

The Adviser



Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

June 2009



Terrorist assault and capture demonstrations conducted by members of the Iraqi police special operations team. Story on Page 8



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U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

Over the course of a year, Iraqi fire training has moved from those humble beginnings to a new complex in Baghdad. The Iraqi National Firefighter Academy is located in Baghdad and offers classrooms for practical training and a vehicle and building for hands-on live fire training.

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>> ON THE COVER

Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea
An Iraqi Navy boat patrols the waters in the area of the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal or KAAOT. Coalition forces have operated jointly with Iraqi Navy sailors and marines, training them in point-defense force protection and visit, board, search and seizure operations.

NATO Secretary General visits Iraq

by Van N. Williams, MNSCT-I PAO

BAGHDAD – NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer arrived in Baghdad for meetings with Iraq's President Jalal Al-Talibani, Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki, Minister of Defence Abd Al-Qadir, Minister of the Interior Jawad Al-Bolani and many other dignitaries.

The day's events culminated at the Ministry of Defence with the formal signing of an interim agreement between Iraq and NATO that continues the training and mentoring of the Iraqi Security Forces by the NATO Training Mission-Iraq.

Al-Qadir was pleased with the agreement. "Since the beginning, when NATO entered Iraq, they have cooperated with us. NATO offered a lot of training for

the Military Academy; we are now performing at 90 percent ourselves. Our ambition is to keep the relationship with NATO for the long term," he said

Scheffer noted NATO's history in Iraq, with an eye towards the future. "The relationship between Iraq and NATO has been a great success. But looking back is not enough. We must look ahead. Twenty eight NATO allies are ready to engage with Iraq for the long term. We're doing this in the interest of Iraqi and the people of Iraq. A country we want to have a long term relationship with."

NTM-I trains, mentors and advises officers in the Iraqi Security Forces and provides mentoring and advice to the Prime Minister's National



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Iraqi Minister of Defense Abd Al-Qadir sign an agreement to extend NATO's training mission in Iraq through the end of July 2009.

Operations Centre, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior Command Centre and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Centre.

SECRETARY GENERAL VISITS POLICE LEADERSHIP TRAINING FACILITY

by Van N. Williams, MNSCT-I PAO

BAGHDAD – NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James N. Mattis, NATO supreme allied command transformation, toured the Iraqi National Police training facility in Baghdad and received briefings by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Nation Training Mission-Iraq Commanding General and Italian Army Col. Colleta, Carabinieri division commander, April 9.

The facility has a specialized course designed to develop the officers' basic skills. Police attending the course, study operational planning, police procedures, police intelligence, counter-insurgency skills, weapons, combat skills, first aid and basic logistics. The course also pays special attention to police ethics and human rights.

Scheffer also met with Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bolani and commented on the partnership between Iraq and NATO. "Iraq is showing the ambition of building a truly democratic nation and this strategic partnership with NATO enables Iraq to further its democratic goals."

NTM-I trains, mentors and advises officers in the Iraqi Security Forces, to assist the Government of Iraq resume its important place in the international community and to improve the security of the Iraqi people.

NATO's other projects included: Iraqi Military Academy and Joint Staff College at Ar Rustamiyah, Iraqi National Defence College, and out of country training courses at NATO schools.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Clayton Murray

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commanding general, NATO Training Mission-Iraq, speaks with U.S. Marine Gen. James N. Mattis, NATO supreme allied command transformation and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

Pilots and Trainers Graduate from CAFTT Program

by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jim Bane, MNSTC-I PAO

KIRKUK, Iraq – A group of Iraqi pilots graduated from the Coalition Air Force Training Team, Air Force Training Squadron in Kirkuk.

This most recent group of graduates was the third pilot training group to graduate since the new Iraqi Air Force was stood up according to U.S. Air Force Maj. James Booth of the 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron.

Four students completed the program and became the Iraqi Air Force's newest pilots and four students completed the pilot instructor program. Three of the four graduates of the pilot instructor program are previous graduates of the EFTS pilot training program.

CAFTT's flight training wing is located at Forward Operating Base Warrior on in Kirkuk Regional Air base. The students come to the program from either the Iraqi Air Force College Air Wing or a non-military college. "Graduates from the Iraqi Air Force College are not pilots, they come to the pilot training program in Kirkuk for that" said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Edward

Meyer, CAFTT, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

The students spend approximately one year in the program. Booth says that, "Before they get here these guys have been through the Defense Language School for language training where a minimum score of 70 on the DLI test is required." The training starts with academics then moves to flight simulators. "When the students are finished with the program they are fully instrument flight qualified" said Booth. This is an upgrade in the training from the days when "The graduates were not instrument qualified and could not fly in any type of weather" Booth added.

CAFTT is charged with training, advising and assisting Iraqi Airmen to support progressive transition of combat air operations to the Iraqi government which directly supports the Security Agreement between the United States and Iraq.



U.S. Navy Photo by Petty Officer Jim Bane, MNSTC-I PAO

A group of new pilots graduates from the Coalition Air Force Training Team, Air Force Training Squadron salute during the graduation ceremony.

MoI sponsors Baghdad Infrastructure conference

by U.S.A.F Maj. Kimberly Layne
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Senior leaders of the Ministry of Interior sponsored an infrastructure conference here on Mar. 19 to discuss the way-ahead of police stations in various stages of construction throughout Iraq.

There are 14 police stations refurbishment projects and two new police stations scheduled to be built this year in Baghdad, pending land deed acquisitions.

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ayden Kahled Qadir, Deputy Minister of Iraqi Police Security Affairs, stressed that this was the year of rebuilding for the Ministry of Interior with many projects underway. "It is important that we complete this process to continue to build our security plan and maintain the security gains we have achieved."

"While designs have already been completed for a number of police stations, the construction process is at a stalemate due to lack of acquisition of land deeds for a proper transfer of the land", said

Deputy Minister Ayden.

Deputy Minister Ayden stated, "The citizen must be compensated for the land that we are using. If we build a police station on land that the MoI does not own, the citizen then owns the police station."

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, Deputy Commanding General of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq added that, "The MoI must remain focused on budget issues involved with the construction and refurbishments of these police stations."

Iraqi Security Forces Funds infrastructure dollars will expire on Sept. 30, 2009. Money for infrastructure projects must be obligated by this date. With no money designated in the ISFF budget beyond this fiscal year, this is the last opportunity for Coalition Forces to contribute money to assist the MoI with building police stations.

"Various infrastructure projects are at risk," said General Cannon. "More than \$9 million could be lost if the land deed problems are not resolved."

A committee with members from the MoI, Coalition and Baghdad municipality office will work together to solve these problems.

Maj. Gen. James M. Milano, Commanding General for the Directorate of Interior Affairs, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, reiterated the need to clear the land deed issues. Maj. Gen. Milano stated, "We are developing plans to build police capabilities and continue to build their security. One of the things we need is clear land deeds with no encumbrances that will delay construction."

Since 2004, the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq MNSTC-I J7 office has supported the construction of 609 police stations throughout Iraq, in addition to building border forts, ports of entry, and training centers for the Ministry of Interior. The total cost of construction to date is nearly billion.

28 Iraqi soldiers graduate from the M1A1 tank Train-the-Trainer Course

by U.S. Air Force Capt Tommy Avilucea
MNSTC-I PAO

BESMAYA, Iraq –An historic milestone for the Iraqi Army was achieved at the Besmaya Range Complex, on Tuesday, March 31, with the first graduation of the M1A1 Abrams Tank training program.

Twenty eight Iraqi soldiers completed an intense 42 day train-the-trainer course for the M1A1 Abrams. Advisors from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, put the soldiers through a comprehensive curriculum to become competent, qualified, and efficient in all four crew positions: tank commander, gunner, driver, and loader.

Iraqi Army Staff Brig. Gen. Hazim, commander 9th Division and M1A1 program manager said, “Those officers received basic armor category lessons training. Now they are qualified and efficient to do the job of teaching others in their units. On their shoulders, the armor category for the Iraqi Army will be built.”

Iraqi Army Staff Maj Gen. Jasim Hussain, Director of Training added, “It is

not only that the tank is new in the Iraqi Army, but also the method of teaching and the exercises also were all new. Those young heroes could pass all the exercises successfully.”

Iraqi Army Lt. Mohamed Mamon Baker, tank commander, confidently said, “I got this graduation certificate because I was the first in this tank training course. It was through my hard work of day training, night training, day live firing and by night vision live firing.”

The Iraqi Army is currently utilizing 14 American M1A1 tanks at Besmaya Range Complex to train their soldiers, with another eight to arrive in the near future. The Iraqis now have the ability to train 11 new Iraqi tank crews through 45-day rotations. This new capability will prepare the Iraqi Army to field the first shipment of Iraqi purchased M1A1s, which are scheduled for delivery in August 2010.

MNSTC-I’s efforts in supporting the Iraqi Army represents a vital step towards

Iraq’s self-sufficiency in reaching the Security Agreement goals between the United States and the Government of Iraq.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

Iraqi Army Lt. Mohamed Mamon Baker, tank commander and crew demonstrates speed of the M1A1 tanks as they pass by the review tower during the graduation at the Besmaya Range Complex



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

Iraqi Army graduating class of the M1A1 Train-the-Trainer course at Besmaya Range Complex

M1A1 Abrams tank demonstrates firing capability during first ever Train-the-Trainer course graduation at the Besmaya Range Complex, Iraq

5,000th M1114 HMMWV transferred to ISF

by U.S. Army Sgt 1st Class Patricia Ruth, MNSTC-I PAO

TAJI, Iraq – April 22 marked a milestone in U.S.-Iraqi relations with the transfer of the 5,000th M1114 HMMWV to the Iraqi Security Forces, helping them to be better equipped to provide the safety and security the people of Iraq need.

The M1114 Transfer Program employs over 521 Iraqi local nationals from across the country. This will help the Iraqi Security Forces travel safer in their efforts to provide greater stability and security to the people of Iraq. This program demonstrates the cooperation and partnership between the U.S. Government and the Government of Iraq.

This two year program refurbishes M1114's in accordance to the Inspect and Repair Only as Necessary standards. The IROAN process comprises three phases cumulating in painting the M1114 with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Ministry of Interior color schemes.

Initially, the production goals were to deliver 200 vehicles in March 2008 and 400 vehicles per month from April 2008 onwards. The M1114 Transfer Program goal is to deliver over 8000 M1114 HMMWV's to the GoI by July 2009.

"The biggest success of the program was the way that the Iraqis can take the cast off parts and convert it to a viable, working vehicle ready to perform its mission," said Elaine Bitsche, administrative contracting officer with DCMA. Bitsche has been in Iraq for the last 11 months and was glad to see the ceremony today before departing for California for her next assignment in Quality Assurance.

"It's amazing how the Iraqi people are dedicated to this program. They take pride in their work and their dedication is outstanding," Bitsche added.

Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Muniem, Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Officer and Brig. Gen. Mark Lacey GBR, Deputy Commanding General, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq MNSTC-I, were the keynote speakers and congratulated all those that worked on the project.

Lacey welcomed the guests and those that worked on the project. He mentioned that he has seen huge improvements in the security capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces and that the up-armored HUMVEE



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Patricia D. Ruth

An Iraqi Army and Police HMMWV ceremoniously pulls forward to signify the transferred of the 5,000th M1114 HMMWV to the Iraqi Security Forces .

is a significant step in that progress. Those who worked so tirelessly on this project were recognized with certificates presented by Lacey and Muniem at the end of the ceremony.

The final transfer was performed when an Iraqi Army and a Police HMMWV pulled

forward, side by side with decorations adorning the front of them. Two U.S. Soldiers got out and handed the keys over to the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior representatives. These new vehicles are now ready to work for the good of Iraq.



U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Patricia D. Ruth

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Muniem, Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Officer, is the the keynote speaker during the transfer of the 5,000th M1114 HMMWV to the Iraqi Security Forces

Sports Day at the Ar Rustamiyah Military Academy

by NATO TRAINING MISSION – IRAQ

AR RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – The Iraqi Military Academy at Ar Rustamiyah held its first Sports Day event since 2002. The long history of the academy holding the event was re-established yesterday with a program that included traditional track and field, military sports competitions, equestrian contests and martial arts demonstrations. The visitors included, the Mayor of Baghdad, the Inspector General of Iraq from the Iraqi Ministry of Defence, Gen. Alebane, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces as well as Maj. Gen. Paolo Bosotti, Deputy Commanding General of NATO Training Mission-Iraq, and Brig. Gen. Pasquale Martinello Head of NTM-I Training, Education and Doctrine Advisory Division. The event was also attended by the staff and cadets of the academy along with family members. NATO trainers and mentors in Ar Rustimiyah helped organize the event and were there in full force to support the academy.

“This was an inspiring event where the academy could express its pride in itself through competitive sports and various demonstrations showing their capabilities,” Bosotti said.

Ar Rustamiyah hosts the Iraqi Military Academy along with the Joint Staff College. These institutions are included in the Iraqi National Defence University as well as the Iraqi National Defence College and the Defence Strategic Studies Institute. All are supported by NTM-I. Other cooperation projects for NATO in Iraq are out-of-country training courses for Iraqis at NATO schools, as well as National Police training led by Italian Carabinieri. NTM-I officers also provide mentoring and advice to the Prime Minister’s National Operations Centre, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior Command Centre and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Centre.



Photo by Maj. Ulo Isberg, NTM-I

Iraqi Military Academy cadets race around the track in full gear on Sports Day.



Photo by Maj. Ulo Isberg, NTM-I

Iraqi Military Academy cadets marching in the arena on Sports Day.

Iraqi Police Recruits Graduate at Al Furat

by Ray McNulty Multi-National Division Baghdad

BAGHDAD - More than two months ago, 700 plus recruits registered for the rigorous professional police training which would prepare them to become Iraqi police officers.

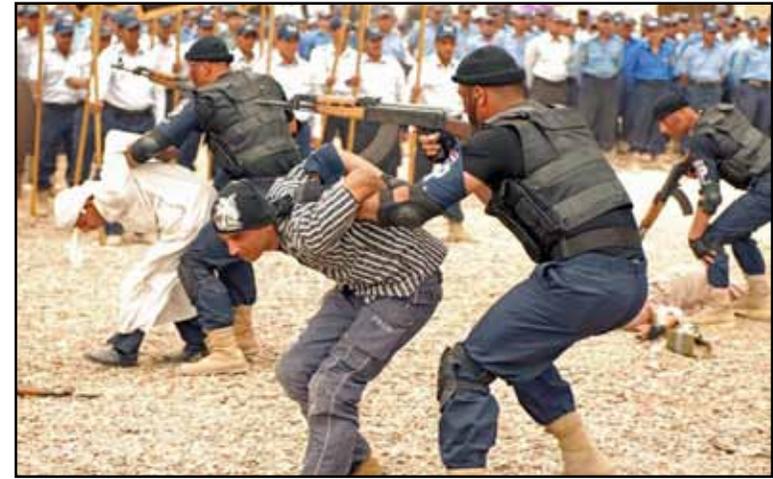
Upon the 8-week course's completion this week, those individuals officially joined the ranks of Iraq's police force, April 15, after a graduation ceremony at the Al Furat Iraqi police training center.

Numbering 537 police patrolmen, they are the fifth Iraqi police class to graduate from the Al Furat Iraqi police academy in recent months. Last month, a class of 314 IP Shurta graduated. Following graduation, the Shurta are

assigned to patrol duties in towns and cities throughout Iraq.

"These regular graduations are tangible proof the government of Iraq has kept its promise. It offered Iraqi police jobs and training to those who care for the safety and security of Iraq's communities," said Brig. Gen. Ali Adnan Yunis, commander, Provincial Directorate of police. "We extend a salute of respect to all those who wish to serve with us. Their service brings honor to their communities."

The 8th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, assisted the Iraqi police through



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Jeff Parker

An Iraqi police special operations team simulates terrorist assault and capture at Iraqi police graduation ceremonies at Al Furat, Iraqi police training center, Baghdad

mentoring, coaching and teaching both new recruits and senior officers.

Maj. Robert Arnold, commander, Baghdad police

training teams, 8th Military Police Brigade, who attended the graduation ceremony observed, "Every Iraqi police graduation points the way forward. More professionally trained officers are on the streets of Baghdad and throughout Iraq; they are restoring a sense of normalcy to cities and towns around the country. They are the citizen's first line of security."



New graduates of the Al Furat Iraqi police training center proudly drill as the Iraqi flags they hold flutter in the breeze. 537 Iraqi police recruits graduated in April.

Photo by Ray McNulty

Iraqi Military Doctors meet for Conference

by U.S. Army Sgt 1st Class Patricia Ruth, MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Iraq’s military physicians gathered for a two day conference sponsored by the Ministry of Defense. Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Samir, Ministry of Defense surgeon general, hosted the conference at the MoD Headquarters in Baghdad.

The theme of the two-day gathering was, “Working together for advanced military medical services.” The conference covered the achievements of the past year and looked forward to the future of Iraq’s military medical professionals. The doctors worked on many challenges facing the military medical corps, including quality control on medications, allocation of supplies, developing a standard medical history form and recruiting new doctors.

“We need more doctors and nurses,” Dr. Samir said. The group is working on recruiting incentives for students, like tuition reimbursement. One of the highlights for the medical corps is having one of



U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Clayton Murray

U.S. Air Force Col. William W. Dodson III, command flight surgeon, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq Coalition Air Force Training Team surgeon / Iraqi Air Force Medical Services advisor and director of training (left), presented Iraqi Army flight surgeons 1st Lt. Amer Abdul Jaleel and Capt. Sarmad Abdul-Qadem with certificates for completing a coalition training course. Iraqi Army Capt. Mohanned Talib, flight surgeon is also pictured (right).

the most technically advanced prosthetic clinics in the region. Another positive development happened in March when

Iraqi Air Force Flight Surgeons, Maj. Abdulrazzaq and 1st Lt. Hazem presented their findings on a fatal Iraqi Mi-17 helicopter crash to the annual NATO Flight Surgeons’ Conference held at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. According to U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Kane, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq Coalition Air Force Training Team commander, “They received a resounding ovation from the other conference attendees as the only presenters in the history of the conference from the Middle East. This initiative will result in a more capable Iraqi Air Force, and it is a vital step toward ensuring Iraq’s self-sufficiency during the critical transition from Coalition to Iraqi-led operations in support of the Security Agreement between Iraq and the United States.”

The group also discussed the

building of military hospitals. “We hope to have six hospitals throughout Iraq, including Baghdad, by 2020,” Samir said. But with the current government budget shortfall, only seven percent of the medical corps requests are being met. “With the help of our coalition partners and emergency funding from the Ministry of Defense, we will make it through and finish the Baghdad hospital.”

The group hopes to meet monthly, in a less formal setting, to share information and improve the professional standardization of the medical corps.



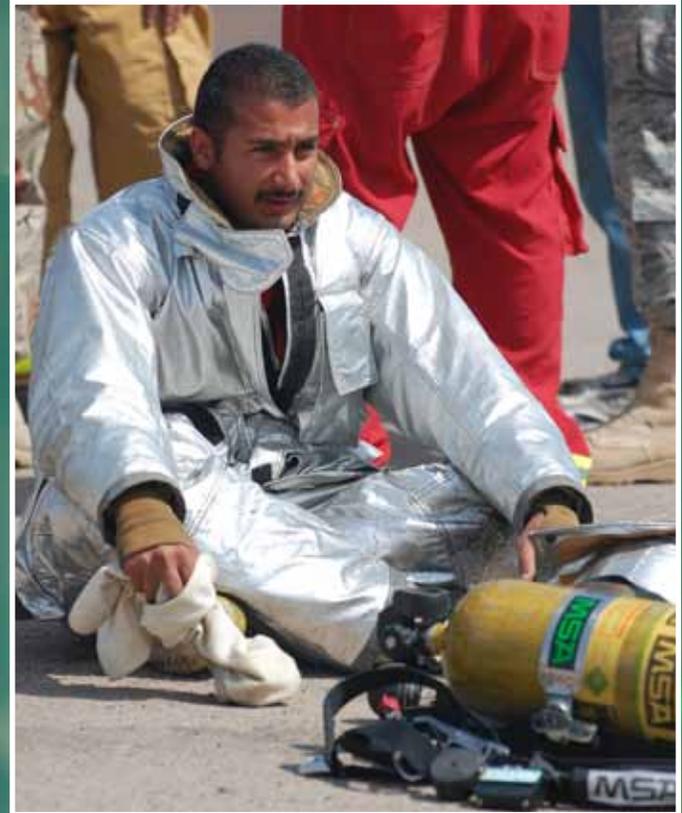
U.S. Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Clayton Murray

Iraqi Ministry of Defense Surgeon General, Army Maj. Gen. Samir, addresses the first military medical conference at the MOD Headquarters. Doctors from Iraq’s military services attended the meeting to discuss professional standardization and future goals.

Moving forward...

A tangible sign of progress towards securing Iraq's future was made at the Iraqi National Fire Academy. Iraqi firefighter managers trained by U.S. Air Force advisors back in January have completed the circle and trained their first Iraqi class.

Thirty Iraqi Air Force and thirty Iraqi Civil Defense firefighters attended the eight week course. The students learned basic firefighting techniques, including fighting vehicle and building fires.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

at the Fire Academy

The managers provided the students with insight, encouragement and a kick in the pants when needed. More classes will be offered throughout the year as the Government of Iraq prepares to assume control of its internal security in accordance with the Security Agreement with the United States.

The plan is to continue the “Train the Trainer” program and develop the Iraqi forces in a standardized and professional manner.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

US and Iraqi Ministry of Interior Reinforces Partnership

by U.S. Army Maj. Glenn Burks,
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – US and Iraqi partnership is a key component to the Security Agreement. Iraqi Brig. Gen. Ahmed Hamzah Raheem, the National Police Director of Engineering and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, Director of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command–Iraq, discover common ground. The officers discussed on site for proposed facilities that will be used for a National Police Brigade complex, vehicle and equipment maintenance centers, warehouse and storage, medical treatment, explosive ordinance disposal headquarters and training sites. The proposed site is located in southern Baghdad and will be one of the largest facilities in the Ministry of Interior.

The two general officers discussed various facets pertaining to the proposed site, such as storm water drainage, retention ponds or basins (used to control flooding), access roads, and other variables that are important when conducting site analysis.

“Environmental considerations are paramount when conducting these analyses for a new site. Sewer and

storm water management are important infrastructure considerations, the important thing is to build the new site in an area that is sustainable”, added US Navy Cmdr. Andrew Holland, Multi-National Transition Security Command–Iraq, Deputy J7. Holland’s expertise is in civil engineering and infrastructure.

“The key to the success in this joint venture was that Brig. Gen. Ahmed was able to secure the site and deed in just eight days. By any measure, this was a phenomenal feat to get done in such a short time. It needed to be done and he did it”, added Cannon.

One thing was apparently clear, the US and Iraqis are continuing to build their relationship built on partnering in every endeavor and all levels. The US and Iraqis surveyed the proposed land site together as both sides laid out their concerns. Moreover, the frank discussions will benefit the Iraqi people and the police. Maj. Gen. Cannon is among several directorates in MNSTC-I responsible for the training, equipping, and advising various levels of the Iraqi government, notably, the Ministry of Interior.



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Glenn Burks

Iraqi National Police General, Brig. Ahmed and US Navy engineer, Cmdr. Holland, assess the selected site to ensure proper infrastructure support can be provided.

The National Police is a paramilitary organization that responds to incidents their unique skills to supplement the Iraqi Police but not serious enough to involve the Iraqi Army in these domestic incidents. “The National Police are an expeditionary element, they are analogous to the US National Guard, who when ordered responds to natural disasters, lawlessness and other unique circumstances where the local Iraqi Police can be augmented”, added U.S. Army Maj. Donald Crawford Chief of the National Police Transition Team.

Likewise, Cannon who is a career law enforcement officer with almost 40 years of experience has worked closely with the Iraqi Deputy Minister of Interior. The two share the same experiences and hope for an Iraqi Police Force that is fully capable for generations to come.

Training, advising and equipping the Iraqi Police on numerous levels are essential components in providing the internal security of Iraq is a key and essential element to allowing the Iraqi Army to focus on more traditional military operations such as external security and border protection. The US and Iraq Security Agreement mandates U.S. combat forces be out of Iraqi cities in June 2009.



U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Glenn Burks

Iraqi National Police Brig Gen Ahmed (left) and US Army Maj. Gen. Cannon(right). The two officers meet to discuss land use and survey the site for a state of the art facility

Iraqi Special Operations Forces Demonstrate Capabilities

by U.S. Army Maj. Robert Owen,
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Special Operations Forces started the day with a bang, literally. A flash bang grenade breached the front door of the house and immediately the members of the ISOF stormed in to rescue the hostage and neutralize the enemy.

Normally, the ISOF does this under cover of darkness with no one watching, but today they wanted the world to see how they perform their jobs. With major U.S. media outlets present and many leaders of both coalition and Iraqi forces looking on, the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Force performed flawlessly as they demonstrated their skills.

“We have a strong response to terrorists in Iraq,” said a senior Iraqi Special Operations Officer. “We have coordinated strategic planning with the coalition forces to get us ready.”



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

An Iraqi Special Operations Team member advances to clear a village and rescue a hostage to demonstrate the teams special skills.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

Iraqi Special Operations Officer removes the “terrorist” from the house that they raided to show their professional skills.

After the house clearing, the team demonstrated their skills in clearing a village and rescuing yet another hostage. With HUMVEEs roaring down the road, the team poured out, each one performing his job perfectly. The coordinated combat effort was enhanced by the communications used by the team throughout the exercise. Verbal commands were shouted to the team members when the door was breached, the room was cleared, the enemy captured, the hostage rescued and finally the building was safe.

“Through repetitive training improvement and interaction with American counterparts, the training level is being brought up a notch,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, Iraqi National Counter-Terrorism Force-Training Team deputy commanding general, Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq. “Every one of these

members is adaptable and with the right equipment, vehicles and ammunition, they will be an integral part of ensuring that Iraq is secure and safe.”

Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Fadhil, senior Iraqi commander of the ISOF pointed out the importance of the Iraqi Security Forces by saying, “Our role is to fight terrorism, protect Iraq against terrorists and to be effective anywhere we go.” He added that working with the U.S. Special Forces soldiers has helped them tremendously.

The Iraqi Special Operations Forces showed what they are capable of today and for Iraq’s future. Through the continuing cooperation with the United States as called for in the Security Agreement signed by the two countries, this force will only continue to get stronger every day.

Air Force Day Celebrates re-birth of Iraqi Force

by U.S.A.F Capt. Tommy Avilucea
MNSTC-I PAO

AL MUTHANA, Iraq – Iraqi Air Force day began with the press gathering at the Triumphal Arches [Cross Swords] in downtown Baghdad; which set the tone for the celebration of the 78th anniversary of the Iraqi Air Force. To demonstrate the Air Forces' capabilities, the Ministry of Defense transported the media in three Mi-17 Transport Helicopters to Al Muthana Air Base on April 22.

The media were excited as they lifted off from downtown Baghdad and arrived at Al Muthana AB, they quickly dispersed to cover the event for the Iraqi people and the surrounding countries. The Iraqi Air Force had many aircraft displayed to include: C-130 Hercules, B350 King Air Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance plane, Mi-17 Transport Helicopter, AC208 "Combat" Caravan, CH2000 SAMA, C172 Cessna Skyhawk, and UH-1 Huey.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

A C-130 Hercules sits on display during the 78th anniversary of the Iraqi Air Force on April 22.

The Iraqi Air Force was established in 1931 and the rebuilding of the force began in 2004. Iraqi Army General Babakir, Chief of Staff, Iraqi Joint Forces stated, "We have established the Iraqi Air Force from nothing to where it is today. The Air Force has enhanced the security of the country and we now have the ability to provide vital information to the commanders on the ground to protect all the infrastructure of Iraq."

Iraqi Army Staff Lt. Gen. Anwar Ahmed, Iraqi Air Force Commander addressed the over 200 in attendance at the celebration, "The Air Force needs is being developed from aircraft maintenance, to the training of its officers." He also added, "The Iraqi Air Force, thanks to the help of U.S Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, the United States Air Force and all the teams that have worked besides us, are moving forward to achieve our goals."

Abd Al Qadir, Iraqi Minister of Defense stated, "We are here to celebrate the 78th anniversary of the Air Force. We started to rebuild the Iraqi Air Force in 2004 with the support of the Ministry of Defense and the Air Force is now part of the struc-

ture that defends the country of Iraq."

The Iraqi Air Force has grown in personnel, inventory, training and operations over last several years. In 2009, the Air Force has achieved the first Night Vision Goggles navigation mission by an all Iraqi crew, established ISR capabilities that are shared with the ministry of Interior to support police operations and the continued development of the Air Force cadre. And most significantly the transition of governance from Coalition to Iraqi leadership in conducting air operations over Iraq.

The Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's efforts in developing the Iraqi Air Force highlight the commitment between the governments of the United States and Iraq. The improving capabilities of the Iraqi-led operations support the mission to create a secure and stable Iraq. This is a great achievement that supports the Security Agreement between the United States and the Government of Iraq.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commanding General, MNSTC-I, Iraqi Army General Babakir, Chief of Staff, Iraqi Joint Forces, and Abd Al Qadir, Iraqi Minister of Defense discuss the capabilities of the hell fire missile.

Ministry of Defense expands Iraqi Defense Network

by Noah W. Miller, Public Affairs Advisor
MNSTC-I

BAGHDAD - Good communications are imperative in any organization and the Iraqi Ministry of Defense (MoD) continues to make technological strides and improve ministerial capacity with the development of its net-centric Iraqi Defense Network (IDN). The network provides secure voice and data communications to 44 MoD sites across Iraq including thirteen out of fourteen Iraqi Army Divisions.

The IDN utilizes a combination of VSAT and fiber optic technology to provide e-mail, voice over Internet protocol (VoIP), Internet access, file sharing, network printing, and defense switched network calling to 7,600 users who are connected to 3,800 computers, 3,600 phones, 500 printers and 80 digital senders.

With increased demand for the network and an improved security environment, the MoD anticipates to lay more fiber optic cable to gradually replace costly VSATs which offer less bandwidth and are difficult to maintain in Iraq, according to Mark McClintock who is the MoD-AT advisor to the MoD's Director General of Communications. Ten sites inside the International Zone are already connected via fiber optics with the Iraqi Logistics Operation Command (ILOC) being the most recent addition. The IDN also houses the ILOC's servers.

Saad Allawi, the Director of MoD's Command & Control Systems (C2), envisions the IDN to provide a communications network that reaches an additional 85 sites at the brigade level by 2010 and 200 sites at the battalion level by 2012. Despite the increased number of sites, Mr. Allawi expects to maintain the network's current performance or even improve it due to new equipment and a planned redesign of the IDN's National Operations Center.

"We are working to provide the IDN for other important ministries in case they need to communicate with us," said Mr. Allawi. A prime example of this sort of interoperability is a project to communicate with the Ministry of

Interior's network to at least exchange phone and email information. Prime Minister Nouri al-Malaki's office already benefits from being linked to the IDN and President Talibani's office will soon enjoy the same benefit.

Qualified IT personnel are critical to maintaining and securing an ever expanding and complex network. The IDN National Operations Center and the Ministerial Training and Development Center (MTDC) therefore created an Information Management Officer course which will be launched at the end of May. 25 people drawn from various Iraqi Army Divisions will participate in a 'train-the-trainer' course to learn networking fundamentals, how to operate a Helpdesk, and maintain a robust and reliable connection with the IDN. Upon course completion, all students will be certified to MoD's standards and this concept could be expanded to Iraqi army divisions and battalions in the future, according to Mohamed Farrag, an IT instructor at the MTDC.

The IDN's National Operations Center also operates a Video Tele Conference

service available at 21 sites at the division and headquarters level as well as in the offices of Iraq's Prime Minister and President. The inspiration for using collaborative communications tools came from MoD's cooperation with the U.S. Army. Conveying instructions face to face to commanders was deemed far superior by the MoD to providing information on the phone, said Mr. Allawi.

In addition to being a communications network, the IDN also serves as the backbone for other applications. For example, MoD's Chief Information Office installed the Human Resources Information Management System (HRIMS) on servers at the IDN. HRIMS is a comprehensive software application that handles payroll and personnel management issues for all MoD employees. The Coalition force provided the Sadiq application which is a command and control formatted event and incident reporting system. This application will allow MoD headquarters to pull down menus and obtain information and photographs from Iraqi Army divisions.



photo by Noah W. Miller Public Affairs Advisor MNSTC-I

Saad Allawi, the Director of MoD's Command & Control Systems (C2) and Mark McClintock, MoD-AT's advisor to the MoD's Director General of Communications are working to help the Iraqi Defense Network (IDN) meet increased demand.

Iraq Assumes Control of Oil Terminal from Coalition Forces

By U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (AW) D. Keith Simmons

ABOARD KHAWR AL AMAYA OIL TERMINAL, Iraq – The Iraqi Navy assumed control of the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal (KAAOT) during a ceremony held today aboard the terminal in the North Arabian Gulf.

This turnover is the first step of a multi-step naval transition plan that will eventually transfer security responsibilities to the Iraqi Navy.

“The Iraqi Navy is ready and capable of assuming security responsibility for KAAOT,” said Rear Adm. T.C. Cropper, Commander, Task Force Iraqi Maritime (CTF-IM). “This milestone represents another indication of increasing Iraqi operational independence. It’s very important to the way ahead and the future of Iraq.”

U.S. and Coalition forces have maintained a presence on KAAOT since April 2004, assisting the Iraqi Navy by helping provide security to their oil platforms, which account for approximately 70 to 85 percent of Iraq’s gross domestic product. Coalition forces have operated jointly with Iraqi Navy sailors and marines, training them in point defense force

protection and visit, board, search and seizure operations.

“Our Sailors have labored diligently to make this day possible, working by, with and through the Iraqi Navy in a very close partnership,” said Capt. Karl Van Deusen, Commander, Combined Task Force (CTF) 55, which is responsible for providing security to the oil platforms. “They have brought great credit upon our Navy and our nation.”

U.S. and UK forces will continue to operate jointly with the Iraqi Navy to provide training and assistance in support of future security transfers in accordance with a security agreement, to include Iraq’s other key oil platform, the Al Basrah Oil Platform.

“It’s my duty to defend the oil terminal”, said an Iraqi Marine aboard KAAOT. “It belongs to my country. It belongs to my people. Our economy is based on it. I take pride in doing so.”

The U.S. Navy will continue to conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the North Arabian Gulf and provide assistance as requested. MSO help set the conditions for security, which promotes

stability and prosperity in the North Arabian Gulf. These operations protect Iraq’s sea-based infrastructure, which provides the Iraqi people the opportunity for self-determination. MSO complement the counterterrorism and security efforts of regional nations and seek to disrupt violent extremists’ use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.



U.S. Air Force Photo by Capt. Thomas Avilucea

Team Darkhorse trains to Secure the Border

By U.S. Army CPT Erik Kemerling

AL QURNAH, Iraq - 50Km north of Al-Basrah and 30Km east of Al-Qurnah near the Iran-Iraq border U.S. Army soldiers from team “Darkhorse” are conducting training with key officers from their partner battalion. The area is an expansive mixture of desert and marshland which the 3rd BN 14th BDE 4th Region Department of Border Enforcement is responsible for securing. The commute to the border forts is in itself a logistical challenge for both the Iraqi and U.S. forces, but the end result is worth the effort. U.S. partnership with the DBE is crucial to the security of Iraq. According to Cpt. Patrick Bell, 3/14/4 Border Transition Team Intelligence Officer, “the U.S. counterinsurgency strategy to date has focused on the cities and towns; with the successes experienced from both Iraqi and US forces in those areas, the counterinsurgency focus has shifted to securing the borders”.

Team Darkhorse is focused on providing the battalion with tools and knowledge to improve incident reporting in their area of operations. To support this, Cpt. Erik Kemerling, 3/14/4 BTT Fires Advisor and Iraqi officers recently conducted training in map reading and location reporting in the vicinity of the border. Even lacking equipment like handheld global positioning systems to assist the effort, the officers learned to report a grid to their location accurately within six digits. In conjunction with intelligence training focused on interdiction of smuggling, intelligence preparation of the battlefield, intra-operability with local Iraqi Army and Police, 3/14/4 DBE is increasing its ability to secure the border.

Imolorem faccati officil ium et,



Photo by Robert Ahmed

Lt. Heider, Maj Adbal Wahed, Cpt Salah, of Department of Border Enforcement and U.S. Army Cpt Kemerling complete map training at DBE HQ. (not pictured - Cpt Sabah)

First Iraq Vendor Fair a Huge Success

by U.S. Army Maj. Robert Owen,
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – The Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq along with Joint Contracting Command- Iraq held the first Iraqi Vendor Fair at the Al-Rasheed hotel on May 10.

The vendor fair was attended by over 80 different Iraqi owned businesses. The purpose of this vendor fair was to educate the Iraqi business owners on the process involved in doing business with the Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq. The larger than expected turnout, proved to be a tremendous success and will result in more vendor fairs in the near future.

“This is the first time MNSTC-I has accomplished this type of training. It shows the readiness of the Iraqi vendors to work and support MNSTC-I’s mission,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Mahar, commander of the JCC-I. “The command is improving relationships

with local vendors and building a better educated vendor base allowing stronger competition for our goods and services. In the end, the Iraqi vendors are better educated on our acquisition processes and how to contract with MNSTC-I and the United States Government.”

Opening the fair was Azza Khalil-Humadi, program manager for the Women’s Advocate Initiative- Gulf Region Division. She spoke about how far business women have come in Iraq and invited the women attendees to put forth the effort to do business with the U.S. Government.

Many of those in attendance were contractors, including Mohammed Akram, general manager for Al-Burjass General Contracting, whose company, he says, has been doing work with the U.S. government since 2003.

The Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq has many ongoing needs for construction projects and service



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Michael D. Kennedy

Iraqi business owners listen to instruction from Brig. Mark Lacey on how to conduct business with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq at the Al-Rasheed hotel.

related services. These vendors represent companies that know doing business with the U.S. Government can be a great way to get more business, hire more people and make more money.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. Robert Owen

Iraqi business owners listen to instruction on how to conduct business with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq at the Al-Rasheed hotel

Over 1,300 Basic Recruit Training Graduate in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq— Iraq's police force continues to add to their growing numbers after 1,346 basic training recruits graduated April 8th from the Mosul Public Service Academy. During the four-week course, the recruits were trained in weapons marksmanship, basic police skills and hand-to-hand tactics.

The graduation was hosted by Iraqi Brig. Gen. Fuaz, Dean of the Mosul Public Service Academy, Police Training Center. At the ceremony, Iraqi Maj. Gen. Khalid, Provincial Chief of Police for Ninewah, thanked the academy staff, coalition partners and the recruits for all their efforts in support of the Security Agreement.

The Mosul Public Service Academy first opened in 2003 and closed for a short time in 2005 after heavy insurgent activity damaged the facility. It reopened in 2005 with Coalition Force assistance. Upon graduation, the majority of the recruits will work for local police forces in Mosul and the surrounding Ninewah Province.

Also attending the graduation was Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, director general, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. The VIPs and guests enjoyed several demonstrations by the graduates including a pass and review, hand to hand defense techniques, and a cordon and search demonstration.

8th IA Div. learns UAS technology

CAMP ECHO, Iraq – Officers from the 8th Iraqi Army Division participated in familiarization training and a launch demonstration of unmanned aerial systems at Camp Echo March 29.

Soldiers from 4th Infantry Division conducted the training by reviewing technical data, explaining training requirements for operators and maintenance personnel of the UAS and launching a Shadow UAS to demonstrate its surveillance capabilities first-hand.

"We were happy to show them our capabilities for surveillance and they were pleased to learn, said Staff Sgt.

Henry Henson, UAS sergeant. He said the Iraqis expressed a lot of interest in obtaining a similar system through the Iraqi Government.

"We're hoping for future joint operations, assisting them in learning the capabilities until they can be self-sustaining," Henson explained.

"The demonstration was excellent," said Lt. Col. Kassim Kathem, commander for the 8th IA Div. military intelligence battalion. "We hope this surveillance capability will be available to every Iraqi Soldier and officer as they conduct their missions. We hope to have a (UAS) unit."

Kathem said the IA appreciates Coalition forces' assistance with UASs, and he believes that Iraqi personnel will have great success with UAS technology because they know the area well.

"Our units could have greater command and control of our areas of responsibility with such an asset," Kathem said.

Ammunition Handlers WebManage Course

TAJI, Iraq – The Taji Location Command hosted a three week course at the ammunition supply point. This is the first of three Ammunition Handlers WebManage Courses to be held on 2 April.

The course is a proof of a concept to introduce the ammunition handler's module of the Iraqi Army Maintenance Program. This tool is designed to help the Iraqi Army improve their ability to manage requisitions, issues and accountability for ammunition. The accountability will allow the IA to preposition ammunition assets closer to the various areas of operations.

There was a great amount of coordination between Coalition Forces, Iraqi Forces and several contractor entities to get the resources required to set up the training. The TLC transported students to and from the course and the Iraqi Army Services Institute provided billeting and meals for the students during the three week course.

There were nine students in the first

course with 3 graduating with honors. The honor students were recognized for being able to grasp the information quickly and were able to help train the other students. The students attending the course came from several commands throughout the country and will utilize their new skills to improve operations at the ammunition supply points. After completing the course the students provided very positive feedback and look forward to using the system.

MNSTC-I's efforts in supporting the Iraqi Army represents a vital step towards Iraq's self-sufficiency in reaching the Security Agreement goals between the United States and the Government of Iraq.

First Ever Civil Military Operations Course Prepares Iraqi Army Officers with Critical Skills

TAJI, Iraq – The Iraqi Counter Insurgency School conducted the first course on Civil Military Operations for Iraqi army officers, successfully preparing 36 participants for service to the Iraqi people here on April 2.

Iraqi Counter Insurgency School along with 304th Civil Affairs instructors coordinated their efforts and worked together, sharing the podium, with linguistic support. This joint teaching effort provides avenues to implement the Security Agreement between Iraq and the United States of America.

Course participants included Iraqi Army and Iraqi National Police officers in ranks from Second Lieutenant to Colonel and they enthusiastically shared their rich expertise and experiences, making this another highly successful course.

Iraqi and Coalition planners and instructors worked close together to determine learning objectives develop a plan of instruction and certify Iraqi instructors for various classes and practical application periods. The course included introduction CMO, Instructor Development, Briefing

Preparation, Presentation, and the After Action Review Process.

Upon conclusion of the course, the formal AAR overwhelmingly demonstrated among the course participants the ideation that Military and Civil authorities can indeed work together for the best interest of the Iraqi population.

Taji Vocational Institute Graduation Prepares Iraqis for Work at Joint Base Factory

TAJI, Iraq – The Taji Vocational Institute has achieved another important milestone in its education of Iraqi soldiers for future employment at the Taji National Maintenance Depot, now known as the Joint Base Factory, with the combined graduation of four classes on Wednesday, April 8 here.

The ceremony, co-hosted by Iraqi Brig. Gen. Schalal, commander of the Joint Base Factory at Taji and Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sabah, commander, Taji Location Command, recognized each of the previous TVI honor graduates that have completed their on-the-job training experience in their respective industrial maintenance shops. Each honor graduate was presented an award of achievement of their outstanding work. Key personnel from the Taji Vocational Institute staff were also recognized.

The mission of the TVI is to produce soldiers that have a requisite knowledge of a specific trade skill, so that they are prepared to enter the on-the-job phase of their training in a specific maintenance shop.

The duration of the course is six weeks long. During the first two weeks, students learn the overall mission of the depot, security procedures, supply accountability and safety, among other important topics. The second phase of TVI is four weeks of skill specific training in which students receive instruction in the theory and principles of a particular industrial trade required to rebuild vehicles in support of the Iraqi Army

combat weapons systems fleet.

Graduates receive instruction in electroplating, heavy equipment leader, material examiner and tow tractor operator skill sets. The Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq advised on 63 different areas of instruction, which resulted in 771 graduates from the TVI being ready to help support the Iraqi Army in its mission to provide a secure and stable Iraq.

Iraqi Military Police Graduate Criminal Investigation Course

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq – The Iraqi Military Police Academy here at the An Numaniyah Military Training Base (ANMTB) continues to professionalize the Iraqi Army Corps with the graduation of the Military Police Criminal Investigation Course on April 1.

The graduation ceremony of 45 Military Police soldiers from the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 14th, and 17th Iraqi Army divisions continues to show the effectiveness of the cooperation between coalition forces assigned to Multi National Security Transition Command- Iraq and Iraq Army trainers in implementing the Security Agreement between the United States and Iraq. This agreement paves the way for Iraq to takeover security and stability operations in Iraq.

The two-week course include included such diverse topics as securing a crime scene, collecting physical evidence at a crime scene during an investigation, interviewing and questioning techniques, tracking a weapon's trajectory and a professionalism and ethics course. The training included both classroom instruction and practical exercises and concluded with a written examination and situational exercise.

The graduates will return to their home units with numerous techniques and skills that will enhance their ability to successfully complete a criminal investigation. The eagerness

of the students to learn these new skills and the curriculum at the ANMTB Military Police Academy teaches will continue to improve the safety and stability of the new Iraq.

VIP Reception in Iraq for NATO Secretary General

BAGHDAD – U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commanding general of NATO Training Mission-Iraq, held a reception at the Blackhawk Conference Centre for the NATO Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on April 8.

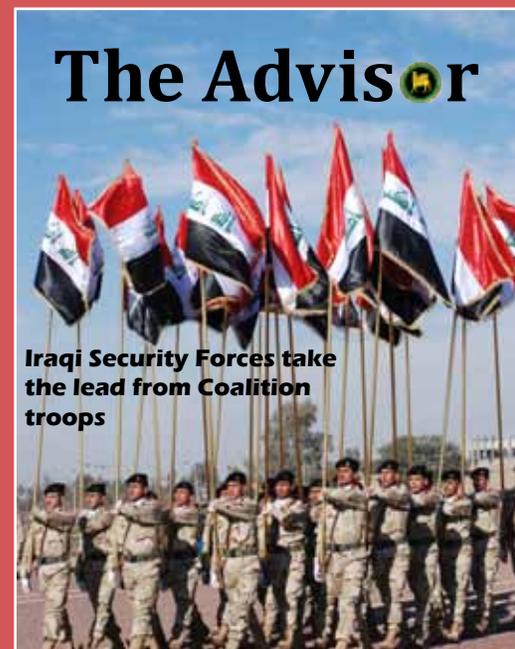
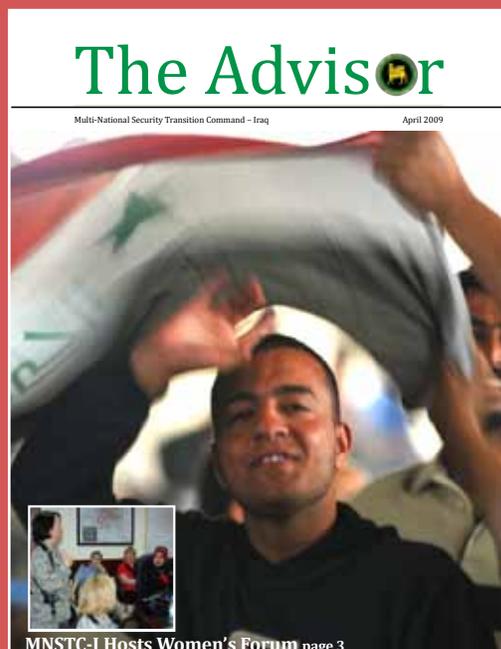
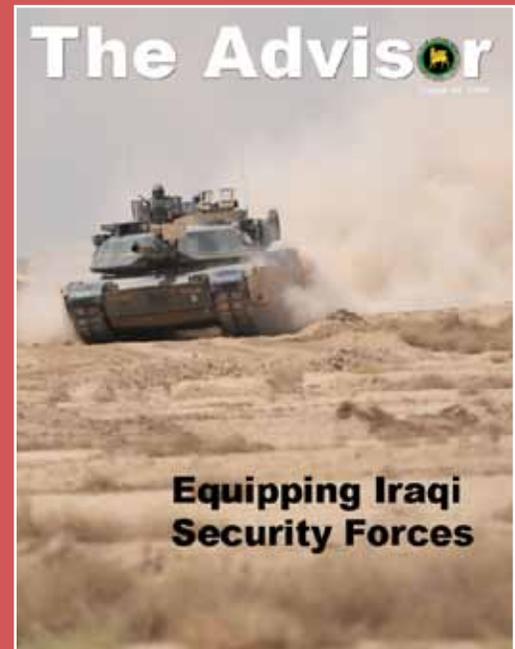
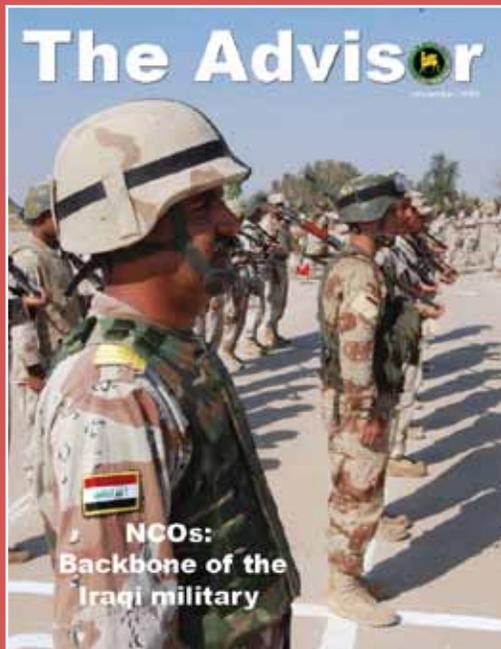
Accompanying the Sec. Gen. on his visit to NTM-I was U.S. Marine Gen. James N. Mattis, NATO supreme allied commander transformation. Other guests at the reception included the Iraqi Minister of Defence Abd Al-Qadir and the Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al-Boulani.

The event was held after a full day of meetings between the Scheffer and top Iraqi leaders including a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government of Iraq and NATO, lengthening the stay of the NTM-I.

Scheffer said, "He was very pleased with his visit to Iraq and with the signing of the MoU. This Memorandum of Understanding will help us to continue the important work the NTM-I is doing in this country. In the near future, this country will be standing on its own feet. And the NATO mission will play an ever-growing role in bringing that day forward".

NTM-I trains, mentors and advises officers in the Iraqi Security Forces, provides mentoring and advice to the Prime Minister's National Operations Centre, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior Command Centre and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Centre.

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