

EYE ON IRAQ

December 3, 2005

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

Fallujah getting entire electric network upgraded

A \$620,000 assessment of Fallujah's electric network was completed in November identifying every home, every business, as well as determining load distribution, necessary repairs, upgrades and new work that will be required to rehabilitate the network in all 17 sectors of Fallujah, a community of 200,000 residents. "We now know how many street lights and utility poles we need, what transformers are good and how many need to be replaced throughout the city," said Michael Doty, project engineer with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central (GRC) District. In all, about \$30 million is being earmarked for the city's totally renovated electrical distribution system.

Currently about 70% to 80% of the city has access to functioning utility lines with about 12 hours of power available daily, but there are large areas in the southern half where extensive work is needed. Fallujah's Electric Department, in conjunction with the Ministry of Electricity, has hired additional manpower and is steadily making progress in getting more and more of the city connected.

\$7.86 million is allocated to build two new 33/11kV substations in Fallujah (doubling the number of substations there). "The associated 33kV feeders (estimated to cost \$6 million) are scheduled to be awarded in early January 2006. These new additions to the 33kV system will greatly reduce the load being placed on the existing substations and will allow a larger portion of the city's residents to receive more reliable power for longer periods of time.



Engineer Isam Kareem Hamadi, Fallujah Electric Department Director, verifies the size and quantity of cable which recently arrived as part of the materials his department is using to rebuild and upgrade Fallujah's electric network.



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66 Al Anbar caches discovered in past week

Iraqi Army soldiers and coalition forces discovered 66 weapons caches during the past week in Al Anbar.

Blocks of plastic explosives, sticks of TNT, artillery and mortar rounds used in vehicle and roadside bombs along with remote detonators were found by Iraqi and U.S. Forces. Machine guns, assault and sniper rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and the munitions were also discovered.

Last Sunday, in Haqlaniyah, Iraqi soldiers and Marines excavated more than 8,800 heavy machine gun rounds along with 150 artillery, mortar and tank rounds. Information gained from local citizens indicated that the cache was buried approximately one month ago by three carloads of terrorists working through the night.

Yesterday near Habbaniyah, four complete mortar systems, including their aiming sites and instruction manuals were found. At the same location, more than a dozen remote detonators for roadside bombs were also found. Thirteen men were detained at the site for further questioning.

Caches were found and destroyed from Fallujah to Al Qa'im.



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New Iraqi Air Force marks major milestone

An all Iraqi aircrew flew its first solo mission aboard a C-130E from Ali Air Base to New Al Muthana Nov. 28.

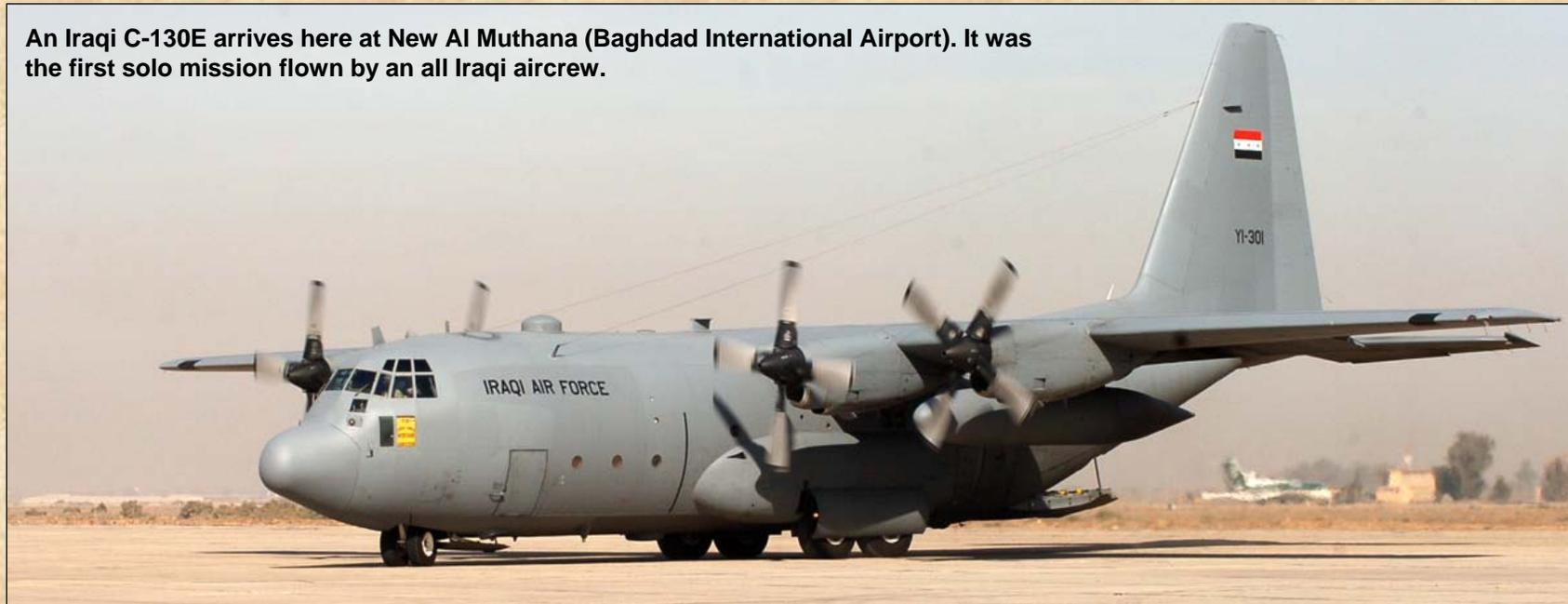
The nine aircrew members are part the 23rd Iraqi Squadron, which was trained at Ali AB.

“The flight marked a major milestone achievement by

showing Iraq’s capability of providing its own military transport,” said Air Force Capt. Jerry Ruiz, Forward Operations executive officer at New Al Muthana.

New Al Muthana is the only Iraqi Air Base in the country and will be home to three C-130E aircraft. The 23rd IS will move to their new home here in January.

An Iraqi C-130E arrives here at New Al Muthana (Baghdad International Airport). It was the first solo mission flown by an all Iraqi aircrew.



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