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## USF-I Weekly Assessment 6 - 12 November 2011

### USF-I COMMANDER'S WEEKLY ASSESSMENT

Mr. Secretary, Chairman, Jim:

It was a quiet week in Iraqi politics with most GOI leaders unavailable due to the observance of the Hajj and the subsequent Eid al-Adha holiday. We anticipate the pace will pick up after the Council of Representatives (COR) reconvenes on or about 20 November.

The numbers of security incidents and casualties were low, consistent with the previous week. All remained below their respective 12-week averages. Nearly half of the week's casualties were the result of one AQI high profile attack that targeted civilians in a Baghdad marketplace.

Attacks against U.S. Forces (USF) were also consistent with last week. There were 15 attacks, most of which consisted of indirect fire (IDF). We assess Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) was responsible for three attacks targeting our forces in Basrah (two IDF and one EFP) and an IDF attack targeting Contingency Operating Base (COB) Adder in Dhi Qar Province. These IDF attacks utilized a large number of rockets, confirming our assessment that AAH has been actively stockpiling munitions.

We continue to make tremendous headway in our transition and reposture. USF-I now operates from 10 locations; as of 12 November, our assigned strength is 24,662, a decrease of 6,616 from the previous week. We moved another 12 percent of equipment out of Iraq and remain on track to have all pieces of equipment out of the country or transferred to the GOI, Department of State, or OSC-I by the end of the year.

The stand-up of OSC-I is also going well. Base life support functions are in place at nearly all of the ten enduring sites. There has been significant progress establishing a contracted security force at each site, allowing USF-I personnel who were performing security duties to reposture.

As a result of deliberate and effective interagency planning, over 80 percent of the activities identified by the Joint Campaign Plan as enduring tasks, programs, and projects have transitioned from USF-I to the GOI, CENTCOM, or U.S. Embassy-Baghdad. The remaining 84 activities, comprised of information operations and intelligence functions, will transfer, on schedule, prior to our departure.

We continue to prepare for the 24 November transfer of detainees currently in U.S. custody at the Al Asad Theater Internment Facility. We are working with the Ministry of Justice to determine the disposition of each of the detainees. I have discussed the matter with Prime Minister Maliki and requested he retain custody of the detainees through at least 31 December. Ambassador Jeffrey and I discussed the disposition of (b)(6)

(b)(6) with the Prime Minister, emphasizing the high level of attention his case with our government. We reviewed some of the charges against (b)(6) and recommended the Prime Minister authorize his extradition to the U.S. Maliki seemed to appreciate the potential implications if he did not handle the case against (b)(6) properly and said he would consider all options.

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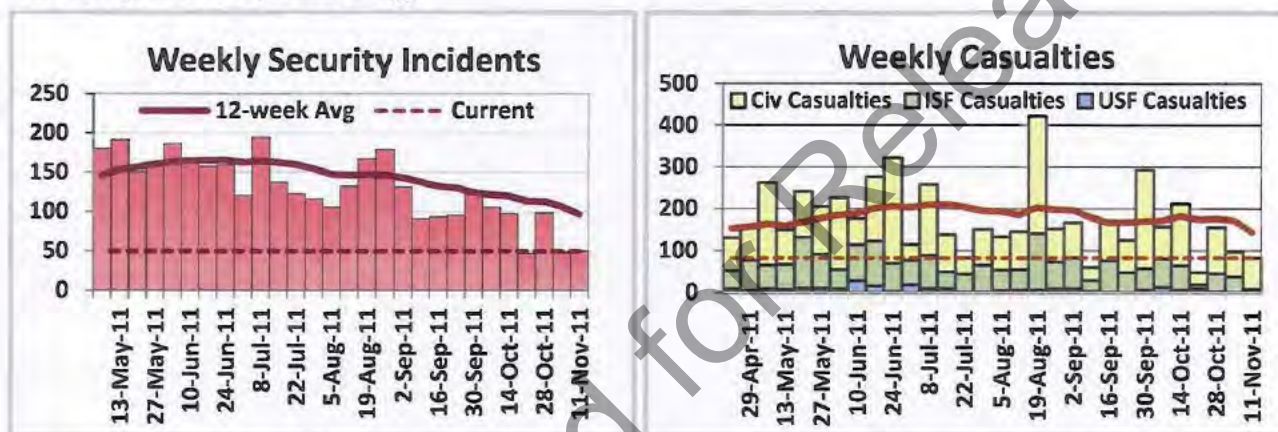
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### Political

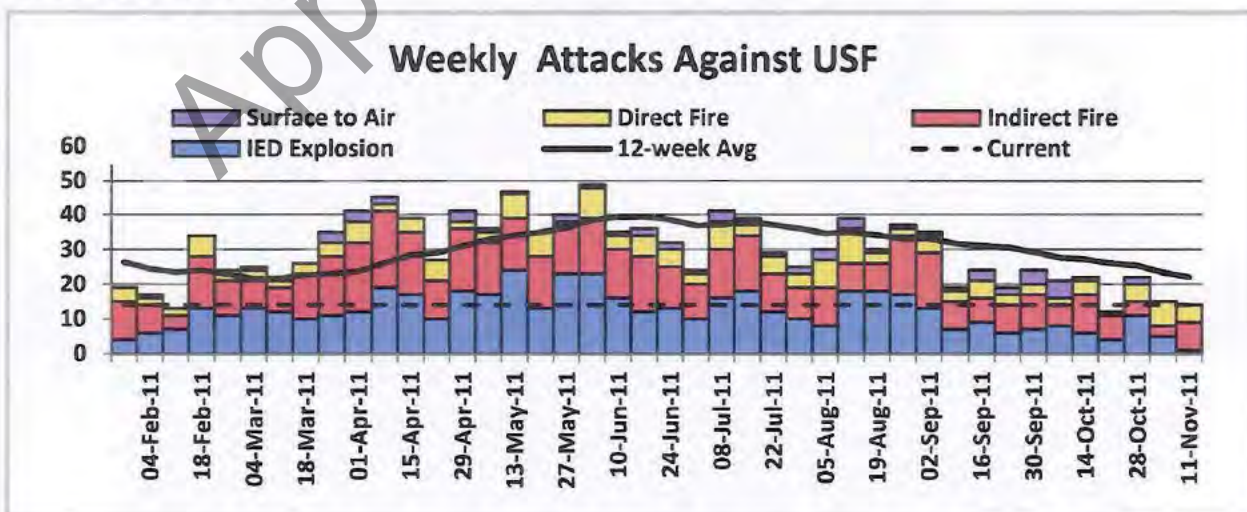
Due to the Eid holiday, many GOI leaders have been abroad or unavailable this week. We expect they will be out of pocket through the end of the week. The COR is currently scheduled to reconvene on 20 November.

### Security

During the reporting period, there were 50 security incidents, a slight increase from the previous week (48) and below the 12-week average of 96. The number of casualties was 82 (7 killed, 75 wounded), lower than last week (97) and below the 12-week average of 143. The numbers of security incidents and Iraqi casualties reflected here are likely inaccurate due to our reliance on host nation reporting. The number of attacks against USF remained at 15, which is below the 12-week average of 22. Four USF (contractors) were wounded in action (three very seriously).



AQI conducted multiple attacks this week, including an unsuccessful assassination attempt against the Anbar Provincial Governor on 7 November. The previous day, 35 civilians were injured when six IEDs detonated in a crowded marketplace in downtown Baghdad. We assess the attack was intended to garner media attention and degrade public confidence in the ISF.



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Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH) remains active. We assess the network was responsible for multiple attacks against our forces, including indirect fire attacks targeting COB Basrah on 8 and 10 November and a 12 November attack on COB Adder that resulted in four U.S. contractors wounded in action. One of the attacks on COB Basrah was followed by an EFP attack that targeted USF enroute to the IDF's point of origin. The IDF attacks employed a high number of rockets, indicating considerable planning and preparation. Fortunately, most of the IDF attacks this week were ineffective, due in large part to the efficacy of our aggressive force protection actions. These include counter-IDF patrols and show of force activities utilizing air weapons teams at historical points of origin. These actions have forced AAH to conduct attacks from a greater stand-off distance (the attack on Adder was initiated over 20 km from the base), reducing accuracy and effectiveness.

### **ISF Development**

LTG Bob Caslen, Chief of OSC-I, traveled to NATO headquarters to meet with ambassadors and permanent military members of contributing nations. Discussions centered on a two-year extension of the NTM-I mission, which is set to expire on 31 December. General Caslen highlighted the important role NTM-I can play in the professionalization of the ISF and the integration of Iraq into the international community. After discussing the matter with General Caslen, all were supportive of the extension provided Iraq takes the necessary steps. The General will work with Iraq's national security advisor to encourage GOI action, including delivery of a letter from Prime Minister Maliki to the NATO Secretary General officially requesting the extension, making legal arrangements, and acknowledging Iraq's cost-sharing responsibilities.

### **Transition and Reposture**

We continue to make steady progress as we reposture and transition. As of 12 November, 24,662 military personnel and DOD civilians operate from 10 sites, including five large bases. On 8 November, we successfully transferred Joint Base Balad (JBB) to the GOI. JBB was one of our most complex locations to close, but the processes in place and outstanding coordination enabled us to close the base ahead of schedule.

As we close and transition bases, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure our environmental clean-up efforts are sound and effective. In June 2011, we began identifying all environmental cleanup requirements within Iraq. We implemented the Environmental Site Closure Work Plan (ESCWP) to manage and control environmental mitigation cleanup requirements. Reviews are conducted regularly to verify that environmental requirements are completed on schedule and in accordance with USF-I environmental standard operating procedures and CENTCOM regulations. Since July 2011, we have closed over 750 sites. Utilizing the ESCWP, we will ensure the remaining 42 sites are remediated or closed prior to our departure.

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The reposture of equipment remains on schedule. During the past week, we reduced the amount of equipment in Iraq by another 12 percent. In accordance with our plan, velocity is increasing as the northern bases are emptied of cargo, allowing transportation assets to accomplish more due to reduced travel times between remaining bases and Kuwait.

We are on track to transfer remaining USF-I activities to the GOI, CENTCOM, and U.S. Embassy-Baghdad. We have completed the transition of 347 of the 431 activities identified by the Joint Campaign Plan. The remaining 84 activities (all information operations and intelligence functions) are scheduled to transfer on schedule.

Due to the outstanding efforts of the interagency team, OSC-I is on track to be fully mission capable at all ten enduring sites. Contracted security personnel are arriving at each location daily, where they receive their weapons, weapons cards, and site-specific training. Base life support functions such as housing, food, fuel, water, waste management, and power generation are in place and mission capable at nearly all OSC-I sites, with remaining locations on track.

NSA Deputy Director Chris Inglis and the Air Force Chief of Staff will visit Iraq next week.

Respectfully,



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