

Signs of Freedom and Progress

SECURITY



Department of Defense

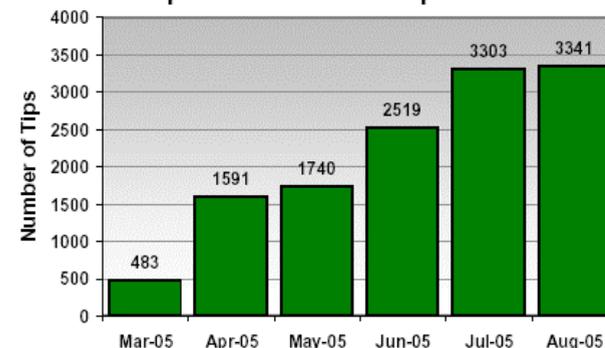
Iraq Progress Update

DEMOCRACY

- October 15th was a historic day for democracy in Iraq and a bad day for terrorists.
- Millions of Iraqis turned out to vote, embracing the democratic process. Iraq now has a constitution.
- On the day of the referendum, there were no suicide bombings, and attacks on polling stations were down from 108 in January to 19 in October.
- 60% of registered voters took part in the referendum.
- Significantly higher turnout in Sunni areas is a further indication that Sunnis are joining the political process.

IRAQIS TAKING ACTION

Tips Received from Population



Source: MNC-1 (includes tips reported to multiple sources)

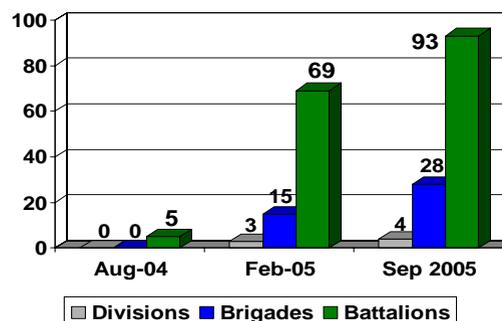
“A significant factor enabling progress against the insurgency is the dramatic increase in intelligence tips received from the population in the past several months, indicative of increasing popular rejection of the insurgents.

- October, 2005 Report to Congress

- Approximately 80,000 Iraqi children are attending better schools in Iraq's nine southern provinces because of Coalition reconstruction efforts.
- Internet subscribers have risen from 5,000 before the war to 196,000 in September.
- There were no commercial TV stations in Iraq before the war. Today there are 44.
- There were no independent newspapers or magazines in Iraq before the war. Today there are more than 100.
- There were no commercial radio stations in Iraq before the war. Today there are 72.
- Iraqi judges have conducted 544 trials since October 2003.
- In Ramadi, fliers have appeared that threaten and denounce the tactics of Islamic extremists. Some threaten to inform police of extremists' identity and whereabouts.
- More than 20 Operating Bases have been returned to the Iraqi Government.
- Iraqis are expressing their freedom by providing information on terrorists. The number of tips has risen from 442 in February to 3,341 in August.
- Driven by the purchase of TVs, appliances, fans, and air conditioners, electricity demand has risen as much as 60% since the war.

- 27 of 109 Forward Operating Bases (FOB) in Iraq have been turned over to the Iraqi Army or closed.
- FOB Danger, near Tikrit, is scheduled to be turned over soon.
- Iraqi units are being fully integrated into all major Coalition operations.
- 210,000 ISF are trained and equipped, 18,000 more than in September.
- As of September 120 Iraqi Police and Army battalions are in the fight. In addition to a fully independent battalion:
 - 80 battalions are able to fight alongside Coalition troops.
 - 36 battalions generally able to conduct independent operations.
- SNAPSHOT:** Two brigades of the Iraqi 6th Division have their own battle space in Baghdad, including Haifa Street, once a haven for insurgents.
- As of September, one division, 5 brigades, and 36 battalions currently have the lead in their areas in Iraq. This summer, only one division and 11 battalions had the lead.

IRAQI ARMY UNITS IN COMBAT



*includes combat support/ service units

Office of the Assistant Secretary Of Defense for
Legislative Affairs

703.697.6210

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Infrastructure improvements up to September 2005:

- 3,404 Public Schools
- 304 Water and Sewage Projects
- 257 Fire and Police Stations
- 149 Health Facilities
- Total of 4,114 reconstruction projects completed with 921 ongoing

Since July's Iraq Metrics Report to Congress....

- ✦ More than 22 additional battalions have been added to the Iraqi Security Forces.
- ✦ More than 5,500 Iraq Police Service personnel have been trained and equipped.
- ✦ More than 2,000 Special Police Commandos have been trained and equipped, placing the program well ahead of projections.
- ✦ The Mechanized Police reached its target force level of 1,200.
- ✦ 1,200 additional Public Order Police have been trained and equipped.
- ✦ The Emergency Response Unit has conducted nightly operations in Mosul and Baghdad. Its forces have increased by 50%.
- ✦ The Ministry of Defense forces have received approximately 10,000 automatic rifles, 1,800 pistols, 2,700 machine guns, and 750 vehicles from the Coalition.
- ✦ The Ministry of Interior forces have received approximately 21,000 AK-47s, 15,000 pistols, 1,700 machine guns, and 1,900 vehicles from the Coalition.

- ✦ Operation Steel Curtain is a joint Coalition / Iraqi operation to restore Iraqi control of the Iraq-Syria border.
- ✦ To date, the operation has resulted in:
 - ✦ 100 weapons caches being found and cleared.
 - ✦ 1,000 men suspected of insurgent activities have been detained.
- ✦ 2,500 Coalition Forces and 1,000 Iraqi forces are acting to secure the cities of Husaybah and Karabilah as part of Steel Curtain.
 - ✦ Since the operation began, 79 mines and IEDs have been discovered.
 - ✦ 33 weapons caches have been found and destroyed in Husaybah and Karbilah.

Defeating the Zarqawi Network

- ✦ Since the first of the year, 116 al Qaeda in Iraq leaders have been taken out of Zarqawi's network, degrading its ability to communicate, finance, plan, and execute terror attacks. These include senior lieutenants like Abu Abdullah who was killed last month near Ramadi.

As the President has said, one cannot set arbitrary deadlines. Timing of the handover of responsibility to Iraqis depends on conditions on the ground, and already some responsibilities are being assumed by the Iraqi Security Forces. We must be careful not to give terrorists the false hope that if they can simply hold on long enough that they can outlast us.

*-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld
November 15, 2005*

On 13 October, "Murasil Akhbar 4," a site moderator of the Global News Network forum, posted a statement issued by Abu-Mus'ab al-Zarqawi's al-Qa'ida Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers [Tanzim al-Qa'ida fi Bilad al-Rafidayn] in which the group condemned moderate Sunnis who "reject terrorism," and participated in the writing of the "constitution of infidelity." The statement was attributed to "Abu-Maysarah al-Iraqi" of the Media Division of al-Qa'ida Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers.

From 11-14 November:

The gangster jihadis who call themselves "Al-Qaida Organization in the Land of Two Rivers," the "Islamic Army in Iraq" or the "Victorious Sect" posted multiple press releases to the internet in which they bragged about targeting and killing men of the Iraqi Security Forces.

By killing those charged with security, these jihadists menace the lifeline of the community – its trade routes – and make the people afraid to use the roads, forcing them to rely on foreign armies for protection.

But these transgressions upon the community were not enough for this week's crime spree. In retaliation for the betrayal by the "guides to Hell, the pseudo-Sunnis," the jihadists deliberately murdered families at a wedding feast, to include the fathers of the bride and groom. The enormity of this unlawful act rejects expiation. For these cowards, "who love martyrdom and yearn for heaven," intentionally hurt believing men and women who did nothing to deserve it solely "to gain martyrdom out of belief in what God promised them." These selfish acts to find "the shortest way to Paradise" are not justified in any law.

Important Websites

- DefendAmerica: www.defendamerica.mil
- U. S. Central Command: www.centcom.mil
- Department of Defense: www.dod.mil
- Multi-National Force -Iraq: www.mnf-iraq.com
- America Supports You / Support the Troops: www.americasupportsyou.mil