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**Presenter: Army Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack, Jr.**

**March 10, 2004 9:00 AM EST**

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**82nd Airborne Division Commanding General's Briefing from Iraq**

**82nd Airborne Division Commanding General's Briefing from Iraq**

Staff: Good afternoon. Welcome to this evening's, or this afternoon's, press briefing, where Major General Swannack will update you on operations within the 82nd Airborne Division's zone of operation. He will make a longer statement and then take your questions.

This is a live broadcast to the Pentagon press and they will be given an opportunity to ask questions every third question. If you have a cell phone -- like this one -- and it's not turned off, please do so at this time. If you have a radio please turn it down. Cameramen, please do not walk in and among the journalists; you may work around to the sides and in the back, but not in and among the journalists. When you're given an opportunity to ask a question, please state your name and your network agency. Reach forward after you've asked the question, push the button, make sure the red light goes off.

Major General Swannack will address you on issues about the 82nd Airborne Division's operations only. He will not address policy issues or governmental issues. Please keep your questions to those related to the 82nd Airborne's zone of operations.

Also, following this press briefing at 6:00 p.m. Brigadier General Kimmitt and Mr. Dan Senior will hold a press briefing. I ask that if you wish you may remain seated, and following this press briefing there will be another one.

Shukran; thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, Major General Chuck Swannack.

Swannack: Well, good day to everyone here and also in Washington, D.C.

My opening statement will be a little bit long as this will most likely be my last press conference of commander of Multinational Division West. So I want to take the opportunity to tell a story of success out west during the past seven months.

First, let me congratulate Iraqis on the new interim constitution. This was a historic occasion for Iraq and the entire world and a critical step toward the establishment of your sovereignty. Up front, I'd also like to recognize the brave Iraqi security forces and innocent civilians that have recently given their lives in this fight for freedom,