

The Advisor



Sept. 15, 2007



Responding to danger...

Iraqi firefighters learn how to tame fires in neighborhoods of Baghdad

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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

An Iraqi firefighter demonstrates proper hose handling techniques during an exercise at the Iraqi Civil Defense training center in Baghdad, Iraq, Aug. 25.



Photo by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

>> IRAQI AIR FORCE: INVENTORY IS GROWING



Photo by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

A Cessna Grand Caravan 208B takes off at New Al Muthanna Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq, after a ceremony recognized the Iraqi Air Force taking primary responsibility of the aircraft from Coalition forces Sept. 12.

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Bush to support Petraeus' Iraq recommendations

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Bush said that he accepts U. S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus' recommendations on the U.S. strategy in Iraq and reduced troop levels in a White House address Sept. 13.

Bush said that the strategy implemented eight months ago, which included a 30,000-troop surge, has enabled Coalition troops and Iraqi Security Forces to make progress against al-Qaida and other extremists. He cited turnarounds in Baghdad, where violence is down, and in al Anbar province, a region previously considered lost to terrorists.

While acknowledging that the challenge in Iraq remains "formidable," Bush said that testimony to Congress this week by Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker led him to conclude that conditions have improved enough to begin reducing the U.S. force.

"The premise of our strategy is that securing the Iraqi population is the foundation for all other progress," the president said. "The goal of the surge is to provide that security, and to help prepare Iraqi forces to maintain it."

Success in meeting these objectives "now allows us to begin bringing some of our troops home," he said.

Petraeus recommended that a Marine expeditionary unit deployed as part of the surge not be replaced when it leaves Iraq later this month and that one of 20 U.S. combat brigades not be replaced when it redeploys in mid-December. Four more brigade combat teams and two surge Marine battalions will redeploy without replacement during the first seven months of 2008.

This plan, which Petraeus emphasized must be carried out with close scrutiny to changing conditions on the ground, would bring down the U.S. presence in Iraq from 20 to 15 brigade combat teams by mid-July.

Bush said the principle that guided his decisions on troop levels in Iraq was "return on success."

"The more successful we are, the more American troops can return home," he said. "And in all we do, I will ensure that our commanders on the ground have the troops and flexibility they need to defeat the enemy."

Iraqi leaders support the vision of a reduced U.S. troop presence in Iraq, the president said. But, he added, they also understand that their country's success will require U.S. political, economic and security engagement that will extend beyond the Bush presidency.

"These Iraqi leaders have asked for an enduring relationship with America," he said. "And we are ready to begin building that relationship, in a way that protects our interests in the region and requires many fewer American troops."

The president conceded that political progress in Iraq hasn't occurred as quickly as hoped. "The government has not met its own legislative benchmarks, and in my meetings with Iraqi leaders, I have made it clear that they must," he said.

The Iraqi government must exert the same determination it is demonstrating as it takes on extremists to achieve reconciliation,

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what key leaders are saying

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



"Iraqi elements are slowly taking on more of the responsibility for protecting their citizens. Innumerable challenges lie ahead; however, Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces have made progress

toward achieving sustainable security."

>> **U.S. ARMY COL. JOHN CHARLTON,**
1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division commander

We have experienced entire weeks with zero attacks in our area and have a total of more than 80 days with no attacks in the city. Once they feel safe, the people begin to provide intelligence to the police, and security continues to improve steadily."



>> **RYAN CROCKER,**
U.S. Ambassador to Iraq



"The military objectives of the surge are in large measure being met. I believe we will be able to reduce our forces to pre-surge level by next summer without jeopardizing

the security gains that we have fought so hard to achieve."

Iraqi Air Force soars to new heights in recent months

By David Mays

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Iraq’s air force has added unprecedented personnel and aircraft in recent months and undertaken crucial missions, the commander of the Coalition Air Force Transition Team said in Baghdad Sept. 6.

“Six months ago, there was no air force academy for the Iraqi Air Force, there was no technical training school, there was no basic training school for enlisted people,” U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice told online journalists and “bloggers” during a conference call from Iraq. “But in the last six months, we’ve graduated and commissioned second lieutenants in their air force.”

Dozens of basic Iraqi airmen and technical support personnel also graduated ground school during that time frame, the general explained. In the past two months, 138 experienced aviators from Iraq’s pre-war air force have returned to serve, as well.

“This is a pretty big step for us,” Allardice said.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, Coalition Air Force Transition Team commanding general, and Lt. Gen. Kamal, Iraqi Air Force commanding general, cut the ceremonial ribbon at the opening of new facilities for the Iraqi Air Force Academy in Taji, Iraq, Sept. 12.



In 1991, Iraq’s air force was the sixth largest in the world, the general explained. But in the course of Operation Desert Storm, during which Coalition forces pushed Saddam Hussein’s troops out of Kuwait, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq’s air force was obliterated.

“The Saddam era just wiped it out. There were no aircraft,” Allardice said. “The systems and processes that train and build an air force, which is very complex, were completely wiped out, and the people were scattered.”

Rebuilding Iraq’s air force began only recently, the general explained, with the first serious efforts undertaken in 2005.

“It wasn’t until this year, 2007, where we really ramped up our capability,” he said.

In 2006, 16 Iraqi aircraft performed only about 30 “relatively benign” sorties a week, Allardice said.

“The Iraqi air force today has about 1,200 people,” he said. “They have about 51 aircraft. They are flying 180 sorties a week, and their missions are very impressive.”

For example, last week, pilots aboard an Iraqi Air Force plane fitted with intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance equipment discovered smugglers who had punched holes in oil pipelines. “They identified them, took pictures of them, tracked them, and ... helped the Iraqi National Police bring those people to justice,” Allardice said.

Pilots flew that same aircraft last week over a massive march in Karbala for a religious commemoration when deadly explosions and gunfire erupted. “They were able to take video



An Iraqi Mi-17 helicopter sits in a hangar in New Al Muthanna Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq.

pictures of this from the air,” Allardice said. “They took the video and provided this to the prime minister so that he would have timely information, so when rumors started to fly, he actually was able to put this in the right perspective.”

At the same time, the Iraqi Air Force launched two of its recently acquired Huey II helicopters to fly over the crowd and assess the developing situation, the general explained.

Also last week, one of Iraq’s C-130 transport ships airlifted medical and humanitarian supplies to Sulaymaniyah, in northeastern Iraq, where a cholera outbreak has sickened many residents.

“We did not partake in any of those flights. These were operated by Iraqis by themselves,” Allardice said. “When I looked back on the week collectively, I thought it was a pretty neat thing.”

Future Iraqi Air Force training will be ramped up exponentially, the general said. By December 2008, he anticipates Iraqi pilots will fly 800 sorties per week.

Allardice also said he sees the need to develop and train future enlisted Iraqi Air Force leaders. “Clearly our vision is to build an NCO corps,” he said. “It’s just not something we can do overnight.”

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“They are flying 180 sorties a week, and their missions are very impressive.”

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice
Coalition Air Force Transition Team
commanding general

Photos by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch



Photos by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

A SAMA CH2000 sits in a hangar in New al Muthana Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq. At this time, the CH2000 is used as an intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance platform for the Iraqi Air Force.

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Acquiring expensive aircraft, like fighter jets, that could eventually be used to defend Iraq's airspace will also take considerable time and money, the general explained.

"You know, even in our country, if we acquire an airplane ... I wish it were just as simple as I have a bag of money and I get to buy an airplane," Allardice said. "But I have to follow a fairly lengthy process that can take upwards to 12 to 18 months, and the Iraqis have very similar issues."

Even with the very small Iraqi fleet in service, the general said he is struck by the pride Iraq's air force inspires in its citizens.

"When I'm on a Huey and that Huey flies over people and they see the Iraqi flag, it will send chills down your spine to see how many people get this huge smile on their face and start jumping up and down and waving at the helicopter," Allardice said. "And when I asked one of the Iraqi helicopter pilots, is it important for him to fly, he actually got a tear in his eye when he said ... 'It's so important for our people to see our flag flying around the country.'"



An Iraqi Huey II helicopter flies over a Cessna Grand Caravan 208B at New al Muthana Air Base, Sept. 2. The Caravan is the newest addition to the IqAF.

From IRAQ, Page 3

Bush said. He acknowledged that this represents "an enormous undertaking after more than three decades of tyranny and division."

Bush expressed optimism about reconciliation taking place at the local level. "The key now is to link this progress in the provinces to progress in Baghdad," he said. "As local politics change, so will national politics."

He emphasized that Iraq's national leaders are making progress in other areas.

For example, they've passed a budget and are sharing oil revenues with the provinces. Many of the positive developments aren't recognized because they "don't make headlines," Bush said, "but they do make a difference."

The president disputed claims from some corners that gains being made in Iraq have come too late. "It is never too late to deal a blow to al Qaida," he said. "It is never too late to advance freedom. And it is never too late to support our troops in a fight they can win."

Now is no time to abandon Iraq, a U.S. ally fighting for its survival, Bush said. What happens in Iraq will have a major impact, not just on Iraq and its neighbors, but on the United States, he said.

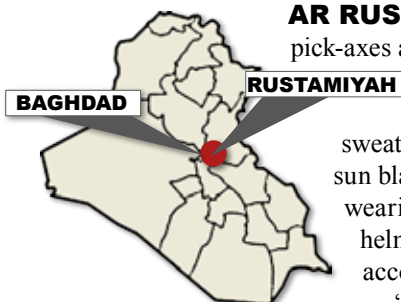
"Terrorists and extremists who are at war with us around the world are seeking to topple Iraq's government, dominate the region, and attack us here at home," he said. "Tonight, our moral and strategic imperatives are one: We must help Iraq defeat those who threaten its future and also threaten ours."

From shovels to shoulder bars:

Iraqi cadets work toward officer corps

By U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



AR RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – Wielding pick-axes and small folding shovels, Iraqi Army cadets chip away at the sun-baked earth while wiping sweat from their brow. The midafternoon sun blazes down on them as they stand, wearing full body armor and Kevlar helmets, in their shallow holes of accomplishment.

“It is hard work,” said one of the Iraqi Military Academy Rustamiyah junior term platoon commanders during their first field training exercise Sept. 4. “We’ve been digging since 10 o’clock.”

The class prior didn’t finish the task until 3 a.m. the following morning.

For these future Iraqi Army officers, who were civilians merely six weeks prior, digging fighting positions is just one small lesson in their yearlong studies at the academy.

“IMAR teaches students the qualities needed to be a successful leader in the Iraqi military,” said British Army Lt. Col. Keiran Potts, IMAR senior British advisor.

During this specific exercise, which was the cadets’ first true taste of life in the field, they built shelters, secured perimeters, practiced bounding movements across open areas and fighting from defensive positions.

Half of the platoon altered their sleep cycles, resting in their newly dug holes under a simple, propped sheet of fabric during the hottest hours of the day, to allow shift work and some labor to be accomplished in the night’s cooler temperatures.

“This is what the Iraqi soldiers are doing,” said Ahmed, a cadet who requested that his name be changed for security purposes. “We need to learn this so when we are officers we can lead our soldiers.”

The course, which was molded after the British military academy system, is broken down into three terms: junior, intermediate and senior. Each term focuses on specific skills and compounds upon the previous.

“The first term concentrates on the transition from civilian to soldier,” said Potts. “The first six weeks is equivalent to bootcamp.” Junior cadets are exposed to low-level infantry tactics and basic command and leadership principles.

Intermediate term focuses on further strengthening their leadership skills. Their field training progresses, with more emphasis placed on platoon-level tactics, versus individual. “At this time academics are also introduced, such as courses in war studies and international affairs,” Potts added.

“During their senior term, as the cadets prepare for their entry to the field as an officer, leadership principles are of primary importance,” he said.

Nearly every task is tailored to give students a chance to demonstrate their skills as a leader and mentor. On the firing range, for



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

A junior-term cadet at Iraqi Military Academy Rustamiyah uses a pick-axe to dig a fighting position hole during his class’s first field exercise Sept. 4. Junior term teaches cadets basic infantry tactics and begins leadership training.



Using smoke grenades for concealment, Iraqi cadets secure the perimeter of the training area during their exercise.

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Junior term cadets receive instruction on bounding movements across open areas before practicing the skill during their first field exercise Sept. 4.

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example, senior cadets approached the line in pairs – one as a shooter, the other as a coach. The shooter assumed the firing position, and the coach made any necessary corrections to his posture, form or sighting.

Their final months are heavily focused on field training, and students are put into command positions, directing the events of the exercises. All of this culminates with a final exam, which covers materials from all three terms.

“By the time the students graduate their senior term, they should be ready to be leaders in all senses,” said Potts.

By tradition, each class’s top graduate is typically selected to be a part of the junior term’s instructor team. The other graduates are then sent to units across the country to put their knowledge to use actively fighting for their nation’s peace.

With the graduation of one class, opportunity arises for the next generation of potential officers to commence training at the prestigious academy. According to Potts, the school receives roughly 3,000 applicants per course.

“Being an officer in the Iraqi Army is a respected position,” he said. And attending an



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

Senior term cadets practice their marksmanship and leadership skills during a course at the IMAR firing range. One student coached, while the other fired.



Dried mud, covering the face and helmet of an IMAR cadet, serves as an improvised form of camouflage. During the junior term’s first field exercise, students learn the basics of living and surviving in a field environment.

academy with a rich tradition such as IMAR also lends to its appeal.

Established in 1924, IMAR has been graduating Iraqi Army officers for more than 90 years. In 1947 the school moved to the site where it resides today. Several well-known officers received their training at IMAR, and even Saddam Hussein himself applied for the course but failed the entrance exam.

In 2003, the school was closed because of the second Gulf War. The facilities were looted and vandalized extensively until U.S. forces occupied the site later that year. Reconstruction began in 2004 and the following year the academy reopened to students.

Since 2006, it has been led by Coalition forces under the NATO Training Mission

– Iraq. In June of this year, the school’s Iraqi leadership took official control of the academy, with their Coalition counterparts simply serving as advisors.

“The academy leadership has made some definite improvements,” said Potts. “There are a few areas where they could still improve further, but they’ve come a long way.”

One of the biggest challenges of the academy is producing enough capable leaders to feed the growth of the Iraqi Army. “The size of the army is expanding exponentially,” said Potts. “They need these officers.”

And the majority of the cadets couldn’t be more eager to fulfill that need.

“I am here because I want to serve my country,” said a junior cadet. “My country needs me, so that is why I am here.”

Iraqi Army embraces importance of NCO corps

By U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Daniel Epright

Iraq Assistance Group Public Affairs

BAGHDAD

– Iraqi Army Cpl. Essam Hashim, an infantryman with the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, is the honor graduate for the Sept. 4 graduating

class of the Warrior Leader Course at Mahmudiyah.

The 27 newly empowered noncommissioned officer graduates are returning to the 4-6th IA Division to assume their new responsibilities. This course is an important recognition that the Iraqi Army is embracing and reinforcing NCOs as an integral part of the Iraqi Army force structure.

The WLC honor graduate shared his feelings of joy during this graduation.

“I remember when I was an NCO in Saddam’s army; it was much different than today’s army,” said Hashim. “I am actually treated as a human and making enough money to support my family. And being a part of this graduation in this army makes me proud.”

The keynote speaker for the graduation, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James Yarbrough, Iraq Assistance Group commander, expressed his pride in the newest Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers.

“If I had to name the one thing that distinguishes the U.S. Army as the finest in the world, I will tell you it is the strength of our noncommissioned officer corps. You were selected to attend this course because of your potential. Graduating today is not the end of a course; it’s the beginning of your service to Iraq as a leader.”

This WLC is conducted by Task Force 2-15 Field Artillery in partnership with the 4-6 Iraqi Army Division. The WLC certifies Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers on leadership tasks required for air assaults as well as for mounted and dismounted patrols. The 14-day in-resident course places emphasis on leadership, duties, responsibilities and authority of noncommissioned officers. Iraqi soldiers are selected by their units based on their potential to assume NCO leadership positions.

The graduation requirements for the course include a 10 kilometer dismounted joint patrol through the streets of Mahmudiyah with



Courtesy photo

Warrior Leader Course noncommissioned officer candidates participate in a live fire exercise at Mahmudiyah. Twenty-seven NCOs are now returning to their unit.

Coalition Forces. Task Force 2-15 FA and their Iraqi Army partners also conduct the Iraqi Commando Course, a combination of selected tasks from the U.S. Army Air Assault and Ranger Schools.

When created, the WLC was taught by American instructors. Now, many of the WLC leader-instructors, such as Cpl. Ala Salem, are Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers. Salem can confirm his leadership role -- he is also one of the first graduates of the Commando Course.

Speaking as an instructor for the WLC, Salem said, “This course gives our junior leadership extra training that they cannot receive anywhere else. The students who are graduating today have become better in physical training and better overall leaders.”

The WLC at Mahmudiyah has graduated more than 130 noncommissioned officers.

The partnership of the 4-6 IA and TF 2-15 Field Artillery has increasingly improved security in the Mahmudiyah area. Once known as the “Triangle of Death,” the area has gradually become more secure, allowing the area economy to normalize, public schools to reopen and local government to resume operation.

Similar to the U.S. Army, the students of this WLC have developed a Noncommissioned Officer’s Creed and have proposed it be adopted throughout the Iraqi Army.

IRAQI NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER CREED

(proposed)

I am an Iraqi NCO.

I lead soldiers.

I am professional and I have high experience. I lead from the front I am ideal in discipline and good character. I keep and confirm my soldier’s discipline. I put the country and my soldiers’ advantages before my own personal advantages. I must be sure that my soldiers receive good training to fight bravely I work in order to ensure the high-ranking officers complete their duties and I don’t depend on them to complete my own. I obey orders from those appointed over me and I work to gain their confidence. I will never abandon from my purity. I will never forget and I will not allow my brothers to forget that we are professional NCOs. My loyalty forever for my country and the Iraqi Army. I am an Iraqi NCO.



Photos by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch



Commissioning Air Force officers

The Iraqi Air Force Academy graduated its first 11 cadets in a ceremony held at Camp Taji, Iraq, Sept. 12. The cadets entered the six-month officer training course with degrees varying from mechanical to computer engineering. After receiving their commissions to second lieutenant, the cadets will go on to flight school or other advanced training as they are integrated into the IqAF.



Iraqi Air Force introduces new additions

By U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Air Force added the first three Cessna Grand Caravan 208B model aircraft to their inventory during a transfer of ownership ceremony held at New Al Muthanna Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 2.

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, Coalition Air Force Transition Team commanding general, signed the Cessna Grand Caravan

208Bs over to Lt. Gen. Kamal, Iraqi Air Force commanding general, ceremoniously releasing primary responsibility of the aircraft from Coalition to the IqAF.

“Accepting the responsibility for this aircraft is another big step for the Iraqi Air Force toward their goal of self-sustainment,” said Allardice. “It’s another step for the Iraqi government to provide security for their own people.”

The first Caravan was delivered in April. The second and third were delivered May and June to the Iraqi Air Force 3rd Squadron out of Kirkuk. The addition of the three Caravans brings the total number of Iraqi aircraft to 51, with plans to add five additional Caravans next spring bringing a total of eight Caravans to the IqAF inventory.

The Caravan’s primary mission of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance is currently the responsibility of the SAMA CH2000 aircraft, which will eventually be phased out of the ISR mission. Aside from the ISR mission, the Caravan can hold six passengers, and will be used in a dual capacity as a light transport craft for Iraqi dignitaries.

“The Caravan is a leap in technology compared to the CH2000,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Mark Schmitz, 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron commander. “It is faster, can fly at higher altitudes and will have the capability to provide the Iraqi’s with real-time intelligence, which the CH2000 is not capable of doing right now.”

According to Schmitz, this is the perfect counter-insurgency



Commanding General of Coalition Air Force Transition Team, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Allardice, signs over three Cessna Grand Caravan 208B aircrafts to Lt. Gen. Kamal, Iraqi Air Force commanding general, in a ceremony held at New Al Muthanna Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 2.



An Iraqi Air Force maintainer checks various gauges and monitors on board a Cessna Grand Caravan 208B aircraft at New Al Muthanna Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq, Sept. 2.

aircraft. It’s a small, lightweight aircraft with a reliable engine, has the ability to get out of remote places and is easy to maintain.

“I used to work (maintenance) on the MIG 21 for 20 years. Now I work on the Caravan and it is a lot less complex and fairly easy to learn all the different systems,” said Ayad Achmed, a maintainer from the Iraqi Air Force 3rd Squadron out of Kirkuk.

The Caravan is also being used in conjunction with other IqAF aircraft. It has flown missions with Huey II helicopters, providing visual support in seeking out bomb-making facilities and weapons caches. With the surveillance capability, they are able to capture and report any suspicious activity to ground forces below.

“Right now we, the air force, are the only ones flying,” said an Iraqi pilot who asked not to be identified for security reasons. “It is our duty to provide the information so our army brothers can complete their missions.”



Photos by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

One of three Cessna Grand Caravan 208B aircraft sits at New Al Muthanna Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq during a transfer of ownership ceremony Sept. 2. Coalition transferred primary responsibility of the aircraft to the Iraqi Air Force.

Iraqi Police undergo specialized training

By U.S. Navy MC2 Erica R. Gardner

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



HABBANIYAH, Iraq – Students of Habbaniyah Police Training Center are learning democratic policy as well as human rights and equal treatment of all persons regardless of religion affiliation.

More than 700 Iraqi Police students are trained in the Basic Recruit Training course every 10 weeks. The training consists of weapons familiarization, rules of engagement and most importantly

- diversity awareness. Educating the students about common stereotypes and prejudices, to include their own, and alternatives to eliminate or suppress them are necessary.

Civil rights and religious sensitivity training prepares the students to interact more positively with fellow students and the people they serve. Understanding cultural differences, especially in conflict situations, can help relieve tension and confrontation.

“The existing Iraqi Police have not operated in a democratic society and we are relating democratic policing to them. We are instilling in them respect for human rights and equal treatment for all persons without regard to religion,” said Gregory S. Jordan, Habbaniyah Police Training Center director.

The training center opened in June and provides both basic and specialized training. Local police station commanders, with the assistance of Coalition police training trainers select students to attend the course.

The Ministry of Interior has set the age range for IPs between 18 and 35. This range allows for new police as well as experienced police to serve and protect their provinces. The mixture of experience provides the opportunity for a new outlook on Iraqi Police guidelines.

Each day, new challenges are faced by Iraqi Police requiring split-second decision making skills. The ability to detect and detain a suspect based on probable cause is the main focus in the equal treatment of all persons.

“I have to be careful not to expose the wrong person,” said Achmed Hussein, Iraqi Police who served under the old regime and is now attending the training course. Hussein’s caution stems from lessons learned in class.

IPs have been known to be brutal under the old regime. To mitigate the chance of police operating in this manner, the human rights training is taught in great detail to ensure students learn what it truly means to serve and protect their provinces.

Jordan said he feels the HPTC is making a difference in the way Iraqi Police perform in the provinces. “We are showing them a way of policing that does not involve torture,” he said.

Show of force is the number one deterrent of criminal behavior. Looking the part of a squared-away police often minimizes bad situations, and being able to defend themselves as well as their partner often brings pride to them and the neighborhood being protected.

Being that several of the IPs have a military background, it is not hard to introduce a new method of discipline to them. Adopting a new training program provides them with a new thinking process.



Photo by Army Sgt. Dennis Gravelle, 138th MPAD.

Iraqi Police cadets practices breaching a building while training with International Police Liaison Officers and the Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team. Iraqi Police are currently training to develop the Iraqi Security Forces, facilitate the development of official rule of law.

The ability to think ‘outside the box’ enables several scenarios to be entertained.

The use of scenario training has helped the students use alternate methods of securing a scene. In practical exercises, alternative choices are decided by students and explained by PTTs in efforts to drive home the message of democratic policing.

Some of the scenarios used in the classroom involve interrogations both on the streets and in the police stations. Proper verbiage is discussed to eliminate the risk of isolating potential witnesses. The need to gain the cooperation of the community is important in keeping the lines of communication open between them and the police, according to a PTT that asked to not be identified due to security reasons.

“When I used to patrol the streets I would not be welcomed,” said Hussein. “I hope now people will want me to be there for them.” Hussein further explained the need to treat people better than he had before. The mindset of the Iraqi Police departments is changing to a gentler force.

Jordan advised that the instructors at HPTC have more than 20 years of U.S. military and civilian police training, combined. This background helps teach IPs the fundamentals of democratic police skills.

Iraqi Police are in the position of training other IPs. This is a rewarding course to have at HRTC, as this helps in keeping the respect of the students said Hussein. He further added it helps when someone speaks the language, understands the culture and knows the challenges faced being an Iraqi Police.

When reflecting upon the proudest moment of his training career, Jordan thinks about a graduation ceremony from the Mosul Academy. An Iraqi commandant turned to him and said because of this training, the country of Iraq will now be free and safe. “I feel as if we are making a difference,” Jordan said.

Iraqi Civil Defense training center opens in Baghdad

By U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



International Zone Aug. 25.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, working with the Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team and the Government of Iraq, acted as the construction agent for the facility. The facility will provide the people of Iraq with a national training center to develop the capabilities of civil defense at both basic and advanced levels.

"This is the first, and so far the only fire training facility in Iraq right now," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Johnny Wolfe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division security and justice program manager. "Basic firefighter training can be conducted at a local level, using fire leaders and instructors trained at this center."

Plans for the construction of the training ground encompassed two separate projects. The first project was for a live-fire training tower, which began construction in September 2006. The training tower provides live-fire training, hose evolutions, confined space rescue, ventilation operations, hose lays and pump operations, elevated rescues and the use of sprinklers and standpipes.

The second project was the construction of the classroom and barracks, which began in November 2006. The classroom and barracks building houses 40 students and 10 training staff. It also includes a dining room, complete kitchen for meal preparation, bathrooms and showers, five classrooms, and a library and computer room for the cadets.

"It is nice to have classrooms for training and a library where we can relax or catch up on our studies," said Maheed, a training academy cadet.

This training facility's current class is a 14-day educational course where cadets learn basic firefighting skills such as application of portable extinguishers, full personal protective equipment, forcible entry tools and techniques, search and rescue operations and victim removal.



Photos by U.S. Navy MC1(SW) Anthony J. Koch

An Iraqi fire training cadet adjusts his Self Contained Breathing Apparatus mask to ensure a proper fit before participating in a live-fire training exercise.

The cadets are able to take more from the training at this facility by applying the material in a practical setting.

From this training facility the students go back to their home town or province to integrate with their local fire station. "We will go back and be able to apply what we have learned here and understand why we are doing it a certain way," said Maheed. "We won't be trying to respond to an emergency with no formal training."

In addition to the training facility, this location will also act as a fire response station for all Iraqi emergencies within the International Zone.

"The facility has been built using experience and knowledge gained worldwide to guarantee the future safety of the Iraqi people. The students trained here, in a safe working environment, will become part of a worldwide fraternity of firefighters," said Wolfe. "They will face the same dangers, but using this training and their own courage, they will ensure that the people of Iraq are safe and protected in times of emergency."



Iraqi fire training cadets respond to a fire in the live-fire tower during an exercise at the Iraqi Civil Defense training center in Baghdad, Iraq, Aug. 25.

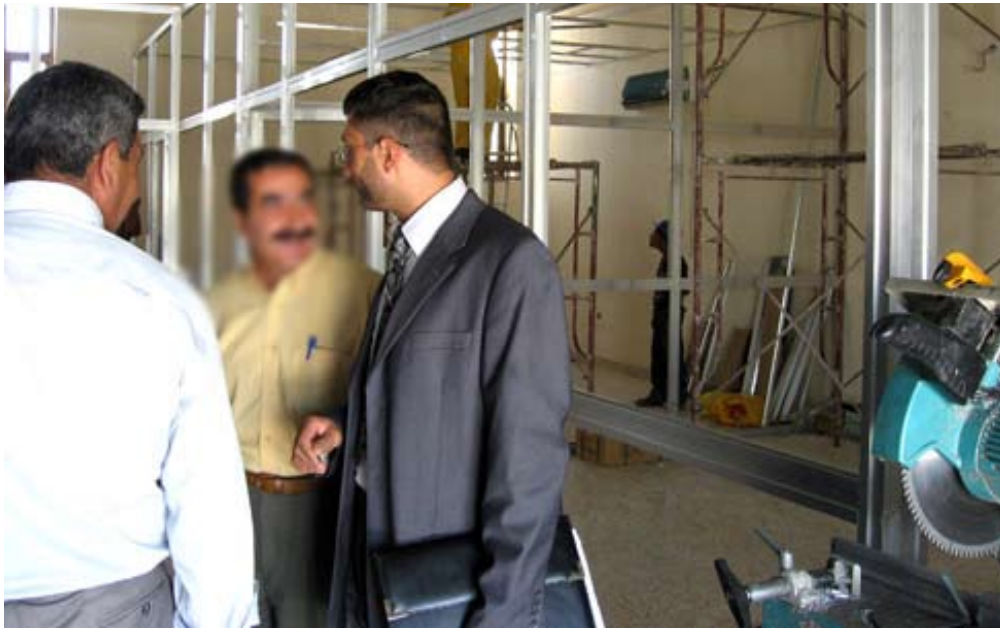


Photo courtesy of MNSTC-I Legal Office

An Iraqi judge discusses the construction efforts of the Baghdad Military Courts with legal advisor Mohammed Soby, MNSTC-I legal office.

Iraq establishes military courts

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class
Kimberly A. Green

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq –

Ultimately, the way forward depends on the ability of Iraqis to maintain security gains. “The Iraqi Army is becoming more capable,

although there is still a great deal of work to be done to improve the Iraqi forces”, said U.S. Army General David H. Petraeus, Multi-National Force - Iraq commanding general, in Washington Sept. 11.

As the Iraqi Security Forces and ministries progress toward a stable and democratic Iraq, the government, the citizens and most importantly the military must enforce the rules of law as well as abide by the rules of law.

Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker cited many examples of the incremental progress being made by the Iraqi government during their testimony to Congress.

One of the examples is the Iraqi led initiatives taking place to rebuild key institutions, such as judicial establishments.

The Government of Iraq has taken great strides to confront the abundance of legal

issues within its own military.

Just this year the GOI introduced a new military justice system and recently completed construction of military courts in Baghdad.

Generally all militaries maintain a court-martial system to try cases in which a breakdown of organization and military discipline may have occurred. However, since 2003 Iraq has been without a military justice system.

“The new military justice system will provide commanders the necessary tools to instill good order and discipline and establish clear and defined rights for the soldiers under the law and together establishes a fair, just and effective Rule of Law,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. John J. Coughlin, MNSTC-I Operations Law and Ministry of Defense liaison.

The Iraqi trial court proceeding consists of a three judge panel with a chief judge and no jury and the court of cassation or appeals consists of a civilian chief justice and two panels headed by a senior military judge.

Both courts are scheduled to open this October.

“It is important for them (Iraqi servicemembers) to know that there are laws they must adhere to, and it also helps them to know what their rights are too”, said lawyer and legal advisor Mohammed Soby, MNSTC-I legal office. “It’s not just about punishment; it’s about everyone obeying the law.”

MAN ON THE STREET What have you done for the Iraqi Security Forces that you’re most proud of?

U.S. ARMY MAJ.
BART STEWART

J-5 Plans and Strategy

“I’m part of a team that helps align the working mechanisms of structuring, equipping, training, sustaining, and readiness functions of the Iraqi Security Forces in accordance with the commanding general’s priorities.”



U.S. NAVY LT.

LAURENCE MCPHERSON

Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team

“I contributed to functions relating to organizing, equipping, training and mentoring of the Facilities Protection Service. FPS is the guard force that protect GOI vital infrastructure.”



U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT.
JULIE O'DONNELL

Headquarters Commandant

“I supply the Iraqi translators with personal protective equipment when they go out on their support missions.”



Extremist leader killed in Diwaniyah

DIWANIYAH – Iraqi Special Operations Forces, advised by U.S. Special Forces, killed a Shia extremist company commander during an intelligence-driven operation Sept. 13 in Diwaniyah.

Reports indicate the insurgent leader was responsible for leading a group of more than 25 individuals who conducted mortar and small arms fire against Coalition forces in the Diwaniyah area.

The insurgent leader aimed his pistol at the Iraqi and U.S. forces, displaying hostile intent during the mission. The Iraqi and U.S. team members responded, killing the individual.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Released detainees pledge to uphold Rule of Law in Ba'Qubah

BA'QUBAH – Iraqi Police and Coalition forces released a total of 67 detainees Sept. 12, as a demonstration of due process and in the spirit of Ramadan.

The Coalition released 37 detainees to the authority of the Iraqi Provincial Police, after a comprehensive review of case evidence. The IPs then released the 37, in addition to 30 of their own detainees, from the Major Crimes Unit jail.

Each individual freed said a prayer and took a pledge to not break the law nor bear arms against the Iraqi government or CF. They also agreed to assist both organizations whenever called upon.

Sheikhs from several neighborhoods in Ba'Qubah and surrounding villages were present as representatives of the community for the release ceremony.

– *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

ISF, local residents respond to VBIED attack in Mirk As Sufia

TIKRIT – Iraqi Security Forces from 3rd Iraqi Army Division, local Iraqi Police and citizens from Mirk As Sufia responded to a VBIED attack in a Nineveh province village, resulting in casualties and significant damage, Sept. 10.

According to reports, a white dump truck drove into the village of Mirk As Sufia, where it was engaged by vigilant civil guards causing the VBIED to detonate. The attack killed three people, wounded approximately 25 others and damaged roughly 15 buildings.

Following the attack, soldiers from the 3rd IA, local IPs and residents began rescue efforts, evacuating all casualties to local hospitals. Third IA soldiers also provided earth-moving equipment to assist with recovery and clean up efforts.

– *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Captives freed, kidnappers captured

BAGHDAD – Two people were freed from captivity and four others arrested and charged with kidnapping after a tip-driven raid was conducted by soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 5th Division, 6th Iraqi Army at the Salhiyah apartments Sept. 8.

The tip, from the mother of one of the victims being held, was initially provided to the 5th Brigade, 2nd Division National Police, who oversee security in the area. The mission of locating and freeing the individuals was then turned over to the 4-5-6 IA.

The soldiers performed a cordon and search of the apartment complex until they were able to locate and free the two individuals.



Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Richard Ybarra

KEEPING WATCH

An Iraqi soldier scans the fields near Skook, watching for al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists attempting to flee the area near Ba'Qubah. Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and concerned nationals combined efforts to conduct a raid against a suspected al-Qaida in Iraq stronghold southeast of Skook, Sept. 2.

Five detainees were turned over and processed by the 5-2 National Police.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army forces detain illegal judge

TARMIYAH – Iraqi Army forces entered the Zayn Al-Abidin mosque in Tarmiyah and detained its leader overseeing the illegal Sharia religious court Sept. 8, while U.S. forces provided support.

Al-Qaida operatives often establish a Sharia court to “try” individuals for violations of the Wahabist law, an extreme interpretation of the Quran.

Detainees are often bound and tortured for several days while awaiting this “trial”, ultimately found guilty and then murdered.

Sharia courts are a practice in rural areas where al-Qaida operates unchallenged and is used under the guise of their own rule of law.

– *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army, Coalition forces detain extremist death-squad member

BAGHDAD – Members of the 3/9th Iraqi Army Division, with U.S. Special Forces as advisors, detained an alleged extremist death squad member Sept. 3 in the Baghdad area.

The suspect is part of a notorious death squad in the Bub al Sha'am and Al Shaab areas in New Baghdad. The alleged is additionally responsible for kidnapping and torturing innocent civilians, as well as conducting extra judicial killings.

He is also part of a criminal network that specializes in the use of small arms fire attacks with machine guns and emplaces IEDs to maim, kill or disrupt Iraqi and Coalition forces operating in the area.

During the mission, body armor, detonator switches, switchboards and various other suspicious objects were seized.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*