



Operation RIVER BLITZ



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Mission

From 20 Feb to 5 Mar, 1st Marine Division (-)(REIN) 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 2^d Marine Division.

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Commander's Intent

- **Purpose:** I intend to conduct operations in the river cities area as well as throughout Al Anbar province to capitalize on the momentum gained by Operation Al Fajr, Operation Citadel, and the Iraqi elections to further disrupt insurgent operations and expand our control while concurrently facilitating our RIP with 2d Marine Division.
- **Method:** Ramadi and the Hit-Haditha corridor will be the focus of our counterinsurgency operations. We will conduct small unit operations utilizing those tactics that have proved successful in the past, to include raids, patrols, sweeps, vehicle checkpoints, and cordon and knocks. 2^d Marine Division personnel will be incorporated in planning to the greatest extent possible to increase their situational awareness and facilitate our turnover. I want to incorporate SOF and our Iraqi Security Forces in this operation to maximize their unique capabilities. Planning must include the most effective kinetic and non-kinetic methods to engage the AIF rapidly, at multiple points on the battlefield and overwhelm him in what has been previously an economy of force area of operations.



Commander's Intent

IO will be critical to assist in driving a wedge between the insurgents and the local citizenry. Civil affairs will remain focused in Fallujah and Nasser Wa Salaam, where the enemy has largely been neutralized and we stand to gain the most from engagement, however, we will employ our civil affairs personnel anywhere they can make a difference. Our continued CMO efforts will demonstrate our commitment to the people, and through the creation of jobs and rebuilt infrastructure, we will win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Our fine efforts to train our Iraqi counterparts will continue with new vigor thus providing a potent future force to expand on the tactical and operational gains that we have made in Al Anbar province.

- **End State:** We will have disrupted insurgent operations in the river cities area and elsewhere making Al Anbar province inhospitable for their continuing activities while reinforcing the authority of the legitimate Iraqi government and setting the conditions for a successful RIP with 2d Marine Division.



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Concept



- Goal:
 - Disrupt and defeat AIF elements in Al Anbar to generate actionable intelligence
- Overarching Tasks:
 - Interdict rat lines from Ramadi to Hit on the north side of Euphrates river
 - Small unit operations to defeat enemy elements
 - Raids, snap VCPs, and presence patrols
 - Control access into and out of Ramadi
 - Cordon to isolate using chokepoints
 - Exploit integration of ISF in all DIV operations
 - Exploit SOF capabilities and integrate them into operations, as appropriate
 - RIVER BLITZ IO campaign for AO Raleigh, Topeka, and Denver while continuing enduring IO tasks
 - Explain isolation of Ramadi
 - Introduce the new Iraqi Army and legitimize the ITG
 - Continuity of themes and messages during the RIP
 - Engagement with newly elected Al Anbar leaders
 - Continued engagement with municipal leaders
 - Integrate ISR assets to assist in targeting and maximize opportunities for developing actionable intelligence
 - BPT target emerging HVIs
- Endstate:
 - AIF prevented from interfering with the 1st MarDiv & 2^d MarDiv RIP and set conditions for implementation of Operation RIVER BRIDGE while expanding our gains in Al Anbar province.

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Tasks

- Intel
 - Focus ISR assets to the west
 - Use JSTARs to analyze traffic patterns before and after implementing ECPs
 - [REDACTED] 1.4c
 - Conduct electronic survey and target development in the Hit/Haditha corridor IOT determine insurgent use of the electromagnetic spectrum and specific communications mediums.
 - [REDACTED] 1.4c
 - Conduct sustained ground based collection in the Hit/Haditha corridor IOT determine insurgent intentions, locations, and organizational structure.
 - [REDACTED] 1.4c
- Fires/Effects
 - [REDACTED] 1.4c
 - Ensure widest CBR coverage possible
 - Develop IO / PSYOP plan
- C2
 - 2X Platoons SCC TACON to 2 BCT (include ISF)
 - Freedom Guards DS to RCT-7
- AT/FP
 - TF [REDACTED] 1.4a focus in AO Denver
 - Opals, Backscatters, wands, metal detector booths throughout AO Atlanta

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Tasks

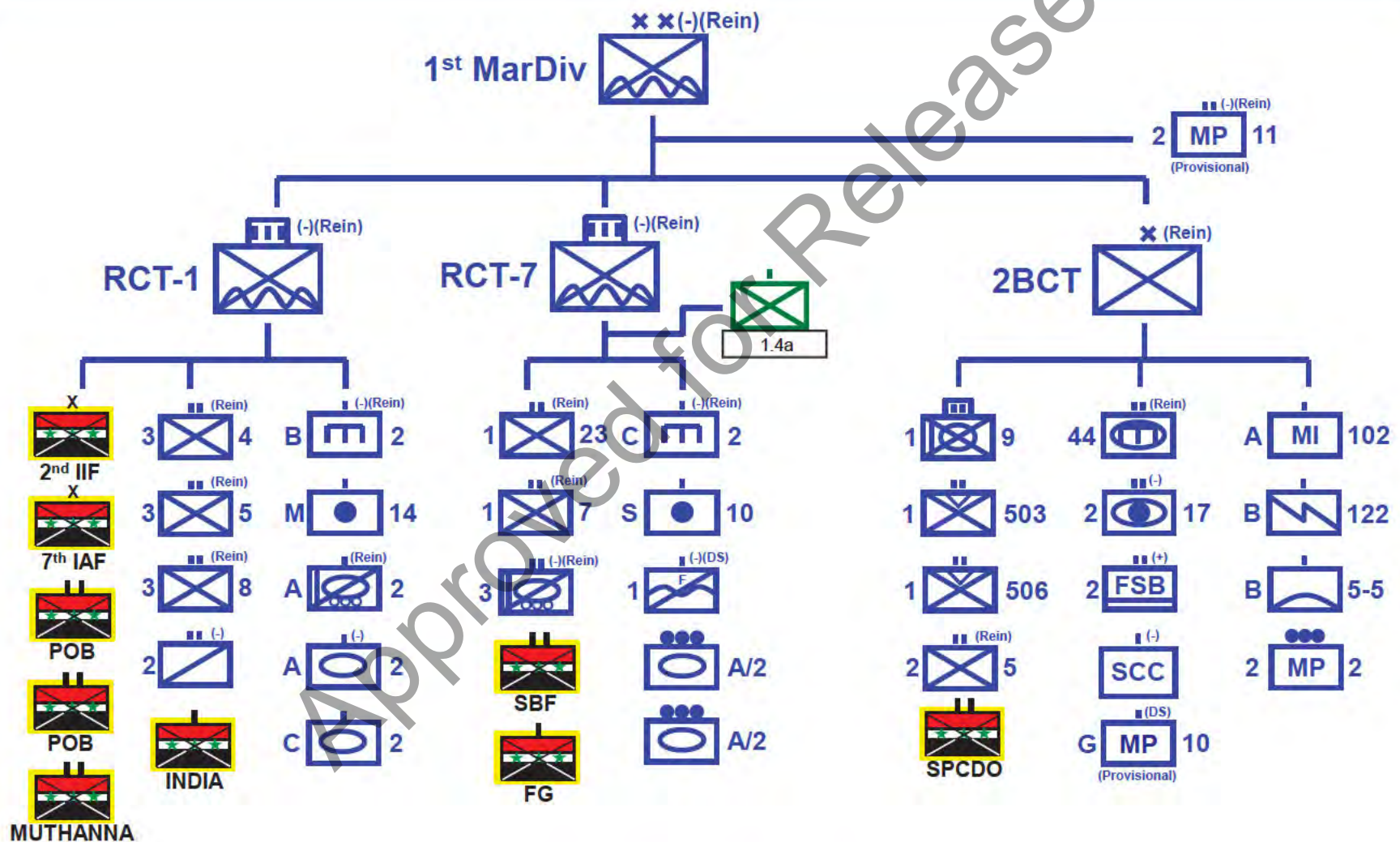
- Maneuver
 - Control access into and out of Ramadi
 - At least one Ramadi ECP for military traffic only
 - Plan for “priority traffic” through ECPs
 - Screening guidance for 2 BCT/ISF
 - Incorporate SCC into isolation ops
 - Use air for snap VCPs in AO Denver
 - Continue TRAP/QRF
 - Increase tempo of platoon and squad ops
 - Interdict RAT lines north of Euphrates between Ramadi & Hit
 - Focus small unit operations in Ramadi, Nasser wa Salaam, Karmah, river cities area, and Husaybah
- CMO/CA
 - Conduct leadership engagement to enhance legitimacy of newly elected government and elicit their support and cooperation
 - Inform ITG of our intention to control access into and out of Ramadi
 - Reinforce ECPs with CA teams to monitor atmospherics
 - Continue ongoing CA projects
- CSS
 - Identify and coordinate any special logistics requirements beyond organic ability to support/provide; to include ISF
 - Identify surge requirements for Class IV and HE to support ECPs



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Task Organization



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RCT-7 (ME): Conduct offensive operations along river cities corridor.

T1: Conduct small unit raids, VCPs, C&K and C&S in river cities area

P1: Disrupt and defeat AIF elements and generate intel for future targeting

T2: Interdict rat lines north of the Euphrates River between Hit – Husaybah.

P2: Disrupt AIF

2 BCT (SE 1): Isolate Ramadi

T1: Isolate Ramadi

P1: Interdict AIF movement into and out of Ramadi

T2: Interdict rat lines north of the Euphrates River between Ramadi – Hit – Hadithah.

P2: Disrupt AIF

T3: Conduct small unit raids, VCPs, C&K and C&S in Jazeera and Sofia areas

P3: Disrupt AIF and generate intel for future targeting

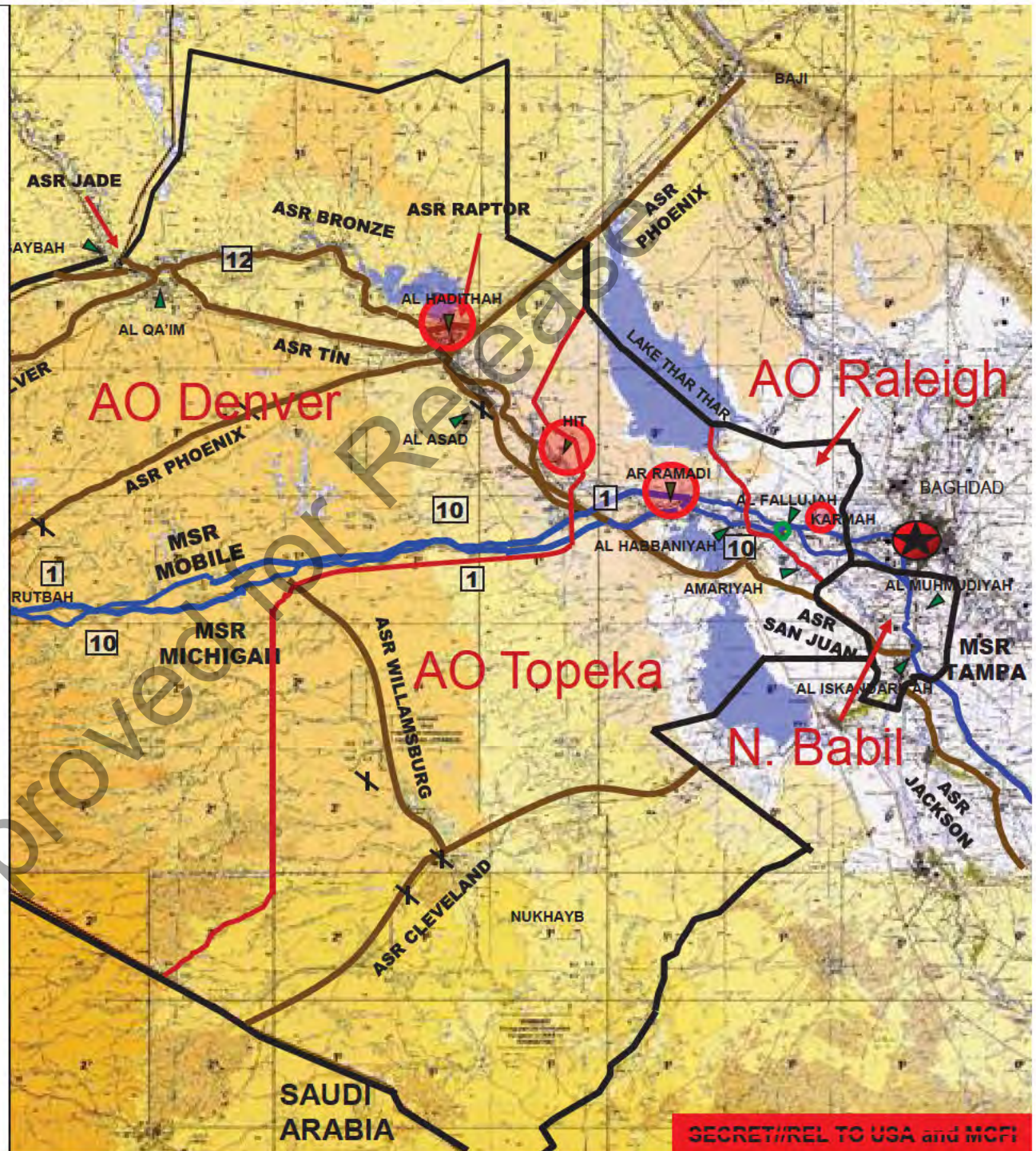
RCT-1 (SE 2): Focus disruption efforts north and east of Fallujah

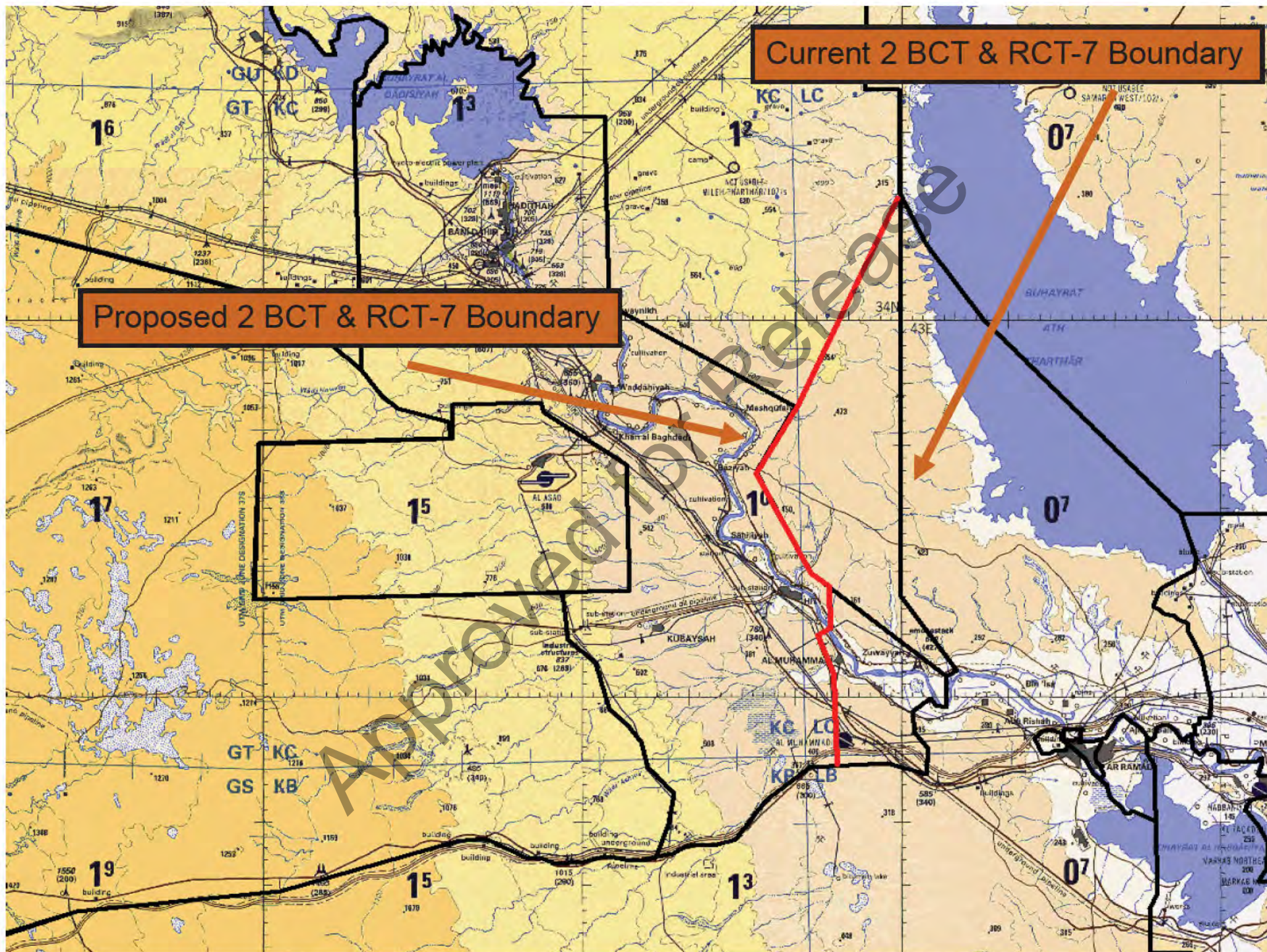
T1: Conduct small unit raids, VCPs, C&K and C&S

P1: Disrupt AIF and generate intel for future targeting

T2: Continue CA efforts to rebuild and repopulate Fallujah

P2: Restore basic services







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Operation RIVER BRIDGE

ConOps

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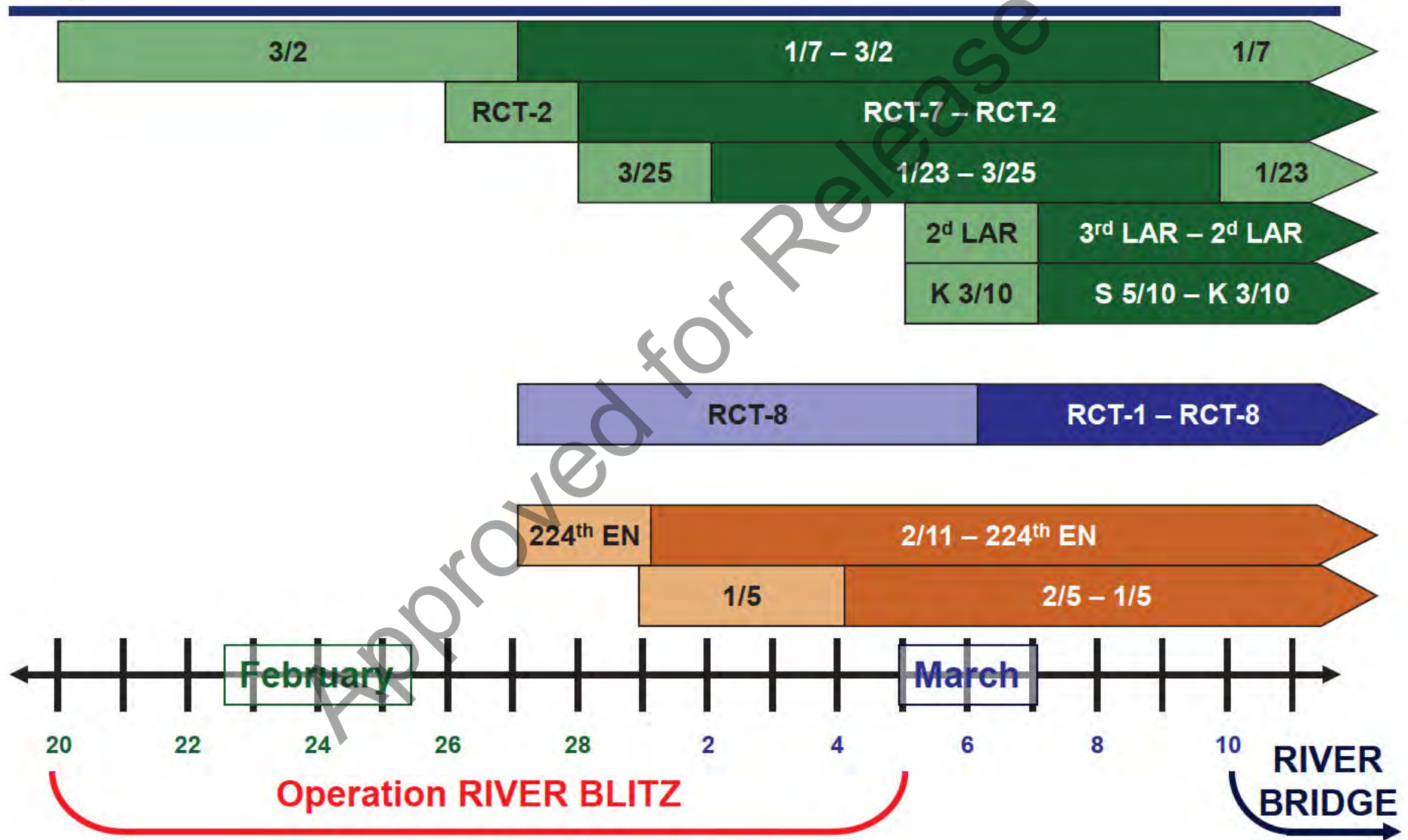


Operation RIVER BRIDGE

- Purpose:
 - Further disrupt and defeat AIF in Al Anbar and provide a bridging concept of operations that overlays and supports the RIP throughout AO Atlanta
- Method:
 - Exploit actionable intelligence resulting from RIVER BLITZ with focused offensive operations
 - Focus Division and SOF operations on emerging target sets
 - Continue to Interdict rat lines from Ramadi to Hit to Husaybah
 - Small unit operations (raids, snap VCPs, and presence patrols)
 - Continue to control access into and out of Ramadi
 - Continue integration of ISF in all DIV operations
 - IO campaign focuses on:
 - Continue to legitimize the ITG and the Iraqi Security Forces
 - Continuity of themes and messages during the 1st MarDiv and 2^d MarDiv RIP
 - Develop IO themes that exploit results of RIVER BLITZ
 - Continue engagement with newly elected Al Anbar leaders
 - Continue engagement with municipal leaders
 - Continue RSO&I of Iraqi Security Forces in AO Atlanta
 - Integrate ISR assets to assist in targeting and maximize opportunities for developing actionable intelligence
 - BPT target emerging HVIs
- Endstate:
 - AIF prevented from disrupting the RIP in AO Atlanta
 - Successful transition from 1st MarDiv to 2^d MarDiv with no operational pause
 - Increased level of security in Ramadi facilitating the emergence of the newly elected ITG

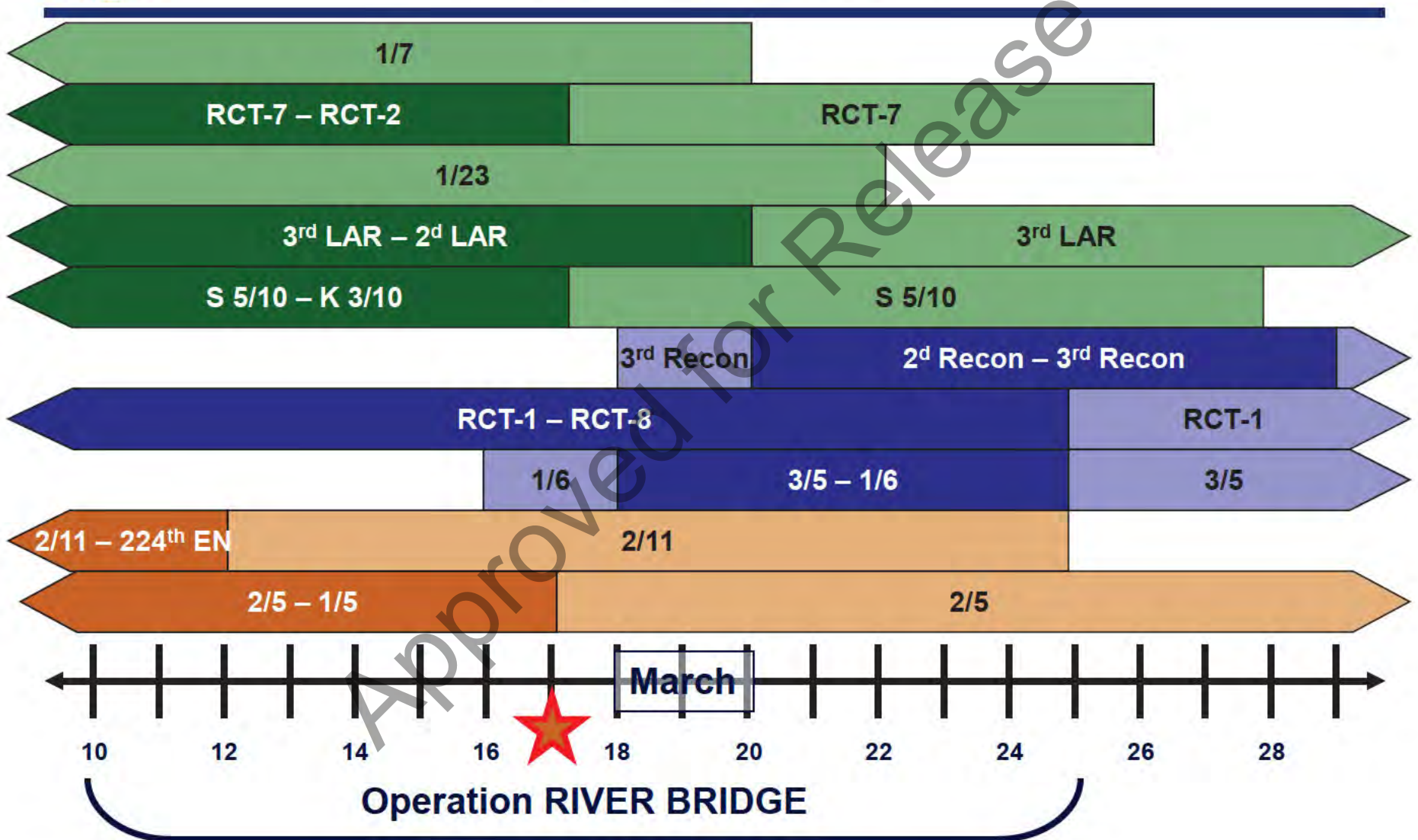


RIP Dates





RIP Dates





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Questions?

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MNC-I
Shaping Operation
STONEWALL
ISO I MEF
Operation RIVER
BLITZ/BRIDGE
Mission Analysis



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Threat Update

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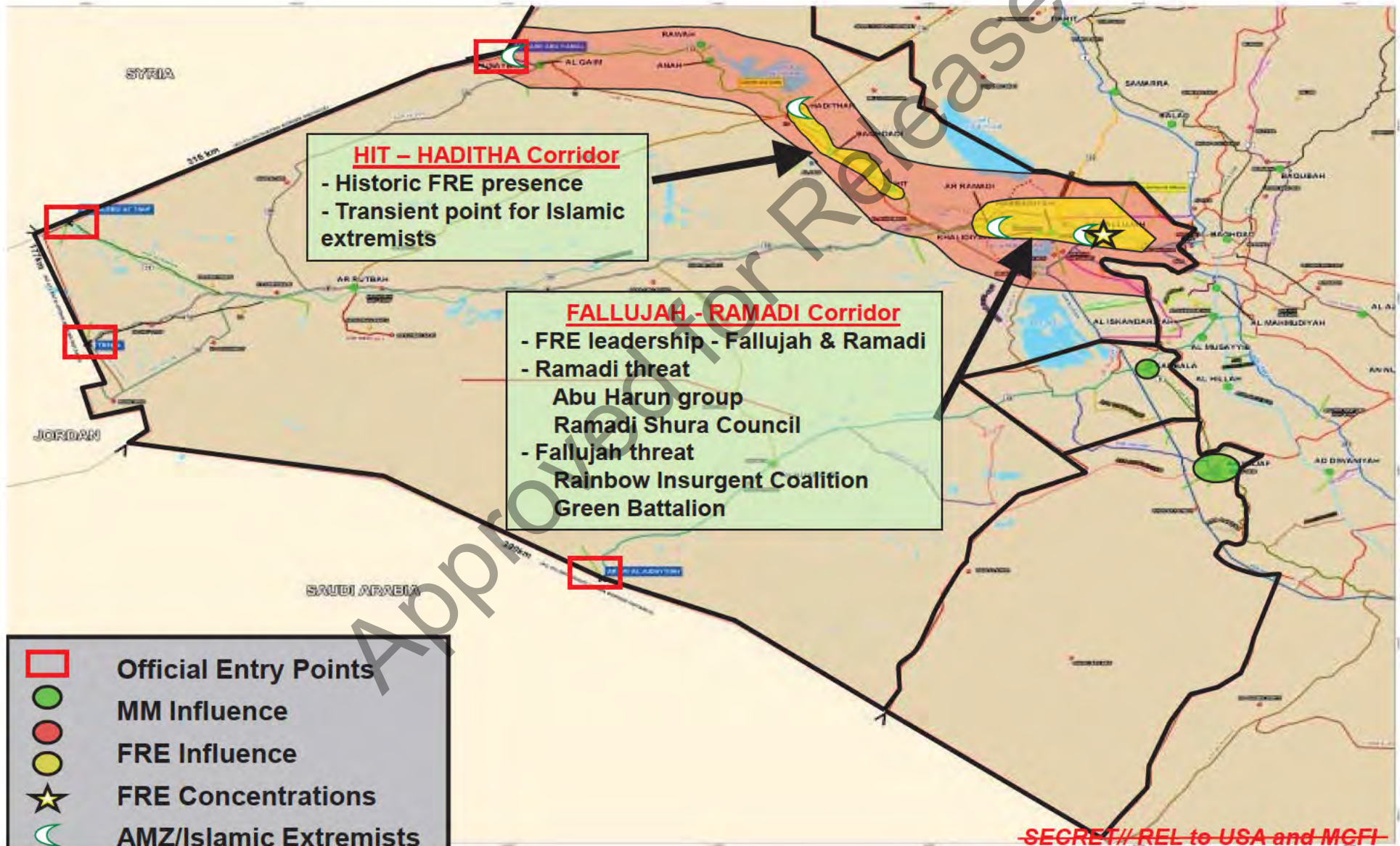
Insurgent Goals

- 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



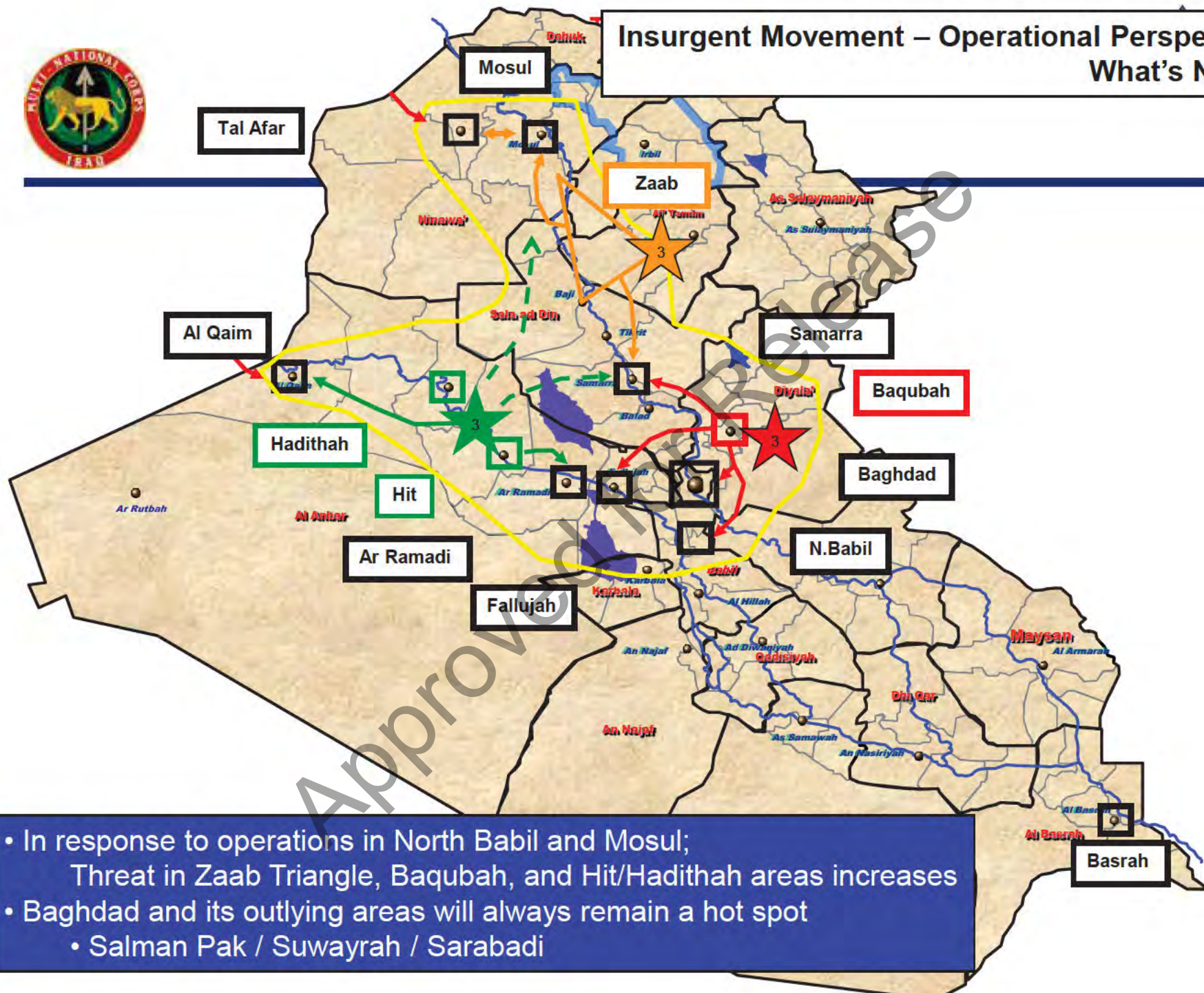
MNF-W Threat Assessment

- 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 IIG/MNF
- Insurgents increasingly conduct operations exploiting MNF boundaries

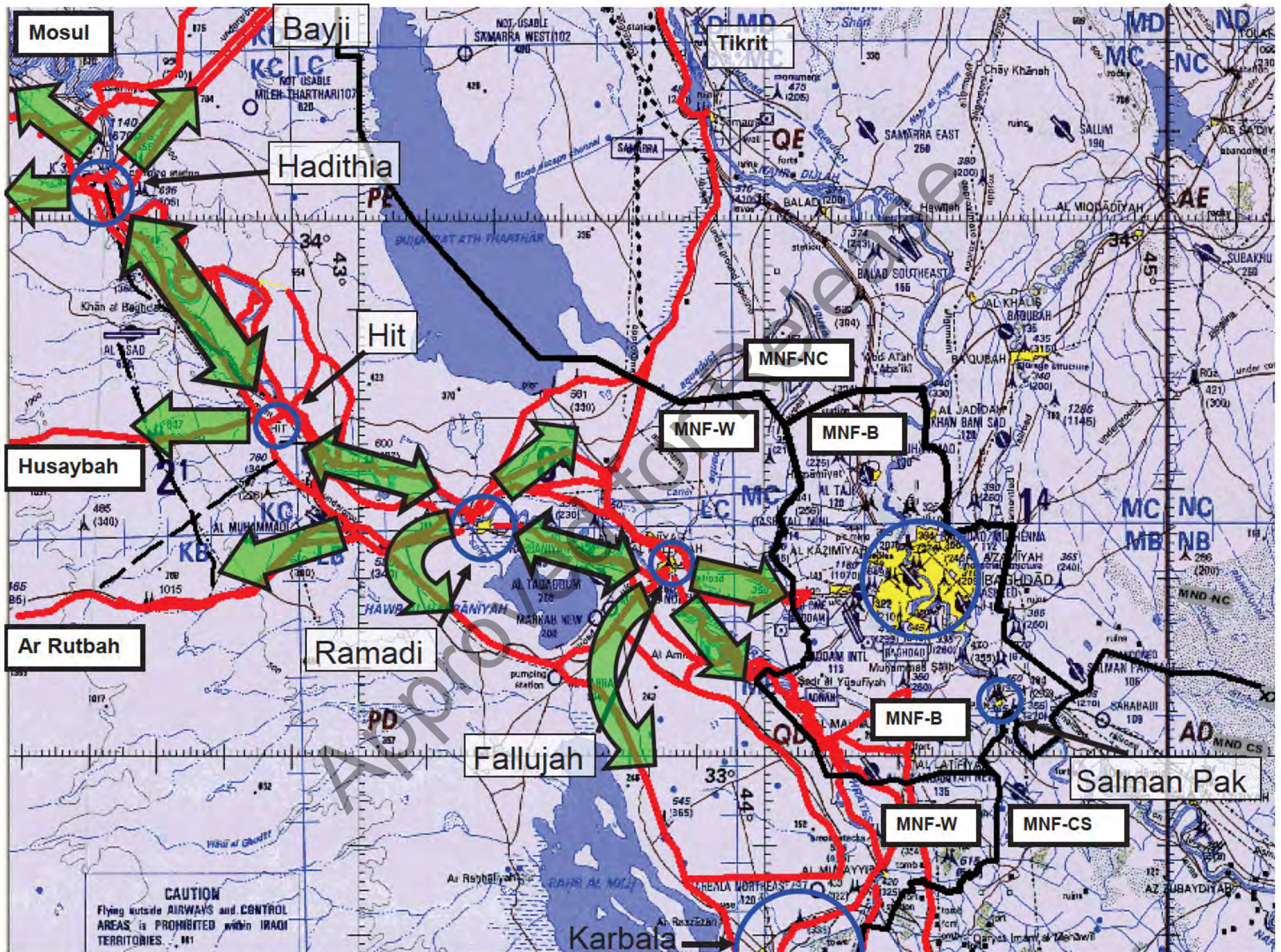




Insurgent Movement – Operational Perspective What's Next?



- 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.

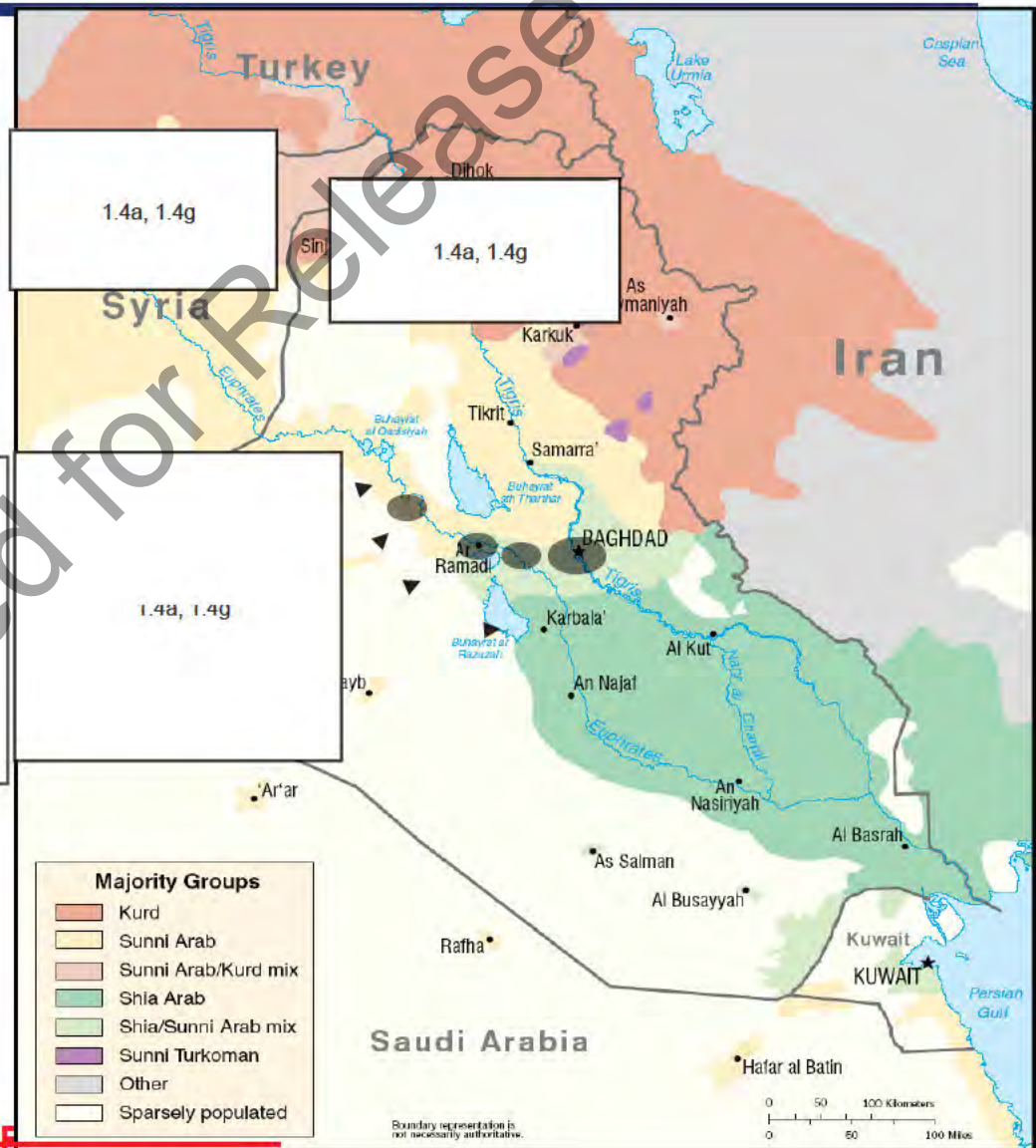
Purpose: IOT support Coalition Force operations in the western Al Anbar Province (AO Atlanta) and identify and track insurgent movement prior to, during, and following operations.



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).





Facts

- MEF RIP/TOA March 05
- 155 BCT TOA 14 Feb 05
- Ashura 19 Feb 05
- 1CD/3ID RIP/TOA 27 Feb 05
- TNA to be chosen and seated during this period
- Increase in total coalition troop presence during operation
- MOAG movement will impact MEF operations
- TNA will select Presidency Council during Feb/Mar

PSYOP

- B/9 POB(A) attached 1MARDIV for PSYOP Support
TPDD (production capability)
12x TPTs (dissemination)
- SOMS-B AM/FM TACON to B/9 POB(A) (dissemination)
- Marine COMCAM Print Assets support PSYOP production

C9

- Hiditha dam will undergo maint for 2 months beginning 15 Mar reducing electricity by 50% in the AO



Assumptions (Enemy)

- Only a Coalition presence and persistent pressure will remove insurgent control over population centers in the Western Corridor.
- Insurgent leaders established in Hit, Hadithah, Rawah, and Husaybah will attempt to break contact and reposition to areas of lesser threat prior to and during I MEF operations.
- Rank and file insurgents will engage Coalition Forces prior to breaking contact.
- AIF/FRE will attempt to influence the TNA Selection of the Presidency Council



Assumptions CF

- Newly arrived forces will not be as effective initially departing forces (SA)
- New troops and Use of Force (Mitigation)

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Assumptions (ITG/TNA)

- Shia/Kurd coalition will dominate new TNA
- TNA will continue to support coalition operations
- ISF relationship of TACON forces will remain same
- Sunni leaders seek place in new government
- Sunni populace disenchanted with election results (AIF influence)
- ITG/TNA does not object to this operation



Assumptions General

- No additional USAF/CFACC assets required for operation
- Ashura remains the focal point of Corps near term

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Pages 29 through 30 redacted for the following reasons:

1.4a, 1.4c, 1.4g

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Potential Support Requests

- UH-60 for ALS (PSYOP)
- Predator
- JSTARS
- MOAG Escort
- ASR Golden Security
- Logistics support for ISF

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Impacts other MSC's

- 1st CD/3rd ID RIP/TOA
- AIF/FRE relocation
- AERIAL ISR





Corps Shaping Operation STONEWALL 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



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.**

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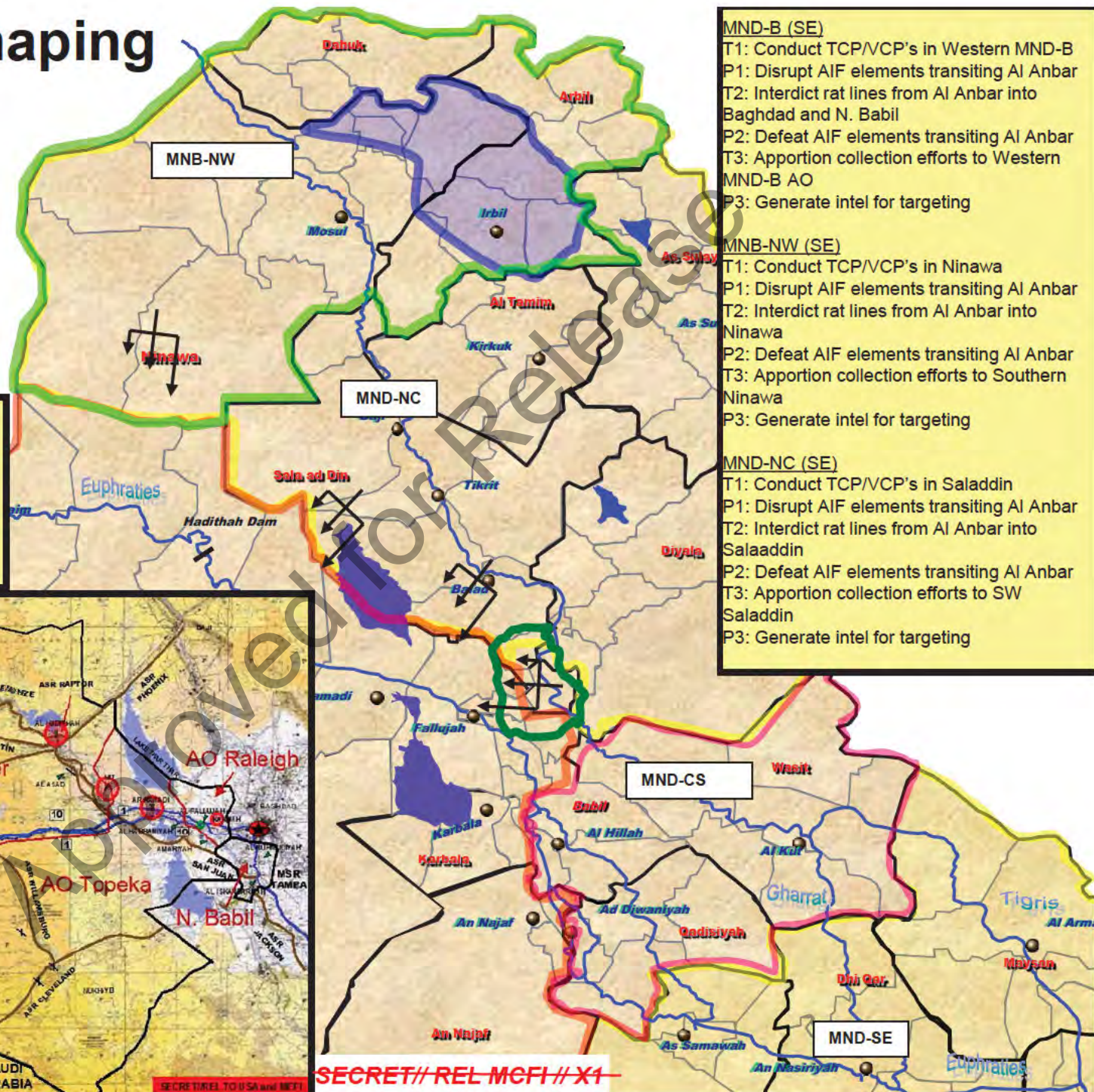


Proposed Commanders Intent

- **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



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Shaping in the Corps AO

- Continue to Develop and Refine Targets
 - Corps Intel Collection focus on AI 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 safehavens
 - AIF safe-havens denied throughout Corps AO (Gaps/Seams)
- Friendly
 - MEF TOA complete
 - MND-B TOA complete
 - Reduced AIF influence over Sunni Leadership



Tasks to Subordinates (1 of 4)

- MSCs
 - Increase security operations IOT prevent potential “Flair-ups” in sympathy
 - Manage internally displaced persons within their AOs
 - Increase TCPs prior to commencement of operation
 - In order to fix the AIF in place
 - Reduce unnecessary civilian movement
 - Interdict Cross MSC infiltration and exfiltration routes
 - Provide LNO Team to I MEF to synchronize operations/intel development
 - BPT provide ASR security on ASR Golden to Fallujah
- 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
 - Refocus available assets to cover infiltration and exfiltration routes
 - Refocus analysis efforts to identify HVIs rapidly
 - Coordinate with CAOC to position Corps Aerial ISR Platforms to support I MEF
 - BPT Coordinate with other MSCs to facilitate movement of MITTs
 - 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 RCIED 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



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
- PAO
 - Facilitate coverage by the Pan-Arabic and international Media
 - BPT Issue press release upon commencement of operations
 - Publicize increased measures in neighboring MSCs prior to the operation
 - In order to influence the AIF to remain in place prior to the start of the operation
 - Reduce unnecessary civilian movement (Pilgrim Impact)
 - Counter Misinformation
 - Another Fallujah
 - CF/ISF Atrocities
 - AIF Successes



Tasks to Subordinates(4 of 4)

- CMO
 - BPT Coordinate with MNF-I/IIG/IA/NGOs to deal with internally displaced persons
 - Resource security related projects in the AO prior to the operation
 - Resource HA/Infrastructure projects in the AO following the operation
 - Mitigate Haditha Dam repair impacts to Al Anbar
- 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



Proposed Timeline

