

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

Media Release

HQ-MND Baghdad

Camp Liberty

Baghdad, Iraq

APO AE 09344

Commercial: (703) 621-0781

IRAQNA 011-964-770-252-3225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE No. 20090112-13

January 12, 2009

Dagger commander, IP leaders discuss Election Day security

By Spc. Dustin Roberts
2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B

BAGHDAD – The commander of the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, visited local national police stations in northwest Baghdad Jan. 10 to make sure they were on the same page in securing the population on Iraqi Election Day.

Col. Joseph Martin, a native of Dearborn, Mich., commander, 2nd HBCT, met Iraqi Police leaders in Kadhamiyah, Mansour and Salhiya.

“The security and safety of the people of northwest Baghdad is our number-one concern,” said Martin. “Their (Iraqi Security Forces) success is our success, and we are here to help in any way we can.”

The IP leaders told Martin how they were going to organize and divide their police officers in their respective areas of operations Jan. 31, which is believed to be a significant chapter in the country’s history.

“We are dedicated to the people of Mansour,” said Brig. Gen. Raheem, the chief of police in the Mansour district of northwest Baghdad. “I want to use as many people working in the police station as I can to aid in the security mission on Election Day.”

The leaders also discussed how they will work together to ensure acts of violence are controlled to an absolute minimum.

To facilitate in the protection process, Martin said the Dagger Brigade could offer Soldiers and bomb-sniffing K-9 units to lighten the ISF’s load.

They also agreed that each voting area, especially the areas considered to be more dangerous than others, will be carefully watched over and the proper steps to search and secure the areas will be taken.

“We don’t want the terrorists here to be a challenge to us and disrupt the election process,” said Raheem, “so we will put emphasis on the areas of concern.”

In each conversation with the three leaders, Martin wanted to highlight the efforts the ISF have been putting forth in the planning process for the big day.

“We’re talking about such a small percentage of the population who are the criminals,” Martin said. “We will talk to each other a lot in the next few weeks to ensure the elections are run smoothly.”

To also ensure the elections are well-secured, Martin said 2nd HBCT Soldiers are patrolling the areas and speaking to the local populace, asking them about rumors or tips about planned attacks from Special Group criminals.

“We have increased our searches throughout the neighborhoods to find out if there is anybody doing bad activity,” Martin told the leaders. “The best thing that we can do is search for evidence and activity very carefully.”

As the Iraqi Election Day draws near, ISF and Coalition Forces continue to communicate and work together so violence can be prevented on what some Iraqis believe to be the most important day of the year.

“Anything we can do to help each other in this mission will be done,” said Martin. “As we continue to prepare for the elections the number one focus is securing each voting site.”



Eat.

BAGHDAD – Brig. Gen. Raheem, the chief of police in the Mansour District of northwest Baghdad, joins members of the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, for lunch Jan. 10 before discussing the security of the local population on the anticipated Iraqi Election Day Jan. 31. Col. Joseph Martin, a native of Dearborn, Mich., commander, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B, visited three police stations in northwest Baghdad to discuss how they will secure voting sites on Iraqi Election Day.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B)



Map.

BAGHDAD – 1st Lt. Patrick Tanner (left), 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, points to an area on a map in the office of Brig. Gen. Raheem, the chief of police in the Mansour district of northwest Baghdad Jan. 10. The meeting was to make sure Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces were properly communicating in preparing for the security mission on Iraqi Election Day.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B)



Prepare 1.

BAGHDAD – Col. Joseph Martin (right), a native of Dearborn, Mich., commander, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, speaks to Col. Ra'ad, the director of the Salhiya Police Department in Ra'ad's office Jan. 10 about the security plan for Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces on Iraqi Election Day. Martin said it was crucial to work together in order to keep criminal violence to a minimum.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B)



Prepare 2.

BAGHDAD – Col. Joseph Martin (right, sitting in uniform), a native of Dearborn, Mich., commander, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, speaks to Brig. Gen. Raheem (sitting behind desk), the chief of police in the Mansour district of northwest Baghdad in his office Jan. 10. The meeting was to make sure Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces were properly communicating in preparing for the security mission on Iraqi Election Day.

(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts, 2nd HBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B)