

# The Advisor



January 2009



**Special Training**  
**Special Missions**  
**Special Operations**

# The Advisor

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**>> ON THE COVER**

**An Iraqi Mi-17 takes off from Landing Zone Washington in Baghdad's International Zone**



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

**With TV cameras rolling, a mock insurgent plants a roadside bomb during a demonstration at the recent Counter-IED conference held at Combat Training Center Besmaya. See story on page 4.**

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Rear Adm. Jawad, Head of the Iraqi Navy paid a surprise visit to a group of Iraqi fishermen Dec. 21

# Iraqi Air Force takes flight—at night

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

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – The Iraqi Air Force conducted its first Mi-17 helicopter night mission since the 2003 invasion Baghdad, Dec. 3.

Two Iraqi crews, using night vision equipment, flew their Russian-made helicopters outside the air base at Taji. The first Iraqi night vision goggle sortie occurred in August. The mission started with a trip to Besmaya range for NVG gun training for the Iraqi helicopter gunners and pilots and then a landing at Washington Landing Zone, in Baghdad's International Zone, and Liberty Landing Zone, near Baghdad International Airport for familiarization.

"This was the first ever Mi-17 NVG sortie outside of Taji airfield. All previous training has been 'inside the fence'. This is the first one on the outside," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Daley.

The Iraqi Air Force acquired night vision goggles in June and began their night training with a fleet of American OH-58 Kiowa helicopters on loan from



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

**An Iraqi Air Force Mi-17 helicopter takes off from Landing Zone Washington in Baghdad's International Zone.**

the Iowa National Guard. They trained day and night to be ready to take control of Iraq's night skies.

"I spent six months here. It was pretty rough duty. It was starting at eight in the morning until noon to do dailies and fix what the pilots (needed fixed)," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Marshall

Lantz, one of the Iowa Guardsmen who completed their mission in August. "Go back, take power naps, be back on the flight line at six and go 'til eleven, twelve, even one or two o'clock in the morning for night flights. That went on six days a week for four months. That was our routine." ■

## ISOF conduct fast-rope training, improve skills

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt.  
Bryan Franks

Multi-National Corps - Iraq PAO

**TAJI, Iraq** – Stepping out of a perfectly functioning helicopter and sliding down a rope is another routine day of training for Iraqi Special Operations Forces when they're not out improving security in Iraq and enforcing the rule of law.

In the Mosul area, ISOF conducted fast-rope training Nov. 22. This training is significant because it allows the Soldiers to get close to their objective in minimal time.

"These ISOF teams have a large area of responsibility," a Coalition advisor said. "Some of their missions could require a convoy time of more than two hours and there are risks that convoy could face."

To help mitigate replacing convoy-operation dangers with new risks, fast-

rope training is a two-day process for ISOF soldiers.

Day one consists of learning the techniques behind fast roping and conducting stationary drills, referred to as drops, off a 25-foot building. During drills, each member goes down the rope without tactical gear to get familiarized with falling and proficient at the technique. Once they complete drops training, they fast rope in full tactical gear.

"It's important to hold the rope tight with your hands, however it's your feet that will slow you down," a Coalition forces advisor said. "No matter how tight you hold the rope you can't slow yourself down without your feet."

During day two of training, ISOF teams conducted fast-rope exercises from a U.S. helicopter. In the future, teams

will use Mi-17s, the Iraqi Air Force's new helicopter for aerial assault training and missions.

The training sequence will remain the same, but the aircraft will change.

"It's a lot different from fast roping down the building," an ISOF soldier said. "With the wind whipping around and all of the noise, you can easily get caught up in the moment and forget your training."

For most ISOF soldiers, it was the first time they had fast roped from a helicopter - a skill that will enable them to conduct future operations throughout Iraq to deter and respond to insurgent activities.

"Fast-rope training was a lot of fun," an ISOF instructor said. "This was great training for my soldiers. I'm so proud of the way they performed today. I know our country will have a great future because of the work we do." ■

# Iraqi and Coalition forces work together to counteract IEDs

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

MNSTC-I PAO

BESMAYA RANGE COMPLEX, Iraq  
– Iraqi and Coalition forces conducted a symposium at the Iraqi Army Bomb

Disposal School, here recently, to discuss efforts at countering improvised explosive devices—the weapon of choice for most insurgents.

Highlights of the discussion included installation of more Symphony systems, an electronic countermeasure, and expansion of the Bomb Disposal School

“There are only two armies in the world with this kind of route clearing capability—the Iraqi Army and the U.S. Army,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Christopher Delarosa, Coalition Army Advisory Training Team chief of training and operations.

During a break in the conference, attendees witnessed a demonstration of route clearing techniques. Two mock insurgents planted an artillery shell with a cell phone detonator beside the road and walked away. When the route clearing platoon spotted the device, the armored badger moved in to inspect with its boom mounted camera while Soldiers in humvees cordoned off the area to protect the public and limit insurgent access to the scene.

The badger crew pulled back and launched a wheeled bomb disposal robot. From the safety of his armored vehicle, the robot operator directed his machine to uncover the bomb and inspect it before an explosive ordnance disposal technician approached to dismantle it.

The EOD tech, wearing blast protective gear, photographed the device, for forensic analysis, and then clipped the wires and removed the detonator before a group of Soldiers loaded it on a trailer and

drove away.

The Bomb Disposal School has trained more than 1,200 students in the Basic Bomb Disposal Course, and several hundred of them went on to the advanced IED-Defeat Course. Still technology and EOD skills are only one piece of the counter IED fight.

“Defeating IEDs is about more than defeating the device,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, CAATT commander. “It’s about security—securing the neighborhood.”

If citizens report insurgents, security forces can prevent them from planting IEDs or remove them quickly from their known locations. If insurgents are taken off the streets or denied access to a neighborhood, they cannot plant an IED in the first place, Salazar said. ■



Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class William Lovelady

An Iraqi bomb disposal technician, wearing a protective blast suit, disarms a mock IED during a demonstration at Besmaya Range Complex, Nov. 18.



A bomb disposal robot uncovers an IED and sends images back to technicians inside an armored vehicle before they attempt to disarm the roadside bomb.

and the newly created C-IED Center for Excellence.

Symphony is a system, similar to the American Warlock, that defeats remote controlled IEDs. Symphony is installed on Iraqi up-armored humvees and the Iraqi Light Armored Vehicles known as ‘badgers.’

Central to the C-IED program is route clearing. Insurgents plant roadside bombs and the Iraqi Army needs more trained and equipped technicians to disarm and dispose of them.

# Iraqi marines learn Visit Board Search and Seizure

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

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**UMM QASR, Iraq** – As the Iraqi marines take responsibility for securing their nation’s oil terminals and shipping port, they are training in the rule of law and proper application of force to deal with potential criminals and law abiding sailors in the nation’s waters.

A detachment of U.S. Coastguardsmen, working with the Naval Training Team, teach a three-week Visit Board Search and Seizure class to the Iraqi marines.

“We start out teaching basic boarding procedures,” said U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Campbell one of the instructors. “Then we teach boarding team ethics—how to deal with people, how to talk to people.”

“If they were to go out and board a boat today, what they might come across,” continued Campbell. “From normal conversation to someone wanting to hurt them.”

The first week is spent in the



Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class William Lovelady  
**Iraqi Marines practice unarmed combat techniques as part of their use of force training.**

schoolhouse. Much of the time is spent on the proper escalation of force, from talking all the way to shooting. In

between are a host of techniques including hand-to-hand combat and the use of non-lethal weapons like batons.

Students study unarmed techniques, defensive joint locks and control methods as well as offensive kicking and punching techniques.

The six-step escalation of force begins with officer presence and moves from verbal commands, to control techniques and aggressive response. The final phases are intermediate weapons and then deadly force.

Later in the week, students move to a stack of shipping containers called ‘ship in a box.’ Here they practice boarding and search techniques while their instructors play the part of the civilians they will be dealing with on the water. Sometimes they are cooperative, other times they are belligerent. The marines have to be ready for anything.

“It’s about proper escalation of force,” said Campbell. “We don’t want them to go straight to their weapons.”

During the second week of training, students conduct river patrols and board merchant vessels in the river. The group of three or four marines with their Coast Guard instructors will get underway with two Iraqi sailors who drive their fast attack boat.

As they approach a ship that they intend to inspect, the coxswain will call the ship on the radio. He will verify how many crewmembers or passengers are aboard and instruct that all non-essential persons, usually everyone but the captain and chief engineer, will stand at the rail in sight of the Iraqi patrol. Once they have visual contact with the crew, the marines will call for a ladder—often a makeshift arrangement of ropes and boards—then climb aboard.

They inspect passports and shipping manifests. They also search the vessels for unauthorized passengers or cargo.

After a week of boardings in the relative calm of the river, the marines practice boardings in the Persian Gulf for their final week of training before they go to work conducting regular patrols and boarding duty. ■



**Iraqi Marines take down a hostile crewmember—played by a U.S. Coast Guardsman in padded protective gear—during Visit Board Search and Seizure training.**

# FBI trains Iraqi LEOs in evidence rules

By U.S. Air Force Maj. Kim Layne

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently trained 18 law enforcement officers now charged with training their own.

The FBI training encompassed crime scene processing, evidence collection techniques, kidnapping investigations, hostage survival techniques, and tactical training related to arrest and search operations. Upon completion of the initial three-week course, these officers are now qualified to train other Iraqi law enforcement personnel in these disciplines.

“This course is an excellent example of how we are equipping our Iraqi counterparts with vital knowledge and techniques to better help them do their jobs,” said Col. Benjamin Lukefahr, Senior Advisor, National Information and Investigations Agency. “The attendees of the FBI training are participating in an ongoing program to become master instructors who will continue to build ministerial capacity and self-reliance within the law enforcement community.”

The FBI has conducted law enforcement training throughout the country of Iraq since 2004. Courses normally run for two to three weeks, but this course was particularly focused on teaching techniques the new trainers can use to instruct other members of their organizations.

“We are extremely pleased with how the training has progressed,” said Lukefahr. “The students quickly and easily



Photo by U.S. Air Force Maj. Kim Layne

**Iraqi law enforcement officers learn evidence collection techniques during recent FBI training. These students are training to become master instructors for the Baghdad Police College and the NIIA's Regional Training Center.**

transformed to their new teaching role, and the benefits to law enforcement are undeniable.”

The Iraqi master instructors will continue to teach courses here in Iraq. They will continue to receive follow-on instruction and oversight from trained FBI instructors. Follow-on training is scheduled for the spring of 2009 and will be conducted both here in Iraq and in the United States. ■

# Police conference charts way ahead

By U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Kolb

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** - Coalition and Iraqi leaders met recently to discuss and agree on how to resolve some of the security affairs challenges they face in the coming months. “I can’t stress enough the importance of sharing information amongst ourselves,” said Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq. “We have had a lot of progress in 2008, but there are still many challenges that lay ahead,” added Helmick, who kicked-off the conference.

Some of the key issues discussed at the conference included the ongoing integration of the Sons of Iraq into the police forces, upcoming elections security,

transferring control of International Zone security to the Iraqis, and Iraqi Police force protection. Deputy Minister for Security Affairs, Iraqi Maj. Gen. Dr. Ayden outlined a plan that has the Iraqi Army relinquishing more of the Baghdad security responsibilities to the Iraqi police forces.

DM Ayden added that the ongoing integration of the Sons of Iraq is going smoothly and they have increased the capability of the police forces. “Approximately 6,500 Sons of Iraq have been integrated into the Ministry of Interior and 1,043 of those have graduated the four-week police training course,” said Ayden. “All those (Sons of Iraq) that have been hired will become members of the police force.”

A concern among the conference attendees was the uptick in the number of attacks directed against police forces.

“There is a recent trend that shows an upward trend in the number of attacks against police forces, and this is a concern that needs to be addressed,” said Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, Director General for MNSTC-I's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team.

Police forces, especially those at checkpoints, provide a softer target for the enemy. Baghdad Director General of Police, Maj. Gen. Kadhim Hamied, head of all Baghdad police operations, agreed with this assessment and agreed to work with the Ministry of Interior and Coalition counterparts in the area to develop procedures to increase the force protection capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.

The conference ended with everyone agreeing that open dialogue between the forces is vital to ensure continued security during the next phase of operations. ■

# Iraqi National Police continue to fill their ranks

By U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Kolb

MNSTC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD** – The Iraqi National Police graduated 1,126 recruits at a ceremony held at the Sader Al-Kanat National Police Training Academy here on Dec. 22nd. The graduation ceremony was the culmination of 12 weeks of intense police training that included weapons, drill instruction, human rights and police specialty skills. The recruits will now move on to fill vacancies in National Police Brigades throughout Iraq.

Addressing the graduates as keynote speaker was Iraqi Maj. Gen. Abdul Karim, National Police 1st Division Commander. Karim highlighted the exceptional work all National Police units had done in stabilizing Iraq and emphasized to the new graduates that they will now participate heavily in continuing to secure the country.

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Col. Thearon Williams, Commander, National Police Training Team said the new graduates going to the National Police Brigades “will have big shoes to fill.” “The National Police are becoming more and more proficient every day and the graduation today provides a perfect example of their training and

preparedness to assume the security role not only in Baghdad, but all of Iraq,” said Williams. Williams and his advisors provide assistance and guidance to the National Police leadership.

This was the tenth graduating class from the National Police Training Academy and the first one this year to incorporate both the 8 week basic recruit training and the 4 week advanced skills training curriculum into one 12 week session.

Also attending were; Maj. Gen. Bassem, Dean of the National Police Training Academy, and Col. Patrick Harris, representing the Commander, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. ■



Photos by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Kolb

**Iraqi National Police recruits pass-in-review during graduation at the Sader Al-Kanat National Police Training Academy.**



**Iraqi national Police recruits demonstrate their martial art skills during the graduation ceremony.**



# Iraqi Emergency Response Brigade graduates complete arduous training to join elite police force

## Multi-National Corps-Iraq PAO

**BAGHDAD** – With chests out, arms to their sides, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with their brothers in arms, 142 emergency response brigade graduates swore an oath of allegiance to Iraq during a ceremony Nov. 20.

“This organization, the ERB, is an elite force – a different force – with the best leadership, the best equipment and the best training,” said Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq and NATO Training Mission-Iraq Commanding General, to the class during the graduation ceremony. “When we get the toughest missions, we will ask for you to lead the way, and I know you will.”

The brigade, which operates under the authority of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, consists of a select few who are trained, organized and equipped to complete the most difficult, most specialized and most demanding security missions in the country, according to ERB officials.

“Side-by-side with the elected government ... we’re going to build a new, future for this country,” said Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad Bolani to the graduates. “The world will be surprised at what they will see from you in the future.”

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Jawad, ERB commander, felt taking an oath of commitment to the safety and security of Iraq, and establishing peace was imperative for his newly trained men.

“Keep doing what your brothers did before you – be fierce, attack terrorists, be elite, love the country and put Iraq in your hearts,” he said.

This most recent group of graduates, and their trainers, achieved several milestones on the road to developing as a self-sustaining fighting force.

Trained by Iraqi instructors and advised by Coalition forces, these men were led through specialized-training courses, which included small arms proficiency, close-quarters-battle techniques, hand-to-hand combat, urban movement and rigorous physical fitness.

In a class that began with 4,800 applicants, Baghdad, Mosul and Tikrit Special Weapons and Tactics units vetted and refined the group. The units narrowed the group to 217 candidates, who then began the operator selector course. 26 Iraqi instructors then weeded out the weak from the strong, until they selected 142 men for graduation to serve in Iraq’s ERB.

Beginning Oct. 17, and continuing for five weeks, instructors stretched students to their mental and physical limits and left only the best standing.

“This is a remarkable achievement,” Helmick said. “I pass on thanks and congratulations to all ... we are very proud of you, and your country is proud of you.”

Although the ratio of originating applicants to graduate is 22:1, this class remains a cut above those before it, with an

unprecedented 65 percent pass rate.

After two years of familiarization and training, Iraqis have three years of experience as instructors and are now capable of training with little advising from CF.

“This is the fruition of five years of partnership with Iraqi Forces,” a CF representative said.

This particular fighting force also had a higher degree of formal education

and experience than previous graduating classes. This class was comprised of 50 high-school graduates, a handful of college graduates and a few with Iraqi Army experience.

“I was in the old Army before and had three or four similar classes, but this class had better training techniques to learn the tactics that we need,” said the top student in the class.

As newly trained justice warriors, the fearless attitude and dedication to finding and arresting criminals is a common link – from the commander to the instructors, down to every last graduate.

“If you criminals and terrorists go to the hill, we will be behind you,” an ERB member said. “The hand of the government is too strong for you.”

As the first class to graduate since the expansion from an emergency response unit to a full brigade, the men will be assigned to several locations to fulfill needed missions throughout Iraq, said an ERB official.

With approximately 670 men, there are plenty of men to accomplish the ERB missions in Baghdad; however, with the expansion of SWAT units in Kut, Tikrit, Hillah and Mosul, there is a need for additional members.

In all, Iraqi instructors feel at least six more groups of graduates will complete the brigade.

“We are ready for you all the time to bring justice to this country,” a graduate said. “We are certain of this and promise to pursue the terrorists wherever they go.”

**Editor’s Note: Source identities were removed due to operational sensitivities and the nature of the ERB mission. ■**



Courtesy photo

**A candidate for the Iraqi National Emergency Response Brigade endures the rigors of Stress Week. He descends a narrow beam amidst billowing smoke Dec. 20. Candidates who successfully completes the remaining four weeks of training will join Iraq’s elite policing force Jan. 22.**

# Iraqi Security Forces training divers

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

*MNSTC-I PAO*

**BAGHDAD** - Iraqi Security Forces are securing the land, airspace and waters of their nation; and an elite group of them are taking control underwater. The Iraqi Police are building a group of divers for riverine operations while the Iraqi Navy develops its salt water dive capabilities.

The first class of Baghdad Police and Civil Defense divers graduated from the National Police River Patrol Divers Course in Baghdad October 8th.

Police and civil defense divers undergo a course of instruction that includes range and depth determination, searching in black water, and underwater extraction. The second course began in October as well.

The Iraqi Navy divers are trained by Qatari military instructors in Qatar. Their primary tasks are underwater recovery and boating tasks like un-fouling propellers.

The dive force is made up of 26 Sailors, eight of them divers, based at the port of Umm Qasr. Future plans for the Navy dive program include establishing a decompression chamber and acquiring dedicated dive boats. Future training and missions will include underwater explosive ordnance disposal and mine clearing. ■



**An Iraqi Police diver prepares to enter the water for a search and rescue dive as a Coalition adviser ties on his guide rope.**



*Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class William Lovelady*

**An Iraqi Police diver prepares to go under during a training dive in the Tigris.**



**An Iraqi Navy dive crew prepares to get underway on a mission at the Navy base at Umm Qasr**

# Iraqi commandos graduate special forces training

## **Multi-National Corps-Iraq PAO**

**BAGHDAD** – A class of 109 Iraqi Special Operations Forces graduated from special forces training here, Dec. 4.

The class, in training since Nov. 1, provided the students with elite training at the Iraqi Special Warfare Center and School Commando course.

“You are the cavalry to this country, and you will be the example for others to follow,” said Gen. Abid Al-Khany Taher Ajeel, Counter-Terrorism Command commander, addressing the class of graduates. “I challenge you to continue the unity, the good deeds and the good works ... march to the front.”

Some Coalition force leaders believe combating crime and violence requires operations that include the offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, preempt and respond to terrorism.

Therefore, the success of the commando training rests in the ability to instill a mindset of thinking and maneuvering with agility and speed, said a Coalition force advisor. A commando must remain sharp while on an objective, keeping his mind alert by always

assessing the threat.

Unique to this class of graduates was the inclusion of Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Bureau and Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Command students. The CTB, which operates directly under the prime minister's National Operational Command, and CTC, a subordinate staff to the CTB, are responsible for commanding Iraqi Special Operations Forces.

The training was necessary for soldiers of both agencies because it is necessary to think as a commando in order to effectively lead soldiers in the fight against criminals throughout Iraq.

The training took students through four, week-long blocks of individual and team-building instruction. Instruction included classes on stress management, marksmanship, close-quarter battle and combat operations.

This was the third class of elite Soldiers taught exclusively by Iraqi instructors with minimal oversight from CF advisors.

“The goal of Iraqi instructors was to grow Soldiers’ competency level so they are able to fight those attacking Iraq,” said a CF advisor.

To be effective in that fight soldiers may have to face and overcome mental and physical challenges in both their personal and professional life. One student, who suffered from a foot injury due to an improvised explosive device prior to training, demonstrated his ability to sustain his mental and physical agility.

“My friend said to me, ‘You cannot attend training with that injury,’” he said. “From that point, I pushed myself to finish. It’s all in your head.”

His tenacity to succeed led him to not only finish the course, but gain recognition as one of three of the class’ honor graduates.

“This was very realistic and necessary training,” said a CF advisor of a recently integrated block of training on aircraft operations. “Many of the commando students have never flown in a rotary aircraft. It was good practice for them to know what it feels like to quickly egress in a helicopter while the blades are spinning.”

Bringing their commando training to a close, the students stood tall and recited their oath of allegiance in front of cadre and distinguished guests. ■

## **MNSTC-I J7 completes ISOF area upgrade**

### **By U.S. Army Maj. Tom Heinold**

#### *MNSTC-I J7 (Engineering)*

**BAGHDAD** – The Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq J7 (engineering) section and Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment recently completed construction here to improve the quality of life and mission readiness of Iraqi Soldiers on the base.

The \$33.8 million project included; offices, barracks, maintenance, and utilities upgrades for the Iraqi Special Operations Forces brigade, Garrison Support Unit and Support Battalion.

“The ISOF brigade now has the ability to be self sufficient when it comes to electrical power,” said U.S. Army Maj. Robert Falcone. “During this past

summer the ISOF Brigade had only three generators running at one time. This was an inhibitor to the commandos because during the day and night we had to move the power to different grids on base. This affected the fighters because there was no power for the A/C to cool the rooms. This caused missions to be cancelled due to lack of rest to avoid any friendly casualties.” Falcone continued, “The lack of electricity also affected the water pumps for the clean water to the barracks and family houses on the base. The septic pumping station did not work during the power shortages thus causing back up sewer issues.

The GSU just moved into its new facilities. The maintenance shop is covered so they can work on vehicles during the day.

“Before the new building the

maintenance team worked on their vehicles on a dirt area next to their living quarters, said Falcone. “The GSU commander now has all his personnel in one area of the camp. The GSU has new buildings for the maintenance team, guard personnel, mechanics and administration. These soldiers were living 8-10 per room in three trailers and they moved to a clean building with air conditioning and shower facilities.

“The Support Battalion moved its personnel and control supplies into rooms in a new building,” said Falcone. “The supply items were crammed into shipping containers, and the Soldiers were living crammed, and now they have improved space for sleeping and working quarters. Now the companies can keep integrity among their fighters and they have pride in their own area of operation.” ■

# Iraqi Air Force gets new facilities essential for force generation

By **U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rob Cohen**

*MNSTC-I J7 (Engineering)*

**BAGHDAD** – A \$4.7 million project is ongoing to improve the Iraqi Air Force infrastructure and facilities at New al-Muthana Air Base here.

Two barracks buildings and associated facilities will be constructed as part of the project, also slated to repair eight generators and water and wastewater distribution systems. Once repaired, these systems will have the capacity to support the growth of each Iraqi Air Force squadron at NAMAB.

The Iraqi Air Force's Squadron 23's fleet of C-130Es provides tactical airlift support of distinguished visitors, passengers, Army troops, patients, prisoner transfers,

and cargo. Squadron 87's fleet of King Air 350s provide reconnaissance and light transportation. Despite very different missions, these squadrons face the same problem—a lack of adequate housing for personnel and base infrastructure.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Craig Thomas, Base Transition Engineer for Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Coalition Air Force Training Team, said, "NAMAB has currently exceeded available capacity ... until new dorms are complete, the Iraqi Air Force (IqAF) does not have the capability to grow at NAMAB. [Without these facilities,] force generation for training and operational missions will cease and decisive points to establish the foundation for a credible and

enduring IqAF will not be reached."

To overcome the housing shortage and dilapidated infrastructure, CAFTT worked with the IqAF to determine their facility requirements. These requirements evolved into a project spearheaded by CAFTT and MNSTC-I's J7 (Engineer) directorate.

The NAMAB Vice-Commander said, "Thank God for these dorms. We can now quit living like sardines in a can. Overcrowding is a real problem here and we can't wait for these dorms to allow us to spread out. Thank you for what you are doing to help us."

Housing and facility improvements for Squadron 23 are scheduled to be complete by May 2009.■

# 8th Iraqi Army Division increases operational capability with new facilities

By **U.S. Air Force Capt. Adam Roberts**

*MNSTC-I J7 (Engineering)*

**AL HAMIEA, Iraq** – The Iraqi Army's 3rd Light Infantry Battalion, 33rd Brigade, 8th Division, began setting up operations on a new site here Dec. 17.

The \$17 million facility is one of four ongoing Government of Iraq-funded projects to establish permanent operational Iraqi Security Force bases across southern Iraq.

The Director General of Infrastructure, Iraqi Ministry of Defense, assigned engineers to each project to assist in the management of the projects. These engineers report to the Director of Military Works and provide feedback to both the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's J7 (Engineer) and site management on construction-related issues.

"This project is one of several currently under construction to expand the Iraqi Army's operational footprint and capabilities, and J7 is turning this vision into reality" said U. S. Air Force Maj. Aaron Wilt, Program Manager, MNSTC – I J7. "This particular project provides the 8th Division with permanent facilities to house a single light infantry battalion, enhancing their quality of life and solidifying their long-term presence in the area."

As the final project completion documents were being signed on Dec. 18, the battalion began moving into the facilities. "We forward our gratitude and thanks to the Coalition Forces for what they have done to support the

Iraqi Security Forces," said Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Basim. "This project moves our unit out of tents, significantly improving Soldier morale and enhancing duty performance. It also returns our previous site back to the Ministry of Electricity and allows expansion from our current size of 600 Soldiers to an expected future population of approximately 1,000 Soldiers."■



Courtesy photo

**An Iraqi Army engineer signs project closeout documents with a construction contractor, Dec. 18.**

# Iraqi Security Forces getting new river boats and mission

By **USMC Sgt. M. Trent Lowry**

*Regimental Combat Team 5*

**AL ASAD, Iraq** – Sailors from Riverine Squadron 1, Regimental Combat Team 5 hosted an inspection of small-river craft Dec. 16 by Staff Maj. Gen. Abdullah Mohammed Badir, commanding general of the Iraqi Army 7th Infantry Division.

The Iraqi Security forces are taking possession of Mark 1 River Utility Crafts for use as patrol boats and training vessels in yet another step that is bringing the Iraqi forces closer to self-sufficiency.

The Riverines will continue to train the Iraqi Security Forces in river defense operations and techniques to expand the Iraqis combat capabilities can expand.

“They need to have self-sustainability in order to keep up their force,” said U.S.



Courtesy Photos

**U.S. Navy Cmdr. Gary Leigh, commanding officer, Riverine Squadron 1, Regimental Combat Team 5, and Iraqi Staff Maj. Gen. Abdullah Mohammed Badir, commanding general of the 7th Iraqi Army Division, inspect a Mark 1 River Utility Craft at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.**

Navy Cmdr. Gary Leigh, commanding officer of Riverine Squadron 1. “They need to be able to conduct their own maintenance on equipment and conduct procurement of parts and equipment to sustain their force and be able to enforce their laws.”

Riverine Squadron 1, based at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Chesapeake, Va., has been in western al Anbar province, Iraq, since mid-November, patrolling the Euphrates River to help maintain security on the inland waterway that courses through many of the province’s most populous towns. While security is one of the squadron’s responsibilities, its mission has changed a bit since its last deployment in 2007.

“We’re doing some things similar to earlier deployments, like providing security on the waterways,” Leigh said. “And it’s also different, in that now we’re also training Iraqi inland waterway security forces. It’s a much bigger training piece this time around.”

The Riverines have a receptive audience in the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army troops that will be the recipients of the Navy know-how.

“I believe in reaching 100 percent proficiency with the boats, but it will take time for our troops to learn,” said Abdullah. “But I am sure of my soldiers. I am confident they will reach that level.”

The Riverines have high confidence in their abilities as teachers as well.

“These guys have been able to do anything we’ve asked of them,” said

Master Chief Petty Officer Kyle Reagan, command master chief petty officer for Riverine Squadron 1, of his Sailors. “We’ve got Sailors doing all sorts of jobs – enginemen, equipment operators and communicators. I’m confident they have the training and expertise to do a good job training the Iraqi forces.”

“Here there is better training because we can see the boats being used by the qualified people in the Navy,” Abdullah said. “It’s a better advantage for us than going outside the country for training.”

Disciplined water-borne troops are integral to securing major landmarks along the Euphrates River, according to Abdullah.

“It is most important for us to use the boats to protect Haditha Dam on the front and the back,” Abdullah said. “I’d also like to implement plans to train our commando battalion to use river patrol boats and implement riverine operations in the future.”

Serving as good trainers to the Iraqi troops and police is important to the sailors with Riverine Squadron 1, but they also want to build the kind of partnership with the Iraqi forces that fosters cooperation between the two countries.

“Having a partnership with them helps stability in the region, and we want to see a partnership built on trust and mutual respect,” Leigh said.

“Right now, they’re on their own boats and we’re training them, and later we’ll be standing back and watching their progress,” Leigh continued. “The sooner we’re able to turn it over to the Iraqis, the better for them.”

And so the days of self-sufficiency for the Iraqi riverine forces are approaching more and more.

“I think the more we work with each other, I see they’ve been more capable and effective daily,” Leigh added. “They’re an impressive force. They are professional and willing to cooperate and operate with us.” ■



# Coalition and Iraqi forces hold chemical defense exhibition

Multi-National Division - Baghdad  
PAO

**TAJI, Iraq** – Iraqi and Coalition officials held a chemical detection and defense technology exposition here Nov. 18 and 19.

The showcase was held to help Iraqi Security Forces officials plan how to equip their units with the best chemical defense systems and procedures available.

“As you know, chemical weapons have been around for a long time,” said Brig. Gen. Ali Kadim Muhasin Alsadi, commander of the Iraqi Chemical Corps. “Due to these types of threats, there is a need for preventative equipment to protect our troops.”

To confront this potential threat, Ali said Iraq’s Ministry of Defense approved a proposed budget of two billion dinar to help purchase equipment for the newly developed chemical corps. The next step would be to plan for recurring training. “We are raising our capabilities; we’re getting to know a lot for the future, and that will help a lot for our defense; we will be opening courses, which will continue to raise our capabilities,” Ali said.

Throughout the exposition, Coalition forces showed Iraqi officials a broad spectrum of technologies to provide ISF officials an idea of the variety of choices available to suit their defense needs.

“These last couple of days, our Soldiers have provided an array of chemical equipment,” said Maj. Veronica Chinn, officer in charge of chemical, biological, radiological, and neurological forces-protection operations with 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. “As chemical specialists, they have shown Iraqi Army officials how

the equipment works and how we do things so they can acquire a better idea how to start the development of their chemical corps themselves and, of course, to see the different types of technology that’s out there.”

Iraq’s MoD decided to follow the U.S. military’s structure of defense by instituting chemical specialists throughout all its army battalions, and eventually into all of its military forces.

“We are going to establish chemical support throughout the Iraqi Armed Forces, including the air force and navy, just like the United States,” said Ali. “I’m very optimistic about the future of Iraq’s chemical defense, and I know that we’ll have this defense. The Coalition forces

have put a lot of effort forward that this exhibition succeeds, and I believe it will reflect in our chemical section.”

The exposition set high hopes for Iraq’s new chemical corps and made for an enjoyable and productive day for both Iraqi and Coalition forces.

“This is a step in the right direction,” Chinn said. “It was the first time in a long time that the IA has received any kind of chemical training, and I really feel privileged to be a part of this first step and aid in their defense.”

The two historical days were filled with smiles and hard work for both parties and ended with a feeling of unity and success in bringing about another step in the continual forward progress of the ISF. ■



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Whitney Houston

**Sgt. Michael Malone, who serves with 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, helps Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Ahmed Kareem connect an oxygen tube to a hazardous materials mask as a part of Malone's block of instruction during a chemical defense and detection equipment exhibition hosted by Coalition forces at Taji.**

## Iraqi Army 12th Infantry Division completes force generation

By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn Herron

MNSTC-I PAO

**KIRKUK, Iraq** – The graduation ceremony of the Iraqi Army's 47th and 48th Infantry Brigades from Unit Set Fielding here on Nov. 30 marked the end of counterinsurgency force generation for the 12th Infantry Division.

The two brigades and the 12th Inf. Div. Headquarters Support Company completed 21 days of Unit Set Fielding, providing them with the skills and equipment they need to perform their missions.

This training also served as a test for the Regional Training Center, not normally staffed to handle training two classes of Soldiers concurrently. "They handled the challenge professionally and never sacrificed standards for time," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Louis Long III, Senior Advisor to the Kirkuk RTC, from the Coalition Army Advisory Training Team of the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

Unit Set Fielding is a process that builds an entire army unit and gives Soldiers the equipment and training they need to fight. Iraqi Soldiers from Basic Combat Training, as well as NCOs and officers, are drawn from their respective training programs to form a new Army command.

The Headquarters Support Company also learned the skills necessary to support the division headquarters staff, such as truck driving, weapons qualification, weapons repair, medical testing and military police functions.

"As you Soldiers return to your units, you must raise their readiness and proficiency levels in your areas of specialty," said Iraqi Army Staff Col. Abdullah, Kirkuk Regional Training Center commander.

"I encourage each of you to continue training and improving. The Iraqi people and the rest of the world are counting on you," added Long. ■

## 634 Iraqi Army non-commissioned officers complete transition and re-integration training

By U.S. Army Maj. Danl Connelly

MNSTC-I PAO

**TALLIL, Iraq** – 634 Iraqi Army non-commissioned officers completed transition and reintegration training at Camp Ur, Regional Training Center – Tallil, Dec. 17.

The updated, eight-week course included training on squad and platoon tactics and familiarization and firing of the AK-47 rifle. The graduating non-commissioned officers will go to Iraqi Army divisions throughout Iraq and bring the total NCO graduates of this program to 2,093, or two percent of the total strength of the Iraqi Army.

Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Arif said, "You have spent eight weeks training as Soldiers to protect your country against its enemies. Continue to develop your skills and professionalism. During this course you have learned to be good Soldiers, marched, trained with the AK-47, and have learned drills and maneuvers. This has been a good course."

"I know most of you were against Saddam and the old regime, and some of you protested against him. Some of you

returned to Iraq after 2003. I want you to serve and be loyal to your country, and defend Iraq with your experience and knowledge," said Iraqi Army Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain, Iraqi Joint Headquarters Deputy Chief of Staff – Training.

Other senior Iraqi officials in attendance were Brig. Gen. Samir, Deputy Commander, Tactical Training Command, and Brig. Gen. Majeed, Commandant, Iraq Military Academy - Nasiriyah. ■



Photos by U.S. Army Maj. Danl Connelly

**Soldiers in the Transition and Reintegration Course at Camp Ur, Regional Training Center – Tallil , practice drill and ceremony**



# Mol holds Human Rights Conference

**By Ron Holbrook**

*DoIA PAO*

**BAGHDAD** – The Ministry of Interior emphasized its commitment to human rights and the treatment of all persons with respect, dignity and equality at their annual Human Rights Conference Dec. 24.

The conference also marked the 60th anniversary of International Human Rights Day, said Mr. Neehma Hashem, director of the Interior Ministry’s Human Rights Directorate, formed as an independent directorate earlier this year and reporting directly to the Minister.

“This Ministry has stressed the importance of human rights with the creation of this new directorate,” said Hashem. “We will deal with human rights and uphold the rule of law with equality for all.”

Formerly a part of the Inspector General Directorate at the Ministry, the new Human Rights Directorate has conducted more than 80 inspections of detention centers this year and plans to increase the number of inspections to 120 in 2009. The directorate plans to establish human rights offices in every province in Iraq and grow its original staff from 30 to 260 personnel.

The directorate is responsible for inspecting detention centers to identify possible human rights violations. Inspectors ensure detainees receive proper food, clean water, and have access to medical treatment, as well as ensuring they have access to judges.

“The Interior Ministry will enforce the rule of law and human rights in a high, professional way,” said Deputy Minister Maj.

Gen. Ayden, Director of Iraq Police Affairs. “We are training many people at a high level which reflects our Ministry’s care and concern about human rights.”

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mike Milano, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Directorate of Interior Affairs, stressed that human rights are very important to security in Iraq. The DoIA provides training and support to the Ministry of Interior.

Milano said there are four basic rights and freedoms that everyone should have: freedom of speech, freedom of belief, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

“You quickly see that policemen have a special, trusted place in society,” he said. “The policeman’s position gives him power, and with that power comes great responsibility and accountability.”

“If a policeman violates this trust and acts outside the law, then society will not trust the policeman and will behave irresponsibly. This starts a downward spiral and can get worse. Security will then break down and life will be bad for everyone,” Milano said.

“If a policeman is respected and trusted, the citizens can come to him and point out problems. The spiral goes upward and security will improve. Society will be stable and everyone’s children’s can grow up to be strong and prosperous.”

He continued, “This is not just true of Iraq, but all countries. In some places, there is no law at all. But, Iraq is a wealthy country with a heritage and culture it can draw upon. If all groups work together, Iraq will succeed.”

Milano praised Interior Minister Jawad Bolani for his efforts in promoting human rights and security in Iraq. He said the Ministry of Interior has dedicated much effort to this program and has made more progress than others in this very important area.

“I look forward to a continued partnership with the Ministry of Interior as we meet the challenges that lie ahead. Our shared goal is a Ministry of Interior that has as its first priority protection of and service to the citizens of Iraq, and is able to equitably enforce the rule of law, is accountable to the Iraqi people, and that it protects human right,” Milano added.

At the conclusion of the program, students from the Nusar Primary School sang a song about national unity for Iraq. “We are the new generation. We want peace and education in the new Iraq so we can have opportunity,” they chanted.

Then one young 8-year-old boy told a story about his mother who used to tell him that someday, there will be freedom and rights for everyone.

“That someday is today,” he shouted as he thrust his arms upward and the audience applauded loudly. ■



Photo by U.S. Air Force Maj. Kim Layne

**Iraqi students present a skit at the Ministry of Interior Human Rights Conference urging national unity and peace for Iraqis.**

## Sadr City has its own newspaper, the Al Medina

Multi-National Division-Baghdad PAO

**BAGHDAD** – A monumental achievement was accomplished Nov. 3 in the highly populated Baghdad district of Sadr City. This time it wasn't a record number of barriers put in place or another Special Groups criminal captured, instead it was the publication of the first local Sadr City newspaper, the Al Medina.

The Al Medina is a locally produced and locally owned newspaper that focuses on current news affecting the people of Sadr City.

"It is a source to express their ideas, report their activities, and cover all the projects in the area" said Muhammad Al-Tamimi, general manager of the Al Medina newspaper.

The paper was conceived more than five months ago when Maj. Mike Humphreys, public affairs officer with 3rd Brigade Combat team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division –Baghdad had a chance encounter with Muhammad, a journalist, and a Sadr



Courtesy photo

**Dhahir Al-Musa, owner of the Al Medina newspaper, and Muhammad Al-Tamimi, general manager, look over a finished copy of the Al Medina Newspaper.**



Courtesy photo

**An employee at the Al Medina newspaper office scrolls through numerous photos preparing for the weeks upcoming issue.**

City businessman, Dhahir Al-Musa. During their initial meeting Humphreys expressed his vision to create an independent Sadr City newspaper that could get the people's message out. In cooperation with the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team 3, Humphreys offered \$25,000 in quick reaction funds to help the two entrepreneurs get their paper started.

"I knew we needed a paper in Sadr City," Humphreys said. "I believe that one key to success in Iraq is a free and independent press that educates and informs the people while holding government officials accountable."

Dhahir, who currently owns the newspaper, and Muhammad graciously accepted Humphreys offer and have already begun putting that money into good use. As of today the Al-Medina newspaper has produced six issues at 10,000 copies each that have been distributed throughout the Sadr City district.

"If God willing the paper will continue to grow" said Muhammad. "The people of Sadr City have suffered. This paper can be their voice so the government does not forget them." ■

## Free press grows in southern Iraq

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq** – Nearly 60 journalists from southern Iraq met at Camp Dhi Qar, near Nasiriyah, Iraq, to talk with Italian journalists and discuss the growth of Iraq's free press Dec. 7-8.

"I think it is very important to have the cooperation between Iraqi media and Italian and international media," said Wathick Abdul Abed, an Iraqi journalist who writes for several local newspapers as well as websites.

Anna Marie Greco, an Italian journalist who spoke at the conference, discussed important issues in journalism such as bias in reporting, the Iraqi journalists overcoming their fears of retribution and newsgathering techniques.

"The role of the journalist is very important in a free society," Greco said. "Until now, Iraqi journalists have not had the freedoms they should have, but now, they're learning what to ask and how to interview important people to get good stories."

Dr. Anna Prouse, leader of the Dhi Qar Provincial Reconstruction Team, also contributed to the discussion. She was an international journalist for several years in such places as Morocco and Lebanon. ■

# Head of Iraqi Navy pays surprise visit to fishermen



Courtesy photo

**Rear Adm. Jawad, Head of the Iraqi Navy, and several Iraqi Navy and Coalition leaders boarded a fishing vessel recently to pay a surprise visit to the Iraqi crew.**



Courtesy photo

**Rear Adm. Jawad, Head of the Iraqi Navy, and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles Luckey MNSTC-I SAO talk with the captain of the fishing vessel about his concerns working in Iraqi and international waters.**



Courtesy photo

**An Iraqi fast attack boat pulls alongside an Iraqi fishing vessel so Rear Adm. Jawad, Head of the Iraqi Navy, can pay a surprise visit to the captain and crew.**

**UMM QASR, Iraq**—Rear Adm. Jawad, Head of the Iraqi Navy paid a surprise visit to a group of Iraqi fishermen Dec. 21.

Jawad and a group of Coalition leaders were returning from a visit to Iraq's offshore oil platforms when he decided to board a fishing dhow near the entrance to the Khawr Abd Allah.

"The admiral decided he wanted to go alongside one of the Iraqi fisherman," said Royal Navy Capt. Paul Abraham, Maritime Strategic Training Team commander. "Just to talk to them, see how the fishing was going, and to let them know the Iraqi Navy was out and about and doing their job.

"The fisherman said two things," continued Abraham. "They first asked, 'is the Coalition going to stay here to help us?' to which the admiral replied, 'yes the coalition will stay.' The second thing he said was 'it is good to see the Iraqi Navy. It's good to see you here, but we've been waiting five years and there are not enough Navy boats and there are not enough of you.'"

The fishing was slow that day, so the crew had time to talk with Jawad, Abraham and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles Luckey, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Security Assistance Officer. The fishermen were glad to see representatives of their Navy.

As the party was visiting with crewmembers, Jawad and Luckey went into the wheelhouse to talk with the captain of the fishing vessel.

"He and I sat down and talked to the captain for five or ten minutes," Luckey said. "The skipper said to Admiral Jawad, 'where have you guys been for the last five years?' The admiral said, 'We're here. We're developing our capability now. We're capable of coming out here. The Coalition has helped us and we've got this. We'll be around.'"

"After leaving the wheelhouse, I talked to the fishermen just a little to let them know that we've worked very closely together; the Coalition and the Iraqi Navy," Luckey continued. "The Iraqi Navy is developing its capability and the HoN and I look forward to a time when they will be doing all this on their own. They are developing that capability very quickly."

Before leaving the ship, the admiral gave each member of the crew one of his personal coins.

"The Head of Navy's intent was to talk to some fishermen, understand what their concerns are, and reassure them that the Iraqi Navy was in the process of generating and sustaining forces capable of keeping them safe," said Luckey. "He wanted very much for me to be with him when he talked with them about that because he also wanted to put a collaborative face on the efforts between the Coalition and the Iraqi Navy to build that capability.

Luckey concluded, "He and I talked about the fact that the Navy has a unique opportunity in this country, not only as a strategic asset to secure the oil platforms, but also to provide security protection for hundreds of fishermen out there and to do it in a very civil, protective way. One of the things I told the admiral was that he had gone a long way to reassure these guys that this is an example of how government and military force can be a help, how it can be a friend to the citizenry as opposed to something that needs to be feared. I think it was very important for him to make a statement to ordinary Iraqi workers, fishermen in this instance, about how the Government of Iraq, the Ministry of Defense and the Iraqi Navy are there to support and protect them." ■

## IGFC prepares for move to new home

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi Ground Forces Command will be moving into new homes at Camp Victory and Camp Iraqi Hero after living in a tent city for the last three years.

After 25 months of work, the engineering (J7) section of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and the Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment recently completed this \$50,768,997 project to provide IGFC with headquarters and support battalion facilities—including offices and barracks.

“This is a modern facility built to house their Soldiers and they are looking forward with great anticipation to the movement there as they have been living in a small tent complex here for almost three years,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Donald Timothy, IGFC Garrison Advisor. Most of the support battalion Soldiers have not seen the new barracks, but have only heard about them.”

## IP graduate more than 900 in Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq— Iraq’s police force continues to add to their growing numbers after 926 police recruits graduated Dec. 7 from the Mosul Police Service Academy. During the four-week course, the recruits were trained in weapons marksmanship, basic police skills and hand-to-hand tactics.

Iraqi Maj. Gen Khalid, Director General of Police for Ninewah, thanked the academy staff, Coalition partners and the recruits for all their efforts. “This training course will have a great result in keeping security in Mosul,” said Khalid.

The Mosul Police Service Academy first opened in 2003 and closed for a short time in 2005 after heavy insurgent activity damaged the facility. It reopened in 2005 with Coalition assistance. Since 2003, the academy has graduated a total of 9,706 recruits. Upon graduation, he majority of the recruits will work for local police forces in Mosul and the

surrounding Ninewah Province.

Also attending the graduation was Ninewah Governor, Mr. Cashmoula; Ninewah Operations Commander, Iraq Maj. Gen. Hassan; Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, Director General, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq; and Brig. Gen Robert Brown, Deputy Commanding General (Support), Multi-National Division-North.

## Mol human rights inspectors recognized

BAGHDAD – Six Ministry of Interior human rights inspectors were recognized recently for their accomplishments within the Human Rights Directorate; representing another significant step for capacity building within the ministry.

Brig. Mark Castle, Directorate General, Mol Transition Team, presented Mr. Hashem, Lt. Col. Mohammed, Lt. Col. Sajjad, Lt. Col. Yahya, Commissioner Ali, and Capt. Nazar, with certificates. These recipients were instrumental in major improvements to the Mol Human Rights Program.

“The accomplishments of this directorate are evident,” said Castle. “Iraq has made major strides in human rights.”

Under the guidance and support of Hashem, Mol Human Rights Director, these inspectors performed numerous detention center inspections, visiting several thousand detainees from May to October 2008.

The Human Rights Directorate is responsible for inspecting detention centers to identify possible human rights violations. Inspectors ensure detainees receive proper food, clean water, and have access to medical treatment as well as ensuring detainees have access to judges.

“This directorate is making a big difference,” said Maj. Benny Landfair, Mol-TT human rights advisor. “They are raising the awareness in human rights for the Ministry of Interior, which will help build public trust throughout Iraq.”

## Mol-TT finance team computer training

BAGHDAD – The Finance Transition Team conducted its first computer training class to help bridge the Iraqi technology gap.

The team, part of the Ministry of

Interior – Transition Team, held two three-day training sessions for seven of its Iraqi financial management counterparts.

The first training session, conducted from Nov. 10-12, concentrated on enhancing basic computer desktop operations skills. The second session, held Nov. 24-26, was focused on Microsoft Excel operations. Both sessions were instructed by Mr. Abu Hassan, Mol-TT Finance Bilateral Bicultural Advisor, and assisted by the entire FTT.

“We realized there was a real need for this kind of training,” said Col. Roy Gray, Mol-TT FTT director. “This training provides a vital link to help our counterparts convey vital information about finance capabilities within the Mol.”

“We let each student use a dedicated laptop and provided training on the FOB [Forward Operating Base] which greatly decreased the distractions of attempting the training at the Mol building.”

In the end, the Finance Team is meeting a training need for its Iraqi counterparts, said Gray.

Students have already started using the knowledge gained through the training to produce products for budget execution and formulation data.

The training was also used as a catalyst to assist students who are scheduled to receive additional computer training in Egypt next year. Students who attend these courses are expected to have some proficiency in Microsoft Excel as well as basic computer skills and concepts.

Due to the overwhelming success of the training sessions, more training is planned for the beginning of the year.

## Mol holds first logistics symposium

BAGHDAD – The Ministry of Interior held its first logistics symposium here Dec. 14.

Over the course of the next six weeks, provincial representatives from across Iraq will come together to address the logistical issues within the ministry in efforts to increase ministerial capacity.

“This conference allows provincial and national unit’s representatives from across the country to come together to discuss logistical issues they all share,” said Maj. Jonathan Sabado, Chief of Logistics, Ministry of Interior Transition Team. “This symposium is a great way to share ideas and concepts that affect everyone

within the MoI.”

The conference was hosted by Maj. Gen. Abdulameer, Assistant Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Logistics. “This conference is a great opportunity to address the issues that we all face,” he said. “The Ministry of Interior is dedicated to resolving these issues.”

Provincial representatives from Ninewah, Diyala and Sala Ad Din attended this first-ever conference. Topics of discussion included fuel distribution within the ministry, generator maintenance, and police vehicle sustainment.

## **Iraqi Army achieves milestone at Bayji National Ammo Depot**

**BAJI, Iraq** - The Iraqi Army achieved a new milestone in their path towards self-sufficiency on Dec. 14 when Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Coalition Army Advisory Training Team - Logistics Military Advisory Team contingent departed Bayji National Ammunition Depot.

The Iraqi Forces accepted full depot management and all associated operational control at BNAD for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense at a ceremony in late September 2008. Since that time, a small contingent of coalition personnel has been assisting them as they develop full capacity. The Iraqi Army quickly gained control of all aspects of the depot operation, including the receipt, inspection, quality control, segregation, storage, maintenance, and issue of ammunition. In addition, Iraqi Forces have inherited all security and life support activities.

Brig. Gen. Suheel, BNAD Commander, is also looking ahead to future expansion of their capabilities, such as the employment of the Iraqi Logistics Management Program to enhance their efficiency and capability. This program will provide a new method to provide asset visibility to Brig. Gen. Ali, Director of the Ammunition Command at FOB Honor, and to update the Combined Logistic Operation Center.

Between August and December 2008, both U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contracting Officer Representatives and MNSTC-I LMAT leaders were impressed with IA progress and performance. The IA forces learned all facets of depot operations via on-the-job training in a very short time. “This is another demonstration of the rapidly improving ability of the Iraqi Army to conduct their own logistics operations,” said Col. Dan Leatherman, Director of CAATT Logistics.

## **Transfer of Authority for maintenance facility**

**AL ASAD, Iraq** – Iraqi and Coalition officials celebrated the Transfer of Authority for the Medium Workshop, a maintenance facility, to Iraqi control at Camp Mejid here Dec. 15.

The 12-bay Medium Workshop, part of the Al Asad Location Command, provides maintenance support to Iraqi Army units in the Al Anbar province.

ANHAM, a contractor funded by the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, had been performing the maintenance and provided on-the-job training for Iraqi mechanics to take over operation of the facility.

Iraqi Army mechanics’ training prepared them to repair Humvees, utility trucks and more than 150 makes and models of other vehicles in the Iraqi Army inventory.

A Logistics Training Advisory Team from the 371st Sustainment Brigade also provided classroom training on different vehicles that will come to the facility needing repair.

In addition to the training for mechanics, Iraqi Army Soldiers were also trained to manage the database and administrative tasks to automate the Iraqi maintenance system. The database allows ordering and tracking of parts and control of maintenance status.

“We celebrate today by being here to say goodbye to our friends who share with us three years of hard work repairing vehicles and general maintenance, allowing us to do our duties with the 7th Division,” said Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Ibrahim, commander of Al Asad Medium Workshop. “We will finish our path forward to increase our strength and power to serve our great Army and our great country Iraq.”

## **ISWAT, IA operations in northern Iraq results in 2 detainees, 1 enemy KIA**

**BAGHDAD** – Iraqi Army Reconnaissance soldiers and Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics captured two suspected terrorists during separate operations in northern Iraq Dec. 15 and 17.

In an operation Dec. 17 in Farhatiyah, Iraq, IA soldiers captured an alleged terrorist. During the operation, the team was assaulted by small arms fire and returned fire. Following the attack, a team evaluated the combatants to find one enemy was killed during the return of fire and the other assailant sustained a gunshot wound to the leg.

The injured man was treated at the scene before being moved to a medical facility for further medical attention. Once discharged from the medical facility, the detainee will face prosecution for the use of lethal force against Iraqi Security Forces according to Iraqi law.

In a separate operation Dec. 15, Muqdadiyah SWAT captured a suspected terrorist in Al Asry Village, Iraq. The detainee had an outstanding warrant for numerous cases of sectarian violence against local nationals including murder. The capture of this detainee may help disrupt operations of a terrorist organization in the greater Muqdadiyah area.

“The Muqdadiyah SWAT took the lead on all facets of the operation to include nomination, planning and execution of this operation,” said Lt. Col. Neil Harper Multi-National Corps-Iraq spokesperson. These operations were directed to thwarting terrorist activities as the Government of Iraq demonstrates a determination to bring those operating outside the law to justice.

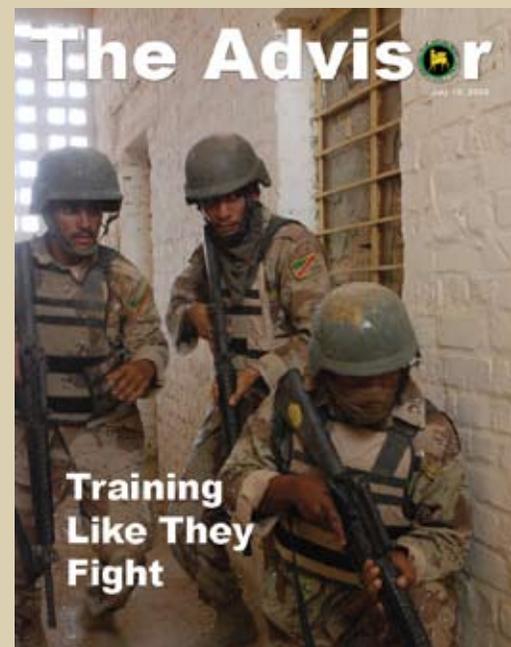
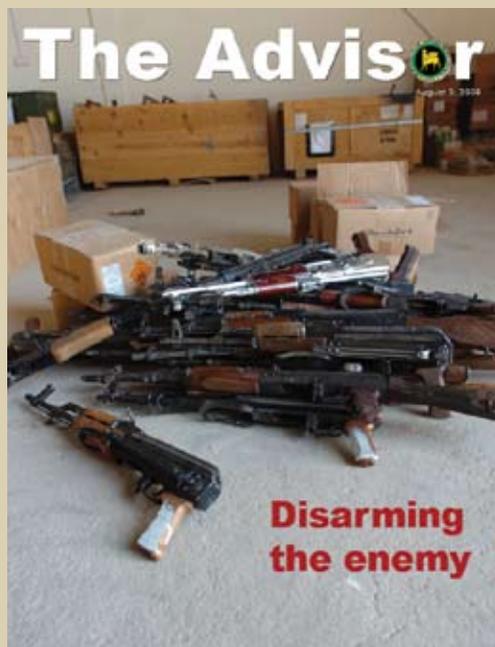
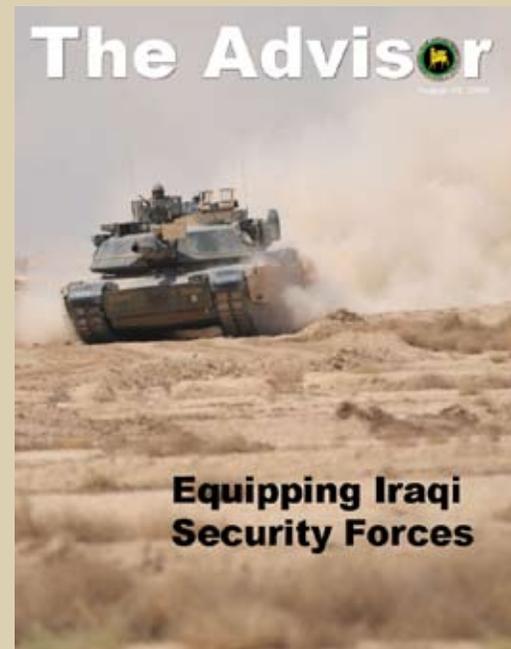
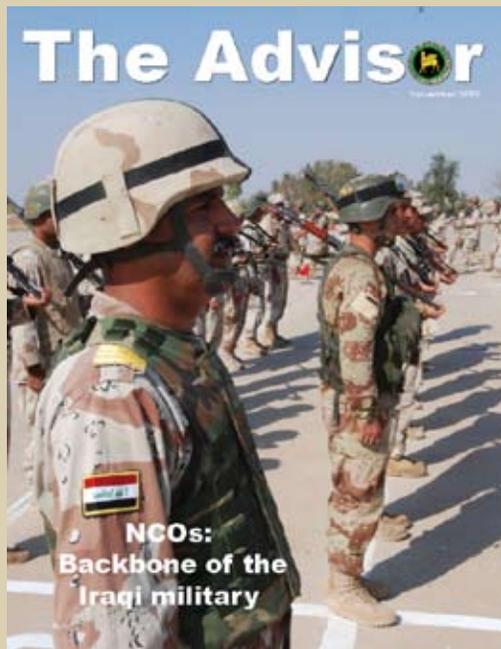
## **Rutbah SWAT arrests suspected AQI cell members in western Iraq**

**BALAD, Iraq** – A Rutbah Special Weapons and Tactics unit, with Coalition forces advisors, arrested a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq cell leader during an operation Nov. 24.

Operating under the authority of a Rawah Judge warrant, Iraqi Security Forces arrested the alleged cell leader and five additional suspected cell members.

The suspected cell leader is believed to be responsible for facilitating vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks against Coalition and Iraqi forces. He is also allegedly responsible for facilitating attacks against Kubaysi tribe members working for the Government of Iraq. ■

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