

LIBERTY UPDATE – 05 July 2014

This week's summary focuses on a telephone conversation with Camp Liberty. As described below in the first e-mail of the Iraq Situational Update section, the southern Shia provinces are now erupting.

SUMMARY:

On July 5th, Senator Torricelli and I had a telephone conversation with Camp Liberty. Provided is a summary of that conversation:

Fuel:

For the past two days, both diesel fuel tankers have been allowed entry into Camp Liberty. So far today, one tanker was allowed entry. At the time of the conversation, the residents were waiting for the second. Together the tankers deliver 34,000 liters of fuel, which is the daily consumption of all the generators which support the residents' trailers, kitchens/refrigerators, water pumping station, etc.

For the last two weeks, only one tanker had been allowed in per day. This had totally depleted their one-day reserve and required the shutting down of several generators. That reserve primarily consists of what is physically located in generator holding tanks. The residents do not have fuel bladders or other storage capability.

For the past 25 days, the residents have not been allowed to receive the 700 liters of gasoline per week necessary to operate their vehicles. The vehicles were already being rationed at two liters per day. Primary use of these vehicles is to move the disabled residents.

The lack of deliveries has nothing to do with problems in Iraq. Contractors delivering both diesel and gasoline do arrive at the gate, but usually are denied entry by Iraqi Intel officers.

Medical:

Iraqi Intel officers have partially lifted the denial of allowing patients to go to the hospital. From June 10th through the 28th, no patients were allowed to go to the hospital. On the 28th, Major Khozeir announced that three to five patients per day could go. However, the Intel major threw in a caveat – only two interpreters were allowed. The result was only two patients per day.

No emergency cases are being allowed to go to the hospital, unless it is life or death.

There is always a delay in the ambulances leaving camp. The ambulances arrive at 8 a.m. The Iraqis allow the ambulances to depart usually at 10:30 a.m. Time of the appointments at the hospital is 7:30 a.m. through

noon. By the time the residents arrive at the hospital, they have missed their appointments.

Because of lack of air conditioning, the residents are dehydrated. Under such heat, it is hard for the residents to walk around in their condition.

Food and Water:

Only food is being allowed into the camp right now. However, parts to repair the refrigerators are not being allowed by Iraq forces. Likewise parts for the water pumping system are being blocked. Contractors with skills and equipment to repair the broken/worn-out systems are being turned away at the gate.

During the fuel siege, the last thing to be shut down are the refrigerators. However, during the last siege, even some of those had to be turned off. This did result in food spoilage.

Security:

Army Intel has developed a new headquarters building outside the camp which is very suspicious

There are now forty plain-clothes persons working with Iraqi Intel officers. These people also occupy five guard posts, formerly manned only by Iraqi police. The machine guns are now pointing into the camp.

Of these plain-clothes people, some are speaking Farzi. Others speak Arabic with a Farzi accent. Residents have heard this themselves, and some Iraqis have also stated this. These same sources are telling the residents to look out.

At night there is shooting into the air immediately outside the camp accompanied by loud verbal threats of attacking the camp by force and with grenades. One person very prominent in these verbal threats is Major Khozeir.

Last Thursday, the ten bunkers that had been sitting outside the gate for a month were finally brought into the camp. The contractor is willing to bring ten more, but we always run into the same problem of delivery just outside the gate, a month delay, and then finally allowed in.

Iraqi Intel officers always tells UNAMI that the problem is with the contractor. The reality is that the problem is with Iraqi officers – and UNAMI accepting their lies.

United Nations Lack of Presence

UNAMI monitors have not been to the camp since June 15th. UNHCR personnel were last seen June 12th.

Conference call closed.

Admin note: This comment about non-life threatening emergencies is supported by this comment in a daily

Liberty report received July 01, 2014: *"Today the army intelligence forces on the order of Major Ahmad Khozeir did not allow one patients by the name Saied Naghesh, who had an appointment for surgery to go to hospital for his broken arm. The issue was raised with UNAMI, and despite the fact that UNAMI informed the Iraqis about the emergency case of the patient and his appointment for surgery, but Iraq forces kept the patient in the ambulance for 4 hours and finally did not allow him to go to hospital. His arm was broken a few days ago but the army intelligence forces have prevented his trip to hospital for surgery."*

Iraq Situational Updates: Both reports below came from the same source.

July 2, 2014

"Yesterday early morning, heavy street fights started between Iraqi army and followers of al-Sarkhi in Karbala, Diwaniyah and Basra. Hundreds got killed and injured from both sides. The fights are still ongoing. Al-Sahrkhi is a Shiite religious leader his followers believe that he is related to Imam Mahdi.

In the meantime, Iraqi army and all other government armed forces are busy fighting Daish forces (ISIS) in Anbar, Salahildin, Diyala, Mosul and Kirkuk provinces. Thousands of young untrained volunteers got killed during fights with ISIS.

In summary, Iraq is a real hell now. Iraqis are blaming USA, Iran, Saudi, Turkey governments for what is happening in Iraq. When Bush & now Obama administrations insist on hiring and listening to "American officials" who do not know enough about Iraq and its complexities, and on supporting dishonest corrupt criminal Iraqi leaders. They will continue on making mistakes in Iraq and slowly, Iraq and all its resources will fall under the total control of all kinds of sick Islamic extremists Sunnis and Shiites.

It is very unfair fight. USA government with its wrong policies made it easier for the Islamic extremists to hurt innocents and made it harder for us to help our people and help ourselves to survive."

June 27, 2012

I am going crazy here with the amount of lies, carelessness and evil plans that is resulting into the death of hundreds of innocents per day and the displace of thousands of Iraqis within and outside Iraq. Iran, Turkey and Saudia Arabia are taking advantage of the "absent of American forces on the ground, weak and no clear American policy for Iraq and the region".

All the above and much more daily crimes against humanity and stealing billions of dollars and deepening the damage to Iraq, the region and to good innocent people including Iraqi and Syrian Christians....long list

of terrible things happening here on daily basis that is forcing me and others to knock on doors of any country seeking help to stop this madness.

We are running out of time. Iraq is becoming a copy of the Iranian government."

ASSESSMENT:

34,000 liters of fuel consumption during a 24 hour period for a camp housing <2,900 residents, using outdated equipment and generators, is very efficient use of the fuel. The resident trailers were never designed for permanent residence, especially during daylight hours. Americans installed them for soldiers to use for sleep and a place to store personal property while at work. During the day, these trailers become sheet-metal sweat boxes. Without air conditioning, the only place to get relief from the sun is under the trailers – on the ground with all the dried residue from the black-water tanks that over-flowed during the mud season.

During our conversation, a trend became very obvious. The Iraqi government will take an overt action to appear that it is cooperating, then take a covert action to neutralize the positive outcome, to wit: GOI agrees to allow fuel deliveries, but the necessary deliveries are blocked at the gate; GOI agrees to allow five patients to go to the hospital, but allows only two interpreters; GOI allows food to enter the compound, but interference with fuel deliveries and replacement parts for refrigerators result in spoilage; after much MeK effort the residents are able to pump and purify water, but replacement equipment is not allowed; medical emergencies are allowed to go to the hospital, but only life or death emergencies. A broken limb is not life or death.

Like a see-saw in a playground, the weight of U.S. and Iranian influence in Iraq has always been shifting since the invasion of the U.S. lead coalition. At times going up and down, since 2006 when al-Maliki became Prime Minister the weight has steadily shifted in favor of Iran. The last comment of our Iraqi friend says it all: *"We are running out of time. Iraq is becoming a copy of the Iranian government."*

Very Respectfully,

Wes Martin

Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army Military Police

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Format and Layout

Wilhelm H. Ludwig, ISHR, Munich, 06 July 2014

Opening an argument is like closing a door,
making it impossible to see both sides.

unknown

A fox will condemn the trap,
he won't condemn himself.

William Blake