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**COALITION FORCES TO RESCUE WITH MILLIONS OF LITRES OF FUEL**

Coalition forces under UK command in south eastern Iraq are pouring petrol into the troubled city of Basrah.

Twenty-five million litres of petrol, enough to fill 550,000 cars – a five day supply – are today (Monday August 11) been driven by road tanker into the city, after two days of power cuts left the city without fuel. The fuel arrived by ship to the port of Az Zubayr and the road tankers were escorted by a convoy of British soldiers.

In addition, a convoy of 25 road tankers has been escorted by US soldiers from Kuwait, and these are destined for towns and provinces throughout MND south east area of operation.

Major Charlie Mayo, British spokesman for HQ Multi National Division, said: "Coalition forces are determined to do everything we can to ensure oil reaches the power stations, and that petrol reaches cars. We are also sending soldiers out to petrol stations to ensure the distribution takes place.

"We have been supporting the Coalition Provisional Authority, who are responsible for the power infrastructure in the provinces of south eastern Iraq, in trying to get services back to normal as quickly as possible. We are not able to do this if minority elements are determined to undermine our effort by sabotaging power lines and smuggling oil out of the country."

Coalition forces are also today stepping up efforts to provide security to power lines, and support local Iraqi contractors rebuilding the broken infrastructure. Soldiers from 100 Field Squadron Royal Engineers are providing protection for the workers. Engineers from 38 Engineer Regiment are providing technical assistance and project management.

"I am happy to report that due to these continuing efforts to bring in fuel, power has been restored to most areas across Basrah. Coalition forces will provide this support for as long as it takes to return services to normal."

ENDS

Sqn Leader Lynda Sawers