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**The Iraq War:
A Working Chronology**

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The Chronology of the Iraq War

18/19 March: Prelude

Operation SOUTHERN WATCH Coalition aircraft used precision-guided weapons today to target several Iraqi military targets in southern and western Iraq. The Coalition executed the strikes after Iraqi forces fired anti-aircraft artillery at Coalition aircraft patrolling the Southern No-Fly Zone south of the 33rd Parallel in Iraq. So far this year, Iraqi air defense troops had fired either surface-to-air missiles or anti-aircraft artillery more than 170 times.

Targets and locations were: communication sites near Ash Shuaybah, Mudaysis and Ruwayshid; long-range artillery near Az Zubayr; a mobile early-warning radar and an air defense command center at an Iraqi air base in western Iraq; long-range artillery on the Al Faw peninsula; a surface-to-surface missile system near Al Basrah; and an air traffic control radar near Al Basrah.

The Coalition struck the communications sites and the early-warning radar because they enhanced Iraq's integrated air-defense system. The artillery was struck because they were a danger to Coalition ground troops in Kuwait. The air traffic control radar was used to direct Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery fire at Coalition aircraft

Coalition aircraft dropped capitulation leaflets over suspected Iraqi troop locations. The leaflets gave detailed instructions about how Iraqi troops could avoid being harmed by Coalition forces in the event of military action. Although the Coalition has dropped millions of leaflets over the last few months, today was the first time that capitulation instructions were provided to Iraqi troops. The leaflets were dropped in an attempt to minimize Iraqi casualties if a military conflict occurs

19/20 March: G-Day

Limited Coalition attacks launched against selected military targets, including a leadership compound used by very senior members of the Iraqi regime, attacked by Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles from six US warships. Preliminary operations were also conducted against Iraqi air defence systems, surface-to-surface missiles, and artillery batteries to reduce the threat to Coalition forces in Kuwait.

The aircraft included F-117 Nighthawks and F-15E Strike Eagles. The following ships were involved in Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) strikes: USS Milius (DDG 69), USS Donald Cook (DDG 75), USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS Cowpens (CG 63), USS Montpelier (SSN 765), USS Cheyenne (SSN 773)

Two Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles fired at Coalition forces in Kuwait were reported to have been successfully intercepted by air defences. Another missile was reported to have landed near Camp Commando in Kuwait; no casualties were suffered.

The Patriot batteries successfully intercepted and destroyed two tactical ballistic missiles during an attack on Kuwait at approximately 12:24 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. (4:24 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. EST). Their guidance and control system locked onto the ballistic missiles, successfully engaging the targets with Hit to Kill PAC III and Guidance Enhanced Missiles (GEM).

20/21 March

The air campaign of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM launched into high gear shortly before 1:00 p.m. EST, as hundreds of Coalition Force aircraft and cruise missiles targeted select regime leadership and military targets in Baghdad and other various cities. Military command and control installations, structures and buildings were the targeted sites. Other cities with military sites targeted were the northern towns of Kirkuk, Mosul and Tikrit.

3 Commando Brigade conducted an amphibious assault on the Al Faw peninsula, encountering light resistance. Casualties were inflicted on the enemy and prisoners taken. Oil infrastructure was successfully secured to prevent Saddam Hussein from attempting to release oil as an environmental weapon. Elements of 1(UK) Armoured Division also entered Iraq along with other Coalition forces, thrusting towards Basrah.

US Marines seized the port of Umm Qasr and Royal Navy minehunters began work to clear the associated waterways of any mines.

The 3rd US Infantry Division advanced north towards Baghdad. US troops, supported by British specialist personnel, secured oilfields in the Basrah area.

US warships and Royal Navy submarines launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles at high value targets including command and control centres in Baghdad. Three U.S. ships and two British submarines that are part of the Coalition Forces Maritime Component launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs) during last night's military operations to disarm Iraq. The ships included the Aegis guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain (DDG 56) in the Persian Gulf and two Los Angeles class submarines, USS Columbia (SSN 771) and USS Providence (SSN 719). The Royal Navy submarines which launched Tomahawks include the Trafalgar class HMS Turbulent and Swiftsure class HMS Splendid.

Other Royal Navy vessels provided naval gunfire to support the advance of 3 Commando Brigade.

In the air Coalition aircraft including RAF assets were involved in a wide variety of operations. Tornado GR4s attacked key facilities and Harrier GR7s provided close air support. Other aircraft, including tankers, provided invaluable support.

A US Marine Corps CH-46 Sea Knight with US and UK personnel aboard crashed in Kuwait south of Umm Qasr, near Highway 801 in Kuwait; there were no survivors. Enemy action is not thought to have been the cause.

21/22 March

US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld outlined the military objectives of Operation Iraqi Freedom:

- First, end the regime of Saddam Hussein.
- Second, to identify, isolate and eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.
- Third, to search for, to capture and to drive out terrorists from that country.
- Fourth, to collect such intelligence as we can related to terrorist networks.
- Fifth, to collect such intelligence as we can related to the global network of illicit weapons of mass destruction
- Sixth, to end sanctions and to immediately deliver humanitarian support to the displaced and to many needy Iraqi citizens.
- Seventh, to secure Iraq's oil fields and resources, which belong to the Iraqi people.
- And last, to help the Iraqi people create conditions for a transition to a representative self-government.

A major air campaign was launched as ground forces continued to make good progress, aimed at several hundred military targets throughout Iraq. Coalition aircraft flew some 3,000 sorties in the air attack.

During the 24 hour period that started March 21st at 1 pm ET, the coalition flew 1,500 total sorties, 700 of which were flown by strike aircraft. The rest were jammers, planes protecting bombers, surveillance, etc.

- They launched a total of 600 cruise missiles -- 500 Navy sea-launched cruise missiles [Tomahawks] and 100 Air Force air-launched cruise missiles [CALCM]
- About 1,000 targets, aka aim-points. Military command and control installations, structures and buildings were the targeted sites. Other cities with military sites targeted were the northern towns of Kirkuk, Mosul and Tikrit.
- Planes involved: B-52 bombers, B-2 stealth bombers, F-117 stealth fighter bombers. F-15s used for counter air defense. Have encountered anti-aircraft fire but no opposition from Iraqi planes.

- The air campaign was adjusted in stride, as it was underway. Some planes hit they targets with which they were tasked upon departure, others had their targets shifted en route. Gen. Moseley, head of the air campaign, was described as "the quarterback of the operation, calling audibles in response to changing circumstances."

Tomahawk missiles were also launched from 30 U.S. Navy and coalition warships currently assigned to Naval Forces Central Command launched Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs) during last night's military operations to disarm Iraq. The U.S. ships which launched Tomahawks were USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS Mobile Bay (CG 53), USS San Jacinto (CG 56), USS Cowpens (CG 63), USS Shiloh (CG 67), USS Briscoe (DD 977), USS Deyo (DD 989), USS Fletcher (DD 992), USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), USS John S. McCain (DDG 56), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Milius (DDG 69), USS Higgins (DDG 71), USS Donald Cook (DDG 75), USS O'Kane (DDG 77), USS Porter (DDG 78), USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79), USS Augusta (SSN 710), USS Providence (SSN 719), USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720), USS Key West (SSN 722), USS Louisville (SSN 724), USS Newport News (SSN 750), USS San Juan (SSN 751), USS Montpelier (SSN 765), USS Toledo (SSN 769), USS Columbia (SSN 771), USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) and two Royal Navy submarines, HMS Splendid and HMS Turbulent.

The RAF's new Storm Shadow missile was successfully used for the first time on operations.

The US V Corps secured bridges over the Euphrates in their rapid advance on Baghdad.

At Basrah, the Iraqi 51st Mechanised Division surrendered as US Marines and the UK's 7th Armoured Brigade secured the area.

Coalition forces secured the port of Umm Qasr in Southern Iraq at 4 p.m. and began the groundwork for beginning the delivery of humanitarian assistance supplies to Iraqi people through this strategic port. Forces from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and the 3rd Commando Brigade Royal Marines were involved in the seizure of the port, one of the first objectives in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Securing the port of Umm Qasr allows international aid agencies to begin the much-needed work of getting humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people

At approximately 6 p.m. the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force secured the gas oil separation plants (GOSPs), crude oil export facilities and oil wells in the Rumaylah Oil Fields. Although the oil infrastructure was confirmed to have been extensively booby-trapped, the installations were secured intact and US and British troops began clearing the demolition charges.

U.S. Marines from the 1st Marine Division, and U.K. Royal Marines combined their efforts to secure the critical Iraqi infrastructure. "Over half of the Iraqi oil production,

approximately 1.6 million barrels per day produced by 1,074 Rumaylah oil wells, has been secured for the Iraqi people,” said Lt. Gen James Conway, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Four GOSPs, a key pumping station at Az Zubayr, a manifold and metering station on the Al Faw peninsula, and the offshore crude oil export facilities have been secured and are critical nodes of the larger oil infrastructure in Southern Iraq. These key facilities give the Iraqi people the ability to preserve 85 percent of the function of those fields. The Mina al Bakr export facility was captured intact and in working order. The Khor al Amaya export facility was destroyed during the war between Iran and Iraq in the 1980s, and is currently non-operating. Both facilities are capable of handling 1.6 million barrels per day when operational.

Six major GOSPs, covering an area approximately 50 kilometers in length, included seven oil wells that have been sabotage and are on fire. Oil fire fighting crews will move into the areas at a designated time to snuff out the fires. Flame trenches filled with oil were also set aflame in a deliberate action by Iraqi troops. Some of the deserted plants were improperly shut down by Iraqis, causing oil pumping from the well to overflow the pumping station’s oil tanks. The oil is currently seeping around the area and could pose a potential threat of explosion if the oil reaches the burning wells.

Three main missions are then conducted. The first is safe shutdown procedures, which properly shut down the facilities and keep the oil from pumping. Later, after the stations have been improved, they will resume pumping. The other main missions include spill containment and oil fire fighting, overseen by members of the United Kingdom forces, the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, and contracted civilian contractors.

Royal Navy and US Navy minehunters continued clearance operations in the southern waterways to allow supplies to be shipped into Umm Qasr. In particular, RFA Sir Galahad was stood by to deliver humanitarian aid.

Two Royal Navy Sea King Mk 7 Airborne Early Warning helicopters collided over the northern Arabian Gulf. There were no survivors from the six British and one US crew members aboard. Two US Marines were killed in action in southern Iraq.

22/23 March

Air effort continues. In the 24 hour period starting at 06:00 [local Saudi Arabia] on March 22, US aircraft flew more than 1,500 sorties. This includes the US Navy figures but does not include allies.

- Of those, 800 were "strike sorties," or bombing missions.
- There were about 500 aimpoints, or targets.

- The Navy s reports launching more than 400 Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missiles to date.
- Pilots continued to report taking heavy anti-aircraft fire and sporadic launches of surface-to-air missiles.
- Targets included Iraqi Integrated Air Defense Systems (IADS), regime command and control, regime security, regime leadership and weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).
- The remaining sorties included intelligence, surveillance & reconnaissance (ISR), close air support, electronic jamming, air refueling, intra- and inter-theater airlift, combined search and rescue and interdiction.
- On Friday, USAF F-117 stealth fighters "struck five strategic targets in Baghdad using a new precision-guided munition, the EGBU-27... the strike missions were able to precisely hit communication nodes and command bunkers."
- Sorties originated from as far away as Whiteman AFB, MISSOURI, the Indian Ocean, and the United Kingdom, as well as being flown from 30 locations throughout the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility (AOR) and five Navy aircraft carriers. The B-2s flew the longest missions, lasting approximately 34-hours round-trip.

There are now more than 170,000 US Army, US Marine and allied ground forces in Iraq.

The US advance north continued but encountered stiffer resistance in some locations, including at An Nasiriyah, where twelve US troops were reported missing. US soldiers apparently captured by Iraqi forces were subsequently paraded on State television.

Operations to secure Umm Qasr continued.

Sporadic resistance continued at Umm Qasr. A prisoner of war camp was under construction in the area to accommodate properly the hundreds of Iraqi troops who had surrendered in the area. Work continued to make safe the booby-trapped oil installations in southern Iraq.

An RAF GR4 Tornado aircraft from RAF Marham, which was returning from an operational mission, was engaged near the Kuwaiti border by a Patriot missile battery. Both aircrew were killed. The next of kin have been informed.

USCENTCOM commander Tommy Franks and General Brooks, summarize combat operations to date as follows:ⁱ

General Tommy Franks: “The initiation of combat operations -- we refer to that as D-day. The introduction of special operation forces -- we refer to that as S-Day. The introduction of ground forces, G-Day. And the introduction of shock air forces, A-Day.

“Additionally, a number of emerging targets have been struck along the way and will continue to be struck as they emerge. So the sequence you have seen up to this point has been S-G-A. That sequence was based on our intelligence reads, how we see the enemy, and on our sense of the capabilities of our own forces.”

Brigadier General Vincint Brooks: “...I want to take a few minutes to brief you now on some of the operations that have occurred by the coalition over the last several of days. The operation of course began on the 19th of March, and since that time, coalition forces have already achieved a number of several key mission objectives.

Our first effort is aggressive and direct attacks to disrupt theregime’s key command, control, communications, integrated air defense and ballistic missiles using various targeting and methods that will achieve the desired effects. This video shows an attack against an Ababil-100 in southern Iraq, and resulted in its destruction.

Our second focus is on special operations. Coalition special operations forces entered Iraq at night, after destroying Iraqi military outposts, The special operation forces then began looking for Saddam Hussein’s and the regime’s weapons of mass destruction and their ballistic missiles that threaten their neighbors. Additionally, coalition special operations forces saved three key oil terminals that are used for export through the Gulf, and these terminals are key to the future of Iraq. By preventing certain destruction, the coalition has preserved the future of Iraq. This is the area where the three terminals were in southern Iraq, and in the Arabian Gulf. On these platforms we found a variety of things. We found weapons, ammuniton, and explosives. These explosives are not meant for defenders.

Our coalition maritime forces have destroyed Iraqi naval forces, as the following video shows. This is a patrol boat being attacked from the air, and in a moment you’ll see the secondary explosion completing its destruction.

They are also very active in ensuring that the waterways remain open and unmined so that Iraq is not cut off from the aid that is prepared to flow in.... Interdictions done by our coalition maritime forces and others over the last few days prevented, for sure, the release of 139 floating mines into the Khor Abdullah, which is an inlet that joins the Iraqi inland waterways with the Arabian Gulf.

Ground maneuver forces attacked to seize the key Rumaila oil fields, simultaneously began an unprecedented combined arms penetration deep into Iraq. The attack continues as we speak, and has already moved the distance of the longest maneuver in the 1991 Gulf War in one quarter of the time.

The oil fields were spared destruction that was intended by the regime because of the effectiveness of these attacks.... wells twere set afire on the 19th in the afternoon, before the coalition attack began. By the next day, the land component had already entered Iraq and had prevented any further destruction. And this is video from the entering forces. And the good news is only nine of the roughly 500 oil wells that are in the Rumalah oil fields—only nine were sabotaged by the regime. The flame on the bottom shows where that location is. All the rest of them are okay.

I should add that the power of information has been key throughout this operation, and it is truly having the effect of saving lives—of the Iraqi people and military units who are choosing not to fight and die for a doomed regime. The leaders from several regular army divisions surrendered to coalition forces, and their units abandoned their equipment and returned to their homes, just as the coalition had instructed.

We know that there are other forces on the battlefield that we haven’t even arrived at yet, and there are Iraqi units that are preparing to surrender even now as we speak. These are lines of roughly 700 Iraqi soldiers that we imaged in the desert away from their equipment, awaiting our arrival.

The coalition is committed to disarming Iraq. But the coalition is equally committed to bringing humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people. Our humanitarian work in Iraq is only beginning. The U.S. military, coalition partners and other civilian organizations from around the world have positioned millions of meals, medicines and other supplies for the Iraqi people.”

23/24 March

USAF planes continue to encounter heavy anti-aircraft fire and some are returning to base riddled with bullet holes. The air campaign on March 23rd focused mainly on:

- Providing close-air support for ground troops advancing in the southwest and in the north.
- Taking out Republican Guard targets in and around Baghdad.
- US aircraft flew about 2,000 sorties today. Of those, 900 were strike runs. [This includes the close-air support mission].
- Still no action from the Iraqi Air Force.
- Baghdad was hit by both cruise missiles and precision-guided bombs dropped from planes.
- Just about 80 percent of the bomb drops were precision-guided, as close-air support pilots dropped dumb gravity bombs on Iraqi ground forces.
- Officials confirm two Tomahawk cruise missiles did accidentally land in Turkey. No injuries.
- Cruise missile figures continue to be confusing and conflicting.. Navy says they have fired more than 500 Tomahawks since the start of the war. [Only 45 shot off yesterday; 70 a day earlier].
- There have been "6 or 7" Tomahawk failures -- duds that never left the tube and others than dropped in the water -- out of all 500.

US forces advanced beyond An Nasiriyah, while aviation forces attacked Republican Guard formations near Baghdad; one US helicopter was lost.

In the north, US forces reinforce their presence and target elements of regime support units and the Republican Guard. In and around Baghdad, they continue air and special operations activities with good success. In the south, r air units continue the campaign towards Baghdad and continue to operate in and around the area in support of our ground forces.

US combat operations meet with resistance in a number of locations, the most notable of which is in the vicinity of An- Nasiriyah. United States Marines defeated an enemy attack there while sustaining a number of killed and wounded in the sharpest engagement of the war thus far.

Also in the vicinity of An-Nasiriyah, a United States Army supply convoy was ambushed by irregular Iraqi forces. A number of American service members were wounded in that action. As a result of that action, 12 U.S. service members are reported missing.

A U.S. Air Force MQ-1 Predator found and destroyed a radar-guided anti-aircraft artillery piece in southern Iraq Saturday at 5:25 EST making it the first Predator strike of Operation Iraqi Freedom, defense officials announced. The multi-role Predator used one AGM-114K "Hellfire II" missile to strike an Iraqi ZSU-23-4 Mobile anti-aircraft artillery gun outside the southern Iraqi town of Al Amarah.

A Patriot firing battery successfully intercepted and destroyed an incoming Iraqi tactical ballistic missile during an attack on U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait at approximately 1:00 a.m. (5:00 p.m. EST). Two bright orange flashes were seen over Kuwait as the engaging PATRIOT missile destroyed the Iraqi TBM.

Mine clearance operations in the southern waterways made good progress, with half the route to Umm Qasr made safe. Logistic preparations continued to allow the shipping of humanitarian supplies once the route was cleared. Basrah airport was secured.

Two British soldiers were reported missing after an attack on UK military vehicles in southern Iraq. In a separate incident, a British soldier was killed in action at Al Zubayr, near Basrah. The next of kin of all three have been informed.

24/25 March

Coalition air attacks continued against Republican Guard Formations and regime command and control and military formations virtually all over the country with precision munitions and precision application of those munitions

During combat air operations at approximately 3:40 p.m. local time Monday, a U.S. F-16 fighter engaged a U.S. Patriot battery approximately 30 miles south of An-Najaf, Iraq. The F-16 pilot executed the strike against the Patriot while en-route to a mission near Baghdad. No soldiers were injured or killed by the strike. The incident is under review to ensure the future safety of the Patriot crews and aircrews.

US forces continued to advance north of An Nasiriyah British forces completed operations to secure Umm Qasr.

The Forward Command Element of the Military Coordination and Liaison Command, led by U.S. Marine Maj. Gen. Pete Osman, arrived in Northern Iraq and began work. Osman then meet with all primary and numerous other Iraqi Opposition leaders in the region, conveying U.S. intentions and explaining U.S. plans and operations in Northern Iraq. The MCLC's continued presence and activities in the region aids stability to Northern Iraq, as the organization fosters open communication and synchronized efforts among the various organizations operating there. The MCLC was established by U.S. European Command in order to conduct liaison and coordination with military and humanitarian assistance

organizations. Now under the operational control of U.S. Central Command, the organization's function is to provide a stabilizing effect in the northern region, coordinate international activities in Northern Iraq and support humanitarian assistance efforts.

British artillery destroyed Iraqi mortars and guns that had opened fire on Iraqi civilian areas in Basrah. 3 Commando Brigade, supported by helicopters and US and UK aircraft, defeated a tank attack, destroying nineteen T-55s.

A British soldier from the Black Watch was killed in action at Al Zubayr. In a separate incident, two more soldiers were killed when their Challenger 2 tank was accidentally hit by another Challenger 2 during an engagement with Iraqi forces.

25/26 March

Weather has an impact on the battlefield, with high winds, with some rain, with some thunderstorms throughout the country. However, precision all-weather weapon systems and an aggressive integrated operations plan by air and land components allow coalition forces to maintain and increase pressure on the regime on all fronts, even in the bad weather.

The air component flies over 1400 combat and combat support missions over Iraq paying particular attention to the Iraqi Republican Guards, while attacking surface-to-surface missiles in a time-sensitive fashion, these missile systems that affect and threaten Kuwait and other neighbors in the region. They also focus on key regime command-and-control facilities. Command and control targets in Baghdad were attacked.

The US Air Force reported flew more than 1,500 sorties on March 25th, 700 of which were strike missions. They had about 100 targets. The strikes focused on regime command and control, leadership and Republican Guard units in and around Baghdad.

They also flew extensive close air support in the south (Basra), north and west. Aircraft supporting ground troops (mostly A-10 Warthogs) continue to take heavy anti-aircraft fire... and are returning shot up. The Air Force says the maintenance crews that keep these planes flying, are the unsung heroes in the fighting.

The resulting combination of air operations, direct land-based attack and precision special operations creates a synergy that is key to the coalition strategy.

Coalition land forces continue to progress northward with engagements in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah and Basra, and some casualties, but inflict more on the enemy and destroy a number of their tanks, artillery pieces and troop formations.

US forces fought significant engagements near An Najaf and An Nasiriyah. The Ba'ath Party headquarters in As Samawah was destroyed.

Iraqi tanks advancing out of Basrah were engaged and destroyed.

British troops conducted effective raids against paramilitary forces in the Basrah area. Engineering work to construct a fresh water pipeline from Kuwait into southern Iraq continued.

26/27 March

A United States Air Force B-2 Spirit bomber targeted and struck a major link in Iraq's national communication network. The communication link occupied a large tower on the east bank of the Tigris River in downtown Baghdad. The strike with two precision-guided munitions was to degrade the ability of the Hussein regime to command and control the actions of Iraq's military forces. Battle damage assessment is ongoing

US airborne forces landed in northern Iraq. US forces defeated attacks near An Najaf and An Nasiriyah.

Southeast of An Najaf, there were a series of engagements that occurred over the period of about three to four hours.

Coalition forces of U.S. Fifth Corps sustained a few damaged vehicles, and in turn inflicted significant damage on the Iraqi force.

Near An Nasiriyah, the First Marine Expeditionary Force gained control of a hospital that was in use as a paramilitary headquarters, staging area and storage area. Notably within the hospital, there were 200 weapons, Iraqi military uniforms, one tank, 3000 chemical protective suits, and nerve agent antidote injectors.

Special Operations forces continued to set conditions for our conventional forces by calling in close air support on military targets, including last night the destruction of the Baath Party headquarters in As Samawa.

UK forces conducted aggressive patrols in the Al Faw area and in Umm Qasr to increase the security in those areas, and also conducted a raid that destroyed a Baath Party headquarters in Basrah. They continue to have success against the regulars in the area.

Maritime forces began to clear the Khor Abdullah all the way up to the Port of Umm Qasr.

Two mines were discovered at sea close to the swept channel leading to Umm Qasr: the arrival of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Sir Galahad, carrying humanitarian supplies, was delayed to allow that part of the swept channel to be checked by RN and USN minehunters

A squadron of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards eliminated an Iraqi tank unit and infantry positions near Basrah without suffering losses.

27/28 March

US forces defeated further paramilitary counter-attacks north of An Najaf. The 3rd Infantry Division advanced beyond Diwanayah east of An Najaf, and an airborne brigade combat team from the 173rd airborne Brigade parachuted into an airfield in northern Iraq yesterday evening.

East of An Najaf, coalition forces of the U.S. Fifth Corps were attacked by vehicle-mounted irregulars, where there had been a report of some significant number of vehicles approaching. The reports were not accurate in terms of the size of the force, but Fifth Corps units defeated the attack, destroying most of the force.

In An Nasiriyah, the First Marine Expeditionary Force defeated an attack by irregulars, supported by armored personnel carriers, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft artillery systems. The fight lasted for about 90 minutes. The Marines in that battle did sustain some wounded but remained fully effective.

UK forces continued aggressive patrols and operations in the Al Faw and Basrah areas, and they also have inflicted considerable damage on paramilitaries south of Basrah and near Al Faw.

Maritime forces continues its efforts to expand the width of the cleared channel in Khor Abdullah. The channel was opened all the way up to Umm Qasr, and about 60 yards wide. As it was expanded that broader to get to about a 200-yard-wide pathway, Coalition forces identified some bottom-influenced mines. These are sub-surface mines that are able to be programmed, if need be, to count the number of hulls that pass over top of them, and at a certain point, however programmed, they detonate.

Following further mine clearance operations, the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Sir Galahad safely arrived in Umm Qasr, delivering a major consignment of humanitarian aid.

A soldier from D Squadron, The Blues & Royals, was killed in an incident in southern Iraq.

28/29 March

Ba'ath Party headquarters in nine locations were attacked by Coalition air and ground forces.

Land forces consolidated territory gained over the last several days, and conducted active security operations to eliminate identified terrorist death squads. The First Marine Expeditionary Force continued its advance beyond Kulat Sukhayr. The Fifth Corps, defeated paramilitary attacks north of An Najaf, and continued to shape the battlefield for future operations.

US forces captured a major Iraqi ammunition depot in central Iraq near Tallil. Other Coalition forces secured additional bridges across the Euphrates and launched offensives

to isolate Iraqi forces holding out in the An Nasiriyah and As Samawah areas. V Corps bombarded the Republican Guard Medina Division.

In the 3rd Infantry Division sector, soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team attacked and cleared the enemy from quarries to the south of Karbala. At one point, the brigade came under ineffective and uncoordinated enemy artillery fire, which was suppressed with radar-directed multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) counterfire from the Corps' artillery.

The remainder of the 3rd Infantry Division attacked north throughout its zone to defeat small pockets of enemy forces. These attacks resulted in the destruction of two 57mm air defense artillery systems, two armored personnel carriers, one artillery piece, nine technical vehicles, several enemy KIAs and approximately 30 enemy prisoners of war.

The 101st Air Assault Division conducted patrols northwest and south of An Najaf, which resulted in the capture or defeat of one 120mm mortar, four weapons caches, several enemy KIA, and approximately 20 enemy prisoners of war.

US helicopters attacked the Republican Guard Medina division near Karbala. Apache Attack Helicopters from the 101st Airborne Air Assault Division pounded the Republican Guards Medina Division during an early evening (March 28) Deep Strike in the vicinity of the city of Karbala. The Deep Attack was a deliberate, coordinated operation directed against an elite, well-entrenched Republican Guard division. The initial battle damage assessment from the "Screaming Eagles" attack reports the destruction of tanks, Armored Personnel Carriers, an anti-aircraft artillery system, and a radar unit, in addition to numerous enemy personnel.

Outside of As Samawa, a white pick-up truck attempted to crash an 82nd Airborne Division check point. One enemy was KIA and three were wounded when Paratroopers engaged the truck. No U.S. soldiers were wounded in the attack. In other action, the 82nd Airborne Division conducted several patrols around As Samawaa. These patrols resulted in the capture or defeat of numerous enemy KIA and WIA, approximately 20 enemy prisoners of war, two mortars, and 2 technical vehicles. As of yesterday, soldiers from V Corps had captured approximately 700 enemy prisoners of war

U.K. forces succeeded in preventing any reinforcement of Basra while securing the southern oil fields, and the key point of -- the key port of Umm Qasr.

In the north, coalition forces kept pressure on regime forces while maintaining stability in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

Coalition special operations forces continue their actions throughout all of Iraq. A operation occurred at night in An-Nasiriyah involving special operations aircraft destroying two paramilitary headquarters.

Maritime forces clear the mines found in the channel of Khor Abdullah, near buoy number 24 . The waterway has been reopened for the arrival of much needed humanitarian supplies.

USCENTCOM describes missile defense activity as follows: “a total of about -- a total of 12 missiles have been fired. We believe them to be in the Ababil-100 or Al-Samoud family, and those have been launched from within Iraq toward Kuwait. We're seeing a rate of about one per day at this point, and all of the threatening launches have been intercepted by Patriot missiles. Additionally, we have established combat air patrols near the areas where most of the launches are occurring. We have been successful in destroying a number of launchers before and after they're fired, and we're actively hunting for them.”

US airborne forces landed in northern Iraq

British forces moved to interdict northern routes into Basrah. The major oil refinery at Basrah was secured.

29/30 March

Coalition aircraft attacked air defence, command and control, and intelligence facilities in the Baghdad area.

3 Commando Brigade launched an offensive near Basrah which secured Abu al Khasib. A Royal Marine was killed in action on the Al Faw peninsula, and a Royal Signals NCO died in a road traffic accident in Kuwait.

A fresh-water pipeline from Kuwait to Umm Qasr was completed, delivering 625,000 gallons of water per day.

30/31 March:

General Franks defined current operational objectives as:

- “First, the coalition has secured the oil fields in the south from regime destruction, which they attempted, and this vital resource has been preserved for Iraq's future.
- Second, we have air and ground freedom of action in western Iraq, working to protect Iraq's neighbors from potential regime use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Third, our air forces work 24 hours a day across every square foot of Iraq. And every day the regime loses more of its military capability.
- Fourth, we're now staging and conducting air operations from a number of Iraqi airfields which are now under coalition control.
- Fifth, coalition forces have attacked and destroyed a massive terrorist facility in the last 48 hours in northern Iraq, and ground forces, as we speak, are exploiting the results of that strike.

- Sixth, the entire coastline of Iraq has been secured and her ports stand today as a gateway for humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people. As you know, the first humanitarian shipments have arrived in convoys, and additional shipments are on the way.
- Seventh, the coalition has in fact introduced a very capable ground force into northern Iraq. These forces, along with large numbers of special operations troops, have prevented the rekindling of historic feuding which we've seen in years past between the Turks and the Kurds, and these forces do in fact represent a serious northern threat to regime forces.
- Eighth, a large and capable ground force has attacked to within 60 miles of Baghdad on multiple fronts, and they currently maintain readiness levels of their combat systems above 90 percent mission capable. As we speak, elements of that ground force are continuing the attack. The regime is in trouble, and they know it.
- Ninth, in the past 24 hours, I have received reports that coalition forces are working with local Iraqis in the city of An Nasiriyah, and the death squads that operate -- the squads of gangs, regime gangs that operate in that city, have come under fire. The Iraqis in and around An Nasiriyah are helping us once again as we speak by providing records on Ba'ath Party officials and members of the regime attempting to operate in and around An Nasiriyah. Similarly, we see from day to day Iraqis coming to our forces, linking up with free Iraqi forces, discussing the past, and wanting to discuss their future

“...this military campaign will be like no other before. We will attack the enemy, have and will continue to attack the enemy, at times and at places of coalition choosing. Sometimes simultaneously, sometimes sequentially.

“Let me talk for just a minute about the road ahead. We'll continue to surprise the enemy by attacking at all times of day and night all over the battlefield. Coalition forces will continue to advance on Baghdad while the Iraqi regime will continue to lose control of the country. The regime will continue in the days ahead to locate military assets near civilians, near cultural sites, near hospitals, near schools. And the regime may well attempt to destroy the Iraqi infrastructure. We'll do our best to protect the citizens of Iraq, while the regime does its best to use them as human shields. Our targets will remain the Iraqi regime, not the Iraqi people, and we will continue to provide humanitarian assistance, and we will continue to open the gateways in the south, and in the west, and in the north.”

By 10 pm ET on March 30th, the USAF had flown 1,800 missions over Iraq during the previous 24 hours. Of those, 800 will have been strike missions with 200 “aimpoints” or targets. The rest: 400 refueling tanker missions, 225 cargo or personnel airlift missions, 100 command/control/intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance missions.

They dropped 1,200 precision-guided bombs, including 14 Tomahawk cruise missiles. More than 80 percent of the strike missions were to support ground forces in the south, north and west. And 60 percent focused on degrading the capabilities of Republican Guard divisions around Baghdad. Other targets, included command/control and leadership sites in and around Baghdad.

Moving through sandstorms, and harsh terrain, soldiers from the Corps' 3rd Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and 82nd Airborne Division e attacked the regular Army, Republican Guard, and the terror squad forces of the Iraqi regime.

The 3rd Infantry Division attacked and successfully seized a bridge over the Euphrates River near Al Handiyah, once again preserving Iraqi infrastructure that had been rigged

for destruction. Engineers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team cleared the explosives and report that the bridge is in good shape.

Along with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, soldiers from the division's 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment worked to deny enemy access to resupply routes in the sector. During the course of the day's operations, the Division captured nearly 150 enemy prisoners of war and destroyed numerous enemy vehicles, air defense weapons, and small arms caches.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) attacked and seized the airfield at An Najaf in its continuing effort to isolate enemy forces in the area. The division destroyed two T-55 tanks, 15 technical vehicles, and a field artillery battery. Over 70 enemy soldiers were captured.

In operations in the vicinity of As Samawah, the 82nd Airborne Division used precision artillery counterfire to destroy an enemy D30 artillery system. The division continued operations to secure the Corps' lines of communication. In total, Corps units captured over 230 enemy soldiers.

Coalition troops seized the Hadithah dam on the Euphrates, to guard against deliberate flooding operations by the Iraqi regime.

A British soldier was killed during an explosive ordnance disposal operation in southern Iraq.

31 March/1 April

The US 173rd Airborne Brigade completed its deployment in northern Iraq. Air attacks continued on the Republican Guard divisions around Baghdad and Tikrit. V Corps mounted simultaneous attacks at Al Hillah, Karbala and As Samawah.

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom's ground campaign 12 days earlier, V Corps forces have traveled a distance roughly equivalent to the distance between New York City and Richmond, Virginia.

5th Corps actions included simultaneous, limited objective attacks near Al Hilla, Karbala, and As Samawa. And these attacks were intended to create vulnerabilities in the Republican Guard defenses, and also to isolate the remaining pockets of resistance for destruction at a time of our choosing. The attacks were effective, and resulted in the capture of an Iraqi general, an airfield, and a training camp for regime death squads.

V Corps engaged the Medina and Nebuchadnezzar Divisions at Karbala, as well as continuing operations to clear paramilitary forces from An Najaf, where Iraqi forces were reported to be firing from the sacred Ali Mosque. Since beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom's ground campaign 12 days earlier, V Corps forces have traveled a distance roughly equivalent to the distance between New York City and Richmond, Virginia.

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In operations in the vicinity of As Samawah, the 82nd Airborne Division used precision artillery counterfire to destroy an enemy D30 artillery system. The division continued operations to secure the Corps' lines of communication. In total, Corps units captured over 230 enemy soldiers yesterday

Attacks on Ba'ath Party headquarters continued, some assisted by the local population. The Black Watch battle group rescued two Kenyan civilians who had been taken prisoner by Iraqi forces at Al Zubayr. British forces also destroyed an armoured force north of Basrah.

A British soldier died in an accident involving a light armoured vehicle.

The maritime component continued its work and is completing the clearance of the old port of Umm Qasr, the old portion of the port, and extending efforts to clear the newer part of the port to the north.

1/2 April

Coalition air forces attacked regime targets in Baghdad and areas throughout the country. Precision attacks against surface-to-surface missiles and Republican Guard forces also continued.

US troops rescued a female soldier held prisoner by the Iraqis. US Marines captured at Al Hillah two of the Al Samoud II missiles which contravened UN resolutions.

An attack by US Marines drove back the Baghdad Division of the Republican Guard at Al Kut. The First Marine Expeditionary Force attacked the Baghdad division near the town of Al Kut (over here shown) and crossed the Tigris River. The Baghdad division was destroyed

V Corps opened the gates to Baghdad with the destruction of the Medina Division of the Republican Guards in major offensive operations throughout the sector. The 3rd Infantry Division attacked to seize key terrain and devastate the Medina Division's forces. All three Brigade Combat Teams combined overwhelming firepower and decisive maneuver to destroy multiple enemy combat systems, including six T-72 tanks, 13 enemy armored personnel carriers, and 15 air defense weapons. The division's engineer soldiers, working in conjunction with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, established control over numerous bridge and gap crossing sites.

Fifth Corps units also attacked to clear paramilitary forces in An Najaf. The attacking unit was welcomed by thousands of citizens. It was also welcomed by fire from regime forces who had positioned themselves inside the Ali mosque, one of the most important religious shrines to all of Shi'a Islam throughout the world.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) continued offensive operations to liberate the city of An Najaf and isolate enemy forces in sector. Soldiers from the division destroyed 13 air defense and field artillery weapon systems along with six technical vehicles used by paramilitary forces.

The 82nd Airborne Division tightened their grip on enemy paramilitary forces in the As Samawah area today, conducting a surprise attack on a platoon of paramilitary forces attempting to organize north of the city. The division's 2nd Brigade captured an enemy missile cache and additional enemy chemical protective gear.

The Corps' long-range artillery units combined with Air Force close air support to destroy over 60 enemy vehicles, including five tanks and 15 artillery systems. In total, the Corps today captured nearly 100 enemy prisoners, destroyed over 100 enemy tracked and wheeled weapon systems, and eliminated numerous command and control facilities.

Coalition special operations forces continue to target regime concentrations with the aid of local populations. In An Nasiriyah, special operations forces controlled aircraft destroyed numerous buildings, numerous vehicles, and five regime buildings, including the director of general security headquarters. In the western desert, two suspected Iraqi intelligence service agents were captured at a special operations checkpoint.

The land component conducted operations throughout the zone of action that runs from Basra in the south, to al Kut in the east, and Karbala in the west: Basra in the south, al Kut in the east, and Karbala in the west.

There were several successful delivered raids against regime death squad locations in Ba'ath Party headquarters. These also, like with the special operations forces, were assisted by local populations, who are increasingly willing to provide information against the regime. And examples include the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force conducting attacks near Ad Diwaniyah and As Shatra (sp), which is just north of An Nasiriyah. Approximately 100 tribal men joined with coalition forces in these attacks and resulted in

the captures of enemy prisoners of war, weapons, the destruction of bunkers, and the removal of explosives from a bridge -- and there were no friendly casualties.

U.K. operations in the Basra area resulted in the destruction of a considerable amount of Iraqi tanks and armored personnel carriers along Highway 6, north of the city. Operations there also resulted in the recovery of two Kenyan men who had been held hostage near Al Zubair, west of Basra. British troops destroyed Iraqi artillery and missiles near Basrah.

UK forces continue to secure the Al Faw peninsula and the Rumaylah oil fields while destroying any remaining resistance in the south. Among their recent successes are the capturing of five cruise missiles of the Styx variety near Ash Shuaybah Airport. These missiles are designed for the Osa (patrol boats sunk in the first days of the war. They can be fired into Kuwaiti territory or against ships that are out inside the North Arabian Gulf. At this point UK forces remain firmly in control of the northern approach to Basra.

UK forces captured a motorcycle courier.. The motorcycle and crew had maps in their possession that showed artillery positions. The UK forces went to find the artillery positions, found them, destroyed all the artillery, and also found three Ababil-100 missiles and destroyed them as well.

The maritime component handed over the port operations of Umm Qasr to the land component today. And a UK military port management unit will take over the running of the port from the military side.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited Iraqi prisoners of war held by Coalition forces in southern Iraq to confirm that their treatment was in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

2/3 April

The air campaign continues. On April 2nd, the daily US air effort totaled:

- 1,900 total missions
- 900 attack missions
- 500 air refueling tanker missions
- 250 cargo airlift missions
- 100 command, control, intel, surveillance & recon missions
- Focused on killing Republican Guard targets -- Medina, Baghdad and Hammurabi divisions -- and hitting strategic targets in Baghdad.

Since the start of the war (as of Sunday), the US forces had flown

- 21,000 sorties
- 8,000 precision guided weapons dropped
- 70% of all bombs dropped precision guided
- 24.7 million gallons of fuel pumped into planes on refueling missions
- 28,000 short tons of cargo moved by aircraft
- 36,000 passengers moved since 10/02.

- 26 million leaflets dropped (apparently different than what USCENTCOM says... but these are the numbers being turned out by the Air Force)

Actions took place by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, isolating the town of al-Kut, and continue their attacks west of An-Numaniyah. Al-Kut on the east side, the river as it goes along -- this is the Tigris River -- and Numaniyah. There is a road that runs along the northern side of the river, and seizing that location and the space between it, gave the 1st MEF commander the ability to attack towards Baghdad up the main road on the northeast side of the Tigris.

Fifth Corps penetrated the Karbala Gap, the narrow area between the town of Karbala and the Lake Razzaza. It was defended by the Baghdad Division and elements of the Nebuchadnezzar Division. Most of those were arrayed further up to the northwest.

The US V Corps drove back the Medina Division of the Republican Guard close to Baghdad and secured another crossing over the Euphrates. It opened the gates to Baghdad) with the destruction of the Medina Division of the Republican Guards in major offensive operations throughout the sector.

The 3rd Infantry Division attacked to seize key terrain and devastate the Medina Division's forces. All three Brigade Combat Teams combined overwhelming firepower and decisive maneuver to destroy multiple enemy combat systems, including six T-72 tanks, 13 enemy armored personnel carriers, and 15 air defense weapons. The division's engineer soldiers, working in conjunction with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, established control over numerous bridge and gap crossing sites.

In crossing through the area, the 5th Corps forces were able to seize a bridge intact over the Euphrates River. It was in fact rigged for demolition. They were able to remove the demolition, cross the bridge, and continue the attack. At this point, 5th Corps began to conducting a deliberate attack toward Baghdad. They also continuing raids against identified regime pockets in places where the regime no longer has control.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) continued offensive operations to liberate the city of An Najaf and isolate enemy forces in sector. Soldiers from the division destroyed 13 air defense and field artillery weapon systems along with six technical vehicles used by paramilitary forces.

The 82nd Airborne Division tightened their grip on enemy paramilitary forces in the As Samawah area, conducting a surprise attack on a platoon of paramilitary forces attempting to organize north of the city. The division's 2nd Brigade captured an enemy missile cache and additional enemy chemical protective gear.

The Corps' long-range artillery units combined with Air Force close air support to destroy over 60 enemy vehicles, including five tanks and 15 artillery systems. In total, the Corps today captured nearly 100 enemy prisoners, destroyed over 100 enemy tracked and wheeled weapon systems, and eliminated numerous command and control facilities

In northern Iraq, air strikes were called in against the Iraqi 15th Mechanised Division.

Some sixty miles from Baghdad, Coalition troops raided the Tharthar Palace.

Coalition special operations forces in northern Iraq coordinated air attacks against the 15th Mechanized Division, a regular army unit. They had communication with divisions along the green line and also provided information to them about the potential damage that will occur in the future. Additionally, special operations forces have moved into a number of positions to deny regime movement along the road that joins Tikrit and Baghdad. There have been several skirmishes that have occurred in these areas, I.

Special operations forces remain in control of the Hadithah Dam to prevent its destruction and the release of certain water flow that would affect the down-river areas particularly near Karbala. The town of Hadithah is just to the south of it. There have been repeated attacks against the force holding the dam by artillery and mortars, by counter special operations units operating from the town of Hadithah. The coalition forces in place have been well-supported by close air support, and that has enabled them to hold the dam.

The dam is a very robust structure that had 16 floors inside it and underground. The top of the dam, in daylight..

More special operations raids against key regime locations continued. Last night, a special operations element raided the Tharthar Palace, on the outskirts of Baghdad. This is approximately 90 kilometers outside of Baghdad, roughly 56 miles. It is a known residence that is used by Saddam Hussein and his sons. They did take fire on entry from anti-aircraft artillery. Near the entry point of the compound itself, the helicopter was put down on the ground. And aerial gunship provided some support, The raid did not yield any regime leaders in this case, but documents were taken that will be valuable for intelligence, and they will be examined further. The raiding force did accomplish its mission, with no combat losses.

The maritime component continued its efforts to keep the waterways open, and as they did some patrolling yesterday along the Khor Abdullah, which remains a primary focus to ensure that humanitarian supplies can come in, they discovered a small boat that was beached along one of the banks. As the small boat was searched and inspected, they discovered first that there were booby traps on it, but also that there were weapons caches nearby in the surrounding area. Several weapons were found inside of this, and also a tunnel complex that joined these different caches one to another. Small arms, grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and launchers, gas masks and uniforms were found at these sites. An expanded search is ongoing.

An FA-18C was shot down, and a UH-60 helicopter crashed in central Iraq. Six soldiers were confirmed to have died when their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crashed in Central Iraq at approximately 11:45 p.m.

3/4 April

The air campaign continues. On April 3rd, the daily US air effort totaled:

- 1,900 total missions
- 850 attack missions -- 85 percent focused on "destroying Iraqi ground troops."
- 450 air refueling tanker missions
- 200 cargo airlift missions
- 100 command, control, intel, surveillance & recon missions

Since the start of the war (through Tuesday):

- 23,000 sorties flown
- 27.1 million gallons of fuel pumped into planes on refueling missions
- 31,000 short tons of cargo moved by aircraft
- 38,000 passengers moved since 10/02.
- 26 million leaflets dropped (apparently different than what centcom says... but these are the numbers being turned out by the Air Force)

Coalition forces struck Iraqi Air Force headquarters buildings in central Baghdad

The land component attacked further into the defenses of Baghdad, seizing key objectives in the process. Concurrently, operations continued to eliminate paramilitaries and regime elements remaining in urban areas within the zone of attack.

V Corps forces completed the destruction of the Medina Division Thursday and continued the march to Baghdad. The 3rd Infantry Division continued their rattack through the Karbala Gap, with soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment teaming with soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team to isolate the city and deny enemy forces freedom of maneuver. Soldiers from 3rd BCT also rendered over 30 enemy armor weapon systems inoperable in a military compound in their sector.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) completed the isolation of An Najaf, denying enemy paramilitary forces access to the city. The division was able to enlist the help of a local cleric to begin distributing humanitarian assistance supplies to the populace.

The 82nd Airborne Division conducted direct action missions against paramilitary and Iraqi Intelligence Service facilities in their efforts to secure the As Samawah area. Soldiers from the division's 2nd Brigade established positions to ensure coalition supply routes remain secure.

Coalition special operations forces in northern Iraq continued concentrated air attacks against regime military forces in northern Iraq -- maintaining effective control of roads leading into or out of Iraq, and roads between Baghdad and Tikrit. Special operations

forces in key locations throughout the country are positioned to locate regime facilities or strategic systems, and to direct precision fires to destroy them.

Operations were conducted to ensure reply lines remain open, especially in as-Samawa and an-Najaf

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force continued its attack towards Baghdad, destroying remnants of the Baghdad Republican Guard division near al-Kut, and elements of the Al Nida Republican Guard division between al-Kut and Baghdad.

The US 1st Marine Expeditionary Force inflicted further destruction on the Baghdad and Al Nida divisions of the Republican Guard near Al Kut and Baghdad. V Corps secured southern approaches to Baghdad and captured the International Airport to the west of the city.

Two Marine pilots were killed in the crash of their AH-1W "Super Cobra" attack helicopter in central Iraq.

In the South, U.K. forces continued to expand the area influenced by the coalition and efforts to rid Basra of regime death squads. Aggressive patrols beyond Basra resulted in the seizure of a cache of 56 surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missiles, and four missile launchers in the vicinity of al-Zubair, just north of -- north and west of Basra..

A suspected NBC training school was investigated by Coalition forces.

4/5 April

Air campaign continues on April 4th. For the 7th straight day, the coalition bombed the Republican Guard "around-the-clock" For the 16th straight day, they focused on "killing regime leaders" and knocking out command and control in Baghdad. Bombing priorities were "kill box interdiction" -- meaning Iraqi ground troops in a particular area -- and close-air support for US ground troops..

Activity on April 4th included:

- 1,850 total missions flown
- 700 attack missions -- 80 percent focused on "destroying Iraqi ground troops."
- 400 air refueling tanker missions
- 350 cargo airlift missions
- 100 command, control, intel, surveillance & recon missions

Since the start of the war (through Wednesday):

- 25,000 sorties flown
- 29.6 million gallons of fuel pumped into planes on refueling missions
- 33,000 short tons of cargo moved by aircraft

- 43,000 passengers moved since 10/02.
- 33 million leaflets dropped.

Fifth Corps attacked Iraqi forces on the approach to Baghdad, and seized several key intersections on the south side of the city. The attack continued through the night, and by dawn the coalition had seized the international airport west of Baghdad, formerly known as Saddam International Airport. The airport was given a new name, Baghdad International Airport

Operations were conducted to ensure reply lines remain open, especially in as-Samawa and an-Najaf. As coalition forces clear these areas of regime presence, caches of weapons and ammunition are often found in residential areas, as this next image shows. These weapons and ammunition were found inside of an agricultural building in a neighborhood of an-Najaf.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force continued its attack towards Baghdad, destroying remnants of the Baghdad Republican Guard division near al-Kut, and elements of the Al Nida Republican Guard division between al-Kut and Baghdad

British forces expanded the area of control northwards from the main southern oilfields near Basrah.

A patrol of U.K. forces near As-Zubair, just outside of Basra, came upon two warehouses containing human remains in bags and boxes. While an accurate count is not yet known, estimates would indicate that the remains are of more than 100 persons. Some have tatters of uniforms in and amongst the human remains, and in one of the warehouses there were pictures of executed soldiers. These remains are not from this conflict. They are from some other conflict at some other time. and are undergoing forensic examination. They appear to significantly predate the current conflict.

Major General Victor Renuart of USCENTCOM provided a summary of the operational history to date at the USCENTCOM briefing on April 5th:

“As you know, we began building up forces some number of weeks ago, potentially months ago as we floated some forces in the early days of -- or late days of last year with the 3rd Infantry Division. Those forces continued to build over time until we began combat operations on the 21st of March.

On the 21st, we began with an insertion of special operating forces and a strike in Baghdad by a number of Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles. Those targets were key leadership targets. We think the results were very favorable, and we're not exactly sure of the result of the leaders that were involved in that, but we continue to see disruption in the command and control of the regime.

Shortly after that, the 1st Marine Division crossed the line of departure, moved north out of Kuwait into the oil fields in the south, taking control of those oilfields and begin to secure them for the future of the Iraqi people. The key elements of those oil fields were the gas-oil separators, the individual wellheads themselves, and the objective was to be able to secure those before the Iraqi regime had the opportunity to destroy them. As many of you know, there were some wellheads that were destroyed. We have since been able to bring those well fires under control. We're down to two wellheads remaining to be secured and the fires put out. A joint Kuwaiti and

coalition oil firefighting team is working on those. We hope to get the last two of those oil well fires put out within the next few days.

In addition to the oil heads that were damaged, we had a number of breaks in pipelines. Some of those were ignited. We have had a number of pools of oil that were let out on to the ground. Some of those were ignited as well. And we have since brought the majority of those under control, both securing the infrastructure in the oil fields and repairing those to be able to bring that back into operation.

I had some maps earlier that were going to go along with this, but as you know, sometimes computers trick you, and so I'm going to have to go without the maps that will kind of walk you through what the ground looked like as we moved through southern Iraq.

But during those first few days, we moved with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force from south to north from Kuwait, and then with the 3rd Infantry Division moving from Kuwait's western, northwestern border to the northwest towards An Nasiriyah, As-Samawa, An Najaf, and then continuing on. The 3rd Infantry Division attacked to seize initially the Tallil airfield, the town of An Nasiriyah, and then to follow -- with a follow-on objective of the town of As-Samawa. We also seized key Highway 1 bridges in the vicinity of An Nasiriyah to allow for the 1st Marine Division to then move forward to the north as they made the turn coming up out of the oil fields and continuing on towards As-Shatra (sp) and al-Kut to engage a Republican Guard division in the vicinity of al-Kut.

I think the progress could be characterized as nothing short of superb. A lot was made about we were out there for three or four days -- as you know, bad weather had challenged us a bit. A lot was made of bringing the supply lines along. I think what we've shown is that the plan was very smoothly executed, that logistics support, humanitarian assistance has flowed in behind the combat troops in a way that allowed the momentum of the fight to be carried to the Iraqis in a steady fashion with great results.

Over the five days from about the 27th of March until right at the end of the month, 5th Corps forces pressed north to the vicinity of Karbala, and the 1 MEF forces pressed from An Nasiriyah towards al-Kut, As-Diwaniyah, and the town of As-Shatra (sp), in each case, taking the time to reduce pockets of irregular forces in each of these locations, forces that were holding the local leaders of the towns and the populations of those towns hostage, if you will, and in some cases terrorizing them to the point of inactivity by any of the leaders in the town to resist.

The 1st U.K. Armor entered the battlefield also on the 27th of March, beginning to secure the area from south to north from Umm Qasr to As-Zubair into the town of Basra. In addition, they expanded to the northwest to provide additional security for the southern oil fields.

And then in the north, on the 27th, the 173rd Airborne Brigade jumped into an area near Bashur (sp) in northern Iraq to provide additional combat power to the special operating forces that had already inserted themselves into Kurdish-held territory.

At the same time, combat operations were ongoing. Humanitarian aid -- I mention this repeatedly because that is really one of the two great pillars of this combat operation -- at the same time you're exerting combat power against a very focused enemy, you want to be able to infuse into that fight humanitarian assistance that will begin to normalize the lives of the people in the towns that you're liberating. And things like bringing in wheat to Umm Qasr, bringing in humanitarian aid over land from Kuwait -- great support from the Kuwaitis to infuse that aid into the fight was noted as early as the second or third day after combat operations began.

The water pipeline was constructed and is completed now from Kuwait into Umm Qasr, up to Zubair, and we now have a situation just a few days ago, a couple days ago, where water into

Basra is almost completely restored. We have a few small areas that we're completing that infusion.

Those operations continued until the 4th of April, just yesterday, where we saw great operations conducted on a two-core front approach in towards Baghdad. The 3rd Infantry Division moved north from Karbala to the highway intersections of routes 1 and 8, just south of the city, about seven miles from the city center. In fact, you saw some of the forces that were at that intersection today driving through the inner city of Baghdad.

In addition, forces moved to the west, initially created a force to attack and then secure the Baghdad International Airport. Those forces have completed that operation and now hold the airport secure. And we are continuing to flow forces in there to reinforce and establish a main operating base.

At the same time, the 1st Marine forces, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces were attacking from the vicinity of As-Diwaniyah and south of al-Kut to destroy the remnants of the Baghdad Division and then turn northwest along Highway 6 to the southeast corner of Baghdad, attacking remnants of a regular army division and a Republican Guard infantry division, destroying those forces as they moved forth to establish an operating base on the southeast edge of Baghdad.

Finally, continuing the great work in Basra and then moving further to the north, the 1st U.K. Armored Division has moved north through the oil fields to begin to secure more and more of those vital resources for the future, and we now have a substantial percentage of what we call the southern oil fields, the Ramallah fields, the Khorna (sp) fields, and some other smaller fields, Zubair, under our -- under our safe control, and we continue to expand that U.K. lodgment position further north along Highway 6 to complete the destruction of -- the remnants, really, of four regular army divisions that began the fight in the vicinity between al-Amarah and Khorna (sp) in the eastern portion of the country.

Finally, we've alluded to special operating forces throughout the operation, and I just want to spend a minute or two describing the intent of these very highly capable forces, the use of those highly capable forces around the country.

As we were beginning combat operations, special operating forces were infiltrated into western Iraq, into northern Iraq, and some areas in the south. The intent of these forces was to establish a relationship with leaders in the local area, to be able to call fires on theater ballistic missile launch sites in the west in order to protect neighbors in the region, other neighbors that were threatened by the Iraqi theater ballistic missile capability, to begin to set conditions to bring follow-on forces in to take advantage of the airfields in the west and in the north. In addition, to begin working in an unconventional warfare manner, engaging with Iraqi forces in the north who might be interested in laying down their arms and not continuing to fight. Those operations have been highly successful.

In addition to the unconventional warfare operations in the north, as many of you know, we attacked a terrorist base camp in -- near the little town of Khourma (sp). The intent here was to eliminate an al Qaeda and Ansar al-Islam based terrorist training camp and military facility, and potential chemical WMD processing or manufacturing plant. Those operations were very successful. It was a combination of U.S. special forces and Kurdish fighters, and those operations actually continue to eliminate small pockets of terrorist activity in extreme northeastern Iraq.

Finally, on a -- on a note of success that was very visible to you all, the special operating forces, in coordination with conventional forces from the Marine Corps and the Air Force and the Army were able to successfully rescue Private First Class Jennifer (sic) Lynch out of a hospital and irregular military headquarters facility that was being used by these death squads in Nasiriyah and successfully return her to U.S. hands and on to medical care and a reunion with her family. I'll talk

a little bit about that operation in just a little bit, so if you'll hold for that one just a second, I'll come back to it.

Finally, to continue to beat the drum of humanitarian assistance, we have worked to secure key bridges and infrastructure to maintain those for future use, and we begin -- have begun to really accelerate the infusion of humanitarian assistance into the country.

Throughout all of these operations, we've encountered an enemy who has been determined. We have encountered an enemy who has chosen to use fear and terror and brutality as a means to push the people either to not support a change in their own communities, or even to the extremes to be used as shields to protect these fighters as they try to engage our forces. We've seen forces fighting in civilian clothes from vehicles we call technical vehicles, pick-up trucks with machine guns loaded on to them, SUVs. We've seen them stringing wire across roads that would be designed to decapitate people driving in trucks. We've seen them wearing uniforms that were U.S. or U.K. or Australia based equipment so that they might fit in. We've seen them using flags of truce -- truce, I'm sorry -- to gain a position of advantage on the battlefield, and on and on, from suicide bombings to other acts of terror on the field.

This has been an unconventional enemy, but not one we have not trained for. Through it all, we've seen prudent use of the military. We've seen professional performance by our soldiers, and they have been able to, in each case, defeat this enemy threat as we've moved on to each of our objectives.

Now, all of that happens because the people behind the scenes, the logisticians, ensure that we have the tools that we need to carry the battle forward on the field. Some of you have had a chance to listen to some of the logistics facts that we've used out there. And I won't go into lots and lots of them, but I do have a few tidbits of trivia that might be interesting for you.

The line of communication that we are maintaining open from Kuwait up to Baghdad is about 350 miles. On any given day out there on the battlefield, we've probably got 2,500 or more logistics support-related vehicles traveling on that road.

So if you can sort of imagine driving from LA to San Francisco, along the way there you'll see a whole -- it's sort of like having a big old convoy of semi tractor-trailers running up and down that road, moving food and fuel and water and humanitarian assistance to our forces.

We've moved something on the order of 65 million gallons of fuel into the region in order to fill supply points around the area to allow our forces to continue operations unencumbered. If you throw that into a -- well, I've got a little car, so I get about 20 miles to the gallon. If you throw that into my car, I could do an around-the-world trip about 52,000 times.

To fly the air tasking order that we have each day, the aircraft that are out there to support our operations, takes something on the order of about two and a half million gallons of fuel. And in that same car of mine, I could only make the trip around the world about 1,736 times.

So, to give you some perspective, the cost -- the support required to keep these operations going continuously is substantial. And the work that is being carried out by our logistics experts in the field is nothing short of herculean. There are some real superstars out there.

In order to keep our forces properly hydrated, we use about a million and a half liters of water a day. About 2 million tons of spare parts and support equipment is moved around the battlefield each day.

And then, finally, soldiers, as they say -- you know, you feed the army; you have to maintain its ability to eat. And, you know, about a third of a million MREs are consumed each day. So for that

one Marine out there that didn't get more than one that day, we've got some more out there coming to him and I think we've solved that problem".

5/6 April

Coalition aircraft struck the residence of Ali Hassan al-Majid, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's cousin. Notorious for ordering Iraqi forces to use chemical weapons on Kurds in northern Iraq, he is infamously known as "Chemical Ali." Two Coalition aircraft using laser-guided munitions struck the home at approximately 9:30 p.m. EST Friday. The structure is located in Al Basrah, approximately 250 miles southeast of Baghdad

US forces consolidated their positions around Baghdad and at the international airport, establishing control of both the south-western and south-eastern approaches to the city. Other operations continued at Karbala, An Najaf and As Samawah to eliminate regime pockets of resistance.

The two-corpse attack by 5th Corps and 1st MEF continued to isolate Baghdad, denying reinforcements or any escape by regime military forces. Fifth Corps controlled the corridor from Karbala to Baghdad in the east. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force controlled the corridor from Samanpak (sp) to Baghdad.

The 3rd Infantry Division conducted aggressive offensive operations to secure the cities in route to central Baghdad. The 1st Brigade Combat Team seized a palace believed to be a Special Republican Guard Headquarters, while the 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducted a reconnaissance that led to enemy surrender. The three Brigades combined secured key terrain, which led to the destruction of 30 military vehicles, 30 technical vehicles, three T72 tanks, and three armored personnel carriers.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) continues to isolate the city of An Najaf from enemy forces, allowing friendly forces to conduct stability and support operations. The division's fire power destroyed five mortars, two trucks, two weapons caches, and a host of other enemy combat systems.

The 82nd Airborne Division concentrated their efforts on conducting humanitarian assistance. The soldiers distributed 1200 meals, and worked to restore water and electricity in the city of As Samawah, making it a safer and more secure environment. Combined, the V Corps destroyed multiple enemy combat systems today and took 30 enemy prisoners of war

A raid by the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force hit a training camp near Salman Pak This raid occurred in response to information that had been gained by coalition forces from foreign fighters encountered from other countries, not Iraq, and this camp had been used to train these foreign fighters in terror tactics. It is now destroyed.

Efforts to remove remnants of the regime from the areas of Basra, Samawa, Najaf, and Karbala were ongoing. There were some encounters with regime forces in these areas, but the number of encounters went down appreciably while the support from the

population is increased. Work by U.K. forces in the vicinity of Basra clearly weakened the grip of the regime.

Coalition special operations forces in northern Iraq directed focused air support against regime forces in the north near Kirkuk. Some of these forces, some of these Iraqi forces from the first corps relocated approximately 10 kilometers further to the south, away from what has been described as the “green line.” The special operations teams with these Kurdish security—with Kurdish security elements, maintained contact with the first corps elements and moved forward in a portion of that 10-kilometer zone to observe on the relocating Iraqi forces.

Special operations forces were positioned along several key roads, to prevent movement of ballistic missiles—and deny free movement by regime forces or leaders.

British forces advanced further into Basrah. A soldier from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was killed in action.

6/7 April

Three U.S. service members killed and five wounded in a possible friendly fire incident involving an F-15E Strike Eagle and Coalition ground force

The main focus of the operation continued in and around Baghdad. The two corps attack continued with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force isolating Baghdad from the east along the Biala River, and with the 5th Corps operating in the west, northwest, and into the town of Baghdad itself, the city of Baghdad. To the northwest, the attack prevented reinforcement by Iraqi forces north of the city, and resulted in the destruction of an Iraqi unit that was composed of tanks, armored personnel carriers, other armored vehicles, artillery systems, and infantry.

Efforts to secure Baghdad International Airport continued from within the complex, where tunnels were found beneath it – some of these tunnels were large enough to accommodate automobiles – and from without, where artillery systems able to range the airport were attacked, and the forward observer, in this case an Iraqi colonel, was taken into coalition control.

US troops held positions in central Baghdad overnight, while US Marines pushed into the city from the south-east, taking Rasheed airport. A USAF A-10 aircraft crashed near Baghdad International Airport; the pilot ejected safely.

Two soldiers and two civilian news media were killed and 15 soldiers injured in an enemy rocket attack south of Baghdad (April 7). The attack, against a 3rd Infantry Division unit, occurred at approximately 11:30 a.m. local time. The wounded were evacuated to a military medical treatment facility in Iraq

At Baghdad, the 3rd Infantry Division took a suspected Special Republican Guard headquarters, whilst the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force consolidated its position to the east of the city. Iraqi military elements in the Baghdad area use mosques and hospitals as bases to conduct military operations. These locations include the ‘Mother of All Battles

Mosque' in Northwest Baghdad, and the Saddam Hospital, which remain on the Coalition's no-strike list.

The 3rd Infantry Division conducted aggressive offensive operations to secure the cities on the route to central Baghdad. The 1st Brigade Combat Team seized a palace believed to be a Special Republican Guard Headquarters, while the 2nd Brigade Combat Team conducted a reconnaissance that led to enemy surrender. The three Brigades combined secured key terrain, which led to the destruction of 30 military vehicles, 30 technical vehicles, three T72 tanks, and three armored personnel carriers.

The First Marine Expeditionary Force attacked Iraqi forces resisting from inside populated cities. The force of nearly 85,000 U.S. servicemen and British troops have attacked enemy forces hiding in Southeast Baghdad and inside the city of Basra, resulting in the discovery of five weapons caches consisting of more than 10 tons of ordnance, thousands of rocket-propelled grenades, thousands of aircraft bombs, 15 surface-to-surface missiles, 13 surface-to-air missiles, 400 cases of mortar rounds, thousands of AK-47 assault rifles and numerous crew-served weapons and ammunition. The force has also destroyed, damaged or captured 24 tanks, three artillery pieces, 31 armored personnel carriers, six fuel trucks, and six "technical" vehicles. The Marines' aircraft wing flew more than 250 sorties in 24 hours while ground forces seized two of Saddam's palaces and a terrorist training camp. The force has captured more than 3,500 enemy prisoners of war since hostilities began. An Iraqi armored force was destroyed north-west of Baghdad.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) continued to isolate the city of An Najaf from enemy forces, allowing friendly forces to conduct stability and support operations. The division's firepower destroyed five mortars, two trucks, two weapons caches, and many of other enemy combat systems. A Ba'ath Party headquarters at Karbala was destroyed.

The 82nd Airborne Division concentrated efforts in conducting humanitarian assistance. The soldiers distributed 1200 meals, and worked to restore water and electricity in the city of As Samawah, making it a safer and more secure environment. Around As Samawah, the US 82nd Airborne Division conducted humanitarian operations.

The towns of As-Samawa, Diwaniyah, and Najaf became more stable as time goes on with coalition efforts against the -- against the regime.. In Karbala, coalition forces destroyed a Ba'ath Party headquarters and fought against regime death squads to further reduce regime influence, US troops remained in combat east of Karbala, while also conducting further humanitarian operations around As Samawah.

Coalition's special operations forces continued with unconventional warfare in northern Iraq, southern Iraq and central Iraq. These efforts were a key to facilitating operations by the air component in the north and in the west, and by the land component in the center and in the south of Iraq. More significantly, they represent the mechanism that also makes it possible for Iraqis to join in the fight against the regime.

Coalition special operations forces conducted direct action missions to secure the Hadithah Dam, to deny the regime the use of ballistic missiles, and to destroy regime headquarters locations whenever they are identified. They used a night raid to seize a training camp near Hadithah.

Two critically wounded U.S. Army special operations soldiers' lives were saved by a Combat Search and Rescue team that evacuated them from about five miles south of Baghdad to be later transferred to a hospital in Kuwait.

British forces established control over a large part of the city of Basrah, with the 3rd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, clearing on foot the old quarter, inaccessible to vehicles. Two British soldiers were killed in action.

RFA Sir Percivale made another large delivery of humanitarian aid supplies to Umm Qasr.

7/8 April

The daily air effort on April 7th included 1,500 total missions:

- 500 attack missions
- 350 air refueling tanker missions
- 400 cargo airlift missions
- 175 command, control, intel, surveillance & recon missions
- Main focus was on "killbox interdiction" -- continually bombing ground targets close air support, command, control, intel, surveillance & recon missions. Intelligence flights focused largely on Baghdad to enable near-real-time strikes on emerging targets. Nearly 1/5 of today's strikes focused on "ensuring the Iraqi military was unable to launch military aircraft." (trying to get clarity on this figure)

The total effort to date since the start of the war now totaled:

- 30,000 sorties flown
- About 12,000 strike missions since G Day.
- 14,500 precision guided weapons dropped
- More than 750 Tomahawk cruise missiles fired from Navy ships
- 70% of all bombs dropped precision guided
- About 6,200 tanker missions.
- About 5,700 airlift missions.
- More than 2,000 command, control, intel, surveillance & recon missions
- 37 million gallons of fuel pumped into planes on refueling missions (thru 4/5)
- 40,000 short tons of cargo moved by aircraft (thru 4/5)
- 55,000 passengers moved (since 10/02 -- thru 4/5)
- 36 million leaflets dropped (since October -- thru 4/5)

A USAF B-1B attacked a leadership target in the Al Mansur district of Baghdad. It used precision-guided munitions to strike a suspected meeting of senior Iraqi regime leaders using four 2,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs). The strike took place at 2 p.m. Qatar time (7 a.m. EST).

The main focus of the operation continued to be in and around Baghdad. In the east, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force attacked across the Biyala River into the southeast corner of Baghdad. They encountered forces, including T-72 tanks, armored personnel carriers, other armored vehicles, surface-to-surface missiles, artillery pieces, and numerous technical vehicles. These forces were encountered and destroyed, and they proceeded on their attack to seize the Rashid Airport.

In the west, 5th Corps remained in the center of Baghdad overnight, and also continued attacks this morning from the north and from the south, conducting operations inside of the heart of Baghdad. They also encountered a mixture of forces, including T-72 tanks, armored vehicles, technical vehicles, and artillery pieces.

Coalition forces near As-Samawa continued to work in that area and the towns around it, eliminating any regime elements and also transitioning into humanitarian actions. While water resupply networks are still being reestablished, there were military units operating in that area providing purified water that they're generating from water purification systems to Samawa and Arupa (sp), located about 25 kilometers to the north.

In An-Najaf and Karbala, operations continued increasing security in those areas and also eliminating any remaining regime elements that are present. Combat operations were ongoing east of Karbala.

In Basra. Coalition forces, under the leadership of the U.K. and supported by coalition special operations, succeeded in reducing the final remaining concentrations of Ba'ath Party officials and regime forces in Basra. The remaining pocket was in the old part of the city and it was cleared by forces during the night. The capture of two more Ba'ath Party officials near the town of As-Zubair, on the outskirts of Basra, reflected ongoing efforts to rid the entire southern region of regime presence and influence.

Coalition's special operations forces conducted special operations in the north, the west, the east, the south, and the center of Iraq. In the north, coalition special operations forces, in conjunction with Kurdish forces of northern Iraq, are maintaining pressure on the Iraqi military forces in that area, while preventing their movement to Tikrit or Baghdad.

In one engagement yesterday near Irbil, in the north, special operations forces, in conjunction with close air support, destroyed a force consisting of several armored personnel carriers, tanks, and infantry. In another engagement, a similar engagement near Kirkuk, a special operations element defeated an armored counter-attack, destroying several tanks, trucks and armored personnel carriers.

In the west, coalition special operations forces continued to hold the important Hadithah Dam.. There's a smaller body of water to the side that's a result of the dam, and the Hadithah nearby, denying freedom of movement to regime forces, and also denying use of areas that could be used for ballistic missile launches. Unconventional warfare continued in other parts of Iraq.

Coalition maritime forces continued to take steps to maintain the flow of humanitarian assistance supplies into Iraq. And Abdullah to make it a deeper draft for larger ships that carry increasing amounts of humanitarian support and assistance into Umm Qasr.

Coalition forces continued to discover more weapons and ammunition stores.

8/9 April

US troops consolidated their control of much of Baghdad. The 1st US Marine Expeditionary Force encountered minimal resistance from regular Army units near Al Amarah. The Marines also continued to push into southeast Baghdad.

The coalition's operational maneuver consolidated gains in the areas south of Baghdad while continuing pressure against the regime and its remaining forces. Beginning in Basra, coalition forces transitioned to security and stability efforts. Coalition forces also continued expanding their area of influence north of Basra, along the road that leads between Basra and Al Amarah, this area in the east. Their efforts focused against any remaining regime elements, and also transitioning to humanitarian assistance.

Fifth Corps continued operations in Baghdad, and increased security areas beyond Baghdad to the west of the rivers, and also transitioned to humanitarian assistance.

The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force continued its attack near Al Amarah, and also in Baghdad. Near Al Amarah, the Marines there met minimal resistance from two of the divisions that had originally been deployed on the eastern flank. Those were the 10th and the 14th divisions. The divisions had already abandoned their weapons and departed the battlefield, after a period of air attacks, leaflet drops, and also following the liberation of Basra. Coalition forces at this point now occupy the 10th Armored Division headquarters, and will transition into humanitarian assistance and civil military operations in the Al Amarah area.

As regime security forces are eliminated from populated areas, more information is provided by the liberated Iraqis. In one example, Marines received information about a truckload of missiles, and found a truckload of surface-to-air missile southeast of Baghdad. These SA-6 surface-to-air missiles altered to have an infrared seeker added to the nose of the missile..

In the metropolitan area of Baghdad, the two corps' attacked to remove the regime from power d. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force continued its attacks across the Diyala River, into the southeast corner of Baghdad, and also proceeded along the west edge of

the river into the northeast corner of Baghdad. After entering in the southeast corner, the Marines continued their attacks into the heart of Baghdad, near key government facilities.

Fifth Corps forces continued to converge from multiple directions towards the center of Baghdad. The areas of convergence, began in the north, towards the center of town, also already in position in the center of town, and from the south. Baghdad Airport remained underneath coalition control, and the Coalition was able to conduct operations with freedom of action in each one of those areas.

The operations remain opportunistic and focused, and there have been some sporadic engagements in different areas, particularly in the vicinity of the bridges in downtown Baghdad, right down in the center.

The Baghdad International Airport had ongoing air operations.

Maritime operations allowed the arrival of ships carrying humanitarian supplies from the U.K., from Australia, and also Spain. Large volumes of humanitarian supplies began to flow to the Iraqi people. The Spanish ship Galicia delivered humanitarian aid and a field hospital to Umm Qasr

A USAF F-15E aircraft was lost over Iraq. Two Coalition airmen are missing after their F-15E Strike Eagle went down in Iraqat approximately 7:30 p.m. EDT

9/10 April

The air campaign continued. As of April 9th, it had involved some 34,000 sorties, some 13,000 strike sorties, 6,850 tanker sorties, 6,500 airlift sorties, and 2,250+ ISR sorties. The coalition had also fired over 750 cruise missiles and some 15,000-16,000 precision guided munitions and 7,500 unguided weapons.

US forces secured all the major routes leading into Baghdad, whilst continuing operations to eliminate resistance within the city. Coalition aircraft targeted a building near Ar Ramadi inhabited by Saddam Hussein's half-brother, Barzan Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti. The brother is a regime presidential advisor. The building was targeted with six JDAMs, in a continuing effort to degrade the Hussein Regime.

The outer cordon in the vicinity of Baghdad is completed. Elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and 3rd U.S. Division complete the cordon around, and cut the major routes in and out of the city, eliminating the opportunity for large forces to move in and reinforce, and certainly complicating the problem of anyone trying to leave the city.

In the south, the first U.K. Armored Division conducted a number of operations in the Basra area, and continued to move to the north to link up with elements of the 1st Marine Division in the vicinity of Al-Amara.

Coalition forces have now secured all of the southern oil fields, and are moving through those oil fields to ensure they are secure. About 800 of the thousand wellheads have physically been inspected, and repair requirements have been determined for many.

Coalition forces did not bomb the Imam al-Adham mosque in Baghdad, contrary to news reports. Elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force killed and captured enemy forces, who were using the mosque as a fighting position. One U.S. Marine was killed in action and another 22 injured in the fight.

Around Al Hillah, the US 101st Air Assault Division continued operations against pockets of regime forces, and liberated warehouses of food hoarded by the regime.

U.S. Marines from Task Force Tarawa secured the headquarters of the Iraqi 10th Armored Division, a nearby airfield and an ammunition supply point at Al Amrah.

Elements of 1(UK) Armoured Division pushed north from Basrah towards the US-held positions around Al Amarah. In the west of the country, the town of Ar Rutbah declared itself open to Coalition forces.

Mine clearance work along the southern waterways leading to Umm Qasr having been accomplished, the focus of Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy clearance teams switched to the northern waterways leading to Basrah.

10/11 April

Regime leadership and control structures have been broken through most of the country. Pockets of resistance remain, and there are increasing indications of regime-associated individuals attempting to escape the coalition by fleeing into other countries. Regime instruments are still available to the remaining elements, and the coalition continued efforts to find these instruments, as well as the regime elements and destroy them.

In general terms, coalition efforts focused on increasing the conditions of security and stability in liberated areas and conducting focused combat operations in areas not yet liberated.

Coalition maneuver operations continued yesterday in Karbala and in Baghdad. A patrol from the 101st Airborne Division that moved into the Karbala area by helicopter assault and then proceeded to clear any remaining enemy resistance.

In Baghdad, operations continue to clear any remaining elements. There still is resistance inside of Baghdad in local pockets, and with efforts you are intended to increase the conditions of stability and security in these areas. A vehicle explosion occurred in the northeast of Baghdad. That explosion and also the clearance of a minefield along Highway 8 that had over 350 mines harvested from the minefield served as reminders that Baghdad is remains insecure.

Both the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force units, on the east side of the Tigris River, and Fifth Corps units on the west side.

The coalition began broadcasting world news television broadcasts in Arabic using existing military broadcast platforms. And these are in addition to the radio broadcasts that continue 24-hours a day,

In Baghdad, Coalition troops took the notorious Abu Gharib prison complex, which proved to be empty. Operations also continued to increase the security of Baghdad International Airport. At Karbala, the university was cleared of regime forces.

3rd Infantry Division soldiers conducted combat patrols in the Baghdad area, which reduced enemy obstacles, and expanded the use of the Baghdad International Airport's airfield. The patrols also lead to the capture of seven missiles, and eight trucks with weapons and ammunition.

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) encountered light enemy contact while conducting security operations in the cities of Karbala and Al Hillah. The soldiers also began clearing operations, which lead to the destruction of two tanks.

The 82nd Airborne Division assessed the cities of As Samawah, Ar Rumaythah, and Ad Diwaniyah. The division continued to evaluate these cities to provide humanitarian assistance to the local populace, and security to ensure freedom of movement.

Coalition and Kurdish forces occupied Kirkuk. A cease-fire agreement was also brokered with the Iraqi regular army's 5th Corps near Mosul.

Unconventional warfare and direct action missions continued in all parts of the country. In Baghdad, special operations forces, supported by mechanized infantry, entered the Abu Gharib prison complex. This prison has the capacity to hold up to 15,000 prisoners, and was found empty

In the west, special operations forces took surrender of an Iraqi colonel who was responsible for the border control points at Highway 11, leading into Syria, and Highway 10. And he turned over the keys to the border control point at Highway 11. The coalition now controls that border crossing point. Along Highway 1, this is the road that runs north of Tikrit, between Tikrit and Bayji, which is a bit further to the north, coalition special operations forces had a small firefight, and after the firefight discovered an area that had five small airplanes covered with camouflage. These airplanes might be something that could be potentially used by regime leaders to try to escape, or could potentially be used for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction. All five aircraft were destroyed to prevent their use by the regime remnants.

Coalition special operations forces, supported by Kurdish Peshmerga and elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, entered Kirkuk and ended any organized military resistance there. The 173 Airborne Brigade continued operations to secure key portions of the Kirkuk oil field and also Kirkuk military airport. At this point, four of the very important gas-oil separation plants and several wells were been secured, and none had been damaged tot this point.

Also in the north, a coalition special operations commander accepted a signed cease-fire agreement from the Iraqi 5th Corps commander, regular army, near Mosul. There had been discussions ongoing for some period of time, and were brought to a degree of closure. This followed a period of bombing and close air support missions, and a efforts to make contact.

Iraqi 5th Corps forces began to leave the battlefield -- some leaving their equipment, and either returning to their garrison or simply proceeding with life, as civilians out of uniform. Many Iraqi forces in the north removed their uniforms and left the battlefield to walk home without their equipment.

For the first time in combat history, a B-52 Stratofortress used a LITENING Advanced Airborne Targeting and Navigation Pod to target facilities at an airfield in northern Iraq at approximately 5:45 a.m. EST April 11. It successfully dropped one laser-guided GBU-12 munition on a radar complex and one on a command complex at the Al Sahra airfield northwest of Tikrit using the LITENING system.

LITENING is an advanced airborne infrared targeting and navigation pod designed to improve both day and night targeting capabilities. It provides the B-52 radar navigator with real-time images, greatly increasing the aircraft's flexibility to positively identify dynamic targets in a continually changing battlefield environment. LITENING is used to designate targets and provides guidance to the laser-guided munitions for pinpoint accuracy eliminating the need for an outside target source either on the ground or in the air when it is used. The radar navigator, in today's case, identified the targets with the imagery provided by the pod, then guided the GBU-12s to the targets with the LITENING laser, successfully striking the targets.

A shipment of humanitarian aid from the Red Crescent and United Arab Emirates arrived in Umm Qasr.

11/12 April

The comparative daily and total air effort as of April 11th was:

- Total sorties (today/since G-day): About 1,525/About 36,275
- Strike sorties (today/since G-day): About 375/About 14,050
- Air and space supremacy sorties (today/since G-day): About 260/About 4,900
- C2ISR sorties (today/since G-day): About 115/About 2,450
- Combat search and rescue sorties (today/since G-day): Less than 5/About 270
- Aerial refueling sorties (today/since G-day): About 380/About 7,525

- Aerial refueling offloads (through 9 Apr): 310 million pounds (46 million gals)
- Airlift sorties (today/since G-day): About 400/About 7,100
- Cargo moved (through 9 Apr): About 55,000 short tons
- Passengers moved (through 9 Apr): About 76,000
- Aeromedical evacuation sorties (today/since G-day): About 5/About 110
- AE urgent patients moved (today/since G-day): Less than 5/About 50
- AE total patients moved (today/since G-day): About 150/About 1,300
- Munitions (total guided/total unguided/percent PGM): About 17,000/About 8,500/About 65%
- Leaflets dropped (since G-day/since Oct 02): About 31 million/About 50 million

These sortie and munition numbers include CFACC strike and strike support missions; they do not include CFSOCC sorties or munitions or CFLCC and CFMCC helo and small fixed-wing sorties.

The priorities and themes for air missions on April 11th were:

- On-call close air support, SOF support, and persistent ISR coverage.
- About 80 percent of strike sorties focused on 24/7 on-call close air support of coalition ground forces in Baghdad and throughout Iraq, ready to attack enemy forces instantly as required by coalition ground forces.
- About one-third of all strike sorties focused on supporting SOF forces in the north.
- The air component maintain persistent surveillance and reconnaissance operations over Iraq to locate and target enemy forces that are still resisting the coalition.

The situation in northern Iraq changed quickly as coalition forces, supported by Kurdish forces, moved into areas vacated by the Iraqi military. Significant increases in the number of special forces detachments in the area of Mosul in the North made it possible for us to meet with local leaders and set additional conditions for stability. A neighborhood watch system went into effect in Mosul, and the presence of coalition forces there contributed to stability. A wholesale capitulation occurred, and effective military forces have not been encountered in that area. Coalition special operations forces and the 173rd Airborne Brigade continued efforts to increase the number of oil field structures that are secured. They are receiving assistance from local oil experts as these facilities are assessed.

In the West, at Al Qa'im, coalition special operations forces continued their work in and around that area. They entered into a number of facilities, including searching a train station, and air defense headquarters, a phosphate plant, a cement factory, and a water treatment plant. They found two drones at the phosphate plant, and at this point we don't have any additional information on that.

Coalition special operations forces also entered Al Asad Airfield. This is a place that has been subjected to coalition attacks before. And what they found on the ground was 15 fighter aircraft, fixed-wing aircraft, hidden underneath the camouflage and in what appeared to be undamaged condition.

At a checkpoint in the west, coalition special operations forces stopped a bus with 59 military-aged men traveling west. Among their possessions were letters offering financial rewards for killing American soldiers and 630,000 U.S. dollars in 100-dollar bills. The men and all of their possessions have been taken into coalition control.

Coalition maneuver operations focused on increasing stability south of Baghdad to enable humanitarian assistance and on conducting combat operations to clear zones within Baghdad. Fifth Corps and 1st MEF forces expanded into new areas and there was a significant increase in the southern area because of the addition of one more unit -- in this case, the 101st Airborne Division. In some cases there were pockets of resistance encountered, and were defeated.

As deliberate operations continue in Baghdad, more information was made available to the coalition regarding remaining regime elements, and regarding the location of ammunition and equipment. Yesterday, the coalition received information from Iraqi citizens about the location of some rockets, and found on the ground five mobile launchers, and one Al-Samoud missile.

In other areas, the coalition continued its operational maneuver in the area of Al-Amarah in the east, where U.K. forces and coalition U.S. forces are moving toward one another to link up. In the area of Al Kut just to the northwest of there, there are still some indications that there may be a regime presence, and we are turning our attention in that direction.

Baghdad city to improve security to allow humanitarian aid deliveries. The Presidential Scientific Adviser, Amir Hamudi Hasan al-Sadi, surrendered to Coalition troops in Baghdad.

U.S. Marines discovered 310 suicide-bomber vests at an unspecified location in Baghdad on Friday. One hundred sixty of the vests contain ball bearings and are engineered with explosives. The remaining 150 vests did not contain ball bearings. Sixty of the vests are made of black leather, and are designed to be worn over clothing.

1(UK) Armoured Division and US Marines continued work to link the secured areas around Basrah and Al Amarah.

Australian forces commenced Operation Baghdad Assist to help deliver medical supplies to the city.

12/13 April

Members of the First Marine Expeditionary Force returned seven American service members to the coalition.

They were found in the vicinity of Samarra, Iraq. In Basrah, local police patrols were resumed under the close supervision of British troops.

13/14 April

USCENTCOM described Syrian and foreign fighters as using terrorist tactics. These people "are at the very best mercenaries who have been paid to come into Iraq. [07:43] No good estimate of how many of these well-armed and violent young men have made their way into Iraq. They're not doing any good for the people of Iraq. Up to 80 suicide bomb vests from the discovered cache remain unaccounted for. Of these foreigners, Syrians have been seen "in the greatest density." Iraqi intelligence services are believed to have recruited in Syria.

Secured all of the northern oil fields and are working with indigenous oil workers and firefighters on repair work to be done there.. Northern fields are in better shape than the south. All fires in south are out. One well in the north is still burning.

US forces attacked Tikrit from the South, West and North in what was the only significant combat action of the last 24 hours. They met less resistance than anticipated. Secured the presidential palace, which was not defended at all. This is after weeks of bombing, leafletting, a special ops raid and direct talks with Iraqi officers.

Forces turned their attention to stability operations. Moving to secure power stations, water facilities and hospitals. Map at 07:13 shows a key power plant and water treatment plant in Baghdad. Coalition engineers are meeting at all levels with Iraqi utility workers to restore services throughout Iraq.

Joint patrols and about 200 police volunteers have started patrolling Basra. In other areas, tribal leaders are establishing coalitions of tribes. In Karbala, a local police has 200+ volunteers, uniforms and 10 marked police vehicles.

ⁱ March 22, 2003, USCENTCOM Release Number: 03-03-44