

## **USF-I COMMANDER'S WEEKLY ASSESSMENT**

**Mr. Secretary, Chairman, Jim:**

We remain actively engaged at all levels regarding events at Camp Ashraf. Against the strong counsel of USF-I and the Embassy, the ISF resorted to violence in order to push members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq (MeK) out of the northern sector of the camp. During the operation, USF-I leaders continually engaged the ISF to offer medical assistance and to urge restraint. I engaged Prime Minister Maliki to register my concern and to strongly discourage further military action; he subsequently ordered his forces to stand down. On Sunday, we gained GOI approval to dispatch a USF-I – Embassy team into the camp to conduct an accurate assessment of casualties.

Attendance at Saturday's "Day of Salvation" demonstrations fell far short of Muqtada al-Sadr's promised 1-2 million. An estimated 29,000 protestors converged on Sadr City, many of whom traveled from southern Iraq on buses provided by the Sadr organization. While Sadr did not attend, a representative delivered remarks in his stead, calling upon U.S. troops to withdraw by the end of the year or face the possible revival of the Mahdi Army and armed resistance.

The number of security incidents dropped slightly but remained above the 12-week average. The number of casualties fell well below the 12-week average after last week's attack on the Provincial Council Building in Tikrit. Indirect fire attacks against U.S. Forces (USF) rose for the fourth consecutive week.

### **Camp Ashraf**

Events at Camp Ashraf remain troubling. The ISF entered the camp on 3 April purportedly to reclaim the northern sector of the camp to return the land to farmers. USF-I and U.S. Embassy-Baghdad leaders aggressively engaged Iraqi officials to discourage an escalation of violence. After Prime Minister Maliki relieved the on-scene commander Friday morning, it became clear that operational activity was underway. Iraqi leaders' responses to U.S. questions and concerns were consistently deceitful, first with denials that an operation was pending and then assurances that any military action would employ only nonlethal means. Friday's events clearly belied these claims.

On Saturday, the ISF informed us they were preparing to recover weapons and radios allegedly stolen by MeK personnel. Believing this to be a guise for continued ISF movement in the camp, I called Prime Minister Maliki to register my concern. He insisted UNAMI and the United States must facilitate a solution that would result in the removal of the MeK from Iraq. I informed him that further confrontation between the MeK and ISF would make initiating such a dialogue difficult and undermine his position. He agreed to direct his forces to take no further action. We confirmed the ISF ceased movement into the camp.

Since the outbreak of violence, we made numerous attempts to determine the number of MeK casualties. After UNAMI was denied access to the camp on Friday, we deployed a USF-I surgeon to the nearest hospital in Baqubah to evaluate the condition of MeK members who had been evacuated there for care. On Sunday, the GOI gave a USF-I – Embassy team permission to visit medical facilities located within the camp. As a result of



personal observations and discussions with medical personnel, the team determined the number of casualties to be considerably higher than originally thought. In addition to those killed, a significant number of MeK were injured. More than half sustained minor injuries (bumps and bruises), while others were treated for gunshot wounds and broken bones. Our team provided medical assistance, replenished medical supplies, and took over 2,000 photos to process as evidence. We will continue to engage GOI and ISF leaders to address this issue and work with the Embassy to determine appropriate courses of action as more information becomes available.

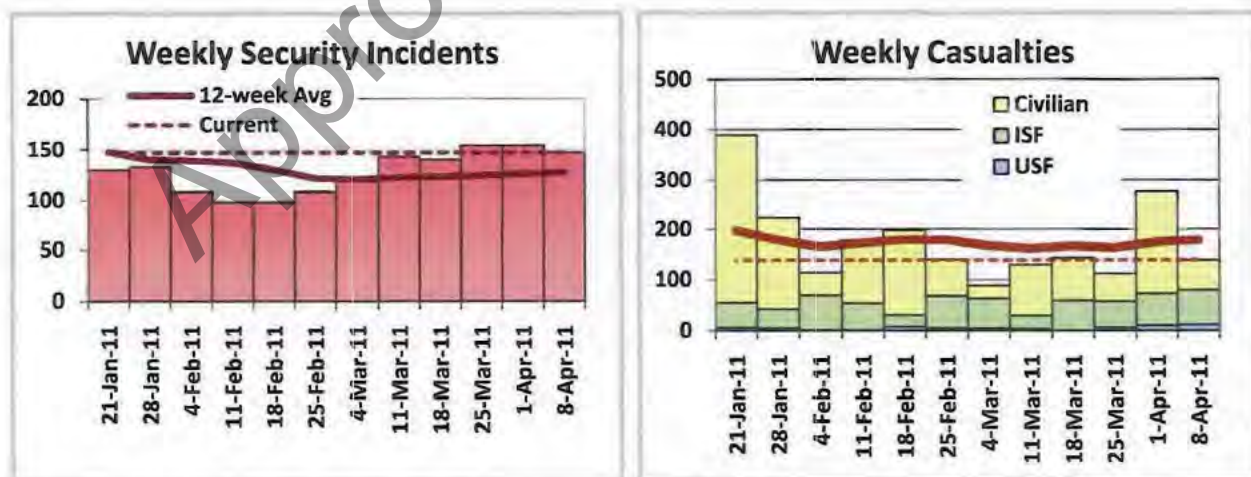
### Political

There were few developments in Iraqi politics this week. The Council of Representatives (COR) went into a recess while Iraqi politicians continued to play out their respective agendas in the media. Prior to adjourning, however, the COR unanimously approved the appointment of a new Minister of Planning, Ali Usuf Abd al-Nabi, a Sadrist. His appointment may be a gesture by PM Maliki to discourage members of the Sadrist Trend from moving into the opposition with (b)(6). There was no movement in filling security ministries.

There were 24 demonstrations throughout the week; most were peaceful and small. Saturday's "Day of Salvation" marking the eighth anniversary of the liberation of Baghdad drew approximately 29,000 to Sadr City in Baghdad, woefully short of the 1-2 million envisioned by Sadr, who attempted to increase attendance by providing transportation for protestors who came from as far away as Basrah. Although not in attendance, Sadr was represented by Sheik Salah al-Obeidi, who demanded the departure of USF by the end of the year. He went on to say that if the U.S. military does not depart on schedule, the Sadrists would revive the Mahdi Army, which was disbanded in 2008.

### Security

During the reporting period, there were 140 security incidents, above the 12-week average of 128 for the fifth consecutive week. The number of casualties was 135 (33 killed, 102 wounded), a significant decrease from the week prior and below the 12-week average of 177. Two U.S. service members were wounded in action.





The amount of indirect fire (IDF) targeting USF increased for the fourth consecutive week. There were 22 IDF attacks, up from 20 last week. We assess Shia militant groups, particularly Promised Day Brigade and Asaib al-Haq, conducted the majority of these attacks. We expect them to increase operations targeting USF throughout the spring and summer, leveraging events in Bahrain to portray themselves as protectors of Iraqi Shia and leaders in opposition to the presence of USF.

As reported last week, senior leaders from the ISF, the Kurdistan Security Forces, and USF-I conducted security assessments of Kirkuk and Diyala. Participants concluded that there was no requirement for additional security forces from outside the Province. However, participants determined that improvements to the command and control architecture (C2) were necessary. Following the assessment, the Senior Working Group (SWG) convened to review the assessment and determine the way ahead. We assured ISF and KSF leaders that USF-I would remain in place until C2 issues were resolved. We will conduct another SWG this week to discuss C2 solutions; improvements to intelligence sharing, targeting, and partnering between provincial security forces; and equipping and training of the Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade.

U.S. and Iraqi counterterrorism (CT) forces conducted 28 operations resulting in the detention of 32 extremists. These operations resulted in the capture of numerous AQI operatives, including an assassination cell leader in Ninawa, several IED facilitators, and an AQI member who had infiltrated the Army to act as an informant. CT forces also detained multiple Jaysh Rijal Tariq al-Naqshabandi (JRTN) members suspected of conducting attacks against USF and ISF, as well as two AAH operatives involved in the attempt to assassinate the 6th IA Division Commander two weeks ago. Sunni insurgent group operations will be disrupted by the capture of a weapons dealer who worked with a variety of extremist groups operating in Kirkuk Province, including AQI and JRTN. After his arrest, joint CT forces seized a cache containing various weapons, body armor, and IED-making materials.

### ISF Development

Over the past several weeks, there have been a number of public demonstrations in the Kurdistan Region, mainly in Sulaymaniyah Province. Some of these protests became violent, leading to multiple injuries and the deaths of demonstrators and police. In an effort to stem the violence, the Kurdish Ministry of Interior (KMOI) requested assistance from USF-I to develop training for the KRG Specialty Crowd Control police. Training was requested in specialty areas of crowd control, including use of force standards, media relations, command post operations, and proper employment of tear gas. Working closely with the Iraqi Federal Police and NATO Training Mission-Iraq, advisors from USF-I are assisting KMOI personnel to develop a proposal for this comprehensive training plan. This proposed training program would be instructed primarily by Iraqi Federal Police. Upon completion of training, police officers from the KRG would return to the Kurdish Region to train their own units.

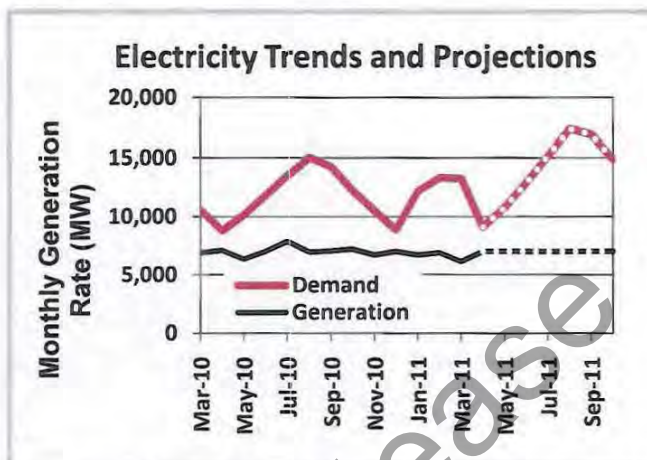
### Economic and Energy

Recent protests have highlighted the public's frustration with the Gol over its delivery of essential services to include electricity. Iraq currently faces a growing shortfall of about 5,800 megawatts (MW), allowing for just eight hours of electricity per household, per day.



This summer will bring additional demand, increasing strain on an already overtaxed system. Any perception that the GOI is not adequately addressing the problem is likely to fuel additional protests throughout the summer.

The USEMB-B and USF-I have engaged GOI leaders and suggested ways to increase electricity supply, manage demand, increase spending on basic power plant maintenance, and keep new and existing power generation projects on schedule. The Iraq Electricity Master Plan is a comprehensive report outlining capital priorities, expected costs, and a long-term plan for electricity sector development from 2010-2030. The GOI has taken a number



of steps to implement suggested improvements; however, due to a lull in new project starts, only a few new power plants will open in the next year. Consequently, the next major wave of new power generation will not occur until 2013 or 2014.

In an effort to meet the near-term increase in demand, the Council of Ministers recently approved a \$6B plan to add 5,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity to the grid by April 2012. The plan groups diesel generators at 50 locations across Iraq. The first units will not be on line until September 2011, which will be after the summer peak. In order to meet summer demand, the GOI plans to increase electricity imported from Iran. Ministry of Electricity officials hope to add at least 300 MW of Iranian electricity via a new transmission line that will run from Iran's Kharq power plant into Iraq.

Next week Speaker of the House John Boehner will lead a congressional delegation to Iraq. In addition, General Sir Richard Shirreff, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe will visit.

Respectfully,