

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. 20090128-14

January 28, 2009

Soldiers deliver security barriers to Washash election site

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

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from the 299th Brigade

Support Battalion “Lifeline,” 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division

helped enhance security in an effort to ensure voters in northwest Baghdad will be safe on election day.

The Lifeline Soldiers worked with their fellow MND-B Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., to deliver 200 concrete barriers and a 30-foot watch tower to the ballot holding facility and voting site in the Washash neighborhood of the Mansour district of northwest Baghdad Jan. 24-25.

The barriers will provide additional protection for the Iraqi Security Forces as its members continue to grow in their capabilities in securing the Iraqi population.

“We are trying to create a stand-off and a little extra security by giving a couple of walls and a tower to the Iraqi Army to make them feel a little more comfortable,” said 1st Lt. Ryan Snedegar, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. “We helped the ISF with the upgrades, but this security was planned and controlled by the ISF.”

The ISF took the lead in preparing for the big day while Coalition Forces assisted in planning.

Snedegar said the barriers will not only provide protection for the voters and will also build self-assurance in the ISF’s mission.

“It gives them a lot of confidence; we throw a little bit of concrete out there and make it a little more secure,” he said. “Missions like these definitely step up their level of participation and their level of security.”

With the added security, Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces both believe the level of voter participation will be high.

“We would like to see as many voters out as possible,” said Snedegar. “The citizens need to feel comfortable to do what they know is right. I think they want to vote; they know they need to vote, and this is definitely a huge step for us here.”

The combined effort to emplace the barriers required a large element to provide the necessary security. The Soldiers also had the cover of darkness to conceal them as they worked, said Sgt. 1st Class David Spiker, convoy commander, Company B, 299th BSB.

“The night provides a safety element for us. There’s less visibility for the enemy, and they can’t tell how many people we have out there,” he said. “There is less traffic at night, and it’s just safer all around for a convoy this large to roll at night.”

After the elections, the barriers will be taken down as normalcy returns to northwest Baghdad.

“This is giving a feeling of safety for those who want to go out and vote and protect them from anyone trying to stop them from voting,” said Spiker. “It’s a very important mission, and I’m proud of the Soldiers who accomplished it.”

-30-



Election Security.

BAGHDAD – Soldiers from the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, observe an Alaska barrier being placed in front of a voting site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 25. Soldiers of the battalion worked with their fellow Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., to deliver 200 barriers and a concrete watch tower to Washash in order to add security for the upcoming election day.

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



Build.

BAGHDAD – An Iraqi contractor guides an Alaska barrier into place in front of an election site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 24.

Soldiers from the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, worked with their fellow Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., to deliver 200 barriers and a concrete watch tower to Washash in order to add security for the upcoming election day.

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



Guide.

BAGHDAD – 1st Lt. Ryan Snedegar, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, guides a concrete barrier in front of an election site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 25. Soldiers from the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., delivered 200 barriers and a concrete watch tower to the site to increase security for the upcoming election day.

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



Place.

BAGHDAD – 1st Lt. Ryan Snedegar, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, guides a concrete barrier in front of an election site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 25. Elements of the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., delivered 200 barriers and a concrete watch tower to the site in order to increase security for the upcoming election day.

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



Strategy.

BAGHDAD – Cpl. Logan Arthur (left) and Staff. Sgt. Troy Watson, both from 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, discuss how they are going to maneuver concrete barriers in front of a voting site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 25. Elements of the battalion worked with their fellow MND-B Soldiers from 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., MND-B to deliver 200 barriers and a concrete watch tower to Washash in order to add security for the upcoming election day.

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



Push.

BAGHDAD – Cpl. Logan Arthur, 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, guides a concrete barrier in front of an election site in the Washash neighborhood of northwest Baghdad Jan. 25. Elements of the 299th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div., delivered 200 barriers and a concrete watch tower to the site in order to increase security for the upcoming election day.

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