

USF-I Weekly Assessment 31 January – 6 February 2011

USF-I COMMANDER'S WEEKLY ASSESSMENT**Mr. Secretary, Chairman, Jim:**

Political unrest in the region and the recent Federal Supreme Court (FSC) decision on independent commissions dominated political discourse in Iraq last week. Many GOI leaders believe the regional crisis may impact attendance at the Arab League Summit in Baghdad at the end of March and result in it being postponed. Members of Parliament expressed their support for democratic reforms in Egypt and throughout the region. The Council of Representatives (COR) also devoted a significant amount of time to discussing the recent FSC ruling placing control of independent commissions under the Council of Ministers. The COR intends to form a fact finding commission that will determine the impact of the ruling and potential legislative responses.

Prime Minister Maliki submitted three cabinet nominations for COR approval. None of these is for the security ministries; however, Maliki informed us he is finalizing nominations for these important posts. We are assessing the reaction of all parties to these potential nominations. There has been no movement on National Council for Higher Policy (NCHP) legislation. Although Dr. Allawi and Prime Minister Maliki have expressed willingness to discuss the matter, they have yet to schedule a meeting.

After the anticipated rise in Arba'een-related violence during the final two weeks of January, the number of casualties fell below the 12-week average last week. The number of security incidents also decreased, remaining below the 12-week average for the eighth week in a row. During the month of January, the overall number of security incidents and casualties remained below 12-month averages. In a noteworthy development, Syrian authorities reportedly detained the lead facilitator responsible for [REDACTED] 1.4b, 1.4d

[REDACTED] 1.4b, 1.4d His detention will have a considerable long-term impact on AQI's accession of suicide operatives.

Political

There was some movement last week in government formation. Prime Minister Maliki submitted to the Parliament candidates to be the Ministers of Electricity and Trade, as well as the Minister of State for Women's Affairs. In addition, he informed Embassy and USF-I personnel he intends to nominate the current Minister of Culture, Sadun al-Dulaymi, to be Minister of Defense (MOD) and General Abud Qanbar to be the Minister of Interior (MOI). Dulaymi is a Sunni independent we expect will receive the support of the Kurdish Alliance. General Abud is currently the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Iraqi Joint Force Headquarters. We are assessing the likely reaction of Dr. Allawi and Iraqiyya to these nominations. There are also indications that Maliki will name former Minister of Defense Abdul Qadir to be the deputy national security advisor. Qadir was Maliki's first choice to head the MOD; his nomination would be an indication that Maliki intends to keep him closely involved in defense matters. We are watching these developments to assess the position of all parties and to track the progress of these potential nominations.

Prime Minister Maliki and Dr. Allawi have not met to discuss progression of the National Council for Higher Policy (NCHP) legislation. Allawi's advisors confirm they have dropped

~~SECRET // NOFORN // 20210207~~

USF-I Weekly Assessment 31 January – 6 February 2011

all proposed changes to the original agreement on NCHP except having the COR elect Allawi as the chair. The Kurdish Alliance indicated it will not support any changes, insisting the issue is resolved in accordance with previous political agreements. Allawi sent a letter to KRG President Barzani asking him to facilitate a meeting with Maliki to resolve NCHP concerns; however, Barzani has not indicated whether he will travel to Baghdad for such a meeting. In the meantime, the blocs indicated they will reconvene a working group comprised of party deputies to work on moving the initiative forward.

The COR met throughout the week, with much of the discussion focused on the recent Federal Supreme Court (FSC) decision to remove Iraq's independent commissions from COR oversight and place them under the authority of the Council of Ministers (COM). On 1 February, the COR hosted the leaders of the independent commissions affected by the FSC ruling to hear their opinions. Most agreed that the decision would threaten their organization's independence (our legal experts disagree). COR Speaker Nujaifi subsequently announced that he would write to the Court to request clarification on concerns raised by members of parliament (MPs). He also stated his intent to form a fact-finding committee that will include members of the Legal Committee and MPs who participated in drafting the 2005 Iraqi Constitution. The committee, chaired by the Speaker himself, will study the matter and issue a report for the COR's consideration. In response to widespread reactions to the ruling, Prime Minister Maliki opined that the ruling was binding and could not be overruled or modified. He emphasized that the commissions would fall under the COM and maintain their independence.

There has been substantial discussion among GOI leaders regarding the current political crisis in Egypt and its reverberations throughout the region. Many expressed concern that the unrest would negatively impact the Arab League Summit to be held in Baghdad in March. Some felt the summit would be postponed; however, many agreed the meeting could serve as a platform from which Arab leaders could discuss credible reform programs for the region. MPs discussed the matter during the COR session on Thursday. Speaker Nujaifi concluded by asking bloc leaders to draft a press release stating the Parliament's support for democracy, human rights, and stability in Egypt. In an effort to stave off unrest and appeal to public sentiment, Prime Minister Maliki's office announced his decision to limit himself to two terms as the premier. This announcement followed his decision to return half of his annual salary to the government treasury. The impact of the regional crisis on the security situation in Iraq has been minimal. There have been scattered demonstrations throughout the country with moderate turnout, focusing mainly on the delivery of essential services.

Security

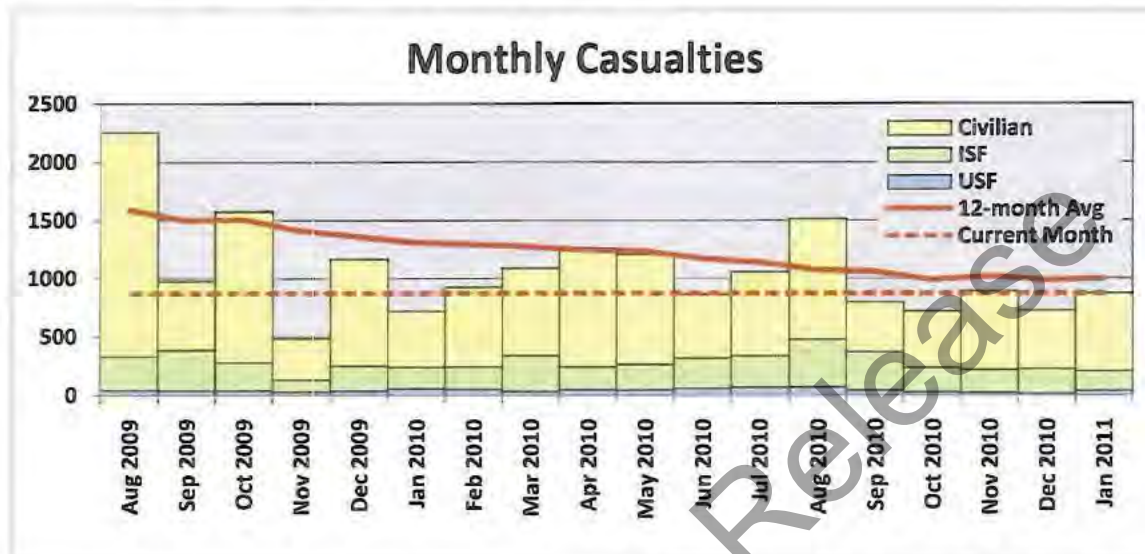
The number of security incidents and casualties decreased during the reporting period. There were 106 security incidents, below the 12-week average of 136 for the eighth consecutive week. The number of casualties decreased to 112 (36 killed, 76 wounded), well below the 12-week average of 165. Thirty-eight of these casualties (9 killed, 29 wounded) were the result of a complex attack targeting Iraqi Security Forces in Anbar Province on 3 February. We assess AQI conducted this attack in order to degrade the public's confidence in the GOI and the ISF's ability to provide security. No U.S. Forces were wounded in action this week.

~~SECRET // NOFORN // 20210207~~

~~SECRET // NOFORN // 20210207~~

USF-I Weekly Assessment 31 January – 6 February 2011

During the month of January, there were 583 security incidents, a decrease from the previous month's total of 666 and below the 12-month average of 678. Casualties for the month totaled 868 (192 killed, 676 wounded), slightly higher than last month but still below the 12-month average of 992 (see below). Arba'een-related attacks accounted for 220 of the casualties (30 killed, 190 wounded).



Partnered counterterrorism (CT) forces conducted 45 operations resulting in the detention of 54 extremists. High-level AQI detainees include the Mosul Military Emir, associates of the Wali of Baghdad, and an Emir involved in the shoot down of Air Force (b)(3), (b)(6) in 2006 who is assessed to know the location of his remains. CT forces also captured a Promised Day Brigade cell leader from Basrah Province who was involved with multiple IED and IDF attacks. They also detained an operative of an 1.4b sponsored smuggling and lethal aid network who also operated in Basrah.

We continue to pressure Shia extremist groups capable of conducting signature attacks against U.S. personnel, specifically (b)(6). Partnered CT operations throughout the week focused on improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAM) cell leadership, resulting in the detention of several persons of interest. Questioning of these individuals will continue to develop our insight into the IRAM network and enable us to disrupt future operations.

1.4b, 1.4d

ISF Development

Nearly 6,300 Facilities Protection Service (FPS) personnel graduated from the accelerated basic recruit training (BRT) on 3 February from 12 different MOI training academies. The Iraqi FPS is responsible for protecting roughly 95 percent of Iraq's critical infrastructure

~~SECRET // NOFORN // 20210207~~

~~SECRET // NOFORN // 20210207~~

USF-I Weekly Assessment 31 January – 6 February 2011

(mosques, monuments, sensitive buildings, etc.). All graduates are former FPS contractors. Under a current MOI initiative, all 76,000 FPS contractors will eventually be trained and qualified as Iraqi police officers in an effort to fill current shortfalls.

Two new swift class patrol boats were recently delivered to the Iraqi Navy, bringing the current fleet of patrol boats to three. This foreign military sales (FMS) case is valued at \$453.6M and includes delivery of 12 patrol boats, scheduled to arrive through mid-2012. The first arrived in September 2010 and was designated as a primary platform for operational sea training. After the training was completed, the crew was evaluated by an Iraqi assessment team and deemed ready for its first live patrol. The next set of crewmembers began comprehensive training in Morgan City, Louisiana. After follow-on training in Umm Qasr and a two-week orientation period, these 49 crewmembers will be operational on the new patrol boats. Training simulators used as a part of this instruction will be relocated from Louisiana to Umm Qasr and all subsequent training will be Iraqi-led.



Transition

The final provincial reconstruction team (PRT) conference was held 2-3 February to discuss transition activities. The drawdown of the existing 15 PRTs will begin in June of 2011. Two embassy branch offices (located in Ninawa and Kirkuk) and two consulates general (located in Irbil and Basrah) will provide U.S. Embassy-Baghdad provincial presence after October 2011. This timeline will allow each PRT to conduct a safe and orderly drawdown with USF-I support.

I am currently scheduled to travel to the United Arab Emirates on 9 February to discuss opportunities for Iraq-UAE security cooperation.

Respectfully,

~~SECRET // NOFORN // 20210207~~