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

Iraq Weekly Status Report

October 17, 2007

**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 U.S. government policy for victory in Iraq.

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Highlights

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

Colonel J.B. Burton, commander of Coalition Forces in northwest Baghdad, said October 12 that reconstruction efforts and economic gains are succeeding in that area of the city thanks to a reduction in violence due to security improvements. Additionally, Northwest Baghdad has seen an 85% reduction in violence since May of this year.

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

The Coalition Brigade Combat Team operating in Northwest Baghdad is working closely with its Iraqi Security Force (ISF) partners to recruit, hire and then transition volunteers into the ISF formations. Since November 2006, they have had a total of 1,772 volunteers and recruits from that area, who are fully screened and ready to attend formal training for integration into the ISF, with 500 scheduled to attend the academy this month.

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

Ammar al-Hakim, a leader in the Shia Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) party, visited the Sunni al-Anbar province and delivered a message of Sunni-Shia unity to the Sunni leaders of Sahawa al-Iraqi (responsible for the U.S.-supported revolt against al-Qaida militants). The visit was the latest example of local leaders pursuing reconciliation.

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

Architect Fawz Hassan Abu Tahin, head of electricity distribution in Karbala, announced the arrival of 75 electricity power converters from Saudi Arabia. The shipment will be used to improve electrical power of the Karbala provincial infrastructure.



Highlights

5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

The Iraqi Central Bank decided October 12 to stabilize the dollar exchange rate through October 18. Ali al-Yasseri, a trader, said, "the Iraqi Central Bank has decided to stabilize the dollar exchange rate at 1,232 Dinar per dollar for buying and 1,230 for selling." It is of note that international trading continues in Iraqi Dinar and the stabilized exchange rate is the one being used internationally.

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law

Members of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division arrived at the Numaniyah National Police Academy to begin a month-long rotation through a program designed to provide specialized training and professional development to the Iraqi police force.

7. International Support for Iraq

The Turkish parliament approved a one-year blanket authorization for military operations against PKK targets in Iraq October 17. Prime Minister Erdogan has stated that he hopes the motion will not be applied and noted that its passage does not mean an incursion is imminent.

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

Two journalists have recently been killed in Iraq. Salih Saif Aldin, who worked for the Washington Post, was shot dead in Baghdad October 14 and freelance reporter, Dhi Abdul Razak al-Dibo was killed in an ambush near Kirkuk October 15. Since 2003, a total of 205 journalists have been killed in Iraq.



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

Security Improvements in Northwest Baghdad:

- Colonel J.B. Burton, the commander of Coalition Forces in northwest Baghdad said October 12 that reconstruction efforts and economic gains are succeeding in that area of the city thanks to a reduction in violence due to security improvements.
 - Northwest Baghdad has seen an 85% reduction in violence since May of this year. Of 95 neighborhoods in the area, 58 of them are now considered under control. Thirty-three remain in a clearing status, with violence continuing to go down, and only four remain in a disrupted status.
 - Murders are down from a peak of over 161 reported per week a year ago to less than five per week now, and efforts to defeat sectarian expansion continue to drive these numbers down.
 - IED and small arms attacks are down from a peak of 50 per week in June to less than five per week since the end of August. VBIED attacks are down nearly 85% due to combined efforts to defeat the Karkh VBIED and IED networks -- which has had a tremendous impact on insurgents' ability to instruct and employ those types of weapons effectively.



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

Iraqi Security Force Participation in Northwest Baghdad:

- The Coalition Brigade Combat Team operating in Northwest Baghdad is working closely with its Iraqi Security Force (ISF) partners to recruit, hire and then transition volunteers into the ISF formations. Since November 2006, they have had a total of 1,772 volunteers and recruits from that area, who are fully screened and ready to attend formal training for integration into the ISF, with 500 scheduled to attend the academy this month.
- Additionally, there has been an increasing number of former Iraqi army officers coming forward to rejoin the ISF in northwest Baghdad.

New Iraqi Air Force Continues to Grow :

- The Iraqi Air Force held a combined graduation October 10 for four Iraqi Air Force maintenance officers, five maintenance supervisors, eight fuels supervisors and 54 enlisted flight line security forces personnel from the basic technical training course of the Iraqi Air Force Training School.



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

Ministry of Interior Forces

| COMPONENT | TRAINED & EQUIPPED |
|------------------|--------------------|
| POLICE | ~135,000 |
| NATIONAL POLICE | ~ 26,300 |
| OTHER MOI FORCES | ~32,900 |
| TOTAL | ~194,200* |

Ministry of Defense Forces

| COMPONENT | OPERATIONAL |
|-----------|-------------|
| ARMY | ~163,500*** |
| AIR FORCE | ~900 |
| NAVY | ~1,100 |
| TOTAL | ~165,500** |

Total Trained & Equipped ISF:

~359,700****

* 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

*** Army numbers include Special Operations Forces and Support Forces

**** Does not include the approximately 144,000 Facilities Protection Service personnel working in 27 ministries



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

Shiite Leader Visits Iraq Sunni Province:

- Ammar al-Hakim, a leader in the Shia Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) party, visited the Sunni al-Anbar province and delivered a message of Sunni-Shia unity to the Sunni leaders of Sahawa al-Iraqi (responsible for the U.S.-supported revolt against al-Qaida militants). The visit was the latest example of local leaders pursuing reconciliation.

Southern Tribal Leaders Fear Increasing Islamism:

- Ammar al-Hakim, a leader in the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI), called on Iraqis to press ahead with the creation of self-rule regions, but cautioned that the country's unity must be safeguarded. Hakim, a potential candidate to assume control of the ISCI, has been a firm supporter of federalism from the outset. Other Shia groups, such as the Sadrists and the Dawa party, oppose federalism, warning that it could deepen Iraq's security and sectarian woes if implemented.



[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
* Vacant

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Minister of Agriculture * | Minister of Communications Muhammad Tawfiq Allawi | Minister of Culture * | 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 * | 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 Safa al Safi (acting) | 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 * |
| Minister of Water Resources 'Abd al-Latif Rashid | Minister of Youth & Sports Jasim Muhammad Ja'far | Minister of State for Civil Society Wijdan Mikha'il (acting) | 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 * | Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities * | 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

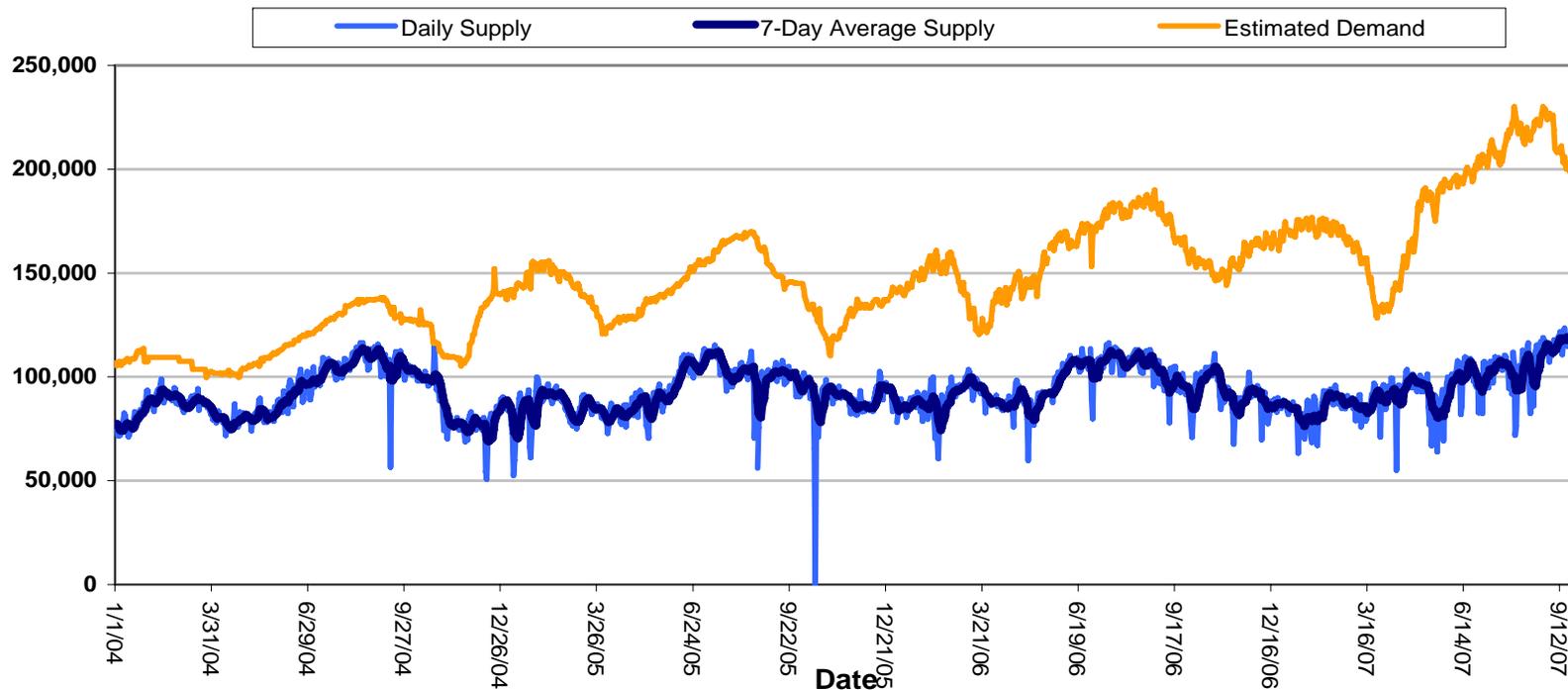
(Millions of USD)

| Sector | | | Committed | | | Obligated | | | Disbursed | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Apportioned | Unapportioned | Last Week | Current | Change | Last Week | Current | Change | Last Week | Current | Change |
| Security and Law Enforcement | \$4,983.67 | \$20.95 | \$4,961.23 | \$4,961.23 | \$0.00 | \$4,959.95 | \$4,959.95 | \$0.00 | \$4,823.98 | \$4,828.87 | \$4.89 |
| Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society | \$2,283.37 | \$24.29 | \$2,259.57 | \$2,259.57 | \$0.00 | \$2,252.41 | \$2,252.41 | \$0.00 | \$2,077.50 | \$2,097.02 | \$19.52 |
| Electricity Sector | \$4,199.46 | \$25.63 | \$4,125.03 | \$4,125.03 | \$0.00 | \$4,006.63 | \$4,006.63 | \$0.00 | \$3,506.65 | \$3,506.65 | \$0.00 |
| Oil Infrastructure | \$1,713.28 | \$11.42 | \$1,594.35 | \$1,594.35 | \$0.00 | \$1,545.57 | \$1,545.57 | \$0.00 | \$1,478.69 | \$1,478.69 | \$0.00 |
| Water Resources and Sanitation | \$2,076.29 | \$25.36 | \$1,975.75 | \$1,975.75 | \$0.00 | \$1,930.88 | \$1,930.88 | \$0.00 | \$1,686.77 | \$1,686.77 | \$0.00 |
| Transportation and Communications | \$452.96 | \$4.04 | \$452.93 | \$452.93 | \$0.00 | \$449.58 | \$449.58 | \$0.00 | \$362.35 | \$362.35 | \$0.00 |
| Roads, Bridges and Construction | \$329.23 | \$4.38 | \$322.80 | \$322.80 | \$0.00 | \$320.82 | \$320.82 | \$0.00 | \$233.32 | \$233.32 | \$0.00 |
| Health Care | \$797.78 | \$24.70 | \$771.08 | \$771.08 | \$0.00 | \$761.40 | \$761.40 | \$0.00 | \$690.51 | \$690.51 | \$0.00 |
| Private Sector Development | \$820.51 | \$2.04 | \$819.07 | \$819.07 | \$0.00 | \$819.07 | \$819.07 | \$0.00 | \$800.37 | \$800.37 | \$0.00 |
| Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance | \$426.17 | \$10.42 | \$422.98 | \$422.98 | \$0.00 | \$422.83 | \$422.83 | \$0.00 | \$387.68 | \$387.80 | \$0.12 |
| Admin Expense (USAID, STATE) | \$213.00 | \$0.00 | \$209.39 | \$209.39 | \$0.00 | \$209.39 | \$209.39 | \$0.00 | \$204.54 | \$207.68 | \$3.14 |
| Total | \$18,295.71 | \$153.24 | \$17,914.21 | \$17,914.21 | \$0.00 | \$17,678.52 | \$17,678.52 | \$0.00 | \$16,252.37 | \$16,280.05 | \$27.67 |
| IRRF II Non-Construction | - | - | \$7,710.98 | \$7,710.98 | \$0.00 | \$7,702.80 | \$7,702.80 | \$0.00 | \$7,303.75 | \$7,331.33 | \$27.57 |
| IRRF II Construction | - | - | \$9,683.53 | \$9,683.53 | \$0.00 | \$9,456.02 | \$9,456.02 | \$0.00 | \$8,439.02 | \$8,439.11 | \$0.10 |
| IRRF II Overhead | - | - | \$519.70 | \$519.70 | \$0.00 | \$519.70 | \$519.70 | \$0.00 | \$509.60 | \$509.60 | \$0.00 |
| IRRF I Total | \$2,473.30 | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$20,769.01 | \$153.24 | \$20,387.51 | \$20,387.51 | \$0.00 | \$19,910.82 | \$19,910.82 | \$0.00 | \$18,391.37 | \$18,419.05 | \$27.67 |

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



Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- For October 10-16 daily electricity demand was 15% above the same period in 2006. Daily supply from the grid was 20% above the year-earlier period and met 65% of total electricity demand, compared with 65% for the year-earlier period.
- Average hours of power via electricity grid after meeting demand from essential services: Baghdad 10.1 and nationwide 13.7. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 7.3 and nationwide 12.2.



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Provision of Essential Services

Electricity:

- Architect Fawz Hassan Abu Tahin, head of electricity distribution in Karbala, announced the arrival of 75 electricity power converters from Saudi Arabia. The shipment will be used to improve electrical power of the Karbala provincial infrastructure. The plan is being overseen by the provincial committee on regional development and reconstruction acceleration.

Gas:

- Iraq's Oil Ministry has secured a propane deal with Iran and is making plans to allocate workers to load and deliver the needed fuel. Tehran and Baghdad signed a deal October 15 to supply Iraq with propane from Iran. Nazar al-Sultan, a member of the Baghdad Council, said the city is ready to retrieve the propane from southern provinces, where it will be shipped from Iran. Amar al-Sattar, the general manager of the propane firm tasked with loading trucks in Babil province, said additional workers have been hired to work around the clock in support of this effort.

Healthcare:

- Saudi Arabia is taking steps to prevent the spread of cholera after the outbreak of an epidemic in neighboring countries. Saudi Arabia banned all trade with Iraq and Iran beginning October 15. Saudi Arabia has also banned Muslim pilgrims from bringing food or drink when entering Saudi from either of those two countries.



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

Kirkuk:

- The Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) reported that regional power plants operated normally during the reporting period. The national grid supplied 15 hours per day to the Province, with households seeing 9-10 hours per day.
- The Deputy General (DG) of Health has reported eight new cholera cases. This raises the total number of cases to 1,908. There have been three deaths since August related to the Cholera outbreak.

Salah al-Din:

- The Salah al-Din Province completed its 2008 budget preparation, completely prioritizing their project list. The plan was reviewed by Council members and is to be distributed throughout the Province.

Diyala:

- The Diyala DG of Mills reported that only 7,000 tons of Iraqi grain currently reside at the silo. Iraqi grain is mixed 50/50 with imported grain to produce usable flour. The mill requires 16,000 tons of flour per month to support the Province, and he is concerned about Baghdad's failure to send more grain to Diyala.



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

Oil Update:

- Crude oil price averages in world markets for the week ending October 12 closed with the following prices:
 - Basrah Light at \$75.22/ barrel
 - Dated Brent at \$79.058/barrel
 - WTI Cushing at \$81.47/ barrel
 - Oman/Dubai at \$74.48/barrel

Employment Update:

| Employment Program | Iraqis Last Week | Iraqis This Week | % Change |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Gulf Region District (GRD) (Includes MILCON/OMA) | 22,969 | 22,969 | 0.00% |
| US Agency for International Development (USAID) | 84,111 | 84,111 | 0.00% |
| Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) | 3,206 | 3,206 | 0.00% |
| Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I) | 6,568 | 5,827 | -11.28% |
| Grand Total | 116,854 | 116,113 | -0.63% |

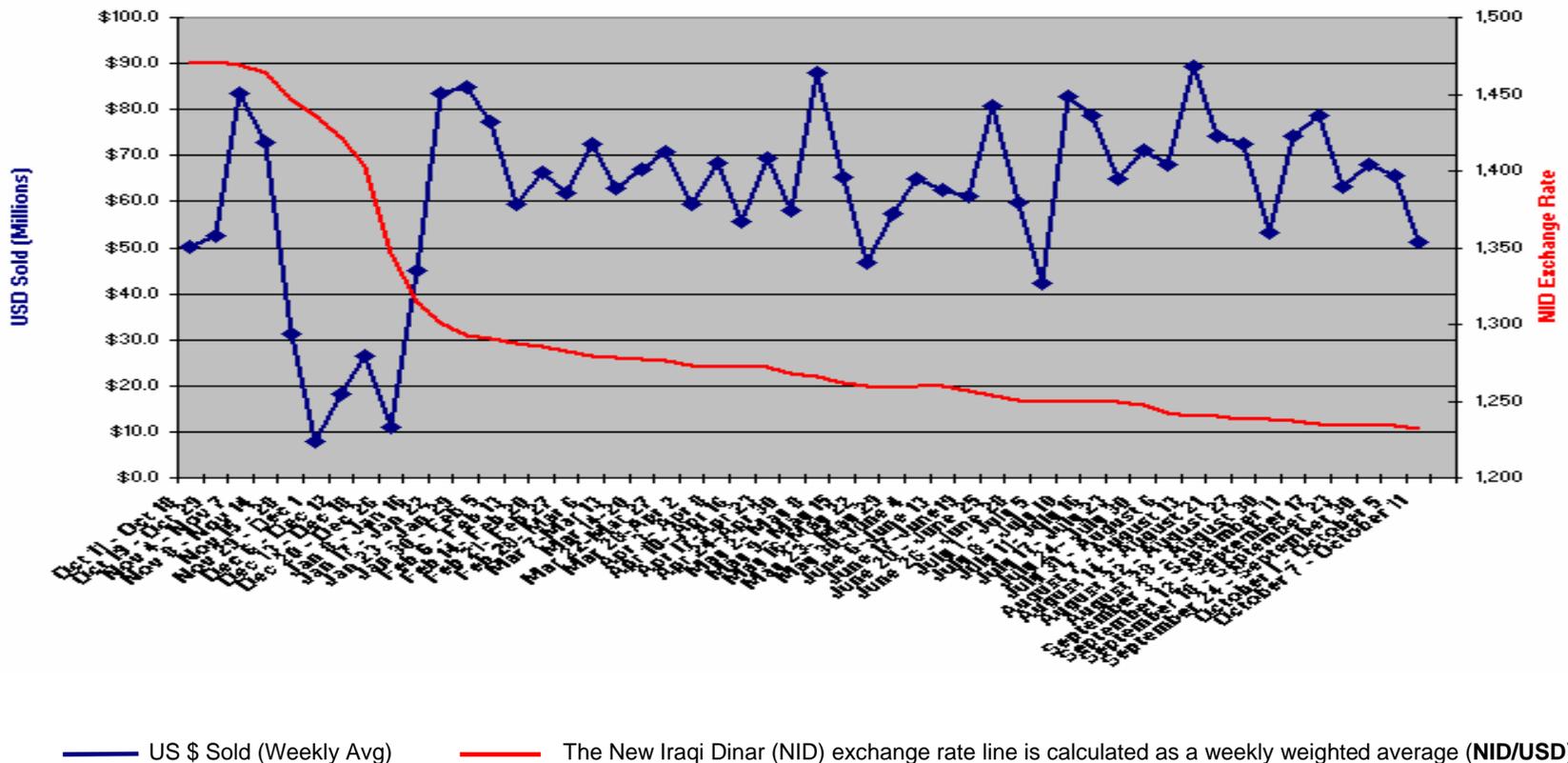


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy - Banking Sector

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

- The following table shows volume sold of and exchange rates for USD in the Iraqi currency auction since April. Since September, the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) has slowly appreciated the Dinar, as suggested by the IMF, in an effort to rein in inflation. Year-to-date inflation through August is 11.2% and the year-on-year inflation rate dropped to 20%, as monthly inflation for August 2007 was lower than for August 2006. Historically, prices tend to rise in the latter part of the year, and August's increase may reflect that pattern.

**Central Bank of Iraq
USD Currency Auction: October 11, 2006 – October 11, 2007**



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

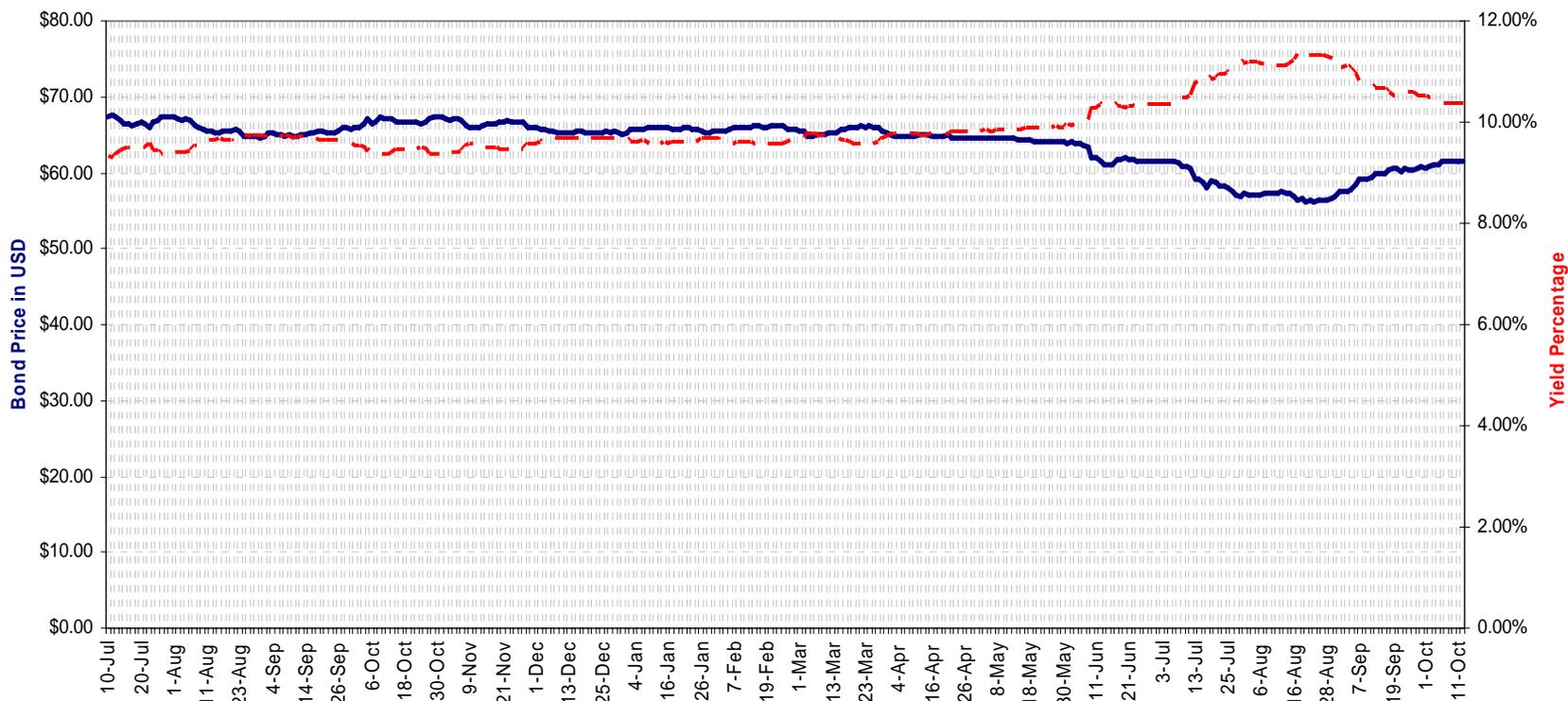


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Securities Markets

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 approximately two-thirds of Iraq's commercial creditors as part of a debt exchange arrangement as per 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.

Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales
July 10, 2006 - October 12, 2007



Trading High = \$73.98 (January 24)

Trading Low = \$64.66 (August 30)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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

Central Bank Stabilizes Exchange Rate:

- The Iraqi Central Bank decided October 12 to stabilize the dollar exchange rate through October 18. Ali al-Yasseri, a trader, said, “the Iraqi Central Bank has decided to stabilize the dollar exchange rate at 1,232 Dinar per dollar for buying and 1,230 for selling”. It is of note that international trading continues in Iraqi Dinar and the stabilized exchange rate is the one being used internationally.

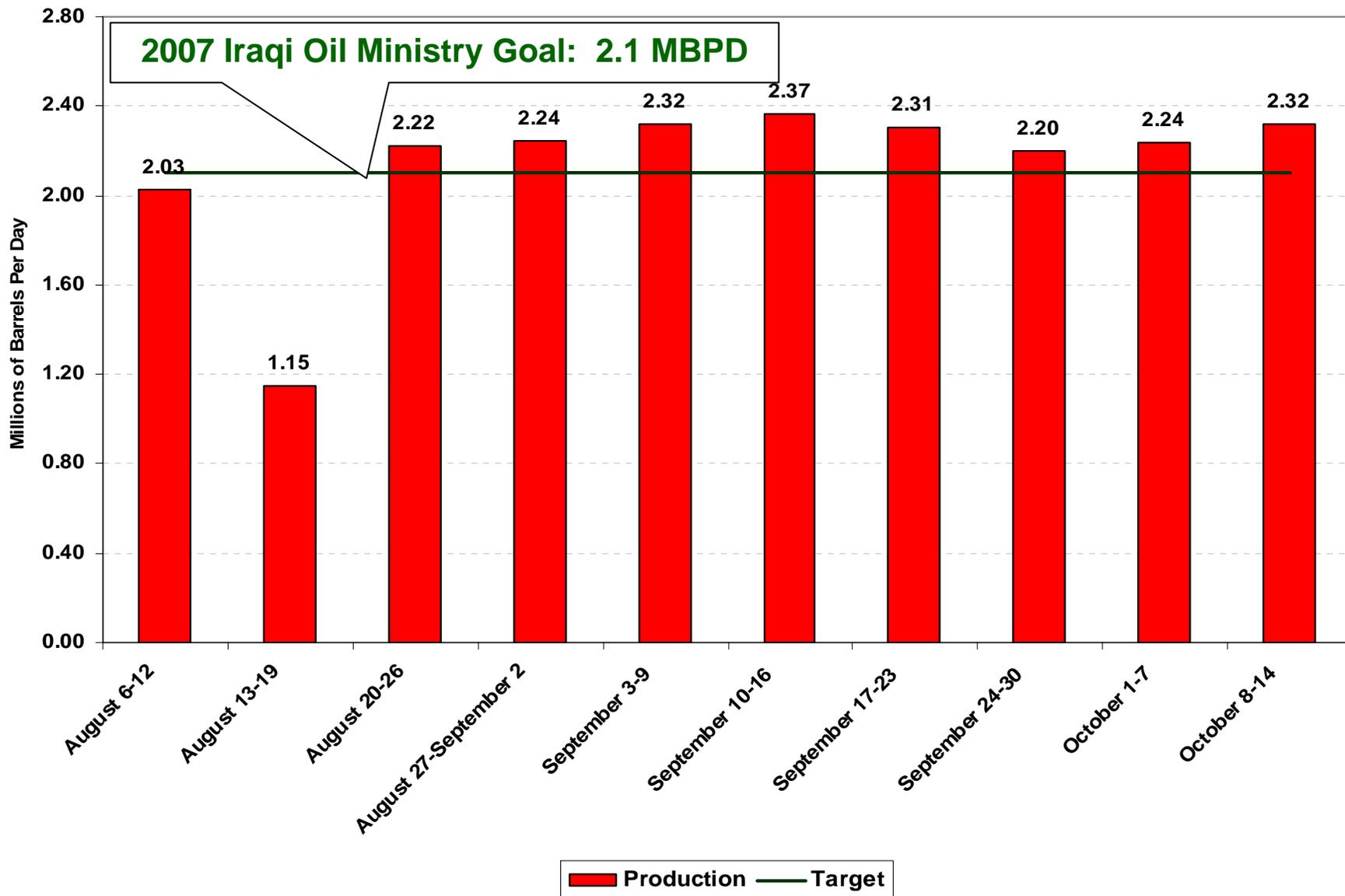
Markets Experience Higher Prices and Lower Demand:

- Eid al-Fitr residents of southern Iraqi provinces noticed an unprecedented rise in prices of all consumer goods, including those produced locally. The falling demand for goods was attributable to the enactment of the tax law and the displacement of scores of traders as a result of the deteriorating security situation. Karrar al-Hakim, an owner of a women’s clothes shop in Najaf, said that clothes prices saw a 25% increase compared to last year. The purchasing power also fell by 50% over that period. Fadil al-Ali, a foodstuff wholesale trader in the al-Khuddara market, said that some traders corner the markets and sell at higher prices, but that prices will return to a normal level when the demand for foodstuffs drops.



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

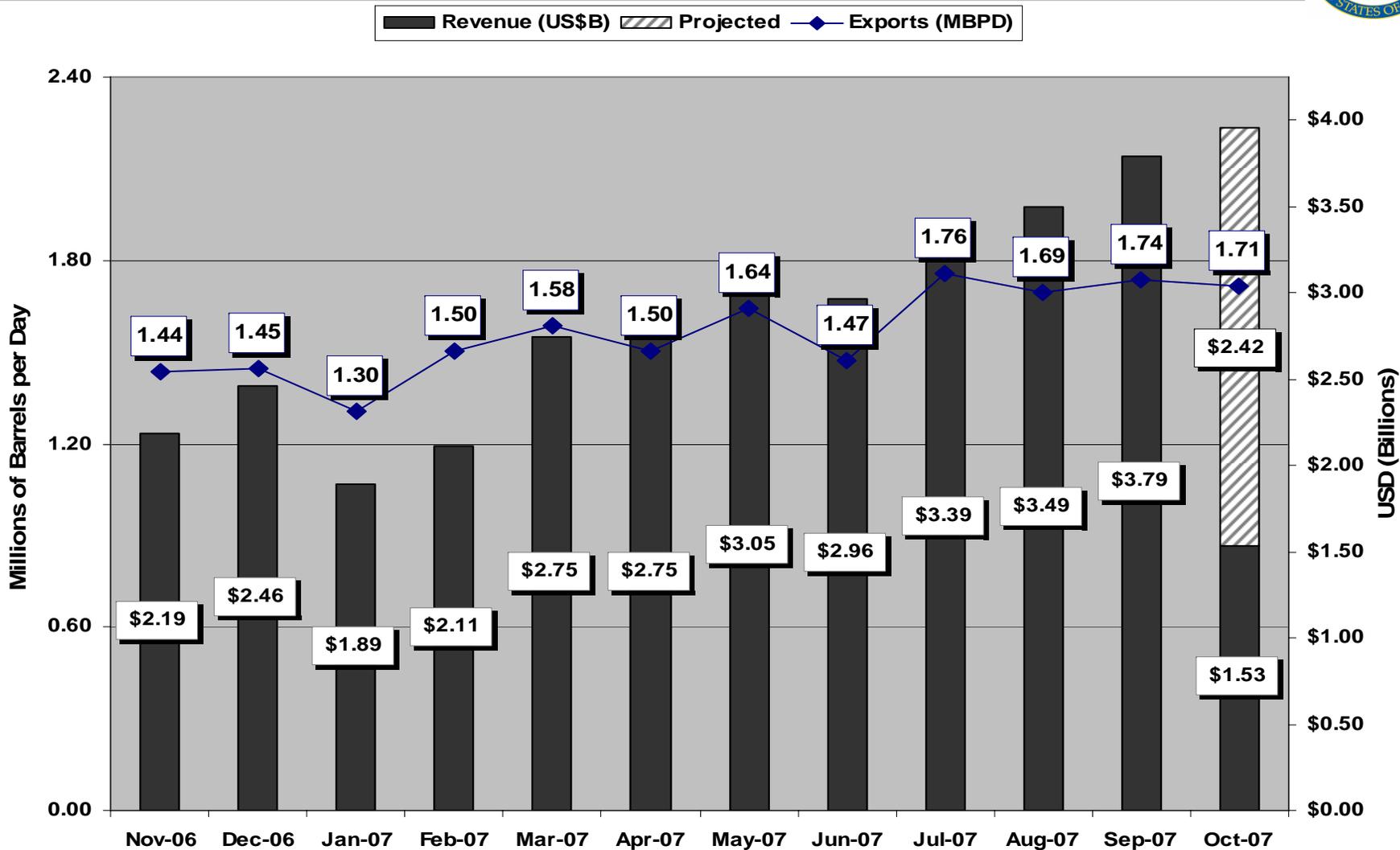
DEPARTMENT OF STATE





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

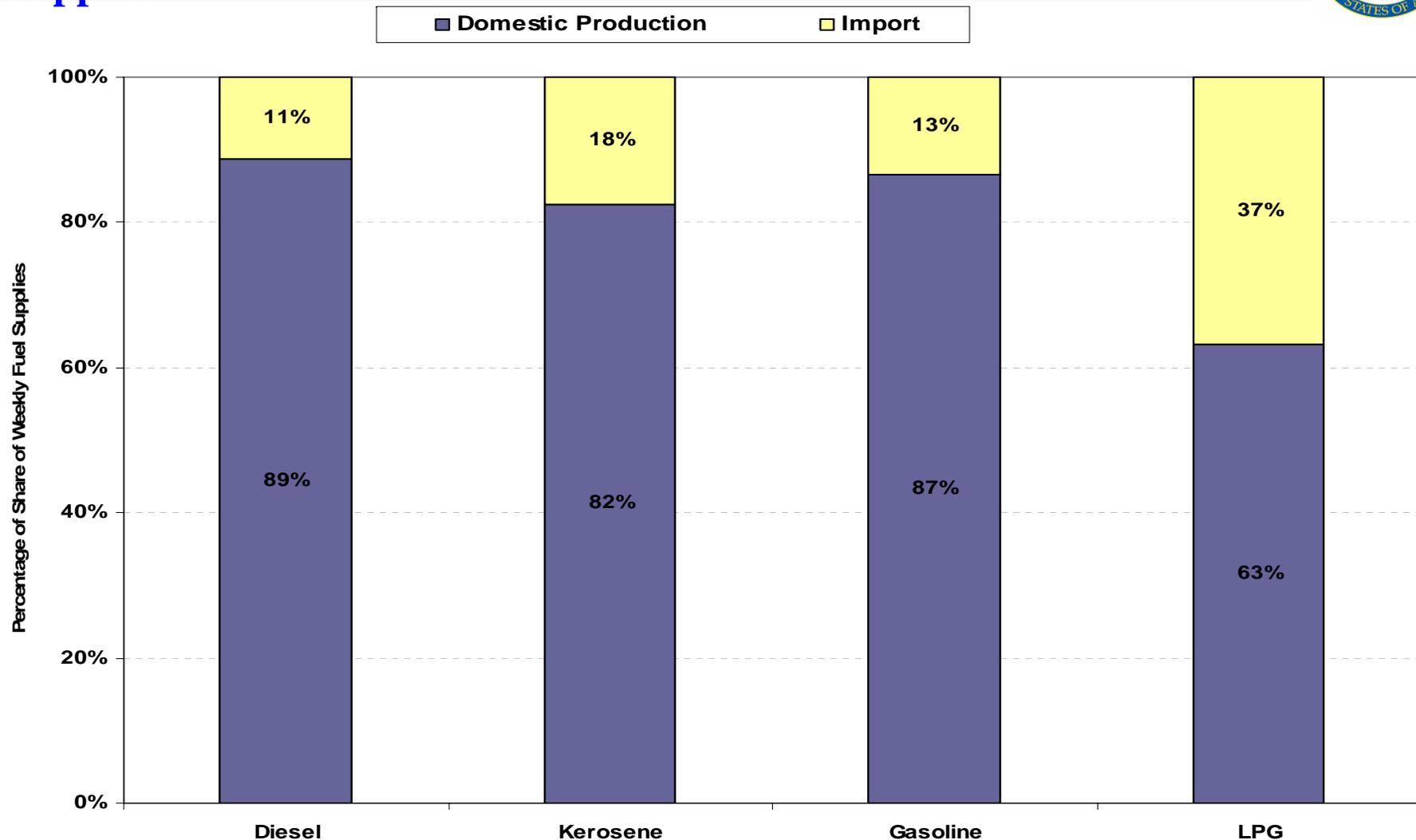
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- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$27.7 Billion (Year to Date)



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

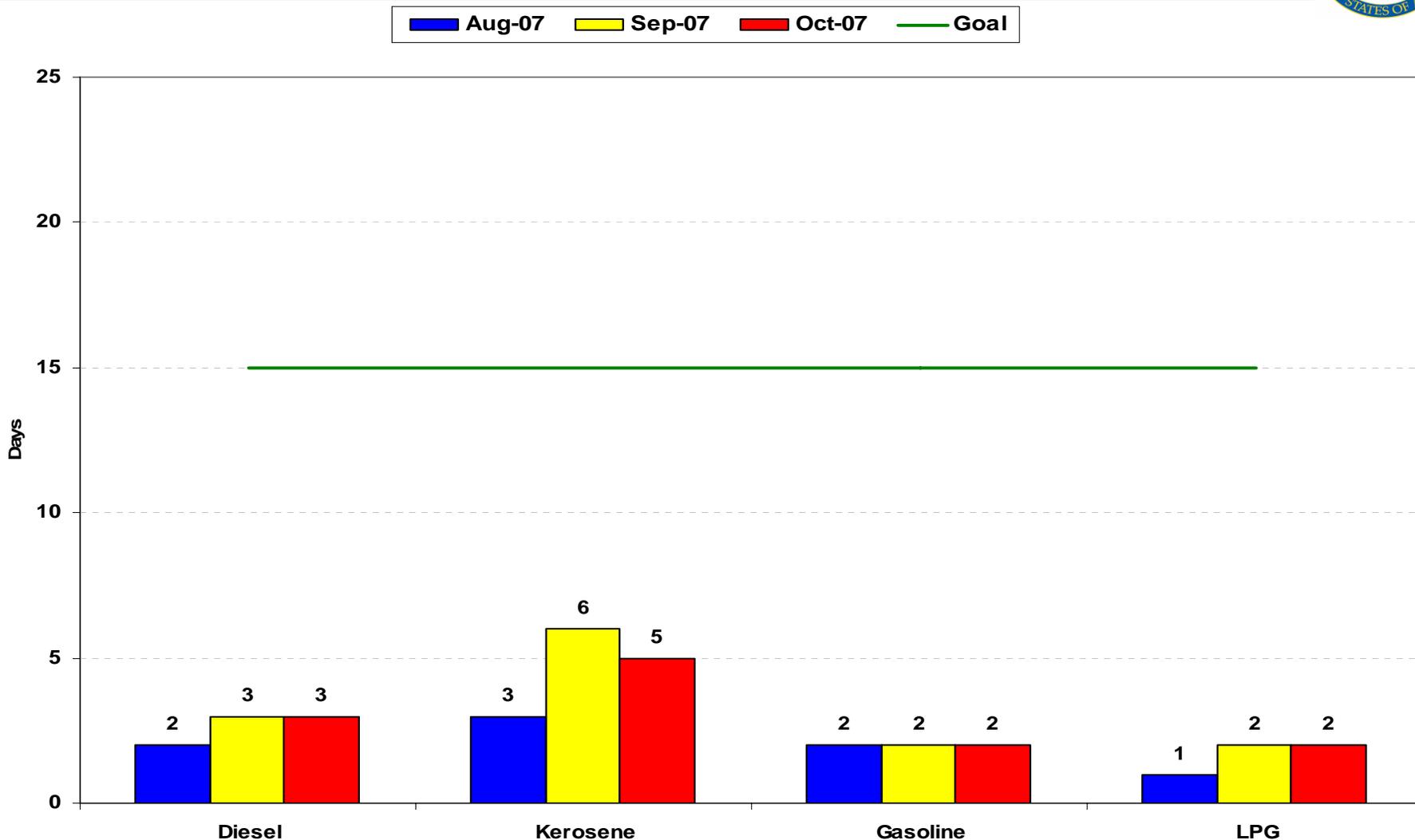


Note: This is a daily average for October 8 - 14

- Diesel: 11.1 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 7.6 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 11.4 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 3,613 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – National Stock Levels



- 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— Rule of Law



National Police Begin Training at the Numaniyah Academy :

- Members of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division arrived at the Numaniyah National Police Academy to begin a month-long rotation through a program designed to provide specialized training and professional development to the Iraqi police force.
- While at the academy, Iraqi police officers will be given blocks of instruction on core values and ethics, tactical procedures and several other topics specially tailored to fit the needs of police who work the streets of Baghdad and other areas in Iraq.



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

Turkish Parliament Approves Military Operations Against PKK:

- The Turkish parliament approved a one-year blanket authorization for military operations against PKK targets in Iraq October 17. Prime Minister Erdogan has stated that he hopes the motion will not be applied and noted that its passage does not mean an incursion is imminent.

Poland's President Says Any Iraq Pullout Must be Made in Concert with U.S. Plans:

- President Lech Kaczynski said any move to pull Polish troops from Iraq must be made in concert with the U.S and the ramifications of such a withdrawal must be thought through before any decision is made.

UN Issues Iraq Report on Human Rights Abuses:

- The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) issued a report documenting continued human rights abuses in Iraq and recommended specific measures in response, including due process for detainees, punishment for perpetrators of "honor killings," and investigations into deaths caused by private security firms operating in the country.



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

27 Countries with forces in Iraq (including U.S.)

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

TOTAL ~ 11,604 Forces

33 Countries and NATO*
 (including the U.S.)
Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*33 includes the U.S., the 26 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN mission in Iraq, are not included.



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

Two Journalists Killed in Iraq:

- Two journalists have recently been killed in Iraq. Salih Saif Aldin, who worked for the Washington Post was shot dead in Baghdad October 14 and freelance reporter, Dhi Abdul Razak al-Dibo was killed in an ambush near Kirkuk October 15. Since 2003, a total of 205 journalists have been killed in Iraq.

Circulation of Iraqi Newspapers Halted for Eid Holiday:

- Iraqi Newspapers did not appear in Iraq for three days starting October 15 in observance of the Eid al-Fitr holiday.



Iraq Weekly Status – General Information

- 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)



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