

have decreased almost 60 percent over the past month. I believe there are a number of reasons for this decline in the attacks. Our strategy has not changed and it remains very simple: first, we actively pursue, locate and kill or capture former regime elements, extremists, foreign fighters and criminals throughout our area of operations; second, we create jobs to employ military-age males in productive employment; and third, we consolidate or destroy the vast amounts of leftover weapons and ammunition from Saddam's military machine and make these unavailable to the enemy today. This strategy has reaped success and is the reason that we've turned the corner.

Let me further explain our success. We have killed or captured a large number of the leaders, the financiers and facilitators of the insurgency. We're not done yet, as there are a lot more of these folks out there, but we have been able to remove the ones recruiting, directing and providing weapons for attacks on coalition forces. As such, recent attacks on coalition forces have been much less effective in terms of injuries and equipment damage, and the devices employed now accurately reflect the title "improvised."

Let me just show you a makeshift RPG. This device right here was captured recently, before Christmas.

Now there are still some sophisticated devices out there, but this tells you of the dire need for forces attacking us to go ahead and use some improvised equipment to try to attack us. This is an RPG launcher.

Also, with the capture of Saddam Hussein, we have moved forward because those who had hope for his return no longer have that hope, and those who feared his return no longer have that fear. This lack of hope and fear within the populace has positively reflected in the surge of cooperation from all segments of the population at large.

Most notable is the number of local Iraqis turning information to our forces to help us rid this province of anti-coalition forces. A lot of good Iraqi people are tired of the violence and want to help the coalition. Tips turned in to us for action, both through our telephone lines and in person, are up over 50 percent right now.

Additionally, we have spent a lot of time and energy in developing, training and equipping Iraqi security forces to secure and protect the Iraqi people. Thus far we have trained over 1,300 Iraqi Civil Defense Corps -- these are ICDC folks -- and of the 6,500 Iraqi police on duty today in Al Anbar, 370 have been retrained and are able to coach and teach their fellow officers.

We continue to equip and educate Iraqi police officers in our own security college out in Ar Ramadi. We'll turn over complete control of the college, to include all instruction, within the next 60 days.

Additionally, we've trained 528 Iraqi border police who are currently manning the borders.

These trained Iraqi security forces are conducting combined operations with coalition forces every day in Al Anbar province. All our routine operations are conducted jointly with police, and we integrate ICDC more and more into our stability and support operations. In some cases, ICDC forces already operate independently.

As the second pillar of our strategy, we're creating jobs. I mentioned in late November that jobs creation would be the key to getting unemployed males off the street and enable them to provide for their families without having to commit violent acts for money. As of today, more than 16,000 jobs have been created, and more are on the way. With coalition assistance, employment offices will be opening soon in several cities that will assist the finding of work for the unemployed. In fact, 42 of 67 factories in Al Anbar are operational now. Although not all these factories are operating at full capacity yet, they are employing lots of people in producing goods.

Finally, Al Anbar is much safer now than before because of the unavailability of enemy weapons and