

The Adviser



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Halting the violence

Iraq's National Police graduate more than 400 from Camp Dublin's Italian Carabinieri-like training >> Page 7



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>> FROM THE COVER

An Iraqi national policeman provides a show of force while performing a vehicle stop scenario during the Iraqi National Police graduation at Camp Dublin, Baghdad April 21.



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. David F. Roy

>> IRAQI POLICE: EACH ONE, TEACH ONE



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

Iraqi Police from the Baghdad River Patrol participate in wheel bearing and brake hands-on training during the Trailer Maintenance and Driver Course taught by veteran Iraqi mechanics. Iraqi Police mechanics and trainers participated in the six week course to become familiar with the maintenance of a boat trailer to ensure proper working order.

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- Chaos eliminated in the streets** 11 The third class of Iraqi National Police graduate from Italian Carabinieri-like training at Camp Dublin to assist Iraqi ground forces in the fight to keep the citizens of Iraq safe from chaos and terror with training received.

Iraqi forces fight well in Basrah battles

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Iraqi security forces fought and performed well during recent battles against insurgents in the Iraqi cities of Baghdad and Basrah, a senior U.S. military officer posted in Iraq said April 28.

“We’ve had significant achievements in the fight against criminal groups over the last several weeks,” U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Patrick Driscoll, a Multi-National Force – Iraq spokesman, told reporters at a Baghdad news conference. “In Basrah and Baghdad, Iraqi security forces have demonstrated bravery and professionalism and have made great strides in securing those areas where Iraqis were held hostage by those who oppose the rule of law and commit acts of violence that endangered innocent Iraqis.”

Iraqi and Coalition security forces have cleared hundreds of roadside bombs and other deadly ordnance from the streets and byways of eastern Baghdad’s Sadr City sector, which houses 3 million Iraqi residents, noted Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Qassim Atta, an Iraqi military spokesman who accompanied Driscoll at the news conference.

About two weeks ago, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki directed his security forces to confront illegal militias in the southern city of Basrah. The fighting in Basrah then spread to eastern Baghdad, primarily in Sadr City, the home to thousands of followers of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Recent anti-insurgent efforts by Iraqi and Coalition forces in Basrah and eastern Baghdad have improved security in those two areas, Atta reported. The Iraqi government has earmarked more than \$100 million for reconstruction needs in Basrah and \$150 million for redevelopment in Sadr City, the Iraqi general said.

Security in Basrah has “improved dramatically over the last several weeks,” Driscoll observed, noting the Iraqi Security Forces have driven out criminals and have moved into the city’s neighborhoods to ascertain citizens’ needs.

The Iraqi Ministry of Interior reports that Basrah’s citizens are returning to their marketplaces and the city’s children are going back to school, Driscoll said.

Capacity has been expanded at Basrah’s civil military operations center. Basrah’s CMOC team manages reconstruction efforts across the city and includes Iraqi, U.S., and other-agency participation, he said.

“This will help facilitate the quick delivery of essential services, get business going again, and provide basic aid to the populace,” Driscoll explained.

In addition, Coalition forces are reprioritizing funding to accelerate Basrah reconstruction projects such as sewage services, new street lighting, medical care and business incentives, Driscoll reported. Similar reconstruction operations are taking place in eastern Baghdad, he noted.

“Once again, this is the process we’re hoping for, where security is established, and then that will allow us to bring in the services I’ve mentioned and also let people get back to a normal life,” Driscoll said. ■

what key leaders are saying

>> **U.S. ARMY GEN. DAVID H. PETRAEUS**

Multi-National Force - Iraq commander



“The important focus has to be on the way ahead and Iran truly wanting its neighbor to the west... a fellow Shia-led government, to succeed, so there can be a constructive relationship.”

>> **IRAQI ARMY MAJ. GEN. ASKARI,**

Iraqi Minister of Defence spokesman

“You have to remember this is a young army, and these were the first instances of our forces taking the lead against the militias, against the Mahdi Army. Before, it was always Iraqis following the American lead.”

>> **CONDOLEEZZA RICE,**

United States Secretary of State

“It is indeed a moment of opportunities in Iraq. Much more work remains to be done... the national reconciliation and reconstruction and development for the Iraqi people, so that they can feel the full benefits of the united Iraqi government that is working together for their best intentions.”



Iraqis rejecting extremist violence

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Most Iraqi people now reject the violence that has plagued their neighborhoods and the extremists who have been inciting the violence, a senior official in the region said April 30.

“We increasingly see a commitment to economic development and reconstruction. That is the path that leads to prosperity and the broadest opportunity for all Iraqis to share in it,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kevin Bergner, a spokesman for Multi-National Force – Iraq, in a news conference.

In places where Iraqi citizens have rejected the violence, people are returning to their homes and capitalizing on improving local security conditions, he said.

Southern Baghdad neighborhoods such as Yusifiyah, Mahmudiyah and Latafiyah have seen the return of more than 10,000 of the nearly 19,000 who left after being forced out by al-Qaeda.

Bergner cited several other local-level



Photo by U.S. Army Pvt. Christopher McKenna

Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Mohammed Shakur, 2nd Battalion, 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, gives direction to soldiers under him during Battle Position construction on Route Peggy in the Sa'id Abdullah Corridor.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Brian Pierce

Iraqi soldiers train on infantry skills and tactics during a training event at Camp Taji, Iraq.

signs of progress in the country.

In Zatia, a local company recently finished building two windmills used to pump water from wells for drinking and irrigation, providing water for 150 local families.

In Iskanidriya, an area formerly known as the Triangle of Death, fish farms and hatcheries are being rebuilt with the help of micro-loans. The local industry was nearly destroyed by al-Qaeda.

East of Salman Pak, other agriculture sectors are being revitalized. There is a recent growth in bee keeping and honey production, new techniques in land management, and programs for date palm inoculation, Bergner said.

Despite the progress, however, Iraqi and Coalition forces face tough fighting ahead, he said. Coalition forces remain on the offense against al-Qaeda, pressuring their network and limiting their safe havens and operating bases.

“Iraqi Security Forces and the Sons of Iraq are increasingly the first line of defense in this campaign,” Bergner said.

Yesterday, al-Qaeda operatives attacked a small village near Baqouba. The Sons of Iraq fended off the terrorists until the Iraqi Security Forces could join

the fight and launch a counteroffensive. Twelve terrorists were killed. One member of the Sons of Iraq was killed, and several were wounded, Bergner said.

“We are continuing to pursue al-Qaeda terrorists, targeting their leaders, disrupting their lines of communication, and denying them safe havens in Iraq,” the general said.

Coalition forces have been working closely with the Iraqi Security Forces and government to secure parts of Baghdad’s embattled Sadr City district to deliver essentials such as water, food and fuel to the people there.

In recent weeks, attackers have increased their rocket and mortar attacks, killing about 40 people in Baghdad and injuring 370 others, the general reported.

“We are responding appropriately to these lethal attacks. As we do so, we use precision strikes and take every precaution to limit the damage,” Bergner said. “The fact that the nature of these criminals is to operate from civilian neighborhoods, and thereby place innocent civilians at risk, makes this a complex and difficult challenge whether in Basrah, Baghdad or other

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Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Sean Mulligan

An Iraqi soldier checks the site where a vehicle borne improvised explosive device exploded in Baqubah, Iraq.

From REJECTING, Page 4

communities.”

Bergner said Coalition operations in the area are targeting groups and weapons that are killing Iraqi

people, endangering the Iraqi seed of government and endangering neighborhoods in Baghdad.

“We continue to help the government of Iraq to improve the security situation, take the appropriate responses to the violence that’s being perpetrated by these groups and, at the same time, assist in the provision of services in an environment that’s very difficult,” Bergner said.

Joint efforts between Coalition forces, Iraqi forces and the Iraqi government have established a Combined Civil-Military Operations Center that provides a central point for the citizens of Thawra, the southern portion of Sadr City, to process claims and request essential services and aid. It also coordinates reconstruction projects for the district.

Short-term projects include installing street lighting, removing trash and rubble, fixing sewage disposal, and distributing food, medical supplies, and small generators and reconstruction supplies.

Over the next three months, plans are to refurbish three medical clinics, revitalize the Jamila wholesale food market, issue business micro-loans, and renovate schools.

The operation will expedite some \$2.5 million worth of aid and reconstruction investment beginning in the secured areas of Thawra, Bergner said. ■

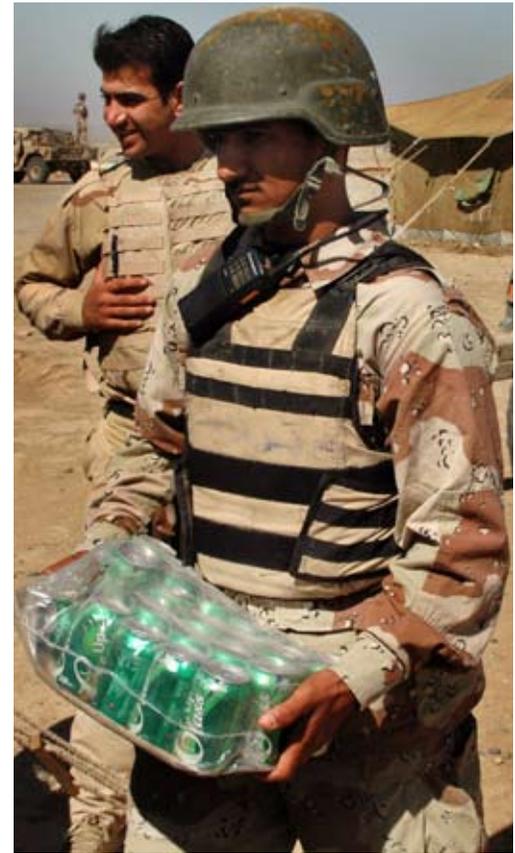


Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Richard Ybarra

(Above) An Iraqi soldier brings drinks into a tent for internally displaced citizens during a relief effort in western Mosul. The IA soldiers brought food from their own stores at Combat Outpost Rat to help their fellow citizens.

(Below, left) U.S. Army Sgt. Eugenio Amador stands with an Iraqi soldier at a joint checkpoint at Nassir Wa Salam, west of Baghdad. The checkpoint is manned by the Iraqi Army and Sons of Iraq volunteers. (Below) An Iraqi policeman patrols through Hit, Iraq.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Dustin Weidman



Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Erik Villagran



Photo by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Andrew Davis

An Iraqi army soldier takes his first shots during a qualifying event as part of Basic Combat Training at Al Kasik. The event was one of many that U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James Dubik observed during his two day battlefield circulation tour.

Lt. Gen. Dubik goes on battlefield circulation tour around Iraq

By **U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Andrew Davis**

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD - The commanding general from Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq recently took a two day tour around Iraq to visit various bases that support the training of the Iraqi Army.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James Dubik, MNSTC-I commanding general, along with U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Williams, MNSTC-I

command sergeant major, visited seven different programs, giving them a better idea about the future of the programs.

"The Iraqis have shown huge progress in many areas, quality and quantity," said Dubik. "Still, we're not free of difficulties."

A tour of the Iraqi Army basic military training at Kirkuk K1 and hosted by Iraqi Army Col. Younis, basic training deputy commander, led the group around the expansive concrete field of basic training classes.

The classes consisted of weapon handling, troop movement and weapon field cleaning. The classes were taught with around 20 students to one instructor and had hands on instruction as well as demonstrations by the instructor.

"I'm very proud to show off the basic training of the Iraqi army to the general," said Younis. "All of this would not be possible without his help and it's a great honor to show him

what we have accomplished here."

Dubik also stopped to view the M-16 familiarization and issue program that is held in conjunction with the noncommissioned officer basic combat training course in Al Kasik.

"The Iraqis come here from their units and turn in their old AK-47s for M-16s or M-4s," said U.S. Army Maj. Richard Meyer, 3rd Iraqi Army Military Training Team senior advisor. "After they trade in their weapons, they are run through a weapons familiarization course to help them become more familiar to their new weapons and they also participate in a qualifying event."

After qualification, some of the Iraqi soldiers had the opportunity to share their score with Dubik and the one with the highest score received a MNSTC-I command coin from the general.

"I'm very excited to receive this," said Iraqi Army Sgt. Muhammad Adil. "This is a great honor for me."

Dubik also got to witness the Iraqi NCOs run through a confidence course which emphasized common obstacles the Iraqis would encounter in battle.

The Iraqi Army has a strong cadre of corporals that are just blossoming into NCOs. The army is also very bottom heavy but this training is furthering the knowledge that they can teach to their troops.

"The thinking is that this cadre of corporals will ultimately grow over time to become squad leaders, platoon sergeants, first sergeants and sergeant majors," Dubik said.

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From BATTLEFIELD, page 6

The next day started out at an Iraqi Army facility outside of An Nasariyah, where the general was greeted by a parade in his honor, by the Iraqi Army stationed there, followed by a tour of the Iraqi Military Training Academy and the Regional Training Center.

The tour consisted of several demonstrations of the Iraqi Army training that included weapon training, physical fitness circuit training and a demonstration on field tactics.

“We are proud to show off our training to the general,” said Iraqi Army Cpl. Ahmad. “I’m excited to use my skills in the real world.”

The two day tour took the general to seven different locations to see a variety of different training that MNSTC-I is involved in and was a good insight to operations of the Iraqi Army.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Andrew Davis

An Iraqi instructor demonstrates to his students the proper procedure to subdue a suspect and get them into handcuffs. The demonstration was part of the Iraqi Police training program at al Kut.



During a demonstration for U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Dubik, Iraqi soldiers showed of their freshly learned flanking skills against an enemy force. The instructors posed as insurgents that ambushed a convoy and the students had to return fire and flank their position to take them into custody. The soldiers learned these skills as part of the Basic Combat Training course at Numaniyah Regional Training Center.

Iraqi Air Force celebrates 77th Anniversary

The Iraqi Air Force celebrated its 77th Anniversary at New al Muthana Air Base in Baghdad. April 22. With music from the Iraqi Armed Forces band and a speech from Iraqi Air Force Lt. Gen. Kamal, Iraqi Air Force commander. Those joining Kamal in this year's air force celebration included senior Iraqi Ministry of Defence officials, senior Coalition officials, Iraqi Air Force personnel, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq personnel and members of the Defence Attaché Association of Iraq. U.S. Army General David Petraeus, Multi-National Force - Iraq commanding general, also attended the ceremony. The selection of Iraqi Air Force aircraft on display included the Mi-17, Huey II, C-130, CH2000, Cessna Grand Caravan and King Air. The display also included a pair of partially built Mi-17 that were currently being assembled. Along with the aircraft, Iraqi pilots and mechanics were on hand to explain their role they play in the Iraqi Air Force.



Photos By U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Andrew Davis

Tunin' the training

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD – Iraqi Police trainers stationed at the Baghdad River Patrol Police Station are fine-tuning all aspects of training provided to the police in order to keep them sharp and qualified with the equipment used in everyday policing of the Tigris River.

“The skills taught by the instructors and mechanics are skills needed to be able to function in case of an emergency,” said Iraqi Police Lt. Laith, Iraqi Police River Patrol executive officer.

Iraqi Police students participating in the recent Trailer Maintenance and Driver Course learned the fundamentals of taking care of the trailer, tires and brakes. This course offers a way to troubleshoot malfunctions and help them understand why these functions are important.

A preliminary check of the trailer hitch by U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Stacey McCoy, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, Coalition Police Assistance Training Team senior enlisted advisor, revealed low tire pressure, poor braking system, worn bow stops and faulty tail lighting.

“I want them to understand why tire pressure, working lights and a proper bow stop is important to their mission,” said McCoy. “This is much more than just riding down the river.”

McCoy and Laith met with Iraqi Police Hussein, senior mechanic stationed at the River Patrol, to train him on the proper maintenance of a trailer hitch for the watercraft. The training, conducted over a two-day period, allowed Hussein to develop a training plan to share with the other mechanics and the River Patrol police trainers.

“Before we had formalized training, we were given equipment with no parts and no way to fix them,” said Hussein. “Now we have someone to explain what we need to do.”

Hussein worked with the other mechanics and five Iraqi Police instructors to help them understand the importance of proper equipment maintenance. The topics taught within the Trailer Maintenance and Driver Course are trailer repair, specific component repair, i.e., tires, brakes, bearings and inflation guidelines; tire changing, which includes tactical movements in hostile environments that require securing the scene; and driving the trailer in reverse, day and night driving, and through a cone obstacle course.

Trailer repair demonstrated the process of ensuring tow chains are in good condition, bow stops and hull mounts have adequate padding, and taillights are wired correctly and functioning properly.

Specific component repair reviewed tire inflation guidelines, tire inspection and brake inspection and repair.

“We now have an air pressure gauge to make sure there



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

An Iraqi Police mechanic from the Baghdad River Patrol teaches an Iraqi Police trainer how to replace the brakes on the boat trailer during the hands-on training portion of the Trailer Maintenance and Driver Course taught by veteran Iraqi mechanics. Iraqi Police mechanics and trainers participated in the six week course to become familiar with the maintenance of a boat trailer to ensure proper working order.

is sufficient air in the tires,” said Hussein. “Before, we had to guess at the correct amount of air which was not enough.”

Hussein trained the group using a hands-on method of training and reinforced it with practical drills to allow the students to build their learning ability. The group practiced taking the tires off the trailer, replacing the braking system and changing wheel bearings.

Once the group was familiar with the moving parts of the training, they created competitions to see who could perform the best.

“Having the guys understand what is needed in maintaining the equipment is the best thing an advisor could ask for,” said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Mike Provost, MNSTC-I, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team enlisted advisor.

Driving the trailer is the final learning task for the group of students. The class members took turns hooking the trailer to the truck, ensuring the boat is properly seated on the trailer, chains are in good condition, tire inflation is sufficient and the taillights are in good working order.

An obstacle course using three cones, placed in strategic locations, gauge the skills of the students driving the truck. Being able to function in a hostile environment is more important than knowing what to do in a calm situation said Laith.

The students respond well to the training, understanding the necessary skills for operating and driving a boat trailer.

“I have been a mechanic for over 20 years,” said Hussein. “I am proud the U.S. Navy allowed me to teach the course to help my people.” ■



Photos by U.S. Army Capt. David F. Roy



IRAQI NATIONAL POLICE GRADUATION

The Iraqi National Police graduated approximately 400 recruits from Italian Carabinieri-like training courses at Camp Dublin April 21. These graduating students are unique because the national police are mobile and will serve and protect the nation wherever they are called. The training phases include eight weeks of intense instruction covering democratic policing and human rights, crime, anti-terrorism, survival skills, defensive tactics, and firearms training. The specialized training covers firearms, urban operations, search techniques, close quarter tactics, and additional training in leadership and logistics.





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

Iraqi National Police demonstrate riot control procedures on a crowd of “protestors” disturbing the peace during a simulated riot scenario for distinguished visitors during the Carabinieri-trained National Police Course graduation April 21. More than 400 National Police graduates are the third class to complete an eight-week Carabinieri training at Camp Dublin, Iraq.

Eliminating disorderly conduct

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD – Iraqi National Police graduated from the third Carabinieri-trained Iraqi National Police Course April 21 at Camp Dublin in Baghdad.

Iraqi Police Maj. Gen. Hussein, Iraqi National Police commander; Italian Lt. Gen. Gianfrancesco Siazzu, Italian Carabinieri Corps general commander and Italian Army Maj. Gen.

Alessandro Pompegnani, NATO Training Mission – Iraq deputy commander, commended more than 400 graduates.

Each of the speakers told the police graduates that the Carabinieri-trained National Police Course takes into account Iraq’s unique security concerns and the challenges of maintaining security for a free Iraq. The National Police must consider national, regional and local priorities when performing duties to protect citizens.

“I want to commend the national policemen who recently lost their lives doing what we have trained each of you to do for your country,” said Pompegnani. “You are being trained to provide a

secure environment for the citizens of Iraq.”

The Carabinieri training represents a concerted effort by the Ministry of Interior to provide the Iraqi people the most professional law enforcement service possible.

Siazzu expressed his support of the Carabinieri training for the Iraqi National Police. The training helps to improve the overall professionalism of the national police and builds upon the basic training skills already possessed.

The training received by the National Police represents recent acts of violence toward Iraqi Security Forces. Students demonstrated their ability to respond to many acts of violence against security forces such as personal security breeches, vehicle stops and crowd control using riot police.

“Our goal at NATO Training Mission – Iraq is to help the Iraqis build up a security structure that is self-sufficient and not dependent on foreign assistance,” said Pompegnani. “The key to this is a progressive approach from training to advising and then mentoring.”

Iraqi National Police graduates demonstrated a variety of skills, which they learned in training for the attendees such as crowd and anti-riot control, building breaches and vehicle searches before dancing jubilantly in the streets to celebrate their recent mark on history. ■



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

KARADAH, Iraq – Construction manager Roger Noffke of TeEC Construction explains the construction process of the National Information and Investigation Agency to Iraqi Maj. Gen. Husein Kamal, Ministry of Interior Undersecretary of the Iraqi Intelligence Agency and Mr. Stephen Bond, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, Intelligence Transition Team director.

National Information and Investigation Agency gets new facility

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

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



KARADAH, Iraq

– Iraqi Maj. Gen. Hussein Kamal, Ministry of Interior’s Undersecretary of the Iraqi intelligence agency and Mr. Stephen Bond, Multi-

National Security Transition Command – Iraq, Intelligence Transition Team lead advisor toured the construction site of the Iraqi National Information and Investigation Agency located here April 20.

The National Information and Investigation Agency is the lead intelligence apparatus of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. The organization consists of a national headquarters, 15 provincial bureaus, six regional bureaus, 56 district offices and other offices at 11 ports of entry. National Information and Investigation Agency analysis and investigations enable intelligence supported police operations across the MoI.

“I am glad to see the facility coming along as planned,” said Bond.

At the end of calendar year 2007, National Information and Investigation

Agency had 4,700 of 7,000 authorized personnel on hand. Increased personnel numbers have measurably improved agency capabilities. An end-of-year shipment of 159 vehicles raised its vehicle fill from 62 percent to 84 percent; however, agency effectiveness remains hampered by logistics processes, weak command-and-control systems and a primitive training base. Improvements in these areas are anticipated based on several ongoing initiatives and projects.

The installation of the Iraqi Intelligence Network throughout the Agency by the end of 2008 will provide a secure intelligence dissemination means and will facilitate command and control from the Baghdad headquarters to the provincial and border offices. The construction of the new headquarters and the Baghdad bureau complex is on track, with completion anticipated in June 2008.

To combat militia infiltration, foreign intelligence penetration and corruption, the National Information and Investigation Agency is developing a Personnel Assurance Program that includes organic polygraph capability. Ongoing initiatives to improve staffing, basing, equipping and training began in 2007 will translate into improvements in the agency’s intelligence and law enforcement capabilities in 2008. ■

MAN ON THE STREET

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

U.S. AIR FORCE CAPT. DENISE SHEA,
Coalition Air Force Training Team A1 Advisor

“I’m most proud of the relationships and trust I’ve built with our Iraqi counterparts that can never be duplicated.”



U.S. ARMY 2ND LT. LAWRENCE HAGGERTY,
Executive Communications officer in charge



“Helping to take care of the MNSTC-I commanding general’s communication needs while he visits different Iraqi security forces locations.”

U.S. AIR FORCE COL. RICHARD INGALSBE,
Department of Internal Affairs Chief of Staff

“Since I have been here we have added over 50,000 Iraqi Police to the force and have helped them achieve self sustainment.”



Iraqi National Police apply pressure to enemy activity in southern Baghdad

BAGHDAD – Iraqi National Police from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, working in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad, seized a weapons cache and detained a suspected criminal during a security patrol April 20.

Conducting simultaneous raids at two different sites, 3rd Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd NP Div. officers captured two heavy machine guns with 1,800 rounds, a sniper rifle and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, and detained a suspected criminal operating in the Risalah neighborhood of West Rashid.

Iraqi Security Forces such as the 3rd Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd NP conduct daily patrols and security operations for the Government of Iraq in support of the Baghdad Security Plan to maintain levels of security for the 1.2 million Iraqis living in southern Baghdad.

–Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs

Iraqi Army captures suspected insurgent cell leader

BALAD – Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division, advised by U.S. Special Forces, detained one suspected insurgent cell leader in an operation in Ta'Mim province April 20.

The Iraqi Army conducted the operation to capture the suspect and disrupt the activities of an insurgent network operating in the area. The suspect is accused of conducting improvised explosive device and small-arms fire attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces. He is also believed to be a weapons trafficker in the Hawijah area who terrorizes Iraqi citizens.

–Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

Iraqi Special Operations Forces capture Special Groups commander

BALAD – Iraqi Special Operations Forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces captured a Special Groups commander in Baghdad April 30.

ISOF conducted the operation to detain the Special Groups commander who has been leading attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces in the area. The man is believed to be a weapons smuggler, and is reported to conduct improvised explosive device and indirect fire attacks.

Intelligence reports link him to an IED attack in Oct. 2007 that killed four U.S. soldiers, and a mortar attack in Oct. 2007 that killed one U.S. Soldier.

During the operation, ISOF received small-arms fire from enemy fighters. Two armed individuals were seen running towards ISOF soldiers and were shot and killed.

–Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

Iraqi Security Forces leads CF to 3 caches at abandoned building

BAGHDAD – At approximately 5 a.m., Coalition soldiers conducted a joint operation with the National Police and discovered three separate caches in an abandoned building in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad May 1.

During the operation, Coalition soldiers entered the abandoned

building behind their Iraqi counterparts and began to search inside.

The soldiers seized 10 explosively formed penetrator improvised explosive devices, 26 155mm artillery rounds, more than 100 pounds of homemade explosives, 19 mortar rounds, 47 rocket-propelled grenades, seven RRG boosters, seven sticks of TNT, two blocks of plastic explosives, four claymore mines, a 105mm rocket, a bag of mortar boosters and rounds of loose ammunition.

–Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs

Iraqi Army recovers cache in Abu Hamid

ABU HAMID – Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 25th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division found a cache of multiple mortar rounds near Abu Hamid, about 30 kilometers southwest of Baghdad, May 1.

Acting on a tip, the soldiers found a cache in two different holes that consisted of over 40 mortar rounds, a 120 mm artillery round, 12 boosters, one canister of TNT and various illumination round components.

The items will be destroyed by explosive ordnance disposal personnel.

–Multi-National Division – Center Public Affairs

Iraqi Security Forces capture criminal bomb-makers

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces responded to an explosion at approximately 1:15 p.m. in West Rashid May 2.

Iraqi National Police and Iraqi soldiers found one criminal dead, another wounded and their vehicle destroyed.

The ISF quickly took control and secured the area, which led to the arrest of three more criminals.

An explosive ordnance disposal team determined the blast was the result of a premature detonation of approximately 40 pounds of explosives, with ball bearings, in a suicide vest or improvised explosive device.

–Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs

Iraqi and Coalition forces destroy criminal weapons caches, detain six

KHAN BANI SA'AD – Iraqi and Coalition forces destroyed multiple weapons caches and detained six suspected criminals near Khan Bani Sa'ad, north of Baghdad.

Acting on intelligence gathered from previous operations, Iraqi and Coalition forces moved into the area and immediately stopped a suspected criminal's vehicle trying to escape. They discovered numerous weapons and detained three individuals, one of whom allegedly received weapons training in Iran and was involved in numerous attacks on Coalition forces and Iraqi Security Forces personnel.

Additional intelligence led Iraqi and Coalition forces to two other locations where they detained three more suspects during building searches. While there, they discovered additional weapons caches that included various munitions, assault rifles, and other weapons and materials to create explosive devices. All weapons materials were destroyed.

–Multi-National Force – Iraq Public Affairs