



## **TASK FORCE DANGER**

### **Press Release**

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**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, IRAQ.** The 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger continue to conduct operations to eliminate anti-coalition forces and simultaneously conduct stability and support operations in order to set the conditions for Iraqi civil and military self-reliance. The following items are a summary of recent progress towards that goal. Most of this significant story is not being told. The American people are not aware of the great work its service men and women are doing in Iraq, nor do they appreciate the support and sacrifice of Task Force Danger families. 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**

The last two weeks have been very successful for Task Force Danger. From 12-24 April 2004, the Big Red One and attached units conducted a total of 4,336 combat patrols to provide a safe and secure environment for the good people of Iraq in the division's battle space. We continue to work to train and equip the new Iraqi Security Forces. Over 450 of the division's combat patrols were combined operations with our Iraqi Security Force partners. Task Force Danger conducted a total of 92 deliberate raids and captured more than 100 anti-coalition forces. These raids are making the provinces of Diyala, At Tamim, As Sulaymaniyah, and Salah ad Din more secure. Both

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our Engineer Brigade and Division Artillery continue to contribute to making the division's area safe. Engineers cleared nearly 1,500 kilometers of the main highways in the division battle space in the last two weeks, and our artillerymen have now consolidated over a million pounds of captured enemy ammunition. Every kilometer of highway cleared and every piece of ammunition collected and destroyed prevent anti-coalition forces from attacking our soldiers and the people of Iraq.

Our soldiers have become masters in the art of simultaneity as they continuously shift from combat operations against anti-coalition forces to civil-military operations in support of the good people of Iraq. Our soldiers embody the offensive spirit and professionalism. They live the Army values. The soldiers of Task Force Danger are respected by our friends and feared by our enemies.

Task Force Danger forces provided support to several important initiatives of Combined Joint Task Force – 7 (CJTF-7). Soldiers from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Duke) became the main effort in the fight against Sadr's Militia in An Najaf as Colonel Dana Pittard prepared his soldiers to capture or kill Muqtada al-Sadr. Their agility and rapid reinforcement of the region is no doubt related to the reduction in enemy activity in that area. These soldiers redeployed to North Central Iraq this week after a successful mission. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team continues to conduct combat and civil-military operations in the western Diyala Province.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) recently concluded operations in support of Arba'een in the city of Samarra, where over 60,000 Iraqis were gathered to participate in the religious celebration. The Dagger soldiers continue operations to secure the main highways in the division battle space. The enemy has recently shown a propensity to

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attack civilian convoys in an attempt to deter contractors from delivering supplies to coalition forces. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team routinely secures these convoys to stem the tide of attacks. The cities of Bayji, Tikrit, Samarra, and Balad in the Salah ad Din Province are all progressing towards self-sufficiency based on the Dagger Brigade's hard work.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Warrior) continues to conduct operations in the At Tamim and As Sulayimanyah Provinces, with a main effort in Kirkuk. Kirkuk is a city of over 800,000 Kurds, Arabs, Turkmen, and Assyrians who now are beginning to appreciate that diversity is their strength. The Warrior brigade is dealing with enormous complexity as soldiers conduct combat operations in one block and stability operations in another.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Old Hickory) from North Carolina conducts operations to kill or capture anti-coalition forces, is setting the conditions for success in five major cities in eastern Diyala, supports the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement while screening the Iran-Iraq border to reduce illegal crossings along the border, and continues to find a large number of ammunition caches in their assigned area.

In the next bi-weekly press release, we will highlight the great work of the 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade (Dragon), the Division Artillery (Drumfire), the Engineer Brigade (Devastator), the 264<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group (Badger of the Wisconsin Army National Guard), the Division Support Command (Durable), and the 167<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Group (Granite of the New Hampshire Army National Guard).

During these volatile times, there are many brave Iraqis who place themselves at risk and make daily sacrifices serving their country as members of the Iraqi Security

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Forces. Within the division's battle space, the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) currently has more than 7,000 Iraqi soldiers in ten battalions from a variety of ethnic backgrounds providing security for their fellow citizens. We continue to train and equip the ICDC and recently received a shipment of 9mm pistols and over 10,000 AK-47s to equip the force. An ICDC training facility at Forward Operating Base Danger will be operational in less than a month with a Primary Leadership Development Course to train Iraqi noncommissioned officers. This is a "stepping stone" towards a safe and secure Iraq run by Iraqis.

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

During the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Danger battle space have resulted in at least 68 enemy killed in action, an estimated 12 enemy wounded in action, and an additional 186 enemy detained. Twenty (20) major enemy weapons and ammunition caches were discovered in the division's area of operations. Significant ammunition seized from these caches included over 448 rockets; 27 SS-40s; over 1,600 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 35 grenades; 45 one hundred and fifty pound bombs; three, five hundred pound bombs, and over 3,500 rounds of small arms ammunition. Major equipment found included two T-55 chassis with main guns attached. Fifty-three improvised explosive devices were discovered along routes prior to detonation preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of those that threaten Iraq's road to peace and sovereignty.

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

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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 Danger Ministry of Oil continues to work several initiatives to support the ailing Iraqi oil infrastructure, which in turn will benefit all Iraqis. Approximately \$1,600,000 worth of Task Force Danger contingency funds have been approved to provide much needed equipment, parts, and tools for the refineries and distribution centers in Bayji and Kirkuk. These projects will provide Iraqi workers with the tools, equipment, and the support they need to maintain the facilities, production, and distribution. With a focus on the oil industry, we are creating more jobs for the Iraqi people in our region and setting the conditions for long term Iraqi self-reliance. The region of Kirkuk and Bayji has an estimated seven percent of the world’s oil reserves and the potential is obviously enormous.

The Ministry of Public Health continues to work together with Iraqi medical professionals to improve treatment facilities all over North Central Iraq’s four provinces. For the first time in a year, all 240 hospitals and 1200 primary health care centers are functioning and providing needed healthcare to Iraqis. The FY '04 Health Budget for the Ministry of Health is \$948 million, with a supplement of \$793 million from the US Government. This is a significant improvement compared to the \$16 million that was spent for health care under the Saddam regime in 2002. The Ministry of Health has 100,000 employees, 80 percent of whom are women. Doctors’ salaries are at least eight times what they were under the former regime. These are significant

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achievements in patient care and wages for health care professionals. Task Force Danger will continue to improve health care in our area of responsibility.

The Ministry of Public Works announced that construction on the Electric Generation Power Plant located in Taza has recently started. This power plant will provide electricity to an additional 300,000 Iraqi homes. The plant will provide 300-400 new jobs to the region for local Iraqis. The project currently employs approximately 400 Iraqis from the surrounding area. Employees representing all Iraqis are working side-by-side to complete the project. In the spirit of national unity, Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen are putting past differences behind them and working together for the common good for all Iraq. Their teamwork will provide additional power to North Central Iraq, which is scheduled to be operational later this year.

The Ministry of Security continues to work with the Iraqi Police Services to make progress at training and equipping the police. There are now 40 International Police Advisors (IPA) working with Task Force Danger to assist in training Iraqi police at the division's three Police Academies. These 40 IPA officers are all American policemen with enormous experience and we are thrilled to have them on the team. The deployment of these advisors is an important step in training and mentoring Iraqi police in democratic policing standards.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Culture met with several contractors in the Salah ad Din Province about a cultural preservation and enhancement project. The project includes preserving both the Malawi Minaret and the Abbasi Castle located in the historic city of Samarra by rebuilding a security fence around both sites. Additional plans include paving and placing benches in a visitor area on the Malawi site. Bidding

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should be complete next week, allowing Iraqi construction to begin in early May. The project is a step towards preserving Iraqi culture and history for present and future generations of Iraqis to enjoy.

The Salah ad Din treasury received 30 billion New Iraqi Dinar (NID) to ensure all capital, operating and payroll funds are available for the month of April. The funds will ensure all employees get paid in full and on time. Last week, all the city council members received their monthly salary and any back pay they were owed from the last 3 months. This is an example of how Iraqi governance and services are being established and Iraq is on the path to stability and sovereignty.

The Ministry of Media recently completed a contract to fund a local newspaper called Al Watan. This paper is printed in Baghdad by Iraqis and will provide honest and open news across North Central Iraq five times per week. Efforts continue to establish a printing press "corporation" in Tikrit, comprised of Iraqi business partners. This printing press corporation will service the printing needs for newspapers, local government agencies, and other printing requirements. It will also provide jobs to local Iraqis. These projects will provide Iraqis access to true and balanced media, providing them with local, regional, and international information -- something unheard of without coalition assistance.

The Ministry of Justice has worked with Iraqi lawyers to open several offices for the Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC) in North Central Iraq. The cities of Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, and Tuz recently opened IPCC offices in the Task Force Danger area of operations. The Tikrit office is scheduled to open in the next few weeks. In Tikrit, the Minister of Justice has interviewed and hired a staff of IPCC employees,

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conducted regular staff meetings, and implemented a training program for those employees. IPCC employees are being trained on technical issues such as the proper intake of claims and the IPCC process. Additionally, IPCC employees are being trained on broader social issues such as the dangers of corruption, the need for integrity in government institutions, and the benefit that the IPCC will have in the local community.

The leaders and soldiers of Task Force Danger continue to make significant strides towards cultural and religious understanding. In one instance at Forward Operating Base Summerall, military leaders met with Mr. Abbas Zehdan Saleh Al-Jabouri, Imam Dahil, and other religious men regarding a mosque located on FOB Summerall. The group, including a military chaplain, went to the mosque so they could inspect the building. There was a lengthy theological discussion between the imam and chaplain, but the dialog was respectful and open. The religious men stated that they would like to go through the Office of Islamic Affairs to appoint an imam to visit the mosque once a week, in order to hold services for Muslim workers and soldiers. These men reported that their office has insisted that the imams under their control remain peaceful and encouraged their congregations to do the same. These are great examples of good Iraqi people who are interested in joining with the coalition to counter the threats and intimidation of those who do not want Iraq to succeed and work towards a positive future.

Task Force Danger is building partnerships with Iraqi counterparts and informing the people of the progress that is being made. Leaders from the 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team and BG Nazim, the commander of the Department of Border Enforcement (DBE) in the Diyala Province, held an Iraqi media event in Khanaqin recently. BG Nazim used

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this opportunity to counter rumors of unfair practices in various DBE operations and practices. Leaders from the 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team joined BG Nazim for a “round table” discussion with local media from the province. Questions included the future of Khaniqin, Kurdish-Arab issues, the effects of “problems” in other parts of Iraq, how we will deal with Sadr’s Militia, and support issues of the DBE. This type of open dialogue would not have been possible during the Saddam Regime.

Task Force Danger soldiers continue to reach out to the good people of Iraq with compassion and understanding. They not only lend a hand to ensure the environment stays safe and infrastructure is rebuilt, but also reach out to the Iraqi people when they are in need of assistance. While traveling back from a mission near Kirkuk, members of the 415<sup>th</sup> and 451<sup>st</sup> Civil Affairs Battalions stopped to provide medical aid to Iraqi civilians injured in a traffic accident. The two occupants of the car were seriously injured. SSG David Bernard and CPT Nick Dickson, both combat lifesavers, provided first aid to stabilize the two injured individuals before they were transported to the local hospital for treatment. The civilians appreciated the medical assistance and the soldiers were able to demonstrate the good intentions of our soldiers toward the Iraqi people.

The Ministry of Education coordinated with multiple leaders throughout North Central Iraq this week in order to establish vocational training centers in various cities throughout the provinces. Key division leaders met with the Governor of Salah Ad Din and elements of his planning staff to begin planning on the establishment of two vocational centers in Salah Ad Din. These vocational centers will provide training in computer literacy, as well as carpentry, electricity, brick laying, and other skills. In addition, the vocational centers planned for Tikrit and Samarra will pay a small monthly

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stipend for students as well. This ministry continues to improve the educational opportunities for all Iraqis in our area of operations. The website for “Operation I Can” (Iraqi Children Assistance Network) made its debut this week. This website, found at [www.operationican](http://www.operationican), allows families and friends of Task Force Danger to mail donated school supplies for distribution to Iraqi school children. Education is truly fundamental to progress.

Task Force Danger soldiers have the right training and equipment to conduct their mission in Iraq. Recently, a unit was conducting a combat patrol between forward operating bases. The patrol encountered a buried anti-tank mine that detonated under an up-armored Humvee. The blast was significant, but all soldiers escaped with only bumps and bruises. The results of this explosion may have been much more sobering had it not been for this piece of equipment. This is a great example of how the up-armored Humvee is protecting the force in Iraq.

## **Conclusion**

Task Force Danger continues to simultaneously conduct combat and stability operations that are leading to a secure environment and improved infrastructure. Our combat operations have been aggressive and successful in killing or capturing those bent on disrupting the process to achieve a free and democratic Iraq. 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. We will accomplish the mission. We have made great strides in partnership with the courageous people of Iraq towards their future of civil and

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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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