Corps Shaping Operation
XXX
ISO Operations RIVER BLITZ
AND RIVER BRIDGE
Feb – Mar Events

- 155 BCT TOA: 14 Feb 05
- Operation RIVER BLITZ: 20 Feb - 05 Mar
- Ashura (MNF-W): 19 Feb 05
- MOI Operation Salman Pak (MND-B): Feb/MAR
- 1CD/3ID RIP/TOA: 27 Feb
- TNA will select Presidency Council during Feb/Mar
- Operation RIVER BRIDGE: 10-25 Mar
- Arbaeen (MNF-W): ~25-31 Mar
- MOAG movement: March/April
- Hiditha Dam Maint: 15 Mar – 15 May
Threat Update
Insurgent Goals

• Strategic goals remains unchanged
  – Undermine the legitimacy of ITG
  – Force the coalition to depart
  – Reestablish control of Iraq

• Way Ahead
  – Continue attacks to create insecure environment
  – Decrease ITG effectiveness
  – Prevent growth of security forces
  – Leverage Sunni dis-enfranchisement
  – Create ethnic or religious friction

• Tactics
  – Standoff attacks
  – Intimidation
  – Infiltration
  – Propaganda
MNF-W Threat Assessment

- Disparate network remnants have coalesced into loose affiliations in order to counter a common enemy found in the MNF:
  - Relocated, reoriented, reengage
  - Disrupt democratic process and deter Iraqi participation
- Group Leaders remain constant
  - Memberships change and overlap
- Attack methods remain consistent
  - Low risk; High gain
- Attacks focus on two primary goals
  - Destabilize security environment
  - Discourage Iraqi cooperation with ITG/MNF
- Insurgents increasingly conduct operations exploiting MNF boundaries
MNF-W Insurgent Movement Corridor

**HIT – HADITHA Corridor**
- Historic FRE presence
- Transient point for Islamic extremists

**FALLUJAH - RAMADI Corridor**
- FRE leadership - Fallujah & Ramadi
- Ramadi threat
- Abu Harun group
- Ramadi Shura Council
- Fallujah threat
- Rainbow Insurgent Coalition
- Green Battalion
In response to operations in North Babil and Mosul:
- Threat in Zaab Triangle, Baqubah, and Hit/Hadithah areas increases
- Baghdad and its outlying areas will always remain a hot spot
  - Salman Pak / Suwayrah / Sarabadi
ISR Support to I MEF

Task: Conduct focused intelligence collection, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations.

Purpose: IOT support Coalition Force operations in the western Al Anbar Province (AO Atlanta) and identify and track insurgent movement prior to, during, and following operations.

Concept: Corps level intelligence assets will be prioritized and massed to support and reinforce the I MEF collection plan. Assets will be focused to support the I MEF scheme of maneuver as well as movement corridors and lines of drift outside the area of operations.

Priority of Effort: MND-W, MND-B, MNB-NW, MND-NC, MND-CS, MND-SE

Period of Focus: 21 Feb – 7 Mar

Effect: Disruption of AIF networks in western Al Anbar Province (AO Atlanta).
Proposed Mission

MNC-I conducts shaping operations from 18 FEB thru 25 MAR 05 ISO Operations RIVER BLITZ and RIVER BRIDGE to disrupt AIF/FRE forces operating in Al Anbar province and facilitate RIP/TOAS.
Proposed Commanders Intent

• The Purpose: To maintain pressure on AIF/FRE elements to prevent their consolidation, generate actionable intelligence on HVI’s, bolster public confidence in ISF and set conditions for MSC RIP/TOA’s.

• Key Tasks:
  – Synchronize Effects to isolate AIF in Al Anbar and increase popular support for ITG/TNA.
  – Prioritize/Sync ISR assets
  – Maximize ISF Presence to enhance public perception of ISF capability
  – Deny AIF/FRE safehaven’s/sanctuary
  – Interdict AIF/FRE in Al Anbar

• End State: To have disrupted the enemy’s ability to re-establish operating bases and continue operations, increased public confidence of ISF capability thereby improving the security situation, completing unit RIP/TOA’s.
Corps Shaping CONOP

MNF-W (ME) conducts offensive operations in Al Anbar Province to disrupt and defeat AIF elements and generate intelligence IOT set the conditions for Operation RIVER BRIDGE and our RIP with 2nd Marine Division.

Declassified by: MG Michael X. Garrett, USAFRICOM, Chief of Staff

MND-SE:
T1: Conduct TCP/VCP’s in Western MND-B
P1: Disrupt AIF elements transiting Al Anbar
T2: Interdict rat lines from Al Anbar into Baghdad and N. Babil
P2: Defeat AIF elements transiting Al Anbar
T3: Apportion collection efforts to Western MND-B AO
P3: Generate intel for targeting

MNB-NW (SE):
T1: Conduct TCP/VCP’s in Ninawa
P1: Disrupt AIF elements transiting Al Anbar
T2: Interdict rat lines from Al Anbar into Ninawa
P2: Defeat AIF elements transiting Al Anbar
T3: Apportion collection efforts to Southern Ninawa
P3: Generate intel for targeting

MND-NC (SE):
T1: Conduct TCP/VCP’s in Saladdin
P1: Disrupt AIF elements transiting Al Anbar
T2: Interdict rat lines from Al Anbar into Saladdin
P2: Defeat AIF elements transiting Al Anbar
T3: Apportion collection efforts to SW Saladdin
P3: Generate intel for targeting

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Shaping in the Corps AO

• Continue to Develop and Refine Targets
  – Corps Intel Collection focus on Al Anbar
  – Continue to build Intelligence thru striking known targets and assessing second and third order effects
    • Capture/Kill AIF facilitators IOT reduce AIF ability to affect operations in Fallujah-Ramadi-Hit

• Build Pressure
  – Select and prosecute key targets IOT focus AIF inward (localized containment)
    • Disrupt AIF ability to coordinate throughout the Corps AO
      – Capture and detain known AIF coordinators
      – Safe houses, meeting places, caches, heavy equipment, AIE patrols, crew served weapons, IDF, communications
  – Further separate the people from the insurgents
    • Exploit opportunities to discredit the AIF
  – Interdict AIF freedom of maneuver

• Set Conditions for Decisive Effect across Corps AO
  – Interdict Main AIF LOC’s (Rat Lines) IOT disrupt flow of FRE and AIF within Iraq
  – Destruction of AIF/FRE C2 targets
    • Continue to conduct joint targeting with TF 1-4a and OGA
Endstate for Shaping in the Corps AO

- **Enemy**
  - Disrupt the AIF intimidation campaign
  - Disrupt enemy ability to coordinate across the Corps AO and reinforce Fallujah-Ramadi-Hit operations
  - Interrupt the enemy timeline/decision making cycle
  - Force the enemy to focus inward
  - Attrit the enemy’s combat power
  - Enemy convinced that the same or greater degree of security exists in Corps AO denying them safe havens
  - AIF safe-havens denied throughout CorpsAO (Gaps/Seams)

- **Friendly**
  - MEF TOA complete
  - MND-B TOA complete
  - Reduced AIF influence over Sunni Leadership
Tasks to Subordinates (1 of 4)

- MND-B/MND-NC/MNB-NW
  - Increase TCP/VCPs operations in order to disrupt AIF transiting Al Anbar
  - Interdict infiltration and exfiltration routes from/into Al Anbar
  - Increase collection effort along infiltration routes from Al Anbar
  - Provide LNO Team to I MEF to synchronize operations/intel development
  - Increase security operations IOT prevent potential “Flair-ups” in sympathy
  - BPT Manage internally displaced persons within their AOs
  - BPT provide ASR security on ASR Golden to Fallujah (MND-NC)

- OPRES Planning Priorities
  - BPT reinforce MEF Operation River Bridge vic Haditha Dam/Hit
  - BPT escort MOAG though MNF-W from Hit to Taji
  - BPT provide 1 x Co Team to provide security on ASR Golden

- C2/ISR
  - Coordinate with CAOC to position Corps Aerial ISR Platforms to support I MEF
  - BPT Coordinate with other MSCs to facilitate movement of MITs
  - BPT Preposition Sensitive Site Exploitation Teams (CEXC, DOCEX)
Tasks to Subordinates (2 of 4)

- PMO
  - BPT Surge Detainee Ops
- JIATF-FRE
  - BPT deal with refocusing of ISR/SOF assets
  - Prioritize efforts on those targets which may be in the AO
- EW
  - Provide suppression
  - Coordinate EA attack
- STRATCOM
  - Engage ITG to make public statements ISO the operation
  - Counter Propaganda and Misinformation
  - Facilitate dissemination of information to the ITG/DCG
  - Gain MOD/MOI public support for the operation
  - Sync mitigation efforts for Haditha Dam repair project
# Tasks to Subordinates (3 of 4)

- **IO**
  - SYNC Themes and Messages with I MEF (MEF = Release authority for Ramadi Operations)
  - Exploitation Cell
    - UAV/Gun Camera footage
    - COMCAM
    - AIF Atrocities
    - ISF Successes
  - Mitigate Collateral Damage
  - Explain Haditha Dam repair process to mitigate negative impact

- **PAO**
  - ICW MEF PAO Facilitate coverage by the Pan-Arabic and international Media
  - Coordinate/deconflict themes and releases between MSC’s
  - Coordinate themes and messages prior to MNF-I release
Tasks to Subordinates (4 of 4)

- CMO
  - BPT Coordinate with MNF-I/IIG/IA/NGOs to deal with internally displaced persons
  - BPT Assist CAG in coordination of CMO
- C8
  - BPT allocate additional CERP funds for high impact projects
  - BPT allocate additional CERP funds for kinetic operation mitigation
- PSYOP
  - Develop product to support
- OPSEC
  - Maintain Operational Surprise by concealing scope of operation
  - Identify EEFIs for the ISO the operation
- Combat Camera
  - ISO of IO Exploitation/PA efforts
    - Facilitate Image Collection and dissemination
    - Document CF/ISF actions and AIF Atrocities
Timeline

**Priority Events**

- **Ashura**: 18-21 Feb
- **Selecting TNA Presidency Council**: 20 Feb – 5 Mar
- **Arbaeen**: 25-31 Mar
- **Haditha Dam Repair Starts**: 15 Mar

**Military Operations**

- **Operation RIVER CITY**: 20 Feb – 5 Mar
- **1st CD/3rd ID RIP/TOA**: 17 Feb – 9 Mar
- **Operation RIVER BRIDGE**: 10-25 Mar
- **MOAG Movement**: TBD
- **MOI Salman Pak Op**: TBD
MSC Feedback

- MND-B
- MNB-NW
- MND-NC
  - Requests immediate return of N TRP/4-278 ACR from MNB-NW