OPERATION AL FAJR

THE BATTLE FOR FALLUJAH
FALLUJAH OVERVIEW

**SIGNIFICANCE**
- Anti-Iraqi Force (AIF) Control
- AIF Safe-haven & closed city
  - No Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) or Coalition Forces (CF)
- Key city on line of communication to Baghdad
- Key city on line of communication to Ramadi (Provincial Capital)

**POPULATION** (Approx 239,000)
- Former Regime Element/Sunni dominated
- Unemployment – Assessed as High

**ESSENTIAL SERVICES (Percent Accessible)**
- Water 70%
- Power 70% (9 – 15 hrs per day)
- Fuel 60%
- Medical 55%
- Public Safety 15%
- Previous Industries – Cement, Metal, Glass, Grain Storage

**CITY LEADERSHIP**
- Mayor – Weak willed, mixed loyalties
- City Council – Run by Sheik Janabi (Anti CF)
- ING – Weak, Commander/S-2 recently assassinated
- IPs – No credible or capable Iraqi Police
BACKGROUND

• AMBUSH OF “BLACKWATER” CONTRACTORS
  – 31 MARCH ‘04

• Cordon established around Fallujah

• OPERATION VIGILANT RESOLVE commences
  – 7 APRIL ‘04

• 1ST MARDIV CEASES OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN FALLUJAH
  – 30 APRIL ‘04

• FALLUJAH BRIGADE STANDS UP
THE ENEMY

• FALLUJAH BECOMES AN INSURGENT SANCTUARY

• FORMER REGIME ELEMENTS (FRE)
  • DISENFRANCHISED BA’ATHISTS
  • NEVER ATTAINED SAME INFLUENCE UNDER IRAQI INTERIM GOV’T (IIG)

• ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS (LOCAL, FOREIGN, AND MIXED)
  • LOCALS WHO SOUGHT AN ISLAMIC IRAQI STATE BASED ON SHARI’A LAW
  • FOREIGN FIGHTERS & LOCALS SOUGHT BREEDING GROUND TO EXPORT JIHAD

• TRIBES
  • SOUGHT TO REGAIN POWER AND WEALTH

• CRIMINALS
  • INVOLVED IN ALL THREE PREVIOUS GROUPS FOR PERSONAL GAIN
FALLUJAH THREAT OVERVIEW (OCTOBER 2004)

Legend
- Road Block(s)
- Fighting/Def. Positions
- Berm(s)
- Checkpoint
- Small Arms POO
- IDF POO
- Sniper Fire/Position
- Weapons Cache
ENEMY TACTICS

- DAISY CHAINED IEDs
- VBIEDs
- SUICIDE BOMBERS
- BOOBY-TRAPPED
  - BUILDINGS
  - CACHES
  - INSURGENTS
- USE OF PROTECTED SITES (e.g. Mosques)
- DEFENSIVE BELTS
- HIT AND FALL BACK
- TUNNEL SYSTEMS
- INDIRECT FIRE
- WEAPONS CACHES
- SNIPERS
- FALSE SURRENDER
- DRUG USE
- VOICE RECORDINGS
  - WOMEN CRYING OUT FOR HELP
- WEARING OF ISF UNIFORMS
MISSION

AT H HOUR ON D+1, 1ST MARINE DIVISION (-)(REIN) ATTACKS TO DESTROY ANTI-IRAQI FORCES IN FALLUJAH IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH LEGITIMATE LOCAL CONTROL
COMMANDER’S INTENT

- ELIMINATE INSURGENT SANCTUARY
- SET THE CONDITIONS FOR LOCAL CONTROL IN CITY
- SUPPORT THE MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE IRAQ (MNF-I) EFFORT TO SECURE APPROACHES TO BAGHDAD
METHOD

• SHAPING:
  1. DESTROY/DISRUPT AIF C²
  2. ATTRITE INSURGENTS
  3. DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN INSURGENTS & FALLUJAH RESIDENTS

• CLOSE BORDER POINTS OF ENTRY

• RAPIDLY ASSAULT TO PENETRATE AND DESTROY AIF
  1. UTILIZE STRENGTHS OF JOINT/COALITION FORCES
  2. COMBINED ARMS
  3. PROGRESSION OF FORCE TO REDUCE COLLATERAL DAMAGE

• CONTINUE ENDURING TASKS IN DIVISION AO

• ASSAULT FOLLOWED BY ROBUST CA EFFORTS
ENDSTATE

- INSURGENTS IN FALLUJAH DESTROYED/SANCTUARY ELIMINATED

- IRAQI SECURITY FORCES/IRAQI INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN CONTROL OF FALLUJAH

- DIVISION PREPARED FOR FOLLOW-ON OPERATIONS
PHASES

I – PREPARATION/SHAPING
II – ENHANCED SHAPING
IIIA – ASSAULT
IIIB – SEARCH AND ATTACK
IV – TRANSITION
V – TRANSFER OF CONTROL
PHASE I
(PREPARATION)

• OPERATIONAL PLANNING
• ROC DRILLS/REHEARSAL
• MOVEMENT OF FORCES, RIP/ BATTLE HANDOVERS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE DIVISION AO
• INTEGRATION AND TRAINING OF IRAQI SECURITY FORCES
• INTEGRATION OF U.S. ARMY UNITS
• BLACK WATCH TO NORTH BABIL

- SET CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS -
PHASE I
(SHAPING)

- FEINTS
- RAIDS
- CORDON AND SEARCHES
- VEHICLE CHECKPOINTS (VCPS)
- INDIRECT FIRES AND CAS
- INFORMATION OPS AND PSYOPS
- TARGETING OF AIF LEADERSHIP
- SPECIAL OPERATION FORCES
  TARGETING OF HIGH-VALUE TARGETS

DESIRED ENEMY ENDSSTATE

- CONFUSED AS TO MNF INTENTIONS
- WEDGE DRIVEN BETWEEN POPULACE AND AIF
- C² NODES EXPOSED AND DESTROYED
- DEFENSES IDENTIFIED
- HEIGHTENED STATE OF PARANOIA AND ANXIETY
PHASE II  D-DAY
(ENHANCED SHAPING)

• ELECTRONIC ATTACK
• ISOLATION OF FALLUJAH BY BLACK JACK BRIGADE
• JOINT FIRES
• MOVEMENT OF FORCES INTO ATTACK POSITIONS
• PENINSULA ASSAULT
• FALLUJAH HOSPITAL SECURED
• BRIDGES SECURED/BLOCKING POSITIONS ESTABLISHED AROUND FALLUJAH
• INTEGRATION OF JOINT SPECIAL OPERATION TASK FORCE SNIPERS INTO ASSAULT FORCES
TF 3RD LAR

- AT A-24, ATTACK IN ZONE TO SECURE THE PENINSULA
- NLT A-18 ESTABLISH BLOCKING POS IVO OF (2) BRIDGES

ME: RCT- 1 (-)(REIN)

- ON D+1 BLOCK ACCESS TO THE PENINSULA

36 CDO

- NLT A-16, SEIZE FALLUJAH HOSPITAL

BLACK JACK BDE

- AT A-26, GUARD MOVEMENT OF ASSAULT BNs INTO APs
- INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RAILEIGH
- BLOCK SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF FALLUJAH
PHASE III  D+1
(ASSAULT)

• RAPID PENETRATION INTO CITY
  – EXPLOIT SHOCK, FIREPOWER, AND MOBILITY OF ARMORED FORCES
  – COMBINED ARMS ATTACK
    • ARMY/MARINE ARTILLERY
    • JOINT CAS
    • COORDINATED FIRES IN FALLUJAH KILL BOX

• SEARCH AND ATTACK IN ZONE

• BLACK JACK BRIGADE CONTINUES TO ISOLATE FALLUJAH AND PROTECT DIVISION REAR AREA

• INTELLIGENCE EXPLOITATION/IO MESSAGE
ME: RCT 1 (-)(REIN)
• AT A-HOUR, CONDUCT PENETRATION ATTACK IN ZONE
• CONTINUE ATTACK TO SECURE JOLAN DISTRICT

SE1: RCT-7 (-)(REIN)
• AT A-HOUR, CONDUCT PENETRATION TO SEIZE HADRA MOSQUE & GOV'T CENTER
• SECURE MSR MICHIGAN IN ZONE

SE2: BLACK JACK BDE
• INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RAELIGHS
• BLOCK SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF FALLUJAH
• SECURITY OF MSR MOBILE AND MICHIGAN IN ZONE
PLANNED PHASE III-A (NOT EXECUTED)

ME: RCT 1 (-)(REIN)
- SEARCH & ATTACK IN ZONE
- SECURE MSR MICHIGAN IN ZONE

SE: RC-7 (-)(REIN)
- SEARCH & ATTACK IN ZONE
- SECURE MSR MICHIGAN IN ZONE

SE2: BLACK JACK BDE
- INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RALEIGH
- BLOCK SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF FALLUJAH
- SECURITY OF MSR MOBILE AND MICHIGAN IN ZONE
PHASE III-A BRANCH PLAN (EXECUTED 11 NOV)

RCT-1 (-) (REIN)
- CONTINUE PENETRATION SOUTH
- SEARCH AND ATTACK NORTH OF MSR MICHIGAN

RCT-7 (-) (REIN)
- CONTINUE PENETRATION SOUTH
- SEARCH AND ATTACK NORTH OF MSR MICHIGAN

BLACKJACK BDE
- CONTINUE TO ISOLATE FALLUJAH
PHASE III-B SEARCH AND ATTACK IN ZONE

JOLAN PARK
GOV'T CENTER
HADRAH MOSQUE
3
(Rein)
18
(Rein)
1
8
(Rein)
1
3
1
(Rein)
1
2
(Rein)
1
4
(Rein)
1
2
(Rein)
1
3
(Rein)
1
5
(Rein)
1
7
(Rein)
1
6
(Rein)
1
2
(Rein)
1
IIF
IIF
IIF
IIF
IAF
IAF
SSF
2BCT
PURSUIT AND EXPLOITATION

- Ramadi
- Habbaniyah
- Khalidiyah
- Saqlawiyah
- Karmah
- Nasser Wa Al Salam
- Baghdad
- Fallujah
- Al Amariyah
- Zaidon
- Abu Ghurayb

- 28 – 30 Nov
- 2 Dec – Jan 4
- 17 – 19 Dec
- 8 – 9 Dec
- 3 Dec
- 4 – 5 Dec & 14 – 15 Dec
- 2BCT
- (Rein)
- 2BCT
- (Rein)
- 2BCT
- 1
- RCT-7
- 2

PHASE III INTO PHASE IV

- Continue clearing operations
- Sanitation improvements
- Electrical grid repairs
- Pest control
- Rubble removal
- Entry control points established
- Remains removal
- Food distribution
- Establish CMOC
- Unexploded ordnance & cache clearance
- Water removal

CIVILIAN CONTRACTERS

SEABEES

USAF DOG TEAMS

ARMY/MARINE CAG

IRAQI GOV’T OFFICIALS

ARMY/MARINE/NAVY EOD

ARMY/MARINE ENGINEERS

SEABEES

USAF DOG TEAMS

ARMY/MARINE CAG

IRAQI GOV’T OFFICIALS

ARMY/MARINE/NAVY EOD

ARMY/MARINE ENGINEERS

CIVILIAN CONTRACTERS
PHASE IV TRANSITION

- **Hospital Access**
- **Military/Contractors**
- **Civilians**
- **Entry Control Point (ECP)**
- **Humanitarian Assistance Site**

### Key Points
- **ECP 1**
- **ECP 2**
- **ECP 3**
- **ECP 4**
- **ECP 5**

**Map Legend**:
- Army Traffic
- IIG Traffic
- Hospital Access
- Military/Contractors
- Civilians
- Humanitarian Assistance Site
- Entry Control Point (ECP)
• PHASED
  - LINKED TO HUMANITARIAN RESOURCES & SECURITY
  - SUPPORT FROM INTERIM IRAQI GOVERNMENT
• CIVIL AFFAIRS RE-ESTABLISHES BASIC NEEDS FOR RETURNING CITIZENS
• ISF AND MNF PROVIDE SECURITY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
• RESTORATION OF BASIC SERVICES
ISF IN FALLUJAH

- FOUGHT ALONGSIDE MARINES AND SOLDIERS
  - CLEARED ASSIGNED BATTLESPACE
  - ATTACKED AND SEIZED SENSITIVE TARGETS
    - MOSQUES
    - GOVERNMENT CENTER
  - IDENTIFIED FOREIGN FIGHTERS
  - GATHERED INTELLIGENCE
  - PROVIDED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
  - ASSISTED REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
  - SECURED FIXED SITES
  - CONDUCTED JOINT SECURITY PATROLS
  - REDUCED CACHE
1ST MARDIV DISCOVERIES IN FALLUJAH

- WPNS CACHE (TOTAL # 455)
- MOSQUES USED AS FIGHTING POSITIONS
- IED FACTORY (TOTAL # 24)
- VBIED FACTORY (TOTAL # 2)
- C² NODES (TOTAL # 13)
- HOSTAGE LOCATIONS (TOTAL # 4)
INTELLIGENCE WINDFALLS IN FALLUJAH

- IED, EXPLOSIVE, AND CHEMICAL AGENT MAKING MANUALS
- INSURGENT TTP MANUALS
- “MARTYRED” INSURGENT LEDGERS
- INSURGENT PASSPORTS AND IDS (ORIGINAL AND FORGED)
- PROPAGANDA MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT
- LEDGERS WITH ILLEGAL ARMS TRANSACTIONS
- FOREIGN FIGHTER INFRINGEMENT ROUTES
- TERRORIST TRAINING FACILITIES
- DIVERSE ENEMY WEAPON SYSTEMS
- TECHNOLOGIES (NVGS/BODY ARMOR)
ENEMY VIOLATIONS OF THE LAW OF ARMED CONFLICT

Event:
1. Human Corpse IED
2. Hostage found chained to wall severely mistreated
3. SVBIED attack on MedEvac
4. IDF attack on Hospital
5. Released hostage told to kill self
6. Mosque broadcast telling civilians to leave homes
7. Sniper incident during HA
8. Mutilated body of woman found
9. Mosque used as fighting position
10. Video equipment exploited
11. Blackwater contractor’s ID found
12. Incident of insurgent killing civilians
13. Insurgent fakes surrender
14. SAF on ambulance
15. Recording of female in distress used to lure MNF
16. Insurgents use school to attack MNF
17. Insurgents using Red Crescent ambulances
18. Suspected hostage holding facility
19. 5 Iraqi males found summarily executed
20. Suicide vests worn by insurgents as new TTP
21. New TTP, Insurgents pretend they are dead
22. Fighting in cemeteries
23. Body found was booby trapped with grenades
24. Insurgents use CS gas on MNF
25. Chemical lab found
26. Chemical lab found
27. New TTP- Grenades found inside dead bodies and pin is attached to clothes
LESSONS LEARNED

• ATTACH UNITS (JOINT/COMBINED) AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR PLANNING/INTEGRATION
• ARMOR/INFANTRY REMAIN COMPLIMENTARY FORCE IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT
• RAPID PENETRATIONS EXPLOITED OUR SUPERIOR FIREPOWER, ARMOR PROTECTION, AND C\textsuperscript{2} ADVANTAGES, WHILE DISRUPTING ENEMY C\textsuperscript{2}
• PSYOPS/IO/SIGINT KEY TO SHAPING THE BATTLEFIED
• MANEUVER AND KINETIC STRIKES CONDUCTED TO SUPPORT INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
• COMMANDERS NEED TO BE FORWARD TO ENSURE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND TIMELY DECISION MAKING
• ALL MARINE, ARMY, AND IRAQI UNITS MUST BE ASSIMILATED INTO A COMMON COMMUNICATIONS PLAN
• DOCTRINALLY SOUND C\textsuperscript{2} AND FIRES ARCHITECTURE OVERCAME T/O SHORTFALLS
• PRECISION MUNITIONS CRITICAL IN LIMITING COLLATERAL DAMAGE/FRATRICIDE
• ISR PLATFORMS ESSENTIAL FOR TARGETING
• DOCTRINE WORKS - TACTICAL/OPERATIONAL TERMINOLOGY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL
“IN THE BATTLE FOR FALLUJAH, THE TERRORISTS HID WEAPONS IN A CEMETERY. THEY HID AMMUNITION IN PRIVATE HOMES. THEY HID BOMBS IN MOSQUES, BUT THEY COULD NOT HIDE FROM THE UNITED STATES MARINES.”

(PRESIDENT G.W. BUSH)
FIRE SUPPORT PLAN
“Planned De-Confliction”

ORDNANCE EXPENDED
Aviation
• 318 Bombs
• 391 Rockets and missiles
• 93,000 machinegun & cannon
Artillery
• Over 6,000 rounds
Mortar
• Over 8,900 81mm & 120mm

TIGHT BATTLESPACE REQUIRED A DE-CONFLICTED FIRE SUPPORT PLAN
• CAS used a keyhole template
• F/W aircraft inside 5NM ring had to stay above 9000 ft
• Artillery & Mortar fire had to stay below 8500 ft
• “Gunline” ACA separated artillery fire from Rotary Wing (RW) CAS
• R/W CAS Battle Positions (BP) from 0-1500 feet were activated as needed
• “CFL Box” allowed surface and R/W fires into southern portion of city w/o clearance