

The Advisor



Jan. 5, 2008



To protect and serve

Iraqi National Police graduate
from first Carabinieri trained
course at Camp Dublin

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The Advisor

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The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.

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>> FROM THE COVER

An Iraqi national policeman provides security during a demonstration of building breach techniques during the graduation from Carabinieri training at Camp Dublin, Baghdad.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

>> IRAQI AIR FORCE: KINGAIR 350 DELIVERY



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

An Iraqi airman is reflected in the propeller of the Iraqi Air Force's newest aircraft. The Beechcraft KingAir 350 will be used as a light transport aircraft for cargo and distinguished visitors.

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Iraq bombing underscores need to pressure al-Qaida

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Jan. 1 suicide bombing at a Baghdad funeral highlights the need to keep up the pressure on al-Qaida in Iraq, a senior U.S. military officer said Jan. 2.

The al-Qaida attack “is further evidence of the nature of these extremists,” U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner, a spokesman for Multi-National Force – Iraq, told reporters at a Baghdad news conference. More than 30 Iraqis died in the blast, which injured nearly 35 others, according to news reports.

Bergner condemned the “barbaric” attack, noting it personifies al-Qaida’s indiscriminate violence and the group’s corrupt, extremist ideology that targets the innocent.

The Baghdad bombing, the general said, underscores the need to apply “continuous and persistent pressure” against al-Qaida and other terror groups that operate in Iraq.

Working toward that purpose, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces have killed or captured 51 al-Qaida in Iraq leaders, Bergner said. Ten of the most significant of these deceased or detained insurgent leaders were involved in weapons trafficking, murder, foreign-terrorist facilitation, hijacking, finances, bomb making and other activities, Bergner said.

Bergner also praised the tens of thousands of Iraqi citizen volunteers who have joined in the fight against al-Qaida.

“Together with the Iraqi Security Forces and this new group of leaders, we will continue to pursue those who terrorize the Iraqi people,” Bergner said. “We know it will continue to be a tough fight and one that will test the courage and the strength of the Iraqi people, the Iraqi forces, and the Coalition forces.”

Bergner praised the Iraqi people and their military and police forces for “standing up” and rejecting extremists like al-Qaida.

In 2007, surge-reinforced Coalition troops and Iraqi citizens’ groups, soldiers and police pushed al-Qaida operatives out of Baghdad and Iraq’s Anbar province, Bergner said.

“It has been a year of very tough fighting,” Bergner observed, noting that offense-minded U.S. troops often paid a price when attacking dug-in enemy fighters.

Coalition forces in Iraq “have pursued the enemy in places that had become safe havens and operating bases,” Bergner explained. Al-Qaida forces, he noted, often were in hard-to-attack defensive positions.

“So, the year that we have seen a significant amount of progress is also a year that has involved an enormous amount of sacrifice,” Bergner said.

At the start of a new year, Bergner predicted more battles ahead for U.S. forces in Iraq.

“All of us start this year with the full understanding that this is still a tough fight. It will continue to be a tough fight,” Bergner said.

U.S. forces in Iraq will face that challenge teamed with increasing numbers of capable Iraqi soldiers and police, as well as additional concerned-citizen groups that have sworn to fight al-Qaida, Bergner said. ■

what key leaders are saying

>> **U.S. ARMY GEN. DAVID H. PETRAEUS,**
Multi-National Force – Iraq commander



“The level of attacks for about the last 11 weeks or so has been one not seen consistently since the late spring and summer of 2005. The number of high-profile attacks, that is car bombs, suicide car bombs and suicide vest attacks, is also down by roughly 60 percent since their height in March.”

>> **U.S. ARMY COL. TOM JAMES,**
3rd Infantry Division’s 4th Brigade Combat Team commander

“Our operational concept is to attack and clear areas where extremists have been and establish a combined control base – Coalition force, Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police – to show the population that not only have we cleared your area, but we are here to stay, and we are here to help protect you.”

>> **U.S. ARMY COL. DANIEL BALL,**
3rd Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade commander

“You have a phenomenon over here right now called Concerned Local Citizens where these guys are manning checkpoints at the crossroads in their cities, making sure their streets are safe at night and during the day.”



Triple threat pressures al-Qaida in Iraq

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Having been ejected from Baghdad and its environs during the surge of forces, al-Qaida in Iraq is attempting to re-establish itself in regions north of the capital city, a senior U.S. military officer posted in Iraq said Dec. 26.

Yet, while al-Qaida scrambles to reorganize itself, the terrorist group is being pressured by a triple threat consisting of Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces and Concerned Local Citizens' groups, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner, a spokesman for Multi-National Force – Iraq, told reporters at a Baghdad news conference.

“We have to continue to pursue this enemy to prevent them from re-establishing themselves or creating new bases of operation.”

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Bergner

Multi-National Force – Iraq spokesman

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Multi-National Division – North commander, believes that some al-Qaida operatives who fled Baghdad are moving into his area of responsibility, Bergner said.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Timothy Kingston

An Iraqi national policeman stops to provide security during a joint dismounted presence patrol with U.S. Soldiers in Salmon Pak, Iraq.

“We have to continue to pursue this enemy to prevent them from re-establishing themselves or creating new bases of operation,” Bergner said.

Meanwhile, the 70,000 members of Iraqi concerned citizens' groups that have sworn to fight al-Qaida have proven to be powerful allies, Bergner said, as the capabilities and numbers of Iraqi soldiers and police continue to grow.

“The emergence of Concerned Local Citizens has been driven by and focused on providing security at the local level in places where other forces were not capable of doing it,” Bergner

explained. “At the same time that that’s happening, the capability of other forces to provide security, particularly Iraqi Security Forces, is growing.”

Iraqi security capabilities will be further augmented when some members of the concerned citizens groups join Iraqi Army or police units, Bergner said.

Through this process, Iraqi soldiers and police will be able to assume more and more

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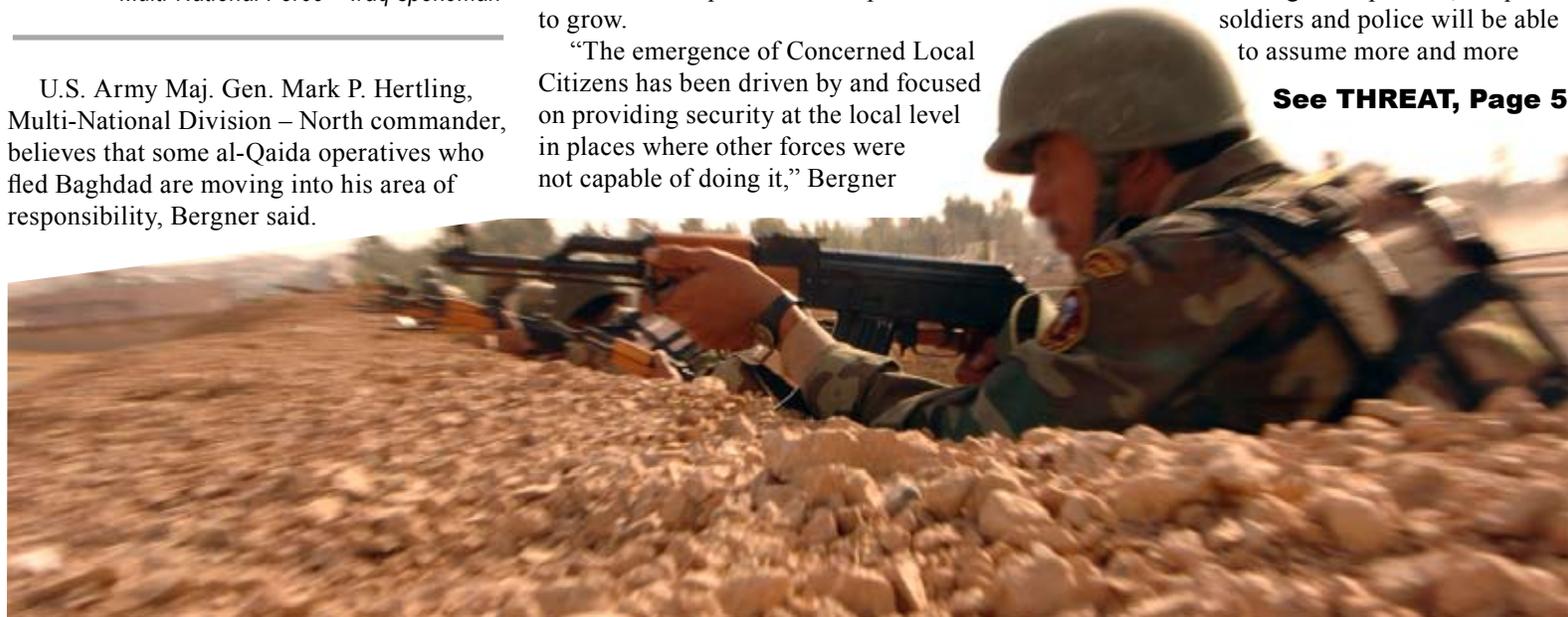


Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Kieran Cuddihy

Iraqi soldiers attached to the 2nd Iraqi Army Division take cover behind a hill during an ambush training class in Mosul, Iraq. The class is being taught by U.S. Soldiers from the 2nd Division Military Transition Team who assist and advise them on the fight against the insurgency.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Charles Gill

An Iraqi soldier from 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division meets some of the local children during a joint censing mission with U.S. Soldiers in Bakariya, Iraq.

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responsibility for security in their country, Bergner said.

Much progress also has been achieved on the Iraqi governmental front, said Phillip T. Reeker, Baghdad counselor for public affairs, who accompanied Bergner at the news conference.

Yet, "a lot more needs to be done" in the political realm, said Reeker, noting Iraq's leaders "need to take advantage of the space created through the surge" to achieve more national political progress.

Meanwhile, Multi-National Division – North and its Iraqi partners continue efforts "to pursue al-Qaida, to prevent them from establishing safe havens and operating bases," Bergner reported.

More tough fighting lies ahead against terrorists in Iraq, Bergner predicted, noting the Dec. 25 bombing north of Baghdad demonstrates the terrorists' desire to stage spectacular, brutal attacks in efforts to derail the Iraqi government. The Beiji bombing killed more than 20 people, including some guards at a housing area for oil industry workers and a number of women and children, according to news reports.

"This attack is further evidence of the nature of al-Qaida, their use of indiscriminate violence and their corrupt ideology that targets those who are

protecting Iraq," Bergner said. "We will work closely with Iraqi authorities to help them enforce the rule of law and bring the perpetrators to justice." ■



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Kieran Cuddihy

An Iraqi Army soldier attached to the 2nd Iraqi Army Division runs for cover during an ambush training class in Mosul, Iraq. The class is being taught by U.S. Army Soldiers from the 2nd Division Military Transition Team who assist and advise them on the fight against the insurgency.

Iraqi Army division receives ILAVs



33 Iraqi operators validated to operate V-hulled, life-saving vehicles in unit

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



TAJI, Iraq – The Iraqi Army 2nd Division was issued 33 Iraqi Light Armored Vehicles here Dec. 17.

The vehicle, also known as a Badger, is a V-hulled, mine protected vehicle similar to the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected

vehicles in use by the United States in Iraq.

The Badger will increase the unit's capability, said Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Montaser of the Iraqi Army's 2nd Division. "It's going to support our soldiers, and make them safe," he added.

"I'm sure my soldiers will be 100 percent safe."

Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Montaser
Iraqi Army 2nd Division

This is the second to last mass issue of Badgers, with 40 more being prepared for another Iraqi Army division.

The vehicles were purchased through the Foreign Military Sales program.

"They're really looking forward to them," said U.S. Army Maj. Clint Morris of the Coalition Army Advisory Training Team, about the 2nd Division's issue of the vehicles. "They're in some heated operations right now, and they really want them."

The 2nd Division's initial cadre of four driver instructors for the vehicle was trained in Taji by the contractor who supplied the vehicles. After their training, the Iraqi instructors went back to their unit and trained an additional 33 drivers in their unit.

Before the vehicles were issued to the unit, the contractor validated that each driver was knowledgeable of the armored vehicle they were about to operate.

Despite nearly 300 of the Iraqi Badgers on the road, the vehicle maintains a similar safety and survivability reputation with the American MRAP.

"I'm sure my soldiers will be 100 percent safe," said Montaser. ■

Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

Above, an Iraqi soldier inspects an Iraqi Light Armored Vehicle.

To the right, Iraqi soldiers inspect a piece that comes with a maintenance kit for the vehicles.





Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

IRAQI NATIONAL POLICE GRADUATION

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi National Police at Camp Dublin graduated 450 policemen from the Carabinieri trained Iraqi National Police course Dec. 18. This class is the first group to attend the eight week course of instruction. The first eight-week training course began Oct. 27.





Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

Iraqi National Police

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi National Police at Camp Dublin practiced door breaching and room clearing techniques learned from the Carabinieri trained Iraqi National Police course Dec. 18. This class is the first group to attend the eight week course of instruction. The first eight-week training course began Oct. 27. The police range from junior to senior level police. The training covered a wide range of policing areas from counter-insurgency to riot control. The training assisted eight battalions and will run for two years.



THE IRAQI AIR FORCE RECEIVES ITS FIRST FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AIRCRAFT AND MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO ...

TAKING OVER THE SKIES

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD – Aircraft that have never before been seen over Iraq have begun dotting the skies as the Iraqi Air Force continues to take flight across the country. The latest of these aircraft was unveiled Dec. 28 in a ceremony in which the Iraqi Air Force received a new, technologically advanced aircraft in Baghdad.

The Beechcraft KingAir 350 was the first aircraft to be delivered to the Iraqi Air Force through Foreign Military Sales, a process that allows the Iraqi government to purchase military equipment and supplies from other countries, including the United States, with its own money.

Additional KingAir aircraft, which are fitted with intelligence gathering sensors, will be delivered throughout next year, said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, Coalition Air Force Transition Team commanding general.

“These aircraft will fly critical training, airlift and surveillance support for the government of Iraq to fight the counterinsurgency,” he said.

Lt. Gen. Kamal, head of the Iraqi Air Force, echoed Allardice’s comments about the flexibility of the Iraqi Air Force’s newest asset. “This airplane is very good, and it can fly many missions,” said the Iraqi general.

Although the KingAir delivered Dec. 28 is not fitted with intelligence gathering sensors, it will be used as a light transport for cargo and distinguished visitors and as a training aircraft for Iraqi officers who will be piloting the airplanes.

“This aircraft arrived about four months in front of other aircraft so that we can train the pilots up,” said Allardice.

When the other planes arrive, the pilots will be ready to go right into the fight, he added.

Pilot training began Dec. 29 and will take place at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

The school will last approximately three and a half months for each class of pilots.

The first Iraqi pilot of the new KingAir aircraft, Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Jassim, praised the new plane.

“I feel really pleased that I fly this craft, because it’s very advanced,” Ali said. “For a long time, the Iraqi Air Force wasn’t able to get their hands on new technology because of the previous regime.”

The advancements in the twin-engine aircraft mean a longer range, longer flight time and an advanced avionics suite, which allows the aircrew to easily program flight plan adjustments while in the air.

“It will be an additional hand or two for the Iraqi Air Force,” said Jassim. ■



An Iraqi airman carries equipment by the Iraqi Air Force’s newest airframe, the Beechcraft KingAir 350.

Below, The KingAir aircraft parked in a hangar in Baghdad, Iraq.

Beechcraft KingAir 350 Specifications

Engines

Manufacturer: Pratt & Whitney
Model: PT6A-60A

Ceilings

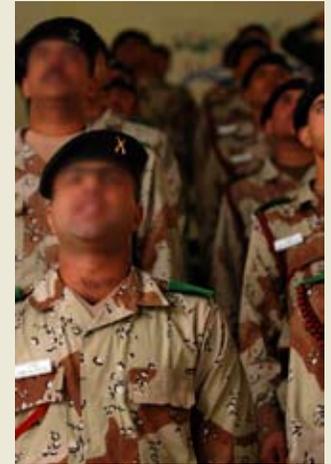
Maximum Certified Altitude: 35,000 feet
All-Engine Service Ceiling: 35,000 feet
Engine-Out Service Ceiling: 21,500 feet

External Dimensions

Overall Length: 46 feet 8 inches
Overall Height: 14 feet 4 inches
Wing Span: 57 feet 11 inches
Wing Area: 310 square feet



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATES OFFICERS

RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – The Iraqi Military Academy at Rustamiyah graduated 229 newly commissioned officers for the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Air Force Dec. 29. This class is the second group to attend the one year instruction, which is broken into three blocks: junior, intermediate and senior. Each block lasts approximately 15 weeks. The first block introduces the cadets to basic officer training and teaches them to work as a team. The next 15 weeks are spent learning academics and history. The final 15 weeks of instruction is based around exercises and exams. Out of the 229 graduates, 44 have been selected as pilot candidates and are slated to go into the Iraqi Air Force.





Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

Iraqi Secretary General Sabah, Ministry of Defence head of Budget, Execution, Acquisition, and Requirements – Operations Center, cuts the ribbon to the new office space dedicated to the center during the ribbon cutting ceremony held Dec. 30.

BEAR office opens

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD

– The Iraqi Ministry of Defence hosted the grand opening of the Budget, Execution, Acquisition and Requirements – Operations Center at the Ministry of

Defence headquarters here Dec. 30.

“This new office will help us keep updated records for every Foreign Military Sales case,” said Iraqi Secretary General Sabah, Iraqi Ministry of Defence head of the Budget, Execution, Acquisition and Requirements – Operations Center. “Representatives from all concerned offices will now be in one office to eliminate confusion.”

The center concept builds the confidence and capability of the staff by increasing the communication and cooperation between all offices involved in the procurement process. The office also allows for a centrally managed internal Ministry of Defence budget execution process for accountability of current contracts and Foreign Military Sales cases.

The Foreign Military Sales program manages government-to-government

purchases of weapons and other defense articles, defense services, and military training. The center will serve as an intermediary, usually handling procurement and logistics issues.

“An empowered and educated Ministry of Defence staff that communicates and coordinates with confidence will provide a more effective and transparent procurement and budget execution process,” said Paul Kavanaugh, Ministry of Defense Transition Team advisor.

Kavanaugh explained that the new operations center is a temporary, 12 to 15 month organization that will dissolve and return a more experienced staff to their respective directorates and sections to continue coordination.

The process in which the operations center will function is a quarterly leading and support period in which Coalition forces will guide the Ministry of Defence staff in gathering and tracking information vital to support the entire office.

The next quarter will allow the Ministry of Defence staff to collaborate with Coalition forces, working with them to manage daily activities to support the operations center.

The final three to six months will allow the defence staff to transition the process of their own, making adjustments to improve the process effectiveness.

Rick Greene, Ministry of Defence Transition Team advisor states that the proposed process provides for the future sustainment of the operations center as a permanent process hub within the Ministry of Defence headquarters.

“I like the idea of having a centralized location to find information about a Foreign Military Sales case,” said Sabah. “Anyone needing information can come here to find it.”

Sabah supports the operations center as it allows monitoring of transportation, delivery and receipt of equipment and supplies.

“I wish for all persons to know Iraq thinks for herself,” said Sabah regarding negative comments made about the purchases of U.S. materials. “We do not allow someone to tell us what our needs are.”

Sabah said the current process for approving purchases requires chain of command approval. This process eliminates frivolous purchases and allows support from all levels in the chain.

“We are a pioneering ministry to establish a Foreign Military Sales operations center,” said Sabah. “We target success and will not accept failure.” ■

MAN ON THE STREET

What have you done for the Iraqi Security Forces that you're most proud of?

U.S. MARINE MAJ. TODD A. FUJIMOTO,
MOI Strategic Logistics Planner

“I assist with coordinating MNC-I, MNSTC-I, and USM-I for engaging the GoI on strategic logistics initiatives for the Ministry of Interior and other programs such as scrap metal recycling and port development that will directly contribute to Iraq's economy.”



U.S. AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. DANIRA J. ESTRADA,
J-4 / MOD Property Book



“I am helping to build a foundation of accountability by maintaining the property book for all Ministry of Defence issued items. Items such as vehicles, individual combat equipment, weapons and ammo

– anything the MOD needs to support the Iraqi Security Forces.”

U.S. NAVY BU1(SCW) JONATHAN S. GARIGAL,
MNSTC-I Seabees

“I provide guidance and instruction to Iraqi construction workers on how to form, mix, place and finish concrete to contribute to the building of the Iraqi infrastructure.”



Concerned Local Citizens find weapons cache south of Baghdad

AL BUAYTHA – Coalition forces found and destroyed a weapons cache in Al Buaytha, and Concerned Local Citizens turned in another cache in Hawr Rajab during search operations Dec. 29.

Coalition Soldiers found the first cache in Al Buaytha, which consisted of a 120 mm mortar round, three RPGs and other IED-making materials.

The second, larger cache was found by CLCs and turned in to Coalition Soldiers. This cache consisted of eight 60 mm mortar rounds, two fire extinguishers filled with homemade explosives and 11 blasting caps.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Explosives found, hostage rescued during joint Saydiyah operation

WEST RASHID – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division - Baghdad Soldiers destroyed an abandoned house and rescued a kidnapping victim during clearing operations in West Rashid Dec. 26.

Iraqi Army and Coalition Soldiers found homemade and plastic explosives during the joint operation aimed at quelling unrest in the Saydiyah area.

Explosive ordnance disposal personnel remotely detonated the cache, destroying the unoccupied house. There was no collateral damage.

Iraqi soldiers entered a house in search of a crane operator who had been kidnapped days before. The man was taken to a Coalition forces' facility for medical screening.

Coalition Soldiers also found a cache of eight 120mm rockets, a 107mm rocket, a 105mm projectile, roughly eight pounds of homemade explosives, four canisters of an unknown liquid and a car battery with wires.

EOD personnel command detonated the cache.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi Police, U.S. SOF detain 2 suspected extremists in Ramadi

RAMADI – Iraqi Police and U.S. Special Operations Forces detained two suspected extremists during operations Dec. 24 and 25 in the city of Ramadi. The operations were part of a series to capture individuals believed to be involved in the capture of U.S. Soldiers earlier this year.

The operations were based on intelligence reports linking the two suspects to the May 12 abduction of three U.S. Soldiers following an ambush attack near Mahmudiyah. Reporting indicates that the two suspects have ties to al-Qaida in Iraq.

One of the suspected terrorists is believed to have facilitated the kidnapping and is reported to have used his residence to aid in the hiding and transport of the captured Soldiers.

During a previous operation, a U.S. weapon belonging to one of the abducted Soldiers was recovered at a residence of the second suspect.

Both suspects are allegedly involved in terrorist cells responsible for several IED and mortar attacks against Iraqi and

Coalition forces, as well as the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi citizens and members of the Iraqi Security Forces.

Four other individuals were detained for further questioning during the operations.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi SOF, U.S. Special Forces detain 2 criminal extremists

BA'QUBAH – Iraqi Special Operations Forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces, detained two suspected criminal extremists during a raid Dec. 24 near the Iraqi village of Abu Saydah as Saghir, northeast of Ba'Qubah in Diyala Province.

The two suspects are believed to be responsible for IED attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces, as well as the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi citizens. Additionally, the suspects are believed to have repeatedly targeted the families of Iraqi Security Forces for intimidation and forced civilians from their homes.

During the course of the operation, the assault force received small arms fire from an individual on the target objective. Iraqi and U.S. Forces engaged the individual, killing him.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi National Police discover 2 caches in mosque in Baghdad

RASHID – Iraqi National Police found two caches after receiving a tip regarding the location of terrorists near the Al-Kartheemain Mosque Dec. 24 in east Rashid.

When INP and Coalition Soldiers arrived, the suspected terrorists had fled into the mosque. The national police searched the mosque and found two caches. The first cache included 107 mm rockets. The second cache consisted of mortar rounds, plastic explosives, TNT, grenades and other components needed to make improvised explosives.

The cache was recovered by explosive ordnance disposal personnel for disposal.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

ISOF, U.S. Special Forces detain terrorist weapons dealer

BAGHDAD – A Iraqi Special Operations Forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces, detained a suspected terrorist weapons dealer during a Dec. 25 raid in Baghdad.

The suspect is believed to deal in a variety of weapons systems including mortars, rockets, medium and small arms. He is also thought to be a possible IED cell leader.

During the raid, the assault force recovered several weapons including two assault rifles, four grenades, three combat knives, 11 AK-47 magazines, an RPG launcher sight and an IED initiation system. An explosive ordnance disposal team determined the munitions were unstable and destroyed them at the site.

During the course of the operation, an explosive breach caused a secondary explosion, which significantly damaged one of the structures at the target objective. The explosion was caused by IED making material stored within the structure.

– *Multi-National Corp – Iraq Public Affairs*