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**Presenter: Army Maj. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno**

**January 22, 2004 10:15 AM EST**

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**4th Infantry Division Commanding General's Briefing from Iraq**

4th Infantry Division Commanding General's Briefing from Iraq

(Participating was Army Maj. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division.)

Staff: Good morning, and welcome to a press briefing brought to us live from Tikrit. Today the 4th Infantry Division commanding general, Major General Raymond T. Odierno, joins us. Major General Odierno will address issues such as coalition military actions in his area of operations centered on Tikrit, as well as security measures and reconstruction efforts.

Sir, if you have opening comments, that will be fine, after which we'll take questions from the Pentagon press corps. And the reporters will give their name and their news organization when they ask a question.

Odierno: Okay, great. Yeah, I'd like to give first an opening statement. And first I want to thank everyone. It's good to see everybody this morning. I'd like to open with a brief overview to bring you up to date on operations in our area since we last talked.

We have made significant progress during combat operations against non-compliant forces while continuing the steady improvement in the quality of life for the Iraqi people through civilian-military operations.

The former regime elements we have been combating have been brought to their knees. Capturing Saddam was a major operational and psychological defeat for the enemy. But a more important result of his capture is the increase in accurate information brought forward by Iraqis allowing us to conduct numerous precise raids to kill or capture financiers, IED-makers, and mid-level leaders of the former regime. These groups are still a threat, but a fractured, sporadic threat with the leadership destabilized, finances interdicted and no hope of the Ba'athists' return to power.

The number of enemy attacks against our forces has been declining since a peak in November during Ramadan. And now their desperate attacks are targeting civilians; terrorist car bombs have killed innocent civilians and Iraqi police; ambushes attacked civilian supply convoys and Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers, demonstrating the enemy's disdain for peace and prosperity in Iraq and for Iraqis. The enemy is focused solely on indiscriminate murder and promoting their own cause.

The attacks against Iraqi security forces have not deterred brave Iraqis, however, from joining these