



December 25, 2009

IRAQI POLICE



Iraqi Police and U.S. Military Police conducted riot training. The IP are well-equipped with protective equipment and with the training from U.S. Forces they are now more prepared to control angry mobs.

This week the Dhi Qar IP Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) continued their hook and line kit training, then moved to more advanced explosion mitigation techniques such as operating in a bomb suit. The class was also taught about proper maintenance procedures for maintaining and caring for the bomb suit. Knowledge of this equipment will greatly increase their combat power against any explosives found, mainly inside of buildings, as the elections approach.





العراقي





Iraqi Army medics from the 2nd Battalion, 39th IA Brigade toured the Combat Support Hospital on Imam Ali Airbase (COB Adder). The jundee viewed how an injured or sick patient travels through the hospital. The demonstration began with a computer presentation of the capabilities and equipment available. U.S. Forces doctors demonstrated how the laboratory tests blood samples, how to properly equip a patient's room, and prepare the patient for helicopter transport.

The Iraqi medical personnel had good discussions with U.S. Forces. The medical platoon from 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment and 10th Combat Support Hospital led the tour.

DEPARTMENT OF BORDER ENFORCEMENT

Shurta from the 2nd Commando Battalion in northern Maysan received training on humvee truck operations and maintenance from U.S. Forces advisors. The training taught the shurta how to properly inspect the trucks and perform routine maintenance to keep the vehicle operating effectively. This training will continue over the next months and will result in master DBE mechanics who can train their own shurta.

The DBE patrols many kilometers of Iraqi border to stop illegal smuggling and cross-border activity by outlaws. The humvee is an important piece of equipment to accomplish the DBE's important mission.







Dhi Qar

The PRT distributed replacement batteries for laptop computers previously supplied under the One Laptop per Child program. The batteries were appreciated by the teachers who use the computers in their classroom.

The PRT commenced training at a new High Tech Language Laboratory at the Mittica Training Center. The subscriptions to the training have reached incredible numbers and it has become clear that the lab will become a cornerstone at the PRT Training Center. PRT staff is also learning how to use the lab so as to be able to train whoever is eager to learn and can then train future trainees. The Ministry of Education will take over the equipment in the future.

Maysan

The Ali Al Gharbi Company of Iraq delivered 600 tons of seeds to the Amarah DG of Agriculture Warehouse. 300 tons of wheat seeds and 300 tons of barley seeds. The seeds were tested and certified by the Bagdad Ministry of Agriculture office.

The \$400,000 purchase of these supplies by U.S. Forces for the Farmers Association of Maysan was critical to the farming economy which has been struggling from an unsuccessful crop yield this year. The farming infrastructure is a large contribution of the economy of the largely rural Maysan Province. The local farmers were finding it increasingly hard to get the seeds they needed for planting season in late-October. This project has enabled farmers to reestablish their businesses.



Muthanna

The PRT Team Leader and staff participated in the grand opening of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Chamber of Commerce (COC) in Samawah. The Executive Director of the SBDC told the assembled audience of business and political leaders that the overarching goal of the Center is to promote and enhance the economic growth and vitality of businesses through training opportunities, hosting conferences and seminars, and making available consultation services to affiliated members. This project, financed by CERP and USAID/Tijara, will help the community to start, sustain and expand businesses in the Muthanna province.

Ashura Tradition

Ashura occurs this year on December 27, 2009. It is a holiday observed by all Muslims, but is of particular significance to Shia Muslims. Ashura involves large-scale pilgrimages to Shia Holy Sites at Najaf, Karbala, and Khadamiya. Pilgrims re-enact the suffering of the third Imam, Hussein Ibn Ali, who is believed to have been martyred for his effort to resist the tyranny of the Ummayad dynasty (7th Century AD). Pilgrimage participants may engage in self-flagellation and other acts of self-sacrifice.

Many people in southern Iraqi cities will open their homes and provide food and water for people making the pilgrimage.

