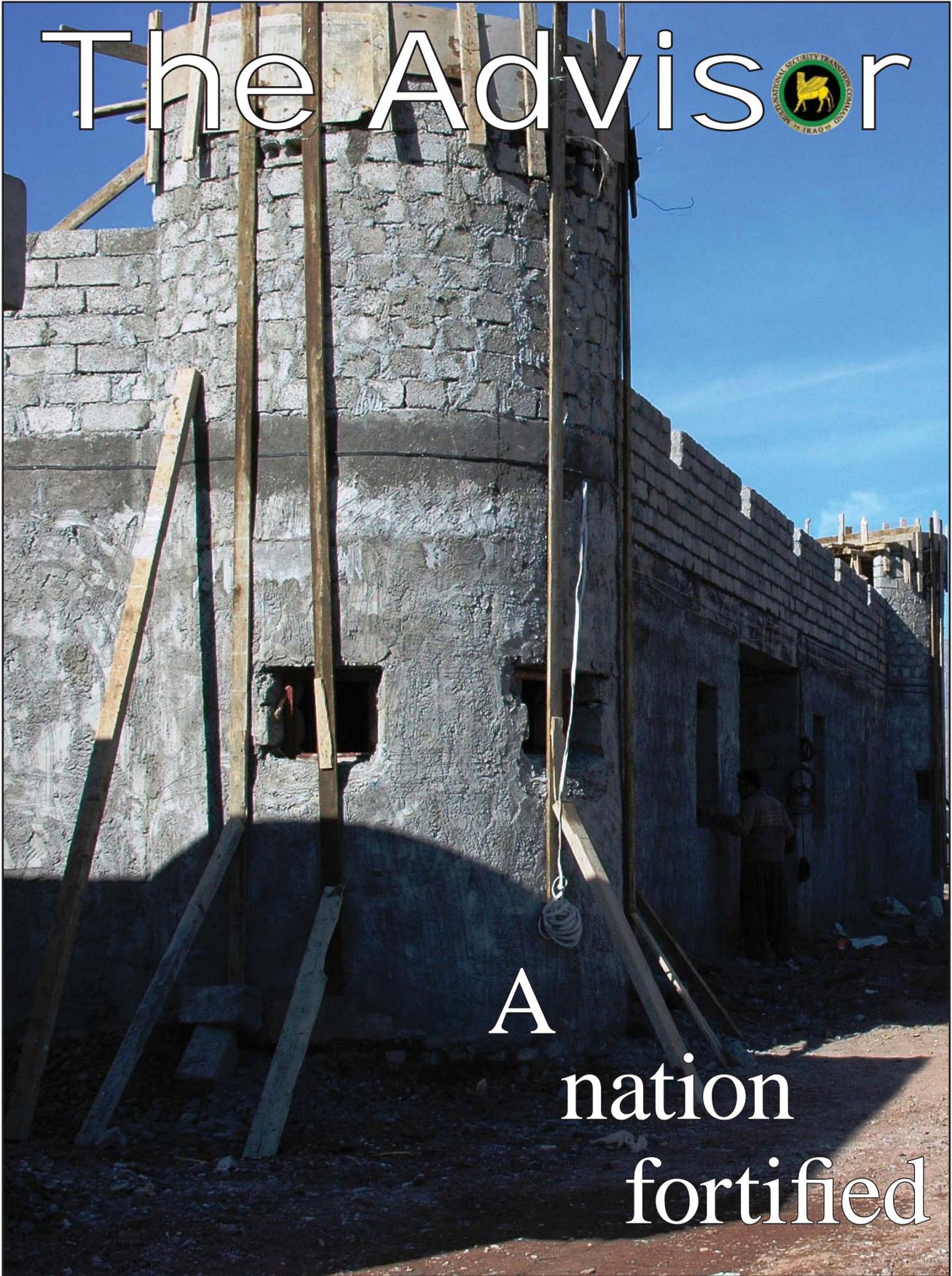


The Advisor



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Command Sergeant Major

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U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown

Journalists

U.S. Navy
Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone

U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman

CPATT Public Affairs Officer

Ann Bertucci

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

Direct questions and comments to:

pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

MNSTC-I PAO

APO AE 09316

DSN: 318-852-1334

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ON THE COVER

The Sulaminiyah province is the last province in Iraq to complete the \$161 million border fort construction project funded by Coalition forces.

Photo by Polli Barnes Keller

Leaders say vigilance critical for success in Iraq, around world

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — On Aug. 3 the commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East told Congress he's "rarely seen it so unsettled or so volatile" and urged continued regional and coalition pressure to confront problems before they escalate further.

U.S. Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, joined Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and U.S. Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The leaders expressed concern about growing sectarian violence in Iraq, particularly in Baghdad. Abizaid called the violence "as bad as I've seen it" and warned that if it's not brought under control, "Iraq could move toward civil war."

U.S. and Iraqi forces recently increased their presence in Baghdad to help quell this violence, and Abizaid expressed confidence that it's possible to prevent Iraq from slipping into civil war.

But preventing that from happening is ultimately up to the Iraqis, not U.S. troops, Pace told the committee. "Shiite and Sunni are going to have to love their children more than they hate each other," he said. "The weight of that must be on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi government."

"It is a decisive time in Baghdad, and it requires decisive Iraqi action with our clear support," Abizaid agreed. "Despite the many challenges, progress does continue to be made in Iraq, and I am confident there are still many more people in

Iraq trying to hold that country together than there are trying to tear it apart."

The leaders expressed confidence in Iraq's new government and progress in the country's security forces, but they emphasized that continued success depends on ongoing U.S. support.

"Terrorists recognize what's at stake in Iraq and are waging a psychological war of attrition -- planning attacks to gain the maximum media coverage and the maximum public outcry," Rumsfeld told the committee.

"They want us to think about what will happen if our forces stay in Iraq, as opposed to the consequences if our forces were to leave prematurely. They want us to be divided, because they know that when we are united, they lose," he said.

By leaving Iraq prematurely, the U.S. would send a clear message to terrorists, emboldening them as they spread militant ideology, he said.

"We can persevere in Iraq, or we can withdraw prematurely, until they force us to make a stand near home," Rumsfeld said. "But make no mistake: They are not going to give up, whether we acquiesce to their immediate demands or not."

Although the hearing focused on Iraq, Abizaid urged the committee to recognize Iraq as "only one part of a broader regional struggle under way." That struggle, between moderates and extremists, "remains a serious danger to global peace and stability," he said.

Resolving underlying problems will take considerable time and effort, Abizaid said, but ignoring them "will further encourage extremism and could eventually lead to a broader, even more dangerous conflict."

"Despite the many challenges, progress does continue to be made in Iraq, and I am confident there are still many more people in Iraq trying to hold that country together than there are trying to tear it apart."

**U.S. Army Gen. John Abizaid,
Commander, U.S. Central Command**

Iraqi builds up defenses, border forts upgraded

By U.S. Air Force
Staff Sgt Lucia Newman
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi forces believe that in order to secure what's on the inside, you have to secure what's on the outside.

Iraq's border forts have been constructed to do just that. According to the Department of Border Enforcement, the forts are in place to deter, disrupt and interdict cross-border movement of contraband, illegal aliens and insurgent support.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Theodore Price, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team chief of the DBE, said the forts are used as Iraq's first layer of defense in support of the nation's fight against terrorism.

"They are used as a means of preventing foreign fighters and smugglers from entering or leaving the country," Price said.

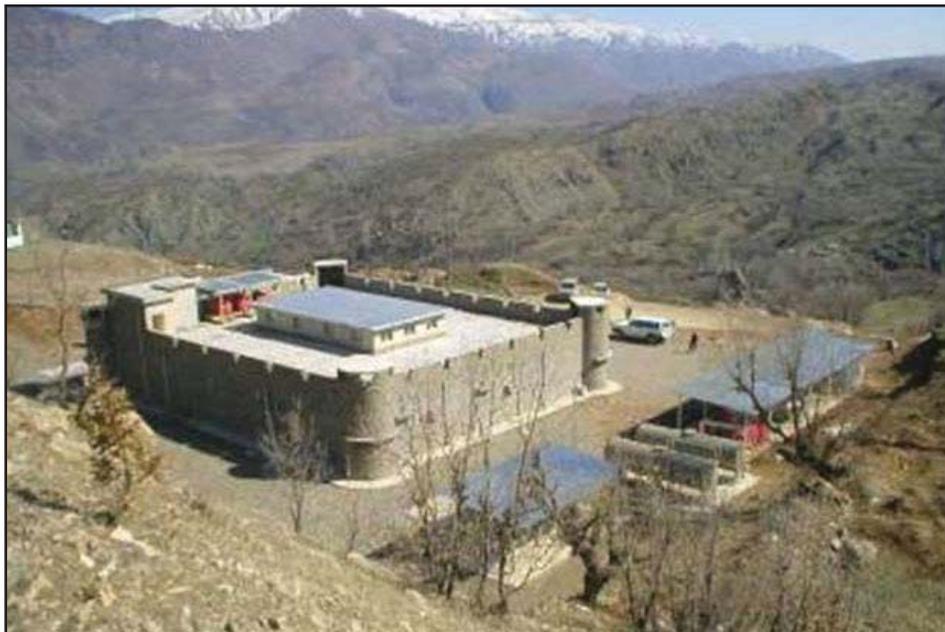
Since June 2004, the Coalition has funded 258 border forts throughout nine Iraqi provinces, according to U.S. Air Force Capt. Tara DeV Vaughn, DBE program manager. The first three forts were built in Al Anbar.

To date, 255 border forts have been completed in the provinces of As Sulaymaniah, Diyala, Wasit, Maysan, Basrah, Al Muthanna, An Najaf, Al Anbar and Ninawa.

By September, an additional three forts located within As Sulaymania and Al Anbar provinces will complete the \$161 million project. "These specific areas were selected by the Iraqi government and Coalition leaders as the best tactical and strategic locations of each border fort," explained Price.

Construction of the forts also comes with many challenges – security and health concerns are contributing factors to slowing down the building process.

"Workers are often threatened by local tribes," said Price. "Security must then be provided to the contractors, which adds about 1/3 to the cost of the contract. Finally, water for the construc-



Courtesy photo

The Mashan border, in Sulaminiyah, Iraq, was completed in February 2006. By the end of September, 258 border forts will be built throughout nine Iraqi provinces. Iraq's border forts are used as logistical and administrative hubs for Iraqi patrol agents.

tion is very scarce, especial in the western region of the country, which leaves the contractor to either bring in water or dig wells."

Although the challenges have slowed the process, they have not stopped it. U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, MNSTC-I commanding general, said the new Iraqi government has gotten serious about establishing policies and practices at the legal border crossings to make sure they aren't points of ingress for illegal entries.

"Iraqi forces will have responsibility for 3,161 kilometers of Iraq's borders," said Dempsey. "However, it's a tiered approach that the Iraqi government has chosen to take; border police on the perimeter backed up by the Iraqi Army, backed up by the Coalition."

According to Price, border forts are also used as logistical and administrative hubs for Iraqi patrol agents.

"A fort is similar to a small forward operating base. It can act as the headquarters for a unit, providing complete

life support for those who use it as lodging," Price said.

Each fort has billeting space for guards and leadership, DeV Vaughn said. The forts also include shower and bath facilities; office and administration areas; a kitchen; an armory; and built-in force protection and observation posts. To keep everything running in the remote locations, each border fort has its own 50 kVA generator with another 50 kVA generator as a backup.

"Border police complete multiple week rotations at a time and the forts are designed to house several guards at any given time to allow for overlap," DeV Vaughn said.

In addition, prior to Coalition involvement, ports of entry reported independently to the Iraqi senior leadership. Operations and procedures were informal and varied depending on leadership, topography, size and function of the facility.

See FORTS, Page 4

70 border patrol officers graduate academy

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt Lucia Newman
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

ZAKHO, Iraq — There are currently 25,951 border police assigned to border forts throughout Iraq. The newest of these graduated the Border Enforcement Advanced Course in Zakho, July 27.

Seventy students completed nine-weeks of tactical, operations and field training. Course work included instruction in technical and non-technical inspections, evidence processing, anti-smuggling techniques, ethics and various supervisory and support staff skills. Of the 70 students, 10 students placed in the top of their class and were selected as honor graduates.

Iraqi police officer Lt. Adam, one of the honor graduates, was a soldier in the Kurdish military before he decided to become an Iraqi Border Patrol Officer. “We were trained on all aspects of military science,” Adam said through an interpreter. “I believe this has fully prepared us to fulfill our mission to defend our nation and our people.”

He said his transition from the Kurdish military to Border Patrol Office was based on his belief in their new liberated society.

“Our main objective is protecting our borders, which allows us to make our country safer for our families to enjoy our customs,” he said.

Adam said he will be assigned as a border fort commanding officer and will be responsible for approximately 30 officers and the operations of that fort.

“Those of us who are defending the forts will face many challenges,” Adam said. “We are the first line of defense for stopping terrorists, drug traffickers and smugglers at the borders of Iraq.”

“During Saddam’s regime, the borders were used for harboring illegal activities, and now we are responsible to change that,” he said. “But our challenges are just that – challenges, not obstacles. Our leaders have trained and prepared us to defend our borders and we don’t see any present or future challenges as obstacles.”

Adam explained that many of the attacks on the Iraqi people



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman

Iraqi police officer Lt. Adam accepts a graduation gift from U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ed Carter, senior coalition advisor for the Iraqi Military Academy Zakho; and an Iraqi Military Academy Zakho instructor, for placing in the top percent of the graduating class.

are from illegal immigrants getting through the borders; so it starts with stopping potential crimes at the borders.

“Our borders need to be protected at all costs,” Adam said. “Our leaders need to continue working closely with Coalition forces to completely man the borders. We got a lot of training from our friends (the Coalition), and working as a team will ensure our first line of defense is intact.”

Adam has spent more than 30 years in the Kurdish community and more than five of those in the military. But he says he is not biased to Kurdistan. He is ready to move wherever he is called to. “It doesn’t matter where you are in Iraq, or whether you’re Kurdish, Christian or Muslim. We (Iraqi forces) will defend all of Iraq,” Adam said. “All (Iraqi provinces and people) are the same and we are pleased to defend our country.”

Border construction projects cover 9 Iraqi provinces

From FORTS, Page 3

Today each port of entry is under multi-ministerial control, with various responsibilities, procedures and separate reporting chains.

“Control of the border forces has always been under the MOI,” said Army Maj. John Mulhall, Civilian Police

Assistance Training Team DBE action officer. “The Coalition is assisting in the development of a more effective force that will work in partnership with other MOI forces.”

According to Mulhall, Coalition forces are supporting the Iraqi Police at many of the border forts. The goal is to build MOI capacity for self sustainment and Iraqi

lead of ports of entry and DBE operations.

“The Department of Border Enforcement has an outstanding command structure with great leadership,” Price said. “I am confident that within the course of another six months they will be able to achieve Iraqi self control of the borders with little or no support needed from the Coalition forces.”

Iraqi Army takes the lead in training future soldiers

By U.S. Army Spc. Linsay Burnett
1st BCT Public Affairs Office

HAWIJAH, Iraq — One of the primary missions for Coalition forces stationed in Iraq is the training of the Iraqi Security Forces. Coalition advisors say the development of a disciplined and commanding force is essential for protecting the reconstruction process and ensuring stability throughout the country.

As Coalition forces develop plans for withdrawal from the country, advisors believe it is essential that they ensure provisions are in place to continue this training. Throughout the country, platoons of highly skilled Iraqi Army soldiers are assuming responsibility for the training of their country's soldiers.

One such program recently wrapped up operations near the town of Hawijah.

Soldiers from the 24th Scout Platoon, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, conducted a three-week training course that covered an array of topics including weapons maintenance, basic rifle marksmanship, reflexive fire training, basic infantry skills and urban combat tactics.



A soldier from the 24th Scout Plt., 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army makes sure a soldier has the proper stance during a reflexive firing exercise as part of a three-week training course near the town of Hawijah.



Photos by U.S. Army Spc. Linsay Burnett

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, and an instructor from the 24th Scout Plt., 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, collect targets following a day on the firing range as part of a three-week training course held near the town of Hawijah. The course concluded Aug 2.

The final test of their training was the execution of a series of raids in the Hawijah District.

With arms swinging to a 90 degree angle in front of them, soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division high stepped in time up the dusty road to the range. Following the range briefing, soldiers lined up to receive magazines and earplugs.

Magazines in hand, the enthusiastic students lined up facing their paper targets. Lying down in the prone position, they waited for the commands of the range master. As the students engaged their targets instructors watched carefully and provided on-the-spot corrections. When the firing had stopped instructors made their way down range to inspect the targets. They identified shot groupings and made minor adjustments on the various weapons to tighten up the students' accuracy. The shot groupings became more precise and consistent and the students progressively received passing marks and then moved off the range.

In the "reflexive" fire drill Iraqi Army 1st Sgt. Dani demonstrated the proper posture and techniques necessary to effectively

execute this drill.

The students lined up on the 50m mark, faced their inanimate adversaries and loaded their magazines. "Haya! Arme!" "Ready! Fire," yelled Muhammed, one of the instructors, with commanding vibrancy. The students responded by firing at their targets. This repetitive exercise continued on at the 100m, 150m and 200m markers, and their shots became steadier and their form sturdier.

"The soldiers are getting much better and we have had no real problems," commented Dani through a translator.

Cpt. Hussein, one of the students and also the commander of the Special Forces Platoon, 2nd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division, said he was incredibly pleased with the training.

"The instructors are teaching us skills we didn't know before and are helping us improve," Hussein said with help from a translator. "From the first day until now [the final day of training] everything has been perfect."

See INSTRUCTORS, Page 7

Iraqi soldier returns home, supports freedom

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TIKRIT, Iraq — Home is where the heart is, and for one Iraqi military officer, his heart is with the soldiers who are fighting for Iraq's continued freedom.

Lt. Col Ayad Roston, commander, Military Intelligence Company, 4th Iraqi Army Division, was living in the United Kingdom, and waiting for the day he could return to Iraq to help his fellow countrymen continue the fight for freedom and democracy when the opportunity finally presented itself. He returned to Iraq in 2003 to "give Coalition forces a hand." Ayad said he returned to his birthplace because he's "here working for freedom."

Ayad is used to fighting for freedom. In the mid-1980s, he fought alongside the current Iraqi president, Jalal Talabani, against Saddam's forces. After receiving an injury on the battlefield that took him out of the fight, he fled to Turkey in 1988 and then later immigrated to England as a political refugee and became a British citizen. While in England, he continued his education and eventually earned a college degree. He supported himself by working odd jobs, but always looked forward to the day when he could return to his birthplace.

Today, he leads a military intelligence unit in the northern Salah Ah Din Province of Iraq, but is very flexible about his future plans.

"The division commander doesn't want me to leave. He wants me to stay here," said Ayad. "We are military, so we don't know. Today here, tomorrow different places."

Ayad has served in several northern Iraqi cities but the constant travel does not dampen his spirits. With each stop comes a new challenge, helping Coalition forces in each area



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Lt. Col Ayad Roston, commander, Military Intelligence Company, 4th Iraqi Army Division, talks with Soldiers in an office in Tikrit July 28.

to free the country of the insurgency.

"Everyday we learn something new from Coalition forces," Ayad said. "I have been working for the last two years with special forces, and I have learned a lot from them, because [they] know how to fight."

A plan is in the works that will send Ayad to the U.S. Army Intelligence Center at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. He believes the training he will receive there will help him to help Iraq. He also believes Coalition forces are owed a debt of thanks.

"Thanks to [Coalition forces]. You come thousands of miles away, away from your family. Absolutely, all of you guys are heroes," Ayad said.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey

Iraqi soldiers carry a wounded comrade to a U.S. Army UH-60A Blackhawk helicopter during a medical evacuation mission near Tal Afar, in northern Iraq, July 27.



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown



Iraqi policemen from the Kirkuk Emergency Services Unit deliver new mattresses and other supplies to residents of the Aruba neighborhood Aug. 3. Just 90 minutes earlier, the same policemen had completed a pre-dawn search of the neighborhood looking for suspected insurgents and illegal weapons. In addition to the new supplies, police also handed out leaflets to residents with phone numbers to the local police stations, asking residents to call them with information on suspected insurgents.

Iraqi instructors: paving the way of the future for Iraq

From INSTRUCTORS, Page 5

The final element of the training was an urban combat skills course. The group moved from the range to an adjacent "shoot house."

The students broke up into groups of nine and formed a line on the outside wall of the shoot house. The first man in the line ran his hand around the outside of the door and moved back into the line where he signaled the number five man. This soldier charged toward the door, kicking it in. He immediately moved to the side to provide external security while the remaining eight soldiers stormed the house, splitting into groups of four going left and right into the respective rooms. They engaged paper targets placed in various locations in the house.

As errors were observed, the instructors halted the training, pointed out the mistakes, and had them start the training again until their execution was perfect.

With this final piece of training complete, the students took their training to the streets of Hawijah.

As they reached the first target house, one vehicle rammed the metal gate separating the house from the street, ripping it from the hinges. The soldiers dismounted and stormed the residence.

Once the house was secured, questions answered, and any potential suspects detained, the soldiers regrouped and exited the house. The mission continued on with several more houses. There were no violent incidents during this operation.

Coalition and Iraqi advisors believe as Iraq slowly matures away from Coalition assistance, this type of training will be cornerstone for developing an Iraq able to govern and protect itself.

As the soldiers prepared to return to their units and share this training to their fellow soldiers, they were eager about the future.

"We are getting stronger and this three-week course taught by Iraqi instructors shows that we are almost to a point where we can start taking things into our own hands," asserted Hammed.

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Soldiers find munitions, detain terrorist

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers found a bag of munitions while conducting a patrol in west Baghdad Aug. 3.

Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, found the bag containing five 82 mm mortar rounds. The munitions were turned over to an explosive ordnance disposal team to be destroyed.

In a separate incident Iraqi soldiers arrested four terrorists involved in a drive-by shooting Aug. 3 in northeast Baghdad.

The terrorists were arrested after exchanging small-arms fire with an Iraqi civilian in his home.

One terrorist was seriously wounded.

Iraqi Police, Coalition forces capture 8

BAGHDAD — Iraqi National Police and Coalition forces, captured eight suspected terrorists during a joint operation in the Doura neighborhood, near the center of Baghdad, Aug. 2.

The operation focused on locating and detaining suspected terrorists by searching seven houses in the area.

The soldiers detained the suspected terrorists and seized weapons, various bomb-making materials, anti-Iraqi propaganda and two vehicles.

No injuries were reported.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi, Coalition Soldiers seize weapons cache

BAGHDAD — Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, and Coalition Soldiers, seized a munitions cache during a combined patrol in east Baghdad July 31.

A tip from an Iraqi citizen led the patrol to a location where they discovered 18 60 mm mortar rounds in two separate ammunition boxes. The rounds had fuses installed.

It took the soldiers less than 15 minutes from the time the tip was called in to locate the cache.

The mortars were collected and removed to a secured location.

No injuries were reported

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi National Police capture gang members

BAGHDAD — Iraqi policemen from 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, captured two gang members in a surprise raid July 31.

The gang members were suspected in several kidnappings of local citizens in the Al Bayaa district of southwestern Baghdad.

Information from unidentified sources pointed to their location, assisting in the success of the mission.

No injuries were reported.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*



An Iraqi police officer from the Doura police station in southern Baghdad patrols the Doura market during a combined patrol with Coalition forces July 25.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Jason Dangle

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers detain two

BAGHDAD — Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers detained two terrorists and discovered bomb-making materials south of Baghdad July 30.

Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, reported a drive-by shooting at their checkpoint. The soldiers returned fire, causing the terrorists to flee on foot.

A Coalition led quick reaction force responded to the checkpoint and captured the two terrorists.

A search of the vehicle revealed various bomb-making materials. No injuries were reported.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

Joint operation captures high-value terrorist

ADHAMIYAH — Elements of the 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces captured Baghdad's third highest "Most Wanted" terrorist in Adhamiyah during an operation July 30.

The actions were part of Operation Together Forward, a joint operation, concentrating on disrupting murders, kidnappings and bombings in Baghdad.

The suspect taken into custody is believed to be the leader of criminal elements which have conducted deadly road side bombings against Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces, as well as

sectarian murders and kidnappings that have resulted in murder. He is believed to act as a financier, planner and director of those criminal activities in Baghdad.

In a combined mid-morning cordon and search operation, the joint forces discovered the individual at a hospital complex in Adhamiyah.

During the search, they were attacked by sniper fire but neither the suspected terrorist nor any Coalition or Iraqi Soldiers were injured during this operation.

The incident is currently under investigation by Iraqi authorities.

This marks the second high-value capture for the joint forces in the past week.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*

Raid frees Iraqi hostage

TIKRIT — Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces freed an Iraqi man held hostage by terrorists during an early morning raid July 30 near the city of Muqdadiyah.

The man was found bound and blindfolded in a hut in the middle of a palm grove north of the city. He was transported to a nearby Iraqi base and reunited with his family.

According to the former hostage, his captors had planned to "judge" him July 31.

The raid was aimed at disrupting insurgent activity in the area.

In addition to freeing the hostage, the raid also resulted in the detention of 16 suspects and the discovery of a cache of improvised explosive device making materials and terrorist propaganda.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi soldiers capture 4 suspected terrorists

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, captured four suspected terrorists near the Al Najma Mosque in Baghdad's Kadamiyah district July 30.

The men were stopped in the area when the soldiers noticed four vehicle occupants carrying guns. During a search of the vehicle, the soldiers found sensitive information and propaganda.

Iraqi Soldiers detained the men and confiscated their weapons and the documents.

In a separate incident, soldiers from 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, found a cache of 18 82 mm mortar rounds in a trash can in Baghdad's Adhamiyah neighborhood.

No injuries were reported.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Security Forces detain police colonel

BALAD — Iraqi security forces detained an Iraqi police colonel alleged to be involved in numerous illegal and insurgent activities in the Al Kut province on July 29.

This individual was detained without incident.

No further information is available at this time.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Amanda J. Solitario

An Iraqi Soldier with the 6th Motor Truck Regiment salutes his commander during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Taji on August 3. Command and control of the 6th Motor Truck Regiment was transferred to the 6th Iraqi Army Division after months of training with Coalition troops.