

But I believe we're down to a handful of cells in my AOR. And I believe they are somewhat fractured and unable to coordinate. They're doing it very locally. And that's a much different picture than I would have painted for you 45 days ago, when I would have said there's probably 15 to 20 cells with some coordination, and coordination looking like it was starting to grow. I, in fact, believe the coordination is now waning. That's been taken away. And I think the financing piece of it has been fractured a bit, which has caused them to really reduce the number of cells. So I feel pretty good about that.

I still believe there will be some people try (sic) to reform more cells, again, but it's our job to interdict them so that does not occur.

Staff: (Off mike.) -- take one more, if that's all right.

Q: General, Mike Mount with CNN. How confident are you, when you change positions with the 1st AD, that the insurgents won't take advantage during that changeover? Are you doing anything in particular to kind of mitigate those concerns?

Odierno: Yeah. First, it's the 1st Infantry Division -- I don't want to hurt their feelings -- that's taking my place.

But what -- our goal is a seamless transition, so they won't know the difference. And I believe -- I am very confident that we will be able to do that. They won't know -- they will conduct the attacks, they will get the same response as if the 4th Infantry Division was here or the 1st Infantry Division, and that's our goal. And we have worked very hard towards that goal here for about three months, four months now, working very closely with them and their leaders. And the training that they've been going through, I know, I believe, we'll be able to do that.

The hard part is the relationships that you build, and it's personal relationships that you build with the leaders. That will always take some time.

But I believe we'll be able to hand off the intelligence piece, they'll understand what the tactics, techniques and procedures are that they need to do, and I believe that piece will be seamless.

But always -- as always, it will take a bit longer to build the personal relationships. But I don't believe that will have an impact on their ability to react to the former regime elements. It will have an impact -- a little bit -- as they start to continue to move forward with reconstruction and helping out with the government as we establish it here in the summer.

Army Lt. Col. (promotable) Gary L. Keck, deputy director, DoD Press Office: Sir, this is Lieutenant Colonel Keck. We appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule. Do you have any other final comments you'd like to make?

Odierno: No. The last -- I would just like to say that -- again, how proud I am of the soldiers here. And this has been -- this is tough. This is tough fighting. I tell everyone that what makes this specifically hard is every day, when my soldiers, these great soldiers, go out there, they never know what they're going to face. You can face 10 days of absolute peace. On that 11th day, there is some sort of contact that you have that's significant. And they have dealt with it magnificently.

And over time it is a bit wearing on you, but -- and they are still very motivated and focused on what they're doing, and I'm extremely proud of them for what they've done. And it's -- we should be very thankful for their dedication. I know I am. And that's all, that's the last thing I'd like to say.

Again, thank you very much. And I appreciate all your great questions. And any time, if you need anything, I'd be happy to talk to any one of you. Thanks.