

Director of  
Central Intelligence



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National Intelligence Council Memorandum

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**Iraq: Refurbished Equipment  
South of 32 Degrees**

**Key  
Points**

Iraq's recent campaign to repair military equipment, and the movement of some of that equipment south of the 32nd parallel, only marginally improves Iraq's overall military capabilities and its ability to threaten Kuwait.

Iraq has distributed most of the refurbished equipment north of the 32nd parallel. A total of 71 additional armored vehicles and seven multiple rocket launchers have been shipped to southern Iraq since August.

Baghdad does not appear to be deliberately challenging the US/UN restrictions regarding the enhancement of forces in the south by moving this additional equipment below the 32nd parallel. Rather, based on deployment patterns, the regime appears to be trying to improve its internal security capabilities in the south.

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*This memorandum was prepared under the auspices of the National Intelligence Officer for Near East and South Asia and the National Intelligence Officer for General Purpose Forces. Principal drafters were . The memorandum was coordinated by representatives from CIA, DIA, State/INR, NSA, and the Army.*

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN LANDRY  
NIO/GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES

## Iraq: Refurbished Equipment South of 32 Degrees

In early 1995, Iraq initiated a comprehensive campaign to repair military equipment in an attempt to combat declining operational readiness rates and unit morale. This year's repair campaign was unusual for its scope; it included retrieving obsolete, second-line equipment from depot stocks. The level of effort was likewise unusual because the participation was force wide, with the Iraqis fixing everything from helicopters to rifles.

The repair campaign also was accorded an unusually high level of visibility. The program was linked directly to Iraq's leaders and was a centerpiece of the continuing propaganda campaign intended to demonstrate Baghdad's ability to resist international pressure and Iraq's self-sufficiency in the face of continuing UN sanctions. Saddam's eldest son Uday was nominally in charge of the initiative, which was named "Leader's Call."

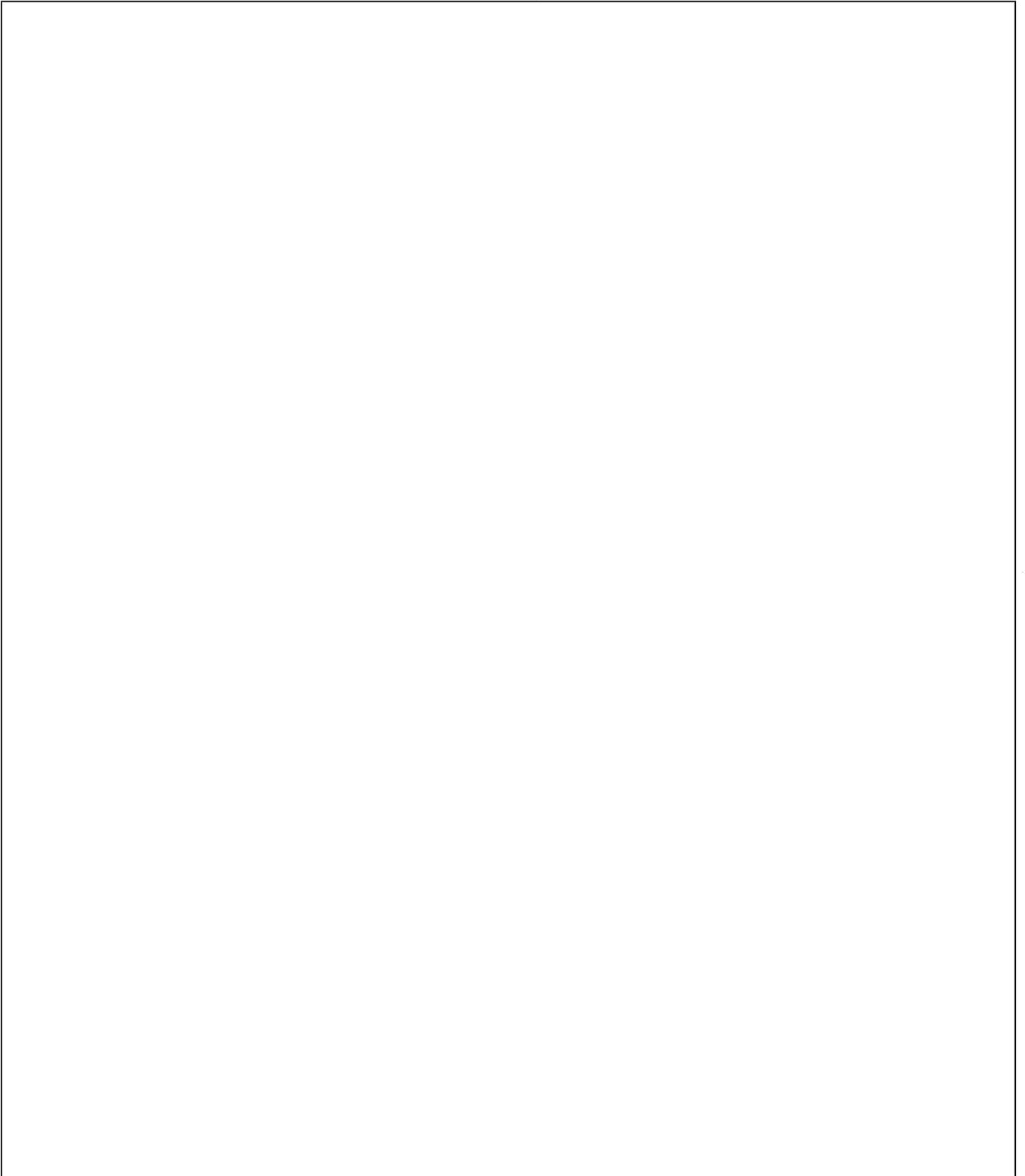
As part of the propaganda, several hundred pieces of repaired and refurbished military equipment were put on display this summer in Baghdad. These items and dozens of others restored to service were distinguished by a dark-toned paint scheme.

*Refurbishment marginally improves capability*

Despite the propaganda and the exertions of maintenance personnel, the repair campaign only marginally improves Iraq's military capability. Iraqi units remain under strength, with regular Army infantry units in the south at roughly 50- to 75-percent strength and heavy divisions at 80- to 85-percent strength. Limited evidence suggests that the repairs were low quality and incomplete. Moreover, much of the refurbished equipment is second line even by Iraqi standards. Major and lasting improvement still depends on the lifting of sanctions.

*Almost all the refurbished equipment is north of the 32nd parallel*  
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Iraq has distributed most of the refurbished equipment—almost 90 percent of the equipment we have identified—north of the 32nd parallel (see table on page 7). The majority has gone to internal security forces, with smaller amounts assigned in a piecemeal fashion to regular Army and Republican Guard units. Refurbished armored vehicles, tanks, and artillery have been noted in garrisons north of the 32nd parallel at Al Kut, As Suwayrah, Karbala', Shaykh Mazhar, At Taji, Tikrit, and Karkuk.



**Table 1**

**Iraqi Forces: Equipment South Of 32nd Parallel<sup>a</sup>** [redacted]

	Nov 94	Apr 95	Oct-Nov 95 <sup>b</sup>	Highest Number Observed [redacted]
Tanks	584	567	569 (4)	632
APCs	914	924	1,021 (67)	1,020
ARTY	310	345	313 (0)	355
MRLS	22	22	29 (7)	30

**Terms:**

- Tanks All types (Manned/Active Unit Associated)
- APCs All types, regardless of configuration, that is, IFV, APC, ATGM, SAM, ADA, CHEM DEF, RECON, command and ZSU-23/4 and Armor Recovery Vehicle (Manned/Active Unit Associated)
- ARTY All types of field guns and howitzers, towed or self-propelled (Manned/Active Unit Associated)
- MRLS Self-propelled (Manned/Active Unit Associated)

<sup>a</sup> IV Corps' 10th Armored Division operates and trains both north and south of the 32nd parallel and straddles the line. Other 10th Division brigades have periodically been deployed to work with infantry elements in counterinsurgency operations. On other occasions, such as periodic unit training cycles, 10th Armored Division elements located near the 32nd parallel move back and forth across the line during exercises. Therefore, all 10th Armored Division equipment is included in the table. [redacted]

<sup>b</sup> These figures include the dark-toned (refurbished) vehicles moved to the south, which are separately noted in parentheses. [redacted]



This table is ~~Secret~~ [redacted]

***Specifics of the deployment*** [redacted]

In mid-August, Iraq began deploying some of the dark-toned refurbished armored vehicles south of the 32nd parallel. Since then, Iraq has moved at least 71 of these vehicles to the south, many of which are old, lightly armed BTR-60 armored personnel carriers. Several others are unarmed command and control vehicles. So far, the Iraqis have moved only four dark-painted tanks to the south. [redacted]

In addition, Iraq recently shipped seven refurbished self-propelled 122-mm multiple rocket launchers (MRLs) to the southern area. The additional firepower provided by these systems is only a marginal increase in southern Army corps' artillery capabilities which, prior to the arrival of the MRLs, consisted of about 350 guns and howitzers, along with 30 122-mm MRLs. [redacted]

### Disposition of Ground Forces in Iraq, Late November 1995



- Corps boundary
- Republican Guard armored division
- Republican Guard infantry division
- Republican Guard mechanized infantry division
- Republican Guard division nomenclature
  - AD Adnan
  - AL Al Abed
  - AN Al Nida
  - B Baghdad
  - H Hammurabi
  - M Madinah
  - N Nebuchadnezzar
- Regular Army armored division
- Regular Army infantry division
- Regular Army mechanized infantry division
- 7 Regular Army division designator
- Training facility

***Movement of Additional Units Below 32nd Parallel Since September 1994***

*In October 1994, Baghdad moved the major combat elements of two RGFC armored divisions and some corps-level combat units near the Kuwait border. UN Security Council Resolution 949 enjoined Iraq to withdraw those forces. Iraq went beyond the stipulations of UNSCR 949 and moved all RGFC units north of 32—even those that had been garrisoned at Qal'at Salih south of 32 before October, including major elements of an RGFC infantry division which did not move toward Kuwait.*

*Since the withdrawal of the RGFC from the south, Iraq has not permanently relocated any major Army combat elements from central or northern Iraq to south of 32.*

*Last February, the Iraqis temporarily reinforced III Corps units protecting engineer projects on the Euphrates River by sending additional commandos south from the II Corps in northern Iraq. These light infantry forces—which numbered no more than 750 to 1,000 men—came with no heavy equipment. At the time, Iraqi forces were grappling with an upsurge in Shia rebel activity. The II Corps commandos were returned to northern Iraq in late March.*

*Some IV Corps units normally move back and forth across the 32d parallel as it bisects the corps' area of operations. Specifically, elements of the 10th Armored Division have periodically moved from their garrisons, which are located on or just north of the parallel, to field deployments in the Al' Amarah-Qal'at Salih area just south of 32. The Al' Amarah-Qal'at Salih area is along one of the main supply routes into southern Iraq and has been a major target for rebel attacks. The Iraqis consolidated one of the 10th Division's brigades south of 32 in the summer of 1994.*

**Table 2**  
**Refurbished Iraqi Equipment**

	Total	North of 32	South of 32	South of 32 (percent)
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>13.6</b>
Armored Vehicles	281	214	67	23.8
Tanks	105	101	4	3.8
Artillery/MRLs	186	179	7	3.8

This table is Confidential

Most of the additional refurbished vehicles have not been organized into single combat units, nor do they represent the addition of new units below the 32d parallel. The bulk of the equipment is spread throughout southern Iraq, assigned in small numbers to various regular Army III and IV Corps forces.

*Intentions behind the deployment*

Movement of this additional equipment south of the 32nd parallel does not appear to constitute a deliberate challenge to the US/UN restriction regarding the enhancement of forces in the south. Rather, the regime is apparently focused on its internal security problem, bolstering local forces with equipment enabling them to react more quickly in conducting counterinsurgency and protection missions. Accordingly, many of these refurbished armored vehicles have been assigned to reconnaissance and commando units at the brigade, division, and corps echelons in order to improve their mobility. Iraqi forces in southern Iraq have been actively engaged in counterinsurgency operations since the end of the Gulf war.

It is also unlikely that the distribution of the refurbished vehicles in the south represents an effort to infiltrate Republican Guard or additional regular Army forces into southern Iraq as part of covert preparations for an invasion of either Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. The limited numbers of tanks and artillery delivered into southern Iraq do not significantly increase the firepower already available below the 32nd parallel. The additional command vehicles likewise do little to increase the mobility and combat power of Iraq's III and IV Corps. Moreover, BTRs are second-line items of equipment considered obsolete and of little value on the modern battlefield.