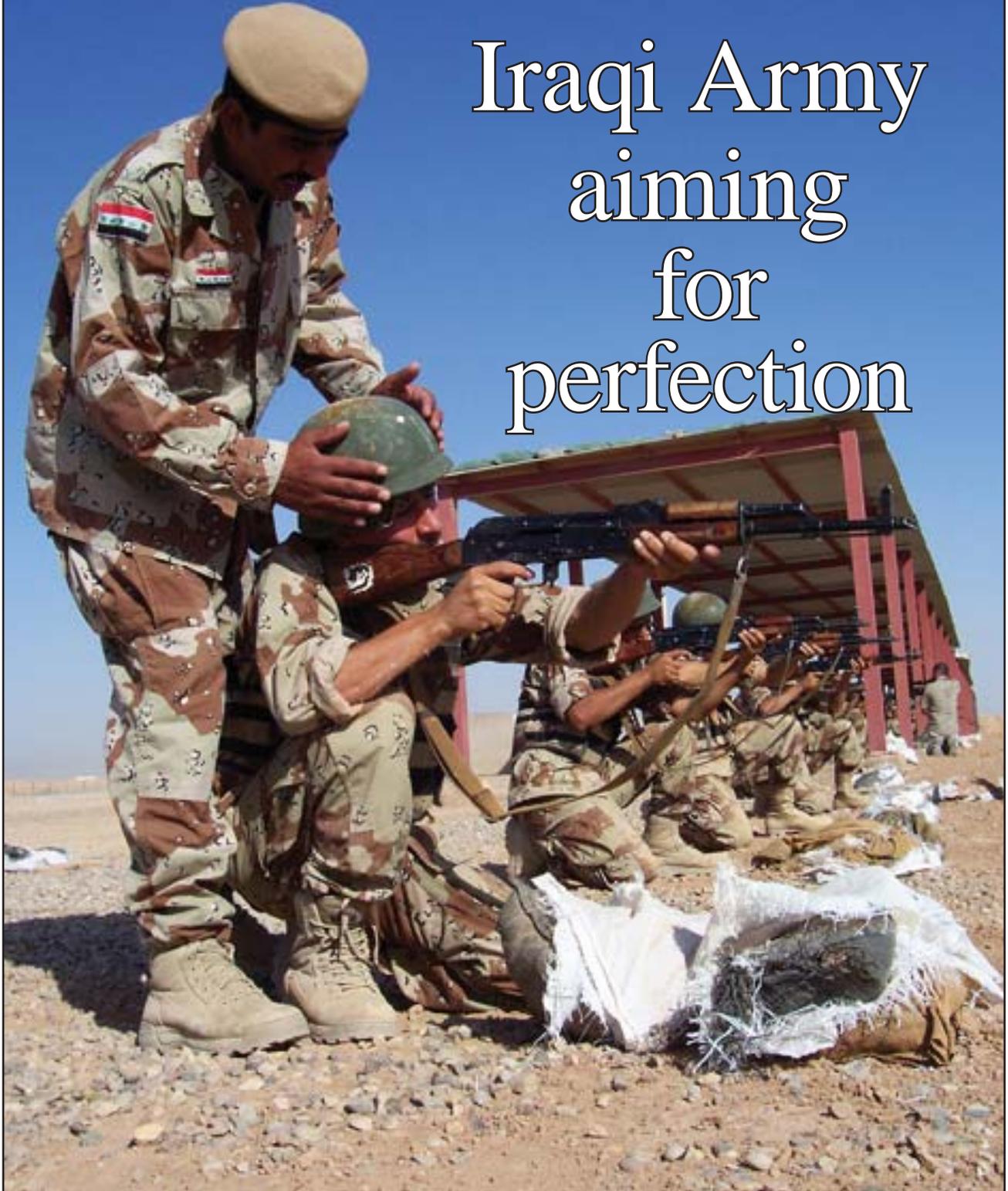


The Advisor

Iraqi Army aiming for perfection



THE ADVISOR

Volume 3

Issue 35



Commanding General

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

Command Sergeant Major

U.S. Marine Corps
Sgt. Maj. Daniel Burs

Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Negard

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Maj. Gerald Ostlund

Public Affairs NCOIC

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronda Jordan

Editor

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

The Advisor is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Defense Department and multinational partners.

Contents of this paper are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government or multinational partners of the U.S. Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Multi-National Security Transition Command — Iraq Public Affairs Office.

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 09348

DSN: 318-852-1334

To subscribe to **The Advisor**,
visit us online at:

www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/advisor.html

ON THE COVER

An Iraqi noncommissioned officer adjusts a basic trainee's head for a better sight picture during basic rifle marksmanship at Kirkush Military Training Base Sept. 6.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Gerald Ostlund

Iraqi leaders committed to success, deputy PM says

By U.S. Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Iraq is facing grave challenges as it transitions into a democratic society, but Iraqi leaders are committed to the country's success and are working hard to create a political situation that will allow the terrorists to be defeated, Iraq's deputy prime minister said Sept. 14 in Washington D.C.

Barham Salih held a news conference at the Pentagon during a visit to the United States to meet with Defense Department, congressional and business leaders.

Salih said he follows the U.S. news from Iraq, but was surprised to see firsthand the intensity of the debate about U.S. involvement in Iraq.

"No matter what criticism (is) here and there about the policy ... one thing fundamental for us Iraqis is that the United States has helped us overcome tyranny and gave us the greatest gift of all – freedom," Salih said. "We all have to acknowledge that Iraqis are a lot better off without Saddam Hussein, the region is a lot better off without Saddam Hussein, the world is better off without Saddam Hussein."

Iraq's transition to democracy comes at a difficult time, when the country is facing a fight against international terrorism and numerous changes and tensions in the Middle East, Salih said. These challenges make Iraq's situation more difficult, but government leaders are aware of the problems and are working hard to overcome them, he said.

"At the end of the day, it will be about Iraqi leadership; it is not about American leadership," he said. "American support is crucial, but at the end of the day, Iraqis will have to make the tough decisions in order to make their country more peaceful and deal with the problems that we have."

The Iraqi government is making progress in forming an inclusive, balanced political process, Salih said. Last week, the country's national security council agreed on a timetable to enact important legislation

from now until March 2007. This legislation will begin to implement the national reconciliation plan announced by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in June, he said.

This month, the Iraqi government will set up a constitutional review committee and pass investment law, Salih said. By the end of the year, the government plans to pass a hydrocarbon law that will turn oil into a resource that unifies Iraqis, he said. This fall, the government will also present legislation dealing with the disarmament of militias and reforming the de-Ba'athification commission, he added.

"The reason I'm explaining this to you is that, despite the images of carnage on television that focuses on the car bombs day in and day out, there is a lot of work going on in very tough circumstances," Salih said. "Iraqi leaders are trying to make it happen."

There is too much violence happening in Iraq, but it is important to note the progress Iraqi security forces have made, Salih said. Iraqi security forces now number almost 300,000, and by the end of this year, nearly half of Iraqi provinces will move to Iraqi security control, he said.

"Ultimately, this cannot be dealt with just by military means," he said. "Iraqis need to come up with the political bargains and the political compromises that are needed. We need to make the neighbors of Iraq more cooperative with us to defeat the terrorists and to create the regional dynamics that will make it more conducive to security in Iraq."

Iraq's future is key to the stability of the Middle East, Salih said, because the region has never known anything close to representative government or democracy. Iraqi leadership is committed to overcoming the challenges facing the country. He added that continued U.S. commitment will ensure success.

"At the end of the day, failure in Iraq will be catastrophic to the region," he said. "Success is not only possible, but it is a must to turn around the course of events in that part of the world."

Drill determines Iraqi Army logistics readiness

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A “rehearsal of concept” drill held late last month brought together Iraqi Ministry of Defense logistics leaders to conduct training on the concept of logistics at the operational level.

About 40 senior leaders gathered at the cultural center in Baghdad and conducted a rehearsal of how current and future logistical support will be provided to the Iraqi Army.

“The drill was important because it allowed us to use it as a training ground for our units in conducting day-to-day basic operations,” said Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sadec, Joint Headquarters logistics staff officer. “This training was the first practical application of future logistics concepts.”

The drill included two scenarios that allowed leaders to rehearse how they would provide logistical supplies to soldiers; they did this while using an oversized map of Iraq as a point of reference.

By using the map, they were able to review the step-by-step logistical process starting from the strategic level – the national depot in Taji – through the tactical level and down to the lowest maneuver unit, according to U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Rauchle, Coalition Military Assistance Training Team logistics operations officer.

“Taji National Depot maintains the bulk of sustainment resources for Iraq,” he said. “The depot is responsible for providing the different regional support units, garrison support units and headquarters supply companies with supplies for the army.”

For the exercise, the majority of the discussion focused

around the RSUs and GSUs role in providing logistical support. The drill also provided an opportunity for leaders to address current and foreseeable challenges with the logistic guidelines.

“We rely heavily on our Coalition forces and that’s something that we are working to change,” Sadec said. “Each division has its own administration that takes care of its logistical concept, so within each division there is a certain entity that decides the readiness to complete a transition.”

According to Sadec, the Iraqi Army is hoping to have 90 percent of all logistical operations transferred to the Iraqi government in the near future.

Although the ROC drill was only a one day event, it provided enough information to demonstrate to leaders the importance of such a drill as an important part of army training, and one that should be conducted regularly.

“The drill was not a one time event, they will have to keep these types of drills ongoing,” Rauchle said, “but each time they will keep looking at different aspects of the



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

More than 40 Iraqi Army and Coalition leaders gather at the NATO complex in Baghdad, Iraq, to conduct a logistical “rehearsal of concept” drill in August. An oversized map of Iraq was used to help the Ministry of Defense M4, or logistics section, understand their role in providing support to troops.

process to refine their procedures.”

“For the exercise to be effective, they will have to practice,” Rauchle reiterated.

“In practice, they know the concepts, and when they get back to their units and execute what we’ve practiced, they will understand the entire chain,” he said.

Sadec noted a change in mentality from the way this business was conducted under the former regime.

“We performed this type of training during Saddam’s time and it was even more complex than this, but at a limited level. Now we are learning with less complication at a higher level,” he said. “The military was larger then and the procedures were even more complex, so we’re taking advantage of the current size to simplify the procedures to make life better.”

Tarmiyah recruits join Army, vow 'Ash el Iraq'

By U.S. Army
Maj. Gerald Ostlund
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — Low crawl, high crawl and the three-to-five-second rush. Through a window and over a shoulder-high wall. During the last day of basic combat training at Taji Regional Training Center Sept. 9, soldiers competed for best “jundi” – Arabic for soldier.

The competition was the latest of many tests for the soldiers as they completed eight weeks of training to become the Iraqi Army’s newest troops. Throughout training the senior Iraqi instructors – warrant officers with decades of experience – noted the skills of each jundi, and narrowed their list of top candidates. They then made their final decision after the field competition the day before graduation.

“They came here with no discipline. None,” said Iraqi Lt. Col. Nadhum, commander of the Taji Regional Training Center. “Now they are soldiers we can all be proud of.”

The selected jundi graduated with 324 fellow soldiers and fellow village

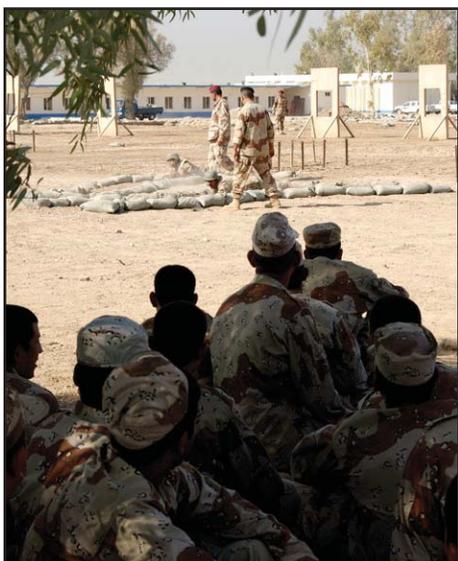


Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Gerald Ostlund

Iraqi soldiers rest in the shade and cheer on their fellow soldiers during a basic combat training competition Sept. 9.



Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Gerald Ostlund

An Iraqi soldier crawls through an obstacle course as part of the honor graduate competition the last day of basic training Sept. 9 at Taji Regional Training Center. The soldier is one of the first recruits to join the new Iraqi Army from the village of Tarmiyah.

friends. Unlike most basic training units, this group was not combined with other recruits from around the country.

This group of soldiers was recruited in Tarmiyah, a city that borders Taji, with the help of a local sheik and clerics who agreed to encourage their young men to join the Iraqi Army. The conditions laid out by the sheik and clerics where that the new soldiers be kept together throughout their training and that one of the clerics also be allowed to join, to ensure the trainees’ religious needs were met. These were conditions the Iraqi Army was willing to accept – never before had the army been successful in recruiting in Tarmiyah.

“You ask the wrong question,” said one jundi when asked if they were Sunni or Shia. “We are all Iraqi.”

His colleagues all agreed.

It is a theme echoed by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Walter Easter, Coalition senior advisor to the Taji Regional Training Center.

“These junoud (soldiers) have surprised me twice. Once when they were told that there was no money to buy white gloves for the graduation, and now –

instead of giving up on white gloves, they all bought white socks and used those instead of gloves. From the stands, you can’t tell the difference. And now, they all have really embraced the ‘One Iraq’ concept we have been training to.”

At the graduation, Sheik Ahmid Ibrahim, the jundi-cleric, sang a verse from the Quran. When finished, he let out a trio of “Ash el Iraq” – long live Iraq.

Marching as one, the graduates, with a white sock on the right hand, displayed skill and discipline as the group passed the reviewing stand with the deputy commander of the 9th Iraqi Division looking on.

When it was time, Private Ali, the honor graduate, marched smartly forward to center himself on the awards table where he received a small token of appreciation from the deputy commander. The pride on his face was clear. Basic training was over and he was singled out as the best.

Ali and his comrades were taken to the 9th Division headquarters, also on Taji, and were later dispersed to the division’s various units.

Iraqi Police heading for the 'Mighty Mississippi'

By U.S. Navy Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Many have become used to seeing soldiers and civilians travel from all over the world to train Iraq's police and security forces. And while it is not uncommon to see those men and women in uniform boarding planes headed for Iraq, it is very rare to see an Iraqi policeman boarding a plane for a destination outside of his homeland. Yet this rare event took place not once, but 16 times in Baghdad Sept. 12.

For the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, 16 Iraqi police officers boarded a plane heading to the United States. These officers are part of the Iraqi River Patrol and will soon begin riverine training at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, which is home to the U.S. Navy's Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School.

As soon as the jet lag wears off, these select few will undergo an intensive six-week course that will teach them everything from basic seamanship to covert night operations. They will be trained by some of the school's best instructors, many of them members of the U.S. Navy's elite SEAL teams.

The most important aspect of this trip is the fact that these officers will become certified instructors at the end of this course, according to U.S. Army Col. James E. Cashwell, the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team's Baghdad regional security team director.

"This is a true 'train-the-trainer' program," Cashwell said. "When these officers complete their training they will come back to Iraq and become a national asset and be responsible for training other Iraqi police officers throughout the country."

According to U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Zenobia Jordan, the MNSTC-I International Military Educational Training Officer for Iraq, this event marks a significant step in the progression of the Iraqi Police.

"The fact that the police are now in a position to be sent abroad for this training shows the progress that they have made over the past year," Jordan said. "They are ready to take their training to the next level and learn the skills necessary to train their fellow officers."

Iraqi River Police Cmdr. Alah said that this was not only a significant day for the Iraqi Police, but for all Iraqis.

"Securing the waterways in Baghdad is vital to the security of this city and our country," Alah said with the help of an interpreter. "For years we were not allowed to have information, and now that Saddam is gone, this is not the case. This upcoming training adds another tool to our tool chest," he continued, "and the more tools we have, the closer we get to defeating the insurgents – so this is a day of celebration for all of Iraq."

Iraqi River Police Capt. Farras agreed.

"We are very excited because our officers will have the chance to get the best training, so when they return they will



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

An Iraqi River Police officer in Baghdad signs the passenger list and collects traveling money for a trip to the United States Sept. 12. The police officer is one of 16 who were selected to participate in a six-week Riverine Training Course at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

have the skills to train our other officers," Farras said with the help of an interpreter. "We have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time."

Cashwell said the training is an important step in developing the force necessary to sustain the Iraqi Police and moves the Coalition one step closer to a truly supportive role.

Alah, Farras, Cashwell and Jordan all said that these 16 officers were chosen for this training because they were all highly motivated and have proven their leadership qualities over the past year.

"I am excited about the opportunity to go to America and learn from them," one police officer said. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and when we return, I will work hard to train my fellow officers and make my country proud."

Troops in Iraq honor victims of Sept. 11 attacks

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Multi-National Corps - Iraq held a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Al Faw palace Sept. 11, reminding everyone in attendance why servicemembers stand on foreign ground today.

On Sept. 11, 2001, America was attacked by terrorists, resulting in the death of 2,973 people.

"I will not forget the wound to our country and those who inflicted it; I will not yield; I will not rest; I will not relent in waging this struggle for freedom and security for the American people," President Bush said nine days later.

Currently, U.S. Forces are involved in operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, not only ensuring the safety of American soil from terrorist attacks, but also securing the freedom of millions of Iraqi and Afghan citizens.

The ceremony opened with the 76th Army Band playing the Iraqi national anthem followed by the U.S. national anthem.

U.S. Army Chaplain (Col.) Kenneth Brown, command chaplain of Multi-National Corps - Iraq, gave the invocation, followed by a summary of events read by Sgt. Maj. Ivor Watson, of the command's combined joint staff. Then there was a moment of remembrance for those who lost their lives on the day, which for many, can never be forgotten.

U.S. Army Spc. Jose Burgos, a Reserve Soldier with the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, from Fort Dix, N.J., who was an emergency medical technician and

provided care to victims of the World Trade Center attack, said it only gets harder for him as the time goes by.

"I can't believe it was five years ago; it feels like yesterday," he said. "It is hard to imagine. It is hard being here, doing the (mass casualty) exercises, knowing

stone, but will be living monuments," he said. "The 50 million people liberated from tyranny since that day. A free and prosperous Iraq will stand as the ultimate testimony to the sacrifices you are making to ensure that America remains secure from the threats posed by terrorists."

Army Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander of Multi-National Corps - Iraq, gave everyone a sense of closeness to the victims from the horrific day half a decade ago.

"They were mothers, fathers, daughters, sons and friends," he said. "They were old, middle-aged and children. Men and women, boys and girls. They were Americans, but they were also citizens of a dozen nations."

He went on to say that some of them were innocent bystanders, while others were rescue workers and heroes who sacrificed their lives that day to save others. Chiarelli said the terrorists didn't realize America's determination to seek justice when they attacked U.S. soil.

"These murderers bet that the United States and its friends would stand by and do nothing," he said. "They bet that we would shrink from our duty and our purpose. They bet wrong.

"Over the last five years, the United States and its brave allies have waged an offensive campaign against those who hate free nations and free people," he continued. "Let there be no doubt, we will prevail in this struggle."

— By U.S. Army
Sgt. Brian James Anderson
Multi-National Corps - Iraq



Photo by U.S. Sgt. Joe Battle

Members and senior leaders of Multi-National Corps – Iraq pause for a moment of silence during a memorial ceremony Sept. 11 at Al Faw palace in Baghdad.

I could be involved with something like that again."

Burgos and seven soldiers directly involved in aid or support on Sept. 11, 2001, were in attendance for the ceremony in Baghdad.

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad said the monument for the victims and heroes from that day is being constructed now.

"The true monument for the heroes and victims of 9/11 will not be made of

"The true monument for the heroes and victims of 9/11 will not be made of stone, but will be living monuments. The 50 million people liberated from tyranny since that day. A free and prosperous Iraq will stand as the ultimate testimony to the sacrifices you are making to ensure that America remains secure from the threats posed by terrorists."

U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Zalmay Khalilzad

Junoud: choosing to serve, no matter the cost

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

TAJI, Iraq — As Iraqi and Coalition forces work to rebuild Iraq's army to a professional force capable of maintaining peace and stability, many Iraqi soldiers are finding they have a choice to serve, and they are choosing to do just that.

Seventeen "junoud" – Arabic for the plural of soldier – have chosen to serve their country by completing the Iraqi Army Basic Medic Course, a five-week course taught at the Iraqi Army Service and Support Institute in Taji. Once they've graduated, the soldiers will receive a certificate of completion and serve as medics in an Iraqi Army unit.

The BMC, which consists of more than 200 hours of classroom time and countless practical applications and written exams, is designed to teach soldiers how to both respond under fire and provide tactical field care, such as applying tourniquets and battle dressings, opening airways to allow breathing and patient triage.

According to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Edwin Cruz, BMC Coalition advisor, the BMC curriculum can be challenging because of the educational level of the soldiers.

"The only requirement for soldiers to begin the BMC is to know how to read and write," Cruz said. "The

majority of the students who complete this course haven't even completed high school. And now they have to learn the basics of medical care in less than two months."

But Cruz said the soldiers have a strong desire to learn and apply the skills they are learning from the Coalition. The classes can average about 30 students at a time with 90 percent of them graduating.

"I admire the commitment they have to finishing the course no matter what the odds," Cruz said. "Regardless of the situation they are facing – their lives or their family's lives in danger – they are determined (to get) the job done as a means of giving back to their nation."

The BMC is currently taught by Iraqi Army medical instructors, with Coalition forces assisting in an advisory role.

"They are also determined to take control of their own operations," Cruz said. "They are demonstrating this by being the first class to run its own MASCAL (mass casualty exercise), independent from the Coalition's help."

Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Saad and Warrant Officer Ahmed both served their country in the "old" regime for more than 10 years, but serving in the old regime was not a commitment that either one of them chose but said they were forced into.

Now, after the fall of Saddam's regime, they are still serving their

country in the same manner, but the difference this time: they've chosen their own commitment, they said.

"When Saddam was in power, I was forced to serve under his rulings," Ahmed explained with the help of an interpreter. "I was freed from Saddam by the Coalition, so I wanted to repay their sacrifice and help my country."

Ahmed said that after Saddam was removed from power, he was told that the Coalition needed the help of the Iraqi people to be a liaison between the Iraqis and the Coalition, and he saw the appeal as his opportunity to say "thank you" to the Coalition.

"I've been a part of the "new" Iraqi Army for more than two years," Ahmed said. "I didn't know how to help, but sitting around and living in fear wasn't the answer."

For Saad, he praises the Coalition for opening the door for him to pursue a career that he would not be a part of if left in Saddam's era. In the old Iraqi Army, Saad worked in the engineering field, and although he's enjoyed the career, he's always had the desire to be a medic.

"When I return to my unit, I'll still be an engineer," Saad said with the help of an interpreter. "But now, if a fellow soldier gets injured, I can use these skills to help him, and I credit this to the Coalition. I wouldn't be able to do this if the Coalition hadn't stepped in and helped."



BAGHDAD MEDIA VISIT (HMS) KENT

Baghdad journalists snapped the chance to witness the Coalition's maritime effort on a recent visit to the HMS Kent, a Coalition vessel in the North Arabian Gulf.

During their visit the Iraqi journalists gained an appreciation for the effort Coalition naval forces are making to protect their country's economic future.

The Kent's commanding officer explained the ship's role in policing an exclusion zone that encircles two oil terminals in the peninsula. Crude oil pumped into tankers reaches the terminals by means of underwater pipes that leave the mainland at the Al Faw peninsula.

Iraqi soldiers thankful for Coalition support

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Russel Lee Klika
133rd Mobile Public Affairs Det.

TIKRIT, Iraq — Iraqi soldiers joined their Coalition counterparts recently to do something all soldiers like to do — fire weapons.

Newly enlisted Iraqi soldiers, or “junoud,” in Tikrit hit the firing line to learn weapons handling and marksmanship skills during a range day that was planned and conducted primarily by the Iraqi cadre.

“We mainly just provided them with a little input,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Barrick of the 101st Airborne Division. “We were there more as observers than anything.”

While Coalition troops helped set up targets and provided some guidance and demonstrations, it was the Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers who ran the range.

“I would like my soldiers to see (the) military culture and the experience of American Soldiers when it comes to shooting,” said Iraqi Army Capt. Nakeeb, an executive officer with the 4th Iraqi Army Division. “They want to see how experienced you are.”

Many of the Iraqi soldiers had little to no experience on a range, but despite the blistering 110-degree heat, they were eager to launch bullets down range.

The soldiers were divided into two groups. One group fired while the other provided security for the range. Each Iraqi soldier was issued one 30-round magazine. They fired 10 rounds each from the prone, kneeling and standing positions.

“It was a good range today,” said Adnon, an Iraqi soldier who enlisted in the Iraqi Army only four months ago.

This training was just one more step in the Iraqi Army taking the lead in security for this area in northern Iraq. It’s an arrangement Nakeeb said he hopes to continue in the coming months.

“Right now, we want to keep our friendship working for us,” Nakeeb said. “We appreciate everything you (Coalition) do for us.”

Nakeeb also hopes Coalition forces will help train his troops in urban warfare because he believes it is a key task for the future of the Iraqi Army. “All the combat now is in the cities,” Nakeeb said.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Russel Lee Klika
Iraqi Soldiers of the Military Intelligence Company, 1st Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, conduct AK-47 rifle training at a live fire range near Tikrit, Iraq.

As the firing ended and an after-action review was completed, Nakeeb expressed his appreciation to the Coalition. He said he realized many of them were spending a year away from their homes and their families.

“As an Iraqi officer, I would like to thank you for the great efforts you are doing for us,” Nakeeb said. “I appreciate the efforts and the sacrifices you are making.”

Coalition Soldiers should take heart in knowing the majority of Iraqis support their presence here, Nakeeb said.

“When the Iraqi people see the American trucks, they would like to wave their hands, say ‘Hi’ and greet them,” he said. “They are so scared if the terrorists see them that they will be killed or something bad will happen to their families. The Iraqi people love the Americans from their hearts and this is more important than waving their hands,” he explained.

“We hope we don’t have to come back and the Iraqi Army will keep the Iraqi people from living in fear,” Barrick added. “We hope Iraq is a place we come back and visit as a tourist and not as an army.”



Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Lawton King

An Iraqi Police applicant participates in a jumping-jack session with a Coalition physical fitness supervisor during the physical fitness portion of a recruiting evaluation in Fallujah Sept 10. A total of 67 Iraqis were recruited to serve in the Iraqi Police forces in the cities of Fallujah and Habbaniyah.

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Army rescues man being tortured

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Army units liberated a man who was being held and tortured by members of an illegal armed group in the Ad Diwaniyah area of Baghdad during an early-morning raid Sept. 14.

The man, who was found visibly beaten, tortured and bound, stated that he had been held for three days and that the four people abusing him fled just prior to the arrival of Iraqi assault forces. The man was immediately treated by medical personnel on-site and evacuated.

The man was found when Iraqi Army forces and Coalition force advisors were conducting a raid to apprehend the four suspects already wanted for multiple actions against Iraqi forces. Their illegal actions include “death squad” activities, the supervision of indirect fire attacks and emplacement of improvised explosive devices in the Ad Diwaniyah area, direct leadership of militia units against Iraqi Army units, and acting as a leadership node for other coordinated and complex attacks against Iraqi Army and police forces.

The combined Iraqi and Coalition operation was conducted in order to disrupt the leadership of illegal armed groups in Ad Diwaniyah and reestablish Iraqi government control in the city. While the primary suspects were not

captured, an Iraqi citizen was freed and weapons, a mortar aiming sight, IEDs and other material were found.

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

Combined raid busts kidnapping ring

MUQDADIYA — Five suspected insurgents were detained and a small cache of weapons and ammunition was discovered when Iraqi Army and Coalition forces conducted a raid on a suspected terrorist safe house north of Muqdadiya Sept. 13.

Acting on recent intelligence, soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops from 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Lightning detained five members of a suspected kidnapping ring. The men are suspected of performing kidnapping for money and other terror activities in Eastern Diyala.

In addition to the detainees, the combined patrol confiscated a Mauser bolt-action rifle, a Garand rifle, one mortar base plate, two sets of body armor, 2,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, a bag of ball bearings, seven cell phones and numerous anti-Iraqi Security Forces and anti-Coalition propaganda.

The detainees and the cache were transported to Forward Operating Base Normandy where the detainees were held for further questioning.

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



Soldiers from the 2nd Iraqi Army Division scan the area after departing a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during an air assault mission near Tafariya Sept. 4.

Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jackey Bratt

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi police detain three suspected insurgents

MOSUL — Iraqi police detained three suspected insurgents and discovered one improvised explosive device near a mosque in western Mosul Sept. 11 following an attack on Coalition forces in the area.

The anti-Iraqi forces fired on Coalition troops near a cemetery in western Mosul. The insurgents fled into a mosque and continued to attack from inside after being pursued.

Coalition forces cordoned the area and notified Iraqi police of the situation.

The Iraqi police decided to launch a search of the mosque and surrounding area leading to the capture of the three suspected insurgents and the discovery of a prepared IED. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team arrived on the scene and destroyed a 60 mm mortar round.

There were no injuries to Coalition forces or Iraqi Security Forces.

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

Iraqi soldiers detain 3 terrorists in joint effort

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers, supported by Multi-National Division – Baghdad troops, conducted an early morning cordon and search Sept. 11 capturing three known terrorists in the Shaab neighborhood of Baghdad.

Soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team cordoned the area while Iraqi troops conducted a search of area buildings



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

(From left to right) Iraqi Maj. Gen. Sa'ad Kadum, the Ministry of Interior's director of communications, Mr. Faleh, the Iraqi director general of communications, Lt. Gen. Abadi, Iraqi Joint Headquarters chief of staff, Mr. Abdul-Qadir, the Iraqi minister of defense, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the MNSTC-I and NATO Training Mission – Iraq commanding general and Mr. Jawad al-Bolani, the Iraqi minister of interior, join other key Iraqi leaders and Coalition advisors in a communications summit Sept. 13 in Baghdad.

and compounds. They were looking for members of a terrorist cell responsible for attacking Iraqi and Coalition forces with improvised explosive devices and for supplying and operating an IED production factory.

The suspects were detained for further tactical questioning.

Iraqi and Coalition forces continue to target terrorist cells and death squads operating outside the rule of law as part of Operation Together Forward.

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

Combined force finds weapons in Al Anbar

AL ANBAR — Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition troops discovered an enemy weapons cache Sept. 10 while conducting a joint patrol in the Al Qa'im region in western Al Anbar.

The weapons cache consisted of hundreds of rounds of machinegun and rifle ammunition; various explosive rockets and rocket-propelled grenades; rocket launchers; more than 100 pounds of explosive material; and improvised explosive device-making material.

Iraqi and Coalition forces also detained several insurgent suspects and had multiple engagements with insurgent forces throughout western Al Anbar Province, which included small-arms fire, mortar and IED attacks.

In another incident, insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade through the front door of a local resident's home. The rocket failed to detonate. Iraqi soldiers responded and coordinated the removal of the explosive warhead.

Iraqi Security Forces in western Anbar Province are responsible for an area of more than 30,000 square-miles, stretching from the Jordanian and Syrian borders, hundreds of miles east to Hit.

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

Iraqi Police find large weapons cache

BAGHDAD — Iraqi policemen conducted a raid on a known terrorist hideout north of Musayyib Sept. 10, finding a large weapons cache and detaining a terrorist suspect.

Upon searching the residence, police found 300 hand grenades, a bag of high-explosive pellets and two tanks prepped for use as improvised explosive devices.

Elsewhere, Iraqi and Coalition forces detained a terrorist suspect west of Baghdad after Soldiers checked his vehicle and found a sniper rifle with a scope and full magazine.

Both suspects were detained for further questioning.

Since Operation Together Forward began, Iraqi Security and Coalition forces have cleared more than 53,000 buildings, 53 mosques and 46 muhallas, detained more than 90 terrorist suspects, seized more than 1,100 weapons, registered approximately 780 weapons and found 31 weapons caches. The combined forces have also replaced more than 1,100 doors, 35 windows and 1,350 locks damaged during clearing operations and have removed approximately 104,397 cubic meters of trash from the streets of Baghdad.

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