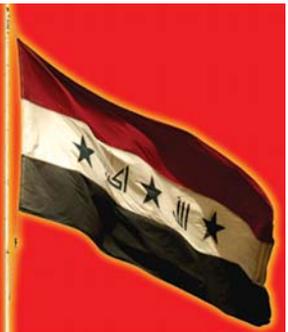




THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



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Back in Iraq: 101st takes command of north central Iraq for second OIF tour

By Spc. Joshua Hutcheson
101st Airborne Division Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DANGER, TIKRIT — The 101st Airborne Division is back in Iraq and ready for a new mission.

The Screaming Eagles took control of north central Iraq in a transfer of authority ceremony Nov. 1 at FOB Danger, marking the beginning of their second tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 101st will lead Task Force Band of Brothers and replaced the 42nd Infantry Division, a National Guard unit from New York, at the helm of Task Force Liberty.

The division was part of the initial ground war in 2003 that toppled the Saddam Hussein regime. Since then, the 101st has become the first division in the Army to completely transform to a plug-and-play modular design. The transformation included the addition of a fourth infantry brigade — the newly reactivated 506th Infantry Regiment — and the reshuffling of Soldiers and units to maximize the fighting capabilities of the division.

The task force is also made up of the 1st and 3rd brigade combat teams, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.; 18th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and 555th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash. The 3rd ID units are scheduled to rotate out in the new year, and will be replaced by other units not yet confirmed.

While in Iraq, Task Force Liberty was



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Acosta

Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner speaks to the crowd during a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Danger Nov. 1.

able to train and work with Soldiers from the Iraqi Army and Security Forces. The training was so successful that the 42nd was able to hand over control of the As Sulayminayah Province and 10 forward operating bases, including FOB Danger, to the Iraqi government, said Maj. Gen. Joseph Taluto, commander, 42nd ID and Task Force Liberty.

“Today’s ceremony has some additional symbolic meaning. It marks the last time that Coalition Forces will host an event on

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CG's Weekly Message ...

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

Sometimes it is hard to understand the enormity of an issue at first glance. Many people are only seeing a very small part of what is transpiring here in Iraq. A car bomb here, an attack there — we mourn each and every loss both military and civilian — but it is not the majority of what is happening in Iraq.

The real story is what you are not seeing in Iraq. For example, the terrorist and foreign fighters are at a stalemate. They are finding it harder and harder to cross the borders from Syria and other adjoining countries. They have lost base areas such as Tall Afar and are experiencing defeat at every engagement. Moreover, they are not able to reconstitute after battles as in the past because of Iraqi Security Forces maintaining security once areas are swept of terrorists.

Additionally, being a terrorist mastermind is not a long-term career. Since January, 800 foreign fighters have either killed themselves as suicide bombers, been killed or captured — over 100 of those are known leaders or trusted agents of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's al Qaeda in Iraq network. Once captured these terrorists lead to other terrorists, decimating the terrorist network and leaving only the less experienced leading the no-experienced. Al Qaeda is hav-



Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

ing a very difficult time recruiting suicide bombers and is resorting to trickery. Recent suicide bombers captured prior to detonating their bombs have told stories of being forced into becoming martyrs.

Operations in Tall Afar, the Euphrates River Valley and along the border are showing the negative impact the Coalition is having on the terrorist and foreign fighters ability to smuggle people into Iraq, establish safe havens and conduct operations. They are making mistakes and showing their true intention: Sept. 14 Al Zarqawi declared "all-out war" against Shi'a throughout Iraq; the recent al-Zawahiri letter to al-Zarqawi outlining al Qaeda's desire to form a base of operations in Iraq, establish a caliphate and export terror throughout the region; and al-Zarqawi's stated opposition to free elections and Iraq's ability to determine their own future.

While attacks are up, efficiency and effectiveness are not. The constitution was ratified by an overwhelming margin of 4-to-1. Political parties are forming as we speak for the upcoming elections. These are trends of an enemy on the run and a successful Coalition counterinsurgency campaign — and most of what you are not seeing.

Counter-insurgency center created in Taji to ensure success

By Maj. Herminio Blas-Irizarry
DCS Strategic Effects,
Communications Division

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD — The Multi-National Force-Iraq has created a Counter-Insurgency Center for Excellence to provide Coalition Forces and their Iraqi Security Force counterparts with the latest and best practices for conducting counter-insurgency (COIN) operations in Iraq.

The Center is located in Taji, 18 miles north of Baghdad, with courses taught by highly-qualified instructors with COIN operations experience. The curriculum is designed to train battalion, company commanders and selected staff personnel with the most effective COIN tactics and techniques used by previous units on the ground.

This center for excellence serves as a lessons-learned repository that ground commanders can draw from to enhance unit operations and con-

tinue adapting to the enemy's changing tactics. Also, the Center will produce a COIN handbook for distribution throughout the theater of operations and to the military's primary training centers that prepare units deploying to Iraq by replicating the asymmetrical warfare situations they may likely face.

In addition to the counter-insurgency training, Coalition commanders will be able to share their personal experiences with Iraqi commanders and participate in formal dinners with local government officials. This social event will allow Coalition commanders to build personal relationships with Iraqi counterparts, which are very important in Arab society.

The Center will also incorporate economic, political and social seminars to enhance both Coalition and Iraqi Army civil-military operations throughout Iraq. The Counter-insurgency Center for Excellence will ensure Coalition and Iraqi Forces have world-class training to continue operational success in Iraq.

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Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers bring food, water to needy families

Story and photos by
Spc. Ben Brody
2nd Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

SEVEN PALACES — Iraqi Army troops, along with U.S. Soldiers from 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, distributed food and water to residents of Seven Palaces in north Baghdad Oct. 26.



A Soldier from 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade pulls security during a humanitarian aid mission.

Soldiers from 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade passed out 1,200 halal-certified food rations and 1,200 bottles of water that had been stockpiled as a contingency against possible violence on the day Iraqis voted on the constitutional referendum.

Since the Oct. 15 Referendum

went smoothly, Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Nameer Mohammed said he felt the food should go to needy families in Baghdad.

“The people feel happy when we come to their neighborhoods, because we often give away food to the poor,” Mohammed said.

“It is good training for the Soldiers, too, and they learn to organize the crowds that arrive.”

Seven Palaces is a poor area that was once farmland but is now home to many people who came to Baghdad seeking work, but can’t afford to live downtown.

“We are working for one goal — to build the army that will protect and free Iraq,” said Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Abdul Razak.

“It will take time, but we are building the confidence of the people every day.”

Razak, a former Iraqi Army sergeant major, said he was imprisoned at Abu Ghraib for five years under Saddam Hussein’s regime for speaking out against the dictator.

He was liberated in 2003 by U.S. forces.

As the Iraqi Soldiers rolled into town, a



Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Nameer Mohammed, 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade, and Capt. Roger Miick, 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, discuss a humanitarian aid mission in Baghdad.

crowd quickly assembled around the trucks carrying bottled water and halal rations, and residents eagerly carted away the donations.

“Civil military operations like this are relatively new to the Iraqi Army, but they’re picking it up quickly and see the importance of assisting their people,” said Capt. Roger Miick, 448th CA Bn.

“They’re still fighting a battle against insurgents, but they know it’s important to do what they can to help.”

U.S., Iraqi Forces sweep up 49 terror suspects

BAGHDAD — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers, along with Iraqi Security Forces, conducted major combat assaults, dubbed Operation Clean Sweep, Oct. 28-29 in south Baghdad.

The operation netted 49 terrorists and a large weapons cache.

Soldiers assigned to 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi Forces from the 4th Public Order Brigade swept through the eastern Al-Rasheed district Oct. 29.

The multi-pronged assault resulted in more than 350 target houses searched and



Courtesy photo

A weapons cache discovered during an operation conducted by 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi Security Forces from the 4th Public Order Brigade.

the detention of 33 suspected terrorists. Bomb-making materials were also found at several of the target houses.

In an earlier mission Oct. 28, 1/184 Inf. Soldiers detained 16 terror suspects and discovered a large weapons cache during a cordon and search.

The cache was hidden in a second-story crawl space underneath a bathtub and included 13 AK-47 assault rifles, three MPK machine guns, 20 AK-47 barrels, one pistol, U.S. currency and an ammunition stockpile.

Construction is complete on a water network project that will benefit the 3,000 residents of Al Ameen, Baghdad governorate. The \$579,000 project employed an average of 15 Iraqi workers daily, who installed approximately 3,000 meters of 110 mm pipe, 1,278 meters of 160 mm pipe, 3,390 meters of 225 mm pipe and 10 fire hydrants. This project was funded by the Commander’s Emergency Response Program (CERP).

Military Police forge ties with Iraqi police

Story and photo by
Pfc. Matthew Clifton
Multi-National Corps - Iraq
Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — When building anything from the ground up, time and patience are virtues needed to bring construction to fruition. The same can be said about the creation and success of the Iraqi police.

But one military police master sergeant has made it his mission to provide a helping hand to the fledgling security forces in Baghdad.

For Master Sgt. Michael Gaboriault, brigade motor sergeant, 42nd MP Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash., overseeing the maintenance and repair operations for the 42nd was all he expected to do when he deployed to Iraq.

However, he took on the duty of overseeing the maintenance for all of Baghdad's Iraqi police vehicles, and discovered it was something that would require a great deal of his time and effort.

"I was tasked to assist the Iraqi police with anything they needed to maintain their vehicles and keep them in a proficient state of readiness," Gaboriault said. "When I started making my rounds, I

found that the facilities had been looted."

Basically, they only had primitive tools to work with along with some other basics that were donated by the Japanese government, Gaboriault said.

After making his rounds, Gaboriault knew he would have a lot of work to do getting the IP vehicles to an acceptable level of readiness. His first task was to determine what the facilities would require to be fully operational, Gaboriault said.

There are five main facilities Gaboriault looks after: Al-Karkh, Rusafa, traffic, patrol and central maintenance.

Going through the proper channels, Gaboriault obtained several contracts that would be used to fix specific problems facing the facilities.

"I was able to get a contract worth \$1.2 million to rebuild and outfit the facilities and a contract for \$500,000 to buy parts — which they used within a matter of a few months," Gaboriault said. "We got



Soldiers from the 42nd MP Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash., visit their Iraqi counterparts.

another \$450,000 for more parts that we are currently working on, along with a \$358,000 contract for each of the five facilities to buy tools.

"Everyone we work with is very grateful for everything that (Gaboriault) has done for them," said Master Sgt. Abdul Mohamed, brigade motor sergeant, 49th MP Bde. Mohamed will be taking over Gaboriault's operations when he redeployes.

"I think that affects their job performance, because they will be more apt and take more pride in what they do knowing that someone cares about them and is going out of their way to help them."

Soldiers clear junkyard of bomb-making ammo



Courtesy photos

Soldiers from Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cav., 2nd BCT prepare munitions for demolition in rural east Baghdad. The Soldiers and Iraqi contractors cleared a scrap-metal junkyard of unexploded ordnance, that included 1,135 mortar rounds, 632 artillery rounds, 195 rockets, 22 mines and six bombs. Right, the munitions explode.

BAGHDAD — More than 2,400 rounds of unexploded ordnance were discovered and destroyed in a 12-day operation in rural east Baghdad.

Soldiers from Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, and up to 45 Iraqi contractors were involved in the operation to deny terrorists the use

of bomb-making material.

A scrap-metal junkyard was cleared of unexploded ordnance, which included 1,135 mortar rounds, 632 artillery rounds, 195 rockets, 22 mines and six bombs.

"The operation takes possible improvised explosive devices off the streets," said Sgt. Frank Neal, the small-arms master gunner for the troop.

Neal said the operation to destroy the ordnance was completed with a focus on safety and that none of the Soldiers or Iraqi contractors who helped collect the munitions suffered any injuries during the controlled detonations.





Heroes of the Week

U.S. medic saves Iraqi policeman's life under fire

By Spc. Carlos Caro
1st Battalion, 87th Infantry

BAGHDAD — At least one Iraqi police officer owes his life to a U.S. Army medic who treated his wounds even as terrorists were firing on their position during an Oct. 10 incident.

"I didn't have time to think about it. I just knew I didn't want that guy to get hurt even worse. I just reacted," said Spc.

Andrew "Doc" Suchanek, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

While on a routine patrol in west Baghdad, Suchanek and other Soldiers of Company C, 1st Bn., 87th Inf. responded to assist Iraqi police who had come under fire from automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

Encountering a critically-



Spc. Andrew Suchanek, 1st Bn., 87th Infantry, 1st BCT, 10th Mountain Div.

wounded IP, Suchanek began immediate life-saving treatment.

Suddenly, a terrorist fired an RPG at the two of them.

Without hesitation, Suchanek threw himself on the police officer, shielding him from danger.

The grenade exploded harmlessly and Suchanek continued treatment to save the life of the IP officer.

As his fellow Soldiers secured the area, Suchanek coordinated evacuation for his patient to a local hospital.

Transfer

from page 1

these palace grounds," Taluto said. "Soon, this place that was for only an elite few will be the place for the Iraqi people. Instead of representing how one man used Iraq's wealth, it now represents how Iraq's wealth can serve the people."

Taluto is confident his task force has achieved its goals, and proud of the Soldiers under his command.

"We accomplished what we were directed to do. We have met our objectives and most importantly, we have advanced the cause of freedom here in Iraq," he said dur-

ing the ceremony.

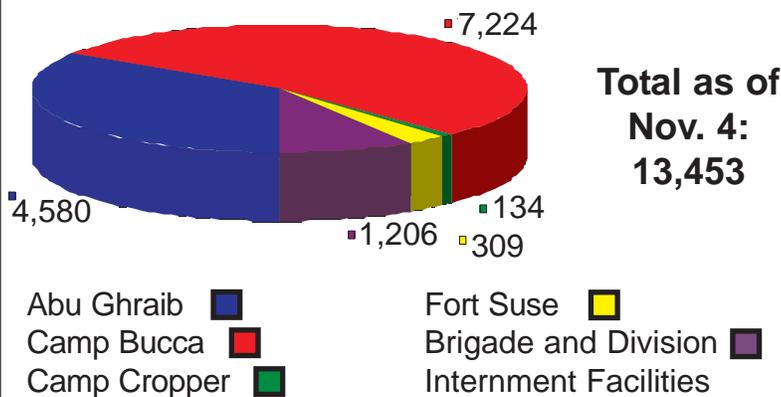
The leaders of the 101st, and its attached units, hope to continue the progress toward a free and democratic country made by the previous task force. Military liaisons between the ISF and Coalition Forces have been established to further train Iraqi Soldiers and police in techniques to defend and protect the country from insurgents and terrorists.

"We look forward to working with the security forces of Iraq — the Iraqi Army and Maj. Gen. Ahmed, commanding general of the Iraqi 5th Division in Dyalala Province, and Lt. Gen. Aziz, commanding general of the 4th Iraqi Army in Sad,

Kirkuk and Sulayminayah Province," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander, 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers. "The Soldiers that these gentlemen command are in the fight every day, risking not only their lives, but those of their families as they attempt to destroy the insurgency and provide the secure environment that will allow this democracy to flourish."

An important aspect to achieving a secure environment is communication with governors in north central Iraq. The 101st will work closely with both Iraqi leaders and ISF to help the country stand on its own.

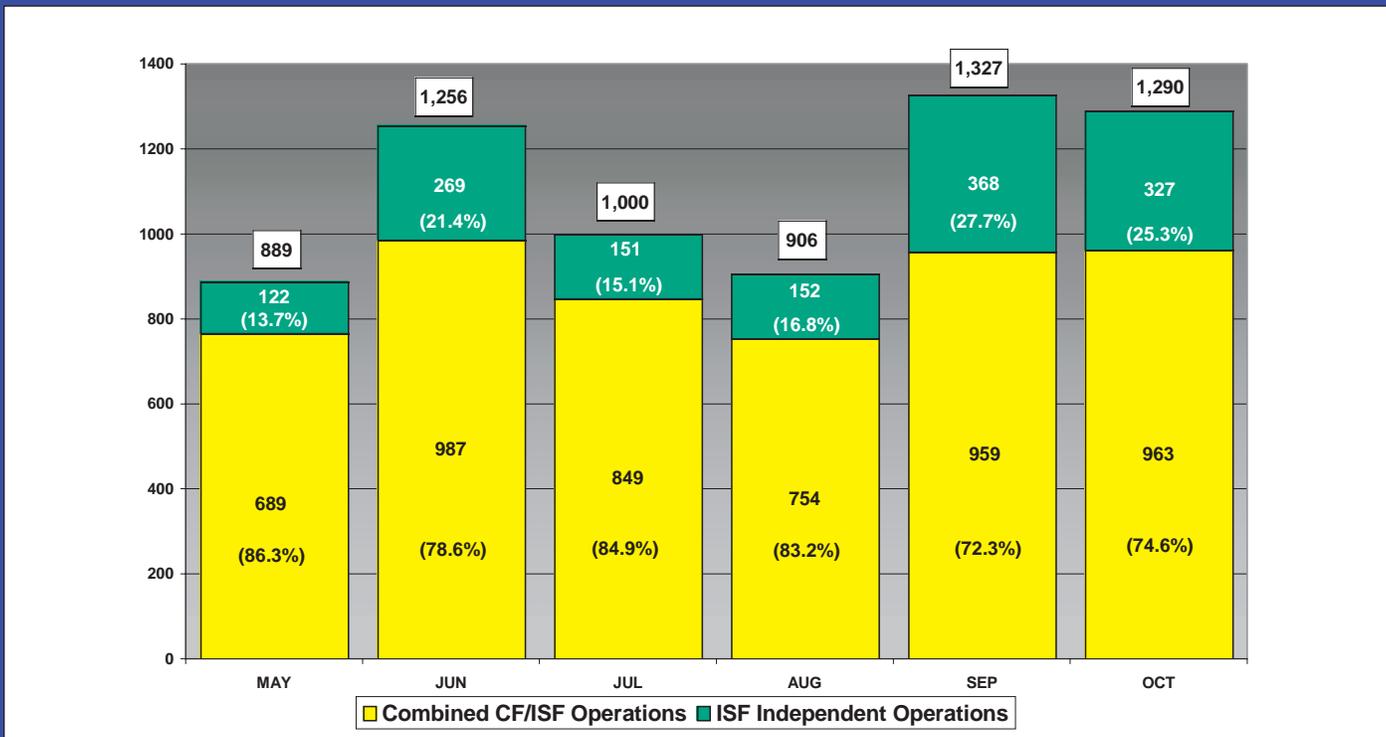
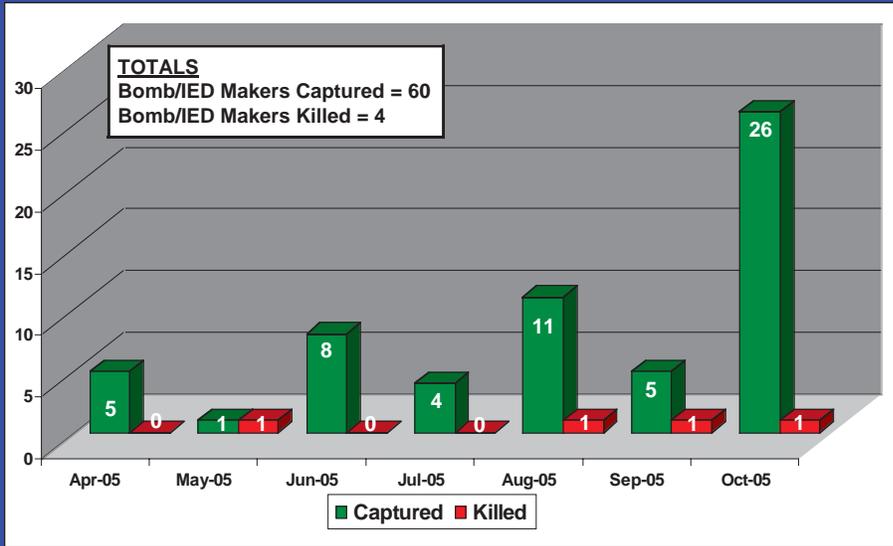
Multi-National Force - Iraq detainee population



Courtesy photo

Detainees make their way through the release process. Each released detainee is issued \$25, a copy of the Koran and a dish dasha, a traditional white garment. The release was done in the spirit of Eid al-Fitr, a day of rejoicing that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

How it's going across Iraq



A newly refurbished school, completed Sunday in Diwanayah, Qadisiyah Province, will provide 360 Iraqi schoolchildren with a clean and healthy learning environment.

Thousands of citizens in southern Iraq will benefit from the completion of the Al Madain Bridge.

101st Combat Aviation Brigade replaces 42nd ID's

Story and photo by
Sgt. Ryan Matson
101st Combat Aviation Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SPEICHER — The 101st Combat Aviation Brigade took over aerial operations from the 42nd Infantry Division Aviation Brigade here in a transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 13 outside the two units' tactical operations center.

The 101st CAB, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., arrived in Iraq last month and has assumed control over aviation operations in the area.

This includes providing convoy and route security, medical evacuations, and utilization of air assets in support of ground forces in strengthening the Iraqi government and security forces.

The 42nd ID Avn. Bde., an Army National Guard brigade unit out of Patchogue, N.Y., had been in control of the



Col. Warren E. Phipps (left), 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, unveils the 101st CAB colors during the transfer of authority ceremony Oct. 13 at FOB Speicher.

aviation operations since January 2005.

Col. Mark Burke, brigade commander, acknowledged the hard work of his Soldiers in supporting the security of the political process in Iraq over the past year.

He also expressed gratitude in a tearful remembrance of the brigade's two fallen

Soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer Matt Lourey and Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Scott, reciting the division's motto, "Never forget."

Col. Warren Phipps, commander of the 101st CAB, and Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell stepped in as commander and command sergeant major of the area of operations.

In his remarks following the uncerasing of the new colors, Phipps said, "We, the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade and 42nd Aviation Brigade stand united in a great cause – to save the Iraqi people from the throws of tyranny and terrorism so that they can enjoy the freedoms of a self-determined representative government

and the comfort of society governed by the rule of law."

Phipps pledged to the battalions of the 42nd ID Avn. Bde. that "the Wings of Destiny will fly proudly over the Rainbow Soldiers, protecting them as you have done over the past year."

Iraqi mother calls daughter recovering in U.S. hospital

Story and photo by Sgt.
1st Class Kevin W. Reeves
155th Brigade Combat Team

TUNIS — With a tear in her eye and a smile on her face, Hadiya Hussein and her father began their journey to the United States on Oct. 14. Today she is in recovery at the Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey, Pa.

155th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers learned about her condition while conducting a routine inspection of the water treatment plant in the village of Tunis.

Dr. John L. Meyers, professor of surgery and pediatrics, and chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Penn State Children's Hospital in Hershey, Pa., completed the life saving operation Nov. 3, and says she is recovering well.

In a letter sent to the American Consulate in Iraq, Meyers stated, "We have accepted Hadiya Hussein for treatment at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center Children's Hospital to correct the abnormality of the 'Ventricular Septal Defect.'"

Maj. Bradley Lauer and other Soldiers of the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion went to visit with the other family members left in Iraq to deliver the good news of her successful surgery.

"The doctors said she came through with flying colors," stated Lauer. "I am really glad that we could



Hadiyah Mohammed's mother talks to her daughter in the United States on a satellite phone just after her heart surgery.

help this little girl."

Lauer called his home on his satellite phone and got the number to the hospital room where Hadiya and her father

were staying so the girl's mother could talk to them after the surgery.

While Hadiya and her father are in the United States, the Lauer family has volunteered use of their home and personal resources to provide daily care needs, which include providing food, lodging, and transportation for Hadiya and her father.

Lauer's wife met Hadiya and Mohammed at the airport in the United States and will assist them throughout their time in America. Recovery is expected to take about two months. Hadiya and her father will return to Iraq at this time.

In Arabic, Hadiya means "gift." To many of the Soldiers of the 155th BCT, and to her parents, she really is a "Gift from God. "If we can make an impact on these children, we can help the future of Iraq," Lauer said.



Coalition, Iraqi Security Forces' Operations Review



By Staff Sgt. Julie Nicolov
Multi-National Corps - Iraq
Public Affairs

In the weeks following the referendum, during which 79 percent of Iraqis voted in support of the new constitution, many citizens of the newest democratic nation are taking responsibility for their own safety.

The Nahia council in western city of Baqubah informed Coalition Forces that they intend to start a community watch program to patrol high-risk areas, especially around mosques. Coalition leaders are working closely with the council to support this program.

The council also informed CF that they have set up their own checkpoints with armed guards.

The Coalition Force controlling the north central region of Iraq suggests that citizens view local militias as more trustworthy than national police, possibly due to bad treatment they received under Saddam Hussein's regime. The efforts of local councils to coordinate with CF and Iraqi Security Forces indicate the good intentions of these groups, CF leaders say.



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Bryson K. Jones

An Iraqi Soldier participates in squad infantry tactics during the Desert Protector Course in east Fallujah.

Suspected corruption within the ranks of the Iraqi police is also a concern of the citizens.

The commander of the 5th Iraqi Army Division stated that many Iraqi Soldiers believe IP are involved in attacks, including one recently in Baqubah.

There was a significant drop in terrorist activity in Hawijah Nov. 4, possibly connected to the arrest of a corrupt IA battalion commander Nov. 3.

Despite these challenges, IPs still accomplish their mission.

In Tall Afar, IPs captured 11 terrorists. The owner of the house where they were captured said the insurgents forced their way into his home then conducted a mortar attack from there, indicating support for terrorists may be dwindling.

Other events throughout the country this week indicate that Iraqi citizens also embrace CF and ISF efforts.

municipalities and schools. They are also working together to create a city police force and set free all prisoners who are not guilty. A 16-member leadership committee of representatives from the Iraqi Army, Iraqi police, the mayor and other local leaders will implement the plans.

Al Sabah, an Arab newspaper popular with Sunnis in Baghdad, published several articles supportive of ISF successes against terrorists and the IA's improved training and humanitarian assistance to fellow Iraqis. The elimination of extortionists and others who prey directly on common citizens will continue to win public support for the ISF and Iraqi Transitional Government.

In light of these successes, CF and ISF continue to work hard to root out terrorism and provide security for the citizens of Iraq.

Members of a special trained Iraqi Scout platoon called the "Desert Protectors," elements of the 1st Iraqi Army Division and 2,500 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers with Regimental Combat Team-2 began Operation Steel Curtain in western



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.

An Iraqi Soldier hands out flyers during a patrol in Mosul.

See *OPERATIONS*, next page

155th BCT Soldiers attend co-op groundbreaking

Story by 155th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DUKE, AN NAJAF — At a recent groundbreaking ceremony, Lt. Col. Jim Oliver, commander of 1st Battalion, 198th Armor, and other members of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, met with the board of directors of the co-op and discussed what the future holds for the local farmers of Najaf and the surrounding area.

On hand for the ceremony were members of the 155th BCT's "Operation Amber Waves" team, Capt. Jesse Cornelius and 1st Lt. Robert Sayle.

Cornelius and Sayle have a vast knowledge of farming and agriculture. Sayle, from Walls, Miss., is the son of a farmer in the delta, and Cornelius, of Tupelo, Miss., is a vocational agriculture teacher at Nettleton High School in Nettleton, Miss.

"This is a great day for the people in this area," Cornelius said.

"They will be able to come here for the things they need to have a successful farm.

"Although only limited supplies will be here right now, they should be able to get



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Reeves

Local leaders and members of the 155th Brigade Combat Team at the groundbreaking for their new farmers cooperative.

seed, fertilizer and other basic needs soon."

The 155th Brigade Combat Team's Amber Waves team collected seeds from generous donors from Mississippi and Tennessee and presented what they had to Mehdi Malih, the Secretary for the Thul al-Fakkar Farmer's Association.

The Thul al-Fakkar Association is from the Kufa district of Najaf and is made up of a group of vegetable farmers.

Approximately 50 pounds of seed consisting of pepper, lima beans, string beans, assorted peas, corn and watermelon were presented to Malih.

"The leaders listed six things in their mission statement," Sayle commented. He said the items listed were to, "Provide jobs for poor farmers and provide land for farming, increase the profitability of business of the farmers and the price for their produce, and market products to export in Iraq and elsewhere.

"This will bring a better quality of life for the farmers,"

Sayle said. "We are also helping the people of the area pursue a source of canning and processing vegetables, ensure job security for the citizens of Najaf province and provide tractors and equipment for farmers to share," he added.

Soon, there should be farm implements and tractors, with other basic needs of farmers centrally located at the new Co-Op in Najaf.

Operations

from previous page

Al Anbar Saturday.

The objectives of Operation Steel Curtain are to restore security along the Iraqi-Syrian border and destroy the al Qaeda in Iraq terror network operating throughout Husaybah.

The operation follows on the heels of Operations Iron Fist and River Gate and is part of Operation Sayaid, dedicated to providing a safe environment for Iraq's national elections Dec. 15.

The 1st Iraqi Army Division and Desert Protectors, with the support of Coalition Forces, also detained 21 men during a raid at both a phosphate plant and cement factory in Al Qaim Nov. 2.

Two of the detained men are suspected al Qaeda members, while the others are suspected members of local anti-Iraqi terrorist cells.

Both locations were being used by the anti-Iraqi forces as safe havens from which

operations were conducted in the Al Qaim area.

Offensive operations in Habbaniyah and Ramadi stopped an IED team that used children as human shields. Other raids in Amariyah and Al Ammari uncovered a mortar team, three large mortar caches, rockets and armor-piercing ammunition.

In another part of the capital city, members of the 6th Iraqi Army Division captured five targeted insurgents in an independent raid. Sniper operations disrupted three IED teams, killing three and wounding two insurgents, as they prepared to place IEDs.

Coalition Forces and Iraqi Border Police in northern Iraq captured seven young suspected insurgents who crossed the border from Syria. The men claimed to be sheep smugglers; however, there were no sheep in the area.

The Provincial Emergency Police Battalion recently conducted a raid north of Bajji, north of Tikrit, capturing five terrorists including one who confessed to setting the IED that targeted Coalition leadership.

MNF-I Operations Summary Oct. 29 - Nov. 7



**Combined operations: 225
IEDs found and cleared: 136
anti-Iraqi forces detained: 133
foreign fighters captured
or killed: 18
Weapons caches found
and cleared: 50**

Training course for Iraqi warrant officers, sergeants major wraps up successfully

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell
Multi-National Security Transition
Command - Iraq Public Affairs

KIRKUSH — A pilot training course for Iraqi Army chief warrant officers and sergeants major wrapped up Thursday at Kirkush Military Training Base, with Coalition advisers deeming it a success.

The four-week course focused on individual training in barracks administration, range planning and conduct, drill and ceremony instruction, planning operations and professional development.

Sixteen students completed the course, most of whom hold the rank of chief warrant officer or sergeant major. Others have been identified for eventual promotion to the ranks, said Australian Warrant Officer Class One David Hatton, senior adviser for the Military Training Team attached to the 1st Battalion of the Iraqi Training Brigade (ITB).

In the U.S. Army, the Iraqi ranks of chief warrant officer and sergeant major are equivalent to command sergeant major and first sergeant, respectively.

The goal of the training was to improve leadership skills and to prepare the senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to train the Soldiers they lead. Some will remain at ITB to teach squad and platoon-level courses, Hatton said.

During barracks administration week, students studied the roles and responsibilities of their ranks; their relationships with Jundis (entry-level soldiers), junior NCOs and officers; accountability and punishments and orders. There were also lessons in values, motivating subordinates, hygiene in both the barracks and in the

field, equal opportunity, counseling, communication skills and managing resources. Students were required to write essays on the various aspects of leadership, Hatton said.

“One thing stressed was equity, especially when it comes to ethnicity, gender and religion,” Hatton said.

The second week was devoted to range planning and conduct, during which students practiced their skills with small arms and learned advanced marksmanship coaching, range safety and forecasting.

They were also introduced to night vision goggles (NVGs), a piece of equipment they had never seen before, Hatton said. Instructors gave a classroom lesson on the NVGs, and then had students put them on and walk out to the range in the dark to acquaint them with the devices. A night fire with the NVGs followed.

Week three consisted of lessons in planning and conducting battalion and company level parades and ceremonies, formal inspections of troops and customs and traditions. In the final week, instruction focused on planning and leading company and battalion level military operations – convoys, counterinsurgency and urban terrain, for example – running a tactical operations center and leading troops.

Iraqi Chief Warrant Officer Wissam found the training in urban area fighting especially helpful.

“This will help us to be able to enter and clear buildings,” Wissam said through an interpreter. “The other troops could be put in danger if we don’t train correctly



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lorie Jewell

In teams of two, Iraqi NCOs demonstrate firing skills while on the move during range exercises at Kirkush Military Training Base, where they participated in a pilot course for chief warrant officers and sergeants major.

and then pass on what we have learned to the junior troops.”

Computer skills, such as using programs like Microsoft Word and Excel spreadsheets, were included in the training. Students also lived a day in the life of a sergeant major or chief warrant officer, with commanders giving them scenarios and asking for feedback on how they would suggest handling them. Examples included two Soldiers caught fighting, with one accusing the other of stealing; a battalion suffering from low morale or putting together an appropriate ceremony for the arrival of a high-level Iraqi general.

Hatton and others consider the pilot course a success, not just because of the performance of the students but because of the involvement of Iraqi ITB leaders in planning the course. Conducting the course during Ramadan – a month-long major Muslim holiday in which observers fast during daylight hours – posed a particular challenge, Hatton said. The Iraqi chain of command decided not to change the training program, but advised Coalition advisers to be mindful that it may not be accomplished according to set schedules.

Several students also deemed the course a success. “We are now learning how important leadership is within the enlisted troops,” said Iraqi Sgt. 1st Class Ali. “I am grateful to be selected as an NCO.”

The next course for chief warrant officers and sergeants major is scheduled for January.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Mark Woodbury

Range exercises also included firing from standing, kneeling and prone positions.

Iraqi military police graduate from school

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Engels Tejeda**
207th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

AN NUMANIYAH — Over 120 Iraqi Soldiers graduated from the Iraqi Army's military police school at An Numaniyah in late October, marking the school's second graduation since it opened in August.

Seeking to help standardize Iraqi military police units, U.S. liaisons from the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq mentored Iraqi Soldiers in the creation and operation of the school at the Iraqi training camp.

"The mission is to create, train and equip 10 companies for the 10 divisions in the Iraqi Army," said U.S. Capt. Dane Sandersen, the senior adviser for the MP school and a member of MNSTC-I's Coalition Military Assistance Team.

"These units will provide support in the form of traffic circulation control, area security operations, law and order, [and] enemy prisoner of war [or] detainee control operations as required," stated an official document titled "Military Police Development Plan."

Iraqi Soldiers from around the country rotate through the school, taking part in a two-phase course that prepares them for the rigorous job ahead. Each phase is three weeks long. During the first phase, the MPs train on basic courses such as rifle and pistol marksmanship, traffic



Iraqi Soldiers march during a ceremony to celebrate their graduation from Phase I training at the An Numaniyah MP training school.

security team performance and civil disturbance control. During the second phase, they train on more advanced courses including cordon and search operations and platoon-level attacks or defenses during combat operations.

According to Sandersen, each division in the Iraqi Army has at least one military police company. He said the companies have four platoons, three of which are standard military police. The fourth platoon specializes in handing enemy prisoners of war or detainees. So far, the two classes that have gone through the first phase of the training have given positive feedback.

"The training was useful. I never trained like I trained here," said Iraqi 2nd Lt. Nassar, a platoon leader with the 4th Iraqi Army division out of Tikrit. "There is no doubt we are going to use this training in real life," he added, noting that his platoon could begin MP operations as

soon as three days after graduation.

The Iraqi Soldiers said they felt the success of the course could be credited to the dedication of their trainers and mentors.

"The way of training was very understandable because the instructors gave us the classes in the classroom and then took us outside for the practical part. That was the fun part," said Iraqi Sgt. Adam, a security enlisted Soldier with the 4th.

Although Coalition troops will only serve as liaisons in the future, hand picked American troops have been providing the bulk of the training in the early stages, said U.S. 1st Sgt. Anthony Simpson, the senior enlisted adviser at the MP school. Simpson said in selecting the liaisons, he looked for people who had experience teaching and who had military or civilian police experience. The result, he said, was a team of individuals who are excellent at what they do and who like doing their job.

U.S. Sgt. 1st Class Mark Williams of the Coalition Military Assistance Team is one of the liaisons working at the MP school. He said while his team worked hard to make the classes understandable for the Iraqis, the Iraqi Soldiers' success was truly the result of "outstanding leadership and motivation" on their part.

Williams said that though in a very small way, the graduation was evidence that a more independent Iraq is on the horizon. "Hopefully these Iraqis can take back their country, and we can go back home. And that's our ultimate goal."

Soldiers deliver wheelchairs to Baghdad hospital

By Maj. Kimberly M. Johaneck
Multi-National Forces - Iraq Surgeon (Forward)

INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD — On Oct. 31, the 332nd Civil Affairs Brigade, in conjunction with the Multi-National Force - Iraq Surgeon's Office, delivered 30 wheelchairs to the Al Kuff Hospital located in eastern Baghdad. The purpose of this civil military operation was to provide wheelchairs to the Al Kuff-Baghdad Artificial Limb Center and strengthen the bond between the hospital and the Iraqi patients it serves.

The hospital is treating over 128 amputee patients, many of whom sustained their injuries as a result of improvised explosive devices.

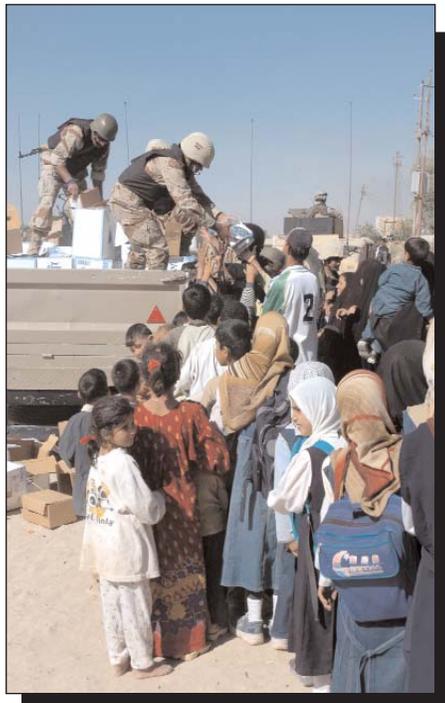
These wheelchairs, described as "lawn chairs on wheels" cost only \$41.17 each as total cost from the factory to the field. The wheelchairs were donated by the Free Wheelchair Mission, a non

profit organization based out of Orange County, California. This donation was part of a shipment of 550 wheel chairs delivered in a momentous humanitarian mission to aid Iraq's disabled and poor. The initial delivery was coordinated thru the Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) located in Kuwait and were then further transported by volunteers and Coalition Forces throughout Iraq.

The donated wheelchairs look a little different than a standard wheelchair, however the function is still the same in that it provides mobility to those who are unable to walk on their own.

According to the president and founder of the Free Wheelchair Mission, Don Schoendorfer, "the Iraqi Ministry of Health employees, Iraqi volunteers and Coalition military personnel assembled the wheelchairs and made this effort come to life. We hope to continue distributing wheelchairs to help support the disabled and injured Iraqi people in this significant and transitional era."

Iraqis taking the lead



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ben Brody
Residents of Seven Palaces line up as 2nd Iraqi Army Brigade Soldiers distribute food and water during a humanitarian aid mission.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.
Iraqi Soldiers conduct a patrol in Mosul, Nov. 3, in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ben Brody
An Iraqi Army Soldier shows residents of Seven Palaces how to use a ration heater before distributing food and water.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James L. Harper Jr.
An Iraqi pauses while on patrol in Mosul, Nov. 3, in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.