

EYE ON IRAQ

November 13, 2005

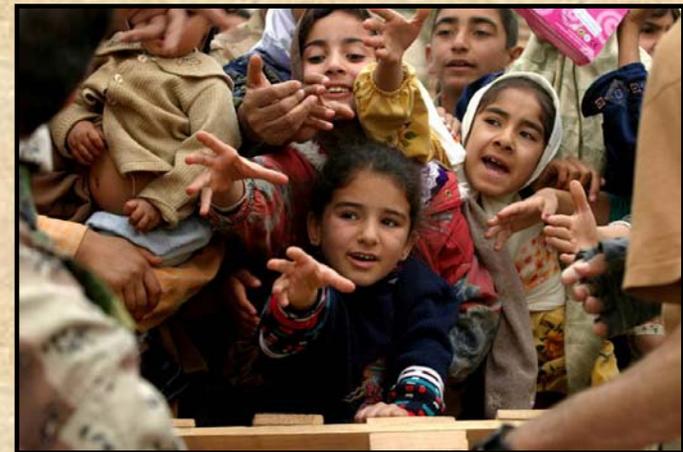
The Iraqi people, with help from coalition nations, continue to succeed in reconstruction, economic development and fighting terrorism

Husaybah residents return as Steel Curtain rids city of terrorists

The objectives of Operation al Hajj Elfulathi (Steel Curtain) were to restore Iraqi sovereign control along the Iraqi-Syrian border and destroy the al Qaeda in Iraq terrorists operating throughout al Qaim region.

Until Operation Steel Curtain, Husaybah was an important command and control center where these foreign fighters were trained and dispatched throughout the country to wage war against the Iraqi people and Coalition Forces.

Husaybah is now secure enough for its displaced residents, most of whom fled the city because of the tribal fighting that was taking place against the terrorists, to start returning.



LEFT: An Iraqi woman receives a box of Meals Ready to Eat during Operation in Husaybah, Iraq, Nov. 7. **FAR LEFT:** A crowd of Iraqi girls reach for toy dolls from Iraqi Soldiers in Husaybah, Iraq, **TOP:** An Iraqi Soldier holds up backpacks to be given to children in displacement camps in Husaybah, Iraq, Nov. 7.



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Weapons cache discovered in Diwaniyah province.

An ammunition and weapons cache was seized by Multinational Division-Center South forces. The cache was detected in Diwaniyah province.

The following ammunition and weapons were seized at the site:

- 27 mortar grenades 120 mm
- 2 antitank launchers RPG 7
- 15 elements of tank ammunition
- 63 hand grenades
- 5 kg of high explosive material

It was the next successful operation to protect civilians from terrorist attacks. Just a few days ago, Multinational Division-Center South forces, in cooperation with 8th Iraqi Army Division, conducted a similar operation in Babil province. Continuing actions like this deprive terrorist groups of weapons and ammunition that would otherwise be used against Iraqi citizens.



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Iraqi Internet usage increased by 30%

Iraqis today have much more access to information from outside Iraq than they did under the regime of Saddam Hussein. The last official estimates for number of Internet subscribers in Iraq dates from March of this year, and shows 145,000 Internet subscribers. While this may seem a small percentage relative to the population of 25 million Iraqis, this is more than thirty times the number of Internet users under Saddam Hussein.

Iraq's Internet system depends almost exclusively on satellite access, and frequent satellite users connect to Italian, Spanish or other European providers. Also, many Iraqis use the Internet at unregulated "internet cafes," where hundreds of people might share the same Internet connection.

Young Iraqis congregate in an Internet café, chatting with their friends online and learning about the world around them.



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