

CSIS

Center for Strategic and International Studies

1800 K Street N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 775-7324

Access: Web: CSIS.ORG

Contact the Author: slanier@csis.org

Low Intensity Conflict and Nation-Building in Iraq:

A Chronology

Stephen S. Lanier and Bobak Roshan
Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy
Center for Strategic and International Studies

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POST-WAR IRAQ

The Timeline

2003

- May 1:** President George W. Bush declares an end to major combat operations in Iraq. The U.S. lost 138 soldiers during the war. Seven U.S. soldiers are wounded when grenades are lobbed into an American base in Fallujah, a stronghold for Saddam Hussein loyalists. This followed an incident where U.S. troops killed 15 civilians during protests in the city.
- May 2:** U.S. troops apprehend Saddam Hussein's minister of military industrialization, Abdul Tawab Mullah Hwaish, who is suspected of playing a central role in developing Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. One of Saddam's vice-presidents, Taha Mohieddin Ma'rouf, is also arrested, bringing the total number of regime members in custody to 17 out of 55 being sought.
- May 3:** Schools re-open in Baghdad for the first time in seven weeks, but many children remain at home, as parents fear for their safety.
- May 5:** Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, the woman dubbed "Mrs. Anthrax" for her role in Iraqi biological weapons programs, is taken into U.S. custody. Ammash, number 53 on the list of most-wanted Iraqis, is the 19th person on the list to be apprehended.
- May 6:** President Bush names L. Paul Bremer, former ambassador and counterterrorism director, the new civilian administrator of postwar Iraq. He will replace retired Lieutenant General Jay Garner.
- May 7:** U.S. officials discover that Qusay Hussein, bearing a letter of authorization signed by his father, removed \$1 billion cash from the Iraqi central bank on March 18, 2003.
- May 9:** The U.S., U.K. and Spain present a blueprint for postwar Iraq to the United Nations Security Council. The draft resolution names the U.S. and U.K. as "occupying powers," giving them control of Iraqi oil revenues for at least a year. The most senior Iraqi Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr al-Hakim returned to Iraq after 23 years of exile in Iran. U.S. General Ray Odierno, commander of U.S. 4th Infantry Division, initiated disarmament talks with the "People's Mujahidin," an Iranian opposition group based in Iraq.
- May 10:** A U.S. Black Hawk helicopter crashes into the Tigris River with three fatalities.

- May 12:** L. Paul Bremer officially replaces Jay Garner as head of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). Coalition forces detain Rihab Rashid Taha Al-Azzawi Al-Tikriti, head of the Iraqi biological program.
- May 13:** A mass grave is found near Baghdad. The remains of 15,000 people appear to be Shiites killed during a 1991 popular uprising. Microbiologist Dr. Rihab Taha, known as “Dr. Germ” for her role in Iraq’s biological weapons program, surrenders to coalition forces.
- May 17:** 9,000 additional U.S. troops arrive in Baghdad to assist in policing the city.
- May 19:** Thousands of Shiites, apparently organized by Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, peacefully march through Baghdad to protest the American occupation.
- May 22:** The U.N. Security Council votes 14-0 to lift sanctions on Iraq and grant temporary control of the country to the U.S. and U.K. Syria boycotts the vote.
- May 27:** Two U.S. soldiers die in an organized attack on an army checkpoint in Fallujah. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan names Sergio Vieira de Mello head of U.N. operations in Iraq.
- May 30:** British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell deny allegations that pre-war intelligence was manipulated to justify the invasion.
- May 31:** 37 U.S. troops died in May.
- June 2:** Hans Blix, the chief U.N. weapons inspector, sends his last report to the U.N. Security Council. In it, he states that the inspections carried out prior to the war did little to account for Iraq’s missing weapons of mass destruction.
- June 12:** An Apache AH-64 helicopter is downed in western Iraq; it is the first U.S. helicopter to be brought down by enemy fire since the collapse of the Hussein regime. The two pilots escape unhurt.
- June 13:** U.S. troops question about 400 suspects following Operation Peninsula Strike, the biggest military operation since the end of formal combat operations. Several Iraqis die in the three-day operation.
- June 15:** Hundreds of American soldiers sweep through Fallujah in another, apparently more precise, operation against guerrilla resistance. Operation Desert Scorpion is designed to defeat organized Iraqi resistance.
An average of about one U.S. soldier has been killed per day since May 1.
- June 17:** American troops mount new searches through Baghdad after a sniper kills a U.S. soldier on patrol.

June 19: A rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) strikes an American military ambulance, killing one U.S. soldier and injuring two.

June 24: Six British soldiers are killed in two attacks in the Shiite town of Al Majar al-Kabir. The gun battles with residents stem from local anger over the Coalition's use of dogs during house searches, as dogs are considered unclean in Islam.

June 26: A U.S. soldier is killed when his vehicle is ambushed. A pedestrian also dies.

June 30: Three blasts rock Fallujah. One at the Al-Hassan mosque kills a Muslim cleric and six theology students, injuring 15 others. U.S. Central Command reports that "something like an ammunition dump" exploded near the mosque.
The death toll for U.S. troops in June is 30.

July 1: An explosion destroys a Sunni mosque in Fallujah, killing at least 10 Iraqis, including the chief cleric, and injuring four others. Many Iraqis blame an American missile for the destruction and chant, "America is the enemy of God." U.S. troops shot dead two Iraqis who fail to stop at a checkpoint.

July 4: A tape recording, purportedly of Saddam Hussein, is broadcast urging guerrilla fighters in Iraq to continue their resistance to the U.S.-led occupation.

July 5: A British freelance TV cameraman is shot and killed in Baghdad. Seven Iraqi police recruits are killed and 40 are wounded by an explosion at a police-training center in Ramadi.

July 7: General John Abizaid replaces retiring General Tommy Franks as commander of Central Command and, by extension, of Coalition forces in Iraq.

July 13: Iraq's interim governing council has its first meeting. The 25-member council has power to name officials and will help draft a new constitution for the country.

July 14: One U.S. soldier dies and six are injured in an attack on a convoy in Baghdad.

July 16: Attacks in western Iraq claim the lives of a pro-U.S. mayor and his son. Abizaid announces that replacement troops may be deployed for yearlong tours.

July 17: An audiotape, purported to be of Saddam Hussein and apparently timed to coincide with the anniversary of the 1968 Baathist revolution, is played on Arab television station al-Arabiya, encouraging defiance to U.S. occupation.

July 18: Moqtada al-Sadr announces plans to form an independent "Islamic army" to challenge the American occupation and the Iraqi Governing Council.

July 21: U.N. Secretary General Annan endorses the Governing Council.

- July 22:** U.S. Special Forces kill Uday and Qusay Hussein in a firefight in Mosul. Special Forces, who were backed by 200 regular Army soldiers and several helicopters, stormed a villa following a tip from an Iraqi source. The Hussein brothers died along with a bodyguard and Qusay's teenage son. Four Americans are wounded.
- July 24:** Three U.S. soldiers are killed when their convoy is ambushed in Qaiyara.
- July 25:** Japan agrees to support Iraqi reconstruction efforts with military personnel – its biggest deployment of troops since 1945.
- July 26:** A grenade attack kills four U.S. soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division at Baquba. The soldiers were guarding a children's hospital.
- July 27:** A U.S. soldier dies in a grenade attack south of Baghdad, bringing the American death toll 5 in the last 24 hours.
- July 29:** A recording, purported to be by Saddam Hussein, declares that his two sons died as martyrs for Iraq, and he pledges that the U.S. will be defeated.
- July 31:** 47 American troops died in July.
- August 7:** A car bomb explodes outside the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens; all the dead were Iraqis. Following the attack, Iraqis rush the rubble, smashing portraits of Jordan's King Abdullah II.
- August 8:** U.S. troops mistakenly open fire and kill six Iraqi civilians in Baghdad as they hurry home to beat the curfew.
U.S. soldiers kill two Iraqis believed to be selling weapons at a market in Tikrit.
- August 9:** British troops fight to restore calm in Basra after fuel and power shortages. U.S. casualties reach 255 at the 100-day mark; 43 British have died.
- August 11:** Six Iraqi prisoners die and 59 are wounded when the Abu Ghraib prison comes under mortar fire.
- August 14:** A British soldier is killed and two others are injured during a guerrilla attack on a military ambulance driving through the outskirts of Basra.
- August 15:** Saboteurs blow up a crude oil export pipeline in northern Iraq, sparking an enormous fire and halting oil exports to Turkey.
- August 16:** In an rare example of Sunni-Shia cooperation, a popular Sunni cleric, Ahmed Kubeisi, offers grass-roots and financial support to an outspoken anti-American Shiite cleric, Moqtada al-Sadr.

August 19: A truck bomb explodes outside U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, killing 24 people, including the head of the U.N. mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Over 100 are injured. The dead also include the Iraq coordinator for the U.N. children's fund, UNICEF, and several World Bank staffers.

August 21: Coalition troops capture General Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as “Chemical Ali” for his role in the gas attacks against the Kurds in 1987. He is number five on the United States' list of the 55 most wanted Iraqis.

August 23: Three British soldiers are killed in a guerrilla attack in Basra.

August 29: An explosion at a Najaf Mosque kills about 95, including one of Iraq’s most important Shiite leaders, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqr al-Hakim. Another 125 are wounded. Ayatollah al-Hakim was the leader of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), and returned to Iraq in May following more than two decades of exile in Iran.

August 31: 35 American troops died in August.

September 7: President Bush announces that \$87 billion is needed to cover additional military and reconstruction costs in Iraq.

September 10: A suicide car bomb explodes outside coalition intelligence offices in Irbil. Three die; 41 are injured.

September 12: U.S. troops mistakenly shoot and kill ten Iraqi policemen in Fallujah. Angry residents vow to initiate a new wave of violence against Americans.

September 19: Former Iraqi defense minister, General Sultan Hashim Ahmad – number 27 on the list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis – surrenders to U.S. forces.

September 25: Dr. Aqila al-Hashimi, the only female member of the Iraq Governing Council, dies five days after being shot. Men with machine guns and a bomb attacked Hashimi near her home. The career diplomat was the only member of the former Baathist regime to occupy a position on the Council.

September 30: The death toll for American troops in September is 30.

October 2: David Kay’s interim report finds no evidence WMDs in Iraq. U.S. forces face roughly 15-20 attacks per day in Iraq.

October 5: The White House announces a reorganization of its reconstruction efforts in Iraq, placing National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice in charge while diminishing the role of the Pentagon.

- October 7:** Turkey agrees to send as many as 10,000 troops to Iraq.
- October 9:** A suicide bomber rams his car into a police station in Baghdad, killing nine.
Two U.S. soldiers die and four are injured in an ambush in Baghdad.
- October 12:** A suicide car bombing near the Baghdad Hotel kills eight and wounds 32.
- October 14:** A suicide car bomb explodes outside the Turkish embassy in Baghdad, killing one Iraqi and wounding at least 13. In an apparent change of strategy, insurgents are targeting supporters of the Coalition rather than U.S. troops.
- October 17:** Three U.S. soldiers and at least seven Iraqis die in a gun battle outside the office of a Shia cleric in Karbala.
All fifteen members of the United Nations Security Council vote in favor of Resolution 1511. The resolution added international legitimacy to the CPA but emphasizes the need to hand over political control to Iraqis as soon as possible.
- October 19:** Two American soldiers die in an ambush outside Kirkuk.
- October 23-24:** The Madrid Conference, an international donors' conference of 80 nations, yields \$13 billion in addition to the \$20 billion already pledged by the United States. This amount falls short of the \$56 billion target, a figure the World Bank and U.N. estimated would be needed for Iraq over the next four years.
- October 26:** A rocket hits the Rashid hotel in Baghdad, narrowly missing Paul Wolfowitz, the American deputy secretary of defense. An U.S. colonel dies; 18 others are wounded.
- October 27:** Four coordinated suicide attacks in Baghdad kill 43 and wound more than 200. The targets are the headquarters of the Red Crescent (Islamic Red Cross) and three police stations. It's the bloodiest day since the fall of Hussein's regime.
- October 30:** The U.N. withdraws all non-Iraqi staff from Baghdad.
- October 31:** 43 American troops died in October.
- November 2:** In the single deadliest strike on U.S. forces since the war began, guerrillas shoot down an American Chinook helicopter six miles south of Fallujah, killing 16 U.S. soldiers and injuring 21 others.
- November 7:** Six U.S. soldiers die when their Black Hawk helicopter crashes after being struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.
Turkey reverses its decision to send troops to Iraq.

November 12: A car bomb outside an Italian military police station in Nassiriya kills 18 Italian officers and at least eight Iraqis.

The U.S. launches Operation Iron Hammer against suspected Hussein loyalists.

November 21: A suicide bombing outside the PUK office in Kirkuk kills four.

November 29: Two U.S. soldiers, seven Spanish intelligence officers, two Japanese diplomats, and a Colombian oil worker die in separate guerrilla attacks.

November 30: U.S. forces repel three ambushes on American convoys in Samarra, killing 46 Iraqis and capturing eight.

November produces the highest death toll for U.S. troops – 82 – since May 1.

December 6: Bremer's convoy is attacked in Baghdad, but the CPA chief survives.

December 9: A car bomb explodes outside an American military barracks near Mosul, wounding 60, including 41 U.S. troops.

December 13: Saddam Hussein is captured by American troops. The former dictator is found hiding in a hole near Tikrit, his hometown. He surrenders without a fight.

December 14: A car bomb destroys a police station near Baghdad, killing at least 17.

December 27: Guerrillas attack government buildings and foreign military bases in Karbala with car bombs, mortars and guns. 19 Iraqis die; 120 are wounded.

December 31: Eight Iraqis die when a car bomb rips through a Baghdad restaurant. Over 30 are wounded, including three Western journalists.

The death toll for U.S troops in December is 40.

2004

January 5: Three American soldiers are discharged after beating Iraqi POWs.

January 6: Two French nationals are killed in Fallujah after their car brakes down.

January 9: A rocket downs a U.S. medivac helicopter near Fallujah, killing nine.
A bomb explodes outside a mosque in Baquba, killing at least 5.

January 14: Some 30,000 followers of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Hussein al-Sistani march through Basra, protesting in support of his demands for direct elections.

January 17: A roadside bomb kills three U.S. soldiers and two Iraqis, bringing the U.S. death toll to 500 since the conflict began.

January 18: A suicide bomber detonates a truck packed with 500kg of explosives at CPA headquarters, killing at least 31 people and injuring more than 100.

January 19: Tens of thousands of Shiite Muslims march through Baghdad, demanding direct elections to choose a new government. It is the largest protest since the occupation of Iraq began 10 months before. The demonstration is partly inspired by Sistani's opposition to the American plan for caucuses.

January 21: Four Iraqi women, working as laundresses at an U.S. military base, are gunned down and killed on their way to work.

January 24: Five U.S. soldiers die in separate bombings in the Sunni Triangle.

January 25: Seven Iraqi policemen die in a pair of attacks in Ramadi.
The U.S. military loses its fifth helicopter in a month, which crashes in the Tigris River while searching for a soldier whose boat capsized. Both pilots die.

January 26: Guerrillas fire a rocket into the parking lot of occupation headquarters. No injuries reported.

January 27: Six American soldiers are killed and four are wounded when homemade bombs explode in two roadside attacks in central Iraq.
A gunman opens fire on cars carrying CNN workers south of Baghdad, killing two Iraqi employees and wounding an American cameraman.

January 28: A car bomb explodes outside the Shaheen Hotel in central Baghdad, killing three while destroying the building and a police post.
David Kay, the CIA's chief weapons inspector, reports his findings to a Senate committee, claiming U.S. pre-war intelligence estimates of Iraqi weapons programs were "almost all wrong."

January 31: Twelve people, including three American soldiers, are killed in separate bomb attacks in northern Iraq: a suicide bomber rammed his car into a police station in Mosul, killing at least 9 people and wounding 45; in the second attack, three American soldiers die when a homemade bomb destroys their Humvee.
519 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq, 381 have died since May 1.
The death toll for U.S. troops in January is 46.

February 1: 109 people die and 247 are wounded in two suicide attacks during Muslim celebrations at separate headquarters of two leading Kurdish parties in Arbil.
One American soldier is killed and 12 are wounded in a rocket attack.
20 people trying to loot an ammunition dump in southwestern Iraq are killed when the arms unexpectedly explode.

February 5: Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, a popular Shiite cleric, survives an assassination attempt when gunmen open fire on his entourage.

February 9: The U.S. military intercepts a document written by Abu Musab Zarqawi, an Islamic extremist from Jordan with ties to al Qaeda. The 17-page letter details a planned campaign of violence meant to destabilize Iraq by pitting religious and ethnic groups against one another. Expressing frustration with the insurgency's failure to force out American troops, Zarqawi asks al Qaeda for assistance in accelerating guerrilla activities. Zarqawi is a suspect in several attacks in Iraq, including the bombings of U.N. headquarters, the main gate to the occupation headquarters in Baghdad, and a shrine in the holy city of Najaf. Together, the attacks killed nearly 200 people and wounded hundreds more.

February 10: A car bomb explodes outside a police station in Iskandariya, killing at least 55 and wounding up to 65. Many of the victims were applicants lined up outside. A near riot follows when the Iraqi police chief, Ahmed Ibrahim, arrives at the scene. Crowds shout anti-American slogans.

February 11: In yet another attempt to disrupt the construction of a security apparatus, a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a crowd of Iraqi Army recruits in central Baghdad, killing at least 47 and wounding at least 50 others.

February 14: Roughly 70 guerrillas firing rockets, mortars and machineguns raid police headquarters and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) in Fallujah in an effort to free foreign prisoners. 15 policemen, four insurgents and at least four civilians die in the attack. The dead guerrillas appear to be Lebanese and Iranian nationals. At least 70 prisoners escape, many – 18 by one account – flee with the attackers.

February 15: Muhammad Zimam Abd al-Razzaq al Sadun, No. 41 on the Coalition's list of most wanted Iraqis, is captured in a Baghdad suburb.

February 18: Polish troops thwart twin suicide car bombs as the vehicles approach a Coalition base in Hilla, south of Baghdad. The speeding trucks explode prematurely, killing 11 Iraqi civilians and wounding as many as 100, including nearly 60 coalition troops from Poland, Hungary and the U.S.

February 23: At least 10 people are killed and over 35 are injured when a car bomb explodes outside a Kirkuk police station.

February 25: A U.S. OH-58 Kiowa Helicopter crashes into the Euphrates River near Hadithah, killing two of its crew. The cause of the crash is unknown, though several eyewitnesses say it was shot down. Abu Mohammed Hamza, a Jordanian explosives expert believed to be a top lieutenant of Zarqawi, is reported dead after an American raid in Habbaniya.

February 27: A group of Sunni clerics issue a fatwa demanding an end of violence in Iraq. The document calls on Iraqis to stop killing Iraqis inside the country but makes no mention of attacks on Americans or other foreigners.
The death toll for U.S. troops in February is 21.

March 1: The Iraqi Governing Council agrees on a draft constitution that recognizes Islam as the central source of Iraqi law but also protects an array of individual rights. The document envisions 25% of the seats in the national assembly to be filled by women.

March 2: In the bloodiest day in Iraq since the end of the war, at least five bombs explode near Shiite religious ceremonies in Baghdad and Karbala, as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims pack the streets for the Ashoura ceremony. At least 270 people die; 573 are wounded. A mourning procession marches to the hospital decrying, “We defy you, America and Israel.” It is the first time Shiites are permitted to observe the holy day since the Baathists took power.
Zarqawi is named the “chief suspect.”

March 9: Iraqi policemen deliberately kill two CPA officials and their Iraqi translator 70 miles south of Baghdad. The “targeting killings” produce the first American civilian deaths in Iraq.

March 10: In a second such incident, two Iraqi women who worked as laundresses for U.S. troops are gunned down and killed in Baghdad.

March 13: Three U.S. soldiers die in Baghdad when an improvised roadside bomb explodes. Another U.S. soldier meets the same fate the following day.

March 15: Four American missionaries are murdered in a drive-by shooting in Mosul. 564 U.S. servicemen have died since the start of the war, 426 since May 1.

March 16: Four die – including Dutch and German engineers – in an ambush in Karbala.

March 17: Seven die when a car bomb levels the Mount Lebanon Hotel in Baghdad.

March 18: Four Iraqis die in an explosion outside the Mirbad Hotel in Basra. Locals are said to have attacked – or even killed – the suspected perpetrator.

March 20: On the anniversary of the start of the war, rocket attacks strike several targets in Baghdad, killing at least four Iraqi civilians. There are no organized protests.

March 22: Grand Ayatollah Sistani warns the U.N. of “dangerous consequences” if it endorses the American-sponsored interim constitution.

March 23: Attacks against Iraqi police persist, as 11 Iraqi policemen are shot and killed in separate attacks in Kirkuk and Hilla.

March 24: Fallujah continues to be a hotbed of insurgent activity, as attackers ambush a U.S. military patrol; three civilians die and two American soldiers are wounded. U.S. Marines assume security responsibility from the Army, hoping to bring a “softer” approach to the volatile town.

March 25: A bomb explodes at an oil field in Khabaz, about 55 miles west of Kirkuk. The ensuing fire rages for 24 hours before being extinguished.

March 26: U.S. Marines kill four Iraqis during a four-hour gunfight in Fallujah.

March 28: Several thousand Iraqis protest the closure of a Baghdad newspaper after the CPA claimed the paper incited violence. Demonstrators burned American flags and chanted anti-American slogans.

March 31: In one of the most gruesome scenes since the conflict began, four American civilian contractors are killed in an ambush in Fallujah. Jubilant crowds then drag the charred bodies through the streets and hang them from a bridge. Some corpses are dismembered and displayed above a sign that reads, “Fallujah is the graveyard of Americans.”

In a separate incident, five U.S. soldiers die when their convoys hits a roadside bomb in Malahma, 12 miles northwest of Fallujah.

March produces the second-highest death toll for U.S. troops – 52 – since May 1.

April 4: The followers of Moktada al-Sadr, a militant Shiite cleric with fiercely anti-American rhetoric, violently march through at least six Iraqi cities, seizing control of the area around Kufa and killing nine Coalition troops – seven in Sadr City alone. The violence begins when demonstrations supporting Sadr and his deputy, who was arrested the previous day, clash with Coalition forces, first in Najaf and then in Sadr City.

April 5: In response to the rising violence, the CPA issues a warrant for the arrest of Sadr in connection with the murder of a rival cleric in April 2003. It may prompt a confrontation the Americans have long wished to avoid.

The U.S. further shifts its strategy by pursuing those responsible for the March 31 slayings of American civilians in Fallujah.

April 6: At least 20 American soldiers die in three days of ferocious fighting in central and southern Iraq. In one of the most lethal days for American troops, an additional 12 Marines are killed in an attack in Ramadi, previously an area of relative calm. Coalition forces suddenly face a war on two fronts: against the Sunnis in central Iraq and against the Shiites in the south. Fighting continues to rage in Sadr City and Fallujah. Sadr's militiamen clash with Iraqi security forces in Najaf, Nasiriya, Basra and Baghdad. In Kufa, Shiite opposition forces replace police, essentially creating an occupation-free zone. Sadr urges his followers to carry on fighting and proclaims his solidarity with Ayatollah Sistani, claiming to be "his military wing in Iraq." Sistani, for his part, asks Shiites to remain calm.

April 7: Coalition troops clash with opposition fighters throughout central and southern Iraq, and as far north as Kirkuk. U.S. forces drop a 500-pound bomb on a mosque compound in Fallujah. Ukrainian troops evacuate Kut after confrontations with Sadr's "Mahdi Army." Polish forces combat opposition in Karbala. A Canadian aid worker is abducted in Kufa.

April 8: Sadr's militiamen maintain control of Kafa, Kut, and parts of Najaf. Kidnappers seize three Japanese civilians near the Kuwaiti border and threaten to burn them to death unless Japan withdraws its forces in Iraq. Eight South Korean missionaries are freed after a brief kidnapping in Baghdad. A total of 13 foreigners are taken hostage.

April 9: U.S. forces halt their offensive in Fallujah to allow for negotiations and the entry of foreign aid. Coalition troops retake Kut. Kidnappings continue to plague foreign workers, as an American truck driver appears as a prisoner on Arab television while two U.S. soldiers and seven oil workers are reported missing.

April 10: Sadr's supporters retain control of Kufa and Najaf. Hundreds of reinforcements join Marines surrounding Fallujah. Insurgents offer a truce if U.S. forces leave the city. Militants threaten to kill and mutilate an American contractor they kidnapped during a convoy ambush.

April 11: Insurgents down a U.S. helicopter in Baghdad, killing two crewmembers. The streets of Fallujah are quiet throughout the first day of the ceasefire. 26 American soldiers die in weekend fighting. At least 28 civilians from 11 countries have been kidnapped in the last week.

April 12: Sadr withdraws his militia from Najaf, Karbala and Kufa in a bid to stave off an American assault. Seven Chinese civilians are released after being held in captivity.

- April 13:** U.S. Central Command requests an additional 10,000 troops.
A U.S. military helicopter crashes outside Fallujah, probably from enemy fire. Five Ukrainian and three Russian energy workers are released after being kidnapped from their Baghdad homes.
- April 14:** Sporadic fighting persists in Fallujah despite a four-day-old ceasefire that quelled much of the violence. Dozens of foreign workers remain missing.
- April 15:** Khalil Naimi, an Iranian diplomat, is shot and killed one day after his arrival in Najaf to mediate the standoff between U.S. troops and al-Sadr supporters. A group calling itself the Green Brigade kills one of four abducted Italians.
- April 16:** A missing American soldier is seen held captive by insurgents on Al Jazeera. Fifteen Iraqis die in skirmishes with U.S. troops in Fallujah.
- April 17:** Ten U.S. soldiers die in fighting throughout the country; two die in accidents.
- April 20:** Insurgents attack a U.S. detention center near Baghdad, killing 22 prisoners. American forces ease the Fallujah blockade but demand that insurgents disarm.
- April 21:** Suicide car bombs explode outside several police facilities in and around Basra, killing at least 68. Angry crowds hurl stones at Coalition forces trying to reach the wounded.
- April 23:** A CPA spokesman warns that “time is running out” for the Fallujah ceasefire.
- April 24:** Seven American soldiers die in insurgent attacks. 28 Iraqis are killed in roadside and market bombings near Baghdad.
- April 26:** Al-Arabiya TV broadcasts a video in which militants promise to kill three Italian hostages unless the Italian public protests against the war in Iraq.
- April 27:** U.S. forces kill 64 insurgents in an overnight firefight near Najaf.
- April 28:** U.S. Marines call in AC-130 gunships to blast rebel positions in Fallujah.
- April 30:** A former Iraqi Army general enters Fallujah under a Coalition plan to restore order with a new Iraqi force led by officers who once served Saddam Hussein.
- April 31:** Photos of Iraqi prisoners being abused and tortured while in U.S. custody are splashed across worldwide media outlets.
137 U.S. troops died in April, which is the highest monthly death toll since the invasion of Iraq, and more than the past three months combined.
- May 3:** American commanders select a new Iraqi general to command security forces in Fallujah after charges of torture and repression surface around the original pick.

- May 5:** As Iraqi protesters demonstrate outside Abu Ghraib prison, President Bush appears on Arab television, explaining, "...What took place in that prison does not represent the America that I know."
- May 6:** U.S. forces seize parts of Karbala, Najaf and Kufa, but fierce resistance remains. A suicide car-bomber kills five Iraqis and a U.S. soldier in Baghdad. In an audiotape posted on an Islamic website, bin Laden offers 22 pounds of gold to anyone who kills CPA chief L. Paul Bremer or top U.S. military officials.
- May 7:** Insurgents ambush a police car in Mosul, killing four Iraqi officers.
- May 11:** A videotape showing the decapitation of Nicolas Berg, an American civilian in Iraq, appears on an Islamist website. The executioner is purportedly al Qaeda-affiliate Zarqawi, who claims revenge for the American mistreatment of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib.
- May 15:** Coalition forces battle Shiite insurgents in Najaf, Karbala, Al Amara, Nasiriya and Sadr City.
- May 16:** Gunmen kill three Iraqi women working for the CPA in Baghdad.
- May 17:** A suicide bomber kills Izzedin Salim, the president of the Iraqi Governing Council, and at least six others at a check point into a CPA headquarters zone. U.S. forces call in an air strike in Karbala against Al-Sadr's militia, which is taking refuge near the Shrine of Hussein, one of the holiest shrines in Shiite Islam.
- May 18:** Fighting between Coalition Forces and insurgents continues in Najaf.
- May 19:** The group headed by Zarqawi, calling itself Jama'at al-Tawhid, claims responsibility for the slaying of IGC chief Izzedin Salim. Grand Ayatollah Sistani, demands that all "armed forces" – both Coalition and insurgent – "leave the holy cities and open the way for police and tribal forces."
- May 20:** Iraqi officials claim U.S. forces killed 40 unarmed civilians at a wedding party near the Syrian border. American commanders deny the charge, claiming Coalition forces were first fired upon.
- May 23:** U.S. troops strike insurgents loyal to al-Sadr in Kufa, killing 36. Al-Sadr's militia appears to withdraw from the Shrine of Hussein in Karbala.
- May 25:** For the second time in a month, the shrine of Imam Ali, one of the holiest sites for Shiite Muslims, is damaged when U.S. forces clash with militiamen loyal to al-Sadr in Najaf and Kufa. American commanders deny damaging the shrine. At least 13 Iraqis die.

- May 29:** Fighting continues between U.S. forces and al-Sadr's militia in Najaf despite Sadr's offer to withdraw his "Mehdi Army" from Najaf in a peace compromise.
- May 31:** A peace deal seems more improbable after two American soldiers die in clashes with al-Sadr supporters in Kufa.
80 American troops died during the month of May.
- June 6:** 21 Iraqis die in bomb blasts at a police station and military base around Baghdad.
- June 10:** In yet another cease-fire infraction, al-Sadr's Mehdi Army seizes a Najaf police station, freeing prisoners and looting facilities.
- June 11:** Al-Sadr surprisingly endorses the Iraqi Interim Government and urges his followers to adhere to the negotiated ceasefire.
- June 14:** A Monday morning car bomb kills 12 in Baghdad, concluding one of the bloodiest weekends in recent months. Multiple suicide bombings targeting Iraqi police kill dozens of civilians. Separately, two Iraqi government officials are assassinated.
- June 17:** Suicide car bombs explode outside a military recruitment center and a city council building in Baghdad, killing at least 41 and wounding at least 142.
- June 23:** A South Korean interpreter, abducted five days earlier in Falluja, is beheaded by Zarqawi after Seoul refuses to halt its troop deployment to Iraq.
- June 24:** Sunni insurgents launch coordinated attacks, directed primarily at Iraqi security forces, that kill at least 70 in Fallujah, Baghdad, Mosul, Ramadi and Baquba.
- June 27:** Violence continues to escalate as the deadline to transfer authority approaches. Twin car bombs kill at least 40 south of Baghdad.
As President Bush visits Turkey, militants loyal to Zarqawi kidnap three Turks and threaten to behead the hostages unless Turkey ceases business with the CPA.
- June 28:** In an effort to quell the violence, U.S. officials hastily ceded authority to the Iraqi Interim Government in a secret ceremony two days ahead of schedule.
- June 30:** 42 U.S. troops died in June.
- July 1:** Saddam Hussein is taken into Iraqi custody and formally charged with several criminal acts.
- July 8:** Five U.S. soldiers die in a mortar attack on military headquarters in Samarra.
- July 14:** A suicide car bomb explodes outside the gates of the Green Zone, killing 10.

- July 15:** 10 Iraqi civilians die from a suicide car bomb in Haditha.
A Filipino contract worker is abducted; his captors demand that Manila withdraws its remaining 51 troops from Iraq.
- July 18:** A U.S. air strike kills 10 in Fallujah.
- July 23:** A spat of kidnappings by militants continues to plague Iraq, as a senior Egyptian diplomat is abducted in Baghdad.
- July 25:** As kidnappings of foreign truck drivers increase, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi urges other nations not to bow to captors' demands.
- July 26:** An Egyptian diplomat is released by his captives while two Jordanian truck drivers are kidnapped and two Pakistanis are reported missing.
- July 27:** Complying with kidnappers' demands, a Jordanian firm withdraws from Iraq.
- July 28:** In the deadliest single attack since the transfer of authority, roughly 70 people die when a suicide car bomb explodes in Baquba.
- July 31:** The death toll for American troops in July is 54.
- August 1:** Militants bomb five churches in Baghdad and Mosul, killing at least 12.
- August 3:** Six American troops and at least three Iraqi National Guardsmen die in sporadic insurgent attacks in Baquba, Baghdad and the Al Anbar Province.
- August 11:** The standoff in Najaf simmers with American troops awaiting orders to attack al-Sadr's group, which remains in the Shrine of Imam Ali.
- August 15:** Six U.S. troops and one Pole die in attacks throughout the country.
- August 21:** Six U.S. troops die amid skirmishes in the Al Anbar Province and Baghdad.
- August 26:** After returning from medical treatment in London, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani brokers a truce between al-Sadr's militia and U.S. forces. Al-Sadr and his followers evacuate the Imam Ali shrine.
- August 31:** A group calling itself the Army of Ansar al-Sunna executed 12 Nepalese hostages, apparently without making any demands. The same group claimed to have killed an American Marine in July who later surfaced unharmed.
66 American troops died in August, the highest number since May.
Nearly 1,100 U.S. troops are injured in August, the highest number since the U.S.-led invasion 18 months ago.

September 6: Seven U.S. Marines and three Iraqi soldiers die in a car bomb attack outside Fallujah. Insurgents have controlled the city for months; U.S. officials fear that insurgent strongholds may be excluded from January's election.
More U.S. troops have died since the June 28 handover of authority than died during the war itself (138).

September 7: One American soldier and 33 Iraqi insurgents loyal to al-Sadr die in a day of fighting in Sadr City, a Baghdad slum.
The official U.S. military death toll in Iraq since the invasion reaches 1,000.

September 9: A previously unknown Islamic group claims responsibility for kidnapping two female Italian aid workers two days earlier. Calling itself the Al Zawahiri Loyalists – apparently in homage to Al Qaeda's second-in-command – the group made no demands of the Italian government but promised to execute the women in an effort to punish Prime Minister Berlusconi's support of the U.S. invasion.
U.S. warplanes hammer suspected insurgent hideouts in Fallujah.

September 12: A bloody weekend of insurgent attacks suggests that guerilla forces are better organized and more sophisticated than previously judged.
Iraqi officials estimate that 80 civilians died on Sunday alone.
A group calling itself Unity and Jihad, which is reportedly led by Zarqawi, claims responsibility for many of the coordinated attacks.

September 14: A car bomb kills 47 outside headquarters in Baghdad, where hundreds of recruits were lined up outside. An angry crowd gathered, cursed the U.S. and blamed American warplanes for the carnage.
12 policemen are gunned down in drive-by shooting in Baquba.
Zarqawi's group, Unity and Jihad, claims responsibility for both attacks.

September 16: U.S. military claims to have killed 60 non-Iraqi fighters in an air strike on a "terrorist meeting cite" near Fallujah.

September 17: A suicide car bomb kills at least 13 near a police checkpoint in Baghdad.
U.S. soldiers clash with rebels near Haifa Street in Baghdad.

September 23: A virulent form of hepatitis – one that is especially lethal for pregnant women – breaks out in Sadr City and Mahmudiya. The disease outbreak is blamed on the collapse of sewage and water systems.

September 25: In appearances before the U.N. and the U.S. Congress, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi declares, "We are succeeding in Iraq," despite an uptick in violence and very public beheadings of foreign contract workers, including two Americans and a Briton who were abducted from their home the week before.

September 28: U.S. warplanes bomb suspected insurgent positions in Sadr City and Fallujah. Hospital officials report at least 10 people dead.
A U.S. military official reports that 34 car bombs have been detonated in Iraq in September, the highest monthly tally since the war began in March 2003.
According to the Iraqi Health Ministry, nearly 3,200 Iraqi civilians have died since April in terrorist attacks and in clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents.
Two female Italian aid workers are freed after being abducted three weeks ago. Italian officials deny paying ransom.

September 30: Two car bombs rip through a street celebration at the opening of a new sewer plant, killing 41 Iraqis, including at least 34 children; 139 are wounded.
The official death toll for U.S. troops in September is 81.

October 1: U.S. and Iraqi forces mount a major offensive in Samarra; 96 insurgents are declared killed. Samarra had been under insurgent control since the summer.

October 4: American and Iraqi forces successfully retake Samarra in an operation that may soon be mimicked in Fallujah.
Three car bombs – two in Baghdad and one in Mosul – explode, killing 26 people and injuring another 100.

October 7: A spokesman for Moqtada al-Sadr tentatively agrees to a peace plan, which entails disarming al-Sadr's militia in Sadr City and other hotspots. Shortly after, two rockets strike the Sheraton Baghdad hotel, which houses foreign journalists.

October 10: As U.S. Defense Secretary Rumsfeld arrives in Baghdad, at least 10 Iraqis die in explosions near the oil ministry and police academy. Separately, a suicide bomber fatally wounds a U.S. soldier outside the Ministry of Culture in Baghdad.

October 11: Militiamen loyal to al-Sadr surrender hundreds of weapons in the initial phase of a weapons buy-back program aimed at quelling the violence in Sadr City. In exchange, the Iraqi government and American commanders agreed to halt military operations against the group, known as the Mahdi Army.

October 12: Six American troops die from hostile fire in roadside bombs in Baghdad and from hostile fire in the Al Anbar Province.

October 13: Bombs in Baghdad, Mosul and the Al Anbar region kill seven U.S. soldiers.

October 14: For the first time since the war ended, insurgents penetrate the heavily-fortified Green Zone, killing four Americans and six Iraqis.

October 15: As Zarqawi and his followers continue to wreck havoc on U.S. forces and Iraqi civilians, American warplanes target insurgent hideouts in Fallujah. Car bombs near the Syrian border and in Mosul kill five American troops.

- October 17:** In a statement posted on an Islamic website, Zarqawi pledges allegiance to Osama bin Laden. Claiming that his Unification and Jihad movement “badly needed” to join forces with al Qaeda, Zarqawi added that he would follow any order given by bin Laden.
- October 22:** The British-Iraqi director of CARE International begs for her life on Arab TV after being kidnapped by unknown insurgents days before in Baghdad.
- October 23:** In the single deadliest insurgent ambush, guerrillas dressed as police officers execute 49 freshly trained Iraqi soldiers on a remote road in eastern Iraq. The unarmed soldiers stopped at a fake checkpoint while returning home after completing training with U.S. forces. The incident supports assertions that insurgent spies have infiltrated the Iraqi security infrastructure. Two days later, Prime Minister Allawi blames Coalition Forces for “major negligence” that left the Iraqis vulnerable to attack.
- October 25:** An explosion near the Australian embassy in Baghdad kills three Iraqi and injures two Australian soldiers. American forces claim to have killed a high-level associate of Zarqawi during an air strike in Fallujah.
- October 26:** The International Atomic Energy Agency reports that about 377 tons of explosives are missing in Iraq after being removed from a military complex sometime after the invasion.
- October 27:** After militants holding a Japanese hostage demand the withdrawal of Japanese forces, Tokyo states that Japanese troops will remain in Iraq.
- October 28:** A militant group called the Army of Ansar al-Sunna executes 11 Iraqi security officers taken hostage south of Baghdad. The group, which is blamed for numerous beheadings, is an offshoot of Ansar al-Islam, the radical group overrun by U.S. Special Forces and Kurdish militiamen at the start of the war.
- October 30:** In the deadliest day for American forces in six months, nine Marines are killed and nine are injured in insurgent attacks in the Anbar province. At least 25 Iraqi civilians die from insurgent violence and from what is described as reckless fire from Iraqi security forces. Included in this is an attack on the Al Arabiya news network that kills seven. A previously unknown group calling itself the 1920 Revolution Brigades asserts responsibility for the attack. The body of a Japanese backpacker taken hostage days before is found beheaded and wrapped in an American flag in Baghdad. A group affiliated with Zarqawi is immediately blamed.
- October 31:** Insurgents fire a rocket into a Tikrit hotel, killing 15 Iraqis, wounding eight. 65 American troops died in Iraq during the month of October.

- November 1:** Two Iraqi government officials, including the deputy governor of Baghdad, are assassinated in separate attacks in Baghdad and Baquba. Gunmen abduct an American and three other foreigners in Baghdad.
U.S. warplanes continue to strike suspected insurgent hideouts in Fallujah.
- November 2:** A pair of car bombings kills at least a dozen people and wounds dozens more in Baghdad and Mosul. The Baghdad attack targets the Ministry of Education, which previously had been spared by insurgents. Insurgents blow up a northern oil pipeline, forcing the shutdown of crude to a Turkish port.
- November 3:** Three headless bodies of Iraqi guardsmen are found in Baghdad; a group calling itself the Brigades of Iraq's Honorable People claims responsibility. Separately, another group called the Ansar al-Sunna says it has beheaded a senior Iraqi army officer.
Hungary announces that it will withdraw its 300 troops from Iraq by April 2005.
- November 4:** A roadside bomb kills three British soldiers in route to support American and Iraqi forces near Fallujah.
The humanitarian agency Doctors Without Borders announces that it will cease all operations in Iraq due to security concerns.
- November 5:** The Republic of Georgia announces that it will increase its troop presence in Iraq by some 300 soldiers.
- November 6:** Proving the resistance has not been eradicated in Samarra, insurgents detonated four car bombs and attacked three police stations in the surrounding province.
- November 7:** U.S. and Iraqi forces begin what is billed as the final siege of Fallujah.
- November 8:** As the mortar and air assault on Fallujah continues, the U.S. military reports that a total of 130 attacks occurred on this day alone, well above the average of 80 per day for much of the summer. These include car bombs aimed at Christian churches and police outside the Yarmouk Hospital in Baghdad. U.S. forces clash with insurgents in Mosul, a northern city that has seen a dramatic increase in violence in recent weeks.
- November 9:** U.S. forces reach the center of Fallujah amid fierce fighting and control at least half of the city. Ten American and two Iraqi troops are reported killed. U.S. officials believe Zarqawi and his associates fled Fallujah before the assault. Two U.S. soldiers die in a mortar attack in Mosul, where government authority appears to be waning.
Three of Prime Minister Allawi's relatives are abducted in Baghdad.
- November 10:** Iraqi troops discover "hostage slaughterhouses" in Fallujah where foreign captives were apparently held and assassinated.

November 11: A wave of assaults continue across Iraq, believed to be part of a loosely coordinated counteroffensive by guerrillas. Insurgents attack American troops in Baghdad, Balad and Mosul, killing two soldiers. A suicide car bomb in Baghdad kills at least 19. American fatalities in Fallujah increase to 18 in total.

November 12: Even as American troops advance rapidly into the southern part of Fallujah, they face fierce counterattacks from insurgents. Two American Super Cobra helicopters are downed by rebel ground fire. Insurgent violence surges throughout the Sunni triangle with ambushes, bombings and mortar attacks in Tikrit, Kirkuk, Hawija, Samarra and Ramadi. In Mosul, insurgents stormed and looted at least six police stations, causing much of the 5,000-member police force to desert en masse. One U.S. soldier is killed in Baghdad and another dies in Mosul.

November 14: U.S. forces capture Fallujah with only a remnant of the insurgency remaining in the south of the city. American commanders said 38 servicemen died and 275 were wounded in the week-long battle. An estimated 1,200-1,600 insurgents died in the fighting.

November 15: U.S. forces launch air and ground strikes in Baqouba after rebels storm Police stations there; at least 27 are reported dead. Six Iraqi troops are killed in Mosul when insurgents raid two police stations. Two of Prime Minister Allawi's relatives are released after being kidnapped last week. The sole male relative remains in insurgent custody. A message claiming to be from Zarqawi appears on an Islamist website and encourages Muslims to continue fighting U.S. troops. The killing of a wounded and apparently unarmed insurgent by a U.S. Marine in a Fallujah mosque is aired on NBC, causing an outcry throughout the Middle East.

November 17: Violence in Mosul quells after American troops sweep the city for the second day. Explosions rock the Sunni triangle, from Ramadi to Baiji to Kirkuk.

November 18: U.S. officials report that 51 Americans and about 1,200 insurgents have died in the fighting in Fallujah.

November 19: American and Iraqi troops raid a prominent Sunni mosque in Baghdad known for inciting insurgent violence. At least three enraged worshipers die in clashes with Iraqi forces.

November 20: Sunni-led insurgent violence surges in Baghdad, Ramadi and Fallujah.

November 21: Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi's cousin, the last of his relatives in kidnappers' custody, is released.

November 26: Fifteen of Iraq's most powerful political groups, mainly comprised of Sunni Arabs and Kurdish factions, call for a six-month delay in the elections scheduled for January 30, 2005. President Bush and Prime Minister Allawi ultimately reject the request, declaring that election will be held as scheduled. Insurgents in the north increasingly target Iraqis, as U.S. forces discover at least 32 dead bodies in Mosul; more than twenty are identified as new members of Iraq security forces.

November 30: A car bomb targeting a U.S. convoy kills seven Iraqi civilians in Baiji. Iraqi security forces formally assume control of Najaf.

November is the deadliest month for American troops since the invasion of Iraq with 137 fatalities, less than half of which occurred in the Fallujah assault.

December 1: Multinational troops arrest 210 suspected militants in a weeklong crackdown against the insurgency in the area south of Baghdad known as the "triangle of death."

December 3: Four suicide bombers drive an explosives-laden van into a Shiite mosque in Baghdad, killing at least 14 civilians.

Insurgents attack a Baghdad police station, freeing prisoners and killing at least 12 officers. It is the second day of increased insurgent activity in the capital after the relative calm that followed the U.S.-led assault on Fallujah.

December 4: A suicide bomber plowed a car into a busload of Kurdish militiamen, killing 18.

December 5: In Tikrit, militants surround a bus full of unarmed Iraqis employed by American forces and gun down 17 of them. Increasingly bold and deadly insurgent attacks kill 80 Iraqis in the past three days.

December 6: A roadside bomb kills three Iraqi troops and wounds 11 south of Baghdad.

December 7: Insurgents detonate two bombs outside Christian churches in Mosul.

December 12: Seven U.S. Marines die in a two-day security operation in Al Anbar. In the north, one American soldier dies after a roadside bomb strikes his convoy. Deadly attacks continue against Iraqi security forces throughout the country.

December 13: A suicide car bombing outside the Green Zone in Baghdad kills nine and wounds 19. Most of the dead are employees of foreign governments. Three more U.S. Marines die fighting insurgents in Al Anbar.

December 14: For the second day in a row, insurgents strike with a car bomb near a western checkpoint into Baghdad's Green Zone, killing at least seven.

December 15: Insurgents again attempt to overrun two police stations in Mosul but are repelled by Iraqi police and National Guards. Even so, the security presence in Mosul remains fragile after 80% of the police force fled one month before.

December 19: Car bombs in Najaf and Karbala, both holy Shiite cities, kill at least 60, making it the second deadliest day for Iraqi civilians since the U.S. transferred authority to the Iraqi six months before.

December 21: A bomb rips through a U.S. military mess tent in Mosul, killing at least 22 people, including 18 American service members. The Sunni group Ansar al-Sunna claims responsibility for the attack.

December 25: Iraqi churches cancel traditional nighttime Christmas Masses.

December 27: A suicide car bomb explodes outside the Baghdad headquarters of Iraq's largest Shiite political party, increasing fears of sectarian violence and civil war.

December 28: Insurgents trick Iraqi police into raiding a booby-trapped home, triggering an explosion that kills at least 29, including 12 policemen.

December 29: After a two-hour gunfight, U.S. troops kill 25 insurgents attempting to overrun a military outpost in Mosul.

December 31: Iraqi officials announce the capture of Fadil Hussain Ahmed al-Kurdi, an suspected lieutenant in Zarqawi's terrorist network.
72 American service members died in Iraq in December.

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January 2: A suicide bomber kills 18 National Guardsmen and a civilian in Balad.

January 4: Insurgents assassinate the governor of Baghdad Province. Zarqawi's group, now calling itself Al Qaeda in Iraq, asserted responsibility for the slaying. Attacks throughout the country leave five U.S. and 13 Iraqi servicemen dead.

January 7: U.S. Defense officials announce that a retired general will be sent to Iraq to review American military operations and the training of Iraqi security forces.

January 8: As many as 14 Iraqi civilians are accidentally killed by U.S. forces when American planes mistakenly bomb a building thought to be an insurgent safehouse in northern Iraq.
U.S. forces capture Abu Ahmed, a top commander of the Mosul branch of the group led Zarqawi.

January 10: Insurgents gun down Baghdad's deputy police chief and his son.
Later, two U.S. soldiers die when a roadside bomb explodes in Baghdad.

January 12: An ambush on a U.S.-Iraqi convoy in Mosul kills two Iraqi soldiers.
U.S. officials confirm that the Iraq Survey Group has ended its search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

January 13: In the latest in a string of predominantly Sunni insurgent attacks against Shiite leadership, a senior aide to Ayatollah Ali Sistani is assassinated in Salman Pak, a town south of Baghdad. Later, gunmen kill the director of a Baghdad election center.

January 16: Insurgents continue to intimidate and threaten election candidates, as Salama al-Khafaji, a candidate for the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA) survives an assassination attempt in central Baghdad.

January 17: Insurgents continue widespread attacks aimed at Shiite institutions and Iraqi security forces. At least 17 Iraqi police and National Guardsmen die in attacks. In a three-day crackdown, U.S. troops detain 81 suspected insurgents and seize several weapons caches in the volatile Anbar province. Gunmen assassinated two candidates running for the 225-member National Assembly on January 30, one in Basra and one in Baghdad.

January 18: Iraqi officials announce that the government will close its borders in an effort to thwart terrorist attacks as election day approaches.
As insurgent activity and high-profile kidnappings continue to plague Iraq, the archbishop of Mosul is released unharmed one day after his abduction; a new video emerges showing eight Chinese nationals in the custody of militants of the Nuamaan Brigade of the Islamic Resistance.

January 19: In about a 90-minute span, five suicide car bombings kill at least 25 in and around Baghdad. Targets include the Australian Embassy, a medical center for the handicapped, and checkpoints manned by Iraqi Police.

January 20: U.S. troops launch raids in Mosul, killing five suspected insurgents. Iraqi police warn that some 250 suicide bombers are poised to strike on election day. Zarqawi's group releases a tape, promising years of jihad against the U.S. President George W. Bush takes the Oath of Office, beginning his second term.

January 21: At least 14 Iraqi civilians die and some 40 are wounded when a car bomb explodes outside a Shiite mosque in Baghdad. Later, an ambulance drives into a wedding party and explodes south of Baghdad, killing several. In Hit, west of Baghdad, 15 masked gunmen raid a police station, causing policemen to flee before stealing two police cars and blowing up the building.

January 23: Zarqawi releases an audiotape saying, “We have declared an all-out war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology.”

January 24: Iraqi officials announce the arrests of several insurgent leaders, including one man, Abu Umar al-Kurdi, who claims responsibility for 32 car bomb attacks since March 2003. Among the most notable attacks are the May 2003 bombing of the Jordanian Embassy and the August 2003 bombing of the UN headquarters in Baghdad, as well as numerous assassinations of Iraqi political figures and attacks on Coalition and Iraqi security forces.

A car bomb explodes outside Prime Minister Allawi’s office in western Baghdad, killing at least five, including four police officers.

At least six U.S. troops die in roadside attacks and accidents.

January 25: Violence continues to plague Iraq in the lead-up to elections.

Insurgents storm a police station in eastern Baghdad, killing three officers.

A senior judge is shot dead, along with his son, on his way to work in Baghdad.

A U.S. hostage abducted November 1, 2004, appears on TV, pleading for his life.

The White House asks Congress for another \$80 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

January 26: In the deadliest day for U.S. forces since the start of the war, 37 American soldiers die in Iraq. 31 are killed in a helicopter crash in Ar Rutbah, in western Iraq; six others die in clashes with insurgents, also in the Al Anbar Province.

At least eight car bombings throughout the country killed thirteen Iraqis and wounded dozens more, including 11 Americans.

January 27: A suicide tractor bomb explodes outside the Kurdish Democratic Party office in Sinjar, killing four Iraqi soldiers and a guard.

Insurgents warn candidates and potential voters to stay home on January 30.

January 29: A rocket strikes the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, killing two Americans – one civilian, the other military personnel – and injuring five.

In Mosul, insurgents distribute flyers warning people not to vote.

January 30: In the face of death threats from insurgents, a large number of Iraqis vote in the historic election – Iraq’s first free election in over 50 years. The higher-than-expected turnout prompts most international observers to declare the elections a success. By all accounts, it bolsters the prospects for democracy while delivering a defeat to the insurgent movement. Still, insurgents kill at least 50 Iraqis.

January 31: Three U.S. troops are killed in clashes with insurgents south of Baghdad.

U.S. troops kill four prisoners in a riot at Camp Bucca, near the Kuwaiti border.

107 American troops die in Iraq in the month of January.

February 1: Iraq's interim president, Sheik Ghazi al-Yawar, says it would be "complete nonsense to ask the [U.S.] troops to leave in this chaos and vacuum of power." In a statement posted on a radical website, Zarqawi's group pledges to "continue the jihad until the banner of Islam flies over Iraq."

February 3: Insurgents kill 12 Iraqi soldiers in an ambush south of Kirkuk, executing the unarmed men one by one in the street. Another five policemen and a National Guardsman are killed in Baghdad.

February 6: Insurgents attack a convoy of trucks hauling cars destined for Iraq's Ministry of the Interior. The truck drivers are kidnapped and cars destroyed. Four Egyptian telecommunications technicians are kidnapped in Baghdad.

February 7: At least 27 Iraqis die in two suicide bombings, one targeting policemen collecting paychecks near a Mosul hospital, the other exploding outside a police post in Baquba.

February 8: In the second strait day of increased violence since the elections, a suicide bomber explodes in front of Baghdad's National Guard volunteer center, killing at least 20 potential recruits. Four Egyptian technician held captive by insurgents are released unharmed.

February 9: Masked gunmen kill a television correspondent working for the American-funded network Al Hurra and his 3-year-old son in Basra. In Baghdad, insurgents assassinate a director of the Ministry of Housing and three Kurdistan Democratic Party officials; Zarqawi's group claims responsibility. 10 British soldiers die when a C-130 crashes.

February 10: On the first day of the Muslim New Year, insurgent violence claims more than 50 lives throughout Iraq.

February 11: Insurgents attack three Shiite targets – a mosque and two bakeries – in central Iraq, killing at least 21.

February 13: Gunmen kill an Iraqi general and two companions in Baghdad.

February 16: Gunmen kill an Iraqi Interior Ministry intelligence officer in Baghdad. In Mosul, a police colonel and his driver are shot and seriously wounded. Clashes in Baquba kill one policeman and eight insurgents. Seven members of the Iraqi security forces die in firefights in Samarra. A kidnapped Italian journalist pleads for her life on a newly released video.

February 17: The official vote count from the January 30 election is certified with a Shiite alliance winning 140 of the 275 seats in Iraq's legislature. Insurgents release a kidnapped Turkish businessman, who says he paid a \$500,000 ransom.

February 18: A day before Ashura – the holiest day for Shiites – insurgents kill roughly 35 Iraqis: suicide bombers attack two Shiite mosques in Baghdad, killing at least 16 worshippers; a rocket targeting another Shiite mosque in Baghdad kills three; one police officer dies when a suicide bomber explodes at a Baghdad checkpoint.

February 19: Ten suicide bombings kill at least 16 Iraqis, many of whom had taken to the streets in Baghdad and Karbala to commemorate Ashura.

February 21: U.S. and Iraqi forces begin a security sweep through Ramadi, arresting 42 suspected insurgents and seizing several weapons caches.

Australia announces that it will send an additional 450 troops to Iraq.

February 22: Iraq's main Shiite alliance, known as the Dawa Party, proposes Inrahim al-Jaafari for prime minister after Ahmad Chalabi withdraws his candidacy.

A U.S. Marine dies in the second day of security operations in Al Anbar Province.

A car bomb kills two Iraqi soldiers and wounds 30 near Baghdad's Green Zone.

February 23: Insurgents assassinate a Dawa Party official in the Diyala Province.

A car bomb kills two and wounds 14 in Mosul; RPG fire kills two outside Kirkuk.

A roadside bomb kills a U.S. soldier in the northern city of Tuz.

In total, 22 people die in stepped-up insurgent violence throughout the country.

February 24: Insurgents strike to the north and south of Baghdad, killing about 30, including two U.S. soldiers: a car bomb outside a Tikrit police station kills at least ten officers; an hour later, insurgents attack a police convoy in Tikrit, killing two officers; in Hilla, a suicide car-bomber targets the headquarters of leading Shiite political party and kills seven.

February 25: A roadside bomb kills three U.S. soldiers and wounds eight.

February 27: Syrian authorities deliver a group suspected of supporting the insurgency from Syria. Among them is Sabawi Ibrahim Hassan, Saddam Hussein's half-brother and a leading financier of the insurgency.

February 28: A suicide car bomber plows into a crowd of Iraqi police and army recruits in Hilla, killing 127 in the deadliest single bombing since the start of the war. In February, 58 American soldiers died in Iraq.

March 1: In Baghdad, insurgents assassinate a judge and his lawyer son who worked on the tribunal that is to try Saddam Hussein; another judge is targeted but survives. An unknown group calling itself Saladin Al Ayobi Brigades issues a statement condemning beheadings, car bombings and sabotage of Iraq's infrastructure, as well as promising not to attack any Iraqis or foreign civilians.

- March 2:** Two car bombs target national guardsmen in Baghdad, killing 13.
A U.S. soldier dies in combat in Babil province (in the so-called “Triangle of Death” south of Baghdad), bringing the American death toll in Iraq to 1,500.
- March 3:** Two suicide car bombs explode outside Iraq’s Ministry of the Interior in Baghdad, killing five police officers.
- March 4:** Gunmen kill Saad Kamil, an al-Sadr associate, outside a Baghdad mosque.
- March 7:** Insurgent attacks on Iraqi security forces in Baghdad, Baquba and Balad leave at least 30 Iraqis dead; some 14 are security officers.
- March 8:** Drive-by assassins kill a senior Iraqi Interior Ministry official in Baghdad. 15 headless bodies are discovered at an old military base between Karbala and Latifiya; 26 dead bodies are found riddled with bullets east of Qaim near the Syrian border. The 41 dead include men, women and children.
- March 9:** At least three bombs targeting U.S. and Iraqi forces in Baghdad, Basra and Fallujah kill at least six people; Zarqawi’s group takes credit for the biggest one. A U.S. soldier is killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad.
- March 10:** A suicide bomber explodes in a Shi’ite mosque in Mosul, killing 53 mourners who were attending a funeral for a Kurdish politician.
Shi’ite and Kurdish officials near an agreement for a coalition government in Iraq.
Insurgents dressed as Iraqi police shoot and kill the chief of a Baghdad police station and two officers at a fake checkpoint; the insurgents film the slayings.
Zalmay Khalilzad is nominated to become the new ambassador to Iraq.
- March 12:** Gunmen kill three Iraqi police officers as they drive to a colleague's funeral in Mosul.
A roadside bomb kills two U.S. security contractors south of Baghdad.
- March 16:** A suicide car bomber kills three Iraqi soldiers and wounds 12 more at an army checkpoint in Baquba.
Iraq's first freely elected parliament in a half-century meets for the first time in Baghdad.
- March 19:** A bomb kills three Iraqi police officers in Kirkuk in a funeral procession.
- March 20:** Iraqi insurgents ambush a U.S. military convoy, leaving 24 of the attackers dead and 7 wounded. Six U.S. soldiers are wounded in the ambush, at Salman Pak.
- March 22:** A roadside bomb meant for a U.S. military patrol kills four civilians in Mosul.

Militants ambush a convoy carrying Iraqi security force officials, including a senior police officer, in front of a mosque in Mosul. Police kill 17 militants and capture 14. None of the security troops are killed.

March 23: Iraqi and U.S. forces kill 85 insurgents during a raid on a guerrilla training camp 50 miles northwest of Baghdad. Seven Iraqi police officers are killed and six wounded.

March 24: A suicide car bomber kills 11 Iraqi special police commandos and wounds nine others in Ramadi.
Militants shoot five Iraqi women dead as they leave work at a U.S. military base in southern Baghdad.

March 25: A suicide bomber kills three Iraqi soldiers and wounds six others in an attack on an Iraqi military convoy in Iskandariya, 25 miles south of Baghdad.

March 30: Militants launch three attacks on Shiite pilgrims on their way to Karbala for a religious festival. Gunmen open fire on a minibus and wound eight near Latifiya, 25 miles south of Baghdad. A second group of gunmen kill one and injure two in a car near the town of Mahaweel, 40 miles south of Baghdad. A suicide bomber on a bicycle rides into a police patrol protecting pilgrims and kills two officers, also near Mahaweel.

March 31: A suicide car bomber kills two Iraqi army soldiers and two civilians in a crowd of Shiites celebrating a religious holiday in the northern city of Tuz Khurmato, about 100 miles north of Baghdad.
A suicide car bomber rams a U.S. military vehicle, killing one Iraqi civilian and wounding seven in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.
In March, 36 U.S. soldiers were killed, the lowest figure in a year.

April 2: Seven suicide car bombers and 40 to 60 insurgents armed with an array of weapons attack the U.S.-controlled Abu Ghraib prison. Twenty U.S. soldiers and marines are wounded.

A car bomb kills four Iraqi policemen and one civilian at a police station in the town of Khan Bani Saad, 10 miles north of Baghdad.

April 3: The Iraqi National Assembly appoints Hajim M. al-Hassani, a prominent Sunni Arab and the minister of industry in the interim government, as speaker, and Hussain al-Shahristani, a nuclear physicist and leading Shiite Arab, and Arif Taifour, a Kurd, as his deputies.

April 4: Brig Gen Mohammad Jalal Saleh and his bodyguards were kidnapped in Baghdad.
2 car bombs were detonated, killing one civilian and a US soldier.
US troops battled dozens of insurgents East of Baghdad.

April 5: A bomb exploded near a bus filled with Iraqi soldiers returning from leave killing at least three and wounding at least 44.
Two other car bombs were also detonated in Baghdad.
US troops continued to battle insurgents East of Baghdad, with two US and one Iraqi soldier being killed.

April 6: Iraq's parliament chose Jalal Talabani, and Kurdish leader, as President of Iraq.
22 insurgents were arrested in Mosul in a search for arms caches.

April 7: Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a prominent Shia politician, was selected as Prime Minister by Iraq's presidential council.
A car bomb went off, targeting an American motorcade. 12 Iraqi citizens were injured.
South Korea plans to draw 270 troops out of Iraq. Currently, there are 3,450 South Korean troops in Iraq.

April 8: Four Iraqi children were killed by an IED in Baghdad.
11 Iraqi bodies were found near Ramadi, who were most likely killed the day before and were working on a US military base.
Three masked gunmen killed an Iraqi Army Officer.
Four Iraqi civilians were injured by a bomb that went off next to a bus stop in Najaf.

April 9: Tens of thousands of Al Sadr supporters protested in central Baghdad's streets, demanding U.S. troops go home. This is the largest protest of this sort since Saddam's fall.
In Baghdad, Sayed Fadel al-Shoq, a deputy to Sadr was killed, and another deputy was injured in the southern Dura district as they drove to an anti-US protest.
Car bombs and IEDs killed at least 30 and injured at least another 13 Iraqis.
Four drivers were killed and four others wounded in an ambush on a 14-truck Trade Ministry convoy traveling between Kut and the capital.
Malik Mohammad Javed, an assistant at the embassy of Pakistan, was kidnapped.

April 10: An officer was killed Sunday and another was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in al-Haditha.
Iraqi security forces have nabbed the son of a half-brother of Saddam Hussein believed backing the insurgent attacks.

April 11: Three United States Marines were wounded on Monday in a three-car suicide bomb attack outside a US military base in a restive area of western Iraq near the border with Syria, followed by a raid in what appeared to be an attempt to overrun the base.
In Mosul, 400km north of Baghdad, a member of the provincial council was

shot dead by an armed group. It was the second assassination of a provincial politician in the past three weeks.

In Baghdad, US and Iraqi forces launched a pre-dawn raid in the southeastern Rashid district arresting 65 suspected insurgents.

Other violence claimed at least 4 lives and injured at least 24.

An American contractor believed to be working on an aid project was reported kidnapped in the Baghdad area.

April 12: Poland announced that it will withdraw its troops from Iraq by the end of 2005.

Interior Undersecretary Major General Tareq Al-Badawi on Tuesday escaped a bid on his life in the western sector of the Iraqi capital

A car bomb targeting a U.S. convoy killed at least five Iraqis and wounded three others in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, U.S. continued troops battled arms smugglers and fighters near the Iraqi town of Qaim along the Syrian border, killing an unknown number of foreign insurgents.

A car bomb killed five people and wounded eight, including seven children, the U.S. military said.

April 13: Insurgents blew up a fuel tanker in Baghdad, killed 12 policemen in Kirkuk, and drove a car carrying a bomb into a U.S. convoy, killing five Iraqis and wounding four U.S. contract workers on the capital's infamous airport road.

The car bomb was among four explosions in central Baghdad early Wednesday, the military said. The second was a car bombing that didn't cause any damage, and the third was a "secondary explosion" nearby, the military said.

In the north of the country, 12 Iraqi guards were killed when a roadside bomb exploded as they were defusing another explosive device, later revealed to be a decoy.

Nine Iraqi soldiers, including the commander in charge of guarding Kirkuk oil fields, were killed in a bomb explosion near a pipeline on Wednesday, police said.

Mosul in northern Iraq, killing five Iraqis and wounding 14 others.

At the same time, explosive charges blew up in two different parts of Mosul, targeting U.S. forces and Iraqi police.

April 14: A US soldier has been killed in fighting in western Iraq, the U.S. military said it had killed some 30 insurgents since Monday near Syrian border clash.

fighting in the western border town of al-Qaim continued for the sixth consecutive day with a US military statement reporting nine fighters killed on Tuesday.

Two car bombs exploded near government offices in the Iraqi capital today, killing 18 and wounding three dozen as insurgent attacks against security forces left at least eight others dead. The twin blasts killed 18 and wounded 36.

Gunmen hit police patrolling near Baqouba, killing one officer and wounding three.

Other violence throughout the country claimed another 8 lives and caused another 3 other injuries.

April 15: Militants exploded three bombs Friday in the Iraqi capital, killing at least one civilian and wounding eight others, Roadside bombs kill three Iraqi soldiers in Balad, two policemen near Tuz, foreign truck driver in Al-Dujail. In Baghdad, a suicide car bomb aimed at a US military convoy ripped through Mansur Street on Friday, killing the bomber and wounding five people, police and medical sources said.
Sunni insurgents have taken at least 60 people hostage in an Iraqi town near Baghdad, Madain, and are threatening to kill them unless Shi'ites leave.
Guerrilla bombings targeting U.S. and Iraqi forces killed at least four people on Friday as insurgents appeared to rebound after a lull in violence.

April 16: A spokesman for Muqtada al-Sadr denied that the 60 people had been taken hostage in Madain. However, Sunni militants dynamited an empty Shiite mosque in Madain, Meanwhile, US and Iraqi forces have surrounded the town. Some reports indicate the number of hostages could be as high as 150 people. Iraqi and US forces have been conducting a series of raids in and around Mosul that led to the detention of 27 suspected insurgents. Other violence in the country left 6 US soldiers injured, as well as 9 Iraqis killed and another 12 Iraqis injured.

April 17: Iraqi soldiers, backed by coalition forces, raided Madain, where Sunni militants had seized up to 80 hostages freeing 10 to 15 families. However national security adviser Qasim al-Daud denied later in parliament that any hostages had been found, with some locals charging that the whole event was fabricated. Reports also vary about how many hostages have been taken, with the different officials stating as many as 150 to as few as 3.
Three soldiers were killed in an indirect fire attack on Camp Ramadi last night. Seven service members were injured in the attack.
An American humanitarian worker was among three people killed in a car bomb attack on a convoy traveling on Baghdad's airport road.
The bodies of 41 Kuwaitis believed killed during the first Gulf War have been unearthed in southern Iraq.
Armed men opened fire against Major Amar Hussein at Al-Iskan district in Baghdad, who was able to arrest dozens of insurgents involved in terrorist operations in Mosul.
Meanwhile, armed men assassinated today director of Haditha police along with two of his family members.

April 18: The Iraqi army said it had found no hostages in the besieged town of Madain, where Sunni militants had reportedly been holding Shiite residents captive, but did find a car bomb factory in an abandoned farm.
Five journalists have been killed in the last four days.

A high-ranking Defense Ministry adviser was assassinated late Monday night by armed gunmen at his house in southern Baghdad.

Doctors in Baghdad, fear an outbreak of hepatitis, following an increase in cases reported by the Infectious Diseases Control Centre (IDSC) last week, with a 30 percent increase in hepatitis cases in March 2005 compared to the same period in 2004. Open sewers and polluted water were contributing to the problem.

At least 10 Iraqis were killed in attacks across the country on Monday, while police and US forces said they had detained eight suspected insurgents.

April 19: A soldier from the US contingent in Iraq has attacked Fatah ash-Sheikh, a member of the Iraqi Parliament.

In the fourth such attack in the capital in less than a week, a suicide bomber blew up a car outside a palace of ousted president Saddam Hussein, now used by the army, killing six people and wounding 40.

The Iraqi Police clashed with armed protestors in Nasiriyah Province, southern Iraq, demanding the government to provide more jobs.

A suicide car bomber detonated next to a U.S. army convoy traveling close to the capital's international airport and locals said there were many casualties.

Twin blasts at an internal oil pipeline near the city of Kirkuk on Monday, as rebels attempt to set back the country's reconstruction.

At least 10 people have been killed in two separate attacks by insurgents on Iraqi soldiers.

In a separate attack, gunmen shot dead an academic on his way from home to Baghdad University.

April 20: One hundred bodies have been retrieved from Tigris River in the al-Sawrah region near the city of Madain. The corpses may belong to those who had been taken hostage in recent attacks on Madain.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi escaped an assassination attempt when a car bomb exploded near his convoy in Baghdad, killing at least two policemen.

A booby-trapped tanker exploded near a US army base in central Ramadi, followed by a barrage of mortar rounds targeting the governorate building being used as a barracks by US troops.

A bomb blast near a U.S. military patrol in Baghdad killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded four.

At least two Iraqis were killed and several other people were wounded in two car bombings that occurred within 90 minutes of each other and in two drive-by shootings. Three Iraqi civilians were injured when a third consecutive car bomb blasted in Baghdad.

Other violence claimed 2 Iraqi lives and injured another 9.

April 21: A Russian-built commercial helicopter operated by Bulgarians was shot down north of Baghdad, becoming the first downing of a civilian aircraft in Iraq. 11 people were killed in the Bulgarian helicopter crash, among them six Americans, three Bulgarians and two Filipinos.

Up to 2,800 prisoners were released unconditionally and 3,300 others were released with bail after the Iraqi Human Rights Ministry reviewed the files of 9,700 detainees in US detention camps and 27 held by British forces in Al-Shuaiba.

A bomb targeting Western contract workers exploded on Thursday on the road to Baghdad's airport, killing two people.

Three foreign security contractors have been killed by insurgent gunfire in Iraq, with a fourth contractor was wounded in the attack.

April 22: Insurgents gave Romania four days to withdraw its troops from Iraq in order to save the lives of three Romanian journalists kidnapped last month.

A car bomb blew up outside a Shi'ite mosque in Baghdad as prayers were ending on Friday, killing 10 people and wounding 15.

Nineteen executed Iraqi soldiers bodies, kidnapped a few days before at a rebel checkpoint, were found dumped near the oil refinery town of Baiji, north of Baghdad.

A roadside bomb exploded near a US army patrol in northern Iraq today, killing one soldier and wounding another.

Gunmen shot dead on Friday a manager of a government prison in the northern city of Mosul..

Insurgents have attacked an oil pipeline that feeds a power station in the northern Iraqi town of Baiji.

April 23: Iraqi insurgents struck across the country with several IED attacks on Saturday, killing at least 16 people, including an American soldier, and wounding at least another 20.

A suicide car bomb attack targeted a US military convoy near Baghdad airport on Saturday, killing a civilian and wounding 25 others.

April 24: Insurgents exploded two car bombs in a Baghdad market and two more in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit on Sunday, killing a total of 21 Iraqis and wounding 73 in one of the bloodiest days since Iraq's historic elections.

In the Baghdad area, insurgents attacked several U.S. military convoys Sunday killing one American soldier and wounding two as well as wounding two Iraqi civilians.

A Pakistan embassy official that was kidnapped in Iraq two weeks ago was freed. At least 16 people have been killed in twin bombings in a market near a mosque in a Shia area of Baghdad, police say. Some 50 more were wounded in the explosions.

April 25: Three roadside bombs aimed at U.S. military convoys exploded in the capital Monday, killing an American soldier.

The CIA's top weapons inspector in Iraq said Monday that the hunt for weapons of mass destruction has "gone as far as feasible" and has found nothing, closing an investigation into the purported programs of Saddam Hussein that were used to justify the 2003 invasion.

Insurgents attacked oil pipelines in the northern city of Kirkuk where some of the country's vital oil installations are located.

Islamic militant group Army of Ansar al-Sunna said it had abducted six Sudanese drivers working for U.S. forces in Iraq.

April 26: Denmark stated that it will keep its troops in Iraq for at least eight months after their current mandate expires at the beginning of June.

The kidnapers of three Romanian journalists in Iraq extended by a day the deadline for killing their hostages unless Romania pulls out its troops.

Iraq's insurgency remains undiminished in its capabilities in the past year despite U.S.-led efforts to crush the rebels, the top American general, Air Force Gen.

Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

April 27: Gunmen killed a Shiite Muslim lawmaker in her home — the first elected official slain since the country's landmark vote for parliament on Jan. 30.

Iraqi police officers were dismantling what appeared to be a decoy roadside bomb near Kirkuk today when another bomb exploded, and at least 12 people were killed.

In Baghdad, Iraqi militants targeted a U-S fuel-supply convoy.

A General of the Iraqi Police was badly injured and two of his bodyguards died in an assault this morning in the western part of Baghdad,

The kidnapers of three Romanian journalists being held hostage in Iraq are threatening to kill them this evening unless Romania pulls out its troops out of the country.

Other blasts across the country kill two Iraqi soldiers and wound five others.

April 28: The new Iraqi cabinet was appointed today, accommodating almost all ethnic, religious and sectarian groups in the country. The cabinet comprises 16 Shias, eight Kurds, five Sunnis, one Christian and one Turkman. Six portfolios are yet to be allocated.

Gunmen assassinated a senior Interior Ministry official in Baghdad.

At least 17 Iraqis were killed in violence across the country.

Romanian presidency said on late Wednesday that three Romanian journalists held hostage in Iraq were still alive after the deadline set by their kidnapers for Bucharest to withdraw its troops expired.

Islamic militant group Army of Ansar al-Sunna said it shot dead six abducted Sudanese drivers working for U.S. forces in Iraq.

April 29: Insurgents unleashed a series of car bombings and other attacks across Iraq on Friday, killing at least 41 people, including three U.S. soldiers, and wounding dozens of people.

April 30: At least five car bombs rocked Baghdad on Saturday.

Six more exploded in the northern city of Mosul, which also has seen frequent attacks. At least 17 Iraqis and one U.S. soldier were killed in the bloodletting Saturday.

Investigators have uncovered a mass grave in southern Iraq containing as many as 1,500 bodies, most of them thought to be Kurds forcibly removed from their homes in the late 1980s.

52 US soldiers died in April.

May 1: A suicide bomber attacked the headquarters of a Kurdish party in north Iraq Sunday, killing around 25 people.

Two employees of an Iraqi company, supplier of the US Army, were shot by unknown armed men in the southeastern part of Baghdad.

Insurgents shot dead five Iraqi policemen at a checkpoint and a car bomb killed four people in Baghdad on Sunday.

May 2: Four car bombs left 11 Iraqis dead and injured 29 others in Baghdad today. Iraqi and US forces carried out a number of raids in the Baghdad area over the past 24 hours in an attempt to crack down on the insurgency, arresting 84 suspected insurgents, the U.S. military said.

An Iraqi child was killed and 15 others were wounded in two suicide bombings in Mosul today, in the fifth attack in three days against civilians in northern Iraq.

U.S. forces killed 12 people and wounded two others, including a six-year-old girl, in a firefight and bombing close to the Syrian border on Monday. Six soldiers of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq were wounded in the fight against suspected members of al Qaeda's wing in Iraq.

The crew of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson lost contact with the two jets. Navy officials said they think the jets collided in bad weather during the routine mission.

May 3: U.S. military early Tuesday found the body of a pilot from one of two missing Marine Corps F/A-18 jets that Navy officials believe collided while flying in operations in Iraq.

A bomb detonated Tuesday near an Iraqi police convoy in Baghdad, wounding three people.

At least 14 civilians were killed when U.S. forces and Iraqi National Guardsmen battled insurgents in the city of Ramadi on Tuesday.

May 4: Search teams located the body of the second pilot from one of two missing U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18 aircraft from the U.S.S. Carl Vinson May 4.

A suicide bomber killed at least 60 people and wounded 150 more when he blew himself up at the office of a Kurdish party in the northern Iraqi city of Arbil on Wednesday.

Two Iraqis were wounded when a car bomb targeted a US Army patrol in the city of Mosul, northern Iraq.

Nine Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 people wounded in a car bomb attack in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Iraqi security forces captured a son of one of Saddam Hussein's half brothers, who allegedly financed the insurgency, in a raid on suspected militants near the ousted dictator's hometown.

Iraq's Oil Ministry has sacked several hundred employees as part of a crackdown on corruption and smuggling that has cost the state billions of dollars, according to oil officials.

May 5: Bulgaria voted for a withdrawal of all the country's troops from Iraq by the end of the year.

Insurgents killed at least 24 people in a wave of ambushes and bomb blasts in Baghdad on Thursday, in a surge of violence that has overshadowed the formation of a new cabinet for Iraq.

Insurgents blew up an oil pipeline in northern Iraq, setting it ablaze, police said on Thursday.

May 6: An armed group has kidnapped six Jordanian contractors for the US military in Iraq.

A senior Iraqi army officer and his brother were killed on Friday in the so-called 'triangle of death' south of Baghdad.

Suicide bombers killed at least 67 Iraqis on Friday in escalating violence that has killed more than 250 people since the cabinet was announced eight days ago, in one of the bloodiest weeks of the insurgency.

The attack hit the mostly Shi'ite town of Suwayra.

A car bomb targeted a police patrol in the northern city of Mosul, killing four police commandos and five others.

A mortar attack hit a checkpoint jointly manned by US and Iraqi forces in southern Fallujah, causing casualties.

US and Iraqi soldiers opened fire randomly while responding to the attack which took place Thursday night and killed a civilian and wounded three others.

New tensions also erupted on Friday between Iraqi security forces and supporters of radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. Followers of Sadr clashed with Iraqi soldiers after Friday prayers in Kufa, near the holy city of Najaf, and hours later gunmen killed two Sadr supporters in Baghdad.

May 7: 17 people were killed in a huge car bomb blast in central Baghdad and at least 33 Iraqis were also wounded in the blast, among them women and children.

Iraqi security forces have captured an aide to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the al Qaeda leader in Iraq. Iraqi forces arrested Ghassan al-Rawi, identified as the militant leader of the western town of Rawa, in late April.

A US marine was killed in a bomb attack in Iraq's western province of Anbar Saturday.

May 8: Iraq's newly approved human rights minister turned down the job Sunday, saying he was selected only because he was a Sunni Arab.

Three US soldiers were killed by bombs in central Iraq today.

Coalition forces killed six insurgents in raids targeting the terror network of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi near the Syrian border today finding weapons caches in Qaim city, and detaining 54 insurgents.

More than 1,000 U.S. troops supported by fighter jets and helicopter gunships attacked villages Sunday along the Euphrates River, seeking to uproot a persistent insurgency in an area that American intelligence indicated has become a haven for foreign fighters flowing in from Syria.

Gunmen assassinated a senior transport ministry official in Baghdad on Sunday, police said.

May 9: US forces have killed 75 insurgents, including foreign fighters, over the past 24 hours in an ongoing sweep of a desert region of northwest Iraq close to the Syrian border.

Other violence claimed 3 US soldiers' lives while nine Iraqis were killed and 17 wounded in attacks around the country.

May 10: A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle near a U.S. military convoy in central Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least seven Iraqis and wounding 16.

Gunmen kidnapped the governor of Iraq's western Anbar province Tuesday and told his family he would be released when U.S. forces withdraw from Qaim, the site of a major new offensive against followers of Iraq's most-wanted militant.

Saboteurs attacked a crude oil pipeline complex near the Kirkuk fields in northern Iraq on Tuesday.

May 11: Four suicide bombs killed at least 71 people in Iraq on Wednesday, taking to nearly 400 the number of Iraqis killed in guerrilla attacks since a new government was unveiled two weeks ago.

A mortar round struck the Iraqi Oil Ministry complex in Baghdad on Wednesday. Danish soldiers engaged in a brief firefight with assailants who attacked them overnight in southern Iraq. An Iraqi man was injured in the exchange.

Two Iraqi soldiers were killed Wednesday in an attack carried out by insurgents on their patrol in the western part of the Iraqi capital.

Two people were killed and some 20 seriously wounded when an explosive device blew up on Wednesday at a chemical fertilizer factory in Umm Qasr south of Baghdad.

May 12: A car bomb exploded near a busy local market and cinema in eastern Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 17 people and wounding 65.

The two Iraqi ministry officials were killed in separate incidents Thursday morning in Baghdad.

Two U.S. Marines were killed on Wednesday when their armored vehicle drove over a mine in northwest Iraq with 14 Marines wounded in the blast.

May 13: More than 1,000 U.S. forces continue to hunt down followers of al Zarqawi near the Syrian border.

Snipers opened fire on the motorcade of the Interior Ministry's undersecretary, Maj. Gen. Hikmat Moussa Hussein, in western Baghdad, killing one of his guards and wounding three others.

Violence erupted throughout the country, ending in 10 Iraqi deaths and over 12 injured.

May 14: Fighting between US troops and rebels near the Syrian border claimed the lives of four marines.

Gunmen assassinated a top Iraqi Foreign Ministry official Saturday evening in a drive-by shooting while he stood outside his Baghdad home.

A suicide bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into a police convoy in central Baghdad, killing four people and wounding 10.

Earlier, three civilians, believed to be street cleaners, were killed and four others wounded by a roadside bomb in Baghdad's southern district of Dura.

And in the main northern city of Mosul, two civilians died and a policeman was hurt in a suicide bombing targeting a joint Iraqi-US patrol.

The U.S. military pronounced its weeklong offensive near the Syrian border over Saturday, saying it had successfully "neutralized" an insurgent sanctuary and killed more than 125 militants. Nine U.S. Marines were killed and 40 injured during the campaign known as Operation Matador.

May 15: The bodies of 38 men shot execution-style were found dumped at an abandoned chicken farm, a trash-strewn lot and an insurgent stronghold west of the capital. At least eight more Iraqis were killed in a spree of bombings and shootings Sunday.

Iraqi security forces on Sunday killed four gunmen and arrested 97 others in burst and search operations in the city of Mosul, northern Iraq.

Insurgents have freed the governor of Iraq's rebellious Anbar province after kidnapping him last week.

A failed assassination attempt on the governor of Iraq's Diyala province Sunday killed five people and injured 24

More than 450 people have been killed in just over two weeks since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari's Cabinet was announced.

May 16: Mortars, bombs and drive-by gunmen killed at least 24 Iraqis today.

Two car bombs exploded within minutes at a mostly Shiite Baghdad market, killing at least nine soldiers and a civilian.

At least eight Iraqis were found shot near a Baghdad dam and a slain Iraqi Kurd was left in a garbage dump in northern Iraq, raising the number of bodies recovered in recent days to 50.

Gunmen killed two Iraqi journalists working for a Kuwaiti newspaper Monday south of the capital, police said. The journalists' driver also was slain.

An aide to Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric was gunned down Sunday in Baghdad, police said. Sheikh Qasim al-Ghiri and a nephew died in a drive-by shooting. Al-Ghiri was a top aide to the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the spiritual leader of the Shiites and a major figure in Iraqi politics.

A suicide car bomber killed at least five people and wounded 30 at a customs checkpoint near Iraq's border with Syria on Monday, an Iraqi official said.

- May 17:** Iran's foreign minister arrived in Baghdad for talks with top Iraqi officials on Tuesday, marking the highest-level visit by an official from Iran to its Mideast neighbor since Saddam Hussein's ouster.
Gunmen killed a Shiite Muslim cleric on Tuesday while two missing Sunni clerics were found shot dead.
Islamic militant group Army of Ansar al-Sunna said it shot dead two Iraqis working for a subcontractor for a unit of U.S. company Halliburton.
Insurgents killed four Iraqi soldiers in clashes outside a power plant in a southern Iraqi town on Tuesday.
Iraq's government said yesterday its soldiers would no longer participate in raids on mosques in their fight against an increasingly violent insurgency.
- May 18:** 18 people, including 14 policemen were injured in attack with a car-bomb aimed at a police convoy in the Iraqi town of Bakuba North of Baghdad, Two children were killed and their mother were wounded in a homemade bomb blast outside a Shiite Muslim mosque in Baghdad and a U.S. soldier died after another blast.
Other violence claimed 7 lives, including a senior member of Iraq's Interior Ministry Wednesday, continuing a campaign against the new government's administration and security infrastructure.
- May 19:** Gunmen killed an Oil Ministry official on Thursday and escalating violence claimed at least 21 more lives.
Two Task Force Baghdad Soldiers from wounds suffered when terrorists in another vehicle in central Baghdad fired upon their convoy.
An Iraqi lawmaker said 10 of his private guards were killed here on Thursday during a 1-1/2 hour-long battle with insurgents and Apache helicopter-backed U.S. forces, who he accused of killing several of his aides.
- May 20:** A picture of Saddam Hussein wearing only his underwear appeared on the front pages of the New York Post and Britain's The Sun. The papers said the pictures, taken in the former dictator's Baghdad prison cell, were provided by an unidentified U.S. military official. The U.S. military condemned the photos and launched an immediate investigation into who took them.
Thousands of Shiites stomped on American flags painted on roads outside mosques in a show of anger over the U.S. presence in Iraq, while Sunni leaders called Friday for a closure of places of worship to protest the sectarian violence many fear may erupt into civil war.
A car bomb killed two Iraqi soldiers and wounded five people, three of them soldiers, on Friday near a military convoy in the Baghdad Shiite neighbourhood of Kadhimiya.
An American soldier was killed in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad, the military said.
Three U.S. soldiers and two civilians have died in 24 hours of Iraqi violence -- four by gunmen and one in an accident caused by an explosion.

May 21: Eight members of an elite Interior Ministry force have been killed in an ambush in Iraq. Their 20-vehicle convoy came under attack in downtown Baiji (BAY'-zee), north of Baghdad.

Ninety more Fiji soldiers will be deployed to the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq in July.

The British military base in the southern province of Mesan came under a rocket attack on Saturday, eyewitnesses said. The attack is the first in four months in Mesan.

Insurgents attacked an Iraqi army convoy of more than 100 soldiers aboard in central Baiji city as they were on their way from Mosul to Baghdad, killing six soldiers and wounding six others

May 22: US officials acknowledged that poor security in the country is hobbling efforts to speed up reconstruction and that security accounts for 16 percent of all spending on reconstruction projects.

Three Romanian journalists and their translator, held in Iraq since March 28, were rescued on Sunday and are under the control of Romanian authorities.

In the latest violence, a senior civil servant at Iraq's trade ministry was shot dead while being driven to work Sunday morning in northwest Baghdad.

In recent months, more than a dozen senior government officials have been shot dead in Baghdad in well planned attacks.

Iraqi police and security forces arrested 20 armed men in Samarra

A roadside bomb blast killed one Iraqi civilian and wounded another Sunday near the northern oil-rich city of Kirkuk, a police official said.

Iraq's troubled transition towards a fully inclusive democracy appeared to make a significant breakthrough over the weekend when an important group of Sunni Arab leaders agreed to participate in the political process for the first time in two years.

Two car bomb attacks targeted two US military convoys in north of Baghdad on Sunday. 3 Task Force Freedom soldiers were killed in Mosul, 225 miles northwest of Baghdad. A fourth Task Force Liberty soldier died of wounds sustained in car bomb attack against his combat patrol just north of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad. A fifth soldier was fatally injured in a vehicle accident at near Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad.

May 23: Insurgents detonated bombs at a Baghdad restaurant and a Shi'ite mosque on Monday, part of a series of attacks that killed at least 26 and wounded 130.

In the deadliest attack, a car bomb exploded at lunchtime outside a northern Baghdad restaurant, killing eight people and wounding around 90, police and hospital officials said.

Later, a suicide car bomber targeted a Shi'ite mosque in Mahmoudiya, 40 km (25 miles) south of Baghdad, killing seven people and wounding 23, many of them children, doctors said. Five of those killed were from the same family, they said.

A suicide car bomb attack struck the government headquarters of the Iraqi town of Tuz Khurmatu, south of Kirkuk, on Monday, killing four people and wounding more than 10 others, police said.

Two car bombs exploded Monday outside the home of a community leader near the northern city of Mosul, killing at least 20 people and injuring another 20. The explosions occurred in Tal Afar, about 50 miles west of Mosul.

A car bomb exploded Monday at a Baghdad restaurant popular with police, killing at least seven people and wounding at least 82, and militants assassinated a top national security official.

U.S. and Iraqi forces detained 285 suspected insurgents "terrorists" in the western Baghdad district of Abu Ghraib after a major search operation. It said Operation Squeeze Play was designed to kill or capture guerrillas who have been staging attacks in the capital.

Iraq's government said on Monday it had captured an insurgent related to Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the most-wanted aide of Saddam Hussein still on the run. A government statement said Muthana al-Douri was captured near Tikrit last week. An insurgent squad shot dead the commander of Iraq's new counter-insurgency headquarters as he drove to work Monday in Baghdad.

May 24: Four US soldiers were killed in two separate incidents today in central Baghdad today, the US military said. 14 American troops have been killed since Sunday. At least 620 people, including 58 U.S. troops, have been killed since April 28, when Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his new Shiite-dominated government.

A Turkish businessman has been kidnapped in Iraq by insurgents demanding that his transportation company stop working with US forces in the war-torn country. A car bomb exploded Tuesday near a Baghdad junior high school for girls, killing six people.

Iraq has suspended oil exports to the Turkish port of Ceyhan because of a production shortage in the northern fields of Kirkuk, an Iraqi official said Tuesday. Insurgents regularly sabotage the northern pipeline and facilities. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is reported to have been wounded.

May 25: About 1,000 U.S. Marines, sailors and members of Iraq's security forces encircled the western Iraqi city of Haditha today in the second offensive against insurgents in the region this month.

In other violence around the country, 7 Iraqis died and 15 people were injured, including 2 Marines.

Cholera is spreading in Baghdad's impoverished al-Amil quarter where overcrowding and contaminated water are leading to fears of an epidemic. City officials blame insurgent attacks on infrastructure for the outbreak in southwest Baghdad. Children have so far been the worse affected, with one doctor at a Baghdad hospital saying he is now seeing young cholera patients on a daily basis.

May 26: In a continued offensive, Operation New Market, American troops killed at least 10 suspected militants in Haditha, a Euphrates River city of 90,000. One US soldier was killed.

Two Task Force Liberty helicopters were hit by ground fire while conducting operations in support of coalition forces near Baqouba, about 35 miles northeast

of Baghdad. One, an OH-58 Kiowa, landed safely at nearby base after sustaining damage. 2 were killed as the other went down.

Iraq's defense minister announced a massive security operation on Thursday that will see more than 40,000 Iraqi troops deployed in the capital to hunt down insurgents and their weapons. Dubbed Operation Lightning, authorities planned to divide the capital into 22 sectors and establish 675 fixed points alongside an undetermined number of mobile roadblocks.

Syria's United Nations ambassador reported that over 1,000 insurgents heading for the Iraqi border were prevented from crossing during recent weeks.

Three civilian Iraqis travelling in a minibus were killed, reportedly shot dead by US forces.

Iraqi and US troops have arrested two top aides of Al-Qaeda's Iraq frontman, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

In other violence, at least 11 Iraqis were killed, including a member of the Shi'ite Muslim Dawa party, headed by Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, and a senior official in Iraq's ministry of industry and minerals.

Iraqi insurgents attached explosives to a dog today in a bid to bomb a military convoy near the northern oil centre of Kirkuk but the animal was the only casualty.

May 27: Iraq Militants have attacked an oil pipeline outside Baghdad, destroying several parts of the structure.

A mortar attack was launched against a carpentry factory in northern Baghdad. A guard was killed and four others were wounded.

An ambush of a police patrol in the city of Mosul killed 2.

May 28: Operation Lightning continued as Iraqi police fought pitched battles with insurgents as thousands of security forces backed by American troops swept through Baghdad's streets to flush out militants. Insurgents lashed back — killing at least 30 people, including a British soldier. The operation led to the arrest of a former general in Saddam Hussein's intelligence service who was also a member of his Fedayeen secret police.

US marines are taking part in the "New Market" operation in Haditha to route out military groups that had infiltrated into the town from Al-Qaem near the borders with Syria earlier this month following operation Matador to weed out insurgency in the town.

Two bombs exploded in quick succession near a military base in Sinjar, about 75 miles northwest of Mosul, killing 7 and wounding more than 50, including two children. Other violence claimed the life of a US Marine, a former member of Kirkuk's city council and 4 other Iraqi soldiers.

The mutilated bodies of 10 Iraqi Shia Muslim pilgrims were found in the desert near the town of Qaim, close to the Syrian border.

May 29: Operation Lightning continued as Iraqi forces arrested 500 in an unprecedented domestic sweep.

Engineers in Iraq marked their 1000th reconstruction project with the completion of work at a school in the northern-most province of Dahuk.

Four death sentences have been handed down within the space of days. Seven convicted Iraqi criminals and insurgents are currently on death row and although the sentences have yet to be carried out, the interior ministry has vowed that the first hangings will take place next month.

Bomb blasts killed nine soldiers and two civilians.

Other violence claimed the lives of 2 US troops and 1 British soldier.

May 30: Operation Lightning set off a violent backlash on Sunday across Baghdad. At least 20 people were killed in the capital, 14 of them in a battle lasting several hours when insurgents launched sustained attacks on several police stations and an army barracks.

The chief of police in Basra admitted yesterday that he had effectively lost control of three-quarters of his officers and that sectarian militias had infiltrated the force and were using their posts to assassinate opponents.

Mohsen Abdul-Hamid, leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party, was seized at his house in Baghdad along with three sons, they said. His relatives said U.S. troops broke down the door of the family home and put a bag over Abdul-Hamid's head before taking him away.

An Iraqi Air Force aircraft crashed Monday in eastern Diyala province during an operational mission killing all four Americans and one Iraqi on board.

A man claiming to be Iraq's most wanted militant, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said he had been wounded - but only lightly - in an audio message on the internet. It was not possible to verify whether the voice was Zarqawi's.

Two suicide bombers strapped with explosives blew themselves up in a crowd of protesting former policemen south of Baghdad on Monday, killing 27 in one of the deadliest attacks in a month of escalating violence. More than 100 people were wounded.

Other violence ended up in 34 people were killed, including a British soldier caught by a roadside bomb near the town of Kahla that broke a protracted period of calm in the Shiite-dominated south.

May 31: At least 27 policemen were killed and 118 wounded after two terrorists carrying explosives blew themselves up among a crowd of 500 commandos protesting a government move to disband their special forces unit in Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad.

An Italian military helicopter has crashed in Iraq, killing the four people aboard.

In other violence, 11 people died Tuesday in violence in Iraq, including the governor of Anbar province, and 11 wounded, including 8 US troops.

U.S. fighter jets destroyed insurgent strongholds near Syria's border.

Basra International Airport announced on Tuesday the opening of the airport for civil aircraft flights. There will be four flights weekly between Baghdad and Basra.

Iraq will let the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, an outside watchdog, keep monitoring its oil production and the way it spends its oil money.

The U.S. military said there were about 143 car and suicide car bombings in May, a new record.

The death toll for American troops in Iraq rose in May to the highest level since January, with the U.S. military saying on Tuesday insurgents have doubled their number of daily attacks since April.

80 US soldiers died in May.

June 1: Operation Lightning continued, netting another 100 suspected insurgents were detained overnight in raids conducted by Iraq forces.

After one of the bloodiest months in Iraq since US-led forces invaded in 2003, US Secretary of State Rice has left the door open for the authorities to talk with insurgents behind the violence.

An Iraqi soldier died and 12 others were hospitalized after they ate poisonous watermelons given to them near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

Other violence claimed 4 lives and injured at least another 24, including attacks on Mosul University's campus.

June 2: Insurgents killed 38 people in a series of rapid-fire attacks Thursday, including three suicide car bombings within an hour and a drive-by shooting at a busy Baghdad market that ratcheted up the bloody campaign to undermine Iraq's government.

300 Hawn missiles have been found in the holy Iraqi city of Karbala, around a hundred kilometres south of the capital Baghdad. The insurgents in Iraq regularly use Hawn missiles and those found were described as being ready for use.

Iraq's interior minister claimed Operation Lightning this week has captured 700 suspected insurgents and killed 28 militants.

U.N. satellite imagery experts have determined that material that could be used to make biological or chemical weapons and banned long-range missiles has been removed from 109 sites in Iraq.

June 3: A suicide car bomber rammed his car into a building north of Baghdad, killing at least 10 people and wounding 12, the U.S. military said on Friday.

The Government of the Republic of Macedonia has decided to send military contingent to Iraq, which will participate in peacekeeping operations there.

Sporadic attacks around Iraq killed another eight people.

In the past 18 months, 12,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed, including more than 10,000 Shiites, Interior Minister Bayan Jabr said, citing figures from a research center.

Three soldiers have been ordered to stand trial at Fort Carson on murder charges in the suffocation of an Iraqi general, who died during an interrogation 1 years ago.

A source at the sea shipment department said that Iraq resumed oil exports from Karkouk oil fields in the north of the country via pipelines to Turkey.

A man has been arrested for allegedly targeting Iraqi security forces with poisoned watermelons.

June 4: Nine Iraqi soldiers have been killed in three separate bomb attacks in Iraq. US and Iraqi forces arrested one of the leaders of the Kurdish group Jaish Ansar al-Sunna, in the northern city of Mosul. U.S. and Iraqi forces on Saturday arrested a suspected top terror leader in Mosul, Mullah Mahdi, and his brother, three other Iraqis and a non-Iraqi Arab national, following a brief clash in eastern Mosul. Parliament in the Kurdish autonomous region of Iraq has held its first session in the northern city of Irbil. Other violence led to the deaths of 6 Iraqis and wounding another 9.

June 5: Hundreds of Iraqi and U.S. troops searched fields and farms yesterday for insurgents and their hideouts in an area south of Baghdad known for attacks, discovering 50 weapons and ammunition caches and a huge underground bunker west of the capital fitted out with air conditioning, a kitchen and showers. The "insurgent lair" included contained high-tech military equipment including night vision goggles. That bunker was found cut from a rock quarry in Karmah, 50 miles west of Baghdad. The Marines said the facility was 170 yards wide and 275 yards long. Operation Lightning netted another 108 suspected insurgents. An Australian held hostage in Iraq for five weeks has been seen alive and well by an Australian mufti trying to negotiate his release. Kurdish rebels have killed four Turkish soldiers in a clash in southeastern Turkey. The clash occurred near the city of Tunceli. The Iraqi government says it is going to double the salaries of university professors as part of a bid to stem the brain drain in the country. A suicide car bomb killed two policemen and wounded at least seven others at a checkpoint in the northern city of Mosul, police sources said. Ten soldiers, members of a force protecting the green zone, were injured when a bomb exploded by a bus they were riding on their way to work in Al-Latifayah south of Baghdad.

June 6: The Iraqi government announced Monday it detained nearly 900 suspected militants and set up more than 800 checkpoints in a two-week sweep that appears to have somewhat blunted attacks in the capital. The U.S. military said Monday that Iraqi and U.S. troops have completed Operation Woodstock in which 59 suspected insurgents were detained in northern Babil province. Violence across the country claimed 2 lives and injured 9.

June 7: Iraq militants threatened to kill a Turkish hostage Tuesday unless Ankara agrees to end cooperation with the US military within four days. Four bombings within seven minutes killed at least 14 people, including at least three Iraqi soldiers, and injured at least 22 in northern Iraq, while rioting injured many at Abu Ghraib prison. Elsewhere, two US marines died as a result of separate roadside bombings near the western Iraqi city of Falluja, the US military said on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, relatives of a Sunni Muslim cleric in the southern Iraqi city of Basra said he had been killed.

General Wafiq al-Samarraey, security adviser to the Iraqi president, said fighters were starting to target each other.

A convoy of trucks believed to be carrying supplies to a U.S. military base west of Baghdad was ambushed Tuesday, killing at least 7 people. The attack occurred in Habaniyah, 50 miles west of Baghdad and between the restive cities of Fallujah and Ramadi.

U.S. and Iraqi troops on Tuesday launched an offensive against insurgents in the northwestern city of Tal Afar -- not far from the Syrian border. One American soldier and four insurgents have been killed in the operation, Arraf said. U.S. and Iraqi forces have detained 23 suspected insurgents. Some 4,000 U.S. troops moved into the Tal Afar area in recent weeks.

Britain supplied over 90 per cent of major conventional weapons delivered to Iraq in 2004 following the lifting of the UN arms embargo last June, according to the latest figures from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

June 8: A Sunni Arab politician said Tuesday two insurgent groups were willing to negotiate with the government, possibly opening a new political front in embattled Iraq.

At least 32 lives were claimed in the day's violence, which included four explosions within seven minutes in and around Hawija, 40 miles southwest of Kirkuk, and the killings of a Sunni cleric and a foreign ministry employee.

3 US soldiers have been killed in two separate attacks north of Baghdad.

Gunmen have kidnapped 22 Iraqi soldiers shortly after they left their base in western Iraq. The soldiers were abducted on Tuesday on the road from Qaim, near the Syrian border, to the town of Rawa.

Iraq's oil export pipeline to Turkey was hit by a new sabotage blast overnight, with the attack causing substantial damage. The explosion came hours after an Iraqi oil official said it would take 10 more days to repair the pipeline following a sabotage blast last Friday.

A cache of guns, bugging devices and equipment that may have been used for torture has been discovered at Iraq's abandoned embassy in Britain.

Thousands of people are detained in Iraq without due process in apparent violation of international law, the United Nations said on Wednesday, adding that 6,000 of the country's 10,000 prisoners were in the hands of the U.S. military.

Iraqi insurgents have increased their use of car bombs to an average of 30 per week.

June 9: In drafting Iraq's new constitution, the Sunnis, who complained about their lack of representation, will be offered as many as 25 seats.

June 10: A suicide car bomber killed 20 traffic policemen and wounded 100 more outside the unit's headquarters in the northern Kurdish city of Irbil.

At least 10 people died in a car bomb attack in a mainly Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad.

The bodies of 16 people who were killed execution-style have been discovered in western Iraq.

Gunmen opened fire on a bus filled with laborers just south of Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding three.

June 11: The number of car bombings have dropped from 12 or 14 a day to 1 or 2 a day since Operation Lightning was launched in late May involving 40,000 Iraqi security forces in Baghdad.

At least 34 Iraqis and 2 American marines were killed in violence in central and western Iraq on Friday night and Saturday, and a series of Marine airstrikes in the western desert killed about 40 insurgents.

June 12: Iraqi police dug up the bodies of 20 men who were shot to death and left in shallow graves east of Baghdad, while eight more bodies were found in the Iraqi capital.

In northern Iraq, the Kurdish Parliament elected veteran guerrilla leader Massoud Barzani the first president of Iraq's northern Kurdistan region.

June 13: Four suicide car bombings and other insurgent attacks killed 10 people, and at least 16 Iraqis were wounded after militants opened fire on authorities trying to evacuate the injured from one of the blasts.

Sunni leaders continued to reject a compromise offer from the Shiite-dominated government to give Sunnis 15 seats on the committee and 10 adviser positions.

June 14: At least 29 people were killed and 60 wounded in bombing attacks in northern Iraq.

10 Iraqis, including two children, were killed and seven wounded by a car bomb north of Baghdad, according to security and hospital sources.

More than 2000 Filipino workers have sneaked into Iraq to work for US military camps despite a Philippine government ban imposed last year.

June 15: A suicide bomber wearing Iraqi army uniform killed at least 23 people and wounded 29 at an army mess hall north of the capital.

Iraq is "statistically" no safer today than it was at the end of the war, Donald Rumsfeld, US defense secretary, has admitted.

June 16: Senior members of a Shiite-dominated committee drafting Iraq's new constitution reached a compromise Thursday with Sunni Arab groups on the number of representatives the minority will have on the body drafting the charter. Under the deal, 15 Sunni Arabs would join two members of the minority already on the committee. Another 10 Sunni Arabs would join, but only in an advisory capacity.

Five U.S. marines were killed in Iraq when their vehicle struck a bomb near Ramadi, in the restive west of the country.

Insurgents have taken over much of the Iraqi city of Ramadi and used it to launch attacks against US forces while terrorizing the population with public beheadings.

The US forces captured Muhammed Khalif Shaker, also known as Abu Talha, who is the leader of al-Qaida group in Mosul and an aide to Zarqawi.

June 17: Operation Spear began in the early morning hours with the objectives of rooting out insurgents and foreign fighters and disrupting insurgent support systems in and around Karabila. Iraqi troops and U.S. tank and amphibious assault units were involved. About 1,000 troops were taking part.

June 18: Nine Iraqis have been killed in two separate car bomb attacks in the restive Al-Anbar province, west of Baghdad.

A suicide car bomb attack in Iraq on Saturday killed 14 soldiers and injured eight others.

Nine troops from the U.S.-led multinational forces were killed in a mortar attack in the troubled city of Fallujah west of the capital.

June 19: A suicide car bomb attack in Iraq on Saturday killed 14 soldiers and injured eight others.

A suicide bomber killed up to 20 people including five policemen and many plain-clothes security guards at a Baghdad restaurant close to the Green Zone government compound.

June 20: At least eight car bombs exploded across Iraq on Monday killing 29 people as insurgents defied a widespread U.S.-Iraqi security clampdown.

June 21: A Swedish hostage has been freed after 67 days in Iraq, the Foreign Ministry and local media said on Tuesday.

Ten people were killed Tuesday in attacks north of Baghdad.

Around 70 insurgents including a suspected Al-Qaeda member were arrested in raids around Iraq.

June 22: U.S. and Iraqi forces have ended a four-day operation, Spear, aimed at clearing insurgent bases and training camps in western Iraq. Military officials say forces killed some 50 fighters and discovered more than a dozen car bombs in and around the town of Karabilah during the campaign.

Three car bombs, which went off almost simultaneously about a kilometer apart, killed 18 people and wounded 48 in a mainly Shi'ite district of west Baghdad.

A Filipino has been released in Iraq after nearly eight months in captivity.

Two million Baghdad residents have been without drinking water since 19 June after saboteurs targeted a major water main in the capital.

June 23: Four car bombs exploded at dusk, killing at least 23 people.

One of Saudi Arabia's most wanted terror suspects was killed by an air-strike during fighting with US and Iraqi forces in north-west Iraq. Abdullah al-Rashoud had been number 24 on a list of the top-26 most wanted terror leaders put out by Saudi Arabia three years ago, and was one of only three militants on the list still at large.

June 24: Washington has, for the first time, acknowledged to the United Nations that prisoners have been tortured at US detention centers in Guantanamo Bay, as well as Afghanistan and Iraq.

A suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. Marine vehicle in the city of Falluja, killing six American troops in one of the deadliest single assaults on U.S. ground forces in Iraq.

June 25: A suicide car bomb blast struck the house of a police commandos officer in the Iraqi city of Samarra on Saturday, killing nine people and wounding 16 others. Saboteurs blew up a crucial oil pipeline leading from Kirkuk in the north to Turkey.

June 26: A suicide bomber with explosives hidden beneath watermelons in a pickup truck slammed into a police station near a market Sunday in Mosul, the first of three bombings that killed at least 33 people and wounded 19 in the northwestern city.

The United States has asked Japan to extend its troop deployment in Iraq beyond the scheduled expiration of the current mandate in December.

June 27: At least 25 people were killed in bombings targeting Iraqi security forces. US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld confirmed that pentagon officials had been in contact with insurgents in a bid to stem the violence. Two US soldiers were when their AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed northwest of Baghdad .

June 28: U.S. Marines launched Operation Saif (Sword) in western Iraq on Tuesday, dispatching 1,000 troops against suspected insurgents in the western Euphrates river valley. An Iraqi Parliament member, his son and three bodyguards were among at least 12 people killed in attacks in Iraq.

June 29: Nine people were killed in Iraq's western town of Hit as US and Iraqi troops launched their latest offensive, Sword, in western Iraq. The Swiss cabinet announced that it has approved the sale of 180 tanks to the United Arab Emirates, who will present them to Iraq.