

The Advisor



United States Forces-Iraq

May 2010



Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training)

Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, USA

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. Martin Downie, USA

Public Affairs Staff

Lt. Col. Glenn Burks, USA

Capt. Shannon Frank, USA

Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds, USA

Advisor Editor

Staff Sgt. Amy McLaughlin, USA

Translator

Dan Al Taraji

Arabic-Edition Content Editor

Jwan Hassan

The Advisor is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Defense Department and multinational and Iraqi partners.

Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government or multinational partners of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Direct questions and comments to:
pao@iraq.centcom.mil

DCG (A&T) USF-Iraq
APO AE 09348

DSN: 318-239-5886



On the cover:

Zerevani students perform maneuvers during training. More than 1,000 Zerevani recently graduated in the Dahuk Province and are assigned to the Irbil area as force protection for various government buildings. Photo by U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Michael Kennedy



USF-I, DCG (Advising and Training) Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Baghdad/Multi-National-Security-Transition-Command-Iraq/153407622188?ref=sgm>

May

In This Issue:



8

4 New Iraqi emergency dispatch center opens

6 Academy's first English language class graduates

7 More than 1,000 Zerevani graduate in Dahuk Province

8 Iraqi Navy completes new patrol ship operational training

10 A Day in the life: Iraqi Army recruits (photo essay)



10

12 First Iraqi Air Force meteorologists graduate

14 U.S. returns Phoenix Base to Iraqi government



16

16 Iraq's first M1A1 maintenance course is on the right track

18 Baghdad River Police graduation



18

19 A&T Round-Up

Odierno: 'It is time'

As the troop drawdown continues in Iraq, the top U.S. commander there said he's convinced the Iraqi security forces are ready to take over more responsibility, and that the sacrifices the United States has made to get to this point will prove worthwhile.

"I think we have an opportunity in Iraq we might never get again," Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, said during an interview with Soldiers Radio and Television's Gail McCabe.

As Iraq builds on the security, economic and diplomatic progress made to date, Odierno said, it stands to enhance stability beyond its own borders within the broader Middle East.

"If that happens, I believe [the sacrifice] has been worth it, because it could bring stability here for a long time," he said.

Odierno said he's impressed with progress the Iraqi security forces have made, particularly since the new security agreement took effect in January. "Today, they are in charge everywhere in Iraq," he said. "We no longer conduct large-scale operations in Iraq. They do. We support those operations."

As a result, Odierno said, he expects little change in how operations are conducted on the ground when Operation Iraqi Freedom wraps up Aug. 31 and the mission in Iraq becomes Operation New Dawn.

"Frankly, the missions we are doing today are the same missions we'll do on Sept. 1 when Operation New Dawn starts," he said. "We are already in stability operations."

The big difference will be that the United States will have

rity forces during the next 20 months.

If there's a single lesson learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, Odierno said, it's the importance of the "unity of effort" that brings together all of the elements of national power needed to ensure success.

"This is a complex place, and it takes complex thought; it takes complex solutions to solve problems here," he said. He credited young military leaders "who have adapted over time" and learned how to use all the tools available to them – through the military, the U.S. embassy, non-governmental organizations and other organizations.

"They have learned how to do that, and gotten much better at it, and that is what has helped to drive us toward a more stable Iraq," he said.

Odierno said he hopes to take those lessons with him when he moves to his next military post.

"That's the way we need to train our leaders of the future," he said.

"It is time, and appropriate for [the Iraqis] to take on this responsibility, and [for] us to start to get more and more in the background. ..."

Gen. Raymond Odierno

50,000 rather than 95,000 troops on the ground – a force Odierno called sufficient to continue the support mission.

"We don't need to do that with 95,000 in Iraq today," he said. "It is time, and appropriate for [the Iraqis] to take on this responsibility, and [for] us to start to get more and more in the background. ... I think it is that time in the fight for us to do that."

Meanwhile, Odierno said, the U.S. is committed to train, equip, and most importantly, professionalize the Iraqi secu-

Story by Donna Miles, Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs



New Iraqi emergency dispatch center opens

Iraqi's National Advanced First Responder Network, a communications system that provides a critical link for Iraqi citizens to emergency services, was recently expanded to the Al Anbar Province cities of Ramadi, Fallujah and Habbiniyah. Through a joint-effort between United States Forces - Iraq J6, the Iraq Training & Advisory Mission and the Ministry of Interior, Advanced Inter-

national Electronics Equipment Company was awarded a new \$5.5 million contract to establish a dispatch center in Ramadi along with sites in Fallujah and Habbiniyah. This effort was recently completed and the new Provincial Emergency Coordination Center, or PECC, located in Ramadi, is now operational as the new emergency services dispatch center for the Anbar province.

"The main job of the dispatch center is to receive calls for emergencies, and the center will dispatch people to respond to these emergencies," said Iraqi Police Maj. Gen. Sa'ad, the MoI HQ Director General of Communications.

The network is designed to provide a robust communications system to support police, fire, and ambulance services in the major

population centers of Iraq, much like the 911 emergency phone service in the U.S.. The system is very flexible and supports the various types of radios used by first responders. The overall system and emergency services are managed through dispatch and control centers where emergency reports are received and appropriate responders are dispatched.

"All emergency services are now co-located instead of being at different locations. We can now dispatch first-responders much faster with more accurate information," said IP Maj. Yassir, Anbar, Communications Director.

USF-I Police Advisor, Lt. Col. Bob Doran is a strong supporter of the system. "What makes the Anbar PECC so different is that we took the American concept of 911 [service] and applied it here," said Doran. "[The] leadership and all the agencies involved -- fire, police, and emergency medical services -- have embraced this concept and made it their own."

Ramadi's first dispatch center provides emergency responders enhanced situational awareness and much needed emergency response services for the Al Anbar Province.

Phone calls to dispatch centers in the Iraqi network vary and can range from requests for Iraqi Police, to requests for an escort to a hospital during curfew hours or even for directions to the nearest hospital and information about the services provided there. As the coordination centers' capabilities mature, more services may be added in the future.

IP 1st Lt. Ihab, the Ramadi Center Director, said the radios are 100% operational and have been used extensively by all first responders.

"The PECC has played a vital role since becoming operational," said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Rivera, the USF-I Provincial Emergency Coordination Center advisor.

"They have been first in reporting significant events on many occasions and continue to improve their inter-agency coordination."

Additionally, Yassir and Ihab have worked closely with Rivera in developing a citizen's awareness campaign. This marketing effort will send the message to the people that they now can call just one number for any emergency. This is a huge improvement from the past when citizens had to call multiple numbers if they needed

police, ambulance and fire services.

The combined efforts of USF-I advisors and the MoI have paved the way for the system that now covers 18 Iraqi cities and provides coverage to approximately 78 percent of the population of Iraq.

"As the coverage of the network expands, so will the capabilities and features. We appreciate all the efforts of our advisors," said Col. Hassan, MoI HQ AFRN Program Manager who championed the effort to expand services to the Anbar province.

Story by U.S. Air Force Capt. Chad Hess and U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Bob Regan, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) J-6 Forward Iraqi Communications Capacity Engagement Division

Photo: An Iraqi Police officer answers phone calls on the Advanced First-Responder Network at the patrol dispatch center in Ramadi. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Robert Regan)

Below: "1-0-4 Police - Medical - Fire EMERGENCY": The National Advanced First Responder Network flyer designed to raise public awareness.



Academy's first English language class graduates



Irqi students, 20 officers and one enlisted, from the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense graduated from the Iraqi International Academy's first English course March 28.

The Iraqi International Academy was developed by the MoD with the vision to create an institution of higher learning for Iraqi government employees. Two Iraqi

Instructors from the Defense Language Institute of Iraq (DLII) taught the English class, and were augmented by United States Forces - Iraq advisors who helped enhance the teachers' techniques, methodology and pedagogy.

The Deputy Chief of Staff for Training, Lt. Gen. Hussain Douhi, explained that in the former regime, once an officer learned to

speak English or used the term "OK," he would be classified as a member of the "OK group." This was a deterrent to speaking the English language. "For our army to be successful, it is very important to make use of positive behavior," said Hussain. "The only way to learn from others is to know their language."

The Iraqi government has placed

a high priority on the success and continuance of the Iraqi International Academy. "The Iraqi government's vision for training is a phenomenal one, and your country will move forward," said Maj. Gen. James M. McDonald, former Assistant Deputy Commanding General, USF-I, Advising and Training.

A \$30 million project for building a new campus for the Iraqi International Academy is scheduled for completion by September 2011, until then, the English class will continue in a temporary classroom. The curriculum in the new facility will encompass not only the English language but the study of strategic thought, security, cadre training, and all areas of public administration.

"I offer congratulations to the graduates," said Hussain. "And I encourage anyone who finds the opportunity to study the language [English] because it is a very important tool."

Story by U.S. Army Capt. Shannon Frank, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs

Photo: Lt. Gen. Hussain shakes hands with one of the first English language course graduates of the Iraqi International Academy during the graduation ceremony.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs

More than 1,000 Zerevani graduate in Dahuk Province

Students from two courses in the Dahuk Province graduated here April 9. The Sustainment Training Course had 960 Zerevani graduates and the Basic Recruit Training Course had more than 200 graduates.

These courses ran simultaneously at the same location and the graduates, who work together daily, are assigned to the Irbil area as force protection for various government buildings. Training began Dec. 20.

The classroom portion of the course covered job-related skills such as checkpoint security, explosive hazards awareness and vehicle searches while the practical exercises included building entry, static security, personal security, live fire and obstacle courses.

Gen. Nawzad Khoshnaw, a representative of Kurdish Prime Minister Barham Salah, was the guest speaker at the event. He congratulated the graduates and thanked them for their commitment to the security of Kurdistan.

Maj. Gen. Aziz Waysi Bani, the Zerevani commander, congratulated the graduates and told them they should be proud of their achievements in Kurdistan. "Let's say 'enough' to terrorists and their activities," he said. "Let democracy be developed in Iraq."

United States Forces -Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training), Iraq Training and Advisory Mission Civilian Police Advisors are assigned to several Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah Provincial Training Centers and Police Colleges. They mentor and advise Kurdish deans, instructors, staff and cadre.

The advisors play an important role in providing basic instructor training and monitoring basic training standards as well as ensuring that provincial objectives are addressed.

Story courtesy of United States Forces -Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training), Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Police

Anchors Aweigh!

Iraqi Navy completes new patrol ship operational training



After five weeks of intensive training, crews on the Iraqi patrol ships Iraq Naval Ships Cham-ouk and Majid are ready to start

patrolling Iraq's coastal waters and defend its critical offshore oil export infrastructure.

The completion of this training

significantly increases the capability of the Iraqi Navy to protect the offshore platforms and defend Iraqi territorial waters. At 390



tons each, the two ships, together with their sister ships Fatah and Nassar, are bigger than the patrol boats previously used in service with the Iraqi Navy. These ships are able to operate in heavier weather and stay on station longer than the previous versions.

The training involved more than 200 scenarios to develop the ability of the officers and sailors to deal with nearly all operational and emergency situations. It also included the first-ever tow of a United States Coast Guard cutter by an Iraqi vessel.

A team of 15 Iraqi sailors from the Umm Qasr based Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Navy provided the training, support and guidance to put the Iraqi crews through their paces. They were assisted by the USCG cutter Aquidneck and U.S. Navy ships Sirocco and Whirlwind, which teamed up with the Iraqi ships to help provide boat transfers, towing exercises, live gunnery and sector defense serials.

As the program progressed, the training became more complex and more demanding. "It was a privilege to be embedded within the ship's company and to be able to help and advise them to

achieve operational readiness," said Royal Navy Lt. Hugh Botterill, one of the trainers on board INS Chamouk.

United States Navy Lt. Lars Lone, who embarked on INS Majid, was extremely impressed with the progress he witnessed and how the ship's company had built strong working relationships with the ITAM-Navy trainers. "I will take away many good memories from the five weeks I have spent on board," he said. "The best of all was taking the opportunity to get to know the Iraqi sailors on both a professional and social level and discover that we have much in common".

Royal Navy Cmdr. Richards, Commander, Task Force Iraqi Maritime, joined INS Chamouk on the last day of training. He spoke to the ship's company and expressed his admiration of them for achieving so much, including bringing the ships from Italy to Iraq and bringing them up to operational readiness in such a short period of time.

Following a well-deserved leave, the two ships will join other Iraqi ships in the Northern Arabian Gulf, where they will begin operational patrols.

Over the next few months, the capability of the Iraqi Navy will expand considerably as new infrastructure and a new operations headquarters and ship repair facilities are completed. The Iraqi Navy is slated to obtain 15 U.S. built patrol boats and two offshore support vessels over the next two years.

The first patrol boat recently completed its initial sea trials and is scheduled to commence operations in Iraq later this year.

Story by Lt. Cmdr. Bryony Carpenter, Royal Navy training advisor, Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Navy

Photos:

(Left) Iraq Naval Ship 703 and INS 704 conduct towing exercise as part of the five-week patrol ship operational training to prepare the officers and sailors for their mission of patrolling and protecting Iraq's coastal waterways and defending its critical offshore oil export infrastructure.

(Above) Now that its crew has completed the five weeks of intensive training, Iraq Naval Ship Majid is ready to patrol Iraq's coastal waters .

Photos by Lt. Cmdr. Paul Morris, Royal Navy, Training Officer for Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Navy in Um Qasr



A Day in the Life of Iraqi Army recruits

Every day of training begins early for the newest Iraqi soldiers at Habbaniyah National Training Center, one of four basic training centers in Iraq.

They begin with the rifle range then maneuver through the obstacle course, complete with the acrid smoke of burning tires. The training segues into urban combat training where they learn the art of clearing and securing buildings.

Being part of the new Iraqi Army is no easy task, but it is a task that these new soldiers tackle with enthusiasm.

Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs



Clear Skies Ahead: *First Iraqi Air Force meteorologists graduate*



With their eyes on the skies, military meteorologists play an important role in keeping their services informed of weather patterns that may affect mission capabilities.

The first class of Iraqi air force meteorology officers graduated from a formal technical training course in Baghdad March 25. The class was taught by U.S. Air Force weather forecasters from the 321st Air Expeditionary Advi-

sory Group Air Operations Center Military Training Team assigned to Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Air Force, a directorate of United States Forces – Iraq, Advising and Training.

During this 52-day course, the eight Iraqi military students were instructed on everything from basic weather observations to advanced weather forecast models.

“We have advised and helped the Iraq air force develop a system

that is similar to the United States National Weather Service, United Kingdom’s Meteorology Organization and most of the members of the World Meteorology Organization,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Barry Hunte, 321st MTT weather advisor.

“Meteorology is an important part of flight safety and resource protection,” he added. “A significant part of airports ratings are dependent upon the meteorology ob-

ervation and forecasting services they offer.”

Although these officers have degrees in meteorology or physics, they have never received any type of formal aviation or military weather forecasting training. During this class the Iraqi officers received technical classroom knowledge and hands-on weather training.

“We taught them how to use equipment such as the Tactical Meteorological Observing System,” said Master Sgt. Mario Viray, 321st MTT weather advisor. “The TMQ-53 [Tactical Meteorological Observing System] derives and displays the temperature, dew point, visibility and precipitation type, and it even sends a beam upward of 10,000 feet to detect how high the clouds are. We taught them weather observing and forecasting to WMO standards and helped them tailor their weather documents to fit their own unique aviation missions and base assets.”

From the information taught this inaugural class, the Iraqi weather officers are now able to produce 30-minute observations, terminal airdrome forecasts, daily weather briefings and issue safety-related weather watches, warnings and advisories.

These officers gain valuable experience every day and then they will use what we’ve taught them

to train both Iraqi officers and enlisted personnel, Viray said. “This is a dream come true for me. The American instructors have given us all their knowledge and helped us grow as an independent meteorology section,” said Col. Salman Kherbat, Iraqi meteorology section

some of the new weather officers will become instructors while others will begin their weather mission for the Iraqi military.

Story by Senior Airman Jarrod Chavana, U.S. Air Forces Central, Baghdad Media Outreach Team

Photos:

(page 12) Iraqi air force officers pose with their U.S. Air Force instructors at Camp Victory, Iraq, following their graduation from a 52-day meteorology course March 25. The graduates will be sent to different locations throughout Iraq for 30 days of on-the-job training. Once the training is complete, some of the weather advisory officers will become instructors while others will begin their weather advisory mission for the Iraqi military.

(left) Air Force Major Barry Hunte, 321st Air Expeditionary Advisory Group Air Operations Center weather advisor, stands next to the Tactical Meteorological Observing System used during the 52-day course to train the first class of Iraqi air force



director. “I’m very proud of these eight officers, as they have sacrificed many things to complete this course.”

The graduates will now be sent to different locations throughout Iraq to continue on-the-job training. Once the training is complete,

meteorology officers. During the course, the eight Iraqi military students were instructed on everything from basic weather observations to advanced weather forecast models. (photos by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Trish Bunting)

U.S. returns



On a bright spring morning in Baghdad, personnel assigned to United States Forces – Iraq Deputy Commanding General, Advising and Training gathered together to witness their last ceremony as tenants of Phoenix Base.

Officials from USF – I DCG (A&T) transferred Phoenix Base to the government of Iraq in an official ceremony April 15, reaching an important milestone in the spirit of partnership with Iraq and demonstrating the growth of Iraqi Institutions.

Phoenix Base was the location of the Multi-National Security Transition Command headquarters from 2004 until the unit deactivated Dec. 31, 2009, and became Advising and Training, a subordinate unit of USF-I.

The GoI plans to use

the former U.S. base as the new home of the Iraq National Defense University.

“The National Defence University is charged with educating and training the future leaders of the Ministry of Defence”, said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, DCG (A&T).

Base returns are one part of the larger USF-I effort toward empowering the Iraqi people and represent important steps in achieving Iraqi security, self reliance and U.S. compliance with the Security Agreement.

Mr. Sameer Al-Haddad, Secretariat of the Committee for Receiving Real Properties and Camps Office of the Prime Minister, accepted the key from Barbero which symbolized the initiation of the official base transfer to

base to Iraqi government

the government of Iraq. Sameer finalized the transfer by presenting the key to Iraqi Army Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein Dohi, Deputy Chief of Staff for Training.

Hussein expressed his gratitude for the base transfer. "I want to thank the US. Army for the support they provide to the Iraqi Army and its training institutions," he said. "We hope this level of cooperation and coordination will continue to increase as we achieve our common interests."

This base transfer to the government of Iraq and the shore up of its institutions, underscore a

strategic partnership that will exist long after US Forces depart Iraq.

Story by U.S. Army Capt. Shannon Frank, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs

Photos:

(Far left) Signs of the times: the Phoenix Base sign as it evolved over time. (file photos)

(Left) Mr. Samir, representing the Prime Minister's office, hands a ceremonial key to Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein, deputy chief of staff for training, after receiving it from Lt. Gen Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, Deputy

Commanding General, United States Forces – Iraq, Advising and Training. The passing of the key symbolizes the transfer of control back to the government of Iraq.

(Below) Mr. Samir, representing the Prime Minister's office, and Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein, Deputy Chief of Staff for Training, unveil the new sign of the National Defence University to Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, Deputy Commanding General, United States Forces – Iraq, Advising and Training, during the base transfer ceremony.

Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs



Iraq's first M1A1 maintenance course is on the right track



Iraq Training and Advisory Mission advisor for the UMNET course. "Their job is critical to keep Iraq as a driving force. If the tanks aren't operational, then they are no good."

Norberg developed relationships with every student over the training period and feels optimistic about their future. "They are impressed with the M1A1 because it is far superior to what they had before," he said.

The majority of the students hail from the Iraqi Army Electrical and

The M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank is considered by many experts as the finest armored vehicle in the world. Modern and fast, it is a symbol of technological prowess meeting mechanical ability. Given its long history of success for the US Army, many allies adopted this tank for their own national defense. The latest sovereign partner is the country of Iraq, who recently acquired 140 M1A1 tanks.

For all machinery, maintenance is a constant requirement. Given the state-of-art status of the Abrams, maintenance becomes even more important. With this in mind, General Dynamics Land Systems designed a Unit Maintenance New Equipment Training (UMNET) mechanic course to

prepare Iraqi Army armor mechanics before the scheduled equipment delivery August 2010.

This inaugural course is a vital step forward to ensure the Iraqi Army maintains the ability to secure itself, both internally and externally. By enrolling its best tank mechanics in the 500-hour course, taught at Forward Operating Base Hammer on the Basmaya Combat Training Center, Iraq is continuing to set the conditions for enduring success.

The 15 students took the three-month course very seriously, fully understanding the gravity of their efforts.

"Their job isn't sexy and they know that," said U.S. Army Master Sergeant Kevin T. Norberg, the

Mechanical Engineering school in Taji, northwest of Baghdad. Also included, however, are future certified M1A1 mechanics from Rustamiyah on the other side of the city -- and the Army. These members of the 9th IA Division represented the Iraqi Ground Forces Command.

Although they all have mechanical experience, the levels of experience as tank mechanics is varied among the students. The Abrams, however, is in a different class from what they used before.

Through an agreement between the U.S. and Iraqi governments, the 15 students were able to train at a ratio of five students per tank. This allowed plenty of hands-on instruction opportunity, further

enabling each mechanic with a richer training experience.

The instructors guided each soldier through all the processes and requirements of maintaining a modern Main Battle Tank by demonstration and question-and-answer sessions. The instructor's ability, coupled with the maturity and professionalism of the soldiers, led to a firm grasp of the information and a successful course.

The students were attentive, took copious notes and asked many questions. They eagerly absorbed the program of instruction and proved to be able mechanics.

After three months of gladly getting their hands dirty and having their questions answered, the 15 students are scheduled to graduate May 6. Upon graduation, the new M1A1 mechanics will return to their units with a wealth of knowledge to add a new capability to the ever-evolving Iraqi Security Forces.

The graduates will be ready when their new Abrams roll into their motor pools later this year.

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Richard Holladay, Senior Enlisted Advisor - Besmaya Combat Training Center, Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Army and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Amy E. McLaughlin, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs

Photos:

(Left) Students hang on the instructors' every word during the classroom portion of the course because there are no available technical manuals in their native tongue.

(Below) A team of five mechanics work with one instructor on an M1A1

Abrams tank at the Besmaya Combat Training Center.

Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Amy E. McLaughlin, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs



Take me to the river: Newest river police officers celebrate graduation



More than two dozen Arab and Kurdish Iraqi police officers graduated from the Outboard Maintenance and Water Bourne Operations courses here April 20.

Eleven Kurdish officers and 13 Arab officers completed the intense courses that challenged them both mentally and physically.

Senior Iraqi and U.S. officers congratulated the graduates and praised the teamwork that these officers displayed as the courses progressed.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Bilal Hussain, representing Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali Al Esawi, director of the Baghdad River Police Training Center, and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Michael Smith, director of Iraq Training and Advisory Mission – Police attend-

ed the ceremony.

In his opening speech, Hussain thanked the Iraqi instructors and the U.S. counterparts for their valuable work and expressed his hope that the BRPTC will continue to graduate river police heroes. “These graduates have achieved a great success in completing these courses,” he said.

Fifty new boats have arrived in Basra and the Government of Iraq will be dispersing these boats throughout the provinces of Iraq, said Smith. It will be these boats that the newly graduated officers will be working with. “River police have a significant role in Iraq’s security,” he said.

The BRPTC’s staff of 71 teaches mentors and provides a continu-

ous stream of qualified members of the Baghdad River Police. The staff has trained more than 300 river police officers and will continue to be a vital component of the security effort in Iraq.

As Iraq moves toward national unity, courses with both Arab and Kurd students are becoming more prevalent. These training courses demonstrate one of the ways Iraq has moved past sectarianism toward a more cohesive, secure and stable country.

Story by U.S. Army Capt. Shannon Frank, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs

Photo: Baghdad River Police students stand proudly in formation on graduation day. (Courtesy photo)

A&T Round-up

Leaders discuss Iraqi progress, future

The Forward Operating Base Union III conference center buzzed with activity for two days as key leaders of the Iraqi Army and U.S. Forces leaders and advisors met to discuss Iraq's future.

Iraq Training and Advisory Mission – Army, Training and Logistics Divisions held a two-day conference for personnel from ITAM – Army Schools, training centers, and Logistics Military Advisory Teams and the three U.S. Forces –Iraq U.S. Divisions (USD – North, South and Central) on March 31 – April 1.

The purpose of the ITAM – Army Advisor Conference was to enhance cross-unit synchronization and staff coordination.

Personnel in attendance participated in briefing sessions, round table discussions and breakout working groups. Some of the topics covered were the missions and roles of USF-I, the command relationships of ITAM – Army advisor personnel and Army Advisory Brigades, and identification of potentially redundant USD initiatives such as localized Noncommissioned Officer Education System.

Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain, Deputy Chief of Staff of Training, and Maj. Gen. Samir Mahdi Al Basha, Basic and Tactical Training

Director, focused their comments on being an effective advisor within the cultural and historical constraints of the Iraqi Army.

“I want all officers to be self-reliant, but the NCO is very important,” said Samir. “Weak NCOs will affect leadership. We are one team ... I want to focus on the new army and forget the old.”

Both Hussain and Samir were very appreciative of the USF-I advisory effort and expressed their desire for a continued partnership to ensure the future security and stability of Iraq.

ITAM – Army is planning to host an NCO Advisor Conference this month.

Officers graduate command course

More than a dozen Iraqi officers graduated from Brigade Command Course Number One and Battalion Command Course Number One at Ar-Rustamiyah Joint Staff and Command College in Baghdad April 11.

The six-month courses, designed for officers who have been selected to take up appointments as Brigade or Battalion commanders, are becoming milestones in the process of Iraqi professional military education.

Distinguished guests in attendance included Staff Lt. Gen. Hussein, the Deputy

Chief of Staff for Training, Staff Maj. Gen. Jassim, Commandant of the National Defense University and Staff Brig. Gen. Jawhar, Commandant of the Joint Staff and Command College.

In his speech Major General Giuseppe Spinelli, NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I) Deputy Commander, encouraged the graduates to take the experience and knowledge they gained from the courses and use their new skills to enrich their future units.

“I am also impressed by the continuous improvements in the curriculum that the staff has instituted since the College reopened in 2005,” said Spinelli. “That process continues today. The NATO advisor teams very much enjoy working alongside our Iraqi partners. I wish to assure you of the future support of the NATO Training Mission as you prepare for the next courses.”

The next courses are scheduled to begin in June.

Instructors complete advanced course

Iraqi instructors from the Sulaymaniyah Police Training Academy graduated from the Advanced Criminal Investigations course as part of an instructor development initiative.

The 18 students completed an intensive classroom

and field exercise program that included crime scene management, crime scene processing, systematic approaches to policing and interviewing and interrogation techniques.

The second week of the course challenged the students to apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in securing and processing two mock crime scene scenarios at the training village located on the academy grounds.

The students were also split into two crime scene units and then each assigned a major crime scene exercise as part of their training. The instructors observed and mentored the students from the initial report of the crime to the completion of releasing the crime scene. Students learned to consider the totality of the circumstances in each of the crime scenes.

Brig. Gen. Amir, Dean of the Sulaymaniyah Police Training Academy, observed both scenarios and his approval of the students' performance.

The students now possess theoretical and practical knowledge required to train future academy students concerning advanced and modern criminal investigation techniques. As graduates, these instructors will enable the academy to provide top-notch specialized training to future students.



An Iraqi Army basic training soldier scales a wall that is part of an obstacle course at Habbaniyah National Training Center, one of four basic training centers in Iraq. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds, United States Forces - Iraq Deputy Commanding General (Advising and Training) Public Affairs)
See story on page 10