

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 and Mediterranean Sea are shown in light blue. The text is overlaid on the map.

Iraq Weekly Status Report

December 20, 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

As reported in the Pentagon's quarterly 9010 Report to Congress, attacks in Iraq had increased in the last three months to their highest level since the Pentagon began issuing the reports in 2005. The report also stated that the growth of Shia militias was the most significant security development of the period.

2. Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance

Also according to the Pentagon 9010 report, more than 45,000 additional Iraqi soldiers and police have completed initial training and equipping since August. By the end of December, the US and its Coalition partners will have met the initial force generation targets, while continuing the efforts to improve the Iraqi Security Forces' capability to meet emerging requirements.

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

At the political parties National Reconciliation Conference, held December 16 and 17 in Baghdad, Prime Minister Maliki invited former members of Iraq's military under Saddam Hussein to join the country's new army.

4. Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services

The Ministry of Water Resources will lead a delegation of eight Iraqi government officials, which also includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment and the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Irrigation, to participate in a bilateral technical-level meeting with Turkey December 14 to discuss water issues.



Highlights

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5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

Central Bank of Iraq Governor Dr. Sinan al-Shabibi and two members of the bank's Money Laundering Reporting Office attended a three-day US-Middle East/North Africa (MENA) conference that focused on anti-money laundering and countering terrorism finance efforts among US and MENA banks.

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law

The Central Criminal Court of Iraq convicted 16 security detainees December 1-7 for various crimes including illegal possession of special category weapons, violation of the terrorist laws, failure to renew resident identification and illegal border crossing.

7. Increase International Support for Iraq

Senators John Kerry and Christopher Dodd arrived in Syria December 19 to discuss how Damascus could help bring stability and security in Iraq. This visit follows a similar one by Senator Bill Nelson, who met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in early December.

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

According to a report released December 20 by the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 32 journalists have been killed in Iraq in 2006, with murder the leading cause.



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

Pentagon 9010 Report States Attacks Have Increased to Highest Level:

- As reported in the Pentagon's quarterly 9010 Report to Congress, attacks in Iraq had increased in the last three months to their highest level since the Pentagon began issuing the reports in 2005. The report also stated that the growth of Shia militias was the most significant security development of the period.
- The report stated that there was an average of almost 960 attacks against Americans and Iraqis every week, which was a 22% increase from the previous reporting period for early May to early August. However, some of the increase was attributable to a seasonal spike in violence during Ramadan.
- Coalition Forces remained the target of the majority of attacks (68%), but Iraqis suffered the overwhelming majority of casualties. Total Iraqi civilian casualties increased by 2% over the previous reporting period.
- Fifty-four percent of all attacks occurred in only two of Iraq's 18 provinces, Baghdad and Anbar; and more than 90% of Iraqis reported feeling very safe in their neighborhoods. Still, concern regarding civil war ran high among the Iraqi populace with violence divided primarily along ethnic, religious and tribal lines, (and political factions within these groups), and was often localized to specific communities.



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

ISF Force Generation Targets to be Met by December 2006, but Challenges Remain:

- According to the recent Pentagon 9010 report, more than 45,000 additional Iraqi soldiers and police have completed initial training and equipping since August. By the end of December, the US and its Coalition partners will have met the initial force generation targets, while continuing efforts to improve the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF)'s capability to meet emerging requirements.
 - The report also stated that the trained-and-equipped number should not be confused with present-for-duty strength, explaining that the number of present-for-duty soldiers and police is lower due to scheduled leave, absences without leave and attrition.
- During the reporting period, the ISF increasingly took the operational lead, assuming primary area security responsibilities and demonstrating an increased capability to plan and execute counter-insurgency operations.
- The most significant remaining challenges are the reformation of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) police force and eliminating its militia infiltration, as well as the development of ISF logistics and sustainment capabilities.



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

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US Army 1st Infantry Division Assumes Iraqi Military Advisor Training Mission:

- An entire US Army combat division, the 1st Infantry Division (The Big Red One), based at Fort Riley, Kansas, has been given the mission of training US military advisors for duty within Iraqi Army and Police units.

Iraqi National Police Battalion Commander Relieved of Duty; Two Others Arrested:

- An Iraqi national police battalion commander was relieved of duty December 18, after giving permission to two Iraqi police officers to illegally arrest two local nationals near a security checkpoint within Baghdad. An investigation by the National Police Headquarters Deputy Commander led to the discovery that the capture was not authorized by the Mol. The deputy commander then ordered the arrest of the battalion commander and the individuals manning the checkpoint where the incident occurred.



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ministry of Interior Forces

COMPONENT	TRAINED & EQUIPPED
POLICE	~135,000***
NATIONAL POLICE	~ 24,400
OTHER MOI FORCES	~28,900
TOTAL	~188,300**

Ministry of Defense Forces

COMPONENT	OPERATIONAL
ARMY	~132,700***
AIR FORCE	~900
NAVY	~1,100
TOTAL	~134,700**

Total Trained & Equipped ISF:

~323,000****

- * 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 December 11, 2006 (updated bi-weekly by DOD)



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

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Prime Minister Maliki Ends Ban on Former Baathists:

- At the political parties National Reconciliation Conference, held December 16 and 17 in Baghdad, Prime Minister Maliki addressed 250 members from numerous political parties and invited former members of Iraq's military under Saddam Hussein to join the country's new army.
- Maliki, reaching out to Baathist officers and soldiers who lost their posts under the Coalition Provisional Authority, imposed few conditions on the return of former military personnel. He did caution that those returning should be loyal to the country and conduct themselves professionally. Maliki also said the army's size might limit the number accepted, but those unable to join would be given pensions.

Samarrai Escapes Prison:

- Former Electricity Minister Ayham al-Samarrai escaped from a Baghdad prison where he was being held following a two-year sentence for corruption that was on appeal. Iraq's Commission on Public Integrity (CPI) said they believed he fled with the help of members of a private security company.
- In a phone conversation December 19, Samarrai said he fled because he did not trust the police and had received a tip that he would be assassinated within days.
- This incident marks the second time Samarrai has escaped from custody. The first followed his conviction last October, when Iraqi officials caught him at Baghdad's airport with a Chinese passport.
- The CPI has issued arrest warrants for about 90 former officials, including 15 ministers, on charges of corruption. Samarrai is the only senior official to have been convicted and imprisoned on such charges.



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

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IRC Workers Kidnapped:

- The Iraqi Red Crescent (IRC) closed all of its Baghdad branches until further notice December 18 following a mass kidnapping at the agency's downtown office. Of the 30 employees and visitors kidnapped December 17, 16 were released unharmed the same day.
- Mazin Abdullah, the IRC's secretary-general, ordered all Baghdad offices closed, but stated that the group's offices in other Iraqi provinces were to remain open.
- The IRC, which is part of the international Red Cross movement, has about 1,000 staff and some 200,000 volunteers in Iraq. It works closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which visits detainees and tries to provide food, water and medicine to Iraqis.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross has called for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages, and condemned the kidnapping as a breach of international humanitarian law.



[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	\$4,986.68	\$4,990.93	\$4.25	\$4,984.21	\$4,988.46	\$4.25	\$4,671.03	\$4,679.48	\$8.45
Electricity Sector	\$4,239.51	\$4,239.51	\$4,238.09	\$4,238.86	\$0.78	\$4,094.30	\$4,094.48	\$0.18	\$2,832.99	\$2,901.22	\$68.23
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,724.70	\$1,724.70	\$1,722.90	\$1,722.90	\$0.00	\$1,618.81	\$1,622.03	\$3.21	\$1,243.18	\$1,275.44	\$32.26
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$1,304.15	\$1,304.15	\$1,302.90	\$1,303.83	\$0.94	\$1,296.50	\$1,297.44	\$0.94	\$942.64	\$965.84	\$23.20
Democracy	\$1,001.85	\$1,001.85	\$1,001.84	\$1,001.84	\$0.00	\$1,001.84	\$1,001.84	\$0.00	\$855.51	\$855.70	\$0.19
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$401.50	\$401.50	\$401.21	\$401.20	(\$0.00)	\$401.21	\$401.20	(\$0.00)	\$325.79	\$337.25	\$11.46
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$333.60	\$333.60	\$332.18	\$332.43	\$0.25	\$326.30	\$326.30	\$0.00	\$202.05	\$205.93	\$3.88
Health Care	\$818.90	\$818.90	\$817.53	\$817.55	\$0.02	\$801.34	\$801.35	\$0.01	\$554.24	\$571.75	\$17.51
Transportation and Communications	\$464.12	\$464.12	\$464.11	\$464.11	\$0.00	\$458.23	\$458.23	\$0.00	\$327.46	\$332.17	\$4.71
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,131.08	\$2,131.08	\$2,129.43	\$2,129.43	\$0.00	\$2,056.57	\$2,057.11	\$0.54	\$1,360.74	\$1,394.72	\$33.98
Private Sector Development	\$813.95	\$813.95	\$813.95	\$813.95	\$0.00	\$813.95	\$813.95	\$0.00	\$757.64	\$760.71	\$3.07
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213.00	\$213.00	\$212.45	\$212.45	\$0.00	\$212.45	\$212.45	\$0.00	\$138.00	\$138.37	\$0.37
Total	\$18,448.95	\$18,448.95	\$18,423.27	\$18,429.50	\$6.23	\$18,065.72	\$18,074.85	\$9.13	\$14,211.28	\$14,418.58	\$207.30
IRRF II Construction			\$10,598.04	\$10,598.67	\$0.62	\$10,262.26	\$10,265.78	\$3.52	\$7,679.29	\$7,820.24	\$140.95
IRRF II Non-Construction			\$6,823.39	\$6,828.99	\$5.61	\$6,801.62	\$6,807.23	\$5.61	\$5,676.48	\$5,742.64	\$66.16
IRRF II Democracy			\$1,001.84	\$1,001.84	\$0.00	\$1,001.84	\$1,001.84	\$0.00	\$855.51	\$855.70	\$0.19
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	\$20,896.57	\$20,902.80	\$6.23	\$20,298.02	\$20,307.15	\$9.13	\$16,350.28	\$16,557.58	\$207.30

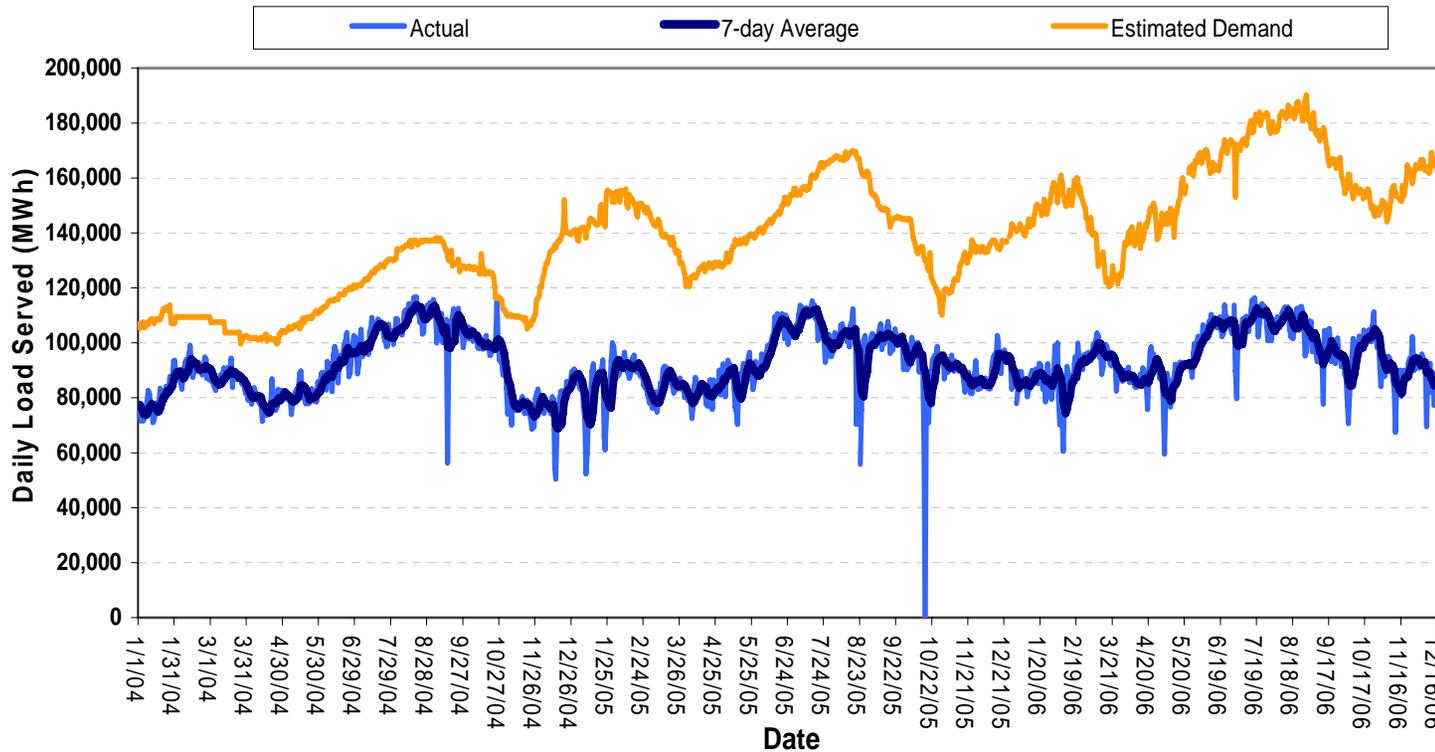
As of December 19, 2006



[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 December 14-20, electricity availability averaged 6.3 hours per day in Baghdad and 9.3 hours nationwide. Electricity output for the week was 9% below the same period in 2005.



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

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Transportation:

- Construction was completed on the Roads Sub-base and Resurfacing project in Basrah province December 13. This road project constructed a two-lane, 2 km bituminous roadway and will serve 180 houses in the al-Quba area, as well as improve access to emergency services and enhance local residents' access to all government services.

Infrastructure:

- Construction was completed on three Gas and Oil Separation Plant projects in Basrah province December 7. The \$15 million, US Army- funded project replaced looted and missing items, rehabilitated each plant (to include restoring electrical systems) and provided commissioning assistance. These projects will help increase Iraq's crude oil processing capacity, support liquefied petroleum gas production and sustain crude oil flow in pipelines.



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

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Water:

- The Ministry of Water Resources will lead a delegation of eight Iraqi government officials, which also includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment, and the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Irrigation, to participate in a bilateral technical-level meeting with Turkey December 14 to discuss water issues.
- The Turks and Iraqis resumed bilateral discussions in May after a hiatus of 13 years; this will be the second meeting for renewed dialogue. Topics of discussion will likely be domestic water usage in both countries and construction of the Ilisu Dam in Turkey.
- Construction began on the Boetha Water Treatment plant in Karadah, Baghdad province. The \$381,000 US Army-funded project included installation of a treatment plant with a capacity of 200 cubic meters per hour to augment the existing community system that serves 18,000 residents of Abu Nuwass. The project is scheduled to be completed in April 2007.



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Oil Update:

- Crude oil price averages in world markets for the week ending December 15 closed with the following prices:
 - Basrah Light at \$55.61/barrel
 - Dated Brent at \$62.28/barrel
 - WTI Cushing at \$61.91/barrel
 - Oman/Dubai at \$57.99/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)	23,109	23,109	0.00%
USAID	60,675	59,264	-2.33%
AIRP (Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program)	608	608	0.00%
MILCON (Military Construction)	91	91	0.00%
CERP*	7,234	7,234	0.00%
MNSTC-I	12,064	12,064	0.00%
IRRF NON-CONSTRUCTION	6,481	6,481	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	110,262	108,851	-1.28%

* CERP employment numbers are representative of Baghdad only.

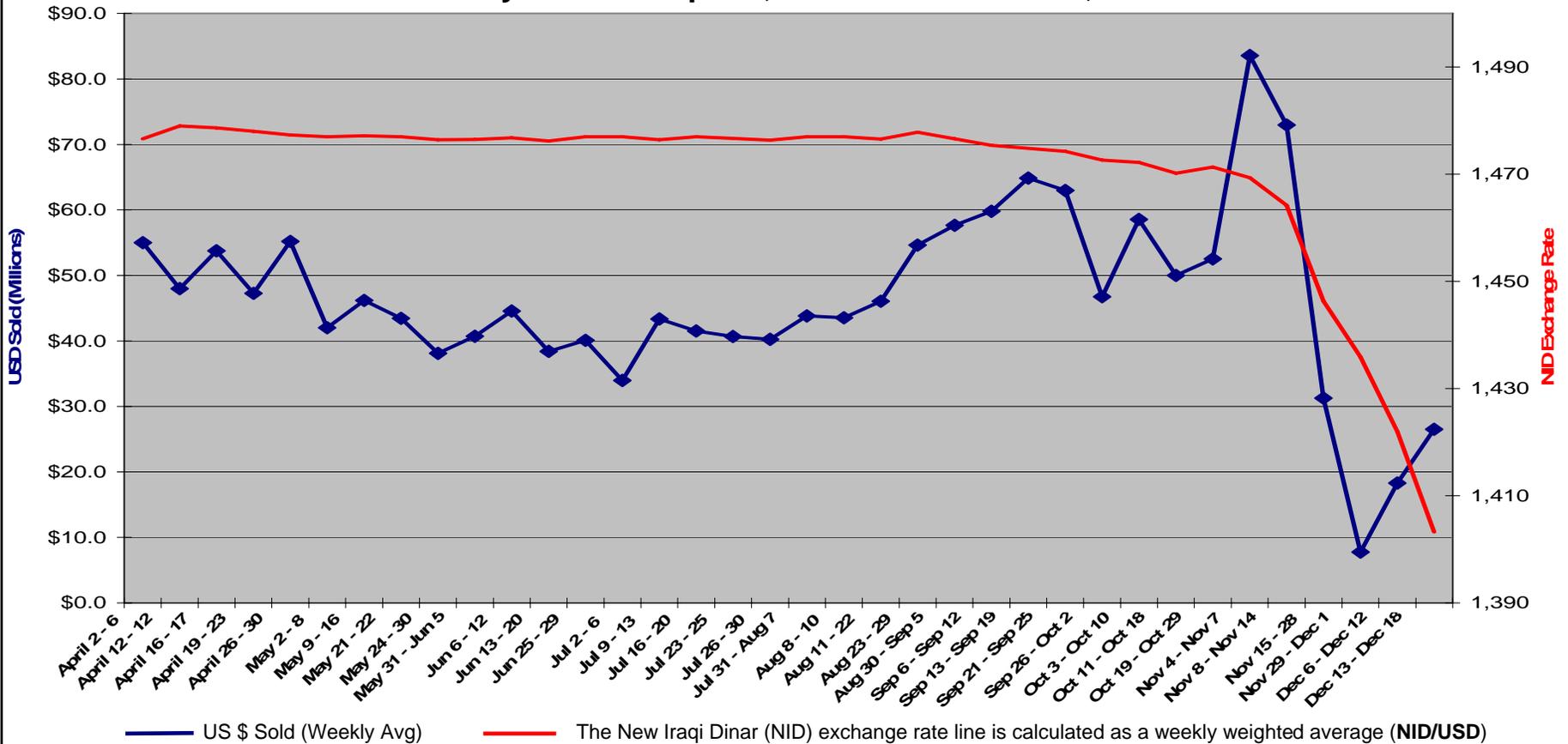


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy - Banking Sector

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 April. Since September, the Central Bank has begun slowly appreciating the dinar, as suggested by the IMF, to tackle rampant inflation over the past year. This welcome increase in the dinar's value against the dollar is reflected in the figure below.

**Central Bank of Iraq
USD Currency Auction: April 2, 2006 – December 18, 2006**



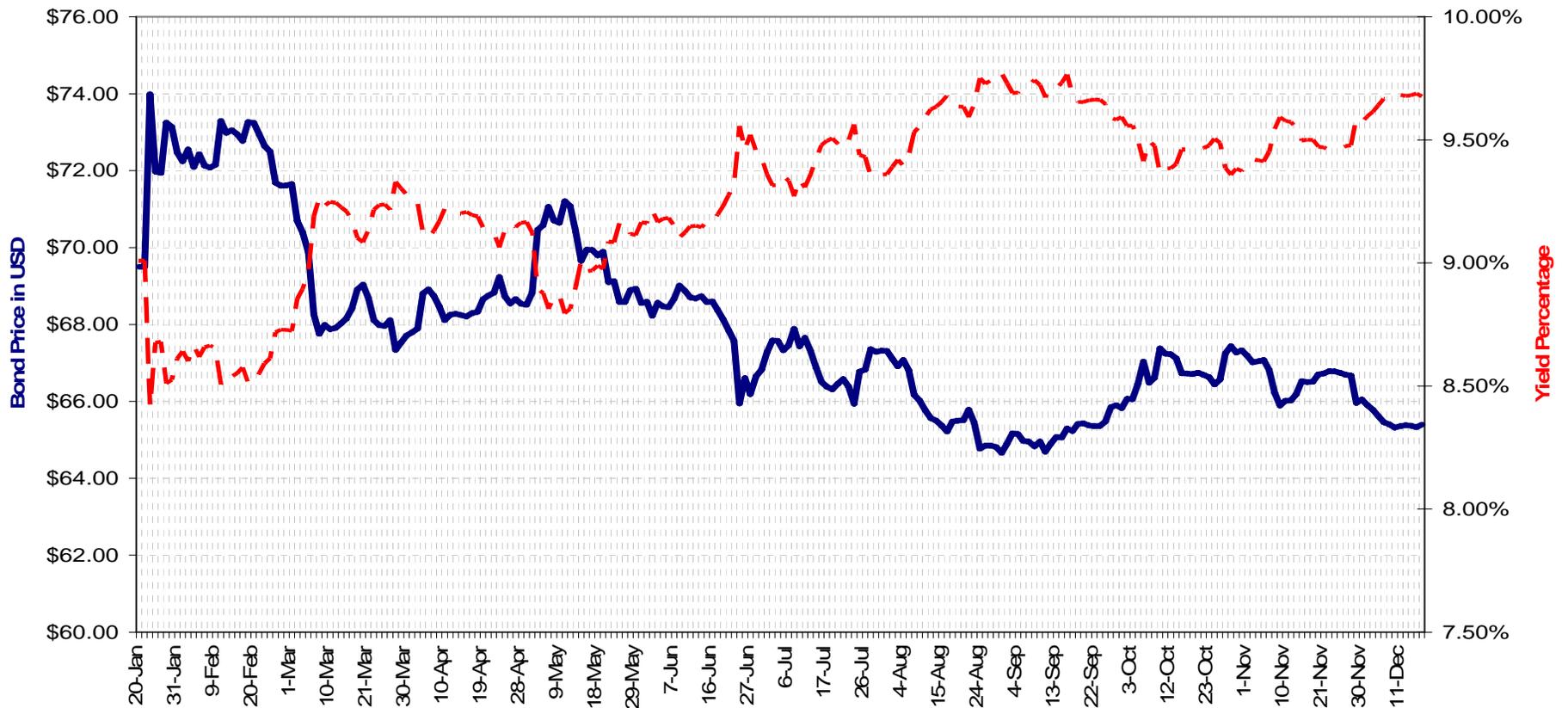


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Securities Markets

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 9.68 percent remains one of the highest in the world for sovereign debt instruments.

Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales
January 20, 2006 - December 15, 2006



Trading High = \$73.98 (January 24)

Trading Low = \$64.66 (August 30)



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

WTO Names Chair for Iraq's Working Party:

- At the end of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) General Council December 15, the organization announced Colombian Ambassador Claudia Uribe as chair of the Iraq Accession Working Party. In keeping with tradition, chairs are generally not nominated until there is consensus among the council members. Ambassador Uribe's appointment was announced without comment.

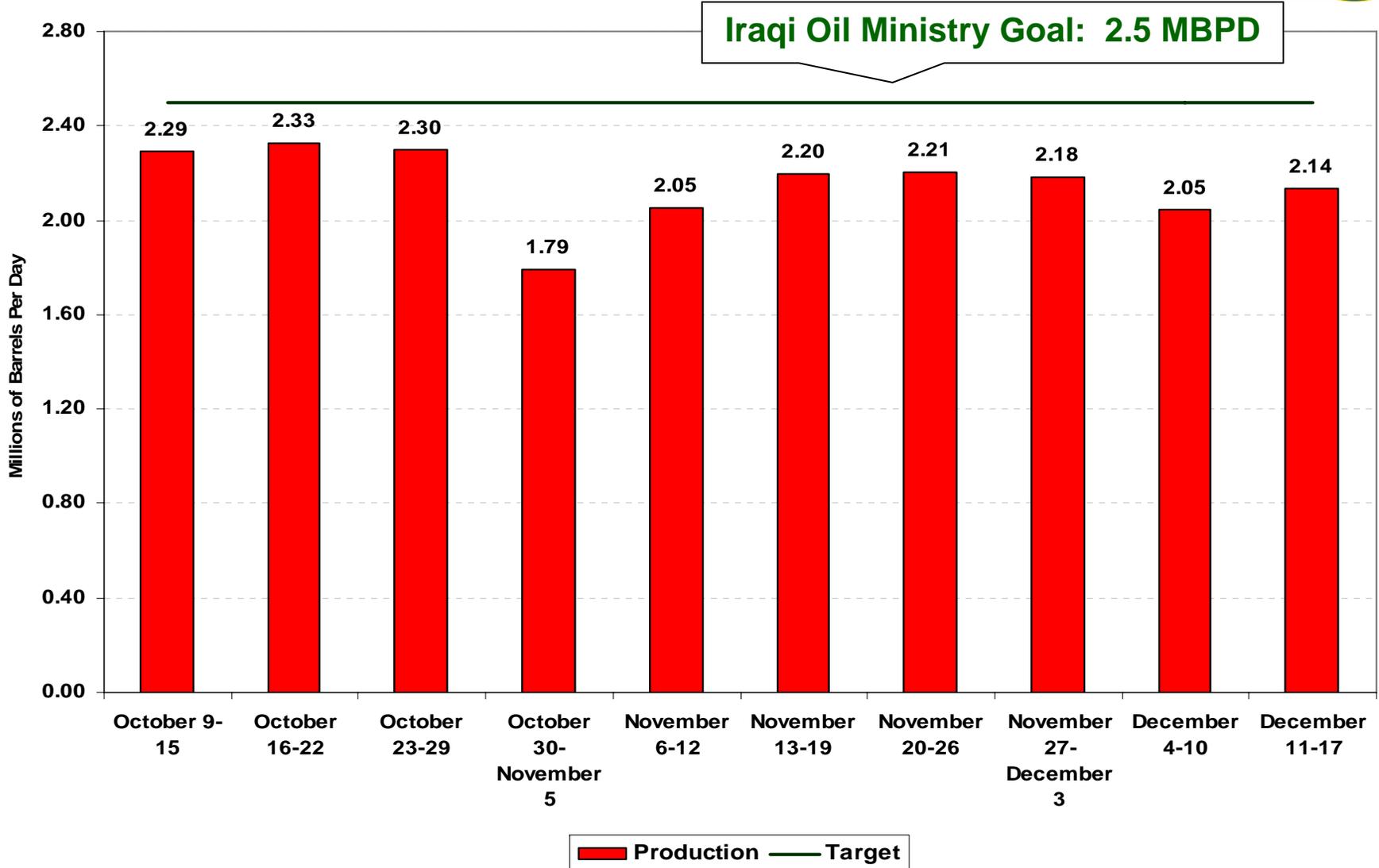
Iraq Central Bankers Attend Anti-Money Laundering Conference:

- Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) Governor Dr. Sinan al-Shabibi and two members of the bank's Money Laundering Reporting Office attended a three-day US-Middle East/North Africa (MENA) conference that focused on anti-money laundering and countering terrorism finance efforts among US and MENA banks. Private banks and regulators from both regions participated. There was in-depth discussion on "knowing your customer" and efforts to identify suspicious transactions.



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

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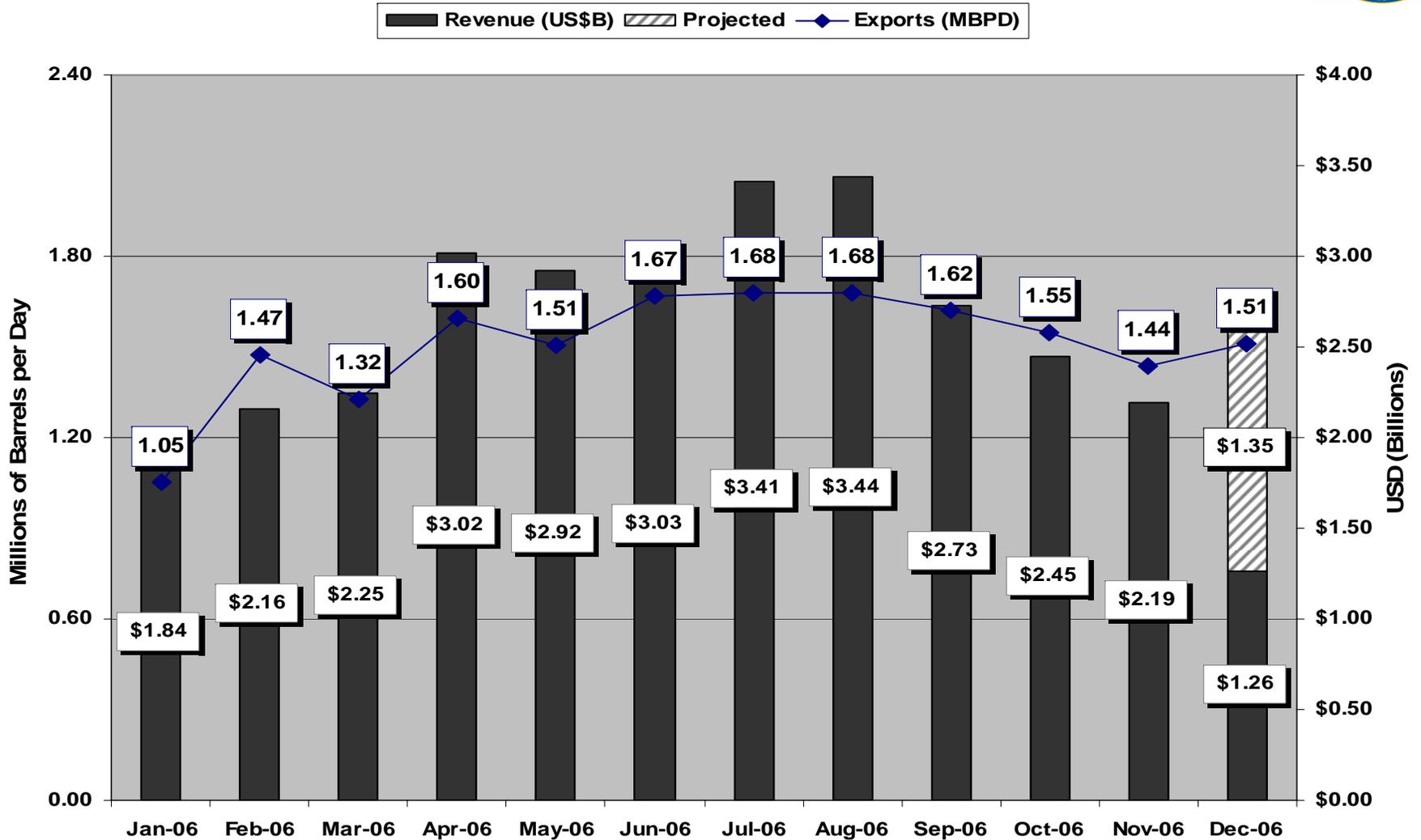


- Weekly Average (December 11-17) of 2.14 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD)



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

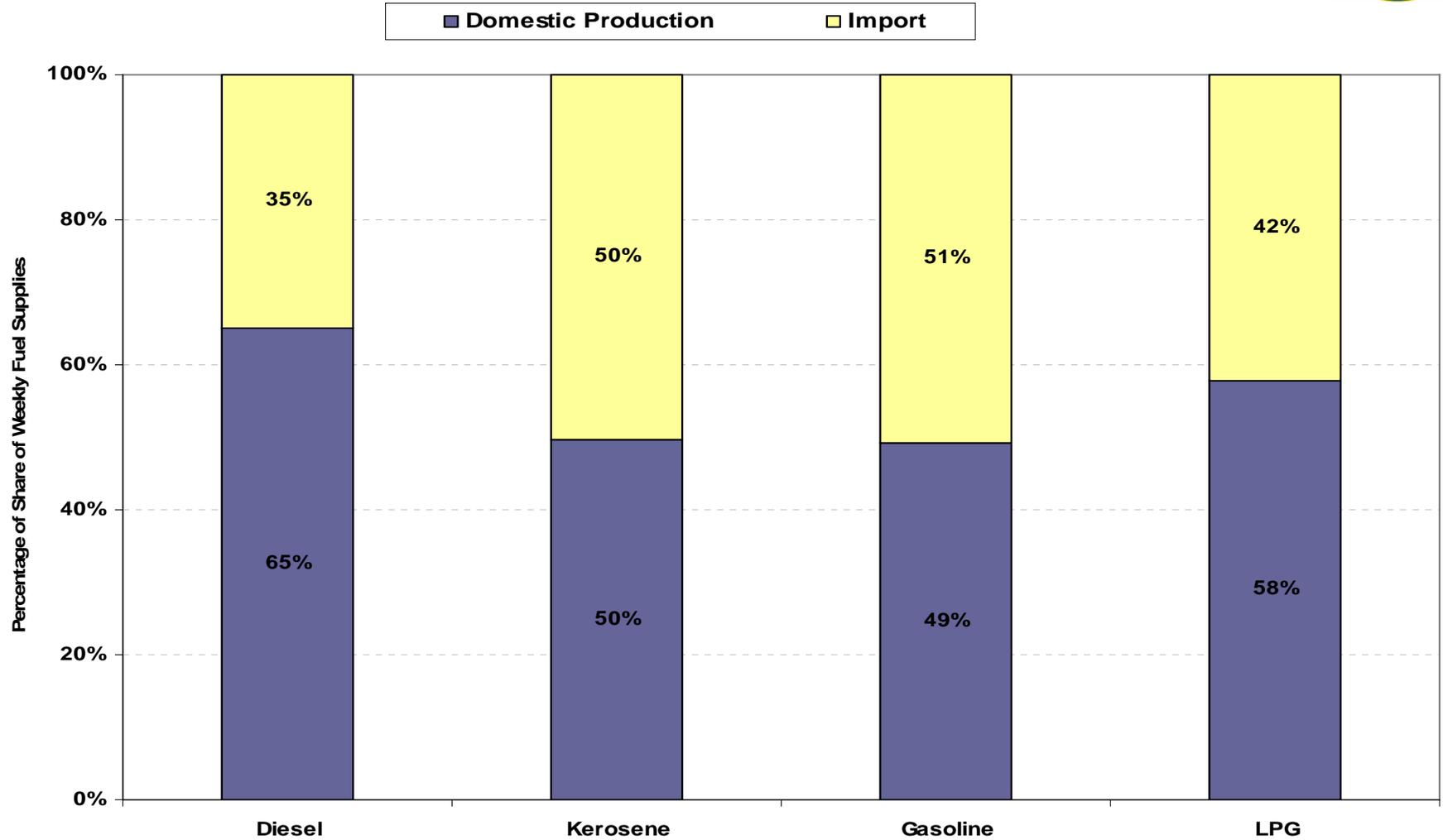


- 2005 Revenue Estimate: \$23.5 Billion
- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$30.7 Billion (Year to Date)



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

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



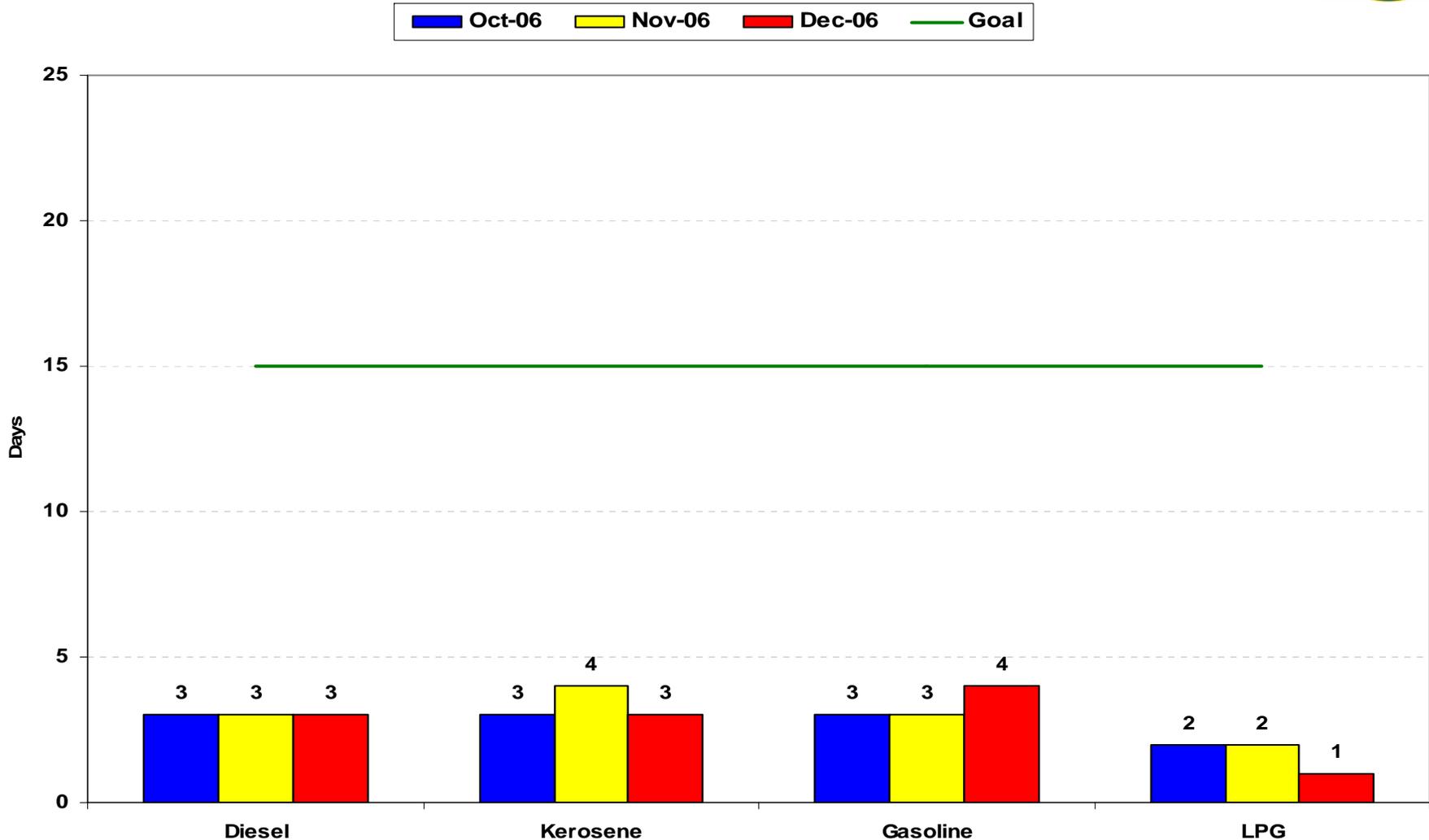
Note: This is a daily average for the week of December 11 – 17

- Diesel: 7.7 ML supply of 21.0 ML target
- Kerosene: 6.7 ML supply of 16.8 ML target
- Gasoline: 8.0 ML supply of 22.5 ML target
- LPG: 2,095 tons supply of 5,630 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

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CCCI Convicts 16 Insurgents:

- The Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) convicted 16 security detainees December 1-7, for various crimes including illegal possession of special category weapons, violation of the terrorist laws, failure to renew resident identification and illegal border crossing.
- The trial court found a Libyan man guilty of violating Article 4/1 of the Terrorist Law. The defendant was captured during a targeted raid and admitted to participating in eight separate attacks against Multi-National Forces and Iraqi security targets, including small arms fire, RPG and missile attacks. He also admitted to being a member of al-Qaeda in Iraq. The trial panel considered all the evidence and sentenced him to death December 6.
- Since its reorganization, under an amendment to Coalition Provisional Authority order 13, in April 2004, the CCCI has held 1,767 trials for Coalition-apprehended insurgents. The proceedings have resulted in the conviction of 1,521 individuals.

Prosecutor Implicates Hussein In Attacks:

- The chief prosecutor in Saddam Hussein's trial presented memos December 18 from Saddam's office approving chemical attacks against Kurdish villages, the most serious evidence against him in his genocide trial. Munqith al-Faroon showed the Iraqi court trying Hussein and six other former regime members about 25 documents, including some presidential letters instructing the army to use "special ammunition" - identified as mustard gas - to quell a Kurdish rebellion in 1987. Some of the documents bore Hussein's signature, Faroon said.



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

Riyadh Denies it Will Take Sides in Iraq Conflict:

- Saudi Arabian foreign minister Prince Saud al-Faisal denied reports that his country would intervene to support Iraq's Sunni population in the event of a US pullout, saying, "Since the beginning of the crisis in Iraq and the formation of the government ... (Saudi Arabia) has been saying that it stands at an equal distance from all Iraqi factions." He added, "We do not pose as guardians of one faction or sect."

Prime Minister Maliki Meets Bulgarian Counterpart in Baghdad:

- Prime Minister Maliki met with Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev, on a visit to Iraq, to thank the Bulgarian government for its support of Iraq. Maliki called on Bulgaria to take part in the Conference on International Compact with Iraq, scheduled to be held early next year.

Senators Kerry and Dodd in Syria for Talks on Iraq:

- Senators John Kerry and Christopher Dodd arrived in Syria December 19 to discuss how Damascus could help bring about stability and security in Iraq. This visit follows a similar one by Senator Bill Nelson, who met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in early December.



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

Data as of December 8, 2006

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

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

TOTAL ~ 16,860 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 25 countries listed above, the US, Fiji, and six NATO, non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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

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Iraq Deadliest for Journalists:

- According to a report released December 20 by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), at least 32 journalists have been killed in Iraq in 2006, with murder the leading cause.
- The report by CPJ names Iraq as the world's most dangerous country for the news media for the fourth straight year.

Pope Urges Aide for Iraq Refugees:

- Before issuing his traditional message to pilgrims at St. Peter's Square December 17, Pope Benedict XVI called on the international community to increase aid for hundreds of thousands of Iraqi refugees in Syria.
- The Pope called on "the sensitivity of individuals, of international organisations, and of governments" to provide a "supplementary effort" to Iraqis stranded by the ongoing conflict in their country.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported last month that around 2,000 Iraqis were fleeing each day into neighboring Syria, and around 1,000 to Jordan. In total, according to the UN agency, more than 700,000 Iraqis have sought refuge in Jordan and 600,000 in Syria.



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 Tamim/Kirkuk; Ninewa/Mosul; Babil/Hillah; Baghdad; Anbar/Ramadi; Diyala/Baquba; Salah ad-Din; Basrah; and Dhi Qar. PRTs 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?

Please visit <http://careers.state.gov/opportunities/iraq/index.html> for a list of available positions



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 3)

Slide 5:

- Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq (9010 Quarterly Report to Congress), November 30, 2006 – (<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/9010Quarterly-Report-20061216.pdf>)
- The New York Times, David Cloud and Michael Gordon, 18 December 2006 -- (http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/19/world/middleeast/19military.html?hp&ex=1166504400&en=e2248586e9f15b61&ei=5094&partner=homepage_)

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Slide 7:

- MNF-I Press Release – 19 December 2006 – (http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8230&Itemid=18)
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- “Red Crescent Stops Work in Baghdad after Kidnap.” Middle East Online. December 18, 2006. <http://195.224.230.11/english/iraq/?id=18814>
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- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 12:

- IRMO Weekly Report, December 19, 2006



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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Slide 13:

- POC Bob Means (202) 647-9815
- 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:

Transportation:

- Embassy Baghdad/MNFI Joint Public Affairs Guidance - December 18-25

Infrastructure:

- USACE Daily Report - 19 December

Slide 15:

Water:

- IRMO Weekly Report – Dec 12
- USACE Daily Report - 15 December 06

Slide 16:

- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Employment Update:

- Information regarding the Employment Update was sourced from the IRMO Weekly Report – December 19, 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:

- Iraqi Bond Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Slide 19:

- DoS IIC – Dec 15 – Unclassified
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- AFP, "Pope Benedict XVI Pleads for Help for Iraq Refugees in Syria," December 17

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