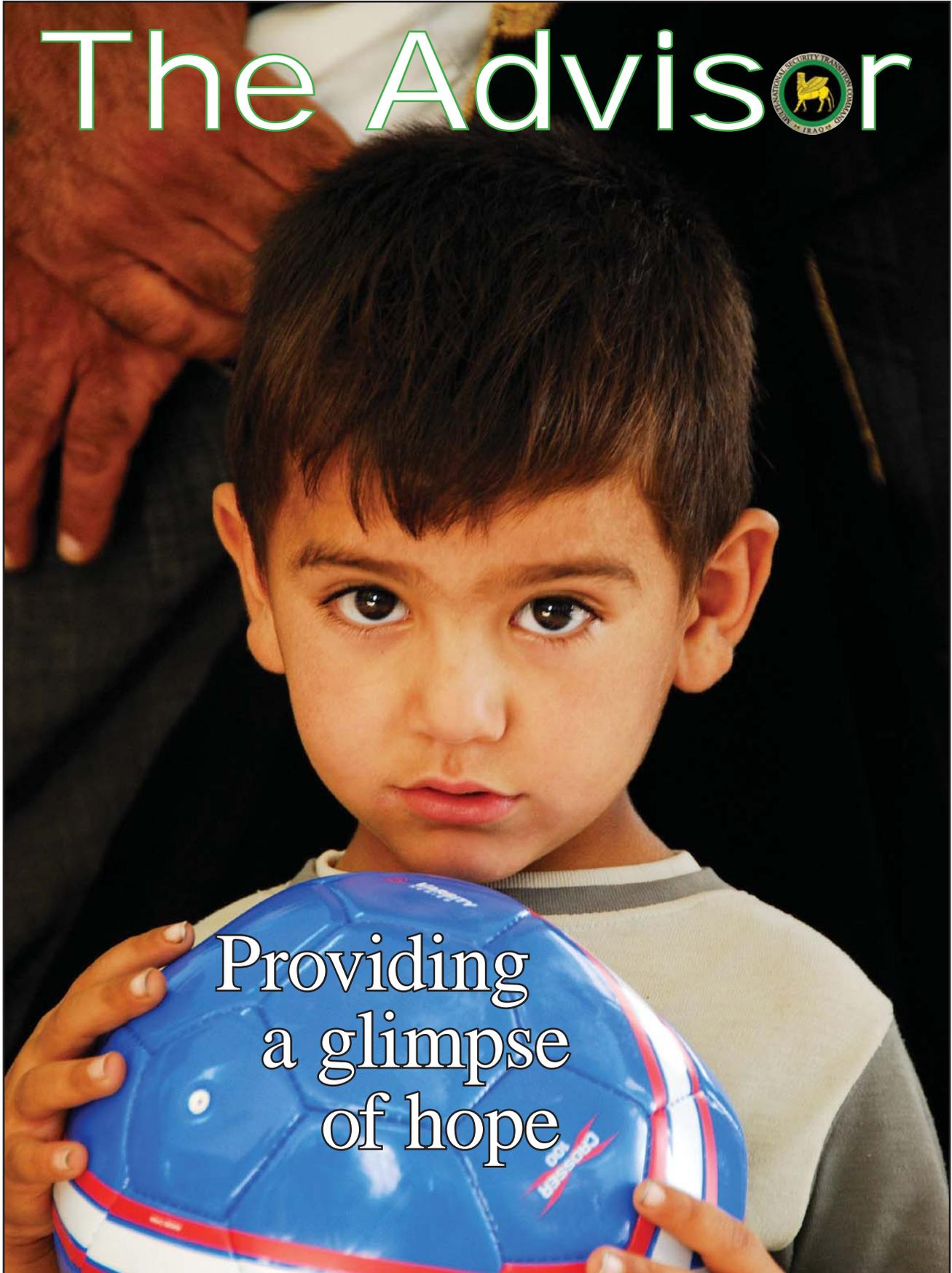


The Advisor



Providing
a glimpse
of hope

THE ADVISOR

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

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ON THE COVER

An Iraqi child gets a new soccer ball donated by radio station KOA 850 AM of Denver, Colo., during an operation to distribute school supplies in Baghdad Oct. 12.

Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Joshua Ramey

Caldwell: Iraqi forces key to suppressing violence

By U.S. Air Force
Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Western and Arab media members gathered in Baghdad's International Zone Oct. 19 to take part in a weekly press conference with the Coalition's senior spokesman. Topics ranged from the current status of the Iraqi Security Forces to the response of the Iraqi government to violence in Balad, and other security developments in-theater.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell IV, Multi-National Forces – Iraq spokesman, opened the press conference noting the one-year anniversary of the Iraqi vote on their constitution, which helped put the current administration in place earlier this year.

"It was one year ago that the Iraqi's made a stirring display for democracy – nearly 10 million people, or 63 percent of registered voters, cast their ballots in a referendum to approve the Iraqi constitution," Caldwell said. "This led the way to elections last December in which an overwhelming majority of the registered voters, or 11 million people, went to the polls to elect the council of representatives. Iraqis showed the desire for a government that would represent their interests and provide for their basic needs," he said.

Following his opening statement, Caldwell went on to describe the Iraqi government's effort to strive through its current security challenges, specifically citing the Iraqi prime minister's decision to form two separate committees – one to address the issue of militias and the other, a ministerial committee, to oversee reform of security agencies.

In addressing the news about the removal of several senior police commanders by the minister of interior, Caldwell was quick to mention that



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

Maj. Gen. William Caldwell IV, MNF-I spokesman, takes questions from the media Oct. 19 in Baghdad. Caldwell addressed Iraqi force readiness and Iraqi-Coalition operations.

though the removals have brought a lot of attention to the police force, the vast majority of the officers are performing their jobs with distinction.

"The National Police continues to prove itself as a capable and viable civil force," he said. "Within 24 hours of the MOI announcing the re-assignment of a unit from the National Police, it was deployed on very short notice to Balad to reinforce local police in that area."

The general also addressed efforts by Iraqi and Coalition forces to continue bringing security to Baghdad and the rest of Iraq by pointing to a recent discovery of weapons caches in areas where al-Qaida operatives are known to operate. While acknowledging that the current month has been difficult for the ISF and the Coalition due to an increase of insurgent attacks on military targets, he pointed out the results of several stepped-up security operations that have led to a large increase in the discovery of weapons caches.

See BALAD, Page 4

Iraqi “tiger team” fights for detainee rights

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

MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq — Iraqi Security Forces capture and detain suspected terrorists and insurgents every day, and as a result, detainee facilities have grown beyond their intended capacity. Efforts by local judges and investigators to process detainees in their own districts are stymied by security threats. In an effort to correct the situation, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense Inspector General’s office in coordination with the Ministry of Justice created a “tiger team” of judges and investigators from all over Iraq, who travel the country processing local detainees.

The tiger team, consisting of four investigators, two judges and one district attorney, visited the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division’s detainee facility in the southern part of Baghdad Oct. 17 through 19 and processed 330 detainees, convicting 267 of them for various crimes.

According to Ali, an Iraqi judge, when someone is arrested in Iraq, they cannot be processed without first seeing a judge. This poses a problem for most judges because insurgents and terrorists are known to target their families in order to pressure judges to set guilty men free. As a result, detainees have been held in facilities for several months, and even years, without getting processed.

“I have seen the cases where detainees have sat for one or two years because the local judges have been too frightened to try them,” Ali said. “This has caused too many cases to pile up.”

According to Dr. Kevin Kavanaugh, a Coalition human rights mentor, the tiger team concept is part of a new initiative set forth by the Iraqi High Judicial Council, similar to the U.S. Supreme court. He said this new approach was designed to fight the overpopulation and to protect the detainees’ basic human rights.

“Bringing the team of judges out to the facilities was very

critical because some of the detainees have been here for over a year,” he explained. “This allowed us to adjudicate those cases and now we have a hope of getting the case load down to where it should be and actually get detainees convicted in 30 to 60 days instead of one to two years. This is a positive step forward in the movement for justice,” he added.

He said the judges who make up the tiger team are very aggressive and, more importantly, aren’t judges from one specific region, so they cannot be swayed by local influence.

According to U.S. Air Force Capt. Joanne Baker, a Coalition human rights mentor, the tiger team also helped relieve a similar problem with local informants.

“In Iraq the accused have the right to face their accusers,” Baker said, “therefore informants have been afraid to go before local judges because they don’t want their names released.”

She said the judges on the tiger team have now mandated that they will be the only people who would know the identity of the informants.

“This alleviates the informant problem and allows protection for informants so

“(As a judge) my job is to help find the solution to problems, and our problem now is that every detainee has a right to be brought before a judge in a timely manner. This has not been happening. This is why we have come here, to solve this problem. This is why I became a judge.”

Judge Ali
Iraqi High Judicial Council

they can feel free to report crime again,” Baker said.

According to Baker and Kavanaugh, this was a first-time collaborative effort between the MOJ, the MOD and the Coalition, and the result of their approach, although new, has been very effective, with more than 330 detainees processed on their first visit. Based on that success, the team anticipates visiting each division’s detainee facility every 90 days until they are able to bring populations back to acceptable capacities and those detainees are processed with due diligence.

Judge Ali said he believes this tiger team approach is very important at this time. “(As a judge) my job is to help find the solution to problems, and our problem now is that every detainee has a right to be brought before a judge in a timely manner,” he explained. “This has not been happening. This is why we have come here, to solve this problem. This is why I became a judge,” he continued. “We still have a long way to go, but this is a large step in the right direction for detainee rights in Iraq.”

Iraqi Police members receive SWAT training

By U.S. Army Sgt. Tony White
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

HAWIJAH, Iraq — An Iraqi police officer rams his shoulder into a door, breaking it open. Seven more officers rush through the opening, weapons at the low ready. They instantly bunch up as someone stands between them and the first room. Almost immediately the trainer yells, “Stop!”

Since day one, every action of these eight Iraqi police officers was repeatedly analyzed and corrected during Special Weapons and Tactics training, conducted at Forward Operating Base McHenry near Hawijah.

Throughout the course, the Iraqi officers learned first aid, proper shooting techniques, close-quarter combat skills, techniques to properly clear a room and maneuvering and patrolling techniques.

Leading the two-month advanced police training were two International Police Liaison Officers and a squad of Soldiers from the Wyoming National Guard.

“(The Iraqi police officers) are here to learn,” said Jim Barnett, an IPLO instructor. “They will make some mistakes, but that is alright as long as it is here during the training. But if they make those mistakes out there (in Hawijah),” he added, “they are going to get killed.”

The eight officers were hand-selected for the SWAT training from a group of about 400 police officers and received some of the most advanced training of any Iraqi police officer, according to a Coalition instructor.

“We are teaching them techniques at a higher level than they are receiving at their academy so they can conduct themselves and keep themselves alive during operations that



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Tony White

Iraqi police officers practice maneuvering tactics during Special Weapons and Tactics training at Forward Operating Base McHenry near Hawijah, Iraq. The police officers were hand-selected for the SWAT training out of nearly 400 applicants.

go on in Hawijah,” he said.

Instructors say that although the training is rooted in military tactics, what the Iraqi police are learning is also heavy on law enforcement – policing techniques that have worked for other police forces in the past.

Ultimately, the trainers hope the officers will go back to the Hawijah police force to help shape and influence it.

“The goal here is to train the trainer,” one instructor concluded. “These guys are going to get back and train the rest of the officers. This will better their police force if they stay focused on what they are learning and doing here.”

Leaders, government address Balad attacks

From BALAD, Page 2

Caldwell also talked about the recent sectarian violence in Balad where more than 40 Sunni and Shiite Iraqis were murdered in a wave of violence from Oct. 12-17. He said that the killing of an important al-Qaida operative on the night of Oct. 12 led to the revenge killings of 14 Shia living in Balad early the next morning. In retribution, he added, 26 Sunni were killed the following day. On Oct. 15, the town’s leadership came together to address the violence and, following a mortar attack the next day, in which an Iraqi was

killed, another meeting took place that further addressed the issues.

The general said that although the Coalition handed over control of that area to the Iraqi government more than a month ago, a Coalition quick reaction force deployed into Balad Oct. 13 to gather information from the scene and found the ISF handling the issue adequately at that point.

“This was an Iraqi-led effort and I think it is notable that we not overlook the fact that leaders of the town came together (Oct. 15),” he said, “realizing that they wanted to take control and regain leadership inside and outside of

the city.”

As a result, Caldwell said, the operation in Balad is in the hands of the Iraqi government and the people of Balad.

“They brought all kinds of different elements together – Sunni and Shia, (people) from the provincial government, the deputy governor, down to the city council and sheiks from the local area,” he said. “(Those in attendance said) ‘we’re going to stop the sectarian violence; we’re not going to allow that cycle to start up here in this area’ and they have, in fact, been able to do that very thing.”

Iraqi marines work through language barriers

By U.S. Marine Corps
Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
24th Marine Expeditionary Unit
Public Affairs

UMM QASR, Iraq — When cultures collide, the first casualty is often basic understanding. People who are separated by miles and manners aren't kept apart by customs or courtesies; they're usually stuck behind a frustrating barrage of wild hand gestures and pidgin English which more often leads to confusion.

Today, in Iraq, the stakes are too high for misunderstandings. For Coalition forces responsible for training their Iraqi counterparts, failure to bridge these cultural gaps is not an option.

At the Iraqi Naval Base in Umm Qasr, a southern Iraqi city that is home to the nation's only major commercial seaport, bridging that gap is an everyday challenge for a small group of Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Charged with training groups of newly minted Iraqi Marine forces in internal security and basic military techniques, the Marines work with each group for three days, covering skills such as weapons handling, checkpoint security, range estimation and military fundamentals.

"We're focusing on their confidence and we're trying to give them better tools to protect themselves," said 1st Lt. Doug Bahrns, training team leader. "We only have a few days to train them, but we can really see that some of these guys are trying to learn and take charge of their own base and their own destiny."

The Iraqi Marines' destiny includes one of the most high-profile missions in Iraq – protecting the country's vital oil terminals that are responsible for distributing 65 million barrels of oil and contributing more than \$12 billion annually to Iraq's gross national product. In addition, the Iraqi Marines reinforce security at the Umm Qasr port, which is trying to meet United Nations standards, an essential step toward expanding trade volume and improving Iraq's economy.

During a recent morning training



Photo by U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Iraqi marines practice weapons training at an Iraqi Naval Base in Umm Qasar, Iraq while U.S. Marine Corps advisors look on. The Iraqi troops trained in a variety of combat skills during the three-day session.

session, the high-profile task of the day was simply communicating. Though the Iraqi and U.S. Marines are able to speak through an interpreter, many of the messages are misunderstood and lack the urgency conveyed by the Marines themselves. Because of this, the instructors rely heavily on demonstrations and constant repetition. U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Matt Smith, a sniper platoon

apply these lessons," said Smith, who, like many of the course instructors here, is a combat veteran who learned those lessons on Iraqi battlefields like Fallujah. "We tell them not to take (the training) lightly because it might save their lives."

The Marines have tried to make the most of the three days they have with each group of Iraqis. So far, instructors say they have been pleased with the results, noticing a quick assimilation of techniques and improved confidence.

Though the Marines are constantly struggling to understand each other, the messages seem to be getting through. Iraqi Marine Lt. Salah said through an interpreter that he and his men have "learned from (U.S.) Marines the seriousness of their behavior" and they appreciate the patience they have while trying to communicate their lessons. He feels that the Marines have "done a great job."

"They've made progress, but it's still a work in progress," said a course instructor. "The more units that come through here, the better chance they'll have to stand up on their own two feet and take the country for themselves."

"We only have a few days to train them, but we can really see that some of these guys are trying to learn and take charge of their own base and their own destiny."

**1st Lt. Doug Bahrns
24th MEU Training Detachment**

scout, said that the Iraqis "get into it" when they see the motivation of the Marines instructing them.

"We're hoping that after we leave, they

New hospital wing brings hope to Tarmiya

By U.S. Army Spc. C. Terrell Turner
4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — On a typical day at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic Oct. 10, patients and clinic workers witnessed a not-so-typical grand opening of a new surgical and maternity wing hosted by Ministry of Health personnel, local council members and Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The \$400,000 project featured new operating rooms, labor and delivery facilities and recovery rooms for patients. The clinic serves approximately 140,000 people in the greater Tarmiya area.

Following a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Dr. Ali Ibrahim, district clinic manager for the Ministry of Health, gave a tour of the new wing to Coalition advisors.

Ibrahim is the medical official in charge of several clinics in the northern Baghdad region, to include Saab Al Bour, Mushada, Taji, al Tapi and others. He is responsible for providing medical services to more than a million people in the region.

“The job ran a little over the projected end date because of conditions on the site that were outside of his (Dr. Ali) initial scope that he needed to address for quality assurance,” said Maj. Herb Joliat, a civil affairs officer with the 4th Infantry Division. “Despite that, he still brought in his touches with his own photos and plastic plants. It was his building, his work, in his town.”

Hameed, the local contractor in



Photos by U.S. Army Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Dr. Ali Ibrahim, northern Baghdad regional medical director, cuts a ribbon Oct. 10 to officially open a new surgical and pregnancy wing at the Tarmiya Medical Clinic north of Baghdad. The project was completed with the help of regional council members and Coalition Civil Affairs teams.

charge of the project, said he enjoyed the mission and the opportunity to help the people of Tarmiya.

“This is my first project here in Tarmiya and this is a very good thing for the people,” Hameed said. “This clinic is a great project for people needing surgery and for pregnant women and their children.”

Ibrahim, a clinic staff member, coordinated the assignment of additional personnel to work in the new clinic wing.

He said he receives regular assistance from local Iraqi Security Forces that makes his job easier. He added that it’s all part of a team effort that he and his team are proud of.

“We moved our staff around and brought in more experienced staff from Baghdad to work in the clinic,” he said. “Many of those people have told me that the new clinic is very beautiful. Of course, everything that we do here is for the benefit of the people.”



Photo by U.S. Army
Master Sgt. Rick Brown

Police stations throughout the Al Anbar province have begun receiving a fleet of new Chevy Silverado Sport Utility Vehicles. Once painted and equipped, some with protective armor, they will allow police to respond to disturbances in their communities.



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

9th Division logistics battalion takes the reigns

By U.S. Army Capt. Shawn P. Ward
9th Division, Iraqi Army Logistic and
Administration Military Transition Team

TAJI, Iraq — Officials from the 9th Iraqi Army Division recently opened the doors to four newly renovated Supply Support Activity warehouses that will stock spare parts for the division's tanks. In addition, the renovation will allow the Iraqi Army to be less dependent on the Coalition for logistical support.

The ceremony took place Sept. 26 to recognize efforts to help further the Iraqi Army's ability to sustain itself. Several senior-ranking military officials representing both the Iraqi Army and Coalition forces attended the event.

The effort originally began in September 2005, and after several setbacks, re-emerged last February. The challenges and large scope of responsibilities accompanying the project had most officials estimating the project would take 12 to 18 months to complete. After just seven months, the finished warehouses were transferred to fully-trained Iraqi warehousemen.

In preparation for the opening of the new facilities, Iraqi soldiers and civilian laborers went through endless piles of spare parts already in the Iraqi inventory to determine where they would be sent. Spare tank parts were recovered from the Iraqi Army's North Depot and were checked for serviceability.



The spare parts stored in the new warehouses were recovered from this storage yard on the north side of Camp Taji.



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Shawn P. Ward

Lt. Col Mohammed, 9th Division Logistics Battalion commander, and Col. Saad, also from 9th Division, cut the ribbon on a newly re-furbished Supply Support Activity warehouse during a ceremony in Taji last month.

If the parts were serviceable, they were cleaned, packaged, inventoried and shipped to the South Depot. If the parts were deemed unserviceable, they were set aside to be used as scrap metal.

Project officials said the recovery process was labor intensive and required the assistance of skilled Iraqi tank parts experts. These experts, along with the general laborers, relied heavily on each other to locate, recover and determine part serviceability.

Many of the tank parts had to be recovered by hand rather than by heavy machinery, to prevent them from being damaged. The only parts that could be lifted by crane were the larger bulk parts, which made up a small percentage of the effort.

The process of opening the facility was fraught with challenges as workers were forced to adapt to dramatic swings in productivity throughout the process due to road closures and acts of terrorism. Terrorism was a daily struggle for the workers, as well as for the entire recovery process, as many were threatened for simply working with the U.S. government.

After several personnel changeovers,

along with additional augmentee support provided by the Iraqi Army, the 7-day-a-week project stayed the course. Many of the workers sacrificed their holidays in support of the operation.

According to project officials the mission ultimately recovered more than 17,000 parts and saved U.S. taxpayers \$50 million. They also said the recovered parts will help to sustain the Iraqi Army and its tanks for several years to come.



New warehouses on Taji Military Training Base hold a variety of tank parts for the 9th Iraqi Army Division, the country's only mechanized unit.

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Army captures members of murder cells

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers conducted three early-morning raids Oct. 20 in Baghdad and captured several suspected members of murder and kidnapping cells, including the alleged leader of an al-Qaida in Iraq cell.

The soldiers conducted one raid in the Adhamiyah area of Baghdad, targeting a murder and kidnapping cell. They detained two suspects believed responsible for sectarian attacks against Iraqi civilians and indirect fire attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

The two other raids targeted insurgent and murder and kidnapping cells in southwestern Baghdad. Iraqi forces detained four suspected terrorists believed to be involved in improvised explosive device, rocket-propelled grenade and small-arms fire attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces. Two persons suspected of sectarian attacks against Iraqi civilians were also detained.

No damages or injuries were reported.

The operation was conducted as part of Operation Together Forward.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Leader of a kidnapping, murder cell captured

BAGHDAD — Special Iraqi Army forces conducted an

early-morning raid October 16th in eastern Baghdad and captured an alleged leader of a murder and kidnapping cell.

The cell leader is suspected of directing the kidnapping, torture and murder of Sunni and Shia citizens in Baghdad, and has connections to illegal armed groups. He is also suspected of participating in attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

One additional person was also detained by Iraqi troops.

No injuries or damages were reported.

The operation was conducted as part of Operation Together Forward.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Two terrorists captured in raid

TAJI — Iraqi Security Forces captured two terrorists and killed two others Oct. 19 during a raid near Taji.

Iraqi forces, with Coalition advisors, conducted a raid that targeted five suspected al-Qaida in Iraq terrorists. The suspects are allegedly responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi citizens, and of conducting improvised explosive device attacks in the Taji area.

No injuries or damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo courtesy of Ministry of Defense Public Affairs

From left to right: Maj. Gen. Ibrahim, MOD media director; Gen. Babakir, Iraqi Joint Forces commander; Brig. Gen. Kasim, spokesman for the prime minister; and Col. Ali, Joint Headquarters public affairs director, provide guidance to service and division public affairs officers during a Joint Headquarters conference earlier this month. More than 25 public affairs officers from across the Iraqi military attended.

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Security Forces capture terrorist in raid

TAJI — Special Iraqi Security Forces captured a suspected terrorist involved in murder and bomb attacks during a raid Oct. 14 near Taji.

The suspect allegedly belonged to a terror cell responsible for kidnapping and murdering innocent Iraqis, conducting improvised explosive device attacks, and ties to al-Qaida in Iraq insurgent forces.

Iraqi forces, with Coalition advisors, detained the suspect without incident.

No injuries or damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Soldiers provide relief for displaced Iraqis

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition forces delivered supplies and medical care to hundreds of recently displaced Iraqi citizens in the Kadamiyah neighborhood Oct. 14.

Supplies and resources provided through the Neighborhood Advisory Council to benefit the people of the camp consisted of approximately 3,000 meals, 3,000 blankets, 50 generators, 500 camp stoves, several toys and various school supplies for children.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 6th Iraqi Army Division also provided medical assistance and treatment for the people of the camps.

— *1st Armored Division Public Affairs*

CCCI sentences five insurgents to death

BAGHDAD — The Central Criminal Court of Iraq convicted 27 individuals from Oct. 5 through 12 for various crimes including kidnapping, possession of illegal weapons, using or taking advantage of someone else's legal documents, heading, leading and joining illegal armed groups, and illegal border crossings.

One Tunisian man received the death sentence for violating Article 4 of the Terrorist Law. Iraqi ground forces captured the defendant, a suspected member of a terrorist cell and a foreign fighter, in May. The defendant participated in dozens of attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and civilians.

Three Iraqi men also received death sentences for kidnapping, a violation of Article 421 of the Iraqi Penal Code. Iraqi ground forces apprehended the defendants in connection with a kidnapping ring. The defendants were guards and construction workers where the victims were kept.

The trial court has sentenced an Iraqi-American man to death for kidnapping, in violation of Article 421 of the Iraqi Penal Code. Iraqi Security Forces apprehended the defendant in May of 2005 for his participation in the kidnapping of three people.

Those convicted of passport violations and entering the country illegally included men from Egypt, Syria, Libya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

— *Multi-National Force – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo courtesy of Ministry of Defense Public Affairs

Servicemembers and civilian employees of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense swore their allegiance to Iraq Oct. 17 and 18 during formal ceremonies at the Ministry of Defense, inside Baghdad's International Zone.

Several senior ministry officials were on-hand to help deliver the "Oath of Loyalty" as part of the prime minister's recent announcement of the formation of a committee to look into possible sectarian division within the Iraqi Security Forces.

Oath of Loyalty

"I swear by Almighty God to defend the unity of Iraq and the safety and security of its people. I will abide by the constitution and my loyalty and sacrifice are only for Iraq. I will execute my duties with devotion and dedication without ethnic, sectarian or partisan bias. God is my witness."