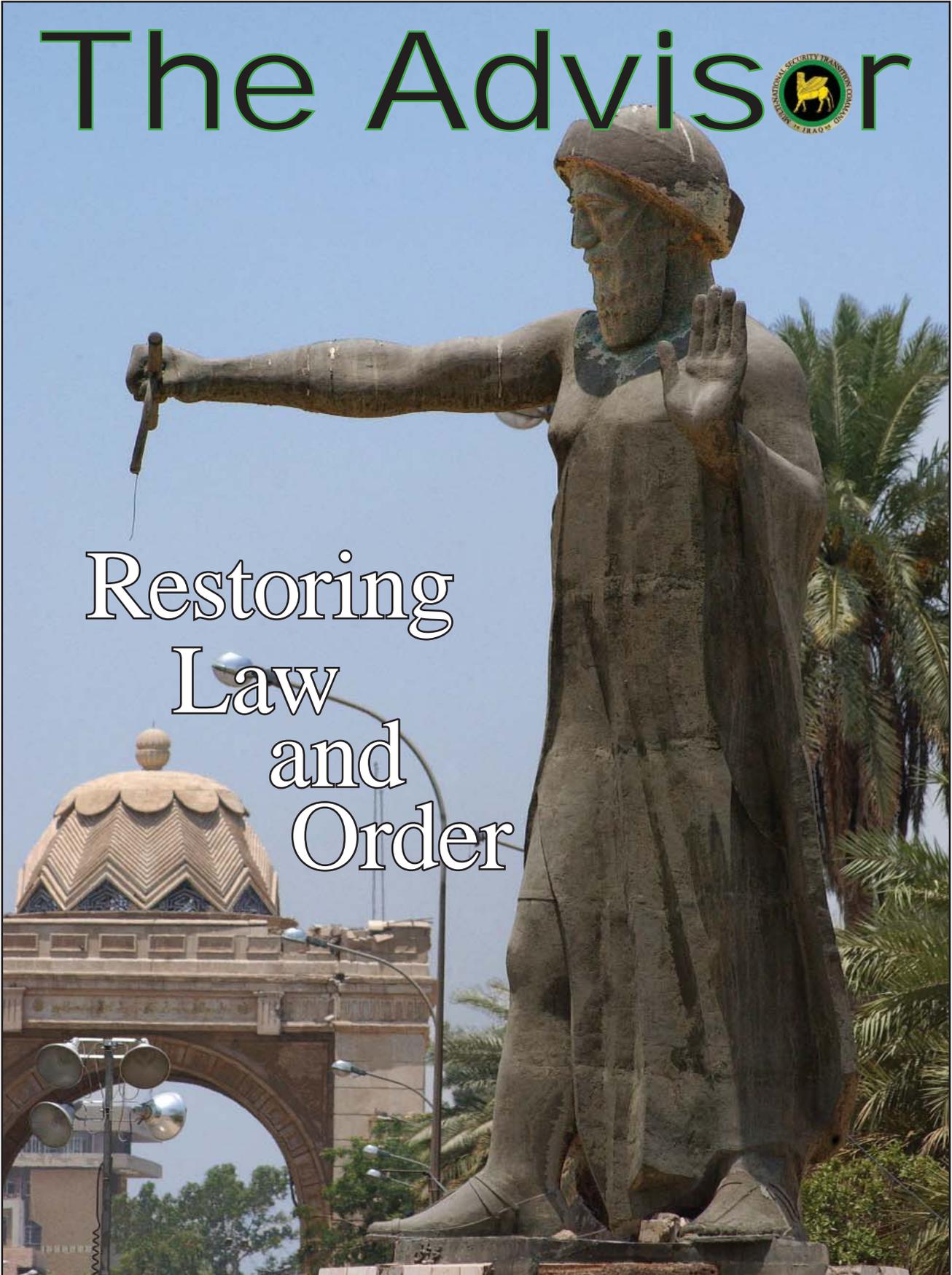


The Advisor



Restoring Law and Order



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

Journalists

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

U.S. Air Force

Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman

CPATT Public Affairs Officer

Ann Bertucci

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Some 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 09316

DSN: 318-852-1334

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ON THE COVER

A recent photo of the statue of King Hammurabi, considered by historians to have written the world's first "code of law." The statue is located in Baghdad's International Zone.

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

Iraq: Finding the balance

By U.S. Army Lt. Col.

Michael Negard

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — On a dusty, barren traffic circle two-hundred feet from Iraq's Ministry of Defense stands a statue of the most notable ruler in the history of early civilizations, King Hammurabi, ruler of the world's first metropolis of Babylon. The statue dates back to the pre-Saddam Hussein era and adorns the avenue that once hosted the Iraqi General Assembly, Ministry of Information and Saddam's main palace.

Amid the concrete T-walls, razor wire and watch towers, Hummurabi stands strong and proud as a testament to Iraq's rich history and culture. Three years of war has taken little toll on the king. However, missing from his extended right hand is the scale of justice that symbolized Hummurabi's philosophy of law and approach to governance. It was Hummurabi, the Warrior King, whose principles focused on balancing bad with good and injustice with justice, who notably wrote into law more than three thousand years ago that "if a man puts out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out, and if he breaks another man's bone, his bone shall be broken."

Finding the right balance between teaching, coaching and mentoring the Iraq Security Forces and achieving effective, tangible results is the greatest challenge facing the men and

women who serve in the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

It's the same challenge that everyone in the training development business faces, whether it's an expert craftsman teaching a novice carpenter how to frame a house or an adult mother instructing her two-year-old son on the finer points of how to "pick-up" his toy room.

While some would compare the challenge in Iraq to tuning a car engine while the engine is running, it comes down to a complex balancing act of spending too much time mentoring at the risk of not achieving results, or doing all the work ourselves and losing any opportunity to develop our Iraqi partners.

In a static world of no deadlines, suspenses or timelines, the task of mentoring is less arduous.

Unfortunately, neither the environment in Iraq nor the political climate outside Iraq provides much room for miscalculations. It comes down to tough people making tough decisions to achieve and maintain the balance through turbulence and uncertainties.

Hammurabi would argue that with knowledge and identity come independence.

"If a man adopts a child, names him his son and rears him, this grown son can not be demanded back again."

Staying balanced in our approach to teaching, coaching and mentoring our Iraqi partners will help to ensure their independence and bring strength and pride back to a nation in search of its history.

Finding the right balance between teaching, coaching and mentoring the Iraq Security Forces and achieving effective, tangible results is the greatest challenge facing the men and women who serve in the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Negard
MNSTC-I Public Affairs Officer

Setting the bar for human rights standards

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Over the past year there have been a lot of reports concerning human rights in Iraq, and more specifically, on the treatment of detainees in facilities throughout the country. It seems to some in Iraq that the media reports are rarely positive on the issue and often times they cast a negative shadow over the country's army. The Iraqi Ministry of Defense Inspector General's office is determined to change that.

An example is the 3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and its Brigade Interrogation Facility in Baghdad. Located just a few miles from the now infamous Abu Ghraib facility the BIF is currently one of the cleanest and best run MOD detainee holding facilities in Iraq. According to advisors within the IG office, it is the model for which the other facilities are looking to follow throughout the country.

Dr. Kevin P. Kavanaugh, a Coalition human rights mentor, said that when the IG investigators first arrived on the scene, the facility was operating at a severely substandard level.

"When we visited the facility seven months ago, the detainees were in restraints almost 24 hours a day," Kavanaugh said. "The only time they were not blindfolded was to eat, shower or use the latrine. They were only allowed one shower a week, and there was only one latrine for 240 inmates.

This is not what you want to see as a human rights investigator."

In Iraq, unlike in the U.S., a detainee does not get formally charged until a judge has reviewed his case and determined whether he should go to trial, be released or if there is enough evidence against him to be held as a prisoner. There are time restrictions, but, according to Kavanaugh, they are very difficult to implement at this stage in Iraq's transition. Kavanaugh said they are working toward establishing a 72-hour charge, hold and release policy, but the biggest challenge has been getting judges to the facilities, due to safety concerns.

He said the Inspector General's office

one of the country's principal "rule of law" institutions. He said they have established a network with all of Iraq's 31 ministries to work together in establishing a common rule of law for the country. The IG's office also has their own separate Ministry of Human Rights, which focuses on the treatment of detainees, among other issues.

Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Ahmed, one of the IG's Human Rights investigators, said they use the Geneva Conventions as a standard for human rights inspections. He said detainees have the right to shower daily, get decent food and water and to not be abused. He said he had seen some of these basic rights denied to the detainees at the BIF during two previous inspections.

Kavanaugh admitted that he, Ahmed and his team were nervous about returning to the facility for their third visit.

"We were a little nervous as we headed out for our third visit because there had already been two harsh critiques and if there were a third one, it would be the death knell for the brigade and the facility," Kavanaugh said.

"I hate insurgents when they are outside this camp, this is true, but once they get inside my camp I follow the instructions of Mohammed and Islam on the treatment of POW's. Islam teaches that when someone gets captured he is now powerless, we have taken his power and it is our duty to take care of him just as we would one of our own."

**Iraqi Army Col. Naseem
3rd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division**

wrote prior reports on the BIF and when they returned two months later, they found that very little action had been taken.

"The Brigade had taken limited action to resolve these issues," Kavanaugh said. "The inmates were able to stand and move around and we found no clear signs of physical abuse. There were certainly signs of mental abuse and anguish due to being blindfolded all of the time and in such tight proximity with each other."

According to Dr. Kavanaugh, the IG's office, with the exception of two Coalition advisors, is entirely operated by Iraqis and is

He said that what he found were remarkable improvements thanks to the joint efforts of the new brigade commander, the MiTT advisor and the IG investigators.

"When we found out there was a new commander, we thought we would be starting from scratch," Kavanaugh said, "but we found out that this commander has a clear strategic vision for his brigade and for the BIF. He is engaged and cares about human rights and it has made a 180-degree difference in the facility."

See HUMAN RIGHTS, Page 5

MASCAL tests Iraqi medical team readiness

By U.S. Air Force
Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — Medical personnel believe this is where the “rubber meets the road” – saving lives during a mass casualty event. A mass casualty, or MASCAL, is when an event, terrorist or natural disaster for instance, creates a large number of casualties.

To prepare for such an event, a MASCAL exercise was conducted for Basic Medic Course students at the Iraqi Army Service and Support Institute in Taji, Aug. 10.

For IASSI BMC students, this was the first time they were able to put their five-weeks of training to the test, making the MASCAL exercise an essential part of their curriculum.

“The goal of this MASCAL is to culminate all the skills students have been taught and put it into practice during a complex medical situation or scenario,” said U.S. Army Maj. Mark Cannon, IASSI Medical Team officer in charge. “And it’s done under a stressful situation,” he said.

The morning started off with a bit of anxiety for the students who were prepping for the MASCAL; but with equipment and gear in hand, student medics ran to take on the accident scene as a loud shout echoed, “man down,” and a ball of smoke hovered over the BMC facility – signifying the kick-off of the exercise.

Their scenario was to evacuate



A Basic Medic Course student poses as a victim of a bomb attack and receives medical care during a mass casualty exercise in Taji, Iraq, Aug. 10.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman

IASSI Basic Medic Course Students prepare to transport a patient, who was injured during a mock building explosion, to a safer area for medical care during a mass casualty exercise Aug. 10 in Taji. Student medics posed as casualties for the exercise, which culminated the five-weeks of medical training for BMC students who graduated Aug. 12.

casualties who were in an unsafe building that was damaged by an improvised explosive device.

The students were paired into four teams – 10 students in each team were used as casualties and five administered medical care. Each team was assigned a team leader who was the triage nurse or practitioner.

“Although this is a training scenario, we try to push them past their normal limits, making it as close to the real thing as possible,” said Cannon. “The next time they’re faced with this situation, it could be someone’s life on the line. This will give them the tools to face that real-life scenario.”

As medics arrived on the scene, their first challenge was getting through the smoke to get to the injured. Of these, the most severe needed to be attended to first – and this too became a test.

“Their biggest challenge is recognizing the most serious of the injured, those with internal bleeding or breathing problems,” said Cannon. “The second challenge is

beginning the proper evacuating process so that the ones who need the help first are the first ones out.”

Medics were given 20 minutes to perform those tasks.

According to U.S. Army Master Sgt. James Koberg, Basic Medic Course non-commissioned officer in charge, the timeframe is a golden rule for saving lives. “If you can provide good medical care in the first 10 minutes, and evacuate the area in the next five, chances for survival are a lot greater,” he said.

“So the first 15 minutes is for survival, we give ourselves another five minutes for unforeseen emergencies,” Koberg said.

“From the time the call for help goes out, to administering medical care and evacuating the area, the entire process should not take more than 20 minutes,” he said.

Victims were relocated to a safe area for better treatment.

See MEDICAL, Page 6

Iraq's IG's office: Taking human rights seriously

From HUMAN RIGHTS, Page 3

Ahmed and Kavanaugh said that the BIF has passed the most stringent of the Geneva Conventions standards, which is incorporated in the most recent Fourth Protocol.

"They still have too many detainees for the facility, (it was only designed to hold approximately 160), but they are giving them showers twice a day, feeding them three good meals a day and providing them with better facilities than some of their own (Iraqi soldiers)," Kavanaugh said.

According to Ahmed, the old BIF was simply razor wire and therefore the detainees had to be restrained almost 24 hours a day, but the new commander changed that almost immediately.

"The commander used one of his own soldier barracks to house the detainees because he thought they deserved clean, decent facilities," Ahmed said. "He put in air conditioning and made sure they had clean bathrooms."

He said this was amazing considering that the primary responsibilities of these brigades are to capture insurgents and secure this area of Baghdad for its citizens – not to maintain a detainee facility.

Iraqi Army Col. Nasseem, the brigade commander, has served in the army for more than 20 years with the majority of that time spent in special operations. He took over as the brigade commander three months ago and explained why he cares so much about the treatment of detainees.

"I hate insurgents when they are outside this camp, this is true, but once they get inside my camp I follow the instructions of Mohammed and Islam on the treatment of POW's," Nasseem said with the help of a translator. "Islam teaches that when someone gets captured he is now powerless, we have taken his power and it is our duty to take care of him just as we would one of our own."

Nasseem said that he makes sure his soldiers treat the detainees properly and with human dignity. "We serve them the same food we serve our soldiers, we allow them to practice their religion based on their beliefs, our brigade doctor visits with them regularly and provides them with medication, and we are one of the first camps to open the facility to family visits," Nasseem said.

According to MiTT- BIF Advisor, U.S. Army Capt. David Pate, the family visits have helped change the way Iraqis in the area treat the Iraqi soldiers.

"Before they opened the family visits, there had been a bad (perception) of the Iraqi Army and their conduct toward those who get

detained," Pate said, but after we opened the visits we have noticed that some of the citizens have changed their minds completely."

Nasseem agreed and said that some families had a hard time recognizing their sons.

"Some families have come to visit their sons and found them in such good condition that they did not recognize them; they said their sons had become fat," Nasseem said. "This particular family saw first hand that we are following the law in respect to treating people humanely and they became convinced of the differences between the new army and the terrorists."

Nasseem said this change in the public's view of the army means they are now more receptive to turning terrorists in. He said this is only part of the overall plan to stop the violence in Iraq but it is a vitally important one nonetheless.

"Having good relations with citizens is not the only measure of success in this area, we have to secure the area first, then we can show that we treat all with respect," Nasseem said. "Our

goal is to be the best in the fight and the best example of the values of human rights and we are very close to achieving both of those goals."

Nasseem, Ahmed, Kavanaugh and Pate all say the beliefs of ethical treatment of detainees and concerns for human rights are spreading throughout Iraq.

"We still have some issues with accountability due to the security situations but things are changing for the better, Kavanaugh said. "The Defense Minister is taking human rights violations very seriously and is not afraid to make an example of anyone, and the Iraqi Army is holding commanders accountable as well."

Kavanaugh said this is important because the Iraqi people need to be able to trust the Iraqi army as an institution. He said the next steps are continued human rights education throughout the services, command emphasis, more policy and regulations followed closely by enforcement mechanisms to maintain a high standard of accountability and responsibility across the MOD. He said they are finalizing the Iraqi equivalent to the U.S. military's Uniformed Code of Military Justice, which will give impetus to holding everyone accountable in the Iraqi Army, Navy and Air Forces.

Nasseem said given a little more time, he believes the Iraqi Army will be the forerunners when it comes to human rights.

"I ask the Americans and the rest of the world to be patient with us, give us a little more time and we will rise to the standard," Nasseem said. "To the Iraqi people I say be patient with us as well. The price of democracy and freedom is a lot of sacrifice, but the good solutions are coming soon, so please be patient."

"Our goal is to be the best in the fight and the best example of the values of human rights and we are very close to achieving both of those goals."

Iraqi Army Col. Nasseem

16 graduate Iraq's Inspector General course

By Ann Bertucci
CPATT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Upholding a commitment to combat and eliminate corruption from its police forces, Iraq's Ministry of Interior graduated 16 students from the first Inspector General's Investigation course Aug. 10.

The graduates were honored in a ceremony held in the newly constructed High Institute of Training at the Baghdad Police College.

The event, attended by several Ministry of Interior officials and Coalition representatives, included recognition of the class valedictorian, a keynote address by the Inspector General, presentation of certificates, and administration of the Ministry of Interior oath to all graduates.

The Office of Inspector General is an independent, objective function in the MOI serving the citizens of Iraq. Their responsibility is to investigate charges of corruption, fraud, waste, abuse and other complaints regarding MOI officials. Additionally, the unit conducts audits and evaluations to review effectiveness, efficiency and integrity of all MOI personnel and operations.

Since being appointed as the IG in January 2006, Akeel Al Taraihi, who possesses a university law degree, has worked to make the IG's office more effective and efficient. He started by weeding out unqualified personnel and instituting a new training course as a requirement for all investigators.

In his remarks to those attending the ceremony, Al Taraihi, confirmed his dedication to fighting corruption and emphasized

the importance of the work facing the new investigators.

"As Inspector General, I am determined to establish a good foundation for a new culture in Iraq – one without corruption," Al Taraihi said. "We cannot expect corruption to disappear overnight, but new criteria has been set for the Inspector General's office and this training course is an important step in that process."

The three-week course, taught by international police trainers from the U.S. Department of Justice and International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program, is designed to introduce the basic concepts of investigation and provide the skills needed to conduct the wide array of investigations handled by the IG's office.

"This course will help bring the IG's office to a higher investigative capability and ultimately a more efficient running of the Ministry of Interior," said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Kevan Kvenlog, senior advisor to the IG's office and member of MNSTC-I's Civilian Police Assistance Training Team.

"These students came in with tools. What this course did was provide them with additional tools for their tool box with an emphasis on using them in a democratic society," he concluded.

Three females, who previously completed the 10-week Basic Police Training Course in Baghdad, were included in this graduating class. The women, aged 28 – 30, have been assigned to the IG's Office of Human Rights. One female, who requested her name not be used for security reasons, expressed her enthusiasm for her new assignment.

"I love my work and am very excited to have the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills I have been taught to help protect the rights of all Iraq's citizens," she said.

Medical students prepare to take-on real-life disasters

From MEDICAL, Page 4

Triage officers determined what level of care was needed based on the severity of the patient's wounds. This is when, Koberg said, teamwork is the most important.

"The communication within the team took a while to build, but quickly, they realized without it they weren't getting things done the way the team leader needed things done," he said.

Medics performed various treatments including administering IV's and tourniquets to attending to second and third degree burns on students who posed as casualties.

Although a few students had some medical experience, the training, they said, was invaluable.

"I came into the course with some experience, but I know it's helped me to

improve on other skills," said Abed, who works as an Iraqi military police medic. Abed said when his unit heard about the BMC, they immediately signed up several MP medics for the course to improve their skills. "And it was well worth it," he expressed with the help of an interpreter.

"They taught one important thing, to save a lot by using little," Abed said. "I now know how to stop hemorrhages, calm and comfort patients who are in pain. They've strengthened our ability to save lives, and now we're more confident that we can."

According to Iraqi Brig. Gen. Wared, IASSI commander, student medics, after their graduation, will be embedded into various Iraqi Army units to care for military patients and to spread the knowledge they've gained from the course.

"Coalition forces have had a very big

impact on our students," Wared said through an interpreter. "They've kept the training standards at a high level, and in return, when our soldiers go into the field, they will perform at that high level and be strong to carry out the mission."

Although the student medics faced many challenges and made a few mistakes during the exercise, both students and instructors agreed it was an overall success.

"They were very enthusiastic, but stress caused them to be a little disorganized, but that's expected," said Cannon. "This is a learning environment, and if they did it perfectly, our scenario wasn't tough enough."

"I started this class with little (experience) and now I have much," said Abed. "I'm not scared to face any challenges in the field, they've taught me a lot of things so there is no room for fear in my heart."

Junior leaders graduate “Ranger School”

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

KIRKUK, Iraq — About 40 soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division – junior officers and NCO’s – graduated from the Junior Leaders Course Aug. 6 in Kirkuk.

This was the third iteration of the month-long course and the first to be led entirely by Iraqi instructors.

The course, officially known as the Scout Leaders Urban Combat Course, began in May when U.S. Special Forces troops saw the need for further development of the 2nd Battalion’s junior leaders. Now, with three classes down, many of the Coalition advisors involved with the course are calling it “about as close to Ranger School as you can get in Iraq.”

The top graduate, Sgt. Mohammed, said God willing, he can be as tough as a Ranger someday. “This (course) is a very good thing and we learned all these things through the Coalition,” he said. “They taught us all these new skills and now I am physically stronger, my body is getting better. Before I did only 5 push-ups and now I can do 40,” Mohammed boasted.

The course is open primarily to junior NCO’s and officers from the 2nd Battalion and covers orienteering and map reading, small-arms marksmanship, small group tactics and leadership skills.

In an army that has, for years, been officer-centric, this course is an excellent opportunity for NCO’s to take the lead, according to a Coalition advisor from the 101st Airborne Division.

Sgt. Hamid, another graduating student in the course, admitted the training wasn’t easy. “We learned how to be patient and how to deal with the hunger and the heat and learn how to be tough guys,” he said with the help of an interpreter. “The toughest time was at night time when (the instructors) would come and bother us while we were sleeping,” he said of the pre-dawn ambushes on their field camps.

The big payoff for these soldiers though, was something designed by previous graduates – a shoulder tab bearing resemblance to the



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

An Iraqi soldier reviews his graduation certificate Aug. 5 from the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division’s Junior Leader Course. Coalition advisors involved with the course say it’s as close to U.S. Army Ranger School as you’ll find in Iraq.

U.S. Army Ranger tab. The Iraqi adaptation however is emblazoned with “Nisser,” the Arabic word for “Eagle” and the moniker given to the 2nd Battalion of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Mohammed wore his tab with pride and said he will continue to set his goals high. “We learned a lot of soldier skills like conducting raids,” he reflected. “We trained a lot outdoors and handled the heat and the hunger and the tough days, and I think now that anything I want to do, I can do it.”



Graduates of the Iraqi Army Basic Training course stand in formation while reciting the Iraqi Army’s Oath of Service during a Graduation Ceremony in An Numiniyah Aug. 17. More than 700 soldiers graduated the course in Aug. 2006. The course included basic soldier skills, drill and ceremony, basic rifle marksmanship, military communication and physical fitness training.

Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Robert Bullion

Iraqi police conduct validation exercise

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Baghdad police stationed near the international airport conducted a validation exercise Aug. 10 to test their ability to react to several types of insurgent attacks.

The exercise allowed both Iraqi and Coalition evaluators to assess the reactions of the police to mortar attacks, insurgents impersonating police officers, a takeover of a police armory and a car bomb attack. The scenario included, not only mock terrorists, but also live ammunition, under controlled circumstances, “to add intensity and reality” to the validation exercise.

“We determined that they needed some very serious help here,” said Iraqi Police Liaison Officer Tad Robinette, the senior Coalition evaluator, “so we embarked on a program to conduct training about three or four times a week with the leadership and then gradually moved to the mid-level supervision.”

Robinette said the training addressed how to set up cordons, how to lead patrolmen and basically how to take charge with modern policing practices. He added that military tactics are also incorporated.

An Iraqi police officer and training instructor, who asked not to be identified, was pleased with the performance he saw during this exercise. “The last exercise was not so good,” he admitted, “but this exercise – very, very good. We reacted well to the explosions and the shooting.”

He said more policemen have been able to participate in the training since Robinette and the other IPLO’s stepped in and helped them set up a training calendar. He said the 35 policemen that tested this time around did well and that all of them need the experience of the Coalition police. “(The Iraqi police) need to get inside their head to see what they know and how they would handle a situation,” the instructor said.

But follow-through on this training seems to be the biggest challenge facing the Police, according to Robinette. “Right now we need them to continue training and drilling, but if you look at the current security situation, it’s difficult for them to get the right manpower in here to do that,” he said.

Robinette said he’d prefer to get the policemen in a controlled environment more often, so he and his team can pass control of that

training more effectively to the Iraqis, and he said, for the most part, that’s happening. The IPLO’s have put more emphasis on the Iraqis conducting their own training.

Ben Jackson, another liaison officer involved in the exercise, said the training and testing is clearly something these policemen can face everyday in Baghdad. And, like Robinette, he believes the controlled environment training is key to their success. “They’re getting better. The longer we work with them and the more training we give them, the better they’re getting,”

he said. “They have the knowledge, they just haven’t had a lot of experience putting that knowledge to use on the ground.”

Robinette said one area where he recognized the most improvement in this exercise was with the Iraqi Police command and control situation, an area they did not do as well in six months ago. “They set up a command post, they delegated responsibilities to different people in the command post, they prioritized well and then they planned their responses ... they’re getting very good at this,” he said.

The next step for these Baghdad policemen may be to hit the streets full-time

according to Robinette, but, he says, that’s not a decision that will be made lightly. “There are a lot of ideas about what happened today,” he said of the validation exercise, “and we’re going to identify the areas that they are weak in, then bring that back to the (Iraqi) training section and have them develop a plan on how they’re going to address those deficiencies.”

He said it’s very much a team effort in deciding that next step. A team of both Iraqi and Coalition, military and civilian, will determine the next move. He concedes though that this exercise went quite well for the policemen. “Because they did so well today, we’re actually going to discuss this later on with the rest of the team,” he said. “Overall, for validation, we would at this time say they are capable of defending themselves against an insurgency attack.”

The Iraqi training instructor was pleased with the team’s assessment and said that not only does it boost morale for the policemen involved, it makes a statement to the Iraqi people as a whole. “The validated policemen are proud and happy about their accomplishment. They feel they have won a battle for freedom and for the new Iraq,” he exclaimed, “and the Iraqi people will have a good future with the Iraqi Police – all of the police.”



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

Policemen from one of Baghdad’s police stations react to a mock mortar attack during a validation exercise Aug. 9. Coalition police liaison officers, along with Iraqi police instructors were on site to evaluate the policemen’s performance.

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Police conduct recruiting drive

FALLUJAH — More than 950 new Iraqi recruits will begin a 10-week Basic Police Officer training course Aug. 21.

The new recruits are the result of one of the most successful recruiting efforts this year.

The monthly drive focuses on identifying, screening and signing up local men from communities in and around the Euphrates river valley. Many of the new recruits will receive their training at the Baghdad Police College while others will attend the Jordan International Police Academy.

Upon completion of training, the recruits will return to their communities where they will serve as some of the more than 7,000 Iraqi police officers trained under the new Iraqi government.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Forces capture suspected terrorist

ASH SHARQAT — Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division, assisted by coalition advisers, conducted a raid in Ash Sharqat Aug. 17 capturing a suspected terrorist.

The suspect is believed to be responsible for several improvised explosive device attacks on Coalition forces, including one attack that killed a U.S. soldier. It is believed that his involvement in fraud, local corruption and embezzlement has been providing support to terrorist operations in the area.

No injuries or damages were reported

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Army discovers cache in mosque

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 1st Battalion, 6th Iraqi Army Division uncovered a cache while conducting a search of a mosque in the Ghazalia area of Baghdad Aug. 17.

The cache consisted of 27 hand held radios, 10 rocket propelled grenade launchers, nine AK-47 rifles, five Katushka rockets, 47 AK-47 magazines, 800 rounds of ammunition, several military style uniforms and various bomb making materials.

No injuries or damages were reported.

Iraqi Forces capture insurgent weapons dealer

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces conducted an early-morning raid Aug. 17 in the Al Rasheed district Baghdad, capturing a suspected insurgent weapons dealer.

The raid was part of the ‘Together Forward’ security plan. The suspect is believed to be responsible for transporting weapons and supplies to insurgents in Baghdad.

One insurgent was killed during the operation.

No other injuries or damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Lucia Newman

Iraqi basic medic course students perform medical treatment on fellow students who posed as victims of a building explosion during a mass casualty exercise in Taji, Aug. 10. The MASCAL ended the five-week medical course.

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi forces capture IED cell leader

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces conducted a raid Aug. 16 in Baghdad, capturing an improvised explosive device cell leader.

The suspected cell leader is believed to be responsible for the construction, emplacement, and detonation of several improvised explosive devices in the Abu Ghraib area of Baghdad.

Four additional individuals were detained during the raid.

The raid was part of the 'Together Forward' security plan.

No injuries or damages were reported

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi forces capture terrorist cell leader

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces conducted a raid August 16 in the Rasheed district, capturing a known terrorist cell leader.

The individual, known to be a former Ba'ath Party member, is suspected of leading a terrorist cell in the Al Dora area of Baghdad.

One other suspect was also detained during the raid.

The raid was part of the 'Together Forward' security plan.

No injuries or damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*

Soldiers rescue 3 kidnapped policemen

BABIL — Soldiers from 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, rescued three kidnapped Iraqi policemen Aug. 16 in a

rural area outside of Babil province.

The soldiers had been attacked by small-arms fire from four vehicles passing by their checkpoint. They returned fire, capturing two of the vehicles.

A search of the trunks of the two vehicles revealed the three police officers.

In addition one AK-47 assault rifle and one rocket-propelled grenade launcher were found.

The freed policemen reported being kidnapped from another checkpoint only minutes away from where the gunfight took place.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

Soldiers save woman from kidnapping

BAGHDAD — Soldiers from the 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division disrupted a kidnapping and rescued a woman in central Baghdad Aug. 14.

The soldiers were stationed at a traffic control point when they observed a woman being forced into a car. The soldiers fired warning shots at the kidnappers, who then returned fire at the soldiers, injuring one Iraqi citizen.

The injured Iraqi citizen was taken to a nearby hospital and the soldiers escorted the woman back to her home.

In a separate incident Iraqi Army and Coalition forces discovered a large munitions cache while conducting a cache sweep an area south of Baghdad.

The weapons cache consisted of 35 105 mm mortar rounds, three 155 mm artillery rounds, two 60 mm mortar rounds, two rockets and three small explosives.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs Office*

National police stop vehicle-borne bomb

BAGHDAD — Policemen of the 1st Brigade, 4th National Police Division working at a check point near a bridge in southeast Baghdad stopped a dump truck being driven suspiciously Aug. 14. The vehicle exploded damaging the bridge and injuring four motorists.

National police officers noticed the driver of a dump truck was handling the truck in an odd manner and stopped the truck.

The driver of the truck exited the vehicle, ran from the scene and jumped in a different vehicle. Soon after the dump truck exploded injuring four passengers in nearby vehicles. The blast punched a large hole in the bridge and destroyed several other vehicles.

The injured were taken to a nearby hospital.

— *4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Forces capture terrorists in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces raided a two-story residence in the Mansour district of west Baghdad Aug. 14, capturing two suspected terrorists.

One of the individuals is believed to be responsible for the shooting death of a U.S. soldier and an interpreter earlier in the year. No injuries or damages were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs Office*



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

A Baghdad policeman working with a quick reaction force is ready to apprehend an unsuspecting insurgent during a validation exercise in Baghdad Aug. 9. Policemen from the same team did not fair so well during a similar exercise just two months ago, but evaluators said they did extremely well this time around.