

# GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM UPDATE



*House Armed Services Committee -- Representative Duncan Hunter, Chairman*

October 17, 2003

## To Quote:

"The threat posed by Saddam Hussein may not be imminent, but it is real. It is growing. And it cannot be ignored." **Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD) - 10/10/02**

"Most of the people who we talked to who are part of moving Iraq forward were, of course, very troubled by the terrorism and the attacks, but even they say the current situation is better than they expected after Saddam, . . . They expected there would be anarchy and chaos. The terrorist attacks, although serious, are not the type of massive conflict that they expected would continue." - **Representative Mike Turner (R-OH)**

"It is critical that we and other nations of the world do our part to restore basic human services as quickly as possible. The sooner and more effectively we act, the quicker we will win over the Iraqi people, the safer our troops will be and the sooner we can begin to bring the troops out of Iraq." If we cut and run, America loses its credibility in the Arab world certainly, and probably in a lot of other places." - **Representative Greg Walden (R-OR)**

"Whatever the case with Saddam Hussein and his dead-enders, they are going to be defeated. And

as the Iraqi people begin to really engage their own political future, as they are really doing...we all believe that the Iraqi people are going to be less and less tolerant of the dead-enders and the Baathists and Saddam loyalists who want to take them diving back into the dark days, when Saddam Hussein tortured and raped and murdered people and created mass graves." - **National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice**

"The goal of our coalition is to help the Iraqi people build a stable, just and prosperous country that poses no threat to America or the world. To reach that goal, we are following a clear strategy." - **President Bush**

"By promoting freedom and hope in other lands, we remove direct threats to the American people. Our actions in Iraq will increase our safety for years to come." - **President Bush**

"Ultimately, America must be in charge of her own national security." - **Vice President Dick Cheney**

"I've seen these heroes on the front lines and I can tell you that America's troops are determined to win. And they will win, if we continue to give them the moral and material support they need to do the job." - **Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz**

## Iraq

### **New Iraq Currency Delivered To Banks**

U.S. armored trucks recently fanned out across Baghdad on final deliveries of the new currency, which does not bear the face of ousted President Saddam Hussein and is due to be put into circulation soon. Convoys drove through the crowded streets of the capital, escorted by Humvees from the 1st Armored Division and helicopters hovering overhead. As Ambassador Paul Bremer said, "the new Iraqi dinar is a symbol of the hope in Iraq's future. The old currency with Saddam's likeness is gone – just like his regime. No longer will Iraqis have to carry a reminder of this tyrant with them."

### **NORAD Monitors U.S. Skies to Protect the Homeland**

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, the staff at the North American Aerospace Defense Command was poised to identify a missile test or space launch anywhere in

the world, or to tell exactly how many items of “space junk” were circling the globe. What they didn’t know was that four commercial airplanes hijacked within U.S. borders were launching an orchestrated terrorist attack on the United States. That’s because, at the time, the eyes and ears of NORAD were focused on aerospace threats launched far from the shores of the United States and Canada. The concept of an attack from within U.S. borders seemed almost inconceivable to a command created in the 1950s to address Cold War threats.

Today, NORAD’s operations division chief says the command is dramatically changed, with a larger scope and a major role in the war on terror. Air Force Colonel Lennie Coleman said NORAD’s ground-based radar, airborne radar, aircraft, satellites and intelligence capabilities now focus within the United States and Canada as well as offshore to identify suspicious aircraft or other aerospace threats. “We’ve expanded from our Cold War structure to be able to meet the terrorist threat that’s out there,” he said.

“Before Sept. 11, the FAA had to physically pick up the phone and call us if there was a hijacking,” said Coleman. “Today, they don’t have to do that. We have constant, real-time communications with the FAA. So when they have concern about an airplane — even before they determine that it is a problem — we already know about it. That’s a vast improvement. “We’re much better postured to meet the threat, no matter where it comes from — not only externally, but internally as well. And that’s a guarantee.”

### **Soldiers’ Pump Project Helps Iraqi Farmers**

Thousands of gallons of water surged from a reservoir into an aqueduct

Oct. 12 at the Al Jezeera Pump Station, the start of a long journey to serve more than 200,000 farmers throughout the arid plains of Northern Iraq. With support from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault), Iraqi engineers worked to fix the water pump, which was inoperative before Operation Iraqi Freedom. After nearly three months of sweat, engineers brought the pump back to life two weeks ago, and on Oct. 12 Iraqi citizens and 101st soldiers watched thousands of gallons of water propel through a dam into an aqueduct, with the pull of a lever.

“This is one of the greatest projects in the Ninevah province,” said 101st commander Maj. Gen. David H. Petraeus. “It shows again there’s nothing that can’t be done if we work together.” “This aqueduct will offer



*Thousands of gallons of water stream through a dam at the Al Jezeera Pump Station near the Syrian border. An Oct. 12 ceremony celebrated the completion of the third stage in a project designed by coalition forces to replenish the water supply in Northern Iraq. Army photo by Pfc. Chris Jones*

constant water for livestock and farms throughout the region," he said. "Now, farmers will be able to plant crops in more than just one season (the rainy season), therefore increasing output, and therefore increasing the economy." With the success of the waterway, the 101st completed the third stage in a project designed to increase water dispersion in the Ninevah province.

### **A Significant Event Marking the Return to Normalcy for Iraqis**

Coalition forces recently transferred authority of the former Al Thawath Nuclear Research facility to the Iraqi Ministerial Guard. The Ministerial Guard will oversee the security and integrity of the facility. To kick off the ceremony, two separate formations, one comprised of the Iraqi Ministerial Guard and the other of soldiers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, marched from opposite ends of the ceremony area toward each other and came to a stop five feet before they would have met. The two formations showed the union upon which coalition forces and Iraqis are building.

### **Seabees Work With Iraqis to Provide Proper Burial for Mass Grave Victims**

In the effort to reunite Iraqis with their loved ones executed by Saddam Hussein, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force's Engineer Group Seabees answered the call during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Once it became apparent that Saddam Hussein had fallen from power, Iraqi Shiites went to a location in Al Hillah they knew to be a mass grave for thousands of Iraqis. Their intent was to recover the remains of their loved ones who had disappeared during the violence in a Shiite uprising after the end of Operation Desert Storm. Once relatives had identified the remains, the Seabees were asked for help to create a dignified burial place for the victims.

### **Ninevah Province Schools Benefit From Seized Iraqi Assets**

Coalition soldiers and non-governmental organizations recently partnered to rebuild more than 800 schools in the Ninevah Province, current home of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The division's Commander's Emergency Relief Program, which draws from Iraqi

government funds seized after the first Gulf War, has to date spent \$2,040,513 on 330 completed school projects including the recently opened Ninevah Province Education Headquarters in Mosul.

### **U.S. Praises Security Council Unity**

In a move the United States hailed as an important show of international unity, the U.N. Security Council on October 16 unanimously adopted the U.S.-backed resolution on Iraq. The vote of the 15 member-nations approved Resolution 1511, which calls for an expanded role for the United Nations, encourages countries to offer more troops for Iraq and more money to rebuild the country and addresses the transfer of sovereignty from the U.S.-led coalition to Iraq. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell called the vote "a great achievement for the entire Security Council to come together again in this manner. I'd like to thank those who co-sponsored along with us and all of those who over the last several days -- as we went through this, with misgivings and disagreements and debate -- realized at the end of the day ... we have come together to help the Iraqi

people and put all of our disagreements of the past into the past." Powell told reporters.

## Life Gets Better For Soldiers in Southern Iraq

Life has gotten way better for service men and women serving in southern Iraq. It really began in June and has constantly improved as a dry, plain landscape has been transformed into a vibrant tent city on a mile stretch of Iraqi desert approximately six miles from Ur, the biblical birthplace of Abraham. The camp is home to, among others, the 260th Quartermaster Battalion, an active duty unit from Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and Reserve units the 394th Quartermaster Bn. from Puerto Rico, the 362nd Quartermaster Bn. of Kinston, N.C., and the 346th Transportation Bn. out of Savannah, Ga. Since arriving in the theater on March 31, the four battalions have been instrumental in moving 66 million gallons of fuel throughout Iraq. When they moved into Iraq from Kuwait, they operated from the hastily constructed original Camp Cedar. However, the pounding high winds and fine, loose grit caused by the constant

heavy truck traffic made for visibility and equipment problems at Cedar I. "At Cedar's old location, it was a dust bowl, nothing but a dust bowl," said Lt. Col. Myron Fronseca, commander of the 260th. "So, engineers looked for a more suitable site based on geographical and tactical considerations as a permanent camp for years to come. They found it 15 kilometers to the north, near Tallil Air Base." The ground there is less sandy, more solid and has small vegetation to help break the winds and hold the dirt. The engineers graveled the area in June and contracted Kellog, Brown and Root to work on the camp's infrastructures, Fronseca added. This son of Cedar I now features a dining facility, air-conditioned force provider tents, air-conditioned mobile latrines, a post exchange, a chapel and morale, welfare and recreation tents to accommodate more than 5,000 servicemembers and government civilians and contractors.

Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Johnson, truck master of the 416th Transportation Company, noted how the continuing quality of life improvements have affected morale for the better: "Back then, truck drivers would rather stay on the road than be in camp. As fast they came

back, they wanted to roll out again." Now his soldiers – and the others serving here – still accomplish their missions. They just do so in relatively safer, pleasanter living conditions.

## Afghanistan

### Road to success, MP's maintain positive presence in Afghanistan

As they pulled out of the Bagram compound entrance recently, military policemen from the 805th MP Company, of the North Carolina National Guard, saw something unexpected – A ramshackle Afghan truck crashed over on its side spilling its load of heavy rocks all over the side of New Kabul Road.



*While visiting a school outside of Bagram, the 805th MPs use the opportunity to emphasize the importance of mine awareness to young boys in a classroom. (Photo by Sgt. Greg Heath, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)*

The MP's stopped and approached the driver and passengers who were rattled, but not too badly injured. They gave the Afghans first aid and made sure they were all right, and then continued on their daily presence patrol that takes them up and down the major roads surrounding Bagram Air Base.

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### Rumsfeld "Delighted" NATO To Send Forces to Afghanistan

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said in a recent interview with Tony Snow that he is "delighted" the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has decided to send forces to Afghanistan and has taken over responsibility for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) there. "It's really an impressive, significant event that NATO, for the first time in history, has gone outside the NATO treaty area," he said. Rumsfeld noted that "the overwhelming majority of the NATO countries" currently have forces in Iraq as well. "NATO's role in Iraq has been thus far to assist Poland and Spain," who are "heading up one of the two multinational divisions in Iraq," he said.

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### Six-Month Progress Report in Iraq

The Coalition has completed over 13,000 reconstruction projects, large and small, as part of its strategic plan for the reconstruction of Iraq. That plan has four elements:

- Create a secure environment;
- Begin restoration of essential services;
- Begin to transform the economy; and
- Begin the transformation to democracy.

#### *HASC Hearing Schedule*

**Tuesday, October 21 - 8:00 a.m.**  
 - 2118 Rayburn - Open - Full Committee will meet to receive testimony on Operation Iraqi Freedom: *Outside Perspectives.*

**Tuesday, October 21 - 11:00 a.m.** - 2212 Rayburn - Open - **Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee** will meet to receive testimony on *C41 Interoperability: New Challenges in 21st Century Warfare.*

**Tuesday, October 21 - 2:00 p.m.**  
 - 2118 Rayburn - Open - **Readiness Subcommittee** will meet to receive testimony on *Resetting and Reconstituting the Forces.*

For more information visit [www.house.gov/hasc/schedules](http://www.house.gov/hasc/schedules)

*All information in this issue is unclassified. Sources include Department of Defense and media reports.*

## Why Reconstruction Efforts in Iraq are Important to the War on Terrorism:

"A stable, and democratic, and hopeful Iraq will no longer be a breeding ground for terror, tyranny, and aggression. Free nations are peaceful nations. Our work in Iraq is essential to our own security – and no band of murderers and gangsters will stop that work, or shake the will of America." - President Bush

- Creating a stable and free Iraq is an integral part of ending terrorism, as terrorists cannot thrive in a secure, free and stable nation.
- Absent reconstruction, Iraq will return to a country that supports and harbors terrorists.
- Reconstruction in Iraq gives the United States a unique opportunity to make tremendous progress toward peace in the Middle East – this would have remarkable positive effects for future decades.