

The Advisor



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National



Day

Sovereignty



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

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As U.S. Meets Withdrawal Deadline, Baghdad Declares Holiday

By John Kruzal, Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON - As the United States completed its withdrawal of combat forces from Iraqi cities in accordance with the June 30th deadline, Baghdad commemorated the milestone with a national holiday.

The departing American brigades and battalions leave behind a significantly smaller contingent of U.S. trainers and advisors in the cities, where Iraqi forces now have primary authority, the top U.S. commander in Iraq said. The move comes as part of the security agreement between the United States and Iraq.

"A small number of U.S. forces will remain in cities to train, advise, coordinate with Iraqi security forces, as well as enable them to move forward," Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno told reporters at the Pentagon

today. The general declined to provide the number of troops to remain, saying that the figure will fluctuate on a daily basis.

Meanwhile, news reports from Baghdad describe Iraqis marking the day with a military parade attended by Iraqi reporters and dignitaries in the international area known as the "Green Zone" at the official monument to an unknown soldier.

Similar celebrations took place around the country in recent days as the American drawdown from cities neared completion. A U.S. military video shot in Baqubah, a city north of the Iraqi capital in Diyala province, shows a parade in which Iraqi police march through a city scene marked by a distinct absence of American boots on the ground.

Since October, the United States has closed or returned to Iraqi authority 150 bases

and facilities, including 30 this month. Odierno noted that U.S. troops have been out of most Iraqi cities for the last eight months, with drawdowns over the last few weeks focusing mainly on Mosul and Baghdad.

But today's transfer of responsibility to Iraqi security forces represents a "significant milestone," Odierno said.

"It is a day when Iraqis celebrate as they continue to move towards exercising their full sovereignty," he said. "The Iraqi people should be very proud of the dedication, progress and sacrifice of the Iraqi security forces and the government of Iraq. Their accomplishments in preparing for this day are commendable."

As Iraqis secure the cities, Odierno said, U.S. forces are establishing a layer of defense outside the urban areas, conducting full-spectrum and stability operations alongside

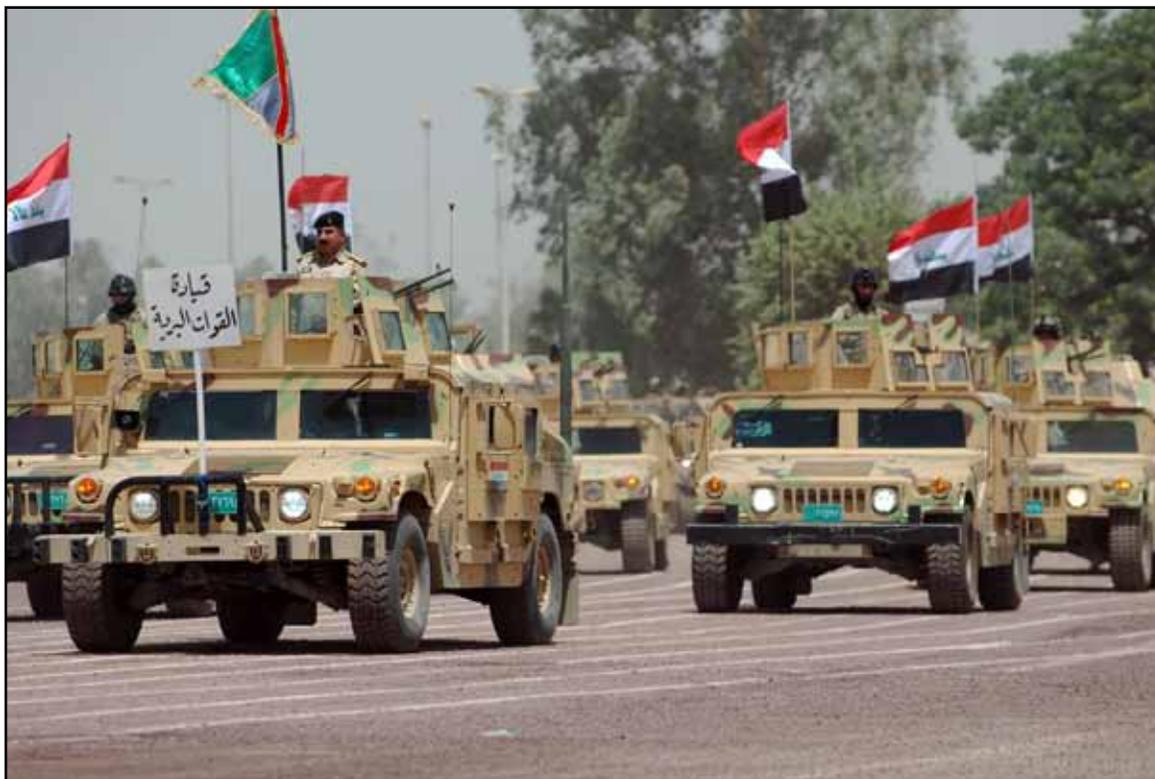
Iraqis to eliminate safe havens, crack down on insurgents and stem the flow of foreign fighters. U.S. forces also will support civil efforts led by the U.S. Embassy, the Iraqi government, and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, he said.

"Our combat forces, partnering with the Iraqi security forces, will secure the belts and borders in an attempt to eliminate safe havens and sanctuaries and to limit freedom of movement of insurgents and prevent the facilitation of foreign fighters through the borders," he said.

The United States is committed to full, transparent and continued implementation of the security agreement in a spirit of partnership with the sovereign nation of Iraq, Odierno said. President Barack Obama has announced plans to commence a phased drawdown of U.S. combat brigades from Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010.

As Iraqis celebrate a nationwide holiday highlighting their added responsibility, Americans also can be proud of the efforts by U.S. forces to stabilize Iraq, which in June had the lowest levels of violence since the war began six years ago, the general noted.

"The American people can also be very proud, as well, of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as our civilians, who have worked so hard over the past years -- and tirelessly -- and sacrificed so much in helping the people of Iraq progress towards a peaceful and democratic society," Odierno said.



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

Iraqi Security Forces on parade past their leaders during the National Sovereignty Day celebration in Baghdad.

Patrol Ship 'Fatah' Arrives in Iraq

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

UMM QASR, Iraq –Highlighting a procession of the Iraqi Navy, and escorted by three MI-17 helicopters, the latest addition to the fleet, Patrol Ship "Fatah" arrived at port on June 21.

Fatah is the first of four ships contracted from the Fincantieri Shipyard in La Spezia, Italy and is being designated as the flagship of the Iraqi Navy.

The 34-member Iraqi crew sailed Fatah here from La Spezia, completing a 5,100-nautical mile, 26-day voyage. The journey brought the ship through the Mediterranean Sea, transiting the Suez Canal and eventually navigating around the Arabian Peninsula.

Abd Al Qadr, Iraq minister of

Defense, began his remarks by conveying the Iraqi prime ministers' pleasure with receiving the first of four vessels that will provide a protection capability of the Navy during the coming years.

"We have carved out these naval vessels from the food of our people, so you have to protect them, take care of them and provide maintenance for them. I repeat it is provided to you, rather than building schools or hospitals or other things, in order to have all the protection for your people and sons of your people," Abd Al Qadr said.

Abd Al Qadr added, "I remind you this is with the support of the Government of National Unity and the Iraqi parliament to develop our armed forces and assume full



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

Sailors carry the seal of the Iraqi navy at the ceremony of the new Iraqi Flagship, Fatah.

independence for protecting Iraq's land, airspace and waters."

Maurizio Melani, Italian ambassador to Iraq announced, "The Iraqi fleet has been enriched by this vessel and it has the duty to defend the territorial waters and the natural resources of Iraq. The capability is extremely important to the prosperity, wealth, stability and security of Iraq."

Melani added, "Together with its partners with the European Union and NATO, Italy wants to support the capacity building of Iraq in the security field. I congratulate you for this achievement and I would like to stress the solidarity and support to the country of Iraq."

The Naval Advisory and Training Team for Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq will continue to help train the Iraqi naval force. MNSTC-I's goal is to develop a capable-and-responsive force, properly organized, trained, equipped, stationed, and sustained with appropriate procedures in place to support naval forces conducting maritime security operations in the region.



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

Iraqi flagship, Fatah, arrives at the port of Umm Qasr with a Mi-17 helicopter escort

Move Over CSI: Baghdad Police College Criminal Evidence Lab Graduates 35

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

BAGHDAD – Move over, CSI; New York and Miami, CSI Iraq is up and running. The Ministry of Interior celebrated the graduation of 35 Iraqi police officers July 2 from the Criminal Evidence Lab course. The officers studied scientific tests and techniques used in the investigation of crimes.

For the first time in Iraq, 18 students graduated with extensive DNA training, both theory and practical procedures. Six students studied blood spatter and 11 emphasized chemistry.

Maj. Gen. Jassim Tahir Chilab, the dean of the High Institute for Training, spoke at the graduation. He said he was proud of the graduates and stressed that now they are able to work at good jobs. He thanked the Coalition Forces for their

assistance and particularly thanked Ted Smith, an advisor, for starting the lab and developing the curriculum.

He also thanked the team of trainers and instructors for their invaluable assistance.

One DNA student said the course is one of the most scientific achievements of MoI because it helps to have technology to battle crimes and terrorism. Another DNA student said the most important thing he learned was the use of scientific methods that helps get real outcomes in Iraqi labs.

A blood-spatter student said the course on analyzing blood spatter drew his attention because through blood drops, one can know the crime scene and the location of the injury. Another

blood-spatter student said this was the first course of its kind in Iraq, and he noted that the organization of the course was very good. The course was also different for the students because of the participation of the foreign experts.

A student in the chemistry class praised the course because it taught theoretical information and knowledge.

Dr. Valerie Fuller, scientist, advisor and instructor, said she was very proud of the police officers who took this training, and she expressed her belief that Iraq will be proud of their achievements as well.

These students are now ready to apply scientific practices to support the legal process. The graduates will work in Baghdad and other provinces.

Counter Terrorism Bureau Provides Security for All Iraqis

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

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Counter Terrorism Bureau is providing a special type of security service for all Iraqis. The CTB, commanded by Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Kalib Shegati Al-Kenani, is made up of the Counter Terrorism Command and includes two brigades of Iraqi special operations forces, or ISOF.

Many Iraqis have misconceptions about this very vital and important unit. Although the CTB reports directly to the prime minister of Iraq, the selection process for targeting is very detailed and goes through several layers of checks and balances to ensure that targets are based on their threat to Iraq as a nation, and not on personal grounds. In short, the CTB's mission is targeting terrorists, not the Iraqi public or political foes.

"I wanted to develop a force that was professional for all Iraqis," said Al Kenani. "A stable and secure Iraq that is able to defeat terrorism for the future of this country. We will fight not with weapons only,

but also through political, legal, and information dissemination. We will use all directions to defeat the enemies of Iraq."

Kenani also stressed the important make up of the ISOF. "This is a national service, not sectarian," he said. He added that the ISOF is made up of a cross-section of different sects and has soldiers from all over Iraq included in its ranks. Not only are the soldiers of the CTB a diverse group, but the targets they hit, the enemies of Iraq, are also from all sects. This shows that Iraq is moving forward in a positive direction and relying more on the rule of law and not on sectarian divisions to make its military decisions.

CTB operations are conducted all over Iraq and in coordination with other Iraqi Security Forces. This coordinated effort is effective in identifying and targeting those terrorists who threaten the peace and stability of Iraq.

The U.S. Special Operations officers and soldiers assigned to mentor,

train and assist the ISOF agree that this unit has come a long way in its professionalization.

"One of the biggest successes of the CTB is the way they share information with other Iraqi agencies," said U.S. Army Col. Michael Skinner, senior advisor to Kenani and the CTB. "Although the targeting process has always been professional, the way that they cross-reference their information with other Iraqi Security Forces reflects a level of professionalism that all Iraqis can be proud of."

The Security Agreement signed by the United States and Iraq mandates the allied relationship that exists between the two nations. This agreement defines how U.S. Special Operations Forces and Iraqi Special Operations Forces will work together to ensure a professional and credible force is available for the duly elected leaders of Iraq to use when needed.

It is a big job to keep Iraq safe from those who would do it harm, but the Counter Terrorism Bureau is doing that job and doing it well.

U.S. Soldiers, Airmen Boost Iraqi AF Maintenance Skills

By Sgt. Nathan Hoskins, 1st Cavalry Division

CAMP TAJI — Hold the sensor steady, don't shake, try to move at a constant, steady pace, make sure to watch the screen, look for abnormalities ... oh, and remember to breathe.

Non-destructive inspections are tedious.

But that didn't stop the Iraqi Air Force (IqAF) from learning the in-depth aspects of their trade from U.S. Army 1st Air Cavalry Brigade (ACB) and U.S. Air Force 721st Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron (AEAS) instructors.

Non-destructive inspections or NDIs, are maintenance procedures that allow the repairers to inspect the internal components of a part without taking it apart, said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Williams, 1st ACB.

"We run NDI on pretty much any aircraft components from all of the three airframes – Chinooks, Black Hawks and Apaches," said Williams.

Traditionally, it has been the Air

Force teaching the IqAF how to perform aviation maintenance, but lately it has been difficult to get the necessary hands-on training for them, said Tech. Sgt. Andrea Walton, an NDI air advisor for the 721st AEAS.

"The Army came into play because, unfortunately, there aren't that many NDI jobs on the actual aircraft," said Walton. "So in order to get these guys the practical experience I came over to the Army and asked if we could practice NDI on their aircraft parts so these gentlemen would get the practical experience of NDI."

And practical experience is just what the IqAF inspectors need due to the varying aspects of the inspection process.

"With NDI, it's so theory-based that you can explain it, but until they actually do it, it doesn't really register," said Walton.

The training is benefiting everyone involved. While the Iraqis are learning, they're also working, said Williams.

The Iraqis are actually closing out NDI work orders which means the power train repairers of 615th ASB are able to focus on other work orders and projects, said Williams.

Walton is benefiting from the training along with her Iraqi counterparts, she said.

"I've only been in country for three weeks. This is the first time I've actually had to train host nation personnel," said Walton. "I'm finding it a very interesting learning experience because of the language barrier."

But that barrier is not enough to stop Walton or her students from learning, she said.

Along with the multi-national training, Walton has found that working with the Army and their equipment has been a training experience as well.

The difference in the way that the Army works – with new equipment and different procedures – helps to broaden her already expansive knowledge base on NDI, she said.

With the practical experience the Iraqis gain from Walton and the Soldiers from 615th ASB, they'll be able to advance their careers faster and become more independent, said Walton.

"... the Army is going to help us out tremendously by being over here because I can get these guys upgraded and then they can start doing NDI maintenance on their own," she said.

This was not the first visit by Walton and her students, nor will it be the last. Walton plans to keep up the partnership with 615th ASB so that her students will get the experience they need to become better aircraft inspectors.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Nathan Hoskins

Tech Sgt. Andrea Walton (left) and Sgt Kenneth Williams (second from right) observes as Iraqi Airmen inspect metal aircraft components during a recent aircraft maintenance training .

Iraqi Drill Sergeants Course Graduates First Class at Taji Training Compound

by U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Trent Wright

TAJI, Iraq —The Iraqi Army Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy here graduated 38 in its first class of drill sergeants June 21. The 21-day Iraqi Army Drill Sergeant Course is an intensive and dynamic training program. The course is designed to provide Iraqi drill sergeants with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct high quality training in accordance with Iraqi Army standards.

The Drill Sergeant Course is comprised of 15 separate modules which focus on increasing the capability of the Iraqi NCO's to master the basics of move, shoot, and communicate. Additionally, the drill sergeants conduct daily standardized physical training sessions, incorporate the use of the Combat Obstacle Course, conduct tactical foot marches with equipment, and build physical

strength and endurance through calisthenics and organized physical training runs in formation.

Drill Sergeant training and instruction is all "hands-on" practical training and evaluation. Additionally, training is tailored towards maximizing existing training facilities, and overcoming the resource challenges that exist at the various training commands. Drill Sergeant Candidates are provided standardized battle drill guides and are taught the training drills for each subject to ensure standardization of training within the Iraqi Army.

The culminating event for the Drill Sergeant Course is a two-day End of Course Test. The EOCT candidates conduct a 5 KM tactical foot march and are evaluated on the preparation



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Trent Wright

of test lanes (military operations on urban terrain, vehicle checkpoint operations, first aid, weapons, and individual warrior skills). Drill sergeant candidates are responsible for coordinating all training requirements and conducting the EOCT to standard.

At the recent graduation, drill sergeants recited the Iraqi Army Soldiers Creed, and listened as the guest speaker, U.S. Marine Command Sgt.Maj. Daniel C. Terwilliger, senior enlisted advisor for MNSTC-I, delivered the graduation speech. Terwilliger said the graduation represents a vital component of Iraq's progress toward a more capable and professional NCO Corps.



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Trent Wright



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Trent Wright



26 Iraqis Earn Coveted Staff Command Red Ribbon

by Maj. Ulo Isberg, NTM-I

BAGHDAD – The Joint Staff Command College at Rustamiyah Military Base held a graduation ceremony for its intensive staff course on June 15. This unique course allowed 26 students which included 5 generals, 18 colonels and 3 lieutenant colonels to qualify as Staff officers. The three month course was a setup to allow the first group of former graduates of the staff college in 2003 and 2004 to qualify for the coveted staff red ribbon. The initial courses in 2003-4 missed some of the content needed for the red ribbon. The red ribbon is very prestigious for Iraqi officers and allows them to use the title of staff prior to their rank, such as staff colonel.

The event was attended by

Iraqi Gen. Babaker, chief of staff of the Iraqi military, Lt. Gen. Hussein chief of staff, training, Maj. Gen. Majeed, the commander of Iraqi Military Academy Rustamiyah, Italian Maj. Gen. Paolo Bosotti, the deputy commander of NTM-I, Brig. Gen. Jawhar, the commander of the Joint Staff College Course among others. Jawhar opened the ceremony with words of congratulations to the graduates, recalling also the importance and the partnership with NATO .

Bosotti, addressed the graduates on behalf of the NATO Training Mission and the overall NATO saying “Looking at your faces and your eyes, I see the willingness to make Iraq a better country.

I see hope and valour in your actions and behaviours. I am sure that Iraq with its old traditions and ancient culture, together with your important contribution, will again enrich this very important region. Graduating staff officers good luck to you and to your wonderful country.”

The ceremony ended with gifts for the instructors and mentors and the graduating class receiving the much coveted staff red ribbon.

Al Rustamiyah hosts the Iraqi Military Academy along with the Joint Staff Command College. These institutions are included in the Iraqi National Defence University as well as the Iraqi National Defence College, the Defence

Strategic Studies Institute and Defence Language Institute. All are supported by NTM-I. Other co-operation projects for NATO in Iraq are out of country training courses for Iraqi nationals at NATO schools as well as National Police training led by Italian Carabinieri. Officers of NATO Training Mission – Iraq 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.

NATO Training Mission in Iraq Conducts Deputy Commander Handover

by Maj. Ulo Isberg, NTM-I

BAGHDAD – Italian Maj. Gen. Paolo Bosotti, deputy commander, NATO Training Mission-Iraq, handed over the mission to Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli July 3.

This event culminated a week of farewells at the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, Iraqi Federal Police Head Quarters, National Defence University, Carabinieri training facility and Camp Ar Rustamiyah. On June 29, Maj. Gen. Bosotti hosted a farewell reception at the Blackhawk centre where several NATO nation ambassadors, Iraqi military senior leaders and general officers were guests.

Bosotti spoke to his guests telling them how much he had enjoyed his year in Iraq. “It has been a real pleasure serving this wonderful land and meeting such truly warm-hearted individuals. I will always treasure the memories I have of my time in Iraq.”

NATO Training Mission – Iraq trains, mentors and advises officers in the Iraqi Security Forces, in order to assist the Government of Iraq resume its important place in the international community and to improve the security of all Iraqi people with democratic security forces.

NTM-I mentors and

supports the INDU, INDC and the Defence Strategic Studies Institute. Other cooperation projects for NATO in Iraq are out of country training courses for Iraqi nationals at NATO schools as well as National Police training led by Italian Carabinieri and at Ar Rustamiyah the Iraqi Military Academy along with the Joint Staff College and Command College.

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
BAGHDAD – Italian Maj. Gen. Paolo Bosotti, deputy commander, NATO Training Mission – Iraq hands over command to Italian Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli at NTM-I HQ



Center Declared Fully Operationally Capable

by Major Ulo Isberg, NTM-I

BAGHDAD – U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander, NATO Training Mission- Iraq visited the National Operations Centers here July 6 to declare Full Operational Capability.

Helmick presented a certificate to Staff Brig. Gen. Muhamed Fadhel Abbas, deputy director general of the National Operations Center, in honor of the NOC achieving this status.

The three National Operations Centers in Baghdad have now achieved full operational capability. They are the Prime Minister’s National Operations Center, Ministry of Interior National Command Center and Ministry of Defense Joint Operations Center. This marks a significant milestone and represents considerable progress made over the past three years. Having full operational capability is an important achievement for Iraq in building a sustainable and effective operational capability that supports the national security infrastructure and supports the needs of the Iraqi people.

NATO and the Coalition Forces will continue to support

the operations centers through further development, consolidation and building sustainability. NATO will operate with smaller, more focused teams in each of the operations centers, where they will continue to identify and develop future training needs, including specialist training and out-of-country training courses. NATO will also continue to help support and build on Iraqi planned and executed national-level command and control crisis response exercises.

The evaluation process used to measure full operational capability is multi-fold; a combination of personal observation, tangible factors and a monthly evaluation report that was developed by NATO and approved by the Iraqis. It covers six targeted area: organization, security, logistics, procedures, training and exercises and situational awareness.

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and to improve the security of all Iraqi people with democratic security forces.

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photo by Major Ulo Isberg, NTM-I

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander, NATO Training Mission-Iraq, presents a certificate to Staff Brig. Gen. Muhamed Fadhel Abbas, deputy director general of the National Operations Center.

With Iraqi Sovereignty, U.S. Advisors Adapt to Lower Profile

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

BAGHDAD – As coalition combat forces have lowered their public profile by pulling back from Iraqi cities, towns and villages, so, too, have the trainers and advisors to Iraqi Security Forces.

The Multi National Security Transition Command-Iraq’s mission is to train, mentor and advise ISF, at the request of the

Iraqi government. This role is a key element of the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

Although the public may see them less often, MNSTC-I advisors and trainers continue their important jobs, in accordance with the terms of the Security Agreement. With the Iraqi government, they share a common goal of

safety and security for the Iraqi people. The ISF continues to grow, develop capabilities, and step up its security operations, as demonstrated recently by their simultaneous operations in Basrah, Mosul, Sadr City, Amarah and Diyala.

The important relationships that have been established between U.S. advisors and

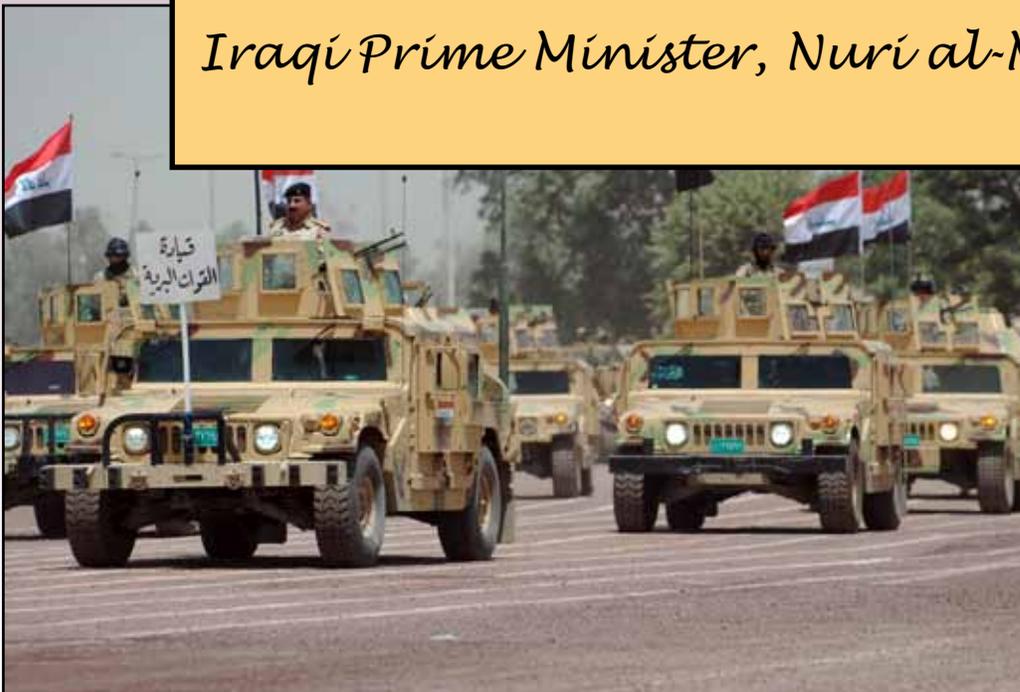
trainers and their Iraqi counterparts will continue to ensure that the ISF is a professional force operating under the rule of law to bring peace and stability to Iraq.

National Sovereignty Day



“Today is the day of the withdrawal of American troops from Iraqi cities, according to the forces withdrawal agreement which was signed between Iraq and the United States of America. The withdrawal date coincides with the dear anniversary to the hearts of all Iraqis, and that is the 1920s revolution, which reflected the eternal Iraqi will of liberation, and independency.

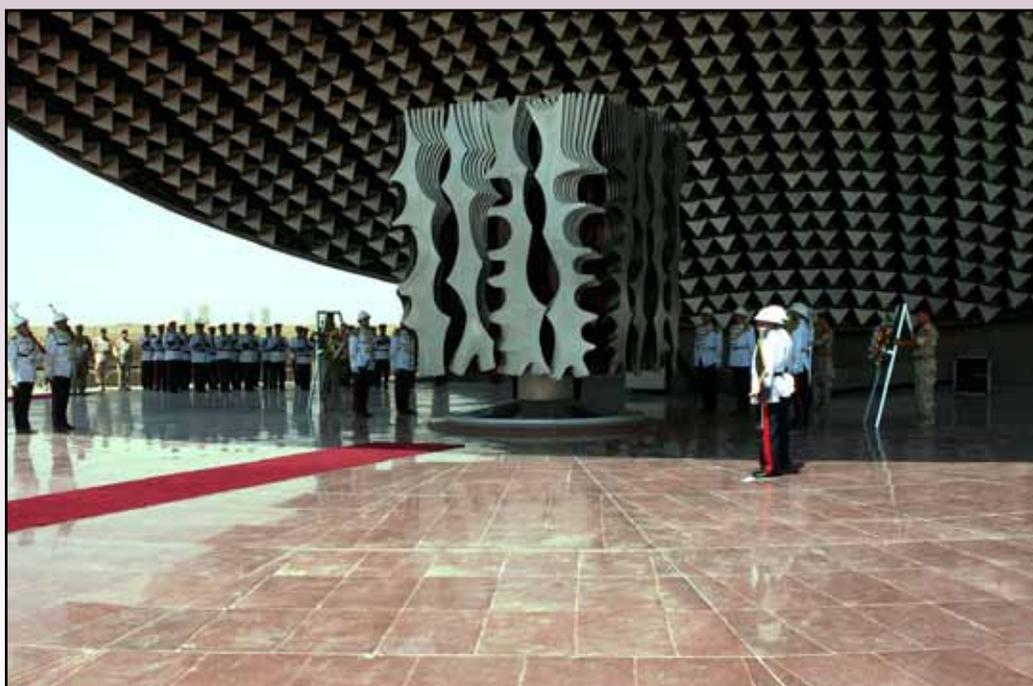
Iraqi Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki



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

We are fully confident that 30 June 2009 will mark the beginning of a new stage in the history of a democratic, federal, independent, and unified Iraq where the people are their own masters, owners of their resources, shapers of their destiny, and makers of their history.

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani in Baghdad on 30 June



Iraqi Federal Police Partner With Rough Riders

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

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi National Police and the Rough Riders from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq implemented a working partnership July 5-6 to comply with U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement articles.

The Iraqi National Police led a convoy through the streets of Baghdad supporting a U.S. Army Rough Rider ground-operations mission to transport Americans to their desired locations. The well-coordinated movement took the convoy through city streets and highways. The convoy aggressively moved through the traffic as Iraqi citizens moved to roadsides to let the convoy through.

During the travel, over the radio, Rough Rider Sgt. Dimitri Barnes commented, "These IPs are really moving the traffic over well." This was a clear demonstration of the capabilities of the partnership between these two units.

During a planning meeting at Iraqi Federal Police headquarters, U.S. Army Maj. Joseph Hartman said, "I want all the Iraqi soldiers to know we are complying with the security agreement and we want the mission to go well." Hartman also commended the police. "They are the most tactically advanced Iraqi Security Force team I have experienced working with. The mission is a needed step in the right direction and natural evolution of

the Rough Riders. We are able to continue to support the various directorates of MNSTC-I while simultaneously being compliant with the security agreement. Hartman said, "As one of the first MiTT team members in theater back in 2004, integrating with the ISF really took me back to my roots in theater and I look forward to the progression of the partnership. The federal policemen provided an increased level of security while moving amongst the population. Somehow having them out in the front and rear of the convoy validated our presence in the battlespace and will hopefully put an Iraqi face on our movements into and around their cities."

Training was primarily conducted via the normal crawl-walk-run format at Camp Dublin, Iraq. The Rough Rider advisors began with simple security procedures during a short halt, progressed to security while moving and constantly raised the bar based on the federal police's ability to perform. We taught basic first aid, Escalation of Force procedures and communications. We managed to secure SPEARHEAD radios prior to the training which are operational with our crew devices and communications packages which added some valuable realism to the training.

Iraqi Federal Police Maj. Muhannad said he was proud of the training that his police received and said, "This is the first



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

The Iraqi Federal Police take the lead and escort a U.S. convoy.

U.S. Army platoon to have a partnership with the Iraqi Federal Police. We will do blocking maneuvers in coordination with the Americans."

As the first night mission was about to begin, Iraqi Federal Police members and Rough Riders began the evening with familiar greetings and then the mission brief. Iraqi Federal Police Sgt. Hadi said, "I am excited to be part of the first mission; this team is ready."

This demonstration of partnership was fostered successfully for two important reasons. MNSTC-I's Rough Riders provided thorough training and Iraq's Federal Police were willing to work hard to meet the high standards necessary.



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

After a successful ground movement, the MNSTC-I Rough Riders and the Iraqi Federal Police congratulate each other on a mission well done.

Center Provides Helpful Lessons Learned

By U.S. Army Lt. Col. J. Evan Trinkle

BAGHDAD – Here’s a modern lesson learned: the expression, “We’re from the government and we’re here to help,” does not inspire any more confidence in Arabic than it does in English.

One prominent exception, however, is also a very important one -- the Iraqi Lessons Learned Center, or LLC, which is from the government, but really does help. In this case, its reports provide analysis that help improve the performance of the Iraqi Army.

Officially called the Iraqi Combined Arms Center for Lessons Learned, the LLC is the center of gravity for ensuring the professionalization of the military. The Center works directly with the Iraqi military, currently under the deputy chief of staff for training, or DCOS-T, and with data collectors. Many of the lessons they learn are in fact subsequently implemented into current army tactics.

The LLC collects and analyzes what Iraq Army forces have learned from previous missions as well as how they conduct present operations and training. It then uses that information to write timely, meaningful reports recommending critical improvements for those forces.

The information contained in the reports is disseminated as training vignettes for commanders and staff as well as students attending professional development courses. The reports also give high-level IA decision makers the solutions they need to advance both units’ professionalism and performance. This then permits a better environment for the Iraq army to meet its safety and security challenges for the nation.

Assimilating lessons learned is a key element in building a more professional army, said Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain, deputy chief of staff for training, Ministry of Defense. “I expect my commanders to practice honesty and integrity. I want them to understand the importance and timeliness of training in modern tactics and on modern equipment. And, I want non-commissioned officers trained as in modern armies so they can properly and efficiently assist the officers.

“Part of this modernization process is acknowledging how to most efficiently collect the wisdom of our force.” Hussain

continued. “Part of this is incorporating lessons from assessments to better conduct our operations. Part of this is reviewing how we conduct operations so we can let everyone in the force know what works so everyone can benefit.”

Vital to the future Iraq Army, the Center seeks to be viewed favorably as essential for bringing critical information to decision makers’ attention for action.

“Lessons learned are important for any effective organization,” he said.

“There should be no punishment for suggesting an idea that works and no shame in admitting one can learn from one’s mistakes. Where there is dishonor is where commanders use their power to cover up their mistakes.”

Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain

Hussain said a challenge for the LLC is overcoming misgivings about the intent of the LLC.

“We are not spies or inspectors,” Hussain said. “We are working with our commanders to find solutions to make their units better. What we want them to know is that lessons learned can be incorporated at the start of an operation and during an operation, not just after the operation has been completed, as has been traditional for the Iraqi Army. Any action we perform is a continuous process.”

Hussain said incorporating lessons learned into Iraqi Army operations is a gradual process. “We are operating on the principle crawl-walk-run instead of run-stumble-fall,” he said. “This helps us improve the capabilities of our army, not just increase the numbers of soldiers”

“The professionalism of the army is hard ‘catch.’ It is like ‘catching’ the hot coal of faith, as a religious proverb states,” Hussain said. “But it must be done and can be done for this army.”

“Catching Iraq army professionalism is obtained through LLC unit visits that

offer assistance for overcoming everyday obstacles. Rather than inspect, LLC officials study and analyze Iraqi Army tactical issues to find the best ways and means to develop units to their full potential. They work with, not against, unit leaders to accomplish these goals.”

One information collector, Lt. Col. Ali said the main problem he faces is a misunderstanding of his role.

“I visit units to assist and help them become better,” he said. “I am not there to find fault and recommend punishment. Many in the units, however, think that finding fault is my purpose.”

Some of the areas Ali reviews include so-called life-support topics, such as fuel, food, lodging, and transportation.

“The solutions for one unit’s operations could benefit many other units that suffer from problems,” he said. “We just have to get the word to them around the Army.”

Lessons learned reports have led to operational and training improvements. For instance, based on an LLC report, basic combat training has been extended from three weeks to 12 weeks to give soldiers additional time to master their infantry skills. This had led to increased marksmanship proficiency, Ali said.

Another benefit to Iraqi Army units is the LLC’s ability to gather data on enemy tactics, techniques, and procedures and then develop methods for the Iraqi Army on how to defeat them. One example is the manning of security checkpoints

“We identified mistakes in how we handle some aspects of checkpoints,” Ali said. “That allowed us to recommend solutions for the army to implement.”

To date, the LLC has completed 54 reports. Sites visited include An Nasariyah, Balad, Mosul, Zakhu, Dahuk, Taji, An Numaniyah, Iraqi Special Forces, Basra, Habbaniyah.

One should know understand that the U.S. Army Center for Lessons Learned is beginning its 25th year of development. In contrast, the Iraqi Center for Lessons Learned is in its infancy.

Ensuring the Iraqi LLC is a success enables us to meet our obligations under the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement.

Trinkle is an advisor to the Iraq Lessons Learned Center

Automated Fingerprint ID System Improves Quality

by Noah Miller, MOD Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - The tools of the trade for taking fingerprints have evolved at the Ministry of Defense (MoD) from an ink and card based system to an advanced biometric system. The Automated Fingerprint Identification System was instituted at the MoD in 2006 in an attempt to identify individuals whose criminal record had gone undetected during the rapid force generation process.

This effort is part of the ongoing professionalization of the Iraqi Security Forces and the plan calls for all of MoD's 272,000 military and civilian employees to be

fingerprinted. The MoD acquired 200 jump kits from L3-Ideal Innovations to achieve this objective. Each jump kit consists of a laptop computer, a sensor which records fingerprints, and a camera which makes retinal scans and takes portrait photos also known as mug shots. These jump kits have been deployed to all Iraqi Army Divisions in Iraq and approximately 150,000 MoD individuals have been fingerprinted to date.

The automated fingerprinting takes only a few minutes per individual after which records are saved onto



photo by Noah Miller, MOD Public Affairs

Each finger is scanned on the device and appears immediately on the screen for further processing. Every set of fingerprints is then saved in a database.



photo by Noah Miller, MOD Public Affairs

This sign is located at the entrance to the AFIS center

a CD and aggregated in a central fingerprint database administered in Baghdad. The fingerprint database then cross references known criminal records of Iraq Army personnel.

2,624 individuals have been flagged by the system so far and their files have been sent for review to a four-member committee run by the MoD. This committee has been meeting on a bi-monthly basis since June 2007 and has dismissed 1,058 people from duty for prior criminal convictions.

Some of the prior convictions that were the basis for the 1,058 dismissals from the Iraq Army include murder, rape, armed robbery, arson and terrorism. Only 2 percent of those dismissed filed appeals of those decisions which underscores the thorough work of the investigative committee. On the other hand, 1,566

individuals remained on duty since their crimes were only of a minor nature.

Overall, the AFIS program has improved the overall quality and integrity of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

"The dedication and professionalism of the four-member AFIS committee reflects the continuing technological advances within the MoD as well as the improving respect for the Rule of Law in Iraq," said Tom Cruise, an advisor with the ITAM MoD team who has worked closely with the committee and has experience with fingerprinting gained during his career with the U.S. Secret Service.

Leaders Attend Iraq Human Rights Conference

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

BAGHDAD – A 10-day Conference on Human Rights began July 12 to educate leaders in Iraq’s military and government of the importance of human rights.

The conference is being attended by members of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Justice and the Red Crescent Organization, and is being held at the NATO headquarters.

Italy’s Ambassador to Iraq, Maurizio Melani, told the crowd that bringing human rights to Iraq will bring the nation in line with the rest of the world, and participation in the workshop is the best way to validate Iraq’s human rights vision.

“In a country where hatred and

revenge used to rule the day, a human rights law is a valuable guide with which to move forward,” Melani said. “Human beings can’t forget past mistakes and will remember for generations the suffering that was endured. Respect for human rights will help to reduce the bitterness.”

“The purpose of this conference is to deepen the understanding of human rights in a civil society.”

Italy’s Ambassador to Iraq, Maurizio Melani

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jeff Julum, senior advisor to Iraqi Army on ethics and leadership development, said, “Our goal is to see Iraqis comfortable in growing their ethics practices. Increasing their

professionalism in human rights will help to build a strong society.”

“I couldn’t be more proud of the work that the Center for Military Principles, Values and Leadership has done on this important topic,” Julum added. “The purpose of this conference is to deepen the understanding of human rights in a civil society.”

Melani spoke about the history of human rights around the world and the importance of Iraq committing itself to fully implementing the international standards set forth in The Hague in 1970.

Iraq Human Rights Minister, Wijdan Salim, also attended the opening ceremonies of the conference and is part of a larger focus on human rights throughout Iraq. She also led a symposium focusing on human rights at the Ministry of Defense July 20.

Engineer Symposium Fosters Emerging U.S.-Iraq Partnership

BAGHDAD -- Senior Iraqi engineers from several government ministries attended a five-day symposium in Norfolk, Va., in June.

The Ministries of Defense and Interior and the Baghdad municipality sent representatives to the Iraqi Senior Engineer Symposium.

The symposium was developed as a cooperative effort between the J7 Engineering Directorate of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and senior engineer advisors from Iraq Training Advisory Mission (with support from U.S. Joint Forces Command and the U.S. Department of State).

This symposium educated senior Iraqi engineers on planning, developing and implementing a “way ahead” for supporting its capabilities and responsibilities in military and civil defense (police, fire and border control) throughout the country.

Maj. Gen. Nazar, senior engineer for the Ministry of Interior, said he was very pleased with the opportunity to see military construction processes in the United States. He formally trained as a student in the former Yugoslavia more than 25 years ago, and he recently travelled to South Korea to obtain

additional knowledge on engineering systems.

Brig. Gen. Alaa from the Ministry of Defense said, “The trip has been helpful to see how the U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy all do things differently, but all do the job.”

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Trevor Mathis, the senior advisor to Alaa, described the symposium as an opportunity to reinforce some of the concepts that have been previously discussed through his advisor team to Iraqi MOD engineers.

“This trip has been extremely helpful in solidifying concepts that we have been advising our counterparts while in Iraq,” Mathis said. “They can see the results of the procedures and processes that we work to implement in their country and thus have more confidence in what we are suggesting.”

The symposium schedule included seminars from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Norfolk District; U.S. Army Installation Management Command at Fort Eustis; Langley Air Force Base’s civil engineering and base support office; Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic in Norfolk; and a cultural site visit and battlefield staff ride to historic Yorktown, Va., where the final

battle of the U.S. War of Independence was fought in 1781.

The senior Iraqi engineers received first-hand demonstrations of the capabilities of the various services. USACE provided a watercraft ride that demonstrated the underwater survey (bathymetric) capabilities necessary to properly dredge critical military and commercial passage ways. The Air Force provided a tour of the construction of aircraft hangers and the challenges associated with military construction. The Navy showcased the construction of military ports and pier walls aboard a tugboat within the Norfolk port. All of these field visits allowed the Iraqi engineers to see first-hand some U.S. military engineers in action and spurred much discussion outside of a normal classroom forum.

The Iraqi engineers have shared travel, training and a common cultural experience with their U.S. counterparts, and are now better equipped to continue building the strategic capabilities of the Government of Iraq, Mathis said.

Content courtesy of MNSTC-I J-7 Engineering

Iraqi Helicopters Sport New Counter-Terrorism Systems after Acceptance Testing Completed

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

BAGHDAD – Two Mi-17 helicopters returned June 14 from Amman, Jordan after undergoing aircraft modifications and upgrades to Mi-17/171 multi-role helicopters for use by the Iraqi Air Force.

The Iraqi Air Force accomplished the helicopter upgrades by establishing a team which represented members from Jordan, Germany, U.S. and Iraq. The helicopter upgrades were necessary to enhance the multi-role capabilities of the Iraqi Air Force and to support the mission of counter terrorism. The upgrades improved the on-board Missile Launch Detection System and Flare Dispenser, and the Internal Communications System.

The acceptance testing team consisted of members from

Headquarters Iraqi Air Force Baghdad, Iraqi Air Force Squadron 15 and the Coalition's 721st Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron from Taji, and the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force from Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Douglas Goodlin, director of Operations. 721st Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron said he was impressed with the multi-national effort involved in getting the Iraqi Air Force the much-needed Missile Warning System for Mi-17 helicopters.

"It was an impressive effort to get these aircrafts tested and flown back to Iraq in good order," Goodlin added. "You had U.S. pilots and crewmembers, Iraqi

pilots and crewmembers, U.S. and Iraqi maintenance personnel, U.S. and Iraqi headquarters contracting personnel, ARINC American contractors, Jordanian contractors and workers and the personnel at Marka International Airport."

Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Jasem Mohammed, 15th Sq. Instructor Pilot said, "The new ICS system will improve greatly coordination inside the aircraft between pilots and the rest of the crew, while the improved flare system will protect the aircraft against enemy threats."

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christopher Saffel, 721st Air Expeditionary Ammo Advisor added, "The new AAR-60 Missile Warning Countermeasure System loaded with M206 IR aerial flares is head and shoulders above previous Mi-17 Countermeasure Systems. The automatic setting reduces need for visual confirmation of threats and allows for immediate countermeasure deployment to defeat detected threat."

Prior to flying the helicopters to Jordan, MNSTC-I, ITAM-AF conducted a 10-day course for 16 Iraqi operators and maintainers in Amman, Jordan. These efforts provided specialized training on the operation, setup and troubleshooting of the necessary systems. It will take approximately 12 months to complete the \$14 million upgrade costs for the 10 aircraft.

In fulfillment of the U.S.-Iraq Security agreement, MNSTC-I, ITAM-AF will continue to train and advise the Iraqi Air Force to develop a capable-and-responsive force, properly organized, trained and equipped to sustain the growing responsibilities of the air force.



(Courtesy Photo)

The multinational team operators and maintainers inspect the new flare defense system of the Iraqi MI-17 Multi-role helicopter.

Iraqi National Canine Program Deters Explosive Attacks

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

BAGHDAD – The Baghdad Police College’s canine program hosted National Public Radio July 13 to inform listeners of how this invaluable program counters terrorist attacks that employ explosives.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Mohammed, director general of the Iraqi National Canine Program, spoke with National Public Radio. He attributed the success of the canine program to the great work and dedication of Iraqi canine handlers and the U.S. advisory and training teams who brought modern and practical training techniques to the program.

“Canines are a critical component of both modern policing and counter-insurgency operations, said U.S. Army Col. Larry Saunders, a senior advisor to Iraqi police from MNSTC-I. “The Ministry of Interior clearly understands that and is on a good path to bring police canine explosive-detection capacity rapidly to all of Iraq.”

The Iraqi National Canine Program began as a small pilot-size program consisting of 29 canines trained in explosive detection. The canines were primarily used for force protection at facilities and other sites within the Ministry of Interior. The program is building capacity with a current planned increase to 112 canines. The strategic goal for the program is to train more than 400 canines.



An Iraqi Federal Police handler observes explosive detection measures from his canine. (Courtesy Photo)

This is vital because, as Saunders said, “There is no more effective deterrent to explosives attacks than canine explosive detection.”

The Iraqi National Canine Program will continue to expand its capabilities not only with explosive detection teams, but also with narcotic detection units. The

canine teams will be employed in various locations within the Ministry of Interior and at checkpoint operations. They will aid in the enhancement of operational units and Provincial Iraqi Police Forces. Moreover, the Canine Program is an important facet to achieving enduring stability and security in Iraq.

‘Role of Religion In the West’ Introduced in Partner School

by U.S. Army SFC Patricia Ruth, MNSTC-I PAO



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jim Bane MNSTC-I PAO
U.S. Army Chaplain (Maj.) William Steen sharing his views during a partner school session.

BAGHDAD -- “The Role of Religion in the West” is an addition to the new Partner School that was created to give the Iraqis a better understanding of how religion affects Western culture.

The Partner School assists Iraqi Security Forces in enhancing the grasp of Western cultures and values, encouraging long-lasting partnerships with Western counterparts and understanding the role of the coalition advisor. A group of chaplains from all over Iraq came to share in the introduction of Western religion to the class participants.

U.S. Army Chaplain (Maj.) William Steen, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq chaplain, began the discussion by telling the group that religion will always be a part of the Western culture. “And because of the many different religions in the Western culture, we have to respect the different religious beliefs and practices of others,” he said. “Different faiths come

together to share a common goal—human beings caring for human beings.”

Other chaplains in attendance were U.S. Army Chaplain (Col.) R. Michael Coffey, Multi-National Force-Iraq Command chaplain, U. S. Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dan Ames, Multi-National Force-Iraq Deputy chaplain and U. S. Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Bedsole, Multi-National Corps-Iraq World Religion chaplain. “Through dialogue we can learn and history can be a stepping stone,” said Coffey, when asked about the importance of religion being added to the course.

The Partner School was expanded to include “The Role of Religion in the West”—in part, to accommodate the wishes of the participants, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Sandra Kolb, chief, Training and Development Branch, MNSTC-I. “We wanted to give them more information, question and answers sessions, as well as comparisons between the west and Iraq,” said Kolb.

Iraqi Firefighters Conclude Training with Live-Fire Exercise

BAGHDAD – Twenty-one new Iraqi firefighters concluded their training for the Ministry of Defence's Basic Firefighter Course July 15 with a live-fire exercise and graduation at the National Fire Academy.

The course marks the first time Iraq instructors have conducted the training without assistance from Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq's advisors. This success validated the success of the train-the-trainer concept practiced by MNSTC-I advisors.

"We need to congratulate the instructors for their accomplishment," said Brig. Gen. Robert Kane, commanding general, Iraq Training Advisory Mission-Air Force. "I'm proud of all of you and the way you have conducted this course."

Several distinguished guests attended, including Brig. Gen. Lateef Kareem Mizhir, Iraqi Civil Defence Director General Representative. In his speech, Mizhir said the instruction given to the trainees is an example to be followed in the future.

To those trainees, Kane said, "It's important to experience this training so you will not be afraid when you are faced with real-life situations."

Iraqi Special Operations Forces Continue Operations Despite Budget Challenges

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Special Operations Forces continue to operate against domestic terrorism and threats to the stability and security of Iraq despite the budget challenges that are affecting all of the Iraqi Security Forces.

"We are able to continue our operations," said Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Kalib Shegati Al-Kenani, the commander of the Counter Terrorism Bureau. "We have an emergency budget that covers the funds that we need to operate and keep doing our job. The current budget is being discussed in a broader context as part of the CTB law that is now in parliament."

"The Iraqi military grew up under Saddam Hussein," said U.S. Army Col. Michael Skinner, senior advisor to the Counter Terrorism Bureau. "Lack of resources is nothing new for them; this

is business as usual. They know how to adapt."

Skinner acknowledged that if the ISOF had to employ its full force, it would face hard decisions. Still, he said he hasn't seen it affect the professionalism of the Iraqi soldiers who carry out difficult missions.

The mission of the Iraqi Special Operations Forces is to provide for the peace and stability of Iraq. These operations, conducted nightly all over Iraq, are done hand in hand with the U.S. advisors assigned to the CTB. In addition to their U.S. advisors, the CTB also coordinates closely with other elements of the Iraqi Security Forces. The Security Agreement between the U.S. and Iraq provides the guidance for this continued relationship.

Budget challenges notwithstanding, the ISOF will continue working to provide security for a new and prosperous Iraq whose forces are non-sectarian and adhere to the rule of law. U.S. advisors will continue their advisory roles in areas to include manning, training, equipping and mentoring the ISOF.

Female Police Recruits Train at Baghdad Police College

BAGHDAD – Iraq needs police officers, good ones. The Baghdad Police College looks to the best recruits Iraq has to offer. To build diversity as well as leadership in Iraq's police forces, the Baghdad Police College trains women recruits.

The most recent class of female recruits began Jan. 2. Out of 800 applicants, 547 were accepted, 487 reported to training and zero dropped out. This says a lot about the commitment that these women have towards accomplishing this difficult task. The ladies are motivated and proud to serve their "beloved country."

Instruction in weapons training is rigorous and includes four days on the range, equipment familiarization and proper stance techniques. Recruits learn to field strip an AK-47 in a timed event, with their eyes closed. The instructor/student interaction is reported to be very positive.

These female police officers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. All major religious sects are represented, as well as five provinces. There are lawyers, scientists, psychologists, socialists, and

engineers. Their skills will be needed as Iraq more fully professionalizes its police forces in coordination with their U.S. trainers in fulfillment of the Security Agreement that was signed between the U.S. and Iraq, effective Jan. 1.

The training of women is the same as for the men. There is a standard course curriculum with no modifications. Regular cadre train these women with no special accommodation. They have an open door to the commandant in the event they need personal attention. The morale and discipline is high among these police women and Iraq is better off for having them on the force.

As Iraq continues on the path to providing for its own security, these women will be a welcome part of the Police Forces. This is a sign of progress that proves that Iraq is moving forward and willing to do things what needs to be done to reach its security objectives.

Iraq Eyes Greater Coastal Security with Patrol Boat Purchase

BAGHDAD – With more than 75 percent of Iraq's gross domestic product coming from revenues generated by its offshore oil platforms, Iraq has a keen interest in protecting and controlling its territorial waters. To that end, representatives from the Iraqi Navy met with U.S. military personnel here June 12-14 for discussions on building coastal patrol boats.

At this work definition conference, officials agreed on specifications to construct 35-meter patrol boats. The first four of a 15-boat construction program are due for delivery to Iraq by the end of 2010.

"These patrol boats will protect Iraq's offshore oil platforms, which are vital to the recovery of the country's economy and infrastructure," said U.S. Navy Capt. Dan Keller, director, Security Assistance Directorate of the Navy International Programs Office. "With stable oil-export revenues, everything else can grow."

With the Iraqi Navy's increasing ability to guarantee its sovereignty on its territorial waters, the need for maritime security from coalition naval forces recedes, Keller added. Achieving this status is a key element of the U.S.-Iraq

Security Agreement.

The 35-meter patrol boat contract is just one part of a larger total program, which also delivers spare parts, guns, ammunition, training, naval simulators and infrastructure within Umm Qasr Naval Base, Iraq. The total program for the Iraqi Navy is the third largest case of foreign military sales, or FMS, to Iraq.

The conference, convened at Camp Phoenix in the International Zone of Baghdad, was hosted by the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. The agenda was hammered out by the U.S. Navy's Program Executive Office, Ships, which oversees navy-related foreign military sales, or FMS, according to U.S. Navy Cmdr. Darren Glaser, chief, Foreign Military Sales/Navy Programs for MNSTC-I's Iraq Security Assistance Mission.

Foreign Language Center Teaches Critical Language Skills to Iraqi Federal Police

BAGHDAD – As Iraq continues to partner with U.S. forces to train, man and equip it's Police Forces in accordance with the Security Agreement, the Baghdad Police College plays a tremendous role in this training and professionalization of the Iraqi Police Force.

Part of this training is to give the members of the police force important language skills to ensure that they have all the tools needed to be successful. The English Language Center is a major part of this critical training.

Currently the Baghdad Police College has two classrooms dedicated to English language training, with a capacity of 36 students each. There are plans to add another classroom with a 30 student capacity. 10 English language instructors have been assigned to provide this valuable language training. Although English is the only language being taught at this time, there are plans to add courses in Kurdish, Turkish, Farsi, German and French.

"The English language is the international language," said Iraqi Police Maj. Gen. Dr. Jassim, director of the Baghdad Police College. "Giving our officers this new capability will ensure they are able to operate in a global environment."

Special Forces Train Iraqi Personal Security Detail

MOSUL, Iraq – In order to provide added capabilities for Iraqi Security Forces in Ninewa Province, U.S. Special Forces trained two Iraqi personal security details to protect elected officials in the province May 24 and June 7.

The five-day course, conducted on Forward Operating Base Marez, covered personal security techniques, immediate medical care and basic marksmanship skills.

"The overall intent is to teach the detail to protect and secure their democratically elected officials," said the primary course instructor, who preferred to be called "Sergeant Lex" due to operational security reasons.

The students had a wide range of experience in military and PSD service. By the end of the course, however, every student had learned intricate techniques and concepts.

On the first day of training, Sgt. Lex gave the students an overview of the course and introduced them to his drill sergeant training style to instill discipline in the team.

"We inculcated a 'one-team, one-fight' environment from the very beginning," said Sgt. Lex. "We had to ensure they understood that every individual effort affects the total outcome. This really paid dividends by the end of the course, just like it will when they conduct operations in Ninewa."

The hands-on portion started the next day, beginning with medical training. SF medics taught the students how to provide medical treatment for battlefield wounds in order to keep each other and their official alive following an attack.

The teachers ensured the students understood the basics of maintaining an airway, assistance in breathing, ensuring circulation and controlling breathing, said a medical instructor.

Two SF instructors taught the marksmanship portion, which

involved safely loading, unloading and clearing their weapons. They also focused on applying the fundamentals of basic rifle marksmanship while firing from the standing, kneeling and prone positions.

Once the students had a handle on the basics, the marksmanship instructors taught the detail more advanced techniques, such as correcting weapon malfunctions, magazine changes and how to shoot and move.

Following marksmanship training, Sgt. Lex taught the team how to move in a protective formation and evacuate their official out of danger. The students drilled on the security techniques until it became second nature for them.

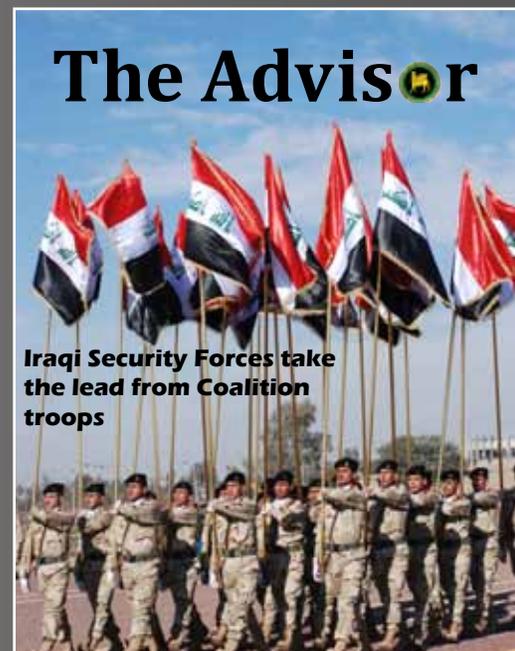
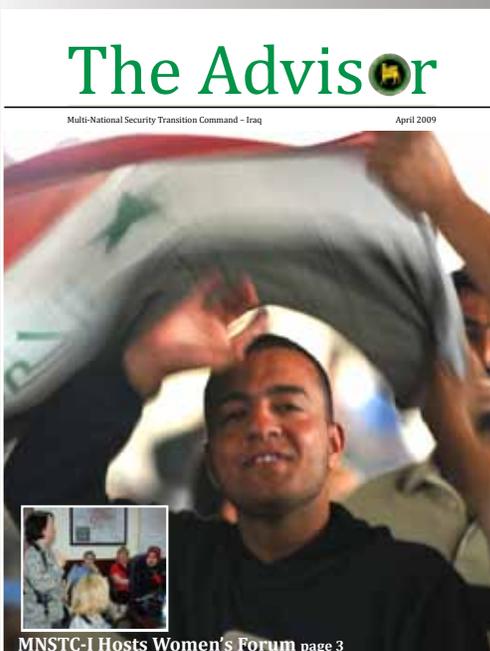
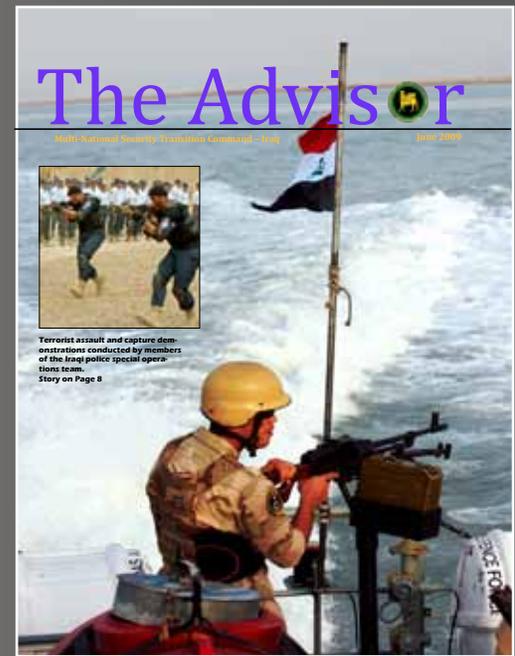
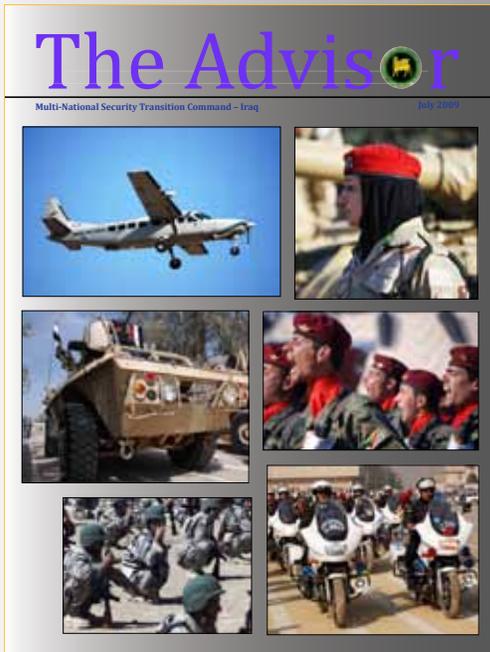
With the routines lodged firmly in their minds, Sgt. Lex gave the students scenarios to run through, such as safely escorting an official to a meeting and reacting to crowds or threats. The detail did these scenarios until each squad knew how to react to each situation.

"It's virtually impossible to expose the students to every possible scenario they'll face, so we focused the training to the likely threats and conditions they'll encounter in their area of operations," said Sgt. Lex. "More important than learning hundreds of techniques, we wanted to focus on principles and teamwork with the intent of them learning how to think and not what to think."

The final day began with a practical exercise in which the detail escorted mock officials to meetings and had to react to threats against the officials they were assigned to protect. After the exercise, the detail graduated and each student received a certificate of completion.

"I'm extremely proud of this protective detail. We've introduced them to several scenarios not covered in training and they've responded like seasoned veterans," he said.

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