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USF-I Weekly Assessment 12-18 June 2011

USF-I COMMANDER'S WEEKLY ASSESSMENT

Mr. Secretary, Chairman, Jim:

President Talabani intends to convene a meeting of GOI leaders this week to consider the possibility of a new security agreement with the United States and to address outstanding government formation issues. Because neither KRG President Barzani nor Ayad Allawi will likely attend, it will be difficult to achieve consensus; however, the meeting will facilitate communication between the blocs on these critical issues. This is especially important as trust between Prime Minister Maliki and Allawi continues to deteriorate.

The number of security incidents remained stable; however, the number of civilian casualties rose sharply this week due to three AQI attacks. Attacks against U.S. Forces (USF) increased, particularly in the southern provinces. On 15 June, Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) attempted an improvised rocket-assisted munitions (IRAM) attack on a combined Iraqi-U.S. base in Maysan Province. Due to its poor quality, the IRAM only traveled 250 meters from its launch point.

There has been a rise in attacks utilizing explosively formed penetrators (EFP) over the last couple of months. EFP attacks are also increasing in lethality, resulting in a higher number of casualties per effective attack. To counter the threat to our forces, we continue to increase force protection measures for USF. In addition, we continue to push GOI and ISF leaders to increase targeted counterterrorism (CT) operations to keep the pressure on SEG networks. Recent attempts to go after key targets have been hindered by ISF reluctance and the absence of security ministers. We are hopeful that the Iraqi Army/Federal Police operations in Maysan Province scheduled to take place this week will be successful in stemming the flow of lethal accelerants from

1.4b

Prime Minister Maliki delivered a letter of request for the purchase of 36 F-16s. He asked for separate letters of offer and acceptance to cover multiple budget years to ease the burden on the Iraqi budget. Although this is the GOI's second attempt to purchase F-16s, this promising step indicates willingness on the part of government and military leaders to address air sovereignty shortfalls. The purchase would also further strengthen our military-to-military relationship with Iraq.

Political

The deteriorating relationship between Prime Minister Maliki and Ayad Allawi remains a stumbling block to progress on government formation. Tensions rose sharply after Maliki publicly accused Allawi of having terrorist ties. Allawi responded with a televised speech reproaching Maliki for "tyranny and sectarianism." He further declared that Maliki was corrupt and owed his premiership to Iran. Iraqiyya members' responses to Allawi's speech have been generally negative. Mid-level bloc members stated their resolve to

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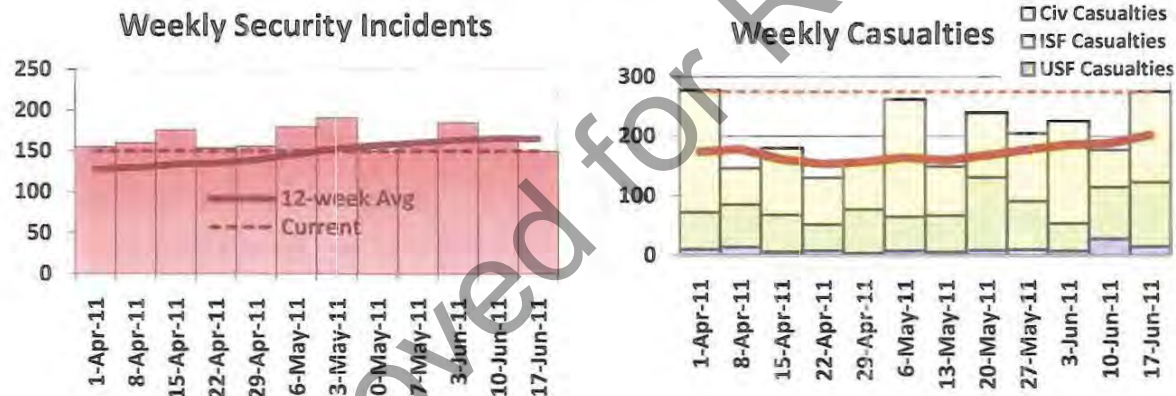
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settle differences and reduce hostilities with State of Law and viewed the speech as inflammatory and counterproductive.

President Talabani announced his intention to bring GOI leaders together on Monday to discuss unresolved government formation initiatives and the future security relationship between the U.S. and Iraq. Prime Minister Maliki has pushed for the meeting and desired the participation of the vice presidents, the deputy prime ministers, and bloc leaders. President Barzani's attendance is uncertain; Allawi is abroad and will likely not attend. A meeting of bloc leaders is a positive step; however, we assess there will be minimal progress due to the absence of Barzani and Allawi. Further, we believe Iraqiyya will continue to demand adherence to the Irbil Agreements with regard to the appointment of security ministers and the formation of the National Council for Higher Policies.

Security

During the reporting period there were 155 security incidents, a decrease from the previous week and below the 12-week average of 165. The number of casualties was 276 (49 killed, 227 wounded), an increase from last week and above the 12-week average of 202. Attacks targeting USF increased from 33 to 36. Two U.S. service members were killed in action; 11 were wounded in action.



AQI conducted three high casualty-producing attacks during the reporting period, accounting for nearly half of all casualties during the week. AQI conducted a complex attack in Mosul on 11 June utilizing a vehicle-borne IED (VBIED) and small arms fire that resulted in 6 killed and 49 injured. On 13 June, a suicide operative detonated a VBIED near two Iraqi police buildings in Basrah, killing 5 and wounding 30. The following day, AQI executed a complex attack on the Diyala Provincial Council (PC) comprised of a suicide VBIED, multiple suicide operatives, rocket-propelled grenades, and small arms fire. Iraqi forces subdued the attackers and regained control. Two Iraqi police and three civilians were killed; 32 civilians were injured. The tactics employed were similar to the attack on the Salah ad Din PC building in late March that resulted in over 150 casualties. We assess the improved performance of the ISF was the result of lessons learned, including streamlined command and control, leading to more decisive on-scene actions.

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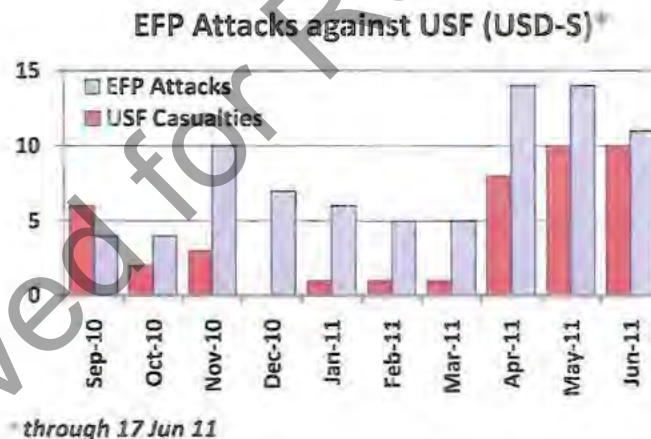
Nevertheless, government officials concluded that Iraqi and provincial security forces failed to heed intelligence warnings that would have prevented the attack and removed the Provincial Director of Police from his post.

Attacks against USF in the South remain elevated. On 15 June, two IRAMs targeted a joint Iraqi-U.S. base in Maysan Province. The IRAMs traveled only 250 meters from the launch point. Initial indications suggest the weapons were poorly manufactured, rendering them ineffective. AAH claimed responsibility for the attack, which may have been intended for COS Garry Owen, located six kilometers away. SEG operatives may have diverted the operation due to an increase in counter-IRAM patrols in the vicinity of Garry Owen implemented in response to previous attacks. We continue to press the GOI and ISF to increase operations against 1.4b AAH and 1.4b 1.4b operatives. These operations have been hampered by the reluctance of judges to issue arrest warrants against the individuals involved in recent attacks. We are engaging the chief justice to discuss the matter, emphasizing that these arrests are a high interest item, i.e. not routine, and that timely action is imperative. On a positive note, the Iraqi Army is conducting search operations of suspected IRAM launch sites in downtown Baghdad in areas adjacent to the Embassy.

The number of EFP attacks in U.S. Division-South (USD-S) continues to rise. This rise is accompanied by an increase in accuracy and lethality, resulting in a greater number of U.S. casualties (see chart at right). We assess SEGs are responsible for most these attacks. We have analyzed materials recovered from attack sites, which indicate SEGs continue to obtain materials from Iran that

enable complex techniques such as the use of multiple devices per attack. The frequency of attacks reflects the stated objectives of the SEGs and is enabled by increased freedom of movement due to support from corrupt provincial security officials and infiltration of ISF units.

We remain focused on force protection and continue to implement enhanced protection measures. These measures include increased counter-IED, IDF, and IRAM patrols; fortifying bunkers and concrete barriers surrounding living areas; terrain denial of historical attack point of origin sites; and increasing awareness of suspicious activities by engaging the local populace. We have also successfully employed change detection technology on airborne platforms to locate IEDs emplaced along supply routes. To address the threat of increased lethality and accuracy of EFPs, we are retrofitting the



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mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) fleet to provide additional protection for our troops. These capabilities and sufficient ISR assets will be essential to protect our troops during our withdrawal, when the number of convoys will increase substantially.

The Iraqi Ground Forces Command issued an order to begin Iraqi Army/Federal Police operations in the South, which will likely commence within the next few days. LTG Hussein al-Awadi, head of the Iraqi federal police, will command the joint operation, which will focus on disrupting the flow of lethal accelerants. Awadi informed us he will recommend to the PM that he direct judges from outside of Maysan Province to preside over cases involving those detained during the operation to avoid their potential release by local judges who may be corrupt or subject to intimidation by SEGs.

U.S. and Iraqi CT forces conducted 21 operations resulting in the detention of 18 extremists. The significant drop in the number of operations was mainly due to difficulty obtaining warrants and exacerbated by previously described challenges, namely the lack of security ministers. Fourteen of these operations targeted Sunni insurgents and resulted in the detention of Jaysh Rijal Tariq al-Naqshabandi (JRTN) members responsible for attacks against U.S. and Iraqi forces in Kirkuk Province, the AQI Wali of Hawijah, the AQI Minister of Health, and an AQI courier and financier in Salah ad Din Province who provides payment to those who conduct successful attacks. Seven operations targeted Shia extremists, including members of AAH responsible for multiple assassination operations and IED attacks targeting GOI and ISF officials and a Promised Day Brigade (PDB) operative suspected of conducting IED and IED attacks in Basrah. Also detained was a high value target and long-time member of PDB who likely has extensive knowledge of EFP operations. Joint CT operations also resulted in the capture of a ^{1.4b} operative responsible for the facilitation of IRAM attacks. We are working closely with the ISF during his interrogation to obtain actionable intelligence that will enable operations against the ☐ network.

ISF Development

Prime Minister Maliki recently signed a letter requesting a USG LOA for the purchase of 36 F-16s. The Prime Minister requested the basic letter be divided into separate, affordable LOAs that spread the cost over multiple budget years. We will take the steps necessary to facilitate delivery of an LOA, which we expect will take 60-90 days to produce.

On 16 June, 427 personnel from Iraq's security services graduated from the intelligence and military security school (IMSS) at Camp Taji. IMSS provides formal curriculum covering 21 courses at basic, specialty, and advanced levels. Course offerings include introduction to intelligence, counter-intelligence, geospatial intelligence, human intelligence, and intelligence staff training.

Transition

Since the beginning of Operation New Dawn, USF-I has made tremendous headway as we transition to a civilian-led mission and prepare for our withdrawal in December. We have taken these steps while maintaining maximum flexibility that enables us to

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execute our advise, train, assist, and equip mission. USF-I forces currently reside at 63 U.S. and partnered locations, down from 92 in September 2010. We will transfer an additional nine bases over the next six weeks and are on track to transfer the remaining bases by the end of the year. In addition, we have repostured nearly a million pieces of equipment thus far, slightly ahead of schedule, and will reposture the remaining 1.2 million pieces over the next six and a half months.

At the invitation of House Majority Leader Boehner, Iraqi Council of Representatives Speaker Usama Nujaifi will visit the United States next week to meet with his U.S. congressional counterparts.

Respectfully,



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