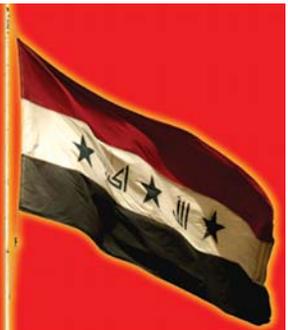




THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



Vol. 1, No. 3

Published by Multi-National Force - Iraq

August 31, 2005

Draft constitution announced



Photo by U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Dan Epright

Iraqi president, Jalal Talabani, addresses media at a press conference after the Iraqi Constitution draft was accepted by the Transitional National Assembly. See story, Page 2.

Top Stories

U.S. Army colonel receives Distinguished Service Cross, Page 6

Iraqi cadet wins prestigious Sandhurst accolade, Page 7

Iraqi leaders train at Diyala Regional Training Facility, Page 11

Kirkuk Business Center ... stronger economy, better life, security, Page 13

Iraqis partner with engineers to rebuild Fallujah, Page 15

Marines help Iraqi Forces mold Iraq's future, Page 17

Ukrainians help prepare Iraqi Army, Page 18

Iraqi Army closer to independent operations



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Christian Knutzen, Task Force Konohiki, confers with his Iraq counterpart to confirm mission objectives.

Story and photo by Maj. Sean E. Wilson
27th Public Affairs Detachment

The key to a self-sustaining Iraqi democracy is a strong and capable security force. An Iraqi Army company is one step closer to achieving this goal as it completed a recent mission in an Iraqi town just south of Balad July 20.

Soldiers of the Iraqi 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division conducted a joint cordon and search mission near the town of Salaman. These troops conducted the mission with limited support from the military transition team of Task Force Konohiki from the 29th Brigade Combat Team and Task Force 1/128 from Forward Operating Base O'Ryan. This was an Iraqi lead and executed mission,

See *OPERATIONS*, Page 11

Welcome to 'This Week in Iraq'

By Gen. George W. Casey, Jr.
Multi-National Force - Iraq Commanding General

Welcome to "This Week in Iraq." MNF-I has created this Web-based newsletter in an effort to inform the greatest number of people possible about the phenomenal efforts the men and women of the Coalition and the Iraqi Security Forces are making here in Iraq. Iraqi people make incredible strides daily, growing in capacity each day, and once again, taking their place in the world as a proud and sovereign nation. Each week, key points about our effort here in Iraq will be discussed to let you know where we are in the process and how we are doing.



Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

As you know, the next step for the draft constitution will be for the Iraqi people to vote on it. According to the International Election Committee for Iraq, 94 percent of eligible Iraqi voters are already registered. Many Iraqis were already registered due to January's elections. For the remaining six percent of the eligible population not yet registered, District Election Offices are open until Aug. 31 around the country (except Al-Anbar province, which is open until Sept. 7). This will ensure everyone that wants to participate in this historic process is granted the opportunity. Efforts to increase registration have netted an additional 187,000 voters in recent weeks! This is a clear indication the Iraqi people are eager and ready to exercise their democratic right to vote. Obviously, the insurgents have not stopped political and economic development in Iraq. The well-known Jan. 30 elections — where 8.5 million Iraqis defied intimidation and terror to take a stake in their future, the formation of the first democratically-elected government in decades and the development of an Iraqi constitution — all indicate the momentum is in favor of democracy and not terror. Remember — our overall goal is for an Iraq at peace with its neighbors, with a representative government that respects human rights of all Iraqis and security forces sufficient to maintain domestic order and to deny Iraq as a safe haven to terrorists. More next week, until then ... "Iltizam Mushtarak" — United Commitment!

Draft constitution approved, awaiting referendum

By Lt. Col. Steven A. Boylan
Combined Press Information Center

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's Transitional National Assembly met Sunday, Aug. 28, to receive the country's draft constitution after members of the constitutional committee that created Iraq's first democratic document, signed the charter.

The first freely elected government of Iraq accepted the draft constitution at approximately 5 p.m. Sunday at the Iraqi presidential offices of President Jalal Talabani.

"The draft constitution is ready and will be presented to the Iraqi people, who are known for their intelligence, to give their verdict on Oct. 15," said Talabani in a ceremony outside his office.

"The completed draft of the constitution is a vision for the future of Iraq," said United States Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalilzad. "This will begin the debate on what the future of their democracy will look like for some time to come."

The draft was read out before the lawmakers after it was presented in parliament by Sheikh Humam Hammudi, the head of the constitution drafting panel grouping Iraq's majority Shiites with the Kurds and Sunni Arabs.

Khalilzad said that the draft constitution protects the unity of Iraq through federalism of the Kurdish areas, ensures that women have the right to full participation in public affairs, and is one of the most progressive documents in the Muslim world.

There were varying reactions to the announcement of the draft from the Sunni negotiators on the constitutional committee. Several of the participants reacted to the draft in various ways, including Sunni Arab negotiators declaring that they would continue with the political process in Iraq, saying their objections on certain points of the draft constitution would not stop them from participating in elections.

The next step in the process will be informing the public on the new draft constitution, public debates culminating with the Oct. 15 referendum.

For more on the Iraqi Constitution, *see Page 3 and 4.*

MNF-I Commanding General
Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Combined Press Information Center Director

Lt. Col. Steven A. Boylan
steven.boyland@iraq.centcom.mil

Command Information Chief

Maj. Patricia C. Anderson
patricia.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil

Command Information NCOIC

Master Sgt. Michele R. Hammonds
michele.hammonds@iraq.centcom.mil



Editor.....Staff Sgt. Brett B. McMillan
brett.mcmillan@iraq.centcom.mil

Assistant Editor.....Sgt. Misha King
misha.king@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff.....Staff Sgt. Timothy B. Lawn
timothy.lawn@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff.....Sgt. W. Watson Martin
william.martin@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff.....Spc. Ferdinand Thomas
ferdinand.thomas@iraq.centcom.mil

This Week in Iraq is an authorized publication produced by Multi-National Force - Iraq. Contents are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or DoD. The editorial content is not the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of the Multi-National Force - Iraq. Questions and comments should be directed to the editor at MNFInewsletter@iraq.centcom.mil.

Election preparations not disrupted in north-central Iraq

By Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Despite continued efforts, insurgents have been unable to impact preparations for elections in the north-central region of Iraq, and that region has a strong plan in place for security during elections scheduled in Iraq in October and December, the commander of U.S. operations in the area said today.

U.S. forces have been concentrating on training Iraqi Forces, and collectively, a plan has been made for election security that leaves all parties assured, said Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander of Multi-National Division - North Central and Task Force Liberty.

“We’re comfortable with our election security plan,” Taluto told reporters in the Pentagon via an audio feed from Forward Operating Base Danger, in Tikrit, Iraq. “We’re very focused.”

Iraqi leaders in the area are confident about the elections, mainly because they remember the success they had in the Jan. 30 elections, Taluto said. Confidence is also derived from the better equipped and trained Iraqi Security Forces, a stronger independent electoral commission, and the growing sense of support for the elections among Iraqi citizens, he added.

As the elections draw nearer, insurgent attacks most likely will increase, Taluto said, but U. S. and Iraqi Forces are capable of responding and keeping the area secure.

“As the political dialogue continues, our work intensifies,” he said. “Our partnerships are strong, and our resolve even stronger. One of the things that makes our soldiers so determined is the considerable effort they see every day by the Iraqi people, their leaders and their security forces.”

Training of the Iraqi Security Forces in the north-central area continues, and Iraqis will soon be able to take a more prominent role in several areas, Taluto said. In some places, Iraqi Forces are already conducting virtually all traffic-control points and doing a considerable amount of work on “flash” control points, he added.

“I can say that our Iraqi Army in north-central — five brigades, 18 battalions — are doing extremely well,” he said.

Iraqi Draft Constitution: Overall Achievements

Constitution consolidates Iraq as a democracy.

Political power is exercised solely through Iraq’s elected representatives, chosen every four years on basis of free, fair, direct, and universal elections.

Iraq’s democratic character is fully compatible with its status as an Islamic country.

Constitution protects human equality and human rights.

All Iraqis are deemed equal before the law, without discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, origin, color, religion, sect, belief or opinion or economic and social status.

Women’s rights are explicitly guaranteed, and women are guaranteed approximately 25 percent representation in the Council of Representatives.

Constitution establishes checks, balances, and the separation of powers.

President and Prime Minister share power over executive functions of government.

Elected Council of Representatives has primary authority over legislative functions, also shares power with executive branch.

Iraqi judiciary is fully independent from political branches of government, and Federal Supreme Court has right of judicial review to enforce constitution.

Military and intelligence services are explicitly put under civilian control of elected political authorities.

Constitution protects the unity of Iraq through federalism.

Strong federal government retains control over key sovereign functions — national defense, foreign policy, fiscal/monetary policy — and oil/gas resources belong to all Iraqis.

Regional governments are authorized to exercise other authorities.

Administrative status of Kirkuk to be determined in a referendum following a careful and deliberate effort to mitigate effects of Saddam’s ethnic cleansing campaign.

Constitution promotes Iraq’s re-integration into the international community.

Iraq affirms its commitment to its international obligations (including international human-rights treaties), and pledges support for peaceful international relations and non-interference in internal affairs of other states.

Iraqi Constitution: Women’s Rights

- Women have the right to participate fully in public affairs and enjoy equal rights to voting, election, and nomination for office.
- Discrimination on the basis of gender is banned.
- All Iraqis enjoy all the rights noted in all the international human-rights treaties and agreements that Iraq has ratified.
- Constitution requires that at least 25 percent of the Council of Representatives should consist of women representatives.
- Constitution prohibits all forms of violence and abuse in the family, school, and society.
- Constitution prohibits tribal traditions that are in contradiction with human rights.
- Draft states that a law shall give all Iraqis, including women, the freedom to determine their personal status according to their "religions, sects, beliefs, and choices."
- Constitution guarantees social and health security and basic life requirements, especially for women and children.

Between Aug. 19-26

Civilians killed by insurgents: 24
Civilians wounded by insurgents: 43

Iraqi Constitution: Religious Freedom

- Draft states that “each individual shall have the freedom of thought, conscience and belief.”

- Draft includes “full religious rights of all individuals to freedom of religious belief and practices.”

- Constitution states that followers of all religions and sects are free in the practice of religious rites and management of religious institutions.

- Constitution states that no law may contradict the established provisions of

Islam, the principles of democracy, or the rights and basic freedoms in the constitution. This formula requires that, in order to meet the test of constitutionality, laws must conform to all three parts of this formula.

- Like all recent Iraqi constitutions, the constitution makes Islam the official religion of the state. Islam is identified as “a” but not “the” fundamental source of legislation.

- Draft recognizes that the Iraqi people are a nation of diverse religions and sects and that all groups have equal rights:

- Draft prohibits discrimination on the basis of religion, sect, or belief.

- Draft guarantees the protection of the individual from religious coercion.

- Draft requires the government to safeguard the sanctity of holy shrines and religious places and to guarantee the free practice of rituals in them.

- Draft allows individuals free choice with regard to personal-status law, in accordance with civil or religious law.

Iraqi Constitution: Advantages for Sunni Arabs

- Overall, the Constitution lays the foundation for a new, democratic political order — a change which benefits of all Iraqis, including Sunni Arabs.

- Constitution establishes democratic system with full checks, balances, and separation of powers. This allows for majority rule, with full protection of minority rights.

- Constitution provides for full political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights to all citizens; it also guarantees the equality of all Iraqis and bars discrimination along ethnic and sectarian lines.

- In the negotiations, Sunni Arabs had raised concerns on a number of critical issues. On nearly all of such issues, compromises were reached which protect Sunni concerns.

- On religion, Sunnis had feared a sectarian constitution establishing the primacy of Shi’a Islam and its symbols and practices. In fact, the Constitution is free of sectarian overtones. It protects full individual rights to freedom of worship, faith, and religious belief and practice, and bans any coercion on the basis of religion.

- On federalism, Sunnis had feared the immediate creation of new federal regions that would lead to the partition of Iraq. In fact, the Constitution provides for a strong central government, while deferring choices about whether or not to create new federal regions to the next National Assembly and to the Iraqi people.

- Central government has full and exclusive authority over national defense, foreign policy, fiscal/monetary policy.

- All of Iraq’s oil and gas resources belong to all of the Iraqi people, and are not tied to particular regions or governorates.

- All regions must comply fully with the provisions of the federal Constitution.

- On majority factions, Sunnis had feared that key decisions of the government could be dominated by a small majority failing to take into account the broader interests of the country. In fact, the Constitution requires two-thirds super-majority votes to elect the President, establish the role and appointment procedure for the Supreme Court, and determine the composition and authorities of the Federation Council.

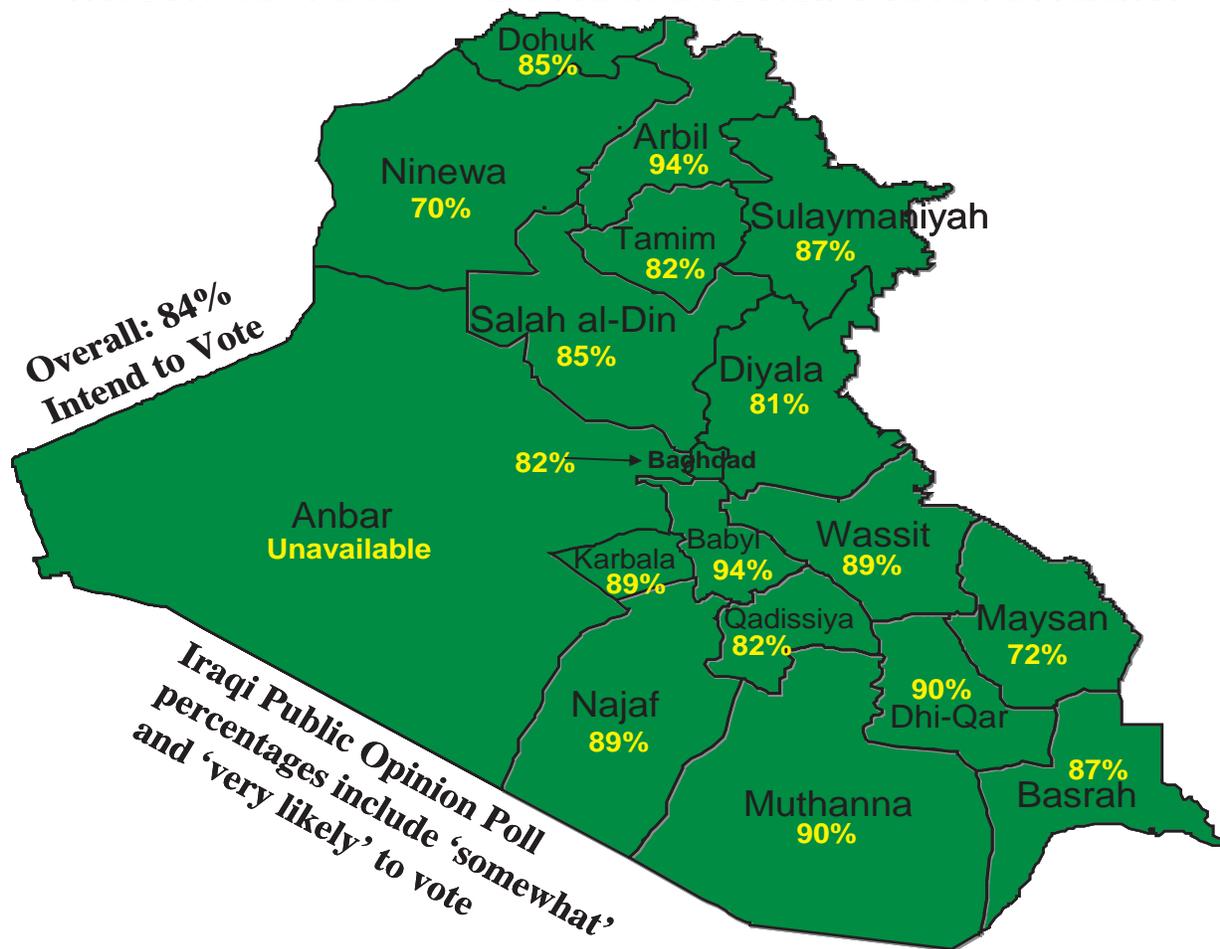
- On de-Ba’athification, Sunnis had feared language that would categorically exclude former Ba’ath Party members from playing a role in the new Iraq for the foreseeable future. In fact, the Constitution emphasizes the evils of Saddamism, instead of categorically denouncing the Ba’ath Party. Moreover, it makes clear that the work of the De-Ba’athification Commission can end with a majority vote in the Council of Representatives — and not a two-thirds majority, as originally demanded by the Shi’a Alliance.

A constitution for all Iraqis

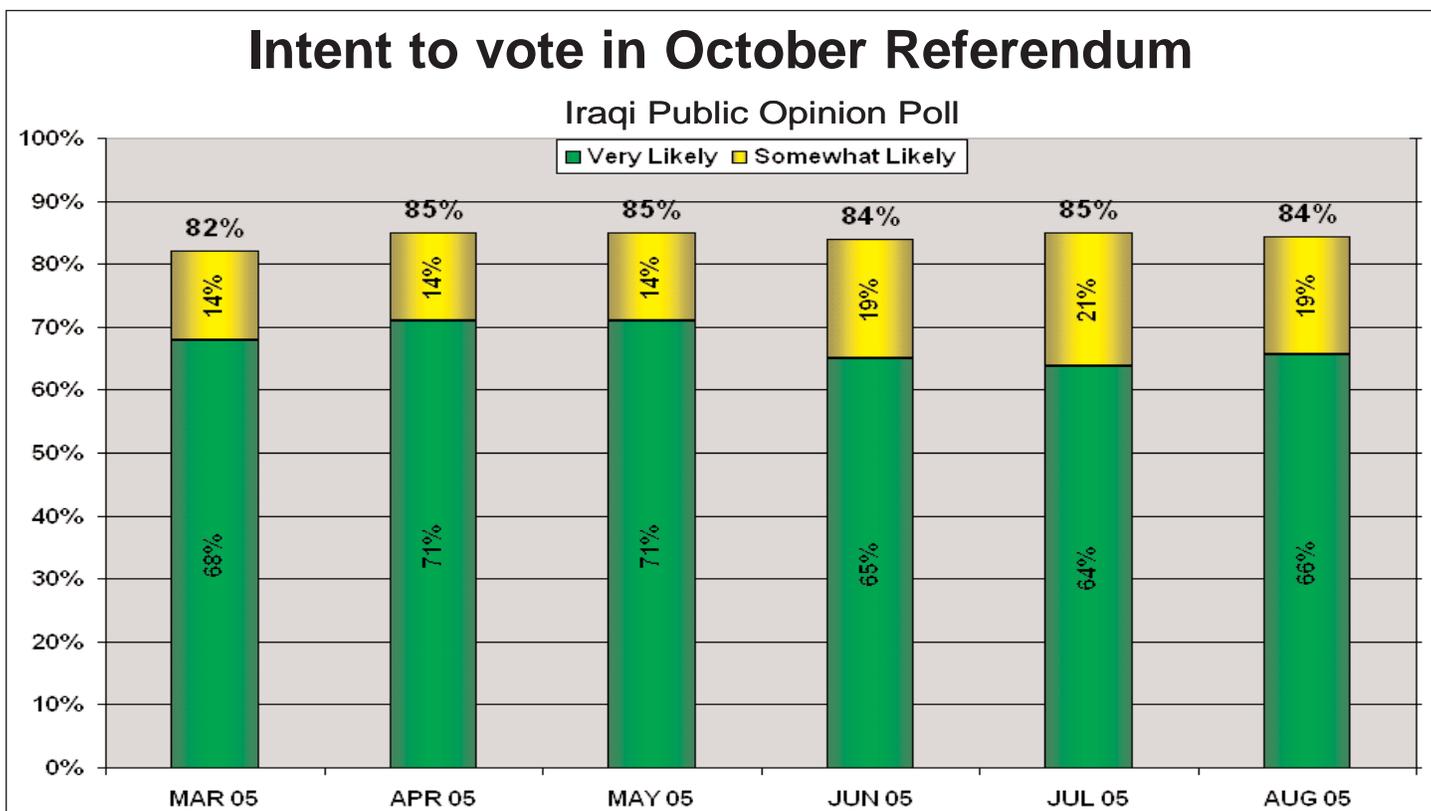
Iraqi politicians made up of Shiite, Sunni, and Kurds managed to beat a midnight deadline Monday when they submitted a draft constitution to Iraq’s Transitional National Assembly in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo by Staff Sgt. Nicholas Minecci



Intent to vote – Constitutional Referendum



Intent to vote in October Referendum





Heroes of the Week

U.S. Army colonel receives Distinguished Service Cross

Story and photo by Sgt. Lorie Jewell
Multi-National Security Transition
Command - Iraq Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Distinguished Service Cross — second only to the Medal of Honor in military decorations — has been awarded to U.S. Army Col. James H. Coffman Jr. for his role in leading Iraqi Special Police Commandos through a five-and-a-half hour battle against insurgents trying to overrun an Iraqi police station.

Flanked by the commando unit Coffman fought with, U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of Multi-National Forces – Iraq, pinned the cross and eagle medal on Coffman's body armor during an Aug. 24 ceremony at Adnon Palace in Baghdad's International Zone. Iraq's Minister of Interior, Bayan Jabr, and a number of other high-ranking Iraqi and Coalition leaders also attended the ceremony.

"It's humbling to me to be in the company of heroes," Casey said, noting Coffman's extraordinary heroism in the battle that killed 12 Iraqi commandos and wounded 24. "Such exemplary conduct is a great example to Iraqi commandos and to all American Soldiers and warriors."

Coffman, 51, is a special assistant to the commanding general of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, and a senior adviser to the Iraqi Special Police Commandos. He accompanied a commando Quick Reaction Force (QRF) with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Special Police Commando Brigade on Nov. 14, 2004, to help a commando platoon under attack in a Mosul, Iraq police station.

As the QRF approached the station, it was besieged with rocket-propelled grenades, small arms fire and mortar rounds. Coffman and the commandos fought the insurgents for four hours before help arrived. When the initial firefight killed or seriously wounded all but one of the commando officers, Coffman rallied the remaining commandos while trying to radio for assistance, according to his award citation.

"Under heavy fire, he moved from commando to commando, looking each in the eye and using hand and arm signals to demonstrate what he wanted done," the citation said.

At one point, an enemy round shattered his left shooting hand, damaging his M4 rifle in the process. Coffman bandaged it and contin-



Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of MNF-I, pins the Distinguished Service Cross medal on Col. James H. Coffman Jr.

ued fighting with AK-47 rifles he collected from commando casualties until each ran out of ammunition.

"Col. Coffman, the blood you shed will never be forgotten," said Jabr, the Interior Minister. "We, the forces of the [Ministry of Interior] and the [Ministry of Defense] will continue to fight until we defeat terrorism."



Fighting the same fight



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Iraqi Capt. Abass and Iraqi Maj. Gen. Rasheed were awarded medallions Aug. 24 bearing the logo of the Iraqi Special Police Commandos by Maj. Gen. Adnon Thebit, commander of Iraqi Special Police Forces, in recognition of their actions in the same Nov. 14, 2004, battle that led to U.S. Army Col. James H. Coffman Jr. earning the Distinguished Service Cross.



Coalition Corner

Danish help Iraqi Security Forces train

Story and photo by
Spc. Ferdinand Thomas
 214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP DANEVANG, BASRAH, Iraq
 — Parts of southeastern Iraq have been fairly calm since the Iraqi elections earlier this year. This peaceful atmosphere has much to do with Danish Army and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) patrols in that area.

Joint patrols and keeping order is one part of the Danish Soldiers' mission. Training the Iraqi Forces has become an even bigger part of the Danish Soldiers' mission.

"We really want the Iraqi Army (IA) and police to be trained to the highest degree. Almost all of our energy goes into patrols with Iraqi Security Forces," said Danish Army Pvt. Kristian Christensen, infantryman with the Danish Battalion, Reconnaissance Squadron.

Danish troops and ISF do most of the patrols in Al Qurnah, Al Madinah, Al Dayr and Al Hartha. On and off patrols, Danish Soldiers frequently train and test Iraqi Forces' techniques in quick reaction.

The training the Danish provide the IA and Iraqi Police (IP) include: handling evidence, daily routines, detention policies,



Coalition troops look over a patrol route before leaving the area of operation.

quick reaction force procedures and how to fill out police reports. When Danish troops patrol the cities, they urge Iraqi Forces to pay close attention to suspicious activity, conduct thorough searches and follow the rules of engagement.

One of the main highlights Danish Soldiers like on their missions is meeting the locals. Some of the Soldiers described the Iraqi people as very pleasant. Danish Army Sgt. Michael Vesterquaie, Reconnaissance Squadron squad leader, said they patrol the cities without their helmets and minimal gear

at times because they rarely have problems with the locals.

"We encounter many children when we patrol the streets," he added. "They treat us very kind. We feel like movie stars sometimes."

The locals seem to feel the same about the Danish, said Sheik Mahdi Jabor of the Beit Shawi tribe. "We respect the Soldiers who work for the benefit of the Iraqi people," he said. "We are very satisfied with the security situation here."

Danish Soldiers said they are proud to be helping out. This mission was one they could not pass up.

"We are just a very small battalion-sized unit in the middle of a very large [Multi-National - Force]," Frederiksen said. "Each unit and mission is critical. The point of having lots of countries perform this mission together is critical. That is the whole meaning of MNF. It is not just one country shining; it is a group of nations coming together trying to help create something better."

Iraqi officer wins prestigious Sandhurst accolade

Story and photo by **Sgt. Jennifer J. Eidson**
 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SANDHURST, England — An Iraqi officer cadet at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) has beaten more than 20 others to win the prestigious Overseas Sword for best foreign student.

Junior Under Officer Mohammed has excelled in all areas of his intensive officer training since arriving at Sandhurst a year ago.

He was honored Aug. 12 for his achievements when he was presented with the award during the annual Sovereigns Parade by His Majesty King Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin of Malaysia, who himself passed out from Sandhurst in 1964.

The Secretary of State for Defence John Reid congratulated Mohammed on his outstanding achievement.

"Officer training at Sandhurst rightly has a reputation for being the most demanding and most professional officer training program in the world, so to pass out is in itself a tremendous achievement," Reid said. "However, to win the Overseas Sword is the mark of a really

outstanding Soldier, and I extend my profound congratulations to him. We wish him all the best and have no doubts he will be an inspiration among his comrades when he returns to duties in the Iraqi Army."

Mohammed will now undertake advanced infantry training at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon before returning to take up duties in Iraq.

The Commissioning Course at RMAS provides initial training for all future officers of the regular army except those who rise through the ranks to warrant officer and those who join the specialist corps, such as doctors, dentists, vets, nurses, lawyers and padres. Mohammed was one of 23 overseas students in his year.



Junior Under Officer Muhammed is presented with the prestigious Overseas Sword Aug. 12.

Foreign terrorist facilitator killed in Mosul gun battle

By Multi-National Corps - Iraq
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Coalition Forces killed Abu Khallad, a major facilitator of foreign fighters and suicide bombers into northern Iraq, during operations in Mosul on Aug. 25. Multiple intelligence sources and tips from concerned citizens led Multi-National Forces to a location in Mosul where known foreign fighter facilitator Khallad, a Saudi national, was located. Upon arrival at that location, Multi-National Forces stopped his vehicle, a

gunfight immediately ensued, and Khallad and an unidentified terrorist were shot and killed.

Recent detainees have alleged that Khallad had contacted recruiters in Saudi Arabia to coordinate the movement of foreign fighters and suicide bombers into northern Iraq. Once in Mosul, he allegedly directed the distribution of the foreign fighters and suicide bombers to the various terrorist cells



Abu Khallad

recruited and sent the foreign fighters to Mosul.

operating in Mosul.

He was also allegedly active in support of the foreign fighters smuggled into the Mosul area. According to detainee reports, Khallad supplied them with money, weapons and bomb-making materials. Detainees further stated these resources were from donations from the same Saudi contacts who

Premature IED detonation leads to capture of insurgents in Hit

By Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

When Iraqi Army Soldiers and Coalition Forces conducting a dismounted patrol in Hit responded to the scene of an explosion from an improvised explosive device, they searched the area and captured two wounded insurgents Aug. 26.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Intervention Force and elements of 3/25 U.S. Marines searched the area immediately around the explosion and found the two injured insurgents, suspected of being the triggermen. The suspects had three AK-47 automatic rifles, one Seno base station, and one 12-volt battery. Both suspects tested positive for gun powder residue.

The suspects were transported to a nearby aid station, and then later transferred to a hospital for treatment.

Ramadi-based terrorists captured

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Multi-National Forces raided a suspected terrorist hideout in Ramadi Aug. 23 and captured a pair of known terrorists based in Ramadi.

Captured were Durayd Jassar Khalifah Hamud (aka Abu Jabbar), a known terrorist leader and weapons dealer for the Nu'man Brigade, and Ali Husayn Muhammad Jasim, (aka Khalid Nazal or Abu Umar), a known improvised explosive device (IED) cell leader in the Nu'man Brigade.

Multiple intelligence sources led Multi-National Forces to Abu Jabbar's and Khalid Nazal's Ramadi location. Multi-National Forces raided the location and detained them without incident.

Abu Jabbar, a key al-Qaeda in Iraq leader in the Ramadi-based Nu'man Brigade, is alleged to have facilitated the purchase, transportation and distribution of weapons for the brigade.

Khalid Nazal was an IED cell leader who was responsible for numerous IED attacks the Ramadi area.



Picking up the pieces

Iraqi Soldiers investigate the scene after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) detonated in Fallujah, Iraq. The VBIED target was an Iraqi government official visiting an Iraqi police station compound. One person was killed and three wounded from the explosion. The vehicle parts visible in this photo were the only remnants.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy B. Lawn

Training Iraqi Soldiers of tomorrow

Story and photo by
Spc. David J. Nunn
 366th Mobile Public Affairs
 Detachment

MOSUL, Iraq — Members of Task Force Freedom continue to remain key in the Coalition Force's mission to transfer authority of this country to the Iraqi people, which began earlier last year for the first time since Saddam Hussein's takeover.

During their deployment, those Soldiers who have directly advised the training of the Iraqi Army have been just one of the many contributions that offers unique hands-on training, reinforcing the Iraqi people's ability to one day provide for their country.

"I think the biggest success we've had so far during this deployment is training [the Iraqi Army] to be operational in the field; they are actually out there doing their own missions," said 1st Sgt. Gilbert Suarez, first sergeant of the 98th Division, a reserve command based out of New England, currently stationed at Al-Kasik. "They have a tough fight in front of them. But for the first time in many of their lives, they are starting to feel safe."

To their credit, the United States presence here has led the way in aiding the people of this region in rebuilding their country and tempering their Security Forces, into a strong unified body that currently enforces an environment of safety and order that many Iraqis have never known.

"With our help, the [Iraqis] we work with are taking back their villages from



Iraqi Soldiers present their colors during the NCO Academy graduation held at the 107th IA headquarters.

the insurgents," said Suarez. "Since Fallujah, the area has become much more hostile. The Iraqi Army is aggressively taking back their ground from the insurgency."

The Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery (FA), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, have aided the Iraqi government in rebuilding their security forces with the creation of a Noncommissioned Officer Training (NCO) Academy; a place where U.S. Cadre work alongside their Iraqi counterparts to teach them the importance of the NCO corps.

A goal of the academy is to eventually

replace all the U.S. instructors with the finest examples of the academy's graduates so the training will be run completely without U.S. presence, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Martinez, Command Sergeant Major for the 2/8 FA.

"The NCO education system we have in our Army plays a big role in our development," said Martinez. "It is my hope that in the future, we can train more sergeants to go through this training and take it back to their units."

The approximately 30 Iraqi Army Soldiers who graduated the first two-week long course were instructed in 16 different subjects, to include marksmanship, first aid, physical training, and drill and ceremonies. The primary focus of the NCO Academy is to instill the duties and leadership responsibilities of the NCO, according to Martinez.

"They have adapted very well, they are very eager to learn and they took the training to heart," said Martinez. "This experience is giving them a lot of confidence to lead their Soldiers, to fight the War on Terrorism and to help develop a safe environment for their families and children."

According to Martinez, much of the work done this past year was directly due to the efforts of the Iraqi people, many of whom lost loved ones and colleagues during the struggle for a free Iraq.

"Iraqis do more without our presence everyday, sometimes one of the hardest things was to sit back and let them do it their own way," said Suarez. "At the end of all of this, credit goes to those brave Iraqi's that are willing to step up and bravely lead their country."



Coalition Forces turned over Camp Zulu in As Suwayrah, Iraq, to the Iraqi Army Aug. 21. The division's 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade will be permanently housed there.

This is the 24th base to be turned over to the Iraqis, returning the land to the government elected by the people.

Detainee Operations Update

Iraqi guards begin training for detainee operations at Fort Suse

AS SULAMANIYA, Iraq — As Fort Suse construction and renovation nears completion, the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) will begin training 150 Iraqi guards to work along side U.S. forces at the facility Sunday.

A total of 450 care and custody guards will complete this course and be employed at the new detention facility upon its completion in the next several weeks. The U.S. military will assist the DoJ by providing valuable skills and expertise to the

Iraqi guard force.

After completing the six week training course, focusing on proper techniques and procedures for conducting detention operations, the Iraqi guards will work side by side with U.S. Soldiers assigned to Fort Suse.

This event will be a milestone for U.S. and Iraqi efforts to transition theater-level detention operations to the Iraqis and assist in establishing Iraqi self-reliance. Ongoing efforts are underway to expand this training program to Camps Bucca and Cropper.

Court sentences 8 insurgents to life imprisonment for various crimes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Central Criminal Court (CCCI) of Iraq held 11 trials last week convicting 17 security detainees for various crimes including illegal border crossing and possession of illegal weapons.

Eight of the security detainees convicted received life sentences. In Iraq, a life sentence is equivalent to a 20-year sentence.

Upon conviction, all

defendants are turned over to the Iraqi Corrections Service to serve their sentences.

To date, the CCCI has held 408 trials of insurgents suspected of anti-Iraqi and anti-Coalition activities threatening the security of Iraq and targeting Multi-National Forces – Iraq. These proceedings have resulted in 426 individual convictions with sentences ranging up to 30 years imprisonment.

1,000 security detainees released from Abu Ghraib

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Multi-National Forces – Iraq conducted the largest release to date from the theater internment facilities last week when nearly 1,000 security detainees were released from Abu Ghraib.

The government of Iraq, in conjunction with the Multi-National Forces – Iraq, reviews the cases of each security detainee within the first 90 days of their detention. After the initial review, files are reviewed again every 180 days. The Combined Review and Release Board is a procedure that has been established to determine which detainees are eligible for release under United Nations Security

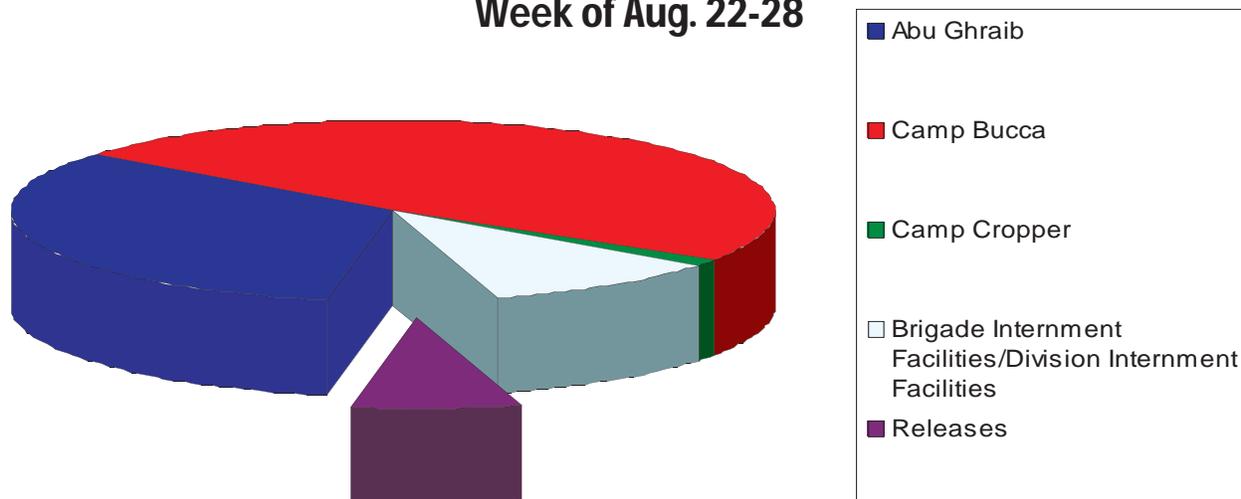
Council Resolution 1546.

The Board consists of six representatives from the Iraqi government; two representatives each from the Ministries of Justice, Interior, and Human Rights, and three senior Multi-National Forces officers.

Since the Board process began in August 2004, 17,625 detainee files have been reviewed; 3,340 detainees have been approved for release, 6,519 for release with a guarantor, and 7,766 were recommended for continued internment.

MNF-I Detainee Population and Detainee Releases

Week of Aug. 22-28



TOTAL MNF-I detainee population as of Aug. 28: **11,800**

Iraqi leaders train at Diyala Regional Training Facility

By Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey
22nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE NORMANDY, MUQDADIYAH, Iraq — Task Force Liberty Soldiers are working with the Iraqi Army to develop more proficient combat leaders capable of leading troops in the fight against terrorists.

In the Combat Leaders Course (CLC) at the Diyala Regional Training Facility here, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Soldiers work with their Iraqi counterparts to train Soldiers from the Iraqi Army's 5th Division to be better battlefield leaders.

Training during the 14-day course helps build on the Iraqi Soldiers' basic military



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta

A Soldier of C Co., 1st Bn., 1st Bde., 4th Iraqi Army Div., bounds forward on a live-fire range at Forward Operating Base Summerall.

knowledge and skills, said Staff Sgt. Lloyd Pegues, the senior Coalition Forces instructor at the CLC.

"We train the platoon sergeants, platoon leaders and company leadership to be able to take control and make decisions," said Pegues, a native of St. Louis, Mo. "We do this by taking what they already know and then building on their knowledge base of tactics, leadership combat tactics and general leadership skills."

Pegues added that most of the instruction is performed by Iraqi cadre and Coalition Soldiers are more supervisors, observing and instructing when needed.

"Most of [the instructors] were chosen prior to us getting here by [2nd Battalion, 33rd Infantry] out of Germany," he said.

"When we got here, we put them through rigorous training and tests and some instructors, sad to say, didn't meet the potential, so we downsized and kept a base of experienced instructors capable of accomplishing the mission."

The training has been good, but there have been a couple of stumbling blocks, Pegues said.

"At first, the platoons were trying to figure out whether we were going to cater our training to the way they fight," he said, "but as we get different [intelligence] from our battalion and brigade and, as the enemy changes the way they fight, we change the way we train,

so it can be confusing sometimes."

The Soldiers are glad to be receiving the training and feel they will benefit on future missions, said an Iraqi platoon sergeant going through the course.

"This training makes us better for our next missions," said Sgt. Gaseem Abed, with Company D, 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division. "For example, we need new information about military things that make the Soldiers better in the future."

Another Iraqi squad leader from D Co. feels that the training is good because a lot of his Soldiers want to fight as they did under the old regime and feels the new tactics will better help them defeat any enemies of Iraq.

"It's good training for the Soldiers with the new army," said Sgt. Saeif Salman. "We should use the new system because it is better to fight the enemy of this country."

Pegues has seen the fruits of his labor first hand and feels that the Iraqi Soldiers are starting to come together as a whole.

"We do convoys outside the gate and a couple of times I've seen guys we've trained working at checkpoints doing the right things," Pegues said. "They are alert, pulling security, performing searches and showing courtesy to the Iraqi people. The Soldiers themselves are motivated, dedicated and they want to do the right thing and I think as long as they train each other and understand they've got to do this to win the war against terrorism, they'll make it."

Operations

from Page 1

which incorporated Coalition planning support. "As they complete this mission as a company, they will be on the road to performing independent operations," said 1st Lt. Christian Knutzen from TF Konohiki.

The Iraqi Soldiers secured the town and conducted a systematic search of its buildings in the early pre-dawn light. They conducted a house to house search looking for contraband items and possible insurgent activity. As the Iraqi Soldiers were searching the town, security elements of the company and its Coalition partners maintained security around the perimeter to ensure the Soldiers were protected while they were conducting the searches.

The Iraqi Soldiers' efforts were rewarded as they arrested two suspects that were caught with suspected IED materiel. The searches also netted a suspected training video, a light machine-gun, and unauthorized ammunition.

The Iraqi unit has been training hard along side the military transition team to get to this point.

They have been trained and certified to operate at the squad and platoon level. What made this operation unique was that this was the first time they incorporated company level command and control to manage its simultaneous platoon operations. "They have come from leaps and bounds," said Capt. Paul Shannon, a company advisor from K Troop, 3/278 Regimental Combat team. "Five months ago they wouldn't have been able to do this."

This week, the U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP) reported Iraq's wetlands, which almost vanished during the Saddam Hussein regime, have bounced back to about 40 percent of the area they covered in the 1970s. This phenomenal rate of recovery of the marshlands in southern Iraq, is revealed in new satellite images and preliminary analysis from the UNEP.

Civil military operations helps rebuild Diyala

Story and photo by Sgt. Daniel W. Bailey
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GABE, BAQUBAH, Iraq — Task Force Liberty Soldiers are working with Iraqi officials in Diyala Province to plan and produce projects that will improve the Iraqi people's way of life.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, are helping to bring fresh drinking water, consistent electricity, paved roads and sewage systems to the city of Baqubah and its suburbs.

"We're really focusing in on high-impact projects," said Capt. Neil Orechiwsky, civil military operations officer, 1/10, and a native of Philadelphia, Pa.

Orechiwsky said he meets several times a week with political, economic and security leaders, as well as Iraqi Security Forces to discuss project ideas and issues.

"It's really an open-forum discussion," he said. "We come with what we see as our priorities, try gather what their priorities are, and hopefully try to make those two goals meet in the middle so we're both accomplishing what we see is going to lead to success for the people of Iraq."

Khalid Al-Sanje, the mayor of Baqubah, said he is excited to have the Coalition Forces working with him in the effort to repair and fix up the city.

"Now we are working to [provide] fresh water to the city of Tarear. For the first time, the citizens will have fresh water in the summer."

In the past, most of the ideas for projects came from Coalition Soldiers, but Iraqi officials are now learning what important projects



Capt. Neil Orechiwsky discusses the locations of rebuilding projects in Baqubah, Iraq, with the mayor, Khalid Al-Sanje Aug. 10.

are and how to get them accomplished, Orechiwsky said.

Staying out of the spotlight and keeping these projects Iraqi-driven is something Coalition Forces are trying to do so the people can see their government working for them.

"We try and stay low visibility on the Coalition side and let the Iraqi leaders put an Iraqi face on these projects," Orechiwsky said.

Working so well, according to Orechiwsky, that, "we've got \$30 million in reconstruction projects done already this year, an additional \$30 million in funds obligated towards 90 projects in various levels of work."

Business centers prosper in Ninewa Province

By Lt. Col. Jeff Eck
Political Military Economic
Department
Multi-National Force - Iraq

Business centers offer a mechanism that opens potential markets and brings together many of the necessary components for entrepreneurs to build small or medium-sized companies. These centers provide a one stop opportunity for training and technical assistance, access to credit or capital, contracts and customers, business plan and legal issue assistance and expanded trade opportunities. As the popularity of business centers increases nationally, they will enable a networking function as well. These centers are particularly advanta-



geous in developing economies like Iraq's, where many would be startup businesses lack the expertise necessary to push their business beyond local markets, past the limitations of a shadow economy and into the light of Iraq's mainstream economy.

The Provincial Reconstruction and Development Committee (PRDC) in Ninewa Province, an all-Iraqi group, is working with the local Business Center as it selects and manages reconstruction projects in that region. The PRDC is supported by a Provincial Support Team, a U.S. Department of State organization that helps local governments manage externally funded reconstruction efforts. The two groups work together to leverage their sig-

nificant economic influence with the business center. The center's first public solicitation for contracts received more than 100 bids in only two days. In its first full month of operation, the center generated total bid nominations worth over \$10 million for Commander's Emergency Response Program-funded projects.

There are now several other business centers throughout Iraq; in Baghdad, Basrah, Hilla and, most recently, Kirkuk Province (www.kbciraq.org). The Iraq Business Center Website is available online at: <http://www.iraqibusinesscenter.org/>.

The centers and the business they help generate are clear indicators that Iraq's free market economy is gaining real momentum.

Phase III of the \$10 million Najaf Teaching Hospital project began this week with a symbolic "ground-breaking" ceremony on the second floor of the hospital.

This phase of the project includes civil, mechanical, electrical and plumbing rehabilitation throughout the facility.

Kirkuk Business Center: *Stronger economy, better life, security*

By Capt. Ryan J. Robinson
116th Brigade Combat Team

KIRKUK, Iraq — The Kirkuk Business Center (KBC) has been recently formed to facilitate business development and investment opportunities in the Kirkuk province. The KBC is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of services and training to business men and women.

Initially the KBC was Coalition run; now with 10 Iraqi employees (of various ethnic, religious, and gender persuasion) the Coalition, dubbed “Team Economics” has taken on more of an advisory/training role assisting in the development of new services. The KBC has been identified by the US Embassy as the only self sustaining, Iraqi run business center in Iraq and as such has become the model for successful business centers in the country.

Some of the KBC’s services include:

- Training Courses for Businesses — Accounting, Budgeting, HR, Management, IT, Business Plans
- Micro Loan Program — Loans available for start-up businesses, business expansions, franchises, etc.
- Security Assessment — Analyze and recommend security improvements for businesses



Courtesy Photo

Fifteen representatives of both government and non-government organizations that are part of the Kirkuk economic development network hold a business roundtable.

- eBusiness Center — this center will provide a means for international investors to check email and stay in touch with business while working or visiting Kirkuk.

- Conference Support — facilitate conferences for different organizations and business functions.

- Investor Coordination — assist investors with business proposals, coordinate with government offices, contractors, local unions, etc to get projects approved and completed.

The KBC acts as a nucleus for the economic community in Kirkuk. It has brought together the Economic Development Network (EDN), a group of 15 representatives of both government and non-government organizations. The EDN has a responsibility to the people of Kirkuk to work together to build a long-term, strong economy by discussing economic issues and giving recommendations to local government officials. Utilizing this network the KBC can help an investor, for example, build a factory by developing a business plan and project proposal, performing environmental impact studies, market analysis reports, ensure proper permits and licenses are obtained, coordinate with city planning department and obtain financing. The EDN works with Kirkuk Vocational Training Center in order to

have skilled workers trained and ready to work prior to factory completion.

Leaders discuss Coalition’s future in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Chawntain C. Sloan
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs

Coalition leaders discussed the current progress and future of the Coalition in Iraq during the Senior National Representatives Conference Aug. 20 at Camp Victory.

Key leaders gave a series of briefings, touching on the upcoming elections, Coalition transformation and partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces.

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Multi-National Forces – Iraq (MNF-I) commanding general, opened the floor by discussing the “way ahead” or future of the Coalition in Iraq.

The commanding general of MNF-I, said MNF-I is on the right track in the two most important areas — training and equipping Iraqi Security Forces and the political process — but there is still much work to be done.

Despite the recent talk of troops pulling out of Iraq, the general maintained that there is a need for Coalition presence in 2006.

“[I have] no timeline for draw down. It will be

based on the readiness of these units,” said the general.

Maj. Gen. Ayden Khaled Qadir, assistant deputy minister for the Iraqi Police in Baghdad and senior election coordinator for Iraq’s Minister of Interior, took over for Casey with discussion of the upcoming Iraqi elections.

The major general praised the role of MNF – I during the last elections, asserting that the success of the upcoming elections is dependent upon their renewed support.

“As we all know, elections are a very important step on the road to democracy,” said Maj. Gen. Qadir. “The role of MNF – I is clear to all of us. Without the support of MNF – I, we could not accomplish a successful election.”



Courtesy photo

Coalition leaders pose for a group photo at the Senior National Representatives Conference Aug. 20 at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division

On Target!

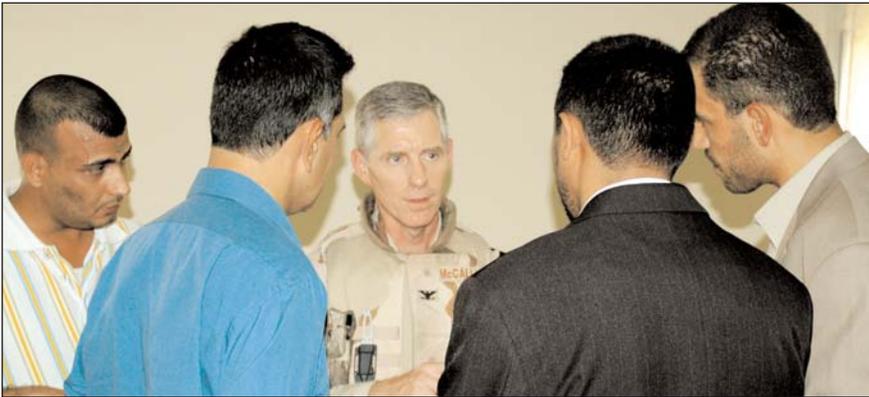


Photo by Tom Clarkson

As the commander of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region South, in southern Iraq, the counsel and advice of COL Col. Larry McCallister is sought at the regularly held Provincial Reconstruction Development Council meetings" McCallister heads the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South (USACE-GRS) out of Camp Adder on what was once called Tallil Air Force Base in Iraq.



Courtesy photo U.S. Corps of Engineers

Iraqi contractors inspecting construction of the Khan Dhare Clinic, Fallujah.



Courtesy photo U.S. Corps of Engineers

Iraqi contractors stringing electrical/communication wire, Fallujah.

The six sectors of the Iraq Reconstruction and Relief Program are:

- Security and justice
- Public Works and Water
- Transportation and communication
- Electricity
- Oil and buildings, health and education



Photo by Tom Clarkson, GRD
A Logo: Liberally translated as "a book makes the best companion over time (or through life) adorns the wall of an Iraqi school."

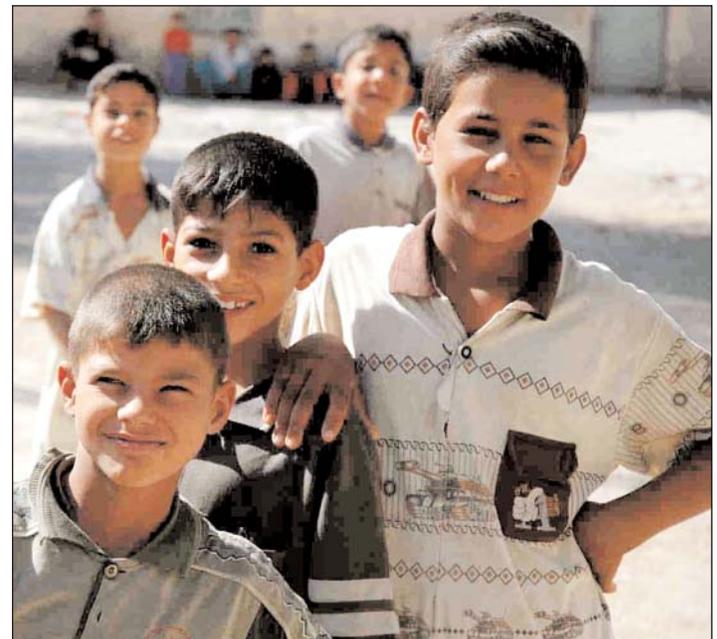


Photo by Tom Clarkson

In these small faces lies the direction for Iraq in the 21st century. These children will be masters of their own fate when they are grown.

At Iraq's transition to sovereignty in June 2004, over 200 projects had started. Today, more than 2,800 projects have started, with over 1,700 completed, both regionally and extra-regionally."



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division

Iraqis partner with engineers to rebuild Fallujah

Story by Staff Sgt. Timothy B. Lawn
214th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP FALLUJAH, FALLUJAH, Iraq — “We give them a voice,” said Maj. Daniel Hibner. “[The Iraqis] wanted to be more involved, to be part of the planning, in their cities’ reconstruction and construction, so we gave it to them,” he said.

Hibner is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officer in charge of the Fallujah resident office. He manages more than 64 projects worth \$112 million in Fallujah and the surrounding areas.

“Our job is to see that both governments get what they pay for,” said Hibner.

He explained that USACE contracts the projects out, and the office manages the work and ensures construction quality control. The actual work on the projects is performed by Iraqis.

USACE and the Iraqis have more than 39 projects currently in various stages of completion, said Hibner.

From electricity to schools and clinics, USACE along with its Iraqi partners are rebuilding Fallujah.

There are more than \$34 million in electrical projects, including

transmission and distribution. About 60 percent of Iraqi homes are currently receiving electricity. Hibner believes the major percentage of residents and businesses in Fallujah will have power by mid-November.

Besides power, the list includes public works and water. USACE has \$4.1 million budgeted in fresh water projects. Its goal is to provide potable water to all homes and businesses. There are \$29.4 million in sewer projects.

“The Iraqi government has pitched in \$100 million,” said Hibner. “[Iraqis] are very committed.”

From civic pride to civic action, Hibner marveled – streets are lined with construction supplies and equipment.

“You couldn’t find a much more challenging environment to do work in,” said Hibner.

Though the terrorists have pushed deadlines and budgets, Hibner insisted they have been pretty lucky.

Though the terrorists may slow things down, Hibner feels they are on track. He stands by his contractors and subcontractors and says they are doing a great job.

“[The residents] take [rebuilding Fallujah] very seriously,” Hibner said.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

Iraqi contractors work on the construction of the al Hafefe clinic.

Stateside school district sponsors Fallujah schools

Story and photo by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central Public Affairs

FALLUJAH, Iraq — A Missouri Army National Guardsman is among those mobilized and serving in Iraq and his duties include helping renovate schools here.

Maj. Roger Alsup is stationed at Fallujah and knows something about education, as he has been either a teacher or an administrator in the Dexter School District for the past 14 years.

Alsup’s fellow faculty members and students heard about his new duties and are organizing a drive to collect school supplies for the Iraqi youngsters with whom he is working.

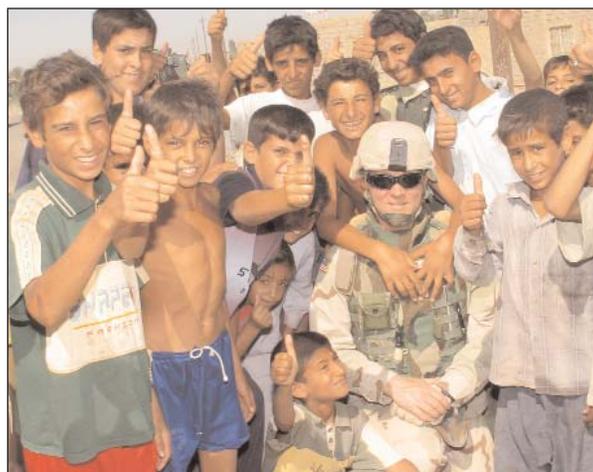
Major Alsup said the schools that he is upgrading in Iraq are in desperate need of basic classroom supplies. Alsup

has been in contact with the headmasters of those elementary schools to verify their needs.

Dr. Kim Flowers, who was the assistant principal before Alsup was recalled to active duty, is coordinating the Dexter school drive. She has been promoted to acting principal while he is away.

“I know the people in Dexter are going to want to help,” Alsup said. “This is a great cause. These youngsters have been through some pretty tough times and yet they always greet you with a great smile and positive spirit. We have an opportunity to make quite an impact on their lives.”

School renovations include new



Maj. Roger Alsup poses with some of the Fallujah school children he has helped.

blackboards, desks, lighting, lockers, painting the interior and exterior walls, fixing broken doors and windows and repairing the roof.



This week in Multi-National Corps - Iraq

Coalition operations: a week in review

Summary of Iraqi Security Forces in action

Iraqi Security Forces continue to take control of their nation's security. A total of 66 terrorists were arrested, two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices were discovered before they were detonated, 20 people were arrested for local lawlessness and Baqubah enjoyed its second day free of improvised explosive devices this week in Iraq.

Additionally, two Iraqi Security Forces units have taken full responsibility for security in sections of Baghdad and Rahwah.

Experienced Iraqi Soldiers continue to recruit and train Iraqi citizens to bolster the force's ranks.

Northern Iraq:

Iraqi Security Forces captured five people connected with improvised explosive device attacks in Ad Dujayl Aug. 23, completing Operation Hawk.

Elsewhere in Northern Iraq, Tal Afar Police began conducting independent patrols in the inner city, while local leaders laid out a 10-point plan for peace declaring they will stand together to fight the terrorists. In response to an indirect fire attack on Tal Afar Police, Iraqi Security Forces captured six suspected members of a mortar team and 14 suspected members of two local terrorist cells. One thousand

Iraqi citizens joined the Iraqi Army in Ninevah this week, joining more than 180,000 Iraqi Security Forces members.

The Iraqi Army continues to graduate Soldiers from the basic training courses in Irbil.

Central Iraq:

Iraqi Army counter-improvised explosive device efforts around Baqubah Aug. 24 resulted in the second straight day without improvised explosive device attacks on a commonly used route.

Iraqi Police responded to a pipeline leak in Balad Aug. 23, impounding 15 vehicles and arresting 20 people for stealing fuel. Iraqi Security Forces operations in Balad and Tikrit Aug. 23 captured 10 suspected terrorists who had previously attacked security forces.

The Iraqi Army responded to a direct fire incident in Abu Sayda, near Baqubah, Aug. 24, capturing a truck with a mortar and small arms and a red Opel configured as a vehicle-borne explosive device.

Western Region:

In their first independent combat operation, members of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division detained three terrorists, including two wanted individuals, during a raid in Ramadi.

Twenty-seven terrorists were detained dur-

ing another operation in Ramadi. Iraqi Security Forces were responding to two improvised explosive devices and a sniper attack.

Iraqi Security Forces continue to take responsibility of their cities' security in Rahwah as well. Iraqi Intervention Forces have assumed control of security operations within the city where anti-coalition forces drove the local police out just last year. Local leaders have asked Iraqi military leaders to participate in multi-lateral talks with them and Coalition officials.

Southern Iraq:

A member of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division identified a man believed to be a wanted terrorist. Further investigation revealed that the individual was indeed wanted for participating in the murder of five Iraqi Army Soldiers, planting an IED that wounded several Ukrainian Soldiers and conducting mortar attacks on the Suwayrah Iraqi Police Station. The terrorist was detained and questioned, during which time he revealed further intelligence.

Baghdad Region:

Public Order Battalions are now operating independently in the southern suburbs of the city.



Photo by Pvt. 1st Class Matthew Clifton

Iraq Army officers participate in a command post exercise at Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq.

Iraqi Army staff hones skills

By Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth
Multi-National Corps - Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi Army Ground Forces Command (IGFC) leaders participated in a three-day command post exercise to further develop its capability to command and control Iraqi Army divisions concluded Aug. 23.

The exercise was based on real world incidents Iraqi and Coalition Forces are encountering daily throughout the country, said U.S. Army Col. Thomas J. McCool, advisor to the Iraqi Ground Forces Command. The IGFC leaders exercised their abilities to establish a command center, maintain a current operation

picture of the battlefield, receive, process and analyze information and conduct a daily battle update assessment across all battlefield operating systems.

"This exercise and the exercises we will do in the future are going to help us function better because we will know how to use the equipment and control our own forces," said Maj. Yasir (last name withheld for security), battle captain, Iraqi Army.

This is the first command post exercise the IGFC has participated in since establishing its headquarters May 15. "Monthly exercises will be held from now on to maintain their skills and focus on areas identified as needing improvement," McCool said.



This week in Multi-National Force - West

Marines help Iraqi Forces mold Iraq's future

Story and photo by Cpl. Mike Escobar
2nd Marine Division

FALLUJAH, Iraq — Sgt. Jose Martins has a long history of helping shape 'average Joes' into tomorrow's war fighting leaders. Last year, he taught Iraqi Soldiers infantry squad leader tactics and ran them through a drill instructor training course.

Now, he is back to train Iraqi Security



Sgt. Jose Martins frisks fellow instructor Pfc. Philip Pepper as he demonstrates proper personnel searching procedures to Iraqi Soldiers during a combat leaders' course.

Forces again. In early April, approximately three weeks after his unit arrived here, Martins was appointed chief instructor of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment's eight-man Iraqi Security Forces training cadre. Their mission: train Iraq's military and police forces to completely take charge of their nation's security.

Twice every month, Martins' Marines offer a five-day-long combat leaders course, where they teach the Iraqi Forces topics such as weapons handling skills, first aid in combat, and urban war fighting tactics.

"I teach the detainee handling class," Martins stated. "I show Soldiers the proper procedures for apprehending people they see as threats. They see the correct way to search people, and even how to take them down to the ground if they start acting up."

Martins warns the Soldiers to use only the necessary amount of force, however. Iraqi Soldiers and policemen under Saddam Hussein's regime handled their citizens roughly, so Martins said the cadre Marines teach the new security forces how to be 'firm but fair'

to earn the trust of the populace.

But when the Iraqi Soldiers must take down a terrorist in a firefight, the Soldiers may fall back on another skill Martins empowered them with: one shot, one kill marksmanship abilities.

By the end of the course, the students have learned how to integrate all of the concepts they have learned to plan and execute an independent operation. The Soldiers and policemen then return to their parent commands to resume conducting counterinsurgency operations.

Thus far, Martins' cadre has taught approximately 600 troops these basic infantry skills and plans to instruct several more during their time left in Iraq.

"All of this training will help us provide security to this area," said Capt. Ahmad Tariq Muhammad, an officer with Iraq's Public Order Brigade paramilitary police force who attended the cadre's training course. "We see how the strongest army in the world performs, and we try to imitate what they do. We will use what we've learned to protect our citizens and their property."

Glass, ceramics factories reopen, restore hope for city

Story and photo by Sgt.
Stephen D'Alessio
2nd Marine Division

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, Iraq — The Ramadi Glass Works Factory, which was once the second largest employer in western Iraq's Al Anbar province, is slowly coming back to life.

The factory's management is working with Coalition Forces (CF) to gradually reopen the plant, which was closed last November after insurgents used the factory to stage attacks. Due to its key role in the local economy, both groups have pushed to open the facility, which also

includes a ceramics factory.

"It employs 2,300 people and the way we look at it — those are 2,300 families affected," said Lt. Col. Scott E. Lystad, operations officer, 5th Civil Affairs Group.

Half of Iraq's sheet glass demands will be supplied from the factory.

Workers once commuted as much as 50 kilometers to work at the plant, which was partially reopened on May 2. The glass works alone employed 1,900 and the ceramics factory had 400 employees. For the first five weeks, there were no more than 10 to 15 workers in the plants daily. But for the past few months, the factories have

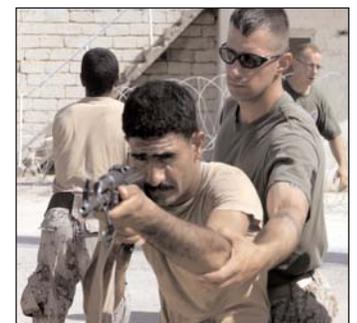
employed upwards of 200 workers per day to get the operation up and running.

"Progress has been slow, but steady," said Lystad, a Brea, Calif., resident. "We expect to get back to full employment in the next 60 days."

One of the primary concerns for reopening the plant was ensuring that the factory had effective security in place so employees had a safe work environment

Iraqi leaders played a key role in negotiating the reopening with CF, Lystad said. The provincial government and local leaders worked closely with the 2nd Marine Division to find ways to get more Iraqis back to work.

Lystad said the ultimate goal is to get all 2,300 employees back to work and to help revive the local economy.



Glass factory security guards fire AK-47 rifles during a familiarization fire instructed by the 2nd Marine Div.'s Marksmanship Training Unit.



This week in Multi-National Division - Central South

Iraqi Army preparations

By Ukrainian Task Force 81
Multi-National Division Central - South

Ukrainian military advisors and instructors are working with an Iraqi Army battalion for independent implementation of tasks to support peace, law and order.

The Ukrainian military advisors and instructors under the command of Col. Alexander Makarchouk and Lt. Col. Sergey Loukashonok, completed preparation of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade of the Iraqi Army (IA), which will take the control over the area of responsibility (AOR) in the northern Iraq province of Wasit from Ukrainian Soldiers around the middle of September.

Basic training of personnel and validation of platoons and companies were conducted during training, which started in June at Multi-National Forces Camps Echo and Zulu near the cities of al Divaniyah and al Suwayrah.

Bringing in of them to practical execution of service in the future area of responsibility became one of directions of preparation of Iraqi Soldiers. Jointly with the Ukrainian peacemakers of 4th Airmobile Company they carry out duty on checkpoints and patrolling.

Recently, a quality control of the preparation of all four companies of the battalion was conducted by a Task Force 81 committee under the chief of military advisors unit, commanded by Col.



Courtesy photo

Ukrainian military advisors and instructors completed training of the Iraqi Army (IA), which will take over the control the northern Iraq province of Wasit from their Ukrainian counterparts in September.

Oleksiy Zhelezniuk. As a result, these subunits were acknowledged ready for independent implementation of tasks in support of Multi-National Forces.

The main efforts of the Ukrainian military advisors and instructors are now focused on the battalion headquarter's preparation for certification by the Multi-National Division – Central South staff and assumption of AOR.

Bulgarian contingent update

Story and photo by
Maj. Simeon Kirilov
MND-CS Public Affairs

The command and subunits of the 5th Infantry Battalion of the Bulgarian Army (3 BG) execute the necessary force protection and personnel security activities daily.

Over the past week, battalion sub-



Bulgarian medics treat a local Iraqi needing medical assistance

units continued their routine tasks of providing security for Camp Echo, escorting and patrolling along Alternate Supply Route (ASR) Orlando and Main Supply Route (MSR) Tampa.

The Bulgarian Military Transitional Team (MiTT) continued their training activities with 1st Battalion of the Iraqi Army. They also supervised and assisted the battalion staff in the planning process and conducted their daily activities. Last week, MiTT trained the Iraqi Army's 4th Infantry Company, 1st Battalion, in engineer and medical tasks, as well live-fire exercises.

During missions in their area of operations, Bulgarian medics provide regular assistance to local citizens needing medical treatment.

8th IA Division takes over Coalition Forces camp

Last week, the 8th Iraqi Army Division officially took over Camp Zulu, a former Coalition Force's camp located in As Suwayrah. The 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 8th Division will be permanently housed at Camp Zulu. This is the first Coalition Force's camp within the Multi-National Division - Central South area of responsibility to be turned over to the 8th Div.

The Camp includes enough housing for a battalion-sized element and includes over 20 hardened buildings, a helicopter landing pad and a dining facility. It is estimated existing facilities used by the Coalition will be upgraded to provide permanent support facilities for the Soldiers, such as potable water systems, showers and more.

The 8th Div. is responsible for five provinces, and has conducted missions such as counter insurgent operations to free cities from the criminals, vehicle patrols and checkpoint operations. The 8th Div. shows that it has the professionalism, tactical and technical knowledge necessary to take on the responsibilities to conduct independent tactical operations.



This week in Multi-National Division - Baghdad

U.S. teams improve electricity in Baghdad

By Maj. Alayne Conway

4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In recent surveys conducted by Task Force Baghdad, the top three priorities for the Iraqi population have been electricity, security and water. Electricity is crucial to keep families cool during the hot summer months and provide a sense of security by bringing light to dark streets.

When the 4th Brigade Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division deployed to Iraq in January, they assumed the mission of setting up an infrastructure coordination element that would oversee essential service projects, such as electricity for the 4th Brigade Combat Team area of operations.

“One of our main missions is to manage electricity for approximately 400,000 people in the Baghdad area,” said 1st Lt. David Cox, the projects manager for electricity from 4/3 BTB. “We are dealing with a number of different entities, including the Ministry of Electricity and the Ministry of Municipalities — organizations that work to keep things running and try to keep power to the people.”

With about 10,000 homes, Jihad is located in the al-Rasheed district

where a lot of efforts have been placed on improving electricity distribution. Generally, electricity in Baghdad averages two hours on and four hours off, but Jihad has not always fared that well, said Cox. Iraq has not been receiving any power from Iran or Syria, and some of its larger network lines are down, which impacts the power in Baghdad.

With 32 mahallas (neighborhoods), the Al-Rasheed district represents the third most densely-populated region of Baghdad. Cox said the new electrical system in Jihad is replacing an old, unreliable system that was disrupted by years of neglect and insurgent activity.

This, coupled with tremendous unchecked urban growth in Baghdad, makes it more of a challenge.

Rehabilitating the networks for Jihad was deemed priority for 4th BCT a couple of months ago, and work in two mahallas began three weeks ago. The local networks will receive power from a substation in west Al-Rasheed, which is being built now, Cox said.

The new system replaces the old, unreliable system but will also take into account the increased electricity demand of the future, Cox said, adding that rehabilitation in these two

areas should be complete by the end of September with a completion date of mid-November for the substation. Rehabilitating the electrical network in Jihad cost about \$150,000.



Courtesy photo

Power improvements are noticeable in this neighborhood of Jihad Aug. 17.

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers bring goodwill to Horajeb residents

By Spc. Christopher Mallard

425th Civil Affairs Battalion

BAGHDAD, Iraq — As part of a U.S. and Iraqi stability and support operation, several truck loads of humanitarian assistance rolled out from a forward operating base in southern Baghdad to provide Horajeb residents with basic food items, medical supplies, and recreational items Aug. 17.

Two transport trucks left before dawn, as a 29-vehicle convoy passed through the southernmost limit of the Al-Rasheed district. The patrol included Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team; and Iraqi forces from 1st Battalion, 4th Public Order Brigade (POB).

“Expect to see the Army increasingly hand authority and responsibility over to Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), as part of the overall

picture, to allow citizens to see and feel more comfortable with many of the new faces,”

said Capt. Darrell Retherford, a team leader with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion during a briefing to his Soldiers.

Pointing to Iraqi Soldiers unloading supplies into the rear of a utility pickup, Retherford said, “They are the ones who will be here long after we leave, and when that happens, the people here need to know who is responsible for them — doing the patrols and protecting them.”

It was not U.S. Soldiers but Soldiers from the POB who distributed the goods to the people. The Iraqi Soldiers will soon become responsible for security in this area as

Americans begin to limit their presence.

The operation was conducted during the early morning hours as Soldiers delivered rice, canned chicken, tomato sauce and medical supplies put together by organizations in the United States. The toys and soccer balls were donated by friends and family members of the 3/3 ACR and collected by the 490th CA Bn. for distribution. a

“Our operations are not always about cordon and searches or raids,” said Maj. Eric Carpenter, chief of plans for 4th BCT. “Operation Thunder Goodwill allows us to support the ISF and get them on the streets, so they can talk to the residents and let them know we are working to make their neighborhoods safer.”



Photo by Spc. David Kobi

An Iraqi girl holds items given to her during Operation Thunder Goodwill.



This week in Multi-National Division - North Central Iraq, U.S. Soldiers share losses, successes

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Drumsta
42nd Infantry Division Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING SUMMERALL, BAYJI, Iraq — Behind the walls of an old British fort here, and in the area around the base, a Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit with roots in the American Revolution is helping Iraq secure its own nationhood — by training, and fighting alongside its Soldiers.

Through success, setback and loss, troops of Company A, 1st Battalion, 111th Infantry and Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division have shared the frustrations and rewards of this mission.

“They possess the willingness to be in the Iraqi Army,” said Sgt. James Mostiller, an A Co. team leader from Philadelphia. “What they need is more help.”

“Sometimes you’ll train them on task, and they don’t seem to get it,” said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Flynn, an A Co. squad leader from Levittown, Pa. “Then you’ll go out on a mission, and they’ll do it perfectly.”

The Iraqi troops apply the training they receive in the fight against the insurgents.

Almost daily, the Iraqi and American Soldiers mount Humvees and trucks and roll out of the gate, departing the base to patrol, man traffic-control points, or check infrastructure like power lines.

A Co. began training and performing combat operations with the Iraqi Soldiers in February. In March, with Coalition Forces support, the Iraqi Soldiers pulled off a two-pronged raid, netting both targets — a weapons cache and a known terrorist, said Staff Sgt. Chad Bruckner, A Co. squad leader from Horsham, Pa.

“They hit the targets simultaneously,” said Bruckner. “We got the man and we got the target. I thought, ‘We can make a difference.’”

In May, they certified the Iraqi Soldiers in squad-level missions and now they’re training them to take on platoon and company-level missions.

Training the Iraqi troops and accompanying them on missions is an advantage. The two build on each other, Flynn said.

“That’s good because you can see their strengths and weaknesses first hand, and get an idea of how they perform overall,” Flynn said.

“We’re trying to get as much experience as we can from the American Army,” said Staff Sgt. Jamal Achmed, of C Co., “because they are not going to be here forever.”



An Iraqi medic, an American chaplain console Spec. Bryan Walczel at FOB Summerall after an IED attack.

Iraqi Army gets much needed medical supplies

By Spec. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st Brigade Combat Team

TIKRIT, Iraq — Along with fighting insurgents, one of the Coalition Forces’ (CF) main missions is assisting Iraqis in rebuilding their country and training Iraqi Security Forces.

Iraqi Soldiers, like CF Soldiers, have a need for medical treatment. Soldiers from 42nd Infantry Division Medical Supply Office (DMSO) donated medical supplies to Iraqi Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade on Forward Operating Base Speicher Aug. 24.

The supplies were donated after 1st Lt. Claudia Tascon, 42nd Inf. Div. DMSO officer in charge visited the Iraqi army’s 4th Division, 1st Brigade, 1st Battalion medical clinic and saw a great need for medical supplies, and decided to do something about it.

“I talked to the Soldiers running the clinic, found out what they needed and I ordered it,” Tascon said. “It took about two months for it to get here.”

The supplies currently inventoried in the DMSO warehouse are for the deployed CF Soldiers. To help the Iraqis Tascon said she needed to find a way to get the Iraqis their own supplies.

“Technically everything that comes through here is for Soldiers,” Tascon said. “The United States Army Medical Material Center Europe puts out a free issue list. I looked on the list and ordered the things I saw a need for. Legally the stuff on that list can be given to the Iraqis.”

“Lt. Tascon was able to work through the system and find an issue sheet



Courtesy photo
Iraqi Soldiers load boxes of medical supplies donated by the 42nd Inf. Div. DMSO Aug. 24.

that would help get excess medical equipment to them, instead of it just going to waste at [Logistic Support Area] Anaconda or someplace else,” said Maj. Mike Moore, commander of Company E, 50th Main Support Battalion, 42nd Inf. Div.

CF Soldiers who work with the Iraqi Army (IA) Soldiers came out to help pick up the supplies. The two groups work closely together in almost all other areas, and the mission today was no different.

“We train these guys day in, day out,” said Sgt. 1st Class Pablo De Jesus, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, Military Transition Team, Tikrit Joint Coordination Center noncommissioned officer in charge. “We’re part of their team and they’re part of our team.”



This week in Multi-National Force - Northwest

ISF cell builds bases for Iraqis, by Iraqis

By Sgt. Daniel W. Lucas
366th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

HAMMAN AL ALIL, MOSUL, Iraq — The 10th Battalion, 2nd Division Iraqi Army (IA) has a new home in the town of Hamman Al Alil. Before they moved in, Soldiers from the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) cell moved in ahead to make sure they had everything they needed to be successful in their new base of operations.

“As we work to get the [IA] in place to better provide security for the citizens of Iraq, we realized units needed to be moved to different locations to better support the Iraqi control of Iraq,” said Maj. Timothy Pike, Deputy Commander, ISF cell, Task Force Freedom. “We made sure the infrastructure was there for them.”

Before an IA unit moves to a new location, it has to have all of the bare necessities: electricity, plumbing, phone lines, and safe buildings. Soldiers of the ISF move one step ahead of the incoming IA units to make sure the site has everything they need

to be successful.

“What my team does is go to where an [IA] unit will be stationed and make sure everything is there for them to move in,” said Pike. “If they need buildings built or renovated, we find contractors to complete the mission. Whatever the needs are, we find the people that can sustain them.”

The ISF cell takes the issues they find and heads out to the local economy to find vendors and contractors. They then work with the incoming units to correct the issues and get the contracts written so everything can be in place for the incoming unit.

The competition between contractors



Photo by Spc. David J. Nunn

An Iraqi Soldier stands guard by his country's flag.

helps build the local economy and grants lower prices for projects needed by the Iraqi's and Coalition Forces. “Once we have a bid we like, we bring the contracting officer in and start working on the paperwork,” said Capt. Guillermo Guillen, member of the ISF cell. “Once it is awarded, the local nationals deploy the materials; furniture, wiring, running phone lines, whatever the contract's needs are.”

“The idea is when the [IA] moves in, they have a place to eat, sleep and train,” said Pike. “We help to build them ranges to train on, beds to sleep in, and dining facilities to eat out of. Whatever their need, we try and make it happen.”

Mosul maternity hospital reconstruction completed

By Maj. Kimberly JohaneK
Chief of Health Policy and Plans
Multi-National Force - Iraq Surgeon

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD, Iraq — Reconstruction of the 260 bed Al Khansaa Maternity Hospital in Mosul was completed on Aug. 16. This \$1.1 million project completely rebuilt the facility after it sustained heavy damage from repeated mortar attacks. The sewage system was rebuilt and a new roof, water distribution system, medical waste incinerators and elevators were added.

The hospital serves the women of Mosul and Ninewah Province. Mosul, situated approximately 400km north of Baghdad, is Iraq's second largest city with over 570,000 inhabitants. An ethnically diverse city, Mosul has the highest proportion of Christians in all of the

Iraqi cities. The population is principally Kurdish, with a large minority of Aramaic speaking Christian Assyrians and a smaller minority of Turkomans.

Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, major efforts have been made to rebuild the medical infrastructure and health care delivery of this key region. Over \$15 million has been allocated to the construction of new facilities and procurement of medical equipment for Ninewa Province. Twelve Primary Healthcare Clinics are under construction, which will provide greater access to health care. These state of the art clinics will offer a full spectrum of medical, dental, radiology, laboratory, and pharmacy services. Each clinic is equipped with a comprehensive medical library and classroom space for patient and staff education. Two of the clinics will have specialized maternity and nursery capabilities and serve as birthing centers with the capability of treating obstetric emergencies. One clinic will have a state of the art digital X-ray machine with all supporting equipment and a training center for medical professionals. Two additional hospitals in Mosul are undergoing renovation at a cost of over \$7 million. The addition of a new pharmacy, lobby and physicians offices at the Al Shekhan General Hospital will be completed in November 2005. The 100 bed Ibn Al Athir Maternity and Children's Hospital is being completely reconstructed and will open in January 2006.



Courtesy photo

Al Khansaa Maternity Hospital is in Mosul, Iraq.

Iraqis taking the lead



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy K. Cross

Iraqi police recruits are given a reading and writing test as part of the screening process done by U.S. Forces at the Police Training Facility in the city of Najaf Aug 17. The screening process is to insure that the recruits can read and write, also that they can physically be able to perform the job.

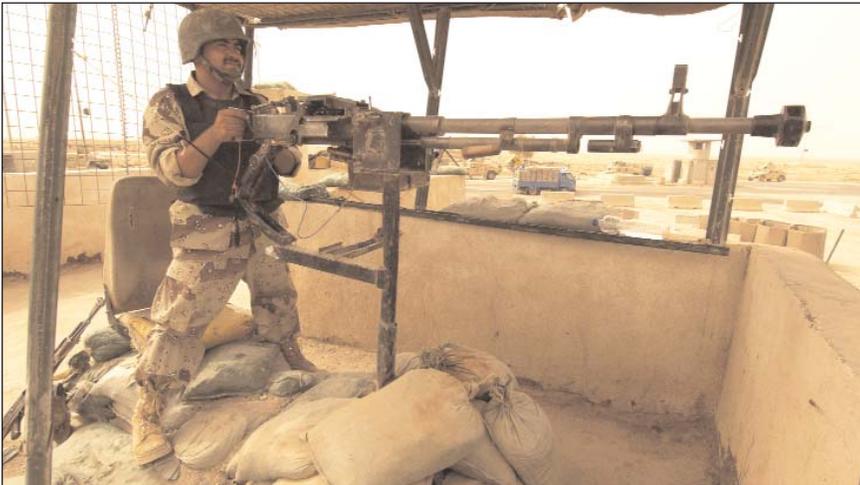


Photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Day

An Iraqi Soldier mans a defensive fighting position at a check point near Baqubah, Iraq, Aug. 11.



Photo by Sgt. Marvie V. Paje.

Members of the Iraqi Security Forces practice room clearing during a training camp at the East Fallujah Iraqi Camp, Fallujah, Iraq.

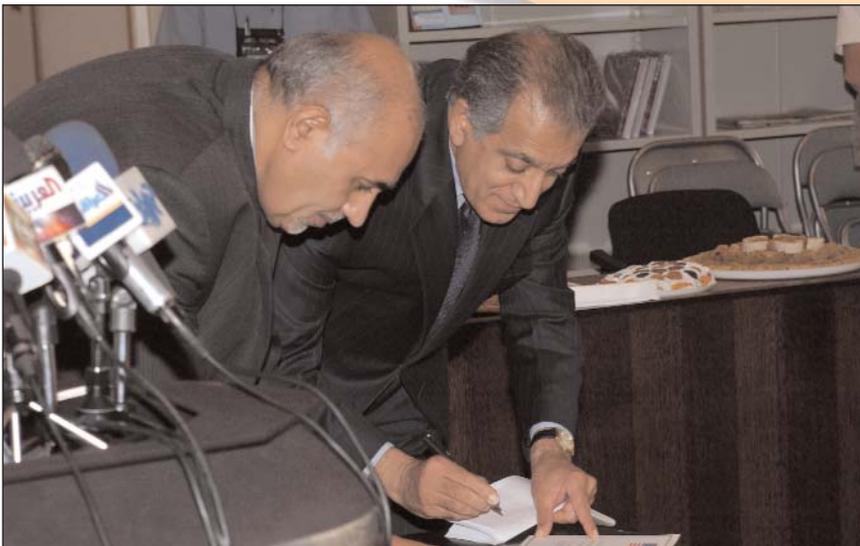


Photo by Sgt William Martin

Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad (right), U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, signs over the International Press Center in Baghdad to Muhammad Al Asadi (left), Head of the Iraqi Government Communications Center. "In the United States Constitution, the First Amendment states that Congress may make no law abridging the freedom of speech — this is a pillar of our freedoms," said Khalilzad. "Iraqi leaders who are drafting the new constitution should make this a pillar of Iraq's new democratic order as well. Democracy cannot succeed without it."



Photo by Sgt. Marvie V. Paje.

Members of the Iraqi Security Forces practice combat patrol defensive tactics during a training camp at the East Fallujah Iraqi Camp, Fallujah, Iraq.