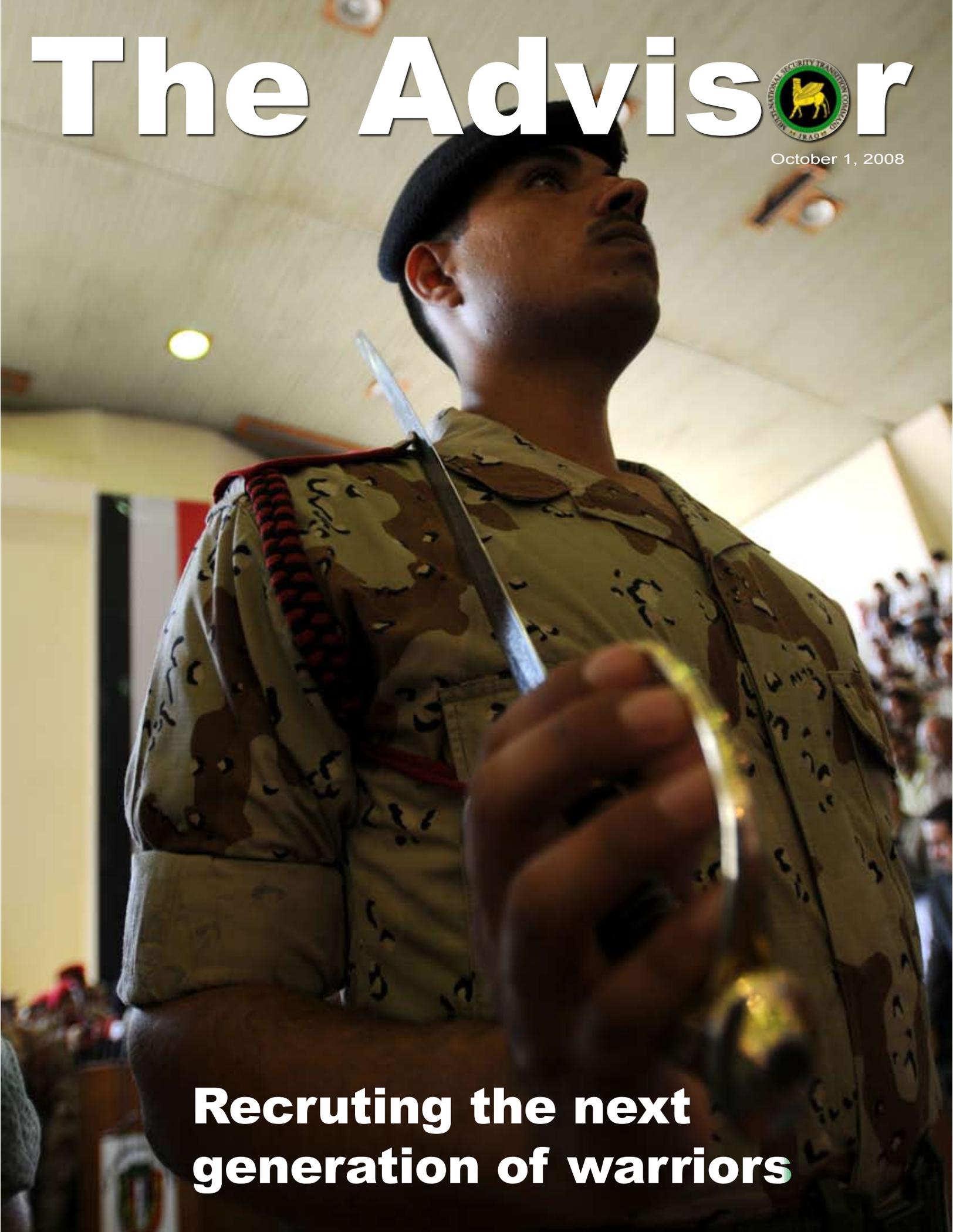


The Advisor



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**Recruiting the next
generation of warriors**

The Advisor

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>> FROM THE COVER

A cadet waits during a graduation ceremony.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

A newly commissioned Iraqi Army officer stands as his family places lieutenant shoulder boards on his uniform. The cadet was one of many that graduated from the Rustamiyah Military Academy. For more information on cadet recruiting, see page 6.

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Building Iraqi forces one recruit at a time

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD - Recruiting Soldiers for the Iraqi Army doesn't require motivational speeches, promises of foreign travel or even the opportunity to get an education. Recruiting Iraqi Soldiers requires screening thousands of applicants as fast as possible to fill billets in a force that has gone from zero Soldiers after the invasion of 2003 to more than 150,000 Soldiers today.



Courtesy photos

Recruits wait in line during a recruiting drive in Mosul.

Joining the Army offers many Iraqis an opportunity to fight against insurgents. Staying in the Army offers a career with pay and benefits for those who choose to extend beyond their initial two-year enlistment.

An Iraqi private earns an after tax salary of 479,000 Iraqi dinar per month. This is approximately \$400 U.S. dollars. After six months, he is eligible for promotion to private first class and a salary increase of about \$35 USD per month.

If a Soldier is injured in combat he will receive an injury payment. If he is killed, his family will receive a one-time payment equal to one year's salary, with hazard pay, plus 3,750,000 ID. For a private first class, this would be approximately \$8,500 USD.

Under a new proposal, members of the Iraqi armed forces would qualify for paid leave at the rate of 2.5 days per month or 30 days annually—the same

leave American servicemembers receive, and they would qualify for a retirement pension after 15 years of qualifying Iraqi military service.

Recruiting numbers are based on the capacity of the training centers. As each new Basic Combat Training class is planned, recruiters are tasked to fill it with prospective Soldiers.

Through a series of television ads and community outreach, the Army lets local sheiks and neighborhood leaders know how many young men the Army wants to recruit. These leaders then canvas the community and take willing applicants to either a recruiting station or a mobile recruiting drive.

When a recruiting drive comes to a town or village, thousands of men often line up for a chance to join the armed forces. Because of the numbers of applicants, being a recruiter involves processing paperwork more than convincing people to join. There are no enlistment bonuses or free T-shirts.

During the recruiting interview, applicants are given medical and dental screenings. They are required to demonstrate basic physical fitness and to prove they can read. There isn't a formal test. They are given a newspaper or magazine on the spot. And they either read it or they aren't qualified.

To be considered for enlisted service in the Iraqi Army a man must be an Iraqi citizen between 18 and 40 years of age, more than 63 inches tall and weighing less than 176 pounds. He must possess at least one original piece of identification and have a record of good conduct and morals. He must have no record of convictions for moral crimes—

political crimes under the Saddam Hussein government are often overlooked by the Ministry of Defense.

Once screened by the recruiters, an applicant is given a temporary employment number and sent home. The applicant's records are then forwarded to Baghdad for further screening. MoD checks to make sure he has no criminal records that would bar him from service and to make sure he is not already on the Army payroll with another employee number. In the past, Soldiers have enlisted multiple times to receive extra pay and some have deserted and tried to rejoin later. After an applicant is thoroughly vetted, he can join the Army and begin his training.

The Iraqi Navy and Air Force get their recruits through the Army recruiting system. Air Force recruits go immediately to Air Force Basic Military Training, while Navy recruits are selected for transfer to the Navy or Marines after attending Basic Combat Training with the Army Soldiers.

As the scheduled basic training class approaches, recruiters contact community leaders and run more television ads advising the new recruits when they will leave home and go to the training center.

Most Iraqi Soldiers are recruited, trained and stationed with a division near their homes. In an effort to foster diversity, the Army attempts to relocate some Soldiers to different parts of the country, but because of the difficulties of such a movement, this goal is not reached as often as the government would like.



Recruits wait in line to be processed during a recruiting drive ■

Leaders plan for a secure training center

By **U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly**

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Since July of 2004, the Al Muthana Recruiting Center has processed more than 139,000 recruits into the Iraqi armed forces. There are two buildings used for processing the recruits but one is not being used. Security concerns led the Iraqi leadership to close the larger of the two buildings, dramatically decreasing the number of recruits processed on a daily basis. The smaller building, located on another side of the Al Muthana compound, is currently processing recruits, but only at half the rate the larger building can handle.

According to the center's commander, Iraqi Army Col. Mazen, the larger facility once processed up to 500 recruits a day. Now, this facility only houses a few administration offices. Mazen says that due to the location of the building, and the way lines formed, recruits were being targeted entering and exiting the center.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Multi National Security Transition Command – Iraq commanding general, visited the center in late August. Before entering the smaller processing building, he spoke with the men who were standing in line outside. He asked them how long they had been waiting and how many times each had been there before. For many, it was their first visit. Others had been there before and were returning for final processing and to get orders to go to training sites in Diyala, Taji, Kirkuk or Habbiniyah.

Helmick arrived with Iraqi Army Gen. Babakir, Chief of Staff Joint Headquarters and Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Authman, the Joint Headquarters Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. Their goal was to work out recruiting issues and to get the larger facility back into use. Mazen suggested moving the center to a location outside of Baghdad. U.S. Navy Capt. John Andrews of the Joint Headquarters Advisory Team, who was also at the meeting, told the Iraqi leaders, "The reason it's good to have it in Baghdad is because all sects, Sunni, Shia and Kurd, are happy to come to Baghdad and can get into this recruiting center." The center has produced some of the largest numbers among the country's recruiting centers on a monthly basis according to the JHQ-AT.

Helmick and the Iraqi leaders drew out a plan for measures that would make the entry to the larger center more secure.

Iraqi leaders watched as he drew a plan for a variety of force protection measures. Helmick said the Coalition would put the measures into place. Plans are to re-open the larger facility and possibly keep the smaller facility working as well. ■



U.S. Army photo by Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly

Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick speaks with Iraqi men waiting in line to join the Iraqi armed forces at the Al Muthana Recruiting Center.



U.S. Army photo by Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly

Lt. Gen Frank Helmick, Multi National Security Transition Command - Iraq, discusses force protection measures for the Al Muthana Recruiting Center with Iraqi Army Gen. Babakir, Chief of Staff Joint Headquarters. The goal is to re-open a large building that was closed because recruits were targeted entering and exiting the Al Muthana compound.

Baghdad transitions 1,000+ Sons of Iraq into Iraqi Police

By U.S. Army Sgt.
Daniel Blottenberger

18th Military Police Brigade PAO

BAGHDAD – Four Multi-National Division – Baghdad districts began the transitioning Sons of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq) into Iraqi Police Aug. 21 by conducting several recruiting drives in the Taji, Tarmiyah, Zahour and Abu Ghraib districts.

More than 1,100 SoI members in the four districts began the process of becoming policemen by attending the separate recruiting drives that commenced Aug. 21 in Tarmiyah and Taji and are now continuing in Zahour and Abu Ghraib.

The drives were brought together quickly, said 1st Lt. Michael Huber, a native of Cincinnati, who serves as a platoon leader with Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 411th Military Police Company, 18th MP Brigade, who said he felt the reason the drives were so successful was because of the local community's support while working together.

"The local Sheiks took an active role in getting the SoIs ready for the drive," said Huber, who conducts Police Transition Team operations in the Sab al Bour community of Taji. "The Sheiks had the SoIs show up looking professional like as if it were a job interview. They took a lot of pride in being prepared for the drive."

The recruiting drive is a great opportunity for the local people in the community to get good jobs to support their families.

"The SoIs really made the most out this opportunity," said Huber, who reached his district's goal of more than 500 recruits in two days.

Huber said another reason the drive was so successful is because of the local community backing the current IP force in Sab al Bour.

In the past, when the 411th MP Co. arrived, said Huber, the local citizens were hesitant when approaching the IP. Now however, the people in Taji come to the stations with intelligence reports to



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Miguel Martinez

Spc. Mark Tsatsos, a military police Soldier with 411th Military Police Company, 716th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, evaluates as a Sons of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq) member conducts pushups during the physical fitness test segment of an Iraqi Police recruiting drive in Saab al Bour Aug. 21.

help the IP in their fight against crime.

"We have come a long way in Taji," said Huber. "Now citizens are reporting criminal intelligence to the IP, telling them where improvised-explosive devices are being placed by criminals. The difference now is that the citizens see the IP are truly out there to help them."

In the four districts, there were a total of five recruiting drives that took place to support the transition of 1,100 SoI preparing to become IP.

A platoon from the 411th MP Co. worked its respective districts with its IP counterparts, along with the support from the Soldiers from 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team "Warriors," 25th Infantry Division, to make the recruiting drives a success.

During the recruiting drives, the recruits needed to demonstrate the ability to complete a literacy test, a physical fitness test, a medical examination and a security background check to ensure they were qualified to join the IP force.

The goal is for the new recruits to help increase the security level in the districts by providing additional security forces.

"Violence in Tarmiyah has increased over the past few months," said Capt.

Norma James, a native of Lawrenceburg, Ken., who is the commander of the 411th MP Co. "By opening more IP stations in Tarmiyah and increasing the numbers of IP in those stations, things can only get better for the citizens."

With the increase of IP forces in the four districts, it will enable the Iraqi Army in the area to transition the checkpoints within the city to IP control, which provides the IA soldiers the opportunity to focus its attention on providing security for the country of Iraq as a whole.

"New recruits will increase security in the area," said James, whose company conducts PTT operations in 19 stations across the four districts. "The new potential

IP will enable the IA to move into more military based operations along the country's borders to deter criminals coming in from other countries."

An additional aim for the recruiting drive is to provide local citizens of Iraq with an opportunity to receive a legitimate government-paying job. In the past, the SoI program was a Coalition Forces initiative to help the security situation within Iraq while, at the same time, gaining support from the local citizens to help deter the past high crime rate.

"We are turning SoI into legitimate Iraqi Security Force members, who can now become proud representatives of the Iraqi government," said James.

Iraqi Police are taking over responsibility to conduct community policing and enforce the rule of law while protecting and serving the citizens of Iraq. The SoI recruited from the current drives will now be part of that capable and proud security force.

The 411th MP Co., is currently deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, and is currently assigned to the 716th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, MND-B. ■

Academy recruits: from civilian to cadet

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD - Almost every officer in the Iraqi armed forces can trace his career back to the day friends and family members put on his one-star shoulder boards at a military academy graduation. Every cycle 1,000 more young Iraqi men begin their journey into one of the four Iraqi Military Academies at Al Rustamiyah, Qu'alchalon, Zako or Al Nasariyah.

The path to an Iraqi commission starts with the entrance application. They can be obtained from the admissions office of the academy or the Internet. Once submitted, candidates are scheduled for an initial screening appointment.

During this visit, each man will undergo a medical examination, a physical fitness test and an aptitude test. These tests are standardized for all academy applicants by the National Defense University in Baghdad.

If a candidate meets academy standards for health, fitness and aptitude, he will be interviewed by three Iraqi officers—two intelligence and one from NDU. If the interview goes favorably, his package will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education to verify his academic credentials. Beginning January 2009, each applicant will be required to have a university degree before entering the military academy.

When all the applicant's qualifications

are verified and a criminal background check has been performed, his name will be placed on the list for the next class cycle. When the number of accepted students exceeds the number of seats, a standby list is created. Any applicants who fail to secure a seat can reapply for the following class.

The oldest of the four academies, Al Rustamiyah, was founded by the British in 1924. All four Iraqi Military Academies are modeled after the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in England.

The program of instruction is based on three training terms over one year—Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

The Junior term focuses on basic military training and the transition from civilian to officer cadet. The Intermediate

term focuses on leadership principles, command positions and section/platoon attacks. During the Senior term, cadets bring all the principals together in a final exercise to prepare them for their first jobs after commissioning.

All Iraqi officers—Army, Air Force and Navy—begin their training in the same academies. After the first term, they complete specialty training for their respective services. ■



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

An Iraqi Army cadet stands before a crowd during a graduation at the Iraqi Military Academy Al Rustamiyah. The cadets were commissioned after a year long training at the academy.

Riyadh Civil Service Corps opens job opportunities

Courtesy of Multi-National Division PAO

MND-N PAO

RIYADH, Iraq – In the ongoing Iraq-wide effort to transition Sons of Iraq members and provide jobs to Iraqi citizens, local government and tribal leaders in Riyadh along with Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division held a ribbon-cutting ceremony announcing the establishment of the Riyadh

Civil Service Corps, Sept. 9.

The Riyadh Civil Service Corps is a 12-month program that will initially be funded by Coalition forces to provide paid vocational classroom instruction and on-the-job training to its students beginning with 250 former Riyadh SoI. It is patterned after the 1930s U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps that provided jobs to combat

unemployment during the Great Depression, putting U.S. citizens back to work assisting with infrastructure needs in their respective communities.

The Riyadh General Construction project is the first of two programs the Riyadh Civil Service Corps will provide, focusing on the infrastructure needs of communities in the sub-district of Riyadh, located

in the southern portion of the Hawijah district. It will provide training geared toward general construction-related skills and will include electrical, plumbing and carpentry, according to Capt. Jon Anderson, commander, Company D, 1st Battalion, 87th Inf. Regt.

The second program is the

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Iraqi Army surging ethics training

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi Army wants every Iraqi Soldier to receive ethics training just like he receives marksmanship training or drill and ceremony training.

Since 2003 the primary focus for the Iraqi Army has been building the force. Getting Soldiers trained to fight took precedence over many other military functions. Iraqis came from all locations and all walks of life to join the fight to secure their country from terrorists.

Every one of those Soldiers brought a unique set of values with him: personal values, family values, community values and religious values. Creating a culture of ethical behavior means that each Soldier must now learn and accept Iraqi Army values.

Those core values are the same as the United States Army's: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Courage.

Unifying ethical standards in a force of more than 150,000 Soldiers cannot be done haphazardly or in a reactionary fashion. The Center for Military Values, Principles and Leadership Development is tasked with creating an ethics training doctrine for the Army and providing ethics training for the Soldiers.

Army values and principles is just one of the five blocks of training CMVPLD

covers. In addition, Soldiers learn; Role of the Military in a Democracy, Law of Armed Conflict/Human Rights, Military Professionalism and Leadership.

"We would like to expand the values and the principles to all of the Iraqi Army from the Jundi to the senior level," said Iraqi Army Staff Brig. Gen. Mohan, director of CMVPLD.

The decline in violence in Iraq has given the center some breathing room to push training out to the field. Mobile training teams are visiting all the Basic Combat Training locations as well as the four military academies.

"According to our plan, no one will graduate without getting the training in 2009," said Mohan.

The center is also incorporating ethics training into Unit Set Fielding where entire brigades come together for the first time and where existing Iraqi battalions come out of their battlespace to train in large unit operations.

In these exercises, ethical dilemmas are incorporated into the training lanes so that leaders and Soldiers must make values judgments as well as tactical decisions.

Mohan recently addressed Soldiers from the Iraqi Army 8th Division during a Warfighter class at Numaniyah.

Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Authman, 8th

Division commanding general said, "Always when I meet my officers from this division or different units I have, I make sure the officers first build their ethics with the civilian people so they can treat them fairly when they go outside doing their missions." Authman continued, "I always make sure we use human rights for the criminals when we capture them, because they are still human beings. And then we are going to leave the court alone to deal with those criminals."

Not all the Army ethics training takes place in the Army. Mohan and his staff plan to work with the ministries of education and higher education to spread their messages to students in primary and intermediate schools as well as colleges.

"In order to prepare the citizen, the civilian, we make sure he gets the training information he needs before he joins the Army," said Mohan.

They also publish stories about Army values and principles in Ministry of Defense newspapers and magazines and they broadcast them on television and the Internet.

The CMVPLD was established in 2006 at the Iraqi Military Academy-Rustamiyah. ■

JOBS

Continued from page 6

Riyadh Road Construction project, which will equip students with road-paving skills. These students will later be utilized as "much-needed road crews, repairing heavily traveled roads throughout the sub-district," said Anderson.

"Now that our security forces have regained the security in our neighborhoods, we are able to concentrate on our people and the needs of our villages," Riyadh Mayor Mohammad Ahmad Hussein said during the ceremony. "With our own hands we will rebuild our communities—our future—



Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Bryce Thurman

Capt. Jon Anderson, commander, Company D, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry, Regiment., speaks with local government and tribal leaders in front of the Riyadh General Construction Building.

and we are very grateful to the Coalition force for their friendship and assistance in making this day possible."

Anderson added that the day's event could not have been possible without, "the efforts of your Iraqi Security Forces and all of you—the people of Riyadh." He wished them success with their schooling. "You will never forget the destruction that your enemies caused to your lives, and you will always remember your contributions to the rebirth of your communities," he said. ■

U.S. Air Force Maj. Andrew McDannold interacts with Iraqi children at the National Patriot Primary school inside the International Zone during a charity visit Sept. 22. U.S. Air Force members from the Coalition Air Force Training Team played games as well as gave out prizes to the winners.



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



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Joan E. Kretschme

Iraqi National Police (2-5-2) pass out leaflets to inform the populace of wanted individuals as U.S. Soldiers with White Platoon Dealer Company, 4-64 Armor, attached to 1-22 Infantry Battalion, help patrol in Ba'yaa, Baghdad on Sep. 11.

U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus, Multi-National Force-Iraq commanding general, shakes hands with U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq commanding general, as U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker looks on during the MNSTC-I farewell for General Petraeus.



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

IqN officers learning English in Umm Qasr

By **U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady**

MNSTC-I PAO

UMM QASR, Iraq - A group of Iraqi Navy officers is learning English here in preparation for the arrival of four new patrol ships being built in Italy.

After they complete the English language training, the officers will begin four months of operations training here before traveling to Italy for more training with the shipbuilder. Next year they will take delivery of the ships and steam back to Iraq.

"All the training is delivered in English," said British Royal Navy Lt. Rob Jenkins, one of the instructors with the Naval Transition Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

Course content primarily revolves around The English Language Course which is specifically designed for



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer William Lovelady

Iraqi Navy officers sit in English Language Training course held in Um Qasr.

students learning English in a military environment. The students work through the ALC syllabus at a pace which is appropriate for them.

"This flexibility is ideal given that

the arrival of the four Italian ships is phased over a period of approximately nine months and that students usually learn a language at different rates," said Jenkins. "The important point is that students reach the correct output level for their particular specialization within the time bracket associated with the arrival of each new ship."

"It makes sense that the Iraqi Navy has its own English speaking officers," said Jenkins. Operating in international waters, the ships will need personnel aboard that can communicate with non-Arab speakers.

This first class of ship's officers are a mix of senior officers who have returned to Iraqi Navy service and junior officers who have recently joined the new Iraqi Navy. Two of the students are Commanders who will be the captains of the first ships. ■

English Language Course graduates first class

By **U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Randi Flaugh**

506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK, Iraq - Eighteen Iraqi Airmen have accomplished one of the top training requirements for the Iraqi Air Force — learning the English language. These airmen are the first to graduate from the English Language Course at a ceremony here Sept. 10.

Since English is the international language for aviation, it's imperative to the operations of the Iraqi Air Force that its Airmen know how to use and understand it. The English Language Course was created to teach these airmen the language skills they need to maintain and operate their equipment.

"The first class started in April and it takes approximately 10 months to complete, depending on how well students receive the material and what level they start at," said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Keith Kirkland, NCO in charge of the course, who is deployed from Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.

The class obtained high scores on the course placement test, which allowed them to start at a higher level and finish

the course in just six months.

The program began with the students taking a language placement test through the Defense Language Institute. The American Language Course Placement Test distinguishes the student's current level of English comprehension. The goal for testers is a 70 percent or better on the ALCPT, a standard set by Iraqi and U.S. Air Force leadership.

"When the students take the test, a small portion of them score higher than 70 percent and are not required to go through the course at all," said Kirkland.

Learning a new language can present difficulties, of which the most significant is the reading and listening that goes along with learning English.

"The students have to listen to the different speeds, pitches and accents of the language," he said. "Students are grasping the language and doing well at it."

Brig. Gen. Shihab, Kirkuk IqAF base commander, was one of many in attendance for the inaugural graduation ceremony and is a huge advocate of the course.

"I feel proud since our base is the first one to apply such a program," said Shihab. "Instead of sending our people to learn in college, we've saved the effort and time while gaining the same results. Together -- hand-in-hand -- we have moved forward to more progress and prosperity."

Lt. Col. Jean Havens, 870th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander, was here in September of 2007 before an English course was created.

"[Previously] there was only a bicultural bilingual advisor who would sit down [with the Iraqis] and teach English for an hour a day, and the progress was not great," she stated.

When Havens returned in May this year she was able to see a few of the pilots she worked with before and said their English had improved exponentially and they were now flying missions solo.

"I could tell what the great importance of the program is, and I really praise the efforts of the IqAF to learn English to further their Air Force. It's quite a feat," she said. ■

The fifth course of Iraqi National Police trained by Italian Carabinieri graduate

By Estonian Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ingrid Muhling

NTM-I PAO

BAGHDAD—The fifth course of Iraqi National Police trained by Italian Carabinieri graduated at Camp Dublin Aug. 28. The 424 graduates brought the number of Carabinieri-trained policemen to 2,103 since the start of the program last year under the NATO Training Mission in Iraq.

“Our aim is to train at least 7,000 policemen,” said Italian Col. Paolo Nardone, commander of the Carabinieri department at NTM-I.

The next course of 600 policemen from two police battalions will start in early October.

With the fifth course just finished, the Carabinieri officers and instructors are preparing for the next course already. “We are improving the quality of the program constantly. We are trying to make the classes as ‘digestible’ by students as possible,” said Italian Maj. Patrizio La Spada - commander of the Carabinieri Training Unit.

All Carabinieri instructors are carefully selected – the trainers working with the

Iraqi National Police were involved in Carabinieri-led operations in Nasiriyah during 2004 to 2005. All of them have been deployed several times and have worked with people of different origin and background.

“We have to take into account that the students have very different experience – some of them have been policemen for many years, others come from the Iraqi Army or other units of Iraqi security forces. Their learning capability differs a lot,” said La Spada.

“It is important to give all students a basic idea what a police force is: practical activities provide good opportunity to emphasize importance of safety procedures and readiness. All those small things enable them to feel the sense of responsibility, to make them understand that they represent the state,” said Italian Lt. Giovanni Bartolacci, commander of Tactical Training Team.

The Carabinieri training has a special focus on human rights and ethics. “During the two month long course, we



Photos courtesy of MNSTC-I PAO

During a recent Carabinieri graduation, Iraqi Police march in formation wearing riot control gear.

put the seeds in the ground to show the Iraqi policemen the right direction of development. Our aim is to make them act as policemen of a democratic country. Human rights are one of the main pillars of their training.”

“The common ground of mutual understanding can be found at the root level of the human being,” La Spada added. “Respect to other people has no religion, it’s a universal concept. We teach our students that they can fight hard to fulfill their duties, i.e when arresting a criminal, but once the person is arrested, they have to respect him. Respect is at the base of every relationship”

The gendarmerie-type training of the Iraqi National Police has proved to be a success story. Now, the same mission will start in Afghanistan, “The first Carabinieri officers are in Afghanistan already,” said Nardone.

Nardone is leaving Iraq after commanding the Carabinieri-led training for five months.

Saying goodbye to his Iraqi counterpart Lt. Gen. Husein Al Awady is like saying goodbye to an old friend. “Commanding General Husein is working hard to get the whole organization of approximately 40,000 policemen to the necessary level,” Nardone said. “Iraqi National Police have a strong identity and a strong sense of responsibility – they feel that they need to do something for their country and to get Iraq back to normal life.” ■



During a recent Carabinieri graduation, an Iraqi policeman demonstrates how to properly detain a subject that is fleeing the scene of a crime.



Courtesy photo

HMS Blyth and HMS Atherstone, Royal Navy Mine Countermeasure vessels docked in the port of Umm Qasr, Iraq. The Iraqi navy currently has four patrol ships and two support ships on order to protect the port and offshore oil platforms of Umm Qasr.

Royal Navy makes historic visit to Umm Qasr

By Royal Navy Lt. Krista Hodkinson

UKMCC

UMM QASR, Iraq - The HMS Blyth and HMS Atherstone, Royal Navy Mine Countermeasure vessels, visited the port of Umm Qasr, Iraq, Sept. 4, marking the first visit by Royal Navy ships since 2003.

Located close to the Kuwaiti border, Umm Qasr, Iraq's only deep water port, receives 80 percent of the country's imports. Under the mentoring of the British-led Naval Training Team, the Iraqi Navy has been working hard to improve the safety and security of the port, their offshore oil infrastructure and Iraq's territorial waters.

The Blyth and Atherstone were involved in Coalition operations earlier this year to search for underwater mines laid during the two Gulf Wars.

"A significant but substantially unrecognized part of the Royal Navy's efforts in the Gulf is focused on ensuring that global trade, primarily in the form of merchant shipping, is able to go about its normal business without fear of harassment," said Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. John Craig, Blyth's commanding officer.

"By clearing Mine Danger Areas left over from previous regional conflicts at the start of the year, the Royal Navy was

able to open the way for more shipping to reach Iraq and by visiting Umm Qasr we are able to send a clear message about the continued 'normalization' of the situation, which will encourage other ships to visit, which will in turn eventually provide a much-needed boost to the local economy. In this way, the Royal Navy is setting the stage for increased regional stability, which moves UK forces another step closer to the (Iraqi) Government's plan of an eventual troop withdrawal, when the conditions are right."

Craig continued, "As important, the visit shows the Royal Navy's commitment to working with the Iraqi Navy, assisting Iraq's sailors with their aim of defending their own coastline, and promoting regional security."

Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Steve Holloway, HMS Atherstone's commanding officer said, "It is a privilege to be one of the first British Naval ships visiting Iraq since 2003 and has provided the perfect example of Iraq re-entering the international community. Britain's commitment to the development of Iraq is progressing well and was evident throughout our stay." Adding, "The visit has proven an increase in stability in the region and bodes well

for the future of Iraq and its armed forces."

The Iraqi Navy plans to quadruple the current fleet. An aggressive program is underway which will see the Iraqi Navy take delivery of a brand new fleet of ships starting next year. This investment to increase capability reflects the force's strategic importance to the nation.

The Naval Training Team will be an integral part in growing this capability, with responsibility for training the Iraqi sailors to man these vessels. U.S. Navy Cmdr. Paul Hugill, executive officer of Naval Training Team said, "This type of exchange with Coalition Navies will really accelerate the progress of the Iraqi Navy."

With the key tasks of protecting the offshore oil infrastructure, the security of the Umm Qasr port and Iraq's territorial waters, the Iraqi Navy is largely confined to coastal waters. With four patrol ships and two support ships on order, Royal Navy ships operating in the area can, in the future, increase mentoring and training for the Iraqi Navy to enable them to take part in wider coalition activities. ■

3,000 new Shurta join Iraqi Police force

By **U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Stefanie Torres**

MNSTC-I PAO

KIRKUK, Iraq – Nearly 3,000 Iraqi Police recruits, including 58 women, graduated from the Kirkuk Police Training Center Sept. 23.

Iraqi and Coalition senior leaders praised the newest IPs as they stood in formation during the ceremony.

The Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, part of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, partners with the Iraqi government to train IPs to maintain the rule of law and battle insurgency.

“I’m proud of the accomplishments of our Coalition and Iraqi friends working together,” said John Doyle, CPATT advisor to the school. “We always found a way to

overcome any obstacle.”

In addition to general policing, the six-week police course covered human relations, first aid, Iraqi law and crime scene investigation, explained Doyle.

The IP band played as the graduates marched in front of senior leaders. The new police graduates demonstrated many of the techniques they learned during the ceremony including; riot control, hand-to-hand combat and building clearing.

“These new graduates will be able to provide security and stability to the country,” said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, 4th Infantry Division commanding general. “I can assure you things will be a lot better here after the graduates go to their duty station.” ■



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Stefanie Torres

Iraqi police women show spectators and leaders what they learned during the six-week police training Sept. 23. Nearly 3,000 graduated from the Kirkuk Police Training Center.

Iraqis, Soldiers and airmen deliver humanitarian relief

By **U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly**

MNSTC-I PAO

NAJAF, Iraq –The Iraqi Air Force and Army took another step toward taking care of their citizens when they delivered a planeload of humanitarian goods to displaced residents in the Najaf Province. The shipment came from private charitable organizations in the United States, but was coordinated and delivered by Iraqi Security Forces.

The shipment of supplies was loaded onto a C-130 cargo plane owned, piloted and crewed by IqAF, at New Al Muthana Air Base in Baghdad. The hour-long flight took the material to Najaf in the

Southwest area of Iraq. From there it was taken to a forward operating base controlled by the Najaf Provincial Reconstruction Team, which is made up of U.S. Army Soldiers and state department officials. The PRT separated and sorted numerous items including; shoes, warm-up clothes and wheelchairs, then loaded everything onto Iraqi Army cargo trucks.

The following day, Soldiers from the Iraqi Army took the supplies to the Al Manathiraa district of Najaf to a camp for internally displaced people. These are Iraqis who have fled other areas due to violence during the last few years. More than 3,000 men, women and children live in the camp predominantly made of tents and container housing units.

Families from the camp lined up a few at a time as the supplies were distributed by Iraqi Soldiers. They also gave away soccer balls from a foundation called kickfornick.com, organized in memory of U.S. Army Pfc. Nick Madaras, who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Sept. 2006 near Baqubah.

The Governor of Najaf Province, Asaad Abu Gulal, and other community leaders were on hand to help with the

distribution as well. Gulal thanked both the American and Iraqi Soldiers for their cooperation and support.

Khudhaer Al-Jinbury, Mayor of the Al Manathiraa district of Najaf said, “This is an indicator of how thoughtful they [Soldiers] are, thinking of the people in this camp.”

The PRT was joined by a U.S. Army Military Training Team to help oversee the distribution.

“We were here to help get it done,” said Evan McCarthy, the PRT’s Provincial Action Officer. “Quite frankly, I don’t think we even needed to be here today. The Iraqis could probably pull this off completely themselves.” ■



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly

U.S. Army Soldiers unload a truck full of supplies that was delivered by the Iraqi Air Force.



Citizens from the Manathirra District in Najaf received supplies handed out by Iraqi Army Soldiers.

Iraqi pilots make history in the King Air 350

By U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Trish Freeland

AFCENTCOM PAO

NEW AL MUTHANNA AIR BASE, Iraq - An all Iraqi Air Force flight crew from the 23rd Squadron flew the King Air 350 light transport aircraft for the first time Sept. 6. The crew flew from Baghdad to Kirkuk for scheduled maintenance and returned about six hours later. This is the first time an all Iraqi crew has flown the aircraft without an advisor from the Coalition Air Force Training Team onboard.

The flight crew consisted of two pilots who are the first graduates of the initial qualification course. This marks the culmination of about eight months of training and 40 upgrade sorties.

Capt. Kh.A, the flight's mission commander, used to fly MiG-21s out of Al Asad Air Base as part of the old Iraqi Air Force. Being fully mission capable in the King Air 350 nearly rendered him speechless.

"I sacrifice myself to protect my country," he said. "There are no words to say what I am feeling now."

Lt. Col. A.K., serving in the position of first pilot for the historic mission,



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Paul Villanueva

U.S. Air Force Capt. Christopher Spangenberg, combat aviation advisor - instructor pilot with the King Air 350 Military Transition Team, talks with the first all Iraqi Air Force flight crew to fly a King Air 350 light transport aircraft at New al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq on Sept. 6.

spent over a year working as a computer programmer before joining the new Iraqi Air Force.

"I spent from 1991 to 2003 in the old Iraqi Air Force," he said. "But I came back because this is my career and I enjoy it."

In addition to the normal challenges of an academic environment, language barriers and cultural differences made this accomplishment even more remarkable.

"The biggest challenge was the technology," said Kh.A. "Very high level. In the past we used to avoid it. But today's mission was perfect, exactly like it should be."

Few are more proud of the pilots than Capt. Chris Spangenberg, one of the U.S. advisors who trained Kh.A. and A.K.

"There's a big technology jump to move into this airplane. It's got a lot of brand new 21st century technology,"

said Spangenberg. "To go from not having flown very heavily for the last few years to flying this airplane has been a huge challenge for the Iraqi's. But they've picked it up well and they're advancing," he added.

By the end of the year, the 23rd Squadron expects to have two fully-qualified Iraqi crews and about eight more pilots in training. There are also two mission sensor operators in training with the goal of having at least one of them fully qualified by October.



Iraqi Air Force Lt. Colonel A.K., pilot with the Iraqi Air Force 23rd Squadron, checks the engine oil of a King Air 350 light transport aircraft at New al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq.



An Iraqi Air Force Capt. KH.A., pilot with the Iraqi Air Force 23rd Squadron, performs a preflight check on a King Air 350 light transport aircraft.

8th Iraqi Army Warfighters returning to battlefield after large unit training

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO

NUMANIYAH, Iraq—Soldiers from the 8th Iraqi Army Division graduated from Warfighter training here Sept. 11.

Approximately 600 Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 30th Brigade, 8th Division, trained in large unit operations and conducted a battalion-level exercise before graduating. Much of the training focused on urban warfare conducted at the Military Operations on the Urbanized Terrain site.

“This is the first opportunity since 2003 for these soldiers the [1/30/8] to get this kind of training collectively as a battalion,” said Lt. Gen. Authman, 8th Division commander. “This is the most important point. They got their training collectively in the MOUT city fighting. Also each company got their opportunity to do their mission collectively on company level training.”

Authman continued, “All the battalion officers got their chance to get together to make the plan. A plan for the training and a plan for their mission for operations in the future.”

Warfighter is a program that brings battalion-sized elements out of the battlespace for follow-on training at a regional or division training center. Since most Iraqi Soldiers go directly from Basic Combat Training to a unit that is engaged with the enemy, often for prolonged periods of time, this advanced training is a valuable opportunity for leaders and troops to examine and refine their practices in light of real world experience.



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

Iraqi Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 30th Brigade, 8th Division celebrate following their graduation from Warfighter training that was held in Numaniyah a majority of the training was at Military Operations and Urbanized Terrain Site.

2,000 Jinoos enter Iraqi Army service

Courtesy of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Public Affairs

MNSTC-I PAO

KIRKUSH, Iraq – More than 2,000 Iraqi Soldiers completed Basic Combat Training here, Sep. 4.

“You are the future of Iraq’s Army,” said Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Shahab, commander of the 1st Iraqi Training Brigade. “You are the future Corporals and Sergeants and you will need to provide our future Soldiers with direction honesty and integrity.”

As is part of Iraqi tradition, one of the graduates recited a poem he wrote which dealt with their time at basic training and encouraged his fellow students to be optimistic of their future.

During the final portion of the ceremony, the Soldiers recited the Iraqi Soldier’s Creed. After reciting the creed,



Courtesy Photo

1st Iraqi Training Brigade Commander, Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Shahab, shakes hands with one of the top graduates of the Basic Combat Training.

the commander told the students that these were very powerful words that need to be taken very seriously and challenged the Soldiers to live up to the creed.

During BCT, the Soldiers learned basic soldiering skills like rifle marksmanship, check point operations, drill and ceremony, small unit tactics, land navigation, room clearing, urban operations, and personnel and vehicle searching.

They also learned the law of land warfare and received equal opportunity training. Like all Soldiers throughout history, they did physical training and learned the proper wear of their uniforms. ■

IA brigade conducts combined medical assessment in Mubarak

Courtesy of Multi-National Division-North Public Affairs

MND-N PAO

MUBARAK, Iraq

– Iraqi Army soldiers from the 14th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, conducted a combined medical assessment in the village of Mubarak in the Uzaym River Valley Aug. 27.

The division’s surgeon and battalion medics, alongside doctors and nurses from the Tikrit Teaching Hospital, saw and treated more than 200 patients, including about 130 women and children.

IA medical personnel also handed out prescriptions to identified patients.



Courtesy photo

A medical doctor from the Tikrit Teaching Hospital sees a local villager from Mubarak’s Uzaym River Valley during a combined medical assessment with the Iraqi Army soldiers.

“It was essential to the commanders of this brigade to show the people in this remote location that the IA and Iraqi Government have the capability to provide security and medical care for them,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Hauerwas, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division executive officer.

“The residents of the village were grateful for the commitment of the Iraqi Army during recent operations in the URV.” ■

Coalition operations cross the 12,000 detainee release milestone

Courtesy of Task Force 134 Public Affairs

MNF-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Coalition Detainee Operations in Iraq marked day four of Ramadan with the release of the 12,000th internee since January 1, 2008. This milestone was a forecasted goal for this year. Now, with over three and a half months until the end of the year, military officials from Multi-National Forces Iraq’s Task Force 134, look forward to additional continued releases of the least dangerous internees, back to their communities.

“These Iraqi citizens will now return home to their communities and can

become a positive part of Iraq’s future,” says U.S. Army Maj. Neal Fisher, TF 134 spokesman. Crossing the 12,000 releases milestone does not equate to mass releases. Each internee has gone through a very deliberate and responsible evaluation of their records while in detention. Military members from the area of Iraq in which they were captured talk to the internee face to face during a Multi-National Forces Review Committee board, to determine whether the type of attitude and behaviors that lead to the internees’ capture

are still present.

In addition to the MNFRC board’s process, the increased releases are also credited to the many education and vocational programs that internees have access to while in detention. The improved reading and writing skills that many internees leave with also play a tremendous role in the extremely low rate of re-internment; currently less than 1 percent.

The 12,000 figure is the gross number of releases. TF 134 reports that over the last four weeks, it accepts an average of 24 new internees

every day, while releasing an average of 67 per day. These figures reflect a notable decrease in new internees and an increase in releases since the start of the summer.

Nearly one year ago, coalition detention facilities reached a historic high of over 26,000 detainees. Currently, there are approximately 19,000 internees in coalition custody.

During the month of Ramadan, Coalition forces plan to release at least 3,000 internees, taking the year to date number of releases to over 15,000 by Oct. 1. ■

FLIGHT DOC: Iraqi military doctors complete flight surgeon training

By U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Brian Davidson

447th AEG PAO

NEW AL MUTHANA AIR BASE, Iraq – A group of six Iraqi doctors recently made strides towards building a fully independent air force by graduating from the Coalition Air Force Training Team Flight Surgeons' Course.

The 17-day course curriculum was offered to the doctors, who are also Iraqi Army and Air Force officers, at New al Muthana Air Base near Baghdad International Airport.

The training included aviation principles relating to both air and ground operations and an extensive course of study in clinical, preventive and occupational aviation medicine.

The course included case presentations, video demonstrations, aircraft static training, classroom participation, open discussion and written examinations.

Three of the graduating doctors are currently Iraqi Army officers and will return to their assigned units awaiting transfer into the air force. "The training is another step towards a successful transition to fully independent air force for Iraq," said Col. (Dr.) Paul Young, CAFTT director of aeromedical services training. "These doctors are a critical part of developing that air force and are responsible for the medical evaluation,



Courtesy Photos

Iraqi military doctors sit and listen to a presentation during a 17-day flight surgeons course at New Al Muthana Air Base. The training consisted of aviation principles relating to air and ground operations and an extensive study in clinical, preventive and occupational aviation medicine.

certification and treatment of aviation personnel including pilots, aircrew members and air traffic controllers."

The Coalition Air Force Training Team is made up of American and Iraqi Airmen who are tasked with training, and advising senior leaders as well as assisting the Iraqi air force to become part of Iraq's total national security structure. The combined CAFTT Airmen also assist the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and Iraqi air force in defining future roles and missions as well as developing capabilities in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, battlefield mobility and airbase

operations.

There are currently four squadrons that make up the Iraqi Air Force, each charged with different missions throughout the country. Each squadron requires qualified physicians who understand the physiological and psychological effects of flying operations on flight crews in both training and battlefield environments.

CAFTT is helping Iraq build a modern air force by introducing western military professional concepts from conducting basic military training through the Flight Surgeon's Course to replacing the dictatorial past.

"Operating across Iraq, there are hundreds of uniquely qualified men and women working side-by-side with the Iraqis, often under fire, to build a credible air force," Colonel Young said. "We are all very proud of these new flight doctors for their accomplishments. Their dedication will lead to sustaining medical operations for the Iraqi air force today and in the future." ■



Iraqi military doctors listen during one of the classes they attended during the flight surgeons course.

MoD hosts women's military intelligence panel

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – A group of American intelligence specialists held a panel discussion, Sept. 18, for the first class of Iraqi women to attend the Basic Military Intelligence Course.

"We are in awe of your willingness to take your place in the Iraqi Security Forces," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Mary Legere, Multi-National Forces-Iraq director for intelligence.

"You will, along with the men and women of the Iraqi Security Forces, work with us to take the fight to the enemy."

Legere and five other women on the panel discussed the challenges they faced during the last two decades in the field of military intelligence.

Several of them were the first women to arrive at their respective commands in the 1980s.

During a question and answer session, they offered the 17 new recruits some technical insights gained from their years of experience with intelligence practices and processes.

"Know that what you are doing is really important to your country and you really are a part of the future," said U.S.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

A group of American intelligence specialists hold a panel discussion, Sept. 18, for the first class of Iraqi women to attend the Basic Military Intelligence Course.

Army Maj. Italia Carson, an advisor to the Intelligence Transition Team.

"This week marks an important event for the new Iraq as we begin training women in the intelligence specialty," said Steve Bond, director of the Intelligence Transition Team at Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. "The important message we want to send is

that the Iraqi Security Forces are becoming stronger and women are a part of that."

All of the women being trained are currently working in the intelligence and security directorate of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense.

The mission of this directorate is to conduct operations to collect, analyze, produce, and disseminate information concerning military threats to Iraq and oversee security within the MoD. Women are working in most of the offices in the intelligence and security directorate.

The 3-week course includes an overview of the intelligence and security directorate, security processes and procedures, threat analysis and the intelligence cycle.

The students were selected by their departments based on time employed at MoD. Eventually all males and females will receive this training. ■

Interrogation and Source Operations Course graduates

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

MNSTC-I PAO

TAJI - 50 graduates completed the Interrogation and Source Operations Courses recently at the Military Intelligence and Security Academy here.

The graduates joined more than 2,700 other academy graduates in intelligence related jobs who work for the Iraqi Security forces. Many of the graduates from this course will go on to be trainers in the subsequent classes.

During the ceremony Mr. Steven Bond, Intelligence Training Team commander, spoke on the future of the graduates. "Many of you came here from jobs that required you to

work against terrorist and criminal threat, conducting counterinsurgency operations and helping to establish secure borders. All of you will return to these jobs with your new intelligence skills. I believe the training you have received will allow you to serve you and all of Iraq well."

Mr. Bond also spoke on how the graduate's skills will be utilized in the field.

"Over the last two months, you have learned how to effectively manage and conduct HUMINT (human Intelligence) operations. It should not go unnoticed to the enemies of the coalition, that each

time we graduate another class from the academy, we are providing more trained professionals to track down terrorists and criminals."

"As a result, the coalition becomes stronger and more effective, and Iraq becomes better prepared for the future," he added.

The academy is currently preparing for expansion with an increase in instructors to 135 and an increase in billeting to house 600 students.

For 2010, the academy is hoping to increase to 3000 a year, by adding additional courses and training opportunities. ■

Iraqi airmen keep helicopter fleet flying

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Donald Branum

332nd AEW PA

TAJI, Iraq – The vaguely comforting scent of oil and mechanical parts drifted through the air as an Mi-17 Hip helicopter sat in the shade of a hangar here Sept. 11. Its rear door lay open, and panels along its tail boom were lifted away and stowed as Iraqi airmen crawled through the vehicle's innards.

Two airmen straddled the tail, about a meter from the tail blade, while a third had shimmied inside the tail boom, inspecting the inside.

On a nearby table sat an Mi-17 technical order -- a step-by-step repair and maintenance manual that is just one example of the processes and procedures Iraqi airmen have picked up from their American counterparts.

One of those counterparts is Tech. Sgt.

Lee Everhart, an Mi-17 air adviser with the 770th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron here. The 770th AEAS is part of the Coalition Air Forces Training Team, one of the military transition teams charged with assisting Iraqis in rebuilding their government and armed forces.

Everhart, a native of Charlotte, N.C., joined the Air Force 16 years ago to see the world and get an education. He volunteered for his deployment to the 770th AEAS.

"Where else do you get to work on stuff like this?" he asked, gesturing toward a helipad where about a dozen Mi-17s were parked.

The Mi-17 in the hangar had made a hard landing during a recent training mission, and its tail skid struck and dragged across the ground. Iraqi airmen brought the aircraft into the second-line maintenance shop, which -- like a U.S. Air Force phase dock -- typically performs time-required maintenance on helicopters. In this case, the airmen inspected several parts in the tail assembly for possible damage.

"They'd been using this Hip for cannibalization," he said, referring to logistical challenges the squadrons have had to overcome. "They had just gotten it back to flying status two flights ago."

Everhart said the American and Iraqi airmen have made significant progress toward building a fully operational Iraqi Air Force and a self-reliant Iraq. That goal has drawn Iraqi airmen of all ages and backgrounds into the new air force. Iraqi Air Force Maj. Yussef Naji, an electrical technician, is a 34-year veteran.

"I feel my country needs me now," Naji said. "The new country needs my help to build a new democracy."

Iraqi Air Force 2nd Lt. Ali Hashm-



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard Lisum

Iraqi air force Lt. Col. Auday Yasseu Yousif inspects an Mi-17 Hip's mechanical systems Sept. 11 at Taji Air Base, Iraq. The helicopter made a hard landing and struck its tail skid against the ground during a recent training mission, requiring a close inspection of its tail.

Abbas, an Mi-17 technical mechanic, joined only 12 months ago.

"I believe in building a new country," Hashm-Abbas said. "I want other people to join -- we need new blood to build a new air force." He signed a 15-year contract to serve and said he plans to serve in the Iraqi air force until he retires -- "and if they need me again, I'll say yes."

The maintainers are eager to learn, Everhart said.

"The younger Iraqis come to us on a daily basis and ask, 'Please sign us off on this,'" he said. "They want knowledge."

They've learned more than their jobs: they've also learned about the American spirit.

"I've learned a lot from the American guys," Hashm-Abbas said. "We've learned about training, and we've learned about a new culture. We have a good relationship with the Americans."

The close relationship has paid off. Iraqi airmen now have full control over their training and operational flights and are responsible for their own national security. American Airmen play a sideline role.

"It's unbelievable how far they've come in just the five months we've been here," Everhart said. ■



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Paul Villanueva

Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Auday Yasseu Yousif inspects a section of the tail rotor drive shaft of a Mi-17 Hip helicopter at Al Taji Air Base, Iraq, Sept. 11. Yousif is chief engineer for Iraqi air force Squadron 4 second-line maintenance.

Busting the myths of Camp Bucca

Courtesy of Task Force 134 PAO

TF 134 PAO

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq -- An Iraqi newspaper reporter recently revealed that most Iraqis believe anyone who is captured by Coalition Forces and sent to Camp Bucca will never be seen again; they are considered dead.

Every month approximately 12,000 Iraqi visitors travel from all over the country to Camp Bucca, the quiet forward operating base along the Kuwait border near the port city of Um Qasr, Iraq's southern most city.

In addition to the 12,000 visitors that actually walk through the gates of Camp Bucca, another nearly 500 visits between internees and their families happen every month via video teleconference with the facility in Baghdad, Camp Cropper. The VTC visitation is offered for those families who are unable to make the trip to Um Qasr, but can make it to Baghdad. There are a little over 500 cell phone calls made by internees to their families per month from their interment compounds at Camp Bucca.

With all of this communication occurring in and around Camp Bucca, how does the myth of this place being so evil and foreboding persist? It may be

impossible to unravel the mysteries of the Iraqi rumor lines, but below are facts to correct the misinformation, "myth-busting" if you will.

The following are a few of the myths that surround detention operations, along with the correct information:

•**MYTH:** Detainees are being brainwashed by the Americans.

o**FACT:** At the two Coalition detention facilities, all of the education, vocational, and Islamic Discussion Programs are led by Iraqi trained and certified teachers, social workers, and clerics. When these sessions occur the only Coalition staff present are the guards, and their presence is for the protection of the staff and not for interaction with the detainees, classes or discussions.

•**MYTH:** Detainees are held for years without being told why they are in custody.

o**FACT:** When someone is captured they go through a process of continuous evaluations and reviews to determine whether or not they pose an imperative threat to the people of Iraq, the Government of Iraq, or any security forces. At multiple points in this process, the captured person is advised in detail why they are in custody. This process

occurs long before the person leaves the region of Iraq in which they were captured and before they are deemed an official detainee.

•**MYTH:** All detainees are extremely bad men who do not care about Iraq.

o**FACT:** Many of the internees are indeed very dangerous and have no loyalty to Iraq

or its people. However, a large number of those detained are good Iraqis who made terrible mistakes in judgment or were severely misled by extremists set on destroying the hard earned gains made in this country. A significant number of the internees voluntarily participate in education and vocational classes in order to better themselves for their own brighter future and for their role in the future of Iraq. Many voluntarily join in Islamic Discussion Programs with Iraqi clerics and social workers in order to enhance their understanding of their religion and how their actions either match or contradict its teachings.

•**MYTH:** Americans are not following Iraqi law in the detention of its citizens.

o**FACT:** Those in coalition detention have been deemed an imperative threat to the citizens of Iraq, the Government of Iraq, and those security forces that are working to ensure peace and stability. Those captured who have been identified as having broken the law, are turned over to the Government of Iraq and processed according to Iraqi Law. Coalition Forces detain persons based on threat and the Government of Iraq imprisons based on Iraqi law. Basically, Coalition Forces hold detainees and the Government of Iraq holds prisoners and inmates.

•**MYTH:** The Americans have too many detainees for them to receive proper medical treatment.

o**FACT:** The team of Coalition doctors, nurses, and medics run an extremely efficient program of care that provides coverage for not only the internees, but also the service members and civilian staff. The doctors divide their workload based on the need in the compounds, and the legion of medics and Iraqi Medical Officers (IMOs) are available in every internment compound around the clock.

Detention operations touch nearly every Iraqi citizen. It is of vital importance that as often as these myths are discovered, every effort is made to answer their charges. No nation in the history of modern warfare has ever attempted detention operations in the manner in which Coalition Forces have, with the amount of dedicated manpower and resources seen in Iraq. ■



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Amie McMillan

Families wait at the Welcome Center to schedule a visitation to see their relatives who are being held at the theater internment facility at Camp Bucca, Iraq.

Female IP trainees conduct weapons training

Courtesy of Multi-National Division-Baghdad

TF 134 PAO

Twenty-one Iraqi women, Iraq's first female police trainees, attended weapons familiarization training Sept. 4 at the Multi-National Division-North Regional Training Center in Diyala Province during their four-week Iraqi Police certification course.

The Iraqi Police course is four weeks of instruction that trains basic police skills to include basic rifle marksmanship training. During this training, all students learn how to shoot a pistol, AK-47 automatic rifle and PKM machine gun on the local weapons range.

The female trainees, for the first time training alongside their male colleagues, were taught how to fire a PKM automatic machine gun and a 9-mm pistol.

"For many of the Iraqi women, this was the first time that they have handled a weapon," said Capt David Castillo, officer in charge RTC, 728th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade and

MND-N.

While IP and CF Soldiers provided instruction to all 750 trainees, at the academy, the 21 new female trainees showed a lot of potential at the range with some even displaying marked proficiency.

"The female police trainees have shown great enthusiasm and are eager to learn," said Castillo.

As this range was used for familiarization and safety awareness, the academy will conduct additional ranges this month to teach the 21 trainees how to perfect their shooting techniques and provide them with more hands on pre-maintenance inspections.

"Overall, the training was a success but they still need a lot of work," said Castillo. "Many of them have never handled a weapon before and some are still terrified of them."

The RTC is now in its fourth class since opening in March 2007. In the upcoming months the CF will turn over full operations to the IP as they will be responsible for training and logistical

functions of the Diyala Police Academy.

In addition to weapons training, the IP training course certifies trainees on basic personal defensive tactics, human rights and ethics, democratic policing, Iraqi Rule of Law and basic first aid. ■



US Army photo by Spc. Brittney K. Lloyd

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Baiocchetti coaches a female IP trainee on loading a magazine into her weapon at the Regional Training Center in Diyala.

Making Iraq a safer place: one enemy weapon at a time

Courtesy of Multi-National Security Transition Command PAO

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Leaders from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq J4 (logistics) section met with the director of the Iraqi Unexploded Ordnance Mine Clearing Organization, Zahim Jihad Mutarand for an initial facility visit at IMCO's office in the International Zone.

IMCO is an Iraqi non-governmental organization developed and funded by the U.S. Department of State Weapons Abatement Program. IMCO's main charter is to conduct UXO and mine clearance operations for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

IMCO also trains explosive ordnance disposal technicians and instructors for the Iraqi armed forces and police. They have trained more than 950 technicians and removed nearly 150,000 mines and UXOs from all over Iraq.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Army Col. Robert Gagnon demilitarizes an RPG with a plasma cutter.

A new part of IMCO's business is the Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program.

IMCO acquired a locally designed and manufactured electro-mechanical shear to conduct the demilitarization of weapons.

Multi-National Corps-Iraq and MNSTC-I J4 are working to move enemy weapons captured by Coalition and Iraqi forces to the Taji National Supply Depot where they will be refurbished for issue to Iraqi Security Forces or demilitarized and disposed of.

MNSTC-I J4 will work with IMCO to process approximately 80,000 enemy weapons stockpiled at Taji since the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003.