

## BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY



U.S. Embassy Baghdad

September 16, 2007



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### SPOT REPORT – 091607-01

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**SUBJECT:** SAF attack on COM Team

**REPORTING OFFICE:** RSO Baghdad

**SUMMARY:** On 16 September 2007, COM PSD Team 4 with one principal was at Izdihar financial compound, located two kilometers northwest of the International Zone. At approximately 11:53 hours, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) detonated 25 meters outside of the venue entrance. COM Tactical Support Team (TST) 22 responded to the scene and escorted Team 4 back to the IZ without incident. It is unknown who was the target of the VBIED.

TST 23 departed the IZ in order to support the movement of TST 22 and Team 4. TST 23 entered an intersection identified as Gray 87 when they were engaged with small arms fire. Estimated 8-10 persons fired from multiple nearby locations, with some aggressors dressed in civilian apparel and others in Iraqi Police uniforms. The team returned defensive fire and attempted to drive out the initial ambush site; however, the team command Bearcat vehicle was disabled during the attack and could not continue. While under continued SAF, TST 23 towed the immobilized vehicle out of the area and safely into the IZ without further incident.

During the attack on TST 23, TST 22 was redirected to assist them and subsequently exited the IZ. TST 22 arrived at the Gray 87 intersection after TST 22 had already departed. The intersection, described as a traffic circle, was congested with heavy traffic and TST 22 had their path blocked by an Iraqi QRF. Over the next several minutes, additional Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police units arrived and began to encircle TST 22 with vehicles. The Iraqis had large caliber machine guns pointed at TST 22, who informed the RSO TOC of the situation. Coordination was made with the U.S. military and COM air assets for assistance. U.S. Army QRF arrived on scene at 12:39 hours and mediated the situation. They escorted TST 22 out of the area and successfully back to the IZ without further incident.

There were no injuries to COM personnel. The nature of the Bearcat malfunction is under investigation. TST 23 vehicles incurred numerous superficial SAF damage.

**RSO ACTION:** U.S. Army LNO contacted their Quick Reactionary Force (QRF) to render assistance. Coordination was made with COM air assets for route reconnaissance and additional coverage. PSD members are completing written statements and the RSO is investigating the incident.

**LOCATION:** Baghdad, Iraq

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