OPERATION AL FAJR

The Battle of Fallujah
Damage Prevention

• Organizational Actions
  – Proper Preparation
    • Planning and Rehearsals
    • Detailed Orders and Instructions
    • Coordination and Focus of Resources – Leveraging Technology
  – Opportunity Driven Operations
    • Intent Driven
    • Flexible and Adaptable
  – Operational Risk Management
    • Consequence and Probability of Occurrence
    • Mitigation
  – Leadership and Supervision

• Individual Actions
  – Professional Training and Execution
  – Initiative Driven - Creativity
  – Courageous Leaders
  – Responsible Action
  – Standards of the Nation
Background

- **Fallujah**
  - Center of Criminal Activity
  - Isolated City
  - Infrastructure in Shambles

- **Timeline**
  - Ambush of “Blackwater” Contractors (31 March 04)
  - Operation Vigilant Resolve Commences (April 04)
  - Fallujah Brigade Stands-up

- **Enemy Forces**
  - Former Regime Elements
  - Islamic Extremists
  - Tribes
  - Criminal Elements
Railroad Station

Jolan Park

Government Center

Jolan District

Hadrah Mosque

Industrial District

Clover Leaf

MSR Mobile

MSR Michigan

Fallujah Hospital

North Bridge

South Bridge

Euphrates River

Peninsula

Fallujah

Key Terrain

Major Todd M. Hunt

Euphrates River
Mission

AT H HOUR ON D+1, 1ST MARINE DIVISION (-) (REIN) ATTACKS TO DESTROY ANTI-IRAQI FORCES IN FALLUJAH IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH LEGITIMATE LOCAL CONTROL
PHASE I
(Preparation/Shaping)

- OPERATIONAL PLANNING
  - ROC DRILLS/REHEARSAL

- MOVEMENT OF FORCES
  - RIP/ BATTLE HANDOVERS WITHIN THE DIVISION AO
  - BLACK WATCH TO NORTH BABIL

- INTEGRATION
  - IRAQI SECURITY FORCES
  - U.S. ARMY UNITS
  - JOINT SPECIAL OPERATION SNIPERS

- FSSG BUILDS IRON MOUNTAIN
  - SET CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS -
PHASE I  
(Preparation/Shaping)

- FEINTS
- RAIDS
- CORDON AND SEARCHES
- VEHICLE CHECKPOINT (VCPS)
- INDIRECT FIRES AND CAS
- INFORMATION OPS AND PSYOPS
- TARGETING OF AIF LEADERSHIP
- SPECIAL OPERATION FORCES
  TARGETING OF HIGH-VALUE TARGETS

**DESIRED ENEMY ENDSTATE**

- CONFUSED AS TO MNF INTENTIONS
- WEDGE DRIVEN BETWEEN POPULACE AND AIF
- C² NODES EXPOSED AND DESTROYED
- DEFENSES IDENTIFIED
- HEIGHTENED STATE OF PARANOIA AND ANXIETY
PHASE II  D-DAY (7 NOV 04)  
(Enhanced Shaping)

- ISOLATION OF FALLUJAH BY BLACK JACK BRIGADE
- MOVEMENT OF FORCES INTO ATTACK POSITIONS
- JOINT FIRES
- ELECTRONIC ATTACK
- PENINSULA ASSAULT
  - FALLUJAH HOSPITAL SECURED
  - BRIDGES SECURED/BLOCKING POSITIONS ESTABLISHED
ME: RCT - 1 (-)(REIN)
- On D-Day block access to the peninsula
- Move into attack positions

TF 3rd LAR
- At H-hour (1900L) on D-Day, attack in zone to secure the peninsula
- NLT H+6 establish blocking POS IVO of (2) bridges

36 CDO
- NLT H+8, seize Fallujah hospital

SE1: RCT-7 (-)(REIN)
- Move into attack positions

SE2: BLACK JACK BDE
- Guard movement of assault BNs into APs
- Interdict insurgents in AO Raleigh
- Block South/Southeast of Fallujah
PHASE III  D+1 (8 NOV 04)  
( Assault) 

• RAPID PENETRATION INTO CITY
  – EXPLOIT SHOCK, FIREPOWER, AND MOBILITY OF ARMORED FORCES
  – COMBINED ARMS ATTACK
    • ARMY/MARINE ARTILLERY
    • JOINT CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

• SEARCH AND ATTACK IN ZONE

• BLACK JACK BRIGADE CONTINUES TO ISOLATE FALLUJAH AND PROTECT DIVISION REAR AREA

• INTELLIGENCE EXPLOITATION

• INFORMATION OPERATIONS
ME: RCT 1 (-)(REIN)
- AT A-HOUR (1900L) ON D+1, CONDUCT PENETRATION IN ZONE
- CONTINUE ATTACK TO SECURE JOLAN DISTRICT

SE1: RCT-7 (-)(REIN)
- AT A-HOUR, CONDUCT PENETRATION IN ZONE TO SEIZE HADRAH MOSQUE & GOV'T CENTER
- SECURE MSR MICHIGAN IN ZONE

SE2: BLACK JACK BDE
- INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RALEIGH
- BLOCK SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF FALLUJAH
- SECURITY OF MSR MOBILE & MICHIGAN IN ZONE
ME: RCT 1 (-)(REIN)
- SEARCH & ATTACK IN ZONE
SE1: RCT-7 (-)(REIN)
- CONTINUE SEARCH & ATTACK IN ZONE (SOUTHERN FALLUJAH)
- SECURE MSR MICHIGAN IN ZONE
SE2: BLACK JACK BDE
- INTERDICT INSURGENTS IN AO RALEIGH
- BLOCK SOUTH/SOUTHEAST OF FALLUJAH
- SECURITY OF MSR MOBILE & MICHIGAN IN ZONE
PHASE III-A BRANCH PLAN (EXECUTED 11 NOV)

ME: RCT-1 (-) (REIN)
- CONTINUE PENETRATION SOUTH
- SEARCH & ATTACK NORTH OF MSR MICHIGAN

SE1: RCT-7 (-) (REIN)
- CONTINUE PENETRATION SOUTH
- SEARCH & ATTACK NORTH OF MSR MICHIGAN

SE2: BLACKJACK BDE
- CONTINUE TO ISOLATE FALLUJAH
Enemy Tactics

DEFENSIVE BELTS
– DAISY CHAINED IEDs
– SMALL UNIT STRONGPOINTS
– USE OF PROTECTED SITES (e.g. MOSQUES, SCHOOLS)
– TUNNEL SYSTEMS
– WEAPONS CACHES
– HIT AND FALL BACK
– INDIRECT FIRE
– FALSE SURRENDER
– DRUG USE

ATTRITION
– VBIED OR SUICIDE BOMBERS
– BOOBY-TRAPS
  • BUILDINGS/CACHES
  • INSURGENTS (DEAD AND WOUNDED)
– SNIPERS
– LAST STAND POSITIONS

SUICIDE VESTS

IEDs

WEAPONS CACHE
1ST MARDIV DISCOVERIES IN FALLUJAH

- WPNS CACHE (568)
- MOSQUES USED AS FIGHTING POSITIONS (47)
- IED FACTORY (24)
- VBIED FACTORY (2)
- C² NODES (13)
- HOSTAGE LOCATIONS (4)
PHASE III INTO PHASE IV

CIVILIAN CONTRACTERS
SEABEES
USAF DOG TEAMS

ARMY/MARINE CAG
IRAQI GOV’T OFFICIALS

ARMY/MARINE/NAVY EOD

• ESTABLISH CMOC
• REMAINS REMOVAL
• FOOD DISTRIBUTION
• EOD/CACHE CLEARANCE
• WATER REMOVAL
• RUBBLE REMOVAL

• CONTINUE CLEARING OPERATIONS
• SANITATION IMPROVEMENTS
• ELECTRICAL GRID REPAIRS
• PEST CONTROL
• ENTRY CONTROL POINTS ESTABLISHED

ARMY/MARINE ENGINEERS
Population Resettlement

- **PHASED RETURN BY DISTRICT**
  (23 DEC 04 – 14 JAN 05)
  - LINKED TO HUMANITARIAN RESOURCES & SECURITY

- **CIVIL AFFAIRS PROVIDED BASIC NEEDS FOR RETURNING CITIZENS**

- **ISF AND MNF PROVIDED SECURITY & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- **RESTORATION OF BASIC SERVICES (UTILITIES/MEDICAL)**
Elections in Fallujah

- 30 JANUARY 05
- FIVE POLLING CENTERS
- IECI VOLUNTEERS
- SIGNIFICANT VOTER TURN-OUT DESPITE SUNNI BOYCOTT AND INSURGENT INTIMIDATION
- ISF PROVIDED SECURITY
Sgt Norwood 3/1 Fallujah