



TASK FORCE DANGER ***Press Release***

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 26, 2004

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq. Progress in the four provinces of North-Central Iraq is continuing to allow the division to shift efforts away from combat operations and place more and more energy into stability and civil-military operations. Projects designed to improve the quality of life for Iraqis and promote economic development continue throughout Task Force Danger's area of operations. The Task Force continues to assist the sovereign Interim Iraqi Government in providing a safe and secure environment through joint operations with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) designed to kill or capture anti-Iraqi forces and remove weapons and ammunition from the country. We have demonstrated our resolve to stand by the Iraqi people and help them rebuild their country's infrastructure and provide security while they take those first steps on the road to democracy. Training and joint operations continue to yield positive results as the ISF become more capable. The intent of this bi-weekly press release is to inform the public of the great work our servicemen and women are doing in Iraq and to garner support for our Soldiers and their families.

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. During the past two weeks, several



division initiatives have demonstrated significant momentum towards achieving that goal. Units at every level continue to work together with the Iraqi people to make an enormous impact on the security, government, and economic development of Iraq.

Transfer of Sovereignty Strategy Calls for Local Control

Task Force Danger Soldiers are working hard to train, equip, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces to be self-sufficient in the months ahead. We are working in partnership with the Iraqi National Guard (ING), the Iraqi Police, and the Iraqi Border Police to provide security and set the conditions for national and provincial elections in January 2005. The goal is to achieve local control with our 11, and soon to be 15, ING battalions, numerous provincial and city police departments, and border police units in Task Force Danger's provinces of Diyala and Kirkuk. We are well on our way to accomplishing this mission as we conduct full spectrum, counter-insurgency operations. The Iraqi Security Forces are becoming more and more proficient as thousands of dedicated, loyal, and courageous Iraqis fight for the future of their country. In Task Force Danger, there is no question about the outcome--the future will be a free and democratic Iraq.

Taking the Elements of Violence off the Streets

In the last two weeks, operations by Task Force Danger have resulted in an estimated 21 anti-Iraqi forces killed, seven wounded, and an additional 68 detained. Significant ammunition seized included more than 2,268 rocket, mortar, artillery, and tank rounds; 44 small arms weapons and rocket propelled grenade launchers; 38 fuses;



one mine; two pounds of explosives; three blasting caps; three grenades; and 1,595 rounds of small arms ammunition. Major equipment found included 134 rocket propelled grenades, one mortar tube, one surface-to-air missile, 35 magazines, and 20 SPG-9 launchers. 1st Infantry Division operations have also seized three million Iraqi Dinar and two foreign passports. Within the division area of responsibility, 71 improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation, preventing loss of life at the hands of Anti-Iraqi Forces. Since assuming the mission in March 2004, Task Force Danger soldiers have deliberately removed over 24 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition.

Tikrit Bridge is Reopened

More than 18 months after coalition forces destroyed it, American and Iraqi officials re-opened the Tikrit Bridge during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 22nd. The cities of Tikrit and Kirkuk are once again linked and stand to benefit financially from the bridge. Colonel Randy Dragon of the 1st Infantry Division said that the bridge would allow the citizens of the Salah Ad Din Province to prosper for decades to come. "It was determination, will power, and energy that got us to this day, and it will be determination and will power that will move this country forward". The 1st Infantry Division provided security and other services while workers repaired the bridge. Coalition forces bombed the Tikrit Bridge, which spanned the Tigris River, shortly after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq began in March 2003. Soon after, it was on the verge of collapsing and two partial spans later fell into the river. In August 2003, USAID hired Bechtel National Inc., which



subcontracted with 77 Construction Company, an Iraqi firm, to repair the bridge. The project cost about \$5.4 million.

Democracy Comes to Wynot, Iraq

The Wynot City Council elections of September 13th came after months of work and planning by Soldiers of Alpha Company, Task Force 1-18 Infantry. The strong turnout signaled a turnaround in how Wynot residents view the U.S. in Wynot. This was probably the most anti-coalition town in sector when 1st Infantry Division arrived. But Soldiers established a “knock-and-talk” program, in which they would go to six to eight houses per night. They would ask people what they needed and developed rapport. Eventually, the good people of Wynot realized that the 1st Infantry Division was here to improve their lives. 1st Infantry Division Soldiers had meetings once a week and explained what they were trying to do and why a city council would be good for Wynot. Initially, Wynot residents didn't favor the idea, but Soldiers persisted and explained that with a city council, they could solve their own problems. Building up to the elections, Soldiers encouraged teamwork among the Wynot residents and urged them to set goals. One week, for instance, they encouraged everyone to clean their front yards so the residents could see the benefits of working together. Prior to helping run the Wynot elections, Alpha Company Soldiers helped bring city council elections to the nearby town of Owja. Success there helped bring around Wynot residents. Wynot residents elected new leaders to seven positions--director, vice director, city manager, and directors of agriculture, education, transportation, and utilities. Alpha Company will continue to provide behind-the-scenes support to the city council during its nascent



stage of managing reconstruction and city governance, but the long-term goal is council self-sufficiency.

Water Plant Opens in Owja

On September 7th, the Owja Water Plant held a grand opening for the newly installed water pumps which will supply the town's water. Long before the 1st Infantry Division came to Iraq, this town was without water. They had a limited supply of drinking water, but not enough to lavish on their gardens, and without irrigation or watering, nothing grows in Iraq. Mandu Hazali, who headed this project for the town, with the help of 10 workers, labored for 40 consecutive days on this project for about 12-14 hours a day. The project was originally slated to take four months. The project started in May with bids for the pump to be fixed. With funding approved, it was just a matter of waiting on the material to arrive. The new city council got involved and eventually took over. Hazali would go to the city council and update them weekly on the project. The first real problem came when others wanted submersible pumps while Hazali, an electrical engineer and a professor at Tikrit University, favored horizontal pumps. After showing them the process and how much better this would be in the long run, the horizontal pumps were installed. The project, funded by the United States, cost \$17,600 for two large water pumps and a supply of repair parts. With the pumps repaired, the city council and Hazali can now concentrate on the city park, which needs irrigation system repairs.

357 Graduate from Iraqi National Guard Basic Training



The Iraqi National Guard once again grew in strength as 357 soldiers graduated from basic training during a ceremony held on Forward Operating Base Danger on September 16th. Several American and Iraqi military officials were in attendance, including Lieutenant General David Petraeus, who commands the Security Transition Command in Iraq; Major General John Batiste, commander of the 1st Infantry Division; and General Abdul Quadir, commander of Iraqi National Guard troops. During his speech, Quadir told his soldiers that their graduation is another cornerstone in the new Iraqi National Guard. He also urged them to remain disciplined and follow orders. Major General Batiste echoed similar sentiments, saying that the graduates will play an important role in returning Iraq to normalcy because they are dedicated to their country and well trained. He also noted the challenges many of the soldiers will face in the immediate future. More than half of the graduating class will join the 202nd ING Battalion in Samarra, whose mission will be to rid the city of insurgents. The 357 soldiers who graduated on September 16th came from various cities throughout the 1st Infantry Division's area of responsibility and represented the major ethnicities found in North-Central Iraq.

Task Force Danger Continues Full Spectrum Operations

1st Squadron, 4th United States Cavalry (Saber). 1-4 Cavalry is making significant progress integrating the Iraqi National Guard, Iraqi Police Service, and city councils of the Task Force Saber area of operations into a fully functional team. On September 18th, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 203rd Iraqi National Guard (ING) completed a six day partnership training cycle with the squadron's Anvil Company. Training included



dismounted patrols and traffic control point operations and ended with a successfully evaluated capstone exercise. 1-4 Cavalry's partnership training has been a huge success. ING units are on schedule to be trained in all company mission essential tasks by December. Platoon level training has resulted in increased unit cohesiveness, confidence in abilities, and overall readiness to perform local security operations. On September 21st, the Ad Duluiyah City Council met for the first time in more than three months. The Council elected a Joint Coordination Center (JCC) Director and three Assistant Directors, representing the city's three prominent tribes. This meeting was a turning point for the community, empowering local leaders with the oversight and responsibility for the town's security. The council has given its wholehearted support to the new JCC, which will be located in downtown Ad Duluiyah. The new JCC will further integrate Iraqi Police, Iraqi National Guard, and emergency services in order to share intelligence and synchronize the city's efforts to maintain stability and security. On September 24th, officers from 1-4 Cavalry met with local sheiks to donate money to fund a city work program in Ad Duluiyah. The program involves employing local people to perform community work projects. The overall effect will include lower crime rates and an increase in local commerce. It also demonstrates the squadron's commitment to the people of Ad Duluiyah and represents a gesture of goodwill to the City Council.

2nd Brigade Combat Team (Dagger). On September 22nd, Iraqi Security Forces, in conjunction with Task Force 1-18 Infantry, provided security for the Tikrit Bridge Grand Opening Ceremony. The Tikrit Bridge, dubbed the "Bridge to Prosperity," will bring increased commerce to the region. In preparation for the ceremony, the Iraqi Security Forces conducted an emergency response exercise simulating a Vehicle Borne



Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) attack near the Tikrit Bridge. During this drill, ISF soldiers had to react to a detonated VBIED by treating casualties and controlling traffic in order to expedite movement of emergency service vehicles to the area. The exercise was a great success and proved that the Iraqi Security Forces are steadily improving their ability to conduct independent operations. Task Force Tacoma and Soldiers on Logistical Support Area Anaconda had a special treat on September 17th when country singer Chely Wright performed for them. After the concert, Ms. Wright took the opportunity to visit a local village to hand out school supplies, toys, and treats to the children of the village. Task Force Tacoma's Alpha Company, 579th Engineers provided security for the event. Medics from the 9th Engineers conducted the first Combat Lifesaver class for Iraqi National Guard soldiers. The battalion had the Combat Lifesaver manuals translated into Arabic, which were used to teach a 40-hour class. Five Iraqi National Guard soldiers completed the course. They all performed IV therapy and passed a written test, which earned them the right to be called the first Combat Lifesaver qualified Iraqi National Guard soldiers. Task Force 1-7 Field Artillery recently distributed a bounty of school supplies collected by Jeremiah Quinn, Schweinfurt Boy Scout, for his Eagle Scout project. Jeremiah collected and sent more than 25 boxes of school supplies donated by Schweinfurt residents as a contribution to the Task Force 1-7 "Operation ICAN" (Iraqi Children Assistance Network) program. Task Force 1-7 distributed some of the supplies, but the majority will be distributed on opening day of the school year in early October 2004 on October 1st. Specialist Michael Tingle, also of Task Force 1-7, decided that he too could make a difference for the children of Bayji and Ash Sharqat. He wrote a letter to his hometown newspaper soliciting assistance



with supplies and has since collected more than 180 boxes of clothes, school supplies, and toys for the children of these villages. On September 11th, 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducted a memorial service on Forward Operating Base Dagger in remembrance of fellow citizens who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001. The ceremony included testimonials by Lieutenant Colonel Mark Warnecke, Commander of Task Force 2-108 Infantry (New York National Guard) and other Task Force 2-108 Soldiers relating their personal stories from ground zero. The Salah Ad Din Provincial Governor Hamad Hamood Shekti, Deputy Governor Abdullah Hussein Mohammad, the Provincial Council Chairman Ali Ghalib Ibrahim Ali, and Major General Mezhir Taha Ahmed Ghanan were in attendance.

3rd Brigade Combat Team (Duke). The 3rd Brigade Combat Team has made a significant impact on reducing the number of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in the Diyala Province. Improvised explosive devices are down 30 percent from the level in August. Task Force 82nd Engineers continues conducting counter-IED patrols along Blue Babe Highway, which has significantly reduced enemy activity. Task Force 2-63 Armor, with the assistance of the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, continues executing aggressive counter-mortar operations. As a consequence, there has been no significant damage from mortars for more than three months. Task Force 2-63 continues training with the 204th Iraqi National Guard battalion, located at Forward Operating Base Scunion, which is becoming a great asset to the Multi-National Forces. Task Force 1-6 Field Artillery, working with the 204th Iraqi National Guard Battalion and the Iraqi Police, continues the same mission to make Baqubah a safer place. The newly renovated Provincial Joint Coordination Center (JCC) in Baqubah was re-



dedicated on September 21st and is an integral part of provincial and city efforts to maintain security and react to problems. Supported and coached by members of TF 1-6, the JCC synchronizes the activities of the city's police, security forces, and emergency services. Soon, JCCs in cities like Baqubah will be linked to all JCCs in the Diyala Province. During the past two weeks, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team has made tremendous strides toward keeping Diyala safer.

2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division Combat Team (Warrior). The Warrior Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi Security Forces continue to conduct full spectrum operations throughout the Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah Provinces. The Task Force 1-14 Infantry Golden Dragons and the Daquq, Taza, and Laylan Security Working Group continue to develop an amenable solution in the Bushayriyah land resettlement dispute. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have continued to return to duty despite continued anti-Iraqi force attacks throughout the two provinces. The ISF remain at the forefront of security operations in the Kirkuk and As Sulaymaniyah provinces, with coalition forces increasingly serving a supporting role. In addition, the As Sulaymaniyah Airport is near completion; when complete it will be able to support 100 aircraft per day. This is a tremendously important project for the people of the province as it will bring jobs and commerce. The 225th Forward Support Battalion continues to provide uninterrupted, world-class combat service support to the 2/25th Brigade Combat Team and Task Force Danger in the Kirkuk and Al Sulamaniyah Provinces. The 225th Forward Support Battalion conducted several combat logistics patrols to Forward Operating Bases McHenry, Gaines Mills, Dibis, and Kalsu, providing mission essential food, bottled water, fuel, ice, and mail. The 225th FSB also conducted a combat logistics patrol to



Logistical Support Area Anaconda to exchange regular medium tactical vehicles for add-on-armor medium tactical vehicles, further increasing force protection for 225th FSB Soldiers on the dangerous roads of Iraq. The 225th FSB also conducted capstone training events for the 4th quarter of fiscal year 2004. A challenging combat logistics patrol, situational training exercise, and live fire exercise trained more than 50 junior leaders and soldiers. In addition, the 225th FSB conducted two nighttime refuel on the move (ROM) operations in support of the Republic of Korea Army convoys, which transited the Warrior area of operations. The 225th FSB Ivory Combat Clinic supported the citizens of Iraq by providing medical treatment and evacuation for three Iraqi Policemen burned in a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device incident outside the Kirkuk Police Academy. To date, the 225th FSB has issued 1.2 million Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), 1.5 million gallons of fuel, 2.9 million bottles of water, 1.5 million gallons of bulk water, treated 5,092 patients, completed 3,170 job orders, and has driven 120,000 miles in 182 combat logistics patrols. The men and women of the 225th FSB continue to provide the support that sustains the Warrior Brigade and sets the conditions for a stable and secure environment for the Iraqi people.

30th Brigade Combat Team (Old Hickory). Soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, along with Iraqi Security Forces, searched several portions of the Maraldi neighborhood of Tuz and detained 21 individuals. They also confiscated a number of weapons including rocket propelled grenade ammunition, hand grenades, a mortar tube with a night-sight, four AK 47s, one stick of dynamite, various small arms ammunition, IED making materials, and one artillery round that was fused and prepared for use as an IED. E Troop, 196th Cavalry, along with city council



members and citizens of Tuz, celebrated the opening of a medical clinic for the handicapped in Tuz. Ms. Shukar, a citizen of Tuz who realized the need for such a clinic, initiated the project and the city council project committee oversaw the construction, which was funded by the United States. Task Force 252 Armor and the Provincial Agriculture Department are teaming up to help solve water flow issues and provide employment opportunities in their area of operations. Captain Hazel Williams met with the agriculture minister who had about 100 names of prospective employees. The project is designed to clean existing irrigation canals after years of neglect by the former regime. This will help farmers increase productivity and provide employment for a large number of Iraqis for an extended period of time.

4th Aviation Brigade (Dragon). During the past two weeks, 4th Brigade has been instrumental in many of Task Force Danger's operations, with each battalion flying over 650 hours in the past two weeks. The Gunfighters from Task Force 1-1 Aviation played a vital role in ensuring that the division from the Republic of Korea safely transited AO Danger on their way to their new area of operations around Irbil. They also contributed their lethal reconnaissance and firepower to operations in Samarra. The Eagles from Task Force 2-1 Aviation have diligently moved the division leadership throughout the battlefield. They have also been instrumental in supplementing the division supply lines as well as transporting our fallen heroes in the manner they deserve. The 601st Aviation Support Battalion has continued its outstanding support not only to 4th Brigade, but also to 1-4 Cavalry. They sustained the fleet by completing more than 225 aviation work orders, refueling more than 300 aircraft, and pumping more than 71,000 gallons of fuel while maintaining the brigade's aircraft at an operational readiness rate well above



Department of the Army standards. The Dragon Team is going strong and truly serves "Above the Best."

1st Infantry Division Artillery (Drumfire). Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division Artillery continue to superbly execute a wide variety of non-standard missions. The Division Fire Support Element hosted the Iraqi Senior Advisory Council (ISAC), consisting of the senior leadership of the 1st Infantry Division and more than 40 prominent, ethnically and religiously diverse Iraqis from the four provinces. This week, the Iraqi Minister of Interior, Falah Naqib, visited the ISAC and spoke with members about current political and security issues. The purpose of the ISAC is to gain a better understanding of the cultural, economic, and political environment in the Task Force Danger area of operations--to see current challenges and solutions through the eyes of Iraqis. The members of the council provide invaluable advice to the division's leaders. Task Force 1-33 Field Artillery continued to clear the area of North-Central Iraq of Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA). More than 470,000 pounds were removed during the past two weeks from a former Iraqi Army depot north of Tikrit, near Forward Operating Base Speicher. This particular ammunition holding area is the fifth location that will be cleared since the 1st Infantry Division's transfer of authority in March 2004. To date, DIVARTY has transported or destroyed more than 24 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition. The deliberate clearance of enemy ammunition is a critical mission that protects the lives of Iraqi citizens, their security forces, and coalition forces by significantly reducing potential stocks available to the enemy for making IEDs.

Division Engineer Brigade (Devastator). The Division Engineers are making a tangible difference in Iraq. Colonel William Haight and his representatives to the Oil



Ministry made an initial visit to the Resafa Fuel Distribution Center. They met with managers to discuss concerns and to conduct an initial assessment tour. The distribution center has been operating since 1918 and it was obvious that the depot workers and supervisors were laboring very hard to maintain day-to-day operations. Problems ranged from lack of proper storage tank measuring equipment and fire suppression systems to having no computers or telephones to communicate with their headquarters in Doura. Resafa is the main distribution center for Diyala and eastern Baghdad, distributing approximately three million liters of kerosene, diesel, and benzene per day. The Engineer Brigade is currently compiling a list of much needed project proposals to modernize this important part of Iraq's oil infrastructure. The 1st Infantry Division "Oil Ministry Team" also visited Bayji to support the extraction of Kellogg, Brown and Root from the Al Fathah Horizontal Directional Drilling site. The team spent the night on the site to provide extra personnel and firepower while Kellogg, Brown and Root loaded and withdrew the last of their equipment from the site. En route back to Forward Operating Base Danger, engineers visited the 600 Homes Health Clinic for the Bayji Refinery workers. Division Engineers met with doctors to discuss refurbishment plans and any other concerns they had. The doctors were very pleased with the brigade's support and were eager to begin renovation. The scheduled enhancements are sure to advance the welfare of Iraqi citizens. The 1st Infantry Division Environmental Survey Team continued its mission to leave areas occupied by Coalition Forces better than the way they found them. In April 2003, coalition forces occupied a former Baath Party building in the town of Altun Kapri. After a year and a half, great improvements were made to the base with renovated guard towers, an improved plumbing system,



new soccer goals, and a basketball court. The base will be officially transferred to the Iraqi Security Forces in outstanding condition.

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 and the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger are resolute and steadfast. We will accomplish our mission. In partnership with the courageous people of Iraq, we have achieved irreversible momentum toward a free, prosperous, and democratic Iraq. The American people should be very proud of the Soldiers of their oldest and most storied division--the Big Red One. Duty First!

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