

The Advisor



March 1, 2008



Stoppin' 'em in their tracks

Iraqi National Police graduate
from Camp Dublin to keep
Iraqi citizens safe

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The Advisor

>> Volume 5 >> Issue 5

A semimonthly publication of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq

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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 searches a suspect for weapons during a simulated traffic stop scenario used by Carabinieri trainers to ensure the students understand the concepts taught during the ten week course.



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Erica R. Gardner

>> IRAQI AIR FORCE: KINGAIR 350 FLIES HIGH



Photo by U.S Air Force Senior Airman SerMae Lampkin

An Iraqi KingAir 350 prepares to take off to complete the first Iraqi flown sortie in the KingAir aircraft in Kirkuk, Iraq. The KingAir is the most advanced aircraft in Iraq's arsenal and enhances the abilities of this reborn air force.

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Pause should not slow down troop's return, Gates says

Patraeus, senior leaders expected to brief President Bush on progress in March

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

EN ROUTE TO CANBERRA, Australia – A short pause after the initial withdrawal of five brigade combat teams from Iraq should not sideline efforts to bring more troops home by the end of the year, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Feb. 21.

"My hope still is that we will be able to further draw down our troops in Iraq over the course of the next 10 to 12 months. I've always indicated that it will be based on the conditions on the ground," Gates said during an interview with media traveling with him.

The secretary said that commanders on the ground persuaded him during his recent visit to Baghdad that there needed to be a period of consolidation and evaluation after the five brigades leave to determine if commanders on the ground can sustain and even improve on recent security gains.

"My hope would be that it would be a relatively brief period, but we will see in greater detail what General (David H.) Petraeus has in mind when he brings his recommendations back to Washington and to the president next month," Gates said.

Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force – Iraq, and other senior leaders, including the U.S. Central Command commander and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will brief Gates and President George W. Bush on their own perspectives on the direction that war efforts need to take.

Gates said the evaluation from the three top officers' perspectives is needed to accurately direct any future troop movements in the region.

"I think that the consolidation and evaluation is probably necessary to be able to assess the pacing ... of any subsequent drawdowns," Gates said.

One of Gates' challenges before he leaves his post at the end of this administration will be to try to get the war in Iraq to a place where commanders can continue a process of gradual drawdowns.

"Some levels of U.S. forces, significantly lower than right now, will need to remain in Iraq for some period of time for stabilization, to continue the fight against al-Qaida, to continue training and equipping the Iraqi forces," Gates said. "I think that, that is ... on track."

Gates also is working to get a longer-term strategy for the war in Afghanistan approved by NATO and other heads of state, he said.

"It's important in terms of looking well beyond this administration and seeing what we can do to bring greater allied unity and commitment to the kind of long-term effort that is going to be required in Afghanistan," Gates said.

what's our **vector**?

In the last column of "What's our Vector?" we discussed the two bangs for the buck we get from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's indirect approach to building the Iraqi Security Forces: Improved Iraqi Security Forces and improved performance in the Iraqi security ministries. In this column, we will take a closer look at how focusing on the twin goals of force generation and force replenishment have affected the Ministry of Defence.

First, it is worthwhile to examine the tremendous growth experienced by the Iraqi Army in 2007 and how the simple fact of that growth influenced other facets of the entire security enterprise. In all of 2007, the strength of the Iraqi Army grew by approximately 60,000, or roughly 60 percent. Just over 40,000 of those soldiers were added in the last six months alone. The army added two division headquarters, three brigade headquarters and 10 battalion headquarters in that same six-month span.

That magnitude of growth presented enormous administrative, logistical, and planning challenges for the Ministry of Defence. In order for that growth to occur, many things had to happen. First, those soldiers had to be recruited. Then they had to be fed, trained, paid, equipped and assigned to units. These are just some of the essential tasks involved in running an army. Each of these requirements posed new challenges and resulted in process improvements within the Ministry of Defence. For example, in response to increased training requirements, Iraqi leaders in the ministry made the decision to ultimately create a training center within each Iraqi division's area of responsibility, and much of that construction is ongoing. It is not accurate to say everything is progressing flawlessly, which is really an unrealistic expectation. The point is that the generation of new units forced the ministry to address a myriad of new problems and issues. Their progress may be uneven, but the overall picture is undeniably one of improved ministerial capacity.

Likewise, the decision to transfer over 4,000 armored Humvees from the U.S. Army to the government of Iraq is expected to produce a similar strategic impact. Many of these vehicles will go to the Iraqi Army, and once the army receives them, it will be immediately faced with a new set of challenges to make the most of its new capability. These vehicles will have to be distributed, maintained and fueled. Drivers, mechanics, and fuelers must be trained and assigned to units in the right numbers. Decisions must be made on which radios and weapons systems will be installed. Maintenance facilities and motor pools must be built. The ministry must allocate the necessary funds to pay for all these decisions. Each of these processes will force the ministry to develop new capabilities or improve existing ones.

These are just two examples of the way posing new problems create new capabilities. Some capabilities develop faster than others, but the focus on force generation and force replenishment continues to yield strategic dividends. In the next edition of this column, we will take a closer look at the indirect approach at work in the Ministry of Interior.

Commander in Iraq expresses optimism about security gains

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Security contributions provided by surge-fortified U.S. forces and ongoing efforts by Iraqi soldiers, police and Sons of Iraq have combined to produce stability, a senior U.S. officer posted in Iraq said Feb. 22.

“The current security situation is stable, and I am optimistic about the future,” said U.S. Army Col. Tom James, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, a component of the Fort Stewart, Ga., based 3rd Infantry Division. The Iraq veteran and his unit deployed to Iraq in December.

A component of Multi-National Division – Center, James’ 3,000-member brigade is based at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, located near the town of Iskandariyah, about 25 miles south of Baghdad. Also known as Task Force Marne, James’ brigade is also responsible for security operations in Najaf, Karbala and Hillah.

The unit’s area of responsibility is about the size of Switzerland and contains more than 620,000 Iraqi inhabitants. James’ area encompasses north Babil province and stretches from the Euphrates River Valley in the west to the Tigris River Valley in the east.

The U.S. Soldiers work with Iraqi forces “to secure the population, interdict accelerants moving toward Baghdad, defeat extremists and neutralize resistance groups, primarily focused on defeating sectarian violence, and build capacity of the Iraqi Security Forces, government institutions and economic programs,” James explained.

James’ unit is also working to transfer security and local development tasks to Iraqi forces and local governments, he said.

Violence is down across his area of responsibility, James said. “Sunni extremists are severely disrupted,” he noted. “They no longer find sanctuary and support from the (Iraqi) population.”



Photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Seth E. Maggard

Iraqi soldiers carry the Iraq flag in formation during a ceremony in which Marines transferred authority to the Iraqi Security Forces in the city of Hit, Iraq, Feb. 14. A senior U.S. officer says that surge-fortified U.S. forces and local security groups are combining to produce stability in Iraq.

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Photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Seth E. Maggard

Iraqi soldiers salute during a ceremony where Marines transferred authority to the Iraqi Security Forces in the city of Hit, Iraq, Feb. 14.

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James attributed the improved security situation to the effects of the surge, improved Iraqi Security Force capabilities and the contributions of the Sons of Iraq.

“The five-brigade surge gave Coalition forces the resources required to concentrate combat power in extremist-dominated areas,” James explained. “That allowed us to occupy key terrain in these areas to avoid enemy re-occupation.”

Today, U.S. forces and Iraqi soldiers and police work together to expand upon those security gains and to keep the peace, he added.

The increase in security has boosted Iraqis’ confidence in the future, the colonel added, noting Iraqi citizens are providing more and more information about extremist operations.

“When the people know that Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces are living with them, they feel more comfortable providing information on extremist activity, and they feel more secure in their neighborhoods and homes,” James noted.

In addition, the performance of Iraqi soldiers and police “has improved significantly,” James said. “The difference between their capacity during my last deployment and now is truly amazing.”

Also, Iraqi citizens are tired of being terrorized by extremists and have stepped up to secure their neighborhoods, James pointed out.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jason T. Bailey

An Iraqi soldier sits in a truck used as a check point as U.S. Army Soldiers patrol in Rusafa, Baghdad, Iraq.

“The Sons of Iraq program employs local Iraqis to secure their neighborhoods under the supervision of local tribal leaders and overwatch by Iraqi Security Forces,” James explained. “We use these static security positions to thicken our security lines in areas where we cannot fully commit Coalition or Iraqi Security Forces.”

An Iraqi soldier attending the Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Course at the Iraqi Bomb Disposal School looks at a simulated bomb and forms the best plan to disarm it at a range in Besmaya, Iraq.

Iraq's BOMB squad

Iraqi Army, Police learn explosive ordnance disposal

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BESMAYA, Iraq

– Improvised explosive devices are one of the largest threats facing Coalition and Iraqi soldiers, and learning to defeat and disarm these threats has risen to one of the top priorities to leaders.

On the front lines of these battles are American explosive ordnance disposal soldiers and their Iraqi counterparts, Iraqi Police and Army members who have attended the Iraqi Bomb Disposal School here.

“IEDs are pretty much the biggest threat,” said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Fiorico, an American senior advisor for the Bomb Disposal School.

The impact that these Iraqi soldiers and policemen make on Iraq is huge, he added.

However, before the students can go out and make the impact, they must go through two blocks of instruction at the school, which will teach them different levels of demining and bomb disposal.

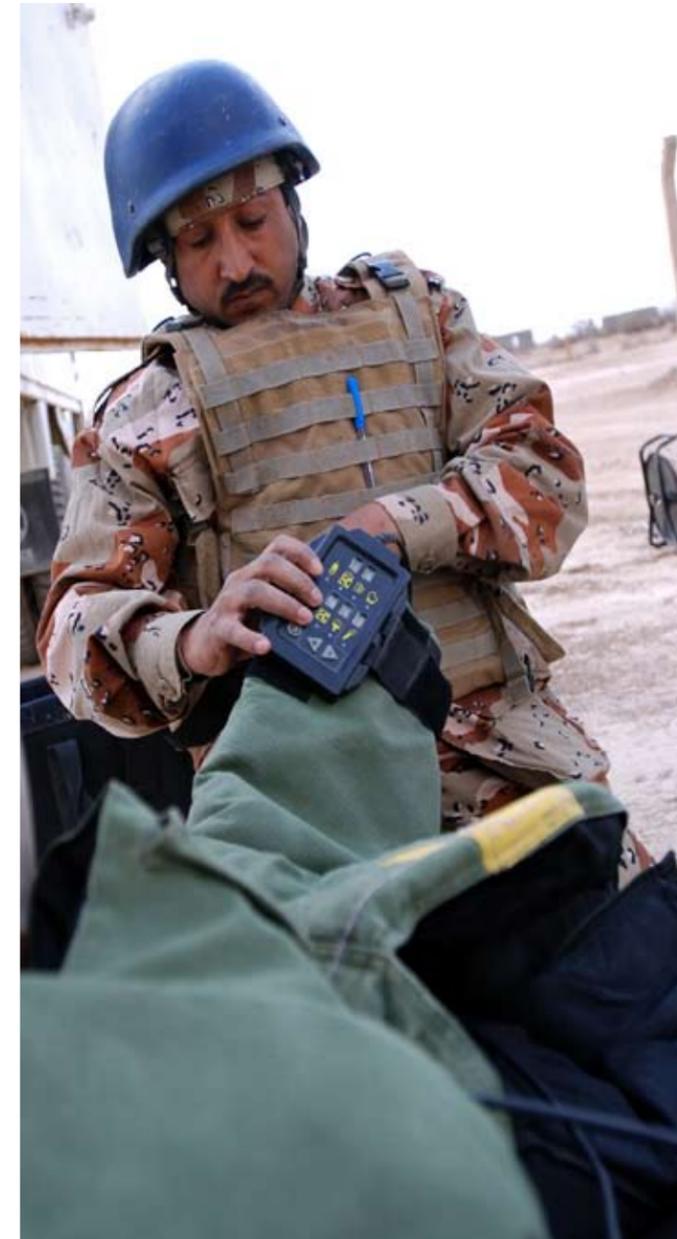
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Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost



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



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The Iraqi-led courses at the school train to international demining standards during the first level of the first block of training. Here, the students learn how to work mine detectors, how to probe, and how to look for trip wires. "Pretty much everything that has to do with the basic guy in the minefield and what he does – that's level one," said Fiorico.

The next levels of the basic block of instruction introduce students to defeating improvised explosive devices, supervision and advanced demolition skills.

Although the block is known as the basic block, the course is no walk in the park. Nearly 40 percent of the soldiers who begin the class don't end up finishing the course. The washout rate as it is known isn't much different than that of an American explosive ordnance disposal course, says Fiorico.

"It's the same way as the U.S.," he said. "With us, (IED defeat) gets a lot of people; here, (it) gets a

"We try to put in their heads that, 'Hey, you're not any old troop.' I'd say they leave here with a sense of accomplishment when it's all said in done."

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Fiorico
Bomb Disposal School senior advisor

lot of people too."

After the basic block is completed, the students move on to the Improvised Explosive Device Defeat block, which teaches the students advanced techniques to disarm the deadly devices.

In addition to the difficulties in the classroom, the students face stressors outside, said Iraqi Army

Col. Jassim, the commandant of the Bomb Disposal School.

"We are in the middle of Iraq, and most of the time the weather here is very hot, and our men are supposed to wear the bomb suit," he said. "This is required during the training and it affects the student's concentration."

Even with all these difficulties, the students are not alone in getting through the course.

"We work hard to push the students to get their qualification from this course," said Jassim.

The school graduates approximately 18 to 36 students every other month. Once the students complete the course, they move on to face one of the most dangerous jobs in the world.

In addition to disarming weapons placed by insurgents, the group also faces mine fields on the border of Iran, which were laid during the countries' war.

"We try to put in their heads that, 'Hey, you're not any old troop,'" said Fiorico. "I'd say they leave here with a sense of accomplishment when it's all said in done." ■



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

CARABINIERI-TRAINED IRAQI NATIONAL POLICE GRADUATE



CAMP DUBLIN, Iraq - Iraqi National Police graduated over 500 new police during a ceremony filled with marching, singing and scenario drills to show off the level of training received during the course here Feb. 19. The training is part of Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al Bolani and Iraqi Police Maj. Gen. Hussein, Iraqi National Police commander's program of continuous improvement of the national police. The training will also make the national police a better skilled, better led, and more responsive and caring force.





A fork truck approaches a C-130 that delivered weapons and equipment to Iraqi National Police and Iraqi Army units in Mosul, Iraq. The mission was the first-ever cooperative airlift between the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior.

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

Resupply

Iraqi Air Force airlifts weapons, uniforms to Iraqi Army, Police



An Iraqi flight engineer with the Iraqi Air Force's 23rd Squadron makes adjustments on the flight deck of the Iraqi C-130 as the crew flies supplies to Mosul, Iraq.

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

MOSUL

MOSUL, Iraq

— An Iraqi Air Force C-130 loaded with weapons and uniforms for the Iraqi National Police and Iraqi Army in Mosul, Iraq, landed at an airfield in the city to

deliver the supplies Feb. 16.

The supplies included nearly 1,000 AK-

47 assault rifles and uniforms.

“This is the first mission done by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence,” said Iraqi Army Staff Brig. Gen. Khalaf, Chief of logistics for Iraqi National Police in the Mosul area. “As you know, the transportation by air will supply us with security and speed, and we hope to continue with these missions in the future.”

The flight has an important significance to the Iraqi military as the C-130 used was maintained, flown and loaded all by Iraqi airmen.

“This is every day,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Brunworth, a senior advisor to the Iraqi Air Force’s 23rd Squadron,

which flew the mission. “This mission is showcasing Iraqi capabilities to go where they need to go when they need to go.”

The supplies loaded onto the aircraft were also purchased via Foreign Military Sales, a program in which foreign nations such as Iraq, purchase equipment and other military necessities from the United States with their own money.

The Iraqi airmen, based out of New Al Muthana Air Base in Baghdad, have been flying missions on their own C-130s for the past two years. In one of their largest missions, the airmen delivered supplies to the Mosul civilian airport in November 2007, allowing it to reopen and allow commercial flights to arrive and depart. ■





At left, Iraqi student pilots perform preflight checks on the KingAir aircraft prior to the pilots' first flight on the plane.

Below, U.S. Navy Cmdr. Guy Vilardi teaches a class of Iraqi KingAir student pilots flight basics about the aircraft.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman SerMae Lampkin



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

Kings of the Air

Iraqi pilots take the controls of their newest and most advanced air force aircraft

By **U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel**

506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs



KIRKUK, Iraq - The Iraqi Air Force 3rd Squadron here recently took another step on the path to establish a fully functioning airpower capability as Iraqi pilots took the controls of a KingAir 350 for the first time.

The KingAir is the most advanced aircraft in

Iraq's arsenal and enhances the abilities of this reborn air force.

"This flight signifies another beginning for the Iraqi Air Force," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Chris Spangenberg, 870th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron instructor pilot. "The KingAir gives them a 21st century capability that can be integrated into the overall mission with

ground forces. This first flight will open a whole new chapter in this quickly accelerating air force."

The aircraft will initially function to support training and distinguished visitor transport missions. As future aircraft arrive, the mission will also include intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions over Iraqi skies to spot insurgents and provide overwatch of critical infrastructure.

Iraqi pilots have already achieved some initial successes, as an all-Iraqi crew on a recent mission spotted several terrorists manufacturing improvised explosive devices. The crewmembers alerted Iraqi Police, who arrived on-scene soon after to impede the terrorist's efforts.

The KingAir expands Iraqi aircrews' ability to detect insurgent activity, such as attempts to damage power lines and oil pipelines, Spangenberg said.

The Iraqi Air Force was previously flying primarily Cessna 208 and CH-2000 aircraft to accomplish reconnaissance missions, but KingAir aircraft have

"I feel excited to get up in the air, because we are the first Iraqis to fly this type of aircraft."

*an Iraqi student pilot
Iraqi Flight Training School*

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several advantages, which make them the better option.

“The KingAir is faster than existing assets, allowing it to rapidly arrive on station at any location in the country,” he said. “It also has more endurance, allowing for longer on-station times. The KingAir also has a 21st century flight management system that is complex by any standard and requires much more training.”

The Iraqi pilots seemed energized to fly their first mission in the new “jewel of the

“The Iraqis are very competent pilots. We are now teaching them to fly and employ a new weapon system, which is always a challenge no matter how good a pilot is.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Chris Spangenberg
U.S. Air Force instructor pilot

Iraqi Air Force.”

“I feel excited to get up in the air, because we are the first Iraqis to fly this type of aircraft,” said an Iraqi pilot. “We consider this a step up from what we have been flying and thank the Americans for giving us this opportunity. We’ve trained hard to get here and had great cooperation with the U.S. Air Force the whole way.”

According to Spangenberg, the inaugural KingAir flight was a complete success, as the Iraqis took months of training to the sky in the name of their country.

“The flight went very well,” he said. “The Iraqis are very competent pilots. We are now teaching them to fly and employ a new weapon system, which is always a challenge no matter how good a pilot is. We will fly student sorties with the KingAir consistently for the next several months but look forward to the near future when two Iraqi pilots are sent out without an American onboard.” ■



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

Iraqi Air Force maintainers perform maintenance on the KingAir 350 aircraft prior to its departure from Baghdad during its arrival ceremony in December.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Jerry Saslav

Iraqi Army Gen. Naseer Abadi, Iraqi Army vice chief of staff, and U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James M. Dubik, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq commanding general, respond to students’ questions in a Baghdad-based video teleconference with high school students from Naperville, Ill., Feb. 21.

Students ask Iraqi, American generals questions on Iraq

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD

– Approximately 275 students from a U.S. high school in Illinois had the opportunity to ask questions to the Iraqi Army vice chief of staff and the

U.S. commander of the command tasked with assisting the Iraqi government in developing, training and equipping Iraqi Security Forces Feb. 21.

Iraqi Gen. Naseer Abadi and Lt. Gen. James M. Dubik fielded questions via video teleconference from 13 selected students in the Military History Departments of the Naperville North and Central History courses.

“This has been very exciting to me,” said Dubik, commanding general of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, headquartered in Baghdad. “I’ve been looking forward to it for about a week. It was a great set of questions and a great set of exchanges.”

The teenage students presented

the generals with thought-provoking questions that were on-par with questions asked at congressional hearings, including one regarding the withdrawal of surge troops.

“Is the success of the recent troop surge, in your personal and professional opinion, argument for extending the forces or pulling them out?” the student asked.

Both generals responded with honest, fact-based responses.

“My opinion is this,” said Dubik. “It’s not really an either/or kind of choice ... Knowledge is only useful for a certain amount of time. If in February 2007, you thought that the future was just a linear projection of the present, you’re going to make some wrong conclusions.”

“You could make an even equal mistake in saying things are good, and a linear projection of the future will be even better.”

Abadi added to the answer by saying that because of the surge, Iraqis are no longer afraid to talk to and tell security forces where to find terrorists and weapons caches. In closing comments, Abadi thanked the students for attending.

“The honor is all ours,” said the Iraqi general. “Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to the future leaders of America. God bless you.” ■

MAN ON THE STREET

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

U.S. AIR FORCE 1ST LT. KIRSTEN BETHANCOURT,
MNSTC-I / Logistics

“I procure equipment and weapons for Iraqi units so that the Iraqi Security Forces are properly equipped to train and fight.”



U.S. AIR FORCE TECH. SGT. DELMA EDWARDS,
MNSTC-I / Logistics



“I make sure the Iraqi security forces have the equipment needed for MOI (the Ministry of Interior) by traveling to the warehouse,

ensuring the ordered equipment is in the warehouse for delivery.”

U.S. NAVY LT. CHRISTIAN L. HEISS,
CPATT / Training Support

“I facilitate Iraqi Police training by helping to ensure each training center is capable of providing the complete training the police require.”



Iraqi, Coalition soldiers discover caches, spider hole to hidden room

YUSUFİYAH – Iraqi and American soldiers discovered four weapon caches in Yusufiyah Feb. 18.

Soldiers from the 6th Iraqi Army Division and the American Soldiers acted on a tip from a local citizen who was questioned by Iraqi soldiers.

The man admitted to being a member of al-Qaida in Iraq and told soldiers the location of the caches.

Each cache had several large plastic tubes buried vertically in the ground and loaded with munitions.

The caches contained approximately 400 60 mm mortar rounds, 300 82 mm mortar rounds, 50 120 mm mortar rounds, a complete 60 mm mortar system, seven ski masks, hundreds of mortar parts, 100 pounds of unknown bulk explosives and instruction manuals.

After collecting the munitions, the soldiers talked with a number of people who live near the cache sites, and one citizen showed the soldiers a large underground room.

– *Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers discover weapons cache, detain suspect in Karbala

KARBALA – Iraqi soldiers found a weapons cache and detained one suspect during an operation near Karbala Feb. 18.

An Iraqi quick reaction force platoon conducted the operation based on information from an Iraqi soldier.

The cache contained 19 grenades, five RPG rounds, one AK-47, four bags of TNT, one large metal container with fuses installed and one bottle of poison.

– *Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs*

Iraqi, Coalition soldiers discover cache, disrupt IED, indirect fire cells

LUTIFIYAH – A significant weapons cache was discovered after a joint effort between Iraqi and American soldiers north of Lutifiyah Feb. 19.

The Iraqi and American soldiers found a cache of weapons and homemade explosives after a citizen provided the tip and led the soldiers to the site. The cache contained various IED-making materials, multiple explosive rounds, firearms and documentation.

Six men believed to be connected to the cache were detained and brought in for questioning.

– *Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs*

INP, Coalition Soldiers conduct joint operation in Tameem

BAGHDAD – Iraqi National Police and Coalition Soldiers conducted an operation with the Iraqi Civil Conservation Force and Sons of Iraq in Tameem, a small village southeast of Baghdad, Feb. 18.

The operation led to the establishment of several SOI checkpoints, and allowed the Iraqi Civil Conservation Force to conduct cleaning projects in the village.

– *Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs*

Iraqi, Coalition security forces detain 27, discover 4 caches in operations

MOSUL – Iraqi Army and Coalition forces detained 27 suspects and discovered four weapons caches in the Ninewa Province in recent joint operations.

During these operations joint forces also rescued a hostage from an underground prison.

– *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Iraqi Police find more than 500 munitions in cache

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police manning a checkpoint near Jurf as Sakhr, Iraq, discovered a large weapons cache with more than 500 munitions Feb. 22.

The cache contained 240 60 mm mortars, 189 100 mm mortars, 107 fuses, three 82 mm rockets and two 88 mm mortars.

The police spotted three masked individuals digging approximately 250 meters from the checkpoint. By the time they arrived at the site, the individuals had fled. Further investigation yielded discovery of three cache sites.

Coalition soldiers and an EOD team worked with the police to prepare the site for disposal.

– *Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs*

ISF, U.S. Special Operations Forces detain nine suspected terrorists

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces, with U.S. Special Operations Forces advising, detained nine suspected terrorists in separate operations Feb. 24 and Feb. 25.

In Al Hawad, south of Mosul, Iraqi soldiers detained five suspected members of a terrorist cell Feb. 24. The suspects are believed to be responsible for IED attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces. According to intelligence reports, they are also allegedly involved in a campaign to intimidate Iraqi citizens.

In Balad, Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained a suspected terrorist Feb. 25 in an operation targeting al-Qaida in Iraq activities. The suspect is believed to be responsible for IED attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces, as well as weapons trafficking in the region.

In Kubaysah, an Iraqi SWAT detained three suspected terrorists in an operation to halt an insurgent cell believed to be responsible for attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers locate caches in Qarghuli, Shubayshen

BAGHDAD – Iraqi soldiers recovered three large caches from Qarghuli Village and Shubayshen and turned the munitions over to Coalition Soldiers at Patrol Base Yusufiyah Feb. 24.

In total, the three caches yielded one complete IED, 190 pounds of unknown bulk explosive, 40 pounds of dynamite, 74 82 mm mortar rounds, 18 122 mm artillery rounds, 38 60 mm mortar rounds, 400 additional projectiles between 23 mm and 155 mm, hundreds of assorted munitions pieces, several radios and documents.

– *Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs*