



Coalition forces kill terrorist bomber (Tikrit)

Friday, 19 September 2008

MULTI-NATIONAL FORCE-IRAQ

PRESS DESK

BAGHDAD, Iraq

<http://www.mnf-iraq.com>

703.343.8790

Press Release A080919a-321

September 19, 2008

Coalition forces kill terrorist bomber (Tikrit)

BAGHDAD – A suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorist alleged to lead improvised explosive device facilitation and brag about his victims was killed by Coalition forces during an operation in the Tikrit area Friday.

Coalition forces were led to the building after intelligence reports indicated the terrorist was in Ad Dawr, a town about 140 km northwest of Baghdad. His network operated in the Tigris River Valley and is suspected of conducting suicide bombings. The targeted terrorist allegedly worked for the suspected “emir” of Diyala, detained on Sept. 2 (Press Release attached below). The terrorist is assessed to be the IED “Emir” in the Muqdadiyah area. There have been over 25 IED incidents causing 38 casualties in the Muqdadiyah since Aug. 1, 2008.

After arriving at the target, forces surrounded the building and called for its occupants to surrender. Despite nearly an hour of multiple calls and warnings that the force would engage them, the individuals inside refused to come out.

An armed man appeared in the doorway, and coalition forces, perceiving hostile intent based on the man’s actions, engaged him. Later he was determined to be the suspected terrorist.

During the operation, and in accordance with applicable rules, supporting aircraft engaged and killed three additional terrorists suspects. Three women were also killed. An Iraqi child was rescued from the rubble by Coalition Forces and was evacuated to a nearby base where he is receiving medical treatment.

Surveillance teams observed two other people running from the building and taking shelter in a neighboring mosque. Coalition forces called for support from Iraqi forces, who aided by entering the mosque and apprehending one suspect. At no time did Coalition forces enter the mosque, which was not damaged during the operation.

“Sadly, this incident again shows that the AQI terrorists repeatedly risk the lives of innocent women and children to further their evil work,” said Col Jerry O’Hara, MNF-I spokesman.

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September 15, 2008

Two provincial-level al-Qaeda leaders removed from networks BAGHDAD, Iraq –One terrorist who was killed and one suspected terrorist who was captured have been identified as key players in the al-Qaeda in Iraq network in northeast Iraq.

Hadi Muhammad Husayn Darwish, also known as Abu Jassim, was killed Sep. 9 during an operation near Kirkuk. Coalition forces assess that Abu Jassim was the overall AQI leader of Tamim province. Using information from one of Abu Jassim’s alleged associates already in Iraqi custody, Iraqi and Coalition forces established a vehicle checkpoint to intercept the terrorist. The force identified Abu Jassim and realized that he was wearing a suicide vest. As the Iraqi policeman who discovered the vest backed away from the vehicle and attempted to engage the terrorist in self-defense, Abu Jassim detonated his explosives, killing only himself.

Abu Jassim oversaw all AQI operations in Tamim province, which includes the city of Kirkuk. Tamim province has been a hotbed of AQI activity for several years. Intelligence reports indicate that AQI views Kirkuk as a strategically important location for the terrorist network, and that AQI has attempted to incite ethno-sectarian violence there. According to Rear Admiral Patrick Driscoll, MNF-I spokesman, "Abu Jassim's suicide leaves AQI with a leadership void in a time when few experienced terrorist leaders are available to take over."

Abu Jassim was responsible for widespread violence across Tamim province, including bombings, assassinations and kidnappings. His group was financed through extortion, kidnapping ransoms and stealing from local merchants. He was considered to be one of the most senior and key "emirs" within the AQI network and was closely connected to the senior leaders of AQI.

Intelligence reports indicate Abu Jassim was appointed to the "emir" position in April after being transferred from Mosul. He controlled terrorist operations from Kirkuk to Tuz Khurmatu to Hawija, and also had ties to networks in the Tigris River Valley.

Coalition forces detained another suspected provincial "emir," Jamal Muhammad Alwan Nafi during a daytime operation Sep. 2 in Bayji, about 160 km south of Mosul. A letter seized in an operation Dec. 30, assessed to be written by AQI leader Abu Ayyub al-Masri, identified Nafi, also known as Abu Anas, as the AQI "emir" of Diyala province, and revealed his ties to AQI senior leaders.

As the Diyala "emir," Abu Anas is suspected of overseeing all AQI activity in the province. Because his area of responsibility was so large and active, ranging from the southern portion of Diyala – known for smuggling of weapons and fighters to support suicide attacks in Baghdad – to the Hamrin Mountains, Abu Anas is suspected of being one of the primary AQI leaders. Terrorist elements from his network have employed bombings, rigged booby-trapped houses, attempted to incite sectarian violence and used women as suicide bombers. More than half of all suicide bombings executed by females since December have been in Diyala province, many in the provincial capital of Baqouba. The attacks in Diyala have killed 108 Iraqis and injured 273, mostly civilians.

Intelligence reports indicate that several AQI leaders in Diyala have fled the province in response to Iraqi and Coalition operations there, resurfacing in the Tigris River Valley, where terrorist organization has reportedly been faltering.

"The removal of these two provincial-level leaders will force al-Qaeda in Iraq to fill these key, senior positions with less experienced members, all while Iraqi and Coalition forces capitalize on information from Abu Anas' capture and target members of his network," said Rear Adm. Driscoll. "This is a one-two punch that will significantly set back terrorist organization in Iraq."

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