



# THIS WEEK IN IRAQ



Vol. 1, No. 14

Published by Multi-National Force - Iraq

November 16, 2005



Soldiers with the 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized) unload T-72 tanks donated by Hungary officials through NATO. The tanks, along with other donated equipment, arrived at Taji Military Base last week.

## Iraqi Army's 9th Mechanized Division welcomes T-72 tanks

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

**TAJI** — The arrival of dozens of T-72 tanks from Hungary last week infused “new blood” into the Iraqi Army’s 9th Mechanized Division, its top leader said.

“This is a great day for our division,” said Iraqi Gen. Bashar, division commander. “We are building our division and these are the base. We are pinning the strength and power of our division on our tanks.”

The 77 tanks arrived over three days, culminating Nov. 11. The delivery also included 36 BMP personnel carriers, four recovery vehicles and several containers of parts and weaponry. It is the largest equip-

ment donation to the Iraqi Army from NATO allies to date, officials said.

Iraqi Soldiers and their leaders were visibly excited as they off-loaded the freshly painted tanks and drove them to a division motor pool.

“This is a huge event for them,” said U.S. Lt. Col. Kevin Meredith, the mechanized and armor project officer for the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq (MNSTC-I). “In the former Army, only the elite troops had T-72s. So they really associate having T-72s with something special. The pride they have in these tanks is palpable.”

The T-72s and BMPs will equip two tank battalions and one mechanized battalion of

See **TANKS**, Page 4

## Top Stories

**Iraqi Soldiers use insurgents' weapons, Page 2**

**Iraqi, U.S. forces capture kidnappers in raids, Page 3**

**Iraqi Soldiers bust kidnapping ring, Pages 4**

**Civilian Ops Center dedicated to fallen Soldier, Page 5**

**Soldiers remember Soldiers, share experience with allies, Page 7**

**Coalition, Iraqi Security Forces operations review, Page 8**

**Iraqi Highway Patrol opens a new academy, Page 10**

**Condi Rice stands up first PRT in Iraq, Page 11**

**Iraqi Soldiers take on a relief role Page 12**



# CG's Weekly Message ...

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

Last week the followers of al-Zarqawi exported their terrorism to the neighboring country of Jordan. In that attack more than 50 innocent people were killed by the terrorists. Their crime: being in a hotel targeted by the terrorists. Their actions outside of Iraq are yet another mistake, and another example of the increasing pressure being put on them by the Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and overall progress in Iraq.

This type of attack is foretold in a letter intercepted by agents this summer from the al Qaeda deputy al-Zawahiri to the al Qaeda in Iraq leader al-Zarqawi. The letter outlined al Qaeda's desire to form a base of operations in Iraq, establish a caliphate and export terror throughout the region. The bombing in Jordan is another example of the importance of our mission here.

Speaking of progress, just last week Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced the fielding of the first of many Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Starting in Mosul these teams will

focus on sustaining the capability to govern, enhance rule-of-law, promote political and economic development and meet the basic needs of the population. The teams are a joint civil-military team of about 100 military, State Department, other government agencies and contractors.



**Gen. George W. Casey Jr.**

Another sign of improvement can be seen in Fallujah. The one-year anniversary of the battle for Fallujah is today and is yet another example of progress in this heavily Sunni dominated area. More than \$226 million in Iraqi and U.S. government money has been allocated for reconstruction in Fallujah for fiscal year 2005. Projects providing the citizens of Fallujah improved basic services and quality of life are happening. In November 2004 five percent had intermittent power.

Today, 65 percent of the people have power eight to 12 hours per day. More than 80 percent have water service. A new 200 bed hospital is under construction along with two more clinics to help ease overburdened outpatient care; the electrical network is being upgraded, and four schools are under construction.

Improved security allows for progress and progress is driving the terrorists out — and allowing Iraqis in.

# Iraqi Soldiers use insurgents' weapons

Story and photo by Pfc. Joshua R. Ford  
Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs Office

## LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA —

From small arms to M-1 Abrams tank weapon systems, the 3rd Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division armory can fix just about any U.S. Army ground weapon. When the order came down to refurbish 88 AK-47s, they were up for the challenge.



**Chief Warrant Officer Pedro Munoz, armament and repair technician, 3rd FSB, 1st Bde., 3rd ID works on an AK-47 at LSA Anaconda.**

Some might ask why the U.S. forces are refurbishing old enemy weapons, but the AKs are being used to arm the Iraqi Army, police and security forces, putting the insurgents' weapons to use against insurgents.

When the Iraqi police were being put together, they were short on weaponry, and this program is solving the shortage problem, said Chief Warrant Officer Pedro Munoz, armament and repair technician, 3rd FSB, 1st Bde, 3rd Inf. Div.

This saves the Iraqis from having to buy new AK-47s, said Spc. Philip Arthur, small arms repairman, 3rd FSB, 1st Bde., 3rd ID.

"In helping them, we are helping ourselves because the program is saving the U.S. and the IA money and bringing the country one step closer to being self-sufficient," added Munoz.

"We were actually trained by a Special Forces unit

See **WEAPONS**, Page 3

**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



**Editor**.....Staff Sgt. Brett B. McMillan  
brett.mcmillan@iraq.centcom.mil  
**Assistant Editor**.....Staff Sgt. Nick Minecci  
nicholas.minecci@iraq.centcom.mil  
**Command Information NCOIC**...Master Sgt. Michele R. Hammonds  
michele.hammonds@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](mailto:MNFInewsletter@iraq.centcom.mil).

## Iraqi, U.S. forces capture kidnappers in raids

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

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Security Forces working with U.S. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery conducted a two-part operation to capture terrorists and search for illegal weapons in Zafaraniya, Nov. 6 and 9.

Iraqi police assisted by searching homes and interviewing residents in both operations.



**U.S. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery and troops from the Iraqi Public Order Brigade climb a gate in Zafaraniya looking for weapons caches Nov. 9.**

Four suspected terrorists were detained in Operation Slap Shot, Nov. 6. The men are suspected of involvement with a terrorist group notorious for kidnappings and executions.

The first detainee is a suspected operative of that group and is also suspected of plotting to kidnap individuals.

The first suspect's brother was also detained as part of the operation.

The other two detainees are also suspected members of that same group.

The U.S. Soldiers conducted Operation Fast Break, Nov. 9, which resulted in the seizure of illegal ammunition.

The Iraqi 2nd Public Order Brigade played a major role in the execution of this operation.

"The 2nd Public Order Brigade is increasing in efficiency and effectiveness every day — they grow with each mission they conduct," said Maj. Rich Ackerman.



**Soldiers from 1st Bn., 9th Field Artillery and Iraqi Public Order Brigade troops interview a disabled veteran of the Iran-Iraq war during an operation Nov. 9 in Zafaraniya.**

"Operationally they do very well, and today was a fine example."

During the early-morning mission, Soldiers spoke with residents of a neighborhood primarily housing disabled veterans of the Iran-Iraq war.

"I think we made some friends today," said 1st Lt. Clements Gover, Battery B, 1st Bn., 9th Field Artillery platoon leader. "People responded really well to our presence and that of the Public Order Brigade officers we were with," he said.

## Weapons

from page 2

at Forward Operating Base Danger. They gave us a base on how to approach the Iraqis and at what level we can train them," Munoz said.

"We used the Special Forces training and trained the Iraqis how to professionally clean, operate and maintain the weapon systems they use," Arthur added.

"Before our training the Iraqis were cleaning their weapons with gasoline and kerosene, which helps the weapon acquire more dirt and deteriorates the metal the weapon is made out of," Arthur said.

"The Iraqis have taught us just as much as we taught them during training," Munoz said.

Some of the things the Iraqis taught the arms workers were



**Spc. Philipp Arthur, small arms repairman, 3rd Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, assembles an AK-47 at LSA Anaconda.**

how to look for booby traps on AK-47s and how to disassemble the weapons faster.

AK-47s are not the only foreign weapons the armorers have had to fix. They also work on the RPK, SKS and PKS weapon systems.

The first time the Soldiers were tasked with this mission, an explosive ordnance disposal team brought 453 foreign weapon systems to the 3rd FSB armory. Of these, 420 were fixable.

"Cross-training everyone in the shop has helped out a lot," said Spc. Evan Lewis, fire control repairman, 3rd FSB, 1st Bde., 3rd Inf. Div.

Lewis works on tank weapons systems, but since he was cross-trained he has been able to help with training the Iraqi Army.

"It feels good to take weapons out of insurgent's hands and put them into play against them," Lewis added.

**W**ork completed on a security and justice project will enhance force protection measures for Iraqi Soldiers living in Logbase Seitz. The \$89,000 project constructed 10 guard towers around the base.

## Tanks

from page 1

the division's 2nd Brigade, Bashar said.

Until now, the division's tank fleet has consisted of Russian T-55 models, which belong to a 1st Brigade battalion. The brigade also has two mechanized battalions. The division expects to form a third brigade within the next year, Bashar said.

Many of the division's Soldiers drove T-72 tanks in the old Iraqi Army, so they are familiar with operating and maintaining them, leaders said. A handful of the tanks from the old army remain at Taji and are used for training purposes.

"We have no trouble using these types of tanks and maintaining them," said Iraqi Lt. Col. Saleem, commander of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade. "The Soldiers are very happy, because now we have enough weapons to kill the terrorists in our country."

The 45-ton tank can move as fast as 36 miles per hour and fire eight rounds per minute with an auto-loader and a three-man crew. With a laser range finder, the crew can shoot while moving at speeds up to 12 miles per hour.

"These are a very good type of tank," said Saleem, through an interpreter. "Not all countries use this type of tank."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lorie Jewell

**Iraqi Gen. Bashar, commander of the Iraqi Army's 9th Division (Mechanized), drives a T-72 tank from an off-load area to a division motor pool.**

Hungarian officials approached Iraqi officials earlier this year about donating the tanks. Bashar and others traveled to the country to inspect the tanks before agreeing to accept them. Another country offered 500 BMPs through NATO, with Iraq accepting 100, said Meredith. Three dozen of the 100 arrived with the tanks; the remaining 64 are expected in the coming months, Meredith said.

Although the vehicles were donated, the cost of refurbishing and shipping them here

was covered by Iraq's Ministry of Defense, which paid about \$4.5 million; roughly \$500,000 came from MNSTC-I, officials said. Italian Maj. Gen. Pier Giorgio Segala, deputy commander of NATO Training Mission - Iraq, visited the new tanks Nov. 11. Bashar gave a brief history of the division and talked about how the new equipment will energize his troops.

"This is like new blood in our division," Bashar said.

Bashar also expressed appreciation to all of the organizations and countries involved in donating the equipment and getting it delivered to the division.

### Patrol aids injured Iraqi child

**BAGHDAD** — Task Force Baghdad Soldiers were on a routine patrol in a rural farming area of Abu Ghraib, Nov. 1, talking to local Iraqi citizens and gathering information on terrorist activity in the area.

Soon, the mission took a new direction when the Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division started talking to members of one household.

"The Iraqi family denied knowing anything suspicious in the neighborhood," said 1st Lt. John Shea, convoy commander for the mission. "However, they asked if their son could be treated by a medic."

The 9-year-old boy had burned himself with boiling cooking water, resulting in second-degree burns over 6 percent of his body, Shea said.

The child had been rushed to a local hospital in the area, but was unable to be treated.

"When we originally spoke to the mother, the boy was not present, but we did promise to return that evening to treat the boy's wounds," said Shea.

"He was very tough putting up with the pain, which is a trend of all the Iraqi kids," said Spc. Bernard John, the unit's medic who treated the boy with bandages and ointment. John said the family was grateful for his work.

Shea said his patrol plans to visit the boy again to monitor his recovery.

### Iraqi Soldiers bust kidnapping ring

**BAGHDAD** — The Iraqi Army detained five kidnapers during a raid in east Baghdad, Nov. 3.

The 6th Iraqi Army Division received intelligence on the location of the kidnapping ring and passed the information down through the Iraqi chain of command.

"The mission was entirely Iraqi Army driven; there were no U.S. advisors or observers involved," said Maj. Terry Cook, an officer with 2nd Brigade Combat Team who works with the Iraqi Army.

When the mission was received by an Iraqi Army company, it took only 30 minutes for them to hit the target house, Cook said. The company stormed the house and captured the five suspects. No kidnapped persons were present at the home at the time.

As the IA Soldiers entered the house, they were unsuccessfully engaged by the suspects with small-arms fire. There were no Iraqi Army casualties.

Two AK-47 rifles, \$2,000 in U.S. currency, 280,000 Iraqi dinar and terrorist propaganda were found at the home.

The suspected kidnapers are now being processed by the Iraqi judicial system.

"The tactics, techniques and procedures used by the Iraqi Army [units] I work with have really improved," Cook said. "They now have a well-honed battle drill for this type of mission, and they have demonstrated they are capable of operating independently."



## Heroes of the Week

### Civilian Ops Center dedicated to fallen Soldier

**Story and photo by  
Spc. Ashly E. Mitchell**  
366th Mobile Public Affairs  
Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE COURAGE, MOSUL** — On Oct. 13, 2004, while serving in Mosul, Maj. Charles R. Soltes Jr. and Lt. Col. Mark P. Phelan were killed when their convoy was attacked with an improvised explosive device (IED). Soldiers from Task Force Freedom gathered at the Civilian Military Operations Center (CMOC) here, to rededicate the CMOC to Maj. Charles R. Soltes Jr.

Phelan was also commemorated. He deployed to Iraq, with the 416th Civil Affairs (CA) Battalion in January 2004, and had extended his tour to work with the 443rd CA Battalion.

After a prayer by Chaplain (Maj.) Gordon R. Furbay, Maj. Brian Anderson and Maj. Darius Gallegos then spoke.

"Charles and I had known each other for many years," said Gallegos. "He was

the type of person that had a contagious smile. After he died, I was deployed to Mosul with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. I went on a routine convoy one day and was at the very same spot where his convoy was hit by an IED. I called his wife to let her know that I was there where he died."

Soltes graduated from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt., with a bachelor of science degree in 1990. He received his doctorate in optometry from the New England College of Optometry in 1994. In his civilian life, he was self-employed as an optometrist in Garden Grove, Calif.

Soltes joined the 426th CA Bn., an Army Reserve unit based in Upland, Calif., in February 2004 and deployed to Iraq with them in August. He served as a preventive medical officer in support of



**Maj. Brian Anderson speaks to Soldiers during the rededication ceremony of the CMOC.**

Operation Iraqi Freedom and helped to start the CMOC on FOB Courage. The CMOC has helped several Iraqi civilians receive medical aid, both here and in the United States.

At the end of the ceremony Anderson and Gallegos unveiled a plaque dedicated to Soltes that was inset in the CMOC's outside wall. On it was written, "In memory of Maj. Robert Soltes. Killed in action Oct. 13, 2004; husband, father, and Soldier."



## Coalition Partners



**Story and photo by  
Maj. Dana S. Minor**  
Task Force 344 Public  
Affairs

**ABU GHRAIB** — Abu Ghraib is a place that can be described as drab. Army olive and sandy brown are the colors that dominate, but an Army dentist has tried to change that by bringing a little Aloha to the prison hospital.

Col. (Dr.) Mark Chun, the officer in charge of the dental clinic, has replaced the faded blue surgical scrubs the dental staff ordinarily wears with brightly printed



**Members of TF 344 don their new "Aloha Scrubs", a tropical version of the normal faded blue surgical smocks.**

"Aloha scrubs."

The scrubs are meant to be worn on Fridays to mimic the Hawaiian tradition of "Aloha Friday," according to Chun, who was originally assigned to the 9th Regional Readiness

Command's 1984th U.S. Army Hospital at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

The smocks combine subtle shades of green with touches of gold for the dental team and blue with gold for the surgical team.

They are the creation of Chun's office manager in Hawaii, Kendra Wong, and her mother, Sandy Olayan, who donated the material and labor to make each scrub.

They chose the fabric pat-

tern, which uses various styles of palm fronds and flower petals throughout to mimic the desert camouflage uniform and still be recognizable as an Aloha pattern, said Chun. They made enough for the dental clinic and the hospital's surgical team.

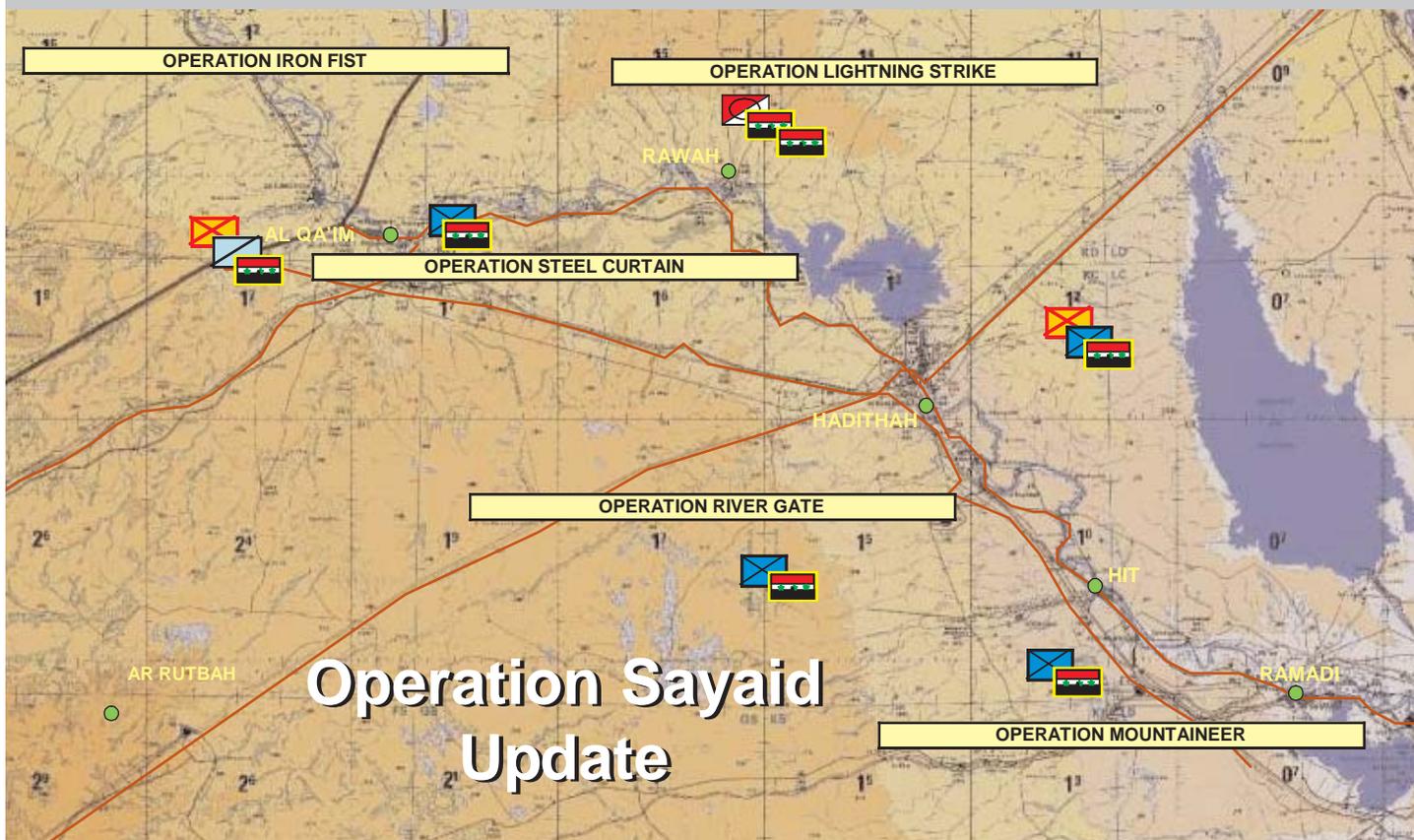
Chun was looking for a way to help build unit cohesion and a spirit of teamwork within the dental section when he hit on the idea of Aloha smocks.

"In a land of desert dirt and dust, it's nice to look forward to a bit of paradise, and paradise for me is home, and my home is Hawaii," said Chun.

# ISF INCREASINGLY IN THE LEAD

As of Nov. 5

DIVISIONS							1
BRIGADES			 	 	  	  	5
BATTALIONS	     	        	        	        	        	        	36
	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	Total



## Soldiers remember Soldiers, share experience with allies

By 1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK —

Soldiers, Airmen and Iraqi Security Forces here stood together on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, to recognize all who have served their countries — past, present and future.

“Today, we remember the sacrifices of past military members and admit a new set of veterans into the annals of American history,” said Col. David Gray, commanding officer for the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

Leaders of the Bastogne Brigade made Veterans Day even more memorable by presenting the Soldiers of 1st BCT with a combat patch in recognition of serving their country and fighting for freedom.

“You couldn’t have a better day than Veterans Day to recognize Soldiers for serving their country in combat,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Rory Malloy, brigade command sergeant major.

As the Soldiers placed combat patches



**U.S. Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division’s 1st Brigade Combat Team and Iraqi Army Soldiers relax and celebrate the Veteran’s Day holiday.**

on their shoulders, Gray presented the Airmen with Bastogne Brigade coins in recognition of the support they gave the 1st BCT.

“Our Air Force brethren do not wear combat patches, and it was important to recognize their efforts,” Malloy said. “By giving coins, we shared an Army tradition that represents our unit’s lineage and history, and they truly deserve it.”

With Soldiers and Airmen standing with discipline on the parade field, and the seats full of distinguished guests from the Iraqi

Army and police forces, the annual holiday celebration was complete.

We wanted to show the Iraqi Soldiers that service to your country is honorable, Malloy said. “We wanted to show why we hold it so near and dear to our hearts to be an American, and we want them to be just as proud to be an Iraqi.”

Showing the Iraqi Security Forces that the Bastogne Brigade stands for discipline, honor and country was only half of the day’s events.

“The day’s celebration provided the opportunity for us to share some of our culture with the Iraqi Security Forces,” Malloy said.

According to Malloy, the Iraqis are always kind to the American Soldiers.

“They invite us into their homes, their work, meetings and events,” he said. “At every function, they always provide lunch and share so much of their culture with us.”

A typical Veterans Day barbecue was held after the ceremony.

“We can’t bring them to the U.S., so we decided to bring a little bit of the U.S. to them, along with a little bit of freedom,” Malloy said. “We were able to give them a snapshot of the American culture.”

## Coalition Soldiers uncover weapons cache

Story by Lt. Cmdr.

**Bartosz Zajda**

Multi-National Division  
Central-South Public  
Information

### AD DIWANIYAH —

Soldiers from Multi-National Division Central-South seized a weapons cache here this week.



**Grenades found at the cache.**

During the raid the following items were seized: 27 120 mm mortar grenades; two rocket-propelled grenades; 7 anti-tank launchers; 15 rounds of tank ammunition; 63 hand grenades; and 5 kilograms of high explosive material.

This was another successful operation to protect civilians from terrorist attacks.

A few days earlier MND-CS forces, in cooperation with 8th Iraqi Army Division, conducted an operation in the Babil Province.

These raids deprive terrorist groups of weapons and ammunition that would otherwise be used in terrorists attacks.



Photos by Senior Airmen Patrick Dixon  
**U.S. and Polish Soldiers uncover a weapons cache.**

**W**ork began on a public works and water project that will benefit approximately 20,000 residents in Mosul. The \$294,000 project to clean and maintain the Mosul sewer system in the Ninewa Province will renovate and replace the sewer system in the Nabe Sheet and Bab Al Jadeed neighborhoods.



# Coalition, Iraqi Security Forces' Operations Review



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

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces continue to disrupt and defeat Al Qaeda, foreign fighters and terrorists during more than 230 company-level combined Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces and 90 independent ISF operations throughout the country this week.

"Conditions are being set for the national election, which is one more milestone for the Iraqi people to reinforce the sovereignty they're building," said Maj. Brandon Robbins, operations officer, Multi-National Corps - Iraq.

Operations resulted in Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces locating and clearing more than 90 caches, capturing or killing of five bomb makers and clearing of nearly 170 improvised explosive devices.

Iraqi Army Soldiers and Marines, Soldiers and Sailors with Regimental Combat Team-2 began a new phase of Operation Steel Curtain, Nov. 14, by entering the town of Ubaydi.

Ubaydi, on the banks of the Euphrates



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Shane S. Keller

**Iraqi Security Force Soldiers pose with an Iraqi flag in a school they were protecting in Barwana.**

River, is only 12 miles from the Syrian border and was the site of Operation Matador last May.

Operation Steel Curtain began Nov. 5 in Husaybah with RCT-2 also clearing the towns of Al Karabilah and Sa'Dah.

RCT-2 comprises a special-trained Iraqi Army scout platoon called the Desert Protectors, elements of the 1st Iraqi Army Division and 2,500 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers.

As of Nov. 13, more than 100 terrorists have been detained and 33 caches have been cleared.

"The objective of Operation Steel Curtain was to restore security along the Iraqi-Syrian border and support the Coalition's efforts along the Euphrates River Valley," Robbins said.

"Ultimately our intent is to assist the ISF in establishing a permanent presence on the border and to set the conditions for a safe and secure

national election, Dec. 15."

Near Ramadi, Coalition air forces, acting on multiple intelligence sources and tips from local citizens, raided a suspected al Qaeda in Iraq terrorist mortar cache in the village of Qazwan, Nov. 10.

This cache of 50 82 mm mortar rounds, and a single mortar tube was directly linked to terrorist mortar attacks on

Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces in the Ramadi region.

Other significant operations conducted this week include Operation Wolf Stalk 2 that continues to disrupt terrorists' ability to carry out attacks in western Ninevah, while reconnaissance operations in northwestern Ninevah are identifying the needs of local residents and supporting legitimate economic and civic ventures.

"Several operations are out in sector to identify locations where CF and the Iraqi Transitional Government can focus on future stability and reconstruction efforts," Robbins said.

In Baghdad, Operation National Unity, an ongoing operation by Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces to root out terrorists in the Baghdad area, continues to meet with great success, said Task Force Baghdad officials.

"Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers are bravely carrying out their mission to provide a safe and secure environment for the democratic process to grow in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Robert Whetstone, Task Force Baghdad spokesperson.

"Terrorist activities continue to attempt



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Neill A. Sevelius

**An Iraqi Soldier looks through a scope in Husaybah, during Operation Steel Curtain.**

See OPERATIONS, next page

## Operations

from previous page

to derail that process, while Iraqi Security Force and Coalition Force successes occur daily.”

In one 96-hour period alone, this month, Task Force Baghdad conducted more than 1,030 patrols, carried out 100 cordon-and-searches and raids, and set up more than 400 tactical

### MNF-I Operations Summary: Nov. 8 - 14



Courtesy photo

**Combined operations: 221**  
**IEDs found and cleared: 167**  
**anti-Iraqi forces detained: 264**  
**foreign fighters captured**  
**or killed: 24**  
**Weapons caches found**  
**and cleared: 91**

checkpoints during aggressive combat operations throughout the capitol city.

Iraqi Security Forces, working with U.S. Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, conducted a two-part operation to capture terrorists and search for illegal weapons in Zafaraniya, Nov. 6 and 9.

Four suspected terrorists were detained in Operation Slap Shot, Nov. 6.

The men are suspected of involvement with a terrorist group notorious for kidnappings and executions.

The U.S. Soldiers conducted Operation Fast Break, Nov. 9, which resulted in the seizure of illegal ammunition.

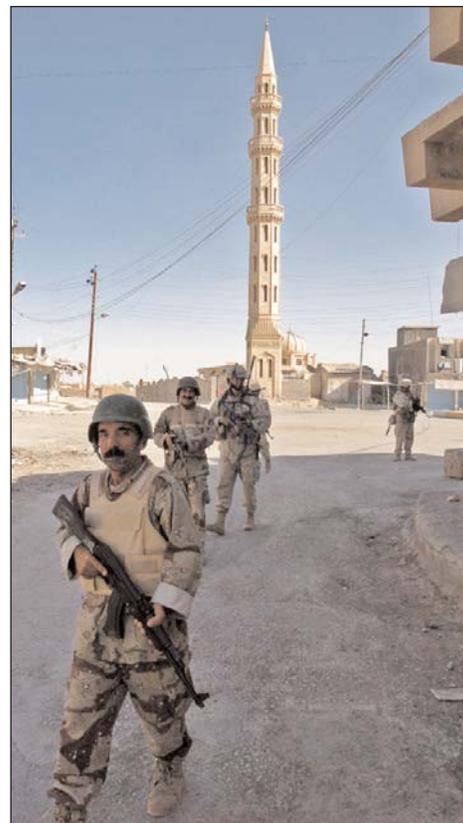
The Iraqi 2nd Public Order Brigade played a major role in the execution of this operation.

“The 2nd Public Order Brigade is increasing in efficiency and effectiveness every day — they grow with each mission they conduct,” said Maj. Rich Ackerman.

“Operationally they do very well, and today was a fine example.”

Operation Open Window, in the central south region of Iraq, continues to pave the way of handing responsibility of the area to the 8th Iraqi Division.

“The way ahead is clearer,” Robbins said. “Senior leaders of MNC-I have integrated with Iraqi Ground Forces Command and continue to look forward to those crit-



Courtesy photo

**Iraqi Soldiers patrol the streets to keep residents safe from terrorist attacks.**

ical points where ISF will sustain themselves and take over battle-space responsibilities to keep up tactical and operational momentum.”

## Meeting the neighbors



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. James Wilt

**Crouched low, Sgt. Roger E. Tiapula, a communications specialist with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, pulls security as his patrol moves down a street in Tall Afar, Nov. 12.**

## Iraqi Highway Patrol opens a new academy

Story and photo by Ann Bertucci  
Civilian Police Advisory Training  
Team Public Affairs

**TAJI** — Efforts to train and develop the Iraqi Highway Patrol (IHP) were boosted with the Nov. 9 opening of the new IHP Academy. The new facility is designed to double the student capacity at the training site.

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali, deputy minister of interior for Iraqi Police Services (IPS), addressed the audience attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening, noting that the IHP stands side-by-side with the IPS and is a key to making Iraq safer and more secure.

Also attending the ceremony was U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson, commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team. Peterson said Iraqis are increasingly in the lead and assuming more responsibility for building the foundations of an effective government and police force.

"I applaud you for building, protecting, and serving your country," Peterson said. "I am proud of you, and I am proud to

serve with you in making Iraq a self-reliant Iraq for all Iraqis."

The IHP was established Oct. 23, 2004, as an independent, national police organization primarily responsible for securing the nation's highways and escorting key supply convoys. The IHP will focus on highway and major roadway security to ensure the safety of Iraqi citizens, international visitors, and the free flow of national and international commerce. There are 1,551 trained and equipped officers in a force that will grow to nearly 6,300.

Under the leadership of Ali, the IHP has increased patrols and checkpoints from its Baghdad headquarters to more than 120 patrols per week covering key roadways. Each patrol includes at least one IHP pickup truck with a pedestal-mounted machine gun.

"Many of our patrol vehicles mount crew-served machine guns so the IHP



**U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson and Iraqi Maj. Gens. Ali and Ghalib cut the ribbon for the new IHP Academy.**

cannot be outgunned by anti-Iraq forces and terrorists," said Ali.

The IHP officers may be considered "beat cops," with their area of responsibility being the highways. Trainees for the IHP complete the 10-week basic police training course before entering the IHP Academy for an additional four weeks of training that focuses on firearms training, traffic enforcement, driving skills, vehicle and building search techniques and traffic accident investigation.

## Poland donates 12 trucks to Iraqi Army



Courtesy Photos

**Polish Minister of Defense Radoslaw Sikorski and Maj. Gen. Othman Ali Ferhood, commander of the 8th Iraqi Army Division, sign documents during a ceremony in Multi-National Division Central-South Camp Echo, Ad Diwaniyah, turning over 12 "Honker" type vehicles made in Poland. It is one of the most popular military, small transport vehicles used in Polish Land Forces. The vehicles are the gift from Poland for the new Iraqi Army.**

# Secretary Rice stands up first PRT in Iraq

Story and photo by Polli Keller  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Gulf Region North

**MOSUL** — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a surprise appearance at the inauguration of the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Rice established Iraq's first Provincial Reconstruction Team on Veterans Day, along with Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, Deputy Regional Coordinator Clarence Hudson and Director of the National Coordination Team Greg Bates.

The ceremony took place on Forward Operating Base Courage, in Mosul, one day after the Ninewa PRT completed its initial training. This effort was led by Bates and certified by Maj. Gen. Robert Heine, Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office deputy director for operations.

Two more PRTs are being fielded in November to demonstrate a "proof of principle" and provide lessons for further implementation.

The PRTs are designed to lead the effort to build capability and sustainability within Iraq's provincial governments, eventually allowing them to function without Coalition assistance, officials said.

They said this transition to Iraqi leadership will be achieved by developing a transparent and sustained capability to govern, increasing security and assuring rule of law, promoting political and economic development, and by providing provincial administration necessary to



**Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a surprise appearance at the inauguration of the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team. Rice established Iraq's first PRT on Veterans Day, along with Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, Deputy Regional Coordinator Clarence Hudson, and Director of the National Coordination Team Greg Bates.**

meet the basic needs of the population.

These efforts are essential to a stable democracy evolving in Iraq and increased stability spreading throughout the Middle East, officials said.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is fundamental to the success of the PRT in building capable and sustainable institutions for Iraq's local and provincial governments," said Col. Richard Jenkins, USACE Gulf Region North commander.

Maj. Mike Farrell is the USACE engineer officer assigned to the Ninewa PRT. When asked what was most significant to him personally, he said, "As a U.S. Army officer, I swore to support and defend the

U.S. Constitution. Now, I have the opportunity to help implement a constitution and mentor fellow engineers on providing for their citizens' basic needs.

"The USACE has been fundamental in executing the Iraqi reconstruction program," said Farrell. "Now, through PRT, we will be instrumental in helping the Iraqis learn to do it for themselves."

The Iraqis are first in the planning and implementation of reconstruction efforts because it is their future and they have both the responsibility and the

capability to make it work, Jenkins said.

The reconstruction program has become the front line in Iraq, Jenkins said.

Although insurgents have caused delays and damage — both in lives and increased costs for the reconstruction effort — the U.S. and Iraqi governments remain steadfast in their joint efforts to help rebuild Iraq, he said.

The PRT will help develop effective solutions to some of the challenges facing Iraq — an important step, officials said, as Iraqis take the lead in addressing their problems with the United States serving as a true partner.

**F**ive Hundred residents in the village of Shamtonia, Al Najaf Province now have fresh water with the completion of a new water compact unit.

**W**ork started on the Al Tahadi water transmission main project that will serve approximately 60,000 residents in Fallujah, Al Anbar Governorate. This project, scheduled for completion February 2006, is for design and installation of an underground 16-inch diameter distribution water main with appropriate valves from the Al Tahadi Water Treatment Plant (under construction) to the existing south elevated water tower.

**C**onstruction completed on a school for approximately 360 students in Diwaniyah District, Qadisiyah Province. This \$25,000 project added two classrooms and one bathroom to an existing eight-room school, providing a more comfortable and positive environment conducive to learning. In the Diwaniyah District, 70 percent of the 65 projects planned are completed.



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Shonnel Makwakwa

**Iraqi Army Soldiers give clothing to a woman in a rural farming area of Abu Ghraib as part of a joint operation between the U.S. and Iraqi Army.**



# Iraqis taking the lead



U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Michael R. McMaugh

**An Iraqi Soldier holds up backpacks to give to children in displacement camps in Husaybah, Nov. 7.**



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ronald Shaw Jr.

**U.S. Army Soldiers and Iraqi Army Soldiers wait for UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to arrive after their successful air assault mission in Baghdad.**



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Ave I. Pele

**Iraqi Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Forward Operating Base Fallock, conduct information operations with a local resident of Baqubah.**