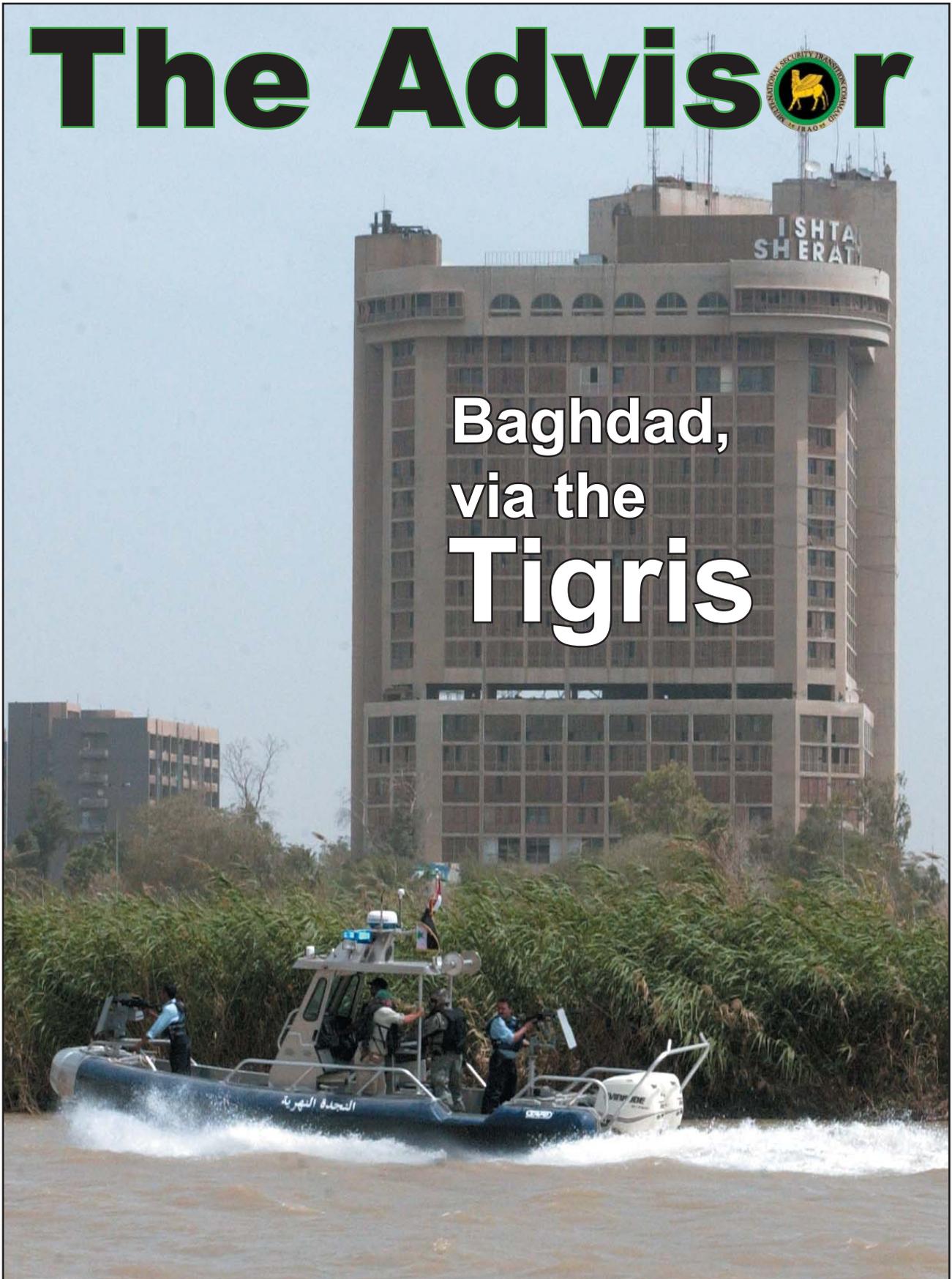


# The Advisor



## Baghdad, via the Tigris



# THE ADVISOR

Volume 3



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

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## ON THE COVER

**Iraqi River Patrol officers scan the banks of the Tigris River in their new patrol boat, April 17.**

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

# Iraqis continue 'dominant contribution,' general says

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

WASHINGTON — Iraqi Security Forces continue to play an increasingly larger role in the fight against terrorism, with many units taking responsibility for their own areas and making connections with citizens, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad said Thursday.

In a marked improvement over last year's three battalions, the Iraqi Army now has two divisions, 16 brigades and 58 battalions that have the lead in counterinsurgency operations in their areas, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, Multi-National Force – Iraq spokesman, said at a news conference. Also, at least 25 percent of daily company-level and above operations are independent Iraqi operations, he added.

"The Iraqi Security Force continues to make a dominant contribution for operations across Iraq," he said.

Lynch noted that independent operations by Iraqi Security Forces are successful not only because Iraqis are effective and familiar with the surroundings, but also because Iraqi citizens are willing to work with them and provide intelligence. He said Iraqi civilians have repeatedly given intelligence to Iraqi Security Forces that result in effective operations.

"(Iraqi citizens) have indeed reached a point where they are tired of the insurgency, and they realize that they are indeed the target of attacks by the insurgency," Lynch said.

Working together, the Coalition and

Iraqi Security Forces have reached a point where almost 50 percent of improvised explosive devices are found and cleared before they detonate, Lynch said, adding that one reason for this success is that operations have been designed to take sophisticated bomb-makers off the battlefield.

In 2005, 115 bomb-makers were taken off the battlefield, and since the beginning of 2006, 26 more have been captured. The capture of people with technical expertise results in the production of less-effective IEDs that aren't reliable, Lynch said.

He said another factor that has helped reduce attacks in Iraq is the effectiveness of border operations. Foreign fighters conduct most suicide attacks, and the Iraqi Security Forces have been able to significantly limit the flow of people across Iraq's borders, resulting in a more than 50 percent reduction in suicide attacks.

Attacks will continue, he said, because insurgents are intent on disrupting the formation of a national unity government, which would mean the death of their cause. Al-Qaida in Iraq is determined to incite sectarian violence, but coalition and Iraqi operations are designed to stop this violence and create an environment in which a government can be formed, Lynch said.

"The absence of an effective national unity government is creating the conditions for the insurgency to do what it wants to do," he said. "The quicker it forms, the quicker we see a reduction in violence. So the Iraqi government does need to form as quickly as possible to reduce this violence."

*"Americans must be prepared for violence to continue in Iraq even after a government is formed. There will be no Iraqi equivalent of V.E. Day or V.J. Day."*

**Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice speaking to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations**

# Baghdad, a river runs through it

By U.S. Navy

Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The Tigris River cuts Baghdad in two, branching off to connect much of the city by a highway of water. With more than 35 miles of waterways in the Baghdad area, many Coalition advisors and Iraqis feel this is the major supply route for insurgents, and that until recently it has gone virtually unprotected.

With five new patrol boats provided by the Coalition, the Iraqi Police are now in a position to secure these waterways.

“We believe that the insurgents have been using the rivers as a means of transporting their supplies because there are no checkpoints and no one on the water to stop them,” said Richard Eaton, International Police Liaison Officer with the Baghdad River Patrol and member of the Coalition’s Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team.

He said the Iraqi police have always had a presence on the water but until recently it was limited to body recovery and trying to stop illegal fishing. He said



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Mark E. Jacobsen

**An Iraqi River Patrol Officer scans the Tigris River for insurgent activity on April 17.**



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

**Police Officers from the Baghdad River Patrol cruise down the Tigris River through Baghdad in one of their new patrol boats April 17.**

they had been relegated to manning patrol stations along the river and were not able to really get out and patrol the waters.

“The boats they had were old and slow and often were inoperable,” Eaton said. “This prevented them from being able to conduct any type of patrolling or police work.”

Capt. Firas of the Iraqi River Patrol said in the past they would get a report of someone in trouble in the water and the majority of the time the person had drowned before the police could get there. A combination of the inadequate boats and the lack of an efficient communication system were the cause of the problem, he said. He feels things will dramatically change thanks to the new boats provided by the Coalition.

“With our old boats we were not able to respond to emergency situations ... we could barely get outside of our immediate area,” Firas said. “Now we can go north, we can go south and we can bring police officers and rescue divers to a scene quickly.”

Patrol Officer Mohammed has been on the River Patrol for more than five years and said there have always been problems on the river. He said that over the past few years, more and more criminals have

been using the waterways because of the citywide curfews. He said now they are in a position to put a stop to this.

“The rivers in Baghdad have always been dangerous but we have seen more and more bodies dumped in the river over recent months. It has been frustrating because we did not have the tools to stop the criminals,” Mohammed said. “Now that we have these boats, we can be active and aggressive in stopping these crimes.”

Mohammed feels the new boats will also help the Iraqi people feel more secure.

“In order for the people to have peace they need to see us on the water, they need to see that we are out there day and night,” he said. “Now they see us patrolling in our new boats and they know that we are there to protect them.”

Eaton said the officers have had a steep learning curve with the new boats. Even though they are very skilled, they were not used to the increased power of the boats. He said the area where they needed the most mentorship has been patrolling tactics.

**See RIVER, Page 5**

# 9th Division hosts senior U.S. Army officer

By U.S. Army  
Sgt. 1st Class Rick Brown  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

**TAJI, Iraq** — The commander of the 9th Iraqi Army Division, Maj. Gen. Bashar Mahmood Ayoub hosted a meeting April 19 with the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker at the Taji Military Training Base a few miles outside of Baghdad.

Bashar provided a briefing to Schoomaker on the progress of the new Iraqi Army's first and only mechanized division. Bashar said the division began taking form in November 2004 and currently stands at more than 4,500 soldiers spread out over two brigades, the division headquarters and other support units. He told Schoomaker he hopes to have the 9th Division in full control of Taji by December of this year, as well as having a third brigade trained, equipped and operational.

"The 1st Mechanized Brigade is already in control of its own area north of Taji," said Bashar through an interpreter, "and the 2nd Armored Brigade will start full operations on May 15."

Bashar noted the many successes in the 9th Iraqi Army Division's short history, explaining their role in backing the elections and referendum last year and the assistance they provided to the 7th Iraqi Army Division in Ramadi and the 6th Division in Baghdad during recent operations.

He also highlighted the many caches discovered by his soldiers and their continuing active work on finding and disarming, to this point, nearly 250 improvised explosive devices and vehicle-borne IEDs in their area of operations.

"The 9th Iraqi Army Division has captured or killed 70 anti-Iraqi forces



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

**Maj. Gen. Bashar Mahmood Ayoub, 9th Iraqi Army Division commander talks with Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Gen. Peter Schoomaker. Iraqi Maj. Gen. Bashar briefed the Schoomaker on the state of Iraq's first and only mechanized division April 19 at Taji Military Training Base.**

considered to be high-value targets," he said. "Our division is ready for any tasks asked of us."

Schoomaker asked Bashar if he was comfortable with where the 9th Division is, operationally.

"We are at a good level to accept our duties," Bashar answered, "but there is more to do before we are perfect."

Bashar cited challenges with logistics, primarily getting parts for the many armored vehicles within the division, but added

that contracts are being implemented with NATO allies to help provide that support. In the meantime, Bashar said, his soldiers have become quite adept at salvaging the parts from vehicles left behind from the former regime. Much of the division is outfitted with Soviet era machinery and others donated by former Warsaw Pact

nations. Bashar said the ongoing work with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense will help smooth out these issues.

The 9th Division is augmented by a Military Transition Team made up of some 200 Coalition Soldiers whose primary focus in Taji is to help train, equip and transition the division.

"We live, sleep, work and eat next to our Iraqi military brothers," said the senior MiTT advisor.

When asked by Schoomaker of his relationship with the senior MiTT advisor, Bashar said, "He is my brother," but jokingly admitted, "I give him only a short time to take care of his personal matters. The best time for him is when I go home."

Following the briefing, Bashar introduced Schoomaker to several of the division's soldiers and gave him a tour of the 9th's mechanized inventory.

"I'm very impressed," Schoomaker told the joint Iraqi-Coalition crowd, "and I recognize there is much work to be done. I wish our Iraqi friends the best of luck as we continue to work together to transition your Iraqi army."

*"The 9th Iraqi Army Division has captured or killed 70 anti-Iraqi forces considered to be high-value targets. Our division is ready for any tasks asked of us."*

**Maj. Gen. Bashar, Commander, 9th Iraqi Army Division**

# Police Training Center graduates third class

**By U.S. Army Spc. William Jones**  
133<sup>rd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**SULYMANIA, Iraq** — Sixty-three Iraqi recruits graduated from the Sulymania Training Center and earned the right to be called police officers following a morning ceremony held April 13.

The training center, operated jointly by the Iraqi Ministry of Interior and Coalition Forces, teaches the recruits police science, weapons, self-defense, drill and ceremony, and military courtesy in a 10-week course.

Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson, Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team commander, Gen. Mousaff, Deputy Minister of Interior, and other high-ranking officials from the Kurdistan region were present at the

graduation ceremony.

Peterson personally congratulated the honor graduates during the graduation ceremony by presenting them with certificates of achievement.

The graduates marched twice around the parade field and saluted the dignitaries, much like a military “pass and review,” as a brass

band played the Iraqi and Kurdish Anthems. The graduates then demonstrated some of the search and seizure techniques they learned during their tenure at the academy.

The ceremony ended with the graduating class passing the academy colors to the incoming class. Once the ceremony was over, the new officers changed out of their blue on blue police uniforms and quickly left the academy grounds to rejoin with their families. The graduates are from the city of Bayji and will soon be added to the roles of the Bayji Police Department.

The Sulymania Training Center is open to all Iraqis who want to become police officers and who can pass the entry requirements. The class that graduated today is the third to successfully complete the training this year.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. William Jones

**Maj. Gen. Joseph Peterson, Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team commander, salutes an honor graduate from the Sulymania Training Center.**

## Baghdad River Patrol keeping the Tigris safe

**From RIVER, Page 3**

“These officers have been taught proper patrolling techniques because it was really a necessary function of their job,” Eaton said. “Now they have this new equipment and they can be proactive instead of reactive. This is what we have been working on the most.”

Eaton said there are plans to send 16 of the officers through an advanced river patrol course conducted at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. This is the same course the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard attend.

The obstacles this unit faces are not the skills of the officers or their commitment level, Eaton added, but the logistics involved in keeping a river patrol operational. He said the biggest obstacle has been getting enough fuel to keep them on the water.

Firas said the antiquated equipment had taken its toll on the

morale of the unit as well. For several years, he said, Iraqi citizens and other police officers looked down on the River Patrol. He said the police officers working on the water loved their jobs, but they were often told that they were not “real officers.”

“These new boats have helped us walk with our heads up ... people see us on the water with new modern equipment and they treat us as professionals. We now have the respect of the Iraqi people and other officers,” Firas said.

Mohammed added that in the past, people didn’t really know what the function of the River Patrol was.

“We need to let the (Iraqi) people know that we are here to serve them, this is what police work is about,” he said. “It does not matter whether you are Sunni, Kurd or Shiite. We are all one family and now we have the tools to help you – anytime, anywhere – along this river.”



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

*“These new boats have helped us walk with our heads up ... people see us on the water with new modern equipment and they treat us as professionals. We now have the respect of the Iraqi people and other officers.”*

**Capt. Firas, Iraqi River Patrol**

# Jordan police training center expands

By Ricki Hanisch

Jordan International Police Training Center Public Affairs

**IMMAN, Jordan** — The Jordan International Police Training Center celebrated the opening of two new training facilities in a ceremony April 8.

A new Police Station training facility was converted from an existing structure and is designed to accommodate two training shifts a day.

During the course, cadets are taught the proper procedures for running a police station in Iraq, patrolling techniques, methods of responding to crime reports and how to defend the station from attack.

Each training shift is comprised of approximately 50 cadets, which means up to 600 students a week can go through the facility's course.

A new Improvised Explosive Device Training Facility is designed to accommodate about 800 students a week. The facility includes a simulated freeway overpass/bridge, 1,000 meters of sealed road, a rural roadway, 14 facade buildings, 25 light poles with adjustable lighting and a 9.5 meter instructor observation tower.

The curriculum, given in a reality-based training environment, covers patrolling, locating and dealing with suspect devices. There are 11 cameras located throughout



Photo by Jim Willey

**Iraqi cadets at the Jordan International Police Training Center demonstrate policing tactics they learned at the facility. More than 1,400 students graduated to the ranks of the Iraqi police service April 8.**

the facility to record every lesson on digital media, which is then used as a training aid in follow-up sessions.

During the opening ceremony, cadets demonstrated some of the training conducted at the IED facility in a simulated patrol exercise. The exercise involved the location of a suspected IED and the detonation of a secondary device.

The opening ceremony was held after a graduation ceremony in which 1,429 students were sworn into the Iraqi Police service.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin Dempsey, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq commander and Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali Khalidi, Public Security Directorate Deputy Director for Operations and Training,

jointly opened the new training facilities.

The First Secretary for the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan attended the event along with ambassadors from Australia, Belgium, the People's Republic of China, Romania and the United States. Representatives from the Governments of Morocco and Croatia and more than 80 guests also attended the ceremonies.

The JIPTC IED facility and the Police Station are two in a series of improvements being made to the facility. Other improvements include a mock suburban cityscape built from shipping containers called "Tin City" and a reality-based simulated ammunition "Shoot-house." These improvements are expected to be complete in May 2006.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Schultz

**Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division demonstrate building clearing techniques for 4th Iraqi Army Division and 101st Airborne Division senior leaders. The combined group held a commanders conference April 15 near Kirkuk to discuss intelligence gathering and to build rapport between Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers.**

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Iraqi Soldiers find weapons cache in Ramadi

**RAMADI** — Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops discovered a weapons cache while patrolling an area southwest of Ramadi April 21.

The cache contained two 130 mm projectiles, one 122 mm projectile, a PKC machine gun, one AK-47 rifle with five loaded magazines and three hand grenades.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Iraqi troops detain suspected insurgents

**NEW UBAYDI** — Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops detained two suspected terrorists and recovered weapons and other items east of New Ubaydi April 21.

The items included three AK-47s with four magazines, 10 fake IDs and an assortment of improvised explosive device-making materials, but no explosives.

The same patrol detained another suspected terrorist northeast of Sa'Dah.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Iraqi troops arrest arms dealer

**BAYJI** — Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops arrested a wanted suspect south of Bayji April 21.

The suspect was wanted for illegal weapons dealing and for

conducting black market fuel sales in Bayji.

He was turned over to authorities for further questioning.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Iraqi troops arrest insurgents

**KHALIDIYAH** — Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division arrested three men suspected of attacks on Coalition Forces in Khalidiyah April 21.

The troops received information from local townspeople that the men were recruiting for the insurgency.

The suspects had fake identification and insurgent recruiting CDs in their possession when they were arrested.

The men and material were turned over to authorities for further questioning.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Troops seize cache in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops discovered and cleared a weapons cache April 20.

The cache contained approximately 150 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, one 60 mm mortar tube, one rifle-fired grenade, six AK-47 magazines, six feet of detonation cord and 10 radio antennas.

The cache was turned over to authorities for disposal.

No injuries or damages were reported.



**U.S. Army Sgt. Seth Brown, Q-West Iraqi Police Academy combatives instructor, watches two Iraqi trainees practice grappling techniques at the Academy April 12.**

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Rachel Brune

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Iraqi, Coalition Soldiers attacked

**HAWIJA** — Iraqi and Coalition troops were attacked with hand grenades and a rocket-propelled grenade and arrested 18 while on a combined patrol in Hawija April 20.

Two grenades were thrown at the last vehicle in the patrol and were immediately followed by an RPG launched at another vehicle. The RPG didn't strike its target but flattened a tire on it when it hit in the street nearby.

The RPG team escaped, however, 18 men were detained in the immediate vicinity of the attack and sent to a base for further questioning.

All men were tested for explosive residue. One individual tested positive and was identified by the truck commander of the disabled vehicle as the individual that threw the grenades.

### Troops find large artillery cache

**DIYALA PROVINCE** — Iraqi and Coalition troops found and seized an illicit weapons cache April 20.

The cache contained 250 assorted artillery and mortar rounds.

Both Iraqi and Coalition explosive ordnance disposal personnel were called in to secure and dispose of the munitions.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Troops seize cache in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops discovered and

cleared a weapons cache April 20.

The cache contained approximately 150 rounds of assorted small arms ammunition, one 60 mm mortar tube, one rifle-fired grenade, six AK-47 magazines, six feet of detonation cord and 10 radio antennas.

The cache was turned over to authorities for disposal.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Sniper cell suspect arrested

**KHALIDIYAH** — Coalition troops detained one military-aged male in connection with a local sniper cell April 20, during a dismounted patrol.

The suspect had an AK-47 rifle in his possession at the time of the arrest.

The suspect was identified by reports provided by the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division.

The detainee was turned over to authorities for questioning and further investigation.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Cache search nets insurgent

**MUQDADIYAH** — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops captured an insurgent during cache search operations April 20.

The insurgent had four AK-47 rifles, two RPG rounds and a hand grenade in his possession.

The detainee and his weaponry were turned over to authorities for further questioning.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Cache site continues to produce munitions

**BAQUBAH** — A large cache discovered in Diyala Province April 19 by Iraqi and Coalition troops continues to yield munitions.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and 32nd Cavalry Regiment., 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, uncovered more mortars and artillery rounds April 20.

The combined team found additional 250 artillery and mortar rounds in the same location where 50 mortar rounds and more than a dozen fuses were initially unearthed.

— 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Public Affairs

### Local tip leads troops to cache

**JALULA** — Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops were led to a cache by a local citizen April 20.

An inventory of the cache detailed 18 122 mm mortar rounds, 31 105 mm mortar rounds and 13 fuses.

The munitions were turned over to the disposal unit for further destruction.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Lee Elder

**Iraqi and Coalition soldiers uncover a barrel, used by insurgents to hide weapons, that had been buried in an orchard on the Jabouri Peninsula April 14 .**

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Blast destroys Yusafiyah police station

**BAGHDAD** — Terrorists blew up a new police station under construction in Yusafiyah, south of Baghdad, at approximately 10 p.m. April 18.

The explosion caused extensive damage as half of the building collapsed.

Iraqi soldiers from 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division secured the site after the blast to prevent further damage.

The explosion is under further investigation by Iraqi authorities.

### Insurgent killed, two arrested after attack

**ADHAMIYAH** — Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division responded to a report that local police were under attack, April 18 and killed one insurgent and captured two others.

A Corolla car was also seized in connection with the incident.

The detainees were turned over to authorities for questioning and investigation.

No injuries or damages to Iraqi police or troops were reported.

### Ramadi cache found, cleared

**RAMADI** — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Iraqi Army Division and Coalition troops discovered a cache April 18 along a roadway in northwest Ramadi.

The cache consisted of one 130 mm projectile, one 100 mm

projectile, two 1/4 -pound blocks of TNT, 10 feet of detonation cord and two black masks.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel responded to the scene and recovered the items for later disposal.

No injuries or damages were reported.

### Citizen tip leads to caches

**BAGHDAD** — Responding to a tip from an Iraqi citizen, Multi-National Division –Baghdad Soldiers found a weapons cache south of Baghdad April 17.

At approximately 6 p.m. while conducting a combat patrol, Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division received a tip from a local national that led to the cache.

The cache consisted of eight 250 to 500-pound aerial bombs stored in a steel cage, ready to be transported. The Soldiers contacted an explosive ordnance disposal team which conducted a controlled detonation and destroyed the cache.

Earlier in the day Soldiers from MND-B's 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, discovered a cache while conducting a combat patrol southwest of Baghdad. The cache consisted of two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 15 rocket-propelled grenades, a mortar tube, a 60 mm round, two green star clusters (flares) as well as an Iraqi police vest.

The cache was turned over to an ordnance disposal team and rendered safe.



**Soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Mechanized Division, relax on their tanks after a visit by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker, April 19.**

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