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Notification to Command and Management Actions

On March 31, 2007, we issued six action memoranda to MNF-I, MNC-I, DCMA, and LOGCAP officials for their action on the conditions discussed in this report. Specifically, the memoranda discussed the deficiencies resulting from the lack of:

- oversight and quality control for the military water purification units,
- coordinated oversight by agencies responsible for ensuring water quality,
- records showing the results of required tests,
- information dissemination to troops concerning the proper use of water,
- oversight for water storage containers, and
- contractor emergency response procedures for alerting the command of unsafe water.

We requested that the officials take action to correct the identified deficiencies. On May 14, 2007, MNF-I officials responded stating they were applying the following corrective actions:

- transferring all military water production and storage operations to LOGCAP not later than July 1, 2007;
- establishing a water quality board consisting of officials from MNF-I, MNC-I, DCMA, Preventive Medicine, LOGCAP, and Joint Contracting Command-Iraq to meet quarterly and oversee the quality of water operations;
- assessing the ability of preventive medicine sections to conduct all required testing, and augmenting military units with LOGCAP contractors where needed;
- updating MNC-I Operations Order 06-02, Annex Q, Appendix 2, Tab D, Standard Operating Procedures for “Iraqi Theater-Specific Requirements for Sanitary Control and Surveillance of Field Water Supplies,” to emphasize the standards for types and uses of water in Iraq and the controls in place to ensure testing and recordkeeping requirements are met;
- requiring all Base Mayor Offices to ensure every newcomer receives standard information concerning water consumption in Iraq;
- publishing an order for all Base Mayors to provide a list of all water containers to MNC-I Preventive Medicine officials. Preventive medicine officials will ensure testing of military water containers, and LOGCAP officials will ensure testing of its containers, all in accordance with TB MED 577;
- issuing a LOGCAP contractor operating procedure manual to water production operators that designates procedures to report water quality lapses.