MGRS Explained

Jacob Harris

CAR 2011 Lightning Talk
A Deadly Day In Baghdad

Violence peaked in December 2006, just two months before American troops arrived as part of what was later called “the surge.” At right are the details of one of the city’s deadliest days, Dec. 20. There were 114 separate episodes of violence that day, resulting in the deaths of about 160 Iraqi citizens and police officers.

Each dot represents a recorded incident in the archive. Some incidents involve more than one death.

Extreme Sectarian Violence in Baghdad

Friday, February 25, 2011
(CRIMINAL EVENT) MURDER RPT BY NOT PROVIDED IVO BAGHDAD (ZONE 1) (ROUTE UNKNOWN): 1 ISF KIA 27 CIV KIA

28X CORPSSES WERE FOUND THROUGHOUT BAGHDAD:

2X HANDCUFFED, BLINDFOLDED, AND SHOT IN THE HEAD IN AL JIHAD (MB393859, MAHALAH #887, 1136 HRS, HY ALAMIL PS)

2X SHOT IN THE HEAD IN AL HURRIYA (MB367918, 1340 HRS, AL HURIYA PS)

1X SHOT IN THE HEAD IN AL ALAMIL (MB374824, 1400 HRS, HY ALAMIL PS)

1X SHOT IN THE HEAD IN AL JIHAD (MB332816, MAHALAH #895, 1245 HRS, HY ALAMIL PS)

1X SHOT IN THE HEAD IN SADR CITY (MB502242, 1500 HRS, AL RAFIDIAN PS)

6X SHOT IN THE HEAD IN SHEIKH MAARUF (MB425880, MAHALAH #212, 1620 HRS, AL JAAIFER PS)

Friday, February 25, 2011
2X HANDCUFFED, BLINDFOLDED, AND SHOT IN THE HEAD IN AL JIHAD (MB393859, MAHALAH #887, 1136 HRS, HY ALAMIL PS)

Normalized version: 38S MB 393 859
Lat/Lng: 33.31096 lat, 44.34846 lng
Accuracy: 100m
Deciphering 38SMB1234567890

- 38S = Grid Zone Designator
- MB = 10,000m square
- 12345 = easting in meters
- 67890 = northing in meters
Variable Precision

- Specifying error boxes
- 38S MB 39313 85924 = 1m
- 38S MB 3931 8592 = 10m
- 38S MB 393 859 = 100m
- 38S MB 39 85 = 1000m
- 38S MB 3 8 = 10,000m
Other Tips

* Spacing may vary, but easting and northing must be same length

* Reports will routinely omit the Grid Zone Designator in the body of text (may be included in header metadata)

* Not all grid zones or 100km squares are actually squares

* Typos in report may geocode some coordinates to Antarctica

* I am not a map nerd. Someone else can tell how to use in ArcGIS.