A map of the Middle East region with Iraq highlighted in yellow. The surrounding countries are shown in a light tan color, and the Persian Gulf is shown in light blue. The title text is overlaid on the map.

Iraq Weekly Status Report

March 22, 2006

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**



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This report provides weekly updates in the eight key areas identified as pillars of US government policy for victory in Iraq.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Highlights

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1. **Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgents**

On March 16, Iraqi Security Forces and their Coalition partners launched the largest air assault operation since Operation Iraqi Freedom began.

2. **Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance**

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division provided support, aid and transport for civilian casualties and disarmed a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Sadr City on March 11.

3. **Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government**

The first meeting of the new parliament convened in Baghdad for the first time on March 16. The 30-minute session began with a reading from the Koran, followed by a minute's silence in memory of the Iraqis who died fighting Saddam Hussein's Baath party regime. The deputies rose to collectively swear an oath of office after the inauguration speech.

4. **Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed work on the \$16.1 million Basrah/Umm Qasr water supply project this month. Work included major refurbishment of a pump station, sediment cleaning and repairs on the 249 km (155 mile) long Sweetwater canal, and installing a computer system to track maintenance and repairs. These improvements will help provide water to approximately 2.5 million people in the Basrah and Thi Qar Provinces.



Highlights

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5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

IRMO is successfully providing microfinance throughout Iraq to local entrepreneurs. As of March 21, \$49 million has been lent through over 25,000 different loans, up from a total of \$28 million through 14,000 loans as of August 1, 2005.

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law

The U.S. military released more than 350 detainees in Iraq on March 18.

7. Increase International Support for Iraq

At a press conference on March 16, United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative for Iraq Qazi proposed establishing a contact group, comprised of Iraq's neighbors at a working level, to meet in Baghdad at a regular interval.

8. Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents

On March 20, President Bush delivered the second in a series of speeches updating the American people on our strategy for victory in Iraq. The speech profiled the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar. Once a key base of operations for Al-Qaeda, Tal Afar is a concrete example of progress in Iraq.



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

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Iraqi Security Forces, Coalition Launch Operation Swarmer:

- On March 16, Iraqi Security Forces and their Coalition partners launched the largest air assault operation since Operation Iraqi Freedom I in southern Salah Ad Din province to clear a suspected insurgent operating area northeast of Samarra. Operation Swarmer began with soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 1st Brigade, 4th Division, the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team and the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade conducting a combined air and ground assault to isolate the objective area. Attack and assault aircraft provided aerial weapons support for the operation and also delivered troops from the Iraq Army's 4th Division, the Rakkasans from 1st and 3rd Battalions, 187th Infantry Regiment and the Hunters from 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment to multiple objectives. Forces from the 2nd Commando Brigade then completed a ground infiltration to secure numerous structures in the area. More than 1,500 Iraqi and Coalition troops, over 200 tactical vehicles, and more than 50 aircraft participated in the operation.



[2.] Transition to Security Self-Reliance – Iraqi Security Forces

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Iraqi Soldiers Respond to Sadr City Attacks:

- Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division provided support, aid and transport for civilian casualties and disarmed a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in Sadr City on March 11 after a series of bombings in the area. During the night, three blasts reportedly exploded in various parts of Sadr City. The Iraqi soldiers dispatched more than 10 military ambulances to Sadr City to provide aid, assisted in assessing the situation, secured the affected locations and transported the wounded to medical treatment. The troops also helped provide traffic control around the stricken area. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team succeeded in disarming a VBIED that terrorists had targeted against the civilians of east Baghdad. Troops also captured a 120 mm mortar system, which could have been used to inflict more casualties on area residents.



[2.] Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance – Iraqi Security Forces

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ministry of Interior Forces

COMPONENT	TRAINED & EQUIPPED
POLICE	~90,900
HIGHWAY PATROL	
OTHER MOI FORCES	~39,800
TOTAL	~130,700*

Ministry of Defense Forces

COMPONENT	OPERATIONAL
ARMY	~109,600
AIR FORCE	~600
NAVY	~800
TOTAL	~111,000**

Total Trained & Equipped ISF:

~241,700

* Ministry of Interior Forces: Unauthorized absence personnel are included in these numbers

** Ministry of Defense Forces: Unauthorized absence personnel are not included in these numbers

Data as of March 20, 2006 (updated bi-weekly by DOD)



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government– **Developments**

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Iraqis Participate In Civic Forums on National Parliament:

- National Democratic Institute's (NDI) civic forum programs have reached nearly 37,000 Iraqis on the role of the national parliament. Despite curfews and increased violence, Iraqis remained committed to improving the political process by continuing to conduct training and grassroots organizing in civic forums. About 14,000 citizens received training on the role and responsibilities of elected members of parliament (MPs) as well as how to advocate for citizens' rights. Over 40,000 booklets on *Structure, Role, and Public Life of the Council of Representatives* were also distributed.

Iraqi Leaders to Form a Policy Council:

- Leading Iraqi blocs are working to form a council to consult on policy on security issues in the new government in response to growing concerns about sectarian violence. The specifics regarding the role and composition of the council is now being discussed.



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government– **Developments**

IECI Official Announced December, 15 2005 Election Results:

Political Entity Name	Ballot Number	Total Votes	Governorate Seats	Compensatory Seats	National Seats	Total Seats
Unified Iraqi Coalition	555	5021137	109	0	19	128
Kurdistani Gathering	730	2642172	43	0	10	53
Tawafoq Iraqi Front	618	1840216	37	0	7	44
National Iraqi List	731	977325	21	0	4	25
Hewar National Iraqi Front	667	499963	9	0	2	11
Islamic Union of Kurdistan	561	157688	4	0	1	5
Liberation and Reconciliation Gathering	516	129847	3	0	0	3
Mithal Al Aloosi List for Iraqi Nation	620	32245	1	0	0	1
Iraqi Turkoman Front	630	87993	1	0	0	1
Progressives	631	145028	1	0	1	2
Al Ezediah Movement for Progressing and Reform	668	21908	1	0	0	1
Al Rafedain List	740	47263	0	1	0	1
Total			230	1	44	275



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government - Iraqi Transitional Government

		President Jalal Talabani			
		Deputy President Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawr			Deputy President 'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi
		Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Ja'fari			
Deputy Prime Minister Rawsh Shaways	Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd Mutlak al-Juburi			Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad al-Chalabi	Deputy Prime Minister Vacant
Minister of Agriculture Ali al-Bahadili	Minister of Communications Juwana Fu'ad Ma'sum (F)	Minister of Culture Nuri al-Rawi	Minister of Defense Sa'dun al-Dulaymi	Minister of Displacement & Migration Suhayla al-Kinani (F)	Minister of Electricity Muhsin Shallash
Minister of Education Abdul Mun'im al-Falah Hasan	Minister of Environment Narmin 'Uthman (F)	Minister of Finance 'Ali 'Allawi	Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Zebari	Minister of Health Abd al-Muttalib al-Rubay'i	Minister of Higher Education Sami al-Muzaffar
Minister of Human Rights Vacant	Minister of Industry & Minerals Usama al-Najafi	Minister of Interior Bayan Jabr	Minister of Justice 'Abd al-Husayn Shandal	Minister of Housing & Construction Jasim Ja'far	Minister of Labor & Social Affairs Idris Hadi
Minister of Oil Hashem al-Hashemi (Acting)	Minister of Planning Barham Salih	Minister of Trade 'Abd al-Basit Mawlud	Minister of Science & Technology Basima Butrus (F)	Minister of Municipalities & Public Works Nasreen Berwari (F)	Minister of Transportation Salam al-Maliki
Minister of Water Resources 'Abd al-Latif Rashid	Minister of Youth & Sports Talib Aziz al-Zaini	Minister of State for Civil Society 'Ala' abib Kazim	Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Safa' al-Din al-Safi	Minister of State for National Security Affairs 'Abd al-Karim al-'Anzi	
		Minister of State for Provinces Sa'd al-Hardan	Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities Hashim al-Hashimi	Minister of State for Women's Affairs Azhar al-Shaykhli (F)	

(F) = Female



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Financials from Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and IRRF 2

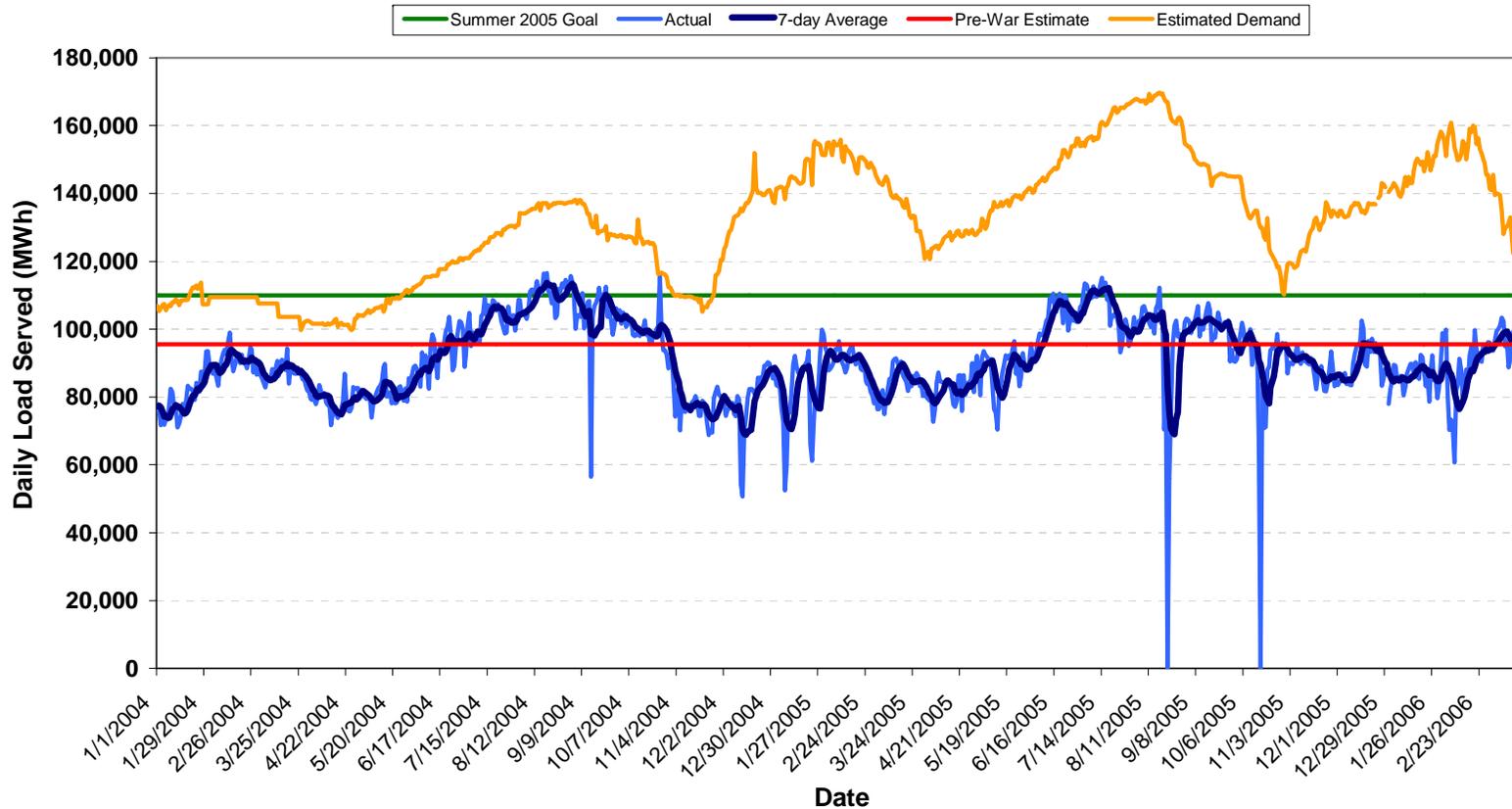
\$Millions Sector	Apportioned		Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	2207 Report	Apportion	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	5036.00	5036.00	4,943.0	4,943.5	0.56	4,861.2	4,868.1	6.88	4,353.0	4,380.8	27.8
Electricity Sector	4220.02	4220.02	3,863.1	3,853.8	(9.35)	3,437.6	3,472.6	35.02	2,000.9	2,011.7	10.8
Oil Infrastructure	1735.60	1735.60	1,660.5	1,659.2	(1.36)	1,546.9	1,548.2	1.29	775.5	776.2	0.7
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	1315.95	1315.95	1,209.3	1,208.3	(1.09)	1,185.5	1,186.1	0.55	798.5	809.0	10.5
Democracy	1033.85	1033.85	977.2	977.2	0.00	977.0	977.0	0.00	657.7	660.2	2.5
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	410.00	410.00	343.2	343.2	(0.00)	340.1	341.9	1.73	241.4	244.0	2.6
Roads, Bridges and Construction	333.71	333.71	300.6	301.5	0.88	295.8	296.7	0.98	173.7	175.2	1.6
Health Care	739.00	739.00	719.7	728.5	8.76	675.8	672.5	(3.28)	416.2	416.5	0.3
Transportation and Communications	465.51	465.51	457.1	456.0	(1.02)	415.2	414.1	(1.08)	241.8	243.6	1.8
Water Resources and Sanitation	2131.08	2131.08	1,619.3	1,612.7	(6.65)	1,482.0	1,476.7	(5.31)	874.6	879.4	4.9
Private Sector Development	805.28	805.28	790.3	788.9	(1.44)	782.3	782.4	0.12	600.7	601.8	1.1
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	213.00	213.00	159.7	159.7	0.00	159.7	159.7	0.00	61.1	78.7	17.6
TOTAL	18439.00	18439.00	17,043.1	17,032.4	(10.71)	16,159.1	16,196.0	36.90	11,194.9	11,277.0	82.1
IRRF 2 Construction			9,749.6	9,736.4	(13.19)	9,106.2	9,142.0	35.88	5,737.1	5,792.8	55.7
IRRF 2 Non-Construction			6,316.3	6,318.8	2.48	6,075.9	6,076.9	1.03	4,800.1	4,824.0	23.9
IRRF 2 Democracy			970.2	969.9	(0.34)	970.0	969.4	(0.58)	657.7	660.2	2.5
IRRF 1 Subtotal	2473.30	2473.30	2,473.3	2,473.30	0.00	2,473.3	2,473.3	0.00	2,406.6	2,406.6	0.0
Grand Total IRRF 1 & 2	20912.30	20912.30	19,516.4	19,505.7	(10.71)	18,632.4	18,669.3	36.90	13,601.5	13,683.6	82.1

As of March 21, 2006



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Electricity Overview

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- Lower seasonal demands with moderate temperatures are resulting in greater electricity availability throughout Iraq.
- Electricity availability in Baghdad improved in the last week (14 - 21 March 2006) with an average of 8.6 hours per day.
- Nationwide average electricity availability likewise increased slightly to 13.9 hours per day.
- Electricity output thus far for March 2006 is 11 percent higher than it was for the same period in March 2005.

[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Electricity, Public Health and Healthcare**



Electricity:

- The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) turned over four electrical substations to the Ministry of Electricity that were completed in February 2006. This \$16 million project serves over 37,000 homes (222,000 Iraqis) in the Dahuk, Diyala and Salah Ad Din provinces. The new substations are fitted with two transformers each, replacing temporary, portable substations, which were undersized and overloaded.

Public Health and Healthcare:

- On March 15, the Deputy Ministry of Health officially accepted the first six Primary Health Care Centers (PHCs) from USACE. The six PHCs were constructed with IRRF funds and are located in Baghdad. Staff training in clinic operation will begin on March 27, and clinics should begin opening for patient care in early April.
- Over 3,800 Iraqi patients have received treatment from five USAID-supported mobile medical units (MMUs), helping expand access to essential healthcare. Established in January 2006 in coordination with Iraqi health officials, USAID-supported MMUs have operated in areas where other healthcare services are practically non-existent.

[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Water and Sanitation, Education**



Water and Sanitation:

- The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed a \$225,000 water treatment project that provides potable water to approximately 5,000 people in a township in Maysan province. The project included a 50 cubic meter-per-hour water treatment plant, an above ground storage reservoir with a connection to the water network.

Education:

- The USACE renovation is complete on the Al Watan School in BeniZaid, Aqurquf in Baghdad province. The project included refurbishing the existing structures, classrooms, offices, storage rooms and schoolyard of the secondary school. The school will accommodate more than 300 students.
- A USACE renovation is also complete on the Al Arabiyah School in Istiglal, Rashidiya in the Baghdad province. The project required the repair and upgrade of the structural, mechanical, plumbing and electrical building systems. The renovation will benefit about 250 students.
- For the Fulbright Scholarships for the 2006-2007 school year, 41 Iraqis were chosen out of 550 applicants. The Fulbright program in Iraq, now in its fourth year, is the largest in the Middle East/North African region.



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Communications and Transportation**

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Communications:

- There are now 5.8 million cellphone subscribers in Iraq. Active fixed-line telephone subscribers total 1,036,854.

Transportation:

- MNF-I and US Embassy worked closely with the Iraqi Railroad and Ministry of Oil to resume LPG rail movement in Iraq. This is the first movement of fuel via rail since 2003.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Oil Update and Job Creation

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Oil Update:

- Crude oil prices in world markets for the week ending February 24 closed with the following prices:
 - Basrah Light at \$55.67/barrel
 - Dated Brent at \$62.84/barrel
 - WTI Cushing at \$62.68/barrel
 - Oman/Dubai at \$57.65/barrel
 - Kirkuk Crude at \$66.85/barrel

Employment Update:

- The following chart shows the number of Iraqis employed by USG-administered projects:

Employing Organization	Iraqis Last Week	Iraqis This Week	% Increase on Week
PCO (Project and Contracting Office)	36,760	36,760	0.00%
USAID	54,261	57,338	5.67%
AIRP (Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program)	1,268	1,268	0.00%
MILCON (Military Construction)	254	254	0.00%
CERP (Commanders' Emergency Response Program)	0	0	0.00%
MNSTC-I	12,870	13,751	6.85%
IRRF NON-CONSTRUCTION	16,049	16,049	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	121,462	125,420	3.26%

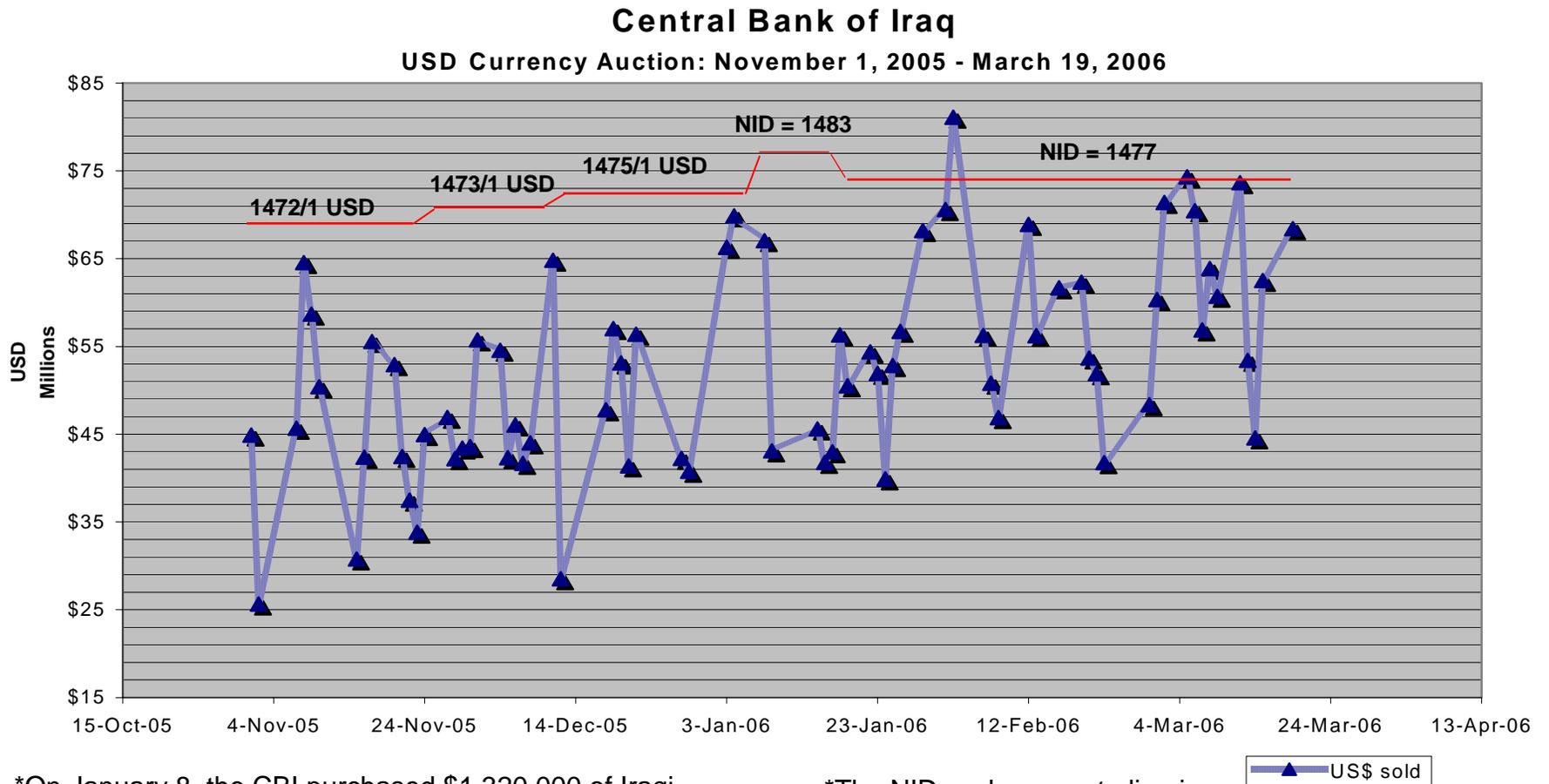
- CERP numbers have not been updated recently and PCO will be reporting on a bi-weekly basis.
- USAID continues to update weekly.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy - Banking Sector

Central Bank's US Dollar (USD) Currency Auction:

- The following table shows volume sold and exchange rates for USD in the Iraqi currency auction since November 1, 2005. The dinar remained stable against the dollar this week, ending at 1,477 dinars per USD on March 19.



*On January 8, the CBI purchased \$1,320,000 of Iraqi Dinars at the exchange rate of 1481 NID/\$.

*The NID exchange rate line is calculated as a weekly weighted average.

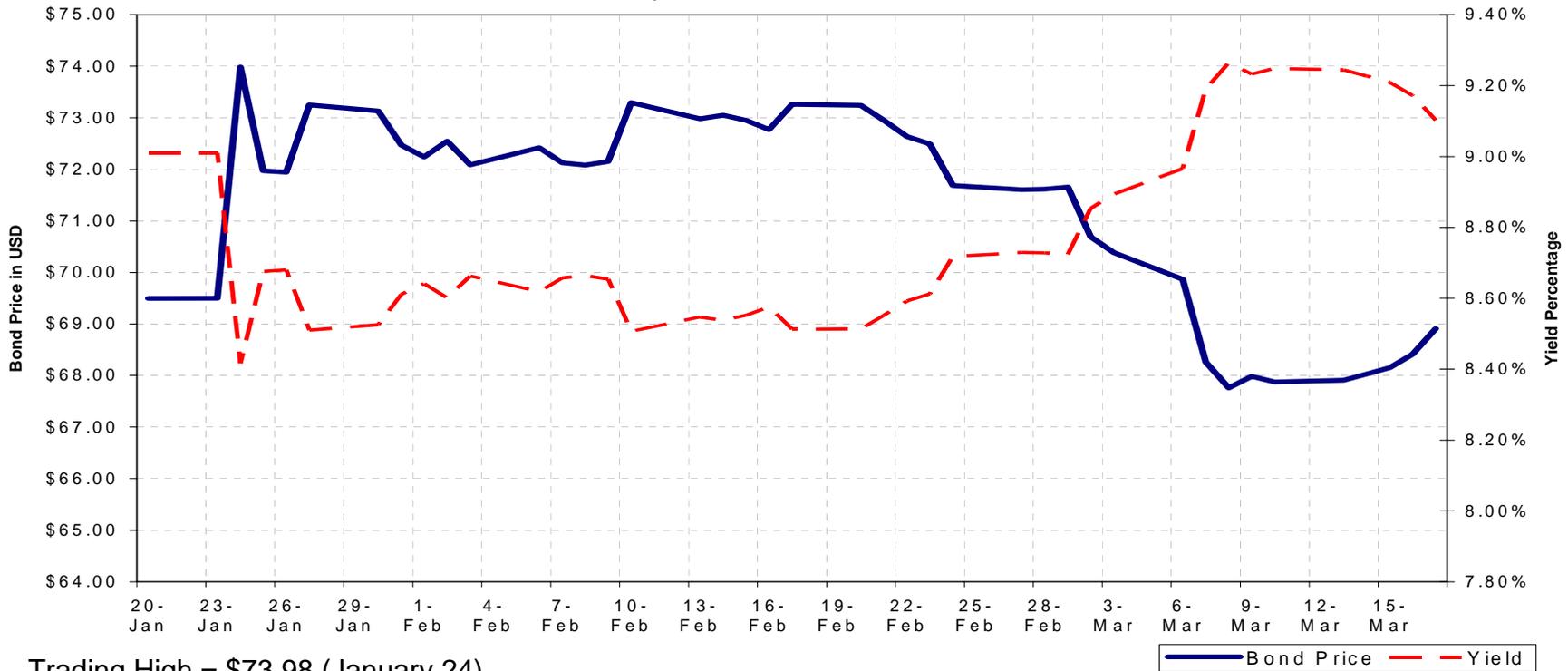


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Securities Markets

Trading of Iraqi Bonds on the International Secondary Bond Market:

- The following table shows the daily bond resale price and yield on Iraqi bonds issued January 20. The bonds were originally issued to about two-thirds of Iraq's commercial creditors as part of a debt exchange arrangement at Paris Club terms. Iraq's commercial debt was approximately \$22 billion before the debt-swap arrangement. The bonds, which are not yet rated, will mature in 2028. These are the only Iraqi sovereign debt instruments trading on the international market. The bonds' current yield of 9.10 percent is slightly lower than Ecuador and Argentina, but still one of the highest in the world for sovereign debt instruments.

Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales
January 20, 2006 - March 17, 2006



Trading High = \$73.98 (January 24)

Trading Low = \$67.76 (March 8)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

Temporary Poultry Ban

- Embassy Baghdad reported that on March 12, the Council of Ministers sent a recommendation to Prime Minister Jafari to temporarily close the borders to imported poultry. The Basra Provincial Government already has an import ban in effect. Embassy Baghdad continues to engage the Government of Iraq on this issue at the highest levels to resolve the situation.

Training on Technical Barriers to Trade:

- The USAID Izdihar Project staff conducted a training session on March 12 on the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement for 28 officials from the Central Office for Standardization and Quality Control (COSQC).
 - The training highlighted the difference between the World Trade Organization's TBT and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreements as well as the best methods to adopt these agreements and other international standards in order to comply with WTO requirements.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

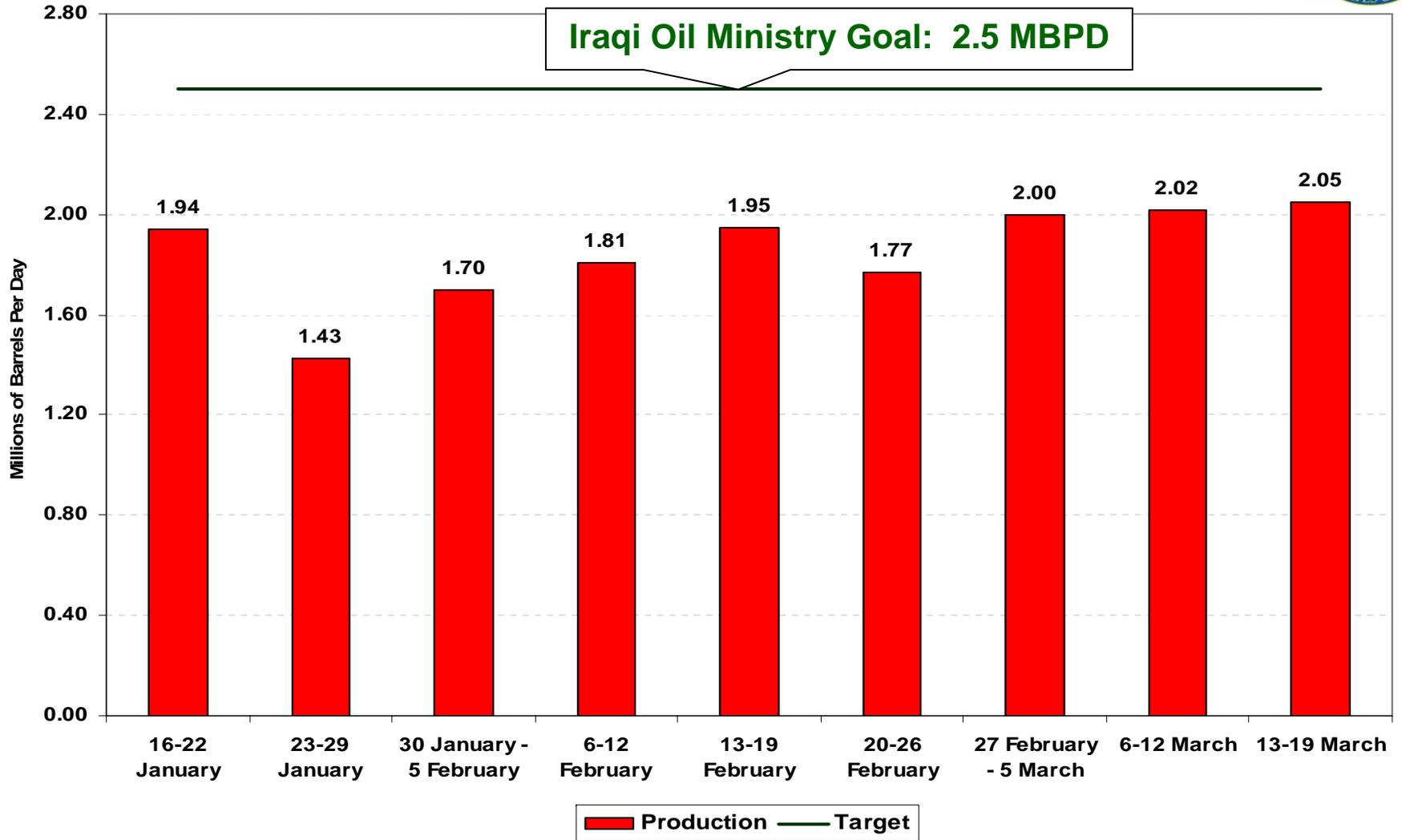
Microfinance Lending

- IRMO is successfully providing microfinance throughout Iraq to local entrepreneurs. As of March 21, \$49 million has been lent through over 25,000 different loans, compared with \$28 million through 14,000 loans as of August 1, 2005. This represents a 75 percent increase in both the number of loans and the total amount. These loans range from \$500 to \$25,000, and are being used to finance a diverse range of projects that create economic opportunities and boost local employment.



[5.0] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Crude Oil Production

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

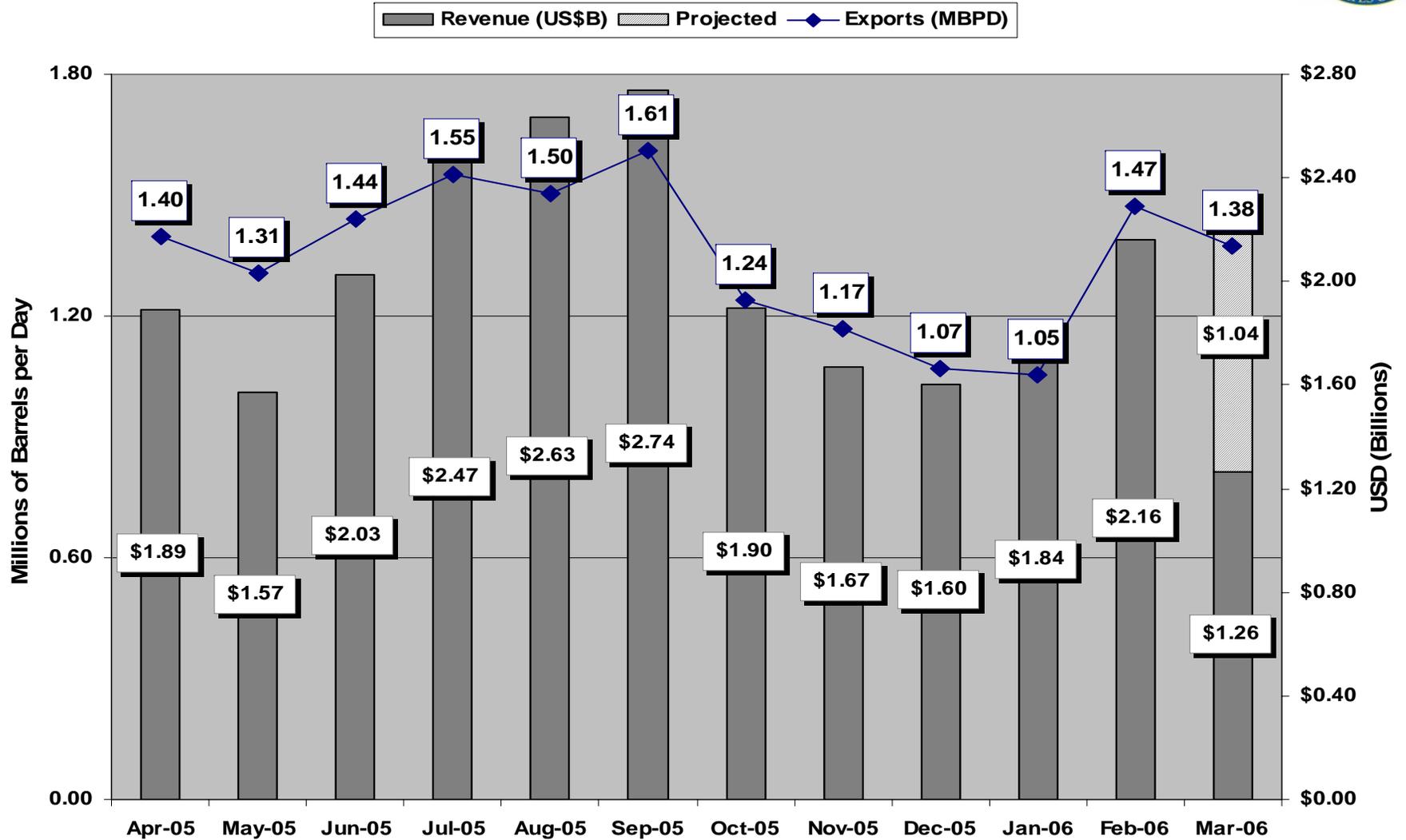


- Weekly Average (March 13-19) of 2.05 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD)



[5.0] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Crude Oil Export

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

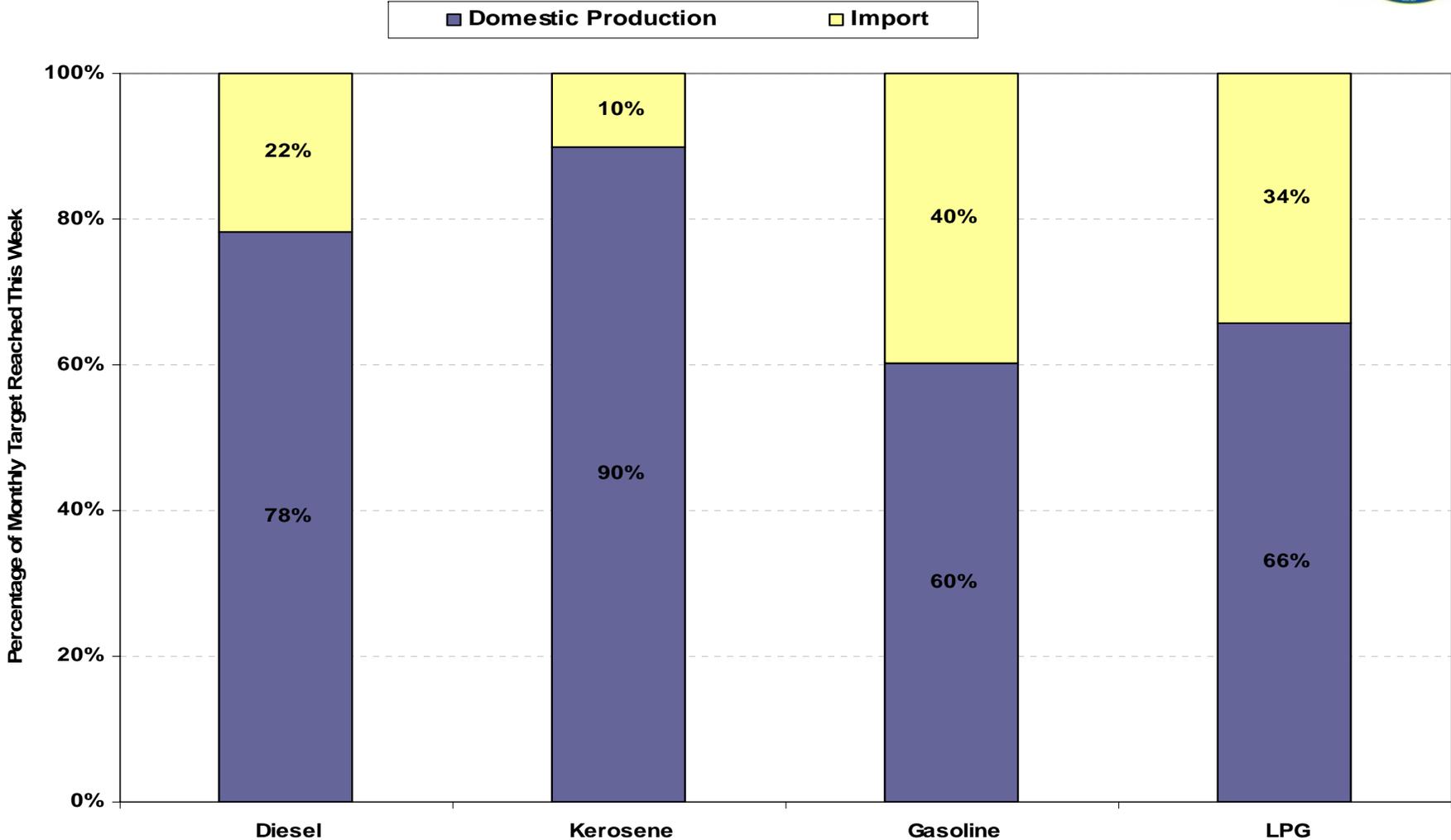


- 2005 Revenue Estimate: \$23.5 Billion
- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$5.3 Billion (Year to Date)



[5.0] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

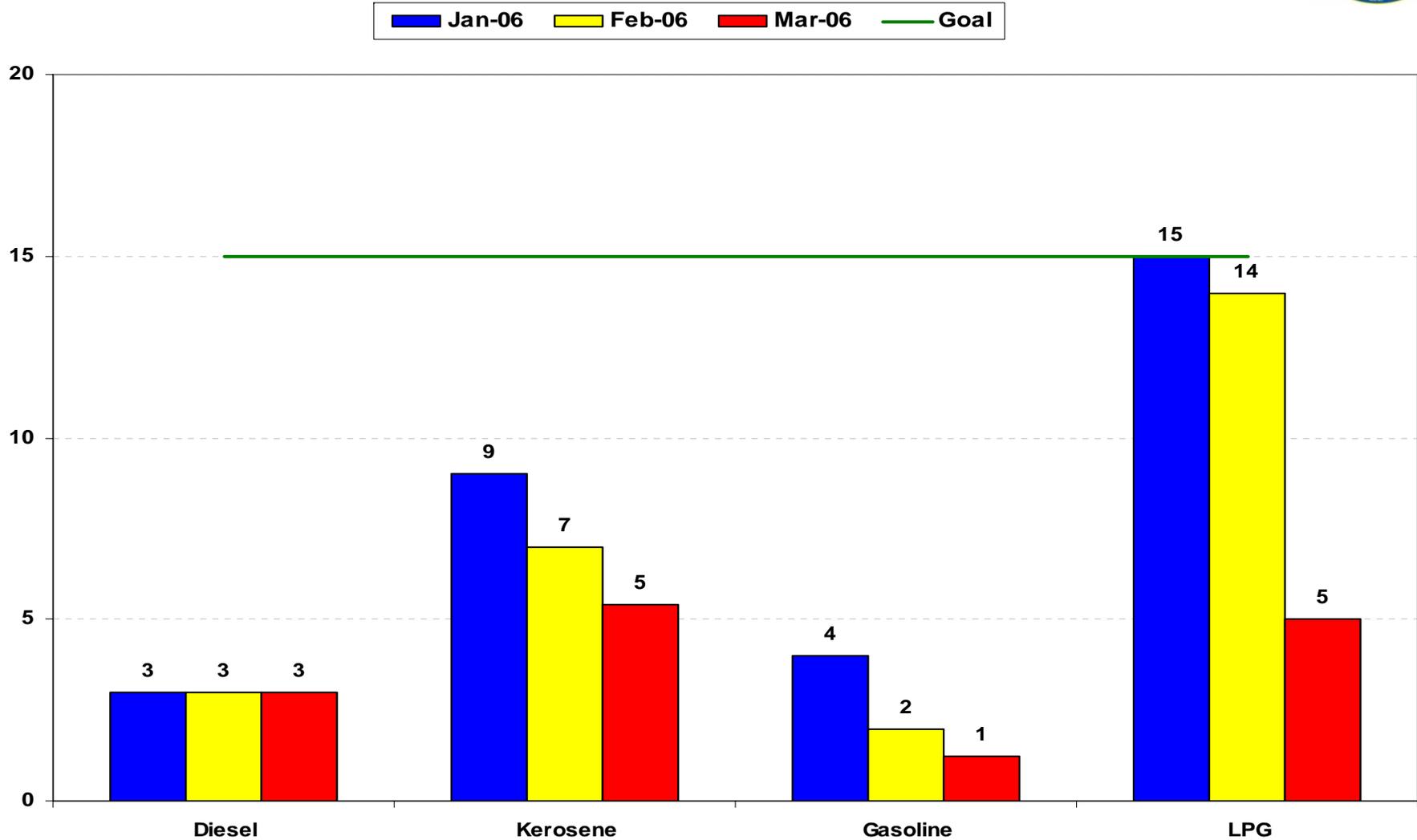


- Diesel: 10.3 ML supply of 20.6 ML target
- Kerosene: 4.6 ML supply of 10.5 ML target
- Gasoline: 18.0 ML supply of 23.4 ML target
- LPG: 2,091 tons supply of 4,400 tons target



[5.0] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – National Stock Levels

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



- The goal is to have on hand 15 days supply of all refined products, calculated on the basis of maximum consumption over the year and not adjusted for seasonal variation. The numbers given above are monthly averages.



[6.0] Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights– Iraqi Judicial System

US Military Frees 350 Detainees in Iraq:

- The US military released more than 350 detainees in Iraq on March 18, a statement said. The releases were recommended by the Combined Review Release Board (CRRB) consisting of U.S. officers and Iraqi officials from the ministries of human rights, justice and interior, which found no reason to hold them, the military statement said.

Resident Legal Advisor Program Expanded in Iraq:

- In February, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) funded the Department of Justice's proposal to expand its Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) Iraq Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) program from three to fourteen RLAs. As a result, OPDAT is gearing up to send additional RLAs to Iraq for one-year assignments to provide justice sector support to provincial courts. Shortly after INL approved additional funding, OPDAT sent two additional RLAs to Iraq to serve as members of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) as rule of law coordinators. Currently, OPDAT has two RLAs in PRTs - Ninewa Province (Mosul) and Tamim Province (Kirkuk) – and one RLA stationed at the Embassy in Baghdad. The two new RLAs in Baghdad are awaiting deployment to Babil Province (Hilla) and Salah Ad Din Province (Tikrit).



[7.] Increase International Support for Iraq – **Developments**

UN Proposes Regional Contact Groups in Baghdad:

- At a press conference on March 16, Secretary General's Special Representative for Iraq Qazi proposed establishing a contact group, comprised of Iraq's neighbors at a working level, to meet in Baghdad at a regular interval. Though it was only a proposal, he hoped to develop it further, and he believed that there was support in principle from almost all neighboring countries. Qazi believes the proposal for a regional contact group is relevant and has the potential for further promoting dialogue among all the parties involved.

US-Iran Talks on Stabilizing Iraq:

- Iran offered to enter into talks with the United States aimed at stabilizing Iraq. This marked the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that Iran had officially proposed dialogue with the United States. Secretary Rice declined to provide a timeline for these potential talks but indicated they would involve US Ambassador in Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad.



[7.] Increase International Support for Iraq – Contributors to Iraqi Stability Operations

Data as of March 20, 2006

26 Countries with forces in Iraq (in addition to US)

Albania	El Salvador	Lithuania	Romania
Armenia	Estonia	Macedonia	Slovakia
Australia	Georgia	Moldova	South Korea
Azerbaijan	Italy	Mongolia	Ukraine
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Netherlands	UK
Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Poland	
Denmark	Latvia	Portugal	

TOTAL ~ 20,000 Forces

*Note: Fiji participating as a part of the UN mission in Iraq.

29 Countries and NATO*
(including US)
Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*29 includes the 26 countries listed above, the US, Fiji, and Singapore.



[8.0] Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents – **Developments**

Strategic Communications:

- On March 20, President Bush delivered the second in a series of speeches updating the American people on our strategy for victory in Iraq. The speech profiled the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar. Once a key base of operations for Al-Qaeda, Tal Afar is a concrete example of progress in Iraq.
 - Tal Afar shows how the three tracks of the Strategy for Victory In Iraq – political, security, and economic – depend on and reinforce one another. By working with local leaders to address community grievances, Iraqi and Coalition forces helped build the political support needed to make the military operation to drive terrorists out of that city successful. The military success against the terrorists gave the citizens of Tal Afar security, and this allowed them to vote and rebuild their city. The economic rebuilding taking place is giving Tal Afar's residents a real stake in the success of a free Iraq – and further marginalizing the terrorists.



[8.0] Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents – **Developments**

Strategic Communications:

- Ambassador David Satterfield, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy Baghdad spoke on CNN's "The Situation Room" on March 17. "And [the people of Iraq] are a people who, by overwhelming numbers, in a progression of elections and referenda over the course of the past 15 months, have stated their views on the worthiness of what has happened here since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. And the story that they are telling to the world, to the region, to the American people, is that yes, it was worth it. It was worth it to rid themselves of the tyranny of Saddam and the Baathists. It was worth it to have the opportunity to do what they're doing, literally, today, working together – Kurds, Arabs, Shias, Sunnis, the representatives of the people of Iraq – to form a government that can speak for all of them, that can accomplish the national goals all Iraqis are seeking, and in doing that, help to make this country a stable place for the future. And that is an important goal to the American people."

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Iraq Weekly Status – General Information

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- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



Notes and Source Citations (1 of 4)

Slide 5:

- MNF-I Press Release, <http://www.mnf-iraq.com/Releases/Mar/060316c.html>

Slide 6:

- The Advisor (18MAR06 Edition) <http://www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/docs/advisor/currentissue.pdf>

Slide 7:

- DoD Input to Iraq Weekly Status Report 20 Mar 06

Slide 8:

- USAID Reconstruction weekly update, March 17, 2006.
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/20/international/middleeast/20iraq.html>

Slide 9:

- IECI Website http://www.ieciraq.org/English/Frameset_english.htm

Slide 11:

- The IRRF Financial Chart is sourced from the 21 Mar 06 IRMO Weekly Status Report

Slide 12:

- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load. Currently supplies are not much improved over last year when judged by hours of power, but this is due in part to an influx of new appliances. This has dramatically altered demand and diluted the effect of increased generation capacity on actual results.

Slide 13:

Electricity:

- USACE Daily Report March 16

Public Health and Healthcare:

- March 16 Embassy Baghdad Unclassified O/I
- USAID Weekly Update – March 17



Notes and Source Citations (2 of 4)

Slide 14:Water and Sanitation:

- PCO Weekly Iraq Reconstruction Update – Mar 16
- USACE Daily Report March 21

Education:

- PCO Weekly Iraq Reconstruction Update – Mar 16
- Embassy Baghdad Cable (908) March 20

Slide 15:

- IRMO Weekly Report, March 21, 2006

Slide 16:Oil Prices:

- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Employment Update:

- Information regarding the Employment Update was sourced from the IRMO Weekly Report – March 21, 2006
- CERP has not reported figures for some time. Until they report accurate data, the number will remain at 0.
- PCO will be reporting on a bi-weekly basis.

Slide 17:

- Information regarding the NID auction was gathered from the Central Bank of Iraq's website: <http://www.cbiraq.org>

Slide 18:Bond Prices:

- Iraqi Bond Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Slide 19:

- Information regarding the WTO Accession training was sourced from the Izdihar newsletter – March 18, 2006



Notes and Source Citations (3 of 4)

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Slide 20:

- IRMO Weekly Report, March 21, 2006

Slide 21:

- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

Slide 22:

- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

Slide 23:

- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885



Notes and Source Citations (4 of 4)

Slide 24:

- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

Slide 25:

- AP Report, http://www.mnf-iraq.com/external_news_archive.htm
- Department of Justice, OPDAT RLA Update February 2006

Slide 26:

- http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2006/060316_Qazi.doc.htm, Press conference by Secretary-General's special representative for Iraq
- http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/I/IRAN_US?SITE=CODEN&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT, Iran offers to enter Iraq talks with U.S.

Slide 27:

- DOD Input to Weekly Status Report 22 Feb 06-Report is updated bi-weekly

Slide 28:

- Samantha Quigley, Iraqis Fed Up With Insurgency, *American Forces Press Service*, 3/09/06

Slide 29:

- Ambassador David Satterfield on CNN's "The Situation Room", March 17