

RIVER REPORT

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HIGHLANDER

الله أكبر

تقرير النهر

March 13, 2010

IRAQI POLICE

الشرطة العراقية

The Iraqi Police and Security forces across Dhi Qar, Maysan, and Muthanna Provinces executed a joint security plan to maintain a safe environment for the citizens of Iraq to participate in the parliamentary elections. The command and control centers were staff by officers who monitored maps, radios, and video screens to coordinate security forces movements. U.S. Forces assisted the Iraqis with helicopter and surveillance planes to monitor the elections. The plan was well rehearsed and executed resulting in secure elections.

U.S. Commanders called the Iraqi commanders to congratulate them for their outstanding leadership.



IRAQI ARMY

الجيش العراقي

In southern Maysan, leaders from the 41st IA Brigade, 10th IA Division and U.S. Forces 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment conducted initial inspections for transferring the Military base near Qalit Salih to the Government of Iraq. The leaders toured the base and conducted a general assessment of the building and roads.

The U.S. battalion's staff presented Iraqi leaders with an overview of the base layout, identifying key infrastructure including guard towers, entry control points, hanger shelters, small weapons range, trash burn pit, C-130 capable landing strip, and helicopter landing zone. The facility will be formally transferred to Iraqi control in April.

In Dhi Qar, the 38th and 40th Iraqi Army Brigades both found illegal weapons caches in the past week. Removing illegal weapons helps keep innocent Iraqis safe from outlaws.

DEPARTMENT OF BORDER ENFORCEMENT

قيادة قوات الحدود

On the Iraq-Iran border, shurta from the 2nd Commando Battalion, 11th Department of Border Enforcement brigade designed and constructed a land navigation training course with their U.S. Forces advisors. The border guards participated in a full day of map reading courses. The U.S. Army advisors were able to mentor the DBE shurta by using translators trained in land navigation. After the map reading lessons the shurta were taught how to use a navigational compass and then found points on the terrain in northern Maysan.

In just two days 75% of the DBE shurta were able to demonstrate proficiency with land navigation skills. These skills will make them more effective at counter-smuggling operations along the border.





CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

مستجدات المساعدات المدنية



Dhi Qar

The PRT attended the opening of the Al Gharraf Workshop and Guidance Center. Provincial Council members, Directorate of Agriculture officials and many local farmers came to the event. The center is well-equipped, thanks to the joint efforts of the U.S. and Italian governments. The center is a partnership project: U.S. CERP funds financed the buildings and some equipment, while the Italian government (working through the University of Florence) provided most of the machinery and equipment and a comprehensive training course for center's mechanics and operators. The center provides training and rents tractors and implements at reasonable rates to local farmers. The U.S. and Italian governments are committed to supporting increase production by Iraqi farmers in Dhi Qar.

Maysan

The Maysan Provincial Council Chairman Abd al-Hussein Abd al-Ridha al-Saadi participated in a special flight on U.S. Army helicopters to observe election activities in several cities from the air. Other Provincial Council officials and Iraqi army leaders observed lines at polling sites and assessed security from UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters. The flight was coordinated with the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division and 12th Aviation Brigade.

The "Train the Trainer" program concluded for the Maysan DG of Health college graduate Nurses. They tested out of the program with a comprehensive examination on Monday. All passed with high marks and expressed that the program was a great opportunity for them to increase their knowledge and skills.



Muthanna

The Governor hosted a visit from the PRT Team Leader and Brigadier General Randy Dragon, Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Division-South. It was a very positive introductory visit for BG Dragon. Subjects discussed included security cooperation, Friendship Hall, water resources, marketing of Muthanna for investment, project cooperation, and foreign relations.

PRT coordinated health awareness team conducted health educational workshops in Rumaytha, providing lectures on epidemic disease countermeasures, smoking hazards, child safety, water purification techniques, where to obtain free vaccinations, and personal hygiene. Those attending the forums received health kits and booklets.

CULTURAL BOX

الحقبة الثقافية

Iraqi Insects

Iraq is the home of a wide range of insects. Most of them are nocturnal and this feature helps them to avoid the hot sun and heat during the day. The additional benefit of being nocturnal, is that they can feed on smaller desert creatures, who come out in the night. These insects include: mole crickets, camel spiders, sand flies, drain flies, desert mantis, oriental hornet, fog drinking beetle, and mosquitoes.

Most of the insects do not harm humans; however, the sand flies carry a parasite that causes a skin disease called Leishmaniasis. This is also known as "Baghdad Boil" and can result in significant scarring or even death from infection if the skin is not treated.



Mole Cricket