

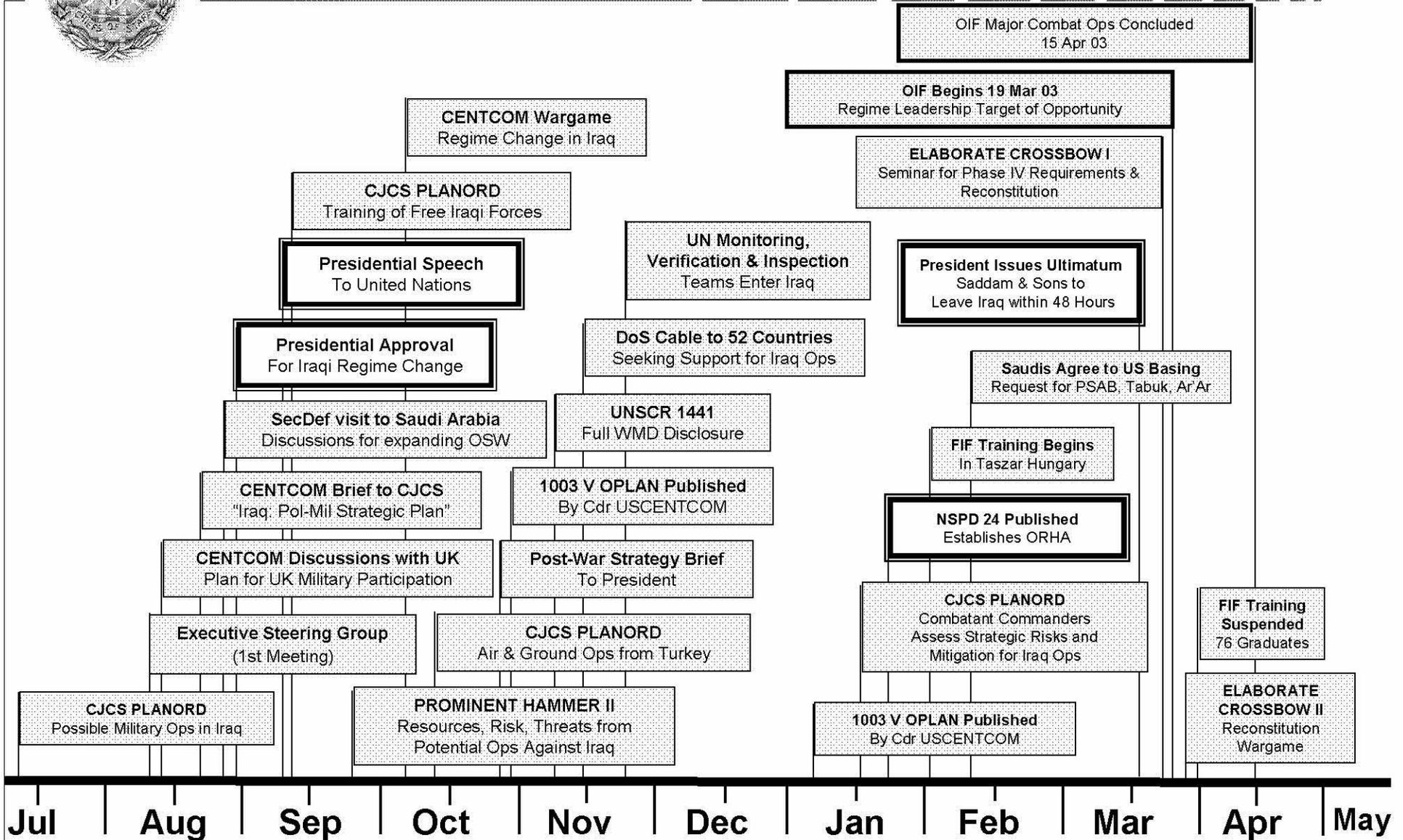
# *Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) History Brief*

~~SECRET NOFORN~~ 14 0630 May 03

Classified by: Lt Gen N.A. Schwartz, DJ-3  
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Declassify on: 8 May 13



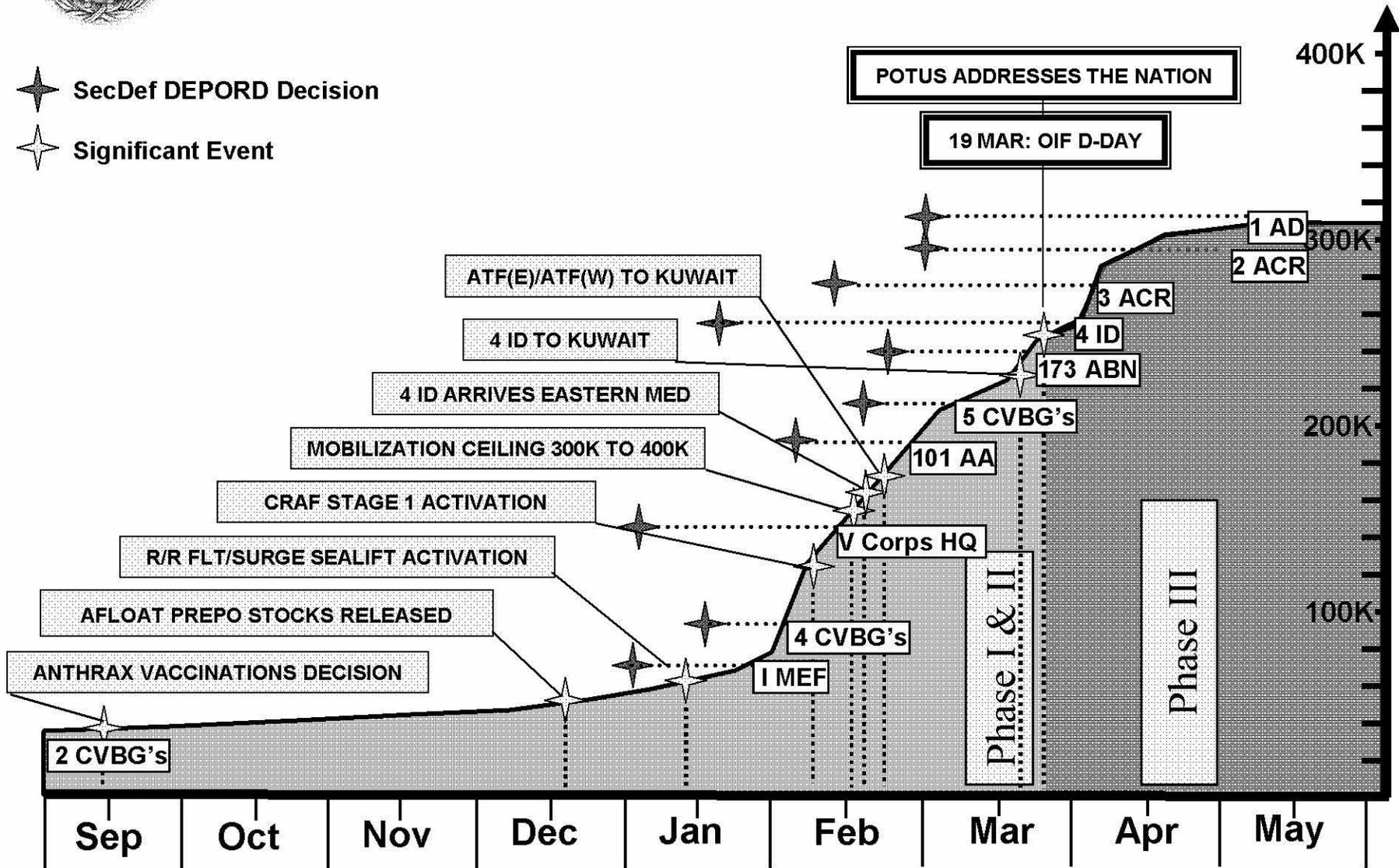
# OIF Strategic Steps - Key Dates





# OIF Force Flow & Key Dates

- ★ SecDef DEPORD Decision
- ☆ Significant Event





## *OIF Strategic Steps - Key Dates*

### **9 Jul 02**

CJCS issues Planning Order for possible military operations against Iraq.

### **12 Aug 02**

Initial meeting of the Executive Steering Group.

### **13 Aug 02.**

COMUSCENTCOM meets with UK Chief of Joint Operations--requests an analysis of capabilities requirements by 25 Sep 02. Plan calls for UK forces to assemble and deploy from Turkey.

### **22 Aug 02**

CJS briefing, "Iraq: Political-Military Strategic Plan," describes Northern Front and Turkish air base operability as critical. CENTCOM plan calls for near simultaneous employment of both north and south forces.

### **27 Aug 02**

SecDef visit to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia--asks for greater cooperation for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW) including: expanding air operations, sharing of intelligence, unrestricted overflight and hot pursuit of terrorists from Yemen. KSA is informed that no decision on Iraq has been made.

### **29 Aug 02**

President approves overthrow of Saddam Hussein regime.



## *OIF Strategic Steps - Key Dates*

### **11 Sep 02**

President's speech to United Nations.

### **12 Sep 02**

CJCS issues planning order for training Free Iraqi Forces (FIF). Anticipate as many as 3700 acceptable volunteers.

### **17 Sep 02**

The President issues "The National Security Strategy of the United States of America."

### **25-26 Sep 02**

PROMINENT HAMMER II. Seminar to analyze potential resources required, risk and possible threat actions involved in potential operations against Iraq.

### **4-5 Oct 02**

CENTCOM War Game for the overthrow of Iraqi regime.

### **7 Oct 02**

CJCS issues planning order for air and ground operations from Turkey. Northern Front is no longer an "option," but an integral part of the plan.



## *OIF Strategic Steps - Key Dates*

### **28 Oct 02**

Post-War Strategy Brief to POTUS – Designates DOD as lead agency for Post-War effort and outlines strategic concept for Post-War.

### **29 Oct 02**

CJCS issues “National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism.”

### **31 Oct 02**

CDRUSCENTCOM publishes 1003V.

### **8 Nov 02**

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1441).

### **15 Nov 02**

DoS sends cables to 52 countries seeking support for potential combat operations in Iraq.

### **27 Nov 02**

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Committee (UNMOVIC) enters Iraq.



## *OIF Strategic Steps - Key Dates*

### **10 Jan 03**

PH IV EXORD released directing USJFCOM to form, train, and prep for deployment TF 4 in support of CENTCOM post-war planning.

### **16 Jan 03**

CJCS issues PLANORD for Combatant Commanders and Services to assess strategic tasks, capabilities required and potential threats in light of possible operations against Iraq. Commander's estimate of potential risks and mitigation required NLT 31 Jan 03.

### **20 Jan 03**

NSPD 24 published--establishes the "Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance" to conduct PW planning utilizing personnel from USG IA.

### **27-28 Jan 03**

Exercise PREDOMINANT CHALLENGE explores US military and policy responses to potential Israeli military actions resulting from an Iraqi attack on Israel.

### **1 Feb 03**

Training of FIF commences in Taszar, Hungary.

### **12 Feb 03**

Saudis agree in principle to US basing requests at Prince Sultan Airbase, Tabuk and Ar'Ar.



## *OIF Strategic Steps - Key Dates*

### **17 Mar 03**

President issues ultimatum for Saddam Hussein and his two sons to leave Iraq within 48 hours or suffer the consequences.

### **18-20 Mar 03**

Elaborate Crossbow (EC) I Seminar. Joint Staff, Services and Combatant Commanders examine Phase IV requirements and force reconstitution.

### **19 Mar 03**

Operation IRAQI FREEDOM begins with a target of opportunity strike against Saddam and top leadership.

### **25-26 Mar 03**

Exercise ELEGORATE CROSSBOW.

### **31 Mar 03**

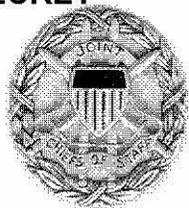
Free Iraqi Force (FIF) training suspended; 76 graduates.

### **1 May 03**

From the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the President declares major combat operations have ended and the war has entered a stability and security operations phase.

### **7-8 May 03**

Exercise ELABORATE CROSSBOW II.



## *Chronology of OIF - Combat Phase*

### **19 Mar**

War begins – D day. F-117s and cruise missiles strike Baghdad in an attempt to eliminate senior Iraqi leadership. Coalition air forces strike air defense and missile sites. President Bush addresses the nation. Patriots destroy two Iraqi missiles.

### **20 Mar**

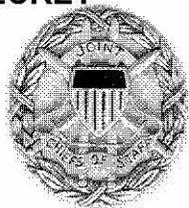
Ground war begins – G day. I MEF and UK Div cross into Iraq to seize and protect southern Iraq's oil fields. 3rd ID rolls into southern Iraq, meeting only light resistance. Special Operations Forces go into action throughout western and southern Iraq. CH-46E crashes in northern Kuwait, killing all on board.

### **21 Mar**

The 3rd ID advances almost 100 miles into Iraq. SEALs and coalition special forces seize Iraq's major gas and oil terminals in the northern Persian Gulf, and Talil and Jalibah airfields. UK Div seizes the Al Faw peninsula. UK and 1st MEF capture Umm Qasr. First elements of the 101st AA cross into Iraq.

### **22 Mar**

3rd ID clashes with Iraqi troops, killing 45 of the enemy. 3rd ID bypasses urban areas and resistance, penetrating 150 miles into Iraq. UK and I MEF close on Basrah. Spotted Iraqi resistance grows along the main supply route, especially at the Euphrates River crossing at An Nasiriyah. A Predator unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) destroys a ZSU 23-4 radar-guided anti-aircraft artillery vehicle outside the town of Al Amarah. This is the first armed UAV kill in Iraq.



## *Chronology of OIF - Combat Phase*

### **23 Mar**

101st AA conducts an air assault into Iraq. Soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company are ambushed by Iraqi irregulars at An Nasiriyah. Five later appear as prisoners on Iraqi television; seven are missing.

### **24 Mar**

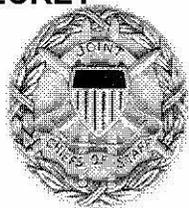
3rd ID reaches Karbala, within 50 miles of Baghdad. 11th ACR helicopters attack Republican Guard positions amid intense counterfire. One AH-64 goes down and the two-man crew is captured. I MEF launches a sustained operation to clear An Nasiriyah. A massive sandstorm engulfs central and western Iraq.

### **25 Mar**

Amidst the sandstorm, 3rd ID battles the Medina Division outside of Karbala. 3-7th CAV repulses an attack near An Najaf. In Basrah, Iraqi forces repress an insurrection by its citizens and UK Div defeats a counter attack outside the city destroying 20 T-55 tanks. 1st MEF finds 3,000 chemical protection suits at a hospital in Nasiriyah - a site that had been used as a base for paramilitary fighters.

### **26 Mar**

Two separate columns of Republican Guard vehicles driving south out of Baghdad are struck by Coalition air forces. Elements of 3rd ID encircle An Najaf killing approximately 1,000 enemy soldiers in a pitched battle. Soldiers of the 173rd ABN conduct a night drop onto Bashur airfield in the Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq. First humanitarian aid convoy reaches Safwan.



## *Chronology of OIF - Combat Phase*

### **27 Mar**

3rd ID engages Iraqi irregulars at As Samawah. 1st ID tanks airlifted to Bashur airfield. Iraqi forces abandon bunkers on a ridge near the Kurdish-controlled area in northern Iraq after heavy coalition airstrikes.

### **28 Mar**

101st AA AH-64s attack Iraqi troops near Karbala, destroying numerous tanks and trucks. 1st MEF exchanges tank and artillery fire with Iraqi forces near An Nasiriyah. Iraqi irregulars open fire on fleeing civilians in Basra. Iraqi CSSC-3 missile hits vicinity an empty shopping center in Kuwait at night, causing no casualties.

### **29 Mar**

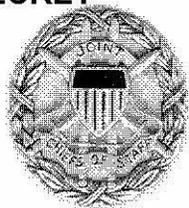
Four soldiers of the 3rd ID are killed by a suicide bomber in a taxi cab at a checkpoint at An Najaf. 82nd ABN completes relief-in-place of 3rd ID units vicinity Tallil airfield. 1st MEF destroys Ba'ath Party headquarters in Al Fajr. UK Div fired artillery at Ba'ath Party buildings in Basrah killing an estimated 125 enemy combatants.

### **30 Mar**

Elements of the 101st AA besiege Al Najaf. 3rd ID pushes north to Hillah.

### **31 Mar**

A van carrying Iraqi civilians is fired upon by soldiers of the 3rd ID when it fails to stop near Karbala. A water pipeline is established in Umm Qasr for civilian use. 3rd ID clashes with enemy troops in house-to-house fighting in southeast of Karbala, killing and capturing many Iraqi soldiers and destroying the Baath party headquarters.



## *Chronology of OIF - Combat Phase*

### **1 Apr**

PFC Jessica Lynch rescued by special operations forces from a hospital in An Nasiriyah. 3rd ID battles the Medina Division outside Karbala. 101st AA enters An Najaf. 1st MARDIV attacks Al Kut.

### **2 Apr**

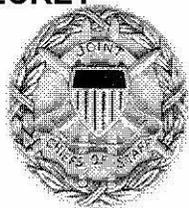
The 3rd ID crosses the Euphrates River at Musayyib. 1st MARDIV attacks the Baghdad Division after crossing the Tigris River at An Numaniyah. 101st AA enters An Najaf. 82nd ABN seizes a water treatment plant in As Samawah.

### **3 Apr**

3rd ID fights its way into BIAP. Electricity is cut off in Baghdad leaving residents in the dark. 1st MARDIV attacks and destroys the Baghdad Division. U.S. Special Forces units and Kurdish militiamen capture the northern town of Bardarash.

### **4 Apr**

3rd ID takes over the BIAP following a tank battle. 1st MARDIV continues to attack NW to destroy the Al Nida Division. 101st AA begins pulling out of An Najaf to move north. 82nd ABN seizes parts of As Samawah. Three U.S. special operations soldiers killed when a car bomb explodes vicinity Haditha Dam. UK Div clashes with irregular forces during a raid in Basrah.



## *Chronology of OIF - Combat Phase*

### **5 Apr**

3rd ID element drives through southwestern Baghdad. 101st AA begins operation to clear and secure Karbala. I MEF enters Baghdad's southeastern suburbs. UK forces discover a warehouse filled with human remains in Basra. First U.N. food aid for northern Iraq arrives in Dihuk.

### **6 Apr**

U.S. aircraft land at the Baghdad airport. 3rd ID makes a second sweep through Baghdad. 101st AA takes control of Karbala. UK forces enter the center of Basrah. 173rd ABN artillery destroys Iraqi positions in northern Iraq. U.S. aircraft bomb an American and Kurdish column vicinity Dibagah.

### **7 Apr**

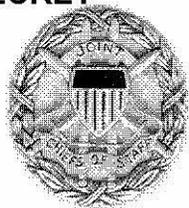
3rd ID seizes two Baghdad presidential palaces. Ist MEF moves further into eastern Baghdad. UK Div takes control of Basra. U.S. aircraft bomb a building suspected of housing Saddam Hussein and his two sons.

### **8 Apr**

3rd ID continues to seek and destroy pockets of resistance in Baghdad. Ist MEF captures Rasheed military air base in eastern Baghdad. 101st AA engages Iraqi forces in Hillah. A-10 shot down by an Iraqi missile.

### **9 Apr**

Resistance in Baghdad collapses and regime's control eliminated. Residents celebrate in the streets and topple icons of Saddam and the Ba'ath Party. White House summarizes events as an "historic moment," but cautions that the war is not over. Saddam Hussein's status remains unknown.



## *Chronology of OIF - Combat Phase*

### **10 Apr**

Cordon around Baghdad completed; continue to destroy enemy forces in Baghdad. 3rd ID secures An Najaf and begins humanitarian operations. UK Div continues to secure southern oil fields, and conducts civil affairs and humanitarian assistance operations in the southern zone. Iraqi citizens show increased willingness to assist Coalition forces since fall of Baghdad.

### **11 Apr**

3rd ID attacked to clear HWY 8. Special operations forces secure Kirkuk and associated airfields and oil fields, and establishes checkpoints along Jordanian and Syrian borders. UK Div attacked to secure Majnoon oil fields while stabilizing Basrah. Humanitarian assistance continues in An Nasirayah, Basrah and Umm Qatar. Pedestrian suicide bomber injures five US soldiers in Baghdad.

### **12 Apr**

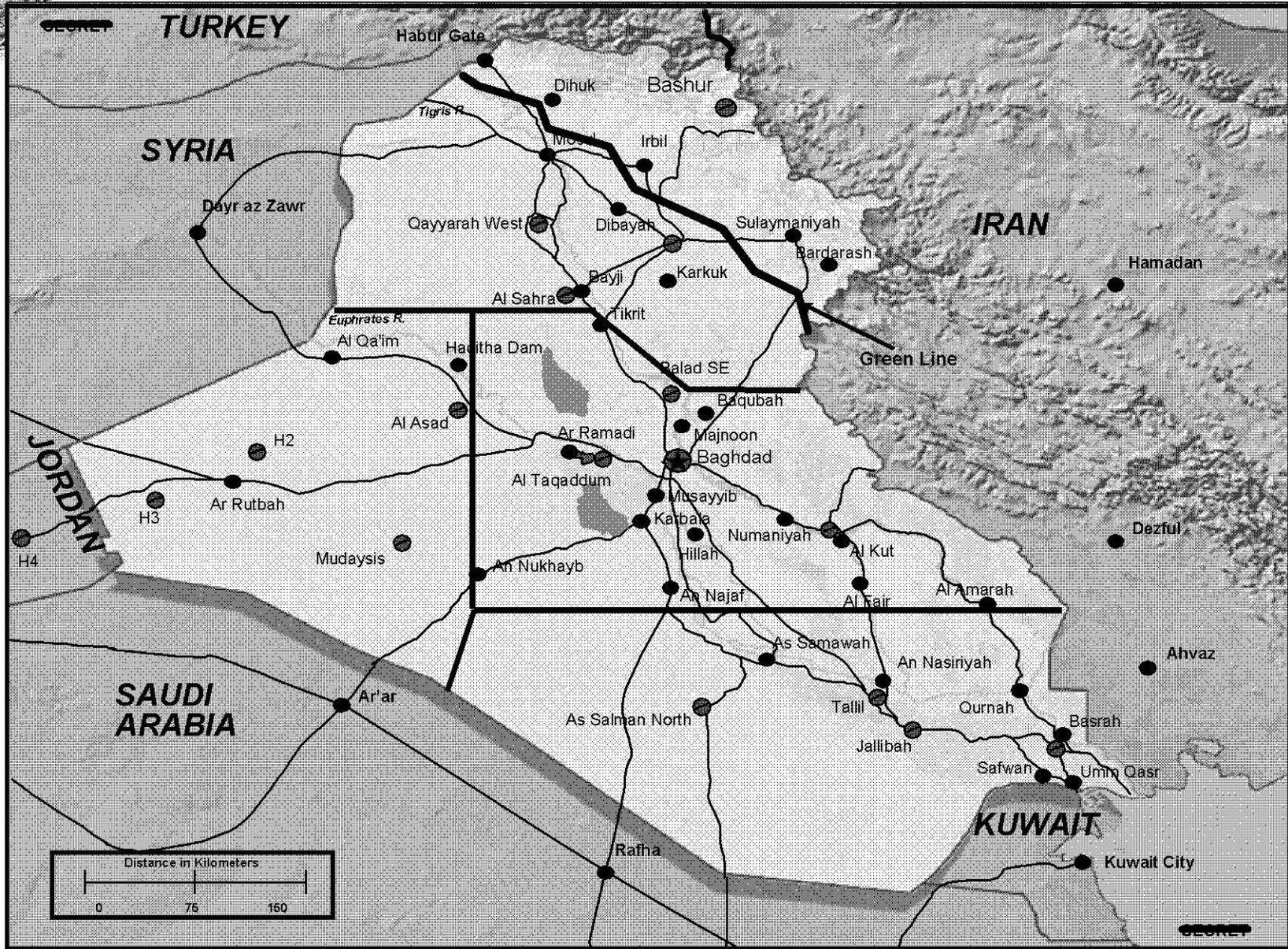
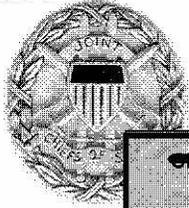
Baghdad cordon and clearing operations continue. TF Tarawa completes relief-in-place of UK forces vicinity Al Amarah. TF Tripoli begins attack towards Tikrit. Special operations forces secure Mosul.

### **13 Apr**

TF Tripoli rescues seven US prisoners of war. All Coalition forces report reduced levels of looting. 1st MEF attacks Baquabah. TF Tarawa isolates Al Kut.

### **14 Apr**

Patriot coverage of Baghdad established. Baghdad patrols continue with no resistance. 4th ID deploys from Kuwait to areas vicinity NW of Baghdad. 1st MARDIV meets with Iraqi leaders to plan restoration of Baghdad's critical infrastructure. 26th MEU arrives in Irbul.



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