

## Discussion Topics:

COL Thomas James

Commander, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division

FOB Kalsu, Iraq

## Background:

- 4BCT occupies Babil Province in Central Iraq, approximately 50 KM south of Baghdad on the main avenues of approach to the city
- Population is estimated at 1.2 million Iraqis- 85% Shia and 15% Sunni. The majority of the population resides in the northern portion of the province in and around the towns of Jurf as Sahkr and Iskandariyah.
- Currently, the majority of the Brigade is positioned in North Babil, but we maintain a Military Transition Team further south in the provincial capital of Hillah.
- We are partnered with the 31<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army Brigade and Babil Police throughout the Province.
- Our mission is to secure the population, defeat extremists and neutralize resistance groups, increase the professionalism of the Iraqi Security Forces, build the capacity of Government Institutions and economic programs and transition security and local development tasks to the Iraqi Security Forces and local governments over time.

## For Discussion:

- Reasons why the population feels secure and how the quality of life is improving
- Increased capacity of Iraqi Security Forces and how that has led to enabling positive growth in governance and economic systems
- Past and current existing threats and what has been done to mitigate them and what is to be done in the future to maintain a positive security situation and continue to improve security
- Key factors leading to improved security including the professional and greatly improved Iraqi Security Force and the “Sons of Iraq” program; also the integration of ISF and Coalition Forces living among the population in patrol bases and joint security stations
- BG Abdul Amir and the 31<sup>st</sup> Iraqi Army Brigade and the success of their intelligence-based operations
- Increase in governance proficiency and economic productivity
- The Government of Iraq sponsored projects and CERP funds projects in North Babil
- Future tasks to include:
  - Successful execution of free, fair and safe elections
  - GOI-driven, SOI transition to other productive employment
  - Assisting with professionalization of the Iraqi Security Forces
  - Assisting with local economic development to create employment opportunity
  - Basing adjustments for the Iraqi Army and Police

