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## Balad Ruz Assessment

05 July 2007



~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ *The purpose of this paper is to provide an assessment of the recent activities in Balad Ruz.*

~~(S//NF)~~ **MND-N Assessment:** *Operation Arrowhead (AH) Ripper has forced AQI elements into the outlying areas of Baqubah to include DRV, Muqdadiyah, Khalis and Balad Ruz. The area is currently contested due to Shia ISF moving into the area along with a JAM presence and the push of AQI into the area due to AH Ripper. AQI is attempting to draw CF attention from Baqubah, demonstrate their presence and undermine the GOI by attacking LNs and ISF.*

### (U) Recent Reporting:

- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ At 030200JUL07, PJCC reported SAF killing 4 civilians and wounding 5 civilians in the Diyala province, in Balad Ruz. Balad Ruz JCC reported to the PJCC that AIF shot small arms fire killing 4 civilians and 5 civilians were wounded.
- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ On 01 July 07, 3/1/5 IA reports IED detonation in the Diyala Province, in Balad Ruz. 3/1/5 IA reported an IED of unknown composition detonated at the Balad Ruz bus station. The blast injured 17 x LNs. All were taken to the Balad Ruz Hospital. There were no deaths reported. This is likely an attempt by AIF to intimidate local nationals in the area. On 01 Jul 07, there were three IEDs incidents IVO Balad Ruz.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ CJSOTF forces from KMTB received information from the Civil Affairs team located at KMTB that there has been an influx of AQI fighters into Balad Ruz from the Baqubah area. The Civil Affairs team received an email from the Balad Ruz radio station stating the AQI has taken over several shops in the market area and has moved into a furnace at the brick factory. AQI workers are currently posing as workers and shop owners at the Balad Ruz market.

~~(S//REL TO USA, ACGU)~~ **CACE Assessment:** *Historically, the most active insurgent groups within Balad Ruz have been AQI, AAS and Jaysh Muhammad, all enjoying a strong presence. The recent increase in attacks in and around Balad Ruz is attributable to an increase in the AQI footprint in the city as they displace from Baqubah due to Operation Arrowhead Ripper causing clashes with the predominately Shi'a IP. AQI will continue to relocate due to CF operations to historical havens in an attempt to retain their freedom of movement and ability to conduct hasty attacks against CF, ISF and local nationals.*

~~(S//REL TO USA, ACGU)~~ MNC-I C2/CACE concurs with MND-N's assessment on the situation in Balad Ruz.

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