

RIVER REPORT

1
HIGHLANDER

بَاقِرِ الرَّهَر

الله أكبر

January 1, 2010

IRAQI POLICE

الشرطة العراقية

Maysan province police from Balda, Huteen, and Emergency Response Units attended professional development courses taught by U.S. Forces, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi Police Academy staff. Day one of this course covered the basics of personnel searches and a brief overview of Entry Control Point (ECP) operations. Day two consisted of an extensive ECP operations class and an overview of guard post operations. Day three was a cumulative practical exercise. During the training police departments swapped instructors with other units so that knowledge can be shared across all of Maysan. Using the best security techniques will ensure there are safe elections in March.

Iraqi Police in Dhi Qar captured a vehicle attempting to smuggle large rockets and bomb making materials near Nasiriyah.



IRAQI ARMY

الجيش العراقي

Iraqi Mortarmen from the 40th Iraqi Army Brigade participated in 120mm mortar live fire training with U.S. Forces 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment in Dhi Qar. This training improved the skills of Iraqi jundee to identify targets from forward observation points and then call in mortar strikes via tactical FM radio.

The 38th Iraqi Army Brigade commander conducted a planning session for upcoming elections security. Early planning will result in safer elections for people in northern Maysan.

The 10th Iraqi Army commando battalion assisted with security for Ashura in Karbala. They successfully discovered several weapons caches.

DEPARTMENT OF BORDER ENFORCEMENT

قيادة قوات الحدود

Shurta from the Department of Border Enforcement conducted counter-smuggling operations in the Hwayzah marshes. These operations were conducted on boats with a small number of U.S. Army and Navy advisors. The 11th Department of Border Enforcement Brigade is using the fast boats to catch smugglers of lethal aid, drugs, and counterfeit money into Maysan from Iraq's eastern border.

Together with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police the DBE is increasing its positive presence in the marshes near the Umm Sa'ah border fort.





CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

مستجدات المساعدات المدنية



Dhi Qar

Iraqi chefs competed in a cooking contest at the Mittica training facility. With all the activity at Mittica each day it is time to open a restaurant, run by Iraqis and serving Iraqi food. For five days, competing chefs prepared a selection of food, which was served as lunch to the Iraqi soldiers attending literacy training. Those soldiers, after wading through platters of falafels, spiced rice and kebabs then had to write the names of their preferred chef, showing off their new writing skills and selecting the winner.

U.S. Soldiers from Task Force Pathfinder delivered backpacks and school supplies to children at an orphanage in the An Nasr area of northern Dhi Qar.

Maysan

The PRT's "Practice English" session continued with a special Christmas event. Five Iraqi English teachers attended a special Christmas dinner and celebration with PRT members and Americans at COS Garryowen. The teachers dressed in their finest suits and offered as gifts: an English translation of the story of Mary and Jesus from the Quran; learning and singing the carol, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"; and bringing Christmas cards for the Americans. The group's organizer explained that, while Maysan is in mourning while observing the "Remembrance of Muharram," the teachers wanted to learn more about American traditions and celebrate Christmas with us while we are away from family and friends.

Also, the Maysan PRT rule of law advisor informed Chief Judge Nouri that the U.S. will assist them to complete a legal library in the coming days.



Muthanna

A new water distribution network for Al Kwam provides clean water for drinking and cooking to nearly 100,000 Iraqis. This project was requested by the local Ministry of Municipalities Director Ahmed Fedala and sponsored by the U.S. Forces CERP. Prior to completion local residents had to walk long distances for clean water and many used contaminated ponds for bathing. Access to clean water is essential for reducing illness.

In other news, paintings from Muthanna artists will be displayed at the Diplomacy Museum in Washington, D.C. during International Women's Month in March.

CULTURAL BOX

الحقبة الثقافية

History of Coalition Forces (2003-2009)

On January 1, 2010, in Baghdad, U.S. Army Gen. Raymond Odierno held a press conference to announce the end of Multi-National Forces-Iraq and a name change to U.S. Forces-Iraq. The Iraq war began on March 20, 2003 with U.S. Forces joined by the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, Poland, and Spain. From 2003-2009 over 30 other countries were part of MNF-I including: Italy, Poland, and Ukraine. Many European troops were based in Dhi Qar, Maysan, and Muthanna. Today, the name change to USF-I indicates the U.S. is the only country remaining that partners with Iraqi Security Forces. All operations are in accordance with the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

