

The Daily Roar

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION - BAGHDAD

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Violence decreasing, thanks to reconciliation efforts

By Spc. Elvyn Nieves

113th MPAD

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Iraq – Northwest Rashid hayy (community) leaders; senior Iraqi Security Forces leaders and Iraqi government gathered in a reconciliation meeting, at the Baghdad International Airport, to find solutions to their problems Jan. 6.

These meetings began in September and, due to the progress made with security in the communities, are now being held once a month for the leaders to share ideas on how to tackle violence in their respective areas.

“These meetings have been exceptionally helpful in assisting us reduce the amount of violence in West Rashid,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, commander of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment “Black Lions,” 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

“Before we started these meetings, we had a significant level of violence, but with these meetings and the cooperation of the leaders the violence has dropped dramatically, so we want to continue with the momentum of the reconciliation process,” said Frank a Cuba, N.Y. native.

Part of the success with these meetings is how they are conducted. During the meetings the Black Lions show each leader specific community problems with security in their area, whether it is indirect fire, small arms fire or improvised explosive devices. The leader is among his peers when his area is

shown and discussed, which adds some peer pressure on him as the problems are addressed.

“We found peer pressure is also a way to reduce violence in these areas,” said Frank. “The Shia and the Sunni have not normally fought the way we’ve seen recently, so bringing them together into a forum like this has assisted in the dialog between those two groups.”

Now they would like to take it to the next level, to turn the economy around by providing jobs to their citizens and providing essential services like electricity, trash removal and sewers, Frank said.

“Our number one goal is to stabilize security,” said Frank. “If we can provide that sustainable security in west Rashid, then we will have achieved their goal successfully.”



By Spc. Elvyn Nieves 113th MPAD

Northwest Rashid Hayy leaders along with Iraqi Security Forces and government representatives attend a reconciliation meeting Jan. 6, between Shia and Sunni to discuss problems in their communities and the progress achieved so far. Thanks to reconciliation meetings of the local leaders of west Rashid, Iraqi Security Forces and government representatives the violence have decreased significantly in the area.



by Pfc. April Campbell 27th PAD

A quick explanation

ALBU HAYAT, Iraq - Fayetteville, N.C., native Col. John H. Hort, center, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, explains the Detainee Release Program to townsman in Abu Hayat, Iraq, Jan. 14. The visit with the townsman was the last stop in a day spent getting to know the Iraqis in the operational area of Istaqlal, a district north of Baghdad.



The Player of the Day Award is presented to Petty Officer 1st Class Johann Lux for outstanding performance while serving in the G9 section. Petty Officer 1st Class Lux initiated a staffing action to decrease the cost of contracts for Multi-National Division-Baghdad. His recommendation to reduce contract overhead costs would save more than \$1.5 million per month. His initiative and dedication to duty make him Jan. 15 4th Inf. Div. Player of the Day.

Baghdad Three Day Weather Forecast

Thursday
Clear
HI: 53F/12C
LO: 30F/-1C



Friday
Overcast
HI: 53F/12C
LO: 32F/0C



Saturday
Partly cloudy
HI: 57F/14C
LO: 35F/2C



The Daily Roar

Multi-National Division - Baghdad
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Submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs NCOIC guadalupe.stratman@mnd-b.army.mil and include author's name, rank, unit and contact information. The *Daily Roar* reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the paper.

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Alleged counterfeiter arrested

4th IBCT PAO, 1st Inf. Div.

BAGHDAD –Tips led Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers to arrest an alleged extremist in southeastern Rashid Jan. 14.

Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, from Vilseck, Germany, attached to Task Force Dragon, arrested a man sources claimed was an al-Qaeda counterfeit identification maker during a raid in the Hadar neighborhood of the city.

The suspected counterfeiter was taken to a Coalition Detention Facility for further questioning.

Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers are conducting offensive operations in support of Operation Phantom Phoenix to kill or capture Al Qaeda and Shia/Sunni extremists in order to deny them rest and sanctuary in the city of Baghdad and the surrounding rural areas. AQI terrorists and other extremists are the root cause of the most horrific attacks against Iraqi civilians, security forces and coalition troops.

IA braves winter chill to transfer authority

By 1st Lt. Robert Riggs
1st Battalion, 28th Infantry

Iraqi Army Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division braved the cold weather to assume responsibility of northwest Rashid from the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division in a transfer of authority ceremony at the Joint Security Station Black Lion Jan. 14.

Even though multiple local leaders from Furat, Jihad and Shurta attended the ceremony everyone's attention was clearly focused on the Iraqi Army Soldiers.

Even the chilly winter weather couldn't dampen the spirits of the Iraqi Soldiers as they watched several of their peers receive awards for their hard work and dedication.

"It's always amazing to see how much receiving an award means to the Iraqi Army Soldiers. It shows their commitment to making Iraq a more secure and safe country that will be recognized in future generations," said 1st Lt. Charles Wyatt, a Black Lion medical officer from Atlanta.

Both Iraqi battalion commanders as well as their brigade commander made short speeches but the most powerful moment in the ceremony came as Col. Ahmed, commander 3rd Bn., 2nd Bde., 2nd IAD, passed Lt. Col Mahmoud, commander, 1st Bn., 2nd Bde., 11th IAD, a chrome-plated pistol and a copy of the Iraqi constitution.



courtesy photo

Col. Ahmed, commander, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division shakes the hand of Lt. Col. Mahmoud, commander, 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 11th Iraqi Army Division, during the transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 14 at Joint Security Station Black Lion in northwest Rashid.

During U.S. Army ceremonies a passing of guidons or uncasing unit colors usually takes place but Iraqis ceremoniously pass a pistol.

"The pistol is a symbol of the military battle space owner, while the constitution is a symbol of the responsibility that the Iraqi Army has to provide security for the people," said Nebraska City, Neb. native, Capt. Ryan Roberts, the commander of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion,

28th Inf. Regt.

After the ceremony ended, the Black Lions presented Ahmed with a cast iron Black Lion to symbolize the friendship shared between the IA and U.S. Soldiers.

"This symbol of friendship will remind our Soldiers of the times they spent in Baghdad fighting together with the Americans for a better Iraq," Ahmed said after receiving the gift.