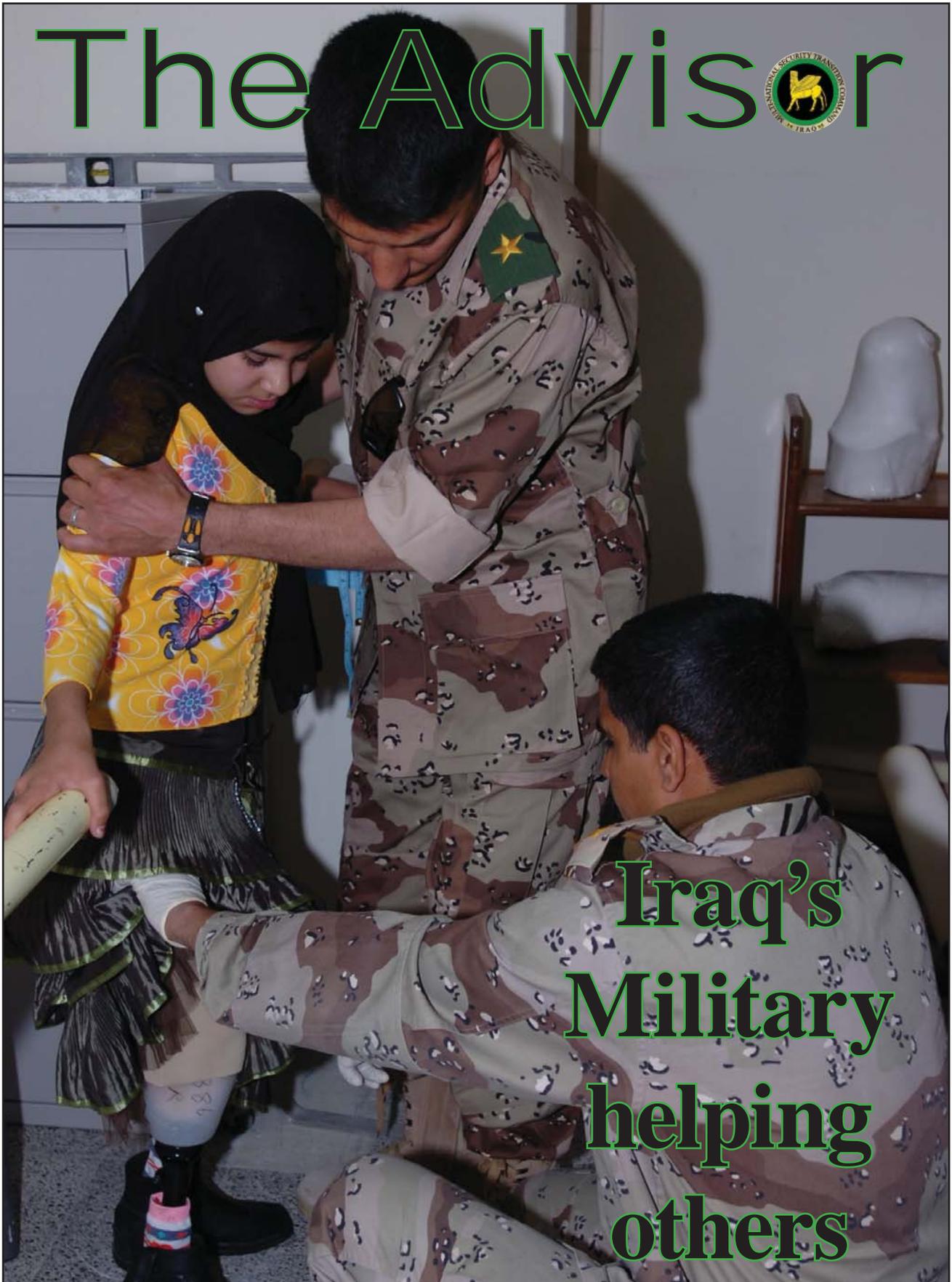


# The Advisor



**Iraq's  
Military  
helping  
others**

## THE ADVISOR

Volume 4



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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 Army doctors help fit an Iraqi girl with her new prosthetic legs at the MOD Prosthetics Clinic Feb. 28.**

Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

# Iraqi security plan can work, but will take time

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — “A new strategy that puts Iraqi and Coalition forces inside Baghdad neighborhoods to safeguard residents against insurgent and sectarian violence can work, but it’ll take time to be fully implemented,” said U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, who became the Multi-National Force – Iraq commander Feb. 10, during his first news conference March 8.

“We and our Iraqi partners recognize that improving security for the Iraqi people is the first step in rekindling hope,” he said.

About 40 joint Iraqi-U.S. security posts have been established across Baghdad as part of the three-week-old Fardh Al-Qanoon, or Enforcing the Law, Petraeus said. Protecting the people, he noted, is an important component of counter-insurgency operational doctrine.

However, the operation “will take months, not days or weeks, to fully implement,” Petraeus cautioned, noting it “will have to be sustained to achieve its desired effect.”

Iraqi and Coalition forces are working together to locate and capture or kill insurgents. Their efforts seem to bear early fruit, Petraeus said, noting sectarian killings have been lower in Baghdad in recent weeks compared to the previous month. And, small numbers of its residents are returning to homes they abandoned to escape the violence, he added.

“Importantly, Iraqi and Coalition forces will not just clear neighborhoods,” Petraeus said. “They will also hold them to facilitate the ‘build’ phase of the operation and help Baghdad’s residents realize aspirations beyond survival.”

As Iraqi citizens feel safer, that will set conditions for the resumption and improvement of basic services, Petraeus said. The Iraqi government, he added, has budgeted billions of dollars for infrastructure

improvements and capital investment.

“This is hugely important. Indeed, Iraqis have often ranked the provision of services ahead of security in importance,” Petraeus said.

Additionally, a joint U.S. State Department and Defense Department initiative will double the number of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Iraq from 10 to 20.

As security improves in Iraq commerce will return and local economies will grow, Petraeus said, noting that Iraqi leaders have drafted a new hydrocarbon law that calls for equitable distribution of the country’s petroleum-derived wealth among its citizens.

Earlier this year, President George W. Bush directed the deployment of more than 21,500 additional U.S. Soldiers and Marines to Baghdad and restive areas of western Iraq to deter rising sectarian and insurgent violence. A tragic example of this violence was the Feb. 22, 2006, bombing of a holy mosque in the Samarra.

“It is not in our power to turn back the clock to the day before” the mosque was bombed, Petraeus acknowledged. However, he said, it’s possible to help improve security to enable Iraqis to contain the sectarian violence that’s torn at the country’s societal fabric over the past year.

“Indeed, our operations will endeavor to provide Iraq’s citizens and leaders a chance to mend that fabric,” Petraeus said. “If we can do this, and I do believe that Iraqi and Coalition soldiers and police will be able to improve levels of security for the Iraqi population, then the Iraqi government will have the chance it needs to resolve some of the difficult issues it faces.”

Meanwhile, the build up of U.S. and Iraqi Security Forces continues, Petraeus said, noting that the last of the 21,500 troops constituting the original “surge” directed by the president should arrive in Iraq by early June. An additional 2,200 military police, announced yesterday by Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates, should arrive in a few months, the general said.

# Iraqi training unit builds soldiers for fight

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

**AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq** — The 3rd Iraqi Training Battalion located at An Numaniyah Military Training Base 100 miles south of Baghdad is responsible for shaping the Iraqi Army's future through the training of thousands of Iraqi soldiers.

Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. Faris, a 19-year military veteran, says that the battalion's mission focuses on all aspects of transitioning a civilian to a professional jundi, or soldier.

"Our mission is to prepare a soldier and give him more experience and make him skilled in his military occupational specialty," he said. "When he finishes his basic training, he will go to (military occupational specialty qualification training)."

Faris said the battalion conducts three basic training courses at Numaniyah and is also responsible for conducting follow-on training in eight military schools to include infantry, transportation, medical, signal school, and military police.

On any given day, the battalion is responsible for training 2,800 jundi in various stages of training, whether that is training for soldiers from Iraqi units, MOSQ soldiers, or basic training.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson  
**Iraqi soldiers stand in formation during drill and ceremony practice at An Numaniyah Military Training Base Feb. 23.**



Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Nathan Banks

**An Iraqi Army instructor trains a new soldier in the principles of firing a rocket-propelled grenade launcher at An Numaniyah Military Training Base Feb. 23.**

Riyall, a trainee in the battalion's basic training program, feels he is on his way to becoming a soldier.

"I serve in the army to save my country," he said through an interpreter. "They teach us many skills and I think it will be good. I am learning a lot here."

The basic training cycle lasts 45 days and the transition from civilian to soldier begins.

"We start with processing, and then we go over step-by-step training on weapons, convoys, checkpoints, human rights, Geneva Conventions, shooting courses and physical training," Faris said. "When they graduate, I don't guarantee that they will be fully prepared. We give them about 50 percent of the training they need here and the unit they are assigned to will give them the rest of the skills needed."

Faris said the reasoning for this is because each unit has specific missions and skills that are needed for their particular roles in the army. However, the skills learned by the soldiers in the basic training program are standard military skills that are universal to being an Iraqi soldier.

"When the soldier goes outside, whether his mission is to clear a road or building, kill insurgents or save a comrade's life, we have given him some of the skills to do this," he said. "The same thing (applies) with the MOSQ training."

Iraqi Army Col. Nezar Nemah Aboud, the battalion's commander, says that determining where to assign soldiers after basic training is based upon the needs of the Ministry of Defense.

"We coordinate with MOD and they give us orders and send us soldiers and tell us the training they will get and which unit they will go to afterwards," he said through an interpreter. "Each unit sends a request to MOD. They say 'we need 10 soldiers to go to the medical course,' so we get the word and schedule the slots for the units."

To determine who is best qualified for each MOS offered at the school, Faris said the soldiers are given aptitude tests to determine the best fit for each soldier.

"We give them tests so we know who is qualified for each course."

**See TRAINING, Page 4**

# Training battalion home to critical training courses

## From TRAINING, Page 3

The training is planned, coordinated and executed by the Iraqi leadership and instructors. According to U.S. Army Col. James Conaway, the Coalition advisor to the battalion commander, the training at An Numaniyah represents the way forward for the military.

Other schools throughout Iraq are developing their own programs and doctrine in the model of those at Numaniyah as the 3rd ITB “is always leaning forward and pushing the edge on training,” Conaway said.

“We have the best training in Iraq (at An Numaniyah),” he added.

Though Nezar and his instructors are proud of programs they offer at Numaniyah, they strive to ensure they meet the needs of the army’s warfighting units.

“We get feedback from field commanders and we’re trying to bring that back (to the school),” Nezar said. “As an example, last week we received guidance to incorporate more marksmanship training and take out some of the drill and ceremonies training.”

In an effort to ensure the capabilities of the army’s soldiers are the same no matter where they are trained, the Iraqi defense ministry addresses the differences between the training centers through a series of quarterly conferences. One of the topics that came out of the last session in December was standardization of training throughout the military.

Last week the MOD held a national training conference where a representative from the Iraqi Ground Forces Command was present, Nezar said. “The other commanders were at the conference and we were able to hear from the field about the directions we want to go in.”

Another high profile project the 3<sup>rd</sup> ITB is working on is the development of the army side of the Samarra Brigade. The brigade will join up with a unit from the Iraqi National Police to provide protection to the city of Samarra, the site of the Golden Mosque that was destroyed by insurgents last year and is seen as the spark for the current sectarian conflict within Iraq.

“We are training 780 soldiers for this brigade, who are over-fill capacity (in regards to the normal student pipeline),” Conaway said. “We’re the guys who have to train the MOSQs. You’ll see we are training all of the MOS’ for the brigade to include the headquarters and support staff. We’re calling it infantry, but they’re being trained on specific tasks. We’re doing that in conjunction with the folks at (Kirkush Military Training Base).

With concerns about the sectarian strife affecting much of the country, Faris said he does not tolerate those divisions in his unit.

“Whether they are Sunni or Shi’a, we treat them all the same,” he said. “As soon as they arrive here, they get constant lectures about the fact that we are all Iraqis and we are in the Iraqi Army.”

Taking the message of solidarity and patriotism from the sergeant major’s speeches, Iraqi Army Private Sithar-Jabar is eager to do his part.

“I hope to become a good soldier,” he said. “I want to protect my country and at the same time save my family. We have a good base and good training here.”



Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Nathan Banks

**An Iraqi Army instructor demonstrates search procedures to a group of soldiers Feb. 23.**



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

**Iraqi soldiers point out engine components on a military vehicle during the transportation course Feb. 23 at An Numaniyah Military Training Base.**

# Clinic offers new hope

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz  
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

*Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series.*

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — The Ministry of Defense Prosthetic Clinic in Baghdad is giving renewed hope to people who have lost limbs. The clinic uses modern automated equipment and experienced personnel to help people regain mobility, according to Iraqi Army Lt. Majid, doctor and physical therapist at the clinic.

Majid stated that the clinic's mission is to provide prosthetics - an artificial device to replace or augment a missing or impaired part of the body - to children and adults who have lost limbs as a result of combat. It is located in Baghdad's International Zone but will soon be relocated to Old Al-Muthanna, a former air base to provide better access to its patients.

According U.S. Navy Lt. Willie Brown, the Coalition's senior medical logistics advisor, more than 1,000 patients have been helped by the clinic since



**Immam takes her first steps with prosthetic limbs at the MOD Prosthetics Clinic in Baghdad Feb. 28.**



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Immam is fitted with her first set of prosthetic legs at the Ministry of Defense Prosthetics Clinic in Baghdad on Feb. 28. She lost both legs in a mortar attack at her school several months ago.**

January 2006, when it attained its present capabilities to make prostheses.

"More than 30 percent of the patients we have treated are members of the Iraqi Army or Iraqi Police. The Ministry of Defense continues to promote the existence of this clinic through military and police channels so that servicemembers become aware of our services," Majid said.

Majid described that although the clinic's primary mission is to provide care for military and police members, the clinic's doors are also open to citizens who have been injured as a result of war or terrorist acts.

One such example of care the clinic is providing to local residents is Immam, a 12-year-old girl who lost both legs when a mortar hit her school several months ago.

"I want to visit my friends and play with them again," Immam said during her visit to the clinic to try out her prostheses for the first time, with the help of an interpreter.

Majid explained that Immam will no longer have to crawl or use her wheelchair once she learns how to walk with the new legs.

"I'm happy because I don't want to be

in a wheelchair," Immam said after learning that she would now be able to walk.

Immam took her first steps with her new legs, but getting to this point was a long process.

Majid described that Immam had to go through many rigorous exercises to strengthen her limbs for the prostheses. Her legs were bandaged to help them reach a desired shape for this purpose.

"We also teach the children's parents to help them with their exercises at home because many people are scared to come to the clinic," Majid said, referring to their fear of being singled out by insurgents for going into the International Zone.

According to Majid, the clinic is divided into two sections - prosthetics and rehabilitation therapy.

Majid explained that rehabilitative care is provided to a patient when they first come to the clinic. The fitting requires the muscles to be strong and conditioned so they fit securely into the prosthesis and also to be able to control it.

**See CLINIC, Page 6**

# Clinic helps people regain mobility

From CLINIC, Page 5

It is when the muscles have achieved strength and the necessary shape, that measurements are taken for the prosthesis.

There is another purpose for strengthening the muscles. It helps to prevent muscle atrophy – the tendency of muscles to shrink from the lack of normal use.

“I see the patient to determine what he needs and determine the kind of prosthesis required based on his condition,” said Tahseen, the clinic’s prosthetist with 20 years of experience.

Tahseen explained that prosthetics are primarily used when a loss of limb has occurred but they are also used for congenital deformities – birth defects - and cosmetic purposes.

“Amputations may have been the result of health conditions such as scoliosis - crookedness of a body part - or paralysis; or because of an explosion such as that caused by a mortar or improvised explosive device,” Tahseen explained.

“I begin by taking measurements of the healthy limb to make certain the prosthetic’s measurements are of equal size to it. We use a very accurate laser imager to take measurements of the cast for a proper fit,” Tahseen said.

According to Brown, the molds are custom made and fitted at the clinic.

Tahseen explained that of the patients seen at the clinic, 25 percent have been children. The majority of amputations are due to the damage caused by insurgent attacks.

Assad, prosthesis assistant at the clinic, explained one factor the staff at the clinic faces when treating their patients is the emotional toll on amputees.

“Many amputees go through a difficult emotional adjustment period. They lose their self-confidence and self-worth because they suffer a traumatic event like this, but their faith and confidence is renewed when they see others who have been through the same experience walking and living their lives,” Assad said.

*Next week part II: Hope begins at the clinic.*



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

**Mobility is key for a twelve-year-old Immam as she learns to walk with her new prostheses at the Ministry of Defense Prosthetics Clinic in Baghdad Feb. 28. The braces are for balance and support.**



## Taking to the skies

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two Iraqi Air Force Huey II helicopters arrived at Phoenix Base in Baghdad March 3 to demonstrate the aircraft's capabilities to Iraq's senior defense leaders. The helicopters were donated to the Iraqi government by the Kingdom of Jordan and were sent to the United States to receive the upgrade to "Huey II" status. The upgrades included all new engines, wiring, avionics equipment and other features that effectively set the flying hours of the helicopters back to zero. The two are part of an initial delivery of five. An additional 11 will arrive by July.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### Iraqi Army keeps VBIED from entering Sadr City

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi soldiers successfully aided in stopping a vehicle-borne explosive device from entering Sadr City March 10.

After the vehicle was forced to stop, the explosives in the vehicle were detonated.

Iraqi soldiers quickly set up a cordon, securing the immediate area from any additional threats.

Initial reports state six Iraqi soldiers were killed in the explosion and approximately 20 Iraqi civilians were injured.

This incident is still currently under investigation.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army detains six in Sadr City

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Special Operations Forces conducted operations with Coalition advisors in Sadr City March 10, against rogue elements of Jaysh Al-Mahdi allegedly responsible for inciting sectarian violence in Baghdad.

The Iraqi-led operation targeted a rogue element of JAM allegedly responsible for coordinating and carrying out numerous kidnappings and murders of civilians.

— *Multi-National Forces – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army captures high level militant leader

**BAGHDAD** — The Iraqi Army captured the leader of the insurgent group Islamic State of Iraq March 9 in a raid in Baghdad.

Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the leader of the al Qaeda linked group,

was captured along with a number of his aides and lieutenants in a raid as part of operation Fardh al Qanoon, or “Enforcing the Law.”

Baghdadi and his group have claimed responsibility for the recent execution of a large group of Iraqi policemen and the downing of U.S. helicopters.

— *MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army captures 32 insurgents

**TIKRIT** — Iraqi soldiers and police from Tikrit’s Emergency Response Unit and Coalition forces detained eight suspected terrorists during Iraqi-led operations in Duluiyah and the Jabouri Peninsula March 8.

The operation began at the request of the local residents.

In Bayji, more than 400 Iraqi Army and Coalition forces detained more than 24 suspected terrorists during joint operations.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army discovers weapons caches

**HURRIYAH** — Iraqi Army forces discovered an illegal weapons cache in a house in Hurriyah and received tips from citizens on the whereabouts of suspects March 7.

Iraqi soldiers also discovered a weapons cache in Ghazaliyah consisting of rifle magazines, rocket-propelled grenades, protective masks, body armor, mobile phones, trigger devices, pistols and rifles.

— *Iraqi Ministry of Defense Media Office*



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

## Helping hand

An Iraqi Army Medic from the Besmaya Range Complex checks one of several patients screened during a humanitarian aid mission in the village of Al-Zatia recently. The village is on the outskirts of the biggest training facility in Iraq where battalions taking part in the Baghdad Security Plan prepare before deploying. More than 300 children were provided lunches, toys and school supplies during the event.

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### First responders react to Baghdad car bomb

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi National Police and emergency services responded to a car bomb in southern Baghdad that killed three and wounded 17 Iraqi civilians in an afternoon attack Mar. 6.

A National Police patrol and Coalition troops arrived on-scene shortly after the attack, established checkpoints and began to evacuate the wounded to local hospitals. Iraqi emergency service personnel also responded to the scene, extinguishing a fire and assisting with the medical treatment of bystanders injured in the blast.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

### Operation nets two caches and two suspects

**BIN MUHAMMAD** — Iraqi Army troops and Coalition forces discovered two ammunition caches and detained two suspects during joint “Operation White Rockets” March 6 near Bin Muhammad, south of Baghdad.

The caches consisted of various amounts of homemade explosives, 50 five-gallon plastic fuel cans, multiple containers filled with a white crystal substance, one 50-pound sack filled with a fine gray powder, one 15-foot length pipe, two mortar sights, three bags of detonation cord, one AK-47 receiver, 100 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition and 11 rounds of 5.56mm ammunition.

The ammunition caches were secured by an explosive ordnance disposal team for controlled detonation.

The unknown substances are being tested for identification.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army finds Katyusha rockets

**MAHMOUDIYA** — Iraqi Army forces found a large weapons and explosives cache in Mahmoudiya March 5.

The cache included 23 Katyusha rockets, 33 rocket-propelled grenades, 7 rockets, two mortar tubes and large amounts of explosives and improvised explosive devices.

— *Iraqi Ministry of Defense Media Office*

### Iraqi Army finds rockets and mortar tube

**YUSUFYAH** — Iraqi Army and Coalition forces found several caches containing weapons and ammunition during security patrols, two miles southwest of Yusufiyah, March 4.

The caches, hidden in blue air-tight buckets, buried and camouflaged, contained 22 Katyusha rockets, 13 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, a 60mm mortar tube, two full drums of medium machine gun ammunition and 12 rolls of detonation cord.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army detains suspected bombers

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Army and Coalition forces soldiers detained three individuals found with bomb-making materials south of Baghdad during a security patrol March 4.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Ben Fox



Photo by U.S. Army Maj. John J. Herman

## “Grey Wolf” Leadership Training Academy in Baquba

Above - An Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics instructor provides a block of instruction on how to acquire a target.

Left - A SWAT team member moves into position during a live-fire training exercise.