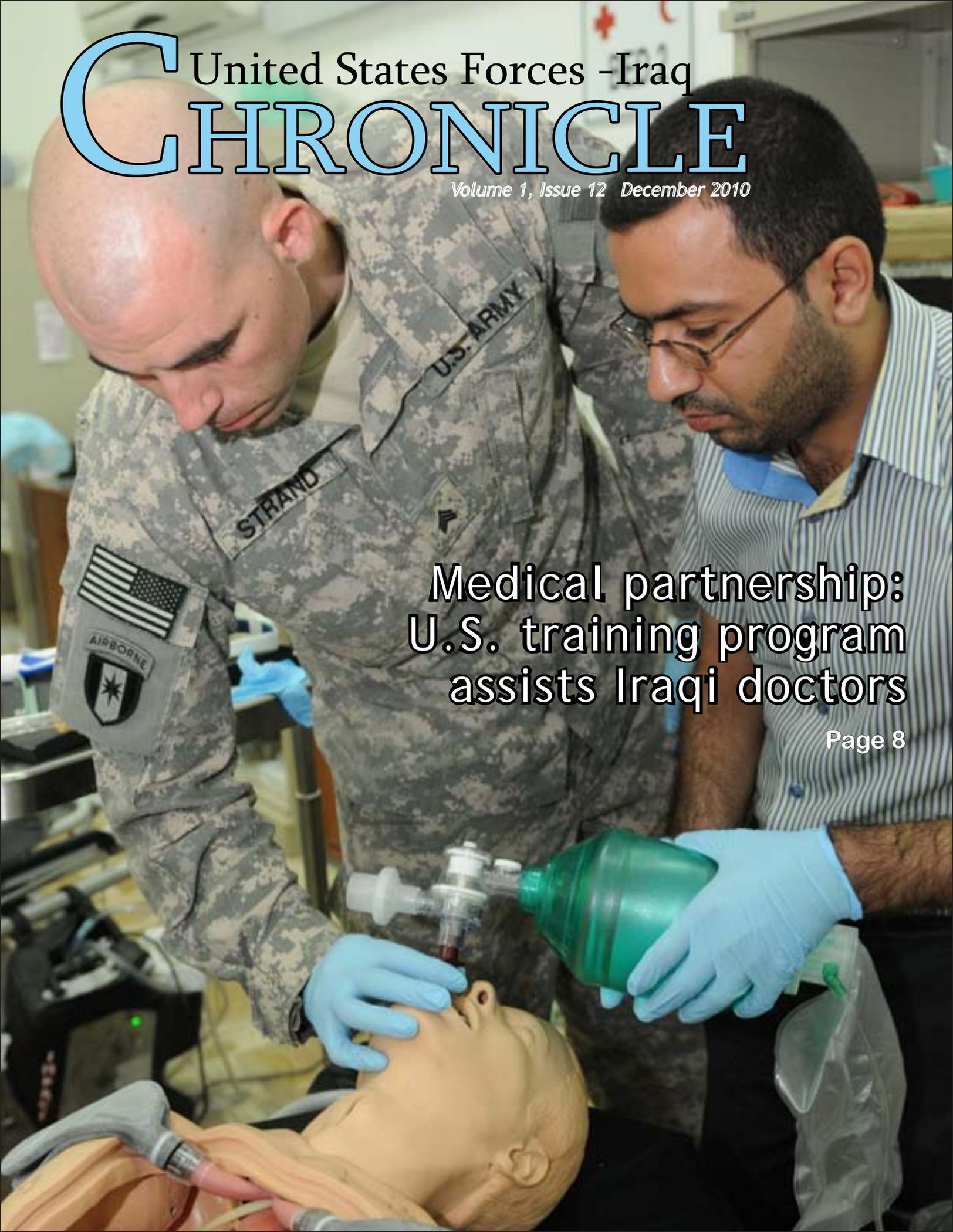


# United States Forces -Iraq CHRONICLE

Volume 1, Issue 12 December 2010

Medical partnership:  
U.S. training program  
assists Iraqi doctors

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Sgt. Jonathan Strand, combat medic with the 547th Medical Company, 261st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 807th Medical Brigade, United States Forces – Iraq, and an Anaheim, Calif., native, assists as an Iraqi doctor demonstrates his understanding of opening a blocked airway during “Over the Shoulder” training, organized by the U.S. State Department’s Provincial Reconstruction Team – Baghdad at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Johnson)



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U.S. Soldiers instruct Iraqi Soldiers in checkpoint operations



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Joint Base Balad sponsors Iraqi Kids Day

# USF-I CHRONICLE

The Official Magazine of  
United States Forces – Iraq

December 2010  
Volume 1, Issue 12

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**Service members** take the Oath of Allegiance during a Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq. During the ceremony, sponsored by United States Forces-Iraq, 50 service members became U.S. citizens. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger M. Dey)

*Story by Sgt. Chris McCann*  
**USF-I Public Affairs**

# Deployed service members become U.S. citizens on Veterans Day



Fifty service members become U.S. citizens during a Naturalization Ceremony, Nov. 11. (U.S. Army photo by Lee Craker)

I am an American. I would fight and die for this country without question. Gaining my citizenship will just make official what I already know in my heart.

Spc. Diego Mata, a generator mechanic with the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, moved from Mexico City, Mexico to California as a child, and later joined the United States Army. He officially became an American citizen at a naturalization ceremony Nov. 11 at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Iraq,

with 49 other service members. His statement was read aloud by Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of United States Forces-Iraq.

“You appreciate the opportunity that American citizenship provides and you are eager to give back to the country through your service in the Armed Forces,” Austin told the new citizens. “You have been given a gift and you are giving a gift in return.”

Twenty-nine countries were represented at the ceremony by the service members pledging allegiance to the United States of America.

Spc. Lennart Magi, a native of Tallinn, Estonia, moved to the United States in 2002 with his father, who went to New York City for college. “The U.S. is a huge role model for Estonia,” he said.

In June of 2007, Magi enlisted in the Army and serves as a cannon crew member with the 25th Infantry Division. During this deployment, he works on the personal security detachment for the commander of the 2nd Bn., 11th FAR.

Magi said the ceremony will make this, his second deployment, memorable.

“It’s a great day – and to do this in the palace, with all my comrades-in-arms, becoming an American citizen officially ... it’s a day I’ll remember forever,” said Magi.

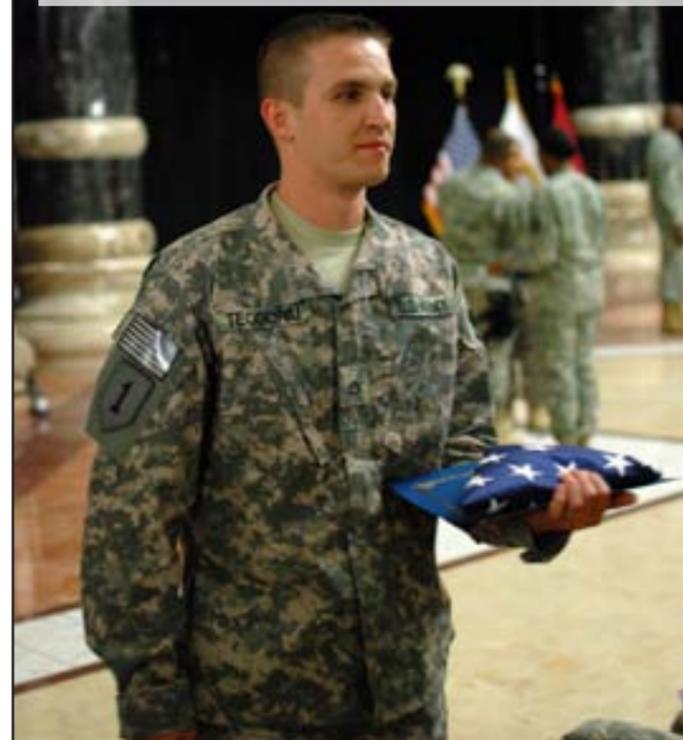
John Lafferty, district director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in Rome, Italy, presented the candidates at the ceremony.

“This is the best part of my job,” he said. “Serving service members while they’re serving our country – this is really an honor and a privilege,” said Lafferty. “They were serving our country even though they were not citizens. But they were already

Spc. Jehan Custodio Martinez (left) and Pfc. Araceli Diaz congratulate each other after becoming U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace, Nov. 11. (U.S. Army photo by Lee Craker)



Pfc. Ioan Teodoriu, Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, walks across the floor of Al-Faw Palace, after being granted naturalized citizenship in a special Veterans Day ceremony. Teodoriu emigrated to the U.S. from Romania. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Roland Hale)



Americans – we’re just making it official.”

First Sergeant Marc Little of the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Tipton, Ga., had two

percussionist.

“I was right there three years ago,” he said, gesturing to the gathered new citizens. “It was my first deployment and I was based in Tikrit. And now

of his Soldiers in the ceremony; Staff Sgt. Luis Greaves and Spc. Michelle Canas.

“I think it’s awesome,” said Little. “It’s a huge step, and to have it here, and have a four-star general show up – I think it’s a grand welcome to citizenship.”

Sgt. Stanislav Lovtstov, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Moscow, Russia, became a citizen at Al Faw Palace in a ceremony in 2008. On Nov. 11, 2010, he played at the ceremony in the 1st Armored Division band as a

I’m here playing for these service members – I’m very proud. (My naturalization) is a memory I will always treasure, and I’m sure they will too.”

During his address to the new citizens, Austin also recalled the remarkable story of Mexican emigrant Alfred V. Rascon, who served in Vietnam in 1966 and continued to serve, both in the Army and as a civilian, until 2003. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2000 for his actions near Long Khanh, Vietnam, in March of 1966.

“Doc said very succinctly about his citizenship, ‘I am Mexican by birth, American by choice,’” Austin said. “Like each of you, he also loved serving our country.”

As the new U.S. citizens walked to the front of the palace rotunda to receive their certificates of citizenship and a U.S. flag, the emotion of the day was written on each face.

“I have always felt American,” said Pfc. Yiraldy Aloma, a native of Panama City, Panama, whose family immigrated to Miami, Fla., eight years ago. “But now I have the paper, and I can call myself American. And it’s an honor to serve, especially to serve the country that opened its arms for me.”



Pfc. Yiraldy Aloma, a native of Panama City, Panama, wipes a tear from her eye after becoming a U.S. citizen during the Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory. (U.S. Army photo by Lee Craker)

# Iraqi Air Force demonstrates precision air-to-ground attack capability

*Story courtesy of Air Component Coordination Element-Iraq Public Affairs*



An Iraqi Air Force AC-208 Cessna Caravan aircrew launches a Hellfire missile at a target on the Aziziyah Training Range, south of Baghdad, Nov. 8. The Iraqi Airmen scored a direct hit, destroying the target in their second-ever launch of a Hellfire missile. The success of this mission marks a significant milestone for United States Forces - Iraq's work to assist in increasing Iraqi capabilities by developing a strong Iraqi Air Force. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brandon Bolick)

**SATHER AIR BASE, Baghdad** – U.S. Air Force air advisors of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing marked an advise, train, assist and equip milestone Monday, highlighting the success of their Iraqi Air Force counterparts following the second-ever Hellfire rocket launch from an Iraqi Air Force AC-208 Cessna Caravan.

Departing a northern Iraqi air base, the Hellfire-equipped aircraft led a classic two-ship formation with an all-Iraqi aircrew. The chase aircraft was also flown by an Iraqi aircrew and carried one air advisor and a joint Iraqi Air Force and U.S. Army Combat Camera team to document the missile-launch.

The Iraqi aircrew launched the Hellfire weapon more than three miles from their ground target at an altitude of more than 5,000 feet. The AC-208 Iraqi mission sensor operator guided the weapon onto the target and confirmed the direct hit - the center of three vehicles on the Aziziyah training range, south of Baghdad.

Following the mission, the AC-208 aircrews landed at an air base near Baghdad for refueling and a post-mission debrief. On arrival, they were congratulated by fellow Iraqi Airmen, U.S. air advisors, and Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson, director of the Iraqi Training

and Advisory Mission - Air Force and 321st Air Expeditionary Wing commander.

“Today’s successful precision-guided weapon exercise marks another advancement in Iraqi air power. The Iraqi Air Force incorporated a complex mix of targets, overhead surveillance, plus command and control for weapons release from their air operations center,” said Hanson. “The entire event from planning, to aircraft maintenance and weapons loading, to destroying the target with a single Hellfire missile reflects a tremendous level of professionalism demonstrated by their Airmen.”

Since the Iraqi Air Force completed their first Hellfire launch in November 2009 (also with a direct hit of the training target), Airmen of Iraqi Squadron 3, have trained continuously for the mission, mastering the weapons load, target attack and airmanship skills necessary to maintain proficiency. Air advisors of the 521st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron work shoulder-to-shoulder as partners in the effort.

“Today’s successful live-fire mission highlighted two things,” said Lt. Col. Adrian Schuettke, 521st AEAS commander. “First, it showcased the admirable amount of concentration and discipline the Iraqi Air Force crews have placed on improving their kinetic attack capability. Second, it reflected the absolutely astounding level of dedication of our past and present American air advisors, deployed far from home, to support and assist our Iraqi counterparts.”

# Iraqi Soldiers learn fine points of checkpoint operations

Story by Capt. Daaron Spears  
USD-S Public Affairs



**Iraqi Soldiers** from the 10th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment, conduct hands-on training on vehicle search techniques while evaluated by **Staff Sgt. Benjamin Ireland**, of Pittsburgh, combat engineer, Company E, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. (Courtesy Photo)



**Iraqi combat engineer Soldiers**, 10th IA FE Reg., conduct hands-on training on personnel search techniques during a checkpoint operations course. The course was designed by Staff Sgt. Benjamin Ireland, of Pittsburgh, combat engineer, Company E, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. (Courtesy Photo)

**MAYSAN PROVINCE, Iraq** – In support of Operation New Dawn, Company E, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, has assisted the 10th Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiment in a variety of security-related training.

Company E has primarily trained the 10th IA FE Reg. on route clearance and reconnaissance tasks; however, according to Staff Sgt. Benjamin Ireland, of Pittsburgh, Company E recently began training Iraqi Soldiers on checkpoint operations.

“The [security transition team] wanted us to put together a class and teach checkpoint operations to the officers and NCOs. I had recently come off of the trail and the material was fresh in my mind,” said Ireland, referring to his recent assignment as a drill sergeant.

Company E designed a two-day vehicle check-point operations course that they have taught weekly to more than 120 officers and NCOs during the past three months. Ireland gathered the material on vehicle search techniques from previous courses and tailored it for Iraqis conducting vehicle searches.

“The Iraqis were already good at finding hiding places in the vehicles during deliberate searches, so the class teaches the warning signs so they can identify vehicles that need to be searched,” Ireland said.

The course begins with a lecture describing checkpoint

operations, checkpoint design, vehicle search methods, and driver interviews. At the end of every course, Ireland chooses the top two Iraqi noncommissioned officers to help in the practical exercises.

“When we conduct the hands-on evaluation they all get into it and they all perform well,” said Ireland.

Two Iraqi NCOs, Sgt. Ali and Staff Sgt. Saf, both combat engineers, have distinguished themselves as being very knowledgeable in vehicle search techniques, and Ireland chose them to be the primary instructors for the course.

“They performed better than the rest so we taught them how to be instructors, and they taught the last three classes on their own,” said Ireland.

Company E also hosts a weekly two-hour officer professional development class for the senior officers of the unit. According to Ireland, the class focuses on planning checkpoint operations and many of the captains and majors have attended.

“We’ve had colonels and lieutenant colonels as well as the 10th IA commander attend the class,” Ireland said.

Ireland believes that the weekly training course will have positive impact on Operation New Dawn as Iraqis continue to secure their country.

“I hear reports (that) some of the checkpoints out in sector are getting better,” said Ireland.

# “Over the Shoulder” hands-on training partners USD-C medics, Iraqi doctors

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Kimberly Johnson  
USD-C Public Affairs



An Iraqi doctor gets a closer look as Sgt. Jonathan Strand, combat medic with the 547th Med. Co., 261st Multifunctional Med. Bn., 807th Med. Bde., demonstrates how to secure an airway during the “Over the Shoulder” training, organized by the U.S. Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team – Baghdad, at FOB Prosperity, Oct. 21.

According to the World Health Organization, Iraq ranks among the bottom third of the world’s countries in healthcare for its citizens.

The U.S. Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team – Baghdad, United States Division – Center, and the 547th Medical Company, 261st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 807th Medical Brigade, United States Forces – Iraq, are working to help change that through “Over the Shoulder” training for newly graduated Iraqi doctors.

Over the Shoulder training gives recent graduates of Iraqi medical schools the opportunity for hands-on training taught by U.S. Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Prosperity, in Baghdad.

“The Iraqi medical community wants to see how the U.S. does medicine,” said Dr. Mike Bunning, senior health adviser with the PRT–B, and a San Antonio, native. “The Iraqis have come from more than 30 years of being isolated, and they are eager for this (training program). There is a consistent message whenever (the PRT) talks with Iraqi physicians and that is that they are looking for exposure to western and European styles of medicine.”

Bunning said his team decided the best way to offer such training was within the U.S. military setting. It is basic western medicine, done the same way as it is done back in the U.S. The only difference here is the medical professionals are wearing a different uniform.

“There are two main differences in the Iraqi and the western medical

Sgt. Jonathan Strand, combat medic with the 547th Medical Company, 261st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, 807th Medical Brigade, USF-I, and an Anaheim, Calif., native, speaks to an Iraqi doctor about various airway procedures before demonstrating them (right) during “Over the Shoulder” training, organized by the U.S. Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team – Baghdad, USD-C, at FOB Prosperity.



systems - the physician’s role and follow-up care,” said Capt. Steve Showalter, a Johnstown, Pa., native and officer-in-charge of the medical clinic with 547th Med. Co. “The U.S. preaches a teamwork approach. There are many different medical personnel in the U.S. medical system who support the doctor. In Iraq, the physician does everything. He is in charge of all the pieces.”

The two-week curriculum focuses on combat medic training, administrative databases, laboratory systems, radiology, dental procedures and medical supply.

“The hands-on training is the most beneficial to the Iraqi doctors because they do not get the mannequins or the resources to train and utilize supplies in their medical school,” Showalter said.

Bunning said the intent of the

program is to show the Iraqi doctors different ways of doing things. In the Iraqi system, there is not a warm patient-physician interaction, nor is there much preventative care advice given to patients.

“It’s the hope, as the new generation of doctors comes onboard and they see places to make improvements within the Iraqi health system, they will make those changes,” he said. “The western medical style will not work here—we know that and they know that. But there are certain aspects of western medicine that would vastly improve the way they provide healthcare.”

Bunning said for some of the Iraqis, Over the Shoulder training is the first time they have come face-to-face with an American Soldier. However, in Iraq, all medical students are taught in English. As a

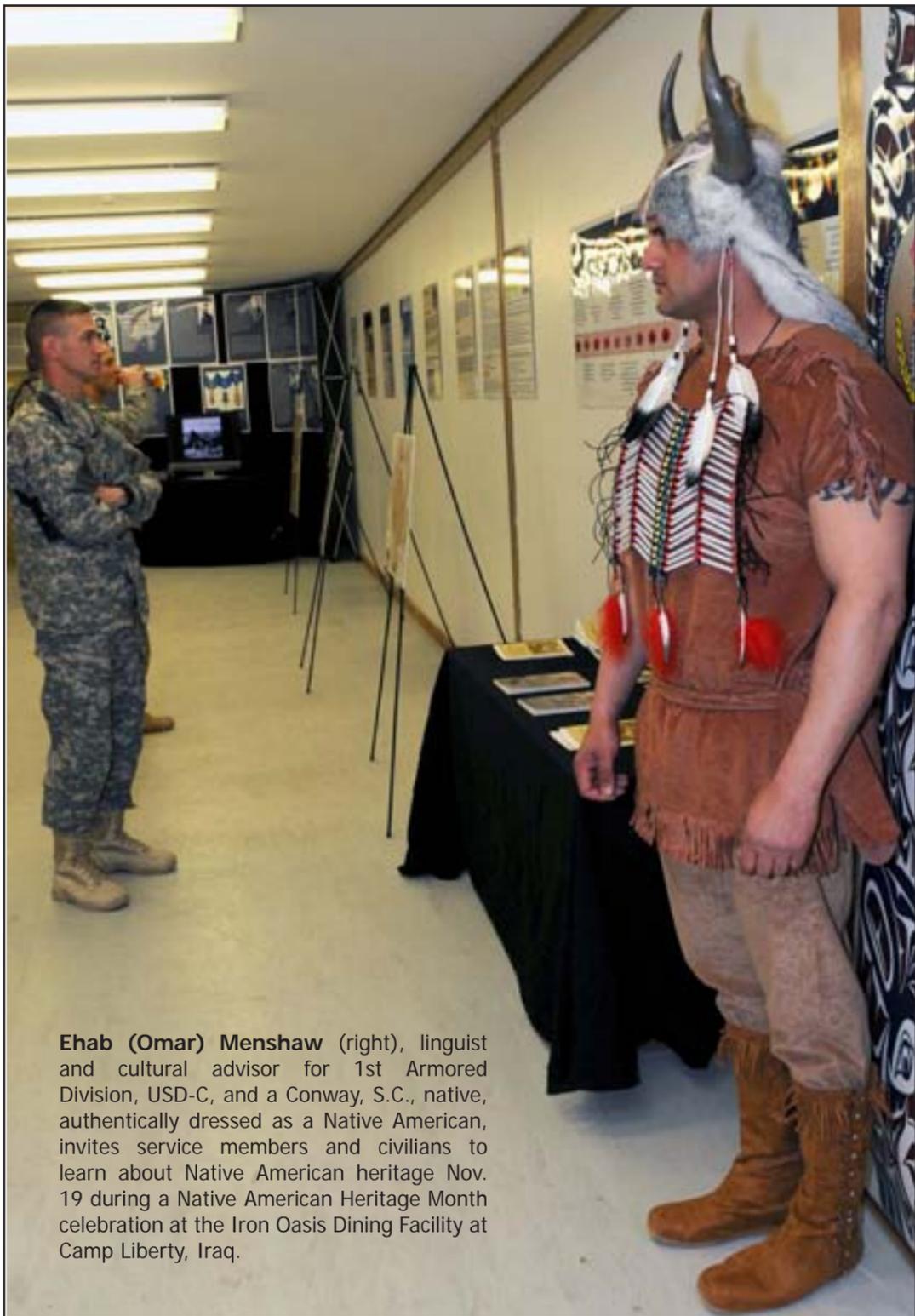


result, the language barrier is broken because they can speak to each other without using an interpreter, making training even more efficient.

“It’s a tremendous partnership,” Showalter said. “These are young physicians and they can take the tools and the experiences (U.S. medical professionals) provide them and use them throughout their lifetime.”

Bunning said so far there have been 30 graduates of the program, with a waiting list of more than 200 Iraqi doctors ready to begin.

“(The U.S.) needs to continue this program as long as there is a U.S. presence in Iraq,” Bunning said. “The exchange does nothing but bring us closer together, breaks down barriers and allows (the Iraqis and the U.S. service members) to see each other as they really are.”



**Ehab (Omar) Menshaw** (right), linguist and cultural advisor for 1st Armored Division, USD-C, and a Conway, S.C., native, authentically dressed as a Native American, invites service members and civilians to learn about Native American heritage Nov. 19 during a Native American Heritage Month celebration at the Iron Oasis Dining Facility at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

Right: **Capt. Robert Tremblay** (center), commander of Company F, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, USD-C, a native of Stuart, Fla., and **2nd Lt. Maurice Bellinger** (right), a Columbia, S.C., native, tour a Joint Repair Parts Command warehouse with Iraqi Army **Col. Ibrahim Latif**, contracting officer for the JRPC, at Camp Taji. Tremblay and Bellinger advise Latif and other IA officers to help improve the effectiveness of the IA maintenance spare parts supply system. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Mary S. Katzenberger)



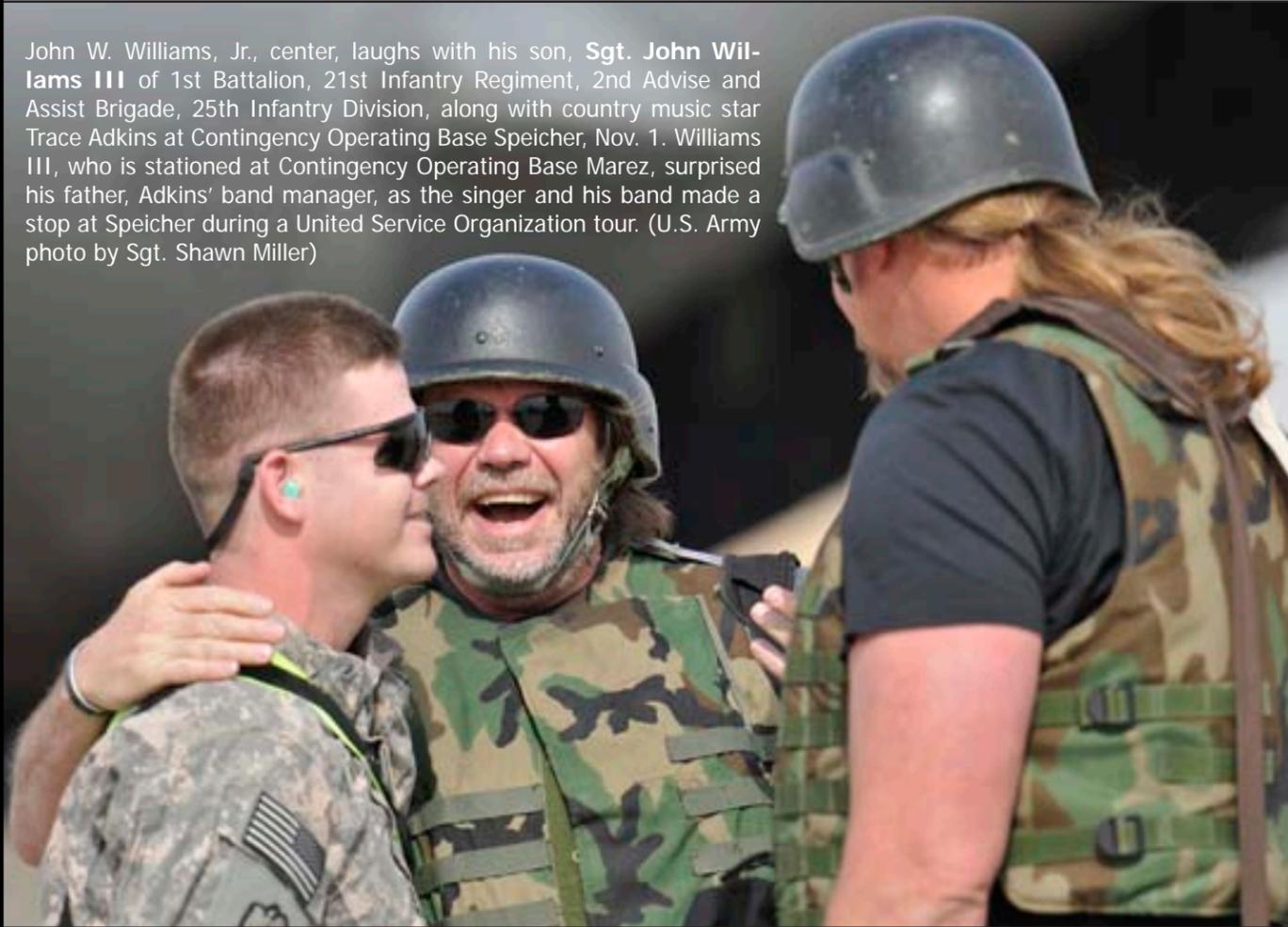
Right: **Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr.**, the senior enlisted advisor to the United States Forces - Iraq deputy commanding general for operations, and III Corps command sergeant major, gives a short brief the seven candidates of the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club board. Coleman was the president of the board at Al Faw Palace, on Camp Victory, Nov. 15. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joseph Vine)



Below: **Spc. Brandon Pate**, with the General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division - Center, shows Iraqi Army Soldiers with the 7th IA Div., the correct way to fasten a seatbelt on a UH-6 Black Hawk helicopter, Nov. 11, during an air assault operations class at Camp Mejid, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas)



John W. Williams, Jr., center, laughs with his son, **Sgt. John Williams III** of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, along with country music star Trace Adkins at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Nov. 1. Williams III, who is stationed at Contingency Operating Base Marez, surprised his father, Adkins' band manager, as the singer and his band made a stop at Speicher during a United Service Organization tour. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller)



Lindsay Dennis, of the Purrfect Angelz, serenades **Pfc. Adan Orozco**, a petroleum supply specialist with Company F, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, USD-C, and an Orlando, Fla., native, Nov. 20, during a Purrfect Angelz show at Camp Liberty, Iraq. This tour marks the 9th time this dance group has visited Iraq since 2005. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Daniel Eddy)



Below: **U.S. Army Lt. Col. Andrew Preston**, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, bids farewell to Iraqi Security Forces officers following a Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 25, at the Samarra Joint Coordination Center in Samarra, Iraq. U.S. Army leaders at the small outpost invited their Iraqi counterparts and local Sheiks to take part in the festivities and to introduce them to the American holiday in the spirit of partnership. The 2nd Bn., 11th FA Regt. is part of the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division currently serving in USD-N in support of Operation New Dawn. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller)



**Sembwa Robinson**, an employee of Special Operations Consultant and Ugandan native, runs in the Native American Heritage Month 7K run, Nov. 15, at Camp Liberty, Iraq. Robinson won first place with a run time of 22 minutes and 44 seconds. The event was organized by the USD-C Equal Opportunity Office. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kim Wilkins)





**Spc. Jon Wedeking**, a lab technician with Company C, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, USD-C, shows **Lt. Ammar Zaki Duhan**, brigade surgeon with 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, how to use blood processing equipment, Nov. 1, during Duhan's visit to the Combat Support Hospital at Camp Ramadi, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gary Silverman)



**Air Force Master Sgt. David Smith**, an air advisor to the medical community at New Al Muthana Air Base, speaks to a group of enlisted Iraqi Airmen during a noncommissioned officer professional development class. The class is part of a course on professional development, similar to what U.S. Airmen study. After this initial class, the plan is to continue working with the Iraqi Air Force and assist them in developing their own enlisted professional development curriculum. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Edwards)



**Re-enlisting members of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment** raise their hands to recite the Oath of Enlistment administered by Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, USD-S commander on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, Nov. 11. A mass re-enlistment ceremony that spanned all three of the regiment's bases was conducted to celebrate Veterans Day. (US Army photo by Pfc. Adam Hefner)



**Pfc. Celesia Barnet**, a medic with Company C, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, examines an Iraqi boy, Nov. 13, during a combined medical engagement with Iraqi Security Forces in Alhamza, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gary Silverman)

# RIVERINE MISSION IN IRAQ COMES TO AN END

Story by Sgt. Cody Harding  
USD-S Public Affairs

**BASRA, Iraq** – In 2005, Adm. Michael Mullen, then Chief of Naval Operations, challenged the Navy to become more involved in the battle in Iraq. He said the Navy should take the fight from the carriers and battleships at sea to the waterways and ports inland to support the fight.

Less than a year later, Riverine Squadron One was formed and deployed to patrol the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Iraq. Their mission, which included smuggling interdiction, counterinsurgency and the defense of trade routes, hearkened back to their missions in Vietnam, the last major conflict the Riverines took part in before they were disbanded.

So it was fitting that Riverine Squadron One was bidding farewell to Iraq during a ceremony in front of the unit's Basra headquarters, Oct. 30. The ceremony marked the end of more than four years of service in Iraq as the unit returns to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, Va.

Brigadier Gen. Ricky Gibbs, the 1st Infantry Division deputy commanding general for maneuver for the 1st Inf. Div. and United States Division – South, was invited as a guest speaker for the ceremony. Navy Capt. Vincent Martinez, commander of Task Force 56, the Riverines' parent unit, was also in attendance.

In his speech, Gibbs spoke about some of the criticism the Riverine squadron faced from the Navy and Marine Corps at the beginning about their effectiveness.

"The Riverine forces proved their skeptics wrong," Gibbs said. "By the end of their nine-month maiden deployment, they had captured more than 100

insurgents, discovered over 75 significant caches, and provided strong combat support from the water for marine operations."

During the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Operation New Dawn, the Riverines trained the Iraqi Security Forces to take their place in protecting the waterways of Iraq. The unit was tasked to train the Iraqi Coastal Border Guard, which led to them training 11 different units from several service branches.

Navy Cmdr. Craig Hill, commander of Riverine Squadron One, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Bruce Diette, an intelligence operations chief in the squadron, cased the colors in front of their sailors, marking the end of their mission in Iraq.

Diette said the Iraqi Security Forces trained by the Riverines are ready to take on the mission of defending their country.

"The mission was very successful," said Diette, a Kiln, Miss., native. "We accomplished all of the tasks on time, and all the Iraqis that we have trained are ready to stand up and take that mission and support their goal."

Hill said the mission, though successful, had unique challenges from dealing with the language barrier to the level of water in the rivers during the summer.

"But they worked together and they overcame those challenges," said Hill, a Bowie, Md., native.

I'm watching Sailors who came out of the fleet, used to the grey hull, going out and succeeding at what some would consider the job of a ground-pounder," Hill said. "It's very, very rewarding."



**Capt. Vincent Martinez**, commodore, Expeditionary Combat Forces and commander, Task Force 56, departs following Riverine Squadron One's end-of-mission ceremony, Oct. 30, in Basrah. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Elisandro Diaz)



## BEHIND THE WHEEL: SOLDIERS TEACH IRAQI POLICE DEFENSIVE DRIVING SKILLS

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Tanya Thomas  
USD-C Public Affairs



**Sgt. Chris Roman** (in driver's seat), with the 442nd Military Police Company, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, USD-C, teaches Iraqi Police defensive driving techniques, Oct. 30, in Anbar province.



**Staff Sgt. Brendan Carey**, with the 442nd MP Co., 4th AAB, 3rd Inf. Div., advises an IP officer on evasive driving tactics during the class in Anbar province.

**AL ANBAR PROVINCE, Iraq** – As the role of U.S. forces in Iraq has shifted gears under Operation New Dawn, so has the job of some military police Soldiers serving in Anbar province. For two MPs, a day on the job now includes teaching lifesaving skills to their Iraqi counterparts. Staff Sgt. Brendan Carey and Sgt. Chris Roman, both with the 442nd Military Police Company, 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, taught a defensive driving tactics class Oct. 30 to about 25 Iraqi Police officers.

The IP officers practiced weaving in

and out of cones and practiced basic techniques to escape an attack.

"A lot of these guys are (personnel security detachment) drivers and need to know basic maneuvers in case they get ambushed," Carey said. "If they come upon a threat, they need to know how to clear the area quick."

Carey said the exercise gave the Iraqi Police the opportunity to practice and learn from mistakes made during training, so they won't make the same mistakes on the road.

"We explained to them what went wrong, and now they understand it better," he said. "Overall they did very well."

# USACE oversees construction of first M1A1 fielding site in Iraq

Story by LaDonna Davis  
Photos by Mo Maarooof  
GRD Public Affairs

**BESMAYA, Iraq** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region District is overseeing the construction of Iraq's first M1A1 Abrams main battle tank fielding, training facilities, and life support area at the Besmaya Range Complex, located south of Baghdad.

U.S. Forces-Iraq previously used this complex to train the Iraqi military in combat operations before it was turned back over earlier this year.

The construction of an M1A1 fielding site is so novel to Iraq that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense has

been looking at the corps' design and construction methods to use as a template for the construction of future fielding sites in Iraq.

The current facility is comprised of two separate buildings, one for storage and the other for fielding, and is being built to maintain M1A1 tanks purchased by the Government of Iraq from the U.S. as part of the Foreign Military Sales program. The FMS program is the government-to-government method for selling U.S. defense equipment, services and training.

The \$12.6 million contract to

build the structures will include force protection improvements, guard shacks, ready rooms and towers, a headquarters building, motor pool, workshops, training buildings, warehouse, vehicle storage and maintenance bay and an M88 recovery vehicle storage and maintenance bay.

The Besmaya Rage Complex is part of the Iraqi Army Combat Training Center. According to Maj. Leslie Templin, a base support engineer with the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission, the facilities at the CTC are designed to provide a modern

M1A1 battalion motor pool with an instructional storage and headquarters building.

"This facility provides a practical example of a functional motor pool or battalion location," said Templin. Although designed to house the M1A1 tank, the facility can be used for a number of other vehicle types both wheeled and tracked, Templin says.

According to ITAM, the GoI has purchased 140 M1A1 tanks and eight M88 Heavy Tracked Recovery Vehicles. Also purchased were contractor logistic support, special M1A1 tools and equipment and training as part of a complete tank package.

In addition to the tank fielding site, GRD is also building a life support area on Besmaya. The LSA is the backbone of the site for the Iraqi Soldiers training there, providing modern living quarters while they train on the range.

The \$7 million LSA compound will include a headquarters building, classrooms, office quarters, non-commissioned officer quarters, three enlisted barracks, three enlisted ablution units, power generators and sewer and water infrastructure.

"The contractor is making really good progress on both sites and is delivering quality construction," said Maj. James Krueger, GRD East

Baghdad Office officer in charge. "Most importantly he has the appropriate workforce to make the site successful."

According to Krueger, what has helped in the construction progress of the fielding site is the use of pre-engineered building, or PEB, systems. As the name suggests, these are structures designed and fabricated by a manufacturer, which can efficiently satisfy a wide range of structural and aesthetic design requirements. This makes for fewer placements of concrete pillars and slabs as well as faster assembly.

Work on the M1A1 facilities and LSA is expected to be complete in the summer of 2011.



**Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox** (right), commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, and **Maj. James Krueger** (left), USACE Gulf Region District East, inspect construction progress of the M1A1 training and fielding facilities and life support area facilities located at the Besmaya Range Complex.

# IRAQI KIDS DAY

## *Iraq of tomorrow seen in youthful smiles of today*

Story and photos by  
by Senior Airman Marianne E. Lane  
33rd AEW Public Affairs

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- Getting in touch with their inner children, military members of all ages opened their arms to local youngsters during Iraqi Kids Day, Nov. 6, at Joint Base Balad.

The day of activities focused on fun, health and mentorship. The blending of cultures for the children and the service members resulted in good spirits for all.

"The Iraqi kids really made me feel good. It gave me a the chance to connect with them, which is what I have been missing since I have been here," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Lilly, 332 Air Expeditionary Wing Ground Safety noncommissioned officer in charge of programs. Lilly has three children and has been away from them for two and a half months.

This program is an avenue for local outreach to improve community relations. Participants enjoyed activities such as pingpong, soccer, bean-bag toss, blowing bubbles, arts and crafts, and health and dental education, during the five-hour event.

There were more than 150 base volunteers and more than 130 children in attendance. Everyone involved created memories to last a lifetime, said Capt. Daniel Coleman, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group executive officer and Iraqi Kids Day program coordinator.

"The excitement of the kids was written all over their faces, and just letting kids be kids is very rewarding," said Coleman. "We are trying to provide a safe, structured environment for the kids to interact with U.S. personnel."

Top: **Tech. Sgt. William Wilson**, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron hazardous cargo technician, shows an Iraqi boy a photo on his camera during Iraqi Kids Day, Nov. 6, Joint Base Balad.

Left: **Spc. Natasha Irving**, 289th Quartermaster Company container repair yard administration clerk and an Iraqi girl, blow bubbles with during Iraqi Kids Day at Joint Base Balad.



# IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF SERVICE MEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 AND  
NOVEMBER 30, 2010 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION NEW DAWN

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY  
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

*JOHN 15:13*

**November 19**

***Staff Sgt. Loleni W. Gandy, 36***

**November 21**

***Sgt. David J. Luff Jr., 29***

Honorable Alice Walpole, the British Consul general and head of the British Embassy office in Basra, and Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Jones-Thompson, the United States Division-South liaison officer for the United Kingdom, pay tribute to fallen British service members from World War I at the Ash Shumalia War Memorial, on Armistice Day, Nov. 11. The wall bearing more than 40,500 names was originally located in the Naval Dockyard at Maqil, Shatt-al-Arab, but was relocated brick-by-brick in 1997 to allow for the development of the dockyard. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla)

