

RIVER REPORT

1 HIGHLANDER

بَاقِرِ الرَّهَر

الله أكبر

February 26, 2010

IRAQI POLICE

الشرطة العراقية

In an effort to preserve security at election polling sites on election day, the Dhi Qar Iraqi Police leadership requested female search training to train Iraqi women on effective search techniques. Female Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, in coordination with the Dhi Qar Police Transition Team, conducted a hands-on training class with Iraqi women who will now train the women that will conduct polling site searches of female voters. The techniques taught focus on the Dhi Qar Iraqi Police's objectives of establishing an Iraqi female teaching cadre to prepare people for efficient and effective elections security processes. The class was useful for the female IPs and for the U.S. Soldiers. Additional training has been requested after the elections period.

In Muthanna, Iraqi Police and other public safety agencies conducted a rehearsal for elections security. The scenarios tested their ability to protect polling sites and ballots storage locations.



IRAQI ARMY

الجيش العراقي

Soldiers with the 39th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division in conjunction with the Iraqi Air Force conducted an aerial reconnaissance of select areas of the Salmon desert region in southern Muthanna province. The mission was designed to check security along the Saudi border. Following the missions, the 39th IA commander hosted a large traditional meal for the brigade staff and the Iraqi Air Force personnel that provided aviation support for the mission.

Also Iraqi Army soldiers conducted a search operation in the Al Btayra District of Al Amarah. When the 38th IA Brigade searched that area they recovered several illegal weapons, a PKC, RPG-7, artillery rounds and fuses. The sharing of intelligence info between US Forces and ISF enabled the IA to accomplish this mission.

DEPARTMENT OF BORDER ENFORCEMENT

قيادة قوات الحدود

The 11th Department of Border Enforcement recently conducted a command inspection with initial results stating that the unit had successfully passed the inspection with the 4th Battalion receiving the highest marks followed by the 2nd Commando Company and 1st Battalion. 11th DBE operations officer, Lt. Col. Hikmet, was eager to share the report with U.S. Force Advisors from Team "Destroyer." Border police proficiency continues to increase as the 11th DBE partnerships and training commence at the Joint Operations Center.

Strong partnerships between DBE and U.S. Forces advisors will lead to more success in their mission to counter-smuggling, stop illegal fishing and hunting, and provide border security.





CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

مستجدات المساعدات المدنية



Dhi Qar

The PRT visited Dhi Qar University's Art Faculty in the al-Shimoukh area of Nasiriyah this week, where team members met with the University's President to discuss the growing PRT-University relationship, exchange programs, and the challenges faced by the university, which was founded in 2002. Chancellor Ali, who has held his position since 2005, is looking for top quality students from area high schools. And, for its part, the university needed to focus on medicine, science, English, engineering, and research. The Chancellor spoke about his visit to the University of North Carolina, one of the American Universities with which he hopes to build a relationship. President Ali would also like to see more Dhi Qar University faculty pursue advanced degrees abroad.

Maysan

Maysani judges, law professors and law enforcement professionals participated in an executive training session hosted by the U.S. Forces and Provincial Reconstruction Teams on Feb. 21. Special Agents from the United States Secret Service office of Financial Investigations conducted an anti-counterfeiting course to inform the Iraqi leaders of the threats from counterfeit U.S. dollars and techniques to identify the fake bills.

In other news, nurses from the Ministry of Health in Amarah attended training with doctors from the U.S. Forces 915th Field Surgical Team. The nurses learned techniques to evaluate spinal injuries. This partners with U.S. doctors will assist the Maysani people in receiving the best medical care.



Muthanna

The Muthanna PRT conducted ribbon cutting ceremonies in al-Majed, al-Suwait, al-Khidr, Rumaytha, Najmi, Karama, and Warkaa for two schools, two bridges, one road, two water distribution networks, and two power extensions. These projects were funded by the United States after they were requested by Iraqi community leaders through their elected officials in Muthanna.

A woman's basic literacy program in al-Suwait is producing strong results and is inspiring participants to become involved in activities to improve their communities.

CULTURAL BOX

الحقبة الثقافية

Iraqi Folklore

Themes of folktales from any part of the world are similar: the reversal of fortunes of poor and rich, the triumph of thwarted lovers, the consequences of greed and jealousy. The Iraqi tribal stories are very rich in this. Many are set in the long historical period of Turkish occupation (1516-1921) when Iraq was economically and politically troubled. In the absence of a culturally significant urban center, it was the great Arab tribes, especially the Shia tribes of the south, who safeguarded a degree of independence and upheld their traditional values of chivalry and tribal solidarity. The heroes and heroines of those stories always have names and a specific tribal identity. Often in these stories, poverty-stricken young men of noble lineage overcome all manner of adversity through military prowess and cunning and win beautiful girls.

