

The Advisor



Engineering
the
future

THE ADVISOR

Volume 3



Issue 14

Commanding General

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

Command Sergeant Major

U.S. Marine Corps
Sgt. Maj. Ralph G. White

Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Negard

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Capt. Mark E. Jacobsen

Deputy Public Affairs Officer for Training

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ryan Mosier

Public Affairs NCOIC

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle

Editor

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

Journalist

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

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.

The 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

Iraqi officers attending the Engineer Officer Basic Course at Taji Military Training Base construct a barrier during their capstone field exercise April 12.

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

Early OIF planner sees ‘phenomenal’ progress

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Three years after Saddam Hussein’s statue, along with his regime, was toppled in Baghdad, an Army planner who served there at the time said he’s optimistic about Iraq’s progress in forming its government, repairing its infrastructure and establishing its security forces.

Army Lt. Col. E.J. Degen brings unique insights into Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was chief of plans for U.S. 5th Corps, which established Combined Joint Task Force 7, after U.S. and Coalition forces entered Iraq. The current Multi-National Force – Iraq and Multi-National Corps – Iraq replaced that task force in May 2004.

After he returned to the United States in July 2003, the Army commissioned Degen and two other officers to evaluate the war and write “On Point: The United States Army in Iraqi Freedom.” The book, a compilation of 2,220 audio interviews, 1,500 video interviews, 236,000 documents and 79,000 photos, reviews the Army’s performance during the first stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 542-page study provides lessons learned for future operations, Degen said.

In early 2004, Degen returned for his second deployment to Iraq, where he

validated training for the 6th Iraqi Army Division before it took control of battle space in Baghdad.

Now back at the 3rd Infantry Division’s Fort Stewart, Ga., headquarters, where he commands the 1st Battalion, 39th Field Artillery, Degen described recently, the immense changes he’s witnessed in Iraq during the past three years.

“I’m very positive about what we’ve done in Iraq,” he said. “We’ve done a phenomenal job.”

He recalls his first impressions of Baghdad: trash everywhere, not a child in sight and dilapidated or nonexistent sewage systems. “You could sense the despair in people’s eyes,” he said. “You saw the desperation.”

Degen remembers the “instantaneous euphoria” that erupted as he and his troops entered Karbala, about 50 miles south of Baghdad, and the Iraqis realized that Saddam was no longer in power. “People were standing in the streets, hugging and cheering,” he said.

But as exhilarating as it was, Degen said he and his troops quickly grasped “the mountainous task” before them, particularly in light of Iraq’s neglected infrastructure systems.

Home from his second deployment, which wrapped up in December, Degen said he’s impressed that the same five pillars for rebuilding Iraq identified in the initial campaign plan are still being used today, and succeeding. These address the country’s needs in terms of government, education, security, commerce and infrastructure.

Baghdad is a new city, cleared of trash and with sewer, water and electricity systems being built or restored, he said. Hospitals are up and running. Commerce is flourishing, and mom-and-pop businesses have popped up everywhere. Children run around in their school uniforms, reporting to classrooms where they no longer use textbooks that open with Saddam’s picture and propaganda.



Courtesy photo

U.S. Army Lt. Col. E.J. Degen speaks with 6th Iraqi Army Division soldiers during his recent deployment. About a month later, the division assumed battle space inside Baghdad.

See DEGEN, Page 5

Officers learn engineer and soldier skills

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

TAJI, Iraq — The Iraqi Army Engineer School at Taji Military Training Base celebrated the graduation of 14 engineer officers April 13.

The graduates will eventually return to their units – engineer units – to lead and further train their engineer soldiers.

The school is tasked with preparing officers and NCOs with basic engineer skills needed to support fellow ground troops. Two phases of classes over seven weeks include lessons on fortification, construction, mine clearing and just about anything else that an army engineer would do in any country's army.

Like many Coalition-advised military schools in Iraq, classes at the Engineer School are taught primarily by Iraqi cadre – 214 of them – with Coalition troops standing in the wings ready to provide guidance and mentorship.

Addressing Coalition support for the course, Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Hamid, a course instructor said through a translator, "In the old army, officers were sent abroad to get this kind of training, but now the experience comes to us."



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

An Iraqi engineer soldier guards an excavating equipment storage area during the capstone field exercise for the Engineer Officer Basic Course at the Iraqi Army Engineer School at Taji Military Training Base, April 12.

He said both officer and NCO students, because of the Coalition support, regard the Iraqi instructors much higher than before and have much more confidence in them.

"If you don't build that relationship," said U.S. Army Maj. Carey Bond, senior Coalition advisor at the school, "you can't get past square one. We've been pretty successful and that communication process is there."

But support doesn't always come in the way of actual "boots on the ground."

In the case of countries like Japan and Germany, it also comes in the way of equipment on the ground.

Monstrous pieces of earth-moving and excavating equipment donated by these countries can be seen throughout the training site.

Some of these machines actually make their way back into the Iraqi engineer units that the trainees come from. Upon successful completion of the second phase of the officer training, the advanced skills phase, engineer commanders will take an excavator back to their unit to continue training their soldiers and to conduct their engineer mission. A pretty decent perk, say Coalition advisors, for units that otherwise might not be able to afford one of these behemoths.



Courtesy photo

A student at the Iraqi Army Engineer School detains several "terrorists" during a capstone field training exercise at Taji Military Training Base. The "terrorists" were actually NCO and officer cadre members of the school.

See ENGINEER, Page 6

Working for a better tomorrow, the rebuilding of Iraq

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — When the Al-Ghazaliyah police station was hit with a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, many thought the police in that area would be relocated to another part of the region. However, about a year after the attack, the police station is up and running and helping to protect the people of this volatile city.

While the ongoing construction efforts in Iraq may not show up in the western media as much as the violence, many Coalition and Iraqi advisors feel it is just as important.

“The rebuilding of Iraq’s police stations and army bases are as vital to the stability of this country as any of the techniques that we teach or equipment we help provide,” said U.S. Army Capt. Danielle T. Dinote MNSTC-I’s Ministry of Interior Iraqi Police Service program manager. “It is not enough to train Police and Army personnel ... there has to be safe, operating places for them to work, otherwise what is the point?”

Dinote said the Coalition is committed to helping the Iraqi Police and Army either build or rebuild their police stations and bases so they can have the command and control centers they need to do their jobs – protecting the citizens.

She said there are several requirements that have to be met before MNSTC-I will turn a facility over to the Iraqis.

“There are roughly 13 critical issues such as force protection, plumbing, electricity and building safety that have to be



Iraqi police officers, contractors and Coalition advisors talk about electricity concerns at the Al-Ghazaliyah Police Station, April 13.



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

This photo, taken April 13, shows the outside of the newly refurbished Al-Ghazaliyah Police Station. A year earlier this station was blown up by a VBIED attack and has been rebuilt by Iraqi contractors with Coalition funding.

addressed before we consider a building operational,” she said. “Once these critical issues are met, we know they have what they need to effectively do their jobs.”

Fulfilling these requirements does not mean they’ll have “everything” they’ll need, but they will have all that is necessary to function, and they can work on getting their other needs met over time, she said

Dinote said there’s a delicate balance that has to be maintained between helping the Iraqi’s and making them dependent. The goal of the ongoing transition effort is to empower the Iraqi people and show that the Coalition is there to support them, she said.

“We cannot afford to, nor should we do everything for them, otherwise they will never be able to stand on their own,” Dinote said. “We help them with the mission critical elements and then we continue to mentor them so they can accomplish the rest themselves.”

According to Dinote, some police stations like the one in Al-Ghazaliya have been refurbished, but others have had to be completely rebuilt. She said the decision of whether to build a new police station or restore the old one is based on location, security and damage of the previous building.

Dinote also noted the importance of using local contractors. She said this helps

establish a sense of pride and ownership in the community, things that were not allowed under the former regime.

“If we build it for them then they will see it as “our” building, but if the contractors and builders are Iraqi, then they take ownership of it,” she said.

On one of the construction sites, an Iraqi contractor who asked that his name be withheld for security reasons, wears a hat that says, “Tomorrow will (be) better,” which seems to sum up the beliefs of those working on this project.

“With the Coalition’s help we are working to build a better future ... a better life for all Iraqis,” the man said. “We know that if we work hard today to build our police stations, that tomorrow will be better for all of us,” he added, pointing to his hat.

According to Dinote, there are plans in place to have approximately 67 police stations and command headquarters built or restored Iraq-wide by June of this year.

In addition to the police station project, MNSTC-I is working on a similar program with the Iraqi Army to help restore barracks, offices and dining facilities on its military bases.

According to contractors working on this project, they will have rebuilt and turned over 126 buildings to the Iraqi Army by the end of May.

Bin Laden associate killed in Iraq

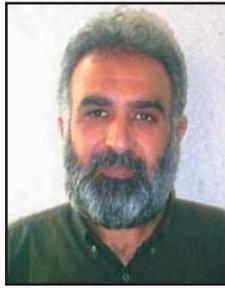
By Multi-National Force Iraq
Combined Press Information Center

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi and Coalition forces killed a wanted terrorist, Rafid Ibrahim Fattah, aka Abu Umar al Kurdi, during an early morning raid March 27 in the vicinity of Abu Ghraib.

Officials reported and confirmed that Abu Umar al Kurdi had ties to Jaysh al Islami, Ansar al Sunnah, Taliban members in Afghanistan, Pakistani-based extremists and al-Qaida senior leaders to include Osama bin Laden and Ayman al Zawahiri.

Over the past six months, the targeted terrorist worked as a Jaysh al Islami cell leader in Baquba and allegedly was involved in the kidnapping of an Iraqi woman. Abu Umar al Kurdi traveled extensively throughout Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq over the past 15 years and met and formed a relationship with al-Qaida senior leaders in 1999 while in Afghanistan.

In the 1980s he formed ties with the Muslim Brotherhood while in Iran and Pakistan and then he joined the jihad in



FILE PHOTO

Abu Umar al Kurdi

In the 1980s Abu Umar al Kurdi formed ties with the Muslim Brotherhood while in Iran and Pakistan and then he joined the jihad in Afghanistan in 1989. Within months he was given the title of an al-Qaida ambassador and attended military training camps near Jalabad where Osama bin Laden often visited.

Afghanistan in 1989. Within months he was given the title of an al-Qaida ambassador and attended military training camps near Jalabad where Osama bin Laden often visited.

In 1991 he returned to the Muslim Brotherhood in Peshawar and in 1992 moved to Iraq, joining the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan.

Throughout the 1990s until his death, Abu Umar al Kurdi moved between Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan holding various positions to include serving as a liaison between terrorist networks, as an operations officer responsible for coor-

dinating the activities of the various terrorist groups and as a security chief for a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

A detainee who admitted his own affiliation with JAI claimed that Abu Umar al Kurdi recruited him into the terrorist organization. The detainee claims he joined in September 2004 when Abu Umar al Kurdi introduced him to the leader of JAI.

The detainee also told officials that Abu Umar al Kurdi kidnapped and murdered a female hostage several months ago. Officials confirmed the hostage taking and are currently investigating the alleged murder.

U.S. officer has positive outlook on Iraq

From DEGAN, Page 2

“It’s just incredible,” Degen said of the progress. He said he’s impressed that the Iraqis are exhibiting “a lot of determination to fix their environment and make it better.”

One of the biggest changes, one Degen worked with directly during his recent deployment, is in Iraq’s security forces. “I never would have believed that they could have built up those forces that fast,” he said. As they grow in number and capability, Iraq’s army and police forces “are very open to our ideas and our concepts,” he said.

As the Iraqis build a non-commissioned officer corps, basing it on the U.S. model, “guys are standing up to lead,” he said. “And I think that within the next few years, we’ll see that the Iraqis will be standing on their own. But that’s something that is going to take some time.”

The insurgency in Iraq didn’t exist during Degen’s first deployment, and he acknowledges that in many ways, it’s made the U.S. mission there more dangerous now than three years ago. But after seeing how well members of Iraq’s dif-

ferent sects are working together in the security forces and their shared interest in controlling the violence, he said he’s optimistic about Iraq’s future.

“You don’t overcome 1,000 years of animosity and mistrust in three years. It takes a long time,” Degen said. “Look how long it took us in Bosnia.”

As Iraq builds its new government, it’s still unclear what shape it will take, he said. “We can go in and enable democracy, but we can’t tell them how to do their democracy,” Degen said.

“I sense that the Iraqis are looking for their George Washington,” a leader who can help bring together the population under a unified government that ensures everyone’s rights, he said.

Ultimately, Degen hopes to see the Iraqis enjoying an environment most never dreamed of just three years ago under Saddam’s regime. People will live in freedom and have control of their destiny, “and it will be something every kid can have, not just those who happen to be born in the Sunni Triangle,” he said.

Police academy graduates return to Ramadi

By 2nd Brigade Combat Team
(28th Infantry Division) Public Affairs

RAMADI, Iraq — Ramadi welcomed the arrival of 89 new Iraqi police officers April 9, the second group of trained officers to return to the city's neighborhoods.

The men, known as the "Sons of Al Anbar," were transported by bus to Camp Ramadi after graduating from the eight-week police academy at the Jordan International Police Training Center April 8.

"The men of Ramadi need to take care of their city," said one new officer as he stepped off the bus. "If we don't stand up against the insurgents, who will?" he said, adding that his family encouraged him to become a police officer.

The Al Anbar Provincial Police Chief, Gen. Sha'aban Muhammed Samier, stressed the importance of establishing a strong Iraqi police presence in Ramadi. The Iraqi Police must be successful in order to ensure the safety of Ramadi's young, elderly, women and families, he said.



Courtesy photo

Newly graduated Iraqi Police officers return to Ramadi April 9 from Jordan after completing training at the International Police Training Center. The new officers will receive their basic equipment issue and start work in the Ramadi area.

This Iraqi Police class left Ramadi for the JIPTC in early February. In the coming days, the graduates will be measured for uniforms and receive

work boots, individual body armor and weapons. They will also receive additional training on patrolling the neighborhoods of Ramadi.

Officers learn to use NCO corps and engineer skills

From ENGINEER, Page 3

But students at the engineer school walk away with something of even higher value. The education doled out here also includes a lesson on a new way of conducting soldier business. From the soldier to the commanding officer, everyone attending this course will – and does – learn how to effectively use their non-commissioned officer corps.

Under the former regime, Iraqi Army officers held the power of responsibility closely and seldom let it go. The role of an NCO back then was nominal at best.

Three years after the fall of the regime, some of those same officers and non-commissioned officers are once again in the Iraqi Army and they're learning how to adjust to the officer-NCO relationship.

That is exactly the type of training that Bond says will make these soldiers successful in their army. "The most rewarding part of this job is seeing the progress of the NCO corps," he said. "They're leaving the old army habits behind and starting to adopt western ideas of NCO value."

Bond said that getting the Iraqi soldiers to understand the relationship and functions of officers and NCOs has been a challenge, but by placing NCOs in instructor and leadership

roles at the school, he believes he's broken through that barrier.

That includes putting them at the head of physical training formations, a notion not uncommon to American Soldiers. "We've instituted PT as a leadership tool, not so much as a physical fitness tool," said Bond. "Once we did that, the NCO development piece has finally set in."

1st Lt. Iman, a student in the officer course, made note of the PT regimen run by the NCOs. "Now we have physical training ... we run a lot ... I like running," he said.

"In the old army, the NCO was a basic soldier," 1st Lt. Abbas, another student in the officer course who spent 10 years in Saddam's army said through a translator. "Now, the NCOs play a more important role ... now they can take some of the burden off of the officer."

Abbas said the old army had "historical rules," with no real opportunities for new experiences. "(Now) we're learning to fight like the infantry and learning to conduct engineer missions together."

Bond said the school trained all engineer units from eight of the 10 Iraqi Army divisions. Once all engineer units from all 10 divisions have been trained, the school will turn to training soldiers right out of basic training as a skill producing school.



Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Michael Molinaro

Iraqi Forces lead Operation Cobra Strike

**By Multi-National Division – Baghdad
Public Affairs**

ISKANDARIYAH, Iraq — Soldiers from the 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division recently conducted Operation Cobra Strike with Soldiers from the 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

Iraqi Army Soldiers are gradually taking the lead in all operations in Haswah and Iskandariyah, stabilizing the northern Babil province.

“We are increasingly pushing the Iraqi Army to the foreground while we stay in the background,” said U.S. Army Capt. Colin Brooks, a company commander with the 4th Infantry Division.

The purpose of the Cobra Strike mission was to locate the suspected leader and financier of a terrorist cell working in the area. The terrorists were implicated in several murders, kidnappings

and the emplacement of roadside-bombs throughout Haswah and Iskandariyah.

Led by Iraqi Army Capt. Hazem, an 8th Iraqi Army Division company commander, Iraqi leadership planned the scheme of maneuver for the operation. Coalition forces were on-hand to provide an advisory role and blocking positions on the outer cordon of the objectives.

“It was good to actually plan an entire mission without the help of others,” said Hazem. “Although the (Coalition Soldiers) are our brothers, my men needed to do something like this to prove to everyone that we are capable of defending our region.”

The combined Iraqi-Coalition team has conducted combined missions since early December 2005. This was the first mission solely orchestrated by the Iraqi soldiers.

“It is critical that they are seen as a credible fighting force in the region,” said Brooks. “We are approaching the day very soon that they take control of the area’s battle space and have minimal help from Coalition forces.”

Hazem maintained efficient communica-

tions during the operation with his soldiers, who were working at two separate objectives, and with Brooks. The successful planning resulted in the capture of the cell leader. The financier was not at home during the operation.

“Every time we catch an intended target, the confidence increases in my men,” Hazem said.

The successes the Iraqi Army continues to achieve has resulted in a clear transition of enemy attacks intended more towards Iraqi Security Forces rather than Coalition forces, Brooks said. It is a testament that they are a viable threat.

“Our goal is to work ourselves out of a job in the Haswah and Iskandariyah area,” Brooks remarked. “We are almost there. (The Iraqi soldiers) can see a brighter future, and they are proud to play a role.”

“I couldn’t be any more proud of the way my men have performed,” added Hazem. “Terrorists are not welcome in Iraq. If they want to test us, they will end up in jail like the man we captured this night.”

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Weapons cache discovered in Mosul

MOSUL — A tip from a local citizen led Coalition Soldiers to a large cache of weapons and improvised explosive device making materials in Mosul April 13.

Soldiers from the 172nd Stryker Brigade seized more than 70 rocket-propelled grenade warheads, 26 mortar shells, more than 20 grenades, seven sniper rifles with scopes and several thousand rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

The Soldiers also found 10 pounds of plastic explosive, detonation cord and various other components for constructing IEDs.

The confiscated items were transported to a secure location for disposal.

— *101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Public Affairs*

Troops find cache in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division found and confiscated a cache April 13.

The cache contained one rocket-propelled grenade launcher with six grenades, two black masks, two sticks of TNT, 20 meters of detonation cord and various documents and maps.

The items were turned over to authorities for further investigation. No injuries or damages were reported.

Mosul bombing suspects detained

MOSUL — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd

Iraqi Army Division detained 12 suspects April 13 in connection with recent bombing attempts on a local thoroughfare.

The detainees were turned over to authorities.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Terrorist falls from truck, caught by police

MOSUL — Iraqi Police officers came under fire April 13 and detained one of the attackers.

The Mosul police station was shot at by two men in a red Toyota truck. The driver sped away from the scene and dumped his gunman partner on the ground, who was shooting from the truck bed.

Police arrested the abandoned attacker and turned him over to authorities for further investigation. He has since provided helpful information regarding his accomplice.

No injuries or damages were reported

Iraqi Soldiers detain suspected terrorist

RAWAH — Soldiers from the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 2nd Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division detained a suspected terrorist at a checkpoint south of Rawah April 12.

The man was identified as the brother of a wanted terrorist. The suspect and the trunk of his car tested positive for explosives residue.

The detainee and his vehicle were transferred to the detention facility for further investigation.

No injuries or damages were reported.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Chris Zuniga watches a soldier demonstrate proper body positioning during a basic rifle marksmanship course in Baquabah, April 6

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Man kills himself, wounds cohort in blast

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division reported a local man killed himself when the improvised explosive device he was implanting detonated prematurely in north Baghdad April 12.

An accomplice was wounded by the blast. He was taken to a local hospital by witnesses before the Iraqi Soldiers or the police arrived.

No injuries to anyone else or other damages were reported.

Provincial leaders discuss future in Mosul

MOSUL — Civic and military leaders from seven Iraqi provinces met April 12 at Forward Operating Base Courage in Mosul for the first Northern Governors' Conference.

The conference focused on the process for Iraqi civil authorities to take full security responsibility for provinces and provincial capitols. The rule of law and Iraqi Army and Police status for each province was also reviewed. Additionally, the leaders discussed ways in which to develop the economy.

Major Gen. Thomas Turner, commanding general of the 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Band of Brothers, thanked leaders for their hard work and accomplishments over the past year. He cited the improved security in the region as the result of this effort.

Participants included Iraqi National Security Advisor Dr. Mouwafek al-Rubaie, Iraqi leaders from Ninewa, Irbil, Kirkuk,

Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah and Salah ah Din Provinces, and several Iraqi Army and Police officials.

Also participating were U.S. State Department and Coalition Forces representatives.

— *101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers discover multiple weapon caches

BAGHDAD — Four weapons caches were uncovered during combined operations between Iraqi Army and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers in southern Baghdad April 10.

Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, conducted a search in the Tigris River valley to locate suspected weapons caches.

During the first phase of the operation, Iraqi soldiers found pre-made roadside-bombs encased in concrete, ready to be transported and used against Coalition forces.

During the second phase of the operation, the Iraqi Army and MND-B units air-assaulted into the same area and found additional caches not found during the first phase.

In total, the four weapons caches consisted of seven rocket-propelled grenade rounds, three machine guns, 28 70 mm mortar rounds, 38 60mm mortar rounds, land mines, a large bag of homemade explosives, a sniper rifle, grenades, 13 pre-made roadside-bombs, 10 rockets, 403 linked rounds of small-arms ammunition, three bags of linked ammunition and 5,000 rounds of sniper-rifle rounds.

Once the caches were under control of an explosive ordnance disposal team, the combined team destroyed five boats used to transport weapons across the Tigris River.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Insurgents detained, cache destroyed

KIRKUK — Soldiers from the Iraqi Emergency Services Unit and Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division detained four suspected insurgents during a sequential cordon and search of four homes in Kirkuk, April 9.

Iraqi soldiers led the mission and searched the residences for two suspected weapons traffickers. The two targeted suspects were detained along with two other men believed to be linked to the improvised explosive device manufacturing cell.

During the search of the residence Coalition forces discovered numerous weapons and cell phones, along with dozens of false identification cards.

All four suspects were taken to a U.S. military compound for questioning.

In another combined effort, Iraqi soldiers from the 5th Strategic Infrastructure Brigade notified Coalition Soldiers of a suspected weapons cache of rocket-propelled grenades, 107 mm rockets and mortars.

After receiving the information, troops escorted an explosive ordnance disposal unit to the site to investigate and destroy the find.

— *1st Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Wojciechowski

Soldiers from the 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division participate in a Combat Lifesaver Training Course in Baqubah, April 6.