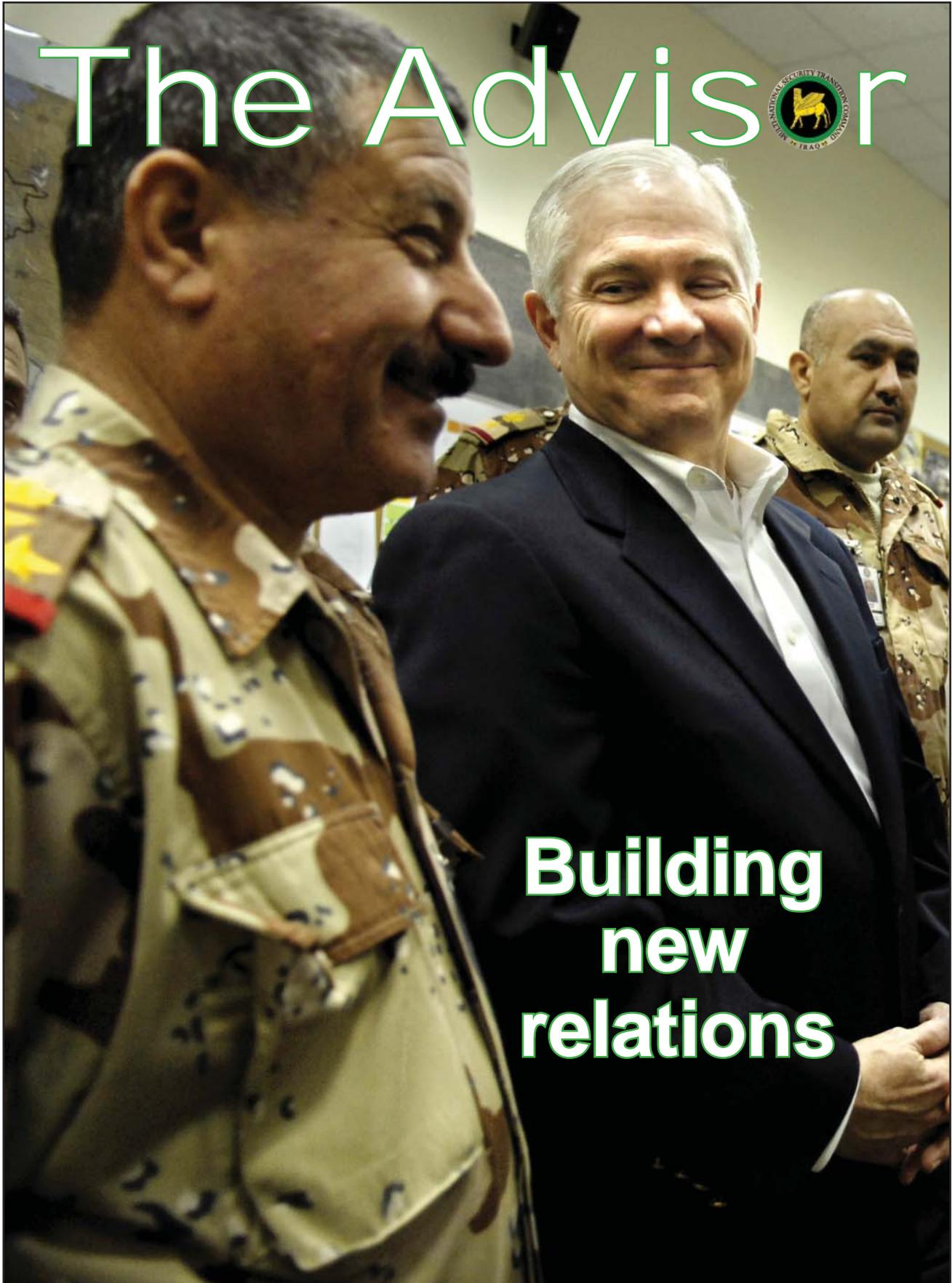


# The Advisor



**Building  
new  
relations**

## THE ADVISOR

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

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**ON THE COVER**

**Secretary of Defense Robert Gates meets with Iraqi military leaders while visiting the country for his first time as SecDef this week.**

Photo by Cherie Thurlby

# Trainers say they're pleased with Iraqi Army progress

By Kathleen T. Rhem

American Forces Press Service

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates learned from a U.S. Army officer working closely with Iraqi forces that Iraqi units are gaining confidence in their abilities and are doing more to empower noncommissioned officers.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Bob Morschauser, commander of Task Force 2-15 in the Mahmudiyah area, along with a half dozen soldiers in his unit, ate breakfast with Gates and U.S. Marine Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in Baghdad Dec. 22.

In a news conference a few hours later, Gates told reporters he was impressed and encouraged by what he heard from the soldiers. He said he was particularly encouraged by what the Soldiers described as the trust developing between American and Iraqi troops.

“Their admiration for the Iraqi soldiers that they’re working with and their belief



**Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates recently visited Iraq where he met with Coalition and Iraqi servicemembers to get his first look at the country as the new SecDef .**

that this partnering – where the Iraqis take the lead and where the Iraqis significantly outnumber the American Soldiers ... they’re being very successful,” Gates said.

**See GATES, Page 7**

## Secretary Gates' Holiday Message to the Troops

This is my first holiday season as Secretary of Defense and as one of my first acts in office, I want to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the men and women of the U.S. military and their families.

There have been many times in history when Americans in uniform spent Christmas on battlefields and were stationed at posts away from their families and far from home. As we celebrate this holiday season, hundreds of thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are serving in the combat theaters of Iraq and Afghanistan, in places like Korea and Kosovo, and on ships and submarines at sea around the world.

This week, I had the opportunity to visit with U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq. I came away impressed and inspired by their love of country and dedication to duty. They are serving under difficult circumstances, and that can be especially hard this time of year.

In future weeks and months, I look forward to meeting many more of you – America’s servicemen and women – and having a chance to hear from you directly and to thank you personally for your service to our country.

I hope that all of you who are putting your lives at risk every day for our country feel the pride, affection and admiration of your fellow citizens.

It is your courage that preserves the freedom we inherited from our forefathers. It is your sacrifice and that of your predecessors that enables Americans to enjoy a safe and peaceful holiday.

Know that there are millions of Americans you have never met who are thinking of you and praying for you – for your safety; for your families; and for your success. Have a safe and happy holiday. God bless you.

# Q & A ■ Iraqi Ministry of Defense ■ Director of Infrastructure

**M**r. Safa Mohamed Mahmood Shihab joined the Ministry of Defense in early 2004 as an engineer working on the ministry's infrastructure challenges. Since then, he has steadily taken on more responsibility, and was recently appointed as the Director of Infrastructure.

The Directorate of Infrastructure was one of the first directorates within the MOD having been created in May 2004. DOI works closely with the MOD headquarters staff and the staffs of the Iraqi Army, Air Force and Navy, as well as Iraqi Special Operations Forces, to determine property and facility requirements.

Mr. Safa's main focus is to develop and manage projects to build and maintain military camps and to repair Ministry properties in order to provide adequate accommodations for the Ministry's civilian and military employees.

*The Advisor* sat down with Mr. Safa recently to learn more about his goals and the work of the department he leads.

**Q:** How do you prioritize the many new infrastructure and maintenance projects facing the Ministry of Defense?

**A:** We are giving our priorities to the various headquarters – the ground forces, the air force and the navy – in addition to the other organizations. We meet regularly with the representatives of the forces and the organizations to ensure we are meeting their needs. For instance, we are meeting today with the Special Forces to give priorities to the projects for 2007 and the 5 year plan.

**What are some of the goals and**

*“My vision (for the future) is that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense is one of the best MODs in the world.”*

**Mr. Safa Mohamed Mahmood Shihab**  
Director of infrastructure, Iraqi Ministry of Defense



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

**the end-state of the 5-year plan?**

Among our goals are to prepare a budget and form the Iraqi government in order to prepare the resources for us.

**You seem to have many challenges. What is the greatest challenge you and your team face?**

One of the most difficult parts of the job is the contracting process. For instance, in Al Anbar province, which is a very hot area, I have a project to establish accommodations for the soldiers in one of our camps there. Iraqi law states that in order to do this project, three companies should come forward to compete for the work. Because it is a hot area, sometimes we cannot, [and] only one company comes forward to (bid on the) project.

We are now working on exceptions to policy for this (type of situation).

**On a personal note, why did you join the Ministry of Defense?**

I was a student at the college of engineers. My goal was to join the Iraqi Army as an engineer. After the liberation of Iraq, my dream came true and I got a job with the (Coalition Provisional Authority). I achieved my goal to be able to give something to my country and my people and I am so happy to do that.

**Looking into the future, five or ten years from now, what do you envision the Ministry of Defense and the forces looking like?**

My vision is that the Iraqi Ministry of Defense is one of the best MODs in the world.

**Is there one project that makes you most proud?**

We have established the base at Umm Qasr – it is the backbone of the Iraqi Navy. Also, the guard towers protecting the oil pipelines because that relates to the economy of Iraq. Soon, the military hospital will be done. These are the projects I am most proud of. ■

# Medics treat Baghdad cops in exercise

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

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Police officers from the 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi National Police Division were the recipients of a bonus during a training exercise Dec. 21 for the brigade's medics. For their participation as willing patients for the exercise, the police officers received one-on-one visits with an Iraqi physician and had a medical record started, which was a first for many of the officers.

The medical check-ups were part of the brigade's internal assessment of how well the medics can handle a large flow of patients, as well as setting the groundwork toward moving into a brand-new medical clinic at the same location, which will be operational at the beginning of the year. The brigade also brought in a doctor to assist with the examinations and with establishing medical documentation on the unit's officers.

"I want to do this every month," said Iraqi National Police Sgt. Waleed, the unit's medical noncommissioned officer, who has been serving with the unit for more than two years. "The collection of the medical records here was very helpful for the future ... when we move into the new clinic."

In addition to creating medical records, the doctor working with Waleed during the



**National Police Sgt. Waleed, the 2nd Brigade, 6th Division medical NCO, gives a police officer an immunization Dec. 21 during an exercise at the Brigade headquarters in Baghdad.**



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

**An Iraqi physician conducts a check-up on a member of the Iraqi National Police Dec. 21 at the 2nd Brigade, 6th Division National Police headquarters. The officers received check-ups as part of an exercise.**

exercise evaluated the patients by asking a few questions about their general health. He also checked their blood pressure and assessed their heartbeats before determining if any additional treatment was necessary. From there, each patient went to Waleed to receive any medication or immunizations he might need. Otherwise, they were sent back to duty.

"(Our) goals and objectives concerning the exercise were met and exceeded," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Hugh Conlon IV, the Coalition medical advisor who has been working with Waleed to build up the medical capabilities of the brigade. This exercise will set the brigade's medics up for success once the move to the new clinic occurs, he said.

"The new facility will allow us to create a continuity of care for the police that doesn't exist right now," Conlon said. "By establishing a single location, the battalion and brigade medics can come here for training."

The new clinic will feature a securable

storage space for medical supplies, a lab set up to conduct blood tests, urinalysis and initial work-ups, and a pharmacy that will give the brigade medics more capabilities to treat the force, Conlon said. However, before moving into the new facility, the medics wanted to establish procedures and create medical records so they could hit the ground running.

"We also plan to hire a full-time physician to work with the brigade medics to ensure police officers get the care they need to keep the mission going," Waleed said.

Waleed put together this medical capabilities exercise, with Conlon's assistance, to develop procedures for organizing the flow of patients and for screening them without becoming overwhelmed by the sheer numbers. They also purchased medical supplies and immunizations specifically for the exercise.

**See MEDICS, Page 7**

# An Najaf now under provincial Iraqi control

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

**NAJAF, Iraq** — The security and governance of nearly 1 million An Najaf citizens was officially transferred to provincial Iraqi control in a ceremony Dec. 20 in southern Iraq.

“Today we are saying ‘no’ to sectarianism and ‘no’ to terrorism and ‘yes’ for peace and ‘yes’ for freedom and ‘yes’ for democracy,” said As’ad Abu-Galal al-Taai, the governor of An Najaf province, to a crowd of several hundred Iraqis gathered in the city’s soccer stadium.

In June 2005, Iraq’s prime minister announced a joint decision between the Iraqi government and Multi-National Force – Iraq to systematically hand over security responsibilities of Iraq’s provinces to provincial civil authorities under the control of each province’s governor.

“This is a terrific success for Iraq,” said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, deputy commanding general – support for Multi-National Division – Baghdad. “It is a major step forward in improving security and strengthening the authority of Iraq.”

An Najaf is Iraq’s fourth largest province and the third of Iraq’s 18 provinces to be transferred to provincial Iraqi control. The Coalition transferred full control to the provinces of Al Muthanna and Dhi Qar earlier this year. Since then, local police and military forces have had full responsibility for security with little Coalition assistance.

“I am proud of you as we assume control of our destiny,” As’ad said. “With the help of the people, we will have security as promised by the constitution and the elections. This is a day of celebration.”

For three-and-a-half years, the Iraqi people in An Najaf worked alongside



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bryan Beach

**Iraqi police officers carry posters of Iraq’s President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki before a crowd of hundreds during the Provincial Iraqi Control ceremony in Najaf Dec. 20.**

Coalition forces training, equipping and mentoring the police and army to take responsibility for the security and enforcement of rule of law.

“Transferring the security for An Najaf is an indication of the increased capability of the Iraq Police and the Iraqi Army,” Brooks said. “Their capabilities grow every day and civil governance will take the lead for providing the provinces security enforcement needs.”

Najaf, the capital of An Najaf province, is approximately 100 miles south of Baghdad. It is home to one of Islam’s holiest sites – the Imam Ali Shrine. The shrine is the burial site of Imam Ali Ibn Abi Taleb, the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad and a celebrated caliph, or head of state. Every year, nearly 1 million Shia Muslims make a pilgrimage to Najaf. It is estimated

that only Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia receive more Muslim pilgrims.

“More pilgrims will be able to enjoy An Najaf’s religious sites through its protected roadways and airport,” said Brooks. “In turn, this will continue stability and increase the quality of life for all residents.”

Shia religious activities were severely restricted under Saddam Hussein’s regime and observances such as Ashura have only recently been allowed thanks to the democratically elected Iraqi government. Ashura is a Shia religious ceremony mourning the death of Imam Ali, held each year at the conclusion of the Hajj season.

With the change in status, Coalition forces are helping local police and the Iraqi military take full control of security in the region.

“I am proud of the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army as they now assume full responsibility for all law enforcement and security activities in the An Najaf province,” Brooks said. “It will be the citizens of An Najaf who must also work with the police to maintain and build upon safe communities, and to enjoy the blessings of peace. The future of Iraq depends on its people.”

*“Today we are saying ‘no’ to sectarianism and ‘no’ to terrorism and ‘yes’ for peace and ‘yes’ for freedom and ‘yes’ for democracy.”*

**As’ad Abu-Galal al-Taai**  
Governor of Najaf Province

# Mahmudiyah takes pride in market renovation

By Norris Jones  
Gulf Region Central District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — One of the top priorities for the mayor of Mahmudiyah is rebuilding his city's downtown market, which has been the target of numerous insurgent attacks during the past year. Toward that effort, the mayor has teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a \$245,000 project to rebuild the area.

The project includes the construction of new market stalls with overhead cover, and renovating storefronts along the street that have been damaged by bomb blasts and small-arms fire. That work includes new doors, windows, stucco and paint, as well as new gates at each entrance of the market.

"It's the heart of our community," said Mayor Muayid Fadhil. "We are going to build a new market as a memorial to those innocent men, women and children who have been killed there. It will tell the insurgents we will never give up, they cannot stop us."

About 100,000 residents in the Mahmudiyah area – located 20 miles south of Baghdad – use the market, and local farmers bring in their produce and meat for local consumption. It's a main economic engine of the community, the mayor noted, "and our residents really appreciate the improvements that are underway."

Maj. Steve Martinelli from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said the market is a gathering place where families interact. "It's a source of community pride and provides a semblance of normalcy that's great to see," he said.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Robert Morschauer, a task force commander from the 10th Mountain Division, agrees and points out the market renovation clearly demonstrates that Mahmudiyah's democratically elected government is working and improvements are taking place.

"Those officials are listening to



U.S. Army photo

**Hundreds of families visit the Mahmudiyah Market every day to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and other staples. The facility is undergoing a major renovation, including new stalls and overhead cover, and is expected to be completed in February.**

their townspeople and getting things done," Morschauer said. "We've talked to the shopkeepers and they're very happy with what's going on. This is an excellent example that Iraqi officials are in the lead."

A number of other projects are now underway in Mahmudiyah, including a new primary healthcare center, school renovations, new power lines, and renovation of the water treatment plant and pump station. The community is also

planning to build a park a few blocks from the market that will feature an amphitheater and soccer field.

Regarding the importance of such projects, Mayor Muayid concluded, "We have to fight terrorism in different ways. We need to offer alternative activities for our children that will keep them away from the insurgents."

The Mahmudiyah market renovation project is expected to be completed by February 2007.

*"It's the heart of our community. We are going to build a new market as a memorial to those innocent men, women and children who have been killed there. It will tell the insurgents we will never give up, they cannot stop us."*

**Muayid Fadhil**  
Mayor of Mahmudiyah

# Medical exercise benefits police officers

## From MEDICS, Page 4

The fact that over 125 police officers had an opportunity to be seen by a doctor and given medicine to treat ailments was a great side benefit, Conlan said.

"When people apply to join the National Police, there is no medical vetting process," he said. "Many of these police officers have not had any medical care before they joined the police force, so this is a great chance for a doctor to get a look at them and make sure they are healthy."

The effort put out by the medics was not missed by the police officers who received check-ups as part of their "participation" in the exercise.

"I really like this. I'm glad they are doing this," Iraqi National Police Sgt. Sami said through an interpreter while standing in line to be seen by the doctor. "All of my (police officers) go out on patrol for long shifts and they are tired when they get back. They don't really have a chance to go see doctors, so the fact that they are doing this here is good."

While Sami was impressed with the new program the medics were putting together, he was troubled by the fact that they did not have the capability to treat

traumatic injuries. He was appreciative of the medic's effort to do what they could to take care of officers, but wished there was a safer system in place for officers who are seriously hurt on the job to go to a safe place and receive proper care.

"One of my guys got hurt by an explosion," he said, pointing to another officer in line walking with a noticeable limp and being held-up by other officers in line. "He can't get treatment downtown because it's very dangerous for us there."

When officers are severely hurt, they receive limited treatment at the brigade's current make-shift clinic, a one room facility that has only one bed and a desk. If the injured officer can't be treated there, he is transported by ambulance with a security escort to a civilian facility to receive further treatment, Conlan said. This is one reason why the new clinic is so important, he said. It may not feature an operating room, but it does allow the medics many more options in terms of treating injuries that they never had before.

Despite the challenges, however, Sami doesn't second-guess his decision to serve his people. "I want to defend my country and take care of my brothers. That is why I joined."



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson  
**An Iraqi physician prepares to check the heartbeat of an Iraqi National Police officer during a medical exercise in Baghdad Dec. 21. The exercise tested the Brigade medics' ability to organize various medical operations within the headquarters.**

# Gates gets Iraqi military assessment from trainers

## From GATES, Page 2

The U.S. Soldiers "described these Iraqi soldiers as being very brave and very willing to be aggressive," Gates said.

"I found all of that very encouraging, in terms of the overall strategy as we move forward, of the Iraqis taking the lead with us in a support role," he said.

Gates touted the value of having larger units working closely with Iraqis rather than the smaller teams that have been the norm until recently. "It's a unit that brings all kinds of resources to help the Iraqis, not just the training, but intelligence and so on, and (the U.S. Soldiers of TF 2-15) seem to think that that's really the way to go," he said.

Pace also said he was encouraged by progress among Iraqi military leaders. "I

was impressed this time with the growing confidence of the Iraqi leaders in themselves and in each other," he said during the conference.

Morschauser said he briefed Gates on "the importance of continued training and support of the Iraqi Army and the definite improvements we've seen over the past few months."

Morschauser's 400-man task force is embedded with the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division. They are spread throughout the brigade and in each battalion. They live and work with their Iraqi counterparts.

Since his unit has been embedded with this Iraqi unit, Morschauser said he has seen significant improvements in how well they execute military tactics, techniques and procedures.

Morschauser said he believes the 4th

Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division will be able to handle their own missions within a year.

One challenge in bringing Iraqi units up to speed is in getting them to properly use noncommissioned officers. "It's a very officer-centric army, and what we're trying to do is to push them to get them to use their noncommissioned officers more," Morschauser said. "They've got some great noncommissioned officers; they just don't utilize them as well as we do."

He said many older officers resist this change, "but there are definitely moderates," he said. "You see some enlightened officers."

Secretary Gates said he would seek further advice on the issue from senior commanders, "but certainly this unit felt the way they were doing it was working, and they seem very content with it."

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### ISF conducts operations against illegal group

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Special Operations Forces, with Coalition advisors, conducted operations in Sadr City Dec. 22 to capture suspects of an illegal armed group. The group allegedly planned and conducted violent criminal activity responsible for the injury and death of Iraqi civilians.

The group also allegedly facilitated punishment committees engaged in illegal trials of Iraqi civilians who are kidnapped, tried and sentenced without any legitimate governmental authority.

During the operation, a vehicle approached Iraqi forces at high-speed. The driver ignored warnings to stop and displayed hostile intent by continuing to approach. Iraqi soldiers fired on and disabled the vehicle.

The soldiers wounded and captured three suspected terrorists during the operation, including the driver of the vehicle.

One additional suspect was detained for further questioning.

No Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### ISF captures terrorists during raid

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Police Special Forces, with Coalition advisors, captured four suspected terrorist cell members and detained three other suspects Dec. 21 in Jabella, a town located south of Baghdad.

The suspects were allegedly responsible for attacks against Iraqi police, Iraqi soldiers and Coalition forces.

There were outstanding Ministry of Interior arrest warrants for the captured suspects.

There was minimal damage and no civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### Iraqi soldiers capture al-Qaida cell leaders

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 5th Iraqi Army Division, with Coalition advisors, captured two suspected leaders of an al-Qaida in Iraq cell and detained one other suspect Dec. 21 east of Baqubah.

The cell leaders were allegedly responsible for multiple bombing and small-arms attacks against civilians and security forces in the area.

The al-Qaida in Iraq leaders allegedly conducted several improvised explosive device attacks against Iraqi Security Forces and attacks on the homes and stores of Iraqi civilians. They were also suspected of being involved in an IED attack on the Mandali courthouse.

The cell leaders were also implicated in an assassination attempt against a senior Iraqi police officer.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by James Bullinger

## Caring for the future

More than 70 children participated in a community celebration at the Basrah Children's Hospital recently. The celebration marked the re-commencement of construction on the hospital that will focus on pediatric oncology. Dignitaries from the Government of Iraq, local government officials and community residents participated in the event.

## IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

### IA Captures leader of insurgent cell

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division, with Coalition advisors, captured a suspected leader of an insurgent cell and detained two other suspects Dec. 21 in Taji. The cell leader was allegedly responsible for coordinating small-arms, car bombing and improvised explosive device attacks on Iraqi and Coalition forces convoys in the Taji and Tarmiyah areas.

The alleged insurgent leader was also implicated in the involvement of illegal checkpoint operations and small-arms attacks against Iraqi civilians.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.  
— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

### ISF detains AQIZ cell suspects

**BAGHDAD** — Iraqi Special Operations Forces, with Coalition advisors, detained four suspects of an al-Qaida in Iraq cell Dec. 21 in the Rashid area of Baghdad. The group was allegedly responsible for the deaths of Iraqi civilians and security forces in the area.

The cell allegedly used improvised explosive devices and coordinated small-arms attacks to help facilitate violence in southern Baghdad and to threaten the local populace.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

### **Graduation day**

**Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Mahde presents a certificate to an Iraqi medic who completed a medical program at Ibn Sina hospital in Baghdad Dec. 21. The students worked side-by-side with Coalition medical professionals to get an understanding of western medicine and capabilities.**

### Iraqi police defuse car bomb

**MAHMUDIYAH** — Iraqi police discovered and dismantled a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device Dec. 21 in Mahmudiyah.

The police investigated the car bomb after local residents reported a suspicious vehicle near the market. The police disarmed the bomb and dismantled the components to render the bomb safe.

The car bomb was composed of 10 57 mm anti-aircraft artillery rounds wired into the doors and trunk.

— *2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Div. Public Affairs*

### Iraqi Army discovers cache, kills seven

**BAQUBAH** — Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division, supported by Coalition advisors, killed seven terrorists, detained three suspected terrorists and discovered a cache while conducting operations in the Chubianat area of Baqubah Dec. 19.

While conducting ongoing operations to eliminate terrorists and insurgents from the Baqubah area, Iraqi soldiers were involved in several small-arms fire attacks. Insurgent forces killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded seven.

With assistance from a Coalition air weapons team, seven insurgents were killed and an additional three suspected insurgents were detained.

While conducting patrols, Iraqi soldiers discovered a cache consisting of rocket-propelled grenades, mortar rounds, mortar fuses and other improvised explosive device material.

A Coalition forces explosive ordinance disposal unit conducted a controlled detonation.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

### Car bomb discovered near Mahmudiyah

**MAHMUDIYAH** — Soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division responded to a report of an improvised explosive device Dec. 19 based on a tip from a local citizen.

A local Iraqi man said he had gone to his vehicle and found an unfamiliar object on the passenger seat. Iraqi soldiers cordoned off the area, working with the Mahmudiyah police force, and disabled the wires on the package.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

### National Police detain 12 at power plant facility

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from the 6th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division detained 12 men on Dec. 19, suspected of sectarian murders at a power plant facility in the Jazeera neighborhood.

The raid was based on tips from local residents.

The Iraqi National Police were attacked by small-arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices during the operation. Two vehicles were damaged.

The 12 suspects were held for further questioning regarding their roles in sectarian murders in the al-Doura area of the Iraqi capital.

— *2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Div. Public Affairs*