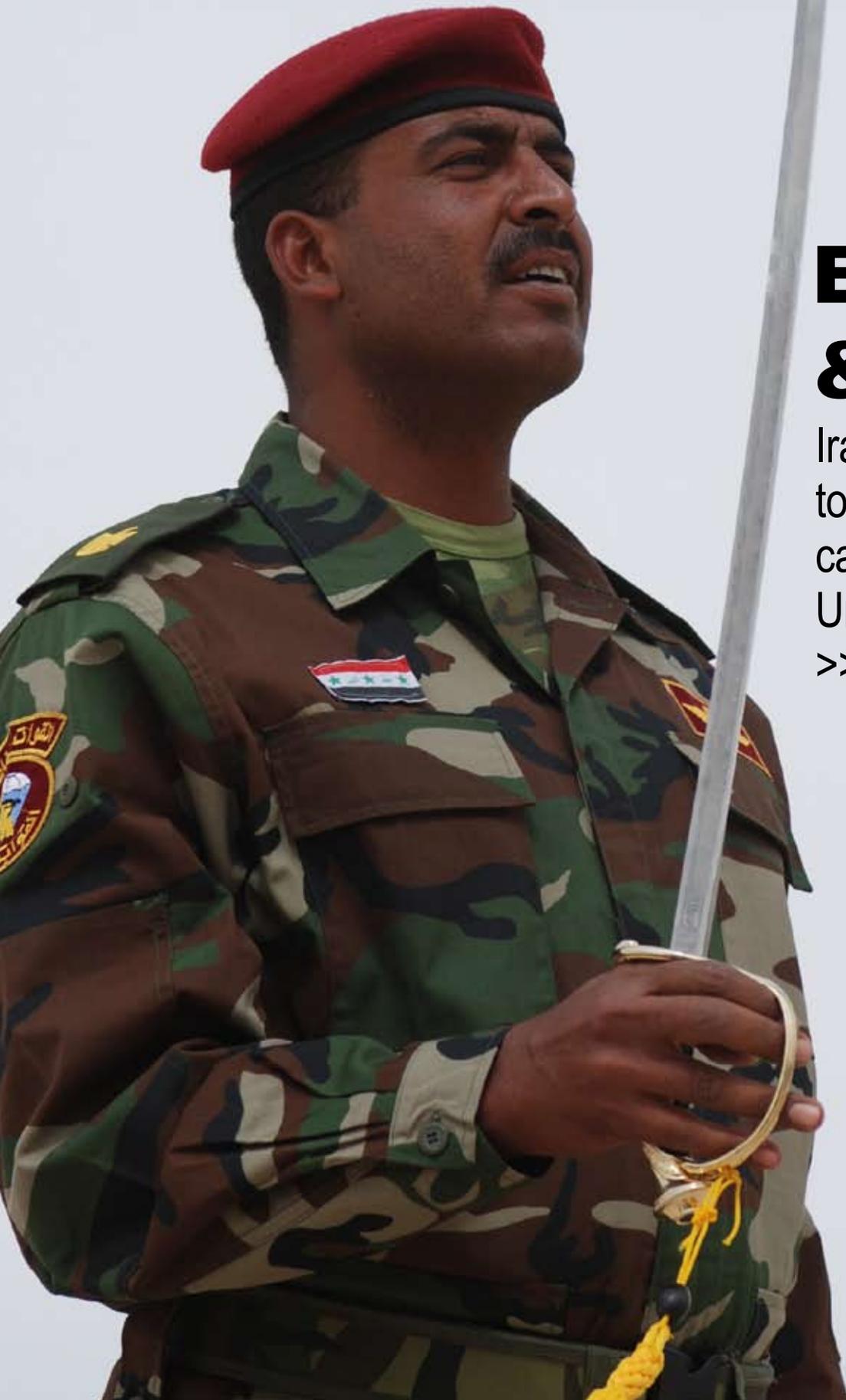


The Advisor



Apr. 5, 2008



Equipped & Trained

Iraqi Army continues to improve its fighting capabilities through Unit Set Fielding

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The Advisor

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>> FROM THE COVER

An Iraqi soldier presents his brigade to the official party prior to the start of their graduation from Unit Set Fielding in Besmaya Mar. 18.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

>> SENIOR ENLISTED LEAD THE WAY



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Charlene Sipperly

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Peter Burrowes, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, Iraqi Assistance Group senior enlisted, and Iraqi Army Command Sgt. Maj. Adel, senior enlisted leader, attend the first Noncommissioned Officer Education System conference to plan the way ahead in training the Iraqi Security Forces.

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Iraqi forces focus operations on criminal activity in Basra

By Samantha L. Quigley

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Iraqi Security Forces are focused on reducing criminal activity in Basra, Iraq, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner, Multi-National Force – Iraq deputy chief of staff for strategic effects said during a conference call from Baghdad with military analysts Mar. 28.

“In Basra, as you know, Iraqi Security Forces have undertaken operations specifically to improve the Rule of Law,” said Bergner. “They have been conducting operations in Basra now for days.”

The forces, about 3,500 troops, are working through the different districts of the city, where they have encountered some tough fighting that will likely continue, he said.

“They are being supported by the Coalition in the way that they typically and traditionally do,” Bergner said. That support includes transition teams, advisors and assistance with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Close-air and other forms of aviation support are being provided, as well.

“The Iraqi government has taken a very strong position in terms of dealing with criminal activity in the city,” Bergner said. “They have been very specific in pointing out that this is centered on criminal activity and not directed at a specific political entity or trend,” he noted.

Iraqi government officials are in agreement on Basra, he went on to say. “The presidency council today did issue a statement

“In Basra, as you know, Iraqi Security Forces have undertaken operations specifically to improve the Rule of Law.”

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner,
Multi-National Force – Iraq deputy chief of staff

supporting the action,” Bergner said.

Members of the Council of Representatives have been encouraging support for the Iraqi Security Forces and dialogue among the political parties to help improve the security situation, he added.

The general also briefly addressed recent attacks on the International Zone and other Baghdad neighborhoods. Support for those attacks comes primarily from “special groups,” which are relying on Iranian Quds force networks to supply mortars, training, funding and other forms of tactical direction, Bergner said. U.S. and Coalition forces are reorienting themselves to deal with those attacks, the general said.

“(Multinational Division – Baghdad), in fact, had some success again today at identifying some launchers and taking those out,” he said. “They are also conducting operations against specific cells and the individuals we think are involved in planning and conducting those operations.”

what's our vector?

In the last two issues of The Advisor, we discussed the two bangs for the buck we get from MNSTC-I's indirect approach we have taken to building the Iraqi Security Forces, and the impact the twin goals of force generation and force replenishment have on the Iraqi Army and the Ministry of Defence. In this column, we will examine how these goals have affected the Iraqi police forces and the Ministry of Interior—the governmental agency responsible for the police forces.

The Iraqi police forces are comprised of local police, national police and border security. Like the army, the police forces experienced sizeable growth in 2007. The strength grew more than 55,000 in 2007, or 45%, with nearly 40,000 of those forces added in the last six months. The increased strength boosts the capabilities of the police force, while simultaneously compelling the Ministry of Interior to improve its performance.

The police force is expanding security capabilities at the local (provincial) and national levels. The local police are developing their police college capacity so they can increase the training base in anticipation of and prepare for exponential growth. With satellite campuses and provincial academies, the training can be both standardized and locally available to the new recruits. Similarly, the National Police have undergone an extensive training transformation through a partnership with NATO and the Italian Carabinieri. Together they established a training program aimed at developing quality leadership and professionalism.

Generating and replenishing a quality force is stimulating ministerial development and improved performance. The Ministry of Interior recognizes the need for immediate institutional reform, to include legitimizing the Internal Affairs and Inspector General offices. The Minister has fired, retired, or arrested more than 1,100 people from the Ministry in 2007 for corruption, and has already opened that many (new) cases (in 2008) on alleged corruption. The Ministry is documenting standard police office requirements and expanding the training infrastructure to increase the size of the police force. However, the leadership capacity, in both quality and numbers, is not keeping pace with the growth of the force. Therefore, the Ministry is taking steps to improve education and professionalization as part of its effort to increase the officer and noncommissioned officer ranks. With improved leadership, the police force will also improve its standards. Improved leadership standards will greatly assist meeting the Minister's goal of removing corruption from the organization.

As the police force capabilities increase and overcome existing challenges, new challenges will emerge, such as sustainment of forces and equipment maintenance. The continued focus on force generation and force replenishment will give the police the ability to provide provincial security and afford the ministry the capacity it needs to make strategic security choices for the future of Iraq. In the next Advisor, we will take a closer look at the logistics and maintenance programs necessary to sustain both the army and police forces.

Iraqi soldiers of the 29th Brigade perform building clearing procedures at their Unit Set Fielding graduation ceremony in Habbaniyah Apr. 3. Unit Set Fielding is a practice that trains entire brigades to prepare them for the battle space they will be occupying.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

Iraqi Security Forces, ministries show progress

By U.S. Navy Seaman William Selby

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Iraqi Security Forces and government ministries have made vast improvements in the past year, a senior U.S. Army official in Iraq said Mar. 28.

“We really are seeing an improvement in the security situation here in Iraq, and we’re taking every opportunity to leverage and maximize the potential of that security,” U.S. Army Col. Micheal Fuller, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq chief of staff, said in a conference call with online journalists and “bloggers.”

Fuller said his command is working with the Iraqi ministries of Defence and Interior to help generate, sustain and replenish the Iraqi Security Forces.

“We take on trying to improve the performance of the two security ministries in just the way they go about managing and resourcing the Iraqi Security Forces,” Fuller explained.

Indicative of the security forces’ improvement, Fuller said, the Iraqi Army recently moved two brigades to Basra province to battle insurgents. “The Iraqis planned, coordinated it, and executed that move on their own,” Fuller said.



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

An Iraqi Air Force pilot walks away from a Cessna 172, operated by the Iraqi Flight Training School in Kirkuk, Iraq. The Cessna contains advanced avionics, which includes “glass cockpit” technology and a Garmin GPS system.

“This is just an indicator that the Iraqis are beginning to be able to step up to the plate and execute operations on their own.”

In addition to improving the security situation in Iraq, Fuller said, the “surge”

strategy implemented last year has allowed Coalition forces to spend more time training and recruiting Iraqi Security Forces.

The Coalition has generated almost

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124,000 new Iraqi soldiers, sailors, airmen and policemen this year, Fuller said. "We went out on the street; we recruited folks; we put them through the training phase; we equipped them; we armed them; we put them in units out there; and then we deployed them to where they needed to be," he explained.

Fuller added that Coalition forces will continue to build the remainder of the Iraqi counterinsurgency force so it can continue to secure areas where Coalition forces are pulling out.

The colonel also recognized the "Sons of Iraq" contributions - Concerned Local Citizens who help with security efforts.

"Right now we've got about 80,000 Sons of Iraq that have signed up," he said. "Many of them are not qualified physically to join the Iraqi Security Forces, but they're extremely helpful when it comes to pointing out who might be al-Qaida, or (an Iranian-backed) 'special group' member, or a plain old criminal that's been planting (roadside bombs) or caching arms and munitions."

Though the Iraqis are making significant progress, Fuller acknowledged three problems need to be addressed: logistics, leadership and sectarianism.

"Logistics will be a big focus item for us this year," Fuller said. He said plans call for all divisions in the Iraqi Army and police to develop an associated logistics support unit this year that will handle all of their classes of supply, their maintenance and their life-support issues. "That really gets us at the tactical level in solving some of the logistics problems," he said.



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

Iraqi National Police demonstrate breach and search techniques of a building during a simulated scenario at Camp Dublin, Iraq.

Fuller also addressed the lack of leadership inherent in building security forces from scratch. "When you grow forces this quickly, finding qualified and experienced leaders to lead these men into battle and women into battle is a challenge that we will continue to work through," Fuller said.

Sectarianism will continue to be a problem for the Iraqis for generations, Fuller said, because there is no easy fix for something so deeply rooted in a culture.

While the public can look at every statistic and tell that the security situation has improved significantly, Fuller emphasized the war is far from over.

"There's a fight that's still going on," Fuller said. "There is still an insurgency here that is alive and well, that has got a number of terrorist groups that we're still going to have to help our Iraqi partners deal with."



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

The Iraqi Police River Patrol cruise up and down the Tigris River in Baghdad. The River Patrol cruise the Tigris shores monitoring the areas for any criminal activity.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

An Iraqi Army instructor signals a driver to stop at the Driver Trainer Course in Taji, Iraq. The course consists of basic driving skills, understanding the instruments in the vehicle and basic day and night operations.

Iraqi soldiers and police graduate Noncommissioned Officer leadership class

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Charlene Sipperly

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq – The 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduated its third class of Iraqi soldiers and police here Mar. 24.

The graduates of the 15-day Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Course were made up of 24 Iraqi Police and 84 Iraqi soldiers making the academy's largest class of 110 students.

"What we're doing is assisting the Iraqi Army and police by giving them the basic skills they need to survive on the battlefield," said U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Henry Knox, Task Force Marne Academy commandant.



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Charlene Sipperly

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Williams, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq senior enlisted advisor, and Iraqi Army Command Sgt. Maj. Adel, senior enlisted leader, speak to the third graduating class of the 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy Mar. 24.



Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police salute at their graduation ceremony of the 3rd Infantry Division, Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Kalsu Mar. 24.

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy opened in January and teaches combat soldier skills such as map reading, combat orders, combatives, and check point operations. Its field training portion exposes the students to realistic training such as reacting to an improved explosive device and medical care procedures.

"The students like the map reading and the check point operations because what we do is place realism in the training," Knox said. "This will put them in an environment where they know what to do and what not to do."

Although the academy focuses on the military's noncommissioned officer, the leadership course is open to the ranks of private up to master sergeant.

"We take the junoud (privates) as well and that's important because the more we train them, the more effective they will be," said Knox. "All of this training is beneficial to the police because these are situations that they can find themselves in," Knox added.

The training covers check point operations, room clearing and IED procedures and provides suicide bomber scenarios.

The Iraqi Police produced the two top honor graduates from the Wasit provincial police headquarters.

"The training went well, and we are very grateful for it," said policeman Aiam Azez Hareb, the class's distinguished honor graduate. "We will take the good things from this academy to other soldiers when we leave here."

The ultimate goal of the academy is to train the Iraqis and bring back Iraqi instructors to train their own.

"This is what we need to grow our army, our new army," said Iraqi Army Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Adel to the graduating class. "We are building our army on the leadership of the noncommissioned officer. Our success will not come without you."



UNIT SET FIELDING



BESMAYA, Iraq — The Iraqi Army's 21st Infantry Brigade of the 5th Division graduated Unit Set Fielding from Besmaya Range Complex Mar. 18. The brigade is now fully equipped and trained to battle enemies of Iraq because of Unit Set Fielding, a process that takes an entire army brigade and gives the soldiers the equipment and training they will need to fight. Unit Set Fielding began back in Oct. 2007 to form the new brigades. Enlisted Iraqi soldiers are taken directly from basic training and are joined with Iraqi noncommissioned and commissioned officers at the site. Iraqis will conduct the training, which will consist of M-16 familiarization, close quarters combat, machine gun training and vehicle maintenance and operation. Much of the equipment that was fielded to this unit was procured through Foreign Military Sales including M-16s, 5-ton Cargo trucks and armored Humvees.



Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

Iraqi Air Force opens lines of communication

By U.S. Air Force Maj. Val Baker

Coalition Air Force Training Team



BAGHDAD

- The Iraqi Air Force director of communication recently conducted his third successful communications call at the

Iraqi Air Force Headquarters Building at Forward Operating Base Honor. Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ahmed personally initiated the communications calls held quarterly to bring the senior base communications leadership and staff together to discuss current and future Iraqi Air Force communications issues.

"I am a forward thinking leader for my staff," said Ahmed.

Ahmed's staff is growing and gaining experience daily in what it takes to run a modern and complex air force. Between communication calls, he travels to the different air bases to get first hand impressions of what is happening.

Ahmed believes base visits are very important, despite the challenges of travel.

"Base visits are my primary source of information and goal sharing, followed by



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

An Iraqi Air Force Cessna 172 aircraft sits at the Iraqi Flight Training School in Kirkuk, Iraq.

my communications call," said Ahmed. "Today is my third quarterly meeting."

Ahmed opened the communications call reiterating the importance of maintaining contact with counterparts from each of the Iraqi Air Force bases. Knowing the visions of each base can help when discussing challenges faced by each base commander.

"When we discuss our challenges," said Ahmed, "it allows us to understand each of the unique and similar issues."

Ahmed and his team realize the importance of communication and its direct and indirect affects on the counter insurgency fight.

Communication meetings are conducted with the most senior base communications commander providing a brief and end with the junior base commander providing a brief as a wrap up.

The New al Muthana Air Base commander has the advantage of being in charge of the oldest communications unit of the new Iraqi Air Force and has the most enduring mission. New al Muthana Air Base was the first Iraqi Air Force base to have aircraft. The C-130 supports the C-130 long-haul mobility, distinguished visitor, and heavy lift missions for the Iraqi Air Force.

The Taji Air Base commander is responsible for all communications involved with helicopter operations and the Iraqi Air Force Training School. Taji Air Base has the most personnel and assets working directly with the Iraqi Army divisions.

"We have had many recent successes which are recited and blessed," said Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Ziyad, Taji Air Base commanding officer.

Taji's air assets include Mi-17s, Bell Jet Ranger and Huey II helicopters. The members stationed at Taji are focused on battlefield mobility and heavy lift missions.

Each air base is challenged with the same issues of the lack of tools, training,



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

A Cessna Grand Caravan 208B sits parked at New al Muthana Air Base in Baghdad. The Cessna's current mission includes intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and a light transport craft for Iraqi dignitaries.

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parts, and spare parts.

Basra Air Field's commander speaks of the mission involving the counterinsurgency. Although Basra has the fewest air assets, their capabilities are used the most in a joint effort for the counterinsurgency fight. Iraqi Air Force Lt. Gen. Mohan al-Fireji, the southern region commander of joint military-police operations, has tactical control of the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance CH2000 air assets at Basra and actively uses them.

"We recently added Iraqi Air Force Mi-17s to Basra's air assets to enhance the current capabilities," said Mohan.

Kirkuk Air Base commander, the least experienced commander, is responsible for the Flying Training Wing's communications. The air assets at Kirkuk consist of CH2000, King Air and Cessna ISR platforms as well as the Cessna training platform.

The Kirkuk commander has ideas to combine Iraqi military efforts such as going out with the Iraqi Army and teaching them how to use the Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance ground station air picture and radios to communicate and capture the air pictures from the Cessna Caravan air platform.

Ahmed closed the communication call by providing an assessment of the challenges each Iraqi air base is faced.

"Challenges that were discussed are showing the care of the path," said Ahmed. "The path to success is winning the counterinsurgency fight, restoring Iraqi air sovereignty, control of their air space, and a capable and proud air force for Iraq."



An Iraqi Air Force crew chief marshals an Iraqi Air Force UH-1 Huey II at Taji Air Base, Iraq.

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



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

An Iraqi Mi-17 helicopter sits in a hanger at New al Muthanna Air Base in Iraq. The Mi-17 is currently being used as a transport helicopter for heavy lift missions for the Iraqi Air Force.



The Iraqi Air Force Academy graduated its third class of officers in a ceremony held at the academy in Taji, Iraq, Mar. 20. In attendance was Iraqi Air Force Gen. Kamal, Iraqi Air Force commanding general, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Brooks Bash, Coalition Air Force Training Team commanding general. The 25 newly commissioned Iraqi Air Force 2nd lieutenants will be heading into leadership positions in sensor operation and maintenance while several have been identified as pilot candidates. The academy teaches a four-month course where the cadets are taught basic military training, followership, leadership, weapons familiarization and drill and ceremony. They are also taught on the fundamentals of Airmanship, where the students are introduced to the basics of flying, including basic aerodynamics, aerospace physiology, weather, and life support.



Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony J. Koch

Iraqi National Police plan for expansion

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



CAMP SOLIDARITY, Iraq – The Iraqi National Police are planning to enhance one of their training bases. Improvements include renovating the headquarters building and new sewer connections throughout the compound. The renovations will better the current appearance, serviceability and improve training overall for the Iraqi National Police.

Iraqi Staff Maj. Gen. Bassam, Camp Solidarity Iraqi National Police commandant is anxious to improve the image of the base and provide additional training for new and existing national policemen in the immediate area.

“I want to improve the training facility,” said Bassam. “I want this area to be an educational and physical training facility.”

Bassam and U.S. Army Maj. John Broomhead, National Police Headquarters Training Team executive officer, discussed current training courses available to national policemen and the ability to add longer, more advanced level training to the curriculum to attract more students.

“Currently the school can support a staff of 600,” said Broomhead. “With the expansion of the school, up to 1,600 personnel can be supported.”

The academy goals are to instill professionalism and tough



A newly improved bathroom for Iraqi National Police training at Camp Solidarity is one type of improvement aimed at attracting new national police to the training facility.

physical training into each student, according to Bassam. The current training curriculum was designed for two large groups of students. The plans will have several small groups of students to provide a better understanding and teaching environment.

The types of courses that will be taught in the future will include weapons qualification, urban combative training, ethics training, communication and medical training.

Bassam explained some of the classes currently taught are not long enough for the policemen to grasp the full meaning.

“I have a lot of ideas about the training,” said Bassam. “I need to focus on training but I need more area to train more national police.”



Photos by U.S. Army Maj. Troy Kirby

Iraqi National Police march around Camp Solidarity during training missions held here. Camp Solidarity is trying to improve their training camp for additional national police courses to be offered.

Senior enlisted leaders plan the way ahead for Iraqi Security Forces training

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Charlene Sipperly

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – The Coalition Command Sgts. Maj. and senior enlisted advisors along with the Command Sgt. Maj. of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi National Police met together during the first Noncommissioned Officer Education System conference to discuss the way ahead for the standardization of training and doctrine for the Iraqi Security Forces’ noncommissioned officers Mar. 20.

“The focus of this conference was to give those senior enlisted leaders within theater a good lay down of what it is that we provide here at Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, in the way of training, especially noncommissioned officers,” said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Williams, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq senior enlisted advisor.

The conference pulled together a joint collaboration of war fighters, advisors and trainers and how each can work together for the training of the Iraqi noncommissioned officer.

“We wanted to show the divisional senior leadership how we’re made up and what we provide to their tactical forces in the way of assisting both Iraqi Security Forces of the army and the national police,” Williams said. “We are a tool for them in that process.”

Some of the conference topics included information briefs on the progression of the Iraqi Army, training trends and support, and school locations throughout the battle space. These training centers are available for use and support of the divisions’ training needs.

“Our organization’s enduring structure comes from the fact that its sole focus is to build Iraqi Security Forces, not fight within the battle space,” said Williams. “We are an enabler for all divisional units who rotate in and out of the battle space and actually have to do the fighting on the ground.”

The conference provided an opportunity for leaders to come together to bring focus and direction for the theater training components, and partner together with the divisional commands through out the Iraqi battle space.

“It was a good successful step, and we

discussed the problems that we have faced,” said Iraqi Army Command Sgt. Maj. Adel, senior enlisted leader. “We will go back and tell our commanders and we will find the solutions.”

This conference was an opportunity to bring together a partnership and tactical over watch of the training element, which provides training capabilities to each Iraqi Army division, and the advisor element, which advises Iraqi Army units, with the Coalition force partner unit that fights together with the Iraqi Army units on the ground.

“The better we train the Iraqis, the better the commanders can empower the noncommissioned officers,” said U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. William High, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq, Coalition Army Advisory Training Team, senior enlisted advisor.

“The better we train the Iraqis, the better the commanders can empower the noncommissioned officers.”

U.S. Army Cmd. Sgt. Maj. William High
MNSTC-I CAATT senior enlisted advisor

High’s advisory training team has the primary mission to train the Iraqi Security Forces throughout Iraq.

“Maybe it will plant the seed in the Iraqi officer corps to trust and empower the noncommissioned officer and give them an opportunity to lead,” High said.

The next step is to meet with a different divisional senior enlisted leader each month to spend quality time with them listening to their challenges and training needs for their area of operation.

“It’s not just ‘guys with guns’ as our commanding general puts it,” said Williams. “It’s the whole process to get guns in people’s hands so that they can be qualified to do the job once they get on the ground, whether policemen or soldiers.”

MAN ON THE STREET

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

U.S. MARINE SGT. JOSHUA ASSELIN,

Coalition Army Advisory Training Team / PSD

“I provide personal security for the commanding general of CAATT so he can travel to all Iraqi Army training sites to ensure the Iraqi military is getting the proper training required to stand on their own.”



U.S. AIR FORCE MAJ. JANETTE KETCHUM,

MNSTC-I / J-3 Movements



“I help move a few thousand people each month that support the Iraqi Security Forces by getting them out to outlying FOBs around Iraq to make sure they can do their job.”

U.S. AIR FORCE MAJ. PHELEMON WILLIAMS,

MNSTC-I / J-8

“I help finance the construction and building of Iraq’s infrastructure and police stations through obligating funds for the Iraqi Government’s Ministry of Interior.”



ISF kill seven criminal members, detain 16 in three separate operations in Basra

BASRA, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces, killed seven criminal members and detained 16 others during three separate operations in Basra directed by the Government of Iraq Apr. 3.

Iraqi Special Operations Forces captured a suspected Special Groups leader who has been rallying criminal members in Basra to fight against Coalition forces.

Intelligence reports have linked the man to the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi Army and ISOF soldiers. He is also believed to be involved in oil smuggling and foreign fighter networks.

During the operation, ISOF received heavy small-arms fire and two Coalition force vehicles struck IEDs. One IED temporarily disabled a vehicle while the other IED was ineffective. ISOF killed five armed fighters and detained 10 others during the operation.

– Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

Citizen's tip leads Iraqi Army to cache

BAGHDAD, Iraq – A tip from an Iraqi citizen led Iraqi soldiers to a weapons cache in Mahmudiyah Apr. 1.

The cache included two complete explosively-formed projectiles, four rocket-propelled grenades, a 60 mm mortar tube, a 60 mm mortar round and small arms ammunition.

The contents of the cache have been turned over to Multi-National Division – Center Soldiers for destruction.

Criminals who once operated in the area no longer have the support of the population as Iraqi Security Forces build on their capacity to enforce the Rule of Law.

– Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs

Sons of Iraq discover, turn in cache

TARMIYA, Iraq – In cooperation with the local sheik, Abna al-Iraq members, or Sons of Iraq, notified Multi-National Division – Baghdad of a substantial munitions cache northwest of Baghdad Apr. 1.

Coalition soldiers searched the area and discovered the cache consisting of more than 100 68 mm rockets, rocket fuses, helicopter rockets, 82 mm mortars and mortar fuses. The cache also contained more than 500 artillery fuses, empty rocket bodies, 155 mm artillery shells, 75 boxes containing hundreds of 14.5 mm heavy machine gun ammunition and nine large boxes containing loose 14.5 mm heavy machine gun ammunition. Fifty plastic green tubes containing an unknown substance, M-88 anti-tank mines attached to detonating cord, rocket-propelled grenades, AK-47 magazines, numerous loose small arms rounds and one copper cone-shaped charge were all found in the large cache.

An explosive ordnance disposal team evaluated the find and assumed control of the munitions cache.

– Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs

Iraqi Army, Coalition soldiers clear road of IEDs

MADERIYAH, Iraq – Iraqi Army and Coalition soldiers successfully cleared a vital road for local residents between Maderiyah and Kutimiyah Mar. 29.

As a result of tips from local citizens, a route clearance and explosive ordnance disposal team along with the Iraqi Army was able to identify and clear five IEDs from the road.

When Coalition soldiers first arrived, the road was impassable and the bridge between the two communities had been destroyed.

In addition, Iraqi tips in the area resulted in uncovering two 57 mm projectiles, a pressure strip initiating device and a 120 mm mortar with detonation cord.

– Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs

Iraqi Security Forces, Coalition forces conduct combined operation

JISR DIYALA, Iraq – Iraqi policemen from 3rd Brigade, 1st National Police Division, organized and executed a clearing operation here Mar. 29.

The Iraqi Police executed the mission with Coalition soldiers and local members of the Sons of Iraq.

The operation detained four criminals and recovered rocket-propelled grenade launchers, RPG warheads, dozens of AK-47 assault rifles and multiple rifle magazines.

JISR Diyala has been peaceful over the past several months allowing Coalition forces and the Government of Iraq to conduct electricity, water, sewage and road projects improving the area. But, after an increase in criminal activity Iraqi and Coalition forces took action.

– Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs

Iraqi Special Operations Forces kill 14 criminals in Basra

BASRA, Iraq – Iraqi Special Operation Forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces, killed 14 criminals here Mar. 31.

The operation was directed by senior Iraqi leaders in the port city of Basra. The ISOF planned and conducted the mission to capture and arrest the criminals in an abandoned school.

According to recent intelligence information, these criminals planted IEDs along the roads leading to the school. They also set up defensive fighting positions around the facility. The school was a staging point for armed assaults against Iraqi Security Forces as well as a storage facility for illegal weapons, ammunition and explosives.

The ISOF received small arms fire throughout the operation. Both ISOF and U.S. Special Forces returned fire while a Coalition aircraft provided additional requested close-air support. During the operation, 14 armed individuals were killed.

While clearing buildings next to the school, ISOF also found and released six Iraqi Security Forces members who were being held at the compound.

– Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs