



**U.S. Army Pvt. Kyle Brechin, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo., guards the entrance to an Iraqi Police station as Iraqi men wait to be enrolled for a road repair project in Nimrud, Iraq, Dec. 15, 2008. 192 Iraqis will be hired for this road project.**

**(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano/ Released) 081215-F-5855M-194**

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**Iraqi men wait in line to apply for a road repair project at an Iraqi Police station in Nimrud, Iraq, Dec. 15, 2008. 192 Iraqis will be hired for the road repair project.**

**(U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano/ Released) 081215-F-5855M-322**

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**Iraqi fishermen pole along an irrigation channel in their mashoof, or fishing boat, on Dec. 19, 2008, in the Basra Province, Iraq.**

**(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati/Released)  
081219-A-68510-079**

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**U.K. Army Lance Cpl. Anthony Macolm, A Company, 2nd Platoon, Squad Leader of 5th Battalion, The Rifles, provides rear security during a presence patrol, on Dec. 19, 2008, in an undisclosed location in the Basra Province, Iraq.**

**(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati/Released) 081219-A-68510-113**

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**U.K. Rifleman Adrian Vanzyl, A Company, 2nd Platoon of 5th Battalion, The Rifles, inspects an irrigation canal, during a presence patrol, on Dec. 19, 2008, in an undisclosed location in the Basra Province, Iraq.**

**(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Gustavo Olgiati/Released)  
081219-A-68510-326**

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**U.S. Navy Adm. Michael Mullen, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, meets soldiers and hands out coins during a USO show at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 19, 2008. The tour showcased singers Kid Rock and Kellie Pickler, actress Tisha Arnold, and comedians John Bowman, Kathleen Madigan, and Lewis Black.  
(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano/ Released) 081219-F-5855M-036**

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Comedian, Lewis Black, entertains service members during a USO show at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 19, 2008. Other performances included singers Kid Rock and Kellie Pickler, actress Tisha Arnold, and comedian Kathleen.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano/ Released)  
081219-F-5855M-170

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Rock star, Kid Rock, and musician, Zac Brown, perform for service members during a USO show at Forward Operating Base Marez in Mosul, Iraq, Dec. 19, 2008.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. JoAnn S. Makinano/ Released) 081219-F-5855M-327

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**U.S. Army Staff Sgt. James Gautier 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, reviews the operating manual for a hand-held mine detector. The U.S. and Iraqi soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 19th Brigade, 5th Division are preparing palm groves around Naqib, Iraq for a controlled burn that will expose or detonate the massive amounts of booby traps, Improvised Explosive Devices and weapons caches that are hindering local Iraqi's attempts to farm this Al-Qaeda stronghold on Dec 20, 2008.**

**(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Walter J. Pels / Released)**

**081220-N-1974P-004**

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**U.S. Army Capt. Todd Tatum 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, explains the concept of operations to the landowners of a palm grove. U.S and Iraqi Soldiers are preparing palm groves around Naqib, Iraq, to expose or detonate the Improvised Explosive Devices and weapons caches that are hindering local Iraqi's attempts to farm this Al-Qaeda stronghold on Dec 20, 2008. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Walter J. Pels / Released) 081220-N-1974P-018 UNCLASSIFIED**





**An Iraqi soldier provides perimeter security as U.S. and Iraqi Army leaders discuss the next step in an operation. Soldiers from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and Iraqi Soldiers from 5th Division are preparing palm groves around Naqib, Iraq that will expose the Improvised Explosive Devices and weapons caches that are hindering local Iraqi's attempts to farm this area Dec 20, 2008. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Walter J. Pels / Released) 081220-N-1974P-023**

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**U.S. Army Capt. Todd Tatum 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, receives information from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Thayer Jones about a small cache of Improvised Explosive Device initiators that were dug up at the side of a road on Dec 20, 2008. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Walter J. Pels / Released) 081220-N-1974P-025**

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