



# THE ADVISOR

The Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq's Official Weekly Command Information Report  
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March 5, 2005

## Rough Riding

When the job is MNSTC-I convoy security, danger is an almost routine part of each day.

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# MNSTC-I

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## NATO Response Force To Transform Alliance, top NATO officer says

By Gerry Gilmore — American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The introduction of NATO's response force in 2006 will transform the alliance and help it to better confront 21st century challenges, the U.S. military's top officer in Europe told a Senate panel March 1 on Capitol Hill.

Deploying NATO forces outside of Europe "is the concept that gets us away from the static" 20th century defensive posture that characterized the alliance since its formation in 1949, U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones explained to members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

NATO was formed to provide a bulwark against potential Soviet aggression against Western Europe. But since the demise of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the emergence of asymmetric threats personified by terrorist attacks on the United States and elsewhere, U.S. leaders have urged NATO to transform and become more flexible and expeditionary.

Current NATO overseas missions in Afghanistan and elsewhere are using traditional alliance assets, said Jones, the supreme allied commander for Europe and commander of U.S. European Command. Today the alliance has 26 members. However, the upcoming response force, Jones noted, specifically being designed to deploy to locales outside of the traditional NATO area of operations.

The response force will be "fully manned and certified to embark upon expeditionary operations – wherever it might be called," he said.

The new NATO expeditionary force requires certain built-in, transformational capabilities, such as an integrated intelligence center, Jones said.

And, "so goes the NATO response force, so goes NATO in terms of transformation," the four-star general asserted.

Senior U.S. government and allied leaders have recently raised the idea that NATO troops might be employed to foster peace in the Middle East, particularly as a buffer between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

"It is a topic that is being discussed," Jones said, although he acknowledged he hadn't yet received any official tasking.

Jones noted that when arrived to assume his duties in Europe in 2003 there was talk about deploying NATO troops to Afghanistan.

The general said he "didn't think anything" of that possibility at the time. Eight months later, he noted, NATO troops were in Afghanistan



**The Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq now has its own landing zone, located adjacent to its headquarters compound at Phoenix Base in Baghdad's International Zone. The new LZ opened in February. At right is the LZ's logo.**

**Cover photo:** From the turret of a Humvee, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Crawford keeps an eye out for possible attacks during a convoy security mission. — Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell



# Iraqi Army, MoD, MNSTC-I program breeds success

By U.S. Army Sgt. Matt Murphy — MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Army, Ministry of Defense, and the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq are enjoying the success of a co-op program for supply and logistics.

The program began in early February 2005 and is already producing results, including the impending creation of several Iraqi Army facilities that will be used to coordinate equipment, procurement, maintenance, storage and accounting for Iraqi forces.

A large distribution center is set to open in north-central Iraq within the next two months, for example.

“MNSTC-I was initially making all the logistical decisions,” says U.S. Army Lt. Col. George Crowell, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense liaison for logistics for MNSTC-I’s J-4 Supply directorate. “Embedding Iraqi officers allowed us to find out their capabilities and knowledge. We are teaching each other and sharing information. We are learning things that are unique to Iraq that can’t be taught without these officers and their skills.”

There are currently eight Iraqi officers working in the co-op program, two general officers who oversee the program, and six experienced logistics, engineers, or maintenance officers who are embedded at MNSTC-I’s Phoenix Base with Coalition Forces. “Before sovereignty in Iraq, we worked only as advisers [for logistics for the Iraqi Army] now we work as equals,” said an Iraqi logistics colonel who works in the co-op at MNSTC-I. “We

share information to make one plan.”

Another Iraqi engineering officer said, “It is a pleasure to work with the Coalition Forces.”

The officers said they are pleased to find so many similarities in their methods and processes, which they said contributes to the success of the program.

Coalition and Iraqi officers are working together to solve problems, manage facilities and equipment, execute procurement and purchasing best practices, and coordinate maintenance functions for Iraqi Army equipment. These tasks are accomplished with military and civilian personnel working together, much like the U.S. armed services.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. George Crowell discusses logistics techniques and training with two Iraqi Army officers as part of the co-op program.  
-Photo By U.S. Army Sgt. Matt Murphy

## Local national dining facility offers cultural foods to soldiers



Chef Abdul Raouf cooks shish kabobs, one of the many foods offered to Iraqi National Guard Soldiers, at the ING dining facility here.  
— Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Abel Trevino

By Pfc. Abel Trevino — 28th Public Affairs Detachment

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, BALAD, Iraq – The taste buds of the Iraqi Army soldiers at LSA Anaconda are appeased by the Iraqi dining facility, which offers culturally diverse food to the troops, trainees and a few American Soldiers able to enter the dining facility.

Before entering the dining facility, several signs are posted warning that Americans are prohibited from eating in the facility except those attached to Task Force Chinook, which limits the client base to less than 1,000 people.

“We serve 800 people from the (Iraqi Army) and about 75 U.S.

Soldiers every day,” said Abdul Kareem, supervisor at the Iraqi dining facility.

There is only a lunch meal served at the dining facility, which has been open since Aug. 22.

The menu offers a variety of the same foods that are enjoyed by the Iraqi Army soldiers when they are at home.

“Lamb chops, chicken, shish kabob, and beef are made every day here,” Kareem said.

Rice, pita bread, lentil soup and baked beans — some of the Iraqi’s favorite foods, Kareem said — are also served daily as

side orders, as well as a variety of fruits, vegetables and desserts.

“Everything is available; there are lots of choices for eating,” said one Iraqi Soldier. Whatever we want, we can find it here.”

Not only are customers appreciative of the regional food that is offered to them at the facility, but some prefer it to their own attempts at cooking.

“The food here is very good, its better here than dinner at home,” said another Iraqi Soldier.

# On the road with MNSTC-I's 'Rough Riders'

**Team of Soldiers, Marines, Airmen  
work together for safer convoy runs**

*Story and photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

BAGHDAD, Iraq – It's his first turn behind the wheel of an up-armored Humvee with the 'Rough Riders' convoy security team and U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. James Schiele has both fists locked firmly on the steering wheel.

From the passenger seat, assistant convoy commander U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Scotty Anderson senses Schiele's apprehension.

"You ever driven a Humvee before?" Anderson quips as the vehicle starts to roll. "You're looking a little tense over there."

Schiele, 22, nods yes to driving experience, but doesn't try to bluff about the butterflies.

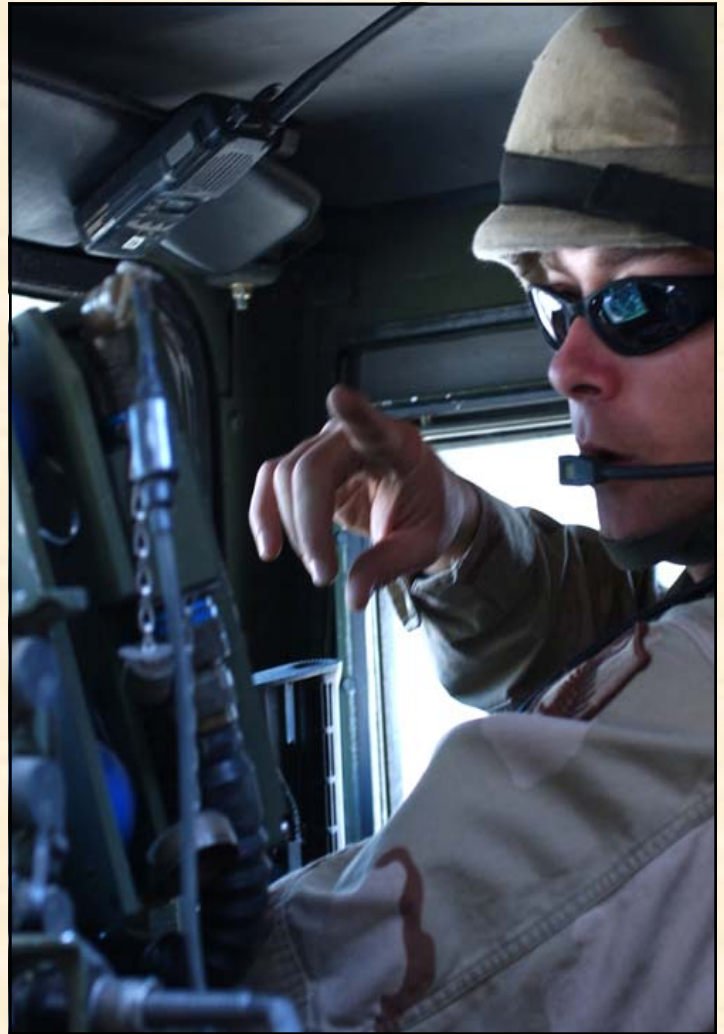
"I'm a little nervous, sergeant," he admits. "I don't want to get anybody killed. I like you guys too much."

In the roughly four months that the current crop of Rough Riders has been on the job, there have been no casualties – but too many close calls to count. An asset of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, they conduct several hundred missions a month, escorting personnel, equipment and assessment teams to and from locations within a 150 to 160 kilometers radius of their headquarters base in Baghdad's International Zone.

The 32-man unit is equally divided into two platoons, each with a variety of ranks. They represent a trio of service branches – the U.S. Army, Air Force and Marine Corps – and a mix of active and reserve-component units. Most are infantry, but there are also combat engineers, medics and a mortar transport Soldier.

U.S. Marine Corps 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nathan McFadden commanded a heavy machine gun platoon for two years before arriving recently to take over as the team's officer in charge. The men have done nothing but impress him.

"I've never seen a unit more proficient in running convoy security than this one," McFadden says. "It's a composite group of volunteers joined together to make it happen, which makes it even more impressive."



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Scotty Anderson offers guidance to his driver, U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. James Schiele during a recent convoy mission through Baghdad.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Reedy Hopkins, a liaison officer between MNSTC-I and the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, has been escorted numerous times by the Rough Riders. He agrees with McFadden.

"They are the consummate professionals," Hopkins says. "I'd trust my life with them any time."

Danger is inherent in each mission, whether it's a 15-minute trip to Baghdad International Airport or two hours to a remote base. Gun fire and improvised explosive devices, commonly known as IEDs, are common. While they normally barrel through attacks, some stop them in their tracks.

The men of the second platoon can rattle off the dates and details of the bigger ambushes like sports statistics. There was the IED that hit U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Crawford's truck on Nov. 10, the Nov. 22 firefight at an Iraqi village and another one four days later in Baghdad. Near the entrance to the International Zone is a patch of black asphalt as big in circumference as a Humvee, a stark contrast to the pale gray highway pavement surrounding it. It's a daily reminder of the vehicle-borne IED that hit the platoon's convoy Nov. 28.

But their worst experience to date is still a raw recollection.

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## Rough Riders From Page 4

The second platoon was escorting a convoy of 21 heavy equipment trucks and one wrecker with the Mannheim, Germany-based 377<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company to Taji Feb. 18 when an IED exploded from a highway median. The third truck took a direct hit and careened off the roadway, lumbering over a series of berms before coming to rest.

At the rear, some two kilometers back, convoy commander U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mick Dustin heard the urgent radio call: "IED IED. HET down!" He immediately radioed back, checking the status of his men, as his driver pulled around the vehicles in front of them to speed to the scene.

Hopping out of the Humvee, Dustin grabbed a combat lifesaver pack and ran to the crippled 18-wheeler, its cab engulfed in flames. Crawford and U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Eric Winfield were giving first aid to two badly injured Soldiers. Anderson, a reservist with the 100<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve Command and a police officer from Berea, Kentucky in his civilian life, set up a security perimeter and assisted Winfield, who was working feverishly to stop the blood gushing from two deep gashes in the leg of one of the injured Soldiers. Winfield pulled off the two T-shirts he was wearing under his desert camouflage uniform jacket to use as pressure dressings until a combat lifesaver pack arrived.

The Soldier started talking about 'Gill' and how he didn't think he made it. Winfield asked him who Gill was. He was driving the HET, the Soldier told him. As word spread and reached Dustin, he grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran to the cab. Through thick, blinding smoke and lapping flames, Dustin reached inside and pulled out U.S. Army Sgt. Carlos Gill.

"When we hit the ground, I knew from his injuries that he was dead," Dustin recalls. "After that, I just tried to keep their guys calm. This was their buddy."

Dustin, Winfield, Hopkins and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Borders carried Gill away from the truck and laid him on the hood of a Humvee, where Hopkins covered his body with a tarp. As the fire started 'cooking' ammunition inside the truck, the men hurriedly moved everyone as far away as possible as the rounds started popping.

Gill, a 30-year-old from Orlando, Fla., was on his third tour in Iraq. Married and the father of a 4-year-old daughter, Gill was a popular jokester who had volunteered to drive that day, his buddies shared with some of the Rough Riders.

As the Humvee carrying Gill slowly rolled



Convoy security Soldiers take a break while waiting for vehicles they will escort to the IZ.

past the convoy, delivering him to another vehicle that would take him back to the unit's forward operating base, one Soldier after another stopped to salute, tears trickling down dirt and smoke-covered cheeks.

"That's when I lost it," says Crawford, a 33-year-old Indiana reservist with a wife and 1-year-old daughter. "Then



Members of the 'Rough Riders' second platoon make their way around traffic as they head for Baghdad International Airport.

again, when I thought about how it would be to have to make that call to his wife."

Crawford, who was pulled out of drill sergeant school for this tour, mans a 50-caliber machine gun from the turret of a Humvee. He spent most of his time that day giving first aid to the second injured Soldier, who suffered serious burns and a severed neck artery. It took three field dressings before the wound started to clog enough to stem the blood flow.

"He kept begging me, 'Please don't let me die here,'" Crawford recounts. "I kept telling him he wasn't going to die, he was going to be fine."

Crawford went to the hospital inside the International Zone the next day, where the Soldiers were taken, to make sure he hadn't lied when he told the Soldier he would be okay. Doctors assured him they were going to make it. Once stable, the Soldiers were evacuated to Germany for more treatment.

The men shrug off any mention of the extraordinary lengths they went to that day to save Soldiers they didn't know. They wore the same uniform; that made them brothers.

"We just did our job," says Winfield, a 38-year-old reservist from La Place, La., with a wife and three kids ranging in ages 10 to 15.

Dustin, 33, has a wife and three boys back home in Mustang, Okla. A member of the 95<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve Command, he came to Iraq intent on not having any regrets when it comes time to head back home.

"When Gill was in that truck, we didn't know if he was dead or alive," Dustin says. "That's why I went in to get him. We just didn't know, and I had to know, for my own conscience. I couldn't just stand there."

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## Rough Riders From Page 5

Dealing with the stress of what they see and experience is something each Rough Rider handles in their own way. Some suck it up and carry on; others find release in talking with others on the team.

“That incident will haunt me forever,” Crawford says in a low voice. “When a guy is screaming in pain, begging for



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Scotty Anderson scans the route as a convoy of second platoon ‘Rough Riders’ escort MNSTC-I personnel to Baghdad International Airport.

his life, and there’s nothing you can do . . . you get this sick feeling in your gut when there is absolutely nothing you can do to ease that pain. I can’t talk about that with anyone else but these guys. They’re the only ones that really understand what that’s like.”

U.S. Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Terry Frazier, a first platoon Rough Rider, was training new recruits through the 95<sup>th</sup> ARC when he volunteered for duty in Iraq. He felt the experiences he lived in Iraq would help him better prepare

Soldiers.

In the five months he’s been here, Frazier, 47, says he’s seen his share of good and bad. What really gets to him is being at different Forward operating bases when bombs go off and seeing children who just keep on playing, seemingly oblivious to the noise and destruction.

“It doesn’t even faze them,” Frazier says, shaking his head. “When I get home, I’m going to tell the kids in my youth group just how blessed they are.”

When the stress gets too intense, Frazier says he finds comfort in the belief that he, and others, really does make a difference here.

On the day Schiele makes his first convoy run in the driver’s seat, there are no emergency stops. The wreckage of a suicide car bomber ties up traffic on one roadway, but the Rough Riders maneuver around it as an up-armored truck with an explosive ordnance detachment works to clear the scene.

Schiele is driving the fourth Humvee in the convoy, bringing up the rear. Anderson, 33, offers calm guidance through headsets the men use to communicate with each other and with Crawford, who stands in the turret scanning for potential danger.

“We’re coming up to an overpass, weave from side to side as you go under it. Don’t jerk it, or you’ll throw Crawford all over the place,” Anderson says, adding that shifting movement makes it more difficult for someone who may be waiting above with a weapon to lock in on them.

When they make their first stop, completing one mission at a warehouse near Baghdad, Schiele, a married active-duty Marine from West Valley, Utah, is calm and his nerves steady. A few hours later, bullets from an AK-47 machine gun whiz by as the convoy heads back to the International Zone, just minutes before they reach an entry check point.

“Shots fired. Shots fired. Vehicle four,” comes across the headset. Crawford ducks slightly, looking for the shooter. Schiele doesn’t flinch as he drives on to the check point.

Pulling into the motor pool, Anderson gives Schiele a short, to-the-point appraisal of his performance.

“You did a helluva job today.”



On a convoy along a main Baghdad route, some of the Soldiers providing convoy security wonder out loud about what this billboard is telling motorists. “Just say no to terrorists,” was the best, most hopeful, guess.

The wording on the sign translates into “The terrorists give bad ideas—like poison—to our children. Do not let terrorists take advantage of your children.”



# 19th Brigade Begins Operations in Wasit Province

By U.S. Army Capt. Peter Molineaux — MNSTC-I CMATT

SOUTHEAST IRAQ – The Iraqi Army's 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 5<sup>th</sup> Division is conducting interdiction operations in Iraq's Wasit Province, in an effort to neutralize insurgent activity through the use of traffic control points, mounted reconnaissance security patrols, and intelligence from local villagers.

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade's first mission as an operational unit and it is expected to continue through early April.

"This operation will increase the security of residents in the villages surrounding (a local Iraqi Army base)," said Iraqi Col. Rahman Jerry Chilab, brigade commander, through an interpreter. "It will also allow our soldiers to further develop their abilities to conduct convoy operations, TCPs (traffic control points) and patrol operations."

The brigade's presence in the area also provides the Iraqi Army an opportunity to build relationships with the local population, Rahman added.

Under the current mission plan, the brigade's area of operation extends from the army base to encompass strategic locations in outlying areas, from bridges on the Tigris River to another Iraqi base.

"All the ASTs here feel a real sense of accomplishment seeing these leaders and soldiers putting the skills they were taught as basic trainees into operation in a combat environment," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Daniel Christian, commanding officer of the Advisor Support Team (AST) assigned to the brigade.

The AST is comprised primarily of Soldiers from the U.S. Army Reserve's 98<sup>th</sup> Division, an "Institutional Training" unit based out of Rochester, N.Y. Many of the ASTs have been with the brigade for about five months. They trained the Iraqi soldiers throughout the eight-week Basic Combat Training course, which finished the first week of February. The 98<sup>th</sup> was mobilized to support the Multi-National Security



A 19th Brigade Iraqi soldier maintains security overwatch at a bridge near an Iraqi army base.

— Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Padilla



An Iraqi soldier stands guard at the entrance to one of the 19th Brigade's traffic control points near an Iraqi army base.

— Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Padilla

Transition Command – Iraq in 2004.

"This mission is a testament to the Iraqis' determination to take their country back," Christian added, noting that the brigade's command staff started planning the operation immediately after returning from the leave that traditionally follows the BCT course.

The presence of the TCPs has already yielded results, brigade officers said. Local Sheiks and civic leaders have stopped by to express their appreciation for the security that the presence of the Iraqi Army provides. Some villagers have approached soldiers with intelligence about suspected insurgent activity in the area. In each case, the Iraqi soldiers took careful notes and passed the information on to their respective chains of command, the officers said.

"We have already seen a positive reaction from this community," Rahman said. "They have seen Iraqi Army soldiers conducting patrols and demonstrating their ability to safeguard these communities."

Rahman added that he is proud of the manner and skill with which his men are conducting operations.



# Phone line, e-mail helps Iraqi citizen report insurgent activity

By U.S. Army Sgt. Lorie Jewell — MNSTC-I Public Affairs

MOSUL, Iraq – Iraqi Special Police Commandoes are tapping technology to give citizens here an avenue for reporting suspected insurgent activity.

A telephone line set up nearly two months ago and a more recently established e-mail address are generating about 35 tips a week, a commando adviser reported. One recent tip, about a Jihad being issued against commandoes and U.S. forces, led to the detainment of the person responsible for the edict.

"The process is working and the people of Mosul are getting tired of the terrorists," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt.

Chris Paschel, an adviser who works with the commandoes.

While most of the tips are coming in through the telephone line, about a dozen have been delivered through e-mail. The success of the elections helped boost the frequency of calls, but the tips started pouring in after commandoes started broadcasting confessions of anti-Iraqi forces on a local television station after the elections, Paschel said.

A Web site is also being developed. Using such technology is a new concept, Paschel said.

"At first, they thought the Internet was a hindrance because it was always going up and down," he said. "But once the tips started pouring in, (one of the interrogators) was very happy to have a way for the public to send them in. It's their job here to rid Mosul of terrorist activity."

Tips can be e-mailed to: [mosulcommando@yahoo.com](mailto:mosulcommando@yahoo.com) or called in to: 07701730863. The information is currently relayed through a local television station, but the commandoes plan to put up billboards advertising the e-mail address and telephone number in the future, Paschel said.

## Some weekend drill expenses now deductible for reservists

Submitted by MNSTC-I SJA

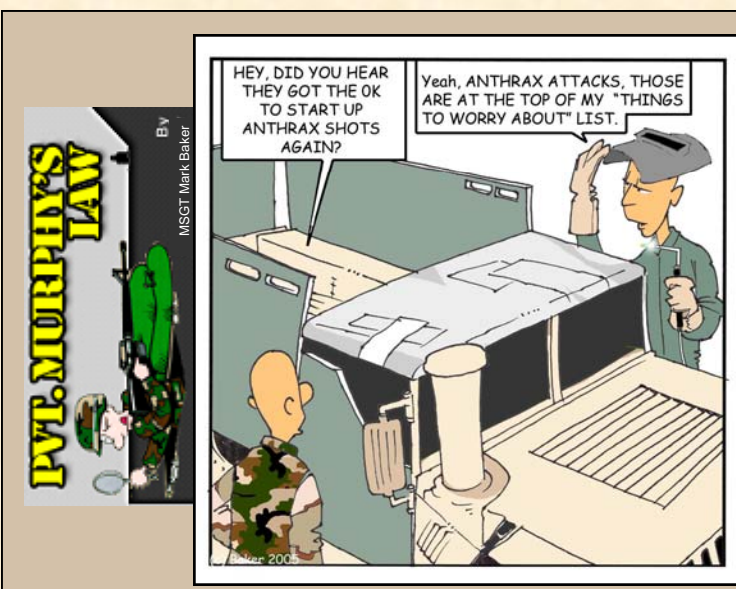
If you are a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States and travel more than 100 miles away from home in connection with your performance of services as a member of the reserve component, you can deduct some travel expenses from your gross income when calculating taxes.

Those travel expenses that may be deducted include mileage at 37.5 cents a mile, parking and toll fees and lodging, meals and incidental expenses up to the federal per diem rate. The federal per diem rate depends on location as listed in IRS Publication 1542.

Alternatively, a portion of your actual expenses may be deducted such as fuel, lease payments, insurance and repairs. These expenses are reduced in proportion to the personal use of your vehicle. Refer to Publication 463 if you suspect deducting actual expenses may result in a greater deduction to gross income.

### Tax Info on Sharepoint

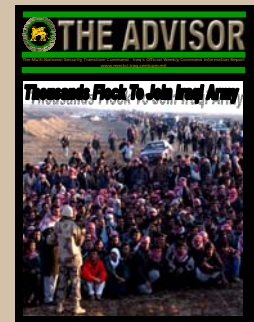
For more guidance on these and other topics see IRS Publication 3, "Armed Forces Tax Guide", which is available at the MNSTC-I Sharepoint folder "Taxes FY2004". Get forms and tax information from the IRS: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).



## The Advisor

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Appropriate submissions include the important developments in your section / unit that would be of interest to our readership, comments on the newsletter, experiences, etc.



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## Commandoes stop bomber and accomplices in two cars

SAMARRA, Iraq – Iraqi police commandoes recently thwarted an insurgent attack involving two vehicles – one loaded to explode – at an entry control point here.

An informant told an Iraqi commando screening team at the control point that two men in a gray Kia sedan were insurgents, prompting commandoes to arrest them. Iraqi authorities determined the men were acting as

## Iraqi Forces Roundup

scouts for the driver of a third vehicle, a dark blue Chevrolet Caprice, who was approaching the control point from a different direction.

Commandoes ordered the Chevy driver out of the vehicle, separating him from a detonator. When the driver

realized what was happening, he jumped back into the car and tried to drive away. He ran the car into a yellow portable vehicle barrier, rocking it over on its side, which authorities believe may have caused the detonation device to misfire.

Inside the driver's side of the car, police found a battery and plunger assembly hooked into wires leading under the dashboard. A blue tank on the floor of the passenger side was filled with a mixture of fuel and explosive material. A similar tank was in the back seat.

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## Iraqi soldiers kill, capture insurgents

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi Army soldiers conducting a recent route reconnaissance mission on a road leading to Baghdad killed eight insurgents and captured 11 after running into an insurgent checkpoint.

The soldiers, members of the 407<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, encountered the enemy near the Wasit Province line. In addition to killing and capturing a number of insurgents, the soldiers also confiscated two of their vehicles. Four Iraqi soldiers were wounded, according to a multinational forces report.

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## Metal detectors assist Iraqi soldiers in village search

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi soldiers armed with metal detectors discovered three weapons caches buried in a village just south of Taji during a recent search that also netted three suspected insurgents – one of whom is on the local most wanted list.

Iraqi Army soldiers with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade – who had never seen

metal detectors before – went through a short training class on how to use them before heading out on the Feb. 26 search, said U.S. Army Maj. Larry Bradley, a senior adviser to the battalion.

“The metal detectors were the key in finding the caches,” Bradley said. “The stuff was buried all over the place.

Those soldiers dug for a good three to four hours.”

Two of the caches were of medium size and included AK-47 machine guns, an MP 5 machine gun with 12 magazines and materials for making improvised explosive devices. The third and largest cache included 42 mortars and five 127 mm rockets, according to the senior adviser.

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## Patrol leads to large cache

MOSUL, Iraq – Iraqi Army soldiers on a combat patrol in Quayyarah West discovered a large bounty of weapons and ammunition March 1, according to a multinational forces report.

The soldiers of the 107<sup>th</sup> Battalion confiscated 170 82mm mortar rounds and a large amount of heavy machine gun ammunition. No further information was available on the location of the cache or the disposition of the munitions.

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## Iraqi police kill one suspected kidnapper, arrest three others; child reunites with mom

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Iraqi police officers returned a 7-year-old boy to his mother recently shortly after he was abducted at gunpoint from the woman's car while she was dropping him off at school, according to a multinational forces report.

The woman drove to the Al Ademiyah Police Station in Baghdad to report the abduction, which was immediately relayed by radio to

officers on patrol. The police officers located the suspect's vehicle and as they approached it, the suspects began firing at them. Officers returned fire, killing one and injuring another. The injured suspect escaped, but a third suspect in the vehicle was arrested.

The child, who was not injured, was returned to his mother.

In another incident, four men in a vehicle tried to kidnap a 16-year-old girl while she was walking with her brother. Area residents fought off the suspects, who fled the area in their car. Iraqi police officers later found the car and its occupants, who fired at them. The officers returned fire and were able to capture two of the suspects. No injuries were reported.

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## **Security Forces capture 23 suspected insurgents**

MOSUL, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces detained 23 people suspected of insurgent activity during operations in northern Iraq Feb. 27.

Troops of the 102nd Iraqi Army detained 15 individuals suspected of insurgent activity during cordon and search operations outside of Al Hawd.

Iraqi Police detained three individuals following an explo-

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## **Iraqi's Graduate 72 from Emergency Response Unit Training course**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Police graduated 72 police officers from the Emergency Response Unit course March 3. The officers completed an intensive 4-week basic ERU program of instruction with a strong focus on weapons training and handling, defensive tactics and physical fitness. The course includes instruction on human relations and police organizations.

The ERU provides a national level, high-end, rapid response law enforcement tactical unit responsible for high-risk arrest, hostage rescue and explosive ordnance disposal. With three companies currently operational, ERU has conducted a number of successful missions on national level anti-Iraqi force targets, provided support to other Iraqi Ministry of Interior forces, participated in combat operations in Fallujah and ongoing counterinsurgency operations.

The graduating officers will be integrated into the ERU's operational companies. They will join 344 prior ERU graduates who will attend ERU Advanced training in the coming months.

## **Iraqi Police Graduate 292 from advanced training courses**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 292 police officers from advanced and specialty courses at the Adnan Training Facility, March 3, as part of the Iraqi government's ongoing effort to train its security forces.

The courses consist of Kidnapping Investigations with 27 graduates, Basic Criminal Investigations with 63 graduates, Interview & Interrogations with 41 graduates, Organized Crime Investigations with 58 graduates, Incident Command System with 32 graduates, Internal Controls with 44 graduates, and Executive Leadership with 27 graduates.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either an 8-week basic training course for new recruits or a 3-week 'transitional integration program' course designed for prior-service officers.

# **Iraqi Forces Roundup**

sion that killed five Iraqi Police officers and injured three Iraqi citizens in Hamam Al Alil. One of the individuals is suspected of being involved in the attack.

Iraqi Intervention Forces and Multi-National Forces detained three individuals suspected of insurgent activity during a cordon and search operation in central Mosul.

Troops of the 101st and 104th Iraqi Army detained two individuals suspected of insurgent activity during a cordon and search operation in central Mosul.

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## **Iraqi soldiers capture van loaded with explosives, rigged to blow**

MOSUL, Iraq – A group of Iraqi Intervention Force soldiers discovered a van rigged with a number of high-powered explosives after surrounding and clearing a building.

The soldiers were on a vehicle patrol Feb. 23 when they were attacked by small arms fire coming from the building, according to a report by their coalition adviser support team. Three people seen running from the building escaped, but the soldiers from the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade took possession of the van and a large cache of munitions they discovered inside the building.

The van was wired to detonate with 10 155mm and six 130 mm artillery rounds, and a 50 pound homemade shape charge, the report said. Inside the building, soldiers discovered 65 130mm to 155 mm rounds, four ammonium nitrate shaped charges, 200 pounds of ammonium nitrate, 1,000 feet of detonation cord and more than 100 blasting caps.

## **Iraqi Police graduate 27 SWAT officers from weapons course**

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The Iraqi Police graduated 27 officers from the Special Weapons and Tactics training course March 3. The officers completed a specialized four-week training curriculum that places a heavy emphasis on weapons training and includes training in dynamic entries, mechanical breaching, diversionary devices, sniper training, intelligence and surveillance, offensive driving skills, and human relations and police conduct.

The Provincial SWAT teams provide a provincial-level, high end, rapid response, tactical unit responsible for high-risk arrest and hostage rescue. They provide special weapons and tactics capability to the provincial or city police commander. To date, 156 officers have previously completed the course and are operating as SWAT teams in various areas throughout Iraq.



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# Wolfowitz explains why Army needs are emergency

*By Jim Garamone — American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Putting Army restructuring in the emergency supplemental request for fiscal 2005, makes perfect sense, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told the Senate Budget Committee March 1.

The Bush administration has come under fire for including the \$5 billion request in the \$75 billion supplemental request. Many elected representatives believe the funds should be part of the president's fiscal 2006 defense budget request.

Wolfowitz told the senators that beginning in fiscal 2007, DoD will place restructuring in the budget request. But it was important to begin the process as soon as possible.

"When it comes to restructuring ground forces, the department has made a major commitment to restructuring the U.S. Army, adding \$35 billion over the seven years of the FY 2005 to 2011 future years defense plan, on top of \$13 billion that was already in the Army baseline budget," he said.

The restructuring plan will increase the number of Army brigades and convert them into independent brigade combat teams that can conduct operations on their own. The Army will add personnel and equipment to the new brigade combat teams and take assets now at the division level and place them in the units. The Army calls the

new units "modules" and the process "modularity."

The Army effort is a fundamental transformation in the way it organizes and thinks about deploying forces. The changes will mean vast differences in the strain placed on the troops and their families through deployments. The plan will add more deployable units to the Army. On the active side, the number will go from 33 to 43 and in the reserves from 15 to 34. "The most significant consequence of these two expansions is that for any required level of overseas force deployment, active brigades will deploy less often and reserve maneuver brigades will be mobilized much less frequently," Wolfowitz said.

The 3rd Infantry Division – the division that took Baghdad during Operation Iraqi Freedom – has gone through the process and is deployed back in Iraq. He used that unit as an example of why DoD is asking for funds from supplemental requests rather than budgeting them. "As the 3rd Infantry Division redeployed from Iraq some 15 months ago, we simultaneously reset it from the wear and tear of combat, and transformed it from three brigades to four," he said.

It was only after the war – and the lessons learned from it – that the proposal came out. It was not planned by the military. If it were part of the fiscal 2006 defense budget request, the proposal could not start until at least Oct. 1, 2006. The Pentagon would lose a good bit of time and place unnecessary strain on servicemembers and their families.

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## New Program Offers Subsidized Child Care to Guard, Reserve

*By Samantha L. Quigley — American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department has joined forces with national agencies to help Guard and Reserve families in finding and affording child care while Mom or Dad is deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

"Child care, as you know, is one of the top (concerns) voiced by families as well as by commands on what's needed," said Jan Witte, director of the Pentagon's Office of Children and Youth. Her office monitors the new program, dubbed Operation Military Child Care.

DoD, in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which administers the program, designed this initiative to benefit those who do not live near military installations, Witte said.

"We have a contract with NACCRRRA to assist us in finding spaces outside the military community for those Guard and Reserve (members) who are deployed and active duty (people) who are not near a military installation,"

Witte said. "We also hope to assist in reducing the out-of-pocket expense to the servicemember."

When a parent is deployed, she said, the remaining parent may discover that child care is something the couple hadn't had to think of before. And need is not the only consideration. The extra expense can be shocking.

While OMCC doesn't fully subsidize child care, it does work to reduce the financial burden, Witte said. The fees are based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration total family income and the care provider's actual cost, among other things.

To take part in the program, a family member would apply through NACCRRRA via a special Web site or by a toll-free call to (800) 424-2246. The child-care provider also must apply -- an important step because of how the subsidy, which comes through the Children and Youth office, is paid out, Witte noted.