

The Adviser

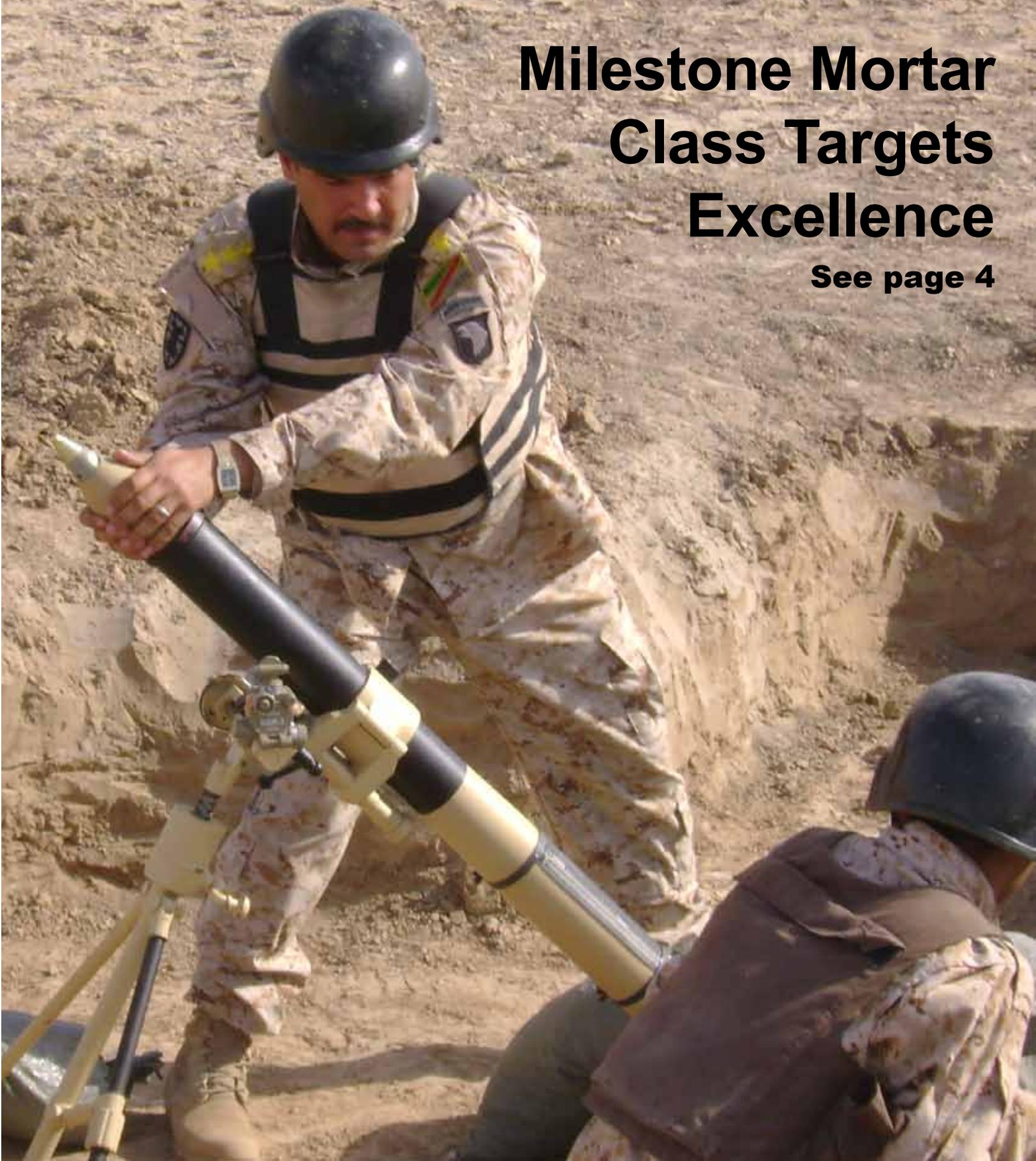


Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

October 2009

Milestone Mortar Class Targets Excellence

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The Advisor

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Iraqi Maj. Gen. Dier (right) prepares to cut the ribbon this summer to open the new Criminal Evidence Laboratory in Irbil with Karim Sinjari (left), Minister of Interior for Khurdistan Region. Lab Director Dier Akos aid he looks forward to “working together with the courts to enforce the rule of law and using forensic science to help the courts solve difficult cases.” The new 2,600-square-meter building incorporates state-of-the-art analytical equipment for criminal forensics investigations. The Irbil Center will be one of three forensics laboratories in Iraq with the other two sites located at Baghdad and Basra. (Photo by Mark Hallmark)

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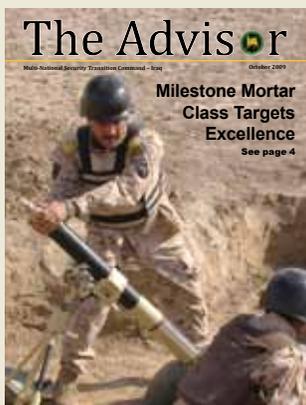
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OCTOBER COVER

Iraqi Army Capt. Bilal Khalil Muzel, platoon commander, hangs the first live fire round for the 81mm course.

Photo by U.S. Army Capt. James Elliott

CG Hails ‘Extraordinary’ Iraqi Partnership

After more than 15 months as Commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command–Iraq and NATO Training Mission–Iraq, I turn over the reins of this incredible organization to my best friend, Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero. After a few weeks to reconnect with my family, I will start my next assignment continuing to serve in America’s Army.

It has been a privilege to work with the diverse group of professionals from many nations and services that comprise MNSTC-I and NTM-I, and it has been a great honor and privilege to work with the brave members of the Iraqi Security Forces and the dedicated leaders of the Government of Iraq. The things that you have accomplished have been nothing short of remarkable.

Over the past 15 months, Iraq’s Security Forces have significantly expanded in capability, training, and equipment. As evidenced by the June 30 withdrawal of U.S. combat forces from Iraq’s cities, Iraqi Security Forces are providing a basic level of security independent of outside assistance, and continue to increase their capabilities with each passing day.

Today there are more than 670,000 Iraqis who are

trained and equipped as members of the military, police, and special operations forces. Our mission to train and equip Iraqi Security Forces and build a capable, professional, and enduring capacity in the security ministries will continue until we depart in December 2011.

Many of these successes have been highlighted in past issues of the *Advisor* magazine. Among things we have accomplished are procuring tanks for the army, surveillance and reconnaissance planes for the air force, patrol boats for the navy, building an intelligence capability, and procuring a variety of law enforcement items for the many police organizations. Building capacity, enhancing capabilities, and enabling Iraq’s systems is what we have improved.

But our partnership has been about more than procuring equipment. It has also been about training and improving the capability and building capacity to employ security forces effectively, in accordance with the rule of law, and while respecting human rights.

Complementing the determination of Iraq’s senior civilian and military leaders, MNSTC-I and NTM-I have facilitated training in Iraq’s police and military training centers, from training cadets at academies to training senior leaders at staff colleges. NTM-I also coordinates a robust out-of-country training program and facilitates the donation of security force equipment to Iraq from NATO countries. Finally, NTM-I works with Iraq’s senior leaders at the three national operations centers to more effectively integrate and coordinate security operations.

The partnership between Iraq’s security forces and MNSTC-I/NTM-I has been extraordinary.

These partnerships will continue in accordance with the Iraq-U.S. Security Agreement and the NATO long-term agreement. It is the personal and professional relationships that breathe life and meaning into these formal agreements, and it is the relationships that I will remember and carry with me as I depart.

I will remember this assignment for the rest of my life. It has been uncommonly rewarding. Iraq’s security forces must continue to be vigilant today and in the future. The citizens of Iraq expect nothing less.

I wish all of you the best of luck in the important work that lies ahead.

Frank G. Helmick
Lieutenant General



I will remember this assignment for the rest of my life. It has been uncommonly rewarding. Iraq’s security forces must continue to be vigilant today and in the future. The citizens of Iraq expect nothing less.

Students had a blast

Tallil Celebrates First Graduation for 81mm Mortar Live-Fire Course

TAJI, Iraq — Twenty-seven Iraqi Army soldiers from the 10th and 14th IA divisions, graduated from the first Iraqi Army 81mm mortar course this summer. The course was led by five IA instructors, all recent graduates of the 81mm mortar “train-the-trainer” course at Taji.

Training began July 1 with a literacy exam covering basic reading, writing, and math in Arabic and English. The first two weeks of training consisted of classroom instruction and hands-on practical exercises. Training during the third week focused on the various methods to engage a target, such as using a grid location or shifting fires from a known point. The final week of the course included practical exercises using actual range data, range operations, employment of the mortar section, site recon and occupation.

Students were also taught map reading, fire direction center procedures, forward observer duties and responsibilities, safety checks, different ammunition types, and the characteristics and capabilities of the Serbian 81mm mortar. The culminating event

for this course was a student live-fire exercise, shooting high explosive and smoke rounds at Bordia Range, Combat Operating Base Adder.

Upon completion of the final exercise, RTC Weapon Wing Commander, Iraqi Maj. Mohammed, expressed his overall satisfaction with the training. At the graduation ceremony, he said, “I am open to advice on new training techniques and ways to improve training for Iraqi Army soldiers.”

Mohammed also said that he plans to review the current program of instruction to maximize training time, increase the number of instructors, and focus more training on fire direction and forward observers.

After the ceremony, several students said that they were honored to be the first graduates of the 81mm mortar course, and they are prepared to take this new training back to their units. Training at Camp Ur, Tallil continues to be a vital link in efforts to build a capable and professional defense force.



Iraqi Army Sgt. Raheem Sadon, 81mm mortar instructor, gives students an introduction of mortar characteristics. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. James Elliott)

Ministries of Defense, Interior Hold 23 September Graduations

ITAM-Intel

Sept. 10 Intermediate Intel Crs 326 (students) Taji

ITAM-Police

Sept. 10 Human Rights 100 Baghdad Police Col.
Sept. 10 Basic Recruit Training 102 Diwaniyah
Sept. 12 Basic Recruit Training 305 Al Anbar
Sept. 17 Basic Recruit Training 2000 Maysan
Sept. 24 Basic Recruit Training 500 Sulayminiyah
Sept. 25 Basic Recruit Training 1449 Furat

ITAM-AF

Sept. 15 Ground Radar Crs 37 Taji
Sept. 22 Enginer Crs 25 Taji
Sept. 23 Air Systems Crs 12 Taji
Sept. 26 Fixed/Rotary Wing 25, Kirkuk

ITAM-Army

Sept. 6 12th Field Engr Reg and Unit Set Fielding.
527 Besmaya
Sept. 13 M1A1 Tanker Crs 42 Besmaya
Sept. 15 Engineer Officer Basic 37 Taji
Sept. 17 Inf. Officer Basic 362 Kirkush
Sept. 27 Bomb Disposal School IED 7 Besmaya
Sept. 28 81mm Mortar Training various numbers
in Besmaya; Kirkush; Numaniyah; Tallil; Kirkuk
Sept. 30 Chemical Officer Crs 9 Taji
Sept. 30 Basic Comm Officer Crs 56 Taji



Tribal Affairs Directorate representatives meet tribal sheikhs from Al Msa'awd, Khafajah and Al Twfeel. (Courtesy Photo)

Tribal Affairs Directorate Promotes Reconciliation

By Ron Holbrook

When most people think of community policing, visions of police officers in classrooms or patrolling neighborhood streets come to mind. In Iraq, the scene could be one of police in business suits meeting with tribal sheikhs in a tent.

Such meetings have been an important step in promoting reconciliation and improving security in Iraqi communities. During the past three and one-half years, the Ministry of Interior's Directorate of Tribal Affairs has conducted an average of more than 1,800 meetings a year in remote sites and cities as well. The Directorate's 439 Iraqi police officers and 14 civilian employees have been instrumental resolving more than 500 tribal conflicts during this same period.

"The Tribal Affairs Directorate has become an important problem-solving tool and respected agency for the Ministry of Interior," said Michael Beach, an advisor with the Iraq Training and Advisory Mission.

"Through its efforts, the directorate

has developed a reputation with tribal leaders as a transparent, trustworthy and impartial government partner who is interested in improving the quality of life in the communities they serve.

In turn, the positive relationships built over the years have provided police with information on possible criminal and terrorist activities, and other intelligence.

The Tribal Affairs Directorate was created by law in 2003 and given a broad range of responsibilities. This includes the key task of liaison between the Ministry of Interior and tribal communities to promote understanding and cooperation with the police. Directorate leaders identify genuine tribal leaders through genealogical records and expose fake leaders who took advantage of wartime circumstances to place themselves in tribal leadership positions.

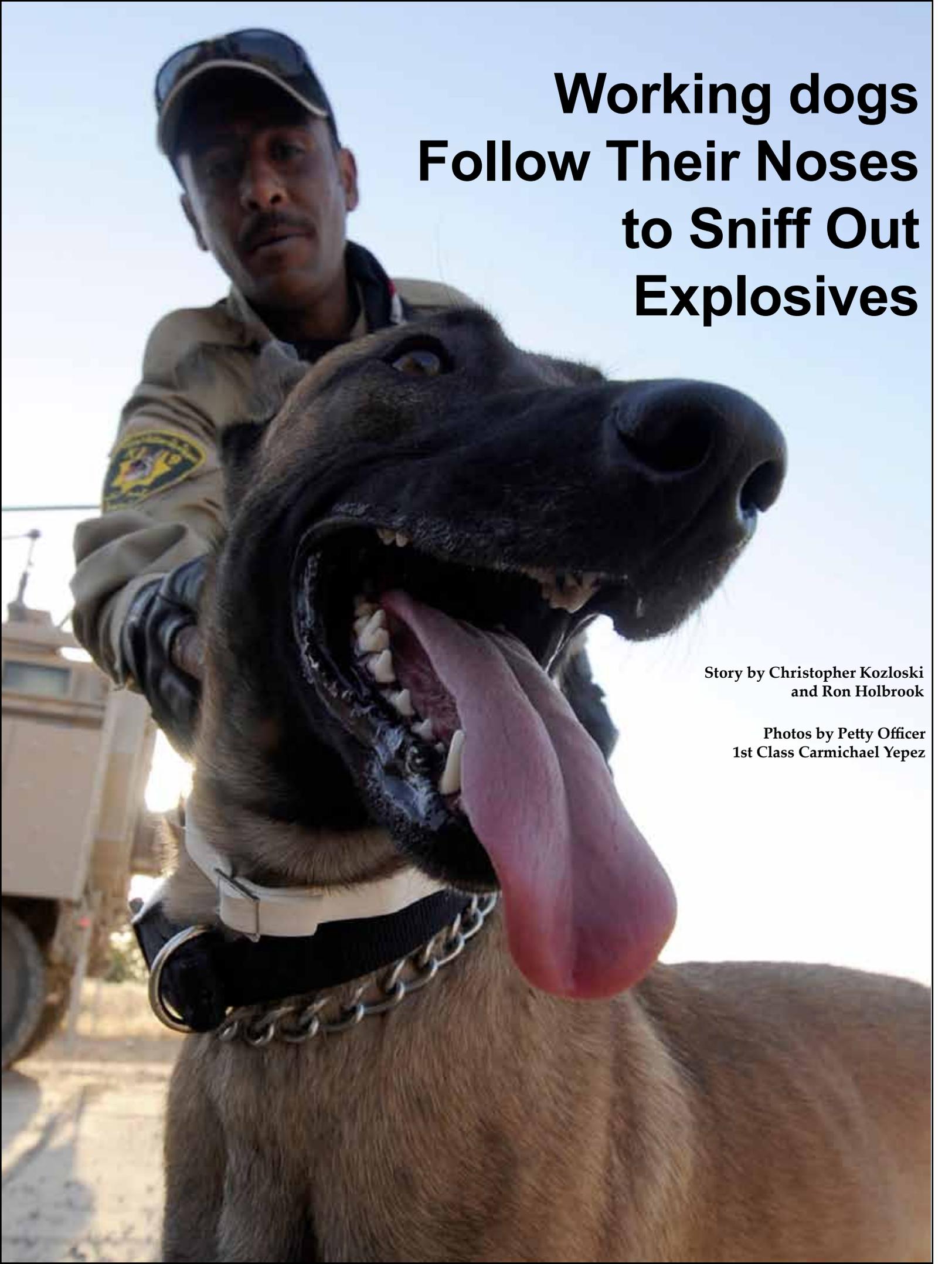
Iraqi Maj. Gen. Marred Abed al Hassan, director general of Tribal Affairs, said that more than 85 percent of the Iraqi population is a member of a particular tribe. "At every meeting, we stress the importance of a united Iraqi people,

recognition of the unified government, and the need to establish a strong national identity," said Marred.

"Bringing people together to negotiate lasting resolutions is what the Tribal Affairs does for Iraq," said Beach.

The ITAM Professional Training Team works with the High Institute at the Baghdad Police College to develop a curriculum for community policing within the Iraqi Police structure.

"What we hope will occur is a partnered relationship between Tribal Affairs and the efforts of trained community policing officers," said U.S. Navy Capt. Kristofer P. Turnbow, director of Security Forces. "These complement one another in the mutual attempts to improve relationships among all segments of the Iraqi community. We also hope it will build trust and public confidence in the Iraqi Police Services. Tribal Affairs provides alternative resolutions for conflict, not only within tribal matters, but also with other segments of Iraqi society, as they further advance toward enforcing the rule of law in Iraq."

A man in a military uniform, wearing a cap and a jacket with a patch, is holding a large, light-colored dog. The dog's mouth is wide open, showing its teeth and a long, pink tongue hanging out. The background is a bright, clear sky. The overall scene suggests a working dog in a military or security setting.

Working dogs Follow Their Noses to Sniff Out Explosives

**Story by Christopher Kozloski
and Ron Holbrook**

**Photos by Petty Officer
1st Class Carmichael Yopez**

MOSUL, Iraq – Chew toys and leashes in hand, Iraqi Police dog handlers and their working dogs arrived at Forward Operating Base Marez in late summer to fine tune their skill in basic obedience and explosive detection techniques.

The class is part two of initial dog training that the Iraqi Police received earlier in the year. The focus for the IPs is to build a relationship with their dogs and refine basic canine obedience and explosive and narcotic detection techniques.

The initial training consisted of introducing the Iraqi Police to working dogs as a resource, something the IPs did not have until now. In the last month, they acquired military working dogs and created a K9 program to use these dogs in their everyday working environment.

“[The IPs] have a valuable asset now. A dog’s nose is so much stronger than ours,” said Navy Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Nalley, lead instructor for the program. “I can’t smell explosives when I’m walking down the road. These dogs can. If the IP have something that can give them an indication that something is wrong, it can go a long way to help them out.”

The IPs and their dogs both showed excitement as they began the training

session with basic obedience techniques. Each IP practiced getting their dogs to sit and stay in place. When the dogs performed, they were rewarded with a rubber chew toy and praise. Both handler and dog seemed to be catching on quickly.

“I was thoroughly impressed with the way they have responded to their dogs. The dogs that they have want to be loyal and work with their handlers,” said Nalley, “You can definitely tell that they are building their relationship with their dogs.”

Building such relationships is a key. Many Iraqis consider it a filthy task to groom and wash a dog. Such tasks are essential, however, to ensuring harmony with the animal.

Without forming a bond, it’s impossible to be an effective dog handler, said 13-year veteran Iraqi police dog handler Salim Saeed Ahmed. He teaches at the Baghdad Police College, where he said trains a new generation of Iraq dog handlers while working to break down cultural misconceptions about dogs

“The greatest tool you have in your inventory when working with dogs is love. A lot of dogs, that’s what they work for, just your affection,” U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Meier, an advisor from Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission-Police.

“Some of the people who have shown up are willing to play with the dog but they are not willing to go to the next step and really love the dog up. We’ve shown them that when they do that, they get better response from the dog.”

“We must help people understand about dogs. Showing that they can prevent bombings is a great way to change people’s image,” said Salim Saeed Ahmed, who recently honed his skills at a two-month dog handler course in North Carolina.

In August, Iraq hosted its first international soccer match. Ahmed and his Belgian shepherd, Chico, ran up and down the stands at Baghdad’s Shaab stadium hours before the game, making sure no explosive materials had been planted there. Chico is one of dozens of sniffer dogs provided by the United States. No bombs were found and the game went on as planned, with the Iraqi team defeating the Palestinian team 4-0.

The Iraqis in the program said they agree that using sniffer dogs is the best way to protect Iraqi civilians from car bombs and suicide attacks, Meier said.

“They are the greatest tool you have,” he added. “You cannot fool a dog. There’s nothing you can do to trick a dog. The only thing you can trick is maybe the



An Iraqi police dog leads his handler while they search for explosive devices during a K9 training class at Forward Operating Base Marez, in Mosul, Iraq. The Iraqi dog handlers are part of the first K9 unit in Mosul. Opposite page: An Iraqi dog handler takes control of his dog.

handler, but you aren't tricking the dog."

Meier said the Iraqi policemen in the canine program are a self-selected bunch. They volunteer for the task force even though it offers no extra pay and is one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. The program Meier and Ahmed teach is slated to grow to include more than 100 dogs and their handlers.

Back at FOB Marez, the trainers use realistic training aids. They walk dog and handler through a training lane, allowing them the opportunity to get hands-on skills that will benefit them as they begin using these dogs in their daily work.

The training is event driven. The IP handlers walk through a scenario with their dogs as the class instructor observes.

As issues arise, the instructor stops the handler and advises them on different techniques.

"We try to do some basic obedience and we plant some explosive training aids. We pay attention to what the dogs and handlers are doing during the training lane and give them advice on what they are doing if there are issues," said Nalley. "If there are no issues during the training, we praise the teams for doing their job well. If there is something that we need to fine tune, we'll give them the direction that they need."

For these IPs, this is the start of a long working relationship with their dogs. When asked why he chose to get involved with the K9 program, one of the IP handlers said that he had an affinity to

dogs and felt that it would be a valuable resource to help sustain security and prevent attacks in his community.

The overall goal of the program is to have a viable K9 program in the Iraqi Police that is sustainable and productive after U.S. forces have fully withdrawn from Iraq.

"We want to continue our partnership with the Iraqi Police so that they get the training that they need to sustain their program long after we are gone," said Nalley.

(Kozloski writes for 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. Holbrook writes for ITAM-Ministry of Interior Training Team.)

Dog and handler walk through a training lane to get the hands-on skills required for their security duties



A handler guides his dog through an obstacle course on the training range. (Iraqi Ministry of Interior photo)



U.S. Soldiers, assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pull security with Iraqi police officers as a herd of sheep crosses the road, during a joint patrol mission, in Kirkuk, Iraq. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Canaan Radcliffe)

Bushariyah-based Iraqi Police Prove Readiness

KIRKUK — The Iraqi police in the small village of Bushariyah here have detained 17 terrorists, participated in hundreds of raids and disabled improvised explosive device emplacements, and they are just getting started.

For these IP, their latest victory did not come on the battlefield; rather, it happened inside their station during a validation ceremony to recognize their hard work and dedication to security.

“Today is a great day,” Capt. Fikrat Mustafa, the chief of the Bushariyah Station, said to the crowd at the ceremony.

The policemen of this station have made countless sacrifices and have been completely committed to overcoming the obstacles that stood in the way of protecting the people, he continued.

“We will continue to destroy terrorists where we can, and we will serve this country until we die,” said Mustafa. “We

will always be honest to the people.”

Police leaders, including Maj. Gen. Jamal Tahir Bakr, the provincial police chief, were happy to witness their Bushariyah brethren receive their hard-earned validation.

“It is a great honor to present ourselves here,” said Bakr.

The policemen of this station do their duty very well, and have complete loyalty to this village, he said.

They have had to train and prepare extensively in order to receive their validation, and in the process have become a very strong security force in this area, Bakr continued.

To be officially validated, a Police station must accomplish every objective on a rigorous checklist, said 1st Lt. Kristofer Melton, platoon leader with the 218th Military Police Company, who worked closely with Bushariyah Station during training.

“They had to know all the basic policing skills,” he said.

The IP were trained on how to conduct vehicle searches, secure a crime scene, perform detainee operations and the various other tasks commonly practiced by IP, Melton said.

“They have definitely improved with the training,” he said. “They were at a good point before, but I have noticed a difference. They are committed to learning how to be better policemen and always ask to learn more from us.”

Now that they are validated, the IP at the station will not meet as often with the U.S. military policemen, but they can still request training assistance from them in the future, said Melton.

“We as the police are getting better every day,” said Mustafa. “Our eyes will stay open so nothing bad happens, and we will cooperate with the people.”



Left photo: Two recently validated Iraqi police officers answer questions from villagers. Right photo: An Iraqi police officer oversees security with U.S. Soldiers on a joint patrol mission in Kirkuk, Iraq. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Canaan Radcliffe)



The HD1 counter-explosives robot moves in to dismantle a training explosive device as part of explosive ordnance disposal training.

U.S., Iraqi Experts Defuse Counter-Explosives Challenges

By U.S. Army Maj. Bob Owen

BAGHDAD – On a wall in Iraq’s Ministry of Interior hangs 46 framed photographs displaying the names and images of each selfless Iraqi who died attempting to isolate and defuse terrorist bombs so that Iraq could be a safer and more secure place to live and work.

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Jihad Jabari, the director of Explosives Ordnance Disposal, discussed the men’s sacrifices with U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Richard Rowe, director of Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

“This organization has responded to a lot of incidents in Iraq,” said Jihad. “We started in 2005 to establish a group that could counteract the vehicle-borne

improvised-explosive devices and roadside bombs. There once were 35-40 attacks everyday throughout Iraq and explosives were coming into Baghdad uncontrollably.”

Rowe complimented Jihad and his directorate, describing their mission as a sacred trust and the men who perished in the line of duty as true heroes of Iraq. “These martyrs should be honored for their sacrifices to your country.”

The EOD directorate advises and educates Ministry of Interior personnel on counter-explosives techniques. They train in a sprawling complex with classrooms, meeting rooms, and practice areas. There is room for expansion as well.

Jihad added that in the beginning, men such as those commemorated on the Martyr’s Wall used their own personal

vehicles to go to the scenes of explosions to conduct their work. Since then, the United States has helped with a \$23 million program to provide supplies, equipment, vehicles, and advisors and trainers who are experienced in counter-explosives tactics.

“We want to find the bomb makers before they build the bombs,” Rowe said.

This money is also being used to field 12 additional counter-explosive teams in Iraq. The eventual goal is to have an EOD team in each province capable of communicating through a reliable network back to the National Command Center. This will help to professionalize the Iraqi EOD force structure and make it possible for them to perform vital operations to render safe explosives and assist with post-blast crime-scene-evidence collection.

The lead U.S. officer for general counter-explosives training is Army Lt. Col. Leonard Draves, a reservist from New York City, who represents Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Police.



aining . (Photos by Maj. Bob Owen)

His team is responsible for advising, mentoring, training and equipping the Iraqi EOD center. He said his duty as a New York City firefighter has helped him tremendously in this aspect.

"I responded to the World Trade Center Sept. 11, 2001 and saw firsthand what terrorists can do," Draves said. "Every day that I work with these brave Iraqis, who have volunteered for this tough mission to free Iraq from explosives and car bombs, I keep my fellow fire fighters and fellow New Yorkers in my thoughts."

Also on the team advising the Iraqis is Iraqi Police Advisor, George Marshall, senior civilian advisor for EOD ITAM-Police. He has been in Iraq for more than four years and said he thinks the mission is extremely important to the future of Iraq.

Iraqi Major Jassim, an EOD chief, said "Not a lot of people want to do the tough-but-necessary job of counter-explosives disposal. For those of us who do, we're grateful to receive training and then get equipment for practicing newly learned skills."



Above: An Iraqi EOD specialist collects pieces of the dismantled training bomb. Left: EOD Specialists have a vast array of tools and badges at their disposal.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Paul Valenzuela coaches Iraqi air force officers during an intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance training mission. The Iraqi officers direct ISR aircraft and control camera movement from this fixed ground station to provide full-motion ISR video for operations in Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)

Iraqi Airmen Eye the Skies via Ground Station

By Senior Airman Alyssa C. Miles,
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – Ensuring Iraqi military officers understand how to observe suspicious activity from the sky by using ground-based equipment is a key to ensuring this nation's security.

Tech Sgt. Paul Valenzuela, an enlisted advisor from Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force, trains Iraqi airmen in the art of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, to do just that.

The training is important because, as Valenzuela said, "The security of the Iraqi people relies more and more on the Iraqi military being able to watch from above what terrorists may be doing on the ground."

The Iraqis had an ISR ground station, but no Intel officers to staff it, he said.

"I got some contractors out to fix the station and we started doing missions. We went from not having a mission to having the only mission that is running here."

However, before the mission could be

completely operational, the Iraqis needed to be fully trained on the ins and outs of the ground station.

"A usual day for a training mission starts between 5 and 6 a.m.," he said. "We're training to get these guys to use the ISR and incorporate that with the security forces region, border enforcement, Iraqi army and police."

"When I first got here, there was only one Iraqi officer who was fully trained on ground station. Now I have five who can operate and train on the ground station."

Valenzuela said, "Iraq is a big country and Iraqis do not have many people they can spread out to conduct border control. However, the ISR aircraft is able to look at a wide area and give real, live-time coverage of that area. Training on this system is vital, as it will permit the Iraqis to better protect their borders."

Iraqi air force Lt. Hameed, ISR officer, said the equipment the Iraqis are using now assists in providing security in Iraq where there previously was none, and he is grateful for the Air Force's assistance.

"Sergeant Valenzuela is a good advisor – he has always given us the support we needed to help us get where we are now," Hameed said. "I feel I am helping my country to improve itself, supporting my country to stand on its own. I am proud to serve in the Iraqi air force. I think we have a great future."

As with any story, Valenzuela said the best part of his job is the happy ending.

"The best part is being able to see their progress," Valenzuela said. "When I got here, I didn't have anything [to work with]. Now the ISR mission is taking off. They're building from the ground up. I can tell them something on Monday, and by the next Monday I'll be able to see the results. It's really cool to see the development."

"It's a big-time difference being an aircraft mechanic back in the States, to coming out here doing intelligence, surveillance and working with intel officers," the sergeant added. "But it's awesome. I wouldn't change it for the world."

Rescue Me

Rapid Response Training Reassures Iraqi Fire Fighters

By Senior Airman Alyssa C. Miles,
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

BAGHDAD -- Two Air Force sergeants stationed inside the International Zone here are in the process of training Iraqi firefighters in crisis response.

By the end of this training, the Iraqis should be capable of running a response system similar to 9-1-1 in the United States, said fire rescue advisors Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kimball and Tech. Sgt. Essam Cordova, 821st Expeditionary Training Squadron, Iraq Training Advisory Mission-Air Force.

"The best way to think about it is when you call 9-1-1, you feel you're safe, and we're trying to do the same thing for the people in Iraq," said Cordova. "We



work with civil defense, which is the equivalent to a city fire department, and with all agencies from airport firefighters at the Baghdad International Airport, to city and Iraqi air force and army firefighters."

The two sergeants, who are both deployed from Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, are teaching nine courses -- from basic firefighting to management -- to Iraqi firefighters, some of whom have never been in a firefight before. When their mission is complete, more than 1,500 Iraqis will have been trained.

"We're teaching the fire department to become firefighters from the basic level all the way up to fire chief, building from the ground up," said Cordova. "We're teaching them how to fight fires, rappel from buildings, evacuate an individual from a mangled car and manage mass casualty operations.

Kimball said the Iraqis were sometimes hesitant with some tasks.

"One day we were conducting rescue rappelling training," Kimball said. "Some of these guys have never trusted an American before, and here we were telling them to trust a three-quarter-inch rope to rappel down the side of a three-story building, rescue someone off another line halfway down and continue to go."

Kimball said a "can-do" attitude spread through the group like wildfire as more and more Iraqis successfully completed their mission, and that the excitement of their success could be seen on everyone's face.

"I had a big smile on my face, and they did too," Kimball said. "At first they were so scared to go over the side of the building, but now they're getting faster and faster every day. They didn't

believe me at first, but now they're literally taking one jump off the building and they're on the ground.

"They don't always take to putting trust into new people," he continued. "They trust us more and more every day, and getting involved in their culture shows them we respect them."

Trust runs both ways. Iraqi Air Force Maj. Wanees said he appreciated his instructor's willingness to "let us tie him up and rescue him from a confined space hole." He added that Iraq has many confined spaces and confined-space rescue operations were the most important training he had.

"This rescue course was detailed, thorough and to the point," said Wanees. "We had valuable lectures on mechanics and proper set up. Then we were shown ways to perform operations with vehicles, helicopters, ropes and knots, high angles, and confined spaces. Finally we had the practical aspect, which lasted for two weeks," he said.

"Since we are fire fighters, rescue is the cornerstone of our career," Wanees said. "I really feel happy when I save somebody's life."

Below: U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Essam Cordova instructs Iraqi firefighter students how to manually stabilize a patient's cervical spine and measure for a C-spine collar. Previous page: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kimball instructs Iraqi firefighter students how to perform an operations check on an AJAX air hammer tool. Both Airmen teach teaches procedures in advanced rescue with auto extrication to students in the International Zone. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)





U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Essam Cordova instructs Iraqi firefighter students how to properly secure a patient to a long spine board. He teaches procedures in advanced rescue with auto extrication to students in the International Zone. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)

New Fuel Depot Helps Expand IA Capacity

By Mike Scheck and U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Charles Murnieks

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – The military strategist Sun Tzu said, “The line between disorder and order lies in logistics.”

These words, repeated by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre, the commanding general of Gulf Region Division, highlighted the increase in logistical capabilities gained by the completion of a new fuel point and two warehouses on K-1 Military Base, Kirkuk, Iraq.

The Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers handed over the completed \$7.4 million Kirkuk Location Command in August.

This new location command facility is critical because it provides logistical support for the 1,000 Iraqi army troops stationed at K-1.

“I know that as it moves into full operation, this location command will be

another outstanding example of how the Iraqi Army is serving and protecting the sovereign nation of Iraq,” said Eyre.

Providing logistical support to the Iraqi Army is an important effort for MNSTC-I. To this end, MNSTC-I has 12 Location Commands under construction around the country, totaling over \$200 million. The Location Command project in Kirkuk is the first to be completed.

The Kirkuk location is an ideal site to provide logistical support for local Iraqi army units, said Iraqi Brig. Gen. Younnis Al-Zeebary, commander of the K-1 Location Command. “Logistical support is one of the biggest challenges facing the Iraqi army today. The success in a battle does not wholly depend on the number of soldiers and weapons, but on the logistical support provided to the soldiers. No mission can be fought or won without the support we can now provide.”

This is a notable event both for MNSTC-I as well as for the Iraqi army located in Kirkuk. Kirkuk is Iraq’s third largest city. It holds strategic importance

because it accounts for 40 percent of Iraq’s oil and 70 percent of its natural gas production, according to a report by the Council on Foreign Relations.

In the future, all the units that work throughout Kirkuk province will be getting their fuel from here, said Col. Ahmed Sadeq, the deputy commanding officer of locations command on K-1.

“In the past, we had a really small fuel storage area,” said Ahmed. “We had trouble keeping up with the fuel demands because the storage area was so small.”

This new fuel point will dramatically reduce the trouble that units go through to get fuel, and will increase the mission capabilities of the Iraqi Army in this province, he said.

In addition to increasing the fuel capabilities, two new warehouses will store medical equipment and basic goods that the IA issues to soldiers.

Many new facilities were constructed as part of this location command. Among these are a bulk fuel storage facility with a capacity to store 1.5 million liters of diesel fuel and 500,000 liters of benzene, and a bulk lubricant storage unit that can store more than 30,000 liters of vehicle lubricants. Also included were two new buildings, one providing office and administrative space and the other a warehouse for medical supplies, repair parts and military clothing. A potable water and waste water management system were also built at the site.

This project represents the culmination of a year-long collaboration between numerous parties. MNSTC-I J7 (engineering), USACE Kirkuk Area Office, ITAM-Army and the Iraqi army have labored continuously to bring this location command to fruition.

Rebecca Ritchey, the J7 program manager for this project, said, “It has been an honor to be involved in this project... learning and working alongside our USACE, coalition and Iraqi partners to enhance Iraqi security capabilities.”

Mark Howell, the USACE construction representative for the project, said he concurred. “This facility is designed to increase the effectiveness and help in the empowerment of the Iraqi army in northern Iraq. It was gratifying to be associated with this project from the start and to realize the finished product.”

(Scheck works for the Gulf Region District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Murnieks works on MNSTC-I J7 infrastructure staff.)



This bulk fuel storage facility has a capacity to store 1.5 million liters of diesel fuel and 500,000 liters of benzene. A nearby bulk lubricant storage unit that can store more than 30,000 liters of vehicle lubricants. This new fuel point will dramatically reduce the trouble that units go through to get fuel, and will increase the mission capabilities of the Iraqi army in this province. (Courtesy photo)



Rushing out of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, Iraqi soldiers hit the ground and take up security positions during a training exercise in Baghdad, Aug. 18. (Photo by Sgt. Travis Zielinski, 1st Cavalry Division)

Air Cavalry Continues Training Iraqi Army

By Sgt. Travis Zielinski,
1st Cavalry Division

BAGHDAD — American service members here continue to train the Iraqi Army using the same methods available to U.S. military forces.

Starting off with the basic steps and procedures, a crawl, walk then run approach helps the Iraqis attain professional military standards.

The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, teamed up with 150th Armed Reconnaissance Squadron, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, MND – B, to train 17th IA Division Soldiers in helicopter air assault procedures.

For the 17th IA, “this is the very beginning of this aspect of training,” said Capt. Mark Houck from Mullens, W. Va., a troop commander with 150th ARS. “They’ve done a lot of ground training, cordon searches, [traffic control points] and this is a new type of training that we are starting today.”

The IA soldiers are more than welcoming the new and applicable training – wanting to skip the crawl and walk phases and go straight for the run.

“They have a lot of motivation, they are extremely excited to come down here and do all types of training – especially the air integration training with the helicopters,” said Houck.

“I am very pleased to see the Air Cav. coming in and supporting our training, I really believe the Iraqis will take a lot from this training and put it to good use,” he added.

The 1st ACB provided two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for the IA, and the crew chiefs gave them a course of instruction on maneuvering around aircraft.

“We have to give them a detailed passenger brief and then we go through the static load training,” said Spc. Kristopher Wheeler from Zachary, La., a Black Hawk crew chief in Company B, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st ACB.

Static load training is the movement of personnel in and out of the aircraft with the power off. It is a safe environment for any Soldiers who do not normally work around helicopters.

“We have to give them a dry run, basically showing them how to get in and out of the helicopter safely without getting in the way of our weapons or any

other obstacles,” said Wheeler.

The training went on without a hitch regardless of the anticipated communication issues – which were nearly non-existent.

“The interpreter did a great job translating,” said Wheeler. “We were expecting some problems with the language barrier, but the Iraqi soldiers did exactly what we told them to do. They were pretty much professionals.”

This training was also vital to building stronger bonds between these said professionals and the U.S. Soldiers.

“A key focus is the relationships, not only our relationship with the [30th] HBCT, but with the relationships we are building with the Iraqis,” said Maj. Jim Tenpenny from Platte City, Mo., the operations officer in charge for 3-227th, 1st ACB. “That is really a key message that we are trying to send; the trust and confidence in each other.”

Although the training exercise builds confidence and bonds between the two forces, the ultimate goal is yet to come.

“We want to incorporate the Iraqi army with the Iraqi air force to conduct their own air assaults; that is the end state of this training,” said Tenpenny.

Mol Police Academy Prepares Federal, Border, Emergency Forces

By 2nd Lt. Frederick McAfee
4th Brigade Combat Team
1st Armored Division

FOB GARRY OWEN — In 2005, the Ministry of Interior founded the Iraqi Police (IP) Academy to begin training District, Emergency Response and Federal Police in Maysan province.

In the new “advise and assist” phase

of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Coalition forces train Iraqi Security Forces to conduct combat operations as opposed to conducting unilateral combat operations.

“Right now the IP Academy is focused on training police that are already employed,” said 2nd Lt. Thomas Gossweiler, a tank platoon leader from Long Island, N.Y., assigned to Company C, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. “The IP never had an initial training program integrated so everyone in the province has a different level of skill. The [Basic Recruit Training] class will give these [IP] the foundation to succeed and an opportunity for advancement, an option that wasn’t available a year ago.”

July 30 marked the second IP graduation the 4th Bn. has been invited to. Even with the language barrier, the proud looks of the nearly 875 graduates in attendance was difficult to miss. With the band keeping a marching rhythm similar



Capt. Allen Trujillo, commander of Company D, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, meets with Iraqi Police Training Academy instructors following the July 30 graduation ceremony. Trujillo’s Soldiers advise and assist Iraqi Police in Maysan province. (Photos by 2nd Lt. Frederick McAfee, 4th Brigade Combat Team)

to our own Army bands, the ceremony was rich with Iraqi culture and pride.

Not long ago, the course was an eight-week program designed to teach mostly discipline and marching. The current program is four weeks and focuses on tactics and strategy. The class was shortened due to the Iraqi instructors’ increased effectiveness.

Lt. Col. Ghazi, commandant of the Maysan IP Academy, has sought out training from U.S. Army personnel.

“They always ask us to show them how the Americans do it,” said Sgt. 1st Class Sean O’Connor, a tank platoon sergeant from Scranton, Pa., assigned to Co. C, 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. “[Ghazi] has requested Protective Security Detail, Crime Scene Investigation and Combat Lifesaver training from American units. The training is great for both nations.”

Leaders of the 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. are optimistic regarding the future success of the Maysan Police force. The mission ahead will not be an easy one, but it is necessary nonetheless.

Lt. Col. Robert L. Menist Jr., 4th Bn., 6th Inf. Regt. commander from San Francisco, leads his Soldiers in their mission to advise and assist the IP in northern Maysan province.

“Now that security rests solely on the Iraqi Security Forces, it is imperative that we have and maintain a trained, professional and proficient Police force,” he said. “The IP Academy is an instrumental part in making that happen.”



Leaders from 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment and Iraqi police in Maysan render honors during the playing of Mawtini, the Iraqi national anthem, during a ceremony for graduates of Iraqi police basic recruit training.



Air Force Senior Airman Daniel Jamison teaches Iraqi air force officers how to use a handheld data display connected to a TMQ-53 tactical meteorological observation system.

Weather Observation Device Assists Iraqi Air Missions

By Senior Airman Alyssa C. Miles
U.S. Air Forces Central Public Affairs

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq – Seven Iraqi air force weather lieutenants here received on-the-job training designed to enhance their knowledge and abilities with weather observation equipment.

The training's focus involved set-up, up-keep and function of a tactical meteorological observation system.

The TMOS is a portable device which allows its user to obtain weather data used in taking several different weather observations, including wind speed and direction, cloud height, rain, temperature and humidity. It is designed for quick set-up in a tactical environment. In turn, accurate weather data allows for safe travel of troops, special operations missions, medical evacuation, cargo and any transportation needed.

According to Iraqi Col. Salman, the Iraqi air force director of the Meteorological Department, his airmen spent time reading about the equipment in preparation. He said this training is very important for Iraqi weather airmen and, in addition, that this the first time they were able to work on this kind of machine.

He said he and his team plan to put this device on every base in Iraq – army and air force – sometime in the future.

"It was important to Colonel Salman that each one of them had a hands-on experience setting up the TMOS, so I believe they all learned quite a bit from the experience," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Marvin Treu, Multi-National Force-Iraq Joint Meteorological and Oceanographic officer.

"The lieutenants are hard working and motivated," Treu added. "They are already providing weather briefings for exercise and operational Iraqi air force missions, as well as learning how to set up and operate the latest tactical weather observing equipment."

"I am confident the Iraqi air force weather officers are going to develop the skills to be able to confidently and successfully support all the future missions of the Iraqi air force," he said.

The training instructors, Tech. Sgt. Terry Hutton, Weather Systems Support team leader, and Senior Airman Daniel

Jamison, WSS technician, serve day-to-day as the only weather system team in Iraq and perform maintenance on devices when they are not functioning properly.

"Our mission is to have 100 percent fully mission capable weather systems throughout the area of responsibility," said Jamison. "Basically, this involves getting our system up and going allows for safe travel of troops, special operations missions, medevac, cargo and any transportation needed throughout the AOR."

"This system makes for quick set-up in a tactical environment," Jamison said. "Obviously you wouldn't have time to set up a fixed weather system. It would take a lot of time to set it up, calibrate it and get it up and ready to go. The TMOS is just in a box -- you grab it, pull it out, set it up and you're done."

"This system has been used since the beginning of the war," he continued. "We have multiple systems out at multiple sites -- it's used constantly."

With the training complete, Jamison said the Iraqis may now get constant weather updates around the local area.

Jamison said, "This was the first step in the scheme of getting the Iraqis to take over their weather forecasting. It will help them out a lot in the future."

Iraqi air force weather advisor Maj. Barry Hunte, said the on-the-job training that the Iraqi weather airmen received is not the only lesson they have learned.

"The training is very important in not just helping the Iraqi weather department become better at their jobs," Hunte said. "It also shows that working together and learning about each other is very important so that we can be viable partners."



Air Force Senior Airman Daniel Jamison (left), weather system support cadre technician shows Iraqi air force lieutenants how to properly position the solar panel on a TMQ-53 tactical meteorological observation system. (U.S. Air Force photos by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)



Robotic Bomb Catcher Keeps Pace with Iraqi Counter-Explosives Force

HD1 counter-explosive robot leads the Iraqi Explosives Ordnance Disposal team to a training bomb. The HD1 can dismantle an explosive device without putting a human in harm's way. See story page 10.