

# The Advisor



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future

## 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 Army instructor assists a recruit with his firing technique at Camp Habbaniyah Nov. 12.**

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

# Bush: Coalition in Iraq will 'Succeed unless we quit'

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. President George W. Bush acknowledged the difficulty of the mission in Iraq during a press conference in Vietnam Nov. 17, but insisted, "We'll succeed unless we quit."

"The (Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-) Maliki government is going to make it unless the Coalition leaves before they have a chance to make it," Bush said. "And that's why I assured the prime minister we'll get the job done."

People tend to want instant results, but the task in Iraq and elsewhere in the world of countering radical extremism "is going to take awhile," the president told reporters.

Bush was in Vietnam for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and shared the podium with Australian Prime Minister John Howard during the press conference.

Bush called the war in Iraq just one part of the struggle between radicals and extremists and people who want to live in peace. "And it's just going to take a long period of time ... for the ... ideology of freedom to overcome an ideology of hate," he said. "Yet, the world that we live in today is one where (people) want things to happen immediately."

He emphasized the difficulty of the mission in Iraq and the importance of the Coalition standing strong as Iraq's government progresses. "It's hard work in Iraq," the president said. "That's why I'm so proud to have a partner like John Howard who understands it's difficult to get the job done."

Bush said he assured Howard that a

change in the U.S. Congress doesn't signal a change in the country's commitment to the Iraq mission. "I assured him that we're not leaving until this job is done, until Iraq can govern, sustain and defend itself," he said.

Howard echoed Bush's sentiments about the need to remain in Iraq until the job is done. "The idea of the Coalition leaving in circumstances where the Iraqi people are not able to look after themselves and to enjoy the democracy they want would be a catastrophic defeat for our cause," Howard said. That defeat would extend beyond the Middle East and "would embolden terrorists in that region and it would embolden terrorism in countries like Indonesia," he added.

Bush called APEC "an important summit" and said it gives the participants an opportunity to discuss, not just free trade, but also other key issues such as North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

"We have a chance to solve this issue peacefully and diplomatically," he said. "It's important for the world to see that the Security Council resolutions which were passed, are implemented. So part of my discussions will be how we implement those sanctions that the world has asked for, but also it's a chance to set the conditions right so that the six-party talks will succeed."

The president said he was pleased to visit Vietnam and said he looks forward to meetings with the country's leadership. He expressed optimism that two countries once at war can become friends. "I guess my first reaction is history has a long march to it," he commented, "and that societies change and relationships can constantly be altered to the good."

*"The al-Maliki government is going to make it unless the Coalition leaves before they have a chance to make it, and that's why I assured the prime minister we'll get the job done."*

**U.S. President George W. Bush**

# Habbaniyah leads Iraqi Army development

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

**HABBANIYAH, Iraq** — From this strategic base sandwiched between Fallujah and Ramadi in western Iraq, the Iraqi Army is in the process of meeting Prime Minister al-Maliki's call to increase the size of the Iraqi army by more than 30,000 additional soldiers.

Currently, more than 600 recruits are near graduation from a program that aims to put more Iraqi Army forces in the restive Al Anbar province, which will rely on home-grown recruits to provide security in a region that many of these recruits say is known for its apprehension towards outsiders.

The basic combat training program at Habbaniyah will eventually see classes of 1,800 mostly Sunni Muslim recruits graduate every five-and-a-half weeks. The new soldiers will be stationed in the Al Anbar province, where most of them were recruited, and where the Iraqi government has determined it needs more forces, said U.S. Army Capt. Daniel Eadens, a Coalition advisor stationed in Habbaniyah.

The Iraqi BCT course instructors come from all over Iraq, with many having served in the Saddam-era military. The instructors form the cornerstone of the training program; adapting the training from being designed to create an army built to spread fear to one designed



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

**An Iraqi Army drill instructor gives his formation facing movement commands. The instructor and the rest of his cadre are responsible for the military training of more than 600 Iraqi Army recruits at Habbaniyah.**

to fighting an insurgency looking to undermine the Iraqi government, said Iraqi Army Maj. Kabal, a BCT unit commander, with the aid of an interpreter.

"There is a very big difference between the training of the army 20 years ago and now," Kabal said. "The level of training and

discipline here is a big difference. We don't pressure the recruits here, we want them to learn. The old army under Saddam Hussein was about fear and the army was (reflective) of his personality traits," he said.

"The future of our army will be good," he continued. "We have a mix of ethnic and religious groups from all over Iraq. The sectarianism is very far away from the army."

The new program was designed to locally recruit from and to train recruits in Al Anbar, as well as to station them locally. The need arose after another Habbaniyah graduation last May. Many of those graduates quit the army after learning of their assignments to other areas around the country. Although most had requested to serve in their hometowns following graduation, the Iraqi army policy at the time was that new soldiers would be assigned based on the needs of the army, regardless of location.



**Iraqi Army recruits take up prone firing positions during the marksmanship portion of their training in Habbaniyah Nov. 12. The recruits demonstrated various firing positions prior to reporting to the camp's firing range.**

**See TRAINING, Page 4**

## Recruits learn skills to operate in Al Anbar province

### From TRAINING, Page 3

The current team of advisors graduated their first basic training course two months ago, Eadens said. “We ensured they would get paid by their divisions, which they did, and that they would be stationed near their home. The training is better, the (instructors) are better, the recruits are (better), and we have fewer problems. I’ve seen a huge improvement,” he continued, “so this cycle suggests the next 1,800 (recruits) will be even better.”

The course curriculum starts the recruits off early each morning with breakfast, time for prayer and physical training, before marching to a soccer field to practice drill and ceremonies. All this before they start the classroom instruction portion of the day.

During instruction periods, the recruits sit in bleachers for class lessons on a variety of basic military tasks. Training is conducted in a school-like manner, where the instructors talk to the recruits and answer their questions without the stereotypical “talking loud enough for everyone to hear” approach that an outsider would expect from a basic training course.

Just as in U.S. basic training programs, the tasks are first demonstrated for recruits, who, in-turn, perform them in front of their instructors to demonstrate proficiency. The recruits then break for lunch for two hours before reporting back to the soccer field for some final training. The various units around the camp then usually engage each other in sometimes not-so-friendly soccer matches played with the entire camp looking on, before heading back to their barracks for the evening.

The recruits vary in age, education levels and backgrounds. Some come directly from their parents’ homes and others



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

**Spectators look on as an Iraqi soldier puts the ball in play during a late-afternoon soccer match Nov. 11 between two units stationed at Habbaniyah. The daily soccer matches are one way the army conducts physical training as well as providing some entertainment for the troops.**

already have families that they support. Also like the U.S. military, it is the role of the camp’s instructors to help the students form bonds and develop as military members.

The recruits joke and laugh with their fellow comrades-in-arms and pose for pictures during their break periods, but they get very serious once their instructors gather them up to discuss the next block of instruction.

“We are ready to fight the terrorists,” said Iraqi Army recruit Mohammed through an interpreter. The recruit, who joined the army a few weeks ago, said he serves to help protect his family. “We want to do something great for our country,” he said.

While the Iraqi Army as a whole is engaged in operations against the insurgency and enemies of Iraq around the country, the instructors here have a special interest in providing the best level of instruction they can to these particular recruits, as they will be on the front-lines in the war in what many believe is the country’s most dangerous province – Al Anbar.

“These recruits are very important to Iraq,” said Iraqi Army Master Sgt. Hassan, a training instructor from Baghdad, through an interpreter. “We need them to leave here to continue fighting the terrorists who kill in our country.”



**Iraqi Army recruits march and call out cadence while their instructor looks on. The recruits march each morning and perform drill and ceremonies before each day begins at the basic combat training center at Habbaniyah.**

# Habbaniyah clinic hangs on despite challenges

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

**HABBANIYAH, Iraq** — As home to thousands of 1st Iraqi Army Division soldiers, Camp Habbaniyah's many missions are supported by a regional support unit clinic that provides medical services to all of the camp's soldiers as well as to the local civilian community outside the gate.

The clinic routinely treats patients with gunshot wounds, shrapnel wounds and blast injuries, but it also sees patients for relatively minor symptoms such as intestinal problems or sprained ankles.

Officially lacking a general practitioner, the clinic is held together by the 1st Iraqi Army Division's surgeon, along with a handful of soldiers who were assigned to the clinic after showing an aptitude for jobs in medicine.

Col. Ibrahim is the surgeon who now runs the day-to-day operations of the RSU clinic and treats patients. He said the doctor shortage stems from the security situation in the Al Anbar province.

"We face a difficult situation in bringing people to this area because it is so dangerous. My job should be administrative; as a supervisor," he said. "Because of the manning, I must (also) do medical work and treat patients."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Franklin Weaver, a U.S. Navy Corpsman assigned to the Military Transition Team at Habbaniyah, said the clinic is responsible for treating a wide range of patients.

"The (RSU clinic) is a community health clinic and a basic sick hall for RSU members," he said, "but they see all the patients from this base – mass casualties as well as civilian injuries."

Although the soldiers manning the clinic demonstrated an aptitude for the medical field during first aide sessions in basic training, they still required additional training.

"They usually have a very elementary grasp of combat medicine," Weaver said. "We have to bring them up to speed on combat medicine and community health. We have to train them as if they didn't know anything about it."

To help compensate for the lack of officially trained medical experts, Col. Ibrahim and his counterparts throughout the Iraqi Army have developed a training program for soldiers assigned to work in the RSU clinics.

"We came to the idea to put together a five-week training course for soldiers to begin learning the principles of medicine before they worked in the clinic," he said. "After they receive this training, we send them to Taqaddum Surgical (Center) to get more hands-on training. This works out very well for our clinic. The training is a continuous process."

Ibrahim said the soldiers are sent to the surgical clinic in Taqaddum because there are no surgical facilities at the RSU clinic. Taqaddum is a large Coalition forward operating base located a short distance from Habbaniyah.



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

**An Iraqi Army medic takes a prescription order from another Iraqi soldier at the Habbaniyah Regional Support Unit clinic Nov. 14. The clinic serves all units based at Habbaniyah as well as the local community.**

Another difficult challenge the clinic workers face is how to go about treating civilians from outside communities who show up to Habbaniyah requiring treatment for a variety of ailments.

"One of our purposes here is to help the local people get medical services. This is a dangerous area, even for the civilian people," Ibrahim said. "We see many cases, even pregnant women. Everyone is looking for us here. They feel secure when they see us because they are threatened by the insurgents. Always, when they need anything, they look to the army."

If the civilian medical situation requires more than the RSU clinic can provide, the patients are transported to Taqaddum where they are treated or accommodated at a Ministry of Health hospital, Ibrahim said. He added that with the security situation as dangerous as it is, patients try to limit their travel as much as possible.

Iraqi Army Capt. Hassan, a medic assigned to Camp Habbaniyah's regional training center, feels that the security situation has to be resolved before the local community's health infrastructure can be adjusted.

"We need to secure this area for the safety of the Iraqis who live here before we can do anything," he said through an interpreter.

# Iraqi Army delivers school supplies to children

**By Pfc. Durwood Blackmon**  
25th Infantry Division Combat  
Aviation Brigade Public Affairs

**TIKRIT, Iraq** — Children at the Black Jewel School in Tikrit received a pleasant surprise from unexpected guests Oct. 31.

Members of the 4th Iraqi Army Division, joined by Coalition forces, brought pens, paper, pencils, candy and

toys for children in the local community.

The primary focus of the 4th Division is to conduct security operations in communities surrounding Tikrit. However, as the Iraqi Army continues to expand in strength and numbers, it hopes to develop a more interconnected relationship with members of the local district.

“There have been those who at one time have gone into communities and filled people with terror. Part of the (Iraqi Army) position is to do things that

previous leadership has not done,” said Col. Arsalan, 4th Iraqi Army Division. “We went to the school to let them know we are here to help and to give supplies to the children. When we visit peoples’ homes and schools to assist them, they begin to better understand our purpose and why we are here.”

The materials delivered were donated by members of Task Force Diamondhead, 25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade.

Teachers brought children one class at a time to individually receive the gifts. Although the surprise visit interrupted their classes, the children relished the break as they anxiously waited in line for their turn.

The entire operation was planned, coordinated and executed by the 4th Iraqi Army Division soldiers.

“This mission was totally Iraqi led and we are extremely impressed by their leadership,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Frank W. Tate, a unit commander from Task Force Diamondhead.

“They took charge of this mission and there was a lot of positive interaction between the Iraqi Army, teachers and children. This was a tremendous experience for us,” he commented.

“Our goal was to establish civil and military affairs within the community,” Arsalan added. The mission was executed very well and the results of today’s effort are excellent. This is all part of a larger peace process,” he continued. “I really hope we can do further missions like this and I think the positive results of today’s actions speak volumes.”

Once all the candy and supplies had been handed out, children could be heard throughout the hallways of the school laughing and enjoying their new gifts. Tate feels the mission was not only a success but helped to target a key audience that will have a large impact in the restructuring and rebuilding of Iraq.

“Today was a huge success and a great opportunity,” he said. “It helped the children – the most important part of Iraq’s future – realize that the (Iraqi Army) is here to support them.”



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Durwood Blackmon

**Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division unload school supplies at Forward Operating Base Dagger Oct. 31. Iraqi Army leaders organized and led the convoy operation that transported supplies to the Black Jewel School.**

# Training center teaches soldiers crucial skills

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

**HABBANIYAH, Iraq** — When the Iraqi military was re-established in early 2004, the Coalition set up regional training centers at several bases in Iraq to teach soldiers the skills to better equip them to defend their country. These centers are now managed and staffed by Iraqi soldiers, with a few Coalition advisors providing support.

At the Iraqi Army's regional training center in Habbaniyah, the focus is on developing the service's non-commissioned officers and junior enlisted members on tasks that are critical in battle operations.

The training center offers squad leader, platoon sergeant, combat medic, combat lifesaver, military police and sniper courses, as well as a shooters school designed to provide additional training in marksmanship. These classes are separate from the basic combat training courses and, according to Iraqi Army Sgt. Ali, a platoon sergeant course instructor, they not only offer Iraqi soldiers additional opportunities to increase their skills, but also to become trainers themselves.

"We want the soldiers here to learn these courses and take them back to their units," Ali said with the help of an interpreter. "This will make our entire army better."

The RTC courses were all originally taught by Coalition advisors, but Iraqi instructors have taken the lead and are now providing all of the instruction. U.S. Army Capt. Daniel Eadens, a Coalition advisor to the 1st Iraqi Army Division's training unit at Habbaniyah, said his troops are there strictly to train the trainers.

"My (Coalition) drill sergeants are not drill sergeants over the Iraqis," he said, "they are teaching the Iraqi drill sergeants to train the Iraqi (trainees)."

As the students attend the variety of courses, many of them



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

**An Iraqi soldier demonstrates his proficiency in setting up an intravenous injection during a combat lifesaver course at Habbaniyah's Regional Training Center Nov. 12. The RTC houses a variety of courses to enhance the military skills of the Iraqi Army.**

realize the value of the instruction goes beyond practical exercises and will provide valuable results in a battlefield situation.

"I am learning a lot of good medical skills through these courses," said Iraqi Army Pvt. Bakir, who is attending the combat lifesaver course. "The lessons I have learned were very interesting ... I want to learn everything," he said through an interpreter.

The courses are held in a block of recently renovated buildings with modern classrooms that allow instructors the use of Power Point slides and other instructional aids.

"The courses are set up to allow the Iraqis the ability to teach themselves these combat skills," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Duncan Harp, a Coalition advisor assigned to the RTC. "As a drill sergeant, there are ways that I would do things around here to get the training accomplished, but that's not my job. My job is to show the Iraqi instructors here how they can do things and then step back and let them run it they way they choose to."

*"We want the soldiers here to learn these courses and take them back to their units. This will make our entire Army better."*

**Iraqi Army Sgt. Ali  
Habbaniyah Regional Training Center  
Platoon Sergeant Course Instructor**



**An Iraqi combat lifesaver instructor directs his student's attention to visual aids as he explains the techniques for applying a tourniquet during the CLS class at the Habbaniyah Regional Training Center Nov. 12.**

## Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

### Iraqi brigade conducts operation near Kirkuk

**KIRKUK** — More than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers began a military operation Nov. 15 to clear several villages of insurgents and unauthorized weapons near Iraq's northern city of Kirkuk.

The 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, combined with two additional Iraqi battalions and Coalition forces in support, began a cordon and search of the Zytoon and Rashad valleys approximately 40 kilometers south of Kirkuk. Insurgent forces were reported to be operating within these areas.

The village of Dugmat in the Rashad valley was the site of a recent attack on a combined Iraqi and Coalition patrol.

The 2nd Brigade plans to maintain a formal presence in the area to protect civilians and deny sanctuary to insurgents in the southern area of the Kirkuk Province.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

### ISF detains kidnapping, murder-cell suspects

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 7th Iraqi Army Division, along with Coalition advisors, conducted a raid Nov. 14 in Ramadi to capture members of a kidnapping and murder cell. The suspects were believed responsible for abducting, torturing and murdering Iraqi civilians and military personnel.

The cell members are also believed responsible for placing improvised explosive devices that have injured and killed Iraqi police.

Iraqi troops detained eight suspects during the raid.

No injuries or damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Terrorists kill themselves with IED

**MOSUL** — Three terrorists were killed and one was seriously wounded Nov. 13 when they tried to plant a roadside bomb in a western Mosul neighborhood.

The terrorists attempted to place a roadside bomb consisting of a 155 mm artillery round when it exploded prematurely, instantly killing two and injuring the others.

Iraqi police responded to the explosion, finding the bodies of the two dead terrorists and evacuating the injured terrorists to a local hospital. One of the injured later died of his wounds. Two innocent bystanders, injured in the blast, were also transported to a nearby hospital.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

### Iraqi police capture members of insurgent cell

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi police forces conducted a raid in Haswah Nov. 13 and captured six insurgents believed to be responsible for improvised explosive device attacks that have injured and killed Iraqi civilians and Iraqi Security Forces.

The insurgents are also allegedly responsible for criminal activities in the Haswah and Baghdad areas that include extortion, murder, kidnapping and car theft. The insurgents reportedly helped finance other insurgent cells in their attacks against ISF.

Police detained nine additional suspects during the raid and confiscated several assault rifles.

No injuries and minimal damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



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

## Honoring fallen comrades

Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Deputy Commanding General U.K. Brig. Hugh Monro (far right) and fellow British and Australian soldiers salute fallen comrades in Habbaniyah, Iraq, during a Remembrance Day ceremony Nov. 11. The MNSTC-I servicemembers joined with American counterparts at Habbaniyah to pay respects at a cemetery where British soldiers were buried throughout the first half of the twentieth century.

## Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

### Iraqi forces capture leaders of insurgent cell

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Special Operations Forces, along with Coalition advisors, conducted a raid in Arab A' Jabur Nov. 12 and captured four members of an insurgent cell believed to be responsible for murders, kidnappings and bomb attacks that have killed and injured Iraqi civilians and Iraqi police forces.

The insurgents are also allegedly responsible for taking over Iraqi civilian houses in the Arab A' Jabur area to use for expanding their network, causing families to be displaced.

No injuries and minimal damages were reported

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Joint team seizes weapons in apartment complex

**MAHMUDIYAH** — Iraqi Army and Coalition Soldiers seized a large weapons cache and detained three individuals in Mahmudiyah, 30 kilometers south of Baghdad, Nov. 11.

Iraqi soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division teamed up with Coalition Soldiers to conduct a cordon and search operation in an apartment complex.

The combined team seized three 107 mm rockets, 24 82 mm mortar rounds, 17 60 mm mortar rounds, 19 60 mm mortar fuses, 100 mortar charges, two mortar tripods and aiming devices, a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, an AK-47 assault rifle, a machine gun, false identification cards

and four license plates.

The most significant find in the cache was the discovery of 25 anti-armor improvised explosive device cover plates.

The detainees are in the custody of the Iraqi Army for questioning.

— *10th Mountain Division Public Affairs*

### Iraqi troops capture leader of insurgent cell

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 8th Iraqi Army Division conducted a raid with Coalition advisors Nov. 11 near Suwayrah and captured the suspected leader of an insurgent cell responsible for attacks against Iraqi security forces.

Among other allegations, the cell leader is suspected of being responsible for a car bomb attack in Suwayrah that killed at least nine and injured more than 50 Iraqi civilians and for allegedly coordinating an attack which destroyed an Iraqi Army headquarters in Suwayrah.

Iraqi forces detained four additional suspects during the raid.

No injuries and minimal damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### CCCI convicts 13 insurgents

**BAGHDAD** — The Central Criminal Court of Iraq convicted 13 security detainees during the period of Nov. 2-9 for various crimes including possession of illegal weapons, possessing false civil affairs identity papers, failure to renew resident identification documentation and illegal border crossing.

The trial court found four Iraqi men guilty of possession of illegal weapons and for forging and using fake identifications. Multi-National Force – Iraq personnel searched two vehicles after seeing one suspect throw a pistol out of one of the vehicles. The search of both vehicles revealed 35 82 mm mortar rounds, eight 122 mm artillery rounds and one 12.7 mm machine gun. The trial panel sentenced one man to 42 years imprisonment and sentenced the other three men to 30 years imprisonment.

Three other Iraqi men were also found guilty of possessing illegal weapons in violation of the Iraqi Penal Code. The defendants surrendered to Coalition personnel after the defendants fled a nearby house and engaged MNF-I personnel in a firefight. The men were found with one machine gun, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers, five AK-47 rifles and five hand grenades. The trial panel sentenced the three men to 15 years imprisonment.

The court also convicted six men of passport violations, forging official documents, possession of illegal weapons and entering the country illegally. The sentences ranged from six months to 10 years imprisonment. Those convicted include three Iraqis, two Saudi Arabians and one Egyptian.

Since its establishment in April 2004, the Central Criminal Court of Iraq has held 1,697 trials for Coalition-apprehended insurgents. The proceedings have resulted in 1,460 convictions with sentences ranging from short-term prison sentences to the death penalty.

— *Mutli-National Force – Iraq, Combined Press Information Center*



Photo by U.S. Army Pfc. Durwood Blackmon

### Treats

Iraqi school children receive pencils and candy from a teacher and a Coalition Soldier at the Black Jewel School in Tikrit Oct. 31. Iraqi soldiers led the mission with Coalition forces in support.