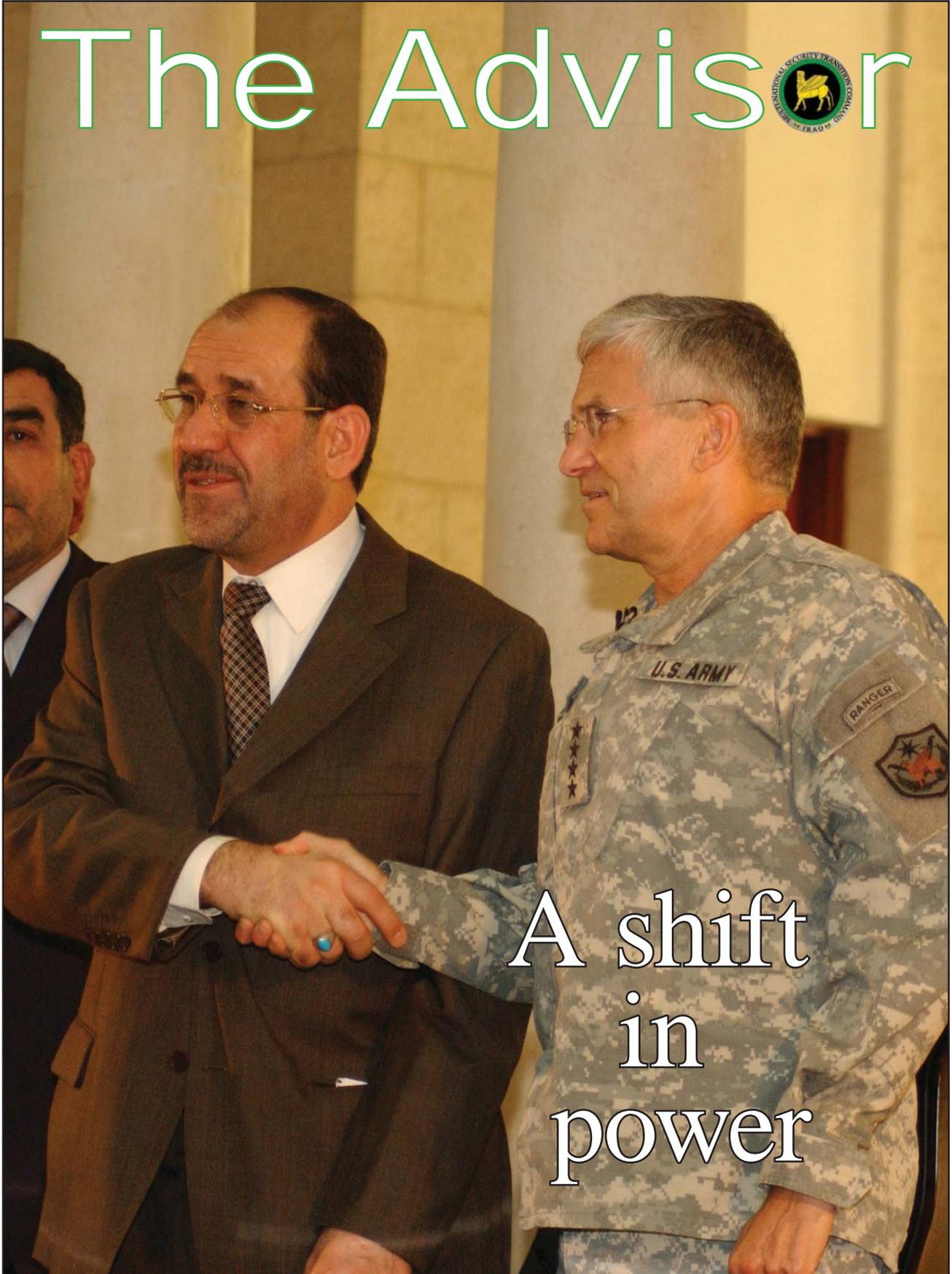


The Advisor



A shift
in
power

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

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., commander of the Multi-National Force – Iraq, shake hands during a ceremony in Baghdad Sept. 7.

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

Bush underscores importance of Iraq in the war on terror

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Although some people may call the war in Iraq a diversion from the war on terror, terrorists disagree, and they recognize that their long-term success or failure hinges on what happens in Iraq, President Bush said Sept. 7 during an address in Marietta, Ga.

Speaking to the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, Bush offered his fourth major address within the past week about the war on terror, discussing the importance of Iraq and reaffirming his commitment to stay the course until achieving victory there.

“Osama bin Laden has proclaimed that the third world war is raging in Iraq,” Bush said. “Al-Qaida leaders have declared that Baghdad will be the capital of the new ‘caliphate’ that they wish to establish across the broader Middle East.”

One need only consider the terrorists’ investment in Iraq to know the stakes, Bush said. “It’s hard to believe that extremists would make large journeys across dangerous borders to endure heavy fighting and to blow themselves up on the streets of Baghdad for a so-called ‘diversion,’” the president said. “The terrorists know that the outcome in the war on terror will depend on the outcome in Iraq. And so, to protect our citizens, the free world must succeed in Iraq.”

He cited progress in Iraq as Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s unity government fights al-Qaida and the enemies of Iraq’s fledgling democracy. “They’re taking increasing responsibility for the security of their free country,” he said.

The president acknowledged that the fighting in Iraq “has been difficult and it has been bloody,” and he praised the servicemembers who are carrying it out.

“We see that full measure and the strength of this nation in the men and women in uniform who fight this war and who have given their lives in the cause of liberty and freedom,” Bush said.

He recognized U.S. Army 1st Lt. Noah Harris, who died June 18 in Baqubah,

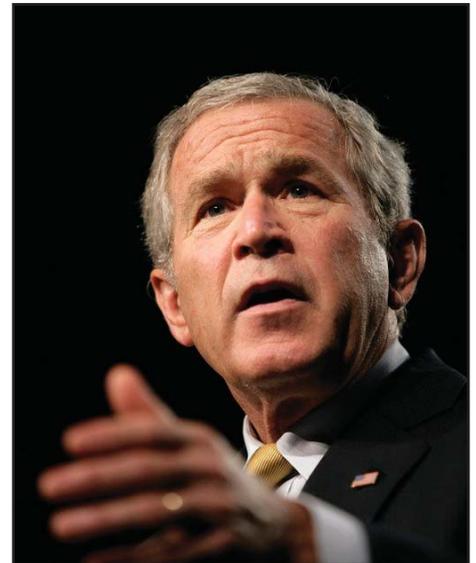


Photo by Eric Draper

U.S. President George W. Bush delivers his remarks on the global war on terror during a visit to Marietta, Ga., Sept. 7. During his speech Bush stressed the importance of Iraq in the war on terror.

Iraq, as an example of those soldiers and their sacrifice.

Harris, 23, joined the Army after the Sept. 11 attacks. “He told his dad that people had an obligation to serve a cause higher than themselves,” Bush said.

“In Iraq, Harris was an officer known for his toughness and his skill in battle and for the Beanie Babies that he carried with him to hand out to the Iraqi children,” the president said.

“Harris understood the stakes in Iraq,” Bush said. “He knew that to protect his loved ones at home, America must defeat our enemies overseas.”

Bush said Harris understood the importance of seeing the mission through in Iraq. “If America pulls out of Iraq before the Iraqis can defend themselves, the terrorists will follow us here,” the president said.

“The best way to honor the memory of brave Americans like Harris is to complete the mission they began,” Bush said. “So we will stay, we will fight and we will win in Iraq.”

Iraq assumes operational control of military

By U.S. Navy

Journalist 2nd Class John J. Pistone
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — For the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, the Iraqi prime minister, through the Iraqi minister of defense, has operational control of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command, including one army division – the 8th Iraqi Army Division – and the country's air force and navy.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki officially took control in a ceremony in Baghdad Sept. 7.

Before the ceremony, Iraqi forces received commands from Coalition forces. Now the chain of command runs from al-Maliki, through the minister of defense and the Joint Forces Headquarters, to the Iraqi Ground Forces Command Headquarters, down to the division and the individual soldier.

The Iraqi prime minister said the ceremony was a historic event.

"It's a great and happy day in the history of Iraqis," al-Maliki said during his speech.

U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of Multi-National Force – Iraq, agreed with the prime minister.

"It's fitting I follow the commander in chief of the Iraqi forces," Casey said. "From today forward, the Iraqi military



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Iraqi Army Gen. Babiker Zabari, the commander of the Iraqi Joint Forces, review troops as they arrive for a transfer of authority ceremony in Baghdad Sept. 7.



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

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., commander of the Multi-National Force – Iraq, sign official documents during a ceremony in Baghdad Sept. 7. The ceremony marked the transfer of operational control of the Iraqi Ground Forces, navy and air force from the Coalition to the Iraqi Prime Minister.

responsibilities will be increasingly conceived and led by the Iraqis. Today is an important milestone, but we still have a way to go," he said.

Casey also promised to continue to fight alongside his Iraqi counterparts to protect the Iraqi people, wherever they are threatened.

According to Coalition spokesman Army Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, as Iraqi Security Forces continue to assume the lead, they're also setting the conditions to allow for provincial Iraqi control. Provincial Iraqi control refers to civil authorities in each province assuming independent governance and civil security duties.

He said Coalition forces are transferring operational control to Iraqis throughout the country as the security environment and their capabilities improve. Currently, six of 10 Iraqi army divisions are in the lead in their areas of operations, with 26 brigades and 88 battalions in the lead. More Iraqi army divisions are expected to follow the 8th Division in the coming months.

"This event shows progress as we move forward with the Iraqi Army's capabilities,"

Caldwell said. "It's the one event that puts the prime minister directly in the operational control of his military forces as his role as the commander in chief."

During his speech, the prime minister painted a picture of what he believes Iraq's military will be like in the future.

"We will have a very active army that will continue in its mission," al-Maliki said, "our army will rely on proper training, high values and move away from sectarian violence."

Al-Maliki also issued a warning to terrorists and insurgents.

"By taking this step forward we are again challenging terrorism," al-Maliki said. "And to the terrorists, wherever you are, I say, 'we will see that your punishment is swift.'"

The event concluded with a "passing of the flag" ceremony and al-Maliki and Casey signing the official documents giving the prime minister operational control of the Iraqi Ground Forces.

Both Iraqi and Coalition advisors agreed that this was a great day for Iraq and that the day's event made for a brighter future for all Iraqis.

Making a difference in basic training

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronda Jordan
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

Kirkush, Iraq — No matter what army you belong to, five a.m. comes early. The Iraqi soldiers in basic and military specialty training at Kirkush Military Training Base are like any other – a little slow getting out of bed. Also like in other armies a few drill instructors are always there to help with the early morning process.

The first order of business is normally physical training. In their new summer PT uniforms, the soldiers quickly gained motivation as they moved through the traditional exercises of army PT, and a few unique ones as well. The new exercises focused on teamwork and quick reaction skills. These new exercises were developed by the all Iraqi training staff of the 1st Battalion.

Iraqi Army Sgt. Achmed is one such trainer at the installation. He joined the army more than two years ago and explains his reason for joining.

“I joined because I love my country,” he said with the help of an interpreter.

Achmed is not the only member of his family to join the Iraqi Security Forces. He has two brothers serving in Fallujah and another at KMTB.

Achmed completed basic training at KTMB and now he is

a marksmanship instructor specializing in the AK-47 assault rifle – the staple of the Iraqi Army. He helps the soldiers work on their basic rifle marksmanship. On the range he teaches soldiers how to reposition themselves into good firing positions, work on steady breathing, trigger squeeze, and sighting techniques.

Although he wishes he could be on the front lines, he wants to keep training soldiers for the Iraqi Army and

hopes to continue to move up in the ranks. He knows he is making a difference in KMTB by training the new soldiers to be better fighters against insurgents.

“I want to help build up the new Iraqi army – to destroy the insurgents and to finish them all,” Achmed said.

He has lost two cousins to insurgents and said it is very dangerous for him to be a part of the Iraqi Army. When

he has the opportunity to go home, he doesn't go outside his house for fear of being killed for joining the army, but he says that will not stop him.

“I don't give up and I love my country and my army,” Achmed said.

In addition to regular basic training and specialty courses, KMTB and other training bases are expected to train an additional 30,000 recruits as part of the Iraqi Army's basic training expansion. Therefore, it appears that Achmed and his fellow instructors will be very busy in the coming months.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronda Jordan

Iraqi basic training soldiers perform sit-ups as part of their daily physical fitness training at Kirkush Military Training Base Sept. 6. In addition the soldiers are also required to do push-ups, run several miles and endure multiple stretching exercises daily during their basic training.

“I want to help build up the new Iraqi army – to destroy the insurgents and to finish them all.”

Iraqi Army Sgt. Achmed

Iraq's version of the FBI gets a new tool to fight

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — As one would expect, the fight against the insurgency and terrorism seems to be priority number one in Iraq. One of the biggest challenges facing the Iraqi Security Forces, and more specifically the Ministry of Interior, has been the ability to adequately collect, analyze and disseminate data throughout the country. In an ongoing effort to overcome this obstacle Iraq's National Information and Investigation Agency has recently added a new tool in it's arsenal of counter-insurgency weapons – the Memex system.

The NIIA, an agency within the MOI, is much like the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the U.S. While the primary mission of the NIIA is to fight terrorists and insurgents, one key focus is to investigate and analyze national-level criminals – those responsible for crimes such as kidnappings and assassination attempts against high ranking Iraqi officials and ministers.

U.S. Navy Lt. Bill Whiteman, the deputy director of operations for the MOI Intelligence Transition Team, said information is the cornerstone of intelligence-supported law enforcement operations in Iraq. As more responsibility is transitioned to the Iraqi Security Forces, the increasing demands placed upon them means they must have the capability to effectively and securely collect, manage, analyze and disseminate information about national level-criminals within MOI and across regional and jurisdictional boundaries.

Whiteman said that the investigators and analysts working in the NIIA are all faced with the challenge of collecting data from a number of different sources. This is one of the reasons the NIIA has acquired the Memex system.

The Memex system is the same system that the FBI and several U.S. police departments use. According to Iraqi Special Agent Amman, an analyst working in the NIIA, the Memex system is an advanced intelligence system that enables the NIIA to securely collect,



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

An Iraqi analyst with the National Information and Investigation Agency is using the agency's new Memex system to analyze a map of Baghdad Aug. 29. The system helps analysts and field agents compile data on suspected insurgents and terrorists throughout the country.

manage, develop, and share intelligence information. He said that this system will help the MOI prevent crime and terrorism.

"Intelligence gathering is complex," Amman said through an interpreter. "The Memex system helps us analyze information and discover connections between insurgent activities. It also helps us manage and organize multi-source data, and now we can immediately share this information with regional NIIA bureaus," he added.

He said his fellow agents collect mountains of data every day in the fight against insurgency. He noted that most of this data is "noise," and separating the relevant pieces of the puzzle from the noise requires a powerful analytical system.

"The Memex system is able to capture any type of miscellaneous data that could be vital to a future or current investigation. We can take the insurgents names, the types of vehicles they have and the types of attacks they were involved in and input it directly into the intelligence system and it will analyze it for us," Amman said. "This is something that we have not been able to do in the past."

Whiteman said the NIIA set up six bureaus, or regional offices, throughout Iraq and the biggest obstacle has been the ability to transfer data safely between them. He said they are working on correcting that. He said they are in the process on installing a secure net in the Hillah regional office within the next few months and the other regions before the end of the year. The Memex system can then be used throughout the country.

According to Special Agent Ali, an NIIA analyst who has been a police officer for the past seven years, this system is an important step for the NIIA and the country.

"Getting this system is important for Iraq," Ali said with the help of an interpreter. "Terrorist activity has stopped the growth of Iraq; this is our obstacle right now. With this system we are being aggressive in trying to stop it and control it; this is our job," Ali added.

"This shows that we are doing our best to defeat the terrorist, it will take time but we will win this battle," Ali said. "We will find out who they (insurgents and terrorists) are and stop them."

Iraqi Police graduate 1,110 from advanced training courses

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Police Service graduated 1,110 police officers from advanced and specialty courses held in Baghdad and Irbil during the month of August as part of the Iraqi government's continuing security forces training and development.

The courses that graduated include: Basic Criminal Investigations with 293 graduates; Advanced Criminal Investigations with 115 graduates; Interview and Interrogations with 172 graduates; Violent Crime Investigation with 88 graduates; Critical Incident Management with 41 graduates; Basic Drug Investigations with 84 graduates; Internal Affairs Investigations with 77 graduates; Inspector General Investigations with 32 graduates; Advanced Handgun Familiarization with 17 graduates; Intelligence Analyst with 48 graduates; Basic Instructor Development with 19 graduates; Advanced Instructor Development with four graduates; First Line Supervision with nine graduates; Mid-Level Management with 30 graduates; Executive Leadership with six graduates; and Dignitary Protective Services with 75 graduates.

The Basic Criminal Investigation course curriculum covers topics such as theft, burglary, arson, robbery, sexual offenses and homicide investigation. Participants also receive instruction and hands-on training in fingerprinting, photography, tool marks and plaster casting techniques. To date, 4,882 police officers have completed the course.

The Advanced Criminal Investigation course covers advanced investigative techniques that are used in a variety of situations, particularly in homicide, kidnapping, terrorism and bombing investigations. To date, 621 students have completed this course.

The Interviews and Interrogations course covers advanced interview and interrogation techniques and includes instruction on the preservation and protection of human rights and the importance of ethical behavior during interviews and interrogations. To date, 2,066 students have

completed this course.

The Violent Crime Investigation course introduces participants to investigative techniques used in a variety of situations, particularly in violent crimes against persons such as armed robbery, rape and murder. To date, 1,520 students have graduated from this course.

Critical Incident Management is designed to provide participants with the understanding and application of skills for managing critical incidents. To date, 918

students have graduated from this course.

Basic Drug Investigations is designed to introduce participants to the basic concepts of drug investigations. To date, 588 students have graduated this course.

Internal Affairs Investigations introduces students to the various components of the internal affairs process and provides students with the necessary

skills to conduct investigations related to personnel complaints and police conduct. To date, 1,281 students have completed this course.

The Inspector General Investigation course is designed to introduce participants to the basic concepts of investigation and to provide them with the skills needed to conduct the wide array of investigations handled by the inspector general's office. To date, 16 students have completed this course.

Advanced Handgun Familiarization is designed to reintroduce students to advanced handgun skills. To date, 32 students have completed this course.

The Intelligence Analyst course is intended to further the knowledge of police intelligence officers in the study of organized criminal activity and to assist investigative personnel with linking people, events, evidence and property together. Students completing the six-week course will also receive training in basic computer skills and an intelligence database used by U.S. Intelligence agencies. To date, 184 students have completed the course.



Photo by Ann Bertucci

See GRADUATE, Page 8

Police in Rusafah unveil new capabilities

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — It may appear to some that the task of restoring law and order to the streets of Baghdad is too daunting for the Iraqi police. However, the police officers in Baghdad, more specifically those officers at the Rusafah Police Directorate, believe that through proper training, hard work and advanced technology they can rid the city of insurgency and terrorism. The Directorate unveiled some of its tools and demonstrated some of its tactics for achieving this goal during a day-long showcase Sept. 6.

The showcase included a display of the equipment most Iraqi police carry with them, a bomb sniffing and attack dog demonstration and a viewing of their new secure communications system. The police also demonstrated an advanced detainee database, the JUMP system, as well as an improvised explosive device detecting robot. In addition, the Coalition presented the Directorate with the first of many new armored police vehicles.

During the showcase Iraqi Police Gen. Adnon, the Rusafah Directorate commanding general, said he was very proud of the police officers in the Rusafah area.

“These officers have worked very hard to learn the skills necessary to fight the insurgency,” Adnon said with the help of an interpreter. “We are very proud to be able to show you our skills and new technologies.”

He said the addition of new equipment



A Rusafah police officer demonstrates the fingerprint capabilities of their new JUMP system during a showcase in Baghdad.



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

An Iraqi Police dog attacks a mock insurgent during a showcase at the Rusafah Police Directorate in Baghdad Sept. 6. The police demonstrated various techniques and displayed their new tools for fighting insurgents to invited members of the media.

will help police secure the streets of Baghdad, and the new armored vehicles will insure the safety of his officers.

“Thanks to the help of our Coalition brothers we now have some of the most modern weapons available to defeat the terrorists,” he said. “The new trucks mean that our officers can safely stay out on patrol, which means our city will be safer.”

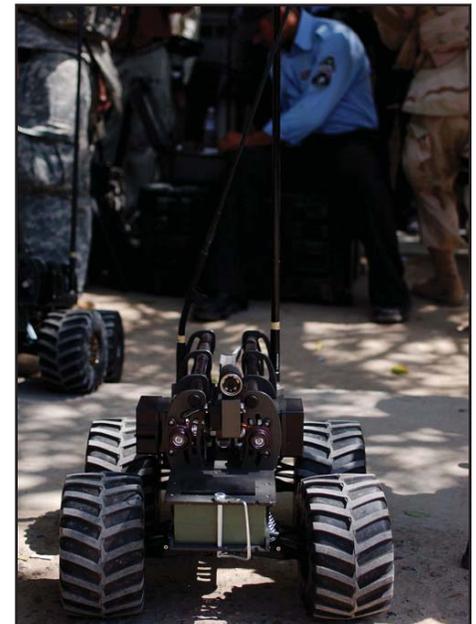
According to U.S. Army Capt. Rob Rodock, the commander of the 204th Military Police Company working with the Rusafah Police, getting the equipment into the hands of the Iraqis was just one piece of the puzzle.

“This police department is responsible for quite a large area in Baghdad – basically anything that happens on the east side of the Tigris falls under this directorate,” Rodock said. “They now have and know how to use a K9 unit, IED detecting robots, the JUMP detainee database system and night vision goggles. Their proficiency in using these new tools is what matters most.”

At the end of the showcase Adnon warned those who practice or support terrorism or insurgency.

“To the terrorists I say, ‘beware. We now have the tools and the skills to defeat

you, our officers are no longer sitting waiting for you. We are going to take the fight to you, find you and those who support you and in the name of Iraq, we will defeat you,” he said.



The Rusafah Police demonstrated one of their new improvised explosive detecting robots during a showcase in Baghdad Sep. 6.

Iraqi Police graduate 5,326 from basic training courses

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraq Police Service graduated 5,326 police recruits from basic training courses held in Baghdad, Basrah, Hamman Al Alil, Irbil, Kut, Mosul, Sulaymaniyah and Jordan during the month of August.

Those completing the 10-week basic training courses include: 687 from the Baghdad Police College; 248 from Kut; 196 from Mosul; and 1,600 from the Jordan International Police Training Center.

Also graduating in August were 2,595 police students who completed a three-week Transitional Integration Program course, a condensed version of the 10-week course.

The basic training course is an intense 10-week program consisting of both academic and tactical operational policing skills.

General policing topics cover the fundamentals of policing to include democratic policing skills based on international human rights standards, communications, human dignity and the police, lawful use of force, stress management and police ethics.

The course of instruction also provides for a strong emphasis on scenario-based training that involves instruction on the appropriate methods to respond to suspected explosive

devices, conduct traffic control points, patrol techniques, searching of buildings and suspects and other critical street survival skills.

Police officers with prior experience attended the three-week course, the Transitional Integration Program, instead of attending the full 10-week basic course. TIP includes training

on human rights, crime defensive tactics, democratic policing, first aid, patrol procedures, firearms and anti-terrorism.

The Iraqi Ministry of Interior continues to place a strong emphasis on developing a professional police force. To date, more than 84,000 Iraqi Police have completed eight- or 10-week basic training courses. An additional 43,000 police have completed the Transition Integration Program developed for police who are serving, but with little or no

basic training. TIP provides these officers with a condensed version of the ten-week program.

The newly-trained officers will report for duty to their respective police stations where they will receive mentoring and follow-on training by members of the police transition teams assigned to the area.

— *Compiled by: Ann Bertucci, CPATT Public Affairs Office*



Photo by Ann Bertucci

Iraqi Police graduate 1,110 from advanced training courses

From GRADUATE, Page 6

The Basic Instructor Development course prepares students in adult learning techniques and develops training capabilities with an emphasis on practical training exercises. Upon graduation, the students are assigned instructor responsibilities throughout Iraq's police academies. To date, 1,008 students have graduated from this course.

The Advanced Instructor Development course continues to develop training capability for graduates of Basic Instructor Development. To date, 98 students have completed the course.

First-Line Supervision is a course focused on major leadership areas for front-

line supervisors, including human rights training, ethics and corruption, policing in a democracy and interpersonal skills critical to effective leadership. To date, 671 students have graduated from this course.

Mid-Level Management is a course designed for supervisors who are responsible for managing the first-line supervisors and their assigned personnel. To date, 649 students have graduated from this course.

Executive Leadership covers executive level concepts of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, reporting and budgeting. Other topics include visionary leadership, organizational values, interpersonal communication skills and motivational techniques and strategies,

along with strategic planning. To date, 580 officers have graduated from this course.

Dignitary Protective Services is a course designed for personnel responsible for the personal protection and transport of dignitaries in a high-risk environment. To date, 364 students have graduated from this course.

Officers who participated in these courses previously completed either a 10-week basic training course for new recruits or a three-week transitional integration program designed for prior-service officers.

The newly graduated police officers will immediately report for duty at their respective stations.

— *Compiled by Ann Bertucci, CPATT Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Police detain weapons smugglers

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Police and Coalition military police detained 10 suspected weapons smugglers Sept. 6 in the west al-Mansour district of Baghdad.

The combined forces confiscated 33 various types of weapons, more than 2,000 rounds of ammunition, nine body armor vests and various bomb-making materials.

The suspects also had currency worth more than \$3,000 in Iraqi dinar, U.S. dollars and Syrian pounds.

The suspected smugglers were detained for questioning by the Iraqi Police.

— *2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Security Forces capture 30 insurgents

AL ANBAR — Iraqi Security Forces along with Coalition forces detained 30 confirmed insurgents and 38 suspected insurgents throughout the western Al Anbar Province during counterinsurgency operations Sept. 2-4.

Western Anbar Province is an area of more than 30,000 square miles which stretches from the Jordanian and Syrian borders hundreds of miles east to Hit, a city about 70 miles northwest of Ramadi.

Iraqi police identified and detained 18 of the 38 captured

suspected insurgents in Rawah, Iraq.

One of the suspects captured by Rawah police officers was wanted for his suspected involvement with a vehicle suicide bombing against a U.S. military check point in the region July 29. Several more captured in Rawah are suspected of involvement with a recent attack on a Rawah police officer's family. Police officers in Rawah also discovered two improvised explosive devices there Sept. 3.

Iraqi and Coalition forces detained one known insurgent and 10 suspected insurgents Sept. 3 in Hit

Through a variety of counterinsurgency operations Iraqi and Coalition forces captured 27 known insurgents and four suspected insurgents in the Haditha Triad, a cluster of three cities – Haditha, Barwanah and Haqlaniyah.

One captured insurgent was part of a four-man insurgent cell operating in Hadithah, another is suspected of having involvement with various small arms attacks against a Coalition base in Barwanah.

The joint forces also captured six more suspected insurgents in Sa'dah and discovered an ordnance cache near the Iraqi-Syrian border.

The cache consisted of 120 mm rockets, 155 mm rockets and 122 mm rockets.

— *Multi-National Force – West Public Affairs Office*



Two Iraqi soldiers provide security for a vehicle checkpoint in one of their new armored Humvees in the Ameriyah district of Baghdad Sept. 4.

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

Iraqi Security Forces / in brief

Iraqi Army takes lead in Tal Afar

TAL AFAR — The 1st, Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division became the third and final battalion to take the lead in assuming security operations for the city of Tal Afar during a ceremony held at Fort Tal Afar Sept. 4.

The ceremony was attended by the mayor of Tal Afar, Najim Abdullah al Jubori; Maj. Gen. Khorsheed, commander, 3rd Iraqi Army Division; Brig. Gen. Qais Hamza, commander, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division; and various dignitaries from the surrounding area.

With this ceremony, all of the Iraqi Army battalions in Tal Afar have taken the lead in security operations.

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

Operation South Sword Search continues

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Security Forces working closely with Coalition forces continued Operation Together Forward Sept. 4 with Operation South Sword Search in the Baghdad neighborhood of Bakriya.

Policemen of 1st Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division, and Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division continue to clear the area of illegal weapons and put an end to terrorist activities.

Since the launch of Operation Together Forward, the 2nd

Brigade Combat Team has searched more than 27,000 buildings and seized more than 600 illegal weapons and detained 32 suspected terrorists.

— *2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office*

Iraqi Police take down key insurgent leader

RAWAH — Iraqi Police killed one of the most wanted insurgents in the city of Rawah Sept. 3 during a counterinsurgency operation.

It is believed that Sadam Shihab Ahmad played a key role in the coordination of insurgent operations and was also suspected of involvement in the beheading of a Rawah policeman earlier this year.

As police approached Ahmad and another suspect in Rawah, the two suspects attempted to flee in a vehicle, but failed when police maneuvered to block their escape route.

A policeman ordered Ahmad and his passenger to exit the vehicle with their hands up. Refusing the order, Ahmad pointed an assault rifle at the policeman, who then fired several rounds in self-defense, killing Ahmad.

Ahmad's passenger exited the vehicle and threw a hand grenade at the policeman, but the grenade failed to detonate. The suspect was wounded when the policeman shot him in self-defense.

The wounded suspect was evacuated to a nearby medical facility where he was reported in stable condition.

A third suspect was detained during the operation as well.

Iraqi Army seize weapons cache in mosque

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers from the 9th Iraqi Army Division seized a large weapons cache Sept. 2 while searching the Al-Nida Mosque in northern Baghdad.

The cache consisted of 20 AK-47 assault rifles, 55 AK-47 magazines, a PKC rifle and 600 PKC rounds.

In a separate incident, the joint forces detained four suspected terrorists after a search of a home in southern Baghdad revealed a weapons cache.

The cache consisted of three AK-47 assault rifles, a Glock pistol, a grenade and an unidentified amount of loose armor-piercing rounds.

In another incident, Iraqi soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division detained a suspected terrorist southeast of Baghdad after they found instructional cassette tapes in his vehicle on how to conduct terrorist attacks.

To date Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces have cleared 45,800 buildings, 49 mosques and 39 muhallas, detained 75 terrorist suspects, seized more than 1,000 weapons, registered more than 425 weapons and found 26 weapons caches. The combined forces have also replaced more than 1,152 doors, 38 windows and 1,366 locks damaged during clearing operations and have removed more than 25,561 cubic meters of trash from the streets of Baghdad.

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



Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Gerald Ostlund

An Iraqi soldier with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher takes aim at a line of trucks during a weapons handling drill at Kirkush Military Training Base Sept. 6.