MNF Iraq Update

14 October 2005
Commander's Assessment

- On track with security preparations for referendum. Impact of 12 OCT elections, but much larger Sunni turnout. Expect referendum to pass.
- Constitution changes uncertain. Expect violence at levels of 31 Jan.
- Saddam trial preparations still evolving. Expect short (1-2 day) hearing.
- ISF exceed 200K. 6th Division has taken control of 2 brigade sector in Baghdad
- Corruption allegations continue to hamper MOD development. May link to UNSCR extension request.
Referendum Highlights

- Registered voters increased by almost a million; approximately 98% of eligible Iraqis registered to vote; approximately 15.6 million.

- Polling Infrastructure. 900 more voting sites now than in January, almost all additions are in Sunni areas. 5200 (Jan 05) / 6057 (Oct 05) / 20% increase.

- Five times as many polling sites in Anbar (33 in January, 171 now); three times as many sites in Ninewah (88 in January, 330 now).

- Voting will occur in Tal ‘Afar and Haditha.

- Detainee’s voted 13 October; ISF will have opportunity to vote.

- Four times as many election workers. Applied to be election workers 110,000 in January / 450,000 today.

- IECI led referendum planning and execution.

- MOI led security planning.

- Coalition forces will provide backup and support where necessary.

- The Iraqis and Coalition Forces have moved 880 tons of material and ~1500 election workers in the last few days.
Saddam's Trial

- No specific threat to disrupt the trial or kill/rescue Saddam
- Trial begins 19 OCT at Iraqi Special Tribunal Courthouse (in the International Zone)
- Next trial date expected 30 days
- MNF-I provides security; no issues
- MNF-I moves Saddam early morning during darkness
- 7 co-defendants
- Al Dujayl massacre
  - Retaliation for assassination attempt in 1982
  - Murdered 146 Iraqis
  - Hundreds imprisoned for many years, incl infants & children