MAJ Troy Denomy
Operation Iraqi Freedom II
Sadr City
Shoot “Em” In The Face
Briefing Agenda

• Introduction
• AO/AI (Terrain) Overview
• Demographics
• Enemy
  • Who is the Enemy
  • Weapon Systems Used
• Operations/Tactical Considerations
  • Lancer Fury (Sadr City Ambush)
  • Friendly Operations
• Final Thoughts
• Questions
Task Organization

TF 2-5 CAV
A/2-5 CAV (M2A3 & M1114)
C/2-5 CAV (M2A3 & M114)
B/1-12 CAV (M1A2SEP (4) & M1114)
HHC/2-5 CAV (M2A3 & M1114)
A/115 FSC

C/2-5 CAV
1/C/2-5 CAV (3 x M2A3 & 3 x M1114)
2/C/2-5 CAV (4 x M2A3 & 2 x M114)
3/C/2-5 CAV (4 x M2A3 & 2 x M1114)
HQs/C/2-5 CAV (2 x M2A3 & 1 x M1114)

* Deployed Strength- 138 soldiers; Redeployed 125 soldiers
* C/2-5 CAV later augmented w/ 8 M2A2ODS
* Armsroom Concept was used for all vehicles
AO/AI
Iraq

- Iraq Population
- 26,783,383 (July 2006 est.)
  - 0-14 years: 39.7% (male 5,398,645/female 5,231,760)
  - 15-64 years: 57.3% (male 7,776,257/female 7,576,726)
  - 65 years and over: 3% (male 376,700/female 423,295)

- Baghdad Population- Between 4-6 million
  - City roughly the size of Houston, TX
1 BCT AO/ TF 2-5 AI

RTE PREDATORS
Terrain / Enemy
View North from RTE FL (E-W) and DELTA (N-S) Traffic Circle

View North on RTE BRAVO

View of Meridi Market on RTE DELTA
ZONE 21 AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS

HAY UR
SHARILKA
GAYARA
TALIBIA
JAMILIYAH
WAREHOUSE AREA
AL IDREESEE
ISHBILIYAH
HABIBIYAH
OLD HABIBIYAH
AREA MEASURES APPROXIMATELY 34 SQUARE KILOMETERS
SADR CITY DEMOGRAPHICS

- **POPULATION**: 2.5 – 3 MILLION
  - 34 SQUARE KMs
  - DENSITY: 73,500 PEOPLE PER SQUARE KILOMETER
  - 8-30 PEOPLE PER HOME

- **RELIGION**:
  - MAJORITY SHIA, APPROXIMATELY 4% SUNNI
  - **IMAMS AND MOSQUES**
    - Mosques: 67 total
      - Shia-87% (58 total)
      - Sunni-13% (9 total)

- **TRIBES**:
  - APPROXIMATELY 42 DIFFERENT TRIBES

- **POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS**:
  - SADR BUREAU, SCIRI, ISLAMIC DAWA, FAELIH KURDISTAN ASSN., COMMunist PARTY, AL GHADEER ASSN., AND POSSIBLE HEZBOLLAH

- **IRAQI SECURITY FORCES**
  - 7 POLICE STATIONS AND ONE PATROL STATION

- **BALTIMORE**
  - 49.6 SQUARE KMs
  - POPUL~ 629K
  - 30% LARGER CITY WITH 2-2.5 MILLION LESS PEOPLE
Who is the Enemy

- What does insurgent mean? Who are they?
  - Terrorist/Foreign Fighters
  - Former Regime Elements (FRE)
  - Sunni and Shia Militias
  - BADR Corps/Brigade (SCIRI)
  - Mahdi Army (Muqtada al Sadr)

Motivations

External Support

TTP’s

Targets

Differing Agendas

Internal Support
THE SADR BUREAU

• The Sadr Bureau - a leading Shi’a organization in Iraq
• Derives its popularity from the peoples’ love of Mohammed Sadiq al Sadr, an Islamic social revolutionary assassinated by hands of the former regime
• Similar to Sinn Fien, Hamas, Hezbollah
• The Sadr Bureau and its Mahdi’s Army were responsible for two insurgent uprisings in April and August of 2004
• Robust political influence through the Sadr current
• Uses religion, kidnappings, threats, and assassination to intimidate and influence the local population (Mafia Like)
Mahdi Army
The Al Mahdi Army (Muqtada’s Militia) was established for the sake of defending the highest religious authority in An Najaf.

The call for the army was justified under the perception that the Coalition had failed in its efforts to provide security.

The Sadr Bureau publicly disbanded the militia while privately maintaining their capability to conduct limited offensive operations.
Enemy Weapon Systems
Enemy Weapon Systems (Cache)
Combat Operations
Events leading to the 9 October attack were a result of events inside Sadr City.

Flag cutting incident near Mosen Mosque while a patrol is in the vicinity of the Sadr Bureau

Imam killed when a tank crushed his car in Sadr City

DAC Chairman killed by CF

Suicide VBIED vicinity Jamila Patrol Station

09 Oct – CF patrol ambushed by 200 AIF personnel by Sadr Bureau

CF moved off of Route Delta and were out of contact.
Sadr City Events (2 Mar – 4 Apr)

24 MAR - CF detain top Sadr lieutenant Yaqobi in Najaf

02 MAR – Ashura begins, 40 day mourning period for Imam Hussein, concludes with Arbaeen 9-11 APR
2-5 CAV ADVON arrives

02 March – Increase in MM guarding mosques (based upon Kadimya attack)

28 MAR - CPA closes Howza newspaper (60 days) for violation of CPA order #14

02 APR – Mahdi Army conducts large parade in Sadr City, marching in company formations in uniform w/ guidons

04 APR – Thousands of MM attack CF and IPS (Initiated by ambush on TF 2-5 CAV patrol)

02 APR – Hundreds of MM conduct demonstration in Green Zone that turns violent

31 MAR – TF 2-5 CAV arrives
4 APR 1800 – TF 2-5 conducts TOA
1805 – 1/C/2-5 Ambushed on Route Delta
L06 and C/2-5 CAV - Attack north on RTE AEROS to RTE SILVER to RT DELTA. Pass by 1/C/2-5 CAV due to in-op communication with lead M2A3s (due to RPG/IED hits). A/2-37 reports moving north on RT DELTA and converains with friendly forces in contact.

C/2-37 AR - Attacks north on RTE DELTA under intense SAF and RPG fire. Conducts Link Up with 1/C/2-5 CAV. Conducts CASEVAC. Escorts operable vehicles and personnel back to FOB. TF LANCER re-arms, re-fuels and conducts follow on operations at police stations.

Concurrently - C/2-37 AR SP from Martyr’s Monument. Attacks north on RTE DELTA. Encounters complex obstacles and intense black and white. Establishes RTE DELTA. L06 and C/2-5 CAV – Attack down AEROS to RTE COPPER. Encounter intense SAF and RPG fire. Turn north and attack on RT BRAVO.

A/2-5 CAV – During the attack north on RT BRAVO, encounters complex obstacles, SAF, RPG fire and IEDs. One BR/ Mike and L/ M114 destroyed. Travel back down RT BRAVO to RTE COPPER. Conduct CASEVAC. Continue to COPPER under intense SAF fire. Conduct CASEVAC. Returns to FOB EAGLE.

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04 APRIL 2004

Friendly KIA: 8
Friendly WIA: 51
Enemy KIA: ~650
Enemy WIA: Unk
5 - 9 APRIL 2004

Task Org at each IP Station:
1 x Mech PLT (+)
1 x Section Tanks
1 x Dismounted Platoon

Seize Al-Taheeb IP Station
A/2-5 CAV

Seize Al-Karama IP Station
B/1-12/2-5 CAV

Seize Al-Thawra IP Station
C/2-5 CAV

Defend DAC
TF 2-8 CAV

Seize Al-Rafidan IP Station
C/2-5

1BCT withdraws on 09APR04 IOT allow residents to attend Friday prayers.

Seize Nassir Station
TF 2-8 CAV

Seize Hababya Station
TF 2-8 CAV

Valor Awards (C/2-5 CAV):
• 2 x Silver Star
• ~13 x BSM w/ V
• ~9 x BSM
• ~16 x ARCOM w/ V
• 59 x Purple Hearts

Valor Awards (TF 2-5 CAV):
• 1 x Silver Star
• 8 x BSM w/ V
• 4 x BSM
• 9 x ARCOM w/ V
• 23 x Purple Hearts

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EF KIA ~650, ~150, ~800
EF WIA ~500, ~5, ~500
Detainees 0, 7, 7
Total ~1300

EF KIA ~800
EF WIA ~500
Detainees 7
Total ~1300

TF 2-5 KIA 8, 0, 8
TF 2-5 WIA 51, 0, 51
Captured/MIA 0, 0, 0
Total 59
For More Detail - In a bookstore near you
Friendly Operations

• **Follow on Operations:**
  • 88 days of sustained combat
    • Patrols/raids during day, fight at night
    • Enemy continued to learn and adapt—“Combat Darwinism”
  • Daily Multiple Indirect Fire Attacks—Becomes 2nd most attacked FOB since Vietnam

• Weapons buy-back
• “Cease Fire”—JUN-JUL04
Friendly Operations

- Projects- Civil and Infrastructure
  - (Sewage, Water, Electricity, Attitude, Trash [SWEAT] Polling)
- 2nd Shia Insurrection- 05AUG04-16OCT04
  - Enemy increase IEDs and planning (Enemy clearly AAR’d first insurrection)
  - 60 Days of continuous fighting and occupation of southern portion of city with limited objective attacks to the north
- Political Cease Fire in prep of Elections
  - Weapons turn-in
- Out of Sector Attack ISO of Elections
- Elections
- RIP/TOA
So What?

• Never forget the Warfighter at the pointy edge of the spear!
• Commit everything you do to that Warfighter and attack every job you have with the Warfighter in mind.
• Never underestimate the enemy.
• Always train your subordinates to assume your position--- Do Not Become One Deep!
  – Transitions are when organizations are the most vulnerable--- whether in combat or not!

• Although you go home every night, there are Warfighters who do not…
Questions?