

Dhi Qar PRT successes showing through

By **Spc. Chris Erickson**
U.S. Central Command Public Affairs

Security authority for Dhi Qar has been under Provincial Iraqi Control for almost six months now, and many successes in the province are starting to show through.

The Iraqis who live in Dhi Qar province are now finding opportunities they never had under Saddam. The Provincial Reconstruction Team, which was set up last year, has been acting as advisers to the Iraqis, helping them determine which steps will best suit them to get Iraq to stand up on its own. To accomplish that goal, the PRT has been working with many different groups in the area, from U.S. and Coalition military to foreign civilian and Iraqi nationals.

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A Coalition service member pulls security at a local market in the Dhi Qar province. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Chris Erickson.

Muthanna PRT under Iraqi control

By **Sgt. Chris Keller**
U.S. Central Command Public Affairs

ALI AIR BASE, Iraq — For the citizens in Muthanna Province, living in a secure province that has a government to supporting them and their basic needs is all they’ve ever wanted.

Provincial Iraqi Control (PIC) of Muthanna was passed to the Iraqi government in July of 2006 and has been assisted by the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) since September.

Muthanna became the first Iraqi province to take the lead on governing its own province. This step allowed the provincial police and Iraqi Army to be the first responders’ to any crisis in the province. However, the PRT still helps the government in taking further steps to helping its people.

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Australian and American Soldiers have tea with local Iraqis while on mission May 3. Muthanna’s PRT conducted a on site visit and assessment of a bridge project funded by the Australians. The teams’ thirteen approved projects for 2007 total \$8.8 million. These projects include infrastructure, essential services and communications projects. Photo by Sgt Chris Keller.

CENTCOM PODCAST

CENTCOM PODCAST 11 MAY 07 — A top CENTCOM official says insurgents are losing credibility with the Iraqi people, U.S. Troops help Iraqi forces in Tal Afar, and Italian soldiers helps to stabilize Afghanistan.

FROM AROUND THE AOR

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First Muslim to Take Command of Aviation Squadron

Former Infantryman Finds Calling in Civil Affairs

Basrah Public Works Initiative Complements PRT

Deployment Provides Direction for Anaconda Soldier

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EXPOSING THE ENEMY

ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ CLAIMS CAPTURING ‘CRUSADER’ SOLDIERS



On 13 May, a jihadist website posted a statement issued by the Ministry of Information of the Islamic State in Iraq claiming responsibility for the “capture and arrest of a number of crusaders south of the state of Baghdad.”

A translation of the statement follows:

“In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

“Praise be to God, Lord of all creation. Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon all of his family and companions.

— [Full Text](#)

WARFIGHTER STORIES

ARMY MAJ. RYAN L. WORTHAN



The wild lands between Afghanistan and Pakistan have never been for the faint of heart. That’s even more true for those stationed at Shkin Fire Base in Afghanistan – a fortified mud base, at 7,800 feet of elevation, a mere four miles from the border. It is a “choking point” for insurgents in the surrounding mountains, and as such often experiences direct contact with enemy forces – as it did in spectacular fashion on Sept. 29, 2003.

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