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DJC/CCT BRIEFS/DCDS(C)

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OP SINBAD

ISSUE

1. An update on the mechanics of Op SINBAD as a result of discussions with Vice Admiral Style at the Iraq Strategy Group.

TIMING

2. Routine.

KEY POINTS

3. Op SINBAD is a cross-Government (MOD, FCO and DFID) coordinated approach to the delivery of better economic conditions and prospects for the population of Basra. It is making improvements to the general security situation and in due course the aspiration is that it will set the conditions for a declaration of Provincial Iraqi Control in the Spring of 07. At its core are Iraqi political consent and the integration of Iraqi Security Forces (ISF).

4. Comprising a series of short security 'pulses', each targeted on a different district of Basra, during which overt reconstruction projects are delivered and then subsequently followed by a 30 day 'pause' phase during which consolidated work continues with an ISF security lead, the operation:

- is delivering improved security, initially on a district by district basis as the projects are rolled out and subsequently on an enduring basis.
- is a logical extension of existing Security Sector Reform programmes.
- is delivering enhanced police training and mentoring.
- is delivering a wide range of projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure and economic improvements across the city.
- is not a cover for offensive or detention operations¹.

5. To date 6 of a potential 18 target areas have been the focus of attention with the intention of completing the 11 districts comprising the outskirts of Basra during the course of Ramadan and the period of major unit rotations (concludes 24 Nov 06). The remaining districts in the centre of

¹ Detention operations in Basra will continue when specific intelligence links a target with a high likelihood of a successful operation and with prior Iraqi Government approval. This is not, however, linked, either conceptually or in time, with phases of Op SINBAD.

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Basra are potentially more contentious and will require renewed political engagement and endorsement from central Government in Baghdad.

HOW IT WORKS

6. Security pulses are preceded by the engagement of key local and provincial leaders to ensure continuing consent and are followed by an information campaign highlighting the potential benefits of the operation – a process that is delivering cumulative effect as the non-military aspects become increasingly evident to a larger proportion of the population.

- A combined force of Coalition, Iraqi Army (IA) and Iraqi Police Service (IPS) then deploys on the ground to conduct high-profile patrols and vehicle check points throughout the district and to deter militia activity. Under the cover provided by this enhanced security IA and UK army engineers conduct the initial quick impact projects, building on local consent and reinforcing the humanitarian aims of the operation. In parallel, Police Training Teams² enter Iraqi police stations conducting a 30 day process of mentoring, rebuilding, re-equipping and reform³ amongst the local IPS (whilst also identifying corrupt and inefficient individuals).
- After 36 – 48 hours Coalition forces withdraw leaving the ISF to continue delivering continued security reassurance, with Iraqi engineers continuing with medium and longer term projects before they in turn move on after 30 days and the district returns to its 'steady-state' security arrangements. Throughout the roll-out of the programme the ISF are increasingly taking greater responsibility and from Pulses 10 and 11 they will effectively be in the lead with the Coalition in support. The eventual aim is for the IA to conduct a full pulse (the final planned pulse) without Coalition support.

PROJECTS

7. A total of 73 Medium Term and Quick Impact Projects, totalling \$4.8M⁴ has delivered the following:

- 33 Schools have received repairs to the buildings (painting and new window screens), new classroom furniture (desks/chairs/blackboards), and classroom stationary/equipment affecting more than 6000 pupils.

² Comprising a combination of Royal Military Police, International Police Advisors, MOI personnel and a vehicle mechanic.

³ Work is ongoing by the Police Training Teams to bring all stations to a minimum of Training and Readiness Assessment Level 2. Much of this can be achieved through infrastructure and equipment improvements. Biometric testing has been carried out at all stations visited in addition to literacy testing. The results of the latter will be forwarded to the Ministry of the Interior who intend to complement a plan to rectify shortfalls.

⁴ From a CERPS pool of \$84M available to Op SINBAD.

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- 3 hospitals have received refits of their pharmacies and dispensaries. All have received husbandry improvements as well as access repairs/improvements (wheel chair friendly etc) and new equipment/furniture.
- Public facilities such as sports pitches and play areas in each area have been built.
- Water supplies have been improved in each area.
- Local infrastructure including two footbridges, street repairs and lighting.
- Area clearances of rubbish, debris and obstacles.
- Approximately 4000 locals have been employed for periods of up to three weeks assisting with area improvement projects.
- In addition to the Provincial Joint Co-ordination Centre, seven police stations including the City Reaction Force, Tactical Support Unit and Traffic Police HQ have been assessed, with plans established and being implemented to ensure all achieve Training and Readiness Assessment level 2 – the force level required for PIC.

8. Longer Term Projects are being implemented through the auspices of the Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee include housing, regeneration of run down areas of Basra, Date Palm plantations and associated processing facilities.

THE FUTURE

9. The key concern remains the longer term sustainability and, in particular, the ability/willingness of the GOI to free up reconstruction and development funds for Basra so that momentum is maintained.

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