

EYE ON IRAQ

October 12, 2005

The Iraqi people, with help from coalition nations, continue to succeed in reconstruction, economic development and fighting terrorism

Life returning in what used to be a notorious hideout for violent terrorists

The market in Tal Afar tells the story, with no need for many words.

The city's market place is bustling with venders and shoppers who finally have the confidence to leave their homes. This confidence comes as a result of Iraqi Security Forces constant patrolling in the heart of the city and a reconstituted police force led by a confident and competent police chief committed to the security of the city.



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Iraqi forces, with assistance from coalition forces, moved into Ar Ramadi Oct. 1 to wrestle the streets back from the hands of terrorists. Within the first day, the forces saw success.

Foreign fighters from al Qaeda in Iraq attacked Iraqi soldiers in several locations throughout the city within hours of entering it. The soldiers killed eight foreign fighters in the beginning moments of fighting. In subsequent hours, the forces killed nine more terrorists and captured one who surrendered. They also destroyed an explosive-laden vehicle and another vehicle containing multiple rocket launchers.

Iraqi Forces Fight Against Foreign Fighters in Ar Ramadi



IA soldier conducting a patrol.



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Strengthening security for the referendum

With the referendum vote just days away security is the focal point for Iraqi Army operations. Soldiers are training on everything from road patrols to crowd control. In a time where demonstrations and protests are being held in just about every major Iraqi city, soldiers must know how to deal with potentially terrorist incited rioting crowds without using lethal force.

This is a vast change of pace from the normal training they receive. With two major votes upcoming, the IA must learn how to prevent demonstrations from turning in to violent riots in the event that terrorists manage to infiltrate the lines of Iraqis coming out to vote. Should riots actually break out, the IA must know how to control crowds to protect innocent civilians and ensure peace is preserved.

Soldiers received classes and then they were put to the test when other soldiers acted like a rioting crowd. This training will no doubt prove invaluable in the coming months as the potential for unrest increases.



IA soldiers conducting riot control training



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