



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2004

CHAPLAINS FROM THROUGHOUT V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION GATHER FOR SECOND CONFERENCE IN IRAQ

By **Spc. Joe Alger**

1st Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq – V Corps' 1st Infantry

Division conducted its second chaplain conference in Iraq October 14.

Lt. Col. Mike Lembke, the division chaplain, hosted the training conference for "Big Red One" Unit Ministry Teams, giving the division's major subordinate chaplains and chaplain assistants an opportunity to gather and effectively "compare notes" on for the second time since the division deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



SPC JOE ALGER

Deployed chaplains from throughout V Corps' 1st Infantry Division gather in Tikrit October 14 for the division's second chaplain conference in Iraq.

The two main topics of discussion at the conference were preparing Soldiers for their reunion and re-integration upon the division's return to Germany, and teaching Soldiers Iraqi cultural awareness.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jonathan Gibbs, the division's deputy chaplain, said preparing Soldiers for returning home is an important task for chaplains.

"As we start planning for redeployment, we need to make sure our Soldiers are prepared for changes that have taken place back at home and changes that have taken place in them," Gibbs said.

In addition, Lembke's program of conducting cultural awareness discussions is designed to improve Soldiers' appreciation and understanding of Iraqi culture to help generate local support for coalition efforts.

The "Big Red One's" UMTs are spread throughout the entire division area of operations and rarely have an opportunity to meet and share ideas and experiences.

