

# The Advisor



July 7, 2007

## Security Forces learn combat life saving skills

Members of Iraq's Army and military intelligence personnel learn how to treat combat injuries in the battlefield

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# The Advisor

>> Volume 4 >> Issue 25

*A bi-monthly publication of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq*

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

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## >> FROM THE COVER

**A student practices an intravenous injection on another student during a Combat Lifesaver class held June 25 in Baghdad's International Zone.**



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

## >> IRAQI POLICE: WOMEN'S TRAINING



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Amanda Morrissey

**Mirvat Amin receives instruction on firing a Glock 9mm pistol during weapons training at the Kirkuk Police Academy. Mirvat went through the non-commissioned officers' course, and is one of the first women to graduate from the academy. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building an additional training police station for females in An Najaf Province.**

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# CMATT leadership sees improvement

By Melinda L. Larson

American Forces Press Service

**BAGHDAD** — Iraq's military forces are committed to standing on their own, the officer in charge of their training told bloggers Thursday, and he expressed confidence that Iraq's army, navy, air force and police will succeed.

"What we do see from the Iraqis is a commitment to continue to improve and a desire and a passion to be more responsible for all things military," U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Terry Wolff, commander of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team, said during a teleconference from Iraq. "They very much want to be able to do this themselves."

With each passing day, Wolff said, he is seeing the Iraqi forces take shape and evolve as they gain confidence in their decision making. "They are making decisions. With every day they are more in charge," Wolff said.

Wolff added that while he may not agree with some of those decisions, he is still encouraged.

"They tend to make decisions that we don't always agree with, but so be it," he said. "In many of those instances, they don't reflect a lack of desire or will; they reflect the fact that they're going to choose courses of action that may be just a bit different than the way we would do it."

"I cannot find fault with that, but that's the nature of sovereignty and the ability to make decisions for yourself and then have to deal with those consequences," Wolff added. "I continue to be encouraged by the fact that they are trying to improve."

The improvements of the Iraqi forces as they work toward autonomy are dealt with on many fronts, from leadership to logistics.

"We've had a lot of luck continuing to work with the Iraqi leaders to get them to better embrace some of the logistical challenges they have to work through," Wolff explained. "They're standing up a support command, which was something that we were working with them on, but we're getting a little closer to get the headquarters portion of it stood up. But the first step is getting our Iraqi brothers to buy into this and recognize its importance and utility, and they've begun to do that."

Transitioning the Iraqi military's vehicle fleet from contracted maintenance to their own repair shops and establishing a regional based logistical system to support the front lines are challenges they are facing, said Wolff.

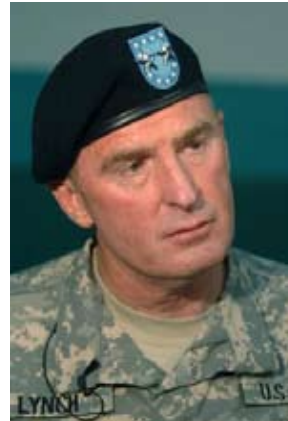
As the fight continues, Wolff said he and his transition team of coaches, teachers and mentors strive to give the Iraqi forces everything they need to succeed.

"To some extent, I think we all have a greater hope that the Iraqis continue to improve. We all want them to be better, and their leaders want them to be better too. There's no lack of desire here," Wolff said.

The general added he gets encouragement from the people around him. "My thanks go to all those great Coalition soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines that continue doing this job every single day, and so they are who encourage me even more than my Iraqi brothers," the general said.

## what key leaders are saying

>> **U.S. ARMY MAJ. GEN. RICK LYNCH,**  
*Task Force Marnah and 3rd Infantry Division commander*



"The Iraqi Army that works in our battle space, I find to be competent, capable military professionals. In a lot of our patrol bases, that's already happening. Since we are side-by-side with the Iraq Army, it will be

easy to transition away and allow the (ISF) to have that area so we can continue operations."

>> **U.S. ARMY BRIG. GEN. MICK BEDNAREK,**  
*Task Force Lightning and Multi-National Division – North deputy commanding general for operations*

"I have been with our Iraqi Army counterparts and Iraqi Police and they clearly have had many more casualties than we have ... they suffer just as much as we do. They are in this fight. They are dedicated to it, and that's important for everybody to know."

>> **U.S. ARMY GEN. DAVID H. PETRAEUS,**  
*Multi-National Force – Iraq commanding general*

"At the end of the day, what we've got to do is all that we can with all that we've got right now and hope that that can give some hope to those who are looking for it."





**U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy A. Williams, incoming MNSTC-I command sergeant major, stands opposite of U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Daniel K. Burs, outgoing MNSTC-I command sergeant major, after accepting the saber, signifying the assumption of his responsibility during the unit change of responsibility ceremony June 25.**

Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

## MNSTC-I welcomes new enlisted leader

**By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz**

*MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy A. Williams assumed duties as the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq command sergeant major from U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Daniel K. Burs during a change of responsibility at the command's headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, June 25.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. James M. Dubik, MNSTC-I commanding general, thanked Burs for his contributions during his 13-month deployment.

"...You served as a mentor and leader for all of our Coalition partners," Dubik said. He characterized Burs as a "no-nonsense, hands-on non-commissioned officer who has led subordinates, peers and seniors alike."

"I personally benefited from your advice and I want to say how much I appreciate that," Dubik added.

Burs, a 28-year Marine Corps veteran, reflected on what he was most proud of during

his tenure.

"I was able to watch the Iraqi training and to see how far (the Iraqi Security Forces) have come from where they were," Burs said. "I do see light at the end of the tunnel. I see the Iraqi Police and military engage, not just the enemy, but also the training opportunities, a lot more. That's the key to success – that they take the lead and call us only when they need us."

Dubik acknowledged Williams, the incoming command sergeant major, as a trusted advisor who has "the experience, maintains the toughest standards and is an example of dedication to service."

Dubik and Williams have been a team for more than five years and last worked together as the commanding general and command sergeant major team for I Corps and Fort Lewis, Wash.

When it was Williams' turn at the podium, he thanked Burs for setting up a transition schedule that has set him up for success.

"You have clearly done your job and now



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Sgt. Maj. Burs bids farewell to a U.S. Army Soldier following the change of responsibility ceremony.**

**See WILLIAMS, Page 5**





Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Lt. Gen. James M. Dubik, MNSTC-I commanding general, speaks during the ceremony over which he presided.**

#### **From WILLIAMS, Page 4**

it's time for me to do mine," he said.

Williams also thanked Dubik for the privilege to serve with him once again.

"I will be your eyes and ears for accountability, training, professional development of leaders and force protection," Williams said.

After the ceremony, Williams, a 32-year Army veteran, talked of continuing the work and progress that MNSTC-I achieved during Burs' tenure.

"Burs has done a great job and I get the opportunity to springboard from his successes," Williams said.

Williams noted that one of his top priorities as command sergeant major is the morale and welfare of each servicemember – Iraqi and U.S.

"I want to look each individual servicemember in the eye and thank them for their service and their family's sacrifice," he said.

"Our force of mentors, officers, non-commissioned officers, service members and civilians will continue to engage on all fronts to assist in the establishment of a stable and secure Iraq," he said. "I also look forward to the day when the Iraqi Army and police no longer require our mentorship but request it out of friendship not necessity."

Williams closed by sharing a poem about leadership, titled Boss vs. Leader. He explained his father gave it to him when he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and he has since used the poem as a compass throughout his military career.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

**(Above) Several attending U.S. Army sergeants majors sing along with the Army Song as it is played during the MNSTC-I change of responsibility ceremony. (Below) Sgt. Maj. Burs stands at attention as each U.S. service song plays.**



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

### **BOSS VS. LEADER**

The boss drives his men,  
The leader coaches them.  
The boss inspires fear,  
The leader inspires enthusiasm.  
The boss says "I",  
The leader says "We".  
The boss fixes blame for a breakdown,  
The leader fixes the breakdown.  
The boss knows how it is done,  
The leader shows how it is done.  
The boss makes work hard,  
The leader makes hard work rewarding.  
The boss says "Go",  
The leader says "Let's Go".



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

**Command Sgt. Maj. Williams addresses Sgt. Maj. Burs and others during the MNSTC-I change of responsibility ceremony held at the command headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.**





Courtesy photo

(Above) Eight hundred Iraqi Policemen graduated from basic training in north Babil, June 29. They will now attend a six-week training course which will cover a variety of skills including weapons training and emergency medical care.

(Right) An Iraqi general shakes the hand of a Jundi during the Iraqi Air Force's first graduation of basic enlisted airmen June 13 in Taji.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Amanda Morrissey

Mirvat Amin accepts a graduation gift from Maj. Gen. Anwar, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division commander, during a graduation ceremony at the Kirkuk Police Academy May 27.

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES GRADUATIONS



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Karly Cooper



Courtesy photo

Nearly 200 cadets march onto the parade deck for their graduation ceremony at the Iraqi Military Academy in Qualachulon, one of five academies in the Iraqi military academy system. The commissioning graduation was held June 27.



# Iraqi Army drive breaks recruiting records

By U.S. Air Force  
Senior Airman Christie Putz

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**KIRKUK, Iraq** — More than 1,300 civilians and prior soldiers were screened for entry into the new Iraqi Army during a recruiting drive held on K-1, a small Iraqi military base outside of Kirkuk, Iraq, July 1-5.

The message was spread to residents of the Kirkuk area, as well as nationwide, via television commercials urging junoud, or soldiers, to come and serve their nation. They responded in flocks.

“We are very happy with the number of people who showed up,” Iraqi Army Col. Hesham, Joint Headquarters Recruiting Directorate deputy commander, said through a translator, noting their original goal of 1,000 soldiers.

The final number was 1,320, well above the number of past drives which focused on recruiting officers and NCOs of the old Iraqi Army. This is the first drive that has accepted both former officers and enlisted, as well as new soldiers.

The majority of the K-1 recruits were new soldiers, filling 1,100 of the positions. Even with no advertising on the first day of the drive, 65 were accepted and an additional 65 or more were turned away because they lacked proper documentation.

“All the people we turned away said they would come back the next day,” he said.

The numbers from the days following proved possible truth to that statement, with each day’s totals at least doubling or tripling those of the first day.

Another reason for the increase in numbers, Hesham said, is people who had completed the recruiting process sharing the news with their friends and family. “As soon as one person knows we are here they start calling people and telling them – it goes from there,” he said.

The officer and NCO numbers remained stable throughout the drive, with 220 former soldiers recruited over the five-day period.

“We are here to help them so they can come back and help the Iraqi Army,” said Hesham. “They have the experience and we need their experience now in the Iraqi Army.”

A mobile recruiting team from Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, was brought in to process the recruits. On the day of the event, prospective soldiers were heavily searched before access was allowed to the base. Once



An Iraqi military policeman stands guard as recruits line up for entrance to the K-1 Iraqi Army recruiting drive July 1. During the five-day drive, 1,320 potential soldiers were recruited.

Photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

**“All the people we turned away said they would come back the next day.”**

**Iraqi Army Col. Hesham,  
Joint Headquarters Recruiting  
Directorate deputy director**

inside, they were bused to a central location.

“Recruits are asked to remove their clothing except for their undergarments to help with the screening process,” Iraqi Army Maj. Tahseen, Sulaymaniyah Recruiting Center deputy commander, said through a translator. “There is a security advantage to this because then we know he is hiding nothing and also the doctors can see his entire body for the medical testing.”

Each soldier receives a head to toe medical evaluation, which must be signed off by three doctors. After being medically cleared, they sit down for an interview in which their contract with the Army is explained and any



A recruit is searched prior to gaining access to the base for the drive. Each person had to go through three separate checkpoints, and were searched at each, before reaching the actual recruiting location.

**See RECRUITING, Page 8**





**After gaining access to the base, recruits pile into a truck that will take them to the building where the actual processing takes place. The recruiting, from start to finish, takes approximately 20 minutes per person.**

Photos by U.S. Marine Capt. John Helm

### From RECRUITING, Page 7

additional information is collected. This gives the recruiting team a chance to evaluate the soldier's literacy.

The entire process for each recruit takes approximately 20 minutes. After that, they are loaded back onto a bus and taken back to the front gate to return to their families.

At this same time, names and military identification numbers are sent to the Ministry of Defence for background checks. Before the soldiers are officially accepted into the Iraqi Army, these checks must be completed and clear. This process can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.

After the soldiers pass the background checks, they are granted retro-active pay for their time during the clearing process, said Tahseen.

While the complete process can sometimes be lengthy and the job dangerous, the recruits' spirits were high during the drive.

"They were excited," said Tahseen. "They came to us – they were not forced. Most people are looking for a job, and this is a good opportunity for them."

But, added Hesham, it's not solely about having a job.

"The majority of the people here want to serve their country," he said. "They like to serve their country, and this is how they can do it."

Plans for the near future call for a permanent recruiting center to open at K-1. Hesham and staff are currently working on a proposal for the project, which if approved would open in the near future.

"Having a center here would allow recruits to come in at any time to be processed instead of having to wait until there is a drive or traveling to one of the other recruiting centers," said Hesham.

The closest center is in Sulaymaniyah, located on the eastern side of the As Sulaymaniyah province, which can be difficult to travel to

because of several security checkpoints throughout the Kurdistan Regional Government area.

Also, K-1 is better equipped to process soldiers as there is a Regional Training Center on the base for basic training of the recruits – something that the Sulaymaniyah center lacks.

For these reasons, both Hesham and Tahseen agree that opening a center at K-1 would increase the number of recruits added to the Iraqi Army.

"But we're not only looking for the highest number of soldiers," said Tahseen. "We want the best soldiers."



**Iraqi Army Col. Hesham, Joint Headquarters Recruiting Directorate deputy director, addresses the recruits before they enter the building for their screening.**





## SHOWING CONCERN

**KIRKUK, Iraq** — Iraqi Army soldiers, with Coalition assistance, lead a civil affairs mission to deliver household supplies to refugee families in the Kirkuk area July 2. Five families were selected based on their needs and their support of the government's efforts in the fight on terrorism. Items such as dishwashers, stoves, blankets and water were collected and distributed by soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division out of K-1, an Iraqi military base outside of the city. The mission was initiated by the brigade's civil affairs officer in an effort to show their support for the local community.





(Above) Cadet 3rd Class Haidar Abadi, U.S. Air Force Academy cadet, sits in the cockpit of the Sama CH2000 light air surveillance aircraft during his visit back to Iraq for three weeks in June.  
(Left) Cadet Abadi talks with ground crew before his flight in the SAMA CH2000.

Courtesy photos

## FROM IRAQ TO U.S., BACK AGAIN:

# Future Iraqi Air Force pilot studies in the United States

By U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

*MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Haidar Abadi remembers when at the age of 10 he would go to Abbas Bin Firnas, an officer's club in Baqubah, Iraq, and fly Cessnas with his former Iraqi Air Force fighter-pilot father and older brother on Fridays.

Shortly after graduating high school in 2004, he left his family and the mounting dangers of the war to study civil engineering in England. It was there that he realized he too wanted the chance to fly for and serve his nation like his father.

"I told my parents this is what I wanted to do but they didn't like it in the beginning because I'd already invested one year studying engineering," he said. "I had my way." His father found an option that would put him on the right path and also guarantee him a future in the Iraqi Air Force.

Now 20, both he and his father are serving the same military under equally unique circumstances. Cadet 3rd Class Haidar Abadi is training at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, while his father, Iraqi Air Force Lt. Gen. Nasier Abadi, has been reactivated after retirement and now serves as the vice chief of staff for the new Iraqi Joint Forces.

"It has been a dream come true," said Cadet Abadi about being selected for one of the academy's few international exchange slots.

On average, 15 to 20 foreign students are accepted annually. In the first year of the international military education program being offered to Iraqi students, Cadet Abadi competed against nine others from his nation alone. Six Iraqis were accepted to schools throughout the world. He was the first accepted to the U.S. Air Force academy, and the only one that year.

After completing his first year, he was afforded the opportunity to return to his country as part of Operation Air Force, an immersion program that allows cadets to stay at a base where they could possibly be stationed and allows them the opportunity to see first-hand what life as an active-duty officer is like.

As part of Cadet Abadi's training, he spent three weeks in June learning about the expanding capabilities of Iraq's emerging military forces.

During his stay he visited Kirkuk, Taji and several sites inside Baghdad's International Zone including the Ministry of Defence, where his father currently works.

"I did some training with the (Iraqi Special Operations Forces) and we went down to (New Al Muthanna Air Base) as well," he said. There he had a chance to shoot the M-4 Carbine, M-9 Pistol, Glock and AK-47.

Another training opportunity allowed Cadet Abadi to be the convoy commander on a mock movement with Iraqi soldiers and Iraqi vehicles inside the IZ. He was charged with the responsibility of planning the route, briefing and preparing the soldiers, preparing the vehicles and giving the orders for movement.

He also flew in several Iraqi aircraft during his visit, including the C-130 heavy transport aircraft; Cessna Caravan intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft; SAMA CH2000 light air surveillance aircraft; Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter; Huey II helicopter; and the MI-17 transport helicopter.

"I met a lot of people that are paving the way for the future in the Iraqi Air Force, and things that I need to know when I come back, like where I fit in," he said. "It's been a lot of fun."

Fun aside though, all of these events are geared at giving Cadet

**See CADET, Page 11**



**From CADET, Page 10**

Abadi an overview of the Iraqi military and an introduction to life as a military officer.

In Iraq, after completion of one year of military training, students typically receive their military officer rank. In keeping with that tradition, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki commissioned Cadet Abadi with the rank of second lieutenant.

“The Prime Minister had given us the rank as a gift to the first group of Iraqis ... because we had passed our first year and because we had to overcome so much just in order to apply,” he said, referring to the language tests and SATs, physicals, interviews and application paperwork that had to be done while he was on his own in England.

The officer rank, while he wears it with pride in Iraq, is temporarily removed while attending the U.S. Academy – he resumes his cadet rank along with his classmates.

“Most internationals are actually officers, but we’re all equals as cadets,” Cadet Abadi said.

In fact, there aren’t many differences between the international students and the U.S. cadets. “I wear the normal U.S. Air Force Academy uniforms that I’m issued,” he said. “I look just like any other cadet except that I have a flag on my left shoulder and it says Iraq under my name.”

But wearing the U.S. Air Force uniform isn’t the only thing that has been new for Cadet Abadi.

“Once you start the school year you’re a freshman and you have so many rules and a lot of military training and a lot of physical requirements that the upperclassmen don’t do because, well, you’re a freshman,” he said.

He listed the daily events the cadets’ days are packed with, from formations to physical training, all while coping with a demanding academic schedule.

“You don’t even have time to scratch your head,” he joked. “You have to iron your uniform and shine your boots and at the same time think of physics.

“It was a shock for me in the beginning,” he said. “You have to get used to military life, but you adjust and you learn from your mistakes.”

Now that he is a sophomore, he looks back on his freshman year with a new perspective. “It’s the year where they break you and reshape you,” he said. “They push you to your limit. But once you’re done, it’s good.”

While Cadet Abadi still has three years left at the academy, he is already looking toward the future. He plans to follow in his father’s



Courtesy photo

**Cadet Abadi (right) learns about some of the functions of the SAMA CH200 before going up for a flight. In addition to this light air surveillance aircraft, he also had a chance to fly in the C-130 heavy transport aircraft; Cessna Caravan intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft; Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter; Huey II helicopter; and the MI-17 transport helicopter.**

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**“A few years ago there was no Air Force; they were barely just starting the armed forces. And then I come back a few years later and there are Air Force bases and Mi-17s.”**

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**Cadet 3rd Class Haidar Abadi,  
U.S. Air Force Academy cadet and  
future Iraqi Air Force pilot**

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footsteps and also become a pilot.

“Ever since I was a little kid I wanted to be a pilot,” he said.

While the Iraqi aircraft fleet doesn’t yet allow him to be a fighter pilot like his father, that doesn’t seem to matter much to Cadet Abadi. “I love helicopters as well,” he said.

After graduation from the U.S. academy, he plans to go to Kirkuk, Iraq, where IAF pilot training is held. “I think it’s a year or a year and a half -- it might be shorter for me because I’ve had English language training beforehand,” he said.

Cadet Abadi learned English mainly from his parents, who both speak the language. He also attended Baghdad College in high school, where his subjects were all taught in English.

This knowledge will become increasingly important with his desire to become a pilot, as English is the international aviation language and is now also a requirement for all IAF pilots.

His English speaking abilities, and especially his training at the academy, will help him when he joins the Iraqi military after his graduation. However, he said he hopes he doesn’t have to wait that long before returning home again.

“It would be nice to come back in a year and see what the Iraqi Air Force has done because now they’re in the early stages and there are also problems and issues in certain areas,” he said. “It would be nice to see what’s happening.”

This isn’t the first time that Cadet Abadi has seen changes in his military. This trip was his first time home since leaving for England in 2004.

“A few years ago there was no Air Force; they were barely just starting the armed forces,” he said. “And then I come back a few years later and there are Air Force bases and Mi-17s.”

Cadet Abadi said he is excited by these changes and can’t wait to become part of Iraq’s military history.

“I spend my time at the academy and I’m always wondering what I can do or what I can learn to help out back home,” he said. “I want to get back here and do what I like by serving my country and improving the Air Force with the knowledge that I get from there.”

**Mirvat Amin fires an AK-47 during weapons training at the Kirkuk Police Academy.**

Mirvat went through the NCO course and is one of the first women to graduate from the academy. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building an additional training police station for females in An Najaf Province.



Photos by U.S. Army Spc. Amanda Morrissey

## New female training police station goes up

**By Mohammed Aliwi**

*Gulf Region South district*

**BAGHDAD** — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is helping to create new situations to enable Iraqi women to take an active part in the reconstruction and security restoration of Iraq.

“The Corps of Engineers is building a new Female Training Police Station in An Najaf province,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jan Carter, senior project manager, Gulf Region South, MNSTC-I. “It is a three-story facility with offices, jail cells, an armory, a communications room, guard towers, sleeping quarters and a courtyard for training new female police officers.”

“The objective for building the \$134,000 female training police station is to help advise, organize and train Iraqi female officers on basic infantry tactics from squad to battalion level to further enhance the Iraqi police stations,” Carter said.

“This project is very important and will help to eliminate terrorist acts and restore security in the Iraqi provinces,” she said.

MNSTC-I is responsible for developing, organizing, training, equipping, and sustaining the Iraqi Security Forces. Its mission is to train the ISF so they are capable of defeating the insurgency and take responsibility for maintaining security within Iraq.

“To date, \$435 million has been used to support 404 projects for security and justice facilities in southern Iraq. These projects include firehouses, courthouses, prisons and jails, police stations, border posts, vehicle control points, barracks and Iraq military bases,” Carter said.

Falih Kadim, an Iraqi engineer, said all work performed and materials supplied under the requirements of the scope of work are subject to inspection by Gulf Region South.

“The new police station will replace the existing station located near the Euphrates River. The project consists of providing the labor, supervision, equipment and materials to construct the IPS in the city of An Najaf, southeast of Baghdad,” Kadim said.



**Nisreen Hama Amin receives instruction on firing a Glock 9mm pistol during weapons training at the Kirkuk Police Academy. Nisreen is also one of the first women to graduate from the academy.**

Carter said the Iraqi women impressed her especially during elections, when older women speak their minds and when women in the government of Iraq act with authority while still respectful to their culture.

“There are Iraqi women in some very high-level positions in the government of Iraq,” she said. “That surprised me to see them in these positions because I didn’t expect them to speak up bravely and openly - but they definitely do speak their minds where it is needed.

“They are here to make a difference in their lives and to help them to regain their country,” she added. “This is a new element of security for the Iraqi people - to have female police officers. Females are a very important part of the society.”



# CLS: Iraqi forces learn lifesaving skills

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – One of the skills helping Iraqi Security Forces achieve self-sustainment is saving lives. The ability for personnel to provide lifesaving measures in a combat environment becomes critical when medical professionals are unavailable to provide treatment during the “Golden Hour,” the first 60 minutes after a traumatic injury has occurred.

In an effort to keep the fighting force battle ready 17 Iraqi Army and military intelligence personnel completed a three-day Combat Lifesaver course in Baghdad June 24-26. The training they received provided basic lifesaving skills to non-medical professionals in order to help them sustain an injured person long enough to get him to a medical doctor.

The CLS class was given by Dr. Julio Garcia, MNSTC-I Coalition advisor of medical operations and clinical services for Iraq’s Ministry of Defence. Garcia, a 39-year U.S. armed forces veteran, learned his trade in the jungles of Vietnam as a Special Forces medic.

“We do not treat (the injured) in the field - we intervene,” Garcia said to his students during the course. “We do what is necessary to stop the bleeding and start the breathing so we can get the victim alive to a medical treatment facility. Once a victim makes it to our combat support hospital, he has a 98 percent probability of surviving.”

Garcia noted the relevance of servicemembers having CLS skill sets in the battlefield and cited statistics that show that up to 90 percent of all preventable combat deaths among U.S. soldiers since World War II could have been avoided with the use of two relatively simple procedures – a tourniquet and decompression pneumothorax.

“Time is the issue, if you don’t do the procedure within the first hour of injury there isn’t a great chance for survival,” Garcia said. CLS treatment allows the injured to survive long enough to get professional medical care.

Most preventable battlefield deaths occur from exsanguination - blood loss and pneumothorax - open or sucking chest wound. The skills taught in CLS focus on these main concepts.

This is the first time that this type of training has been provided to members of Iraq’s military, and thus it is somewhat of a challenge, said Garcia.

“In the U.S. most people have had some type of basic first aid class or are familiar with the concepts - and one out of every 10 U.S. military servicemembers are CLS certified,” he said. “In Iraq, this is a new concept even to members of its military, which in spite of this, have taken to the instruction very well.”

“The group was very interested and the skills they learned are applicable to everyday life in Iraq,” Garcia said.

Abdil, one of the students and an employee of the Iraqi government, described that his work location has been hit by mortars and rockets in the past. The subjects which he learned in the class may help him treat others should they be hit.

“I have learned the major principles of first aid and this might help



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**A student attempts to seal a simulated chest wound on a medical training-mannequin during a Combat Lifesaver course June 25, in Baghdad.**

me treat my colleagues if they are ever injured in the battle. I may save a life,” he said.

Jassim, another Iraqi government employee and a 17-year Iraqi Army veteran, shared that while he is on missions, insurgents target his vehicles and the training will help him treat any injured personnel.

However, Jassim, acknowledged that the CLS skill sets also have other benefits - in the home.

“My family was having dinner at home one night when my little girl cut her finger while playing with a knife,” Jassim said. “I stopped the bleeding, cleaned and sterilized the wound and bandaged it.”

According to Garcia, the skills the students learned in the three-day course will also help them teach others to administer buddy-aid and possibly save a life. He explained that MNSTC-I Health Affairs will continue to provide the course to members of Iraq’s Ministry of Defence to build this capability.

# MINISTERIAL TRAINING DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**BAGHDAD** — Iraq's Minister of Defence, Abdul Qadir Mohammed Jasim inaugurates the grand opening of the Ministerial Training Development Center in Baghdad, Iraq, July 5. The center is poised to provide consistent educational courses to civilians and military personnel based on present Iraqi business models, government regulations, laws and MOD policies. The courses are in functional specialties to include budgeting, contracting, program management and basic computer skills, among many others. The MOD facility will eventually offer limited training to other government of Iraq agencies to help build skills standardization throughout the Iraqi government.



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz





## Iraqi troops detain extremist leader, 4 others in Kirkuk operation

**KIRKUK** – Iraqi soldiers detained one extremist cell leader and detained four other suspected terrorists during an operation west of Kirkuk July 5.

The suspected cell leader is believed to be a facilitator for the Islamic Army in Iraq. He is allegedly responsible for obtaining the vehicle used in a suicide vehicle-borne IED attack in Makmoor May 13.

The suspected cell leader is also believed to have obtained weapons for the Islamic Army in Iraq to be used in future attacks. Four other suspected terrorists were detained during the operation.

– Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

## Iraqi troops destroy IED factory

**FALLUJAH** – Iraqi soldiers discovered and destroyed an al-Qaida in Iraq IED factory during an operation northeast of Fallujah July 2.

The factory manufactured IEDs for attacks in the areas of Fallujah and Karmah, both of which lead into Baghdad.

The factory contained homemade explosives, nitric acid containers and numerous other hidden explosives, on a remote compound in the vicinity of Karmah.

– Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

## Joint forces detain 2 insurgents, dispose of IED-making materials

**MOSUL** – Iraqi soldiers, supported by Coalition forces, detained two suspected IED manufacturers and seized materials during a series of raids in Mosul, July 1.

Several IED-making materials were discovered, including more than 30 cylindrical oxygen tanks, 10 55-gallon drums of ball bearings and 200 military entrenching tools on the premises.

One detainee possessed wires used for detonating a device, and the other tested positive for traces of explosives.

Both men were taken into custody and the seized items were disposed of by Iraqi Army explosive ordnance disposal specialists.

– Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs

## Iraqi Forces detain extremist leader

**MOSUL** – Iraqi Security Forces detained the suspected Mosul intelligence leader for an extremist group during an operation in Mosul June 30.

The terrorist leader is believed responsible for providing surveillance of Iraqi and Coalition forces to insurgent groups for targeting purposes.

He is also suspected of conducting kidnappings and producing vehicle born IEDs for attacks.

Also seized were miscellaneous documents and notebooks, an English Armed Forces manual, identification cards and three cell phones.

– Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs

## Raids net 17 suspected cell terrorists

**BAGHDAD** – Coalition Forces killed an estimated 26 terrorists and detained seventeen suspected secret cell terrorists during two

operations June 30 in Sadr City.

The operations sought to dismantle terror networks which target civilians, Iraqi and Coalition forces.

The terrorists are believed to have close ties to Iranian terror networks and are responsible for facilitating the flow of weapons into Iraq.

– Multi-National Force – Iraq Public Affairs

## ISF detains 4 suspected terrorists

**MANDALI** – Iraqi Security Forces detained four suspected terrorists believed to be linked to al-Qaida in Iraq during an operation near Mandali June 30.

The four suspects are believed responsible for facilitating IED attacks that have resulted in the deaths of numerous civilians in the Diyala province. Iraqi forces also seized a variety of materials used to make IEDs, to include blasting caps, wire, tubing, plastic explosives and five 155mm artillery shells.

– Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Christopher Perez

## ON PATROL

Iraqi Army and Coalition forces personnel talk to a resident in the town of Suwariyah June 28, during their patrol in search of suspicious activities.