiles, 12 Sagger missiles, 15 1,000lbs bombs, and one .50 Cal Machine Gun. Within the Division area of responsibility, 76 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 the Safety and Security of Iraq**

In the last two weeks, the Dagger Brigade remained committed to a partnership with the Interim Iraqi Government (IIG). Arrayed over 200 miles from north to south, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT) helped local governments open another chapter in Iraq's history during Transfer of Sovereignty ceremonies on 28 June. In the north, Deputy Governor Abdullah and LTC Kyle McClelland, the Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery Commander, awarded several ING Soldiers newly minted medals for heroism and valor. On the southern end of the sector, Task Force 2-108 Infantry opened a newly renovated city council building in Ad Dujayl. These are a small sampling of the efforts by all Big Red One and Dagger BCT soldiers. Partnered with the Salah Ad Din province, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT continues to help fulfill the promise of democracy and freedom -- until the mission is complete.

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In the past two weeks, The Warrior Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) conducted several successful raids resulting in the capture of multiple Anti-Iraqi Force leaders. In Kirkuk, Task Force 1-21 Infantry and Task Force 1-27 Infantry conducted Operation Gimlet Silent Sniper, which resulted in the detention of multiple influential Anti-Iraqi Force cell leaders. Additionally, the Wolfhounds prevented several RPG ambushes along the routes in their area of operations. Task Force 1-14 Infantry once again showed its incredible flexibility and deployed to An Najaf for a second time, completing a relief in place in Joint Operations Area's Saddle and Spur and undertaking combat operations as part of Task Force Dragon.

Task Force Dragon (DIVARTY) and Task Force 1-14 Infantry, now relocated to An Najaf, were notified on July 6<sup>th</sup> that a group of individuals unlawfully occupied the nearby city of Diwaniyah's theater. Multiple sources of intelligence indicated a group of Sadr militiamen was illegally occupying the building and had established it as a base for clandestine operations. The provincial governor met with a representative from the group and ordered them to leave the building by midnight on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The governor emphasized that the city of Diwaniyah would not tolerate unlawful behavior and the local Iraqi National Guard (ING) was deployed shortly after the deadline to enforce the order. ING forces secured and cleared the building ensuring the group complied with the order. This peaceful resolution was a direct result of close coordination between Task Force Dragon and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) that led to a successful mission by Iraq's ever improving Security Forces.

During the last two weeks, the Dukes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team have refocused their efforts along Blue Babe Highway in Baqubah by actively engaging

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Improvised Explosive Device cells. Members of Task Force 82 Engineers along with Fox Troop, 1-4 Cavalry, ran many successful operations to defeat the insurgents. These past two weeks have been successful in finding caches of weapons and munitions. One cache found was in Task Force 82 Engineer's area and consisted of a 15-bunker complex. The biggest weapon found was a SA-14 surface to air missile and launcher. They were both destroyed in place. The task force is planning a controlled detonation of over 800 tons of munitions this week. There was also a large cache of munitions found in the area vicinity of Hashmiyah. It consisted of six smaller sites, and contained over 35x152 millimeter high explosive rounds, 3x120 millimeter mortar rounds, 33x82 millimeter mortar rounds, 60x60 millimeter mortar rounds, 29 Rocket Propelled Grenades, and over 20,000 14.5 millimeter rounds. Soldiers from Task Force 2-63 Armor, along with Al Riqqah town leaders, residents, and schoolteachers held a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 14<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the completion of the new primary school. The renovations, completed by local contractors and managed by the task force, included installing air-conditioning and plumbing as well as new desks and chairs. The task force is currently working on additional projects to build water pipe lines and health care facilities, increase employment and run electric lines, and various other public safety projects. Task Force 2-2 Infantry is conducting on-going training for the Iraqi National Guard. Training includes a 15-day period that covers Individual Movement Techniques, learning hand and arm signals, first aid classes, and leadership skills. The task force is employing a train-the-trainer technique so that ING soldiers will be able to teach follow-on classes themselves. The 201<sup>st</sup> Logistical Task Force continues to support combat and logistic patrols between Forward Operating Bases Warhorse,

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Scunnion, Gabe, and Normandy. They also continue to improve the infrastructure on Warhorse by having local contractors laying and sealing blacktop on the roads. This week, local contractors also refurbished a building on Warhorse which now functions as a multi-purpose education classroom. It is intended for all units to hold college-level classes, conferences, and meetings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT continues to conduct joint combat patrols with the Iraqi Security Forces in the Western Diyala Province.

In the last two weeks, the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Dragons have flown over 950 hours in their Apache and Blackhawk helicopters. The Gunfighters of 1-1 Aviation were busy supporting the brigade combat teams flying reconnaissance on the Iraqi oil pipeline, oil pumps, Internally Displaced Personnel (IDP) camps, and providing a Quick Reaction Force to Task Force Dragon while providing security for multiple Forward Operating Bases. The Gunfighters recently added six Apaches to their fleet that will assist them with their operational readiness rate and mission flexibility. Their maintenance company processed two aircraft through the two-week long inspection and rebuilding process known as phase maintenance. The Eagles of 2-1 Aviation continue their grueling pace, flying over 540 hours in support of the command group. They fly the CG, ADCS, and ADCM on almost daily missions while also transporting brigade commanders and divisional personnel around the division area of operations. Their maintenance record has been phenomenal, completing four UH-60 phases. The Eagles also had the honor and responsibility of flying the remains of six fallen Big Red One Soldiers on Hero missions. The Typhoons of the 601<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion have supported the brigade by completing over 2,032 work orders to date. They have repaired 318 Non-Mission Capable vehicles and completed 45 services. They support 1-4 Cavalry by

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executing near daily combat logistics patrols to FOB McKenzie to deliver Class I, III, IX, mail, and ice.

### **Supporting our Soldiers**

The DISCOM continues to provide superb support to the Division Combat Team throughout AO Danger and in Multi National Division-Central South in support of Task Force Dragon in An Najaf. Highlights of this support include producing and distributing over 1.5 million gallons of water and driving over 500,000 miles in support of division operations. The DISCOM continues its critical task of equipping the Iraqi National Guard (ING) as they take on more responsibility for the security mission of Iraq. To date, the DISCOM has received, prepared, and issued over 2,900 weapons, 168 vehicles, 451 radios, uniforms and equipment for over 7,200 soldiers, and 2.5 million rounds of ammunition to the ING. This will go a long way in giving the ING the confidence to perform its mission.

Task Force Sabre and 1-4 Cavalry announced the success of a four-month project to convert one of the former regimes old ammo bunkers to the Fiddler's Green Morale, Welfare, and Recreational (MWR) facility. The project was constructed by Quarter Horse soldiers working in partnership with local Iraqi workers. The facility comes complete with a stage, a bar stocked to the brim with a variety of non-alcoholic beverages, four pool tables, an internet café sporting 20 computers and 8 phones, a play station game room, and movie theater. Though July 12<sup>th</sup> marked Fiddler's Green official opening, it's hardly the first time it was utilized for a Squadron function. Fiddlers Green earned its official christening when a comedian and DW3, a top 40's band, flew

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all the way from Los Angeles, CA on short notice, braving small arms and mortar attacks to help us celebrate the 4th of July. Our soldiers scrambled to build a stage and convert the partially completed facility into a fully wired and functioning auditorium with less than 24 hours notice. With grace, they pulled it off and the LA crew played to a packed crowd of soldiers enjoying an afternoon off, while the officers of Quarter Horse pulled their duties on the perimeter guard towers and served chow in a show of appreciation for the men and women that truly run the Squadron. A few days later, Fiddler's Green hosted a Squadron awards ceremony. Major General John R.S. Batiste, Commanding General of the 1st Infantry Division and Lieutenant Colonel James H. Chevallier, Task Force Sabre Commander, presented Purple Heart's to soldiers recently wounded in action and Air Medals to several of our aviators who have enjoyed great success in the interception of insurgents attempting to fire rockets on Task Force Danger Forward Operating Bases. With the hard work of the Quarter Horse soldiers and contractors, Fiddler's Green is now a fully functioning facility, but lacks the touch of home required to create a truly relaxing atmosphere. Currently, plans are in the works to start a donation drive targeted at companies that make college banners, neon, and Christmas lights as well as antique and poster shops for highway 69 artifacts to give it an old America feel. With a little help, we'll give our soldiers the comforts of home needed to maintain a fighting edge.

### **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

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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.

During the past two weeks, the Old Hickory 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team witnessed the beginnings of the democratic process with two recent peaceful protests. During the earlier regime, the protesters would have been arrested, but these people were able to discuss their issues in peace and without repercussions by their town leadership. 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team is seeing local governments accept more responsibilities for their constituents. The Iraqi Security Forces are accepting a greater role in their country's destiny and all have seen a decline in violence throughout the 30<sup>th</sup> BCT area of operations. Other signs of positive growth include Iraqi citizens turning in weapons in Tuz, and a local sheik turning in two of his tribesman who were wanted for anti-coalition activities.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Director of Antiquities, Mr. Haffid Hussein, returned to the First Century Monastery on Forward Operating Base Danger to help direct clean-up efforts. The last time Mr. Hussein was at the site was in 1998 when he was the lead architect on a project to restore the façade of the Christian monastery to prevent erosion of what remains of the ancient holy site. Directing the efforts of ten Iraqis, he smiled and appeared to be feeling a sense of pride as the workers removed dirt and debris from the site that had settled there over the last few years.

### **201<sup>st</sup> ING Battalion Soldiers Receive Medals for Valor and Sacrifice**

An Iraqi National Guard awards ceremony was held on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Summerall on July 8<sup>th</sup> to recognize soldiers that showed valor and sacrifices

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above and beyond the call of duty. Soldiers of Charlie Company, 201<sup>st</sup> ING Battalion were awarded one ING Medal for Valor and nine Medals for Sacrifices for actions during a vehicle borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack on June 1<sup>st</sup> at FOB Summerall. The attack resulted in eleven Iraqi's killed and 30 wounded in action. The heroic actions of these ING soldiers thwarted the possible death or serious injury to an additional 50 people.

### **Medics Provide Essential Training to Iraqi National Guard Soldiers**

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, medics from the Charlie Company, 225<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion (FSB), 874<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team, and the Task Force 1-21 Infantry Medical Platoon conducted a first aid training course for the Iraqi National Guard (ING) soldiers in the city of Kirkuk. Prior to the first aid training, it was discovered that 20 of the 24 soldiers that were "medics" in the ING Medical Platoon had little to no medical experience. The 1-21 Infantry Medical Platoon coordinated and developed the first class, "Basic First Aid and IV Transfusion," in both English and Arabic languages. Twenty-two ING soldiers participated in the first aid training. The hands-on portion was broken down into groups of four in which the Army medics got an opportunity to teach the ING soldiers how to stop a hemorrhage, how to bandage wounds, and how to splint a suspected fracture on a casualty. In the last hour of training, the ING soldiers were provided the opportunity to give one another intravenous transfusions (IV). All of the soldiers were eager and excited about the opportunity to conduct this portion of the hands on training. The benefit of teaching the class was enormous as expert medics taught them skills, which can potentially save lives. First aid classes will continue to be conducted with

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increasingly more advanced training in order to enhance the ING soldiers' medical skills. The goal is to make the ING medics self-sufficient.

### **New Vehicles for the Diyala Border Police**

The first iteration of border police vehicles were issued to the Diyala Border Police on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Khaliel, commander of the Southern Region in Diyala Province, came to Forward Operating Base Caldwell to receive the vehicles. Supply personnel from Alpha Company, Task Force 150 Armor and the Border Police conducted the necessary inventories and then signed for the new vehicles. The new vehicles came with a few extras -- radios, blue lights, sirens, first aid kits, gas and water cans, as well as fire extinguishers. They were also given new equipment to assist them in their operations. Portable generators, advance first aid kits, metal detecting wands, and spotlights were also a portion of the new equipment purchased for the border police. The delivery of this equipment marks the beginning of a major effort to upgrade the equipment-on-hand and readiness posture of the Border Police. The elimination in equipment shortages will allow the Border Police to better prevent illegal entry of immigrants, smugglers, and terrorists along the Iran-Iraq border. New vehicles will enhance their interdiction efforts as well as response time to potential incidents. Lastly, but every bit as important, the delivery of this equipment serves as a reminder to the Iraqi people that the United States is committed to a safe, secure, and sovereign Iraq.

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### **Providing Equal Distribution of Electricity for all Iraqi's**

Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Baghdad received nearly 24 hours of electric service, while the rest of the country received less than 6 hours of electric service each day. In many instances, electrical power was used as a political tool, and therefore, the regime withheld power from residents who did not agree with their policies. Currently, all residents of Iraq are allocated enough electrical power to receive equal hours of service regardless of where they live or their political views. Coordination must be made throughout Iraq by the Ministry of Electricity, divisions of Electric Generation, Electric Transmission and Electric Distribution to provide equal electricity distribution. Since liberation, the demand for electricity in Iraq has increased substantially. Iraqi's are now buying air conditioners, televisions, and many other products that use electricity. The new Taza Power Plant will be a welcome addition when it is completed this fall. The new power plant will generate over 300 megawatts of electricity. This additional generation will be able to supply electricity to the equivalent of over 300,000 homes. The power plant will be composed of two gas turbines, one 65 megawatts and one 260 megawatts. The foundations for both gas turbines are now complete and mechanic construction is underway.

### **Providing Jobs and a Much Needed Boost to the Local Economy**

Throughout the 1st Infantry Division's Area of Operation, hundreds of projects are in various stages of construction funded by an alphabet soup of programs such as AIRP, DFI, R3P, and LGF. Since Task Force Danger's arrival in Iraq, more than 300 local projects have been started and over 5,000 people put back to work. This is the grass

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roots level of Iraqi reconstruction -- local contractors hiring local workers to work on local projects ranging from basic infrastructure to education.

On one day in the past two weeks over \$1 million in contracts were paid out by the Project and Contracting Office in Tikrit. Thirty-five local Iraqi contractors were paid various amounts of money toward projects they were working on throughout the province. The projects were local projects funded under the Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program (AIRP) and included completions on projects mostly around Tikrit.

### **Medical Assistance Visits Conducted in the Kirkuk Province**

Soldiers from Charlie Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery conducted medical assistance visits to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in the Kirkuk Province on July 6<sup>th</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup>. The assistance visits were conducted with local government health officials and doctors. Multi-National Force soldiers assisted the local health officials. Nearly 800 patients were seen and more than 350 children received vaccinations. More than 200 balanced meals were also handed out on the third day as an example of a nutritious meal from all of the essential food groups. The medical assistance visits took place at three locations in the Sargaron area to address health problems in the IDP camps around Sargaron, support local health officials, and to increase the number of children with vaccinations. It also let the Iraqi people have a positive interaction with the Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi Police in order to increase trust and legitimacy.

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### **Iraqi's Benefit from Improvements to Water Services**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's Engineer Brigade and 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT recently inspected the water treatment plant located in Al Auja, a small village just south of Tikrit.

The treatment plant provides water to the villages of Auja and Wynot, which includes over 2,000 families. Several improvements were recently made to the facility in order to improve the operations. The facilities laboratory was greatly improved, allowing for more water quality testing to be performed. The facility's chlorination system was maintained as well as its various pumps and compressors. This regular maintenance will help to make the facility more efficient and also extend the life cycle of the equipment. The project is expected to be completed within the next two weeks. Meanwhile, residents of Auja and Wynot are already enjoying the benefits of the plants improvements.

Surface water in Iraq is not plentiful, so finding enough water to grow crops can be a challenge. The Division Engineers continue to take the lead in building a better Iraq. Luckily for the people around the city of Ad Dwar, their irrigation facility will soon be 100 percent operational again. The irrigation plant in Ad Dwar will pump water through 20 kilometers of local canals. A local farmer was quoted saying, "This plant will greatly increase the quality of crops that we will grow." The plant will feed the canals by pumping the water to the top of a hill where the canals start, and using gravity to take it from there. The contractors as well as the local people are optimistic about the operation of the facility. With the plant being so close to completion, an employee insisted on turning on the pump to show us the success of their work. As the water

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began to flow the workers and onlookers smiled and clapped at the prospect of a fully operational plant.

Contractors broke ground on a new water treatment facility near the village of Mukashefia on July 6<sup>th</sup>. This is great news for the 100 Iraqi families that count on it for their supply of fresh water. A small contracting crew was on sight digging the trenches for the footings that will soon support the main structure. The foreman said that the plant will be much more efficient than the old one. The “old plant”, not more than 20 feet away, will continue to operate. This project should move quickly and get water in the hands of the local Iraqis.

### **Task Force Aides Local Medical School, Hospital**

Task Force Danger soldiers delivered medical supplies, textbooks, and journals to the Tikrit Hospital and Tikrit University Medical School on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's Task Force 1-18 Infantry and the 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion coordinated and carried out the delivery. The University of Tennessee Medical School collected 150 boxes of textbooks from medical students in the United States and the Elsevier Publishing Company provided the postage from the U.S. This latest delivery boosted the number of books in the medical school's library to more than 50,000. When the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division arrived in Iraq and started the rebuilding process, the university used photocopied texts for teaching medical students and nurses.

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### **Communications Center Opens in Rashad**

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Rashad hosted the grand opening of their communication center. The communication center will provide telephone service for several thousand people in the district. The event was attended by three Kirkuk Provincial Council Representatives (Sheik Wasfi, Sheik Abdullah, and Muhammad), several city council members, the mayor (Sheik Louis), and LTC Scott Leith, Task Force 1-27 Infantry Commander. The project was funded by Coalition Forces at a cost of \$37,000 and local contractors completed all of the work. The communication center is an important step in building infrastructure for the community that will assist with long term economic and job opportunities.

### **TF Danger, Tikrit University Medical School plan for partnership with Harvard**

Officials from Task Force Danger and the Tikrit University Medical School met July 7<sup>th</sup> to formalize plans for a new partnership with Harvard Medical School. The Tikrit University College of Medicine will submit a 200-page report about the school's structure and organization to Harvard, who will then analyze the report and prepare a five-year plan. The Harvard plan will provide for a free exchange of much-needed knowledge. Harvard has similar programs in place at 19 other universities worldwide, and the plan is expected to be similar to those other programs. Iraqi faculty and staff could be studying in the U.S. in September as part of a faculty-staff exchange program. The plan should have Harvard faculty and staff in Iraq as soon as the State Department lifts the ban on U.S. citizen travel to Iraq. The two schools already share a common theme in their teaching methods. The Tikrit University Medical School adopted

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problem-based learning years ago, and that method of learning is a hallmark of Harvard. Students are placed in learning situations from the day they enter the schools. They are not expected to simply study and regurgitate facts; they are expected to dig into a problem and find the solution by using all the resources available to them at the schools. The resources at Tikrit University Medical School should improve with the program. This is a win-win situation for the people of Iraq.

### **Youth Summer Hire Program in full Swing at Bayji Refinery**

Recently, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Engineer Brigade initiated a neighborhood clean up program in the Bayji Oil Refinery housing area. The goal of the program is to instill pride in the refinery housing, increase employment, and clean up after a year of neglect. The plan is to hire young men from the refinery families for three months during the summer school break. Using Commander's Emergency Relief Funds (CERP), the Engineer Brigade hired 150 workers at \$3 per day and 25 supervisors at \$5 per day. They also provided rakes, shovels, trash bags and other equipment to perform the work. Recently, the refinery conducted the first payday, and as expected, it was a big success. The program will continue through August when most of the youth will begin the fall school semester.

### **Ministry of Justice Critical in Early Days of Sovereignty**

The 1st Infantry Division Ministry of Justice continues to support the Iraqi legal system. The Ministry's Courthouse Upgrade program made great strides recently with the delivery of over 40 computer systems and related equipment to courthouses

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throughout the Salah Ad Din and Diyala Provinces. The automation of court business will significantly improve the efficient operation of the courts, resulting in greater access to justice for all Iraqis. At the same time, the 2d Brigade Combat Team began a top-to-bottom review of the Salah Ad Din judicial system to assist local judges in identifying critical needs in the court system – to include renovations or additions to existing structures, upgrades to security systems, purchase of automation items and/or supplies, and vehicle requirements. The review also brings together US Army Judge Advocates and local jurists in an environment to educate each other about foreign legal systems. The Ministry of Justice will also use the opportunity to continue the dialogue concerning search authorizations issued by Iraqi courts for coalition force and Iraqi Security Force joint operations. The division will place an Iraqi Investigative Judge within the Joint Coordination Cells (JCC) to facilitate access to judges to obtain search authorizations and the hire Iraqi attorneys as liaisons between the Iraqi courts and the coalition.

Joint Service Law Enforcement Team (JSLET) attorneys and paralegals are significantly driving the prosecution of Iraqi criminal elements. In the past two weeks, Task Force Danger JSLETs secured testimony and attendance of witnesses from each brigade and the 1-4 Cavalry for current cases before the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI). Court representatives commented on the crucial nature of the testimony to the prosecution's cases. The efforts of the Task Force Danger JSLETs before the CCCI highlight the importance of swift but fair criminal justice in establishing the rule of law in Iraq.

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Finally, the Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC) office in Tikrit has taken in almost 500 claims from local landowners deprived of their property under the former regime, or since the fall of the regime as the result of individual efforts to rectify past perceived injustices. Under the system, claims are processed and forwarded to a Regional Commission, responsible for adjudicating and paying the claims. With the assistance of Task Force Danger Judge Advocates, prominent local attorneys selected a slate of nominees to staff the Regional Commission. Selection of the Regional Commission staff members is a final step in achieving full and independent operation of the IPCC and the adjudication and payment of claims, which will go far in easing the ethnic tensions that currently exist within North-Central 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 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and Task Force Danger are resolute and steadfast. The transfer of sovereignty to Iraq means new challenges ahead for our soldiers. Yet even as we embark on Operation New Dawn and transition from offensive operations to supporting our Iraqi partners, we have no doubt in our minds that 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!

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***For more information on the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger: [www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil)***

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