



## ***TASK FORCE DANGER*** ***Press Release***

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**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq.** Recent progress in the four provinces of North-Central Iraq is continuing to allow 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 future of Iraq is bright. We all look forward to a free, secure, and prosperous tomorrow; the drumbeat of irreversible momentum continues. The success of Iraq is our success. In the past two weeks, the division worked with provincial leadership and made significant progress towards a peaceful solution in the troubled city of Samarra. Task Force Danger also hosted a Governors' Conference in which the Governors of Kirkuk, Salah Ad Din and Diyala continued to reiterate our shared goals for the future of Iraq. 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. Over the past two weeks, several division initiatives have shown irreversible momentum towards achieving that goal. Units at

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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 the 10 Iraqi National Guard battalions, numerous city police departments, and border police units in Task Force Danger's provinces of Salah Ad Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, and As Sulaymaniyah within the coming months. We are well on our way to accomplishing this mission as we conduct full spectrum, counter-insurgency operations. The Iraqi Security Forces are getting 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.

### **Iraqi National Guard Soldiers from Samarra Graduate Basic Training**

More than 300 Iraqi National Guard (ING) soldiers from the 202<sup>nd</sup> ING battalion graduated from basic training on August 16. The unit is the first cohort ING battalion, meaning all of its members came from the Samarra area. The soldiers trained together and will serve together alongside American troops. Typically, ING soldiers come from various cities and are assigned to units across the country. The soldiers went through a

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four-week basic course in which they learned basic soldiering skills. The training included rifle marksmanship, first aid, and common tasks training. Guests at the graduation ceremony included Dr. Bruska Shaways, Secretary General of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense; BG Ahmed Salman Aameed, commander of the 30<sup>th</sup> ING Brigade; and LTG David Petraeus, Commander of the Multi-national Security Transition Command-Iraq. Dr. Shaways thanked Multi-National Forces Iraq and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division for training the ING and other Iraqi security forces. Additionally, he praised the troops and urged them to make sacrifices as they run terrorists out of the country. After the graduation ceremony, MG Batiste met with Hamud Shukti, Governor of the Salah Ad Din Province, where Samarra is located, and several Samarra officials. He told the Governor that the United States is prepared to spend millions of dollars to improve the infrastructure and quality of life in Samarra, a city with more than 200,000 people, but not until the streets are secure and coalition and Iraqi Security Forces are able to operate there without interference from insurgents. He offered to form a partnership with the Governor and city officials to devise a plan to rid Samarra of insurgents. The Governor and city officials accepted, saying that he will do all he can to curb the violence.

### **Taking the Elements of Violence off the Streets**

During the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Danger area of operations have resulted in an estimated 28 anti-Iraqi forces killed, one wounded, and an additional 115 detained. Significant ammunition seized from caches included more than 24 rockets; 1,156 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 82 small arms weapons and rocket

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propelled grenade launchers; 387 artillery fuses; six pounds of C4/PE4; six sticks of TNT; and 66 grenades. Major equipment found included eight rocket propelled grenades (RPG), 38 RPG rounds, and four Surface-to-Air Missiles. Task Force Danger operations have also seized \$32,263 USD. Within the Division area of responsibility, 60 improvised explosive devices (IED) were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of anti-Iraqi forces.

### **225<sup>th</sup> FSB Hosts Iraqi National Guard Combat Service Support Visit**

Coalition Forces continue to train and assist the ING to be self-sufficient and a key area that has not received much attention is the ING combat service support (CSS) structure and training. Recently, the 225<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion (FSB) began working with the Military Advisory Council in Kirkuk to train logistics functions in the 207<sup>th</sup>, 208<sup>th</sup>, 209<sup>th</sup> ING Battalions. Key Task Force Danger leaders met with the ING leadership to determine what areas they wanted assistance in. BG Anwar laid out several focus areas to include property accountability, supply procedures, equipment service schedules, vehicle dispatching, repair parts management, maintenance facility layout, weapons maintenance, and medical training. The ING leadership is very interested in this because it understands that in order to be self-sufficient, ING soldiers must be capable of supporting themselves and maintaining their own equipment. The ING is very appreciative of the vehicles and equipment Coalition Forces have provided them, and they understand that if it is not maintained, it will not last. After an overview, the 225<sup>th</sup> FSB's warrant officers and medical platoon leaders were introduced to the ING leadership. Once the introductions were complete, the ING medical platoon leaders

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were linked up with the 225<sup>th</sup> FSB treatment platoon leader and given a tour of the 225<sup>th</sup> FSB's medical facilities. The ING officers received a brief overview of vehicle dispatching procedures, service scheduling, prescribed load list management, tool room procedures, and the Unit Level Logistics-Ground (ULLS-G) system. All of their Iraqi counterparts were familiar with the different levels of maintenance since most had experience in Iraqi Army maintenance operations. The visit was a great learning experience for everyone involved, with a free exchange of information about logistics operations and areas in which the ING would like some assistance. ING CSS and maintenance facilities are scheduled for construction at the end of FY04. The next phase of CSS training will be the development of instructional programs and providing classes to the ING logistics community. The visit was another step toward setting the conditions for an equipped and self-reliant Iraqi Security Force.

### **Task Force Danger Soldiers Make Delivery to Local Judges**

Task Force Danger officials delivered computers and printers to judges in the Salah Ad Din Province last week in an effort to bolster the judicial system in North-Central Iraq. Abed Al Wahid Jalal, chief judge for the province, was delighted at the thought of modernizing his court system. He said the courts will run much more efficiently and the province will be better able to keep track of criminals and criminal proceedings with computer automation. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division arrived in Iraq, its soldiers have distributed 120 computers to government entities. Up until now, judges had been using carbon paper to duplicate legal documents. Many of the carbon sheets had been used multiple times. Jalal was thankful for the assistance. He said the court has contacted a

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member of the community for computer instruction, and they will immediately start logging data into the machines.

### **Iraqi Border Police and TF Danger Soldiers Open Border Control Point**

Iraqi Border Police (IBP) and Task Force Danger soldiers recently coordinated and funded the construction of border control points with the help of the sovereign Iraqi Government. Border Control Point Peshta was established in the Darbandikhan District in the province of As Sulaymaniyah on the Iranian border. Supporting the Iraqi Border Police with border control point projects adds increased security by limiting the ability of anti-Iraqi forces to enter the country and attack the coalition, Iraqi Security Forces, and the people of Iraq. The ribbon-cutting ceremony involved Task Force Danger soldiers from Task Force 2-11 Field Artillery and Iraqi Border Police from the Darbandikhan IBP District. Several local media outlets attended the event.

### **Diyala Irrigation Canal Project**

Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 113<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment recently conducted a medical assessment in the remote village of Docker, which is primarily a Shiite village near Qara Tapa. During the community outreach project at Docker, the unit searched for laborers for the upcoming Task Force Danger irrigation canal contract in the eastern portion of the Diyala Province. The irrigation project will last about 75 days and employ many local Iraqis. Funding for the project, like many others, will come from Coalition Forces funds that are spent on improving the Iraqi infrastructure and, whenever possible, using local labor and contractors. Diyala is an agricultural region in

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Iraq and the network of irrigation canals is critical for the farmers. However, years of neglect have left the canals in need of repair and overgrown with weeds. The effect of unemployment in this remote area is evident. Young men between the ages of 18-25 who are not working are prime recruits for militant extremists in Iraq. Growth and prosperity are choices Iraqi citizens are now free to make. Coalition Force projects such as these are destined for success as Iraqi community leaders add their support.

### **Legal Enforcement Team Contributes to Criminal Cases Prosecuted in Iraqi Courts**

The Task Force Danger Joint Service Legal Enforcement Team (JSLET) continues to contribute to the docket at the Central Criminal Court of Iraq in Baghdad. Many of the criminal cases involving Task Force Danger detainees submitted for prosecution months ago are now ready for trial. Recently, guilty verdicts were returned on six Task Force Danger JSLET cases, which resulted in defendants before the Court being sentenced to prison terms ranging from six months to 30 years in an Iraqi jail. In each case, Task Force Danger soldiers served as outstanding and persuasive witnesses. Court judges commented that their performance was crucial to the resulting guilty verdicts handed down by the Court. Task Force Danger even set Court precedent with the presentation of a case at the investigative hearing, with exclusive ING witnesses including an ING Battalion Commander, which resulted in a matter being recommended for trial. Several more trials and investigative hearings are scheduled throughout the first two weeks of September and prosecutors are optimistic that similar results will be

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obtained in these cases. These prosecutions serve as models of justice in sovereign Iraq as Iraqi courts sentence anti-Iraqi forces to jail terms in Iraqi prisons.

### **Warrior Brigade Inspects Progress on Two Projects**

Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Warrior) recently met with local Shia leaders to inspect projects targeted at the Shia residents in the Uroba sector of central Kirkuk. At the 4<sup>th</sup> Bridge Train Trestle, workers are currently repainting the trestle and improving the Iraqi Security Force guard shack. The shack will offer protection from improvised explosive devices and small arms fire, as well as provide shade and air conditioning for the traffic control points. In addition, the Domies water tower project consists of repairing the pipes and valves to ensure that safe water is available for the local residents.

### **TF Danger Continues Full Spectrum Operations**

The Warrior Brigade and Iraqi Security Forces conducted successful, synchronized, non-kinetic operations throughout the At Tamin and As Sulaymaniyah Provinces during Operation Warrior Resolve. In the city of Kirkuk, the Arapaha police station ensured a secure and stable environment during the recent peaceful Turkomen protest on resettlement issues. The Gimlets of Task Force 1-21 Infantry supported a successful Iraqi Security Force and coalition raid to capture a suspected IED maker known as Rocket Man. The Warrior Brigade looks forward to working with coalition partners in the coming week, creating irreversible momentum for a more safe and secure Iraq.

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During the last two weeks, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Duke) continued its tremendous efforts to reduce the number of IEDs in the Diyala Province. The total reduction in IEDs is more than 30 percent from last month. There have also been a number of munitions caches that have been found and destroyed in the brigade area of operations. Task Force Duke soldiers continue to engage local Iraqis to help improve the infrastructure in the Diyala Province. The Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Kenneth Preston, visited Task Force Duke on August 14. This was a rare opportunity for the soldiers. SMA Preston distributed the coveted SMA coin to soldiers who could recite the Soldier's Creed. He also visited soldiers on FOBs Warhorse and Gabe before he left. Task Force Duke soldiers also participated in a 5-K "Purple Heart Run" to honor soldiers who have received the award for wounds in action. To date, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team has awarded 92 Purple Hearts, with an additional 31 yet to be awarded. Overall, the soldiers of Task Force Duke continue to make the Diyala Province a better place for the people of Iraq. This is a continuous mission in which the Dukes of Diyala are winning.

During the past two weeks, the soldiers of the 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Old Hickory) saw a variety of missions from kinetic operations to continued improvements in both the governmental and physical infrastructure. Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, along with Iraqi Security Forces, searched locations in the Maraldi neighborhood, detaining 21 individuals and confiscating a sizeable number of weapons, as well as Sadr and pro-Saddam propaganda. There were reports of anti-Iraqi forces intimidating and recruiting people in this area. The 30<sup>th</sup> Brigade conducted a medical assessment in Qara Tapa, in cooperation with medical personnel

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from the local clinic. They saw more than 150 patients with a wide range of ailments. Near the end of the mission, a family brought in a very sick little boy. Doctors determined that he was going into septic shock and was in need of immediate evacuation to receive a higher level of medical care in order to save his life. His older brother went with him as he was evacuated by helicopter to 31<sup>st</sup> Combat Surgical Hospital. Within 12 hours, he was in the ICU in stable condition and, according to doctors, was improving. E Troop, 196<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, along with city council members and citizens of Tuz, celebrated the opening of a handicapped medical clinic in Tuz. Ms. Shukar, a citizen of Tuz who realized the need for such a clinic, especially for handicapped children, initiated the project. The city council project committee oversaw the project. Further signs of infrastructure improvements came in reports from the field that the Diyala provincial government is now allocating budgets down to the local cities. This is a clear sign that Iraqi-led governments are improving their ability to operate successfully.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) continues to provide security for Salah Ad Din, while also improving the infrastructure of the province. The Dagger Brigade conducted a ribbon-cutting for the Tikrit television and radio station on Aug 19. This project by the brigade will provide a mass media outlet initially for Tikrit and eventually for the entire Salah Ad Din Province. The event was marked by a speech and press conference with the governor. This new facility will be the first local media center for Tikrit. The brigade continues to receive support from the United States. The soldiers of the 2-108<sup>th</sup> Infantry received a special box in the mail from home. The New York Yankees baseball team sent 800 Yankees hats, along with several boxes of Yankees

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magazine to recognize the service of the soldiers. These soldiers will also get to attend Yankees games for free when they return to the States. "Christmas in July" came to the soldiers of Dagger Brigade as thousands of shoe boxes of presents arrived. This effort was lead by COL(R) Kolasheski, the father of MAJ (P) John Kolasheski, the brigade's S3. COL(R) Kolasheski and the great people of Tellico Village, Tennessee have been working for months to make sure that the soldiers received a little Christmas in the middle of the summer.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry Regiment (Sabre) conducted Operation Wolverine from August 18-22. This operation was a great example of the simultaneity required to be successful in the Sabre area of operation. On the first night, Anvil Troop conducted a series of cordon and searches in the town of Bichegan to deny enemy sanctuary and prevent AIF operations from influencing Task Force Sabre. The cordon and search operations conducted by Anvil Troop were successful in capturing six suspected anti-Iraqi force personnel and securing the area. The next morning, while cordon and search operations were still being conducted by Anvil, the civil affairs team moved into the town of Bichegan. They collected information on the town's infrastructure needs and assessed water treatment capabilities, schools, and roads. Subsequently, the civil affairs team conducted assessments in Dawoodia and Al-Mashra. The International Police Advisors accompanied the team to conduct assessments of police stations and their functionality. This was a successful operation to neutralize enemy activity in the area of operations while making an assessment for future project funding for the good people of Iraq.

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In the last two weeks, the 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade (Dragon) has continued to support Task Force Danger. The Gunfighters of 1-1 Aviation flew 446 hours, executing critical oil infrastructure security and supply route armed reconnaissance. They also escorted convoys and support the ground forces during cordon and search and combat patrol missions. The Eagles of 2-1 Aviation and their OPCON company of A Company, 106<sup>th</sup> Aviation Mad Dawgs flew more than 381 hours supporting the Division Command Group, VIP visits, and moving soldiers and Iraqi military and civil leaders around the battlefield. They have maintained an outstanding operational readiness rate while balancing mission execution. The 601<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) continues to provide direct support to both the 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade and 1-4 Cavalry. The battalion provides supply support, ground maintenance support, and aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM) support to its customers at four locations throughout the division's area of operations. During the current rotation, the battalion has consistently facilitated completion of its customers' missions by providing dependable, world-class logistical support. To date, Alpha Company (AVIM) has completed 2,774 work orders in support of 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 1-4 Cavalry aircraft. Soldiers from Headquarters and Supply Company (HSC) conduct a combat logistical patrol known as the Dragon Express two times per week to push multiple classes of supplies to FOB McKenzie in support of the soldiers assigned to 1-4 Cavalry. In addition, HSC soldiers ran the Supply Support Activity (SSA), and have processed more than 56,000 parts for their customers in the past six months. The HSC aircraft Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARPs) on FOB Speicher and FOB Caldwell have delivered more than 780,000 gallons of fuel to 3,116 aircraft since the transfer of authority. The soldiers of Bravo Company, in the

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battalion organic maintenance (motorpool) section, have also made immense contributions to the unit by conducting repairs on 412 non-mission capable vehicles. Bravo Company Direct Support (DS) maintenance soldiers on FOB Speicher and the Cavalry Support Team on FOB McKenzie keep equipment readiness rates high for the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade and 1-4 Cavalry. The battalion also contributes to force protection on FOB Speicher. During the last six months, the battalion played an integral part in FOB Speicher force protection by manning two observation posts, contributing to the FOB Speicher roving patrols, maintaining and training a crew for the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade quick reaction force, developing a solid area defense plan, and providing personnel to augment operations in the FOB Speicher Force Protection Cell. While conducting the mission in Iraq, the 601<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion shows balance by committing resources to build an MWR facility for its soldiers and making improvements both to the troops' living areas and to their working areas. These efforts will contribute to the success of the 642<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion when they assume the mission in January. The men and women of this unit have set a high standard for the DISCOM, 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Artillery (Drumfire) continues to clear abandoned Iraqi ammunition depots, caches, and ammunition holding areas of captured enemy ammunition (CEA) throughout the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's area of operations. To date, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 33<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery has cleared four separate forward operation bases (FOB), to include FOBs Warrior, Gabe, O'Ryan, and Speicher of CEA. At the Tikrit North site near FOB Speicher, the "Golden Lions" Battalion removed more than 5,000 separate pieces of ammunition since it started this particular operation more than four weeks

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ago. More than 200,000 pounds have been removed from this former Iraqi Army depot. This particular ammunition holding area is the fifth location that has been cleared since the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division's transfer of authority in March. To date, DIVARTY has transported or destroyed more than 22 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. The deliberate clearance of enemy ammunition is a significant mission required to achieve security in Iraq.

The Division Engineer Brigade (Devastator) and 264<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group (Badger) continue to uphold and surpass the motto of Engineers, "Essayons" (Let Us Try). In the past two weeks, the 141<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion cleared 19,500 kilometers of road and discovered 12 IEDs during Task Force Trailblazer operations. The battalion befriended children in their patrol area, which produced positive results as the Iraqi children flagged down patrols and led them to unexploded ordnance on four different occasions. As the 141<sup>st</sup> Engineers continued to make roads safe for travel, her sister battalion was hard at work on a variety of projects. The 216<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion is making its mark across the area of operations by expanding a Retrans Site on a supply route in the 1-4 Cavalry sector, building a chapel for the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, constructing helipads on FOB Warhorse, building troop barracks on FOB Speicher, and providing quality upgrades and repairs on container housing units and the plumbing at Midland. The Engineer Brigade continues its efforts in rebuilding Iraq through its operation of the Ministry Teams and the Project Contracting Office (PCO). Working with PCO, the Power and Water Ministry team coordinated efforts to develop the Emergency Water and Sewer Program. The Oil Ministry coordinated with ERINYS, a contracted security firm for the Ministry of Oil, to emplace fixed site security on the AL-FATAH pipeline crossing near Bayji. The

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Engineer Brigade conducted inspections on the final repairs for the Bayji Water Treatment Plant, giving it a "go," and restoring drinking water to 50,000 residents. In addition, the PCO announced approval of the Rapid Contract Initiative, which will accelerate the design and building process to speed up contracting for up to 54 projects with a combined price tag of \$123,000,000. These projects include water treatment plants, village road repairs, and electricity distribution.

### **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. 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!