

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH  
EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

February 19, 2004

- **HABUR GATE UPDATE.** The CPA Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that, according to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, the current level of traffic numbers 1,600 trucks per day, which is acceptable to Iraqis and Turks. Previously, Iraq and Turkey agreed to 1,800 trucks per day. The CPA Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that the Iraqis are planning to expand the gate, but there's no construction yet.
- **SECOND GATE AT IRAQ-TURKEY BORDER.** Regarding the Turkish proposal to build a second gate at Ovakoy, the Iraq Survey Team has surveyed the area and recommended an alternative site to the east of Ovakoy, which would be 5 km west of Habur. The Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has submitted this recommendation to the Iraqi Governing Council for approval, before another round of negotiations with the Turks.

**SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES, LAST 7 DAYS:**

- **Arrival of New Ukrainian Locomotives.** The first two of an eventual thirty new Ukrainian-built mainline diesel-electric locomotives acquired under the UN Oil-for-Food Project arrived yesterday in Baghdad. A further eight will arrive shortly. They will be prepared for service at the workshop in Baghdad and then immediately be placed in traffic.
- **Grain Shipments by Rail.** On February 14, 2004, the Iraqi Republic Railways (IRR) delivered 4,000 tons of Syrian grain. A total of four 20-car trains carrying 4,000 tons of grain have been transported to Mosul, Taji, and Dora. Also, the Syrians released 95 cars at Rabiya on the Iraq-Syria border. Because there are three IRR locomotives and crews at Rabiya, the IRR expects three trains to move these cars.
- **Port Task Force visit and meeting in Umm Qasr.** Two days ago, the task force met in Umm Qasr to improve inter-agency coordination between MoT, PMO, SSA, and USAID to expedite dredging, wreck removal, and improved electrical power for the port.
- **Actions at Port of Umm Qasr.** Construction began on the New Port's fire station, and after sea trials, the ship *Saif Saad* of the Iraqi dredging fleet is expected to resume dredging this week. CPA MoT is coordinating with Iraqi counterparts to quickly commence dredging.

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- **BIAP Building Turnover during Transition.** MoT staff completed a preliminary review of the Coalition's drawdown schedule and building turnover. MoT's staff is currently working with the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to identify their priority facilities, and develop a joint inspection schedule as buildings become available.
  
- **Modification of DFI-funded Air Navigation System (ANS).** MoT's aviation team completed contract modification for Raytheon ANS contract, which was awarded to Raytheon in December 2003. This action procures critical systems to establish civil aviation services at BIAP, establishes the mechanism to bring in a contractor to "bridge" the services currently provided by CFACC, and creates training requirements for the Iraqi CAA.

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, NEXT 7 DAYS:**

- **VSAT Installation.** Designed to improve voice and data links between civilian aircraft and air traffic control in western Iraq, the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) project, valued at \$1-2 million, is expected to be deployed this week. Along with a 2-person team from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which arrived on February 15, MoT staff will deploy VSAT at Ar Rutbah, Iraq on February 21-27. The 1AD and 82nd Airborne have agreed to provide security for the convoys and the installation of VSAT.

**COMMON ISSUES:**

- **Generating Operational Numbers at 4 SOE's.** CPA MoT and Iraqi MoT are working to generate operational numbers from 4 State-Owned Enterprises (SOE's): Land Transport Company, Passenger Transport Company, Al Dhilal Company, and Private Transport Company. A combined team of Iraqi MoT and MoFinance will be organized to help ensure that the SOE's reports are accurate and timely. At a minimum, the group will reconcile bank statements, verify revenue and cash, develop a customer list for each SOE, and confirm accounts payable.