

there? Thanks.

Swannack: Good. First of all, in terms of jobs creation, I figured that we had about 60 percent unemployed when we first got to Al Anbar province in September. Now some of those had -- were making money, but I'm not sure they were making money by legitimate means.

Subsequent to that time, with the creation of about 16,000 jobs, I believe that we're trying to get to a number of around 30,000 jobs, so we're halfway to get the unemployment ranks somewhere between 20 and 30 percent. So that's the approach we're trying to make.

There's a lot -- about 50 percent of the population out there is 25 years old or below. And so trying to find them jobs is a difficult task. But as I mentioned, the 700 Iraqis we've employed to go ahead and consolidate these munitions, empty out the bunkers, to put them on trucks, to go ahead and consolidate them under our control, is something that we employ those folks.

Your second question is about attacks. I'll tell you, in a daily number, we started getting here -- getting attacked in September at about, I'd say, seven to 10 attacks a day. In October, we started getting upwards -- 15 to 19 attacks a day, until about Halloween, the 31st of October. Subsequent to that time, our attacks have been somewhere between no attacks a day to three or four, at the highest. So we've gone now from 19 -- 15 to 19 attacks a day, as a norm, down to, I would say, two to five attacks a day. So that's a significant decrease.

And more importantly about that is what I spoke of -- is the effectiveness of those attacks. Most of those attacks are ineffective. An RPG doesn't even come close to us, or an IED that blows up somewhere around us, or an explosion that we hear that's not even a mortar fire -- not even near us.

Okay. In the back, back there.

Q: General Swannack, Anne Garrels from National Public Radio. I have two questions, quite different. First question, very simple: Why the continued shortage of equipment?

Swannack: Okay. First of all, the equipment shortage is a function of supplemental monies now that have let contracts to go ahead and receive vendors to support those contracts. And we're supposed to get that equipment in somewhere -- 45 to 60 days -- 60 to 90, I guess, would be fair estimate.

Q: And second question: You say one of the key issues now is turning over more responsibility to the local government and creating a legitimate local government in the region. I've talked to many Iraqis in your area, and there seems to be a lack of confidence in the current senior Iraqi leadership in your region. Can you say how you hope to resolve this issue?

Swannack: We've pretty much -- in terms of the governance issue, we've determined that we have to have a representative government all sectors. Right now, our Provincial Council, which was established in August, pretty much was directed by coalition forces at the time, the leadership from the tribes in the area. Thirty-six of the 51 members of the council were tribal sheikhs. And so now we're going to go ahead and we've established a sheikh council where all the sheikhs are represented and can come to a sheikh council, which will have eight representatives in the new 40-person Provincial Council. We'll have representatives from the education, from business, from health, and from legal. And so that's how we're approaching a broad representation by gender and by occupation into the new Provincial Council.

Q: Are you having cooperation locally on doing that?