



TASK FORCE DANGER ***Press Release***

Headquarters, 1st Infantry Division
Tikrit, Iraq (FOB Danger)
APO AE 09392
Civilian: 703-621-3944
E-mail: FirstID.PAO@us.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 21, 2004

Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq. The 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger continue to make a big difference in Iraq. 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.

ICDC Soldiers Recognized for Heroism, Valor and Service

Sheiks and various civil leaders recently assembled at the headquarters of the 205th ICDC Battalion, partnered with Task Force 2-2 Infantry near Muqdadiyah, to show their unequivocal support for members of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. Medals were presented to ICDC soldiers for sacrifice and valor, as well as to family members of four ICDC soldiers killed in action. The 205th ICDC Battalion Commander began the ceremony with a welcome. Leaders from the local community then handed off the



microphone one by one, from the Provincial Governor to TF Danger leadership. Speeches talked about Iraqi heroism, service, and commitment. The seven ICDC soldiers being recognized all wore the official ICDC uniform and were incredibly proud to receive awards for their acts of valor and unparalleled commitment to a free Iraq. As their names were called, each one snapped to attention and marched confidently towards the Provincial Governor who was presenting the awards. The ICDC medals were pinned on the Soldiers' chests and local leaders shook their hands. Although the Soldiers could hide their nervousness with military professionalism and confidence, they could do little to hide their pride and dedication. As the ICDC Soldiers were recognized for being wounded in action, the crowd looked on with admiration. Sitting in places of honor at the front of the ceremony were the family members of those ICDC killed in a recent ambush. These great Iraqi's gave their full measure for their country and their loss was not in vain. The ICDC Battalion Commander stated, "when their country needed them most, they responded to the call." After the ceremony ended, local leaders sought out those wearing the distinctive red and black medals. Many hugged the family members of the deceased while others shook the hands of those wounded for a job very well done.

Making a difference in the safety and security of Iraq.

Task Force Danger continues to prepare for the June 30th transfer of sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government. Over the past two weeks, we have redoubled our efforts, which will ultimately lead to Iraqi self-sufficiency.



The 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry has removed over 4,000 assorted rounds of captured enemy ammunition (CEA) over the past two weeks. Alpha Troop, near Ad Duluyiah and Bichegan, conducted two cordon and knock operations. The first was in Bichegan and resulted in the detainment of eight members of an enemy cell responsible for attacks on Forward Operating Bases (FOB) Paliwoda and Mackenzie. Additionally, there were nearly two hundred assorted munitions seized during this operation. Continued cooperation with local Iraqi officials has allowed the squadron to begin the refurbishment of several water treatment facilities and preparations for the transfer of FOB Wilson to a local Iraqi control. Charlie Troop continues to secure a vast area east of Tikrit, Bravo Troop is attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and the air troops continue to fly armed reconnaissance missions for the squadron and the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team continues an aggressive reconnaissance and surveillance plan that focuses on patrolling and observation of specific areas in order to prevent improvised explosive device (IED) emplacement, protect Iraqi oil and power infrastructure, and stop indirect fire attacks on our bases. Supply route and infrastructure security missions continue to be a priority, all conducted in partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces. Recently, the brigade opened an Iraqi Property Claims Commission Office in Tikrit, established an employment office in Tikrit, and hosted a contractor's symposium to pave the way for significant Project Management Office contracts in the future.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team continues to engage local leaders to support the legitimate Iraqi government. The brigade is working to bolster the Iraqi Security Forces



and increase the number of joint patrols in its area of operations. Task Force 1-6 recently completed a very successful combat operation in the city of Buhriz, south of Baqubah, to destroy an enemy cell. Since 20 June, the city is calm, under the control of the Iraqi police. The brigade continues to conduct combat and stability operations in the regions of Baqubah, Khalis, Mansuriyah, Muqdadiyah, and Bani Sa'ad.

The 30th Brigade Combat Team continues to develop and complete projects to improve the quality of life for Iraqis and facilitate a smooth transfer of authority to the Iraqi Civil-Military Authorities. The brigade has approved 213 projects with \$2,854,539 allocated. They have successfully completed 100 projects to date for a total of \$898,610. Examples of these projects include repairs to the main road in Tursaq-Qazania, building of a primary school in Al Akhlaq, and improving the sanitation facilities in the Makut Mosque in Balad Ruz. The brigade continues to train and equip the Iraqi Border Patrol and has worked to identify and respond to the influx of Kurdish refugees.

Over the past two weeks, the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division continued simultaneous combat and support operations in the At Tamim and Al Sulaymaniyah Provinces. Task Force 1-21 conducted a series of simultaneous raids throughout Kirkuk to disrupt a group loyal to Al Sadr, in an effort to prevent continued attacks on coalition and Iraqi Security Forces. Task Force 1-14 completed a tactical movement to An Najaf and began a detailed relief in place with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Task Force 1-27 continued operations in the area of Hawija. The brigade's initiative in the Kirkuk Business Center serves as a model for employment initiatives throughout the division's area of operations.



Last week, 4th Brigade supported the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division with Apache air weapons teams to observe critical areas of the oil infrastructure and performed pipeline reconnaissance missions in North-Central Iraq. 1-1 Aviation also executed reconnaissance of refugee camps in the Kirkuk region. 2-1 Aviation supported battlefield circulation of the command group, transportation of important visitors, and movement of Task Force Danger Soldiers going on R&R. The brigade continues to execute safe operations with the best maintained helicopters in the theater.

The Division Artillery (DIVARTY) headquarters continues to show its multi-dimensional fighting capabilities with a mission to provide the command and control for Task Force Dragon in An Najaf, designed to relieve the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. 1-33 Field Artillery steadily continues to remove captured enemy ammunition by completing operations at FOB O’Ryan, which included 78 caches and 2.5 million pounds of ammunition. Their work has pushed the Task Force Danger total for removed or destroyed captured enemy ammunition to over 7.5 million pounds. In addition, the division’s counterfire radars continue to operate above the Army standard despite the harsh conditions.

The Division Engineer Brigade (DIVENG) and the 264th Engineer Group continue to set new standards in construction, force protection, and ministerial work to improve Iraqi infrastructure and quality of life. Efforts to begin projects totally over \$60 million of advanced supplemental money have paved the way for the future \$1.66 billion Project Management Office (PMO) effort in the division’s area of operations. A Task Force Danger PMO Coordination Office is now established in Tikrit with Iraqi engineers and



lawyers, all prepared to pitch in and complete statements of work and contracts for projects that are important to Iraqi's. The restoration of the Tikrit Highway Bridge nears completion. Task Force Trailblazer cleared 15,212 kilometers of main supply routes. They also interdicted a convoy full of smuggled artillery shells and future IEDs, which led to larger operations across the division.

The dedicated Soldiers of the Division Support Command (DISCOM) and 167th Corps Support Group have continued to provide world-class support throughout the Task Force Danger area of operations. The Property Book Office has received more than 150 vehicles to issue to the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. The DISCOM also delivered a significant amount of vital ammunition, weapons and equipment to ICDC forces. These efforts will help to make the ICDC a well-equipped, formidable force in North-Central Iraq. Task Force Danger is supported and maintained by the best logisticians ever assembled.

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 33 anti-Iraqi forces killed in action, an estimated ten wounded in action, and an additional 83 detained. Forty-one major enemy weapons and ammunition caches were discovered. Significant ammunition seized from these caches included more than 163 rockets; 21 mortar tubes; 3,120 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 480 small arms weapons and rocket propelled grenade launchers; 118 fuses; 410 anti-tank mines; 483 anti-personnel mines; more than 600 pounds of PE-4; 60 sticks of TNT; 171 grenades and more than 3,500 rounds of small arms ammunition.



Major equipment found included five SA-7 surface to air missile, and one SPG-9 rocket system with 5 missiles. Seventy-two improvised explosive devises 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.

Citizens of Altun Kupri get public transportation

The City Council of Altun Kupri identified the need for improvements to the city transportation system. Many people in the community travel to Kirkuk to work and lacked a reliable and economical means with which to travel to their jobs. With the help of Commanders Emergency Relief Program (CERP) funds, Soldiers from C Battery, 2-11 Field Artillery were able to purchase a 44-passenger bus, complete with air-conditioning, PA system, and luggage storage. This bus will be a multi-purpose vehicle used by the entire community and provide transportation for workers, children, sports teams, and local law enforcement agencies. With coordination through the local city council, groups can also reserve the bus for special events or field trips.



Refugee camps receive field sanitation kits

Soldiers from C Battery, 2-11 Field Artillery delivered four Field Sanitation Kits to refugee camps near the Dibis and Kirkuk areas. A Field Sanitation Kit consists of a water tank, a water tank stand, and two wooden field latrines with concrete bases. The project was paid for with CERP funds. Each field latrine costs \$1,000. Poor standards of sanitation and lack of water in the camps are causing health risks and these kits will go along way towards reducing these risks.

Local Imam looks forward towards a better Iraq; issues FATWA

Task Force 2-63 Armor conducted a visit with Taha Aziz, a local Imam, at the Khalis Municipality building on June 10. Taha is a Sunni Imam from the town of Hadid. During the meeting, Taha indicated that he now respected and appreciated the noticeable difference in which Task Force 2-63 is conducting operations. He feels like coalition forces are making an effort to dialogue with the local people and he supports that. He understands that dialogue is the way forward and he wants to see a better Iraq. Taha stated that he has decided that he wants to work together with coalition forces from this point forward. He stressed that he was looking forward to working with us, but it would take time and action on the part of the coalition. He finished by informing Task Force 2-63 that he was issuing a Fatwa as a first step towards working with the coalition forces. His message will be to ask his followers not to attack Muslims that work honestly with the American Forces.



Police Leadership Selection Board meets in Kirkuk

Task Force 1-21 Infantry participated in a Governorate Police Leadership Selection Board at the Kirkuk Police Academy on June 8. The board was convened to select the leadership for the new Governate Police Force and consisted of Police leadership, International Police Advisors, and coalition forces. The commander of the new Government Building Security Force, as well as two deputies, was selected from the board.

Juvenile Detention Facility opens in At Tamim

Governor Mustafa and other Kirkuk leaders joined the police leadership in opening a new Juvenile Detention Facility on June 9. The building was refurbished by the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Save the Children. Mr. Mostafa I. Mohammed of Save the Children, and CPT Fahmai, the police officer responsible for juvenile detention, escorted the governor through the facility. Thirteen occupants were transferred to this new facility after opening for only twenty-four hours.

Trash and Rubble collection starts in Bani Saad

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team began the first day of trash and rubble collection at Bani Saad in the Diyala Province on June 7. Seven hundred and fifty local workers signed up and more are anticipated in the near future. Since June 1, soldiers have worked with the Ashnona Company, a trash and rubble subcontractor, to establish a project site headquarters and first aid station. In addition to providing work, Ashnona is



providing breakfast and lunch for the workers and personal protective equipment--safety shoes, safety hats, and gloves.

Ground Breaking Ceremony marks start of irrigation project

Soldiers of Task Force 1-77 Armor participated in a groundbreaking ceremony on June 8 at Aruashed, just northwest of the Balad City Center. The project, known as Nissan Seven, is a \$49,650 irrigation project that will provide crop water to approximately eighty farms in the area. This project will help over 800 Iraqi farmers and create growth opportunities in the area. It will help to turn the desert environment into a thriving part of the local economy. The area of Aruashed is a former Ba'athist area and needs significant assistance with its existing infrastructure. Many of the people there are still unsure of the future of Iraq. This project will not only help the people, but it will also help to show the people that the coalition is here to help Iraq. It also will help to develop a bond between the people of Aruashed and American forces in the area.

Iraqi leadership class graduates; training center dedicated

Members of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger, local dignitaries, and other guests were on hand June 10 for an Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Primary Leadership Development Course graduation ceremony. The class was the first to graduate from the newly opened North-Central ICDC Regional Training Center at Forward Operating Base Danger. After the graduation, the new training facility was officially dedicated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new facility will also host basic training for ICDC Soldiers.



Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, commander of the 1st ID and Task Force Danger, and Brig. Gen. Abdul Kadar, deputy chief of staff of the ICDC, were guest speakers at the event. During his remarks, MG Batiste congratulated the graduates and thanked them for their service. Twenty-four of the 231 graduates were recognized as Honor Graduates, and were presented certificates. The coursework consisted of physical training, leadership classes, basic Soldiering skills, drill and ceremony, and human rights training.

Engineer Group and Iraqi EOD team remove captured ammunition

The 264th Engineer Group and an Iraqi Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team recently started removing captured enemy ammunition (CEA) from FOB Speicher. Abdullah Jaafar Mustafa, formerly of the Iraqi Air Force, formed the Iraqi EOD team. This project is a joint effort with coalition forces and Iraqi nationals working together to remove a significant hazard to Iraqi civilians and coalition forces. There is an estimated 150 metric tons of CEA on FOB Speicher. The purpose of this project is to remove the captured Iraqi ordnance that is cached on the base. The ordnance poses a significant threat to both coalition forces and local Iraqis who live and work on and near the base. This joint effort is the first step in using local Iraqis to assist in the collection and movement of cached ammunition to designated holding areas for destruction.

First Joint Quarterly Training Brief held with the 30th ICDC Brigade

The first joint Quarterly Training Brief (QTB) with the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps' 30th Brigade and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team was held on June 13 at FOB Dagger. Maj.



Gen. John R.S. Batiste, 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger Commander, received the brief from the 30th Brigade Commander, Brig. Gen. Ahmed, his three Battalion Commanders and EOD Company Commander. The purpose of the brief was to gain approval for the unit's training plan for the period July to September 2004.

The Commanding General pointed out that the 30th ICDC Brigade will play a critical role in Iraq's transition to sovereignty. In the future, when coalition forces are gone, the 30th ICDC Brigade will be responsible for security in the Salah Ad Din Province and training their own forces. Colonel Randy Dragon, the 2nd BCT Commander, has partnered with Brig. Gen. Ahmed since the Brigade Combat Team assumed the area of responsibility in March. The two commanders are developing the ICDC into a fully functional force that will be able to provide security as Coalition Forces eventually depart Iraq. This event was a big step in bringing the Iraqi's closer to being able to provide their own security and in strengthening the partnership between the 30th ICDC Brigade and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

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!

-- 30 --

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