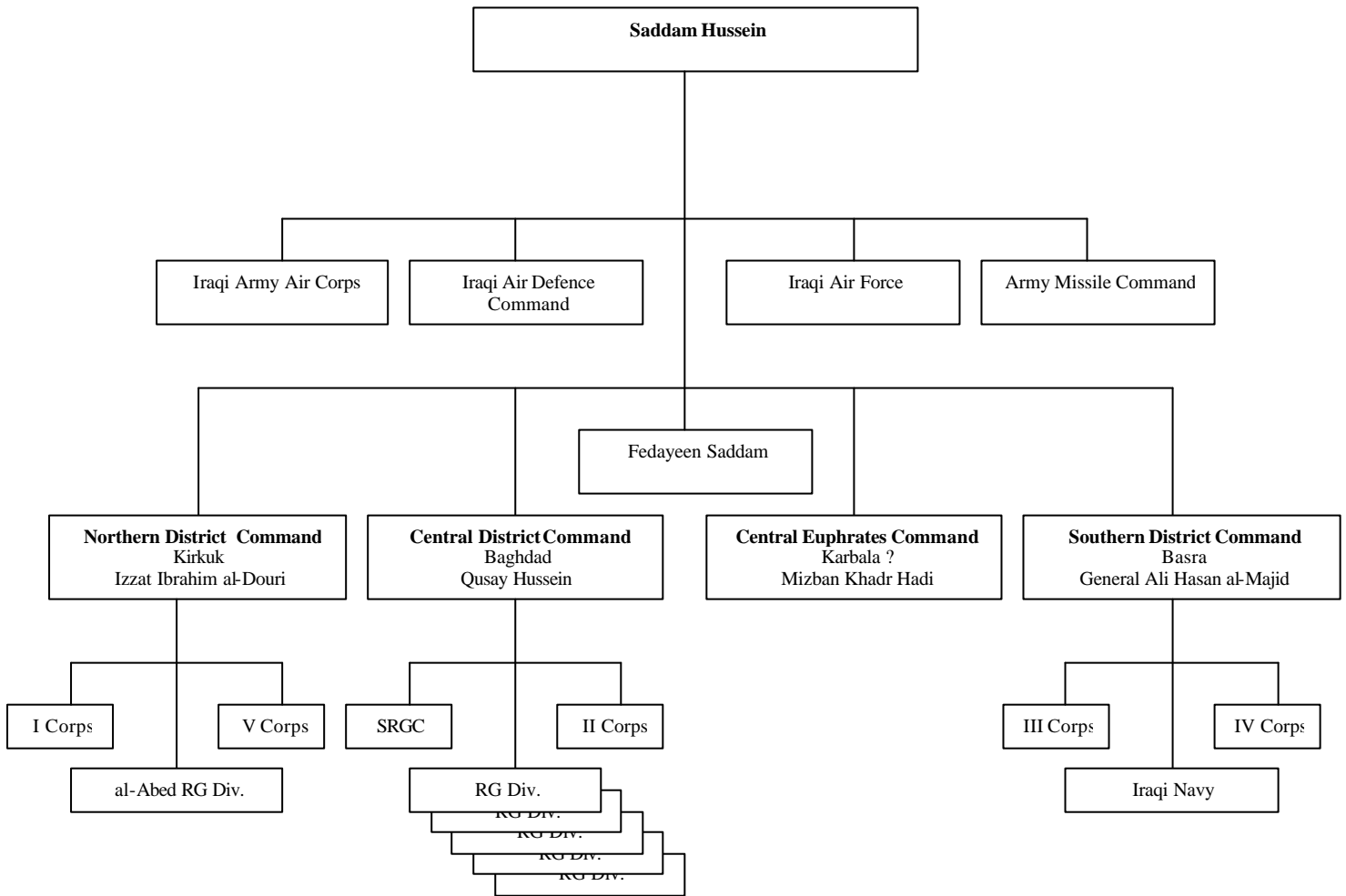


IRAQI REGIONAL COMMANDS

Johann Price w/special thanks to Tom Cooper
18 March 2003. © Orbat.com



CIA World Factbook 2002



Reuters image

INTRODUCTION

As part of its move to a war footing, Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council issued Decree no. 61 on 15 March 2003 effectively dividing the country in to four regional commands, all reporting directly to President Saddam Hussein.

The regional commanders have been given total control over Ba'ath party organisations, the public, law enforcement forces and military troops assigned to their region.

However the national security services and the Saddam Fedayeen will continue to answer to Baghdad unless communications are disrupted, in which case they will answer to the regional commander.

ANALYSIS

Three out of the four regional commanders lack any real military experience; their primary qualification is their loyalty to Saddam. For that matter most of the Iraqi Army's best general officers have either fled or been shot.

Unsurprisingly the heaviest concentration of the regime's elite units are in the Central District Command, defending Baghdad, Tikrit and all of the approaches.

Looking at the pattern of deployments it appears that Saddam Hussein's aim is to simultaneously delay the encirclement of Baghdad and ensure that his most loyal fighting forces can not easily be bypassed or destroyed piecemeal by American forces in a series of small actions.

In the South Central Euphrates has been left invitingly open to the 3ID once Iraqi III Corps' 51st Mechanised Division has been disposed of. In the north the Kirkuk bases al-Abed Republican Guard Division will act as something of a magnet for Kurdish Pesh Marga and Coalition SF will conduct a delaying action, attempting to withdraw when pressure becomes unbearable. In addition to the substantial numbers of regular Iraqi Army troops, and the Adnan Republican Guard division is digging in around Tikrit. The net effect will be to blunt the northern thrust, allowing the four remaining Republican Guard and the Special Republican Guard Corps defending Baghdad. A tank brigade, probably from the Hammurabi Division has been reported to be digging in at al-Fallujah, roughly 25 miles west of Baghdad, on the banks of the Euphrates. To the southwest is the Nebuchadnezzar Motorized Division. The Nidaa Armored Division is deployed to the north-east while the Medina Armored Division guards the southeast. These last two in effect will serve as the regime's final heavy reserve and have the most complete TO&E of any Iraqi armoured unit.

All of this is designed to serve the overall Iraqi strategy of maximizing Coalition casualties and prolonging the conflict by drawing in Anglo-American forces in to prolonged urban combat.

Of course the Coalition's air mobile forces present remain a formidable variable, and the Iraqis seem to overestimate the effect that burning oil pools will have on ground forward air control and GPS guided air to surface munitions, or the ability of JSTARS and Rivet Joint aircraft to detect any attempt to concentrate units.

Readers should note that the positions given for regular Iraqi Army units are peacetime locations. Many of these units have at least partially dispersed in order to ride out the first wave of coalition air attacks.

NORTHERN DISTRICT COMMAND

Governorates:

Nineveh, Dahuk, Arbil, Tamim, Sulaimaniyah

Commander:

Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, Vice chairman of the RCC, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and deputy secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party and an important tribal figure.

Military Deputies:

Gen. Abd-al-Wahid Shannan Al Ribat, governor of Nineveh

Lt. Gen. Kamal Mustafa Abdallah, secretary of the Secretariat of the Republican Guard

4th Al-Abed Motorized Infantry Division 38 th Motorized Infantry Brigade 39 th Motorized Infantry Brigade 40 th Motorized Infantry Brigade Divisional Artillery Brigade	full name: Quwat al-Abed Hares Himhouri, replaced the Hammurabi Division at Kirkuk
--	--

Unit	HQ
I ARMY CORPS	Kirkuk
5th Mechanized Division 15 th Mechanized Brigade 20 th Mechanized Brigade 26 th Mechanized Brigade	Kirkuk Suhwan Qarahanjjer and Bani Qader Karam and Lajlan
2nd Infantry Division 2 nd Infantry Brigade 4 th Infantry Brigade 36 th Infantry Brigade	al-Rabee Bani Maqan Qarahanjjer and Kirkuk Qarahanjjer and Kirkuk
8th Infantry Division 22 nd Infantry Brigade 44 th Infantry Brigade 48 th Infantry Brigade	Shuwan Area Alton Kopri Taqtaq and Shwasoor Alton Copri Castle
38th Infantry Division 130 th Infantry Brigade 847 th Infantry Brigade 848 th Infantry Brigade	Tappalow Bajawan Aliyawah Koramor
V ARMY CORPS	Mosul
1st Mechanized Division 1 st Mechanized Brigade 27 th Mechanized Brigade 34 th Armoured Brigade	Makhmoor-Gayarah Makhmoor and Deebagah al-Quds al-Adnania
4th Infantry Division 5 th Infantry Brigade 29 th Infantry Brigade 96 th Infantry Brigade	Bashiquah Shaikhan Tal al-Baa'roor al-Khazer Brigde
7th Infantry Division 38 th Infantry Brigade 39 th Infantry Brigade 116 th Infantry Brigade	al-Adnani Alton Kopri Deebaqaq Beestana and Qooshtapah
16th Infantry Division 108 th Infantry Brigade 505 th Infantry Brigade 606 th Infantry Brigade	Mawsil Faydah Camp Duhoq Shiakhan-Mawsil

CENTRAL DISTRICT COMMAND

Governorates:

Anbar, Salahuddin, Diyala, Wasit, Babil, Baghdad

Commander:

Qusay Hussein – Saddam Hussein’s younger son and head of the Iraqi armed forces and head of the internal security machine. Since 1996 he has also been in charge of the elite Republican Guard Corps and his father's personal security, the so-called Special Republican Guard.

Special Republican Guards Corps (direct reporting and units from different security services. May be reinforced by 5th and 26th Commando Brigades)

Unit	HQ	Remarks
SIGINT/ELINT Battalion	al-Rashedia + five ground stations at/near: al-Bakr GOSP, al-Basrah, H-3/Al-Wallid AB, Kirkuk/al-Hurriya AB	Al-Hadi Project/Project 858, 800 troops, Soviet&French equipment, internal/&external security
Saddam’s Fedayeen Brigade	unclear	Mechanized infantry unit (BTR-70s), with five battalions (1 st , 2 nd , 5 th , 7 th , and 8 th) a company of PT-76s, controlled by Uday, recruited from al-Tikriti clan
Amn al-Khass Brigade	Al-Baladiat, Baghdad	Mechanized commando/riot police unit, recruited by Military Bureau of the Ba’ath Party
Mukhabarat Brigade	Mansour District, Baghdad	Two battalions of motorized „special police“, recruited by the GIS
999 Brigade	Karadet Mariam, Baghdad,	Up to 12 companies of SPETSNAZ-type commandos, recruited by DMI
2 nd Brigade SRGC	Baghdad	Motorized infantry unit (4 th , 6 th , 11 th , 14 th , and 15 th Battalions) recruited by MSS
3 rd Brigade SRGC	Baghdad	motorized infantry unit (3 rd , 9 th , 10 th , and 12 th Battalions)
4 th Armoured Brigade SRGC	Baghdad	two armoured battalions of T-72s

Republican Guards Corps, Central Region Command

Unit	Remarks
1st Hammurabi Mechanized Infantry Division 8 th Mechanized Infantry Brigade 9 th Mechanized Infantry Brigade 8 th or 17 th Armoured Brigade 18 th Armoured Brigade Divisional Artillery Brigade	full name: Quwat Hammurabi Hares Jimhouri; the Divisional Artillery Brigade brought back to strength by taking assets from other units; the status of the first Armoured Brigade is unclear, if it is the 8 th AB, it consists of 52 nd , 53 rd and 59 th Armoured Bns.
2nd al-Medina al-Munawera Armoured Division 2 nd Armoured Brigade 10 th Armoured Brigade 14 th Motorized Brigade Divisional Artillery Brigade	full name: Al-Medina al-Munawera Forces Command, or Quwat al-Medina al-Munawera Hares Jimhouri, 2 nd Armoured Brigade only nominally existing - it has no T-72s any more; the former 14 th Mechanized Brigade was „motorized“ after the loss of most BMPs in December 1998
5th Baghdad Motorized Infantry Division 4 th Motorized Brigade	also known as „Baghdad Forces Command“ or Quwat Baghdad Hares Jimhouri, formally under the Northern Corps, the Baghdad Division returned from Kirkuk, where

5 th Motorized Brigade 6 th Motorized Brigade ? Divisional Artillery Brigade	it was heavily hit by US attacks during the Op. Desert Fox, the unit's air defence brigade (SA-6s) is not existing any more.
6th Nebuchadnezzar Motorized Division 19 th Motorized Infantry Brigade 22 nd Motorized Infantry Brigade 23 rd Motorized Infantry Brigade Divisional Artillery Brigade	full name: Quwat Nebuchadnezzar Hares Jimhouri; 22 nd and 23 rd Brigades still have not recovered from heavy blows (181 KIA) sustained during Desert Fox, Divisional Artillery Brigade at 50% strength
7th Adnan Armoured Division 11 th Mechanized Brigade 12 th Mechanized Brigade 21 st Armoured Brigade Divisional Artillery Brigade	full name: Adnan Forces Command or Quwat Adnan Hares Jimhouri, 21 st Armoured Brigade only nominally existing - it has no T-72s any more
8th al-Nidaa Armored Division 41 st Armoured Brigade 42 nd Armoured Brigade 43 rd Armoured Brigade	full name: Quwat al-Nida Hares Jimhouri; one of armoured brigades, as well as the divisional artillery brigade, are not existing any more

Unit	HQ
II ARMY CORPS	Diyala
3rd Saladin Armoured Division 6 th Armoured Brigade 12 th Armoured Brigade 8 th Mechanized Brigade	Saadiah-Jalawola Khanaqin Kashkool (near Kifri) Qarhattappa
15th Infantry Division 76 th Infantry Brigade 104 th Infantry Brigade	Aamerli (Tuz Khumratu) Jabbarah Qader Karam
34th Infantry Division 90 th Infantry Brigade 502 nd Infantry Brigade 504 th Infantry Brigade	Saadiah-Khannaqin Marwari Mt. Malekshah Castle Gowlajoooh-Shaikh Bawah

CENTRAL EUPHRATES COMMAND

Governorates:

Kerbala, Najaf, Qadisiyah, Muthanna

Commander:

Mizban Khadr Hadi, member of the ruling RCC and Iraq Command.

Military Deputies:

Lt. Gen. Kan'an Mansur Khalil, president of the Al-Bakr University for Higher Military Studies.

Lt. Gen. Yahya Taha Huwaysh, president of the Saddam Military University.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT COMMAND

Governorates:

Maysan, Dhi Qar, Basrah

Commander:

Gen. Ali Hassan al-Majid. President Saddam's cousin, better known as Chemical Ali for his gassing of Iraqi Kurds in 1988

Military Deputies:

Gen. Husayn Rashid Muhammad. Secretary General of the General Command of the Armed Forces, Basra governorate.

Gen. Ibrahim Isma'il Muhammad. Inspector General of the Armed Forces.

Gen. Sabah Nuri al-Ajili. Assistant Chief of Staff of the Al-Quds Army for operations and training, Maysan governorate.

Lt. Gen. Ra'd Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal. Assistant Army Chief of Staff for administrative affairs, Dhi Qar governorate.

Unit	HQ
III ARMY CORPS	Qalat Salih
6th Armoured Division 30 th Armoured Brigade 70 th Armoured Brigade 25 th Mechanized Infantry Brigade	al-Nasha (al-Basrah) Shalamcheh Majnoon (Howeyzeh) al-Nashwa
51st Mechanized Division 31 st Mechanized Brigade 32 nd Mechanized Brigade 41 st Armoured Brigade	al-Shoibiyah al-Shoibiyah al-Zubair Rumaillah
11th Infantry Division 23 rd Infantry Brigade 45 th Infantry Brigade 47 th Infantry Brigade	al-Tarr Salayeen Marshes al-Shoibiyah al-Shoibiyah
IV ARMY CORPS	al-Maymona
10th Armoured Division 17 th Armoured Brigade 42 nd Armoured Brigade 24 th Mechanized Brigade	al-Teeb al-Teeb Al-Sheeb al-Husharah-Immarah
14th Infantry Division 14 th Infantry Brigade 18 th Infantry Brigade 426 th Infantry Brigade	al-Salam al-Maymoona al-Medainah al-Ezair
18th Infantry Divison 95 th Infantry Brigade 422 nd Infantry Brigade 704 th Infantry Brigade	Qalat Salih Qalat Salih al-Kahlai al-Majar al-Kabir