

# The Adviser



Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq

December 2009

## ***NASIR*** **Expands Iraqi Sea Power**

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# The Advisor

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At the Al Bashir border fort, members of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq J7 toured one of two recently completed alternative energy sites. The solar panels pictured power a water well pump that provides 1,500 liters of water a day. Both the Al Bashir fort and Al Shiha outpost are proof-of-concept deployments of alternative energy solutions. They provide solar and wind generated energy to power communication equipment and other basic life support functions on the Iran/Iraq border in lieu of conventional generators or connecting to the national power grid. (Photo by U.S. Navy Lt. Ryan Schumacher)

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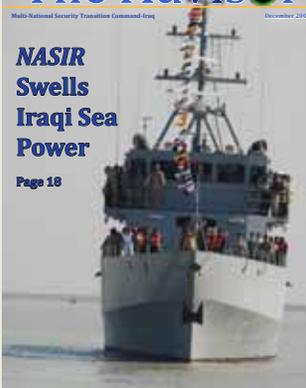
### DECEMBER COVER

Iraq welcomes the second of four patrol boats, the *Nasir*, at the port of Umm Qasr. See story and photos on page 18.

Cover photo by U.S. Navy Lt. Ryan Schumacher. Back cover photo from U.S. Marine Corps.

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**Air Force Capt. Kacey Grannis, 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, speaks with an Iraqi air force pilot after a mission. Grannis is the first female Mi-17 instructor pilot for Iraqi air force pilots at Camp Taji. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)**

## First Female Mi-17 Advisor Trains Iraqi Helicopter Pilots

By Senior Airman Alyssa C. Miles  
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – A female Air Force pilot who deployed from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., has earned the respect of the Iraqi male helicopter pilots she is training. Capt. Kacey Grannis, 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron, is the Iraqi air force's first female Mi-17 instructor pilot at Camp Taji, a job which she describes as one of a kind.

"My primary duty as an air advisor is to train, advise and assist their pilots by expanding their knowledge base," she said. "I'm an American Air Force pilot flying in an Iraqi air force bird built by Ukrainians with an Iraqi co-pilot in a combat zone. Everything from the challenges we have to deal with, to the rewards that we reap from our relationships with the Iraqi co-pilots and the sheer 'cool' factor of the flying we get to do is rather unique."

In the Iraqi military female pilots are scarce, and upon notification their new advisor would be female, some Iraqi pilots doubted Captain Grannis' ability to handle the helicopter's large frame. However, the captain decided to let her skills speak for themselves.

"There have been other female air

advisors, but not in this air frame," she said. For the guys I was flying with, I think they were maybe not really sure what I could do, but they were at least willing to let me fly with them and let me demonstrate my skills. I was fortunate enough to have the best training in the world, so I was able to do what I know how to do. I believe I've garnered the respect I needed."

"One of my very good friends here is a member of Squadron 4's leadership," the Sturgis, S.D., native continued. "He's one of the most experienced Iraqi pilots here – he's an absolute wizard in the Mi-17 and he's known for being skilled for hovering without the flight control assist system. When I first got here, he wanted to fly with me to kind of gauge my skills. As we were out flying, I asked him if we could do some hovering with the auto pilot off, simply because I knew it was something he would find valuable if I could do it properly. I feel like the fact that I was able to one – do it, and two – do it well, I feel like he responded well to that."

Captain Grannis, who has more than 50 hours in the Mi-17, trains Iraqi pilots who have many more hours in the aircraft than she.

"Pilots as a whole tend to be

competitive and respect number of hours and skill level," she explained. "The dynamic itself is very interesting – the pilots we fly with have a lot more experience in the aircraft specifically than we do; there are definitely things that we have as coalition advisors to learn from these guys. They are definitely the experts on the aircraft systems and the performance handling characteristics. However, we're not necessarily trying to teach them how to fly, we're trying to teach them how to employ the aircraft in ways that are different from what they've done in the past."

Outside of the learning environment, the Iraqis have come to view Captain Grannis as family.

"I get a lot of attention because I'm a female, but it's very respectful attention," she said. "A lot of times these guys kind of treat me like their little sister which is a great honor to me because I know in Iraqi culture, family is very important. I'm honored that these guys consider me a sister. But, I tell them 'outside the aircraft, I'm a woman, inside the aircraft, I'm a pilot. And because I'm your instructor pilot, you're going to do what I tell you to do.'"

One student who has responded well to the Captain's training is Iraqi air force Capt. Jabbar, who says he has no qualms working with another female advisor "if they are as talented as Captain Grannis."

"Captain Grannis is the first female pilot I've worked with," he said. "She's a very good instructor and she has good experience for training and teaching. She always gives good advice and she never gives up."

With the training he and his peers are receiving, Captain Jabbar has high hopes for his country.

"We're making good progress with our training, and I hope the Iraqi air force is a strong air force for this country," he said. "I wish peace for Iraq and I wish the Americans a good and happy life, and I hope they wish the same for us."

Captain Grannis does.

"This has been a great experience," she said. "I'm very fortunate to have been able to come here and meet all these great people. I'm honored to work with the officers, warrant officers and airmen of the Iraqi air force. Without exception, every one of them is highly patriotic and dedicated to the job they're doing and dedicated to the idea of a free peaceful Iraq, and I think that's amazing."



Iraqi Baghdad Police College students assemble in the early morning hours on the parade field to receive instruction on dignitary protection techniques.

# Rigorous Curriculum Challenges Baghdad Police College Students

Story and photos  
by U.S. Army Maj. Bob Owen

**BAGHDAD** – The Baghdad Police College demonstrated its course of instruction to visiting dignitaries here in November.

The training regimen began with the raising of the Iraqi national flag over the Baghdad Police College headquarters. The Iraqi Ministry of Interior band played while the flag detail meticulously raised the Iraqi national symbol over the BPC headquarters and sharply saluted. The national pride of these police officers was evident as the flag snapped in the cool, morning breeze.

Next, was a visit to the parade field where the students were already in uniforms, seated in the bleachers and receiving instruction on dignitary protection. Cars filled with special police and acting dignitaries suddenly came screeching to the front of the bleachers.

Officers with guns drawn emerged from the vehicles and escorted the dignitaries toward their destinations on foot, while more than 1,500 police students watched with eager anticipation. This training is critical as many of these students will go on to work in dignitary protection jobs when they graduate from the BPC.

The dean of the BPC, Maj. Gen. Riyadh Abdul Baqi Salman, came to the BPC as a student in 1981. “The training was tough, we ran everywhere we went,” he said. “Today as a direct result of our human rights training and our democratic ideals, we treat our students with respect and dignity, while keeping the training tough.”

As each location was visited presenters echoed a consistent theme: trust and respect. The students trust and respect not only the BPC cadre, but also the relationship that exists between the U.S. advisors and the instructors and leaders of the BPC.

“It’s all about trust and confidence,” said U.S. Army Col. Randy Twitchell, Director of the ITAM-Police BPC-TT. “Although the Iraqis have a very solid program here, if we make a suggestion on training issues, it’s that trust and respect that we have with our Iraqi counterparts that will determine how successful we are in getting those ideas implemented.”

After the dignitary protection training event, the students marched to the dining facility for breakfast. Orderly and very quietly, they got their plates and stood at the table waiting to eat until everyone got a plate. They sat down with arms crossed and a prayer was said. Ten minutes later, breakfast was over, all without a word spoken.

“We serve 3,000 students a day here in the dining facility for each of three meals a day,” said Safa, manager of the BPC dining facility. “We have 120 employees working here to serve these students and we make more than 30,000 loaves of bread

a day." The pride in his voice was evident as he talked about serving the students who will one day serve Iraq.

"We learned from your suggestions to hire a civilian company to serve the food and work our dining facility," said Riyadh. "This was a very good suggestion and ensures that our police officers and trainers are used to train students, not cook food."

Sitting at the head of one of the student tables was the class leader, Hayder Abass. He said that the best part of the police training for him was the sports and exercise. He enjoys keeping physically fit and, as class leader, promotes fitness for all his fellow students. "I would like to stay and teach at the BPC when I graduate here," he said. Many students expressed this same wish.

After breakfast the student conducted marching drills and practiced ceremonies on the parade field. These drills mold the students into a synchronized and harmonious unit.

The students practice cumulated with a "pass in review." With the battalion colors in the lead, the students marched past the parade stands.

The students also practiced martial arts for self defense. Black belt instructors barked out movements and the group moved in unison, snapping front punches

and double thrusts. The sound of their synchronized grunts accompanied their lunges and punches and foot movements. This training was intense and is designed to assist them to defend themselves.

In addition to the martial arts training, the students also conduct intense weight - training sessions using the U.S. donated bench press machines, dip bars, stationary bikes, leg presses, dumbbells, and other equipment. The intensity of the students' work out routines could be seen in their faces.

Before they headed back to their quarters, they were offered an opportunity for a quick stop at the PX for some snacks and drinks. The PX is staffed by students and provides shoppers with a few local items and comforts of home.

At the end of the day, the students retired to their sleeping quarters which are reminiscent of U.S. Army basic training barracks. Bunk beds paired with wall lockers lined up like wooden soldiers sparcely fill the space that provides the students with brief tranquility until it is time to begin the next very long day of training.

Twitchell addressed several classes as the tour of the BPC continued. The Personal Security Detachment training class was filled with exahusted young

students who had just completed a long day of training. "I can see that you are tired from your training today," Twitchell said. "Tough training is good and very important, especially with the jobs that you have. You must put your lives on the line to protect the people that you are entrusted to protect. Don't let them down."

Another milestone at the BPC is the first all-female class of Police officers. These women, who have college degrees, graduated Nov. 9. This graduation was viewed as such an important achievement, that the Minister of the Interior attended the ceremonies along with a host of senior Iraqi and U.S. military officers and ambassadors. This a step forward for the women of Iraq.

The BPC is paving the way for women in other sections as well in the Police Qualification Institute, headed by Iraqi Col. Sabah. He showcased the all female commissioner's class and talked about the importance of having females working on cases.

"Because of the culture here in Iraq, we need female police commissioners to help work cases," he said. "if a child is involved as a witness to a crime, they tend to ease up more around females and these women can get more information that can be used to make a case against the criminal."



**Baghdad Police College instructors perform demonstrations for the BPC students on how to properly protect a senior level Iraqi dignitary during vehicle movements.**



**(Above) The morning flag-raising detail renders honors to the national flag. (Below) Martial arts training is a vital part of the Baghdad Police College curriculum.**

Sabah is one of a group of MoI personnel planning to travel to the United States with Twitchell to see how U.S. police forces and military police forces operate. "I am looking forward to going to America and learning more skills that I can bring back here and implement into our curriculum," Sabah said. His female class is a major step forward in the way Iraqis think about security forces here in Iraq.

These instructors and students of the Baghdad Police College face a challenging future. First they must overcome the training, learn it, absorb it, and live it. Then after graduation, they will be out on the streets of Iraq, protecting its citizens and working towards that peace and stability that is needed for Iraq to succeed. From the efforts that were witnessed of the students on this day, they are taking that responsibility seriously.





(Left) Breakfast time at the Baghdad Police College is a very disciplined event with the students quietly eating and then returning to duty. (Below) The 9-month curriculum at the Baghdad Police College graduated its first class with female police officers.



# U.S. Air Force Teaches Old Pilots New Tricks

By Senior Airman Alyssa Miles

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** -- U.S. Air Force pilots from the 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron here train, advise and assist Iraqi helicopter pilots around the clock, helping the Iraqis further develop their air force.

U.S. Air Force Major Christopher Elam, Mi-17 instructor pilot, and Jack Swinehart, UH-1HP Huey military transition team lead, fly side-by-side with Iraqi pilots, fine-tuning their daytime combat skills and recently introducing them to nighttime flying with night vision goggles.

Elam said historically helicopter pilots routinely fall under the Iraqi army, but after the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Iraqis began to focus more on building their air force's rotary-wing flying capabilities.

"Many of the pilots we train are old regime kind of guys who are in a new program," said Elam. "They bring a lot of experience to the table, but they also bring old habits that we're trying to break and instill new habits. Since they've never had night vision capabilities before, we're starting from ground up, teaching them everything from how to operate NVGs, preflight them and maintain them.

The Mi-17 allows Iraqis to swiftly transport their troops and cargo and medevac their peers out of harm's way, as well as conduct counterterrorism missions.

Iraqi Maj. Ammar, Mi-17 pilot, has flown five different aircraft since 1983. With more than two decades of experience, he says he is still learning from the American pilots.

"I like flying because we get good information from the American side," said Ammar. "They are teaching us about goggles for flying at night. We've never done this before in Iraq. They're teaching us technical landings and how to attack targets. It's very important because we now have new information and

procedures for flight."

In addition to the Mi-17, Hueys provide the Iraqi air force a quick response time to counter insurgent operations, support ground troops and perform IED searches. Its small frame also has the ability to fly where larger air frames can't.

"The Huey platform was the first Iraqi air force aircraft to fly NVGs on missions, and shortly after, the Mi-17 began to do the same thing," said Swinehart. "The young guys who we're getting in now are really phenomenal pilots. They desire to fly and learn. These guys risk a lot coming out to do this job. It's easy to take for granted.

"Back in 2006, 2007, there wasn't one guy within this squadron who didn't have his life threatened for being in the Iraqi air force, so these guys care about what they're doing a lot," Swinehart continued. "They stake a lot – their life really – on coming out here and trying to make their country better and doing something with the skills they have, or are going to have."

However, before Iraq can benefit from the helicopters' capabilities, the Iraqi pilots must show they are capable of handling the aircraft. Several have proven their skills and are now instructor pilots alongside the American Airmen.

"We recently upgraded several more senior instructors to NVG instructor pilot in a small amount of time," said Elam. "We're here to help out as much as possible to achieve that end goal, but it's really about them doing for themselves. The successful air advisor recognizes that and doesn't perform missions for them, but guides them toward their development of their own mission sets and their own skill sets so that they can do it on their own."

"It's a real pleasure to get to come over here and do something meaningful in the Huey air fame and be able to fly combat missions," Swinehart said. "Hopefully [they will obtain] those foundational capabilities to maintain their air sovereignty in the future," he said.



**Air Force Maj. Jack Swinehart (left), 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron UH-1H pilot, oversees an Iraqi pilot performing aerial formation flying procedures. The major trains Iraqi students on approaches, take-offs, landings and remote operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)**



# Bull's Eye!

## *Iraqi AF Rains Hellfire; Leaves Brimstone*

By Cpl. Joshua Murray  
1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd)

**AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – For the first time since the re-formation of the Iraqi air force, an Iraqi pilot fired a missile from an aircraft, inaugurating a new age of air-strike capability for their nation.

A three-man Iraqi aircrew from Squadron 3 fired an AGM-114 Hellfire missile Nov. 4 from an AC-208 Cessna

Caravan airplane at a demonstration target on a bombing range here. They left nothing behind but heaps of scrap metal and debris.

The event marked a milestone for the Iraqi military as its members become increasingly responsible for their own security. The ability for Iraqi aircrews to launch missiles from the AC-208 increases their ability to support Iraqi security forces on the ground and achieves an

essential capability for an enduring Iraqi air force.

“The successful preparation and firing of the hellfire missile reflects the efficiency and the capabilities of the Iraqi air force,” said Staff Lt. Gen. Anwar Hamad Amen Ahmed, Iraqi air force commanding general. “We are willing to use this capability to deal with all the enemy targets and to hit the nests of the terrorists. These rockets will have a great

and active role in fighting terrorism in all parts of Iraq.”

After months of preparation, the Iraqi air force launched its missile strike and witnessed firsthand the value of such a powerful asset. As U.S. forces have proved many times, precision-strike capabilities can be a tide-turning element in combat, and now, if needed, the Iraqi air force has the ability to use the Hellfire on its battlefields.

“The capability is several years in the making and is a dramatic step forward in establishing the Iraqi military as a credible and effective force for defending the people of Iraq,” said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, commanding general, Multi-National Security Transition Command. MNSTC-I’s Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force provided helpful advice and training for this mission.”

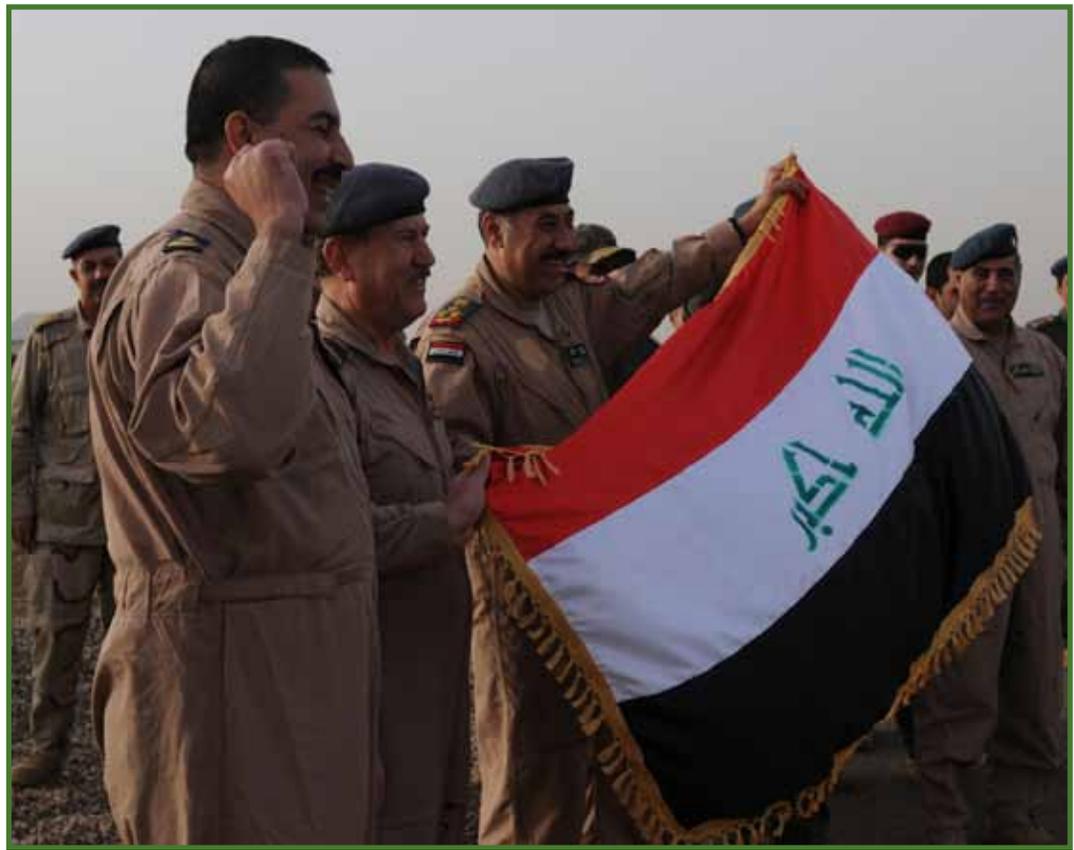
ITAM-Air Force wanted the Iraqis to validate and demonstrate the capability, and just like us, the [Iraqis] wanted to practice with a live missile,” said U.S. Marine Maj. Mark Franko, current operations officer with Marine Aircraft Group 26 (Reinforced).

“I’m extremely proud of both the Iraqi Air Force and our Advisor Team,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert Kane, director of ITAM-Air Force. “Together we have all worked hard to make this important day a reality. From the enlisted crews who loaded the missiles, to the aircrew who employed the system, to the air operations directors who integrated the entire sequence of clearance and authorization, this live-fire exercise was a perfect example of what a strong professional partnership between air forces looks like.”



Top: Iraqi pilots onboard an AC-208 Cessna Caravan launch a Hellfire missile; a chase plane shadows in background. Left: The Caravan used a laser-guided system to track the missile to its target. Below: The Hellfire missile screams away toward its target. Far Right Bottom: The Hellfire missile destroys its target. Far Right Top: Senior Iraqi air force leaders celebrate the successful mission. (Still photos and video screen captures courtesy of ITAM-Air Force)







# Rushing Forward: Iraqi Air Assault Advances

By Sgt. Alun Thomas and  
Sgt. Travis Zielinski



U.S. Army photos by  
Sgt. Travis Zielinski

**An AH-64D Apache attack helicopter (left) flies alongside an Iraqi UH-1 Huey (right), during a joint air mission between 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd Squadron of the Iraqi air force.**

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq**—The realization of a fully independent Iraqi air force and army came one step closer with separate joint flight demonstration and air assault missions with U.S. Soldiers in late October here.

The close relationship between U.S. military aviators and the Iraqi air force resulted in two AH-64D Apache attack helicopters and two Iraqi UH-1 helicopters flying in formation together on a mission over Baghdad, Oct. 21 to display the combined strength of the partnership.

A few days later, American and Iraqi ground soldiers conducted an air assault from their respective aircrafts, UH-60 Black Hawks and MI-17 Hip helicopters.

“Exercises like this illustrate the tremendous strides the Iraqi air force has made towards conducting fully independent combat air missions,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert Kane, director of Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force. “The integration of the Iraqi air force into joint operations with the Army is a key step towards full operational capability.”

The main goal of the Oct. 21 joint air mission flight was to reiterate the trust

between the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment of First Cavalry Division and 2nd Squadron of the Iraqi air force, said Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, from Baton Rouge, La., commander, 1st ACB. The two elements have been training together for six months.

“We want to show the Iraqi people, through this flight demonstration, that we’re linked together,” Dalcourt said. “Our relationship is solid and the Iraqi air force has emerged as a premier and pre-eminent force here in Iraq for movement of their troops.”

The joint air assault mission of Oct. 26 was noteworthy precisely because the Iraqi air force participated, said 1st Lt. Bradley Whitnell, executive officer for Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

“This is a pretty important event because we’ve managed to partner ourselves with the Iraqi air force,” he said. “This makes it the first truly joint American/Iraqi air assault across the board, from aviation all the way down to the ground units.”

For the Oct. 21 air mission, the U.S.

aviators stepped into the background as the Iraqi pilots ran the mission briefing and took the lead on the flight itself, showing the ability of the Iraqi air force to stand on its own, Dalcourt said.

“They are very competent pilots and many of them have upwards of 5,000 hours (of flying),” Dalcourt said. “They’ve fought in the Iraq-Iran war and they’ve been fixed-wing as well as rotary-wing aviators, so they’re very capable.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Frank Almeraz, a standardization pilot in 1-227th, said although the Americans offered assistance, the Iraqi’s briefed the bulk of the mission themselves.

Flying in formation shows the advances made by both sides, Almeraz said.

“From the first time we came here, this is the point we wanted to get to,” Almeraz said. “It shows the progress between the Iraqi air force and the [U.S.] Army.”

The joint mission was the first step in what Almeraz hoped would be a series of similar flights. “We want to continue doing these missions.”

Meanwhile, the air assault was also the result of extensive training between both



**Iraqi army soldiers rush out of an MI-17 Hip helicopter during a joint training exercise. The demonstration was a combined effort between the 3rd Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, the Iraqi army and the Iraqi air force to show the strength of Iraqi air-ground intergration.**

sides.

"It's a unique experience for us because at the ground level we've been integrated the entire time we've been out here," Whitnell said. "But in terms of across the spectrum, combined arms, this is the first real culminating event of the joint experience that we've seen."

Whitnell said the Iraqi ground forces have come a long way.

"They're at the point now where the intelligence driving the operation is Iraqi intelligence. We did a combined rehearsal with American and Iraqi aviation and ground forces, so in terms of their sophistication and capabilities it's really been impressive."

The air assault was a major milestone for the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Metzger, commander, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB.

"Today we have an assault battalion working with the Iraqi's for the first time," Metzger said. "We had a couple of training exercises, but this is the first time we'll do a real world mission with them."

"Hopefully this will get both countries working better for future missions so they can continue to expand their role on how they provide security for the Iraqi people," he said.

Metzger said the Iraqi's have steadily developed during the first half of the current 1st ACB deployment.

"The (Iraqi) pilots are super pilots, but then again we have to remember they're Iraqi air force, which is just like [U.S.] Air Force and Army learning to work together," Metzger said. "Here we have two different worlds. These guys are experienced pilots but they just haven't done a lot of air assault stuff in the last five to 10 years."

The air assault exercise would be a learning curve for the Iraqi pilots, Metzger said.

"It's something very new for them to experience air assaults into a [landing zone], so I think it will be a great capability for them to add to their arsenal," he said.

The training had taken a crawl-walk-run approach, Metzger said, but the air assault is definitely the run stage for the Iraqis.

"They are now running pretty fast," Metzger said. "This is a complex mission, but I think we have the right control measures and we absolutely have the right pilots both on the Iraqi and American side to make this work."



**Iraqi army soldiers from 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 37 IA Brigade, line up to load onto aircraft for a joint air assault mission. The mission was supported by UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters Iraqi air force MI-17 Hip helicopters.**



As an American AH-64D Apache attack helicopter hovers in the background, Soldiers from the 34th Iraqi army brigade stand in formation following an air assault exercise designed to show the strength of Iraqi air-ground intergration.



Under the morning sun, Iraqi army soldiers walk out to their aircraft to conduct a joint air assault mission with soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.



Iraqi river patrol police speed down the Tigris River while conducting training to protect riverways from crime and terrorism. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Clayton Murray)

# Kurds, Iraqi Fed Police Protect River Waterways

By U.S. Army Maj. Bob Owen

**BAGHDAD** – Since mid-November, eight Kurdish police officers have been training here with nine Iraqi police officers in the six-week waterborne operations course at the Baghdad River Patrol Training Center. The Kurdish river police students hailed from Dahuk, Irbil

and Sulaymaniyah.

The integration of Kurdish river patrol officers in the course, much like the joining of 40 Zerevani security force members with the Iraqi Federal Police Unit Training at Camp Dublin [See January 2010 Advisor], is another example how Iraqi Security Forces from all

sections of the country can successfully train together to build a stronger, united future for Iraq.

After completing the training with their Iraqi counterparts, the Kurdish students will return back to their local region for duty with police forces there.

Overall, this course is designed to provide Iraqi and Kurd law enforcement personnel with the skills and training necessary to function effectively as a member of a river patrol unit. The curriculum outlines the methods used to deployment of the 25 - foot Safe Boat and the mounted weapons onboard.

The main focus of the training has been on mission planning and waterborne interdiction, with challenging practical exercises throughout the course. In addition, the river police provide search and rescue, and safety patrol operations along the waterways of Iraq. Their efforts provide Tigris River users with a safe and secure environment in which to live, recreate and engage in business. Meanwhile, the river police remain vigilant to keep Iraq's waterways safe from terrorists.

"The river patrol section handles all calls for service within their scope of operation," said Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali



Iraqi river police scuba divers demonstrate the recovery of a sunken boat out of the Tigris River in Baghdad to showcase the importance of dive operations in the training curriculum. (Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Bob Owen)

Hadi Hussein al-Yasseray, patrol police commander. "The areas of responsibility include all navigable waterway areas of operations as assigned by the river patrol section supervisors."

Ali also talked about the commitment that the river patrol has to its duties. He said he is proud of the professionalism that the members of the river patrol show in their daily work. Human rights are a priority in the training of the river patrol, said Ali, adding that the training integrates all aspects of the rule of law.

Iraqi police Lt. Laith Muia'ad Abass Daud al-Taie, river patrol training officer, said he is most proud that the river patrol training graduates are fighters who are committed to protecting Iraq. After attending a course in the United States on river patrol techniques, Laith has extended this knowledge to his training.

Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq advisors, mentors and

**(Right) An Iraqi river police diver signals to his teammates the location of a sunken boat in the Tigris River. (Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Bob Owen) (Below) Iraqi river police ready for training exercises on the Tigris. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Clayton Murray)**

trainers have helped the river police to accomplish their training mission. There are two advisors at the river patrol. One is responsible for teaching waterborne operations, how to pilot the boats, and how to use the boats to conduct the operations. The second advisor is a highly skilled and qualified dive instructor responsible for the dive training. These advisors have teaching certifications required to conduct operations in search and rescue, safety patrols and counter smuggling.

Iraqi and Kurdish students receive "train-the-trainer" instruction at the river patrol academy and then return to their home units to train others.

Currently, there are 22 boats in four different designs in the Baghdad Training Center. They are used for regular operations and have various capabilities. These boats can be used to respond to missing person reports as well as engage in recover of drowning victims.

The U.S. advisors said they were most impressed with the Iraqis' ability to grasp these complex river patrol techniques and apply them to their own curriculum.

The Iraqis are also increasing their ability to overcome maintenance challenges, but as one U.S. Army Advisor said, "The Iraqis do a good job of keeping these boats afloat and running."





# Patrol Ship *Nasir* Joins Iraqi Fleet

Story and Photos  
by Navy Lt. Ryan Schumacher

**UMM QASAR, Iraq** - The Iraqi navy welcomed the Patrol Ship *Nasir* to its new homeport here in a ceremony Nov. 12. The *Nasir* is the second of four ships contracted from the Fincantieri Shipyard in La Spezia, Italy. The Iraqi-manned ship departed Italy Oct. 15, completing the more than 5,000 mile journey in about a month.

The ceremony included a naval review of the *Nasir* and several other Iraqi ships and boats, as well as a demonstration of boarding tactics and a synchronized diver demonstration. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James M. McDonald, deputy commanding general, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, spoke briefly at the event to highlight the importance of the *Nasir* in protecting Iraq's coasts.

"Iraq is in charge of its security," McDonald said. MNSTC-I's Iraq Advisory and Training Team-Navy continues to help train and advise the Iraqi naval force. MNSTC-I's goal is to assist Iraq in developing a capable and responsive force able to conduct maritime security



**Top: The *Nasir* passes in review at Umm Qasar. Above: The crewmen of the *Nasir* prepare to dock following the naval review.**

operations in the region.

With more than 75 percent of Iraq's gross domestic product coming from revenues generated by its offshore oil platforms, Iraq has a keen interest in

protecting and controlling its territorial waters.

The ceremony ended with a tour of the *Nasir* for assembled guests and a brief cruise in the Shatt al-Arab waterway.



Top: Iraqi marines demonstrate a boarding operation. Above left: Two Iraq patrol boats render honors as they pass the guest pavillion. Above right: Iraqi divers conduct an aquatic demonstration with a patriotic twist. Bottom: An Iraq patrol craft underway during the naval review.



# Hauling a Target for Hellfire

A CH-53E Super Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 carries a target to a range for a live-fire exercise above Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, Nov. 4, 2009. Iraqi air force Squadron 3 used the target to test the AGM-114 Hellfire missile from their AC-208 Cessna Caravan aircraft. See story and photos on page 9.