

# The Advisor



November 2008



**NCOs:  
Backbone of the  
Iraqi military**

# The Advisor

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## >> ON THE COVER

An Iraqi NCO stands next to his platoon at a recent Warfighter graduation in Kirkuk



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

An Iraqi Air Force warrant officer candidate shows his excitement after low crawling under barbed wire during his run of the basic military training tactical course while carrying his blue training rifle at Al Taji Air Base, Iraq Sept. 27.

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After 10 weeks of intense training, Class #11 of the Ibn Sina Trauma Training Course graduated at the IZ's Combat Surgical Hospital Oct. 28.

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During their visit, they distributed clothing, school supplies and personal hygiene items to families in need.

# Rifle marksmanship training - the essential NCO skill

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

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – Every Soldier must be competent with his rifle, and Iraqi noncommissioned officers must be able to instill this competency in their Soldiers.



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

**Iraqi Army Sgt. Akram marks a target and calls out sight adjustments to shooters and their coaches.**

Since the new Iraqi Army was formed in 2003, most basic rifle instruction has been provided by Coalition forces. As the Iraqi Army has started transitioning from the AK-47 rifle to the M-16 and M-4, the experience these instructors brought helped bring the Iraqis up to speed with their new weapons.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly, a Basic Combat Training advisor at Division Training Center, Hammam al Alil from March to June 2008, said, "I was there as an advisor. But I would end up doing hands-on training because there were 100 Soldiers on the firing line at once."

Soldiers were issued weapons and would zero at 25 meters and then shoot for qualification at 100 meters, explained Daly.

"Zeroing was more like familiarization fire as no sight adjustments were made. The Iraqis didn't even have sight tools for the AK-47s when I got to Hamman al Alil.



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

**An Iraqi Soldier draws five M-16 magazines before heading to the firing line.**

The coaches just tried to get the Soldiers shooting in the right direction. They fired 30 rounds at a blank piece of letter-size paper taped to a silhouette target, then walked downrange to count."

The Iraqi Soldiers would spend three days on the 100-meter range qualifying and retrying for those who didn't qualify. The standard, Daly said, was something like 15 of 30 rounds on the piece of paper.

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## Strengthening the backbone of the Iraqi Army

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

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – Soldiers need boots for marching, rifles for fighting, food for strength and NCO leadership for mission accomplishment. The Iraqi Army is ratcheting up efforts to build a strong, professional corps of noncommissioned officers to lead nearly a quarter million Soldiers into the 21st century.

"Because of the improved security situation in Iraq, we are seeing more NCOs from operational units coming to NCO courses," said Command Sgt. Maj. William High, senior enlisted leader for the Coalition Army Advisory Training Team, part of the Multi-National Security

Transition Command-Iraq. "There has been a significant increase in attendance."

One of the biggest challenges Iraqi NCOs have faced is lack of empowerment and authority over their Soldiers. Traditionally, Iraqi officers have managed troops at the lowest levels. This has caused difficulties with training and maintaining order.

A lot of changes are taking place in the Iraqi NCO corps. "Officers are empowering NCOs more every day," said High. "The NCOs enforce standards and discipline in their units. Police calls to pre-combat checks and inspections—we're seeing a significant jump in that getting better every day."

"Some NCOs will tell you they are more empowered now than at any time.

Even though the process has a long way to go, officers are using their NCOs more than they ever have before."

"The Iraqi leaders like what they see in an American NCO; empowered to carry out the commander's intent," High continued. "They have learned a lot from working with our Army. Many will tell you they have a lot of respect for the American noncommissioned officer."

The way ahead for the Iraqi NCO is through education and training to build a better NCO corps, and getting their officers to embrace the NCO and empower him with more authority.

The Iraqis built a Master Instructor Course that is focused on performance oriented tasks and hands-on training in

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# First Senior Noncommissioned Officer course

**By Portuguese Army Master Sgt. Vitor Santos**

*NTM-I PAO*

**TAJI, Iraq** – 44 Senior Non-Commissioned Officers from the Iraqi Army, Air Force, Navy, National Police and Special Forces started the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course on Nov. 1 at the Regional Training Center - Taji.

The Senior NCO course is supported and designed by NATO Training Mission – Iraq in cooperation with Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq in order to provide Iraqi senior NCOs with an outline of duties, responsibilities, and operational and administrative leadership principles.

Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Commander, MNSTC-I, visited the Senior NCO Course on Nov. 3 and presented the



Photo by PRT Army Master Sgt. Vitor Santos

**Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Commander, MNSTC-I, greets an Iraqi instructor at the Senior NCO Academy in Taji on Nov. 03.**

students with a lecture about leadership. Helmick directed the students to take responsibility and show leadership. “You

have to lead soldiers by saying: ‘Follow me. Do what I do’. The rank doesn’t make the NCO. The NCO makes the rank,” he said.

The event was attended by Iraqi military dignitaries, including Gen. Babakir, Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Joint Forces, Gen. Adnan, Chief of the General Staff, and Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain, Deputy Chief of Staff for Training.

The four-week course, now taught by Iraqi NCOs with mentoring from their coalition partners, covers military leadership, staff procedures, operational procedures, human rights and security co-operation. NATO has trained Iraqi Security Forces since 2004 and remains committed to supporting the Government of Iraq’s efforts to resume its important place in the international community. ■

# Emergency network expands to Al Anbar region

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

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – Iraqis have been able to take charge and save lives thanks to their Advanced First Responder Network.

AFRN works the same way the ‘911’ emergency phone service does in the United States, except you dial ‘104’ here in Iraq. It serves as the backbone emergency communication link between Iraqi citizens and emergency services.

The network has now expanded across the Al Anbar region, decreasing the amount of preventable deaths across Iraq. Installed in 15 major cities throughout Iraq, more than 18 million people have access to the system.

“Baghdad leaders depend on this network,” said Iraqi Maj. Gen. Saad, Ministry of Interior Director of Communication. “This is very important to us.” With one phone call, trained dispatchers send the emergency messages to the correct responders. Police, fire and emergency services, and diplomatic protection services are only some of the services available.

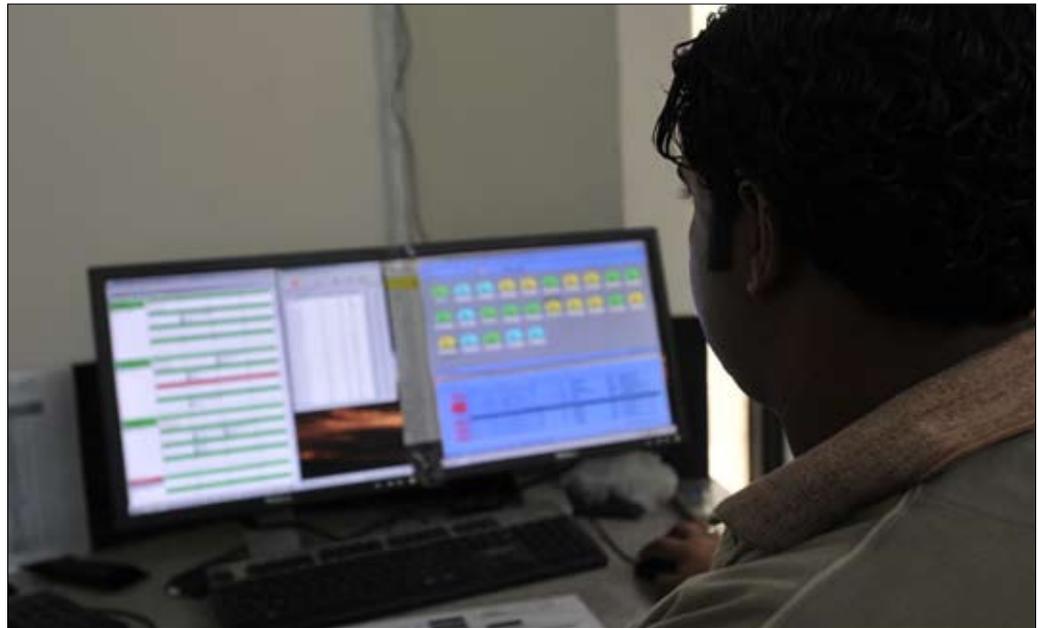


Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Stefanie Torres

**An Iraqi man operates an AFRN Governate Dispatch Center where ‘104’ emergency calls are taken. The network is now installed in 15 major cities throughout Iraq, with more than 18 million people having access to the system.**

Before the network was created in 2006, Iraqi citizens had to find their own way to get help, explained U.S. Army Capt. Antonio McNutt, AFRN program manager.

“Now the dispatch center is receiving more than 1,400 calls a day in just Baghdad alone and dispatching the right response team,” he said.

**See AFRN page 16**

# Iraqi Air Force firefighters conduct joint training with Coalition forces

By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

MNSTC-I PAO

**NEW AL MUTHANA AIR BASE, Iraq** – Firefighters from the New Al Muthana and Sather Air Bases conducted a joint training exercise Oct. 22 to hone their skills.

Firefighting teams from both air bases responded to the emergency calls and arrived on the scene minutes apart. The Iraqi Air Force firefighters took the primary response role with the Americans in support for the exercise scenario, which included a cockpit fire in a C-130.

Iraqi Air Force Capt. H.M., Fire Chief for New Al Muthana Air Base, said the training was, “for sure very good.” He added that the training, “increases our capability and effect to firefight when it happens for real. We correct problems before they occur.”

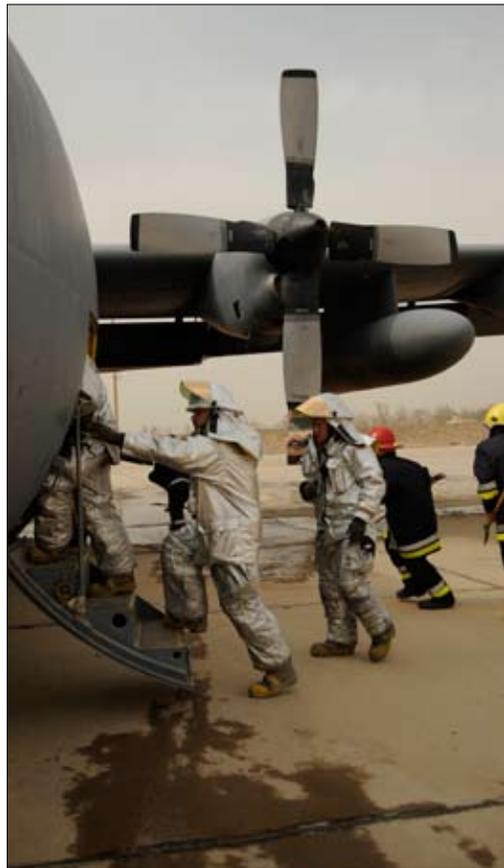
Capt. H.M. has plans to expand the exercise to include security and medical clinic personnel also. If a real event occurred, he said they “all need to be involved and all have a role to practice. Our job is safety of personnel and equipment.”



**Iraqi air force firefighters prepare to extinguish a fire during an egress exercise at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq Oct. 22.**

U.S. Air National Guardsman, Chief Master Sgt. John Cinquemani, Fire Chief for U.S. Air Force’s Sather Air Base, said, “this is an excellent opportunity for both fire departments to get together to train. With the volume of C-130 traffic here, we have a common goal to rescue or suppress fire.”

Echoing Capt. H.M., Cinquemani stressed the importance of expanding the exercise scope to include all participants in an initial response force. ■



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

**Airmen from the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron fire department enter a C-130 while participating in an egress exercise with Iraqi Air Force firefighters at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq on Oct. 22. The firefighters met the objectives of displaying extinguishment capabilities, clear and egress a path and enter, then egress the occupants to the outside.**

## Partners Conference seeks to restore peace

By U.S. Army Capt. Yadira Carasquillo

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – The Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq Directorate of Interior Affairs, commanded by Brig. Gen. (P) Mike Milano, hosted the quarterly Partners Conference at the FOB Blackhawk Conference Center on October 10. This was the first meeting to include members from the Ministry of Interior. The conference is held to assist and coordinate the Ministry’s efforts to restore peace and security in Iraq.

The partners collaborating in this effort included the International Police Advisors, Department of Justice, UN Assistance Mission-Iraq, European Union, DoD, Foreign and Commonwealth office, USAID, Danish Police, NATO Training Mission - Iraq, European Union Rule of Law, Department of Homeland Security, MNSTC-I, MNF-I, MNC-I, International



Civilian Police and the International Narcotics & Law Enforcement group.

Senior officials attending the event included Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, MNSTC-I commanding general, Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Adnan Al-Asadi, Senior Deputy Minister of MoI, Maj. Gen. Abdul Ameer, Deputy Director of Infrastructure, Brig. Mark Castle, GBR, deputy commanding general for Ministerial Capacity, and Brig. Mogsans Bech, RDA, deputy commanding general for Administration and Logistics Capacity Development, DoIA.

These conferences are important because the “interaction of all the partners has a common goal - to help build the Ministry of Interior’s capacity, and also to identify any problems and see where we are,” said Milano. Such endeavors will expand the capability of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior and will reflect the force’s strategic importance to the future of Iraq. ■

# First class of Iraqi Police River Patrol divers graduate

By **U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bill Gazis**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – The first class of eight Baghdad Police and Civil Defense divers graduated from the National Police River Patrol Divers Course near the 14th of July Bridge in Baghdad October 8. Iraqi and Coalition senior leaders, including Major General Ali Hadi al-Yasri, Baghdad Director of Patrol Police, Major General Abd al-Rasool, Director General of Civil Defense, and Major General Jerry Cannon, CPATT Commanding General, praised



the newest group of divers as they stood in formation in their diving gear during the ceremony.

The divers underwent a vigorous course of instruction, including range and depth determination, searching in ‘black’ water, and underwater extraction.

The second course is already underway, increasing the ability of Iraqis to defend and support their own country by learning to be proficient in the technical and functional aspects of underwater diving and search and rescue techniques. ■



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

**Major General Jerry Cannon, CPATT Commanding General, congratulates one of the graduating divers on October 8.**

# Recruits begin program at Commissioners Institute

By **Noah Miller**

*DoIA PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – Maj. Gen. Dr. Jassim, Director of Training and Qualifications at the Ministry of Interior, welcomed 300 Iraqi Police recruits to the inaugural Commissioner Level 7 training program at the Commissioners Institute located on the Baghdad Police College campus.

Jassim told the students, “We previously had only six levels for commissioner training, but today we added the seventh one in Baghdad.” He continued, “This is a good step despite the difficult time Iraq is undergoing. We are in need of well-educated cadre for security.”

“I know that it has taken several years to make this a reality and I commend the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Interior and the Baghdad Police College for making this vision a reality,” said Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, commanding general of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Directorate of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq.

Students will graduate after completing two years of instruction and then enter the Iraqi Police Service at commissioner level 7, which is akin to a warrant officer or a senior non-commissioned officer. Students graduating in the top 25 percent of their class will continue their education at



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

**Recruits from the first commissioner level-7 training course stand for the official party during their first day of class.**

the Baghdad Police Course by joining the three-year officer course. This represents an opportunity to shape prospective leaders of the Iraqi police force and enhance their professionalism.

“I’m glad to join the commissioner ranks and I expect to have a good future,” said 17-year old Ihab, who recently graduated from high school before joining the Iraqi Police Service.

Students joining this program must be between 14 and 19 years old and already hold a degree from an intermediary school. They will receive further education in nine courses of basic high school subjects, as well as courses in police law, police operations, forensics, criminal investigations and human rights.

Cannon told students and dignitaries at the ceremony that the Commissioner Level 7 course is an investment not only in the students, but also in the idea that the “police service will be loyal to the nation, loyal to the constitution and loyal to the rule of law.”

Following the ceremony, Jassim and Cannon toured the Commissioners Institute to view new classrooms and computer equipment. Jassim emphasized, “Today we are planting a good seed to get the results within two years.” ■

# Iraqi soldiers use live-fire in convoy training

By U.S. Air Force Senior Airman  
Stefanie Torres

MNSTC-I PAO

**TAJI, Iraq** – The new General Transportation Regiment conducted their first ever live-fire convoy exercise in Iraq here, Oct. 21.

With fingers on the triggers, Iraqi Army Soldiers of the GTR were taught to say “I love you, baby,” in English to control the length of their fire burst - six to nine rounds at a time.



The Soldiers used live ammunition to shoot at multiple targets at distances up to 400 meters while riding on their moving convoys.

“These Iraqi Soldiers never fired from a moving vehicle in a tactical, disciplined manner before,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. William Sims, the senior coalition advisor at the Taji Regional Training Center. Two goals are established for live fire, explained Sims. “We want them to be able to shoot while moving and we want them to have the confidence in shooting.”

The 400 Iraqi Army Soldiers completed nine days of convoy training and worked with the PKC machine gun before going out on the live-fire course. “We give them PKC training here at Taji so they don’t have to learn it at their line unit,” said Sims.

Coalition members assisted all the gunners as they moved through the course on their humvees. “Everybody did very well,” said Mr. Holbrook, an advisor with Coalition forces during the after-action report with the Iraqi soldiers. “It sounded like a symphony and that’s what it should sound like.”

On Oct. 23, the GTR will graduate Unit Set Fielding, a process which builds an entire army unit from the ground up. They are given the equipment and training they need to fight before beginning their missions.

After graduation, the GTR will begin its logistics missions. With a fleet of vehicles ranging from 5-ton trucks to 18-wheel tractor trailers,

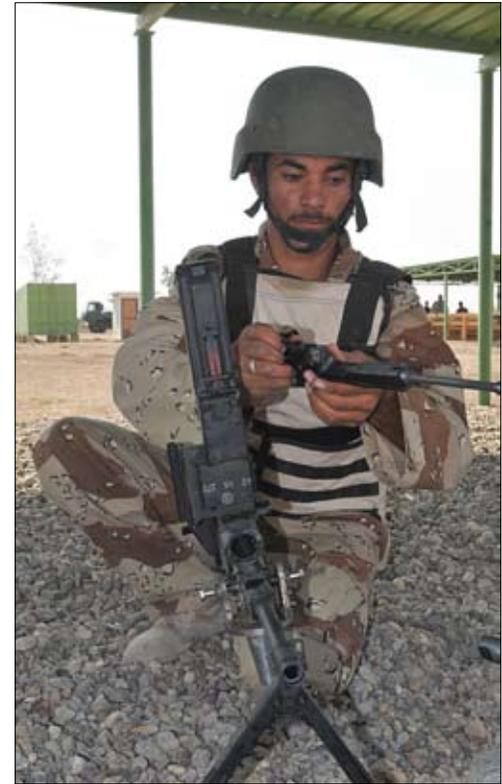


Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Stefanie Torres

**An Iraqi Soldier from the General Transportation Unit assembles his PKC machine gun for use in his convoy during the live-fire event here Oct. 21.**



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

**An Iraqi Army Soldier fires his weapon at a target 400 meters away while a Coalition trainer observes.**

the GTR can transport almost anything the Army needs, including up-armored humvees and T-72 tanks.

“We will transport all kinds of equipment, supplies and troops,” said Iraqi Army Col. Mohammad, the GTR commander. “We support all Iraqi Army units. We will transport from the border to the depot here at Taji and we will transport equipment, supplies and ammo from Taji National Depot to the various location commands.” ■

## 600 Iraqi National Police begin leadership training course

By Estonian Navy  
Lt. Cmdr. Ingrid Muhling

NTM-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – 600 Iraqi National Police started the 6th Leadership Training Course run by the Italian Carabinieri at Camp Dublin, Baghdad October 11.

The specialized course is designed to provide further training to the Iraqi

National Police to enhance the basic skills taught at their training centres. Police attending the 8-week course will study operational planning, police procedures, police intelligence, counter-insurgency skills, weapons, combat skills, first aid and basic logistics. The course pays special attention to police ethics and human rights.

The attendees are members of the Iraqi National Police’s 1st Battalion, Knights Ride Brigade, 3rd Division. This is the sixth battalion trained by the Italian Carabinieri since October 2007. To date, 2,103 policemen from five battalions have graduated the Leadership Training Course.

“Italy, through NATO, is proud to provide this specialized course to the Iraqi

National Police. The skills the police gain on this course ultimately benefit all Iraqi people. By the end of this year, we will increase the number of trainees per course to 900. This effectively doubles the capacity of the course,” said Major General Paolo Bosotti, deputy commander of NATO Training Mission – Iraq.

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British soldiers of the 39th Armored Engineer Squadron, play with local Iraqi children from the Timiniyah District, in Basra, Iraq on October 24, 2008. The 39th Armored Engineer Squadron soldiers are repairing a local pontoon bridge in Basra, Iraq.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Karah Cohen



Iraqi National Policemen keep a watchful eye out as traffic approaches their checkpoint, in Beladiyat, eastern Baghdad, on Oct. 24, 2008.

Photo by U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. James Selesnick



Lt. Col. Lisa Griffin, with MNSTC-I J-1, comforts an infant during a humanitarian mission in the International Zone Oct. 25. Coalition forces gave diapers, toys and clothing to four impoverished families.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Ashley Shoemaker

Sgt. Thomas Dwyer from Forked River, N.J. of the Command Security Detachment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division stops to pass out soccer playing cards to Iraqi children while conducting a patrol in a local market in the city of Baghdad, Iraq, on Oct. 22, 2008. They are conducting the patrol to show a strong presence in the local community.



Photo by U.S. Army SPC Joshua Powell

# Iraqi Oil Police look to secure Iraq's oil infrastructure

By **U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Kolb**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – The Commander of Iraq's Oil Police expects to be able to protect Iraq's oil pipeline infrastructure by 2012 if resources are available to accomplish his strategic plan. Iraqi Maj. Gen. Hamid, Oil Police commander, presented the key points of his strategic plan to U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, during an informal meeting on Oct. 27. Hamid outlined the short, medium and long-term goals of taking over protection of Iraq's pipelines from Ministry of Defense infrastructure battalions by 2012. "Financial allocations are the biggest challenge for taking over for MoD assets," said Hamid.

The Oil Police Directorate, with ten battalions, transitioned to the Ministry of Interior in early 2008. These battalions have worked together with MoD infrastructure battalions to protect over 7500km of oil pipelines throughout

Iraq. These additional security forces accounted for a 90% decrease in smuggling and transgression activities along the oil pipelines since 2007. An additional seven battalions are planned to be formed in 2009, with a total of 22 battalions planned for fielding by 2012. "The Oil Police Commander and MoI recognize the importance the role Oil Police play in the protection and security of Iraq's critical oil pipeline infrastructure," said Helmick.

The General Directorate of Oil Police is assisted by members of MNSTC-I's Ministry of Interior Transition Team (MoI-TT) members in planning how best to generate the capacity necessary to take over the security role in



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

**U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq listens to Maj. Gen. Hamid, Oil Police commander, present his strategic plan during an informal meeting in Baghdad Oct 27.**

Iraq. "There are challenges ahead, but it is obvious the Oil Police Directorate and the MoI are in synch with each other and dedicated to improving the security situation in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Bob Goodrich, MoI-TT Oil Police Team Chief. ■

# Iraqi Air Force village construction project takes

By **U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeff Walston**

*506th AEG / PAO*

**KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq** – The largest U.S. – managed construction project for the Iraqi Air Force has made major progress here, despite many challenges.

When complete, the \$30-million complex will consist of 24 K-span buildings and one mortar-and-brick facility. The complex will also include nine dormitories with 669 bed spaces.

This complex, which will support 880 personnel, is the key piece to \$163 million of construction projects here. They can't be supported without this, said 1st Lt. Kelly Mattie, a civil engineer with the Coalition Air Force Training Team. This is just



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Randi Flaugh

**Workers prepare to place a roll of metal into the Ultimate Bending Machine which forms the metal into shaped sections used for the construction of K-Spans buildings. When completed at the end of the year, the building will be part of a \$30 million complex which will include 24 buildings and support 880 Iraqi air force personnel.**

one of 12 construction projects being managed here.

K-span buildings are usually warehouses and storage buildings, but these K-Spans are specifically designed for housing.

"This is the first time I've seen them used as housing units and these are the first windows I have ever seen in one," Mattie said.

Construction workers had two weeks of training on running the machines for the construction of the K-span structures, he explained.

"In the beginning it took three to four days to put up a building. Now, it is one building every 24 hours," Mattie said.

Crews work 24-hours-a-day. They eat at the site. They have their own dining facility

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**VILLAGE**  
**Continued from page 9**

which prepares meals and delivers them to the site. Workers are also billeted on site in their own compound, Mattie said.

Among the challenges workers have faced at the site was the site itself. In some places, up to five feet of backfill dirt was required for proper drainage.

Heat is also a factor in all aspects of the construction in areas where concrete is the dominant construction material. Construction workers mix a heat additive to the concrete, allowing it to cure properly in high-temperature environments.

"We're pouring a lot of concrete, during the day, in the desert," Mattie said.

Communication has also proven to be a challenge for construction supervisors.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Randi Flaugh

**Workers prepare concrete for the base of a K-Spans building being constructed here. When completed at the end of the year, the building will be part of a \$30 million complex, which will include 24 buildings and support 880 Iraqi air force personnel.**

Even the simplest instructions can be misinterpreted when language is a barrier among workers trying to achieve the same goal.

"We have Nepalese, Indian, Philippine, Turkish, Bengalese and Iraqi workers who speak three or four different languages," said an on-site construction manager. "It's staggering what has been accomplished with very little one-on-one communication."

A simple safety meeting to remind every worker to wear of his hard hat – something that would normally take five minutes -- can last for hours, he said.

On one occasion, he was speaking to an Iraqi who speaks Arabic – who was speaking in English to a translator who speaks Arabic and Turkish – who then translated into Turkish for the artisans. Once he even needed seven translators to hold one meeting, he said.

The first phase of construction, which will consist of eight buildings, is scheduled for completion Nov. 19, with the second phase completed two weeks later. The final phase is scheduled to wrap up by the end of December. Iraqis should move in immediately after each phase is completed, Mattie said.

Other construction projects scheduled to be completed here during the next six months include re-skinning the skeleton hangar, constructing 12

sunshades for aircraft, laying concrete for an apron for helicopters and piping water, sewage and amenities that would naturally go with construction projects of this scope, said Mattie.

"The construction of this complex will provide the Iraqi air force a phenomenal series of facilities to house, train and operate from for the foreseeable future," said Lt. Col. Tony Cotto, Base Support Unit chief. "The construction is first-rate and will leave an indelible mark on this time in Iraqi history here at Kirkuk.

"If I return 25 years from now, these facilities will be here ushering in a new generation of Iraqi air force personnel," he said. "I'll look back at where they were now and compare it to where they are then and I expect we'll all be proud of our efforts of setting our Iraqi friends on a solid road toward democracy." ■



**Workers prepare to lift into place the base section of a K-Span building being constructed here. When completed at the end of the year, the building will be part of a \$30 million complex, which will include 24 buildings and support 880 Iraqi air force personnel.**



**Workers prepare to set the base section of a K-Span building being constructed here. When completed at the end of the year, the building will be part of a \$30 million complex, which will include 24 buildings and support 880 Iraqi air force personnel.**

# Ministry of Women's Affairs hosts its 4th Women's Conference

By **U.S. Army Capt. Yadira Carasquillo**

MNSTC-I/PAO

**BAGHDAD** – Throughout Iraq's former regimes, women have been struggling to find equality in this country. The Ministry of Women's Affairs is making strides to change the Government of Iraq's policies and laws regarding women's issues.

On Oct. 25-26, the Ministry hosted its 4th Iraqi Women's Conference at the Al-Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad under the motto, "Towards a Better Future for Iraqi Women." The conference discussed four critical issues and developed recommendations and solutions for a better future for Iraqi women. Critical subjects covered included the female suicide-bomber phenomena, female prisoner uprisings and detainee conditions, and economic efforts on behalf of Iraqi women.

The Iraqi Minister of Women's Affairs, Nawal Al-Samarraie, is working together with prominent parliamentary women, lawmakers, ministers and NGO leaders to promote awareness and find solutions to improve the well-being of women in Iraq. The Minister emphasized the need to leave



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Yadira Carasquillo

**Members of the Iraqi Parliament discuss issues to reach a common goal among all Iraqi women.**

behind all disputes "between us" (Iraqi women) and think as Iraqis. She also said, "Those who work in the women's fields should be patient because they cannot get their rights in a short period of time."

VIPs attending the conference

included Maj. Gen. Mark Zamzow, Deputy Commander for CJ9, Admiral Kathleen Dussault, Joint Coordination Center commander, and Col. Julie Gardner, MNF-I CJ9 Women's Initiative lead. ■

## Division of Border Enforcement graduates 1,538 police

**BAGHDAD** – The Iraq Ministry of Interior's Division of Border Enforcement graduated 1,538 border police in September, one of its highest monthly graduation rates this year.

With the new graduates, the Border Police surpassed an assigned strength of 43,000. The graduating classes included 1,173 basic recruits. The Border Police graduates completed specialized skills training such as non-commissioned officer and platoon sergeant schools, and courses in internal affairs, immigration and patrol tactics.

"The Division of Border Enforcement now includes 13 brigades with 51 battalions, along with the Coast Guard for guarding Iraq's ports and coastline," said Ashford Mohammed, the DBE's CPATT/DOIA In-Country Supervisor. He



Courtesy photo

**Female recruits undergo basic border police training at Sulaymaniyah recently.**

said the Border Police "are dedicated and committed to protecting Iraq's border."

Sulaymaniyah Training Academy had the largest graduating class with 763 basic recruits completing the course. 389

border police completed training in Al Najaf, 339 in Basra and 47 from the Al Kut and Diwaniyah Training Centers.

Newly-hired DBE recruits attend a 240-hour basic recruit training course. The course was previously presented over eight weeks. Now recruits cover the entire 240-hour course over four weeks of training by extending the training day to nine hours a day.

Although a final number has not yet been determined, the Border Police's goal is to reach an assigned strength of approximately 45,500 by the end of 2009. The Border Police also have a class of 48 female basic recruits currently in training, and another class of 300 female recruits scheduled to begin training later this year. ■

# 10th Iraqi Army produces new route clearance team

**Courtesy of Multi-National Division PAO**

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq** – The 10th Iraqi Army Division and the 14th Engineering Battalion celebrated the graduation of 15 new Iraqi route clearance specialists during a ceremony at Camp Dhi Qar Oct. 26.

Iraqi Pvt. Hazim Karim, the honor graduate and ‘best Sapper,’ was among the first in IA to learn how to drive the mine-resistant, ambush protected Badger vehicle and its “Ferret” arm during the 14-day course. Soon, a total of 50 IA Soldiers will be among the first to have graduated the course.

“We have gained from the Americans sharing their experiences with us,” said Iraqi Lt. Mooana Abdullah Attala, the new Iraqi engineers’ platoon leader. “This is a new job to the Iraqi Army. We are taking this training seriously because one

day, these soldiers will be the teachers.”

While the Iraqis currently have anti-roadside bomb engineers and vehicles assigned to their units, the American battalion has plans for teaching and certifying approximately 50 more troops in the near future.

“If you find an improvised explosive device on the road, you may have saved five or six other people’s lives,” said Staff Brig. Gen. Jabar, the 10th IA Division’s deputy commander.

The 10th IA Division’s platoon leader expanded on the general’s statement.

“This route clearance job is very important, because right now there are lots of bombs on the roads,” Attala said. “We knew this class was very important. We will clear the roads for Soldiers, civilians, convoys – everybody. Everyone feels safer



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

**The 10th IA Division’s first class of route clearance engineers marches during their graduation ceremony at Camp Dhi Qar Oct. 26.**

and now they can go shopping or just drive to different towns. They can walk around without being scared.”

The graduates are providing their people a higher standard of living, according to the new engineers.

“I enjoy knowing that we’re building a better future for ourselves and our people,” he said. ■

## First Formal Inspector General Foundation Course graduates students

**Courtesy of Multi-National Division-North Public Affairs**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – 64 inspector general investigators are the first employees to complete a course in inspector general roles and functions here at the Ministry of Interior. The Inspector General is charged with eliminating any type of corruption in the ministry, ensuring the employees of the ministry are accountable to the people and enforcing a transparent investigative process.

Mr. Akeel Al-Taraihi, the ministry’s Inspector General, stated this first course of its kind is very important because it opens the road for continuing education and improving the capabilities of MoI’s inspection teams. He said to the students, “now you will carry out important responsibilities, especially when you are dealing with the types of information you will be receiving.”

Participants included mid-to-senior level Inspector General employees, including three brigadier generals and 13 colonels, who received a total of 42 instructional hours tailored to each person’s assigned

duties at the ministry. The course examined the legal and regulatory basis for the IG, its responsibilities and authorities, and demonstrated how the IG supports the Ministry of Interior with a system of inspections, investigations and audits. It particularly emphasized human rights standards and ethics.

“It would be impossible for me to overemphasize the importance of what all of you do and what the Inspector General does for the Ministry of Interior. Simply stated, your purpose is to enforce standards,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Milano, Director General of the Director of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

The foundation course provided the basis for professional standards and is a prerequisite for advanced courses in Inspections, Investigations, Audits, and Human Rights. Participants gained a greater understanding of the subject matter utilizing lectures from subject matter experts, relevant discussions, case studies, and two practical exercises. More than eleven students scored 100 percent on their final exam. Eventually, all incumbents and future inspector general investigators will

participate in this foundation course.

Brig. Gen. Raid Rahman, the top graduate from the course, explained how “the course provided good information and, along with the professional experience of the inspector general investigators, they are well armed to face issues especially, in human rights and know what procedures to take.” He added the course enabled him to judge cases better because of the fundamentals conveyed in the course.

“Not only is your integrity so vitally important, but you also function as subject matter experts for the various policies that the ministry has in effect,” said Milano.

A key message of the training was maintaining confidentiality on all Inspector General reports and to ensure there is no retaliation for the person reporting the possible crime. Citizens and others will thus be encouraged to eliminate administrative and financial corruption, which can be a means of providing support to terrorism.

The first oath ever given to Inspector General employees was administered by Mr. Al-Taraihi at the end of the graduation. ■

# Iraqi infantry battalions graduate Unit Set Fielding

By U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Stefanie Torres

MNSTC-I PAO

**BESMAYA, Iraq** – The sandstorm that swept through the Besmaya Range Combat Training Center could not stop two Iraqi Army 3rd Infantry Division units from graduating Oct. 16.

More than 1,160 members from the 4th Battalion, 9th Brigade and 4th Battalion, 10th Brigade completed 21 days of Unit Set Fielding, leaving them with the skills they need to perform their mission.

“Are they ready to fight? Yes they are,” emphatically stated Col. Abbas, Iraqi Army commander for the Combat Training Center - Besmaya.

Unit Set Fielding is a process that builds an entire army brigade and gives Soldiers the equipment and training they need to fight. Iraqi Soldiers from Basic Combat Training, as well as NCOs and officers, are drawn from their respective training programs to form a new Army command.

“Together with the Coalition forces, we are very successful in making this happen. We work as one,” Abbas said.

Select members from the units are instructed as trainers so they can train their respective units. The idea is for Iraqis to train Iraqis while Coalition forces act as advisors during the process.

“Now is the time to plan to full capability,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Tim Renshaw, the Senior Advisor Area commander, to the Iraqi leaders. “I’m excited as you take your journey forward.”

The three weeks at the range consists of weapons issue and training, first-aid, ethics, humvee operations and close quarters marksmanship training, to name a few.

## **POLICE Continued from page 7**

The training site is expanding its facilities in order to double the throughput at Camp Dublin. “By investing in the future and increasing the numbers of students, we can demonstrate that the

cooperation between the Iraqi National Police and Italian Carabinieri is growing every day,” said Col. Paolo Coletta, Chief of the Carabinieri Training Department, NTM-I Headquarters.

NTM-I trains, mentors and advises officers in the Iraqi Security Forces in order to assist the Government of Iraq

as it resumes its important place in the international community and to improve the security of all Iraqi people.

NATO’s other cooperative projects include the Iraqi Military Academy and Joint Staff College at Ar Rustamiyah, the Iraqi National Defence College,

and out-of-country training courses at various NATO schools.

The Officers of NTM-I also provide mentoring and advice to the Prime Minister’s National Operations Center, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior Command Center and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Center. ■



Photo by U.S. Advisor Mr. Odell Broom

**A four-man fire team learns how to clear buildings during the Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) training. The one-day event also has classroom instruction.**

The Besmaya complex is the largest combat training center in Iraq, with more than 122 square kilometers available for training.

“The Iraqi’s have grown in leaps and bounds since two years ago,” said Staff Sgt. Cory Argenbright, training advisor and NCOIC at the range’s Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School. “It is Iraqi run and Iraqi instructed.”

“To look and see the steps they are taking within two years is amazing,” he said. “They are getting better by the day.” ■



Photo by U.S. Advisor Mr. Christopher Hixon

**Eagle medics conduct a combat life saver class during the three weeks of Unit Set Fielding. The five days of life saver training included giving live intravenous sticks.**

# Trauma Training Course graduates 11th class

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

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – After 10 weeks of intense training, Class #11 of the Ibn Sina Trauma Training Course graduated at the IZ's Combat Surgical Hospital Oct. 28.

The course, led by Iraqis since the beginning of the year, produced its third class of graduates since the instructor transition and its eleventh class since its inception in Oct. 2006.

"We are doing very well," said Dr. Ali Al-Khalaf, the director of the Trauma Training Center. "The Iraqi's are running everything."

Training included basic life support, triage and infection prevention. Doctors, nurses, and medics trained together to achieve the same level of trauma education.

"Some of the students began with limited knowledge, but we want all of them to have the same level of understanding at the end," said Al-Khalaf. "We also put them together because they can teach each other."

A mass-casualty exercise was also included in the training. Coalition force medical personnel, along with the Iraqi faculty, assessed the students' abilities during the high-stress, culminating event.

Role-players screamed for help as Iraqi doctors, nurses and medics came running to the scene to assess their combat wounds. They worked together to triage patients and remove them from the scene to safety. The volunteer hospital staff acting as patients utilized realistic props to simulate various injuries so trainers could observe the class and gauge their reaction.

"The world needs leaders," said Col. Stephen Lomax, Deputy Commander of Nursing, TF 86, during the graduation ceremony. "I want you to be that person. You must be ready to treat victims while continuing to communicate and support each other."

The Trauma Training Center initiates a new class every three to four months. ■



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

**Students of the Trama Training Team evacuate a patient to the triage center during the mass casualty exercise here Oct. 28. The volunteer hospital staff acting as patients utilized realistic props to simulate various injuries so trainers could observe the class and gauge their reaction.**



**Students from Class 11 from the Trauma Training Course work together to stabilize the neck and spine of an injured victim during the mass casualty exercise Oct. 28.**



**Volunteers for the mass-casualty exercise utilized realistic props to simulate various injuries so trainers could observe the class and assess the students' abilities during the high-stress, culminating event.**

# Iraqi Air Force celebrates another milestone

By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

MNSTC-I PAO

**NEW AL MUTHANA AIR BASE, Iraq** – The Iraqi Air Force surpassed another milestone Oct. 22 when an all-Iraqi flight crew took to the air in the King Air Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft for the first time in support of an Iraqi Special Operations Forces training exercise.

The air crew, connected via radio link to the special operations forces on the ground, provided reconnaissance and over-watch surveillance for convoy operations as the special operations forces conducted their training.

The Iraqi Air Force also provides ISR support to the Iraqi Army, intelligence services, the Directorate of Border Enforcement and the Ministries of Oil and Electricity.

Mission sets for the Iraqi Air Force



**2nd Lt. Alaa-Hamzah, a mission sensor operator, performs a pre-flight inspection of the MX-15i camera on a King Air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq on Oct. 22. This is the first all Iraqi Air Force crew to fly an ISR mission.**



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

**Second Lt. Alaa-Hamzah, a mission sensor operator, performs a pre-flight inspection on the sensor operator console for a King Air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq Oct. 22. Hamzah is part of the first all Iraqi Air Force crew to fly an ISR mission and will support an Iraqi special operation forces training exercise.**

ISR include battlefield reconnaissance, urban security, support to ground forces' operations, surveillance of oil infrastructure for oil leaks and pirating, electrical infrastructure for damage, and national border security.

Highlighting the importance of training and working with the special forces, Iraqi Air Force pilot and mission commander, Lt. Col. A.K., said "we have great, modern equipment. This is a good opportunity to test the new ISR capability. It's being used in the right way and will benefit the whole country."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Roden, a member of the Coalition Air Force Training Team, part of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, trained the Iraqi crew on mission sensor operations and was there to witness the take-off of the first all-Iraqi

ISR mission. The mission is important, he said, "to sustain capabilities of the Iraqi infrastructure," and to sustain the capabilities of the Iraqi Air Force as a credible air force. ■



**An Iraqi Air Force maintainer marshals out the first all Iraqi air force crew to fly a King Air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft at New Al-Muthana Air Base, Iraq on Oct. 22, 2008. The mission is in support of an Iraqi special operation forces training exercise.**

# Iraqi Navy, NaTT host strategic naval talks in Um Qasr

**Royal Navy Lt. Nik Tiebosch**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**UM QASR, Iraq** - Recently, the United States Coast Guard cutter Adak eased alongside the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, home to the Iraqi Navy and the UK-led Naval Training Team (NaTT). This is the second visit of a U.S. vessel in months and comes closely on the heels of a visit by two UK mine warfare vessels. Adak's contribution was twofold. First, to transport Staff Officers to and from high-level navy staff talks held at the headquarters of the Iraqi Naval Base, and second, to provide a valuable training opportunity for the Iraqi Navy, who with an eye to the arrival of their new ships next year, are working hard in conjunction with the NaTT to prepare themselves as thoroughly as possible.

The staff talks involved key Iraqi and Coalition officials, specifically Rear Admiral Jawad (Chief of the Iraqi Navy) and Vice Admiral William Gortney United States Navy (COMUSNAVCENT). Others present included Cdr. Ahmed (Iraqi Navy Operational Commander), Brigadier Torrens-Spence, UK Army (deputy commander general of the Multinational Security Transition Command - Iraq), Captain Abraham, Royal Navy (Director Maritime Strategic Transition Team), Captain Warwick, Royal Navy (commanding officer of the Naval Training Team) and Captain Van Deusen,



Photo by U.S. Navy HM1 Mack Watley

**The United States Coast Guard cutter Adak comes alongside the Umm Qasr Naval Base with the help of Iraqi Navy personnel.**

USN, head of the Coalition Training Group in the Northern Gulf. Discussions were held to review the progress made by the Iraqi Navy and to consider the next key steps. This was the first time this meeting was held in Iraq.

The visit also provided an excellent opportunity to enhance the training of

Iraqi sailors, giving them an insight into the size and type of ship that they will be commissioning next year. They were taken on tours around the Adak, focusing on their own respective specialized equipment and areas. "The Iraqis were very enthusiastic. This kind of visit is of great benefit to their training; it really opened their eyes", said Chief Petty Officer Warfare Specialist (AWT) Ian Cherry, one of the NaTT staff who helped coordinate the visit. One Iraqi sailor commented, "Any coalition ship is welcome in Iraq; it is a great honor". The Adak's personnel also had the opportunity to take a tour of the NaTT and the Iraqi Naval Base, giving them the chance to see how much progress has been made in developing the Iraqi Navy and Marines.

This is a dynamic and exciting time both for the NaTT and the Iraqi Navy. Under the guidance of the NaTT staff, Iraqi sailors will shortly be undergoing training to allow them to be able to operate and maintain 26 new Fast Small Boats and four new Patrol Ships. In addition, the Iraqi Marines will be undertaking a rigorous new cross-training program to enable them to broaden their skill sets. Such training will expand the capability of the Iraqi Navy and Marines and will reflect the force's strategic importance to the future of Iraq. ■

## **AFRN**

### **Continued from page 4**

The Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Coalition members turned over control of the AFRN to the Government of Iraq in June 2006 so they could independently manage this advanced communication system. The Iraqi Ministry of Interior also took over the financial responsibility for the system, thereby completing the transition to full Iraqi control and operation.

"The best indicator of success is they are utilizing and maintaining the system themselves," said McNutt. "They have been working to keep it up and running."

The implementation of the AFRN presented some unique challenges

along the way. Some sites could not be accessed due to insurgency problems. A lot of training is also involved while expanding a network and technical challenges currently prevent coverage in all geographical areas.

Despite the challenges, General Saad still remains optimistic about the future of the system.

"We will overcome these challenges," he said. "We are working very hard to troubleshoot these issues."

The network is currently using only the voice system, but a computer-assisted dispatch system is in the works.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Ahmed, the AFRN program manager, also hopes to use a fingerprint system through the computer-based network in police vehicles.

"In five minutes through the fingerprints, we would be able to identify who is innocent or not if in case they are stopped by the police," he said. "Using this system, we can serve the Iraqi people. AFRN is the most beautiful gift from Coalition forces to Iraq."

Mosul was added to the network just before Al Anbar. A one-year contract providing maintenance, spare parts, training and technical support is held by Advanced International Electronic Equipment.

The \$214 million dollar project is expected to expand to all of Iraq in the next three years. This system is still at the beginning stages, but will expand to become one of the more technologically advanced systems in the world. ■

**NCOs****Continued from page 3**

"One of the first problems we ran into," Daly continued, "was the Iraqi officers doing too much. They were getting in the foxholes with the Soldiers and grabbing them by the shoulders to try to point them at the target while they were shooting. The officers would even go down range and count the hits. I guess they didn't think their NCOs could do that. Finally, the Americans who were running the range talked them out of that and into remaining in their supervisory role. That meant we had to make sure the NCOs were teaching correctly."

After a few cycles, Daly and his team started work on a new training aid. The DTC Sgt. Maj. Ibrahim asked for a training video. Since they didn't have enough bandwidth at their remote location to download one from the internet, they decided to make one of their own.

"We didn't want super-detailed," said Daly. "We went step-by-step through the four fundamentals; body position, trigger squeeze, sight picture and breathing. We had a U.S. Soldier do the shooting and one of our translators did the voice-over in Arabic.

"We used an AK-47 for the video. The Iraqis wanted M-16s but we needed to show them that it's not the rifle, it's the fundamentals of shooting that are important."

As the Iraqi Army passes 200,000 Soldiers and moves from the AK-47 to the M-16 as the standard issue rifle, Iraqi NCOs are taking over the role of rifle

instructors.

They are on the firing lines coaching Soldiers and Coalition forces are taking more of an advisory role in the training.

"We need to get out of the M-16 training business," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, Coalition Army Advisory Training Team commander. "Every American NCO can teach a Soldier to shoot an M-16, and every Iraqi NCO should be able to as well."

"Our trainers are now doing that. They train Iraqi Army NCOs to train their own Soldiers," Salazar continued. "Now we overwatch the training as they conduct it. We're training trainers, and they are producing expert riflemen."

McCarthy Barnes is one of the American coaches at DTC Al-Kasik. During a recent session on the 25-meter sight-in range, he pointed out the absence of Americans involved in the training.

"That's the NCOs running the line," said Barnes. "They get the Soldiers in the right position and run everything. Most of those NCOs have only been in the Army a little more than a year. They are executing the four fundamentals: steady position, sight picture, breathing and trigger squeeze."

The instructors are using American-style sight-in targets and the shooters fire three rounds, instead of 30, before they mark the targets and make necessary sight adjustments.

"We send Iraqi NCOs to the Small Arm Expert Course so they can go back to their units and train other trainers," said Command Sgt. Maj. William High, Salazar's senior enlisted advisor. "It's really amazing how quickly they

learn rifle marksmanship. With proper training that they are now getting, Iraqi Soldiers are learning to shoot just as well as American Soldiers or any others."

One of the Soldiers learning to shoot his M-16 for the first time was Iraqi Army Pvt. Saleem, a former taxi driver. Saleem joined the Army when he could no longer drive to Mosul for fear of being killed by terrorists working there.

"The training was very good," said Saleem. "We are happy to have this weapon. It is better than the Ak-47, The AKs were very old."

The instructors prefer the M-16 as well.

"You can get in the target easily," said Iraqi Army Sgt. Akram. "The instruction we give them is to use the minimum number of rounds to get in the target."

"I think all shooters like M-16s," Akram continued, "because first you can get the target, second they are light and third they are one of the good weapons—very modern."

The situation at Regional Training Center Taji is much the same—Iraqis teaching Iraqis to shoot. Iraqi NCOs do the firing line coaching and instructing in the NCO courses and the Basic Combat Training course.

Although they still teach AK-47 marksmanship, "The Iraqi Army NCOs have been teaching basic rifle marksmanship for quite some time," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. William Sims, senior Coalition advisor to the RTC, "and they continue to improve on their quality of instruction." ■

## MNSTC-I J4 delivers critical oil to Iraqi River Patrol unit

**By U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Ruben Davila**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

At the end of September, Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, met with Maj. Gen. Ayden and Maj. Gen. Ali from the Baghdad Police Directorate to tour the docks of the Baghdad River Patrol Unit and inspect the patrol boats used for their missions. The boats are utilized to patrol the river, provide security for bridges, and conduct water recovery and water rescue

missions. One of the issues that came up during the visit was the lack of two-stroke engine oil needed to keep the boats running and the difficulty the unit was having trying to procure the proper lubricant.

MNSTC-I J4 was tasked with finding the required oil. What should have been an easy task turned into a procurement jigsaw puzzle. Chief Warrant Officer 3 McAllister from the J4 Maintenance section had to utilize all his skills and contacts in Iraq to try and track down the oil, eventually finding a supplier in ANHAM, a Dubai-based contracting

firm involved in many projects throughout Iraq. They were able to procure the proper oil and import it into Iraq. On the Oct. 13, two cases of 2-cycle motor oil were delivered to the Baghdad Iraqi River Patrol Unit. The special oil is one of the most critical components for keeping their patrol boats up and running.

There are already plans in the work between MNSTC-I, MoI and ANHAM to acquire a steady supply of 55-gallon drums of the oil so the Iraqi River Patrol can keep the rivers of Iraq safe and secure. ■

# Iraqi National Police perform massive clearing operation in East Rashid

Courtesy of Multi-National Division PAO

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq** — Acting on information recently acquired through detained criminals, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, planned and executed a massive clearance operation Oct. 18 to secure the populace of East Rashid and gather additional intelligence.

Approximately 400 National Policemen searched 1,500 homes during more than five hours of intensive operations, seizing 25 weapons and capturing two wanted criminals, said Lt. Col. Mohammed Al-Na'amai, a staff officer for the 7th Bde., 2nd Iraqi NP.

The intelligence gathered by the 7th Bde., 2nd NP Div., also led to the NPs seizing a sizable cache in an adjacent neighborhood, said Maj. Mark Olin, operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. The cache included two complete explosively formed projectile improvised-explosive devices along with the components to make several more.

MND-B Soldiers supported the mission



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Brett Walker

**Member of the Sons of Iraq and Iraqi National Policemen from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, take time to discuss the current operational assessment Oct. 18 during a clearance operation in the Iskhan neighborhood of southern Baghdad's Doura community.**

by supplementing the cordon and pre-positioning a rapid reaction force capable of reinforcing the National Police should violence erupt, said Olin.

No violence erupted, and the reinforcements were never needed, he added.

"One of the Sons of Iraq headquarters buildings was attacked (Oct. 16)," said Capt. Abdul Razak Karif Mohammed, commander of the 3rd Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division, charged with securing Iskhan. "In the attack, some National Policemen were wounded. Some Sons of Iraq were also wounded."

Abdul and NPs from 7th Bde.

synchronized existing intelligence and additional evidence collected on the site to locate and arrest several of the criminals responsible for the attack.

Brig. Gen. Kahrim Abud Kathim Al-Talibowi, commander of the 7th Bde., 2nd NP Div., ordered that all of the 2nd Bn. and two companies of the 1st Bn., 7th Bde., cordon off the neighborhood and search the neighborhoods.

Abdul, who occupied a position in the center of Iskhan throughout the five-and-a-half-hour clearing operation, said that his men were searching for illegal weapons, bombs, bomb-making materials, mortars and the area's most-wanted criminals.

Mohammed, whose role as the movement officer for the battalion effort, made him the mission's primary planner, clarified that the operation in Iskhan was a multi-faceted effort to strengthen their country's developing government.

"We have a good friendship with the Sons of Iraq," Abdul said. "We need to cooperate with them; ... Our motto is 'No to sectarian violence; Yes to National Unity.'" ■



U.S. Army photo by Capt. Brett Walker

**An Iraqi National Policeman from the 2nd Battalion, 7th Brigade, 2nd NP Division plays a game of dominoes with a citizen from the Iskhan neighborhood Oct. 18 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.**

# IA establishes good ties with Iraqi citizens

Courtesy of Multi-National Division North PAO

**MOSUL, Iraq**  
– During their visit, the Iraqi Army distributed clothing, school supplies and personal hygiene items to families in need.

“The Iraqi Army has donated to some needy families,” said Maj. Tony Vacha, team chief for Company C, 415th Civil Affairs Detachment. “Being able to give gifts provides another outlet for the Iraqi Army to connect with the local community other than checkpoints and conducting raids on their homes.”

As this year’s Ramadan comes to an end, the children will prepare to go back to school.

Vacha stated that Ramadan presents a time of change and rebirth. The children will take their lessons learned and new attitudes and start a new school year.



U.S Army photos by Staff Sgt. Kyle J. Richardson

**The children of Yarminjah, a village located in the southeastern region of Mosul, Iraq gather to receive supplies and gifts from the 3rd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division during a humanitarian mission, Sept. 29. The children are slated to begin school shortly after Ramadan.**

“Closing out Ramadan on a good note and new school supplies, the kids are a

few steps ahead on a fresh start,” said Vacha. ■

## **BACKBONE** Continued from page 3

order to raise the quality of instruction at the training bases. The master instructors are selected by their commanders and they are trained to go back to the units to teach others how to be better instructors and trainers.

High said that improving training practices is necessary for any Army. “I was a drill sergeant in the early 1990s. The way we trained Soldiers then and the way we train them now has changed drastically. We are an Army at war and we can and must evolve our training to meet operational demands. The same

thing is happening with the Iraqi Army. They are adjusting their training tasks and programs based on their needs in the field.”

Some of the NCOs coming to the platoon sergeant course have not had any training since basic training. They have not been to the Corporal Course or the Sergeant Course. A lot of the experience they bring to the school, they gained in the field in combat.

“Now they are using that experience to raise the quality of NCOs and Soldiers, and are even extending the length of the training courses,” High said. “Basic Combat Training was five weeks. Now they are working on an 8-week program. NCO courses used to be 125 hours of

training. Now they are 160 hours. There is a misconception that Iraqi Soldiers will only train so many hours a day. What we’ve found is that when Soldiers get quality training, they train harder and put in longer hours. It was the Iraqis who said they wanted longer hours and more training.”

“The number one thing,” High said. “when the Iraqis were updating courses was we asked officers and NCOs; what does a combatant commander expect from his NCOs and Soldiers in the fight?”

“They know as well as anyone that NCOs must have the ability to close with and destroy the enemy. Quality training, standards and discipline will allow them to accomplish their missions.” ■

# If you build it, they will come:

## Lackland instructors build tactical course for Iraqi Airmen

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

USAFCENT PAO

**TAJI, Iraq** – When military training instructors saw an unmet need in the Iraqi Air Force basic military training program, they did what all good Airmen do. They found a way to fill the need.

For Staff Sgt. Matthew Coltrin and Tech. Sgt. Chris Ramsdell, MTIs deployed from the 322nd Training Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, no BMT course is complete without a Warrior Week block. The two men are air advisors assigned to the Coalition Air Force Transition Team where they advise Iraqi Air Force Basic Military Training instructors.

“When we came out here to be advisors, one of our first objectives was to establish a warrior week program similar to the one we have back at Lackland,” said Coltrin, a Lake Charles, La. native. “They had two days set aside for the course, but only about a day- and-a-half of curriculum written into the course.”

The goal of a tactical course is to help trainees learn basic movements with a weapon while in combat conditions. The duo wanted to build a Lackland-style obstacle course, but knew they’d be limited by the resources available.

“We knew we could not come up with the money for bringing materials in from all over the place, so we improvised,” said Ramsdell, a native of San Antonio. “We looked in junk yards and trash piles and found tires along the way.”

Sandbags were in big supply all around the base and local construction companies donated wood and other equipment.

Once the men had all the supplies in hand, they got busy designing the layout of the course.

“It took about a week of planning to decide where we were going to put the course,” said Ramsdell. “Then we had to ensure there weren’t safety issues like

sewage running through the area.”

Ramsdell and Coltrin had a lot of help from their BMT teammates, but especially Tech Sgt. Brent Warren, who performed a huge chunk of the manual labor.

“I was very excited when I first heard of the prospect of building an obstacle course, said Warren. Plus, just to be outside, building stuff from scratch I thought would be a lot of fun.”

It took about 12 hours a day of physical labor over a two-week period to build the various obstacles. A mujas, a break Iraqi airmen take in the middle of training, helped free the advisors to finish construction faster.

“We slowly built each obstacle on our own time when we weren’t dealing with the trainees,” said Coltrin. “We would stay late and build an obstacle here, build an obstacle there and then come back later and make improvements.”

As the trainees

watched the course slowly become a reality, they began querying the advisors. “When we told them they’d be the first class to go through the course, they jumped down to the ground and started high crawling on it because they were so excited,” Coltrin said.

Warren and Coltrin ran the course first to show the Iraqi instructors and the trainees how it should be done. “Sergeant Coltrin and I were pretty tired after running it, so we knew it would be a challenge for them,” said Warren. “It was tough but they

were up for it.”

Ramsdell, Coltrin and Warren were quick to praise each other’s contributions toward the course. But as far as feedback goes, the Iraqi Airmen who made the first test run gave them the best endorsement of all.

“The first time they went through the course, they were pretty pumped and excited,” said Ramsdell. “That’s all the feedback we really needed.” ■



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

**Iraqi air force warrant officers jump over the high wall portion of the basic military training tactical course at Al Taji Air Base, Iraq on Sept. 27, 2008.**



**Iraqi warrant officers flip a tire during their run of the Iraqi air force basic military training tactical course at Al Taji Air Base, Iraq on Sept. 27, 2008.**

# Iraqi generator techs keeping the lights on

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

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**TAJI, Iraq** – Electricity is necessary to run an army, and the Iraqi Army of today is no exception. Throughout the country, generators are found powering both military bases and civilian neighborhoods due to the lack of centralized power plants. These generators are the heart of the military, and the country of Iraq.

With so many small units powering an entire nation, the demand for qualified technicians and mechanics is very high. As with any machine, generators break down and, until recently, few technicians were available to get them running again. Supply issues, transportation, and security made keeping the units operational a real problem for the military. To solve this problem, Iraqi military officials created the Power Generation Equipment Repair Course to train Soldiers to specialize in power generation, basic maintenance and troubleshooting of generators. The intent is to train enough Soldiers to be available when called upon with the knowledge and expertise to solve basic issues that arise.

“In the past, they had contractors to fix the generators,” said Iraqi Army Cpl. Abbas, the senior power generation instructor and Iraqi Army Service and Support Institute subject matter expert in power generation. “Now the Soldiers will fix them.”

The Power Generation Equipment Repair Course is held at the Taji National Training Center. IASSI is responsible for this class, along with food service, logistics, vehicle recovery and several others. Courses taught at the school, especially the Power Generation class, are vital to the sustainment of the Iraqi Army. The power generation course is set-up like most classes in the American and Iraqi military. Students’ time is split between classroom instruction and hands-on practice and evaluation. The course runs 21 days, with 15-20 students per cycle. Small class sizes enable the instructors to spend more time with each student, greatly enhancing their learning experience. There is currently a power generation course scheduled every two

months at the IASSI.

The first few days of the course consist of student reception, administrative in-processing and an explanation of course expectations. Students begin their training in the classroom, receiving a crash course in basic electricity, learning the difference between amps and watts, and how electrical power is created. They continue their studies by learning the mechanics of the systems involved, focusing on generator components, preventative maintenance checks and service of the unit as a whole, and troubleshooting common problems. The Soldiers train on these basics for several days and become proficient under Abbas’ direction.

Safety is a key point stressed throughout the course and is the first topic covered. Power generation is a potentially deadly enterprise that must be conducted by qualified personnel. Iraqi instructors and Coalition advisors consistently remind students of the hazards present and observe all training to ensure proper technique and maintain a safe training environment. The instructors and advisors are all Combat Life Saver qualified and have the necessary first aid supplies present during all training exercises.

The second training phase is entirely hands-on. This training is largely conducted on non-military generator units, though the students also learn how to operate military units. Since they learn on several different machines, the students become proficient with more than just one particular generator brand or style.

“This whole compound is run by generators,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ruben Reyes, an advisor to the power generation course. “Even before they leave the school, they get to put their training into practice.”

The students graduate the course with a broad knowledge of civilian power generation equipment, creating the possibility of a post-military career. Specialized trades such as power generation and equipment repair can mean a stable and lucrative job opportunity, giving course graduates many options in a country where the

unemployment rate fluctuates between 25 and 50 percent.

Instructors train the students on various generators sizes, from tiny 3 kV units to the giant 350 kV ones. In addition to generators, the students become proficient with portable light sets—the lighting systems seen at many security checkpoints and throughout military posts. Knowing what size generator to use is important, so students receive training on how to determine what size unit to use according to the power demand.

Senior officials and advisors are constantly amending the program of instruction to make it more relevant. New generators are frequently procured to keep students up to date with changing technology.

The Iraqis and their counterparts are also developing an air-conditioner repair and maintenance course to coincide with the power generation course. Once created, this course will help to curb the immense problem of broken air-conditioner units in Iraq. Soldiers will gain the knowledge and experience needed to keep them running efficiently, thereby enabling them to train others to perform operator-level maintenance on the A/C units.

The Power Generation Equipment Repair Course is one of the most important courses offered at TNTC. Coalition and Iraqi soldiers often cite the lack of power as the most prominent issue they face. A modern army cannot operate without power, and generators cannot operate without technicians to maintain and service them. The students of the Power Generation Equipment Repair Course learn a large amount of information in their 21-day stay at IASSI. In addition to Iraqi Soldiers, IASSI has started training students from the Iraqi Air Force, Special Forces, Border Police, Iraqi Police, National Police and other Iraqi Security Forces.

After graduation, Soldiers return to their units and train others in basic maintenance and operator level tasks. Proliferation of knowledge is a critical aspect continuously promoted as the Iraq Army continues to improve. ■

# NaTT and Iraqi Navy celebrate arrival of new Defender Class Fast Small Boats

Royal Navy Lt. Nik Tiebosch

NATT

**UM QASR, Iraq** – On Oct. 8, a cargo ship from the United Arab Emirates came alongside South Port, Umm Qasr, with six Defender Class Fast Small Boats (FSB) in her hold. The Iraqi Navy and the UK-led Naval Training Team, both based at the port, have eagerly awaited the arrival of these vessels. Along with twenty others due to be delivered over a period of several months, these FSBs will greatly improve the ability of the Iraqi Navy to transition to full operational capability.

The Defenders were sold to the Iraqi Navy by SAFE Boat International through a United States Coast Guard Foreign Military Sales contract. They are 27 feet in length and capable of carrying up to eight boarding team members in a fully-enclosed air conditioned cabin. The FSBs are powered by twin Yamaha 250 horsepower, 4-stroke engines, enabling the craft to reach speeds up to 45 knots. The boats will be a huge improvement over the Iraqi Navy's existing Fast Assault Boats and present a much more capable and versatile platform with which to defend Iraq's territorial waters and carry out Visit, Board, Search

and Seizure operations.

After being manufactured in Port Orchard, Washington, the boats were trucked to Norfolk, Virginia. In early September, the six boats began their journey across the Atlantic Ocean and, after a series of stops for replenishment and a transfer of cargo in the UAE, were loaded onto the ITB Thunder/Lightning for the last leg of the journey into Umm Qasr. The boats were off-loaded late in the evening and taken to the American United Logistics compound. Once all formalities are complete, the boats will be transferred to the Naval Base jetty to await the arrival of the United States Coast Guard International Training Division team later this month. The team will work alongside Iraqi Navy and NaTT instructors to initiate the reactivation process.

Formal training enabling the Iraqi Navy to operate and maintain the boats will commence on completion of reactivation



Photo by RN Lt. Cmdr. Nick West

**An Iraqi Sailor looks on as a Defender Class FSB is offloaded by crane.**

training. Training will include navigation, general seamanship, engine repair and maintenance, and ship's husbandry. NaTT instructors will advise and mentor Iraqi Navy instructors so they will be able to take on this training when the next batch of boats arrives. Lt. Tony Crisco, United States Coast Guard, NaTT, stated, "The inception of the FSBs will provide a greater capability to the Iraqi Navy and Marines to move throughout the Iraqi Navy waterborne area of responsibility (AOR), increasing their mission capability and presence, and providing an avenue

for greater stability for commercial traffic and oil platform protection." NaTT commander Capt. Phil Warwick, Royal Navy, added, "This is a genuine, tangible step forward for the Iraqi Navy. They are very excited and can't wait to get to grips with this new vessel". ■

## MoD celebrates first anniversary of the Ministerial Training and Development Center

By Cassidy Craft

MoDAT

**BAGHDAD**— The Ministry of Defense's Ministerial Training and Development Center celebrated its one-year anniversary at a MoD ceremony on October 21st.

The MTDC opened its doors on October 20, 2007 and has since conducted 130 classes, trained over 2,500 Iraqi government

officials, developed 54 programs of instruction, and transitioned teaching responsibility for 20 courses to Iraqi instructors. The center also trains Iraqi Armed Forces and MoD civilians, as well as officials from the Ministries of Interior, Finance, and National Security, the Counter-Terrorism Command, and the Prime Minister's National

Operations Center.

The MTDC has 49 Iraqi employees, of whom 17 are instructors. The Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq maintains 8 professors from Coalition countries as mentors and advisors.

The center has 3 sections: Planning, Operations, and Teaching. There are 11 departments in the Teaching Section: Policy and

Requirements, Intelligence and Security, Finance and Budgeting, Contracting, Inspector General and Human Rights, General Counsel, English Language, Infrastructure, Information Technology, Personnel and Management, and Media and Communications.

The MTDC's Director is Wa'el Abbas, while Mr. Cassidy Craft serves as the Coalition senior advisor. ■

# NaTT helps Iraqi Navy train for new patrol ships

**Royal Navy Lt. Nik Tiebosch**

*NATT*

**UM QASR, Iraq** - The crew of Patrol Ship 701, one of four Italian Saettia Class patrol ships being procured by the Iraqi Navy, began their pre-handover training Oct. 11 under the tutelage and guidance of the UK-led Naval Training Team (NaTT) based at the Iraqi Naval Base, Umm Qasr. This represents a huge milestone for the Iraqi Navy, signifying the start of a modernization process enabling them to greatly improve their ability to achieve transition to full operational capability.

The training in Umm Qasr will last for two months and was designed to prepare the Iraqi sailors for the three-month long ship-specific training package they will undergo in La Spezia, Italy. This training will enable them to learn how to operate and maintain their new vessel. After a further two months of onboard, whole-ship training in La Spezia and at sea, the sailors will take the ship on the 6,000 nautical mile passage back to Iraq. She is due to arrive alongside Umm Qasr in July 2009. Training for each of the four ships is staggered over three-month intervals. The crew of PS702 will begin their training in January 2009.

Last week was the first time the 31



Photo by LS (Sea) Hamilton, RN

**Iraqi sailors practice sea survival techniques.**

Iraqi sailors worked together as a crew, so some emphasis was placed on team building. Leading Physical Trainer Dave Howarth said, "The first day was all about getting the crew to bond as a team. I introduced them to some team building exercises, something they hadn't come across before. By the end, they were really pitching in with lots of enthusiasm".

NaTT instructors have been working hard with their Iraqi counterparts to

make the training as interesting and as practical as possible, while making sure each course is tailored to the wide range of skills and experience of each crew member. Chief Petty Officer Steve Ashcroft, a NaTT engineering instructor, said, "The limited amount of training aids and resources means we sometimes have to improvise when it comes to practical work and demonstrations. This can be a real challenge, but when you see the Iraqis getting into it, it makes it all worthwhile". Much use will also be made of the coalition ships in the Northern Arabian Gulf. The crew will spend approximately half their time at sea, putting into practice what they learn shoreside. The Iraqi engineers already spent a day on HMS LANCASTER putting into practice the firefighting training they undertook on the Naval Base.

During the next two months, PS701's ship's company will study subjects such as sea survival, seamanship, firefighting and damage control. More specialized courses include diesel engines, transmission, radar theory, communications, and navigation. These will be directed at specific crew members. One of the Iraqi sailors commented, "This is a really big opportunity for us. We are all looking forward to the challenge of being the crew of the first new Patrol Ship." ■

## Iraqi Joint Headquarters hosts logistics symposium

**By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**TAJI, Iraq** - The Deputy Chief of Staff - Logistics for the Iraqi Joint Headquarters hosted a logistics symposium in Taji Oct. 27 to develop the sustainment system that supports Iraqi military operations. During opening comments, Staff Lt. Gen. Abdullah, DCoS - Logistics, invoked everyone "to participate actively according to their knowledge and experiences to design and develop the methods to maintain resources and distribute them to units."

Participants in the symposium included Iraqi and Coalition logistics experts and their 'customers' - operational military units. Iraqi attendees at the symposium included the Iraqi

Ground Forces Command G4, each of the DCoS - Log directors, representatives from every Location Command, every Motor Transportation Regiment, the General Transportation Regiment, all the Iraqi Army Division G4 staff, along with representatives from the Taji National Maintenance Depot, the Taji National Supply Depot, and the Ministry of Interior.

Abdullah stated the goal of the logistics symposium was to "determine the current processes used by the Iraqi Security Forces and identify problems and inconsistencies within the logistics system."

The symposium will be followed by a logistics training exercise at Taji on Oct. 28 to "train commanders and staff and administrative offices on how to give support to all unit and operations,"

according to Iraqi Maj. Gen. Sadiq, Deputy DCoS - Logistics.

The goal of the exercise, according to Abdullah, is to "assist the ISF to develop and provide clear actionable guidance to correct deficiencies within processes and help determine the future."

"This is a fantastic example of combined planning and training where Iraqis have taken the lead. The Iraqis and Coalition forces are working together to address issues of the future. This is a work of self-determination," said Col. Chris Lawson, a U.S. Army National Guardsman and commander of the 108th Sustainment Brigade from Illinois. Lawson currently serves as Director of Logistics for the Coalition Army Advisory Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq. ■

# 8th Iraqi Army Division hosts Logistics Conference

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mike Daly

MNSTC-I PAO

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq – Representatives from the Iraqi Army's 8th Division Motor Transport Regiment held a conference to review improved logistics plans for the shipping and receiving of vehicle replacement parts. Brig. Gen. Muniem, the Iraqi Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Director, spoke at the conference to highlight the plan to division leaders. He attended the conference with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commander of the Coalition Army Advisory Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. "The important thing is the division is getting their leadership together," said Salazar. "The goal is to use the same techniques applied in operations to improving logistics."

Working with the Iraqi Army and advisors from MNSTC-I, Muniem is implementing a system for more efficient

delivery of Class Nine vehicle repair parts, including items like tires, fan belts and hoses. "This meeting is about spare parts and their critical relationship to maintenance," said Muniem.

The plan creates a package of parts that can be stocked at maintenance facilities for particular vehicles. Working with coalition advisors, Muniem identified repair parts that should be in the packages. In the past, something as simple as batteries or brake pads had to be ordered when the part went bad. With the repair parts packages in place, replacement parts will already be on hand. The worn part will then be traded in a one-for-one exchange at a higher level in order to keep the maintenance facility stocked. This initial



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

**An Iraqi Army maintenance specialist removes an old tire from a tire rim. A new logistics plan is being designed to make sure replacement parts like tires, batteries and brake pads are readily available.**

plan creates a package of parts for Humvees used by the Iraqi Army. Future plans will include other vehicles. The parts packages are assembled at a depot in Taji.

Muniem met with Division leaders to make sure they understood his plan and policies. Salazar described the conference as "successful" and says there will be a series of meetings over the next few weeks with other Iraqi Army Division leaders. The plan will be tested the end of October when the divisions come together for an exercise that will test and evaluate all the elements involved. ■

# Iraqi Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering reviews U.S. Army maintenance procedures

By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – The Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering for the Iraqi Joint Headquarters, Iraqi Army Brig. Muniem, participated in a demonstration and review of U.S. Army maintenance procedures Oct. 21.

Muniem and his Director of Plans and Operations, Brig. Kareem, discussed challenges and plans for Iraqi maintenance operations with Australian Brig. David McGahey, Deputy Commanding General of Joint Headquarters Advisory Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq; U.S. Army Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade; and U.S. Army Col. Barry Diehl, G4 of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Muniem highlighted the importance of improving maintenance operations for the Iraqi military. "Good maintenance means good readiness," he said.

U.S. Army Soldiers from MND-



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

**Sgt 1st Class Charles Blood (right), Battalion Motor Sergeant, Bravo Co., 526th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, explains U.S. Army maintenance procedures and the role of the non-commissioned officer in maintenance programs to Brig. Muniem, Director Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Iraqi Joint Headquarters.**

B explained and demonstrated the practices and systems they use to provide maintenance support to operational units to Muniem and Kareem.

The visit provided an opportunity for the "EME to familiarize himself with Coalition army maintenance facilities, policies and procedures, job order processing, and support to warfighters," said U.S. Air Force Maj. André Johnson, advisor to the Director, EME from MNSTC-I's Joint Headquarters Advisory Team.

Muniem, who recently published his consolidated policy for repair parts and maintenance support for the Iraqi military, is preparing for a logistics training exercises in Taji next week to educate and train Iraqi Army logistics officers on the measures in the new policy.

The bi-monthly maintenance conference, hosted by Muniem and next planned for December, will focus on customer experiences and operational feedback on the effectiveness of the current policy.

Exploring the possibility of contracted repair parts support, Muniem traveled to the Ukraine and plans to send a representative to the United States, Japan and Germany to visit equipment manufacturers and discuss contracting support. ■

# Iraqi Joint Headquarters hosts logistics training exercise

By **U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron**

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**TAJI, Iraq** – Over 220 senior logisticians from Iraqi and Coalition forces gathered Oct. 28 at the Taji National Maintenance Depot to participate in an exercise to test new logistics and sustainment procedures.

The exercise, hosted by Staff Lt. Gen. Abdullah, Iraqi Joint Headquarters Deputy Chief of Staff – Logistics, concluded two days of events geared towards improving logistics processes within the Iraqi military.

During the exercise, the Iraqi logisticians reacted to several different operational scenarios, describing how the Iraqi military logistics system would react to support the needs of operational military units. They used this opportunity to identify ways to improve logistics processes to provide better support to fighting forces.

Participants in the exercise included Iraqi and Coalition logistics experts and their ‘customers’ – operational military units. Iraqi attendees at the symposium

included the Iraqi Ground Forces Command G4, each of the DCoS – Log directors, representatives from every Location Command, every Motor Transportation Regiment, the General Transportation Regiment, all the Iraqi Army Division G4 staff, along with representatives from the Taji National Maintenance Depot and the Taji National Supply Depot.

Abdullah, referring to execution of logistics support, said, “Administration is hard work. Planning and preparation takes longer.” He further advised the participants that the “key is to get ahead and identify resources earlier,” to allow better planning and preparation.

Recapping the value of the days’ events, Iraqi Maj. Gen. Sadiq, Abdullah’s deputy, said, “These two days have given



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

**Senior logisticians from Iraqi and Coalition forces gather at the Taji National Maintenance Depot, Oct. 28, to participate in an exercise to test new logistics procedures.**

us good information and put us in the actual system. We’re still in the growth stage and will work with the Coalition to improve.”

Sadiq added the exercise presented an opportunity to “clarify ability and how to improve; to perfect methods to support sectors and troops and to direct logistics resources to support troops.”

Sadiq’s comments were reinforced by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, Theater Senior Logistician from Multi-National Forces – Iraq, who said, “The sole purpose of logistics is to support the warfighter.” ■

## Ministry of Interior completes Third Quarter Review

By **Noah Miller**

*DoIA PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – The Ministry of Interior (MoI) completed its 2008 third-quarter review on Monday, reporting on the progress made since the inaugural Mid-Year Assessment in June 2008. The review also recognized outstanding achievements by the ministry’s directorates in implementing the 2008 strategic plan.

The ministry’s strategic plan identifies eight goals with 54 underlying objectives and the 152 tasks required to achieve them. The eight strategic goals are: create a secure environment, eradicate corruption, extend the rule of law, enforce strong ethics, create excellence, strengthen relations with society, derive authority from the people and parliament, and create a culture of initiative. Each

directorates within the ministry has responsibility for some of the objectives and tasks within their areas of concern.

88% of stated goals were fully or partially achieved, but the remainder encountered some obstacles and the review provided an open forum to discuss methods to resolve them. Improved spending of the MoI’s budgets was among the main discussion topics among the senior ministry staff.

MoI’s investment plan, comprising 82 projects in 13 provinces, was a particular focus of the review. Maj. Gen. Waleed, Director of Planning and Tracking, stressed that understanding improvements and progress made by the MoI in executing plans and programs is more related to actual accomplishments than simply writing and tracking goals and plans. “This is important work to build the ministry for the future,” he said.

The ministry has made vast improvements spending its investment budget. While only a small portion of the budget was spent between 2003 and 2005, the ministry spent 34% in 2007, with this number expected to rise in 2008 due to improved capabilities in project design, budgeting and contracting. Waleed, however, called for more specialty staff in contracting and cautioned ministry directors to “not ask for budgets unless you have designs.”

Investment projects underway include the establishment of primary and secondary checkpoints, vehicle registration facilities, studies for highway designs, constructing a forensic evidence building in Babel, acquiring land, establishing headquarter buildings for the customs police, building 100 border forts and 150 border annexes, and building training centers in Najaf, Diyala, Mosul, Diwaniya and Dhi Qar. ■

# MoD celebrates second anniversary of the Office of the Chief Information Officer

By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD—The Iraqi Ministry of Defense celebrated the second anniversary of the establishment of the Office of the Chief Information Officer at a ceremony Oct. 12.

“We aim at building a system to cover all aspects of administration, logistics, operations and development of staff to help them build information systems,” said Dr. Ali Taresh, the first and current MoD CIO.

During the last two years, Dr. Taresh led the charge to incorporate the Human Resource Information Management System capability into MoD’s daily operations to effectively manage the workforce.

The Office of the CIO partnered with key MoD IT leaders to continue expansion of the Iraqi Defense Network, the MoD’s primary command and control system, and has bolstered their staff to improve service offerings to



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

**Dr. Ali Taresh, the Chief Information Officer for the Ministry of Defense, explains some of the initiatives and accomplishments of the first two years of his office to the MoD Secretary General and MoD General Secretary.**

internal customers such as the Director General of Communications and the Military Director of Communications (M6) with an end-state of improving executive decision making

“The establishment of the MoD/CIO was a significant landmark in Iraq’s march towards self-sufficiency,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Karlton Johnson, J6 director for the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

Johnson continued, “Communication



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

**Dr. Ali Taresh, the Chief Information Officer for the Ministry of Defense, addresses the assembled at the celebration of the second anniversary of the establishment of his office.**

is vital to any operation, and Information Technology is a force-multiplier for building ministerial capacity. Today’s message from the CIO communicates that. As they increase the business value of their IT projects, MoD will continue to build measures of effectiveness and performance which will help them maximize their IT investments.

Long term, this equates to enhanced communications for security forces who protect the populace, and it will lead to the deployment of relevant capabilities needed for ministerial operations.” ■

## NATO Battle Staff to train Iraqi Army at Kirkuk Regional Training Center

By Estonian Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ingrid Muhling

NTM-I PAO

KIRKUK, Iraq – In a recent visit to the Iraqi Army Regional Training Center in Kirkuk, NATO Battle Staff members met with Iraqi Army instructors to coordinate a leadership course in the Military Decision Making Process. The IA RTC instructors train other Iraqi Army brigade and battalion leaders. The intent of the course is to make sure the

IA staff properly trains their students to train others. It’s a concept familiar to Coalition forces called ‘Train the Trainer’.

During the visit, Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Yeshar conducted a Warfighter Exercise Drill for the NATO instructors. The drill helps those conducting the exercise to review and analyze the many tasks that occur during an exercise. NATO will teach IA instructors battle staff functions and techniques. The drill the NATO instructors observed while

they were in Kirkuk gave them an opportunity to evaluate the IA staff and gather information that will help them coordinate specifics for the course.

The course lasts 10 days, with the NATO Instructors teaching the material for the first five days and the IA RTC instructors demonstrating back to them what they learned over the last five days. The training begins in November, 2008. The NATO Instructors will plan to return 30 days after the training to evaluate the IA Instructors. ■