FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 2, 2005

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT, Iraq. Task Force Danger Soldiers continue to work with the great people of Iraq, pressing forward with irreversible momentum towards Iraq’s first democratic elections to be held on January 30th. Iraqi security forces (ISF) have achieved local control in the provinces of North-Central Iraq and Task Force Danger continues to work with the Independent Election Commission of Iraq (IECI), the ISF, and Iraqi provincial, district, and city leaders to set the conditions for successful elections. Soldiers throughout the Task Force Danger area of operations continue to make huge contributions in Iraq by conducting full spectrum operations -- deliberate combat operations to neutralize the insurgency and stability and support operations to change people’s attitudes, give the people an alternative to the insurgency, and improve quality of life. Task Force Danger Soldiers celebrated the holidays with a variety of morale building events and the outpouring of support from the home front was truly appreciated. The efforts of our family, friends, and the American public made the holiday season in Iraq one to remember for a lifetime. We thank everyone for their unwavering support of our troops. This bi-weekly press release is intended to inform and garner support for our Soldiers and the families of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger.
Breaking the Cycle of Violence

In the last two weeks, operations in the Task Force Danger area of operations have resulted in an estimated 16 insurgents killed, eight wounded, and an additional 296 detained. Significant ammunition seized over the past two weeks included more than 551 rocket, mortar, artillery and tank rounds; 194 small arms weapons and grenades; 149 mines; 6,080 rounds of small arms ammunition; and 135 rocket propelled grenades. Major equipment found included three light anti-aircraft guns, one recoilless rifle, 80 feet of detonation cord, 541 fuses, 35 pounds of explosives, and two rifle grenades. Task Force Danger operations have also seized four military radios and one GPS.

Within the Division area of responsibility over the past two weeks, 81 improvised explosive devices were discovered prior to detonation, preventing the needless loss of life at the hands of AIF.

Iraqi Armed Services Recruiting Center Opens

Iraqi army officials, with the aide of Task Force Danger Soldiers, opened a new Iraqi Armed Services Recruiting Center in an attempt to enfranchise Sunni Arabs and former military officers in the Kirkuk Province. Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, part of Task Force Danger, responded to the concerns of local community leaders by establishing the center in an unused railroad station and equipping it with new computers and furniture. The Iraqi staff of the new center hosted an open house for their American benefactors and local community leaders in mid-December and began accepting new recruits on December 18th. Sunni Arab residents of the region complained about having to travel to recruiting centers located three hours away in a
predominantly Kurdish area. Task Force 1-27 Infantry had been escorting local Sunnis to the centers in Irbil and Mosul, and many prospective recruits had to make multiple trips. The new center provides an opportunity to many local young men with a desire to serve their country in the rapidly expanding Iraqi Security Forces. The new center in the formerly dormant Riyadh train station is manned and operated by current members of the 207th Iraqi National Guard Battalion. In addition to new computers, TF 1-27 provided concrete barriers and guard towers to help secure the site. The much-needed renovations were paid for by a coalition-sponsored project valued in excess of $60,000. Another $34,000 is being allocated for further improvements. Many civic and Iraqi Army leaders were on hand for the grand opening and thanked Task Force 1-27 for their commitment to providing opportunities to unemployed military aged males and former soldiers to serve their country. The center is expected to recruit 50 soldiers and officers per week.

Salah Ad Din Province Holds Health Advisory Counsel Conference

More than 20 Iraqi doctors and medical personnel from across the Salah Ad Din Province gathered in Tikrit recently with their Task Force Danger counterparts for a Health Advisory Counsel Conference. The Salah Ad Din Health Advisory Counsel has been in effect since the 1st Infantry Division’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team began operating in the province last February. The conference was the first official meeting for Iraqi doctors and coalition forces to discuss a range of issues as well as gain insight into problems faced by the health care system. During the day long conference, everything from hospital organization to the role of nurses in healthcare was discussed. Lectures
on hospital logistics, personnel, and sanitation were also presented. Over $1 million dollars has been dedicated to infrastructure and equipment in support of Salah Ad Din health care systems. Extensive first aid training programs have been instituted for the province’s first responders such as Iraqi firemen and police officers. Dr. Hassan Zeinalabdeen Naki, the Minister of Health for Salah Ad Din, spoke about how the previous regime neglected the health care system in the country. He said there is a shortage of everything from medicines to health care workers. Dr. Hassan said the key to a new health care system is robust and quality infrastructure. Thanks to the Health Advisory Counsel, the province of Salah Ad Din is well on its way to providing first class health care for its citizens.

**Task Force Danger Soldiers Rebuild Primary School in Baqubah**

Task Force Danger Soldiers and their local Iraqi counterparts are rebuilding this country one project at a time despite the efforts of anti-Iraqi forces to disrupt progress. The rebuilding of a primary school for boys and girls in Baqubah is one example of the irreversible momentum achieved in Iraq. The Termathy Thubyani School educates several hundred boys and girls. The school’s teachers are dedicated to preparing these young students for a better future, but, unfortunately, the anti-Iraqi forces damaged several classrooms this past summer. Recently, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team received a formal request to refurbish the school. The project was approved and a local builder was hired to complete the repairs. Using more than 25 workers from Baqubah, the contractor commenced work in mid-December and completed the project in less than a week. Severely pitted classroom walls, a result of the insurgents’ wanton and
indiscriminate use of gun fire, have been restored. Shattered windows have been replaced; new ceiling fans and shiny blackboards were installed. The contractor also rebuilt the outer wall of the compound and the exterior of the school received a fresh coat of paint. The heartwarming feeling of pride in helping these young children was contagious. The contractor, who not only did an excellent job fulfilling the terms of the contract, also carried out additional repairs free of charge. The renovation of the Termathy Thubyani School highlights the partnership that has been forged between coalition forces and the Iraqi people.

Task Force Danger Continues Full Spectrum Operations.

Units across Task Force Danger’s Area of Operations, which includes 28 Forward Operating Bases in the four provinces of North-Central Iraq (Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Diyala, and Salah Ad Din), continue full spectrum operations. Full spectrum operations entail a range of missions from intelligence driven combat operations to kill or capture anti-Iraqi forces, to building relationships with local civic, religious, and tribal leaders, to rebuilding the nation’s infrastructure and economy. Task Force Danger Soldiers are working hard to change Iraqi attitudes and provide Iraqis alternatives to the insurgency. Every day, Soldiers of all ranks within Task Force Danger are making invaluable and lasting contributions toward a free and representative Iraq.

1st Squadron, 4th United States Cavalry (Sabre) Recently, Task Force Sabre celebrated the basic training graduation of 61 soldiers from Alpha Company, 203rd ING Battalion. These soldiers represent the professionalism, character, and devotion to duty
that epitomize the current make up of the new company. In an effort to recognize deserving soldiers and maintain high morale in the unit, the ING Commander presented three soldiers achievement medals for their exemplary performances. Two of the soldiers were recognized for being the honor graduates of the ING Basic Training Course and another soldier received the award for his expert marksmanship. In addition to the ING, the Iraqi Police and Joint Coordination Center (JCC) staff attended the ceremony. Alpha Company, 203rd ING Battalion was rebuilt from the ground up and is now setting the example in achieving company level self-sufficiency. Based upon a call to the tip line at a local JCC, Bravo Troop, 1-4 CAV was guided to a cache east of Samarra. The cache consisted of three concealed holes in the ground containing four 20mm machine guns, boxes of 20mm ammunition, boxes of rocket propellant, box of rocket fuses, one 20mm recoilless rifle, six boxes of armor piercing ammunition, and one 60mm mortar system. This is a great example of local JCCs becoming more effective and how the Iraqi Security Forces have earned the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people. The Squadron conducted a series of raids in late December to kill or capture insurgents. In one operation east of the town of Ad Duluiyah, Task Force Sabre Soldiers captured a “high payoff target”, one of the unit’s most wanted insurgents. The Cavalry Squadron also launched Operation Powder River to deny freedom of movement and sanctuary to insurgents. The goal was to enable Iraqi Security Forces to assume local control and set the conditions for successful elections in the area. In a raid conducted as part of the operation, the squadron detained 42 insurgents. The Squadron, teamed with its Iraqi partners, continues to set the conditions for a secure environment and successful elections.
2nd Brigade Combat Team (Dagger). The Dagger Brigade has continued to maintain a safe and secure environment while still finding time to celebrate this holiday season. Members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company decided to spread the holiday spirit to the local children of the villages of Al Allam, Al Owja, and Wynott on December 21st. The mission was part of Operation Lion Cub. The goal of this operation was to distribute boxes of toys and school supplies which had been donated by Family Readiness Groups in Schweinfurt, Germany, and the United States. The Soldiers were better able to enjoy the holidays knowing they had made a positive impact on the lives of the local children. Task Force 1-7 recognized a shortage of medical supplies in the Bayji Hospital caused by the increase in insurgent attacks against innocent people and security forces. The battalion, along with Charlie Company, 201st ING Battalion, delivered the much-needed supplies on December 13th. The 201st ING took extra pride in this mission, as many members of the unit have been wounded in the recent attacks. The Iraqi Police in Sharqat were grateful for another Task Force 1-7 contribution when First Lightning Soldiers delivered 1,100 shirts, 150 pairs of pants, and over 40 sets of body armor to the Sharqat police. The uniforms and body armor will go a long way in developing a sense of pride and teamwork in the Sharqat police force, as these brave officers now serve in a distinctive and functional uniform. Of course, the body armor will also build confidence in policemen walking the beat in the town of Sharqat. In the City of Tikrit, Task Force 1-18 and the Iraqi Security Forces have been making incredible progress in their preparation for the elections. The Tikrit Emergency Services Unit (ESU) conducted an intensive day long raid exercise on December 21st in order to enhance their proficiency in handling crises in an urban environment. Task Force 1-18
trainers gave the ESU leadership a scenario in which gunmen seized an election polling site along with several hostages. The ESU developed a well-conceived plan and executed the raid successfully. The unit neutralized the insurgents while also safeguarding the hostages. As the elite arm of the Iraqi Police, the ESU must be thoroughly trained to handle these types of situations. Task Force 1-18 also began a media campaign on December 23rd to promote the upcoming Iraqi elections and to reinforce the confidence of local residents in the Iraqi Security Forces. Billboards and leaflets throughout the area accurately portray the Tikrit ISF as guardians of free elections. Task Force 1-18’s weekly radio show, broadcast from Tikrit, addresses the people’s concerns and questions and promote participation in the elections. The battalion’s efforts are paying off as many candidates and political parties have registered to run in the country’s historic elections. Iraqi National Guard soldiers and Alpha Company, Task Force 2-108 Soldiers recently worked together to break up a ring of bicycle thieves operating in Ad Dujayl. The ring was masterminded by a pair known as “the brothers,” who were responsible for stealing about thirty bikes a week. After raiding their hideout, Alpha Company Soldiers were able to redistribute the bikes to their rightful owners. Needless to say, local children were overjoyed to receive their bicycles. Taking the time to reach out to the people in small ways such as this goes a long way in strengthening the relationships so important to the success of our mission. On December 26th, the Soldiers of Task Force 2-108 from New York completed their mission with Task Force Danger and formally transferred responsibility for their area of operations to Task Force 1-128 from Wisconsin. We bid farewell and God speed to Task Force 2-108 and welcome Task Force 1-128.
3rd Brigade Combat Team (Duke). The 3rd Brigade Combat Team continues to be aggressive in all aspects of operations in the Diyala Province. The last month has been very productive; the 3rd BCT conducted more than 44 intelligence-driven operations designed to kill or capture insurgents and deny them the use of stockpiled weapons and munitions. These operations included Duke Trifecta, Pegmatite, Trebuchet, Rucon, Avenger Strike III, Scoria, Centaur Backbreaker Phase V, and more than ten others. The operations included village assessments with the Iraqi Security Forces, deliberate raids on insurgents' houses, and searching for munitions caches. The majority of operations were conducted with the Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi Police. The 3rd BCT's units continue to coach, teach, and mentor Iraqi Security Forces. In most cases, the ING units and police forces have achieved platoon and police station self sufficiency, what is called “local control.” The focus of this release is the success of the ING. The major event of the last two weeks was re-establishing a presence at the Buhriz Police station after it was destroyed by insurgents last month. Soldiers from several 3rd BCT task forces, including Task Force 1-6, Task Force 82nd, and military policemen worked together with over 200 Iraqi Police to restore and maintain order in Buhriz and accomplished the mission in less than 72 hours. The former Governor’s Mansion in Buhriz now houses a company of Iraqi National Guard soldiers. The Iraqi National Guard and Iraqi Police have also cracked down on illegal gas vendors in the Baqubah, Muqdadiyah, and Khalis areas. The average wait time for fuel has been dramatically reduced from up to 15 hours to less than 3 hours. With help from coalition forces, the ISF have been successful in maintaining order while local leaders work to resolve the fuel distribution problem plaguing the country. LTC Thear, commander of
the 205th ING Battalion, has designed a command information handbill which he is distributing throughout the Muqdadiyah area. The handbill explains the election process and outlines the importance of participating in the upcoming provincial and national elections. It also emphasizes the joint efforts of the ING and Iraqi Police to help promote a better way of life. Because successful relationships with local and provincial leaders are important to the 3rd BCT, a significant amount of activity involves Civil-Military Operations. In recent operations, the 213th ING Battalion and Task Force 82nd jointly delivered school supplies to local children in the villages of Dura and Mulla Ead. Repairs at the new Buhriz police station employed over 100 local workers who completed $65,000 in renovations. Also in Buhriz, new Neighborhood Watch and Adopt-a-Highway programs, which began on December 21st, will employ hundreds of local Iraqis to help clean up the city and identify insurgents and the roadside bombs they employ. In the community of Sindiyah, local Iraqi engineers continue to make great progress on the Sindiyah Water Project, which will supply water from the Tigris River to local farmlands and households in the surrounding area. Soldiers from FOB Warhorse dedicated a weapons range to the memory of SGT William Cody Eckhart from Rock Springs, Texas. A cavalry scout from Fox Troop, 4th US Cavalry, SGT Eckhart died April 10th from wounds sustained in combat. HHC, 3rd BCT, in conjunction with Kellog, Brown and Root, is nearing completion of a 200-seat movie theater and stage complex. This is one of the ongoing projects in the brigade to help improve morale, welfare, and recreation facilities. Overall, the Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team continue their dedication to making Diyala Province a safer and better place for the Iraqi people.
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (Warrior). The Warrior Brigade continues to conduct both combat and stability operations throughout its area of operations. This week, the BCT Commander, COL Miles, the 116th BCT Commander, BG Gayhart, who is succeeding COL Miles in the near future, and the Governor of Kirkuk province, Abdul Mustafa, conducted a press conference. The leaders answered several questions on topics ranging from the status of the upcoming national and provincial elections to recent joint Iraqi Security Force and Coalition Force operational successes. BG Gayhart made his first remarks to the Kirkuk media following his introduction by COL Miles. Fourteen local print, radio, and television media outlets were on hand for the press conference. This event is part of the Warrior Brigade’s ongoing effort to encourage civic leaders to utilize the media to engage and educate the local population. Task Force 1-14 completed their relief in place with Task Force 3-116 and the Golden Dragons stand ready for missions in support of operations to further disrupt insurgent plans to interfere with the elections. Task Force 1-21, the Gimlets, and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in Kirkuk continue to demonstrate their ability to plan and execute complex operations. The Kirkuk Emergency Service Unit and the “Scorpion” Platoon, part of the local ING battalion, recently took action against an Ansar Al-Sunna cell and an Al Tawhed Wal-Jihad cell operating in Kirkuk. The team detained a total of 41 personnel and captured three AK-47s, Saddam Hussein propaganda materials, cell phones, and two vehicles. The ISF in Kirkuk are committed to ensuring the security and stability required for successful elections. Recently, Soldiers from Task Force 2-11, in coordination with Assyrian members of the Dibis city council, prepared Christmas gifts, clothing, and personal hygiene items for all of the children of the Assyrian families in
Dibis. In the past, Task Force 2-11 has worked with the local government to sponsor projects focused on the Muslim population in the area. This event provided an opportunity to recognize the Christian community in Dibis during the Christmas season.

**278th Regimental Combat Team (The Volunteers).** The 278th Regimental Combat Team (RCT) moved into eastern Diyala province ready to get to work after more than six months of intense training in the United States. Operations began with a very successful relief in place with the 30th Brigade Combat Team from North Carolina, which culminated with the transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony on December 24th. The TOA ceremony was well attended by local Iraqi and Kurdish leaders. Major General John R.S. Batiste, Commanding General of Task Force Danger, presided over the ceremony, during which BG Danny H. Hickman, Commander of the 30th BCT, relinquished authority to Colonel Dennis J. Adams. The RCT hosted a Regional Security Working Group meeting in Muntheria along the Iraq/Iran border on December 21st. Governor Abdullah of the Diyala Province led the meeting, which was attended by most of the mayors in the region. The meeting was a big success because it allowed local Iraqi leaders to address their security concerns directly with the Governor and coalition forces. It was also an invaluable opportunity for the leaders to share their good ideas and coordinate efforts in the area. The meeting demonstrated the 278th RCT’s commitment to carry on where the 30th BCT left off and to continue programs to further strengthen local governance, improve security, and increase the quality of life for the Iraqi people. Christmas Eve began a unique holiday season for many 278th RCT Soldiers. Many Soldiers of the regiment have never spent Christmas away from their
families and loved ones, but the Regiment planned a night of caroling and Christmas church services to help the Soldiers feel more at home. In addition, some of the staff sections celebrated by having gift exchanges. The soldiers showed their resilience and commitment to their mission by keeping their spirits up and smiles on their faces. Bravo Team, 1st Squadron, 278th RCT spent most of their Christmas day on the Iraqi/Iranian border inspecting border castles and meeting with the Iraqi border patrol. Team B also disbursed payments to local villagers for the ordnance that the people had discovered and turned in. Charlie Company, Support Squadron kept the Christmas spirit alive by handing out medical and school supplies and operating a medical clinic for Iraqis in the Al-Needah villages of Haran Co and Al-Hezam on December 27th. The Soldiers’ reward: the smiles of grateful children. Joint operations with the Iraqi National Guard (ING) continue to improve the security of the region. On December 27th, while on a mission with ING Jisr Naft, Soldiers of Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 278th RCT uncovered five weapons caches containing a total of 42 cases of 14.5mm ammunition, twelve 60mm mortar rounds, seven armor piercing incendiary rocket propelled grenade (RPGs) systems, six RPG boosters, six RPG rounds, two 122mm artillery shells, two 60mm mortars systems, and one 60mm mortar tripod. On December 28th, soldiers from Delta Troop discovered another large cache containing twenty-eight 60mm mortar rounds, three 122mm artillery rounds, sixty-three 82mm mortar rounds, three 100mm rounds, four land mines, four armor piercing RPG warheads, and one 106mm high explosive round.
4th Aviation Brigade (Dragon). 4th Brigade continues to execute its mission throughout the Task Force Danger area of operations, providing aviation combat and combat support to the Big Red One. In addition to maintaining its high standards of aviation maintenance and flying hour operational tempo, the brigade has begun the reception and integration of elements of the 42nd Infantry Division’s Aviation Brigade.

The 1-150th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB) completed all tasks associated with their “relief in place” with 2-1 Aviation. The new battalion is now conducting independent aviation operations under the operational control of 4th Brigade. Members of 2-1 Aviation will conduct their transfer of authority ceremony with the remainder of the Aviation Brigade, currently scheduled for February 5th. The 1-150 GSAB’s flying hour objective for its first month of combat operations in Iraq is a full 800 flight hours. They are currently on track to exceed this objective, setting a pace to fly 991 hours during this flying hour period while contributing to the 4th Brigade’s critical missions of battlefield circulation and VIP support. The remainder of the 42nd Infantry Division Aviation Brigade is still on schedule to begin their relief in place during the first week in January.

Over the past two weeks, 1-1 Aviation has flown over 600 hours and conducted numerous VIP armed escort missions. Perhaps the highlight of these VIP armed escort missions was support provided to the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, while he conducted a surprise holiday visit to the troops in Iraq. The Gunfighters continue to provide critical reconnaissance and security support for the Division’s main effort in Samarra as well as providing exceptional armed reconnaissance of critical oil pipeline and infrastructure. As the 1st Infantry Division continues it’s deliberate, staggered relief in place with the 42nd Infantry Division, 1-1 Aviation is also conducting armed
reconnaissance and security of main and alternate supply routes for deploying and redeploying units as they move in and out of the 1st Infantry Division’s area of operations. 2-1 Aviation has maintained their outstanding record of exceptional aviation maintenance while maintaining an aggressive operations tempo. This month, the Eagles again flew over 600 hours while conducting aviation combat and combat support missions for the division. They continue to provide exceptional support across the 1st Infantry Division area of operations, executing battlefield circulation and general support missions for all Soldiers in Task Force Danger. 2-1 Aviation completed the first of two battalion reliefs in place this month. Immediately upon completion of a deliberate relief-in-place lasting more than two weeks with the 1-150 GSAB, the Eagles immediately began work preparing for their second relief in place signaled by the arrival of the 1-140 GSAB’s advance party this week. The Eagles’ dedicated and steadfast effort will ensure that a second general support aviation battalion will also be ready for combat operations as Task Force Danger transfers authority to the 42nd Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty. The 601st Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) continues to provide outstanding air and ground maintenance and logistical support to the brigade by providing supply parts to keep our vehicles on the road and aircraft in the air. Once again, the 601st ASB has provided exceptional aviation maintenance allowing 4th Brigade to fly over 1,450 hours in the last two weeks. Sustaining this incredible level of flying hours is critical to executing the challenging aviation combat missions required to establish a safe and secure environment in Iraq and the peaceful transition to a free and representative government. The 601st ASB is also rapidly preparing for their relief in place with the 642nd ASB. Lead elements of the 642nd ASB have begun arriving and will
soon receive the training and familiarization required to execute the air and ground logistical operations that underpin the continued success of aviation brigade elements in North Central Iraq.

**Division Artillery (Drumfire).** Soldiers of "Drumfire", the 1st Infantry Division Artillery, continue to excel while conducting a myriad of missions throughout the Task Force Danger area of operations. Soldiers of "Thunder" Battery, HHB Divarty, as part of Task Force Breakout, located at Camp Victory, Kuwait, have received and processed more than 2,568 pieces of equipment for their return to Germany and the United States. The equipment includes tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles, and containers. This constitutes one third of the Division's equipment that is scheduled to be received in Kuwait for redeployment processing. Many of the Soldiers from the 30th Brigade Combat Team have begun the journey home as the first of many aircraft carrying them back to the United States left Kuwait this past week. Their efficient return home was made possible by Task Force Breakout Soldiers. Soldiers of the "Golden Lions" Battalion, 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery continue with their force protection duties at Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) Summerall and Brassfield-Mora, ensuring that these FOBs are well protected and secured. The Task Force Danger counter fire program continues to protect the force and deny the insurgents the ability to accurately engage our positions with rockets or mortars.

**Division Engineers (Devastator).** The 1st Infantry Division Engineers continue to forge ahead in the rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq and making life a little better and safer
for the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division. Recently, the Commander of Task Force Victory, the division rear detachment, interviewed the Engineer Brigade Commander during the division's live radio show in Germany. Through the interview, the Commander was able to inform the families back in Germany about all the activities and accomplishments of the Division Engineers in Iraq. An Engineer Brigade Soldier was recognized as a “Military Intelligence Hero of Task Force Danger” by the Department of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (G2), LTG Alexander. The Soldier, an engineer by training, received the accolade for outstanding performance while working as an intelligence analyst and systems operator. Several sections of the Division Engineer Headquarters are able to begin their relief in place process with their 42nd Infantry Division counterparts. The Transportation Ministry Coordinator and the Regional Reconstruction Operations Center (RROC) Battle Captain have been joined by their replacements and will begin their preparation and training in order to transfer duties. A lengthy transition period, or relief in place, is crucial due to the information, knowledge, and relationships with Iraqi officials that need to be seamlessly handed off to 42nd Infantry Division personnel. The RROC Battle Captain is responsible for managing the flow of reconstruction funding and logistical support for reconstruction projects in the 1st Infantry Division area of operations. In the public works sector, the Project Contracting Office (PCO) has started a new public works initiative called PW-091. A total of $17 million dollars has been set aside for building larger capacity water treatment plants that will provide potable water throughout Iraq. The 1st Infantry Division received an additional $10 million for infrastructure projects, $5 million of which will fund projects developed by the Engineer Brigade. On a recent trip to Baghdad, the
Transportation Ministry coordinator held meetings with the PCO and the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO) and secured $5 million to fund the upgrade and maintenance of two commercial and cargo rail facilities in the Task Force Danger area of operations. The 264th Combat Engineer Group (CEG) Design Team and the Engineer Brigade Security and Justice Ministry Coordinator hosted a meeting to discuss plans for renovation of the temporary headquarters of the 4th Iraqi National Guard Division, the Iraqi division partnered with the Big Red One. The attendees of the meeting unanimously approved the plans for the compound, and construction has begun. The project is scheduled to be complete in three weeks. The 264th CEG has also been hard at work at Forward Operating Base (FOB) McKenzie. The 216th Engineer Battalion, part of the 264th CEG, has built a new dining facility to support the Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. Thirty-two concrete tent foundations and wooden side walls have been built to provide additional, dust free living space during the transition between units of Task Force Danger and Task Force Liberty. A 1-4 Cavalry tactical operations center is also under construction and is thirty percent complete. On FOBs Remagen and Warhorse, engineers of the 264th CEG have also completed the "sterile" yards, areas where equipment prepared for redeployment to home station is stored. After customs inspections are complete, units will put vehicles and shipping containers in these yards to ensure that they remain secure prior to movement. The 3/854th Utilities Detachment continues to keep busy maintaining Saddam's Palace Complex in Tikrit. This week, Soldiers of the 854th have been repairing multiple electrical circuits on FOB Danger, improving the living and working conditions for many Soldiers on the base. The Engineer Brigade Power Coordinator
conducted a successful meeting at the Bayji Power Plant with Iraqi Director Generals and the power plant managers to coordinate plans for major projects to enhance power production. The brigade received contract bids for several key improvements to the plant.

**Division Support Command (Durable).** The Division Support Command continues to play an integral part in the equipping of the Iraqi Security Forces. To date, the DISCOM has received, prepared, and issued over 5,290 weapons, 480 vehicles, 2,727 radios, uniforms and equipment for over 12,698 soldiers, and 5.7 million rounds of ammunition to the Iraqi National Guard. The DISCOM has issued more than 10,296 weapons and 4.4 million rounds of ammunition to Iraqi Police and Border Guards. The DISCOM has equipped 25 Joint Coordination Centers with office furniture, supplies and automation. While this is an important mission, sustaining the 1st Infantry Division Combat Team is still our primary function. This week, we highlight the 601st Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) and their support to 4th Brigade and 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. The 601st ASB is located on four different bases in support of 4th Brigade and 1-4 Cavalry. The Dragon Express is the lifeline to 1-4 Cavalry, providing all necessary supplies to maintain their combat power. Soldiers of the 601st ASB have conducted over 170 combat logistic patrols, providing more than 1,212,000 gallons of water; 1,906,000 gallons of fuel; 114 truckloads of perishable food items; 984 tons of repair parts; and 352 tons of food rations. Another highlight of the 601st ASB is their supply support, in particular fuel and repair parts. The Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) has issued over 3,600,000 gallons of fuel to over 1,200 aircraft. The Supply Support Activity
(SSA) has received over 82,944 parts, and processed more than 80,900 customer requisitions. Moreover, the SSA has supported over 115 CH-47 LOGBIRD missions, transloading critical supplies needed throughout the Task Force Danger area of operations. Finally, 601st ASB maintenance expertise has maintained aircraft and vehicle readiness at rates above the Department of Army standard in the harsh environment of Iraq. Bravo Company has completed 3,368 work orders in support of their customer units’ ground maintenance. The Cavalry Support Team has completed 1,899 work orders in support of 1-4 Cavalry. Alpha Company has completed 4,377 work orders for the aircraft of 4th Brigade and completed “phased” maintenance for 12 Blackhawk and 14 Apache aircraft.

**Conclusion**

Across the entire Task Force Danger area of operations, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) are improving every day and Joint Coordination Centers are being exercised to synchronize the efforts of ISF and emergency services in preparation for January 30th elections. Iraqi Security Forces have now achieved local control in almost all areas of North-Central Iraq. In partnership with the sovereign Iraqi government, Task Force Danger has made great strides in improving provincial and municipal functions. And on the reconstruction front, Task Force Danger has made lasting contributions with its efforts to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people, and by doing so, providing people an alternative to the insurgency. Irreversible momentum has certainly been achieved and is being sustained by the incredibly agile soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division and all the member of the great team known as Task Force Danger. The
American people can be very proud of their Soldiers and confident in the outcome of Operation Iraqi Freedom. **Duty First!**

For more information on the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger: www.1id.army.mil