



UK Maritime Trade Operations - Dubai

INFORMATION

25 June 2004

THE IRAQI COASTAL DEFENCE FORCE (ICDF) & SECURITY AT UM QASR

At a UKMTO Dubai Industry Briefing, on 23 June 2004, in Dubai, Captain John Murphie RN, Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT) Maritime, gave an update on progress on the programme for training and equipping the ICDF and how the new force would add to existing security in and around the port of Um Qasr.

This information sheet summarises that briefing and is intended to assist maritime industry managers in contingency planning for vessel transits to and from the areas in question. It updates an earlier Information Notice (004 – ICDF & UM QASR dated 20 May 2004).

Security Threats to Um Qasr

- Closing off channel approach via
 - Small boat attack against transiting vessels
 - Obstructions to (or mining) of the channel approach
- Attacks on port facilities or moored vessels
 - Waterborne assault
 - Mortar/Rocket attack from surrounding terrain
 - Coordinated attack on port facilities/moored vessels
- Criminal Activities
 - Piracy
 - Smuggling

Iraqi Coastal Defence Force (ICDF) - Mission

- From November 2004 ICDF is to conduct maritime patrol and security operations on Iraqi port facilities, coastline and territorial waters to counter terrorism, smuggling, piracy and other unlawful activities

ICDF Concept of Operations

- Patrol Boat (PB) to provide 24/7 cover – One PB Patrolling, One PB as Quick Reaction Force (QRF)
- 2 Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats (RHIB) – Crew of 2 + 4 Boarding Party in each nominated to each PB
- Additional QRF RHIBs to provide seaborne security for alongside PBs
- ICDF providing security manning of offshore oil terminals
- VTS Radar System feeds to ICDF Joint Operations Centre (JOC)

Proposed Timeline

- April 04
 - Early presence in Um Qasr
- June 04
 - Initial training complete – daylight, supervised patrolling possible
 - New ICDF recruits in initial training (240)



- Sept 04
 - PB and Raiding Squadrons fully operational out to 12 miles
 - VTS radar systems installed
 - JOC operational at ICDF Base (Um Qasr)
- Long Term
 - Additional vessels and personnel

Resources - Patrol Boats

- Five 27-metre vessels currently training in homeport
- Refurbishment complete
- Armaments yet to be fitted 12.7mm heavy machine gun to each PB

Resources – Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats

- Ten 7.3-metre Zodiac RHIBs
- Refurbishment complete
- Armaments yet to be fitted 12.7mm heavy machine gun to each PB

Proposed capability generation

- Day patrolling/boardings/manning of offshore oil terminals by 30 July 2004-06-24
- Establishment/manning of Joint Operations Centre at ICDF Base (Um Qasr) including Iraqi Riverine Patrol Service (IRPS), NAVCENT, IPA, IPS
- Operations independent of Coalition supervision by 30 October 2004
- Small but growing (and significant) contribution to port security
- Co-operation with Kuwait, relationship building with Iran

Assumptions inherent in above programme

- No further delays to training
- No unprogrammed reduction in training staff
- ICDF recruiting meets targets
- ICDF accepts mission and its' worth to Iraq
- Few major mechanical breakdowns
- Continued positive relationship with DESRON 50 in the Northern Arabian Gulf

Additional information will be issued as it becomes known but if there are any specific questions please forward them to UKMTO Dubai:

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