

DOWNLOAD PDF VORTEX : TIKRIT, AD DIWANIYAH, AND THE RETURN HOME. THE TUNNEL

Chapter 1 : Blog-heap o' links from Jun

The Highway War is the compelling Iraq War memoir of then-Capt. Seth Folsom, commanding officer of Delta Company, First Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps. Mounted in eight-wheeled LAVs (light armored vehicles), this unit of Marines and sailors was one of the first into Iraq in March

Friday evening media sources in the Iraqi capital reported powerful explosions shook various parts of the city. Initial reports brought no details about the source of the blasts or the damage or casualties they might have inflicted, according to television reports from al- Jazeera satellite TV. A Reuters dispatch said that a roadside bomb had gone off in the center of Baghdad and that US occupation forces had cordoned off the area and later left. Reuters said that an American spokesman had no further details and therefore Reuters offered no further information either. Shortly before those powerful explosions, at about 8: The blaze was quickly extinguished, and there were no injuries. Security guards and US occupation soldiers said the projectile detonated on the roof after the embassy had closed for the day. Another missed the building, and two other launchers were found in the garden behind the embassy, guards said. Dutch Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Martine de Haan said there were no injuries. The blast resounded through Baghdad, and a US quick reaction force from the 1st Armored Division was sent to the scene, the US occupation command said. Earlier reports said the projectile was a rocket, but the military said later it was a rocket-propelled grenade. He said he heard two explosions. The Netherlands has about 1, occupation troops in Iraq. The embassy is now conducting most of its business out of Amman, Jordan. Only five Dutch employees are manning the embassy. Four were in Baghdad Friday, but none was in the building at the time of the attack, the Dutch foreign ministry said. Earlier on Friday, Iraqi Resistance fighters attacked a column of four US occupation armored vehicles in the city of Mosul, northern Iraq Friday morning. The Resistance fighters used rocket-propelled grenades RPGs in their attack, which destroyed one of the vehicles. It is unknown whether there were any casualties among the American troops. Eye witnesses reported that they saw a Volkswagen car speeding away from the site of the attack at the time the US column was passing by. Iraqi Resistance fighters attacked a checkpoint of the puppet so-called civil defense forces near Kirkuk on Friday. Puppet "civil defense" Major General Anwar Hama Amin, the commander of the American appointed organization, told the Agence France Presse AFP that one of the Resistance fighters was martyred in the attack and another wounded in the assault. Amin said "six individuals on a pickup truck attacked a civil defense checkpoint in Sulayman Bak. The members of the force returned fire hitting one and wounding another. The other attackers were able to escape. Also in Kirkuk on Friday, US occupation forces defused an explosives- laden car on the main road south of al-Huwayjah, 50km southwest of Kirkuk, frequented by American military convoys and oil tank trucks. The tank trucks make the run up the road taking oil from the Kirkuk oil fields to the refinery in Bayji. Iraqi Resistance fighters fired two rocket-propelled grenades at the Dutch Embassy in Iraq on Friday, hitting the roof with one and setting it on fire. The AFP reported that the demonstrators started their march through the streets of the town after afternoon prayers in the Mosque of Khalid ibn al-Walid, and rallied in front of the American military position in the area. No clashes were reported. They fire guns at houses and have arrested a number of women. Where are those who fall ill supposed to go? An official in the Iraqi oil industry has reported that Resistance fighters attacked an oil pipeline carrying crude oil from a Kirkuk oilfield to the main refinery area in Bayji and ad-Durah on Friday morning. The Dow Jones network quoted an official as saying that an explosion occurred near al-Fatihah area, km north of Baghdad. The source noted that the blast did not affect the refining industry, since there is sufficient reserves, he claimed, to continue supplying the refineries for a few days. In ar-Ramadi, west of Baghdad, a number of shopkeepers have reported receiving threats that said that if they did not stop working with the Americans within 10 days they would be killed. Meanwhile the US military commander of the so-called Central Command, General John Abizaid, expressed the expectation that Iraqi Resistance activities would increase as summer approaches. The American commander linked the expected increase in

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Resistance to the American plan for a show in mid-summer of a so-called "transfer of power" to Iraqis. US sources now admit that the US occupation of Iraq will continue at least until But since the current regime in the occupied country, in which US proconsul L. Paul Bremer oversees a puppet so-called governing council, is obviously a US imperial imposition on the country, the "transfer of power" charade is aimed at setting up an alternative puppet government that other western powers will be willing to recognize, thereby granting the US occupation the legitimacy, cover, and help that it wants as it sets about remaking the map of the Arab region. Based on an Associated Press dispatch by John J. Lumpkin US occupation forces use electronic jamming techniques to deflect bombs so they explode among Iraqis while protect their own men. Next time you read that a roadside bomb exploded near a convoy or patrol of the US occupation forces, but killed only Iraqi civilians in the area, you should probably conclude that this was the effect of technology being deliberately employed by the aggressor forces, protecting their own men while killing off Iraqi civilians. The jammers work by preventing a remotely transmitted signal - say, rigged from a cell phone - from detonating an explosive when the bomber presses the button. Depending on the distance, power, and design of the jammer, some might prevent the bomb from going off. Others might instead set it off before or after the convoy passes, so that the bomb explodes among Iraqi bystanders. The military does not want to provide useful information to the Iraqi Resistance. Congressman Gene Taylor, a Democrat from Mississippi suggested that few are being used. Many go off under passing convoys, killing or injuring the occupants of one of the vehicles. But in some cases, they have gone off only after a convoy has passed. That can be a sign that a jammer on one of the vehicles did its job, said James Atkinson, head of the Granite Island Group, a Gloucester, Mass. Anti-bomb jammers have been in use since the early s, Atkinson said. Depending on their sophistication, jammers can cost from hundreds to millions of dollars. Most can be powered by a car engine. Some work by transmitting on frequencies that bombers are known to use. Guerrillas frequently rig remote-controlled detonators out of garage door openers, car alarm remotes or cellular phones, Atkinson said. Others, called barrage jammers, put out signals on a wide range of frequencies, he said. These will knock cellular phones and CB radios off the air in a given area. Both kinds can cause a premature or late detonation of a bomb, or prevent it from going off entirely. Since then, Pakistan has imported more jamming devices for security of VIPs, a senior government official told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Thursday. He refused to give further details, including where the devices were imported from, citing security reasons. In occupied Palestine, a special unit in the Zionist "Ministry of Defense" developed jamming technology in the early s and used it extensively in southern Lebanon in the mid- to late s in an effort to neutralize roadside charges placed by the Hezb Allah Resistance. In the end, of course, that effort proved a failure and the Zionist forces were routed from most of southern Lebanon in May It is unclear what defenses exist against other kinds of bombs, such as those that rely on timers or are hard-wired to a switch. Pakistani officials claimed their jamming devices also interrupted a timer.

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Chapter 2 : Project MUSE - The Highway War

The Highway War Seth B Folsom Part IV "Vortex: Tikrit, Ad Diwaniyah, and the Return Home The Tunnel Stabilizing Tikrit All Good Things

Crete was a costly victory for the Germans because of the "Ultra Secret" German codes broken to reveal all classified messages told the Allies exactly where their DZ and drop times were. It was still a victory and proof deep Airborne operations can work in spite of no amphibious forces around to help. Years later, on Grenada the same thing happened, the enemy expected sea attack from marines, but instead, the Rangers and 82nd Airborne came from long away and caught them by surprise. The invasion of Panama was a "deep" Airborne operation that worked as was The Russian seizure of Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia, though in the latter, ground forces were en route for link-up. Had the British jumped south of Arnhem bridge, instead of 8 miles away at a 1 mph foot-slog, the entire battle would have been an undeniable Allied "deep" Airborne victory. Dien Bien Phu was a poorly selected firebase in the low ground, many other poorly defended positions have been over-ran that were established by ground and sea transport, also. In the Second Indo-China war, the U. Deep airdrops of combat power can work, its what you do afterwards on the ground that is the key. If you sit still, the enemy is likely to gain the initiative whether you walked, flew or motored there. Good point about WWI: By the end of the war, we were combining arms as we would have to do again in WWII. Overhead, our planes gave close air support and bombed and strafed supply installations and troop columns in the rear of the German lines. French tanks manned by Americans supported the infantry assaults. Thanks for showing me. Please keep me in mind for future areas of similar style. Although why anyone would want to jump out of a functional aircraft is still a mystery to me-" Later, Stillborne! It is believed that Chinese acrobats used parachute-like devices as long ago as The principle was recognized by several writers, and Leonardo da Vinci proposed the basic idea for parachutes in Leonardo da Vinci sketched a man-sized parachute with a man in mind to be lowered by it, even though no one had ever flown. He visualized it as a tool to escape from tall buildings and structures in event of fire. The dimensions he calculated as necessary to safely land a person years before one was ever used are very close to the ones used today. A few years later other French aeronauts jumped from balloons. He made a number of exhibition jumps, including one of about 8, feet 2, meters in England in In , a French balloonist named Pierre Blanchard used a pet dog for his first idea of a parachute and dropped the dog several hundred feet, the dog ran off with the parachute and was never seen again. In the s, acrobats were dropping from balloons that resembled a parachute and a trapeze, they did this to liven up their act, because balloons got boring after awhile and they needed something else to keep the crowds interest, people watched mostly hoping to see a fatality. The parachutes were rigid with stiffening rods to maintain there shape and tied to the bottom of the balloons, when it came time to jump a helper would cut the rope and they would ascend in their particular contraption. One of the first parachutes was invented in by a man named Robert Cocking. It worked fine at first, but the stiffening tubes started to give way , then a hole developed in the canopy, then it collapsed it was the first parachute fatality. In the Baldwin Brothers developed a parachute similar to the one used today, it had no stiffeners, just a fabric canopy that was folded and stuffed into a soft container. The canopy was not attached to to the jumpers but to the balloons rigging and a harness was worn by the jumpers and attached to the chute, it was several years in development before they had a full size model and was first tested from ft, instead of being guinea pigs they used sand bags instead for the first drop, the parachute worked perfectly and they considered it a success. They decided to demonstrate it publicly, and sold tickets for the event at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, California on January 30, Thomas Baldwin the younger brother got elected for the task, the brothers took the balloon to 5, ft. Tom jumped and the chute worked perfectly opened within five seconds and he drifted slowly to the ground, and landed safely. This do-it-yourself design also applied to airplanes with a lot of fatal results. The Wright brothers finally got one to fly and it has been the "skies the limit" Pilot, Engine, Airframe--PEA every since, until the planes crash. Now

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the interest in and need for parachutes really "took off". Early parachutes were made of canvas, and later of silk. The first successful descent from an airplane was made by Capt. Albert Berry of the United States Army in World War I, parachutes were used by observers to escape from captive balloons but were considered impractical for airplanes. Only in the last stage of the war were they finally used in aircraft. In April Charles Broadwick invented the back pack container, his design resembled a sleeveless coat, the canopy and suspension lines were stowed on the back, the apex was attached to a static line on the back with a breakaway tie and a static line that could be hooked anywhere available, it similar to the design used today. He demonstrated it to the army just a few months before WW 1, with his adopted daughter Tiny, then twenty years old. She had been jumping since she was fifteen years old. She jumped from a Curtis biplane and used the risers to steer to a perfect landing. After that jump she was never seen again. This amazed the General and his staff. The General's report to the Army was great, but they ignored it, and later American pilots flew into combat without parachutes because the General thought they would abandon their planes at the very slightest chance of trouble, hence no parachutes. During the war only Germans provided parachutes for their pilots, it was a canopy and suspension lines stored in a container. When it came time to depart the aircraft, they lifted the container from under the seat, stood on the seat and tossed the container over the side, then followed it, a little crude but it worked and all the other pilots envied them, especially since they had to ride theirs down in flames. From the book, *Into The Valley*, by Col. Isolated French raids in WW I during which two-man demolition teams parachuted behind German lines to destroy communications. Small-scale Allied airborne resupply during the Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns. Colonel Billy Mitchell attempted to get parachutes for his aviators, without success, but the Army did conduct some tests, and they were still testing when the war ended in But Colonel Mitchell thought of others ways to use parachutes. To him goes the distinction of suggesting the first Airborne parachute assault forces. The idea of parachutes for military personnel to employ for 3D maneuver was first suggested by the late Colonel William Billy Mitchell, U. His idea was to assign infantrymen to the Air Force and to jump them behind the enemy to cut them off and use the air force to protect them, but his idea was not used. We could equip each man with a parachute, so when we desired to make a rear attack on the enemy, we could carry these men over the lines and drop them off at a prearranged strong point, fortify it, and we could supply them by aircraft with food and ammunition. Our low flying attack aviation would then cover every road in the vicinity, both day and night, so as to prevent the Germans falling on them before they could thoroughly organize the position. Then we could attack the Germans from the rear, aided by an attack from our Army from the front, and support the maneuver with our great Air Force. But he was proven right. Italian pilots dropped supplies by parachute to the dirigible Italia, stranded at the North Pole. Italian paratroopers made mass jumps in North Africa. Army Air Corps flew a field artillery battery complete with equipment to Panama as a demonstration of "hemispheric defense. Kenney "astounded his colleagues" by airlanding an infantry detachment behind "enemy" lines. Soviet demonstration, Moscow; 46 paratroops jumped from two large bombers, and also dropped a small combat tank by parachute. During Soviet airborne maneuvers at Kiev, two battalions of infantry were dropped; three passenger gliders were also landed on these maneuvers. Gliders had been towed 1, miles-in triple-tow. All pilots involved were women. Soviet mass drop of 1, paratroops at Minsk, while 5, paratroops jumped in maneuvers at Moscow. Germans airlanded a complete infantry regiment of 2, men in a wheat field near Freiwaldau, Silesia. The board was headed by Maj. Huffman, who sent letters to known jumpers in the country to demonstrate equipment and techniques that might be purchased by the government. One of the respondents was a circus performer known as "Sky High" Irvin, who had been jumping since the age of sixteen and had logged numerous jumps over the years. He presented the first free-fall parachute, a concept that required the jumper to manually release the canopy with a rip cord instead of a static line. The Irvin model used a harness instead of a coat. The canopy was thirty two feet in diameter, with twenty four suspension lines. Instead of being extracted by a static line, the canopy was deployed by a pilot chute that sprang from the container when the jumper pulled the rip cord. Irvan proved them wrong by making a delayed-opening jump from 1, feet, which convinced the board to sign

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a contract with him for parachutes. By a parachute was a required part of the uniform of the military and airmail pilots, and the design remained unchanged for the next fifty years. During the s the Russians and Germans started using Airborne troops. The Russians even had bombers and gliders to deliver tanks and " people pods " on the wings of early aircraft to deliver Airborne troops. The Russians formed Airborne units in and the Germans in The French also started in , however the French were defeated before they could use them. German Airborne successes in Norway, Holland, Belgium youtube. Russian Airborne used extensively, Italian fighting German Paras bitterly resist allies, American Airborne saves beach head at Salerno youtube. Arnhem bridge operation, incorrectly states "armored" jeeps were lost, Battle of the Bulge youtube. The first thing the United States did was to design a chute that could be used for military jumps since most chutes were only used by stunt jumpers. They designed what was then called the T-4 and was the first chute to have four risers so it could be steered. They also developed the reserve parachute, something only the U. No other nation, at that time, used reserves. German Fallschirmjaeger parachutes were hooked to a single "D" ring and hooked to the harness behind their head. The jumpers were unable to steer them and they landed where ever the wind took them, and contributed to many casualties and battlefield losses. Later that year, the 2nd Infantry Division was directed to conduct the necessary tests to develop reference data and operational procedures for air-transported troops. In July , the task of organizing the platoon began. First Lieutenant William T. Bassett was designated Assistant Platoon Leader. Based on high standards of health and rugged physical characteristics, forty-eight enlisted men were selected from a pool of volunteers.

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Chapter 3 : Things Fall Apart: Containing the Spillover from an Iraqi Civil War - [PDF Document]

"The Highway War is the compelling Iraq War memoir of then-Capt. Seth Folsom, commanding officer of Delta Company, First Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps.

The document was then read aloud from beginning to end. The draft constitution will be put to the popular vote in a referendum on 15 October. The deadlock came despite US efforts to secure a political consensus. In a last-minute effort to bring about a compromise, Mr. Bush telephoned Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, a cleric and the leader of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, to press him to be more accommodating to Sunni interests. Reuters, Aljeerah Five million copies of the constitution will be circulated nationwide in food allotments that each Iraqi family receives monthly from the government. US President George W. Xinhuanet The constitutional text presented to the Iraqi parliament is still a remarkable document in a number of respects, states a Times news article. It has been not just accepted but sincerely welcomed by delegates from the Shia and Kurdish communities. An understanding between these two groups, which differ in more than ethnicity, was certainly not a foregone conclusion. Times The indication that Sunnis might be willing to compromise is welcome too. A future parliament will be permitted to establish the rules for implementing federalism 3. Federalism, and forming of semi-autonomous regions 2. Terminology used to eradicate influence of former Baath regime 3. National referendum on constitution by mid-October Mid December: Here are some highlights from the text. We the people of Iraq, newly arisen from our disasters and looking with confidence to the future through a democratic, federal, republican system, are determined " men and women, old and young " to respect the rule of law, reject the policy of aggression, pay attention to women and their rights, the elderly and their cares, the children and their affairs, spread the culture of diversity and defuse terrorism. No law can be passed that contradicts the fixed principles of Islam. No law can be passed that contradicts the rights and basic freedoms outlined in this constitution. Kurdish was declared an official language on par with Arabic. The constitution states that individual provinces can declare themselves a region and unite with other regions if certain legal steps are taken. This would enable Shiite provinces of the south to unite into a giant Shiite federated region. It could also allow for expansion of the Kurdish self-ruled region at the expense of Arab areas. Sunni Arabs fear this would lead to the disintegration of the country and open up the whole area to Iranian influence. AP Article states: Over the weekend Kurds and Shias amended the draft, said a government spokesman, so that provinces had to wait six months after the next parliament before seeking to form regions. With elections due in December that delays any such move by Shias until June next year, by which time Sunnis might be in a stronger position to block it. The concession was enough to win over some but not all Sunnis. Guardian Providing for a federal style parliamentary system, the proposed constitution establishes election rules for the bicameral parliament composed of the Council of Representatives and the Council of Union as well as the president of the republic. The president appoints a prime minister, who forms a cabinet. The constitution also establishes an independent judiciary. The central government at Baghdad is specifically responsible for: Provision that may convince some everyday Iraqis is this one Red State. There were tweaks to article which had stipulated that oil wealth would be redistributed to the main oil-producing areas, which happen to be Kurdish and Shia. The state guarantees compensation to the families of martyrs and those who were wounded by terrorist acts. Org Article recognized the fact that in many areas Shia and Kurdish militias are more powerful than, or have infiltrated, the army and police. This is likely to disappoint human rights groups which have accused the militias of kidnap, murder and extortion. Guardian Another sticking point was article 7: US diplomats said women would be protected by other articles enshrining human rights. The institution to decide that, according to article 90, will be the supreme federal court, on which clerical experts on sharia law will sit. Guardian What were the Key changes in the Constitution? An AP article outlines the key changes to the text of the draft Iraqi constitution, which was submitted without the approval of the Sunni Arabs: The preamble places additional emphasis on atrocities under Saddam Hussein. In a

concession to Sunnis in the version finished Sunday, a future parliament will be permitted to establish the rules for implementing federalism: The federal system in the republic of Iraq is made up of the capital, regions, decentralized provinces, and local administrations. This constitution, when implemented, shall endorse the region of Kurdistan and its existing power as a federal region. This constitution shall endorse the new regions that will be established according to the provisions of the constitution. The Council of Representatives shall pass a law that fixes the executive procedures relating to establishing regions by simple majority in a period that does not exceed six months from the date of the first session. What are the Major Points of Contention? The representatives of the Arab Sunnis: Oppose the articles of the constitution pertinent to the federalism, the distribution of wealth on the ground of demographic density and eradication of the Baath party. They demand that the constitution state clearly that Iraq is an Arab Islamic state. They also rejected that the draft constitution does not define the authorities of the presidium council which is composed of the President of the Republic and the heads of the parliament and the Cabinet. The Sunnis specifically object to the idea of Iraq as a federal state. The first draft of the constitution stipulated that former senior Baath party officials would be excluded from public office in the future. The wording has subsequently been toned down, but Sunni leaders believe the revised text will still mean many professionals within their communities being deprived of the right to earn their livelihoods. But the Sunni negotiators said their rejection of the draft constitution does not mean a withdrawal from the political process. They said they still intend to take part in elections later this year, including the October 15 referendum on the constitution itself. There were street bands in Basra and fireworks in Baghdad. In Kirkuk, some sneered at it. And in Samawa, some saw relief in it. But there were ominous voices, too, apparently confirming the dire warnings from some opponents of the bitterly debated document that it could further divide Iraq. Aljazeera Random Sampling of Shia Opinion: For year-old Mosul resident Ahmed Jaboori, it was a day to be proud. To the south, in the Shiite stronghold of Basra, Luay Ahmed Amir, a year-old Shiite printer, saw the constitution in bleak terms. Xinhuanet Moqtada al-Sadr is a leading Shiite voice of refusing the draft and calling to protest against it. Several thousand supporters of the radical Shia cleric marched through Shia areas of Baghdad after prayers on Sunday, denouncing federalism as an attempt to divide Iraq and calling for national unity. Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, the head of another Shia party, favors a loose federal structure. Random Sampling of Kurdish Opinion: In the Kurdish town of Sulaimaniyah, km northeast of Baghdad, Serwan Ahmad, year-old university student, said he thinks the draft is good because Kurdish leaders approved it. Sunni leaders have urged their community to defeat the charter in a nationwide referendum on Oct. In Tikrit, at least 2, protesters assembled near the office of the Association of Muslims Scholars – a hardline Sunni clerical group opposed to the US occupation – carrying Iraqi flags and portraits of the former dictator. On the 27th of August, hundreds of former government supporters demonstrated against the constitution in Baquba and Kirkuk, north of Baghdad, while Iraqi leaders were still negotiating over the text. Aljazeera Delegates from the Sunni minority have appealed to the Arab League and United Nations to help block a referendum due in October. But Issam said he was pleased because Iraqis now have a legal basis to organize their lives and will be able to restore security and, in time, live a normal life. Many other Sunnis, however, have predicted they will be deeply involved with the campaign to defeat the charter. The draft constitution signed in Iraq today marks another critical step forward along the pathway to a free, prosperous and democratic Iraq, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said. The draft constitution will be put to the popular vote in a referendum in October. The Sunnis are dominant in four provinces and so therefore effectively hold a power of veto. But here is the rub. To ensure the constitution does not become law, the Sunnis will have to do something they did not do in the January elections – turn out and vote. That would mean that even in wrecking the draft document they would at least be engaging in the democratic process. Safwat Rashid, an official with the Independent Electoral Commission, said that out of 28 registration centers in the western province, only 19 had opened so far. The nationwide drive to register voters for the Oct. A total of centers are registering voters. AP Defeat of the constitution would force new elections for a parliament that would begin the drafting process from scratch. If the

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constitution is approved, elections for a fully constitutional parliament will be in December. Ireland Online The constitution also opens up the possibility of the Shias having a degree of autonomy in the south of Iraq and enshrines a similar situation which already exists for the Kurds in the north. They have declared war on the election. So I will not be surprised if they increase violence. They go after people who support the constitution. I understand the problem particularly with regard to the Sunnis who are facing intimidation and worse. They face difficult choices, a lot of pressure. But I do expect then that the terrorists and extremists will try their best to intimidate people, to prevent themâ€” those who support the constitution from voting and to encourage opposition to this draft. NBC News The United States military is in the process of replacing National Guard contingents in Iraq with regular combat troops in anticipation of a surge of violence during the coming electoral process. The Independent Commentaries on the Constitution The update includes a few commentaries on the draft constitution: Regarding the Negotiations before the Draft Constitution was presented to the Parliament: Some experts said that the Sunni leaders brought into the process, were too weak to make a deal with the Shiite and Kurdish leadership, or perhaps too intimidated after several prominent Sunni leaders were killed recently for their complicity with the government. The focus of American policy makers had been to persuade the Kurds not to demand an autonomous region in the north.

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Chapter 4 : 1st Infantry Division (United States) - WikiVisually

Diwaniyah. Battlespace handover was executed smoothly, and on 21 April the last elements of the Task Force Tripoli repositioned from Tikrit to Ad Diwaniyah.

Taliban attacks continued at the same rate as they did in , rem Fallen Ackerman Rex W. OH 20e, Chemis Charles R. Hide Transition I Strategic Agreement Taliban attacks continued at the same rate as they did in , remaining around 28, Taliban "enemy initiated" attacks. Provincial Reconstruction Team at the ceremony for a new road. Meanwhile, much of the political wing reunited under the National Coalition of Afghanistan led by Abdullah Abdullah becoming the main democratic opposition movement in the Afghan parliament. Former head of intelligence Amrullah Saleh has created a new movement, Basej-i Milli Afghanistan Green Trend , with support among the youth mobilizing about 10, people in an anti-Taliban demonstration in Kabul in May In January , the National Front of Afghanistan raised concerns about the possibility of a secret deal between the US, Pakistan and the Taliban during a widely publicized meeting in Berlin. Congressman Louie Gohmert wrote, "These leaders who fought with embedded Special Forces to initially defeat the Taliban represent over percent of the Afghan people, yet are being entirely disregarded by the Obama and Karzai Administrations in negotiations. The present form of discussions with the Taliban is flawed, as it excludes anti-Taliban Afghans. It must be recalled that the Taliban extremists and their Al-Qaeda supporters were defeated by Afghans resisting extremism with minimal human embedded support from the United States and International community. The present negotiations with the Taliban fail to take into account the risks, sacrifices and legitimate interests of the Afghans who ended the brutal oppression of all Afghans. Army soldiers prepare to conduct security checks near the Pakistan border, February Beginning in January incidents involving US troops occurred which were described by The Sydney Morning Herald as "a series of damaging incidents and disclosures involving US troops in Afghanistan [â€¦]". These incidents created fractures in the partnership between Afghanistan and ISAF, raised the question whether discipline within U. Besides an incident involving US troops who posed with body parts of dead insurgents and an video apparently showing a US helicopter crew singing "Bye-bye Miss American Pie" before blasting a group of Afghan men with a Hellfire missile these "high-profile U. On 7 July , as part of the agreement, the U. On 11 November , as part of the agreement, the two countries launched negotiations for a bilateral security agreement. Troops withdrawal and long-term presence Further information: A new NATO mission would then assume the support role. Withdrawal Karzaiâ€™Obama meeting Karzai visited the U. At the time the U. We will be in a training, assisting, advising role. Obama also stated that he would determine the pace of troop withdrawal after consultations with commanders. He added that any U. Obama insisted that a continuing presence must include an immunity agreement in which US troops are not subjected to Afghan law. Both leaders agreed that the United States would transfer Afghan prisoners and prisons to the Afghan government and withdraw troops from Afghan villages in spring Security transfer On 18 June the transfer of security responsibilities was completed. The last step was to transfer control of 95 remaining districts. Karzai said, "When people see security has been transferred to Afghans, they support the army and police more than before. Some , ISAF forces remained in the country. If approved, the agreement would allow the U. President Obama will determine the size of the force. The bilateral security agreement was signed on September 30, Withdrawal continues and the insurgency increases After , Afghanistan has been shaken hard with suicide bombings by the Taliban. A clear example of this is a bombing of a Lebanese restaurant in the Wazir Akbar Khan area of Kabul on 18 February Among the dead in this attack was UN staff and the owner of the restaurant, who died protecting his business. Meanwhile, the withdrawal continues with more US troops alone coming home. The UK have halved their force and are slowing withdrawing with all but two bases being closed down. On 20 March , more than 4 weeks after a bomb in a military bus by the Taliban rocked the city once again, a raid on the Serena hotel in Kabul by the Taliban resulted in the deaths of 9 people, including the 4 perpetrators. The attack came just 8

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days after Swedish radio journalist Nils Horner was shot dead by the Taliban. On 5 August , a gunman in an Afghan military uniform opened fire on a number of U. Greene and wounding about 15 officers and soldiers including a German brigadier general and a large number of U. Both pacts lay out the framework for the foreign troop involvement in Afghanistan after the year

Chapter 5 : THOMCATSPIKEish

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Unfortunately, the United States probably will not be able to just walk away from the chaos. Even setting aside the humanitarian nightmare that will ensue, a full-scale civil war would likely consume more than Iraq: Spillover from an Iraqi civil war could be disastrous. Preventing spillover of the Iraqi conflict into neighboring states must be a top priority. In explaining how that can be accomplished, Daniel Byman and Kenneth Pollack draw on their own considerable expertise as well as relevant precedents. The authors scrutinize several recent civil wars— including conflicts in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Chechnya, Kosovo, and current struggles in Africa—for lessons on how civil wars can affect other nations. They draw from those experiences in developing recommendations for what the United States should do to contain spillover. Options are difficult and imperfect. But even while the Bush administration attempts to prevent further deterioration of the situation in Iraq, it needs to plan for a full-scale civil war if one develops. Walsh School of Foreign Service. His books include *Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism* Cambridge, He is author of *The Persian Puzzle: Its principal purpose is to bring the highest quality independent research and analysis to bear on current and emerging policy problems. Interpretations or conclusions in Brookings publications should be understood to be solely those of the authors. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the Brookings Institution Press. Includes bibliographical references and index. Iraq War, 2. Kenneth Michael , II. The history of such wars is that they are disastrous for all involved. Starting to answer that question is the purpose of this study. We hope that the leaders of the United States and Iraq will find a way to stop what seems to be an irrevocable slide into an all-out civil war. Given their repeated failures to do so, and how badly the situation had deteriorated by the time this report went to press, however, we believe that the United States and its allies must begin thinking about how to deal with the consequences of massive failure in Iraq. This should sober us to the possibility that it may already be too late to save Iraq. While we want to believe that an all-out civil war can still be averted, albeit if only through Herculean exertions on the part of Washington and Baghdad, the warnings of history suggest that perhaps we too are simply repeating the same mistakes of those caught up in past civil wars. When we began this study in the spring of , we made a list of indicators of when a state in civil strife passes such a point of no return. With this in mind, we set out to mine the history of recent similar internecine conflicts for lessons that might help the United States to devise a set of strategies to deal with the looming prospect of a full-scale Iraqi civil war. We scrutinized the history of civil wars in Lebanon in the s and s; Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Croatia, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and Tajikistan during the s; as well as the conflicts in Congo and Somalia that rage to this day we present eight of these cases in five appendices to the paper to provide additional historical insight for readers wishing to delve deeper into this question themselves. From these wars we distilled a set of lessons regarding how civil wars can affect the interests of other countries, even distant ones like the United States, and then used those lessons to fashion a set of recommendations for how Washington might begin to develop a new strategy for an Iraq caught up in all-out civil war. In doing so, we attempted to set aside our own feelings of sympathy and concern for the Iraqi people themselves. The only thing that the United States can do to help them is to prevent the descent into full-scale civil war. Once it has happened, the United States will have failed them; and this self-same history makes frighteningly clear that it is impossible for well-meaning outsiders to limit the humanitarian tragedies of an all-out civil war, unless they are willing to intervene massively to bring it to an end. Consequently, we felt that we had to look past the tragedy that will be visited upon the Iraqi people for whose sake the United States nominally launched the invasion in , and instead consider how such a civil war*

could affect U. Our conclusions are not encouraging. For instance, we found little to support the idea that the United States could easily walk away from an Iraqi civil war that we could tell the Iraqis that we tried, that they failed, and that we were leaving them to their fates. By the same token, we also found that the commonly held belief that the best way to handle a civil war is to back one side to help it win was equally mistaken. We found few cases of an outside country successfully helping one side or another to victory, and the outside power usually suffered heavy costs in the process. Nevertheless, because we fear that the United States will not have the option to avoid the problems that will be created for U. They mostly amount to a reinforcing set of efforts designed to contain the likely spillover from this nightmare. Each flows from one or more aspects of our analysis of the patterns of spillover from civil wars. They suggest that if the United States is skillful, determined, patient, and lucky, it may be possible to limit the impact of an all-out Iraqi civil war. To be blunt, the same history suggests that it will be very, very difficult to do so. Few nations that tried to contain spillover from an all-out civil war were successful, and while they were all less powerful than the United States and did not attempt a systematic analysis of how to contain spillover from civil wars, the frequency of their failure should be foremost in our minds. We benefited from outstanding support for our research. Sara Moller, at Georgetown University, and Irena Sargsyan, at the Saban Center, served as our principal research assistants during this time and their efforts defy superlatives. We simply could not have completed this task without them. They, in turn, were assisted by Brad Humphries, Bilal Saab, and Blair Trimble at the Saban Center, all of whom took up their own pieces of our research with energy, enthusiasm, and efficiency. A great many of our colleagues were willing to provide extremely useful comments on our work at various stages. Indyk, Bruce Riedel, and Tamara Cofman Wittes of the Saban Center, provided us with penetrating insights into our various case studies as well as trenchant criticisms of the study itself. While we cannot thank them all by name, their reactions, suggestions, and even disagreements were critical to us in refining our treatment of this subject. Andrew Apostolou of the Saban Center did his usual superb job of editing this monster, and Chris Krupinski handled the layout of the original analysis paper with her usual style and unusual speed to ensure that it was produced in a timely fashion. Unfortunately, the United States probably will not be able to just walk away from the chaos. Spillover from an Iraqi civil war could be disastrous. America has too many strategic interests at stake in the Middle East to ignore the consequences. Thus, it is imperative that the United States develop a plan for containing an all-out Iraqi civil war. As part of a containment approach, our new priority would have to become preventing the Iraqi conflict from spilling over and destabilizing neighboring states, an approach that requires deterring neighboring states from intervening, helping mitigate the risks associated with refugees, striking terrorist havens, and otherwise changing our policy to reflect the painful reality that the U. It employs lessons derived from these cases regarding the impact of full-scale civil wars on the security, prosperity, and national interests of other states to derive recommendations for the United States as it confronts the possibility of a similar conflict in Iraq. Patterns of Spillover The United States will confront a range of problems stemming from the collapse of Iraq into all-out civil war. These will likely include the humanitarian tragedy of hundreds of thousands or more of Iraqis killed along with several times that number maimed and millions of refugees. American influence in the Middle East will be drastically diminished, as will our ability to promote economic and political reform there. The loss of Iraqi oil production could have a significant impact on global oil prices, and supply disruptions elsewhere in the region, particularly in Saudi Arabia, could be particularly devastating. Spillover is the tendency of civil wars to impose burdens, create instability, and even trigger civil wars in other, usually neighboring countries. In some cases, spillover can be as relatively mild as the economic hardships and the limited numbers of refugees that Hungary and Romania coped with during the various Yugoslav civil wars of the s. At the other end of the spectrum, spillover can turn civil war into regional war as Lebanon did in the s and can cause other civil wars in neighboring countries just as the civil war in Rwanda triggered the catastrophic civil war in next-door Congo. Unfortunately, Iraq appears to possess most, if not all, of the factors that would make spillover worse rather than better. Historically, six patterns of spillover have been the most harmful in other cases of all-out civil

war: They represent large groupings of embittered people who serve as a ready recruiting pool for armed groups still waging the civil war. Moreover, large refugee flows can overstrain the economies and even change the demographic balances of small or weak neighboring states. Many of these groups start by focusing on local targets but then shift to international attacks—usually against those they believe are aiding their enemies in the civil war. Radicalization of Neighboring Populations Neighboring populations often become highly agitated and mobilized by developments in the civil war next door. Groups in one state may identify with co-religionists, co-ethnics, or other groups with similar identities in a state embroiled in civil war. A civil war may also encourage groups in neighboring states to demand, or even fight, for a reordering of their domestic political arrangements. Frequently, other groups in similar circumstances either in the country in civil war or in neighboring countries may follow suit if the first group appears to have achieved some degree of success. Economic Losses Civil wars can be costly to other countries, particularly neighbors. First, there are the direct costs of caring for refugees, fighting terrorism, and mounting major interventions, whether covert or overt. Neighborly Interventions The problems created by these other forms of spillover often provoke neighboring states to intervene—to stop terrorism as Israel tried repeatedly in Lebanon, to halt the flow of refugees as the Europeans tried in Yugoslavia, or to end or respond to the radicalization of their own population as Syria did in Lebanon. These interventions usually end badly for all involved. Local groups typically turn out to be poor proxies and are often unable or unwilling to accomplish the objectives of their backers. This often provokes the intervening state to use its own military forces to do the job itself. The result is that many civil wars become regional wars because once one country invades, other states often do the same, if only to prevent the initial invader from conquering the state in civil war. Iraq is already manifesting all of these patterns of spillover. This suggests that these factors may intensify as the civil war worsens, and argues that the United States should be bracing itself for particularly severe manifestations of spillover throughout the Persian Gulf region. Nearly all of them failed to do so. In many cases, states failed so miserably to prevent spillover that they were eventually forced to mount massive invasions to attempt to end the civil war instead. Successful efforts to end civil wars generally required a peace agreement to bring the war to closure and then an international security intervention with a personnel-to-population ratio of 20 per thousand or higher to keep the peace, combined with a major injection of international resources. In Iraq excluding Kurdistan, such a security deployment could equate to a deployment of roughly 20,000 troops. Despite these odds, if Iraq does descend into an all-out civil war, the United States probably will have no choice but to try to contain it. In theory, the United States could choose proxies and use them to secure its interests. However, proxies often fail in their assigned tasks or turn against their masters. As a result, such efforts rarely succeed, and in the specific circumstances of Iraq, such an effort appears particularly dubious. It is extremely difficult to know which group will be able to prevail in a civil war. This makes it difficult, if not impossible, to know which group could benefit from external assistance, and history is rife with states that poured arms and money into a civil war to back a faction that could not make use of it. There are only dozens of small to medium-size militias, most of which hate one another with equal intensity regardless of ethnic or religious differences or similarities. Moreover, there is no manageable way for the United States to back one faction or another from a diplomatic and logistical perspective. Indeed, the only Sunni warlord who effectively governed Iraq was Saddam Hussein, who had to build one of the worst totalitarian states in history to do so. Finally, as was the case in Lebanon, American backing of one side in the conflict could cause other states, particularly Iran, to ramp up their own interventions, rather than end them. Avoid active support for partition. However, a major U.S. Other than the Kurds, few Iraqis want their country divided, nor do they want to leave their homes.

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Chapter 6 : Marine Corps 4th Marine Regiment/3rd Bn, 4th Marine Regiment (3/4) | USMC Veteran Locato

Ad Diwaniyah Muqadiyah Samawa that this was the third wave of IDPs to return to Tikrit. Coalition airstrikes also destroyed an ISIS storage tunnel in the al.

In , the division colors left Germany and were relocated to Fort Riley , Kansas. Its troops reorganized and trained for war at Fort Riley and at other posts. These "Long Thrust Operations" were the most significant deployments conducted by 1st Infantry Division troops during the Cold War, placing Big Red One troops in confrontation with hostile communist forces. Vietnam[edit] The division fought in the Vietnam War from to . By the end of the division had participated in three major operations: In November , the division participated in Operation Attleboro. Hay assumed command in February. On 17 June , during Operation Billings, the division suffered casualties, 35 killed and wounded in the battle of Xom Bo II. D suffered heavy casualties at the Battle of Ong Thanh with 58 killed. On 13 September, the division commander, MG Ware, was killed in action when his command helicopter was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Talbott moved up from his position of assistant division commander to assume command of the division. In the first half of , The Big Red One conducted reconnaissance-in-force and ambush operations, including a multi-divisional operation, Atlas Wedge. The last part of the year saw the division take part in Dong Tien "Progress Together" operations. These operations were intended to assist South Vietnamese forces to take a more active role in combat. In August, MG A. Milloy took command of the 1st I. In January it was announced that the division would return to Fort Riley. During its involvement in the Vietnam war, the division lost 6, killed in action, with a further 16, wounded. Twenty of its number were taken as prisoners-of-war. Rhame, also participated in Operation Desert Storm. The division played a significant role in the Battle of Norfolk. By the early morning of 28 February , the division had taken position along the " Highway of Death ", preventing any Iraqi retreat. For extraordinary heroism during ground combat operations in Operation Desert Storm from 24 February through 4 March During the operation, over fifty enemy combat vehicles were destroyed and over prisoners were captured. Throughout the Ground War, the soldiers performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions. Their gallantry, determination, and Esprit de Corps guaranteed victory and maintained the finest traditions of the United States Army. The division would remain in Germany until , when the colors were struck and moved again to Fort Riley, Kansas. The Squadron was based in Camp Alicia near the town of Kalesija.

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Chapter 7 : The Beginning and End of all your travels - racedaydvl.com

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Evans , 22, of Hallstead, Pennsylvania. Evans died in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained earlier that day in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle during combat operations. Died on September 19, Jeremy Ricardo Ewing , 22, of Miami, Florida. Ewing died in Baghdad, Iraq, when a vehicle approached his unit and the driver detonated a bomb. Died on April 29, Fargo , 22, of Ruckersville, Virginia. Fargo died in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries sustained when his convoy encountered enemy forces small arms fire. Died on July 22, Farnan , 22, of Weston, Missouri. Farnan died in Taji, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on dismounted patrol. Died on February 25, Felder , 22, of Bridgeport, Connecticut. Felder died in Balad, Iraq, of injuries sustained on April 4 in Mosul when her convoy vehicle was hit with an improvised explosive device. Died on April 7, Fell , 22, of Shreveport, Louisiana. Fell died in Baghdad, Iraq, when he was shot while conducting dismounted combat operations. Died on May 19, Ferguson , 22, of Taylors, South Carolina. Ferguson died of injuries sustained in Quinn, Iraq when he fell from the light medium tactical vehicle in which he was a passenger. Died on December 14, Fey , 22, of Eden Prarie, Minnesota. Fey died due to injuries received from hostile fire in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Died on April 4, Fifer , 22, of Knoxville, Tennessee. Fifer died of injuries sustained in Haqlaniyah, Iraq, when his dismounted patrol was attacked by enemy forces using small arms fire. Died on October 7, Fisher , 22, of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Died on May 24, Fitzgerald , 22, of Huber Heights, Ohio. Fitzgerald died in a non-combat related vehicle incident in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Died on August 18, Flanagan , 22, of Inverness, Florida. Died on January 20, Franklin , 22, of Coudersport, Pennsylvania. Franklin died in Ramadi, Iraq, when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his screening area. Died on March 7, Frantz , 22, of Tonganoxie, Kansas. Frantz died in Mosul, Iraq when he was hit by enemy fire while performing a combat mission. Died on October 18, Fraser , 22, of Anchorage, Alaska. Fraser died when his Amphibious Assault Vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device during combat operations south of Haditha, Iraq. Died on August 3, Frosheiser , 22, of Des Moines, Iowa. Frosheiser was on mounted patrol when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device in Baghdad, Iraq. Died on November 8, Gallardo , 22, of St. Gallardo died in Tal Afar, Iraq, from a non-combat related illness. Died on November 22, Gardner , 22, of Glasgow, Kentucky. Gardner died in Tal Afar, Iraq, from a non-combat related cause. Died on April 10, Giannopoulos , 22, of Inverness, Illinois. Giannopoulos died as a result of enemy action in Babil Province, Iraq. Died on November 11, Glimpse , 22, of Huntington Beach, California. Glimpse died as the result of an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Died on April 12, Gonzalez , 22, of Middletown, New York. Gonzalez died in Tikrit, Iraq, when a mortar round detonated. Died on March 16, Gonzalez , 22, of Indio, California. Killed while manning a checkpoint in Baghdad. Gooden , 22, of Mt. Killed during a firefight in central Iraq. Grames-Sanchez , 22, of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Grames-Sanchez died as a result of a vehicle accident in Al Anbar province, Iraq. Died on May 11, Sergio Gudino , 22, of Pomona, California. Gudino died in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his M1A1 tank during combat operations. Died on December 25, Jose Gutierrez , 22, of Los Angeles, California. Killed in action in southern Iraq. Died on March 21,

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Chapter 8 : U.S. Army employs light tanks but doesn't admit it

Ad Diwaniyah Muqadiyah Samawa Rutba Iraqi Sunni leaders in Diyala appear to be negotiating with the pan-Shi'a National Alliance to return to ISIS tunnel.

Wheeled light armored combat vehicle Range: Driver- LiL Brother, gunner, commander and six troops
Armament: The LAV is a family of vehicles operated by the U. Marine Corps; other models offer air defense, anti-tank, assault gun, combat support, and combat service support capabilities
Marine Corps Structure: Four Marines; led by a corporal
1 Squad: Three teams; sergeant
1 Platoon: Three squads, 36 to 50 Marines; lieutenant
1 Company: Three platoons, to ; captain
1 Battalion: Three companies, to 1,; lieutenant colonel
1 Regiment: Three battalions; 3, to 4,; colonel
1 Division: Three regiments, 9, to 20,; general
1 Expeditionary Unit: A reinforced battalion, an aircraft squadron and a support group, 2,; colonel
1 Expeditionary Force: A division, an air wing and a support group, 45,; general
Note: Sizes of units vary greatly depending upon roles and missions. The following gives you a better idea of the numbers in our units and explains the terms often used in the media: Ellyn Dunford - wife of Col. Dunford - the Regimental Commander
Everyone has been wondering what went on for our guys in Fifth Marines so I asked Joe to give me a synopsis
This will be printed up in a booklet form for all the RCT5 members to have as a record of their activities. I thought you would find it helpful. The RCT combat losses included 12 killed in action and wounded. Throughout, the RCT was challenged by extended lines of communication, austere weather, and extremely limited resources. The RCT accomplished all assigned missions with minimal loss of friendly life or equipment due to the speed of action maintained by individual Marines and leaders. Once the RCT attacked across the Iraqi border, it continued to press the enemy and keep him off balance. In the end, the pressure exerted by RCT-5 on the enemy robbed him of the initiative and shattered his will to fight. With RCT-5 in the lead, the 1st Marine Division reached Baghdad in less than three weeks, the fastest advance on a capital city in military history. Their indomitable will, innovativeness, flexibility, aggressiveness, and initiative allowed the RCT to attack along an unexpected avenue of approach and rapidly cover great distances while consistently integrating combined arms and maneuver at the decisive time and place. Upon arrival in theater, the RCT was organized for combat and integrated with the equipment from Maritime Repositioned squadron 2. The major subordinate units in the task organization for Regimental Combat Team 5, included: Additionally, the RCT was reinforced by: RCT-5 crossed the line of departure with 7, Marines, Sailors, soldiers, and British soldiers supported by over 2, vehicles including tanks, light armored vehicles, and other pieces of rolling stock. March 18, , after weeks in Kuwait, the 1st Marine Division was ordered to move to its attack positions and make final preparations for combat. March 19, , RCT-5 key leaders met at the RCT command post to confirm the scheme of maneuver and fire support plan for the seizure of the Rumayla Oilfields. The RCT also conducted final checks on weapons and equipment. March 20, the RCT received a warning order from the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division indicating that the attack into Iraq would occur within hours. A quiet confidence characterized the climate within the RCT. RCT key leaders were called together once again in the afternoon for final coordination. Shortly after leaders were briefed on the timeline detailed in the warning order, the Division Commander called the RCT Commander and asked how soon the RCT could be prepared to attack. After a quick assessment and confirmation with his subordinate commanders, the RCT Commander responded that RCT-5 could be prepared in four hours. Almost immediately, the RCT was on the move and subsequently attacked across the Iraqi border on an accelerated three hours notice. RCT-5 was the first ground combat unit to attack into Iraq. Because of the extensive rehearsals, detailed briefings, and thorough preparations for combat by commanders and key leaders throughout the RCT, RCT-5 was able to quickly respond to the emerging Iraqi threat to the oilfields in Southern Iraq. The speed with which the RCT responded in the initial hours of the war would characterize its performance throughout the war. The summary of RCT-5 Actions: The attack was a pre-ground day operation and conducted at H-9 hours. The RCT attacked utilizing two reach sites

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each consisting of three lanes. Just prior to the attack, an enemy minefield was detected in the middle lane of the western breach site. The lane remained fouled during the attack. As part of the Division scheme of maneuver, RCT-5 controlled the movement of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and RCT-1 through the western breach site to their assigned zones of action. Notwithstanding the accelerated timeline for the attack and the extraordinarily poor visibility in the area of operations, the RCT accomplished its initial mission with minimal loss of life or equipment. Battle damage assessment, and interviews with enemy prisoners of war captured during the attack, confirmed pre H-hour estimates of brigade sized enemy forces in both the Northern and Southern Oilfields. The enemy forces were largely dismounted but supported by T tanks, mechanized vehicles, surface to air missiles, air defense artillery, mortars, long rang artillery, and multiple launched rockets. Through the early morning hours, the RCT consolidated on assigned objectives and processed hundreds of enemy prisoners of war. The desired end state was achieved: After supporting the attack, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines occupied position areas in the Northern Oilfield. Following the relief in place, the RCT conducted a road march on Highway 8 and crossed the Euphrates River at the intersection with Highway 1. Each of the battalions engaged and destroyed irregular enemy forces during this period in actions characterized by initiative and aggressiveness. While the enemy along Highway 1 fought with determination, their hasty defensive positions and ambush tactics were ineffective in slowing the RCT. The Cannon Cockers also provided counter battery fire that quickly silenced numerous enemy indirect fire attacks on the RCT. The RCT uncovered multiple caches of weapons, ammunition, and equipment along the axis of advance. En route, the battalion engaged in heavy fighting with a company sized irregular enemy force. The battalion overcame the fog and friction of war during a horrific sandstorm, which was followed by rain, and golf ball sized hailstones. Many enemies were killed and over 20 were taken prisoner of war. The RCT confronted irregular enemy forces along the axis of advance; 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines engaged and destroyed an enemy company sized unit with armor and mechanized vehicles on the objective. After a successful seizure of the airfield, RCT-5 was ordered to consolidate back south of the Ad Diwaniyah crossroads. The 1st Marine Division conducted an operational pause to consolidate combat service support. Throughout this period, RCT-5 conducted limited objective attacks and local security patrols along the Highway 1 corridor consolidating its gains and clearing enemy in zone. Numerous enemy weapons caches were uncovered. Enemy contact was frequent and the RCT continued to experience regular indirect fire attacks from enemy mortars and artillery. Along the axis of advance, the enemy engaged units throughout the column with direct fire. An enemy company with armor and mechanized vehicles defended the northwest corner of the objective. The scheme of maneuver was developed to deceive the enemy into believing that the Division would continue the attack to Baghdad along Highway 1 vice along Route 27 to Highway 6. Shortly after the objective was secured, the Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing arrived on scene for a personal inspection of the airfield. His assessment was that the airfield would support C operations and within 24 hours Hantush received the first re-supply aircraft. An enemy company sized element put up strong resistance from defensive positions both north and south of the canal. RCT-5 continued the attack as the Division main effort along Route 27 to seize a bridgehead at the Tigris River utilizing an established bridge at An Numaniyah. Numerous tanks and vehicles in the RCT were hit with RPGs, machine gun and small arms fire from enemy positions astride Route 27 and from within An Numaniyah in the vicinity of the bridge. At that time, one M1A1 was designated a mobility kill. Numerous enemy defensive positions, abandoned vehicles, and additional caches were found on the nearside of the Tigris River. An enemy reinforced armor and mechanized battalion was confronted in the vicinity of Aziziyah. Enemy resistance was significant and fierce fighting continued for several hours in the town. The enemy order of battle included Ts, Ts, mechanized vehicles, air defense artillery, long-range artillery, and mortars from the Republican Guard. This was the most significant battle against enemy conventional forces during the war. The enemy fought from defensive positions along the highway and defended with two dismounted companies from within the confines of the city. RCT-5 continued the attack along Highway 6 as the main effort to clear the southeastern approach to Baghdad. As the RCT main effort, 2nd Tank Battalion confronted fierce enemy

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resistance in the vicinity of the 61 easting from an irregular enemy force of several hundred fighters from Syria, Jordan, Egypt and other Middle Eastern and African countries. As 3rd Battalion cleared along the highway, 2nd Tanks continued the attack and engaged enemy forces en route to the seizure of a Division objective at a cross roads east of the Diyala River and west of an Al Nida Republican Guard barracks and command post. Also during the consolidation phase, an Iraqi Republican Guard General Officer attempted to run a blocking position established on the eastern side of the objective by 2nd Tanks; the general was killed and his vehicle destroyed by. RCT-5 conducted aggressive reconnaissance to identify crossing sites along the Diyala River. No suitable sites were identified despite the superb efforts of 1st LAR Battalion. Units throughout the RCT experienced mortar attacks and casualties were incurred. After significant enemy contact in a congested urban environment, the RCT consolidated all forces in the vicinity of Highway 5 north of Baghdad. The RCT received artillery and mortar attacks during consolidation. Together, these actions completed the cordon of the city. Significant enemy contact in several locations along the axis of advance and in the objective area, characterized by a relentless barrage of RPGs, a torrent of heavy machinegun and small arms fire, resulted in the commitment of the RCT quick reaction force in support of the 1st Battalion. In securing their assigned objectives, 1st Battalion experienced heavy casualties and killed an estimated Saddam Fedayeen fighters. Fixed wing aviation played a significant role in securing the Iman Abu Hanifah Mosque. RCT-5 conducted security operations in sector in Northwest Baghdad. Numerous weapons and equipment caches were uncovered.

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Chapter 9 : Iraq War - The Full Wiki

Within a week of returning to Ad Diwaniyah, the battalion again provided a show of force which demonstrated the speed and mobility of the LAV. This time the battalion moved north and east to the Iranian border and back south through several towns that had rarely seen a Coalition presence in order to develop an assessment of the area as the.

Army Armor History www. In the Soviets did the first heliborne MVM, into East Africa, a feat they repeated [with fixed-wing aircraft] in Afghanistan later that year. The Israelis airlanded Ms at Entebbe, the Australians into East Timor in , the British CH air-meched Scimitar light tanks into the Balkans to avoid land mines and fly over the Sava river blocking our non-swimming medium-to-heavy vehicles. The Russians jump with drogue chute deployed parachutes with delay devices to effect HALO capabilities; we could easily emulate by switching the new T parachute from obsolete static-line and d-bag deployment means. Ram-air parachutes opening at high altitudes make M Gavin platform loads into de facto mile stand-off gliders but with precision landing guidance. High technology Gavins with land-mine resistant armoring, band-tracks, hybrid-electric drive are stealthy for mph speeds. The M was originally designed for light units by General Gavin for as-needed all-terrain, amphibious armored transport, and with TOW ATGMs can act as light tanks blasting enemy vehicles and strongpoints for the dismounting infantry. A sapper squad makes them Engineer Cavalry Troops able to breach mines with probing and towed-rocket line charges. The Star Ledger February 13, www. Equipped with a machine gun or towing missiles and mortars, it has hauled Soldiers through combat zones for four decades. Now the tank-like vehicle is showing its softer side. They are readying three more they expect to deploy to Iraq later this year. The M is the latest nonlethal system to be designed by the 6,acre weapons research and development facility in Rockaway Township, which calls itself "The Home of American Firepower. Soldiers had used warnings and nonlethal weapons, and when that failed to calm the uprising, they turned to lethal force, according to news reports. Dwight Hunt, who directed the project at Picatinny. The camp is divided into 12 compounds, and prisoners live in trailer-like quarters on the sprawling campus, military spokesman Lt. Guy Rudisill said from Iraq. With detainees hurling rocks or launching them from makeshift slingshots, Soldiers at the camp wanted something more than the standard riot gear -- helmet, plastic shield, baton -- when they confronted them, Hunt said. Like David and Goliath," Rudisill said. In just a few months, a team of about 15 Picatinny engineers and technicians overhauled and tested the armored vehicle, swapping out its lethal weapons for less deadly ones. They cut holes in the sides and back to add super-strong windows, called transparent armor, that can withstand small-arms fire. Along the sides they added claymore mines that spray rubber pellets. But nonlethal weapons do not always live up to their name. If fired at a vulnerable part of the body, such as the head, or at close range, they can kill. At too great a distance -- effective range for nonlethal shotguns is between 50 to 75 yards -- or if the subjects are armored, they often do not work. One criticism of nonlethal weapons is Soldiers could opt to use force, even nonlethal force, too quickly. While the camp guards and military brass were enthusiastic about the vehicle, they are still determining how it should be deployed, Hunt said. Future upgrades include adding a bulldozer-like blade to push away makeshift prisoner barricades and a spinning auger to unearth escape tunnels. Last year, Camp Bucca guards discovered a foot tunnel that stretched beyond the compound fence; no one had yet escaped. Picatinny engineers also have to figure out how to vent the ammonia-like fumes that build up inside the vehicle when rubber bullets are fired, Hunt said. And with temperatures in the region often above degrees, air conditioning was a popular request. But that may be too costly, Hunt said. Although the REV has not rolled into the camp, Hunt said detainees have seen it through a fence. Up-Armored M Gavins Featured www. The Urban-Fighter is considered to augment and replace IDF unprotected or less protected vehicles currently operating in counter-insurgency operations in the West Bank. The new vehicle offers features hitherto unavailable to APCs, including armored transparent side windows, offering unobstructed visibility upwards and sideways. Firing ports are imparted for warfighters in the front, sides and rear. The fighting compartment

was has also been redesigned with the addition of blast-protected seats, improving the survivability of the crew to attacks by mines and IEDs. The vehicle can carry eight fully loaded troops and a driver. Encountering significant threats in its theatre of operations, the IDF formulated an armored vehicles roadmap that will secure its forces the levels of mobility and protection they require for counter terror operations. Some of the M operated by the IDF were installed with raised armored fighting positions Kasman - shown on left photo. Improved protection suites were also designed for the vehicle and by IMI, utilizing the hybrid passive-reactive armor. This armor kit was selected by the IDF few years ago but the program was later shelved due to lack of funding. Although this vehicle received a massive improvement in its armor protection, the conversion of a plain Gavin M into a fully equipped Urban Fighter using the Urban-Fighter kit is performed within days at a cost about 10 percent of the cost of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected MRAP currently produced for the U. Before beginning the field trials the vehicle is expected to receive a remotely operated weapon station which will further add to its visibility and firepower. The unique combination of the new hybrid armor is the result of extensive study conducted at IMI, in an attempt to protect warfighters at levels beyond those offered by conventional armor, with cost effective armor suite that can defeat both prevailing and future threats. The new hybrid armor will be applied as add-on modules for wheeled or tracked light armored vehicles. The new hybrid armor passive combines various materials designed to absorb the kinetic energy, mechanical deformation and ballistic damage created by the threat by mitigating and dissipating blast energy, and absorbing the kinetic energy of projectiles, fragments and EFP slugs, stopping multiple hits according to STANAG from small and medium caliber projectiles which is equal to up to 60 mm of Rolled Homogenous Armor RHA while weighing half the weight of comparable steel. The armor kit is designed for field installation and removal. Damaged modules are designed for rapid replacement by field maintenance teams, without using special tools.