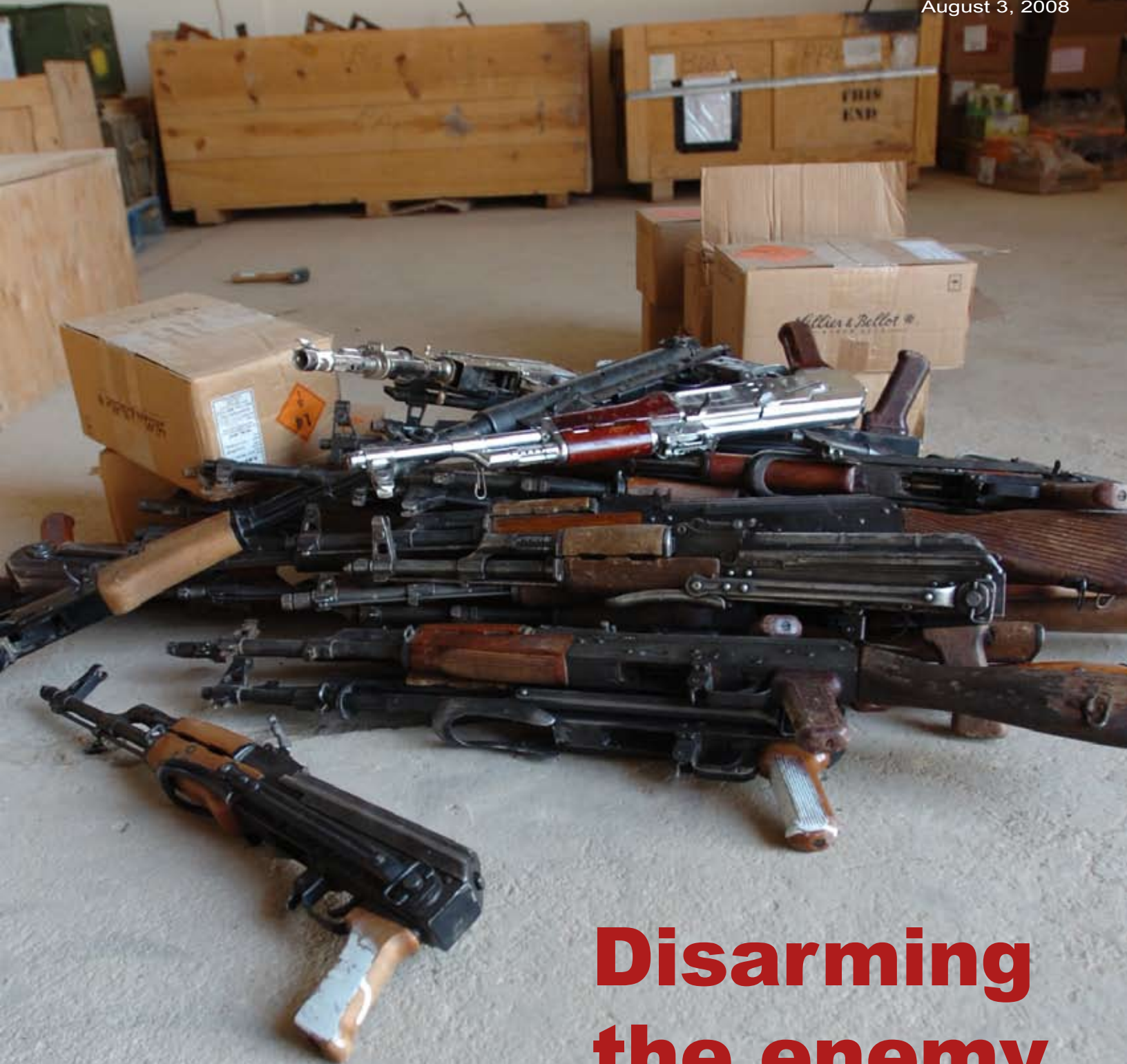


The Advisor



August 3, 2008



**Disarming
the enemy**

The Advisor

>> Volume 5 >> Issue 15

A semimonthly publication of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq

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>> FROM THE COVER

A stack of captured AK-47s and other enemy weapons that were turned in to Taji National Supply Depot

Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

A turret gunner scans his sector as the MNSTC-I Rough Riders drive from Baghdad to Taji. For more on the Rough Riders see story on page 5.

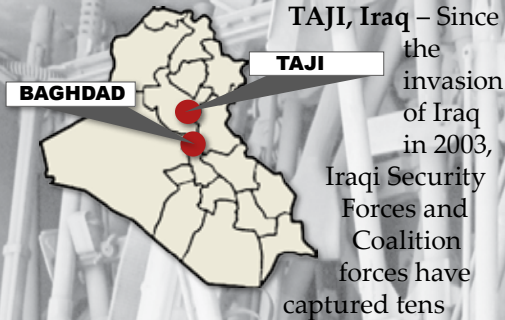
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Defanging the snake

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO



TAJI, Iraq – Since the invasion of Iraq in 2003, Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces have captured tens of thousands of enemy weapons and stored them at the Taji National Supply Depot here. In May a group of Soldiers from Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq started sorting and inventorying them so that they can either be refurbished and issued to the Iraqi military and police or properly demilitarized so they cannot be used by insurgents in the future.



Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Spillers, from MNSTC-I J4, opens a case of captured enemy weapons that were turned in by Coalition forces.

“We estimate we have about 80,000 small arms,” said U.S. Air Force Capt.

Amy Estes, officer in charge of the captured enemy weapons program. “We have counted more than 12,000 so far out of two warehouses and 45 shipping containers.”

The majority of the captured weapons are various makes and models of the Russian-designed AK-47. These rifles were made in China, Russia, Rumania, Bulgaria, East Germany, Iraq and several other countries. There are thousands of machine guns including RPKs and RPDs—similar to the AK, but with a longer barrel and bipod, chambered for the same 7.62x39 ammunition—and several variations of PKs, belt-fed machine guns chambered for the more powerful 7.62x54R round.

The variety of captured firearms reaches back to the 19th century and has representatives from almost every arms-producing nation on earth. There are bolt-action Mausers, Enfields, Springfields and Moisin-Nagants; guns from the first and second world wars when British and German forces enlisted the aid of Iraq and neighboring states during battles in the Middle East and northern Africa. There were sporting rifles and shotguns from Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and the United States.

There are a host of submachine guns and assault rifles from Italy, Germany, England, Egypt, and everywhere else guns have been made. Among them are even Iraqi versions of famous guns like the Tariq 9mm pistol which is a licensed copy of the Italian Beretta model 951, and several copies of the German G-3 automatic rifle that had no makers’ marks and Arabic serial numbers.

Some of the weapons had been modified, others were just broken. There were sawed-off shotguns, many AK-47s with no butt stock, several SKS rifles that had been cut down into pistols, and what appeared to be a 1938 Mauser with a home-made silencer welded onto the barrel. Many were chrome or nickel plated and had various decorative embellishments.

“The AK-47s get inventoried and sorted

see CAPTURED WEAPONS page 4

Operation Sabre Pursuit in Diyala nets several cache finds

Multi-National Division – North PAO

DIYALA PROVINCE, Iraq – Iraqi Army and Multi-National Division – North Soldiers discovered several weapons caches July 28 near Hamud, in the eastern Diyala Province, during operations in support of Operation Sabre Pursuit.

Iraqi Soldiers with the 18th Bde, 5th IA Div, and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment Soldiers, unearthed 12 caches.

The caches included 60 mm mortar rounds with a mortar tube, a rocket propelled grenade launcher with various grenades and several AK-47 rifles.

Since the start of Operation Sabre Pursuit July 25 in the eastern Diyala Province, IA Soldiers with the 5th IA Div. and MND-N Soldiers have discovered multiple small caches and disposed of six improvised explosive devices.

“The operation started south of Balad Rooz to deny the area as a safe haven to criminals in the Diyala and Baghdad provinces and to pursue them where ever they may go,” said Lt. Col. Paul T. Calvert, a 3rd ACR squadron commander. “Operations will continue to press forward until the objective has been accomplished.”

More than 500 reconcile in Tikrit, ad-Dwar

Multi-National Division – North PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq – More than 500 Iraqis have reconciled with Iraqi Security and Coalition forces since late June in the cities of Tikrit and ad-Dwar combined.

In Tikrit, where the people were once very loyal to Saddam’s former regime, more than 200 people have cleared their names and safely rejoined Iraqi society over the past 10 days.

Since late June in ad Dwar, more than 300 have pledged to accept the laws set forth by the Government of Iraq.

This follows the reconciliation that has swept across the Salah ad-Din province, starting in the predominately Shi’a city of Balad in May, and then areas to its south near the Joint Base Balad. Nearly 700 people in those areas have chosen to reconcile with the GoI.

“Reconciliation has given local criminals who were tired of hiding an

Continued NEXT PAGE

honorable way to come forward and publicly announce their newfound loyalty to the Government of Iraq," said Capt. John Gabriel, commander of U.S. forces responsible for a large portion of Tikrit. "It has had a profound impact on the morale of the citizens in our area and is a guiding light to secure a fruitful future."

Salah ad-Din province sees more than 1,100 reconcile

Multi-National Division – North PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq – More than 1,100 former fighters have reconciled with Iraqi Security and Coalition forces in the Salah ad-Din province since May.

Musalahah, meaning reconciliation in Arabic, is a combined effort between the Qadah level Government of Iraq, the leadership of the Iraqi Police, the 4th Iraqi Army Division and the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

By turning themselves into the Joint Coordination Centers across the province, Iraqis are seeking to clear their names. Men who are thought to have committed crimes are given a court date, so they can plead their cases before an Iraqi judge.

The city of Balad and its outlying areas, once wracked by violence, has seen nearly 700 men reconcile with the Iraqi government.

"Former fighters in the Balad Qadah have stepped forward to reconcile with their fellow countrymen, and 76 of them have been given court dates to appear before an Iraqi judge," said Lt. Col. Bob McCarthy, a 32nd Cavalry Regiment squadron commander. "This is a key step in reestablishing their ties to the communities, rejoining their families in their homes and becoming active participants in Iraq's future."

As a result of the mass reconciliation in the Balad area, McCarthy's Soldiers, along with Iraqi Army soldiers and Police, have been led to multiple weapons caches by those who have reconciled.

As in Balad, the provincial capital of Tikrit and the Sunni dominated enclave of ad-Dwar, has had similar success with the reconciliation process.

More than 400 men have reconciled in the area.

Over the last few days, the number of Iraqis wishing to reconcile has doubled in the restive city of Bayji.

"The people of Salah ad-Din have

Continued NEXT PAGE

CAPTURED WEAPONS from page 3

into three groups by condition," said Estes. "H is completely unserviceable, P can be stripped for parts, and F can be overhauled or repaired."

Beside the captured firearms, there are hundreds of RPGs-rocket propelled grenade launchers-both military issue and some hand-made from pipe, wood and wire. There were also mortars of various sizes and origins.

After 10 weeks of sorting weapons already in the warehouse, the MNSTC-I Soldiers have started accepting new deliveries from the capturing units.

Seven crates containing 164 weapons, captured in the Abu Ghraib area of operations, were brought in by a group of Soldiers from the 24th Bde. 6th Div. of the Iraqi Army. One of the guns was a WWII-era, Russian PPSH submachine gun that an Iraqi Colonel purchased for \$10.

Iraqi Army Maj. Chied said the weapons were captured, "when you make a raid or on foot patrol when you go to search the area. Sometimes at the checkpoint when you search the car, or sometimes they are buried in the ground."

"Today [July 23] is the first day we've had crews bringing in weapons. All the rest came out of the warehouses," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Don Spillers, NCOIC of the captured weapons program.

Later in the day, a group of American, Military Transition Team Soldiers from



Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

Hundreds of captured handguns-many dating back to the early 1900s. The modern 9 mm pistols will be refurbished and issued to the Iraqi Security Forces

the 34th Bde. 9th Div. of the Iraqi Army brought in a trunk containing 31 captured weapons and 6,000 rounds of ammunition that were captured in the area around Taji.

After they are sorted and accounted for, captured enemy weapons will be sent to the Small Arms Repair Facility at Taji National Maintenance Depot. This shop will service AK-47 rifles, Dragunov sniper rifles, and several machineguns and 9 mm pistols.

The more unusual weapons that cannot be supported by the Iraqi supply and maintenance system will be stored for future destruction. ■



A group of civilian small arms inspectors assist MNSTC-I Soldiers with the inventory of a crate of captured weapons turned in by an Iraqi Army unit.

Captured Enemy Weapons

Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady



A pistol made from an AK-47 rifle. The buttstock has been removed, the barrel shortened and the pistol grip and handguard have been replaced.



A German Luger model P-08 9 mm pistol made by Mauser and dated 1937.



A U.S. 1911A1 .45-cal pistol made by the Ithaca Gun Co. during WWII.



An elaborately engraved CZ 75 9 mm pistol made in Czechoslovakia.



An 8 mm Mauser rifle with a home-made silencer welded onto the barrel.



The remains of a pair of old M-16A1 5.56 mm rifles.



Three Tariq 9 mm pistols made in Iraq-the Tariq is a licensed copy of the Italian Beretta model 951.



A pistol made from a cut down, Russian-designed SKS 7.62x39 mm rifle.

seen the worst that al-Qaeda has to offer and have rejected criminal wholesale," said Lt. Col. John King, 1st BCT deputy commander. "The provincial leadership is serious about rebuilding the province and the country."

Citizen tip leads NPs, Soldiers to cache

Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO

BAGHDAD – Acting on a citizen tip, National Police and MND – Baghdad Soldiers seized a weapons cache in the New Baghdad security district of eastern Baghdad July 25.

Police with the 4th Brigade, 1st National Police Division and Soldiers from the 66th Armor Regiment uncovered a cache during a combined search operation in the Kamaliyah area of New Baghdad. The cache consisted of 2,000 AK-47 ammunition rounds; 1,000 PKC machinegun rounds; one rocket nose cone and one mortar round of unknown size.

"The citizen who reported the cache to security forces is a true Iraqi patriot who saved the lives of his fellow countrymen," said Maj. Joey Sullinger, a spokesperson for 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light), Multi-National Division - Baghdad. "Civilians working with Iraqi Security Forces will go a long way in ridding eastern Baghdad of criminals, leading to a safe society."

Citizen finds IED, reports to IP in Karadah

Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO

BAGHDAD – A concerned citizen found an improvised explosive device and reported the IED to an Iraqi Police official in the Karadah district of eastern Baghdad, July 25.

After the citizen informed Iraqi Police about the IED, Iraqi Police officials notified Iraqi explosive ordnance experts. They detonated the IED in place and determined that the IED consisted of homemade explosives.

"This is a great example of a brave, concerned citizen and Iraqi Security Forces coming together to save innocent lives in eastern Baghdad," said Maj. Joey Sullinger, spokesperson for 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. "The courageous citizens of Iraq must continue to take active roles in their security so militants will have no safe haven from which to carry out

Continued NEXT PAGE

their criminal attacks. The Government of Iraq's ability to provide improved essential services to its people is directly tied to increased security and stability."

ISF seize bomb-making materials, detain suspects near Balad

Multi-National Division – North PAO

TIKRIT, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces discovered significant improvised explosive device-making materials in the tribal area of Rufiyat, near Balad, July 24.

The items found consisted of homemade explosives, ball bearings, cordless phones and other illegal weapons. ISF also detained individuals responsible for housing these items.

"The Iraqi Army planned and executed this operation independently," said 1st Lt. Andrew Gillick, a 32nd Cavalry Regiment platoon leader. "This operation helped prevent the manufacturing of IEDs in the Balad area."

The Rufiyat area has become notably safer as IED-producing cells have been disrupted by Sons of Iraq groups and Iraqi Security and Coalition force operations, which has hampered criminals' ability to use IEDs.

"The Sons of Iraq in particular have cleaned up a lot of criminal activity in this area and now the focus of the people has shifted from survival to prosperity," said Gillick.

ISF, MND-B Soldiers uncover multiple caches in Baghdad area

Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers uncovered multiple weapons caches July 24 while working to secure the Baghdad area.

At approximately 9 a.m., Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division seized two AK-47s, four AK-47 magazines and 246 7.62 mm rounds in the East Rashid area of Baghdad.

Later, at approximately 11:30 a.m., acting on a tip from a local citizen, Soldiers with the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., found an improvised explosive device-making workshop. The cache included personal mobile radios, base stations, batteries, power sources, garage door openers, circuit boards, programmers, a

Continued NEXT PAGE

Rough Riders-all eyes on road

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Daly

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – "The bridge is clear top to bottom," U.S. Army Staff Sgt. James Schalla radios the rest of the convoy. All eyes are on the road, traffic, pedestrians and buildings as the Rough Riders leave Baghdad International Airport headed for the International Zone.

The 1st Motorized Infantry Company (Provisional), known as the Rough Riders, is in charge of getting Multi National Security Transition Command-Iraq assets through unprotected zones and back into the secured ones. This means guarding and escorting VIPs to general officers and even some foreign dignitaries.

It's a mission their commander, U.S. Army Maj. Patrick Rimron of Charlotte, N.C., takes to heart. "MNSTC-I's whole mission is to help Iraqi Security Forces stand up on their own," said Rimron.

To support ISF, decision makers need to get from point A to point B, and when nothing else will do, the Rough Riders are standing by.

"So the way we look at it is that every mission we run helps us accomplish that mission which will eventually lead to the day when they don't need US forces over here anymore because they (Iraqis) can do the job on their own," said Rimron.

Recently, the Rough Riders were moving a group of journalists and

MNSTC-I Public Affairs officials from BIAP to the International Zone in Baghdad. Before approaching the exit gate, the crew of the lead humvee, who had been chatting casually, suddenly put on their war faces. They pulled outside the gate and everyone in the truck, and in the convoy, focused on their surroundings. "Clear on the right," said the turret gunner, Spc. Christopher Hardee while Sgt. Patrick McDermott turned the wheel.

They move, in their words, "Aggressively." They don't waste any time getting their passengers from one protected zone to another. They scan the roadway and surroundings for any possible threat. "If we look aggressive and ready to fight, no one will mess with us," said Schalla.

The roads are becoming safer to travel, but that provides other challenges. "The increase in security has meant that there is more pedestrian and civilian traffic on the roads than when we first got here, which makes things a little more congested," said Rimron.

Congestion means slower speeds which translates into more minutes in the danger zone for the Rough Riders and their passengers.

The Rough Riders trace their lineage back to Col. Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders of the Spanish American

War. "They were U.S. volunteer cavalry, which basically made them a guard or reserve unit, said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Mike Davis. It seems fitting for this group of Army Reserve Soldiers who were thrown together from units all over the United States to come here for this mission. "I guess when they founded this unit, they decided to call it 1st Motorized Infantry (Provisional)," said Davis.

Today's Rough Riders became battle tested early on. "You always hear about the whole band of brother's thing, pulling together under fire if you will. You can see



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady
U.S. Army Sgt. Hassan Wilson-Morgan gets ready to saddle up for another mission with the 1st Motorized Infantry Co. (Provisional) Rough Riders.

Rough Riders continued PAGE 7

10,000 detainees released

Multi-National Forces-Iraq

MNF-I PAO

BAGHDAD – More than 10,000 detainees have been released from Coalition detention facilities in Iraq this year, since implementation of programs designed to better prepare detainees for reintegration into society and to reduce recidivism.

“A recent innovation is to have a social worker and an Islamic cleric counsel detainees before they go before their first Multi-National Forces Review Committee (MNFRC), said Rear Adm. Garland Wright, commander of Task Force 134 Detainee Operations in Baghdad. “Also, last February we started having officers from the Multi-National Corps-Iraq division or capturing unit sit on our MNFRC boards.”

MNFRC Boards were instituted last August as part of agreements Multi-National Force – Iraq has with the Government of Iraq regarding detainee operations. After an individual is detained, his case is heard by the board within six months of being detained.

TF 134 also has instituted a number of religious, educational, and vocational programs since 2007 to enhance its reconciliation programs. According to Wright, “Engagement services are highly desired by the detainees. Most of the detainees have had a positive experience with the Islamic Discussion Program and the Level 1 education (Grades 1-3). We

have witnessed many of the detainees returning from class and sharing notes and thoughts with their compound members.”

General David H. Petraeus, commanding general of MNF-I, noted that “due to changes in the conduct of detainee operations and programs to prepare detainees for reintegration into society, we have not only gone over 10,000 releases, but our re-internment rate is less than 1 percent.”

Coalition detention programs currently hold just under 21,000 detainees, approximately 17,000 at Camp Bucca near Basrah, and approximately 3,000 at Camp Cropper in Baghdad. There are about a dozen women, just over 300 juveniles, about 200 third country nationals, and about 200 detainees over the age of 60. More than 10,000 detainees have been released so far this year, more than the total from last year of 8,900. We are currently detaining about 30 a day and releasing 45 a day. The average detention time is 330 days.

Coalition Forces are authorized by U.N. Security Resolution 1790 and the Geneva Convention to detain individuals “necessary for imperative reasons of security.” There is a detainee review process in place, which judges security risk, such that at any point in that process, detainees can be retained or released. ■

Rough Riders from page 6

it happen in a unit like this,” said Davis. When they arrived in March, the International Zone was receiving its share of rocket attacks. One morning a rocket hit a vehicle in front of their building, spraying shrapnel over the heads of the Soldiers. From the inside of their maintenance building, sunlight passes through the holes that were left from that rocket and another that hit later. No one was injured in the two attacks, but they consider themselves fortunate.

The Rough Riders have enough Soldiers to perform their mission 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Requests for their support happen on a

regular basis and even on short notice. “From time to time, we get called all of a sudden,” says Sgt. Hassan Wilson-Morgan. But, that doesn’t matter. Their weapons and vehicles are ready. A few quick checks and they are underway.

The Rough Riders of today are different from Teddy Roosevelt’s. Their horses are armored vehicles and their weapons are more powerful. Many of the Soldiers have old cavalry headgear that they wear for the occasional picture. Their team shirt has a portrait of Roosevelt on the back. Together, they are proud to carry on the lineage of the heroes of San Juan Hill even as they write their own chapter in history. ■

cable, LCD screens, assorted tools, wire, plastic bags, a global positioning system device, assorted electrical components, miscellaneous documents, identification cards and propaganda tapes.

Sons of Iraq turned a cache into Soldiers with the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, consisting of three 57 mm rockets and a 106 mm recoilless rifle round in the Abu Grhiab area of Baghdad at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Shortly after, at approximately 2 p.m., 54th Brigade, 6th Iraq Army Division soldiers acted on a tip from a local citizen and seized a rocket propelled grenade, three RPG heads, six 60 mm mortar rounds, eight anti-tank mines, 10 grenades, three flares, 500 PKC machine gun rounds, detonation cord, a container of bolts and a license plate in the Mansour area of Baghdad.

Police with the 5th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division found a 107 mm rocket and 15 82 mm mortar rounds at approximately 7 p.m. in the West Rashid area of Baghdad.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., in the Mansour area of Baghdad, Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division found 500 7.62 ammo rounds, a body armor vest and an AK-47.

ISF detain suspects, seize weapons cache in central Iraq

Multi-National Corps – Iraq PAO

BALAD, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces detained four suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorists and five suspected Special Groups criminals and recovered a weapons cache in separate operations across central Iraq July 21-22.

In Baghdad, the Baghdad National Emergency Response Brigade detained four suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorists on Ministry of Interior warrants July 22. The individuals are suspected of conducting attacks against Iraqi Police and Coalition forces. The suspects are also allegedly responsible for improvised explosive device attacks, assassination, sectarian violence, and displacement and intimidation of local Iraqis.

In another operation July 22 in Jisr Diyala, Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained a suspected Special Groups criminal cell leader and two other suspected cell members in an operation

Continued NEXT PAGE

to disrupt criminal activity in the area. The suspected criminals are said to be responsible for killing local Iraqis and plotting to attack Coalition bases.

In an operation July 21, the al Kut Special Weapons and Tactics team detained two suspected Special Groups criminals. The suspects are said to conduct IED and explosively formed projectile attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

The Baghdad National ERB uncovered a suspected Special Groups criminal weapons cache July 21 consisting of sniper rifles, machine guns and rifle rockets with several thousand rounds of ammunition; rocket propelled grenade launchers and warheads; several pounds of homemade explosive materials and an assortment of bomb-making materials.

Sol, Iraqi citizens, MND-B Soldiers take weapons off streets of Rashid

Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers discovered two weapons caches July 24 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, responded to a tip and discovered a stockpile of various improvised explosive device-making materials in a store near the Doura community market around 9:15 a.m.

A Sons of Iraq member handed over a 155 mm artillery round to Soldiers from the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., at approximately 10:30 a.m. in the Karb De Gla community.

“Our Soldiers perform a wide array of duties out on the battlefield, including receiving unexploded ordnance,” said Maj. Dave Olson, 1st BCT Spokesman, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B. “The 1st Brigade Soldiers are well-trained, well-equipped, well-led and will provide a safe environment for the Iraqi people.”

MND-B Soldiers confirm rocket site, detain known terrorist, 4 suspects

Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO

BAGHDAD – MND – Baghdad Soldiers confirmed a rocket launch site and detained a known terrorist and four

Continued NEXT PAGE

Facilities Protection Service completes training course for instructors

By Ronald Holbrook

MolTT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD– The Facilities Protection Service, which provides protection of Iraq’s vital infrastructure and government facilities, completed a month-long instructors training course last week with 89 completing the Train the Trainer course at Baghdad Police College.

With more qualified trainers, the aim is to speed up the training of the FPS force that works at the various ministries. The FPS has approximately 120,000 members serving in more than 30 ministries. The Ministry of Interior, which has approximately 19,200 trained guards, conducted the course.

The students learned the basics of facility protection and how to deliver and instruct FPS course material. The Train the Trainer course included 80 hours of instruction in how to conduct searches of people and vehicles, foot patrols, and how to guard Iraq’s infrastructure.

“We feel that the FPS is one of the keys to improving security and stability in Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Alan Goodrich, director of the FPS program for the

Ministry of Interior Transition Team that assists the Ministry of Interior.

In the United States, only about 15 percent of the infrastructure is owned by the government. The private sector is responsible for providing security. In Iraq, about 95 percent of the infrastructure is owned by the government, he said.

The Iraqi government is responsible for keeping the oil fields producing, electrical power plants running, water flowing, dams secure and making sure all ministries are safe for the citizens of Iraq.

“It is a big responsibility. Having a well-trained FPS force can lead to more stability in Iraq which will lead to more new jobs in Iraq. That is why these trainers are important to Iraq and the FPS,” he added.

Goodrich said the FPS has a plan to open a training facility at the Ministry of Transportation to further build its training staff and capacity. “We will be able to soon professionalize the FPS guard force through more manning, better training and equipping,” he added. ■



Photo by Dave Karwoski

A graduate of the Facilities Protection Service’s Train the Trainer course salutes before receiving an award at the graduation ceremony July 25.

MoD thwarting insurgents with biometrics and human resource management

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class William Lovelady

MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD,—Insurgents need weapons, training and money to fight—the Iraqi Ministry of Defense is using several new personnel accountability systems to make sure they don't get any of them from the armed forces.

The first step is properly identifying MoD personnel. The ministry has adopted a new identification card for all employees—uniformed and civilian. The cards have several features, including embedded holograms, to prevent counterfeiting and are manufactured outside of Iraq to reduce the likelihood of them falling into the wrong hands. Each member is fingerprinted, photographed and has a voice scan and an eye scan and that data is stored on the ID card.

In the future, no one will get a new ID card without MoD collecting his biometric data and no one will get paid without an ID card.

"The old ID card expires Sept. 2008," said Loretta King advisor to the MoD director of manpower. "We have 250,000 employees and we have collected biometrics for 150,000 to receive new ID cards. The challenge will be to get the rest done by September."

Like MoD, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior has adopted similar identification practices and opened a new facility in Baghdad to issue ID and weapons cards. Unlike the MoI weapons authorization card, the MoD ID does not list a specific weapon that a Soldier is authorized to possess. As Soldiers are reassigned, or units get new equipment, the individual Soldier will have additional documentation for his issued weapon. But every armed person in the country who claims to be an MoD employee must have his ministry-issued ID card.



An MoD technician fingerprints and employee before issuing him a new ID card

MoD uses the same JumpKit technology to gather data, but rather than having a central office, like MoI, where employees come to get their cards, MoD gathers data at the division level.

"Mobile teams go to the divisions to gather data and train clerks to use the JumpKit," King said. "Right now we have 200 JumpKits in use."

The biometric data is cleared through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System in Baghdad before the card is issued. This system compares the submitted information against a database of wanted criminals as well as fingerprints collected at crime scenes.

"We have found criminals and we dismissed them," said Linda Walpole, senior advisor to the director general of MoD personnel. "We've dismissed 3,000 employees because of this new accountability"

In addition to the card itself, MoD has implemented new human resource systems and software to manage employees. By tying employment records to biometric identification, the ministry eliminates the confusion that arises from people having similar names, or remaining in records even after they leave the Army and it reduces the potential for fraud, waste and abuse.

"We've saved money. We are no longer paying ghost soldiers who don't exist or paying the same person twice," Walpole said.

Using these combined systems, an employee can be tracked throughout his career, making each member accountable for his weapon, his whereabouts and his pay. It also allows MoD to manage careers and manning levels more efficiently. If a soldier is due to leave the Army on a certain date, the ministry is better able to plan his replacement so there is no gapping of billets. ■

suspected criminals July 23 in the Rashid district of southern Baghdad.

Around 12:15 a.m. in the Jihad neighborhood, Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division confirmed a 107 mm rocket sitting on a rail system. Soldiers from the 53rd Brigade, 14th Iraqi Army Division initially found the rocket, cordoned the area and notified Coalition forces. An explosive ordnance disposal team disposed of the rocket.

Soldiers from the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., detained a known terrorist at about 2:30 a.m. in the Zubaida community.

At approximately 3:30 a.m., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers detained a suspected criminal in the Zubaida community.

At roughly 6:45 a.m., Soldiers from the 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., detained three suspected criminals in the Saydiyah neighborhood.

"The 1st Brigade Soldiers continue to pressure the enemy and detain criminals at any time of the day or night," said Maj. Dave Olson, spokesman, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. "By removing these criminals from the streets, we are preventing them from terrorizing innocent Iraqi citizens and attacking Iraqi Security and Coalition forces."

Al-Qaeda financial infrastructure pressured

BAGHDAD – Coalition forces captured two wanted men and detained two additional suspects during operations targeting al-Qaeda in Iraq's financial infrastructure around Baghdad Tuesday and Wednesday.

An alleged AQI financier was detained with one additional suspect during an operation Tuesday near Samarra, 110 kilometers north of Baghdad. The man is assessed to be involved with known terrorists, including one killed during an operation May 6.

Wednesday, Coalition forces captured a suspected member of a kidnapping cell during a precision operation in Baghdad. Another man was detained in the city for his alleged ties to AQI leaders in Iraq and other countries.

"By targeting these networks, Iraqi and Coalition forces are continuing to chip away at AQI's ability to conduct acts of indiscriminate violence or to impose an extremist ideology upon the people of Iraq," said Cmdr. Scott Rye, MNF-I spokesman. ■



Coalition forces discover a weapons cache near Samarra, July 17, during an operation targeting al-Qaida in Iraq. The caches contained 810 105mm artillery rounds, numerous rockets and mortars, 50 rocket-propelled grenades, several anti-aircraft weapons, vehicle mounts and ammunition as well as bulk explosives. Munitions experts safely destroyed all the weapons on site.

U.S. Navy Photo



Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Paul Torres

Iraqi police practice recovering from a capsized boat during a 21-day boating course held by Riverine Squadron 3, Detachment 2, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5.



Photo by U.S. Army Specialist Charles Gill

An Iraqi soldier takes a ride on a donkey cart during a combined patrol with U.S. Soldiers in the Shula district of Baghdad, Iraq, July, 20.



Photo U.S. Army Spc. Charles Gill

Iraqi soldiers conduct a census mission in the Shula district of Baghdad, Iraq, July 7. These missions are conducted to get information on who is living where, who employs the residents, and how many family members are living in the home.



Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Ryan Tomlinson

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Matthew C. Blose, a corpsman with Delta Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, checks vital signs of Rabah Kiaub Ahuid, during a cooperative medical engagement July 23, in Akashat, Iraq.

Ministry of Interior tells of two years progress

By Ronald Holbrook

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BAGHDAD— While fighting terrorism and insurgents during the past two years, the Ministry of Interior has undergone great change and faced many challenges yet managed to nearly double its police forces and greatly improve security for Iraqi citizens.

A conference at the Ministry of Interior Monday highlighted some of the major progress since Jawad al Bulani became Minister of Interior in June 2006.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Karim Khalaf, director of operations and chief spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, said the Ministry has hired more than 200,000 police officers, taken responsibility for security in 10 provinces, recovered and cleared more than 5,700 improvised explosive devices saving many lives, and published the new penal code for Ministry of Interior employees.



Photo by Noah Miller

Senior Deputy Minister Adnan al-Asadi, (center), leads the discussion about progress and security gains the Ministry of Interior forces have achieved in the past two years.

“These steps have not come without great sacrifice,” Khalaf said. “We have had 10,000 police officers killed or injured trying to bring peace to our communities. We have faced political pressures and challenges from criminals and organized crime, but now the Ministry has a large support from the people.”

He cited a recent public opinion poll in Baghdad that showed 92 percent of the people felt safer after recent security operations. The poll also showed that 70

percent of the people polled felt the media gave a positive image of the Iraqi Police.

Senior Deputy Minister Adnan al-Asadi said the ministry has trained 21,459 police officers since 2006 and hired 210,000 other employees “which shows the tremendous change and growth we have experienced.” He also added that the ministry has fired 32,000 employees. He said the ministry will work to eliminate corruption, administrative or financial, totally from its ranks.

“The Ministry of Interior is much more than the security issue,” he said. “We keep vital records from birth until death on every citizen. We serve the citizens through the Traffic Police, Border Police, Passport and Nationality directorate, and many other areas as well. We provide medical care and are building two hospitals for our employees.”

Deputy Minister Maj. Gen. Ayden Khaled spoke about the building of new police stations, the transfer of 31,000 oil police and 16,000 electricity police who have been added to the Ministry of Interior forces.

Ayden said the Iraqi Police now has an assigned strength of 285,000 and is growing. He thanked the Coalition for support both in training and in new technological advancements. “With forensics and new fingerprinting equipment we now utilize, we have been able to discover many more crimes and identify criminals thanks to the support from the Coalition.”

Deputy Minister Maj. Gen. Ahmed al-Khafaji, director of support forces, which includes the Iraqi Civil Defense, said his directorate was responsible for protecting Iraqi lives and property. He said the Department of Border Enforcement, which now has 309 border forts and annexes, arrested 327 terrorists, 1,300 people trying to enter the country illegally, and 1,728 smugglers in the last two years.

The Iraqi firefighters were credited

with saving many lives and extinguishing 11,887 fires in the last two years. He said the Ministry’s tribal affairs directorate conducted 1,848 tribal affairs meetings with various groups throughout the country in the past two years.

Deputy Minister Maj. Gen. Ali Hussein Kamal, director of the National Information and Investigation Agency, said his agency also fights terrorists, criminals and provides for national security. “We work with the laws, we respect human rights and international laws,” he said.

Maj. Gen. Dr. Abdul Khadim, chief of the Ministry of Interior Appellate Court, said the Ministry of Interior has initiated its own court system in accordance with the new penal code law which brings more severe penalties for crimes committed by employees of the Ministry. He said the new court system is starting this week with its first trial. The Ministry of Interior Appellate Court will have five regional courts located in Baghdad, Mosul, Irbil, Hilla and Basrah.

Maj. Gen. Hussein Abed Ali, speaking for the National Police, said they have trained 20,666 policemen in the last two years in the basic, advanced and specialized courses.

He said the National Police arrested 3,681 terrorists, seized 4,688 weapon caches, found and cleared 1,137 improvised explosive devices, and 99 vehicle borne explosive devices set to explode. He said the National Police has worked hard to restore calm in many areas of Baghdad and performed strongly in operations in Basrah, Mosul and Amara.

The Ministry aims to promote national unity, solicit citizen’s help in fighting crime, develop a media campaign to show how terrorism is holding Iraq back from progress, educate the Iraqi people on the traffic laws, publish a complete text of the new Ministry of Interior penal code, and increasing the equipment and vehicles of the Iraqi Police services.

“Creating a spirit of nationalism, of national unity is what is needed most now in Iraq,” said Asadi. “All for one union, all with one goal, that is our key.” ■