

The Advisor



Elevating Situational Awareness



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Some faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.

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ON THE COVER

Commander of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command Lt. Gen. Abdul Qadir speaks at the new Joint Operations Center May 3 in Baghdad.

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown

Adjusting relationships key in today's world, Rumsfeld says

By John D. Banusiewicz

American Forces Press Service

ATLANTA— Just as the United States is transforming its military to adapt to today's world, the nation must be willing to change old relationships and form new ones, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in a speech given at the Southern Center for International Studies May 4.

Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Rumsfeld said, "the United States has done more things, with more different nations, in more constructive ways, and in more parts of the world than in any other time in our country's history."

He noted that the United States fashioned and leads an 80-nation coalition in the global war on terror and that some 60 nations are cooperating in the Proliferation Security Initiative to prevent terrorists and outlaw regimes from getting dangerous weapons and materials. Along with Japan and Australia, the United States is working on a regional missile defense system to prevent free nations from being intimidated by rogue states, he added.

"In these efforts, we have pursued flexible arrangements with countries in ways markedly different from past practices, based on what is most appropriate for them, given each of their unique circumstances," Rumsfeld said.

The U.S. military has evolved from one that has focused almost solely on its own military efforts to an emphasis on helping partners and allies to strengthen their capacities, the secretary said. This, he added, has prompted nontraditional missions in nontraditional places such as the Horn of Africa, for example.

"A joint task force we have that's headquartered in Djibouti conducts civil affairs, training and security operations with Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda and Yemen," Rumsfeld said. "The weapons in this unconventional conflict are really schools, clinics and shovels. As one serviceman put it, 'We're fighting a war down



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld speaks to military leaders during a recent visit to Iraq.

there, and haven't fired a shot."

New security challenges have prompted NATO and other traditional military alliances to rethink their roles and structures, Rumsfeld said.

Noting that NATO is standing up a new response force and that its mission in Afghanistan has the alliance operating outside its borders for the first time, Rumsfeld said NATO's transformation is especially urgent.

Updating arrangements with traditional allies has allowed the United States to change the footprint of its military forces worldwide, the secretary said. The United States still had heavy Army divisions garrisoned in Europe a decade after the Soviet Union collapsed. South Korea is no longer the devastated, impoverished nation it was at the end of the Korean War. And an agreement signed last week calls for the most significant realignment of U.S. forces in Japan since World War II, he said.

In these early years of the war on terror, Rumsfeld told the audience, it's time to consider what the nation needs.

Rumsfeld proposed revitalizing the nation's information programs and focusing them toward regions of the world that are not

See Rumsfeld Pg. 6

Iraqi Army opens new Joint Operations Center

By U.S. Army
Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi Ground Forces Command – the operational fighting headquarters for the Iraqi Army – cut the ribbon to a state-of-the-art Joint Operations Center May 3 at Camp Victory.

The center will allow the IGFC to exercise command and control of all assigned Iraqi Army forces, and upon assuming complete operational control, to plan and direct operations to defeat the insurgency.

The joint ceremony was attended by both Iraqi and Coalition senior Army leaders including: Iraqi Joint Forces Commanding General, Gen. Babakir Zibari; IGFC Commander, Lt. Gen. Abdul Qadir; Iraqi Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the Joint Headquarters, Lt. Gen. Abadi; Commanding General of the Multi-National Force - Iraq, Gen. George Casey; Multi-National Corps - Iraq Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli; and MNSTC-I Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey.

While speaking to reporters outside the building that now houses the JOC, Qadir noted that support from the Coalition is still needed and that difficult training lies ahead for the Iraqi Army. But, he said, the Iraqi Ground Forces Command has a solid plan in place for the continued equipping and training of his soldiers. He marked the



Members of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command present a general staff briefing inside their new Joint Operations Center May 3 in Baghdad.



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown

Senior Iraqi and Coalition leaders salute during the Iraqi National Anthem at the opening ceremony of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command's new Joint Operations Center May 3. The group is anchored on the right by Iraqi Joint Forces Commanding General and Chief of Staff Gen. Babakir Zibari, and on the left by IGFC Commander Lt. Gen. Abdul Qadir.

opening of the Joint Operations Center as another step in the ongoing efforts.

“We have a plan for good training,” he said through an interpreter. “And we now have a headquarters (JOC) like all the great armies around the world.”

Chiarelli, who spoke to the combined Iraqi-Coalition crowd during the opening ceremony, quoted Sun Tzu from “The Art of War,” and said, “Management of many is the same as management of few. It is a matter of organization.” He pointed to the Iraqi Army leaders in attendance and said, “(The JOC) is an instrument that will greatly enhance operations, but it’s just a tool. It’s the leadership,” he continued, “and the courage of the men here that will bring safety and prosperity to Iraq.”

Following opening remarks by Qadir and Chiarelli, everyone in attendance, including local and national media, were taken inside to see first-hand how a Joint Operations Center is organized, structured and functions. All general staffs of the IGFC gave briefs on their specific areas, covering everything from battle space weather forecasts to a regional situation update on terrorist

attacks and expected future terrorist operations.

Chiarelli calls the JOC, the staff’s battleground. “I have no doubt it will be put to great use over the coming years by the leaders of IFGC,” he said.

Qadir said he was proud to show the Iraqi people the abilities their army is developing.

He urged more citizens to enlist and said, “The Iraqi Army is for all Iraqi people ... Kurds, Arabs ... this is the army that will defend our country.”



Iraqi Army Gen. Babakir Zibari (foreground) and several Iraqi and Coalition leaders get a tour of the new state-of-the-art Joint Operations Center at Camp Victory May 3.

Created equal, women rising in power in Iraq

By U. S. Navy
Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

IRBIL, Iraq — Women's rights might not be the first thing one thinks of when someone mentions the word Iraq, however, officials in the Kurdish provinces in northern Iraq would like it to be.

According to Arbil Minister of Interior Karim Sinjari, equality is very important for the residents of the Kurdish provinces.

"We are working very hard to be progressive and set the standard for human rights in Iraq," he said. "Too many Iraqis keep looking back when we need to look forward."

According to Sinjari, changing the country's view of women is an important step to separate themselves from the ways of the past and the old way of thinking.

All over the city and countryside there are signs that read "Equality is a base for civil society" and "Equality is a principle that breeds humanity."

Although women throughout Iraq have been given the right to vote and are accepted in the army and police academies, the city of Irbil was the first city to allow women in positions of power over males.

Iraqi Police Lt. Narseed, one of the first female officers in the city, works at the Khabat station in Irbil. She said she wanted to be a police officer at a very young age but thought that the career field would not be open within her lifetime.

She said that all changed when the Coalition removed Saddam from power. She said she had already graduated college and was becoming a lawyer when she made the decision to become a police officer.

"I was planning on being a lawyer, I spent four years in law school and had just graduated," she said through an interpreter, "but when I heard that the doors had opened for women to become officers, I jumped at the chance and then went to the police academy."

She said that she has no issue with men following orders or accepting her as an authoritative figure. She said to help eliminate the barrier between men and women,



Photo by U. S. Navy Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone

Iraqi Police Lt. Col. Aswar talks about police strategy with Iraqi Police Lt. Narseed and U.S. Army Col. Donald Currier, the police transition team task force commander, at Khabat station in Irbil, April 26.

they have take women who are about to graduate from the police academy and have them teach classes to male cadets who are in their first year of the academy.

"Here, there is no difference between male officers and female officers. If I tell the men to do something, they do it. There is no hesitation on their part."

She said that her years of law school have helped her tremendously over the past eight months that she has been on the force.

"Being a lawyer has helped me with the investigative side of police work. I know what a judge or an attorney is going to be looking for. This gives me a slight edge over some of the others on the force," Narseed said.

According to Iraqi Police Lt. Col. Aswar, the Khabat station commander, he is very happy to have Narseed on the force. He said that her skills as an investigator have been an example to others.

"Her police skills are very impressive. We find that she is much better at interrogation than most of her male counterparts, especially when it comes to interrogating women. She quickly identifies the hot buttons and knows how to get the right

information," Aswar said.

According to Aswar, when Saddam was in power, he tried to brainwash the females in the country into believing that they could not do the same things as men, but his beliefs were never really accepted in the Kurdish provinces.

"We knew that like so many successful and stable nations around the world, our views on women had to change," he said. "We consider ourselves more modern and progressive compared to a lot of other cities in the Middle East."

Another woman setting the bar higher is Iraqi Police officer 2nd Lt. Lana Abdulwahad at the Traffic Police Academy in Irbil.

In addition to her duties as a traffic officer, Abdulwahad is an instructor at the academy and helps translate Kurdish and English for her students and other instructors. Like Narseed she has a four-year college degree and a degree from the Irbil Police Academy.

She said it is important for society to see women and men working together.

See women Pg. 6

Men brave danger in Fallujah to join police force

By U.S. Marine

1st Lt. Nathan Braden

Regimental Combat Team - 5 PAO

FALLUJAH, Iraq — More than 300 men stepped forward to be Iraqi Police recruits during a three-day recruiting drive that began May 2, despite a suicide bomber attack and the threat of additional violence.

The goal of the recruiting drive was to sign-up 300 Iraqi Police recruits, however, the drive ended May 4 with 348 men accepted out of 402 screened applicants.

“Our first mission was to ensure we got 300 successful applicants from the drive,” said Staff Sgt. Lamont L. Hall, operations chief for the Police Transition Team assigned to the Fallujah Police District.

“The second mission was to ensure the IPs had a clear understanding of how to run a recruiting drive safely because we might not be here next time,” added Hall.

The recruiting effort gained international attention Wednesday when a suicide bomber detonated explosives concealed on his person at a screening checkpoint. The bomber was standing with a crowd of potential recruits when the explosion occurred. At least seven civilians were killed and 11 were wounded during the attack. One Iraqi Police officer was also injured.

The recruiting process reopened approximately one hour after the attack, accepting additional recruits who volunteered despite the obvious danger.

“The fact that an overwhelming number of recruits arrived immediately after the attack signifies the local rejection of the intimidation and terrorism,” said U.S. Marine Col. Larry D. Nicholson, commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team 5.

Applicants continued to come in from across Fallujah and outlying cities for the next two days. Some were applicants who were injured by the bomb attack.

“We had a guy come in with burns on his face and others with bandages on their arms. That’s how bad they want to be cops,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kevin A. Foxworth, a military policeman from the 300th Military Police Company assigned to assist the Fallujah Police Department in the



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Foxworth

U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Lamont L. Hall (center), operations chief for the Police Transition Team assigned to the Fallujah Police District coordinates with Fallujah police officers through an interpreter while police applicants gather outside a security checkpoint in downtown Fallujah May 3.

recruiting effort. “They really want to make their city better.”

During the three-day drive, the highest number of applicants came in the day of the attack, topping out at 153 recruits. On the first day, 188 were accepted and 77 on the third day.

The minimum requirements for a recruit to be accepted are to pass a physical fitness test, be between the ages of 18-35 and be literate. A background check and a medical exam are also part of the screening process.

“To have control, the city needs a good police force,” said Foxworth. “Police officers need the ability to take charge and make decisions.”

“They need honesty and integrity. Having pride and wanting to do a good job makes a good cop, either Iraqi or American,” Foxworth added.

The reasons varied from applicant to applicant for wanting to join. Some were just in search for a job. Others were there for a less tangible purpose.

“I talked with several of them with my interpreter and I could tell they were there for the right reasons, not just to collect a paycheck,” Markowycz added. “They had the right attitude. They’re sick

and tired of the violence ... they’re not scared anymore and they want to make their country a better place.”

According to Hall, many of the applicants were carrying on a family tradition by joining the police force, not too dissimilar to family traditions in police forces in the U.S.

“A lot of the recruits were family members of IPs,” Hall said. “I had IPs pointing to an applicant and saying ‘my cousin’ or ‘my bother.’”

Foxworth said he believes the overall capabilities of the police in the area are progressing as well.

“They have the knowledge to run an effective police station, they know how to do community service, do a thorough patrol and conduct investigations,” Foxworth said. “It’s just a matter of going out and doing it.”

The recruits will travel to Jordan later this month to undergo eight weeks of training where they will learn basic law enforcement procedures and weapons handling.

After successfully graduating from the Jordan International Police Training Center, the new police officers will wait until they receive acceptance letters from the Ministry of Interior to be assigned to a police station.

Female officers take the lead in northern Iraq

From women, Page 4



Photo by U.S. Navy
Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone

Iraqi Police Lt. Narseed taken in front of the Khabat Police Station in Irbil April 26. Narseed is one of the first female officers in the region

“We are equals, so we must work together,” she said. “No longer are there barriers for women.”

She said there is equal opportunity for women for promotions. According to Abdulwahad, a woman or man can be promoted in four years of duty as long as in the four years he or she passes an exam for promotion. She said this was not the case until a few short years ago.

“At first, during the (Saddam) regime, the public and government did not agree with women in the work force,” she said. “Now they encourage woman to take a stand and work.”

Both Narseed and Abdulwahad agree that the opportunities they enjoy are because of the Kurdish provincial commitment to growth and the level of

security found in Irbil. They also agree that they are important role models for Iraqi girls.

Narseed said the girls of Iraq need to see more strong women come to the forefront. They need to know that they are only limited by their imagination.

“We are professional; we deserve to be recognized for what we can contribute and not for our gender,” said Narseed.

“I also tell young women who don’t want to be police officers that there is nothing wrong with being traditional and not having a career, just don’t discourage those that want something different,” she said. “Support those of us who want to walk a different path. We are all Iraqis – Sunni, Shiite, Kurd — male and female. We need to come together instead of pulling apart.”

A long war against extremism, and terrorism

From Rumsfeld, Page 2

free as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has proposed doing with respect to the people of Iran. He suggested that a “21st century USIA” might be a good idea.

The U.S. Information Agency was created in the early 1950s to inform and influence foreign publics in promoting U.S. national interests and to stimulate dialogue between U.S. educational institutions and their counterparts in other nations. Congress abolished the USIA in 1999.

In addition, Rumsfeld said, it’s time to take a hard look at existing security arrangements and institutions “and examine whether they are sufficiently effective and agile to operate in a world of hostage takers, suicide bombers and terrorists.”

While today’s focus is on Iraq and Afghanistan, the secretary said, no one knows where it will be in decades to come. “And much of what we may be called upon to do in the future will likely be determined by the choices being made by others,” he said.

U.S. decisions also will determine the

country’s future, Rumsfeld said. He recalled that public sentiment in the early 1970s resulted in legislation before Congress that would have pulled U.S. troops out of Europe and NATO, just as the Soviet Union was in the midst of a huge military buildup.

“We had people who were suggesting that we should toss in the towel, that we couldn’t win the Cold War,” Rumsfeld said. “Fortunately, political leadership in this country of successive administrations of both political parties, political leadership in other countries and the people who supported them – people who elected them and put them in office – stood fast and were purposeful, and persevered through very tough times in the Cold War.”

Ultimate success in the Cold War was neither by accident nor by chance, Rumsfeld said.

The secretary said victory in the war against violent extremism can be won over time “if we have the wisdom and the strength to adjust long-standing arrangements, to embrace new partners and, above all, to have the courage to persevere in the face of adversity and difficulty.”

“There’s no question but that our country is currently facing difficulty in Iraq, difficulty in Afghanistan and threats from elsewhere around the world,” he said. But, he said, the battle is really a test of wills.

“The battle seems to be in Iraq or Afghanistan, but it isn’t,” he said. “There’s no way the terrorists can win a single battle. They can kill people -- they can kill particularly innocent men, women and children, and particularly Iraqis or Afghans. But they can’t win a battle as such. The battle is here. It is a test of wills. It is going to require staying power.”

Rumsfeld said the war against violent extremism will be a long one, just as the Cold War was.

“We are free people who believe in freedom and how important it is for you to be able to get up in the morning and say what you want, go where you wish, vote as you wish, and know that it is exactly that – that that threat from extremists is determined to terrorize and to alter our behavior in a fundamental way. It is that which we must not allow to happen,” he said.

Iraqi pilots get help from Airmen to fly again

by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq — Pilots from the Iraqi Air Force waited patiently for a team of Airmen to arrive from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. It's this team that can get them up in the air and flying again.

The mission of the Iraqi 3rd Squadron hinges on the work of the Air Force Flight Test Center. The center sent a team of maintainers, engineers and pilots here to test the airworthiness of the Comp Air 7SLX. The aircraft — several were given to the Iraqis as a gift from the United Arab Emirates — is a kit-built plane developed by an American company. Due to the many modifications of the aircraft, they were deemed unsafe to fly.

The aircraft were grounded in January after the Air Force flight test evaluation team determined the aircraft were unsafe in their present condition. Now, with the work accomplished by a 20-person team from various bases possessing essential Air Force Specialty Codes, one aircraft is ready to fly again.

“Part of the mission here is surveillance and reconnaissance of the northern oil pipeline to protect it from attacks by insurgents and to check for tampering and leaks,” said U.S. Air Force Capt. Anthony Brim, Coalition Air Force Transition Team. In addition, they will be able to assist the Iraqi Army in the search for insurgents.

Currently the squadron is undergoing a rigorous schedule of academics to prepare them for the transition into a fully functioning, independent air force. Brim is teaching the Iraqis how to maintain an operational squadron, which is a change from the way business was normally done. They are overhauling the squadron in much the same way the Edwards team is overhauling the aircraft.

“We completely reorganized the squadron. There was no hierarchy, no one in charge of maintenance, training or safety,” Captain Brim said, “We were able to set up the squadron to mirror the structure of a squadron in the U.S. Air Force and assign section and duty chiefs who are given the authority to make decisions.”

Brim's experience as an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot allowed him to transform the squadron into a functioning unit. He started a daily schedule of operations, including training and inspections.

“I used the big hand theory,” he explained. “In the beginning I was the big hand guiding everything. I showed them the standards and what was expected. Within the first month, the squadron had structure and they were operating on their own.”

Now Brim has taken on an advisory role.

Brim said the Iraqis are making the decisions while he only added his inputs to make their progress more efficient.

“The (Iraqi Air Force) members here, whether they are pilots or maintainers, are professionals. They are educated and



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett

U.S. Air Force Capt. Anthony Brim instructs Iraqi Air Force pilots at Kirkuk Air Base April 30. Brim is a member of the Coalition Air Force Transition Team, helping the Iraqi 3rd Squadron in developing operational capabilities.

know the change they are going through is for the good,” he said. “They can see the long term and they are pushing for it.”

According to Col. Ali from the Iraqi Air Force, the change they are striving for is on the horizon.

Ali said there are people in the country who do not want to see a liberated Iraq, and that these people will kill those associated with the new government. Ali, like the other 15 pilots in the squadron, served under Saddam Hussein. He said he wants to see his country rise again and be better than it was under the old regime.

“This is our country and we want to change it,” he said. “We were a wealthy nation but Saddam made us poor. Now we have freedom and we want to rebuild our country.”

Ali said since Saddam Hussein didn't allow the country to prosper, Iraq needs to rebuild everything to a higher standard than before. He also said Iraq isn't ready to walk alone and the United States is still needed to help them.

“I know America helps rebuild countries and I know they can do that for us,” he said. “I know what they did for Germany and Japan after World War II and I know they are trying to do the same thing with Iraq. I see the economies of both countries and see how they are prospering. I know we can be better because we are a wealthy country. We can come back better than before.”

Ali said he can't wait for the team from Edwards to get here. He also hopes for success for his country.

“We have to be positive and optimistic about our future and we must rebuild our infrastructure. Our government must be in one hand to go forward,” he said. “It will take time to have peace in Iraq but Iraq and America must work as brothers to achieve this,” Ali said.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi Security Forces conduct sweep in Mosul

TIKRIT — Nearly 1,500 Iraqi soldiers and police officers teamed together May 3 to conduct Operation Lion's Hunt.

The goal of the operation was to introduce a strong Iraqi Security Force presence in the city's diverse communities and clean out pockets of terrorists hiding among law abiding residents.

The Iraqi-planned effort was well received by locals residents, according to Iraqi Maj. Gen. Wathiq, Provincial Director of Police for Ninewah Province. He stressed the importance of building strong community relationships with the Iraqi Security Forces in an effort to rid Mosul and the rest of the province of terrorists.

Thirty-six known or suspected terrorists were detained without incident during the operation.

Wathiq ensured local media were invited to accompany troops and police to ensure the operation was transparent to the local residents.

— *101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Public Affairs*

Suicide bomber attacks recruiting checkpoint

FALLUJAH — A suicide bomber attacked a Fallujah police recruiting checkpoint May 3 and killed seven civilians and wounded 12 others.

One Iraqi Police officer was also wounded.

The terrorist walked toward a group of civilians gathered at the entrance to the checkpoint and detonated explosives concealed on his person.

Fallujah police officers were assisted by U.S. Marines

from Regimental Combat Team 5 in securing the scene.

The recruiting process was reopened approximately one hour after the attack and recruits continued to volunteer.

— *Multi-National Forces – West Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army assumes authority in Sinjar

TALL AFAR – Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division assumed the lead in security operations in and around Sinjar in Western Ninevah Province May 3.

The ceremony was an example of the increased Iraqi Army role in providing security to the people of Iraq.

The 3rd battalion recently planned and executed an extensive independent cordon and search operation that demonstrated their capabilities after completing a number of successful missions with U.S. forces.

— *101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Public Affairs*

Troops get tip, find cache

BAYJI — Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops got a tip from locals and found a bomb maker's cache May 2 north-east of Bayji.

The cache contained three 155 mm artillery rounds. The ordnance was recovered for later disposal.

No injuries or damages were reported.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Timaja Mattocks

Iraqi National Police prepare to conduct daily traffic control points in the city of Baghdad May 5.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Anbar governor survives assassination attempt

RAMADI — The governor of Al Anbar Province survived a suicide car bomb attack that killed 10 civilians and injured five members of his security detail in the city of Ramadi May 2.

Governor Maamoon Sami Rasheed al-Awani was on his way to work, escorted by his security convoy, when a suicide bomber drove a car toward his vehicle and detonated a bomb in an area crowded with cars and pedestrians, according to Maamoon.

A U.S. Marine convoy responded to the attack, came under small arms fire and returned fire, according to reports. The governor was not injured in the attack.

Maamoon does not know who planned the attack, but said this was approximately the 29th attempt on his life. He also had a son kidnapped in 2005. The son was safely returned.

Maamoon called the incident a cowardly attempt and said he will continue to work to serve the people of Al Anbar and Iraq.

— *Multi-National Forces – West Public Affairs*

Resident leads troops to cache

DIYALA PROVINCE — Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division were led to an ammunition cache by a local resident May 2 north of Mandali.

The cache contained various loose rounds and five cases of .51 caliber ammunition. The ammunition was recovered for later disposal.

No injuries or damages were reported.



Photo by U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ryan Mosier

Iraqi soldiers celebrate after their graduation from the Officer Basic Course at Al Rustamiyah April 26.

CCCI convicts 12 insurgents

BAGHDAD — The Central Criminal Court of Iraq convicted 12 security detainees April 19 through May 1 for various crimes including illegal border crossing, possessing illegal weapons and joining terrorist groups.

In one case, Hassan Hamid Abdulla Muhsin was found guilty of violating Article 194 of the Iraqi Penal Code for joining terrorist groups in order to endanger innocent people's lives and to unsettle the stability and security of Iraq and its citizens.

Coalition forces apprehended him Jan. 14, 2005 in connection with members of the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi terrorist network. The defendant met personally with Zarqawi to receive instructions on conducting attacks. The defendant confessed to his involvement with the Mosul Terror Cell group and to being the person responsible for publishing terror cell compact discs and cassettes.

The court sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Upon conviction, all defendants were turned over to the Iraqi Corrections Service to serve their sentences.

To date, the CCCI has held 1,044 trials of insurgents suspected of anti-Iraqi and anti-Coalition activities threatening the security of Iraq and targeting Multi-National Force-Iraq.

These proceedings have resulted in 934 individual convictions since they have begun.

— *Task Force 134, Detainee Operations, Public Affairs*

Iraqi police find explosives near Al Kut

AL KUT — Badrah Iraqi Police found eight small unidentified types of explosive devices north of Al Kut May 1.

Explosive ordnance personnel believed the munitions to be left over from previous wars in Iraq. During the search, Iraqi police officers also found one antitank mine, two 82 mm mortar grenades, 11 anti-tank guided missiles, three 122 mm artillery shells, 10 fuses, one 130 mm artillery shell and one 23mm anti-aircraft shell.

Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal personnel were called in to secure and dispose of the munitions.

No injuries or damage were reported.

Troops detain two near Saqlawiyah

FALLUJAH — Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division along with Coalition forces detained four suspected terrorists April 30 in combined operations east of Saqlawiyah.

The suspects were arrested after the troops received information about them during counter-insurgency operations in the area.

The detainees were turned over to authorities for further investigation.

No injuries or damages were reported.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Three arrested, cache found near Hit

HIT — Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops arrested three men in connection with insurgent activities and found a cache April 30 near Hit.

The cache contained three assorted artillery rounds, an acetylene gas tank and several fuses.

The detainees and cache contents were turned over to authorities for further investigation.

Raids net seven terrorists, 50 suspects

BAGHDAD — Iraqi and Coalition forces conducted a series of coordinated raids in the area of Yusifiyah April 29 and captured seven wanted terrorists amongst more than 50 other suspects.

The combined forces raided multiple locations based on information and intelligence regarding the whereabouts of foreign terrorists, foreign terrorist facilitators, operatives and leaders affiliated with the al Qaeda network. The comprehensive operation was conducted to deny safe haven and to kill or capture foreign and Iraqi terrorists who have been operating in the region.

Over the past several weeks the terrorists, most of them foreign, have used the hostile region as a staging area to launch suicide operations into Baghdad.

Iraqi and Coalition forces have conducted several previous raids in the area in the past few weeks which resulted in the death of more than 20 foreign terrorists, several of whom were

wearing suicide vests when the assault forces killed them.

In a related issue, officials have provided an updated reporting that of the 12 terrorists killed in the recent April 25 raid in Yusifiyah, between five and as many as 10 of the terrorists were confirmed to be foreigners.

— *Combined Press Information Center*

Iraqi, MND-B Soldiers arrest five, find caches

FOB KALSU — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division led a joint raid with Coalition Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division in the town of Al Hak during Operation Babil Perimeter April 28 and detained five men and seized four weapons caches.

Iraqi soldiers conducted a search of the homes to find suspected terrorists. Coalition troops provided a cordon around the town.

Troops discovered two caches around the immediate area. After the initial search by the Iraqi troops, Coalition Soldiers used K-9 dogs and metal detectors to search the areas again and located two additional caches.

In total, the caches contained an assortment of bomb-making materials and triggering devices, a 152 mm round, a 132 mm round, three 82 mm rounds, two PKC machine guns, an RPK light machine gun, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher with two RPG rockets and a 57 mm aerial rocket with an improvised launcher.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*



Iraqi Police and Coalition soldiers hand out stuffed animals and toys to children in Tal Afar April 26.

Photo by U.S. Navy Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone