

# العراق الجديد الحياة الجديدة

## Multi National Division (South East)

– Al Basrah – Maysan – Dhi Qar – Al Muthanna –

### WEEKLY UPDATE

28 December – 4 January 2005

#### SECURITY, LAW AND ORDER

**Dangerous Unexploded Ordnance Found** – Multi National Force (MNF) soldiers found suspicious cylindrical tubes at Hay Tariq containing 57mm projectiles. Specialist teams were then tasked to come to the area and dispose of the dangerous munitions. Further searching revealed partly submerged 15mm shells, rocket propelled grenades and other various types of rockets. An MNF Diving Team was tasked for a follow up operation to deal with the munitions hidden by the water side.

MNF have been grateful for the help of local children in the area who have alerted them to where the dangerous items were. Captain Phil Smith said: “Telling us where it is, so that we can dispose of it before it hurts any body, is the right thing to do, however it is also important to remember never to touch or go near what could be unexploded munitions, telling us where it is will save peoples lives.”

**Iraqi National Guard (ING) Swoop From Above** – The ING based near Ar Rumayllah surprised travellers driving along Route one, the main route from An Nasiryah to Basrah on 23 December by deploying from a helicopter. The patrol was tasked with searching vehicle’s travelling along Route one for any contraband material and weapons. The patrol was supported by advisors from MNF’s Duke of Wellingtons Regiment.

The helicopter patrols were aimed at capturing carjackers and smugglers around Ar Rumaylah and Route one. It came as a height point to operations by the ING supported the Duke of Wellingtons Regiment. MNF has previously been supporting the ING with vehicle searches and general patrolling around Ar Rumaylah and Route one in response to reports of car jacking and smuggling.

Lt Mohammed the ING commander, said: “It was a good experience and now we have done it once and know what to expect, we will be even better at it next time.” There were no further carjacking reports during the four day period of the Operation. The mission was therefore successful in deterring crime, giving confidence to the ING and reinforcing the role of the Iraqi National Guard.

**Hijackers caught** – A joint Iraqi Police Service, Iraqi National Guard and Multi National Force team arrested three men and seized four vehicles during dawn operation against vehicle hijackers along Glory Canal.

Early in the morning three men were arrested on suspicion of stealing vehicles during a joint arrest operation concluded along a 20km stretch of the Glory Canal, west of Al Uzayr. Four vehicles that were suspected of being hijacked or stolen were seized by the IPS, along with another vehicle containing two of the suspects arrested by the ING as they tried to leave the area.

The operation led by Captain Kalifa, Chief of Police for Al Uzayr, involved around 20 IPS, 80 ING and members of the MNF in support. They met no resistance during the operation.

Three men are now being held for questioning at Al Uzayr Police Station while the vehicles are being held at the IPS Divisional HQ at Qalat Salih.

**Fingerprinting Team Lead the Way in Detecting Crime Quicker** – The Iraqi Police Services Training Advisory Team, part of an MNF Military Police unit, within Iraq were tasked to train specific elements of the Iraqi Police Services (IPS) in state of the art fingerprinting equipment. The training is part of a combined working programme, with MNF, members of the Civilian Police Agencies and the IPS.

The aim is to allow the IPS to set up a national criminal fingerprinting database enabling criminals to be caught if they have committed previous crimes. One of the key facets to effective intelligence-led policing is the ability to identify criminals. The most common means of achieving this by fingerprinting and photography technique is commonly used throughout the world. Once obtained this permanent and unique record can be used both for comparison against those marks found at crime scenes, and correctly identify criminals that use false or multiple identities.

A further function of this new technology will be to begin a database of members of the IPS. This will allow a comprehensive database to be established and ID cards to be issued, reducing the possibility of fraud when monthly pay is received. The state of the Art American technology used to achieve this captures fingerprints, photographs, retinal scans and voiceprints. To date, the system is only utilised in Britain by the Customs Police.

Twenty members of the IPS have so far been trained by MNF on the equipment.

## **RECONSTRUCTION**

**Refuse Collection Project Employs up to 3,000 Local People in Al Amarah** – A new refuse collection project in Al Amarah employing 2,750 local unskilled workers will bring the total number employed on MNF projects to over 8,000.

The 45-day project is the first phase of a six month programme that begins with clearing refuse from the streets and sewers and will continue with repairing roads and pavements, gardens and other communal areas. All Over Maysan, similar projects, which are funded by the British Department for International Development, are employing local people to clean and refurbish their towns. This includes constructing new open sewage channels in streets to prevent pools of sewage forming.

By the end of the month, every town in Maysan, from ali Al Garbi in the north to Al Uzayr in the South will have an employment scheme running. With the Workers Union of Maysan estimating that there are 50,000 unemployed people in Maysan, 8,000 employed on MNF projects represents a drop of 16 per cent.

## **MEDICAL**

A newborn baby, the unmistakable symbol of the regeneration of a nation, is delivered in the pristine wards of Basrah's Al Faihaa General Hospital. Osnabrück soldiers based in the southern Iraqi city have supervised the construction of the newly built delivery ward. On the first day of

2005, troops from 4th Armoured Brigade made a visit to inspect the quality of the construction of the ward, and to meet one of the first babies to be born in the new surroundings.

Al Faihaa General in north of Basrah is a former military hospital and one of the largest of six hospitals across the city. It has been the focus of much reconstruction work including the new delivery ward, paid for by Multinational Forces in Iraq. Engineer Faris, the Chief Engineer for the Health Directorate, requested the work to include an operating theatre, ward and doctors' rest room, and local firm, the Al Mawqed Company, carried out the work.

Twenty four year old Territorial Army Captain Abbirose Adey is the British Army's Health representative working with Osnabrück-based 3/29 Battery Royal Artillery in Basrah city. She is responsible for liaising with her counterpart in the Provincial Directorate. She explained: "The work has been done to a very high standard and now means that the hospital has a custom-made facility for newborn babies and for their mothers."

Engineer Tariq is the Technical Manager of the construction firm that completed the work. His firm employed approximately twenty people for fifty days, and also completed work within Al Faihaa's outpatients and children's wards.

Under investment by the previous regime and thirty years of conflict in the region had left the city's healthcare system in a desperate state. Capt Adey now plans to target further British reconstruction funds into a new hospital laundry at Al Faihaa and eleven other hospitals across the province.

It is hoped that these efforts, and those of the Directorate of Health, can provide a better standard of life for the future generations of Basrah.

## **OTHER NEWS**

**Basrah Airport Hosts First Hajj Pilgrims** - Up 100 pilgrims flew from Basra International Airport for the first time in living memory on Monday, 3 January.

The Iraqi authorities through the Department of Borders and Enforcement with support from the Multi National Division (SE) have arranged three flights a day to depart Basra International Airport starting from Tuesday 4 January.

Flying to Jedda, the pilgrims flew on a Boeing 737 of Iraqi Airways. Further pilgrims will fly on other chartered aircraft which will include a Lockheed Tri-star and a Boeing 767 each taking up to 300 passengers at one time.

Major David Gibb, Arabic Spokesman for the Multinational Division (SE) said: "The first commercial flight into Basra since the war landed on new year's day. This is the second commercial flight and the first of many which will take pilgrims from Basra on the Hajj to Mecca.

"We look forward to the Iraqi authorities continuing to develop the commercial use of Basra international airport and the economic growth which this will bring to the Region."