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OP PHANTOM STRIKE
COUNTERING AQI SURGE:
MNF-W ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONS

CG, MNF-W: MGEN W.E. GASKIN

Overall Brief Classified: ~~SECRET// REL USA, MCFI~~

Date: 1100 2 AUG 07

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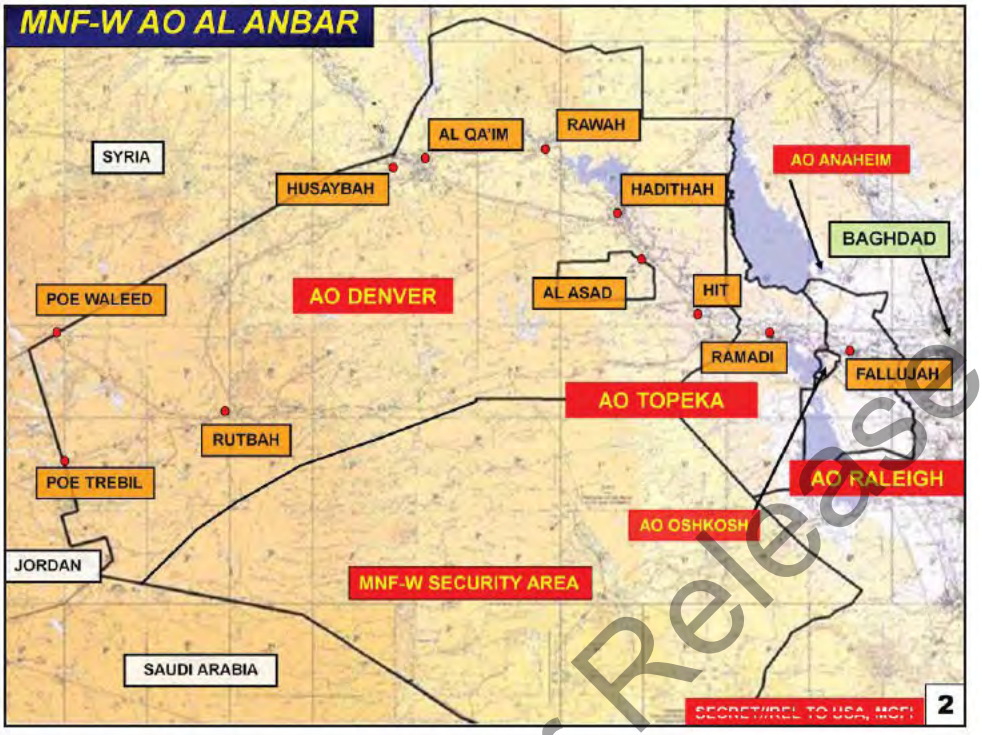

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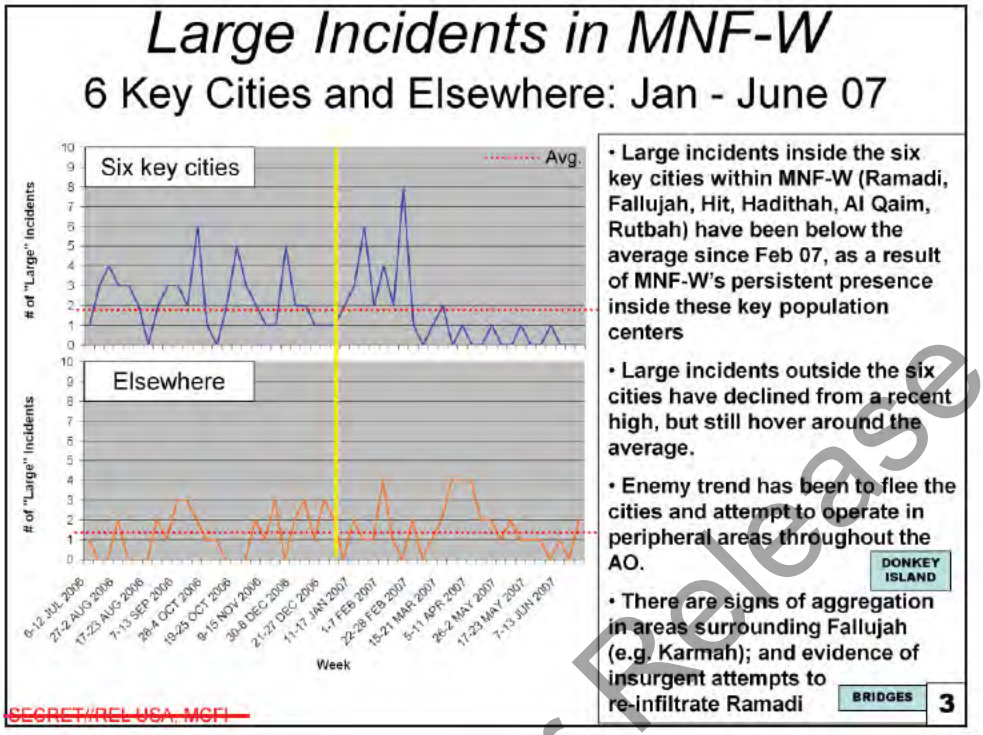

~~(S//REL USA, MCF I)~~ Here we have broken out the data by large incidents in the six key cities in MNF-W (Ramadi, Fallujah, Hit, Hadithah, Al Qaim, and Rutbah), and large incidents everywhere else. As the top chart shows, the number of large incidents in the six key cities has been below average since February. This is a direct result of MNF-W's efforts to keep persistent presence of CF/ISF forces in these key cities, and to force insurgents out into the "hinterlands." The bottom chart shows that the number of large incidents outside the vicinity of the six key cities has recently declined from a high point in late March/early April, but still hovers around the average value. These results, combined with the previous slide, indicate that insurgents have been fleeing the cities as a result of CF/IA/IP presence.

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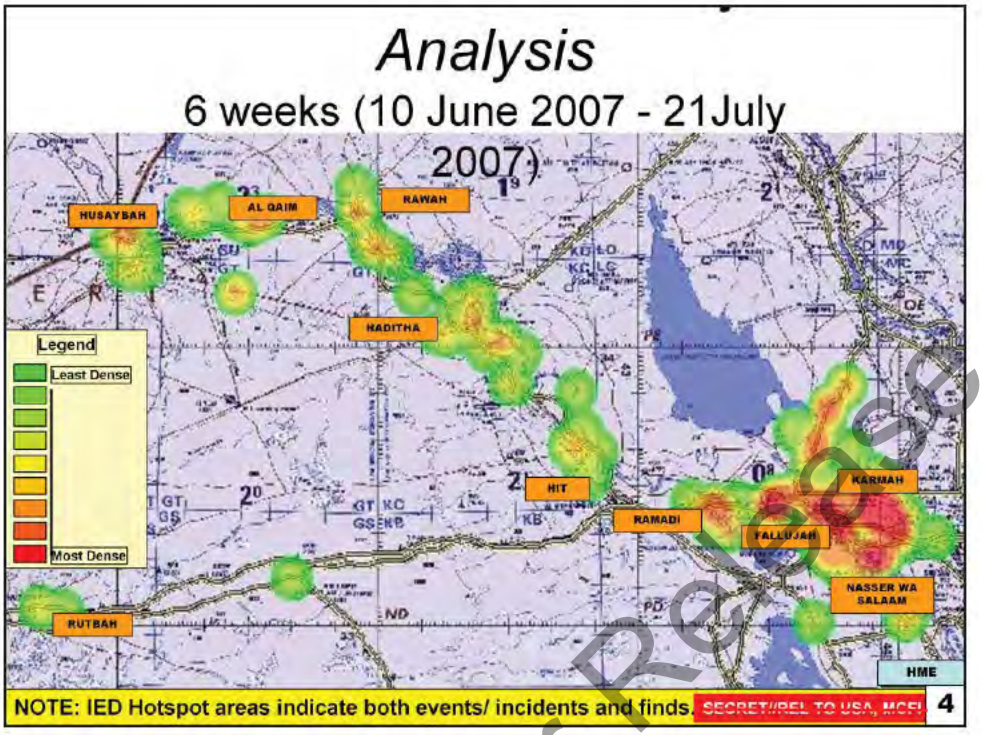

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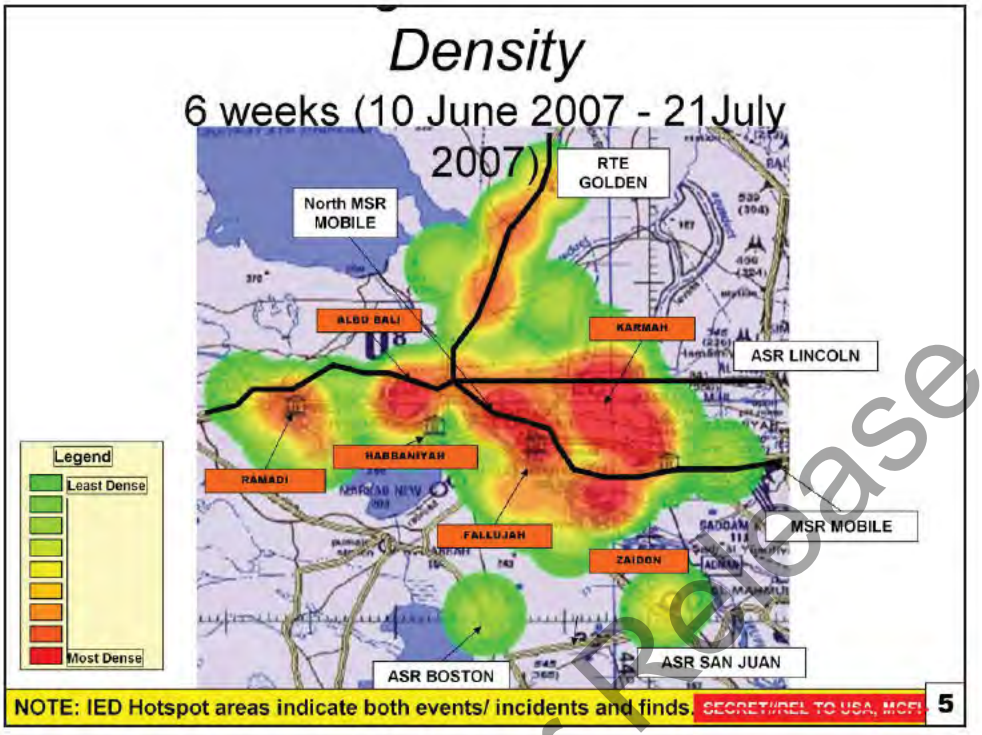

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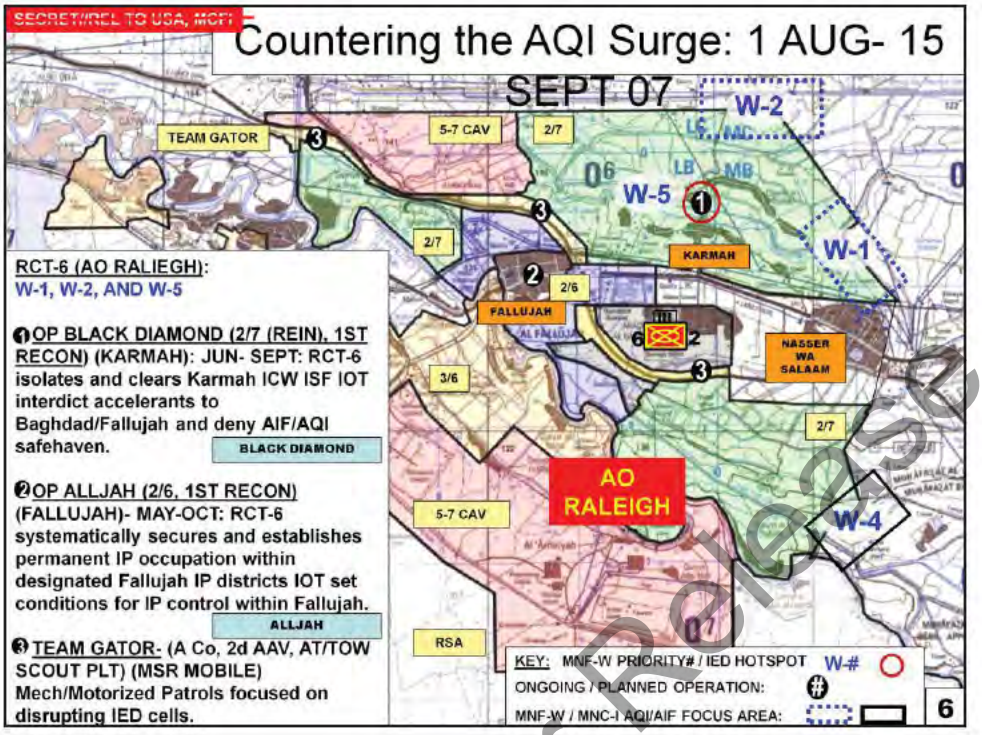

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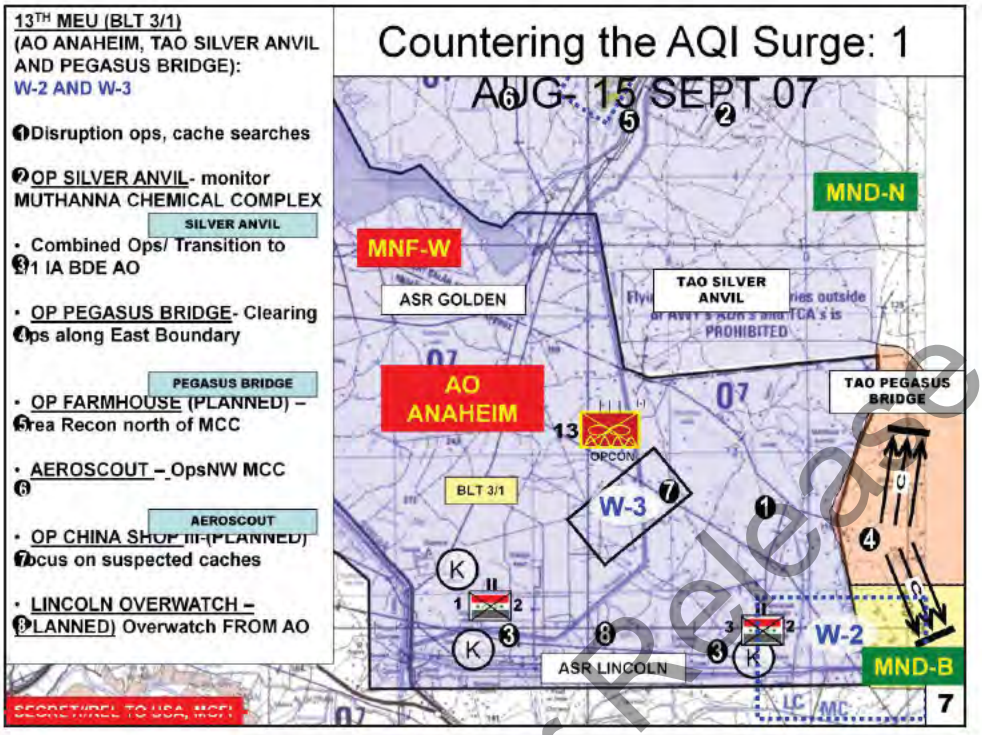

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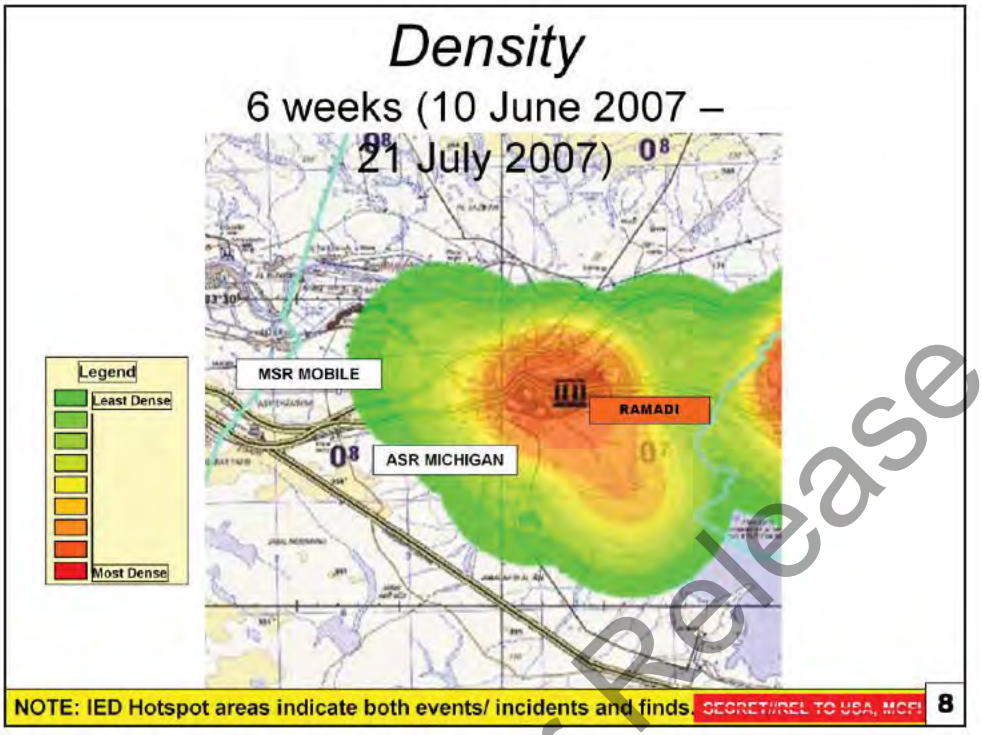

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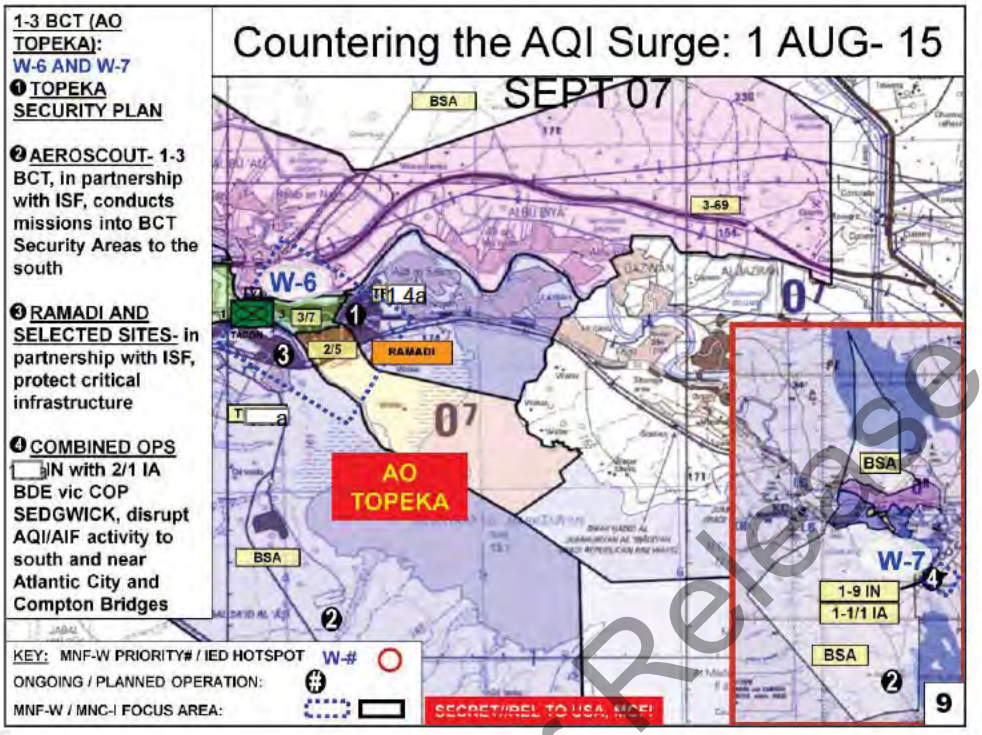

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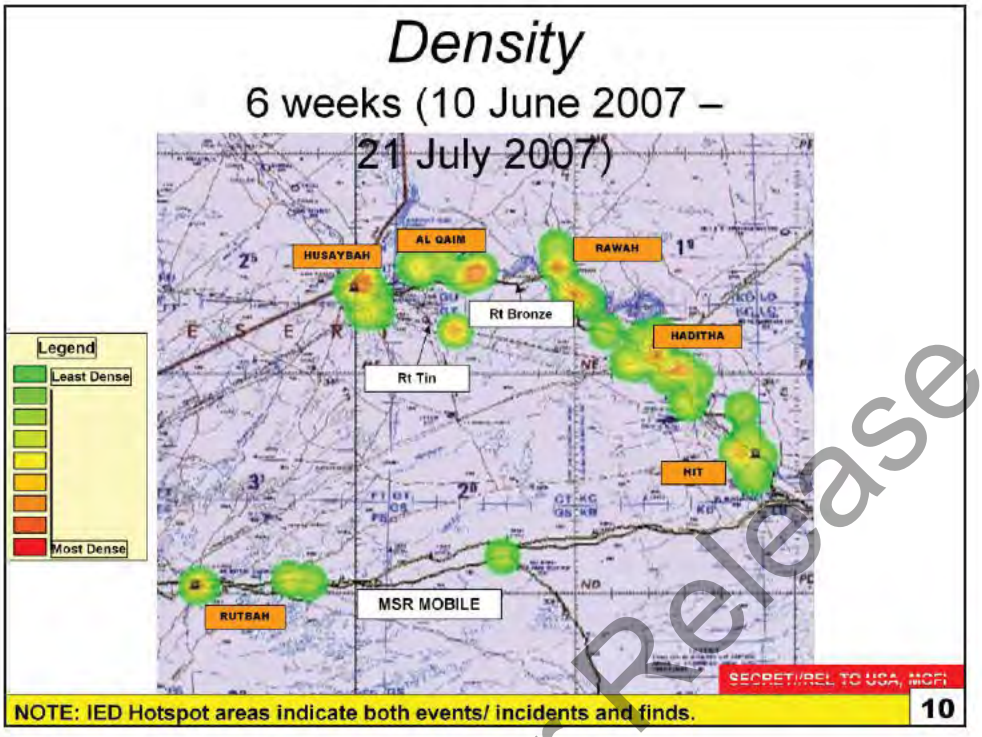

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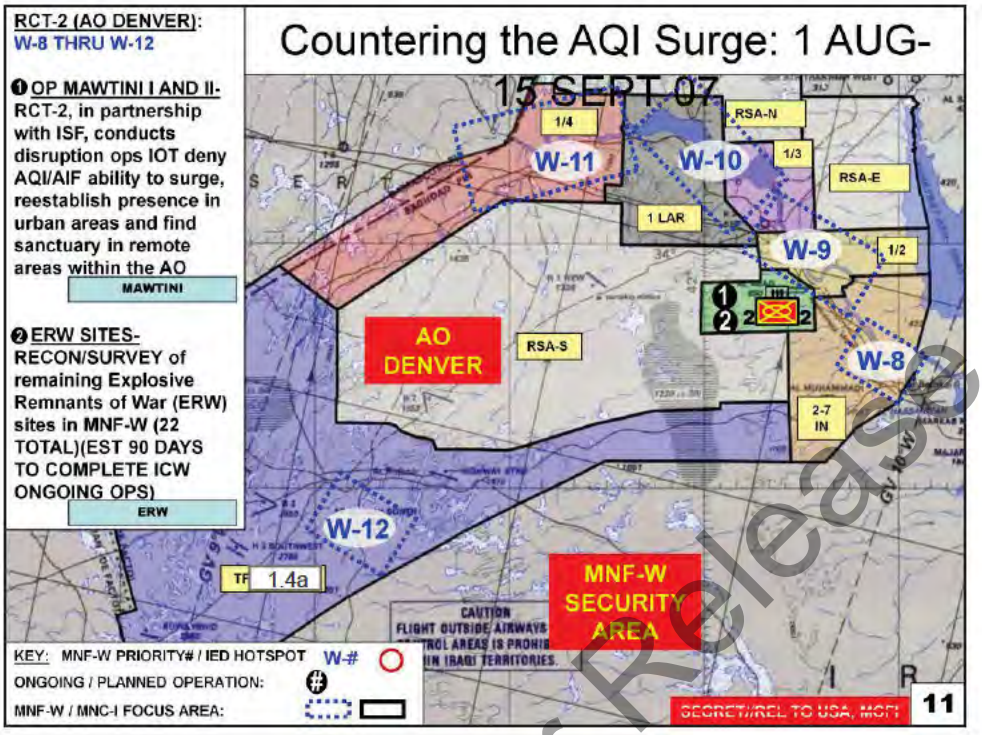

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SUMMARY

During Operation Phantom Strike, MNF-W will focus on continuing to maximize the synergy between operations within and between its AO's in order to deny AQI/AIF the opportunity to regroup and threaten key urban areas and critical infrastructure, as well as target IED Emplacement Cells within known and potential IED Hotspots.

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HOTLINKED
SLIDES

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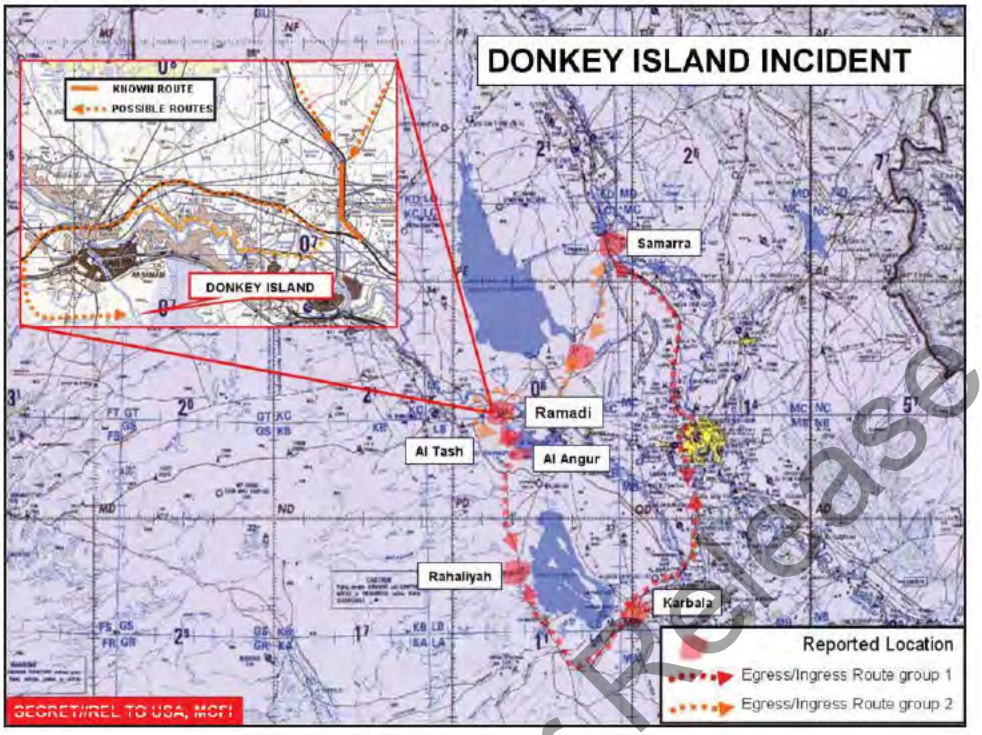

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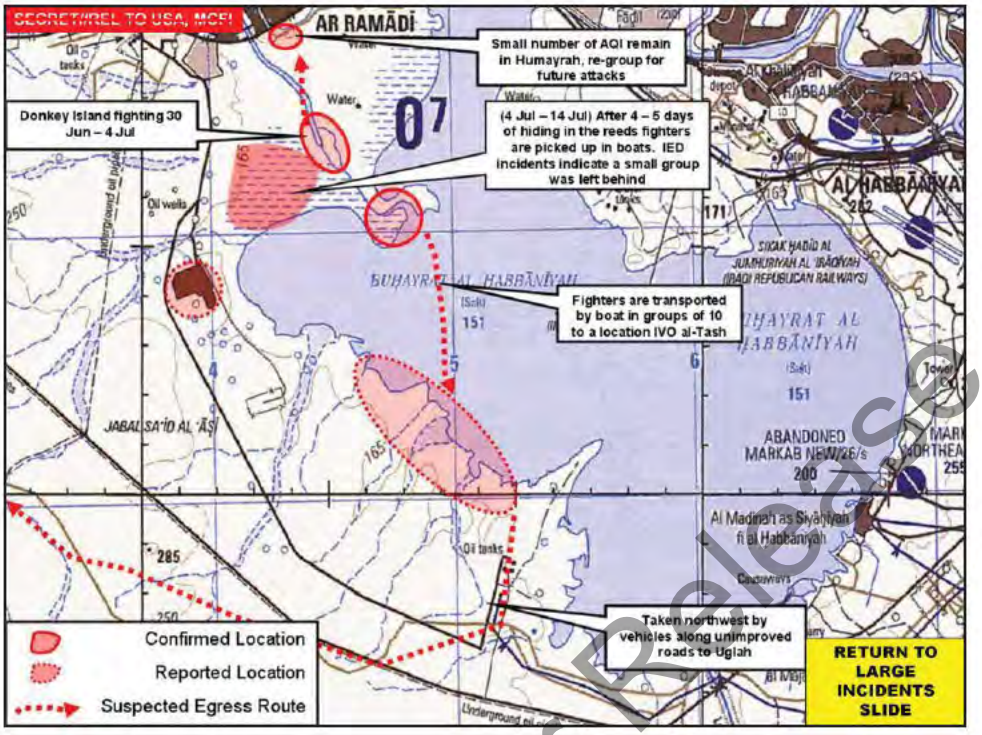

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MNF-W CRITICAL BRIDGES			
Rawah Hwy Bridge	Haditha Dam	Hit Bridge	Ramadi Bridges
1.4b, 1.4d			

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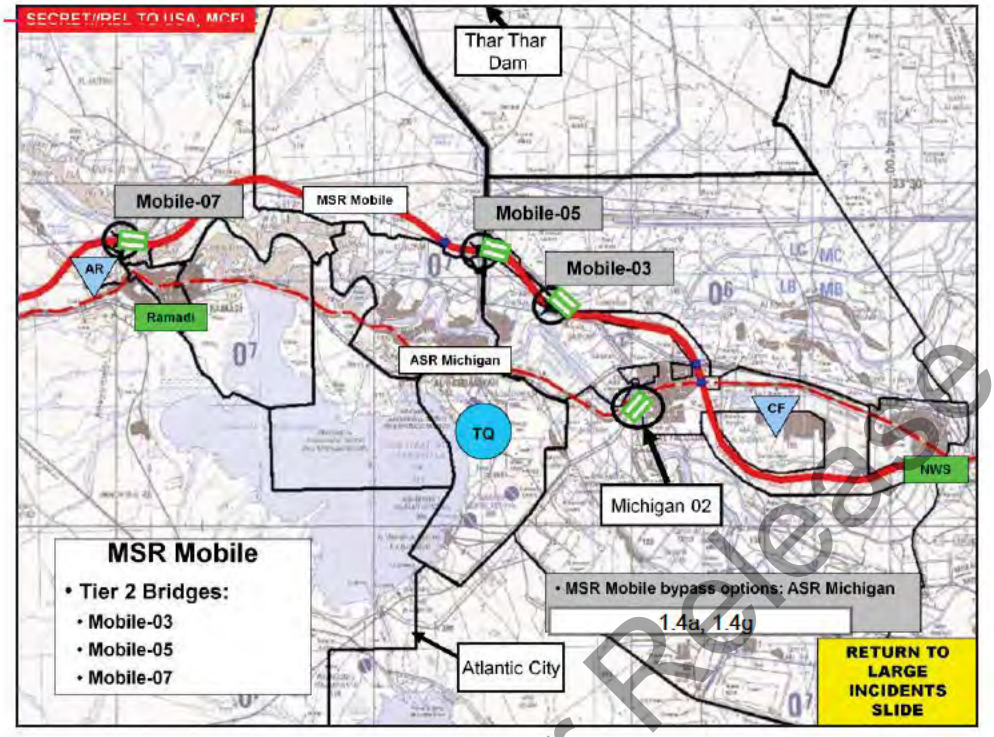

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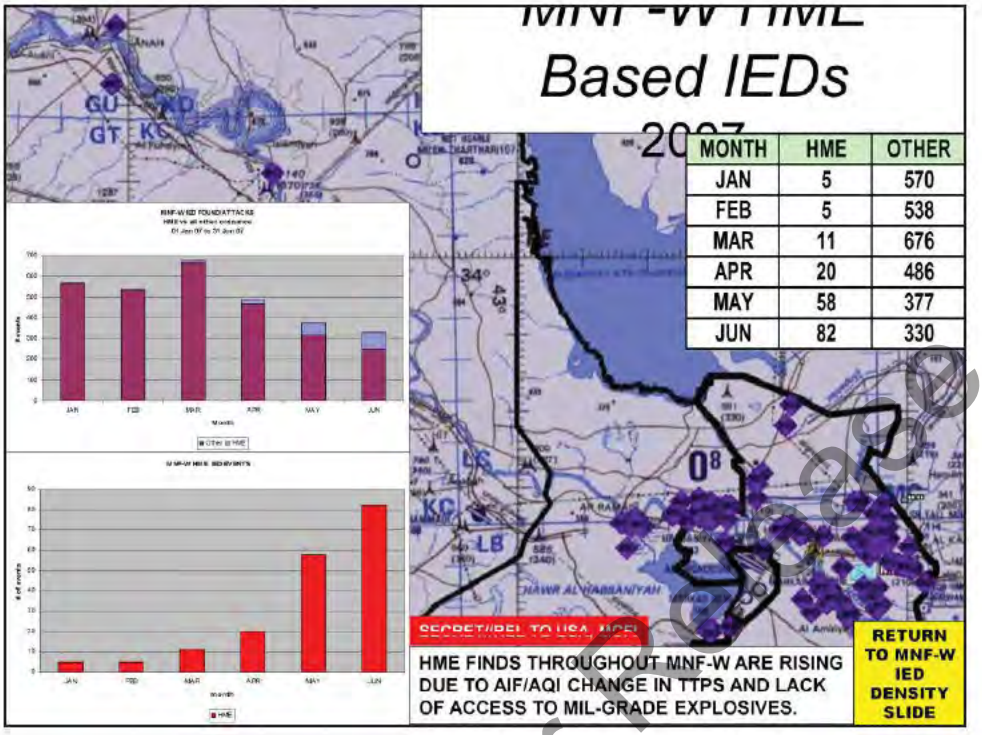

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OPERATION BLACK DIAMOND (KARMAH)

16 Jun – 1 Sep 07

KEY INFORMATION

Primary Force: RCT-6 (2/7)
ISF Personnel: N/A
CF Personnel: 617
# of vehicles: 101
# of Aircraft: FW/RW CAS requested/on call
Pre-Planned Fires: N/A
Nearest City: Karmah
Planned Start Date: 16 Jun 07
Planned End Date: 1 Sep 07

MISSION: O/O 2/7 isolates and clears Karmah in order to interdict accelerants to Baghdad/Fallujah and deny AIF/AQI safehaven.

operations outside the urban areas in order to disrupt the flow of AIF/AQI personnel and equipment into the MNF-W decisive area (Ramadi/Fallujah) and the MNC-I decisive area (Baghdad).

Adjacent. 3-509th conducts RIP with 2/7 and executes movement/CHOP to MND-C. 13th MEU occupies AO Anaheim, establishes COP Golden and COPs on ASR Lincoln; clears in zone. MND-B conducts helo raid to the east of Karmah. 2/6 executes Operation Alljah in Fallujah.

Supporting. 2d MAW(FWD) provides FW and RW CAS.

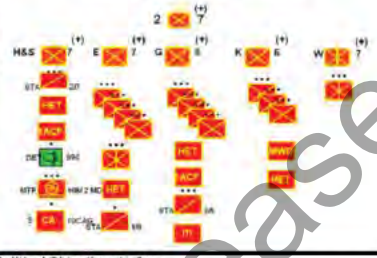
Method

- Continue enduring COIN tasks per RCT-6 OIF 06-08 OPORD.
- Focus interdiction against AIF freedom of movement in AO RALEIGH and AO SAKAR.
- Focus disruption against AIF bases of operation in AO RALEIGH and AO SAKAR.
- Continue to sustain development of ISF capability to assume security lead in AO RALEIGH.

Endstate

- AIF interdicted and unable to accelerate violence in Baghdad.
- ISF capable of conducting independent COIN operations.
- Establish conditions supporting Provincial Iraqi Control.

TASK ORGANIZATION



Political Objectives in Area

- Residents understand that allowing terrorists safe haven prevents Iraqi self-determination.
- Criminal activities hinder security.
- A secure environment promotes safety for children, economic prosperity, and the return of business to the area.

RETURN TO AO RALEIGH SLIDE

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OPERATION ALLJAH

29 May – Oct 07

1.4a, 1.4g

District 1
Al Jubail
District 2
Al Shuhadi
District 3
Hay Al Sinaa
District 4
Hay Nasir Mukaan Al Ghar
Hay Nasir
Hay Al Rasala
District 5
Al Andalus
Hay A- Andalous Wammaterah Al Gharbia
Al Jumhuria Al Thania
Al Andalous
Monthakat Al Jamiah Al Gabeir
Al Sanay Al Sagir Al Gharbi
Wadnet shib al Bidaiza
Hay Al Jumhuria
Al Jumhuria Al Thaleth Al Mahkama Thakata Al Hezel Al Hizam
District 6
Al Shuhadia Al Gia
Jolan
Al Hokma Al Qadima
District 7
Nuab Dubat
Hay Sibal Nasan
District 8
Al Muallimeen
Al Mahandiseen
Al Mualimeen Markaz Al Shorta
District 9
Hay al Dabit Hatra Mahandiseen
Hay Al Dubat Al Thania
District 10
Hay Al Jaghat
Hay Al Sinaia
District 11
Hay Al Askari
Tarpes Al Marsot Al San
Hay Al Shurata

KEY INFORMATION

Primary Force: RCT-6 (2/6)
CF Personnel:
MOD Personnel: 1.4a, 1.4g
MOI Personnel:
# of vehicles:
# of A/C: FW/RW CAS Requested
Pre-Planned Fires: N/A

Nearest City: Fallujah
Planned Start Date: 29 2200 MAY 07
Planned End Date: OCT 07

Task Organization (TF 1.4a)

- 2/6 (-)(REIN)
- CLB-6
- Co-2/1 IA
- Fallujah IP
- Attach: EOD, MWD, CEB, RTE CLR

MISSION: Between May and October 2007, TF 1.4a systematically secures and establishes permanent IP occupation within designated Fallujah IP districts IOT set conditions for IP control within Fallujah.

Friendly Situation

Higher: RCT-6's operations in AO Raleigh have eliminated the majority of safe havens for enemy forces, ability to attack into Fallujah has been limited as a result of Operation Fardh Al Qanoon.
Adjacent: 3-7 Cav limits insurgent activities in Amriyah-Ferdstown prevents use of area as a safe haven and LOC. 3/6 clearing along Euphrates River denies caches and reduces enemy's ability to use Euphrates River as a seam.
Supporting: 2d MAW(FWD) provides FW/RW CAS and ISR; CLB-6 emplaces barriers to restrict vehicular movement in and out of City Provinces.

Purpose: Set conditions for IP control within Fallujah
Method:

- Systematic IP districting – military boundaries only when needed for IP enabling operations
- Credit the IP for all successes
- Increase partnership within city
- Gated communities – own the traffic pattern and remove AIF critical capability of vehicle-borne escape
- Take mitigated risks with community volunteerism
- Help when needed

Endstate:

- 8-11 District HQs w/ IP LtCols commanding
- IA partnered for security presence and support for IP in areas in which they currently operate
- IA provides training cadre for new IP's awaiting academy (at ITC)
- IP manning up to 2,000 (100-200 per district with remaining at city HQ)
- Zero mobility for AIF and M&I campaign discredited
- ECP transition to IP / USMC
- USMC positioned at FGC and external FOBS with squads supporting district headquarters – CMO efforts continue

RETURN TO AO RALEIGH SLIDE

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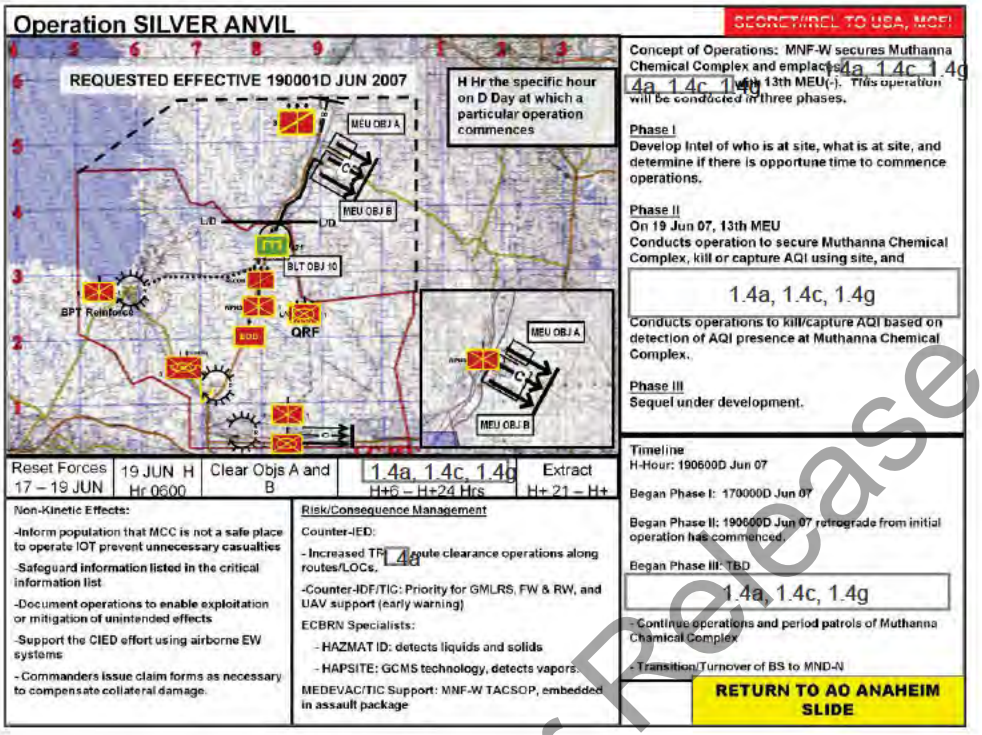

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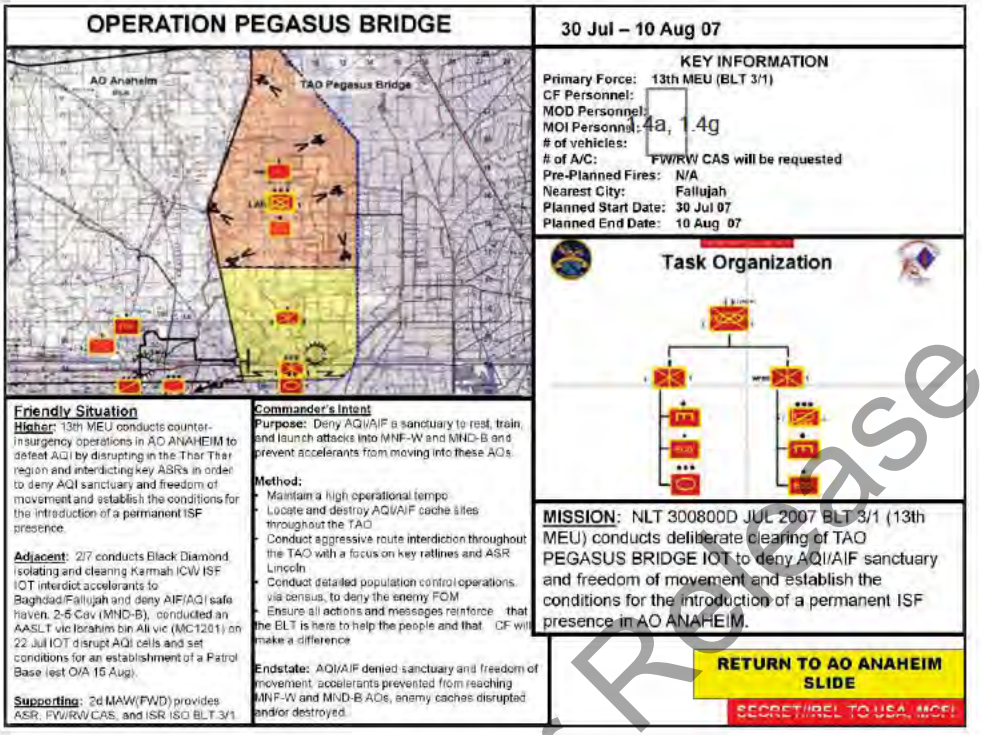

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1.4a, 1.4g

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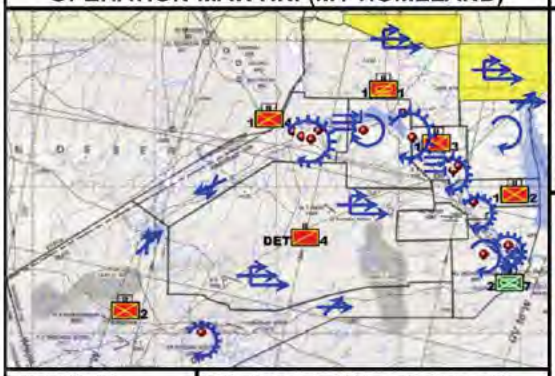
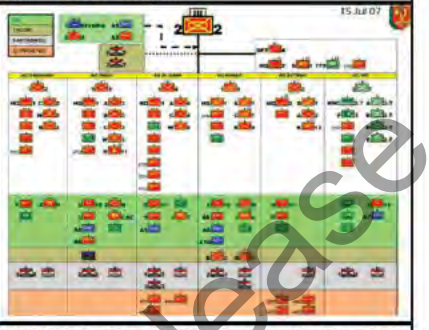
OPERATION MAWTINI (MY HOMELAND)

15 JULY – 15 AUG 07 SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI



KEY INFORMATION

Primary Force: RCT-2
MOD Personnel: 1.4a, 1.4g
MOI Personnel:
CF Personnel:
# of vehicles: TBD
# of Aircraft: RW/FW CAS requested
Pre-Planned Fires: N/A
Nearest City: N/A (AO wide) Key cities are Hit, Hadithah Triad, Rutbah, Baghdadi, Al Qaim, POEs
Planned Start Date: 15 July 07
Planned End Date: 15 August 07



Friendly Situation:
RCT-2 is currently executing Phase I, *Secure the cities and criminalize the insurgency*, of the RCT-2 campaign plan. Operation Mawtini I will serve as the transition to Phase II, *Keep the peace and defeat the insurgency*.

Operation Harris Ba'sil and ops conducted since that time have provided RCT-2 a better picture of the movement patterns of the enemy.

The information gained during this period will allow RCT-2 to conduct focused operations in those areas that have shown to be critical to the enemy.

Purpose: This operation targets an anticipated "surge" of insurgent and terrorist activity that will be undertaken to regain access and sway over the population. RCT-2 will prevent the enemy from disrupting steady improvements in governance and rule of law and interdict his efforts to target facilities, individuals, and organizations which represent security and stability. This will be done by attacking the enemy's vulnerabilities: vehicle movement, fixed caches, desert safe houses, and his inability to synchronize actions.

Key Tasks:
- Disrupt the Enemy
- Secure Key Terrain
- Protect the Population
- Achieve Intermediate LOO Objectives
- Conduct Focused CIED operations

Endstate: IA battalions and 2/7 IA Brigade validated. Governance and Rule of Law continuing to develop, and enemy actions against CF, ISF and the population maintained at historically low levels.

MISSION: On 15 Jul 07, RCT-2, in partnership with the ISF, conducts disruption operations in order to deny the enemy the ability to conduct surge operations and re-establish presence in urban areas.

RETURN TO AO DENVER SLIDE

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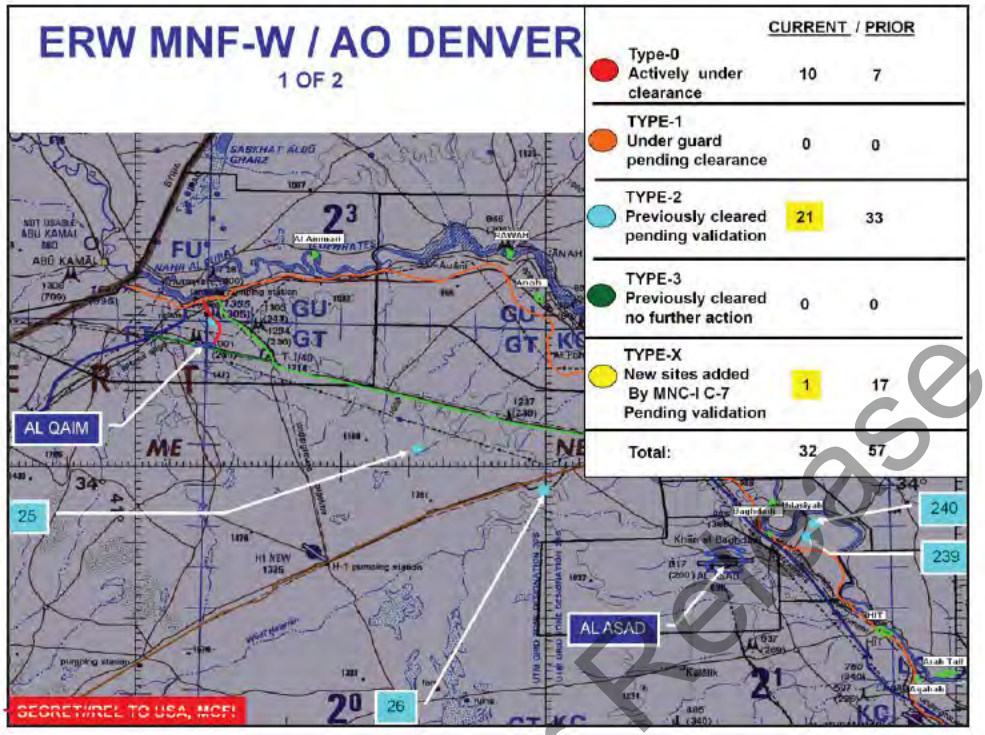

Site 239 19 km from Al ASAD
Site 240 22 km from Al ASAD
Site 26 82 km from Al ASAD 132 km from AL QAIM
Site 25 118 km from Al ASAD 75 km from AL QAIM
Site 27 160 km from Al ASAD 6 km from AL QAIM

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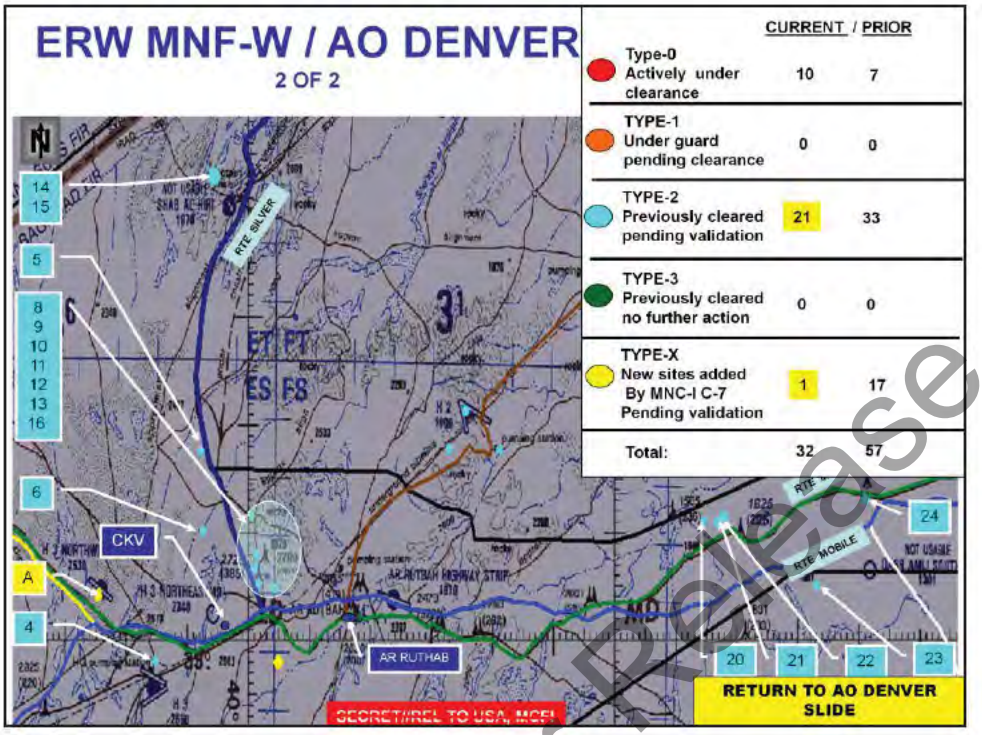

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Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula (CJSOTF-AP)

CJSOTF-AP Operations in Support of Operation PHANTOM STRIKE

03 August 2007

The overall classification is
~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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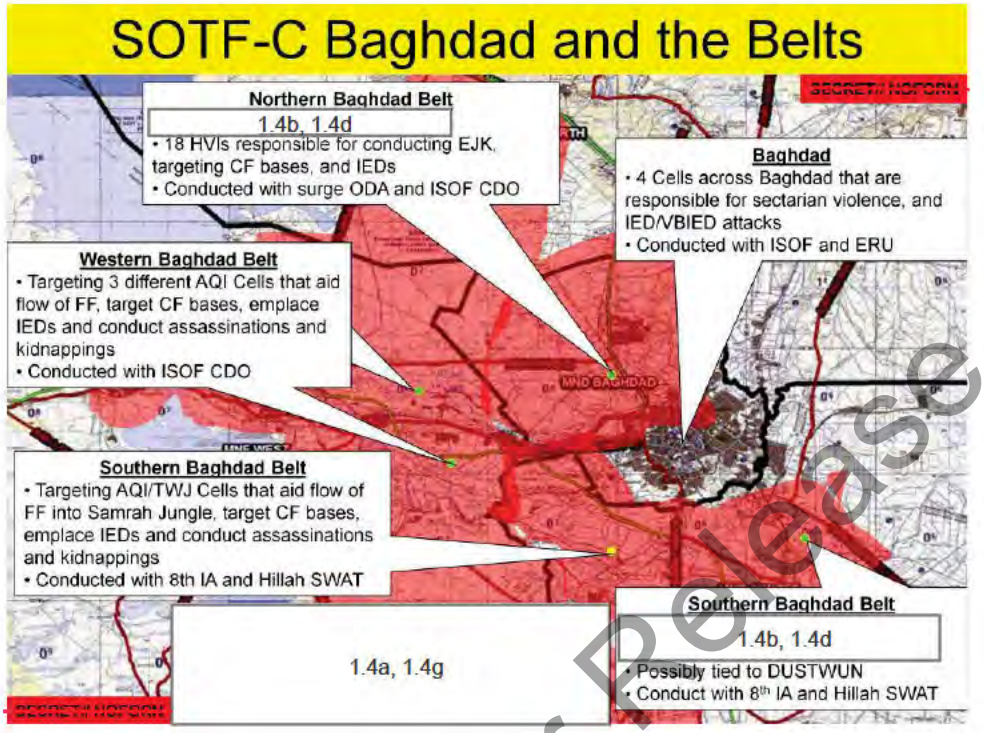

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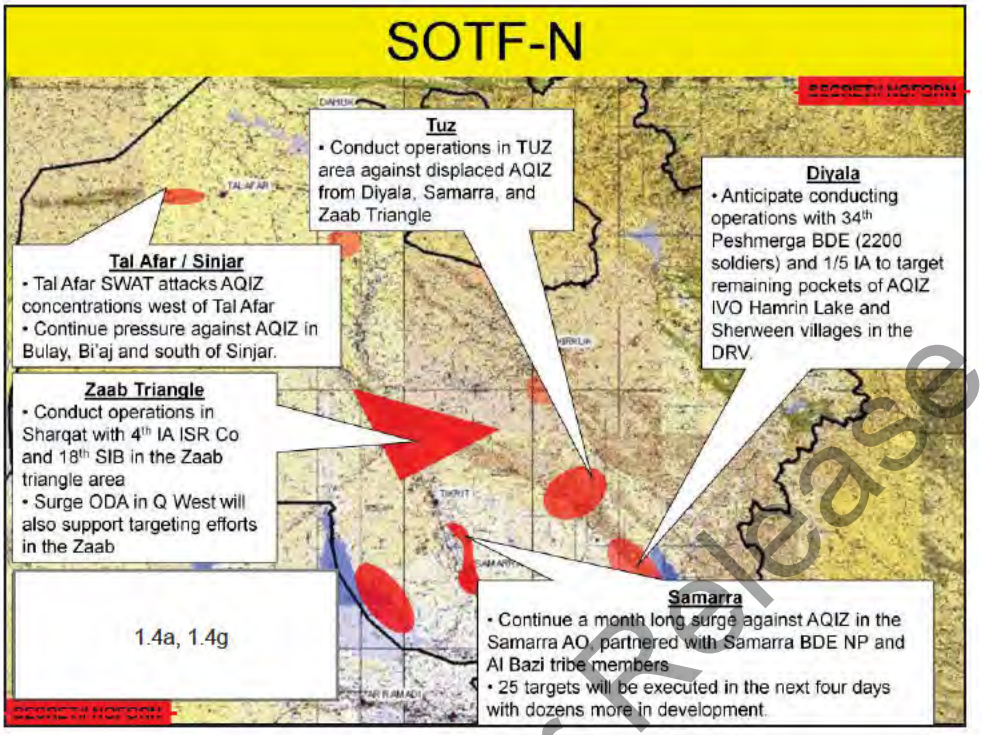

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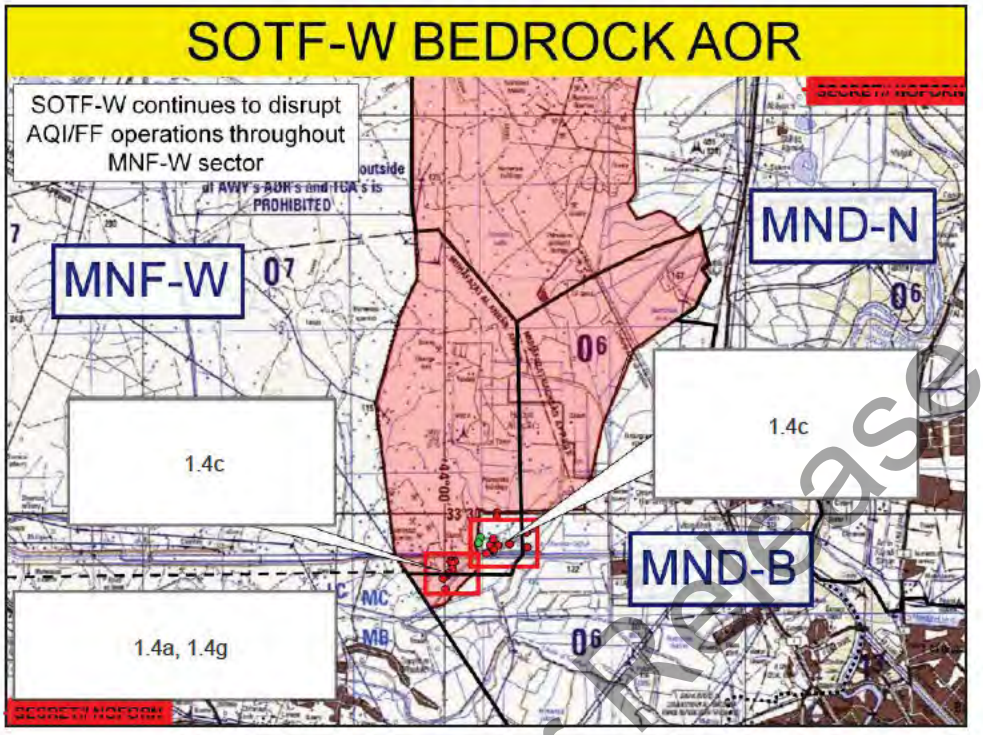

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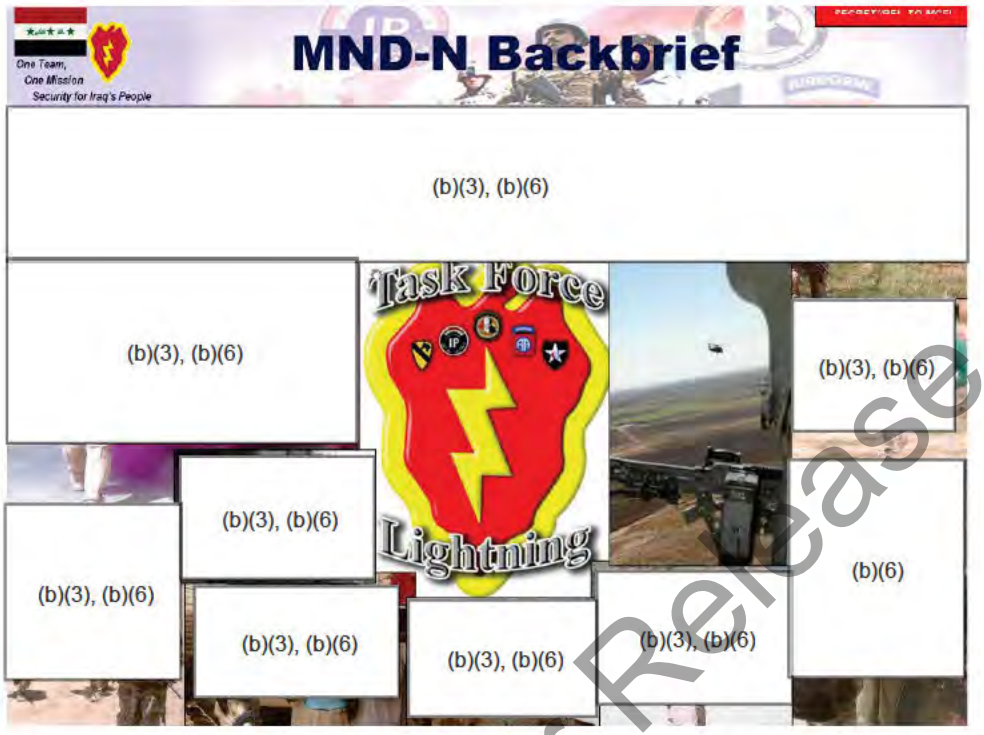

There are 4 Phantom Strike Backbrief Requirements

1. Identify Planned Operations in support of Phantom Strike (Unit and Location of Operation)
2. MND Plan for prioritizing Internal Enablers to effect a surge in emphasis against AQI and IED Networks from 15 AUG – 15 SEP
3. Anticipated Requirements for Corps level Enablers
4. Any Additional Corps Support Required

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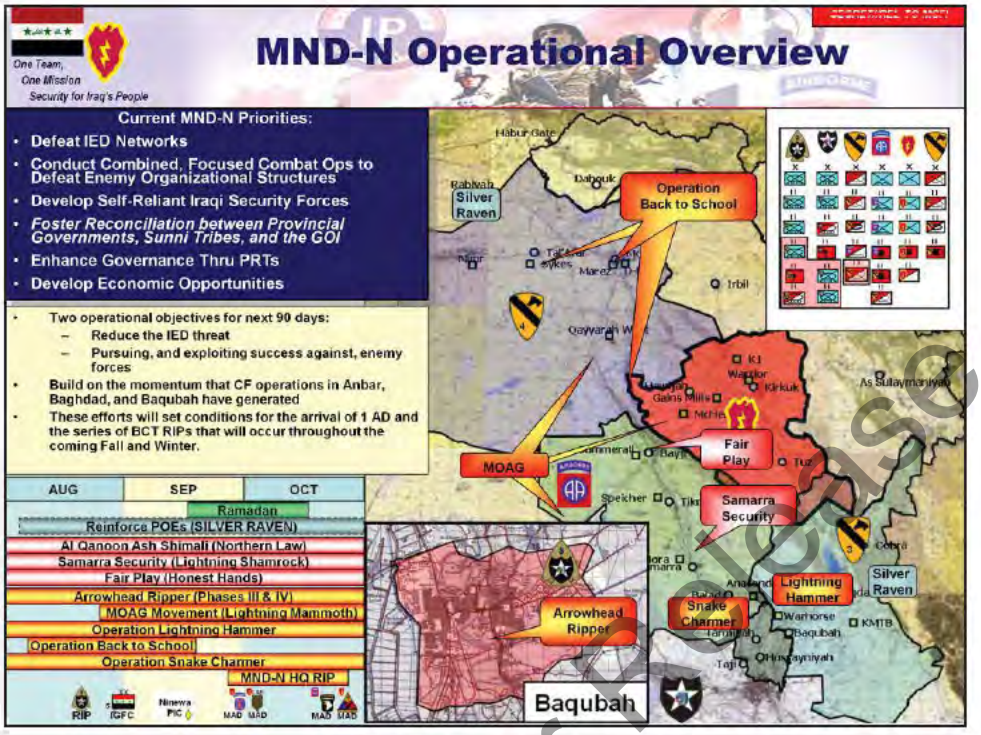

•Working down the left hand side of the slide, the MND-N Operational Priorities, Operational Objectives, and enduring MND-N missions

•Our objective for the next 90 days is to reduce the IED threat and to pursue, and exploit success against, enemy forces – These objectives directly support Operation Phantom Strike

•Enduring Missions, Emerging Missions, and RIP will challenge the MND ability to fully resource operations with internal assets

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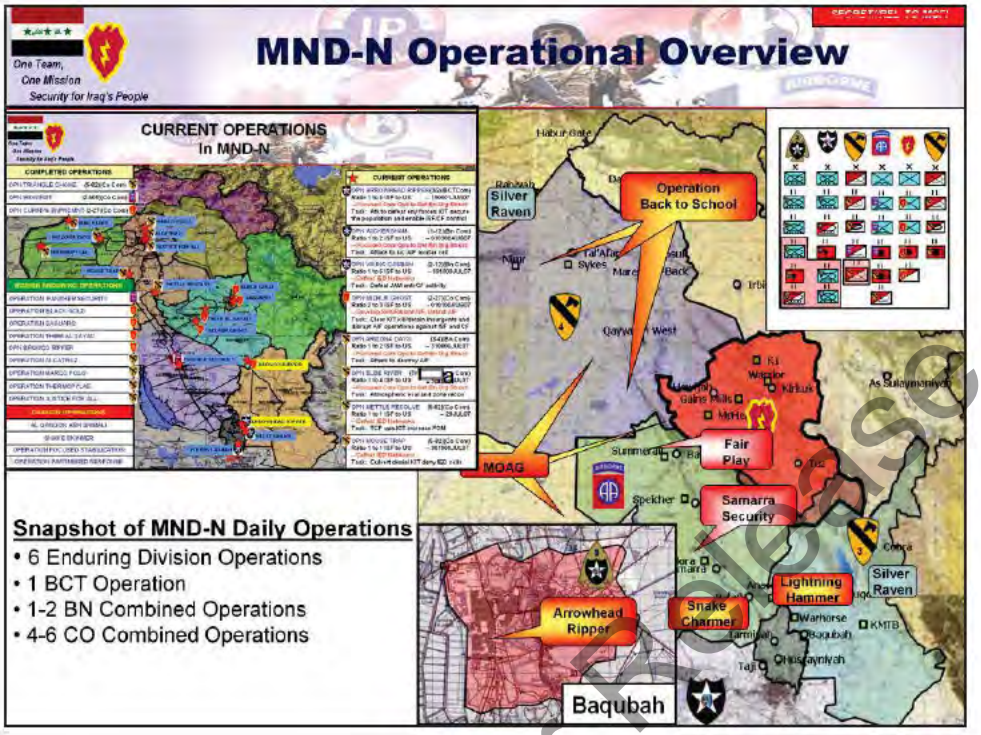

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Enduring Operations

Al Qanoon Ash Shimali (Northern Law)
Snake Skinner
Operation Focused Stabilization
Operation Partnered Response
Fair Play (Honest Hands)
Samarra Security (Lightning Shamrock)

BCT Operations

Arrowhead Ripper Phase IV

Emerging Operations

MOAG Movement (Lightning Mammoth)
Operation Lightning Hammer
Operation Snake Charmer
TF Lightning RIP/TOA with TF Iron

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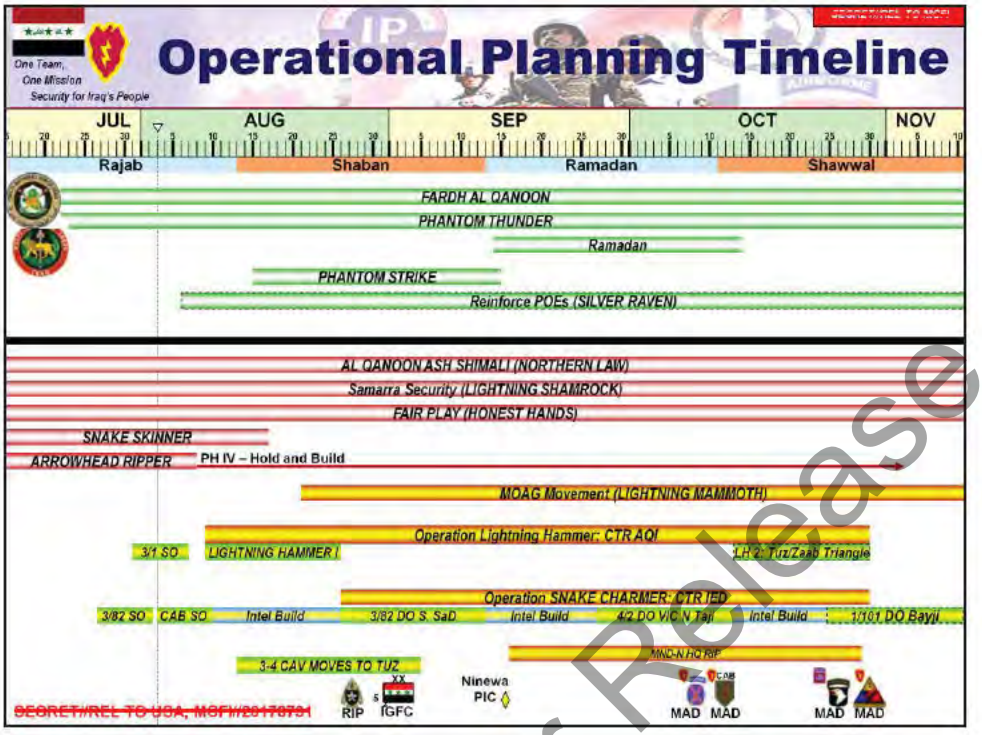

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- Operation's Lightning Hammer and Snake Charmer are two MND-N Named Operations that achieve your intent for Operation Phantom Strike
- Shaping Operations for Lightning Hammer and Snake Charmer
  - 1-3 AUG Operation Wickersham (1-12 IN SW of Baqubah ISO Lightning Hammer)
  - 4-6 AUG Operation Hoplite (5-73 in the DRV ISO Lightning Hammer)
  - 4-8 AUG Operation Mechanics (3/2 in Baqubah ISO Arrowhead Ripper)
  - **5-8 AUG Highwayman (25 CAB SO along MSR Tampa ISO Snake Charmer)**
  - 5-8 AUG Operation William Wallace (5-73 in the DRV ISO Lightning Hammer)
  - **10 AUG – 10 SEP Operation Back to School (4/1 SO ISO Lightning Hammer)**
  - D-3 (11 AUG) 3/82 ABN AA S of Samarra
  - **D-2 (12 AUG) 3/25 ID AA IVO Hembis and Sinsel**
  - 14-25 AUG INTEL Build ISO Snake Charmer
  - **11 AUG – O/A 7 SEP Movement of 3-4 CAV from Sykes to Tuz**

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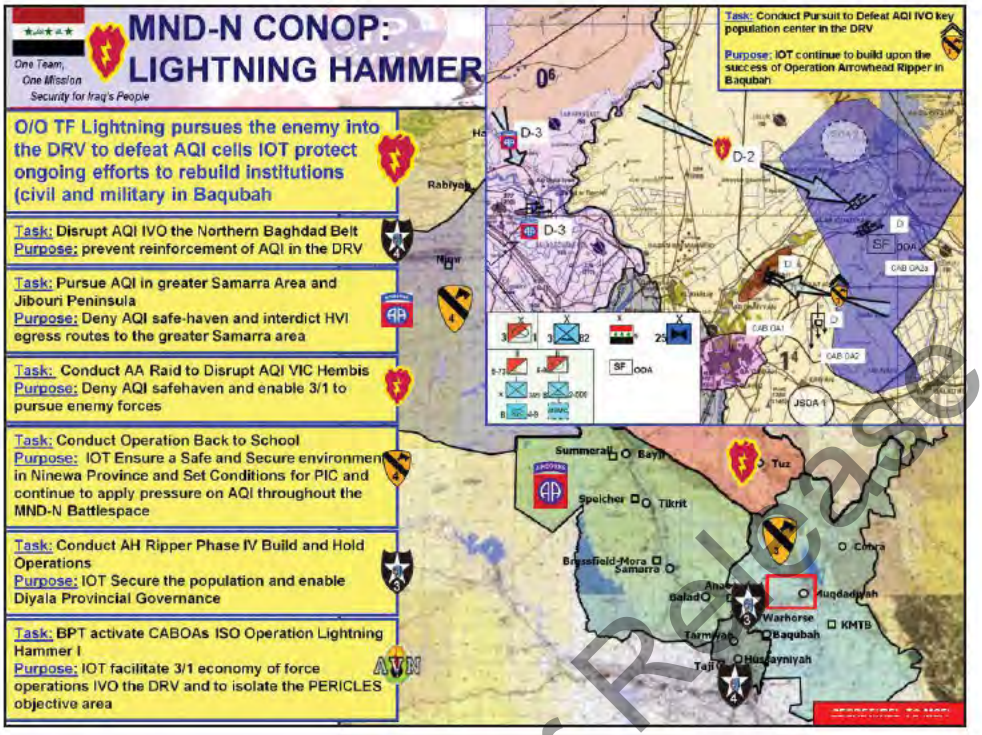

Purpose: In order for TF Lightning to continue to build upon the success of Operation Arrowhead Ripper in Baqubah, TF Lightning will conduct the first in a series of Lightning Hammer operations in the Diyala River Valley (DRV). The first iteration of Lightning Hammer will focus on the defeat of the enemy vicinity key population centers in the DRV. **Decisive to this operation is continuing the success in Baqubah while simultaneously defeating the enemy in the key population centers of the DRV.** Shaping operations will include disrupting enemy forces VIC Hembis, Sinsil, Muqdadiyah, Kanan and Balad Ruz.

Key Tasks:

- Defeat the enemy in the DRV, specifically Abu Kharma, Mukisha, and Qubah (Decisive)
- Destroy enemy C2 and logistical nodes
- Interdict AQI lines of communication into and out of the DRV
- Disrupt enemy activity North of the Diyala River VIC Hembes and Sinsel
- Disrupt enemy activity South of the DRV VIC Kanan and Balad Ruz
- Disrupt the enemy in CABOAs 1, 2 and 2 A
- Leverage IO and non-kinetic enablers IOT increase momentum generated during Operation Arrowhead Ripper and achieve our operational goals

End State:

Friendly: Conditions are set for IA and IP to retain gains during Operation Lightning Hammer with minimal CF oversight. CF are postured to conduct follow-on Lightning Hammer operations IOT continue the pursuit of the enemy in Diyala.

Enemy: The enemy is defeated in the Diyala River Valley and can not effectively disrupt recent TF Lightning successes in Baqubah. The enemy's external influence on Baqubah and throughout Diyala is disrupted.

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Terrain: The local population's perception of the IA and IP is positive. The government of Diyala continues to establish itself as the governing body of the Province. The DOC is fully functional and operating.

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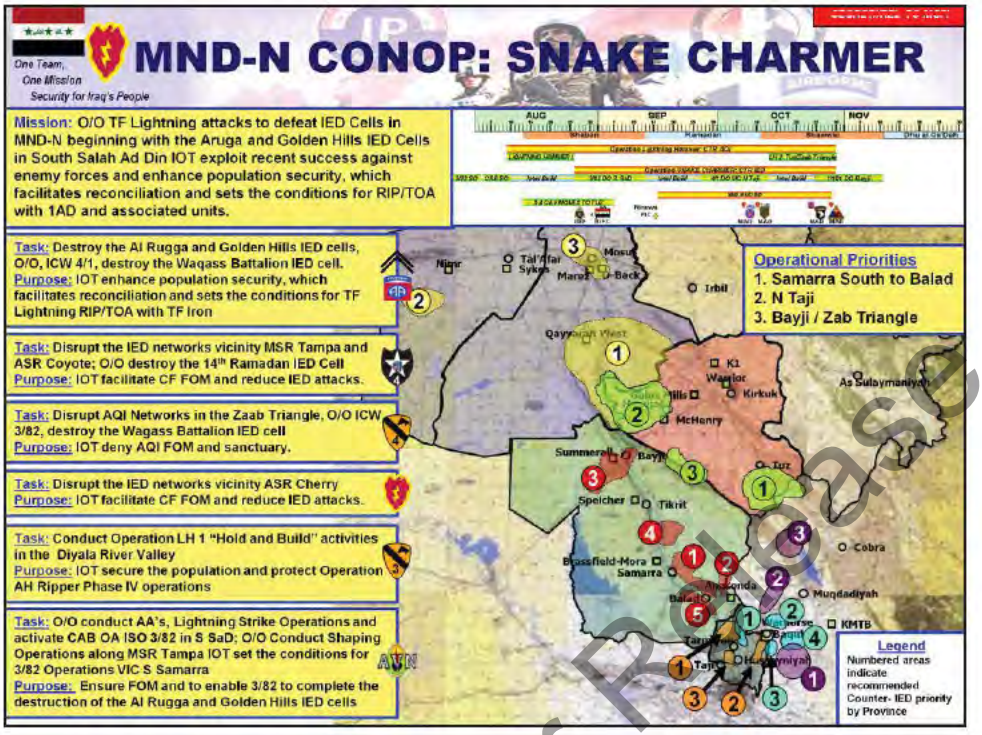

Purpose: Operation SNAKE CHARMER is an offensive operation designed to defeat AQI and IED networks and facilitate reconciliation in AO lightning by creating effects at the Operational level. Additionally, SNAKE CHARMER is a shaping operation for Operation PHANTOM STRIKE which enables MNC-I to disrupt AQI's ops in advance of Ramadan and the September assessment.

We will achieve Operational level effects by isolating specific IED cells and attacking them in depth, with simultaneous operations to eliminate sanctuary, dominate lines of communication, capture or kill HVI's, and target the network's supporting infrastructure to include robust programs to mitigate the environmental factors that enable network control. I will assume risk, where necessary, in order to weight the ME.

Key Tasks:

•Disrupt AQI FOM within the population through programs to Foster reconciliation, encourage use of Tip Lines and IO to publicize the small/micro rewards program

•Sequentially, Defeat IED networks in Southern SaD, Tuz, and the Bayji/Zaab Triangle region

•Dominate key portions of MSRs/ASRs IOT ensure CF FOM

•Maintain the initiative with an accelerated and unpredictable OPTEMPO; conduct high potential operations even when forces to hold and build are not available

•Incorporate ISF into operations at every echelon

Endstate:

Friendly: 25th ID forces have freedom of movement in sector and are postured to receive 1st AD and it's associated units.

Enemy: The Al Rugga and Golden Hills IED cells defeated in Southern SaD. AQI influence with the local populace is diminished enabling progress towards reconciliation.

Terrain: The local populace enjoys an increased sense of security. IA and IPS are dominant security forces, operating under Provincial/Local C2, who support and uphold the rule of law; setting the environmental conditions required for the initial stages of reconciliation and PIC.

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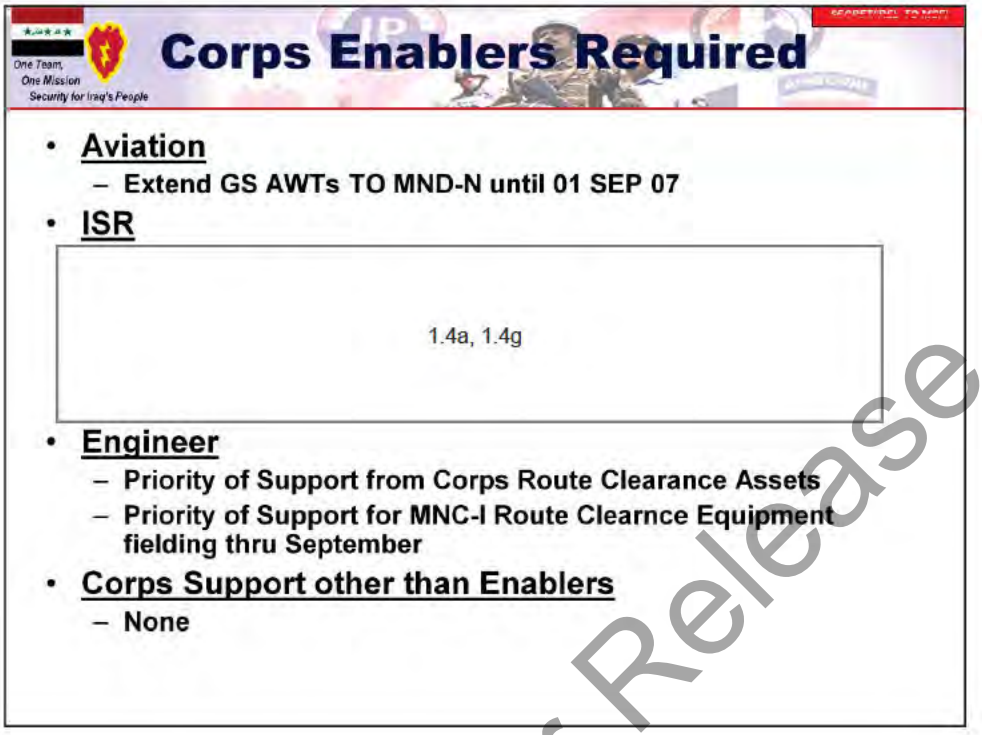

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Aviation

•2 X AWTs currently GS to MND-N due to return to MNC-I control on 15 AUG.

•Require extension to 1 SEP IOT support Decisive Operations for Operation Lightning Hammer and Operation Snake Charmer

ISR

Projected ISR On-Hand

Engineer Assets:

•Require 2 X Additional RCTs in Diyala IOT support Operation Lightning Hammer.

•Require 875th TAI coverage on Southern Tampa IVO TAI Massachusets in support of Snake Charmer from 25 AUG to O/A 4 NOV

•Request priority of Support for MNC-I RTE Clearance Team Equipment Fielding thru September

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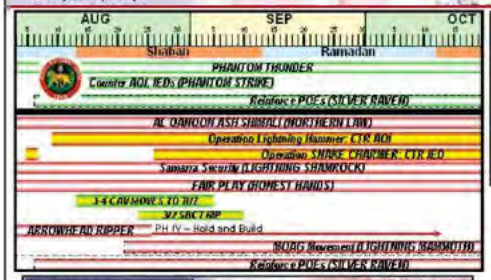
One Team,
One Mission
Security for Iraq's People

MND-N ISR Requirements



From early August until mid-October MND-N will simultaneously conduct over six Division-level operations ISO OPNs PHANTOM THUNDER and PHATNOM STRIKE. To achieve maximum operational and tactical effects MND-N must integrate EAD ISR to fill Intelligence gaps and ensure situational awareness within a battle space the size of Pennsylvania.

ISR Requests (Per 24 Hour Period)

1.4a, 1.4g

Projected ISR On-Hand

1.4a, 1.4g

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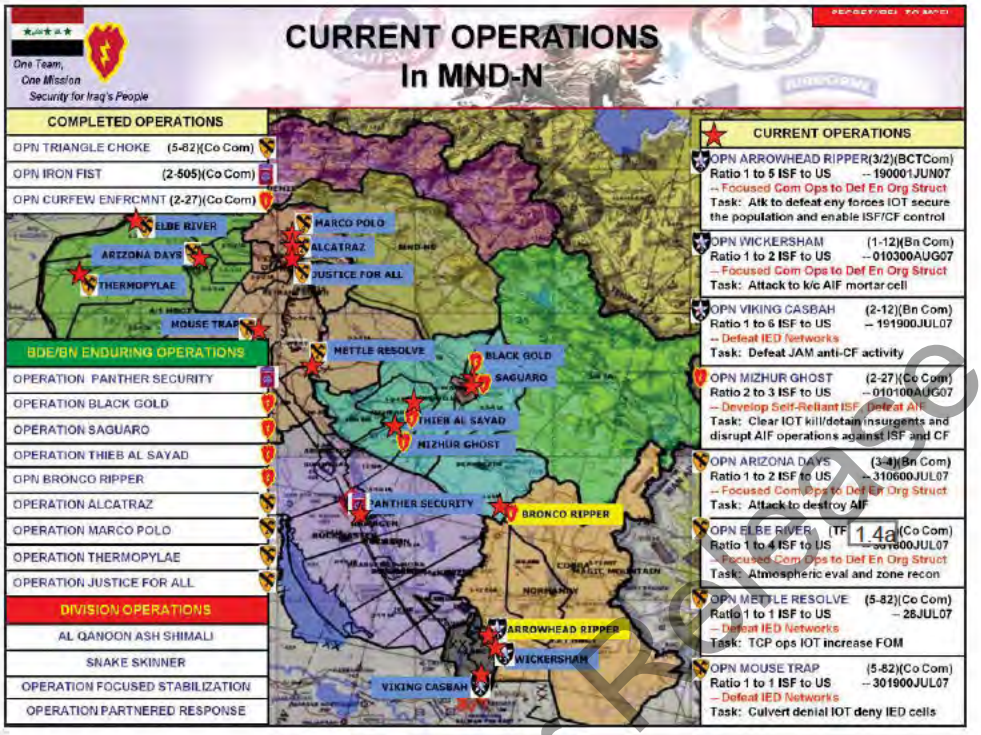

Operation Snake Skinner, day 61 – Arrowhead Ripper, day 43

During the last 12 hours, there were 2 x company level and above operations completed and 1 x OCF-I mission executed. Completed operations are Bandit Quest in AO Greywolf and Fox Run in AO Panther.

There are currently 7 x non-enduring, on-going company level and above operations which are Arrowhead Ripper in AO Arrowhead, Viking Casbah in AO Raider, Arizona Days, Elbe River, Mettle Resolve, Triangle Choke and Mouse Trap in AO Long Knife.

During the next 12 hours, there are 4 x company level and above operations scheduled to begin and no OCF-I missions planned. New operations are Wickersham in AO Raider, Simms Iron Fist in AO Panther, Curfew Enforcement and Mizhur Ghost in AO Bronco.

I'll be followed by the Arrowhead LNO.

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14a

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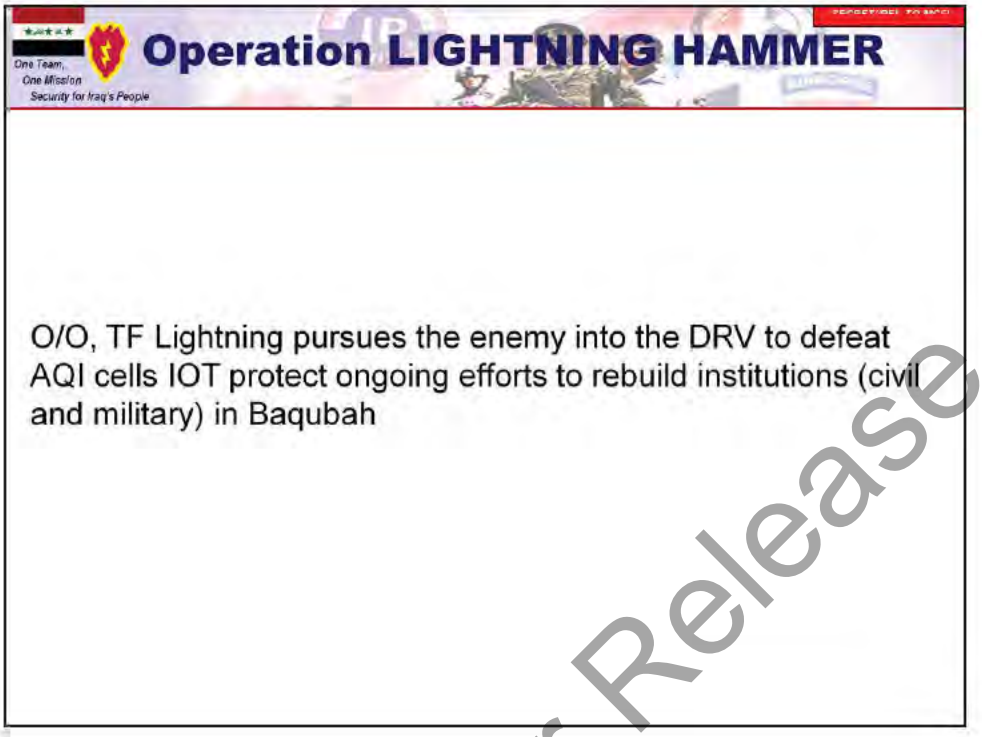

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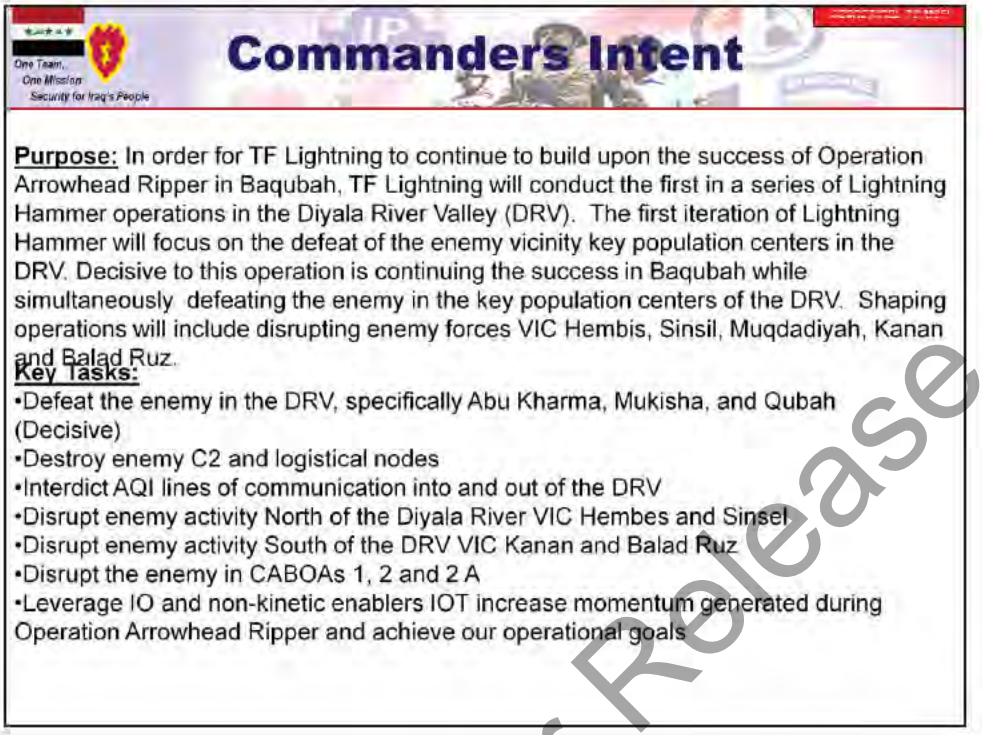

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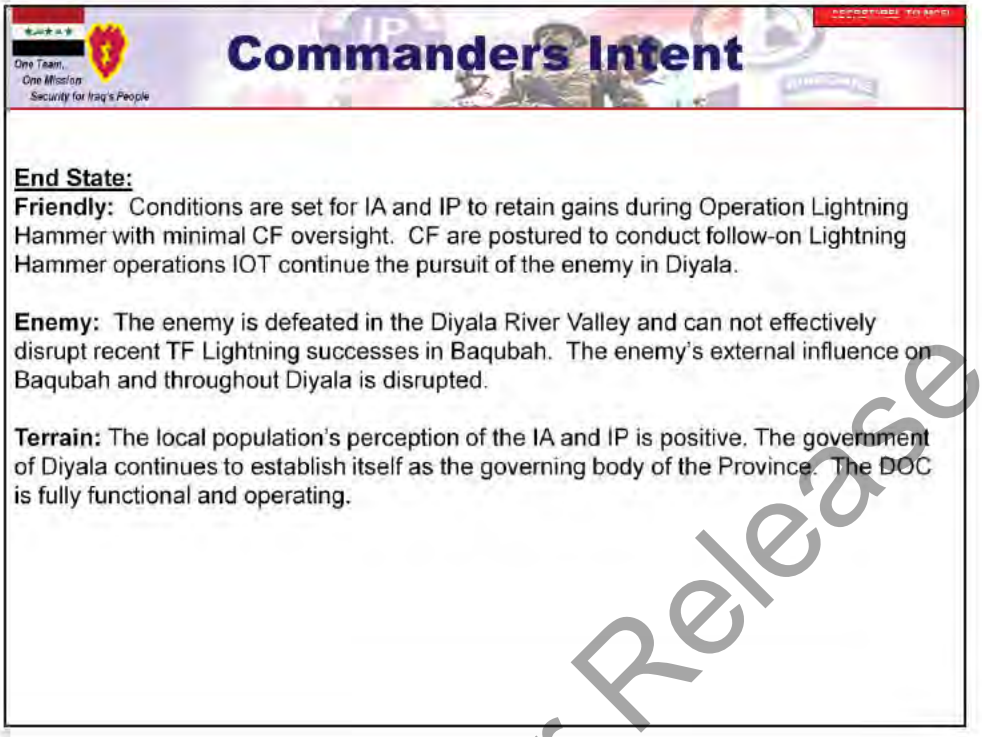

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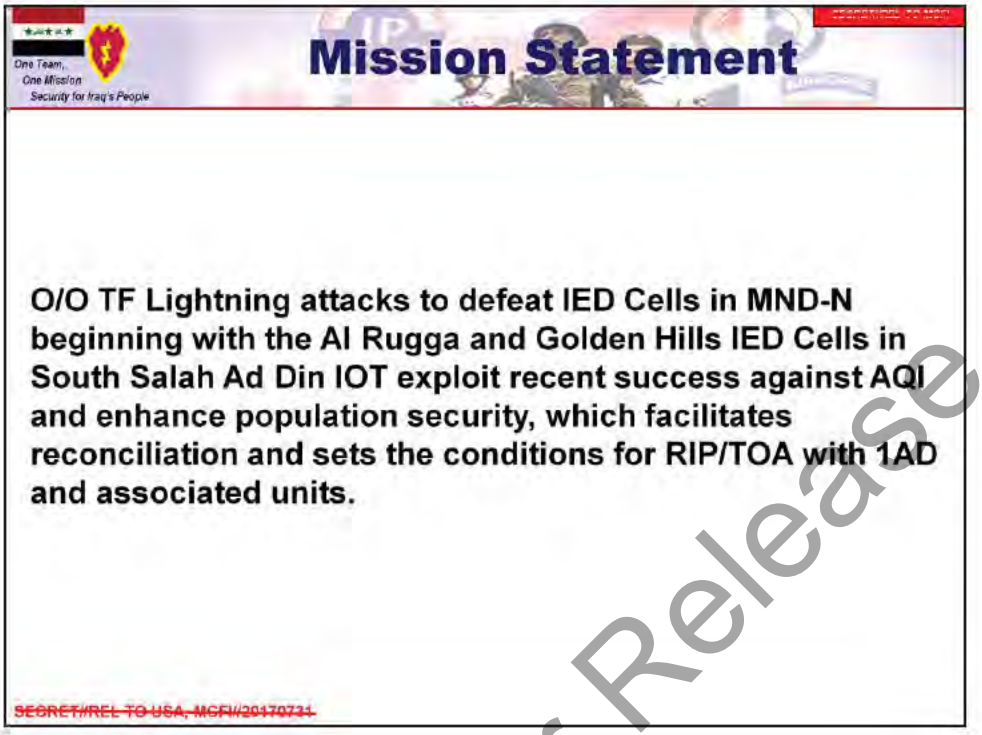

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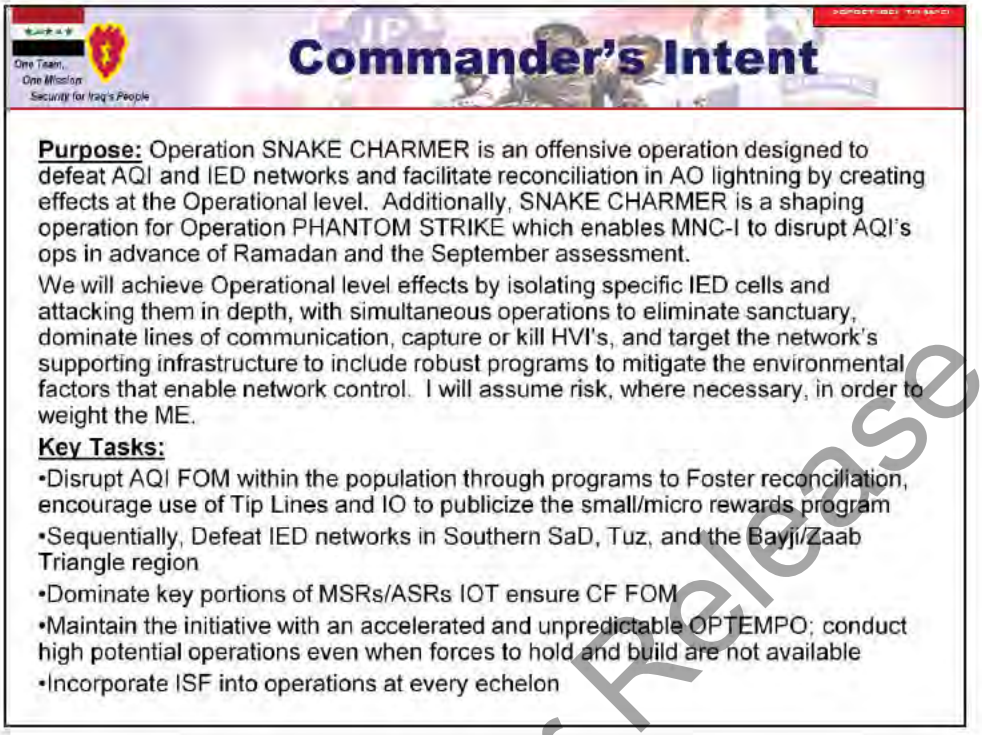

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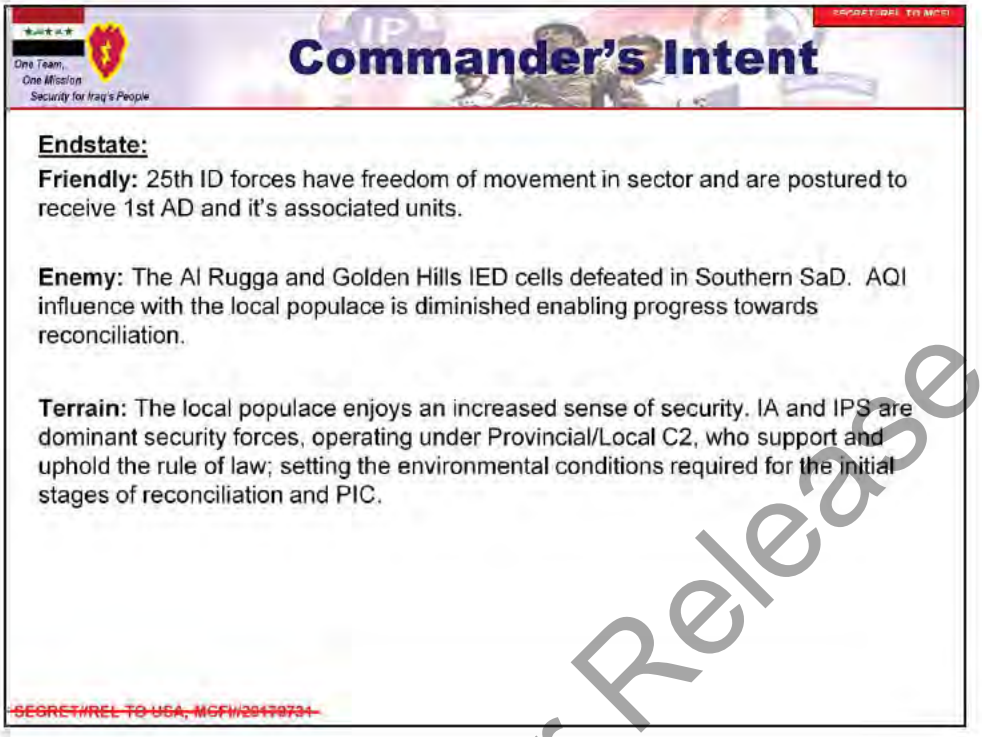

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Phantom Strike
Back Brief

The overall classification of this briefing is ~~SECRET//REL to USA, MCFI~~
Approved by: 1CD G2
Classified by: Multiple Sources
Reason: EO 12958 (as amended) – 1.4(a), (c) and (d)
Declassify on: 20170601

As of: 01 AUG 07

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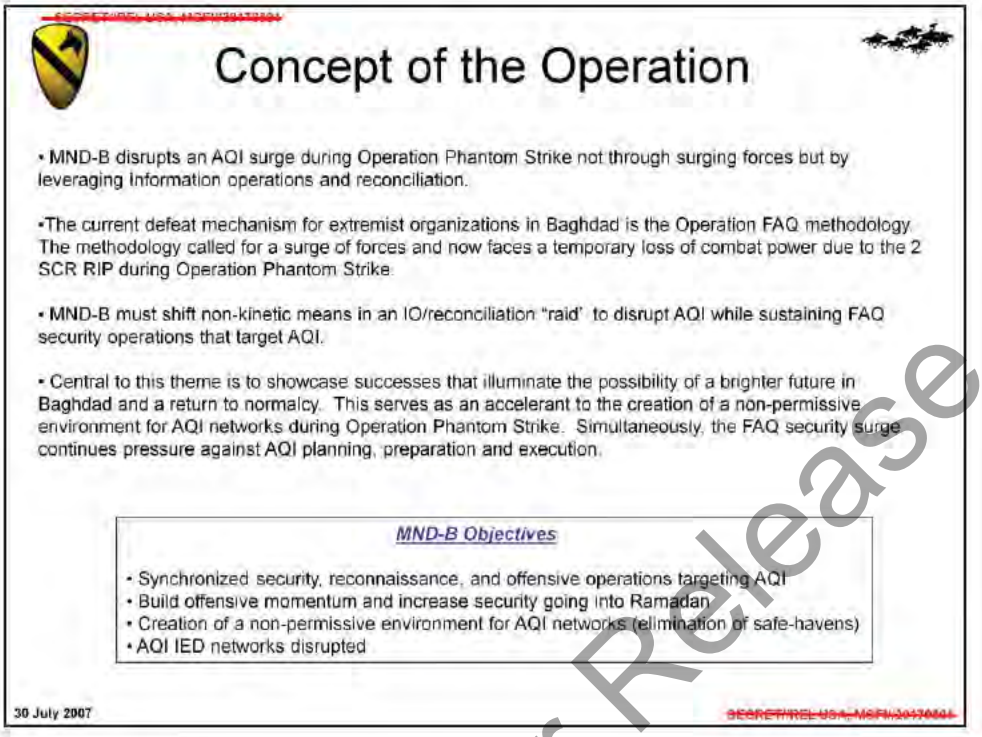

Concept of the Operation

- MND-B disrupts an AQI surge during Operation Phantom Strike not through surging forces but by leveraging Information operations and reconciliation.

- The current defeat mechanism for extremist organizations in Baghdad is the Operation FAQ methodology. The methodology called for a surge of forces and now faces a temporary loss of combat power due to the 2 SCR RIP during Operation Phantom Strike.

- MND-B must shift non-kinetic means in an IO/reconciliation "raid" to disrupt AQI while sustaining FAQ security operations that target AQI.

- Central to this theme is to showcase successes that illuminate the possibility of a brighter future in Baghdad and a return to normalcy. This serves as an accelerant to the creation of a non-permissive environment for AQI networks during Operation Phantom Strike. Simultaneously, the FAQ security surge continues pressure against AQI planning, preparation and execution.

MND-B Objectives

- Synchronized security, reconnaissance, and offensive operations targeting AQI
- Build offensive momentum and increase security going into Ramadan
- Creation of a non-permissive environment for AQI networks (elimination of safe-havens)
- AQI IED networks disrupted

30 July 2007

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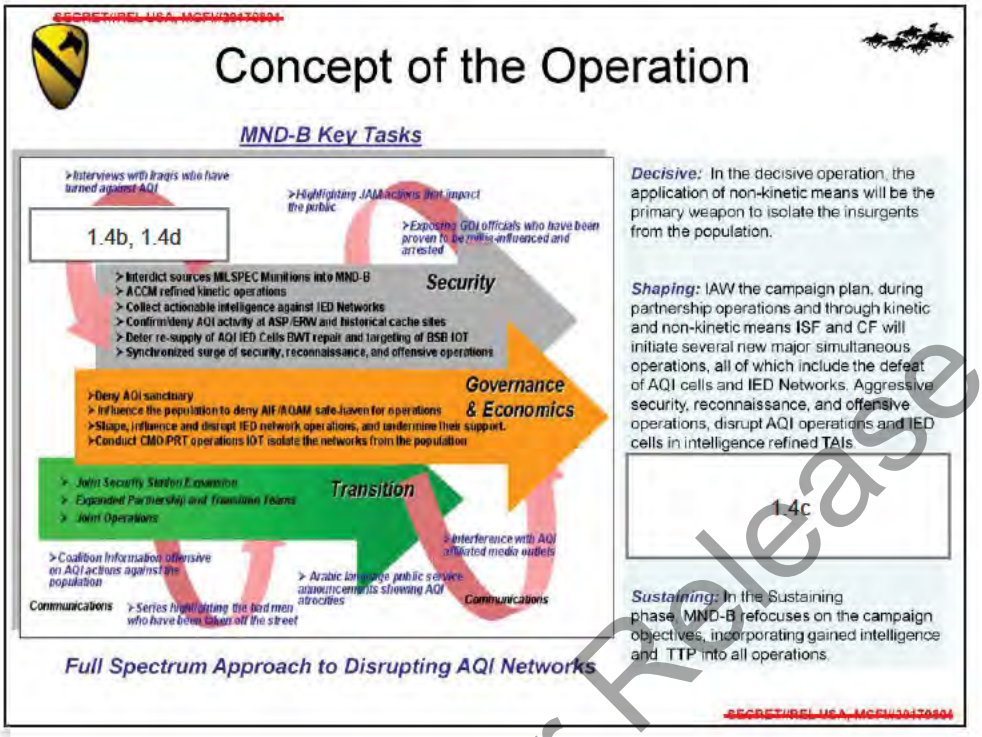

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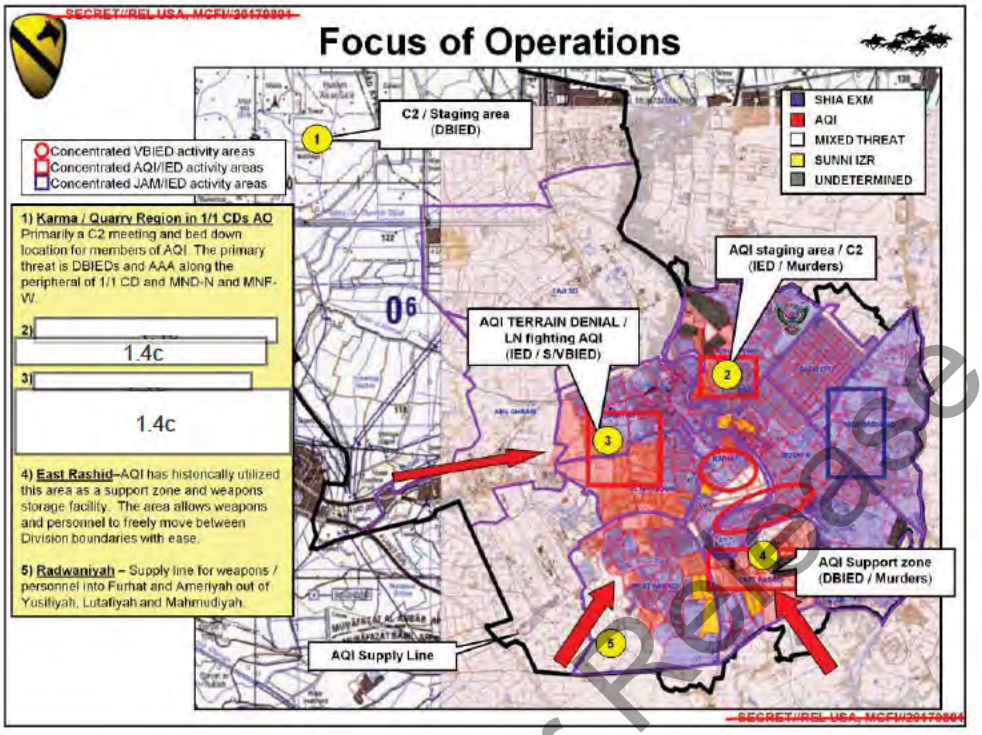

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Arab Jabour / S. East Rashid (IVO "5 Acres") – Elements of AQI, more specifically 1.4b, 1.4d 1.4b, 1.4d primarily, have historically utilized this area as a support zone and weapons storage facility. Reporting also indicates foreign fighter facilitation (FFF) moved through the farms area into MND-B. The 11 JUN cache finds corroborated the historical reporting. Recently, reliable reporting indicates AQI elements of the 1.4b, 1.4d QI network have resumed use of the "5 Acres" area within the southeast portion of 4/1 IDs AO, possibly re-supplying the cache for future attacks. The Arab Jabour area allows weapons and personnel to freely move between Division boundaries with ease. The DBIED threat to the west IVO MSR Tampa and north along the MND-B AO boundary allows AQI elements FOM as well as an early warning system.

Radwaniyah – The outlying area along the southwest portion of West Rashid is historically used as a ratline for weapons / personnel into Furhat and Ameriyah out of Yusifiyah, Lutafiyah and Mahmudiyah. AQI's primary focus in this area is to combat the JAM expansion out of the hayy Jihad and maintain FOM into Ameriyah.

Southern Ghazaliyah – This area has historically been known to house Sunni elements targeting ISF / MNF along ASR Michigan and combat JAM elements from Shula. Recently reporting indicates elements of AQI have moved to southern Ghazaliyah IOT evade targeting by ISF / MNF and Sunni elements of 1.4b, 1.4d However, with the onset of the 1.4b, 1.4d soon to be legitimized, AQI will likely need to move again to evade further targeting efforts.

Karma / Quarry Region in 1/1 CDs AO – This area is underdeveloped due to a lack of sources and MNF operations (1/1 CD) in the northwest portion of 1/1 CDs AO. However, multiple TF 1.4a raids and exploitations have shown this area is primarily a C2 meeting and bed down location for members of AQI. The primary threat is DBIEDs and AAA along the peripheral of 1/1 CD and MND-N and MNF-W. Lines of FFF also run into the Ironhorse AO, primarily from the north and out of the Karma region. However, the current reconciliation engagements by 1/1 CD has greatly hindered AQI's ability to retain FOM and support zones outside of Baghdad. This has also caused a lack of confidence and distrust amongst the leadership and therefore a split in ideologies.

Hayy Adhamiyah – Hayy Adhamiyah is not considered an AQI "safe haven" by any means, however, reporting indicates that AQI personalities in the 1.4b, 1.4d feel comfortable using Adhamiyah as a base of operations. There are several Sunni groups operating within Hayy Adhamiyah, all are fully aware that AQI is operating within the AO, and most are doing nothin to counteract it. A I has both significant influence and freedom of movement within the Hayy. The 1.4b, 1.4d uses Hayy Adhamiyah as a staging area in preparation for attacks that are to be con uc e n e usafa Sector of Baghdad. In addition, the 1.4b, 1.4d and the area surrounding are reported to be key meeting locations for AQI Senior Lea ers p in ag ad. Adhamiyah is the key Sunni dominated area remaining in Eastern Baghdad, as a result, AQI has no where else to go.

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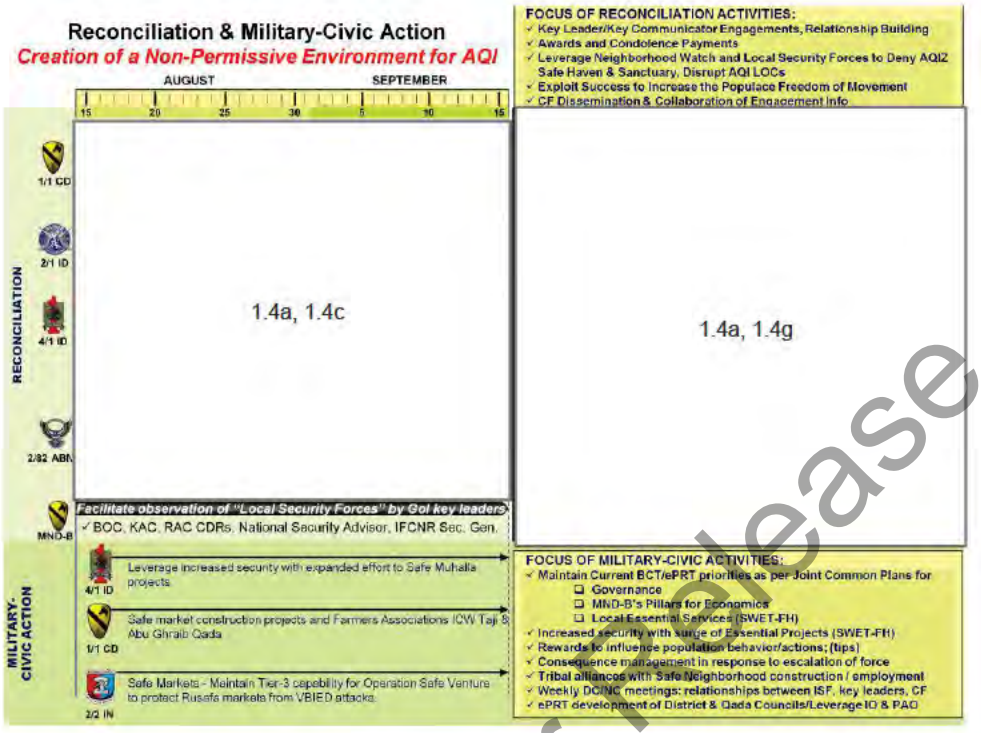

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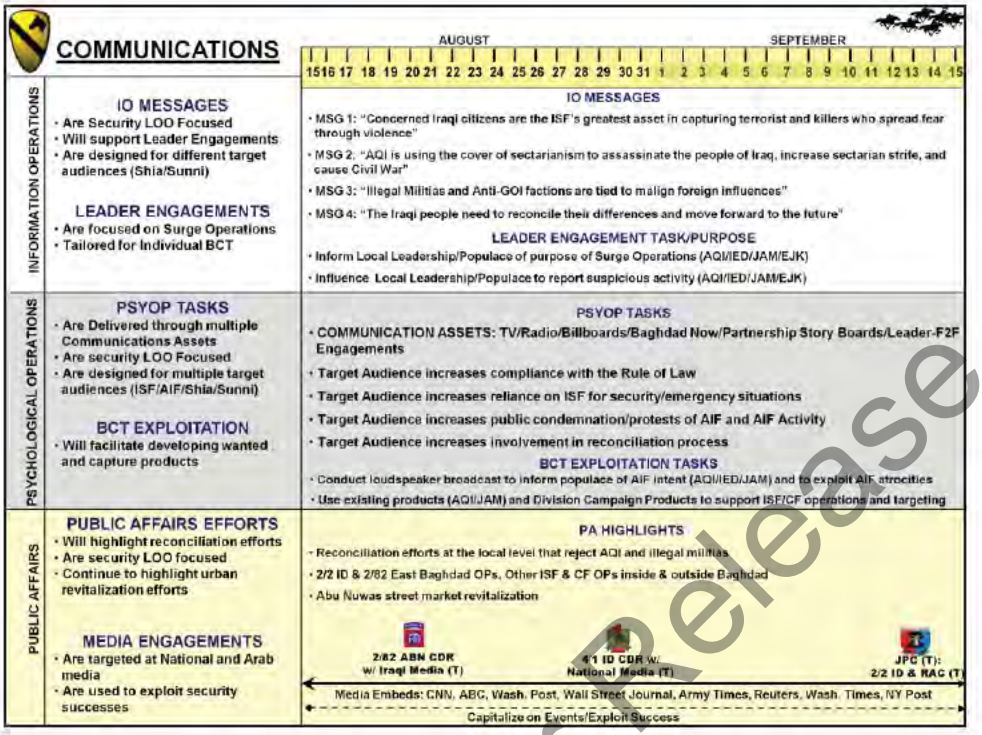

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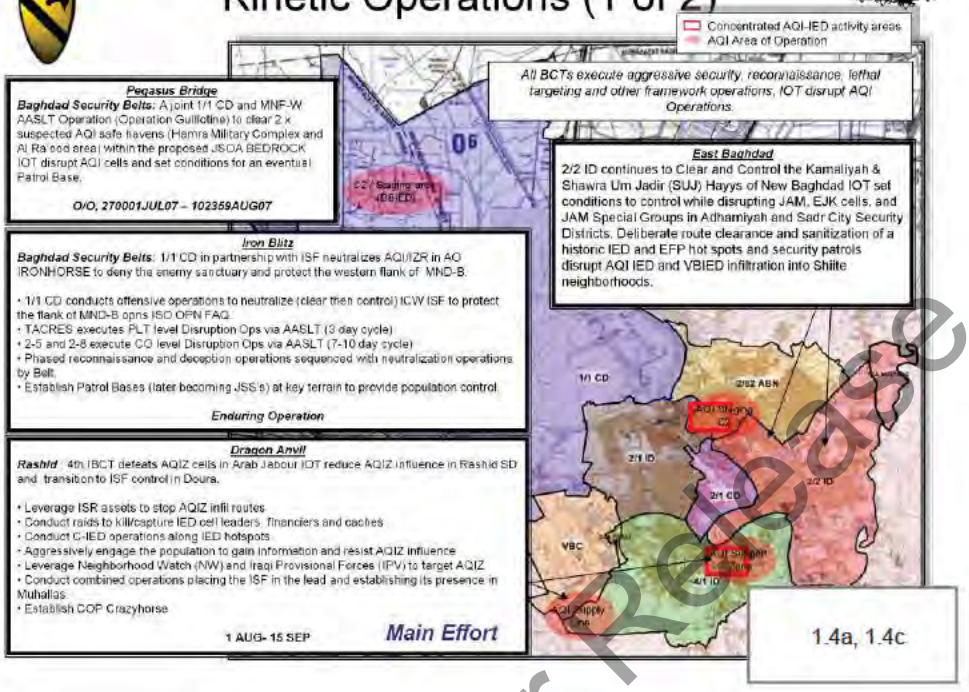
Kinetic Operations (1 of 2)



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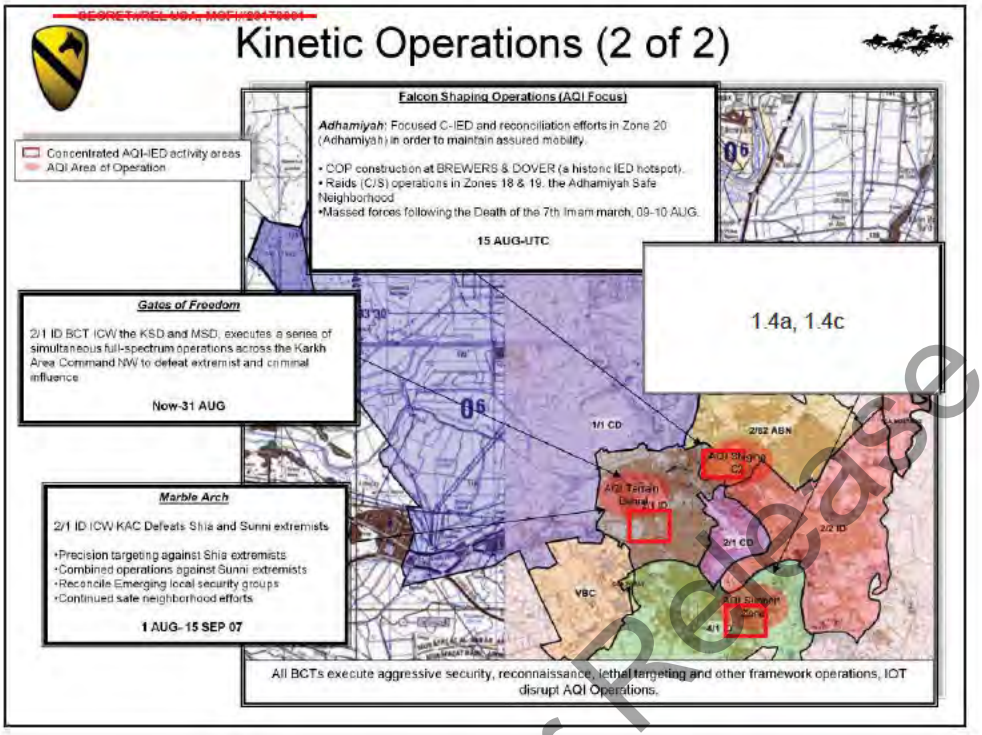

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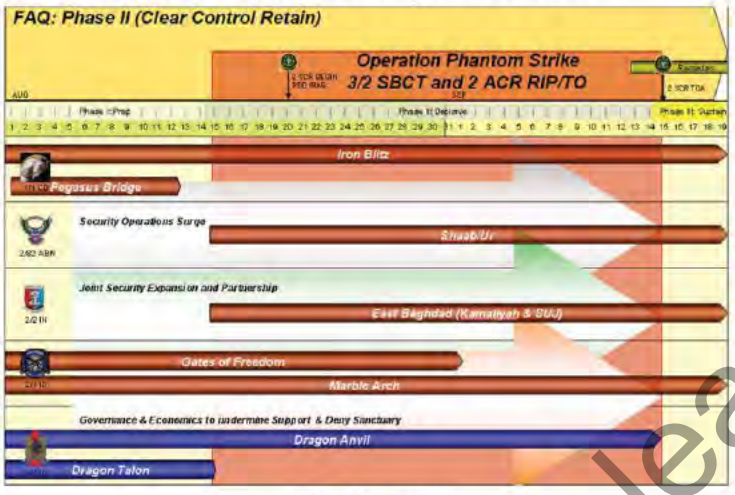
Concept of Operations



MNC-I Assistance

- Continued resourcing of Communication/Information operations.
- Synchronization of Iraq wide communication operation to prevent an AQI information offensive in Baghdad
- Continued allocation of EAD enablers (ISR, Aviation, Engineer) ISO MND-B operations.
- Minimize events in MND-B that require resources (primarily aircraft) from combat operations.

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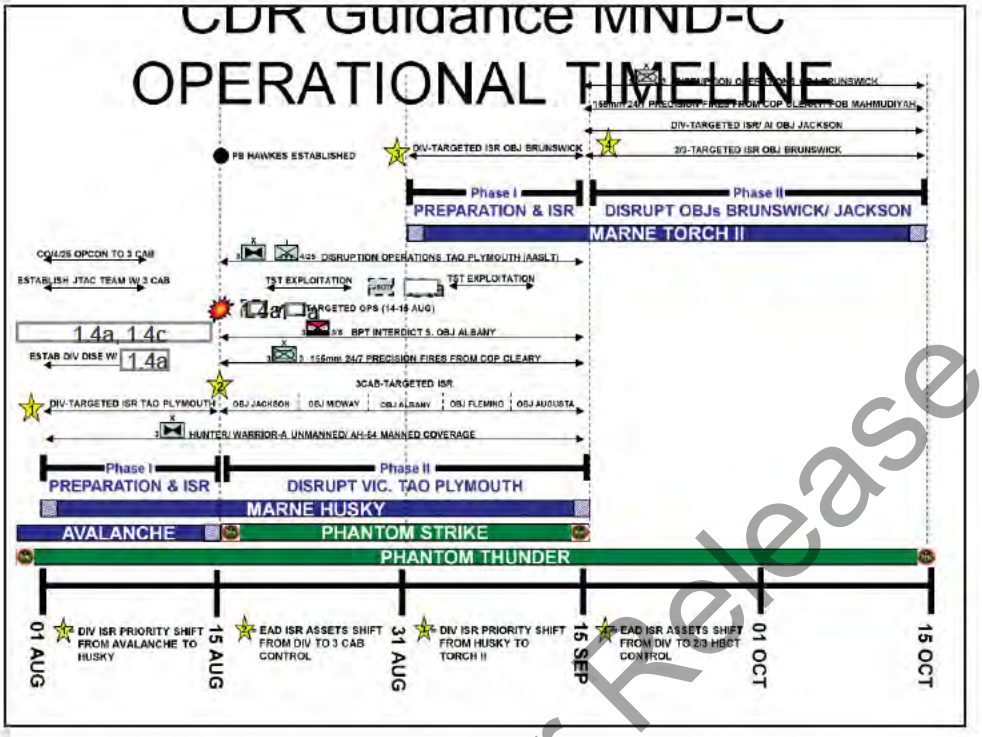

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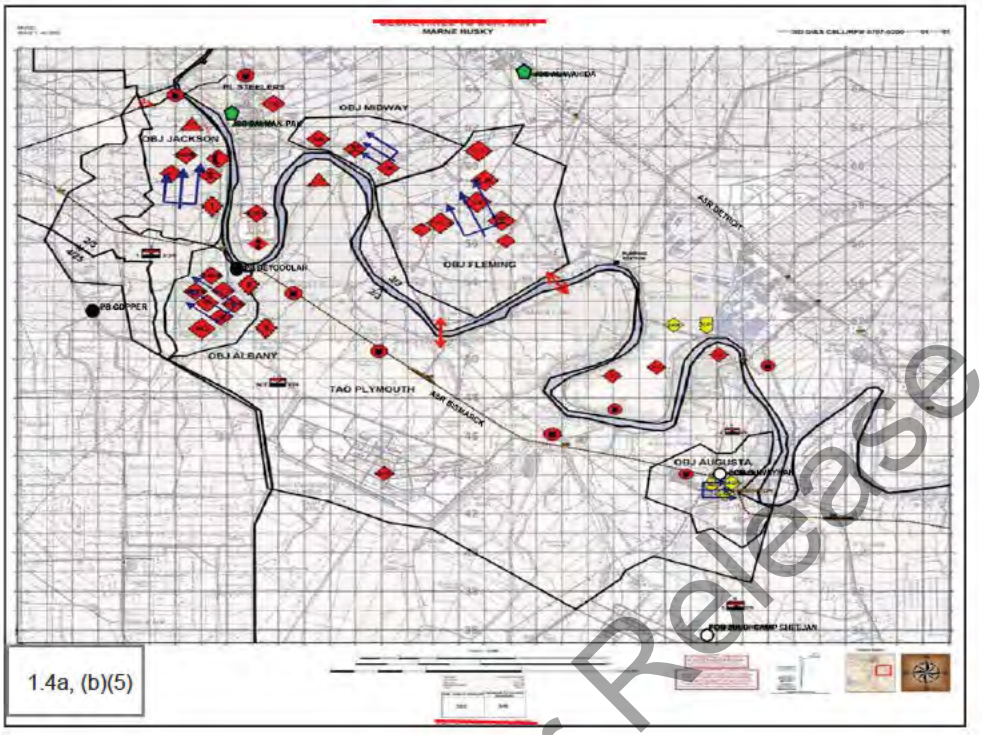

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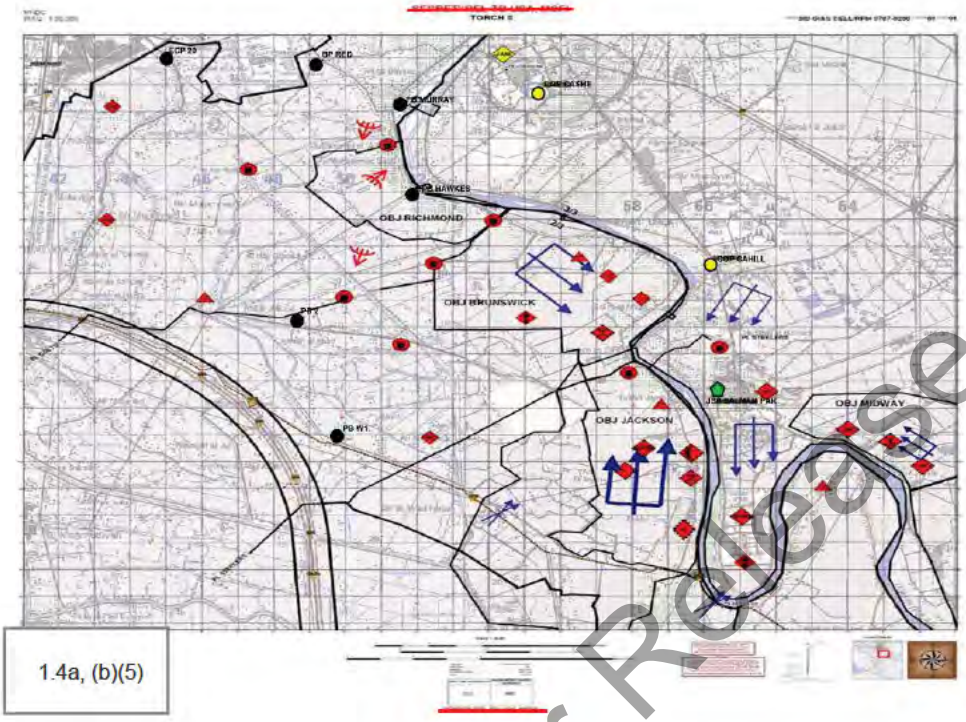

1.4a, (b)(5)

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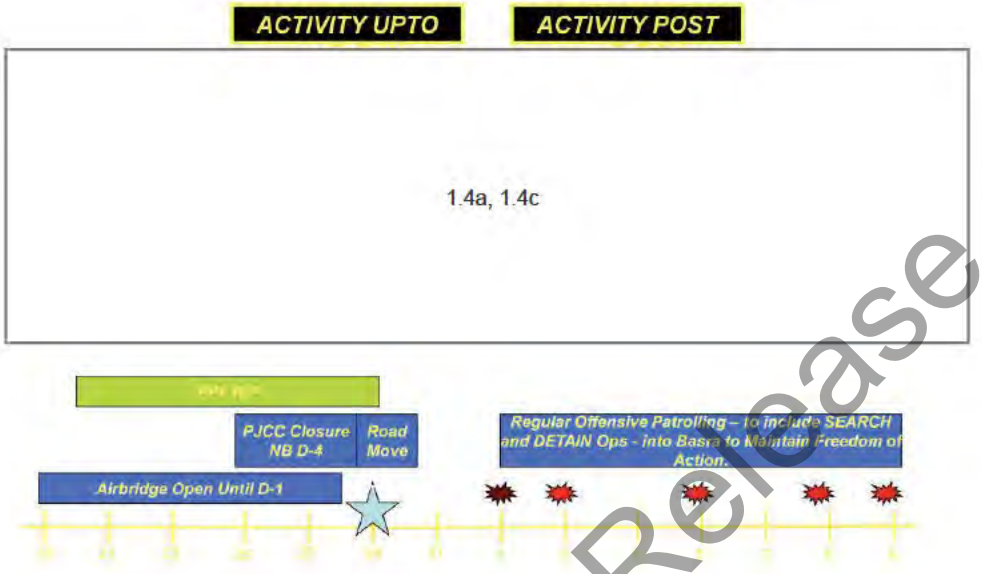
MND(SE) CONOPS AUG/SEP 07 - REPOSTURING



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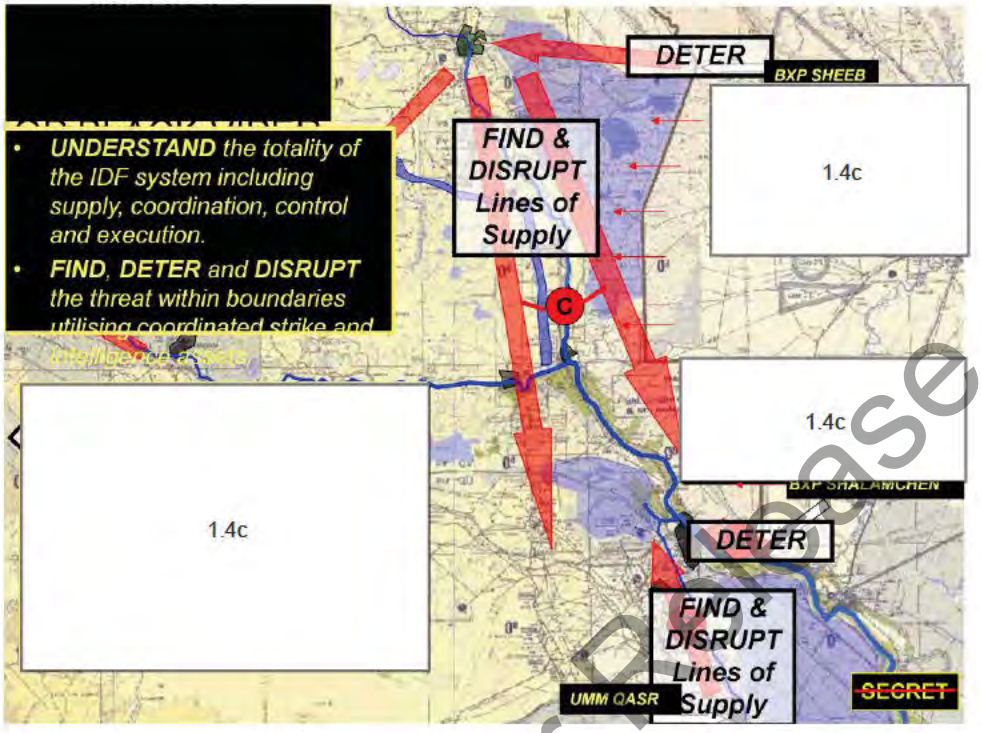

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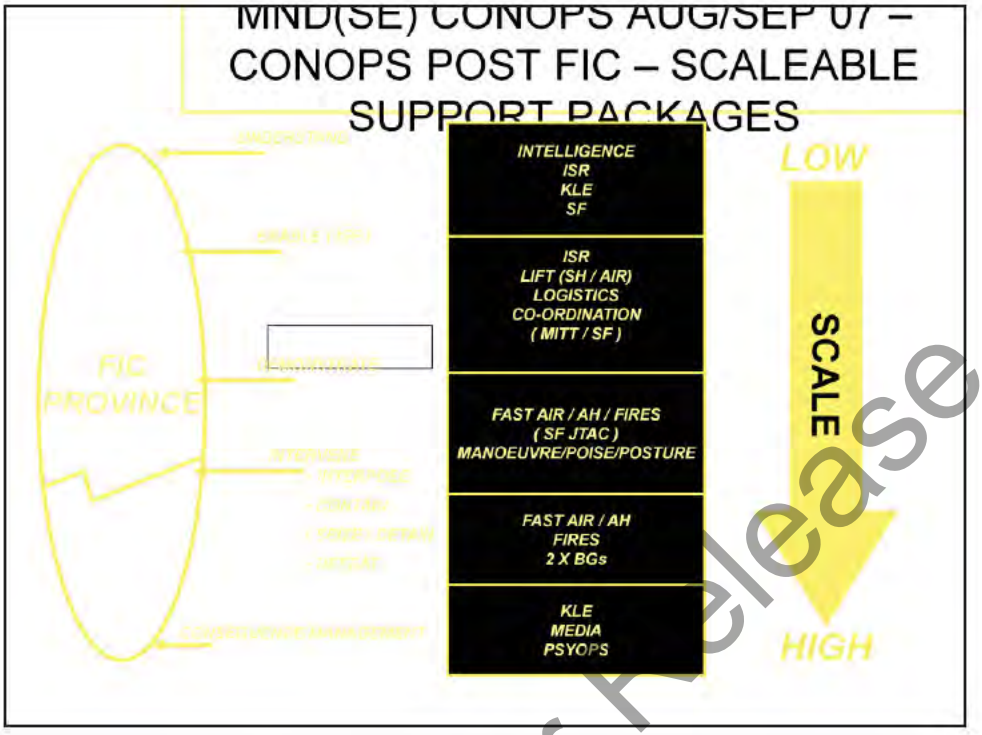

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