MNF-I COALITION

- Multi-National Force – Iraq was established 15 Jun 04 and formed with a coalition of 29 countries. The current force consists of more than 170,000 troops from 27 coalition nations.

- Security Council Resolution 1546 outlines the framework for international involvement in Iraq. The aim of this involvement is to prepare for a democratically elected government and to ensure full Iraqi control of the country and its resources. The only way to achieve this is to re-establish stability. The UN resolution imposes a responsibility on the entire international community for the development of Iraq. This will require close cooperation with the Iraqi authorities.

- The Security Council has given its full support to the Interim Government. The transfer of power last June and the holding of the National Council last August were important steps towards a democratic government. The next milestone will be the parliamentary elections on January 30 as the road to long-term stability goes through democratic political processes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Forces assigned</th>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>148,000</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>Norway</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current as of January 21, 2005
Iraqi constitution signed 8 March 2004


The National Assembly was elected and seated in Aug 2004

Number of Iraqi Government employees: 1.2 million

Countries with Embassies established in Iraq (47):

- Algeria
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- Canada
- China
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- India
- Iran
- Italy
- Japan
- Jordan
- Republic of Korea
- Lebanon
- Morocco
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Palestine
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Sri Lanka
- Slovak Republic
- Spain
- Sudan
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- UAE
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- USA
- Vatican
- Viet Nam
- Yemen

Iraqi Government ministries:

- Ministry of Agriculture: Minister: Sawsan Sherif
- Ministry of Communications: Minister: Mohammed Ali Hakim
- Ministry of Culture: Minister: Mufid Mohammad Jawad al-Jazairi
- Ministry of Defense: Minister: Hazem Shalan al-Khuzaei
- Ministry of Education: Minister: Sami Mudahfar
- Ministry of Electricity: Minister: Ayham al-Samarrai
- Ministry of Finance: Minister: Adil Abdel-Mahdi
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Minister: Hoshyar Zebari

Website: www.iraqelectric.org
Website: www.iraqmofa.net

Current as of January 21, 2005
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ministry of Health</th>
<th>Minister: Alaa Abdessaheb al-Alwan</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.mohiraq.org">www.mohiraq.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Higher Education</td>
<td>Minister: Tahir Al-Bakaa</td>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.moheiraq.org">www.moheiraq.org</a></td>
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<td>Ministry of Housing</td>
<td>Minister: Omar Farouk</td>
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<td>Ministry of Human Rights</td>
<td>Minister: Bakhityar Amin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Immigration and Refugees</td>
<td>Minister: Bascal Essue</td>
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<td>Ministry of Industry and Minerals</td>
<td>Minister: Hajim al-Hassani</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior</td>
<td>Minister: Falah Hassan al-Naqib</td>
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<td>Ministry of Irrigation</td>
<td>Minister: Latif Rashid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>Minister: Malik Dohan al-Hassan</td>
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<td>Ministry of Labor</td>
<td>Minister: Leila Abdul-Latif</td>
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<td>Ministry of Oil</td>
<td>Minister: Thamir Ghadbhan</td>
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<td>Ministry of Planning</td>
<td>Minister: Mahdi al-Hafez</td>
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<td>Ministry of Provincial Affairs</td>
<td>Minister: Wael Abdel-Latif</td>
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<td>Ministry of Public Works</td>
<td>Minister: Nesreen Mustafa Berwari</td>
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<td>Ministry of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Minister: Rashad Mandan Omar</td>
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<td>Ministry of Sport and Youth</td>
<td>Minister: Ali Faik Alghaban</td>
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<td>Ministry of State</td>
<td>Minister: Kasim Daoud,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mamu Fartham Othman,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adnan Al-Januaryabi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Trade</td>
<td>Minister: Mohammed al-Joubri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Website: <a href="http://www.motiraq.org">www.motiraq.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Transportation</td>
<td>Minister: Louei Hatim Sultan Al-Aris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Women's Affairs</td>
<td>Minister: Nermin Othman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National Olympic Committee

- The National Olympic Committee of Iraq was re-established through a long process of free, secret ballot, democratic elections through 450 sports clubs, every provincial Sports Federation, and every National Sports Federation. The election of the NOCI’s Executive Board was supervised and validated by the International Olympic Committee and Iraq was readmitted to membership of the IOC on 27th February 2004.


Ministry of Education

- Nearly 25% of the Iraqi population either attends a school of, or is directly employed by, the Ministry of Education. With a budget of $984 million, the ministry oversees more than 20,000 schools, administrative offices, and educational facilities nationwide. The MoED provides the oversight and training needed to support 300,000 teachers in their work with more than 6 million K-12 students.

- At the end of 2004, despite years of neglect by the Saddam regime, an insurgency intent on intimidating teachers and students, and the damage caused by war, 3,100 schools have been renovated, 364 schools are currently under rehabilitation, 263 new schools are under construction and 38 new schools have been built.

- The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) consists of 20 Universities, 46 Institutes or colleges within the Community College systems, two Commissions and two Research Centers.

- There are two Ministries of Education in the Kurdish region comprised of three Universities and nine Institutes. They receive no budgetary support from the MHESR. There are a small number of private colleges in Iraq that are not managed by the MHESR.

- During the same timeframe and under the same difficult circumstances, the MHESR Central Admissions process was executed, and students were assigned to colleges, and the Ministry of Higher accepted a freshman class 50% larger than the year before.

- The Fulbright program was reestablished in Iraq when 25 students departed for the United States in January 2004. The Czech Republic initiated a 4 year Ph.D. Iraqi scholarship program with ten slots for the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education Institute.
IRAQI SECURITY FORCES – 1

MNSTC-I continues to assist the Iraqi government in the organization, training, equipping, and advising of Iraqi Security Forces, as well as in the rebuilding of security force bases, training academies, border forts, and other facilities. While there have been setbacks, and challenges remain, there has also been enormous progress.

The following list highlights accomplishments in the development of the ISF over the past year.

Operations

- In 2004, Iraqi forces fought alongside Coalition forces in Najaf, Samarra, Fallujah, Baghdad, North Babil, Mosul, and a host of other locations. In Fallujah alone, Iraqi forces lost eight of their members and had more than 40 wounded. Well over a thousand others have also lost their lives serving their country. Although Iraqi forces have endured casualties in many of their operations, have been attacked multiple times each day, and have suffered losses through brutal intimidation attacks, there remains no shortage of volunteers; in fact, basic training courses are ongoing for more than 4,400 former soldiers to bring under strength Iraqi Regular Army and Intervention units additional forces.

Ministry of Defense

- In less than a year, Iraqi Regular Army and Intervention Forces grew from one operational battalion to 21 battalions, with six more scheduled to become operational over the next month. And with the incorporation of the Iraqi National Guard into the Army on Army Day, 6 January, the total number of battalions conducting operations is 68.

- Iraq’s Muthanna Brigade, originally organized and trained by the Iraqis to provide local security, now has three battalions in operations, including one each in Baghdad, Fallujah, and North Babil, and one more in training.

- Iraq’s Navy is now operational, with five 100-foot patrol craft, 34 smaller vessels, and a naval infantry regiment that recently completed training.

- Iraq’s Air Force has three operational squadrons equipped with nine reconnaissance aircraft that operate both day and night, and three US C-130 transport aircraft. One more squadron, comprised of two UH-1 helicopters (to be followed by 14 more and by 4 Bell Jet Rangers from the UAE), will stand up later this month.

- Iraq’s Special Operations Forces now include a superb Counter-terrorist Force and a Commando Battalion, each of which has conducted dozens of successful operations.
Iraq Year in Review  
2004 FACT SHEET

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES – 2

- Iraq’s first mechanized battalion became operational in mid-January, along with a tank company and a transportation battalion; the remaining elements of a mechanized brigade will be trained and equipped by the summer.

- Iraq’s two Military Academies reopened in mid-October and each graduated a pilot course of new lieutenants, 91 total, in early January 2005. The new year-long military academy course has already begun. And the Iraqi Staff College will begin its pilot course in several months.

Ministry of Interior

- The Iraqi Police Service has over 55,000 trained and equipped police officers, up from 26,000 six months ago. Of the nearly 29,000 police officers who have been trained in the last six months, over 13,000 were former police who underwent three-week transition course training and over 15,000 were new recruits who underwent eight-week basic training. More than 38,000 additional police are on duty and scheduled for training.

- Five basic police academies are now operational; together, they produce over 3,500 new police officers from the 8-week course each month, a course recently modified to better prepare the new police officers for the challenging environment in which some may serve. Several other regional academies are under construction.

- Iraq’s Mechanized Police Brigade recently completed training and will begin operations in mid-January, using fifty BTR-94 wheeled, armored vehicles.

- Seven Police Commando battalions are now operational, with one more in training and additional battalions planned.

- Six Public Order Battalions are operational, with six more planned.

- Iraq’s National Police Emergency Response Unit is now operational, and its elements have conducted operations in Baghdad, Fallujah, and Mosul.

- Iraq’s First Special Border Force Battalion is operating on the Syrian border in western Anbar Province; the Second Battalion begins training in early February.

- Five provincial SWAT teams have been trained and fifteen more are scheduled for training over the next six months.
IRAQI SECURITY FORCES – 3

Other

- Members of the NATO Training Mission-Iraq are now helping to advise the National Joint Operations Center, the Ministry of Defense Operations Center, and the Ministry of Interior Operations Center, as well as the Armed Forces Joint Headquarters. In 2005, NATO Mission members will help Iraq reestablish its Staff College and War College. A number of NATO nations have already provided equipment for Iraqi Security Forces and a host of training opportunities in NATO countries.

- Enormous amounts of equipment have been delivered to Iraqi Security Forces since 1 July:
  - More than 69 million rounds of ammunition, with another 148 million recently received and put into twelve ammo storage areas around the country
  - 70,000 pistols
  - 49,000 AK-47s
  - 84,000 sets of body armor
  - 5,700 vehicles
  - 54,000 helmets
  - 1,700 PKM heavy machine guns
  - 20,000 radios

- There is roughly $1.91 billion in ongoing construction and reconstruction projects for Iraqi Security Forces, and over $1.71 billion of that money has already been committed. Projects include four multi-brigade installations, hundreds of police stations and border forts, countless headquarters and barracks, a number of training centers, and many operating bases.
MNF-I Non-US Coalition Forces - 1

- Australia contributed about 90 personnel to fill staff billets within Multi-National Force Headquarters. To assist with training the Iraqi armed forces, the Australian Army Training Team Iraq, staffed with approximately 50 personnel, assisted in the training of three Iraqi battalions and headquarters staff. A naval component of about 240 personnel, comprising the crew of the HMAS Darwin and a logistics support element, conducted maritime interception operations in the northern Persian Gulf.

- Using its Royal Australian Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft detachment, the Australian National Headquarters coordinated and facilitated the movement of the 48 member Iraqi Olympic Team from Baghdad to connecting flights to enable the Team’s participation in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

- The Macedonian Special Forces unit conducted several operations with units of the 1st Infantry Division capturing over 450 57mm rockets with rocket pods, 70 RPG launchers and over 300 RPG rounds, one 120mm mortar, two 80mm mortars and several hundred mortar rounds, and ten 155mm artillery shells configured as IEDs among numerous other weapons/munitions.

- The field hospital in Fallujah operated by the Jordan contingent treated over 190,000 patients, 657 of which underwent a surgical procedure.

  - The Ukraine 2nd Brigade Combat Team captured seventeen mortars and 26 RPG launchers and destroyed over 60,000 captured bombs, shells and mines. Their medical facility treated over 4,500 personnel. They completed over 70 civil affairs projects including the reconstruction and renovation of medical, civil and cultural facilities and the repair of the road, water supply and power supply systems in Wassit province.

  - The Republic of Korea Division conducted over 60 civil and humanitarian assistance projects in their area of operations. They opened a hospital in November capable of treating 100 outpatients a day and operated an internship program for local doctors and nurses. Opened 10 literacy schools around the Irbil district. They also provided local security forces with communication, investigation and facility protection equipment.

  - The Japanese Logistics Group conducted humanitarian and reconstruction support operations in the vicinity of Camp Samawah including the establishment of 4 hospitals, the purification of approximately 70,000 gallons of water per day and the completion of numerous reconstruction projects involving water treatment plants, schools, roads and public parks.

Current as of January 21, 2005
Iraq Year in Review
2004 FACT SHEET

MNF-I Non-US Coalition Forces – 2

- The El Salvadorian Battalion donated equipment and medicine valued at over $30,000 to several Iraqi health centers in their Area of Operation. They initiated over twenty-five civil infrastructure repair projects including the renovation and repair of water treatment plants, school reconstruction and road repair.

- The Slovakian Engineer Co. carried out de-mining operations and destroyed over 50,000 units of captured munitions as well as performing field expedient engineering work (trench digging and ground leveling) in support of Iraqi civil authorities.

- The Kazakhstan EOD team destroyed almost a half a million pieces of captured munitions.

- The Romanian Infantry Battalion, augmented with military police and engineers, conducted more than 3,000 patrols, convoy movements and escort missions.

- The Polish contingent staffed the headquarters of the Multi-National Division Central South and provided a Brigade. The Division captured over a quarter million artillery shells, all capable of being converted into IEDs, as well as 87,000 mortar rounds and 22,000 rockets. They also supported Iraqi authorities in the restoration of essential services and key infrastructure to include 72 schools, 51 hospitals and 55 water and/or sewage treatment systems in their Area of Operations.

- The Italian Task Force captured and destroyed over 3,000 mines, over 100,000 grenades of various sizes, over 5,000 rockets and 750 kg of TNT. They also conducted over 175 civil reconstruction projects to include the construction of several primary schools, the electrical substation for a maternity and children’s hospital, and the construction of a new pharmaceutical store.
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS -- 1

- More than 1,100 reconstruction projects underway in Iraq. Current projects include the construction of 364 schools, 67 public health clinics, 15 hospitals, 83 railroad stations, 22 oil, 93 water and sewage facilities and 69 electrical facilities (a/o 15 Dec).

- Congress has allocated $18.4 billion for reconstruction of Iraq’s infrastructure. More than 1,400 reconstruction projects funded by this allocation have begun. Of the allocation, $9.64 billion has been obligated for reconstruction and $2.2 billion dollars dispersed (a/o 29 Dec).

- As of December 29, more than 108,000 local Iraqis have been hired to work on US-funded reconstruction projects. Our desire is to hire as many local subcontractors as possible.

- $78.4 million has been focused on providing reliable electric service, clean water and sewer services. This money supports more than 3700 projects Iraq wide.

- Throughout the year, an additional $90.1 million was provided to support additional Iraqi public services. These projects serve to further strengthen Iraq’s infrastructure and ensure a promising future for the Iraqi people.

- MNF-Iraq has dispersed more than $578 million in Commander’s Emergency Relief Funds (CERP) reaching more than 34,512 projects to build and improve infrastructure, provide for the welfare of the citizens and support education -- all in an effort to help Iraq take its first steps to recovery after Saddam’s rule.

- **Baghdad** – 345 CERP projects underway, $35.8 million. There are 552 USG-funded reconstruction projects valued at $1.5 billion currently underway.

- **Basra** – 23 CERP projects underway, $15.77 million. There are 172 USG-funded reconstruction projects valued at $181 million currently underway.

- **Mosul** – 118 CERP projects underway, $8.4 million.

- **Fallujah** – 6 CERP projects underway - $1.5 million. One of the larger projects, a new water treatment plant, will begin this year, and is expected to employ 2000 Iraqis. Seven projects are under construction or will begin shortly with an estimated value of more than $16 million.

- **Samarra** – 44 CERP projects underway, $2.4 million. Sixty-eight construction and non-construction projects have been started or planned with a total value of $15 million. IIIG met with the 1st Infantry Division to plan for the $25 million reconstruction healthcare facilities, schools, hospitals, police stations, and infrastructure repair.

- **Sadr City** – 27 CERP projects underway amounting to $2.8 million. One hundred and nineteen construction and non-construction projects have begun or are under construction with a value of more than $278 million.
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS – 2

Essential Services

- **Water**
  - Baghdad: Expansion of a major water treatment plant serving Baghdad and surrounding areas is approximately 75% complete. This project will produce about 250 million gallons of potable drinking water per day for Baghdad residents.
  - Basrah: All 14 water treatment plants are nearly complete and undergoing inspection.
  - Diyala/Salah ad Din Provinces: USAID’s new rural water initiative is underway. Since construction began in September 2004 until late November, 11 wells were drilled.

- **Electricity**
  - Added 1813 Megawatts to the national power grid.
  - Installed 8600 kilometers of 400-kV cables to move power between regions.
  - More than 1500 400-kV electrical towers installed.
  - More than 13 133-kV substations installed.

- **Health Care**
  - 13 hospitals and 29 public health centers are under renovation as of 7 December
  - Up to 80 new public health centers will begin construction by 1 December.
  - 59 Primary Health Care Centers are under construction and 110 are being renovated.
  - USAID has renovated 19 hospitals and is constructing one hospital.
  - The first two series of a total of four of polio vaccinations reached 96% of Iraq’s 4.6 million children under age of 5 in all 18 governorates.

- **Education**
  - USAID has rehabilitated 2,358 schools in Iraq, and printed and distributed 8.7 million revised math and science textbooks to grades 1-12.
  - As of mid-October, about 4.3 million children are currently enrolled in primary schools, up from 3.6 million in 2000.

- **Telecommunications**
  - Telephone subscribers now number over 2,152,000 (1,192,000 cell phones) 158% increase from pre-war levels.

- **Economic Development**
  - World Bank agrees to fund $235 million in infrastructure projects.
  - ‘Paris Club’ creditors to provide at least 80% debt reduction of $40 billion foreign debt.
  - U.S. Government cancels 100% of $4.1 billion Iraqi debt to U.S.
  - Commercial airlines are using Baghdad International Airport, averaging 45 flights per day.

- **Independent Media**
  - 75 radio stations
  - 180 newspaper
  - 10 television stations

Current as of January 21, 2005
IRAQI ECONOMY

- Oil revenues from start of January 2004 to June 2004 were estimated to be $8.1 billion. From June to December oil revenues were $9.9 billion totaling around $18.1 billion for the full 2004 year.

- Iraqi dinar is stable at 1461 dinars to the US dollar because it is a fixed exchange rate; however press reports and observers note that money markets in Iraq do not necessarily adhere to this rate.

- Established by interim law number 74 dated 19 April 2004, the Baghdad Stock Exchange opened for trading on 24 June 2004.

- National Debt is estimated at between $119 – $135 billion prior to debt forgiveness initiatives, and an expected $50 billion of reparations for war damages.

- Currently, about 145,000 Iraqis are employed under reconstruction efforts, working on schools, clinic, roads and numerous other infrastructure projects.

- Debt relief:
  - Paris Club: $42 billion; agreed to 80 percent relief.
  - US: $4.5 billion; agreed to 100 percent relief.
  - Russia: Estimated $12 billion agreed to forgive $9 billion.
  - Kuwait: $15 billion – won’t commit to relief until a freely elected govt. in place.
  - Saudi Arabia: $9 billion – won’t commit though says it will restructure/relieve.
  - Other: Estimated $26-32 billion – nothing until freely elected govt. in place.
SELF PERCEPTIONS OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE

General Perceptions

- “Iraq today is generally headed in the right direction” 53.8 percent agree, compared with 42 percent in late September and early October. Thirty-two percent said it is headed in the wrong direction. (Nationwide poll).
- Percentage of Iraqis who do not support the use of violence towards political ends is 92.8 percent (Baghdad & surrounding area).
- Sixty-six percent believe life will be better a year from now (Nationwide poll).
- Over 67 percent believe Iraq will be ready to hold elections (Nationwide poll).

Elections

- The percentage of Iraqis who intend to vote is 84 percent (Nationwide poll).

Government

- Nearly half, (49.1 percent) of the Iraqi population believe the Iraqi Government has been effective to date (National poll).

Confidence in leaders

- Over 60 percent believe Prime Minister Allawi has been effective (Nationwide poll).
- Fifty-one percent of Iraqis have confidence in President Yawer (Nationwide poll based on 6 major cities).

Confidence in IIG Institutions

- Percentage of Iraqis who are confident in the IPS: 74 percent (Baghdad & surrounding area).
- Percentage of Iraqis who are confident in the Iraqi Army: 65 percent (Baghdad & surrounding area).
- Percentage of Iraqis who are confident in the ING: 59.2 percent (Nationwide poll based on six major cities).

Support to MNF-I

- Percentage of Iraqis who support MNF-I/Coalition Force in Iraq: 18 percent (Baghdad & surrounding area).

Support to AIF Activities

- Less than 3 percent of Iraqis support attacks on infrastructure and IPS (Baghdad & surrounding area).
- Less than 5 percent of Iraqis support attacks on ING & IA (Baghdad & surrounding area).

(All polling data is from November and December 2004)
Iraq Year in Review
2004 FACT SHEET

ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE INSURGENCY

January 6, 2004
Two French nationals working in Iraq were shot and killed after their car broke down in Fallujah.

January 9, 2004
Five people were killed and dozens more injured when a bomb exploded near a mosque in the central Iraqi town of Baquba.

January 18, 2004
A suicide bomber detonates a pick-up truck laden with 1000 lbs. of explosives at the main gate of the International Zone, killing at least 20 people and injuring more than 100.

January 31, 2004
Twelve people died and at least 50 were injured in two attacks by Iraqi insurgents in northern Iraq.

February 1, 2004
At least 67 are killed and 247 wounded when two suicide bombers blow themselves up at the Irbil offices of the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

February 11, 2004
At least 36 Iraqis were killed in a suicide car bomb attack on an army recruitment center in Baghdad.

February 14, 2004
Iraqi insurgents launched an organized raid on a police station in Fallujah, killing 23.

February 18, 2004
Thirteen Iraqis were killed, and many civilians and coalition troops injured, in an apparent suicide attack when two explosive-laden trucks were driven toward a Polish military camp in Hilla.

February 23, 2004
At least 13 people were killed when a suicide bomber rammed an explosives-laden car into a police station in Kirkuk.

February 23, 2004
Insurgents assassinated the deputy police chief of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

March 2, 2004
Iraq suffers its worst day of violence since the war's end, when its majority Shia community was targeted in a series of sophisticated and simultaneous attacks that killed as many as 223 people.

Current as of January 21, 2005
March 17, 2004
An explosion destroyed a hotel in central Baghdad, killing 27 people and injuring 40.

March 23, 2004
Nine Iraqi police officers and trainees died when gunmen sprayed bullets into a minivan in which they were traveling south of Baghdad near the town of Mussayab.

March 31, 2004
Four US contractors were attacked in Fallujah and their bodies burned, dragged by cars and strung up from a bridge by a mob. Five US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb outside Fallujah.

April 6, 2004
Coalition forces (British, Italian and US) fought Shia and Sunni insurgents on several fronts that resulted in the deaths of dozens of Iraqis, and at least 15 coalition soldiers.

April 8, 2004
Widespread fighting left 460 Iraqis and 36 US soldiers dead in Fallujah. Three Japanese civilians were taken hostage.

April 9, 2004
Nine US civilians were killed in a convoy near Fallujah.

April 14, 2004
An Italian security guard became the first hostage to be murdered. Three Japanese hostages were held for a week and then released.

April 16, 2004
Five foreign hostages were freed but two more were seized, and the insurgency claimed another 30 lives in attacks in Fallujah and other cities.

April 21, 2004
At least 68 people, including Iraqi police recruits and children on a school bus, were killed in a series of bomb attacks Basra.

May 6, 2004
Six Iraqis and one US soldier were killed when a car bomb exploded at a checkpoint on the edge of the International Zone in Baghdad.
May 11, 2004
Nick Berg, a US hostage in Iraq, was shown being beheaded by Islamic militants in a video released on a website sympathetic to their cause.

June 14, 2004
A car bomb ripped through a convoy of vehicles carrying western contractors in central Baghdad, killing at least 13 people.

June 24, 2004
Insurgents launched coordinated car bomb and grenade attacks in several Iraqi cities, killing at least 69 people and injuring 270.

July 28, 2004
Sixty-eight people were killed when a suicide car bomb exploded outside a police recruiting center in central Baquba. Near Baghdad, 35 insurgents and seven Iraqi police were killed in clashes.

August 12, 2004
At least 68 people were killed when US war planes and Iraqi police attacked militia fighters in Kut.

August 28, 2004
An Iraqi militant group kidnapped two French journalists and gave the French government 48 hours to end a ban on schoolgirls wearing Muslim headscarves.

September 16, 2004
Americans Jack Hensley, Eugene Armstrong, and Briton Kenneth Bigley were kidnapped in Baghdad. All three were eventually killed.

September 22, 2004
At least 21 people were killed and 150 injured as two suicide car bombers struck in Baghdad. The first car bomb attack was aimed at men applying to join the Iraqi National Guard.

September 27, 2004
Dozens of children were killed when three car bombs exploded in a coordinated attack in Baghdad leaving 44 dead and more than 200 injured. A health ministry official says at least 34 of those killed were children.

October 4, 2004
At least 21 people were killed and 90 wounded in three car bombings in Iraq.

Current as of January 21, 2005
October 13, 2004
A US-led team of investigators working in northern Iraq discovered a mass grave containing hundreds of bodies, including that of an infant with a gunshot to the back of the head.

October 14, 2004
Insurgents killed five people and wounded 18 others in attacks at a market and a restaurant in the International Zone.

October 18, 2004
The death toll from suicide car bombings in Iraq continued to rise with at least 13 people killed in Baghdad and Mosul.

October 19, 2004
The humanitarian aid group Care International announced that Margaret Hassan, the British-born head of its Iraqi operation, was kidnapped in Baghdad.

October 25, 2004
The militant group led by the Jordanian extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi signaled a fresh escalation of the Iraq insurgency crisis by claiming responsibility for the massacre of about 50 members of the national guard found dead on a remote road in eastern Iraq.

November 8, 2004
Six Iraqis died in a vehicle-borne explosive device detonation outside the Yarmouk Hospital in south central Baghdad. Five of those killed were Iraqi police, one was an Iraqi civilian. Twenty-six Iraqi civilians were also wounded in the attack.

The attack on the hospital followed two earlier car bomb blasts in the area. Victims of the first two attacks were being treated at the Yarmouk Hospital when this third car bomb detonated.

November 11, 2004
ISF and MNF units entered the National Islamic Resistance Headquarters in Fallujah and found evidence that the building had been used to plan and coordinate attacks and used for abductions of individuals working with Coalition forces. Video documentation of four separate beheadings was found in a computer lab as well as several military training videos. The building’s basement was used to torture kidnapped Iraqi hostages, evidenced by blood stained walls and floors, distinctive bloody handprints from the victims, bags of bloody sand used to soak up the enormous amounts of blood from the victims.
November 16, 2004
The family of Margaret Hassan accepts she has probably been murdered, after analysis of a video showing a masked gunman shooting a blindfolded woman in the head.

November 24, 2004
ISF and Multi-National Forces discovered a chemical lab in Fallujah containing sodium cyanide, ammonium nitrate and hydrochloric acid. Also found at the chemical lab was a Mujahadeen “How to Cook Book” that included anthrax formulas, chemical blood agent formulas and formulas for making conventional explosives.

December 5, 2004
Seventeen civilian workers at an ammunition dump near Tikrit were killed by AIF.

December 13, 2004
A suicide car bomber attacked a checkpoint to the International Zone in Baghdad killing 12 people.

December 15, 2004
Near the Imam Hussein mosque in Karbala, an IED exploded killing Sheikh Abdul Mehdi al-Karbala, an aide to Sistani, and nine others.

December 19, 2004
A suicide car bomber killed 55 people in a funeral procession in Najaf.

In Karbala, a suicide car bomber attacked a police recruitment center next to a bus station, killing 14 people.

On Haifa Street in Baghdad, gunmen stopped a car carrying four election workers. They forced them onto to their knees and executed three of them by shooting them in the head.

December 27, 2004
Terrorists attacked the home and offices of SCIRI leader Abdelaziz al-Hakim in Baghdad, killing 15 people.

December 28, 2004
Anti-Iraqi forces stormed a police station in Dijila, killing or executing 12 Iraqi Police officers.