

A map of the Middle East region with Iraq highlighted in yellow. The surrounding countries and the Persian Gulf are shown in light orange and blue respectively. The text is overlaid on the map.

Iraq Weekly Status Report

September 6, 2006

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



Table of Contents

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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SECTION

SLIDE

Highlights

3

1. Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgents

5

2. Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance

6

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

9

4. Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services

12

5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

16

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights

24

7. Increase International Support for Iraq

26

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

29

Special Addendum: Provincial Reconstruction Teams

31

Sources and Contact Information

32

Notes and Source Citations

33



Highlights

D
E
P
A
R
T
M
E
N
T
O
F
S
T
A
T
E

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

Iraqi and Coalition Forces captured Hamed Jumaa Farid al-Saeedi, a top-tier al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist thought to be responsible for the February 22 Samarra mosque bombing that catalyzed sectarian violence in Iraq.

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

The Iraqi Ground Forces Command assumed command and control of the 8th Iraqi Army Division from MNC-I September 1, marking a critical step toward Iraqi sovereignty over their armed forces.

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

The Council of Representatives resumed business September 5 after a summer recess. Priority issues include electoral legislation (including the authorization of the Independent High Electoral Commission and provincial election laws), governmental and fiscal federalism legislation and economic and security legislation.

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

Construction began August 21 on the ED-503 M881 Low Voltage Network rehabilitation in Karkh, Baghdad province. The \$1.2 million US Army-funded project will install a new overhead distribution network – 10,695 meters of cable – in the Mahala 881 Karkh area, which will provide safer and more reliable electricity to approximately 5,000 residents.



Highlights

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

The Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee will meet in Amman in October. The two parties will discuss the possibility of reactivating economic relations between both countries in areas such as trade, transportation, oil, electricity, communications and Information Technology.

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law

US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said August 29 that Iraq's future would depend on its enforcing the rule of law, but that only its people and political leaders could decide what type of law that would be.

7. Increase International Support for Iraq

Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül warned the leader of the Kurdish region September 4 that his decision to replace the Iraqi flag with the Kurdish one was "dangerous." PM Maliki's office stated that the move was illegal and that the "the Iraqi flag is the only flag that should be raised over any square inch of Iraq, until parliament makes a decision as laid down in the constitution."

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

US military leaders in Baghdad have put out for bid a two-year, \$20 million public relations contract that calls for extensive monitoring of US and Middle Eastern media in an effort to promote more positive coverage of news from Iraq.



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

Iraqi and Coalition Forces Capture Top al-Qaida Terrorist:

- Iraq's National Security Advisor Dr. Mowaffak al-Rubaie announced September 3 that Iraqi forces with Coalition support captured Hamed Jumaa Farid al-Saeedi, a top-tier al-Qaida in Iraq terrorist thought to be responsible for the February 22 Samarra mosque bombing that catalyzed sectarian violence in Iraq. Saeedi is also accused of supervising the creation of death squads and ordering assassinations, bombings, kidnappings and attacks on Iraqi Security Forces' checkpoints.

Operation Together Forward Phase II Continues to Progress in Baghdad:

- After clearing and securing the Adhamiya neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraqi and Coalition Forces have progressed to restoring civil services – electricity, water, sewer and fuel – to the area.
- As with the other neighborhoods of Dura, Amiriyah, Ghazalia and Shula, the operations appear to be building the people's confidence in their security forces and decreasing their reliance on militias.



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Iraqi Ground Forces Command Assumes Control of 8th IA Division:

- The Iraqi Ground Forces Command (IGFC) assumed command and control of the 8th Iraqi Army (IA) Division from Multi-National Core-Iraq September 1, marking a critical step toward Iraqi sovereignty over their armed forces.
 - In a gradual sequence over the following months, the IGFC will assume control of the remaining nine IA divisions.

1st IA Division Assumes Control of 3rd IA Brigade:

- The 1st IA Division assumed operational control of the 3rd IA Brigade from Multi-National Forces-West (MNF-W) August 31. The event marks the start of a three-phase transition aimed at shifting operational control of four brigades from MNF-W to the 1st IA Division.

IA Takes Lead Security Role in Tall Afar:

- The 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd IA Division became the third and final battalion to take the lead in assuming security operations for the city of Tall Afar September 2 from Multi-National Division-North.



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

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Iraqi Military Academy Graduates 130 New Officers:

- The Iraqi Military Academy at al-Rustamiyah graduated 130 new IA officers August 28. The new officers successfully completed a 52-week curriculum based on the British Sandhurst model.

IA Brigade Assumes Control of Abu Ghraib Prison:

- Soldiers from the 1st IA Division assumed control of Abu Ghraib prison from US Army Task Force 134 in a ceremony held there September 1. The Iraqi Brigade will provide security for the facility until the Iraqi Ministry of Justice dispatches a security detail to assume control.

IA Recruits 293 New Soldiers in Habbaniyah and Fallujah:

- Soldiers from the 1st IA Division enlisted 293 Iraqi males from greater Fallujah and Habbaniyah as part of an al-Anbar province-wide recruiting drive August 26 and 27.



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ministry of Interior Forces

COMPONENT	TRAINED & EQUIPPED
POLICE	~118,300***
NATIONAL POLICE	~ 24,400
OTHER MOI FORCES	~25,200
TOTAL	~167,900**

Ministry of Defense Forces

COMPONENT	OPERATIONAL
ARMY	~128,200***
AIR FORCE	~800
NAVY	~1,100
TOTAL	~130,100**

Total Trained & Equipped ISF:

~298,000****

- * 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
- *** Army numbers include Special Operations Forces and Support Forces
- **** Does not include the approximately 144,000 Facilities Protection Service personnel working in 27 ministries

Data as of September 6, 2006 (updated bi-weekly by DOD)



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

Council of Representatives Resumes Business:

- Iraq's Council of Representatives (CoR) reconvened September 5 after a summer recess. During the first session, deputies renewed Iraq's state of emergency (under which the government has broad powers to fight unrest) until October 1. The agenda for the first session also included a second reading of the law amending the penal code. During the second session held September 6, the CoR passed a fuel reform bill and elections bill.
- The CoR is expected to address the controversial issue of whether to allow Iraq's provinces to merge into larger autonomous regions, a move which some Sunni lawmakers fear could tear the country apart. Leading Sunni lawmaker Alaa Maki confirmed the issue was on the agenda and indicated that limited federalism might be acceptable to Sunnis: "We will give our opinion on federalism to parliament soon," he said. "But we do not object to the administrative application of federalism for better administration under the supervision of a strong central government." A few groups strongly support a plan which would create virtually independent zones in the oil-rich Shia south and Kurdish north and leave the Sunnis economically isolated in the barren western desert. Under Iraq's new constitution, a law on federal regions must be enacted "in a period not to exceed six months from the date of its first session." Some groups interpret that to mean before October 22 (six months from the day the CoR first convened); however, others argue that the six months should be counted from the first session in which the CoR could do real work (once the Government of Iraq was sworn in May 20).



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

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Council of Representatives Resumes Business (cont'd):

- Another issue likely to generate debate is that of the national flag, which the president of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Massud Barzani, has refused to fly, arguing that it represents Saddam Hussein's regime. The move has heightened concerns that Kurds will push for secession under the nation's new federal system. Sunni lawmakers issued a statement before parliament opened calling on Kurds to accept the flag as an interim measure while parliament debates the design of a new symbol acceptable to all Iraqis.

Inspectors General and CPI Discuss Investigative Process:

- All Inspectors General (IGs) met with the Commission for Public Integrity (CPI) Commissioner August 30 to discuss the investigative process between the IGs and CPI. A letter presented by Coordinator Dr. Adel cites the poor investigative quality of CPI and IG cases as a reason for lack of prosecution in the courts. A meeting was scheduled for September 3 at the Prime Minister's office to work on the investigative process and handoffs. Representatives from the Parliament's Integrity Committee, an elected IG leader, a Prime Minister Advisor, a CPI representative and a possible representative from Judge Medhat's office were slated to attend.



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

Deputy President Tariq al-Hashimi	President Jalal Talabani	Deputy President 'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi
Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih	Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki	Deputy Prime Minister Salam al-Zawba'i

(F) = Female

Minister of Agriculture Ya'rub Nathim	Minister of Communications Muhammad Tawfiq Allawi	Minister of Culture As'ad Kamal Muhammad Abdallah al-Hashimi	Minister of Defense Abdul Qadir Muhammed Jasim	Minister of Displacement & Migration Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan	Minister of Electricity Karim Wahid
Minister of Education Khudayyir al-Khuza'i	Minister of Environment Narmin 'Uthman (F)	Minister of Finance Bayan Jabr	Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Zebari	Minister of Health Ali al-Shammari	Minister of Higher Education Abd Dhiyab al-Ajili
Minister of Human Rights Wijdan Mikha'il (F)	Minister of Industry & Minerals Fawzi al-Hariri	Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bulani	Minister of Justice Hashim al-Shibli	Minister of Housing & Construction Bayan Daza'l (F)	Minister of Labor & Social Affairs Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi
Minister of Oil Husayn al-Shahristani	Minister of Planning Ali Baban	Minister of Trade Abd al-Falah al-Sudani	Minister of Science & Technology Ra'id Fahmi Jahid	Minister of Municipalities & Public Works Riyad Ghurayyib	Minister of Transportation Karim Mahdi Salih
Minister of Water Resources 'Abd al-Latif Rashid	Minister of Youth & Sports Jasim Muhammad Ja'far	Minister of State for Civil Society Adil al-Asadi	Minister of State for National Dialogue Affairs Akram al-Hakim	Minister of State for National Security Affairs Shirwan al-Waili	
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rafi Hiyad al-Isawi	Minister of State for Governorates Affairs Sa'd Tahir Abd Khalaf al-Hashimi	Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities Liwa Sumaysim	Minister of State for Women's Affairs Fatin Abd al-Rahman Mahmud (F)	Minister of State for CoR Affairs Safa al-Safi	



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

(Millions of USD)

Sector	Apportioned		Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	2207 Report	Apportion	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$5,002.59	\$5,002.59	\$4,970.78	\$4,967.70	-\$3.08	\$4,931.93	\$4,938.49	\$6.56	\$4,610.07	\$4,615.24	\$5.17
Electricity Sector	\$4,239.51	\$4,239.51	\$4,125.84	\$4,143.35	\$17.52	\$3,872.77	\$4,029.24	\$156.46	\$2,557.48	\$2,560.38	\$2.90
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,724.70	\$1,724.70	\$1,698.27	\$1,703.71	\$5.44	\$1,686.99	\$1,700.29	\$13.31	\$1,107.69	\$1,112.79	\$5.10
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$1,304.15	\$1,304.15	\$1,274.58	\$1,285.46	\$10.88	\$1,251.83	\$1,266.31	\$14.48	\$904.41	\$904.92	\$0.50
Democracy	\$1,001.85	\$1,001.85	\$999.44	\$999.44	\$0.00	\$998.07	\$998.07	\$0.00	\$800.19	\$802.45	\$2.26
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$401.50	\$401.50	\$390.54	\$391.32	\$0.78	\$367.66	\$380.36	\$12.71	\$300.22	\$303.45	\$3.23
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$333.60	\$333.60	\$332.60	\$332.60	\$0.00	\$331.65	\$331.65	\$0.00	\$191.85	\$191.85	\$0.00
Health Care	\$818.90	\$818.90	\$780.73	\$779.81	-\$0.92	\$770.65	\$775.73	\$5.08	\$519.84	\$520.17	\$0.33
Transportation and Communications	\$464.12	\$464.12	\$445.79	\$447.70	\$1.91	\$421.64	\$422.56	\$0.92	\$307.40	\$309.00	\$1.60
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,131.08	\$2,131.08	\$2,045.65	\$2,063.14	\$17.49	\$1,836.96	\$2,020.84	\$183.88	\$1,255.80	\$1,259.81	\$4.00
Private Sector Development	\$813.95	\$813.95	\$799.35	\$795.14	-\$4.21	\$795.33	\$791.12	-\$4.21	\$702.94	\$702.94	\$0.01
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213.00	\$213.00	\$212.44	\$212.44	\$0.00	\$212.44	\$212.44	\$0.00	\$151.76	\$151.76	\$0.00
Total	\$18,448.95	\$18,448.95	\$18,076.00	\$18,121.80	\$45.80	\$17,477.91	\$17,867.09	\$389.18	\$13,409.66	\$13,434.75	\$25.08
IRRF II Construction			\$10,359.56	\$10,392.09	\$32.53	\$9,879.34	\$10,228.41	\$349.07	\$7,176.17	\$7,188.98	\$12.81
IRRF II Non-Construction			\$6,717.01	\$6,730.28	\$13.27	\$6,600.51	\$6,640.61	\$40.10	\$5,433.30	\$5,443.32	\$10.01
IRRF II Democracy			\$999.44	\$999.44	\$0.00	\$998.07	\$998.07	\$0.00	\$800.19	\$802.45	\$2.26
IRRF I Total	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$0.00	\$2,232.3	\$2,232.3	\$0.00	\$2,139.00	\$2,139.0	\$0.00
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,922.25	\$20,922.25	\$20,549.30	\$20,595.10	\$45.80	\$19,710.21	\$20,099.39	\$389.18	\$15,548.66	\$15,573.75	\$25.08

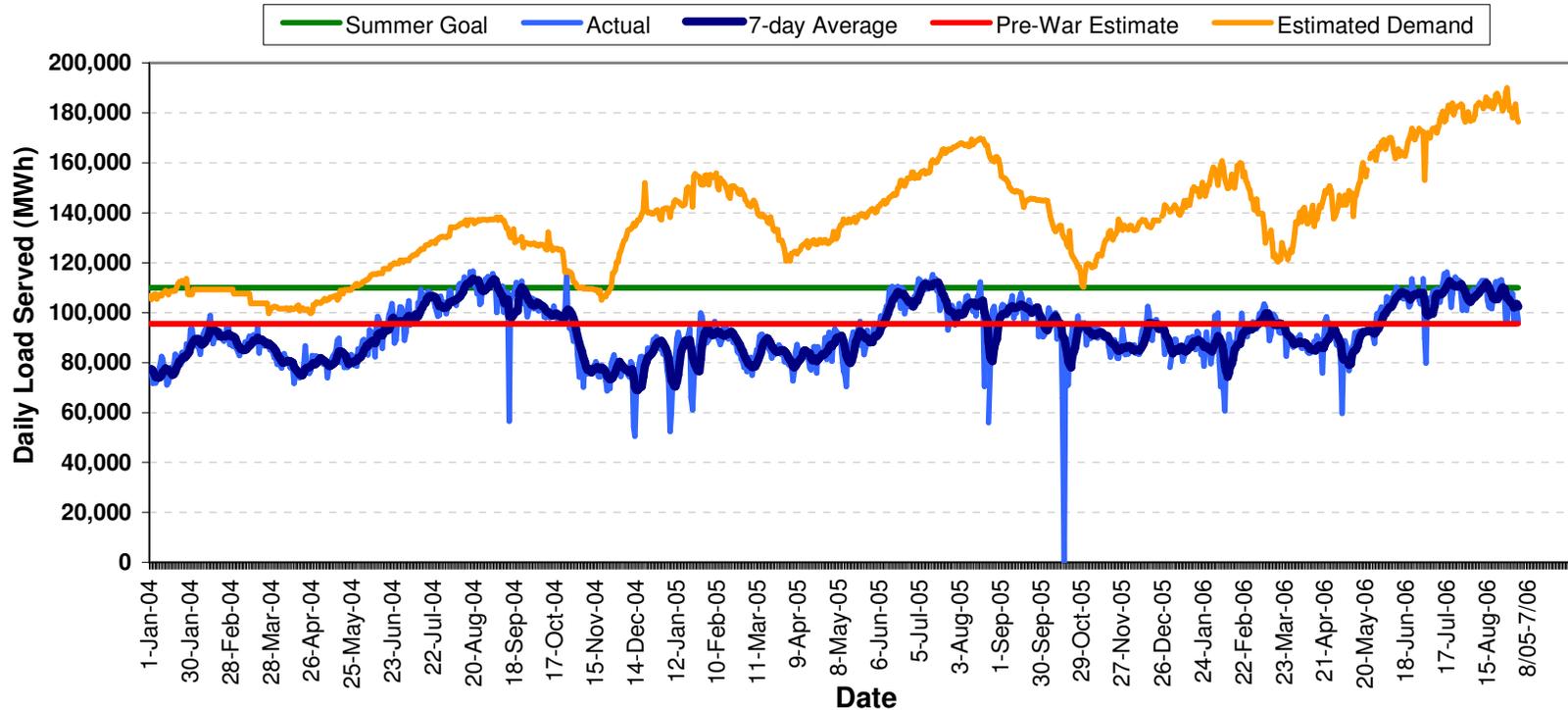
As of September 5, 2006



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- During the week of August 30 - September 5, electricity availability averaged 6.3 hours per day in Baghdad and 10.6 hours nationwide. Electricity output for the week was four percent above the same period in 2005.



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

Infrastructure:

- Construction began on the Qadisiya Round Road paving project in Najaf province. The US Army-funded project began August 26 and has an estimated completion date of January 2007. The \$227,000 project will provide improved access to residents in the province, including access to emergency services.

Electricity:

- The interdiction of a major transmission line between Bayji and West Baghdad on September 1 left Baghdad completely isolated from northern generation, reducing daily service to the city to five or six hours of power.
- Construction began August 29 on two electrical feeder line projects in the Diyala Province – Imam Asker (\$68,000) and al-Saward (\$36,000). Each project will emplace 2.2 kilometers of feeder line for their respective neighborhoods and will provide more reliable power to the domestic, commercial and industrial consumers of the Imam Asker and al-Saward neighborhoods of Diyala.



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

Water:

- Two erosion control and embankment rehabilitation projects in Basrah province are complete. The \$470,000 US Army-funded project restored the riverbanks and provided erosion control at the Shatt al-Arab River in the al-Dayer and al-Hartha districts. The restorations help prevent flooding and also provide a firm and more durable surface for livestock to reach the river. These erosion control projects impact approximately 150,000 residents.



[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 September 1 closed with the following prices:
 - Basrah Light at \$61.47/barrel
 - Dated Brent at \$69.32/barrel
 - WTI Cushing at \$69.99/barrel
 - Oman/Dubai at \$66.45/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)	21,000	21,000	0.00%
USAID	72,117	69,506	-3.62%
AIRP (Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program)	659	659	0.00%
MILCON (Military Construction)	135	135	0.00%
CERP*	7,024	7,234	2.99%
MNSTC-I	7,571	7,108	-6.12%
IRRF NON-CONSTRUCTION	11,253	11,253	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	119,759	116,895	-2.39%

* CERP employment numbers are representative of Baghdad only.

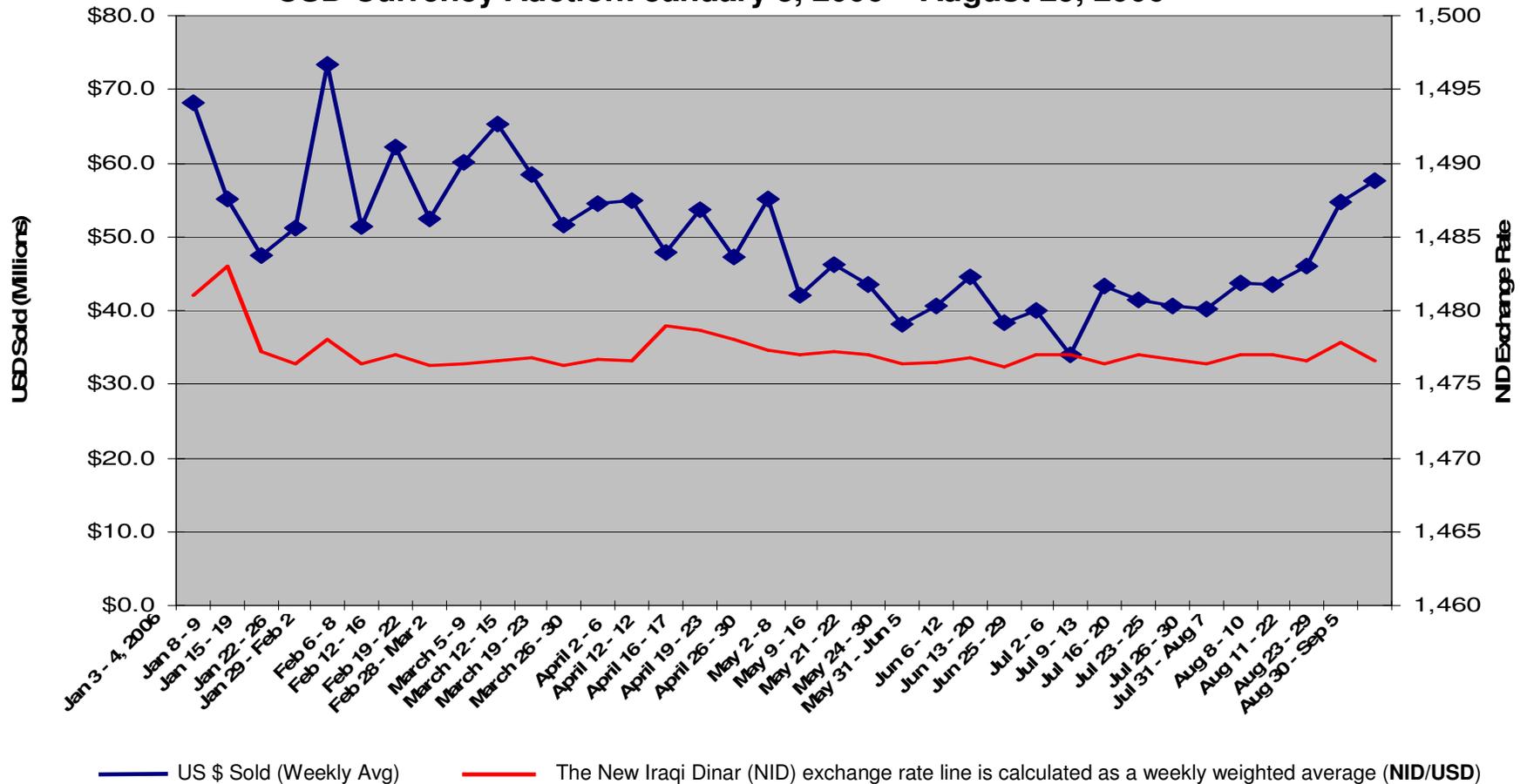


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy - Banking Sector

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 January 3. The dinar remained stable against the dollar this week, ending at 1,476 dinars per USD September 5.

Central Bank of Iraq
 USD Currency Auction: January 3, 2006 – August 29, 2006



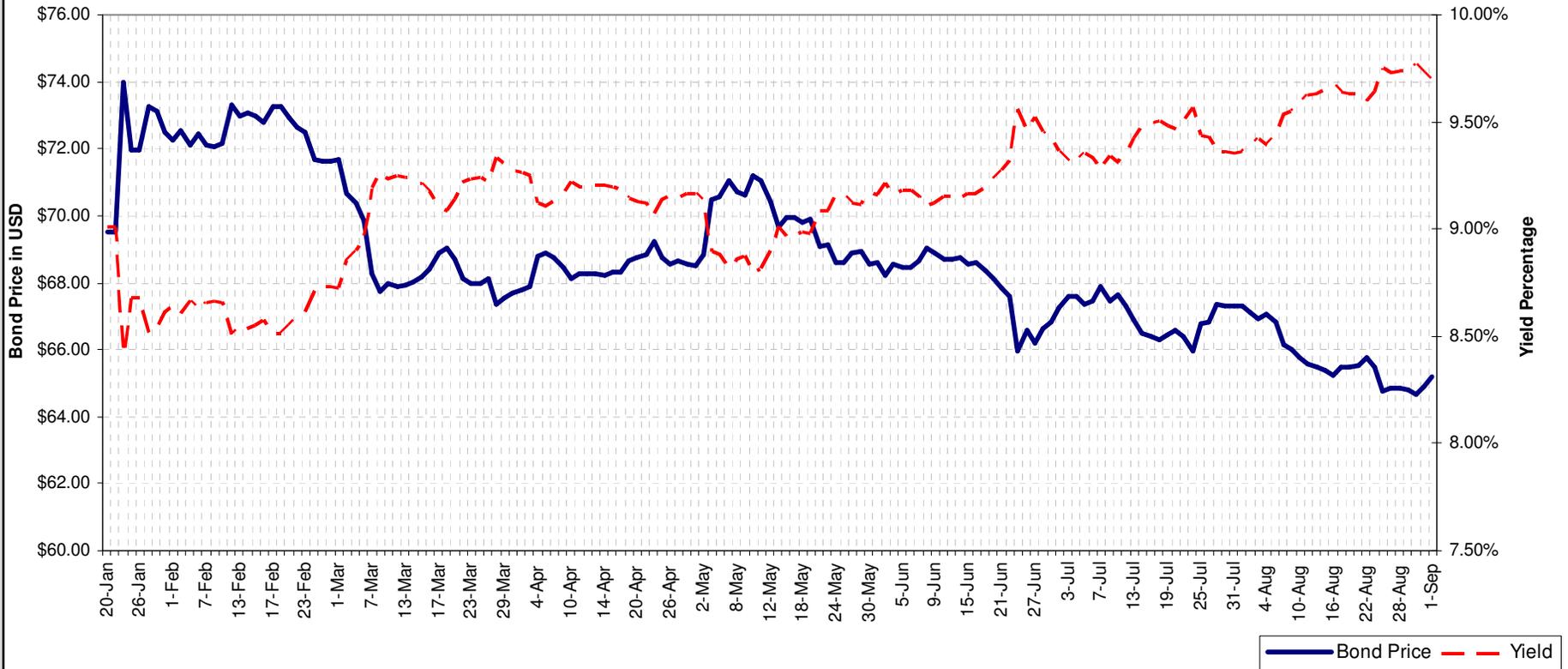


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Securities Markets

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. The bonds' current yield of 9.73 percent remains one of the highest in the world for sovereign debt instruments.

Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales
January 20, 2006 - September 1, 2006



Trading High = \$73.98 (January 24)

Trading Low = \$64.66 (August 30)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Recent Economic Events

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Iraq Discusses Reactivating Economic Relations with Jordan:

- The Jordanian Minister of Planning announced that the Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee will meet in Amman in October. The two parties will discuss the possibility of reactivating economic relations between both countries in areas such as trade, transportation, oil, electricity, communications and Information Technology.

Iraq Participates in Trade Conference in Holland:

- The Iraqi International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI) is organizing a trade conference in Rotterdam in cooperation with the Holland Trade Center. The conference will be held between October 8 and 13. According to the Chairman of the IICCI, 100 Iraqi businessmen and representatives from 100 Dutch companies will attend.

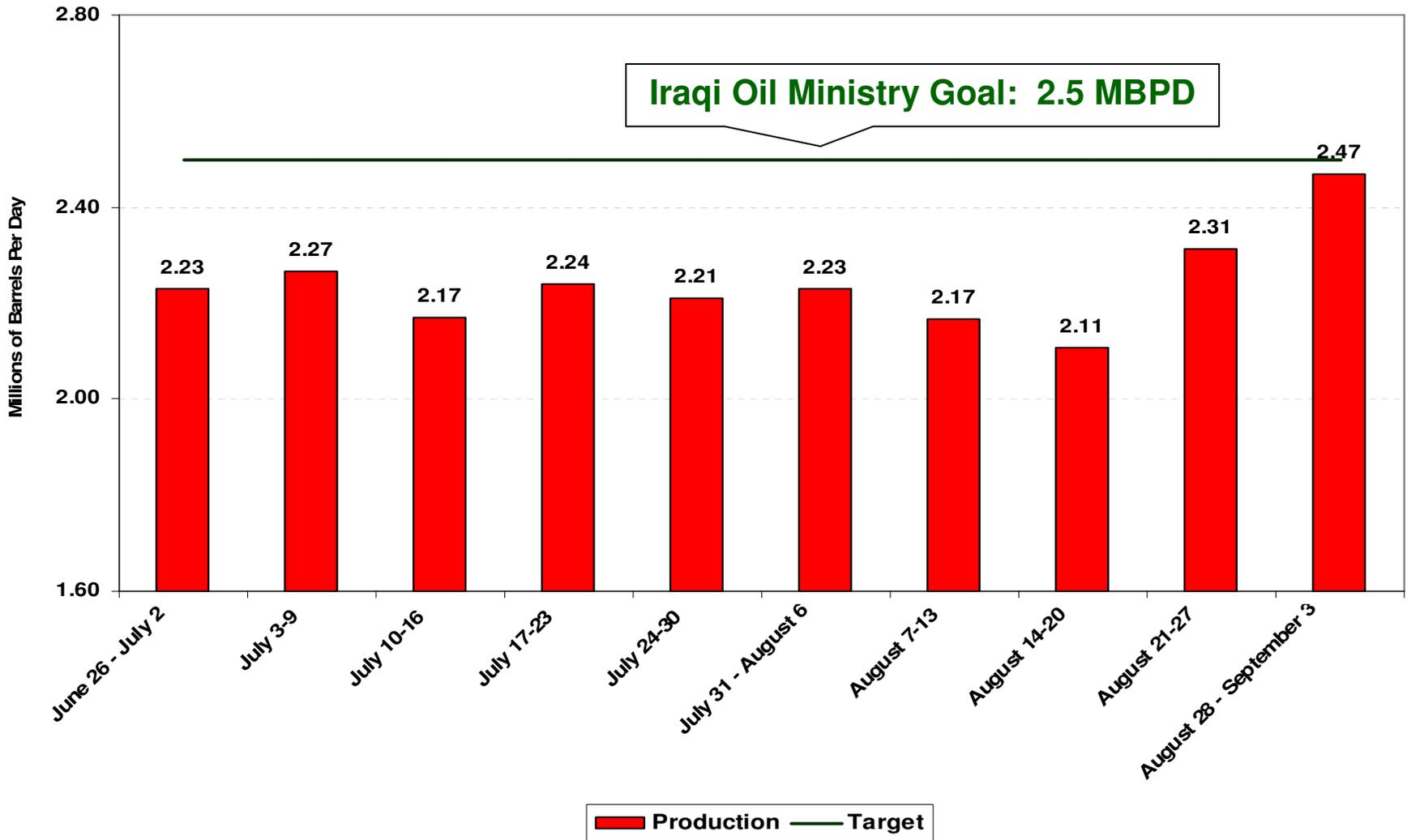
UN Helps Rebuild Kurdish Region:

- The Chairman of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament met with a United Nations delegation to discuss Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) investment law and infrastructure projects in the Kurdish region. The head of the delegation confirmed that the United Nations Development Program will support infrastructure and investment projects in the KRG.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Crude Oil Production

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

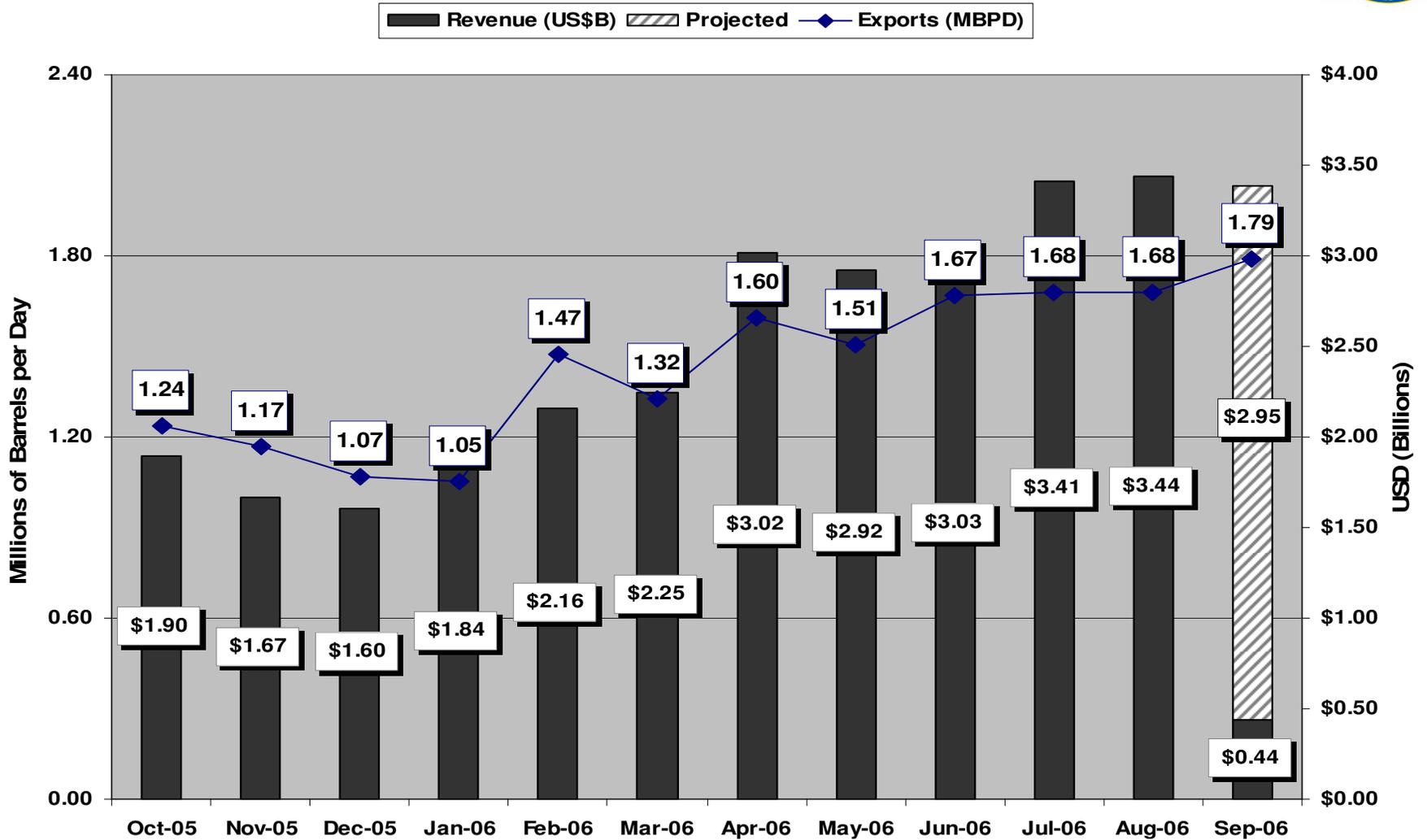


- Weekly Average (August 28 – September 3) of 2.47 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Crude Oil Export

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

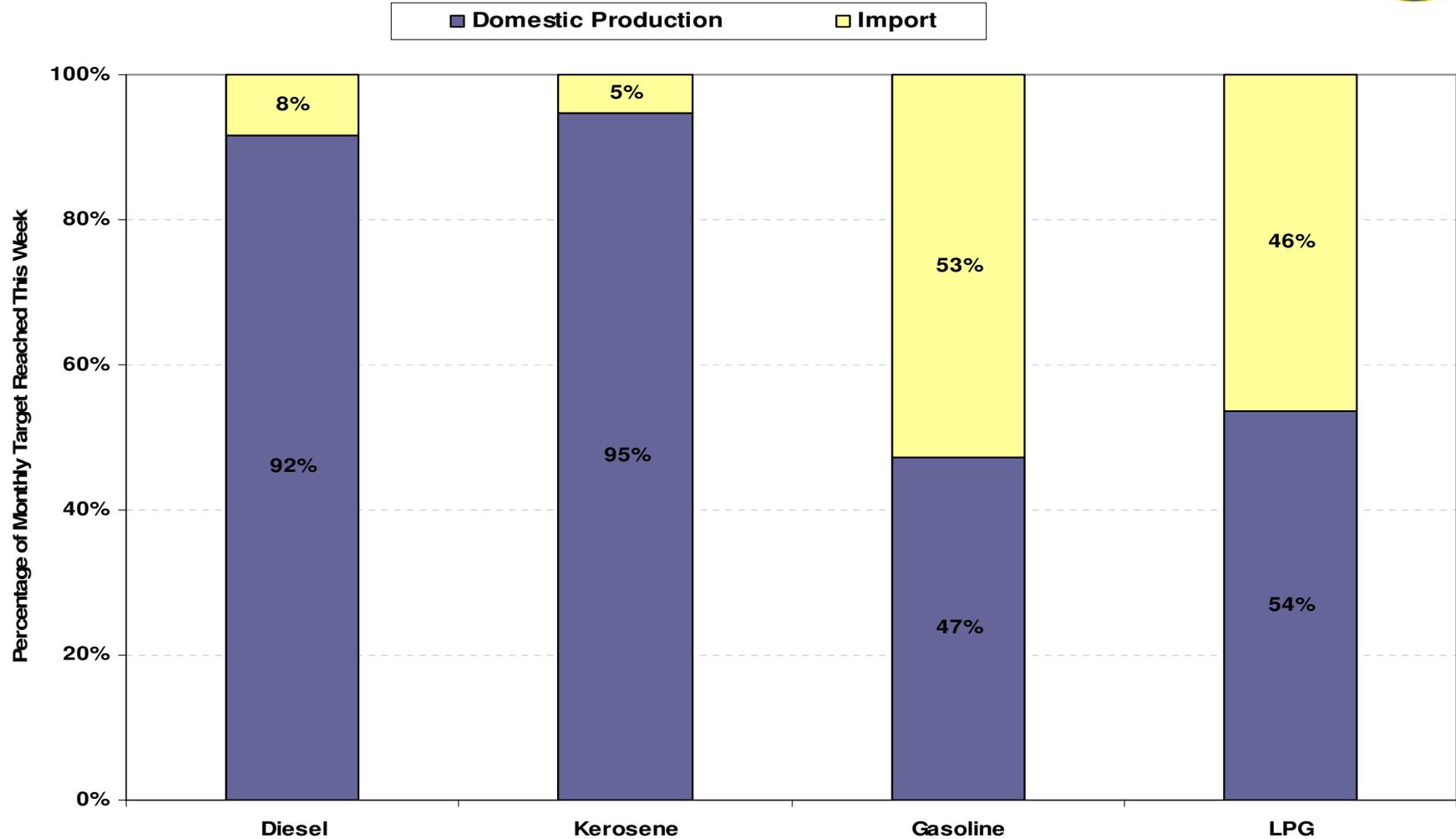


- 2005 Revenue Estimate: \$23.5 Billion
- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$22.5 Billion (Year to Date)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



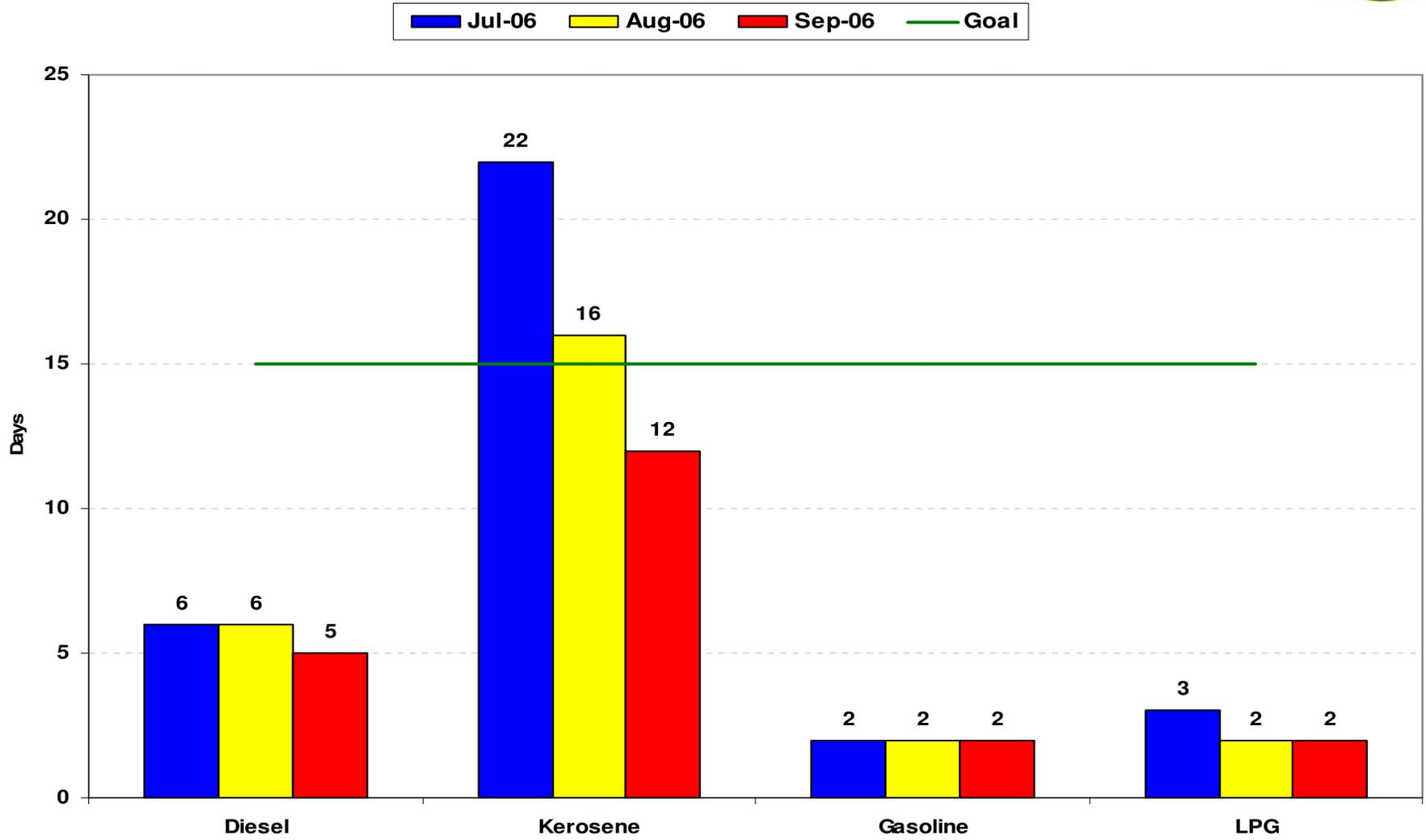
Note: This is a daily average for the week of August 28 – September 3

- Diesel: 13.9 ML supply of 21.0 ML target
- Kerosene: 6.1 ML supply of 8.5 ML target
- Gasoline: 21.6 ML supply of 22.0 ML target
- LPG: 3,483 tons supply of 4,460 tons target



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – 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.] Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights— Iraqi Judicial System

CCCI Convicts 25 People, Two Sentenced to Life:

- The Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) convicted 25 people August 18 - 24 for various crimes including possession of illegal weapons, joining armed groups and illegal border crossing.
- The trial court found Essam Imohammed Mohammed guilty of joining armed groups to unsettle the stability and security of Iraq, in violation of Article 194 of the Iraqi Penal Code and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Coalition Forces (CF) apprehended the defendant after a gun battle between CF and terrorist elements.
- Upon conviction, defendants will be turned over to the Government of Iraq to serve their sentences. To date, the CCCI has held 1,414 trials of people suspected of anti-Iraqi and anti-Coalition activities threatening the security of Iraq and targeting Multi-National Forces-Iraq. These proceedings have resulted in 1,214 individual convictions with sentences ranging up to death.



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

Gonzales: Iraq's Future Depends on Law:

- US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said August 29 that Iraq's future would depend on its enforcing the rule of law, but that only its people and political leaders could decide what type of law that would be. After meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, Gonzales said that they had discussed the use of “extraordinary measures,” referring to policies toward prisoners and detainees and that the US would not tell Iraq how to handle the issue. “It is difficult to decide what is appropriate now and what is allowed under the law. This decision will be made by the Iraqi government,” Gonzales said after touring the building where Saddam Hussein has been put on trial in the heavily fortified Green Zone.
- The attorney general said Washington is committed to helping build an Iraqi court system, pointing to \$100 million that he said Congress has appropriated for the project. Saleh said after his meeting that he and Gonzales discussed the issue of including Iraqi judges in investigations of alleged atrocities by US soldiers against Iraqis. “The Iraqi side stresses the importance of participating in the investigation, that the investigation is transparent, that the Iraqi public opinion knows its developments, and that those found guilty are severely punished,” Saleh said.



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

Kurds Replace Iraqi Flag with Kurdish Banners:

- Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül warned the leader of the Kurdish region September 4 that his decision to replace the Iraqi flag with the Kurdish one was “dangerous.” Iraqi Kurds living in the semi-autonomous northern part of the country lowered Iraqi flags over official government buildings, replacing them with Kurdish banners. Massoud Barzani, president of the Kurdistan region, said Iraq's flag was a symbol of his own people's past oppression and that, “if at any moment we, the Kurdish people and parliament, consider that it is in our interests to declare independence, we will do so and we will fear no-one.” Prime Minister Maliki’s office stated the move was illegal and that the “the Iraqi flag is the only flag that should be raised over any square inch of Iraq, until parliament makes a decision as laid down in the constitution.”

British Foreign Secretary on Her First Official Visit to Iraq:

- British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett met with Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh, stating that Britain was determined that Iraqis take over responsibility for security. “It is absolutely key that responsibility be transferred to...the elected government of Iraq,” she told reporters. Britain has said it plans to cut their current 7,000-strong force deployed to southern Iraq by as much as half by 2007.



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

Britain to Reinforce Troops in Basrah:

- Britain plans to deploy 360 extra troops to Iraq this year in order to reinforce its 7,200-strong force in Basrah. The troops will be drawn from a stand-by unit based in Cyprus, a battle group based around the infantry of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and including engineers, military police and Royal Marine Commandos.



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

Data as of August 7, 2006

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

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

TOTAL ~ 18,000 Forces

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

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

*34 includes the 28 countries listed above, the US, Fiji, and as four NATO, non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Iceland, Slovenia, Turkey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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

US Contract Aims for Positive Press:

- US military leaders in Baghdad have put out for bid a two-year, \$20 million public relations contract that calls for extensive monitoring of US and Middle Eastern media in an effort to promote more positive coverage of news from Iraq. The contract, which calls for assembling a database of selected Iraqi, Middle Eastern, and American media and then analyzing their tone, is designed to help the coalition understand “the communications environment” in the region.



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

Talabani Holds Joint News Conference with British FS Beckett:

- Iraqi President Jalal Talabani held a joint news conference with British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett September 5 in which he said that Britain's troops would be able to return home at the end of next year, saying that he "didn't think fighting will continue until then [end of 2007] if the steps of national reconciliation go according to plan. If some groups are still fighting then, our [Iraqi] forces will be able to take care of it."
- During the news conference, Talabani also promised that Iraq would soon get a new national flag, calling the current one "Saddamist." The president said that though no decision had been made on the design of the new flag, he personally favored the banner used between 1959 and 1963.

Bush Says US Will Not Leave Iraq Until "Victory is Achieved":

- In the first of a five-speech series leading up to the anniversary of September 11 in Salt Lake City August 31, President Bush said that US forces will not leave Iraq "until victory is achieved" and that the US bears a responsibility to the Iraqi people in aiding them to achieve freedom while helping Iraqi leaders who promote freedom and democracy.



Special Addendum: Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT)

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PRT Mission Statement:

- To assist Iraq's provincial governments with developing a transparent and sustained capability to govern, promoting increased security and rule of law, promoting political and economic development, and providing provincial administration necessary to meet the basic needs of the population.

Provincial Reconstruction Team Concept:

- The PRT concept was developed to improve on Regional Embassy Office (REO) and Provincial Support Team (PST) programs. The PRTs are a civil-military operation led by the civilians with extensive support from US and Coalition Forces. The PRTs are an integrated capacity-building effort built around Local Governance Program (LGP) and include support from other agencies to cover all key capacity development needs.

PRT Operations Status:

- PRTs have been established in Ninawa, Babil, Tamim, Baghdad, and Anbar provinces. The teams are comprised of representatives from the US Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Multi-National Force – Iraq, Department of Justice, Gulf Regional Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, Multi-National Corps – Iraq and Coalition partners.

Interested in working in Iraq?

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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



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Slide 13:

- 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 14:

Infrastructure:

- USACE Daily Report – August 29

Electricity:

- USACE Daily Report – August 30
- USACE Daily Report – September 1

Slide 15:

Water:

- Iraq Reconstruction Report – September 1

Slide 16:

Oil Prices:

- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Employment Update:

- Information regarding the Employment Update was sourced from the IRMO Weekly Report – August 15
- 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:

- Iraqi Bond Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

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