



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

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**Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq --** The 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger will host a Freedom Day Celebration at FOB Danger here with hundreds of invited Iraqi guests, including families, to celebrate Iraqi freedom and American independence together. The celebration will include dinner, speeches, a 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Band concert and fireworks over the Tigris River.

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 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 national elections in January 2005.

### **Ishaki Health Clinic is renovated, re-opens**

Task Force 177 Armor participated in the opening of a health clinic June 23 in the city of Ishaki, Iraq. The Ishaki Health Clinic, approximately 20 kilometers west of Balad, is the main health care center for the city and surrounding area with a population over 20,000 Iraqis. The Ishaki City Council brought the health clinic to the attention of Task

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Force 1-77. After an initial proposal was made, the civil affairs team conducted an on-site evaluation of the facility and made recommendations to the council for repairs and renovation.

The city council, through their rebuilding committee, sought out and selected contractors and made an official request to the task force for assistance with the clinic. The clinic renovation was approved at a cost of \$32,000 and work began April 26. The project completely renovated the existing building, providing new male and female examination rooms; a reception area; new air conditioners in all rooms; a sterilization station for medical instruments; renovation of the male and female bathrooms, and repaired an existing security wall and gate. The project was completed June 20.

Ishaki city government and health officials along with Capt. Mathew Archambault, commander of Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26 Infantry, hosted the grand opening. The 272<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Group from Logistic Support Area Anaconda attended to provide donated medical supplies to the clinic and the civil affairs team donated medical books with the help of 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion public health team. This event was marked with a celebration at the clinic and praise for Iraqi-American cooperation. This was the first assistance this clinic had received in over 15 years.

**Making a difference in the safety and security of Iraq**

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On June 28, the Coalition Provisional Authority transferred sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government. Over the past two weeks, the soldiers of the division redoubled their efforts to set the conditions for security and Iraqi self-sufficiency.

The Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recently changed its name and is now known as the Iraqi National Guard. New equipment is being issued this week from the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Support Command to the 10 ING battalions in the division area of responsibility.

Equipment includes 100 UAZ jeeps, 100 Mitsubishi pickup trucks, and 2,000 flak vests. The soldiers of the Iraqi National Guard are also receiving uniforms, hats, rucksacks, load bearing vests, physical fitness uniforms, and other equipment. Currently, the first basic training class is in session at the Task Force Danger North-Central Iraqi National Guard Regional Training Facility and will graduate July 10. Three hundred twenty new recruits are receiving instruction on basic rifle marksmanship, first aid, map reading, human rights and individual movement techniques.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Dagger) continues to conduct a full spectrum of operations while remaining committed to maintaining a stable, safe, and secure Salah Ad Din Province. As the CPA transferred sovereignty to the Interim Iraqi Government, the brigade issued the 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Brigade 66 vehicles which will greatly improve the ING's ability to project security throughout the brigade area of operations. Task Force 1-77 ensured a water treatment project was initiated which will filter water from the Tigris River for the village of Al Buhishma. Another key step in establishing a

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democratic society occurred June 27, when the Salah Ad Din Province held gubernatorial elections.

On June 24, soldiers of A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 120th Infantry were attacked while conducting a route clearance mission in the city of Baqubah. These attacks increased throughout the day, resulting in all four 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team (Duke) maneuver battalions being committed to combat throughout Diyala Province. At the end of the day, anti-Iraqi forces were defeated and the streets of Baqubah were quiet. On June 26, violence once again erupted, but this time the Iraqi security forces, with assistance from the division's 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, were able to quell the unrest and maintain the peace. Finally, on June 28, the brigade turned over sovereignty to Governor Abdullah in an emotional ceremony at the provincial capital. Following the ceremony, the people of Diyala shared their hope for a secure and sovereign Iraq.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Warrior) conducted successful operations throughout the At Tamin and As Sulaymaniyah provinces. In the city of Kirkuk, the brigade combat team conducted Operation Gimlet Crusader, a series of simultaneous raids designed to disrupt violent anti-Iraqi forces from conducting attacks against multi-national forces or Iraqi security forces. The raids resulted in the capture of seven individuals, including one financier and one cell leader. In addition, Ambassador J. Paul Bremer, head of the CPA, bid farewell to the members of the Kirkuk Provincial Council and the Iraqi Interim President discussed the future of Kirkuk and the At Tamin Province within the greater Iraq.

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In the last two weeks the “Gunfighters” of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment have supported the maneuver brigade combat teams with AH-64 Apache helicopters in direct support of their missions. The Gunfighters have flown over 450 hours in the past two weeks, performing oil pipeline security; route reconnaissance and security; convoy escort; FOB security, and support for combat operations. The AH-64s also supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team when anti-Iraqi forces in Baqubah staged offensive operations. The “Eagles” of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment continued their support of the division command group, including two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters in direct support of the assistant division commander for maneuver for operations in the south in support of Task Force Dragon. Combined with the B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 106<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment “Mad Dogs,” our UH-60 fleet has flown 900 hours in the last two weeks supporting both the command group and the remainder of the division in battlefield circulation. 2/1st Aviation has completed four UH-60 major phase maintenance requirements due to the high flight hour operational tempo. The 601<sup>st</sup> Aviation Support Battalion “Typhoons” have steadily supported the 4<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade, completing more than 2,000 work orders to date; assisting in six aircraft phases, and performing daily combat logistics patrols. They also conducted a Combat Lifesaver training class, which is instrumental to saving lives during their combat patrol operations. The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade also had 22 Soldiers re-enlist during this quarter. As a side note, the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division recently exceeded its quarterly reenlistment mission with 34 percent of the soldiers reenlisting for their present duty assignment.

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Task Force Dragon, consisting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Artillery and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 14th Infantry of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, conducted a deliberate relief-in-place operation in the An Najaf area, allowing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment to redeploy after more than a year in Iraq. The four squadrons of 2<sup>nd</sup> ACR and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 37th Armor are already on their way home. Both units operated near the “Green Zone” in Baghdad until they were extended for 90 days in April. After their extension, they deployed to An Najaf and Ad Diwaniyah. The 2/37th earned national recognition when its Soldiers were featured on the cover of Time Magazine. The soldiers of Task Force Dragon worked hard to ensure the extended soldiers re-deployed on time.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Support Command continues to provide support to the division combat team throughout the area of operations and has recently deployed a Forward Logistics Element in support of division operations near An Najaf. In addition to support to the division combat team, the DISCOM has been heavily involved in equipping the Iraqi National Guard to develop a viable military presence capable of maintaining security in Iraq. To date, DISCOM has received, prepared, and issued the Iraqi National Guard more than 3,000 weapons, 140 vehicles, uniforms and equipment for over 3,000 soldiers, and 2.5 million rounds of ammunition.

### **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 98 anti-Iraqi forces killed, an estimated 12 wounded, and an additional 100 detained. Forty-two major enemy weapons and ammunition caches were

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discovered in the past two weeks. Significant ammunition seized from these caches included more than 112 rockets; 92 mortar tubes; 3,880 mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 156 small arms weapons and rocket propelled grenade launchers; 42 fuses; 1,302 land mines; 130 pounds of PE-4; nine grenades and more than 1,500 rounds of small arms ammunition. Major equipment found included one SA-7 surface-to-air missile and one 57mm IMRLS system. Ninety-seven improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation.

### **Making a difference in north-central Iraq**

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Public Health is facilitating a partnership between Harvard University and a local medical college. Capt. Thamus Morgan, veterinarian with the 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs public health team, traveled to Dubai, United Arab Emirates with \$100,000 and a signed Letter of Intent to formally begin an academic partnership between the Tikrit University College of Medicine and Harvard University. Pairing Tikrit University and Harvard will have far-reaching and lasting effects on the curriculum, students, staff and facilities of the local medical school. The partnership will improve medical care throughout Salah ad Din and beyond through improved medical education and communication.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Education reports that the "Operation I Can" web site has received more than 6,000 hits. This site lets family members and friends of Task Force Danger Soldiers mail donated school supplies to FOB Danger to be inventoried and distributed to units throughout the 1st Infantry Division area of

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operations. The "Operation I Can" web site, which is the abbreviation for Iraqi Children Assistance Network, is also now available in German. The site can be found at [www.operationican.com](http://www.operationican.com). Task Force Danger received its first shipment of textbooks for university students in the Task Force Danger area of operations, containing approximately 26 boxes of books in subjects such as English, math, and science. These books are shipped by universities throughout the United States to Iraqi students.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Justice continues the work of developing the rule of law in Iraq, receiving shipments of computers to be delivered to local courts in the Salah ad Din and Diyala Provinces. These computers will be delivered to the various courts over the next week. Recently, the Tikrit Branch Office of the Iraqi Property Claims Commission processed 300th claim, making it one of the busiest IPCC offices in Iraq. The Ministry of Justice conducted legal training for local Iraqi lawyers and judges. Chief Judge Najem of Salah ad Din, along with the president of the Salah ad Din Bar Association, the Chief Criminal Judge of Salah ad Din, and other lawyers and judges, met with U.S. Army judge advocates to discuss current legal issues such as Iraqi civil law, international law, and the legal implications of the transfer of sovereignty. In turn, Chief Judge Najem and Iraqi attorney Sufian Faraq lectured U.S. judge advocates on the nature of Iraqi law.

On June 22, the milestone of 1,000 megawatts of electric generation was exceeded in the Task Force Danger area of operations in the Provinces of Diyala, Salah ad Din, and At Tamim. Pre-war generation was approximated at 650 megawatts. Although more

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than 1,000 megawatts are produced in the division area of operations, less than 500 megawatts are used there. The rest is exported south to Baghdad and the surrounding areas. As the generation of electricity increases, more will be allocated for the communities in north-central Iraq.

Local Iraqi residents and Task Force Danger Soldiers celebrated the first edition of *The Arabic Voice*, a newspaper printed for the citizens of Bayji, July 1. The newspaper was made a reality by cooperation between the Bayji City Council, Task Force 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and a civil affairs team. The initial cost of the project was \$9,500 and continued production of the newspaper will rely on profits gained from the sales of news and advertising. In his first editorial column, Sa'ad Thamir Mohammed Al-Qaisi expressed his happiness for being able to finally bring a newspaper to his town of Bayji. He promised he would "be neutral in all the information and articles and will never be afraid to tell the truth." The Bayji newspaper is printed in Mosul, since there is no local printing press, and has a circulation of approximately 3,000. Thamir and his staff of 10 local Iraqis, worked hard to accomplish their goal of publishing the first edition in time to commemorate "the day (of) the government transference to the Iraqi people."

During a brief ceremony at FOB Speicher June 30, the 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Brigade unfurled its colors and received 66 brand-new vehicles from coalition forces. Soldiers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team handed over 31 Mitsubishi 2004 diesel four-wheel pickup trucks and 35 Czech-made jeeps. The price tag for each pickup was \$23,000 and \$14,000 per jeep. Funding for the pickup trucks was supplied by the 1<sup>st</sup>

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Infantry Division with the Multi National Corps-Iraq covering the costs for the jeeps. About 150 of the 2,500 members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Brigade were on hand to pick up the vehicles. Based in Tikrit, the 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Brigade includes three battalions which provide security for the region. Two pickup trucks can carry an 11-man squad with the option of mounting a machine gun in the bed of the vehicle. Col. Randy Dragon, commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, was present as the 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi National Guard Brigade and its battalion colors unfurled.

Recently, the government of Salah Al Din Province, the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion and Task Force 9th Engineers organized and held a trade fair symposium in the downtown Tikrit Gymnasium. More than 80 contractors from throughout the province, including several women, attended the event, to learn more about the bidding and award processes for upcoming projects in their regions. The guest speaker was Basim Hiawy, head of the Project Management Office for health and education Projects in and around Baghdad. The presentation covered the selection criteria for ranking qualified companies, and discussed current and previous bid and award processes. The contractors' symposium was attended by engineers and contractors from across Salah Al Din province. In all, the symposium was a success for local contractors and the municipalities because it reestablished the importance of construction and infrastructure improvements in establishing a better and independent way of life for Iraq.

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