



TASK FORCE DANGER ***Press Release***

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Forward Operating Base Danger, Tikrit, Iraq. The 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger are working to improve infrastructure, equip and train competent Iraqi security forces, empower local governments, and set the conditions for Iraqi self sufficiency. 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 following is a summary of the division's progress over the past two weeks.

The best news of the week

This past week, Task Force Danger soldiers cut through mounds of red tape to transport an 8-month-old Iraqi girl with a life-threatening birth defect to the Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Without surgery the girl, named Fatemah, would have died from a cavernous hemangioma, an abnormal growth of a blood vessel on the right side of her face and neck. It took an enormous amount of work by many people to make this all happen quickly. Fatemah's mother, Baday Armir, and father, Khaleel, sought the help of the soldiers of Task Force 1-150 of the 30th Brigade deployed near Mandali, not



far from the Iranian border. The couple took their daughter to the front gate of Forward Operating Base Rough Rider and pleaded for medical help. The Task Force 1-150 physician's assistant, Lt. Col. Todd Fredricks, saw Fatemah and started the ball rolling with the 1st Infantry Division, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in Baghdad, the Coalition Provisional Authority, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense to seek medical attention for the baby in the U.S. Fredricks has connections with Ohio State University at Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and was able to persuade the medical facility's board of directors to waive all costs for Fatemah's surgery. On May 14, 1st Infantry Division Surgeon, Lt. Col. Michael Brumage, received word from the office of U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) saying there are plans to ensure Fatemah receives treatment in Ohio.

The 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger continue stability and support operations in north-central Iraq while simultaneously conducting combat operations against anti-Iraqi forces. Over the past two weeks, division soldiers have conducted more than 4,000 combat patrols to secure the towns, population centers, and highways of north-central Iraq. The division's Iraqi security partners continue to participate in its operations and are taking a greater role in the security of their nation. "Big Red One" Soldiers conducted 31 deliberate raids over the last two weeks and have captured 39 suspected members of anti-Iraqi forces.



A major effort of the division is the manning, equipping, and training of Iraqi security forces in its region. In the eastern part of the Diyala province, the 30th Brigade Combat Team (Old Hickory) from North Carolina has a major role in this mission. They are working with the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, the Iraqi Police, and are establishing ties with the emerging New Iraqi Army activating in their region. The training and expertise offered by these citizen soldiers is put to use in a huge area of responsibility from Balad Ruz to Tuz.

Task Force Danger is continuing the renovation and construction of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps training center in Tikrit. Nearly \$1.5 million has been spent to transform the buildings and training areas into facilities for future ICDC soldiers and non-commissioned officers. The first Primary Leadership Development Course will begin May 28 and basic training will begin June 6. When complete, the training center will be capable of training 400 soldiers per class. More than \$5.8 million worth of vehicles and radios was purchased recently, and long overdue equipment purchased for the ICDC is finally arriving.

Kirkuk may be the most important city in the division combat team's area of operations. The ethnic diversity and multi-cultural fault lines that run through that city make it a dangerous and complex environment. The 2nd Brigade (Warrior) of the 25th Infantry Division continues to work to maintain order in this city as well as in the whole of the At Tamim and As Sulaymaniah Provinces. The brigade recently conducted air assault



training with the aviation brigade and is putting its air assault skills to use in the mountainous terrain of northeastern Iraq.

The soldiers of the 4th Brigade (Dragon) have provided attack aviation, assault aviation, and logistics support throughout an area the size of West Virginia. The warriors of the 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation have flown hundreds of AH-64 Apache attack helicopter missions in support of ground combat patrols. The Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation also support the division mission with assault aviation and command and control missions, as do the troops of the 601st Aviation Support Battalion who keep aircraft mission-ready and flying safely.

Division Artillery (Drumfire) has continued its mission to destroy captured enemy ammunition and is working hard to prevent anti-Iraqi forces from obtaining explosive materials for attacks. To date, soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery have moved more than 1.8 million pounds of ammunition to various destruction sites, including 300,000 pounds in the past two weeks. They also recently destroyed several old Soviet-bloc missiles and cleared more than 6,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance. At the same time, the soldiers of the DIVARTY's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery set out on a 1000-mile trek to Kuwait and back to draw additional Paladin howitzers from the Army pre-positioned stock there.



Task Force Danger's 264th Engineer Group (Badgers) continues to patrol main supply routes. In this two-week period, the engineers cleared 13,747 kilometers of the roads that division soldiers travel. Every day, the Badgers find and defuse improvised explosive devices before they can detonate. The division's Engineer Brigade (Devastator) has taken the lead in the accelerated Iraqi reconstruction program, writing statements of work, soliciting bids, and contracting for over \$62 million in major, short-term infrastructure projects to benefit the people of north-central Iraq. Their efforts are helping to create jobs and improve Iraqi quality of life.

In the past two weeks the Division Support Command (Durable) and the 167th Corps Support Group (Granite) have issued 1.35 million gallons of fuel, produced 490,000 gallons of clean water, and issued 3.5 million pounds of food in support of Task Force Danger. "Durable" Soldiers also assisted in the recent delivery and issue of 98 new up-Armored Humvees and 28 M1A1 Abrams tanks that will help provide protection to division Soldiers here.

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 seven enemy killed in action, an estimated eight enemy wounded in action, and an additional 160 detained. Thirty-five major enemy weapons and ammunition caches were discovered in the last two weeks. Significant ammunition seized from these caches included more than 700 rockets; 1,000 mortar, artillery and



tank rounds; more than 2,000 anti-aircraft rounds; 90 small arms weapons and rocket-propelled grenades; and four surface-to-air missiles. Forty-eight improvised explosive devises were discovered prior to detonation.

Strengthening the infrastructure in North Central Iraq.

Task Force Danger, the Coalition Provisional Authority, and the Iraqi people continue to strengthen the civil infrastructure in north-central Iraq. Several division level “ministries” are involved in working toward that goal.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Justice recently met with 54 judges from the Salah ad Din Province, including the chief judge, the principal judges of every major court in the province, and numerous subordinate judges. These judges updated the ministry on the status and progress of their respective jurisdictions. The Ministry of Justice also distributed U.N. nomination forms to the judges for the electoral committee currently being assembled to facilitate elections in Iraq. They instructed the judges on how the applications should be submitted. The ministry hosted a discussion group comprised of local Iraqi law and university students and the president of the local bar association in Tikrit. The group discussed such topics as the transition to Iraqi sovereignty; the pending elections; international law, and the impact of the U.S. presence here. The students had an opportunity to express their opinions openly and exchange ideas with American attorneys. Also, the Joint Services Law Enforcement team continued the investigation of crimes against coalition forces in the Task Force Danger area of



operations. A number of criminals detained for attacking Task Force Danger soldiers are scheduled for Iraqi court proceedings in early June. The Iraqi Property Claims Commission (IPCC) officially opened for business this week. The Task Force Danger Minister of Justice is in the process of interviewing Iraqi lawyers who will serve on the claims arbiter's staff. Since the IPCC settles claims resulting from injustices of the Ba'athist regime prior to April 9, 2003, Iraqi civil courts will handle claims that have occurred since.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Education recently completed the installation of the first of three computer learning centers in each of the three main universities in the division area of operations and funded a new student center. The University of Tikrit computer learning center now has 15 computers online to give the faculty and students continuous access to the Internet.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Communications met with CPA representatives for telecommunications to lay out a plan for the rehabilitation of the communications infrastructure in four provinces. They expect Asiacell to expand cellular telephone service to the At Tamim, As Sulymanaya, and Salah ad Din Provinces by the end of August. They also have arranged to purchase an Iraqi telephone service for every base so coalition troops can coordinate with their Iraqi counterparts in all areas of rebuilding.

The Task Force Danger Ministry of Media continues to provide assistance to improve the Tikrit Media Center. Construction projects on the TV set and production studio are



ongoing, and provide jobs for 20 Iraqis. When the project is finished, the media center will have radio and TV facilities able to produce and play local news and talk shows, providing information to the Iraqi people. In addition, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, in conjunction with Iraqi Media Network and Harris Corporation, are continuing to upgrade the facilities at the Baqubah Media Center.

The 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division continues to work with provincial council members in At Tamim. The brigade hosts a security working group every Tuesday to focus on security issues. Each meeting has brought greater attendance and the committee is starting to address some tough issues, such as the sensitive question of evicting illegal squatters in the area. Facilitated by coalition forces, the committee came to an agreement that local police will serve notices and fines and enforce evictions. The council members will issue guidance and support through the local media.

Task Force Danger has started an Iraqi Advisory Council that will advise and assist the division's senior leaders and staff. More than 20 Iraqi leaders volunteered to be part of the council to help Task Force Danger and Iraq with security and reconstruction operations. The Iraqi advisors met with the division chief of staff and staff officers May 20 to organize and structure the advisory councils. The Iraqi and Task Force Danger leadership determined that the advisory council will comprise multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-skilled Iraqi leaders from throughout the four provinces in north-central Iraq. The council will meet again June 3 to focus on actions to prepare for the Iraqi transition of authority June 30.



Task Force Danger is continuing to work with the religious leaders in its area of operations. To prevent rumors of detainee abuse, Dr. Hatem Ahmad Abass, the head imam in Samarra, was invited to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team Detention Facility at Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora to give a sermon to the detainees. Hatem is the imam at the Al Hadi Mosque, also known as the Golden Mosque, in Samarra. Hatem arrived with two associates, Sheik Jasim Dauod, imam for the Noor Al-Yaqeen Mosque, and Ghazi Abdul-Kareem Abdullah, a court magistrate in Samarra. Lt. Col. Kirk Allen, commander of the division's Task Force 1-26 Infantry, greeted Hatem when he arrived at the facility. Hatem was provided a loudspeaker and gave a sermon focused on patience, hope, and optimism. Following the sermon Hatem and his associates talked with several detainees and were given a tour of the facility, including its aid station, latrines, showers, and even the contents of one of the Meals, Ready to Eat detainees are given three times a day. Dr. Hatem seemed pleased to see that the detainees had access to copies of the Quran and were allowed religious freedom.

Hatem and his associates admitted they were pleasantly surprised at how well the detainees were treated. They commented on the fact that all the detainees which they had spoken with told them that they were being well fed and cared for, and treated humanely at the facility. Hatem said he had expected far worse conditions at the detention facility after hearing recent press reports about events at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. As the guests left, they thanked Allen for allowing them to give a sermon and talk with the detainees.



In a cooperative effort between Task Force Danger and Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture, Iraqi pilots recently began crop-dusting Diyala Province's date palm fields. It is the first time Iraqi pilots have flown in their airspace since Operation Iraqi Freedom began more than one year ago. This operation will cover nine areas in Diyala Province and will continue for two weeks, the end of the date spraying season. The spraying will cover an estimated five to eight square kilometers per day. Spraying is critical to the operation of Iraq's date palm industry. About 60 percent of the world's dates come from Iraq, and of those, about 65 percent come from Diyala Province.

The Ministry of Agriculture's head pilot, Capt. Muntadhar Mohamed, began meeting with representatives over two months ago to help coordinate the operation. Dr. Hussein Ali-Tahir, a pesticide analysis specialist with the Ministry of Agriculture, certified the chemicals, which are not dangerous to humans or animals. They have been spraying the crops for more than 50 years. Spraying pesticide protects the date palm from the white fly and fruit fly, which were very damaging last year. The aircraft used for crop-dusting are Russian-made MI-2 helicopters purchased from Poland in 1985. These were initially meant for the military, but the Ministry of Agriculture took them for use as crop dusters. Following the completion of the date palm operation, the pilots will continue to spray other crops such as wheat, rice and corn. Based on the success of the operation, they will most likely move on to other provinces throughout the country and continue spraying throughout the year.

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