



Task Force Danger

October 11, 2004

BRO Progress

1st Infantry Division

Iraqi Security Forces and 1st ID secure Samarra

SAMARRA, Iraq – Soldiers and police with Iraqi Security Forces and the 1st Infantry Division searched two days for insurgents after a major offensive wrested control on this city from anti-Iraqi forces.

The 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment; the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment; the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, and the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment launched “Operation Baton Rouge.”

Just after midnight on the morning of

Oct. 1, Coalition forces began pounding insurgent strongholds, and the ensuing fire fights continued most of the night. The attack led to heavy losses for anti-Iraqi forces, with 126 rebels killed and 131 detained.

By daylight, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces had gained control of most of the city. Sporadic small arms engagements continued throughout the city during the morning. Around noon, the Iraqi 36th Commando Battalion (pictured below) stormed the city’s

Golden Mosque and cleared the historic site of 25 armed fighters.

MAJ Jeffery Church, executive officer for Task Force 1-26, said the focus now is rebuilding.

“There are 22 projects for Samarra that amount to about \$1.5 million,” Church said. “Those projects have already been contracted to Iraqi contractors.”

The projects include trash and rubble removal, building repair, road construction and bringing clean water and electricity to the city.



Water plant opens in Owja



OWJA, Iraq -- For the people of Owja, it was a very big day, a day when they could water the trees in the front lawn, a day when they could water their gardens. No water has run in this small town nestled close to Tikrit for more than a year and a half.

The Owja Water Plant reopened in September with newly installed pumps that will deliver water from the Tigris River into this quaint town.

Long before the 1st Infantry Division came to Iraq, this town was without water. It had a limited supply of drinking water, and without irrigation for watering, nothing grew here.

Mandu Hazali, who headed this project for the town, with the help of 10 workers, worked for 40 straight days on this project for 12-14 hours a day. The project was originally slated to take four months.

"I am very happy about this project because I see what this will mean to my town," said Hazali.

"Actually, the only thing we did for this project besides give support was facilitate the paperwork for the bids and bring in the supplies," said Hazali.

The project started in May with bids for repairs to the only water pump. With funding approved, it was just a matter of waiting for the materials to arrive. The new city council started getting involved and eventually took over.

"This is a good thing for this city. To show how they are improving their lives," said CPT David Krzycki, the Alpha Company commander of 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment.

Officials spent \$17,600 from Coalition funds for two large water pumps and the parts. Hazali has offered to repair any parts that break for the first year.

With the pumps repaired, the city council and Hazali can now concentrate on the city park, which needs irrigation system repairs.

2/25th ID team funds bank renovations

KIRKUK, Iraq – The 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division's Economic Development Team opened a recently renovated bank.

The Rafadain Bank is the oldest in the city and was in need of serious repairs.

Faulty plumbing and inclement weather ravaged the Rafadain Bank with mildew and water damage. The vault, which stored a weekly balance of 3.5 billion Iraqi dinar and \$800,000 U.S. dollars, needed a new gate.

The renovations cost more than \$43,000, funded by Coalition grants, to repair plumbing and electrical problems within the Rafadain

bank.

Bafreen Hana, who has worked at the Rafadain Bank for 23 years, is pleased with the improvements to her workspace.

"It is a very well [renovated] building," Hana said through an interpreter. "There is good furniture, it is very clean and new air conditioners, which makes the employees very comfortable when they work."

Following its improvements, the Rafadain Bank will become even more of a key player in Kirkuk's economy with the 34,000 banking customers who use its services.

