

MNC-I BUA Intel Daily Slides


Dec 07

Approved for Release

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFH//20171201//~~
~~For Display Only to IRO~~

Implications of Iraqi Refugees Returning

- (U) 28 Nov, approximately 450 refugees returned from Syria to Baghdad
 - Motivated by:
 - Hope of improved Iraqi security situation
 - Lack of resources / poor economic conditions in SY
 - Strict visa requirements inhibiting legal employment in SY
- (U) UNHCR reported “the time has not come to promote, organize or encourage returns.”
 - Previously resettled refugees face difficult conditions and lack of basic services
 - Iraqi economy / NGOs can provide only limited support to influx of returnees



(U) UNHCR estimates for Iraqi IDPs and refugees.
Total: 4.7 million, Sep 2007

~~(C//REL) Assessment: Refugee return encouraged by the media and portrayed as successful has potential to create mass returns. If GoI does not adequately address refugees basic needs, mass returns may create a fertile insurgent recruiting ground and possibly cause a set-back in security gains achieved thus far.~~

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(U) On 28 Nov, approximately 450 refugees successfully returned from Syria to Baghdad

Source: UNHCR press briefing, 29 Nov 07 and MNF-I Strat Ops communication 28 Nov 07

Associated Press, Convoy of returning refugees arrives in Baghdad, 28 Nov 07

- Motivation for majority of returnees is their dire economic conditions

Source: UNHCR press briefing, 29 Nov 07

- Strict Syrian visa requirements prevent some from working

Source: UNHCR press briefing, 29 Nov 07

Associated Press, Convoy of returning refugees arrives in Baghdad, 28 Nov 07

(U) UNHCR reported “the time has not come to promote, organize or encourage returns.”

Source: UNHCR press briefing, 23 Nov 07

-The Iraqi economy and NGOs can provide only limited support to an influx of returnees

Source: UNHCR press briefing, 29 Nov 07

- Some previous returnees face difficult conditions and no access to basic services

Source: UNHCR press briefing, 29 Nov 07


Strategic Themes

- 1) GoI Setting Stage for UNSCR Draft Resolution discussion in Dec 2007 regarding Coalition withdrawal
- 2) GoI NOT ready to support over 4 million displaced people, who could return in a short period of time.
- 3) Resettling families in neighborhoods may lead to renewed ethnic fighting.


SECRET//REL TO USA, MCF//20171202
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Sadr/Shaybani Relations

- **Sadr doubts Shaybani's complete obedience**
 - Early October, Shaybani suspected of forming his own group
 - Sadr demands pledge of loyalty from Shaybani
- **Disagreements over freeze produce rift**
 - Shaybani requested limited exception to Freeze
 - Required repeated clarification of order
 - November, Sadr questioned Shaybani about continued SG activity
 - Shaybani's position thought to be insecure immediately following freeze implementation



(U) Muqtada al-Sadr



(U) Ahmad al-Shaybani

Assessment: Although Sadr and Shaybani's relationship is strained, Sadr will likely retain Shaybani as a JAM commander, because the loss of Shaybani would set back Sadr's efforts to contain disloyal militants. Shaybani is generally loyal to Sadr, interprets Sadr's frustratingly vague guidance pragmatically.

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCF//20171202
DISC ONLY TO IRQ

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Shaybani makes a significant contribution to enforcing the freeze among mainstream JAM. The Sadrist Trend is under political and military pressure, and Sadr probably fears additional rifts, thus Sadr may feel reluctant to fire Shaybani.



SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFU//20171203//
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Lukoil Maneuvering to Re-sign Oil Contract

- **Lukoil pressuring MoO to re-sign contract for West Qurna Oil Field**
 - MoO delegation to 1.4b this month
 - Saddam Hussein signed original contract in 1997; cancelled in 2002
 - Gol solicited new contract bids
 - Shahristani willing to sign contract without HCL
 - MoO spokesperson: Lukoil may be favored in new tender due to experience
- **New 1.4b consulates**
 - Irbil opened on 28 November
 - Basrah planned



(U) West Qurna Oil Field

Assessment: The Gol insists on a new tender process for West Qurna Oil Field to net a richer contract. Lukoil reluctant to surrender old contract, which secured huge oil reserves at low price. 1.4b, 1.4d

1.4b, 1.4d

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFU//20171203//
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(b)(3) 50 USC 3024(i)

•Strategic Theme 1: 1.4b continues to influence Gol and MoO in order to secure the business interests of 1.4b oil companies in Iraq.

•Strategic Theme 2: The Gol and MoO balances a need to ease 1.4b diplomatic pressures with a desire to conclude more balanced contractual terms.



SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171204//
For Display Only To Iraq

ING: Looking to Future

- **New Iraqi National Gathering (ING) Offices**
 - Opened office in al-Kut
 - Office planned for Nasiriyah
 - Positive reaction from some Shi'a clerics
 - Najaf representative of Grand Ayatollah Kazim al-Ha'iri – reaction not positive
- **Shahmani views ING as great success**



Assessment: ING concentrating on building a base of support and clearly defining organizational vision which is critical to future growth and influence. ING has the potential to become a potent political force in Iraq if able to overcome significant early organizational challenges.

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171204//
For Display Only To Iraq

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Sources:

1.4c

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171205//~~
~~For display only to IRQ~~

GCC Concludes 28th Summit

- Emphasized importance of respecting Iraqi unity and sovereignty
- Expressed satisfaction over improved security in Iraq, but Gol must:
 - Make stronger efforts to achieve national reconciliation
 - Work on amending constitution
 - Disband all forms of militia/illegal armed groups
- Council willing to cooperate with Iraqi authorities in combating terror
- Other topics discussed:
 - Stressed importance of reaching peaceful solution to Iranian nuclear issue
 - Affirmed sovereignty of UAE over three islands (Tunb, lesser Tunb and Abu Moussa)



(U) Saudi King Abdullah Abdulaziz, Omani Sultan Qaboos bin Said, and Iranian Pres Ahmadinejad arrive at Summit in Doha

Assessment: GCC emphasis on Iraqi unity/sovereignty demonstrates increased confidence in improved security. With concerns over security abated, GCC countries will likely focus support on initiatives aimed at achieving national reconciliation.

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Open Source Center:

- GMP20071204836004 Gulf Cooperation Council Issues Statement at End of Meetings

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, IACFI//2017/2016~~
~~DISP ONLY TO IRAQ~~

Sadr: Strategic Balance

- (U) Recommends political opposition to CF in Iraq
 - Maintains strong rhetorical opposition to CF presence
 - Qualifies his father's authorization for armed opposition to any occupation
- (U) Reiterates previous calls
 - Demands timetable for withdrawal
 - Blames Gol for complicity
 - Calls for national unity
- (U) Reaffirms support to militia
 - Calls for support to Karbala fighters through prayer
 - Pays homage to fighters, martyrs, and prisoners
 - Demands release of JAM detainees



Muqtada Al Sadr

~~(C//REL)~~ *Assessment: Sadr striking balance between support for mainstream JAM and institutionalizing the freeze. Expect rhetoric to continue, while Sadrist work to defuse crises and use political ties to relieve pressure on JAM. Call for political solution may encourage additional reconciliation efforts.*

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~~DISP ONLY TO IRAQ~~

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Al Ahad Newspaper, 03DEC07

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171206//~~
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Some AQI Infiltrating Awakening Movement

- ~~(S//REL)~~ AQI members infiltrating Awakening movement
 - Baqubah AQI members infiltrating Awakening, intimidating local population
 - AQI amir in Hawr Rajab and associate join local Awakening elements
- (U) AQI continuing to target Awakening movement members
 - Gunmen murdered Awakening Leader in Hawijah
 - AQI detonated SVEST killing four Diyala Awakening Council leaders

~~(S//REL)~~ **Assessment:** Although AQI will continue to overtly target Awakening elements, infiltration may be covert AQI tactic to disrupt Awakening and CLC activities. AQI currently views Awakening efforts and Sunni / Shi'a reconciliation as greatest threat to their efforts in Iraq.

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171206//~~
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- ~~(S//REL)~~ AQI members infiltrating Awakening movements
- Baqubah AQI members infiltrating Awakening

(b)(3) 50 USC 3024(i)

(U) AQI continuing to target Awakening movement members

- Gunmen murdered Awakening Leader in Hawijah
 - Open Source: Kirkuk, Voice of Iraq, 3 Dec 07
- AQI detonated SVEST killing four Diyala Awakening Council leaders

1.4c

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Syria: Post - Annapolis

- (U) 2 Dec - Syrian Deputy FM Miqdad met with Ahmadinejad

- Discussed Annapolis conference
- Miqdad reaffirmed Syria-Iran “friendly-ties” and “strategic relation”
- Ahmadinejad - “enemies cannot harm existing deep rooted and durable ties between Tehran and Damascus”



(U) US Naval Academy - Annapolis

- (U) Syria attended 27 Nov Annapolis Conference

- Iran opposed conference; surprised at Syria’s decision to attend
- Syrian ambassador to US - no military solution to Arab-Israeli conflict
- Iran disappointed, but Syria set on pursuing national interests

1.4c

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Sources:

- On 2 Dec Syrian Deputy FM Miqdad met in Iran with President Ahmadi-Nejad, discussed Annapolis conference

(Kuwait Kuna, 04DEC07, Iranian-Syrian Relations)

- Miqdad reaffirmed Syria-Iran “friendly-ties” and “strategic relations”

(Kuwait Kuna, 04DEC07, Iranian-Syrian Relations)

- Ahmadinejad stated “the enemies cannot harm existing deep rooted and durable ties between Tehran and Damascus

(Kuwait Kuna, 04DEC07, Iranian-Syrian Relations) (U)

- Syria attended the 27 Nov Annapolis Conference after much internal debate

(Associated Press, 03DEC07, Syria is Reaping Benefits)

- Iran against Annapolis Conference and was “surprised” about Syria’s decision to attend

(Associated Press, 27NOV07, Syria Defends Decision to Attend Summit)

- Syrian ambassador to US says “There is no military solution” to the Arab-Israeli conflict

(US News, 03DEC07, Syrian Envoy Says Onus is on US, Israel)

- Iran disappointed, but Syria set on pursuing its national interests


(Associated Press, 03DEC07, Syria is Reaping Benefits)

CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171208//
For display only to IRQ

Ansar Al-Sunnah Name Change

- **Ansar Al-Sunnah (AS) reverts to Ansar al-Islam**
 - Announced by Emir in written statement issued 7 Dec
- **American interests successful in region**
 - National reconciliation plans
 - Calls for political participation
 - Demonstrates that those in power are not following true Sharia, only AS on true course
- **Neighboring countries using Iraq as political and ethnic battlefield**
- **Number of groups who believe in establishing Islamic Emirate decreasing**
 - Emir – “...there is not in 100 camels a good one”
- **Responsibility of Ansar Al-Sunnah to return to former name, continue righteous Jihad**

(U)



(U) AS Symbol



Assessment: AS decision to revert to previous name demonstrates unwillingness among disparate insurgent groups to unite efforts, despite jihadist forums' recent calls for unity in the Sunni resistance against the occupier and its agents.

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Sources:

1.4c

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171208//
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Alternate Route to Improve GOI-Sunni Relations

- **Sunni Endowment attempting to gain influence in politics by reducing AMS influence**
 - Endowment attempting to replace al Dhari as head of AMS
 - Dr. Safa' and MOD Commended Endowment for closure of AMS office
- **AMS losing influence due to the current success of tribal awakenings and own past failures**
 - AMS denounces continued CF presence past 2008, urges tribes to cease CF engagement



(U) Um al Qura Mosque

Assessment: AMS will continue to oppose the engagement process, thereby alienating the Sunni population. Sunni Endowment is taking steps likely to increase its influence. Successful GOI endorsement of Endowment is a likely inroad to engagement with Sunni community.

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171208//
For Display Only to IRG11

Sources:

(U) AMS issue statement denouncing the continued presence of CF past 2008:

GMP20071128666007, 29NOV07; "AMS statement rejects declaration of principles signed by Bush, al-Maliki"
GMP20071128614004, 29NOV07; "Al Maliki – Bush declaration on US presence Draws Varying Iraqi Reactions"

1.4c

Strategic Theme: While the insurgency is engaging CF they refuse to engage the GOI which eliminates the opportunity to bring in a large portion of the Sunnis. The Waqf's moderate stance and efforts to eliminate the AMS and al Dhari provide a new approach for the GOI via the Waqf and the Sunni mosques they influence.

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171209//
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Iran's Prospects for Nuclear Diplomacy

- The NIE November 2007 report suggests Iran suspended nuclear weapons enrichment
 - International pressure keeps Iran compliant
 - Iran maintains option to resume development; Has technical capabilities to produce a nuclear weapon
- Tehran: Report enhances mood for engagement in 4th Tripartite talks tentatively set for Dec 13-15
 - Re-asserts peaceful claims
 - Morally vindicates Iran's public position
- United Nations: report should increase diplomatic talks between the US and Iran
 - Iran needs to clarify past/present nuclear activities
 - IAEA inspections still necessary



1.4b, 1.4d

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171209//
For Display Only to IRQ~~

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Sources:

Guardian Unlimited, 3 Dec 07, "Iran Halted Nuclear Weapons Programme in 2003"

New York Times, 3 Dec 07, "U.S. Says Iran Ended Atomic Arms Work"

CNN Politics.com, 3 Dec 07, "U.S. Report: Iran Stopped Nuclear Weapons Work in 2003"

NIE, Nov 2007, "Iran: Nuclear Intentions & Capabilities"

AP News Wire, 3 Dec 07, U.S. Finds Iran Halted Its Nuclear Arms Effort in 2003"

Associated Press, 3 Dec 07, "US: Iran Still Able to Develop Nukes"

NPR, 3 Dec 07, "Iran Quit Nuclear Weapons Work, Intel Report Says"

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171211~~
~~DISP ONLY TO IRQ~~

ING Public Platform

- (U) Posits 18 fundamental principles
- (U) Articulates positions on national, regional, and global affairs
- (U) Key themes:
 - Participation in Gol and adherence to Iraqi constitution
 - Seeks politically and economically unified Iraq
 - Advocates peaceful transition of power
 - Denounces sectarianism
 - Rejects the logic of occupation



U

ING Pamphlet Cover

~~(C//REL)~~ *Assessment: ING Platform presents moderate face to political movement and is designed to distinguish Gathering from criminal militia activity and capitalize on frustration with MAS, though several key political positions similar to OMS.*

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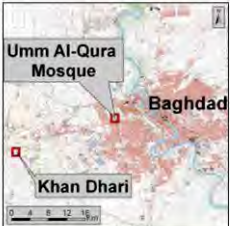
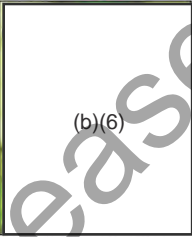
Iraqi National Gathering Statement

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171212//~~
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Ongoing Sunni Propaganda

- ~~(S//REL)~~ AMS pursuing new radio studio to maintain link to Sunnis
 - 7 Dec report: Planning studio in Khan Dhari to reach most of Baghdad
 - Likely anti-Coalition themes
 - Relocation due to Endowment closure of AMS office
- (U) Sunni opposition's effective use of internet
 - 2 Dec, first issue of the "Al-Naqshabandiyah" posted
 - Online magazine containing articles pertaining to religious, jihadist, political, and military issues

~~(S//REL)~~ *Assessment: Competition for hearts and minds of Sunni populace is more critical than ever due to marginalization of Sunni opposition. Effective use of media allows Sunni groups to publicize operations to attract potential supporters, appeal to recruits and petition financial support.*



Naqshabandi Publication

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171212//~~
~~For Display Only to IRQ~~

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Sources:



(U) First issue of Al-Naqshabandiyah magazine

OSC Reporting GMP20071206082001 2 DEC07; "

~~(S//REL TO USA, IRQ, MCFI)~~ Muthana al-Dhari looking to equip a new radio studio

~~(S//REL TO USA, IRQ, MCFI)~~ Tearline 1.4c

Strategic Theme: As the nature of the Sunni opposition evolves competition for funding and members increases. This places critical importance on groups IO efforts and means to deliver the message. Effective and innovative propaganda is a "go to" in the insurgent's arsenal.



~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCF//6073213~~
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Sadr/ISCI Tension

- (b)(6) in Friday Sermon:
 - ISCI associated with US/Iranian tyranny
 - On Hakim visit to US: ISCI ignoring Najaf Hawza position against CF
- ISCI responds sharply
 - reiterates need to implement October agreement and joint committee system to resolve conflict
- Basrah: Sadrists court 74 tribal leaders, solicit tribal opposition to Federalism

(b)(6)

1.4b, 1.4d

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~~DISP ONLY TO IRQ~~

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Ubaydi in Friday Sermon:

ISCI associated with tyranny

Dar al Hayat Newspaper, 10DEC07

On Hakim visit to US: ISCI ignoring Najaf Hawza position against CF

Al Mashriq Newspaper, 10DEC07

ISCI responds sharply

reiterates need to implement October agreement and joint committee system to resolve conflict

Badr Newspaper, 10DEC07

Basrah: Sadrists court 74 tribal leaders, solicit tribal opposition to Federalism

Dar al Hayat Newspaper, 10DEC07

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCF//2017215~~
~~DISC ONLY TO IRAQ~~

Muqtada Al-Sadr's Ayatollah Objective

- (U) According to close aides, MAS currently on path to achieve ayatollah by 2010 or earlier
 - Would provide Sadr:
 - Important new voice/aura
 - Fresh clout to challenge ISCI
 - OMS movement would grow stronger
- (U) Currently holds title of hojat al-Islam
- (U) As Ayatollah, views and fatwas would resonate with more authority
- (U) Absence from public eye has raised questions about control over movement



~~(C//REL) Assessment: Reports of MAS resuming studies to become ayatollah by 2010 likely exaggerated. Required studies would hinder ability to actively lead trend. May be OMS disinformation effort to explain Sadr's extended absence and improve public perception of lower-ranking religious qualifications.~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCF//2017215~~
~~DISC ONLY TO IRAQ~~

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Sources:

- Associated Press, 071214, Al-Sadr Eyes Ayatollah's Clout

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCF//20171210
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No Progress on New Sanctions; Minimal IAEA Cooperation

- (U) Divisions within the UNSC
 - US, UK, France for sanctions; Russia, China against
 - Awaiting El Baradei's report – "outstanding issues" to determine future course of action
- (U) Limited progress between Iran-IAEA
 - Iran providing incomplete info, restricting access to nuclear weapons personnel
 - El Baradei closed issues (uranium hemispheres, contamination) w/o board approval
- (U) Impending Russian nuclear fuel delivery to Bushehr-a planned commercial facility
 - IAEA inspected, sealed fuel in Russia, 26 Nov
 - Bushehr ran fuel delivery drills, 2 Dec



1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCF//20171210
For Display Only to Iraq

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Sources:

AP 12Dec 07, "UN Won't Take Up Iran Sanctions in 2007"

Novosti, Russian News & Information Agency 11 Dec 07, "Iran-IAEA Continue to Clear Up Nuclear Issues"

ITAR TASS, 10 Dec 07, "IAEA Delegation Discussing Iran Nuke Programme in Tehran"

IranMania.com, 10 Dec 07, "New Resolution Not to Solve Iran Nuclear Row"

Tehran Fars News Agency, 12 Dec 07, "Major Powers Fail to Agree on Iran Sanctions"

Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio, 12 Dec 07, "Sixth Round of IAEA-Iran Talks Terminated"

Tehran Fars News Agency, 12 Dec 07, "Continue Talks on Wednesday"

IRNA, 12 Dec 07, "End Talks on Source of Contamination"

IRNA, 11 Dec 07, "President: IAEA Reports Removed all Ambiguities"

Fars News Agency, 11 Dec 07, "Iran, IAEA Continue Talks"

Panis AFP (North European Service), 11 Dec 07, "IAEA Expert Team Visits Tehran for Talks"

IRNA, 11 Dec 07, "Iran-IAEA Technical Talks Continue"

Mehr News Agency, 11 Dec 07, "Situation Ripe for Direct Talks Between Iran and 5+1: Analyst"

Fars News Agency, 10 Dec 07, "Iran, IAEA Resume Talks"

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFI//Z017217~~
~~DISP ONLY TO IRAQ~~

Najaf- Hub of Shiite Political/Economic Power

- (U) Expansion plans underway in Najaf
 - Imam Ali Shrine to triple size over next 10 years
 - \$75 million power plant construction to begin this month
 - Airport, hospitals, small refineries
 - Significant funding coming from Iran
- (U) Provincial Council Deputy Chairman
 - “What we have tried to do is put in place a plan to allow Najaf to recover its political and strategic position...”
- (U) Najaf Governor
 - “Basrah may be the commercial capital [of southern Iraq], but... we have the political leadership, and we have the religious authority.”

Imam Ali Shrine



~~(C//REL)~~ **Assessment:** Recent investments promise increased revenue, cultural preservation, continued development. Thousands of jobs added to local labor market. May foster more constructive relationships with neighbors. May force GoI to redouble investment to ensure loyalties remain in Baghdad.

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFI//Z017217~~
~~DISP ONLY TO IRAQ~~

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Sources:

- New York Times, 071216, Iraqi City Poised to Become Hub of Shiite Power



SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171217
DISP ONLY TO IRQ

JAM Self-Policing Efforts

- **Shaybani's Representative:**
 - Met with Ahmad Hatu's group
 - Insisted Hatu's group is part of Sadr Movement
 - Likely instructed group to obey freeze order
- **Rijalat al-Sadr**
 - Shaybani's internal policing organization
 - Issued warning in Sadr City
- **Abu Dura and Ahmad Hatu**
 - Continue to direct operations from Iran



(U) Ahmad al-Shaybani

Assessment: Shaybani exploiting the absence of leadership in Abu Dura's group in attempt to establish authority. Shaybani remains generally loyal to Sadr, though continues to lack means to compel militia compliance. CF targeting criminal SG leaders an opportunity for Shaybani to co-opt SG members.

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1.4c

~~CONFIDENTIAL//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171218//~~
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UNHCR Financial Aid to Iraqi Refugees in Syria

- (U) 16 Dec, UNHCR began distributing financial aid to Iraqi refugees
 - \$820,000 to be distributed monthly by end of 2008
 - Funds to be distributed throughout next 6 months
 - Issuing ATM cards with monthly limits
 - Recipients:
 - Only refugees registered with UNHCR
 - Female-headed households, elderly men/women, unaccompanied minors, disabled
- (U) Of estimated 1.4m Iraqi refugees in Syria, fewer than 20,000 eligible for UNHCR aid

(b)(6)

(U) Iraqi refugees registering with UNHCR in Syria

(b)(6)

(U) Iraqi refugee in Syria using ATM card

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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Source:

(U) Associated Press, UNHCR begins distributing financial aid to Iraqi Refugees in Syria, Sunday December 16, 2007

(U) UNCHR News Stories, UNHCR issues ATM cards to 7,000 needy Iraqi families in Syria

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171219
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Jihadist Website Posts al-Zawahiri Interview

- (U) Ayman al-Zawahiri addresses ongoing developments
 - Iraqi tribes must confront “traitors”
 - Reference to Awakening movements
 - Called on mujahidin to support ISI
 - Ansar al-Islam specifically called to unify with ISI
 - ISI does not allow innocent bloodshed
 - Shi’a militias in Iraq
 - Remain “a disgrace in the history of Islam”
 - Muqtada al-Sadr is “one of the arms of Iran”

Al-Zawahiri Video



1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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Source:

- Jihadist Website OSC Summary, 071217, Jihadist Website Releases New al-Zawahiri Interview; Processing Plans



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Sadr May Extend Freeze

- (U) Salah Ubaydi:
 - Sadr is inclined to extend the freeze
 - Extension possibly six months or longer
 - Sadr perceives freeze results as positive
- (U) Sadrist statement calls on Gol to:
 - Maintain security and prevent conflict in Basrah
 - Promote integrity and “independence” of Basrah
- (U) GEN Mohan announced agreement with OMS
 - Agreement concluded earlier in December
 - All weapons limited to official use
 - Weapons to be removed incrementally



Salah Ubaydi



GEN Mohan at Basra
handover ceremony

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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Salah Ubaydi:
Agence France Presse, 18DEC07

Sadrist statement calls on Gol to:
Al-Arabiya, 17DEC07

OMS, Basra Governor and GENERAL Mohan Announce New Agreement
Al-Iraqia, TV

Pages 23 through 24 redacted for the following reasons:

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d
1.4b, 1.4d, 1.4c

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~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171222//~~
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Harith al-Dhari Adheres to His Rhetoric

- **Harith al-Dhari dismisses Awakening Movement**
 - Alleges it does not represent the majority of Sunnis
 - Says it collaborates with the occupation
 - Suggests security success exaggerated by the media
- **Harith al-Dhari implicitly links AQI to the Sunni resistance**
 - Asserts if you attack AQI you attack the Sunni resistance
 - Claims AQI is 95% Iraqi
 - Admits AQI made mistakes in the past



AMS Leader Harith al-Dhari



Members of Awakening

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

~~SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171222//~~
~~For Display Only to IIRG~~

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Sources:

(U) DPR071219, al-Jazeera Interview
Previous interviews..
DPR071026.doc
DPR071014

Strategic Theme: Harith al-Dhari stays on his anti coalition and GOI message despite what the current situation is. Ignores/downplays the success of the Sahawa movements while defending AQI. It does not appear that AMS enjoys the widespread support of the Iraqi populace. Defending AQI through AMS probably not a smart move. Although not explicitly condoning AQI tactics he displays passive support.

Quote from the interviewer.... Al-Zufayri - *You mean a continuous and endless process of division. Two minutes left. Now I would like to give you an opinion about the AMS and its stand. Some say that the AMS has stopped moving at a certain point and it does not want to go beyond this point. A reality is being created in Iraq and the AMS is totally detached from it. The number of its representatives and those who believe in its stand is indeed dwindling. The question is: Do you have a specific vision for what is going on in Iraq, for Iraq's future, or a real way out of the Iraqi crisis, which has been going on for years?*



SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171223
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SGs not Hesitant to Attack CLCs

- **Hajji Jawad transmits order to kill Sahwah leaders**
 - Possibly originated from (b)(6)
 - JAM SGs perceive CLCs as an extension of Sahwah movement, working with CF
- **Sheikh Baqir orders murder of former SG member**
 - Member cooperating with Sahwah
- **Baghdad SG leader attempting to infiltrate Sahwah, use Sahwah to attack Badr**
 - Attempting to maintain perception of adhering to the freeze

(b)(6)



1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

SECRET//REL TO USA, MCFI//20171223
DISP ONLY TO IRQ

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1.4c


SECRET//REL TO USA, MCF//20171224
DISP ONLY TO IRQ



Sadrist Possibly Vetting JAM

- **JAM Military Supervision Council distributed questionnaire to JAM**
 - Probably included detailed questions on members' militant activities
 - SG leaders concerned requested information was incriminating
- **Sadrists reportedly provided lists of obedient members to ISF**
 - Lists give ISF tacit approval to target those not included
- **Senior Sadrists recently provided a list of criminal "non-JAM" members to GOI**

(U)



Muqtada al-Sadr

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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1.4c

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AQI Holiday Statement Includes Attack Threats

- **22 Dec, Abu Umar al-Baghdadi (AUAB) issues Eid al-Adha (20 Dec) greetings and threats**
 - Offered holiday greetings to Monotheists and Mujahedin
 - Equated Awakening with sacrificial animals
 - Tied reference specifically to Eid al-Adha tradition of slaughtering sheep
 - Stated 'Slaughter' to continue into Islamic month of Muharram (approx. January)
- **Acknowledged death of senior AQI member Abu Maysara**
 - Potential successor to Abu Ayyub al-Masri
- **4 Dec AUAB statement**
 - Indicated AQI campaign against Awakening to continue to late Jan
 - 'Siddiq Corps' to conduct campaign

(b)(6)

Iraqis celebrating Eid in Baghdad park

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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FOR DISPLAY ONLY (RAQ)

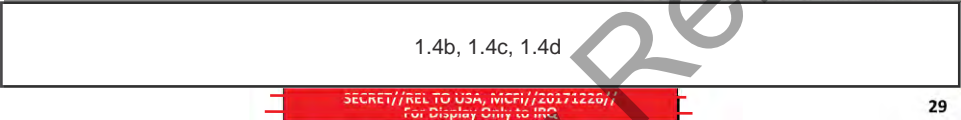
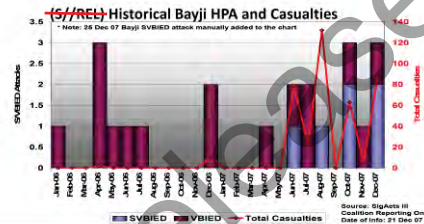
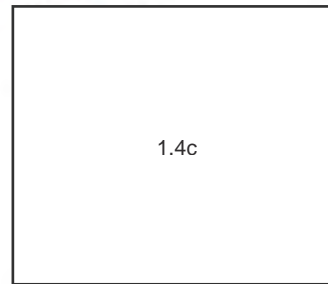
28

Source:

OSC Summary 22 December 2007: ISI Leader Al-Baghdadi Urges Attacks on Awakening Councils

25 Dec SVBIED Attack – Bayji Trends

- **25 Dec, SVBIED attack in northern Bayji**
 - Total Casualties: 22 killed (4 x CLC, 11 x OPF, 7 x LN); 58 WIA (UNK breakdown)
 - Detonation occurred between two CLC/OPF checkpoints
 - Possibly 2 x UE in SVBIED
- **Attack collapsed apartment building housing Bayji Oil Refinery workers**
- **Second suicide attack in Bayji area in December**



Sources:



- Al Jazeera, 071225, Iraq Attacks Strike Sunni Forces
- BBC News, 071225, Iraq Bombs Hit US-Backed Militias
- Reuters, 071225, Suicide Attacks Kill 33 People North of Baghdad

Pages 30 through 31 redacted for the following reasons:

1.4b, 1.4d


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Negative Reaction to US Criticism of Syria

- Syria reacted negatively to US President's 20 Dec criticism of SY's role in LB
 - 23 Dec, SY Info Minister Bilal said US attempting to derail positive SY efforts towards LB
 - 24 Dec, SY state-run newspaper stated US determined to end term with hostility; indicated no room for optimism
- Iran took opportunity to respond
 - 23 Dec, IR FM Mottaki said US "meddling" is "flagrant insult to Lebanese people"
 - Mottaki claimed Washington obstructing efforts to reach compromise on Lebanese president

(U)



Syrian Information Minister
Mohsen Bilal

1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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Source:

- Associated Press, 071224, Damascus Daily Blasts Bush's Comments
- Damascus Tishrin, 071224, Bush's Statement Leaves No Room for Optimism
- KUNA, 071223, Iran Assails US Over Lebanon
- Jerusalem Post Staff and AP, 071219, Sarkozy loses patience with Assad

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Women in the Nationalist Resistance

- (U) Islamic Front For the Iraqi Resistance (JAMI) claims to have formed female “Brigades”

- Asserted females as effective as Coalition counterparts
- Noted women filled many roles in former regime

- (U) JAMI Characteristics

- Member of the Political Council Iraqi Resistance (PCIR)
- Opposes AQI excesses, Shia dominated Gol, Coalition Forces occupation
- Focuses on Iraqi nationalism



(U) Al Jazeera footage—
female members of JAMI



1.4b, 1.4c, 1.4d

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Sources:

(U) DPR071226

GMP20071225648001 Doha Al-Jazirah Satellite Channel Television in Arabic 1502 GMT 25 Dec 07

GMP20071224632001 Doha Al-Jazirah Satellite Channel Television in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Dec 07

1.4b, 1.4d

JAMI = (Al-Jabha al-Islamiya lil-Moqawama al-Iraqiya)

JAMI part of PCIR

Claims to have existed since 2004 GMP20071225635004

Dr. Sayf Al-Din Mahmud, the spokesman of JAMI

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Iraqi Armed Forces Day 6 January 2008

- **All branches of Iraqi Military Service**
 - 87th Anniversary of the Iraqi Army, founded in 1921
 - Celebration at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the International Zone
- **No specific threats reported**
 - VIPs and Media vulnerable targets
- **Past celebrations**
 - No attack history

(b)(6)

(U)



Assessment: Currently there are no threats reported for the celebrations surrounding Iraq's Armed Forces Day, although VIPs and media are vulnerable targets for SVEST, mortars and rockets. While AQI and Special Groups possess the capability, it is unlikely insurgents will specifically target this event.

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6 January 2008 is celebrated as Iraqi Armed Forces Day in Iraq.

Representatives from the Iraqi army, Air Force, Navy, and Special Forces will participate in the ceremony. In past years as in this year Coalition force leaders will attend along with the international media. The 2007 ceremony was presided over by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and was reported to have started with the national anthem, banned by Saddam Hussein, and followed by a reading from the Holy Quran. Events since the end of the Iraq War in 2003 have been peaceful events. Since penetrating the International Zone by insurgents and conducting an attack on the celebration would be tantamount to a suicide mission, it is highly unlikely that this year's celebration will be marred by violence. JAM Special Groups, AQI and other insurgent groups retain the capability and capacity to launch attacks. Any attack for this celebration in this location would have to be in the form of an SVEST, mortars or rockets. We assess that with no reports to date, the possibility of an attack is not likely, although it cannot be completely ruled out and all insurgent groups and militias retain capability.

Ref:

1.4c