

# The Daily Roar

VOL. 1, NO. 39

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

FEBRUARY 1, 2008

## Adhamiya councils prosper in security

by **Sgt. Zach Mott**

*3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.*

ADHAMIYA, Iraq – Security predicates every mission, every operation and nearly every step taken in Iraq. It is with no surprise that once Adhamiya District’s security began to improve, government infrastructure in this northern Baghdad neighborhood began to thrive as well.

During an advisory council meeting at the district complex Jan. 24, several smaller groups met initially in surrounding buildings to discuss their needs prior to the whole group meeting in the main building.

“The (Neighborhood Advisory Committee) has broken itself up into functional responsibilities which, in my opinion, speaks to the forethought on how to address internally their own lines of operation and how to be able to help their own people,” said Col. Jeff Bonner, the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team representative for agribusiness development, economic development, fuel distribution in Adhamiya District of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

The Adhamiya District Advisory Council building has become a hub of activity in recent months as concerns have wavered from security to other essential services, such as power, fuel distribution and business development. The focus has also shifted from one in which council members typically asked what the American Forces can do for them into a more proactive stance.

“We have stressed to them all along that it is a process-centric development organization, not a project-centric,” said Bonner, a Fayetteville, Tenn., native. “It’s far more important for the Iraqis to accept and improve the responsibility of rebuilding their own organizational capacity be it governmental, be it private sector, be it not-for-profit sector.”

“The principal purpose is to organize the disparate businesses and resources within old Adhamiya into more of a centralized focal point and to give some planning, and what I would like to say is a synchronization of efforts,” Bonner said.

This group, comprised of local merchants and community leaders, has also flourished in recent months with the increased security. The group has prospered so much that



by Sgt. Zach Mott, 3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Members of the Adhamiya District Advisory Committee discuss plans to improve the area during a meeting in this northern Baghdad neighborhood. The group meets regularly and has begun to work more independently from American troops in recent months.

it’s actually surpassing the Iraqi Government’s ability to approve it as a Non-Government Organization.

“The people (were) hesitant to invest into their own businesses; outside investors (were) hesitant to come into the market area until they (believed) that there (was) a reason to believe in security,” Bonner said, about the former security status of Adhamiya. “Somewhere around mid-November, end of November, things changed dramatically. There are many things behind that, but the key is they changed.”

“The IA are a lot of really great guys that we’re working with,” said Sgt. Amelia Burkel, a Sterling, Va., native, with Company B, 450th Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Riverdale, Md. “We’re trying to teach them how a civil affairs unit works.”

The days’ meetings, both small and large group, were brief but also effective all thanks to the security efforts in this once volatile region.

“Certainly Lt. Col. (Jeff) Broadwater and his organization (3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment) have done much to facilitate standing up of the IA, the IPs, the Concerned Citizens, local security forces and those elements combined ... to abating the violence have often contributed to setting the stage for other lines of operation to coming to the table and we’re at that threshold,” Bonner said.



### Top Eagle descends on Strike Brigade in Iraq

by Sgt. Paul Monroe, 2nd BCT PAO, 101st Abn. Div.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE JUSTICE, Iraq – Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division, presents commander's coins to Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team Jan. 29. The coin is personally designed by a commander and rarely given out. During his visit with the troops, Schloesser handed out 15 to his Soldiers.

## Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

**Friday**

**Clear**

**HI: 50F/10C**

**LO: 35F/2C**



**Saturday**

**Clear**

**HI: 51F/11C**

**LO: 37F/3C**



**Sunday**

**Clear**

**HI: 55F/13C**

**LO: 37F/3C**




# The Daily Roar

**Multi-National Division - Baghdad**

*Public Affairs Office*

**Commanding General:**

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond

**Div. Command Sergeant Major:**

Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia

**Public Affairs Officer:**

Lt. Col. Steve Stover

**Public Affairs Chief**

Sgt. Maj. Eric Lobsinger

**Editor:**

Spc. Philip Klein

**Staff Writers:**

Sgt. Michael Molinaro

Sgt. Jason Thompson

Sgt. Mark Matthews

Sgt. Jerome Bishop

Spc. Elvyn Nieves

Pfc. April Campbell

Pfc. Samantha Schutz

The *Daily Roar* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The *Daily Roar* are not official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of the Army, or the 4th Infantry Division. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army, the 4th Infantry Division, or The *Daily Roar* of the products and services advertised.

All editorial content of The *Daily Roar* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office.

**Do you have a story to share?**

The *Daily Roar* welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers.

Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs Chief [eric.d.lobsinger@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:eric.d.lobsinger@mnd-b.army.mil) and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The *Daily Roar* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

For further information on deadlines, questions, comments or a request to be on our distribution list, email the Editor [walter.klein@mnd-b.army.mil](mailto:walter.klein@mnd-b.army.mil)

# Striker mechanics keep brigade moving

by Pfc. April Campbell

3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Soldiers rely on their vehicles to be up to standard for both safety and mobility while conducting missions in the Baghdad operational area.

Mechanics in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, have taken on the mission of repairing and maintaining the brigade's vehicles at Camp Taji to aid the Striker Soldiers in accomplishing their missions as well as to help ensure operational safety during those missions.

Col. John Hort, a Fayetteville, N.C., native, who serves as the 3rd BCT commander, recently awarded Army Achievement Medals and coins to several of the Soldiers for the hard work and dedication they showed in repairing the vehicles given to the Striker Brigade upon its arrival here in mid-December.

Privates Charles Hill and Greg Hill Jr., both mechanics with 1st Platoon, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd BCT, were two of the Soldiers Hort presented coins to. "We've been working to sustain a better level of maintenance on our vehicles that we received when we first got here," said Charles, a Houston native.

During the time the brigade has been in Iraq, Charles and his fellow mechanics have been working long hours to ensure the vehicles are mission capable, said Greg, a Kansas City, Mo., native.

"The (noncommissioned officers) on my team taught me a lot," he said. "The team was able to bring the vehicles up to operational standard so the Strikers "can go on the road and do what they've got to do to get (the) mission accomplished."

Spc. Abraham Vargas, an M1A1 Abrams tank systems maintainer with Company D, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd BCT, was one of the mechanics awarded an Army Achievement Medal for his efforts in bringing the vehicles on line.

Soldiers maintaining operational standards on the vehicles used in Iraq face some challenges that are not as prevalent at the motor pools in their home stations. Driving on roads in Baghdad can cause additional wear and tear on vehicles that bear a significant amount of additional armor.



by Pfc. April Campbell 3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Pvt. Greg Hill Jr., a Kansas City, Mo., native, who serves as a mechanic with 1st Platoon, Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B, checks the undercarriage of an M-1088 Tractor for any leaks or missing bolts during a quality assurance/quality control check at the 64th BSB motor pool here Jan. 24. By regularly inspecting the vehicles, the mechanics can help prevent mission inhibiting breakdowns.

"We have to change out the suspension a lot, (including) the springs, shocks and ball joints," said Vargas, an El Paso, Texas, native.

While Soldiers generally do not see up-armored humvees at posts in the United States, several of the mechanics working with Vargas have experience working on the vehicles from previous deployments, he added.

While maintaining combat-ready vehicles here can be a challenge, the mechanics know the work they do impacts the Soldiers who operate and depend upon the trucks kept moving by the wrench-turners.

If a vehicle becomes inoperable during a mission outside of the wire, Soldiers' lives can be in danger. Soldiers cannot simply get out and push the up-armored vehicles when they break down, Charles said.

"I have many people's lives in my hands, and they trust me to fix their vehicles," he added.

Visit the 4ID website for a full archive of past and present news and other important info.  
<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id>

# Joint assessment of Iraqi power needs

**1st Lt. Tiffany Bilderback**

*Fires Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt.*

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Ministry of Electricity representatives, local Public Works Battalion electrical specialists, United States Army Corps of Engineer representatives and Coalition Forces conducted a joint assessment of the regional to local electrical power network Jan. 22 to improve power distribution in the eastern and central Agur Quf area north of Baghdad.

The Ministry of Electricity representatives have begun several local repairs to lines running from the Sa'ad sub-station, which is located north of Baghdad, with the help of locally hired Public Works Battalion workers from the village of Fira Shia.

An estimated 85 percent of the necessary repairs have occurred and the remainder of the repairs are projected to be completed within a week, said Maj Tim Hunt, who hails from Dupont, Wash., and serves as the Fires Squadron's executive officer. The local Nahia representatives worked closely with the Ministry engineers and the labor force was provided by the Nahia's Public Works.

"The local leaders from Fira Shira and the surrounding area have worked very diligently with the Government of Iraq officials within their Nahia and Qada to achieve great results, said Hunt. "The security provided by the Concerned Local Citizens, and their brave actions to remove the influ-



by Maj. Tim Hunt, Fires Sqdn., 2nd Stryker Cav. Regt.

Ministry of Electricity officials and members of the Public Works Battalion discuss the way ahead in improving electricity in the Agur Quf area Jan. 22.

ence of al Qaeda and other criminal elements, has clearly set the conditions for improving essential services and economic development in their area."

Despite the improved security and economic growth, there continues to be challenges with national power generation. But as the power generation capability improves, the residents in the Agur Quf areas will benefit due to the cooperation between local government leaders and the ministries within the Government of Iraq.

## FREE STATE, FEDERAL TAX E-FILE AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LEGAL SERVICE CENTER

**WHAT YOU NEED TO FILE YOUR INCOME TAXES**

- **Proof of Identity**
- **Copies of ALL W-2, 1098, and 1099 forms (Available through MyPay)**
- **Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for ALL individuals listed on the return**
- **Child care provider's identification number (if applicable)**
- **Banking information (i.e. voided check, savings deposit slip) for refunds (Available on MyPay)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR UNIT'S LEGAL CENTER