



RIVER REPORT

بَـقَـرِـرِـ الـنـهـر



December 4, 2009

IRAQI POLICE

الشرطة العراقية

Iraqi Highway Patrol in Dhi Qar and U.S. Forces from 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment conducted night route clearance operations. Keeping the highway safe is important due to the large amount of commerce on the roads between Basra and Baghdad.

Maysani Police arrested several people involved in recent kidnappings of children.

The cooperation of Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, and Department of Border Enforcement is improving security and results in more arms cache finds and more outlaws being sent to jail.



IRAQI ARMY

الجيش العراقي

Intelligence soldiers from the 39th Iraqi Army Brigade in Muthanna province graduated from an Intelligence Academy course taught by U.S. Forces advisors and military police. The intense eight-day course finished on November 25, 2009. Trainees learned how to collect evidence, operate Global Positioning Equipment (GPS), and how to request unmanned aerial drones from U.S. Forces.

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 13th Cavalry Regiment worked with soldiers from the 41st Iraqi Army Brigade in Maysan to conduct route clearance operations to ensure safe passage for civilian cars and trucks. Eliminating the threat of roadside bombs will encourage more business investment for the people of Maysan.

DEPARTMENT OF BORDER ENFORCEMENT

قيادة قوات الحدود

Members of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Department of Border Enforcement and U.S. Army advisors patrolled the marshes of southern Maysan and met with sheiks at their mudhifs to discuss the status of water and schools in the region.

Shurta established vehicle checkpoints to screen travelers for illegal weapons, drug smuggling, and counterfeit money.

Brigadier General Razzak met with U.S. advisors to discuss training on boating tactics to patrol the canals and lakes. This training will involve DBE Commandos and shurta from the 2nd Battalion.





CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

مستجدات المساعدات المدنية



Dhi Qar

On November 26, the PRT distributed a dozen generators, donated by the Italian government, to Dhi Qar University and several other government entities around the province.

The 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division hosted Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and Dhi Qar Governorate Elections Office (GEO) representatives at an election security meeting on Iman Ali Air Base (COB Adder). The ISF and the GEO appear to be well-prepared for the day when Dhi Qar's one million eligible voters will cast their ballots at one the province's 414 polling places.

The PRT visited the Del Jan Company sunflower oil factory in Qalat Sukkar, located in northern Dhi Qar province. Seed oil production by-products can also be used for compost and animal feed, the latter a coveted commodity in Dhi Qar.

Maysan

Mr. Steve Banks, the new Maysan PRT team leader visited Province Governor Mohammad Shi'a to discuss projects that will benefit Maysani citizens.

The provincial council tourism and education chairmen met with the Maysan PRT to discuss potential projects in education and tourism and the upcoming CoR elections. Tourism chair Sabah spoke about a partnership to refurbish the Maysan Museum and a possible project to upgrade facilities at the Shrine of Ezra in southern Maysan.

The "Iraqi Women's Organization – Maysan" is two-thirds through its program to hold thirty workshops educating community members on why violence against women should not be tolerated. The group has reported strong turnout to its workshops – many in rural areas across the province.



Muthanna

Members of the Muthanna PRT and U.S. Army's Company A, 1-77 Armor, visited the Iraqi Model Village Project (north of As-Salman) on November 24. This agricultural community is funded by the GOI (Ministry of Agriculture) and, when completed in late 2010, will house 2,000 people and include shops, school, mosque, bank, police station, athletic facilities, and an experimental cooperative farm. The military and PRT visitors were very impressed with the scope and progress of this GOI venture, and with the professionalism and hospitality of the project managers. The PRT is looking at providing greenhouses to increase agricultural efficiency.

The PRT Water Advisor visited the following schools in the Al-Khidr area: Al Badeery, Said Bin Jubair, Hassan Bin Thabit, and Annaser. Water purifiers were delivered to the schools. Samples of water taken at all schools found significant bacteria in two out of three samples taken. The new purifiers will provide clean drinking water for the young students.

CULTURAL BOX

الحقبة الثقافية

Iraqi Comedian Joey Nibras

Nibras Joseph Abboud/Kasmihkah, also known as the "Wacky Iraqi" and usually billed as Joey Nibras, is a comedian who has toured his stand-up routine in the U.S. as well as performed for his own television special.

One of his signature lines is "I'm proud to say I'm full-blooded Chaldean, my roots go back to ancient Iraq. Don't worry I come in peace!"

Joey integrates the conflicts of growing up in a Middle Eastern household with the current issues of today and breaks the myths and mysteries of his culture. He has taken controversial subjects and turned them into a humorous situations. His goal is to entertain and educate audiences about the differences in Middle Eastern cultures through laughter.

