

The Adviser

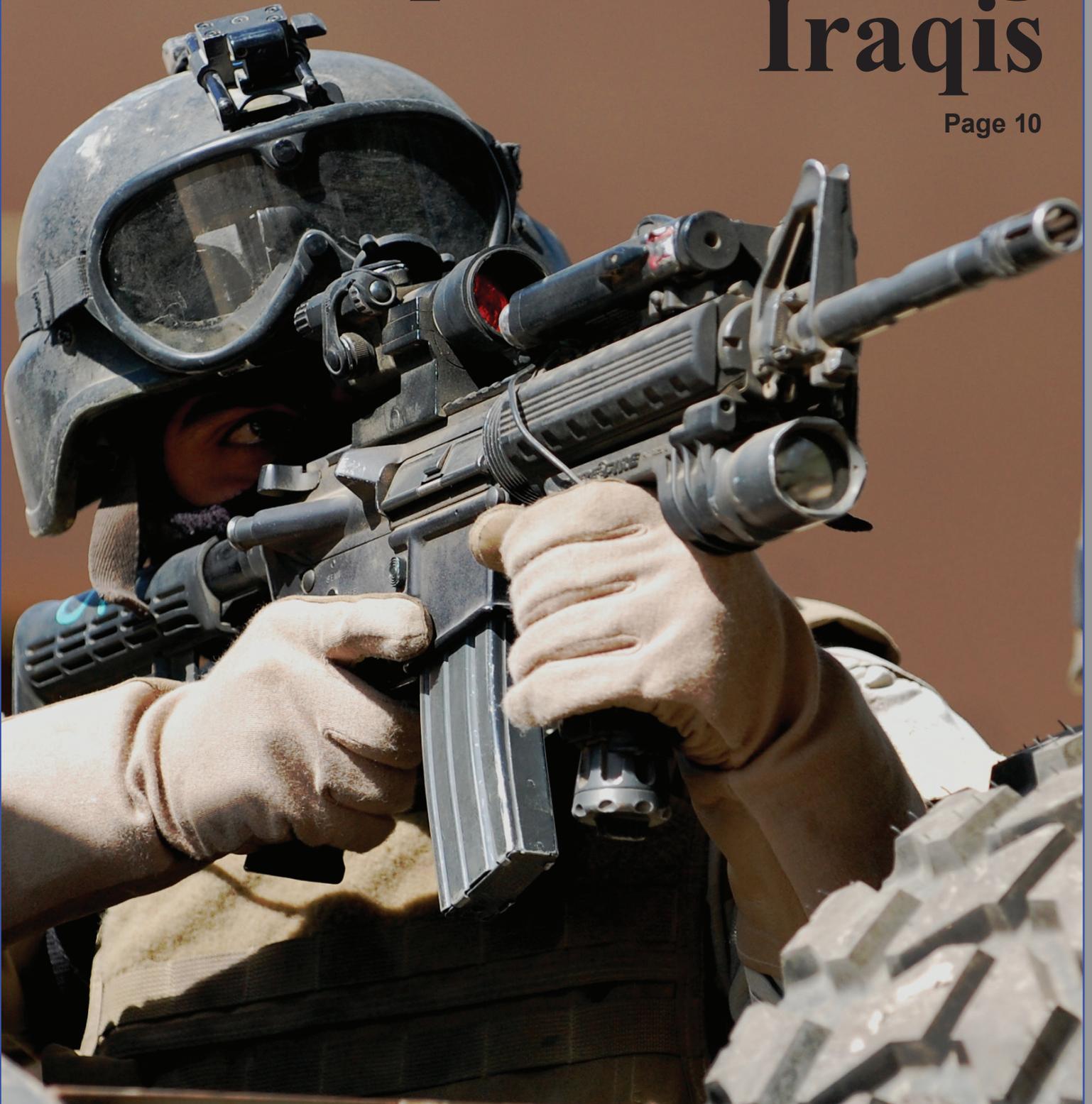


Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

September 2009

Iraqis Protecting Iraqis

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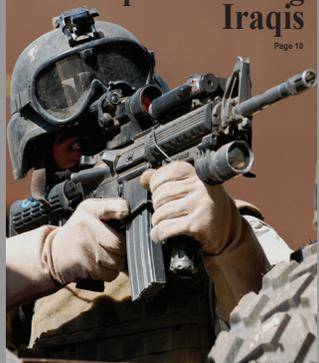
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SEPTEMBER COVER

Iraq National Counter-Terrorism Forces train to protect all Iraqis.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea



Representatives from the Iraqi Navy met with U.S. military personnel in Baghdad July 12-14 for discussions on building 35-meter coastal patrol boats. The first four of a 15-boat construction program are due for delivery to Iraq by the end of 2010, and will protect Iraq's vital offshore oil platforms. The 35-meter patrol boat contract is just one part of a larger total program, which also delivers spare parts, guns, ammunition, training, naval simulators and infrastructure within Umm Qasr Naval Base, Iraq. The total program for the Iraqi Navy is the third largest case of foreign military sales, or FMS, to Iraq. (courtesy photo)

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They call it "energy in a box" and it is allowing Iraqis to leverage the power generated from both solar panels and a wind turbine. The MNSTC-I J7 team designed this unique system.

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Three years ago a young soon-to-be pilot began his journey to earning his Silver Wings. Last month, Iraqi 2nd Lt. Omar AlNuaimi graduated, blazing a trail for future pilots in the new Iraq air force.

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A sister unit to MNSTC-I sends a team to Baghdad to bring back concepts that work toward the rebuilding of Afghanistan's security forces.



Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick chats with POLAD attendees. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Clayton Murray)

Roundtable Discussions Sync Civil-Military Policy

BAGHDAD -- More than a dozen political advisors to various military commands and U.S. State Dept officials gathered here Aug. 7-8 for a roundtable to enhance civil-military cooperation.

On behalf of MNSTC-I, its Commanding General, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick called this first-ever meeting of U.S. political advisors in Iraq. Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq sponsored the meetings between Defense and State professionals to ensure their efforts remain in sync with overall U.S. government policy.

"We must meet to ensure our political and military goals and objectives are moving in the same direction," Helmick said. "This conference helps with that, allowing us all to share information and understand a common operating picture.

"Our goal is to have the absolute best working relationship with our U.S. Embassy that any military organization can

have," Helmick said. "We use our POLAD to enhance and solidify our relationship with the US Embassy. That takes effective communication and a common understanding of our individual roles and responsibilities."

"My colleagues from the State Department told me about how warm the welcome to them has been at the different commands where they work and how well integrated they are in these commands' ongoing activities," said Amb. Robert Ford, deputy chief of mission, U.S. Embassy Baghdad. "The U.S. military and the State Department are not always of the same bureaucratic culture, but the POLADS learn much during their assignments and hopefully they also share some of the outlook that we develop as career diplomats. It is a win/win for our effort in Iraq and for our political advisors as career professionals."

In the coming months, MNSTC-I will continue to implement the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement, transform the command eventually into an 'Office of Security Cooperation'-type organization. With upcoming Iraqi national elections, Helmick said, MNSTC-I's ability to provide seamless information and coordination with the U.S. Embassy will be critical.

"The political advisors to the various U.S. military commanders play a vital role in our Iraq effort," Ford said.

"Our success to date in Iraq stems in large part from the unique and successful partnership between the U.S. military and the Embassy's different civilian agencies. The political advisors are one of the vital links that keep our broad civilian effort synchronized with the many operations and activities undertaken by our colleagues in the military," Ford said.

The political advisors are all State Department diplomats of Defense Department civilian officials ordinarily assigned to a U.S. embassy when serving overseas or to the Pentagon.

"The advisors are foreign service officers with vast interagency experience and regional knowledge," said Horacio Ureta, a State Department diplomat now assigned as Political Advisor to MNSTC-I. "The work of political advisors is international politics and policy, not partisan politics. Our history stretches back to World War II."

The political advisors attending the two-day conference discussed expectations for their roles with senior military leaders and ambassadors from the U.S. Embassy in Iraq.



U.S. political advisors assemble at the start of their two-day roundtable discussions. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Clayton Murray)



NTM-I CG, Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick receives honours from the command sergeant major. With him is the NTM-I Deputy Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli (Photo by WO Giuseppe DI Blasi NTM-I.)

NATO Training Mission-Iraq Celebrates 5 years

NATO Training Mission-Iraq experienced a busy summer. In a little more than 30 days, NTM-I signed a long-term training agreement with the government of Iraq, celebrated its fifth anniversary, declared an operations center fully operationally capable, and welcomed a new deputy commander and saluted a departing unit.

The most important NTM-I activity was the signing of the training agreement with Iraq July 26 by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Iraq, Abdul Qader Mohammad Jassim Al-Mafriji, and the NATO Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador Claudio Bisogniero.

The agreement provides the legal basis for NATO to continue with its mission to assist the Government of the Republic

of Iraq in developing further the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.

At an Aug. 4 ceremony celebrating NTM-I's fifth anniversary in Iraq, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, the commander of NTM-I, stressed that the agreement with NATO allows NTM-I to continue in its training, mentoring and advising role of the Iraqi Security Forces.

"Iraq is now a new country," Helmick said. "It is developing and building relationships with other country's organizations."

Helmick's recently arrived deputy, Italian Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli, expressed his satisfaction for the work done so far by the mission, saying that, "The signature of the Long Term

Agreement provides us with an important responsibility and awareness to keep going on with our mission.

"We will continue on this successful path," Spinelli continued. "I am conscious that we will have to face new challenges, but together with our allies and friends we will succeed."

The agreement represents a milestone in the cooperation between the Republic of Iraq and NATO and demonstrates the Alliance's strong commitment to work in partnership with the sovereign Government of Iraq as it focuses on rebuilding and strengthening of governance structures.

Fully Capable

Earlier in the month, Helmick, declared the National Operations Center in Full Operational Capability July 6.

Having full operational capability is an important achievement for Iraq in building a sustainable and effective operational capability that supports the national security infrastructure and supports the needs of the Iraqi people.

The evaluation process measures operational capability for the operation center. It combines personal observation, tangible factors and a monthly evaluation report that was developed by NATO and approved by the Iraqis. It covers six targeted areas: organization, security, logistics, procedures, training and exercises and situational awareness.

NTM-I officers provides mentoring and advice to Iraqis at three such facilities: the Prime Minister's National Operations Centre, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior Command Centre and the Iraqi Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Centre, all of which have now full operational capability.

NATO and the Coalition Forces support the operations centers through development, consolidation and sustainability building. NATO operates smaller, more focused teams in each of the operations centers to identify and develop future training needs. These include specialist training and out-of-country training courses. NATO also helps Iraqi with planning and executing national-level command-and-control crisis-response exercises.

Hails and Farewells

On July 4, Spinelli took the deputy NATO-I commander reigns from his predecessor in that position, Italian Maj. Gen. Paolo Bosotti

Departing later in July were 36 members of the United Kingdom Force Protection Platoon from the 3rd Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment (Duke of Wellington's). They participated in an end-of-mission ceremony in Ar-Rustamiyah, the home to the Iraqi Joint Staff College and Military Academy.

At a July 26 event, Spinelli told the UK platoon that he was aware of the difficulties they faced during their tour.

"You have had the challenging task of ensuring security for this compound and for all the training activities performed here," Spinelli continued. "Your overall performance has always been outstanding. You demonstrated great professionalism and strong and remarkable sense of duty."

UK Capt. Nick Spicer, the platoon commander, said his troops were sad to leave. "It has been a very rewarding mission and it has been a privilege to serve with other NATO countries," Spicer said.

Iraq, NATO Forge Training Partnership

By Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick and Italian Maj. Gen. Giuseppe Spinelli

The recently signed Long Term Agreement (LTA) between the Government of Iraq and NATO sends a positive signal to the international community that Iraq can have a relationship with the most respected, political/military organization in the world -- NATO. Iraq is different today; it is sovereign and becoming a more stable and secure country. NATO recognizes that and so should the international community. This historic event is another indication that stability and security for Iraq is not a dream, but a reality.

Though Iraq's military and police forces are performing increasingly well, it can be seen from history and recent experience in places like the Balkans that the development of fully professional security institutions takes time. The Government of Iraq has recognized this fact and has therefore asked that NATO continue its mission with the Iraqi security institutions.

NATO has been in Iraq since 2004, developing Iraqi security forces that are professional, operate in accordance with international standards and the rule of law, and respect human rights. The NATO Training Mission-Iraq (NTM-I) is a small organization, but its work is significant in stature. NTM-I consists of less than 300 personnel from 13 NATO and Partnership for Peace countries whose sole purpose is to help equip, train, professionalize and mentor Iraq's military and police forces, and develop capacity within the security and education systems.

With the on-going drawdown of U.S. and Coalition forces in Iraq, NATO's efforts take on even greater

significance. Iraq's security forces are already responsible for security in Iraq's cities, a target for which we are on pace to accomplish. As agreed to by Iraq and the United States, all U.S. forces will depart Iraq by December 2011. At this point, Iraq's security forces will be solely responsible for the safety and security of the nation and all of Iraq's citizens.

The Government of Iraq understands that NATO will continue to be a value-added partner as Iraq enters into a new phase of its freedom. The NATO agreement will provide a needed accelerant for a professional Army and Police force who will enhance the security for the citizens of Iraq. It is important to clarify that the LTA is not a precursor to NATO membership nor does it commit NATO to any future security responsibilities in Iraq. The LTA merely provides for continued NATO assistance beyond its first five years of partnership in the training, development, and professionalization of Iraq's security forces.

This recent bold and courageous decision made by the Government of Iraq to forge a long-term relationship with NATO will allow seeds to be planted for sustainable security in a country that is committed to stability and peace in the Gulf region. NATO, just as it has done in countries around the world for 60 years, will make a difference for Iraq that will be long lasting.

U.S. Lieutenant General Frank G. Helmick and Italian Major General Giuseppe Spinelli are the Commander and Deputy Commander, respectively, of NATO Training Mission-Iraq.

Iraq Innovates Solar, Wind Energy Solution to Power Border Posts

By U.S. Army Capt. Robert Moore

Iraq is blessed with the world's largest reserves of crude oil; sadly, it has little or no refining capability. The lack of petroleum products makes it difficult to run generators and other equipment that produce reliable electricity. Every day, major cities and towns in Iraq suffer through prolonged power outages.

This is a particularly critical problem for high-security facilities, such as border-crossing points on the Iranian border. While these facilities need uninterrupted power, they are so remote that it is impossible to connect them to the national power grid.

Fortunately, the engineering arm (called "J7" in military speak) from the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is funding and building alternative energy systems for these more remote locations. In particular, at the border crossing location near the city of Badrah, a combination of wind turbine and solar panels are being installed to provide

reliable power for the mission critical task of guarding entry into Iraq.

"Even in Iraq, a country that is sitting on an ocean of oil, there is room for alternative energy programs," said Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, MNSTC-I commanding general. "Wind and solar could be the answer."

The MNSTC-I J7 team has designed a unique system leveraging both solar panels along with a large wind turbine. Affectionately referred to as "energy in a box" the soldier engineers designed a rugged system for the Badrah location. There, the wind turbine and solar panel are connected to the appropriate switch gear allowing either, or both, power sources to generate electricity, depending on the environmental conditions.

The wind turbine will be capable of generating 500 kilowatt hours of electricity at a wind speed of only 12 miles an hour. Additionally, 24 solar panels are being installed that can provide more than 5000 watts of peak power. Fortunately, Iraq has plenty of sunshine during the summer season when temperatures reach 125 degrees F. During the evening, there is also a surprising amount of wind blowing across the border between Iraq and Iran that can drive wind turbines and charge batteries during the hours of darkness.

The Iraqi Border Enforcement teams will run the systems. The coalition forces (through our contractors) will provide in-depth training to the Iraqis on how to both operate and maintain the facilities. Costs vary greatly depending on the amount of electricity needed to power the facility and if we use solar panels, wind turbines, or a combination of both. Much of the equipment is covered by multi-year warranties, so the material is very reliable and will last for a long time if properly maintained. In addition, the costs are actually less over the long term compared with the expense of transporting fuel to large generators every week.

"Iraqis will see the benefits of these



Solar arrays are also projected sources of power. (Courtesy photo)

programs in areas where re-supply of oil to run generators is problematic," Helmick said.

Presently, there are two sites close to Badrah where solar panels are being used. The first site is a remote outpost, where a solar-panel-array powers a water-well pump. The second site is a more developed building where a second full-array of solar panels is employed, plus a large wind turbine. The two sites near Badrah were a package deal featuring solar panels at both locations and one wind turbine at the larger of the two sites.

The alternative energy strategy at Badrah is actually a test case that will be used to accumulate data so the Iraqis can evaluate the feasibility of establishing similar sites across the country. Coalition forces from MNSTC-I will record the wind and solar data and determine the success of both systems. Engineers can then determine the right mix of solar and wind solutions for other Iraq locations.

For a very remote site where the border enforcement personnel are in desperate need of drinking water, an even simpler design was created. During the day, solar panels power a pump that forces water from a local well into an elevated water tank. In the evening, when the sun goes down, the pump shuts down, but the elevated tank delivers a continuous supply of water to the Iraqis stationed at the post. Without alternative energy solutions like these, Iraqi border guards could not perform their critical missions.

"These efforts assist Iraqi border



Wind Power is one source of power for use at the border post. (Courtesy photo)

guards with an indirect capability that helps with security," Helmick said.

Later this year, the Badrah facility will become the first fully operational endeavor of its kind in Iraq. Additional solar/wind facilities will be complete at various times throughout 2010. Depending on the need, J7 can build dozens more. For instance, the J7 team is evaluating various locations on the Iraq border with Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, at points of major access and egress into

the country. Through this and other efforts, the trainers and advisors from MNSTC-I are helping Iraqis build capacity and increase capability for their power infrastructure.

With the June 30 movement out of cities, towns and villages by U.S. and coalition combat forces, soldiers have adapted to a critical, non-combat support, such as training Iraqis to operate and maintain basic services. Even as MNSTC-I turns Iraq's infrastructure over to local

government agencies, the J7 will still be able to assist with new alternative energy solutions throughout the country.

Iraq's infrastructure is being rebuilt and restored. New roads, bridges, highways, electrical lines, and buildings are being erected. These provide the Iraqi people with the essential infrastructure they require to not only survive, but also prosper. Throughout Iraq, facilities have been restored to more-normal conditions. Where there was no electricity available, new power lines from a national grid are being installed. Where there was no basic sewer and sanitation available, new septic systems are being built and wastewater treatment plants are being repaired and upgraded.

Through this and other efforts, the trainers and advisors from MNSTC-I are building capacity and increasing capability of the Iraqi infrastructure. As Iraq begins to shoulder more of the responsibility for operating and maintaining their facilities, their dependence on the coalition for assistance will diminish.

Capt. Robert Moore is assigned to Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. He is a registered professional engineer with a bachelor degree from West Point and master's from the University of Michigan.

Iraqi border guards will see the benefits of these programs in areas where oil resupply to run generators is problematic

**U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick
MNSTC-I Commanding General**



The Bashir border post is a beneficiary of this alternative energy plan. (Courtesy photo)

U.S., Iraqi Airmen Square Off in Weapons Load Competition

By U.S. Air Force
Tech. Sgt. Shawn T. Mullins

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – In July, Iraqi and U.S. Air Force personnel squared off here in the first weapons-load competition.

The contest pitted the newly certified lead-weapons crew from Iraqi Air Force Squadron 3 against advisors from the U.S. Air Force's 521st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron.

The Iraqis won a coin toss to determine which crew would load first and were determined to show their advisors just how much they've learned. Seventeen minutes and fifteen seconds later the

Iraqis finished – 2 Hellfire missiles hung on the wings of an AC-208B Caravan with no discrepancies.

Next were the advisors, consisting of the U.S. Air Force's Tech. Sgt. Shawn Mullins, Staff Sgt. Eric Hunt and Staff Sgt. Phillip Ball. They said they were confident in their abilities and were ready to show their rivals that the Iraqis still had a little bit more to learn.

The advisors began in earnest, with confidence and skill, and sixteen minutes later they finished. The advisors thought they had won, but the Iraqis pointed out a critical mistake made in the last seconds of the load, which proved costly. As a result, the Iraqi load team won the

competition and beat their advisors, a testament to their hard work, attention to detail and dedication.

Regardless of the outcome, however, the competition was a win for both sides. It showed that Iraqi Air Force Squadron 3 load crews are truly ready to move forward on their own.

Two days later, in front of their squadron mates and advisors, the winning crew accepted certificates from Brig. Gen. Robert Kane, commanding general, Iraq Training Advisory Mission-Air Force, Multi-National Security Transition Command, and 321st Air Expeditionary Warfare commander.



A U.S. Air Force advisor observes a weapons-load crew from Iraqi Air Force Squadron 3 successfully emplace a Hellfire Missile onto an AC-208B Caravan aircraft. Squadron 3 defeated a team of U.S. advisors in a friendly load competition in July. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Seandale Jackson)

Iraqi 2nd Lts Tour Apache Helo Unit

By U.S. Air Force Capt. Mark Cipolla

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- On a July night they won't soon forget, 11 Iraqi second lieutenants attending the Iraqi Air Force Training School were exposed to an evening of English conversation and a tour of an Apache helicopter unit.

The students were selected from among 94 Iraqi lieutenants because of their progression within the English Language Training program. The goal of ELT is to prepare the students, using the American Language Course from the Defense Language Institute, to achieve an appropriate level of English proficiency for their selected career in the Iraqi Air Force. Most of the students are future pilot candidates and will attend Undergraduate Pilot Training at Kirkuk Regional Air Base.

Maj. Jamie Wallace, operations officer, 1-227th Attack Reconnaissance Helicopter Battalion and a group of pilots paired off with the Iraqi lieutenants. The Army officers said they were impressed with the level at which the lieutenants spoke English and encouraged them to continue studying hard so they could move onto pilot training. Later, the lieutenants explored different sections of the helicopters and learned about their capabilities and mission.

Afterward, one of the Iraqi lieutenants wrote, "Yesterday was an unusual day in my life because I had visited the American air base with my partners and our supervisors. It was such a beautiful tour which motivated us to do better in the future. It was very interesting to meet the American staff. We gained enough information to help us add more experience to our military career."

Before they departed, Lt. Col. Charles Dalcourt, battalion commander, advised the lieutenants to remember nights like this so they can feel comfortable one day mentoring the next generation of Iraqi officers in this way.

Managing the ELT program is the U.S. Air Force's 821st Expeditionary Training Squadron, part of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing and Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Air Force.



(Above) Two of the 11 Iraqi second lieutenants attending the Iraqi Air Force Training School enjoy themselves exploring the specs on an Apache helicopter. (Below) U.S. Army Capt. Jacques Fontenet shares his Air Cav hat and cockpit seat with an Iraq pilot candidate. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Sean-dale Jackson)

Iraq's National Counter-Terrorism Forces: Protecting *All* of Iraq's People

By Maj. Robert Owen
and Col. Marvin Benton

The Iraqi Counter Terrorism Bureau provides a special type of security service for all Iraqis. Charged with preventing, deterring, and eliminating terrorism in Iraq, the CTB and its subordinate organizations have made great strides in protecting Iraqis since 2007.

The CTB is commanded by Iraqi Army Lieutenant General Talib Shegati al-Kenani and oversees the Counter Terrorism Command, and the CTC's two Brigades of Iraqi Special Operations Forces.

In speaking of the founding of the CTB, LTG al-Kenani states, "I wanted to develop a force that was professional for all Iraqis. A stable and secure Iraq that is able to defeat terrorism will secure the future of our country. We will fight not with weapons only, but also through political, legal, and information dissemination. We will use all directions to defeat the enemies of Iraq."

Al-Kenani also stresses the diverse background of the ISOF: "This is a national service, not sectarian." He adds that the ISOF is made up of a cross-section of different sects and has soldiers from all over Iraq included in its ranks. Not only are the soldiers of the CTB a

diverse group, but their terrorist targets are from all sects. This shows that Iraq is moving forward in a positive direction and relies on the rule of law and not on sectarian divisions as the CTB carries out its daily mission.

CTB operations are conducted all over Iraq and coordinate with other Iraqi Security Forces. This coordinated effort is effective in identifying and targeting those terrorists that threaten the peace and stability of Iraq. The US Special Operations Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers assigned to advise, train and assist the ISOF agree that this unit has become a highly professional and effective force.

"One of the biggest successes of the CTB is the way that they share information with other Iraqi agencies," said U.S. Army Col. Michael Skinner, senior advisor to Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. al-Kenani and the CTB. "Although the targeting process has always been professional, the way that they cross-referenced their information with other Iraqi security forces reflects a level of professionalism that all Iraqis can be proud of."

It is a big job to keep Iraq safe, but the Counter Terrorism Bureau is doing that job—and doing it well.

Senior Iraqi and U.S. Army leaders held



A counter-terrorism team extracts a detainee

a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 3rd to celebrate opening a new base for Iraqi commandos—the 9th Regional Commando Battalion based in Al-Anbar province.

Counters all enemies

Iraqi Army Major General Abd al-Ghani, Commander of the Counter Terrorism Command, congratulated the new battalion commandos and thanked the United States for its help in establishing this new base for the 9th Regional Commando Battalion.

"After the opening of this RCB in the west, the Iraqi National Counter Terrorism Force can now counter all enemies and protect all points of Iraq: north, south, east, and west," said



ee during a training exercise. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea)

al-Ghani. "The opening today has special importance because the insurgency started here with men who came from outside of Iraq's borders." Since the US-Iraq Security Agreement became effective on January 1, 2009, US Special Operations Forces have relinquished operational control to Iraq for counter-terrorism missions, while retaining an advisory capacity.

"In the year that I have been here, the Iraqi Special Forces have had an incredible operational pace, striking terrorism in precise, lightning raids that will subdue the threat and help bring peace to Iraq," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, then-deputy

commanding general for the INCTF-Transition Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

Iraqi Special Operations Forces continue to operate against domestic terrorism and threats to the stability and security of Iraq despite the budget challenges that are affecting all of the Iraqi Security Forces.

Despite funding challenges, "we are able to continue our operations," says Iraqi Army Lt. Gen. Talib Shegati al-Kenani, director of the Counter Terrorism Bureau, which oversees the CTC. "We have an emergency budget that covers the funds that we need to operate and keep doing our job. The current

budget is being discussed in a broader context as part of the CTB law that is now in parliament."

"The Iraqi military is tough," said U.S. Army Col. Jorge Rangel, senior advisor to Iraqi Army Maj. Gen. Abd al-Ghani and the CTC. "Lack of resources is nothing new for them; this is business as usual. They know how to adapt."

Budget challenges notwithstanding, the ISOF will continue working to provide security for a new and prosperous Iraq whose forces are non-sectarian and adheres to the rule of law. U.S. advisors will continue their advisory roles in areas to include manning, training, equipping and mentoring the ISOF.



BALAD—A group from Iraq Interior Ministry tours Joint Base Balad warehouse operations to increase understanding of materiel management practices. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sr. Airman Elizabeth Rissmiller.)

Interior Ministry Logistic Team Tours Balad Air Base Warehouse Operations

By Ron Holbrook

BALAD, Iraq – A team of logistic leaders from the Iraq Interior Ministry, responsible for supplying the rapidly growing 480,000 member agency, recently toured Joint Base Balad to view a large scale warehouse operation.

“We wanted to give the Iraqis an opportunity to see first-hand the visual structure and operational tempo of a well-run large multi-faceted warehouse operation,” said Sam Blanchard, Logistics Program Coordinator and Advisor, who organized the trip for the group. The Balad warehouse contains more than 200,000 end items for supplying the large air base operations as well as for meeting other Air Force requirements.

Blanchard said the tour gave the Iraqi

leaders valuable information on shelf-life rotation, safety measures, storage practices, accountability requirements and shelving configuration.

“All of this should help the Iraqis develop their warehouse operations for maximum capability and efficiency,” he said. “They need this type of operation for supporting a viable law enforcement organization with the goal of providing a safe and secure Iraq.”

The Ministry of Interior has almost doubled in size in the past three years, creating a logistical challenge for supplying this growing force of police officers, he said.

“After this visit, our Iraqi counterparts have a new vision for the Mol warehouses in both their operational procedures and layout,” said Lt. Col.

Kreg Custer, Mol-TT Logistics Capacity Branch Chief.

Custer said the trip gives the Iraqi logistic managers “solid ideas and options for redesign for maximum storage capacity and better procedures that will streamline the process of getting materials and supplies to the provinces and units that need them to carry out their missions.

Since the visit to the Balad base, the ITAM Ministry of Interior advisors have worked closely with their Iraqi partners in logistics to redesign warehouse space. Custer said more than \$1 million has been appropriated to purchase warehouse shelving and mezzanine platforms just like the Air Force uses to greatly increase storage and efficiency in the Mol warehouse operations.

Iraqi Air Force Pilot, Trainer Earns Silver Wings in U.S.

By Senior Airman Jacob Corbin
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. -- Three years ago a young soon-to-be pilot began his journey to earning his Silver Wings.

2nd Lt. Omar AlNuaimi, Iraqi air force, graduated July 24 alongside his fellow student pilots in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 09-12 in the The U.S. Air Force Aviation Leadership Program.

"It feels great (to graduate)," Lieutenant AlNuaimi said. "Since the Iraqi air force was founded, until this moment, we haven't had students who have graduated from the U.S. It's been great and wonderful to be trained and get my wings."

The lieutenant said he was shown great respect and understanding and so was his country.

"This is one step forward for breaking a huge wall between our two nations," he said.

"These students return to Iraq with exceptional English and pilot skills as well as tremendous appreciation for the democratic principles of the United States, and life-long relationships with their American counterparts," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Susy Bogdan, program officer for International Military Education and Training at MNSTC-I. "This goes a long way in strengthening the ties between our countries and building future cooperation."

The Iraq Security Assistance Mission (ISAM) manages all security cooperation training for Iraqi defense personnel to attend US DoD schools. Omar is the first graduate. This marks a significant milestone in the professionalization of the Iraqi air force. Iraq has two students currently in training and two more students ready to depart this fall.

AlNuaimi will be taking the new skills and techniques he's learned here in the United States and using them to help train the next generation of Iraqi airmen in Kirkuk, Iraq, and said the lessons and experience passed on to him by his instructor pilots here will be invaluable.

"I have gained good experience, and I will be glad to take all this experience back to my country and teach," he said.

According to a statement from Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, the Government of Iraq, in partnership with the United States, has committed to purchase 15 T-6A aircraft through the Foreign Military Sales program. The aircraft will begin delivery in December 2009, along with associated contactor logistic support and flight training, provided by newly certified Iraqi pilots, such as AlNuaimi.

He said the instructor pilots do more than just their job here; they have a second as an English teacher, too.

"They help bridge the gap, find similar words to help you understand," he said.

He explained most aeronautical terms are not found in English language translation dictionaries.

The lieutenant said the men and women who have helped

him from day one have all taught him something valuable or made his journey possible, whether it be his English instructors at Lackland Air Force Base, the instructor pilots who taught him daily, crew chiefs who maintained the aircraft he flew or his "brothers" in pilot training.

In addition, the lieutenant said the men and women, students and spouses, of his flights and classes were there for him any minute of the day, anytime he needed help. That, coupled with the warm-welcome given to him by members of the local community, are what he said made his time here easy and pleasant.

He said when he met people, and told them he was from Columbus AFB, they accepted him with open arms.



'This is one step forward for breaking down a huge wall between our two nations'
-Iraqi air force 2nd Lt. Omar AlNuaimi



One of several Humvees donated to the Iraqi Federal Police backs off a tractor trailer. The donation of 12 Humvees is expected to provide federal police more capable power to execute their duties. (Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Bob Owen)

Humvee Donation to Federal Police Enhances Iraq-U.S. Security Partnership

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Security Transition Command- Iraq donated 12 new HUMVEEs here July 26 to Iraqi Federal Police units that are responsible for providing route security during ground movements of U.S. personnel.

The transfer occurred at the Crossed Swords and was attended by members of the Iraqi Federal Police, MNSTC-I Rough Riders, and J-4 personnel. The Humvees were off-loaded and driven to the Federal Police headquarters.

“The headquarters of the federal police would like to thank MNSTC-I and the Rough Riders in lifting the combating capability for the company of the guards in our leadership,” said Iraqi Staff Lt. Gen. Hussain Jasim Mohamed, commander of the Federal Police Command Force. “The donation of 12 Humvee vehicles provides the federal police with a more capable power to execute their duties better.”

“This (donation) of HUMVEES allows the Iraqi security units to better provide

protection for U.S. convoys moving through the cities in Iraq,” said Maj. Scott Andrews, commander of the Rough Riders, who have provided convoy security to U.S. convoys in the past. “They were using pick-up trucks before and now they are ready for this important mission.”

The Security Agreement signed between the U.S. and Iraq requires that Iraqi police escort any U.S. convoys for movements in the cities after June 30.

U.S.-Iraq Humvee Repair Program Saves \$7 million

By Spc. Alun Thomas
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- The blackened hands of two welders gripped the humvee tire, their overalls stained with grease and dirt, as they prepared to place it on the vehicles bare rims.

It was the last tire to be fitted after five months of continuous work which required more than 800 vehicles to be repaired by both Iraqi and American welders at the Taji National Maintenance Depot.

Mission completed – more than seven million dollars saved.

The project came about through the M1114 transfer program, which was created to deliver upwards of 7,200 vehicles to the Iraqi army as part of the ongoing transition between U.S. forces and the Iraqi army, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jimmie Swims, from Memphis, Tenn., deputy chief, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, J4 Taji.

“We came across 800 of those vehicles that unexpectedly needed a manufacturer’s work order,” Swims said. “The work order was supposed to be completed by the coalition forces prior to being submitted into our program here.”

The 800 damaged humvees had cracks in their frame rails, Swims said, which required modification to withstand the weight of the vehicles armor equipment.

“We had to get this done because the contractors, in their statement of work, are not required through the transfer program to do this work,” Swims said. “So we would have to pay the contractor millions of dollars to do this.”

A team was put together using trained welders and technical experts from U.S. Army Materiel Command, MNSTC-I logistics personnel and the Iraqi army to repair the frames in the shortest time possible, Swims said.

“We scrounged equipment from all over post, got a location locked in and started to train the Iraqi’s on this particular modification,” Swims said. “We started this knowing we had at least 600 vehicles to repair and we have ended with 820 (repaired) in this program.”

By using American and Iraqi welders, the amount of money saved was phenomenal, Swims said.

“This program ended up saving the U.S. government over 7 million dollars by having Iraqi forces participating,” he said. “It’s been a great success.”

It also helps the Iraqi’s in their future development, Swims added.

“What this has been able to do is put an additional two months of work back into the fight of vehicles being used by the Iraqi Army,” Swims said. “This increases their security efforts and obviously lets the Iraqi’s sustain themselves.”

One of the key figures in directing the project was Joe Ergler, from Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg, Penn., a heavy mobile equipment inspector, who said he was the first person to start welding the vehicles at the onset of the program.

“I’ve worked with at least 700 Iraqi’s since I’ve been here and working with this group has been the highlight,” Ergler said. “It was tough at the beginning

with the difference in the language and everything, but we’ve had good interpreters and some of our guys have even learned some Arabic.”

The determination and tenacity of the Iraqi’s Ergler worked alongside will serve them well in the future, he said.

The experience has been a positive one for Namer Noori Saied, welder, Iraqi army, who enjoyed the project.

“Working alongside the Americans has been good. They are helpful with everything,” Saied said.

“It is important for the Iraqi army to support the American Army,” he added.

Ergler said he will leave Iraq satisfied with a job well done.

“We started with bare bones but with a lot of hard work from everyone involved we got it done,” said Ergler.

This Welding programs’ capability is directly transferred to the Government of Iraq and will be left in country long after the Soldiers, Airmen and representatives from Army Materiel Command return to their families.



Namer Noori Saied, welder, Iraqi army, welds a repair plate onto the frame of a humvee, as part of a project between welders from the Army Materiel Command and the Iraqi army to repair more than 800 damaged vehicles to be given to the Iraqi forces, Aug. 5, at the Taji National Maintenance Depot, Camp Taji, Iraq. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Alun Thomas, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Kirkuk firefighters and a 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron fireman practice nozzle operations during a live-fire and search and rescue scenario here July 2. U.S. Airmen conduct weekly training here with Iraqi first responders to help improve fire fighting techniques that will help Iraqis better serve their city during emergencies. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Eunique Stevens)



U.S., Iraqi Firemen Bond Battling Blazes

By Senior Airman Jessica Lockoski, 506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq – Kneeling outside a flame-scorched door, sweat-drenched U.S. and Iraqi firefighters clad in protective gear prepare to enter a building. After waiting for the right moment they enter without a word, communicating with only exchanged glances and silent gestures as they carry the fire hose into the room.

There is a casualty somewhere inside, and they must find him.

Their mission to battle the blaze and save lives remains the same even though these men are from different countries and speak different languages as they respond to the training scenario.

This is one of many search tactic/live-fire drills Kirkuk firemen and Airmen from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron's fire department train on together to improve techniques that will help Iraqi first responders better serve their city.

"Training (here) provides an opportunity for firefighters from different countries to share different techniques and lessons learned through past experiences," said Tech. Sgt. Joseph

Kuropatwa, training officer for the 506th ECES fire department and an Olympia, Wash., native deployed from the 419th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

Learning essential lifesaving skills with a crawl-to-walk, walk-to-run method is a luxury that Iraq's fire departments can't always afford. Some of Kirkuk's newer firefighters have not received even basic fire academy training, which makes time with the 506th Airmen precious.

Capt. Khalil Majed Najm, a Kirkuk Province fire station team leader, said many men have to learn from on-the-job-training because of the high demand for emergency responders. Not all firefighters can go to basic fire training because of limited time and resources, he said.

Each week 506th ECES firefighters host about 15 of the 450 local civil defense firefighters for one-day training sessions to improve hands-on technical skills.

"They (Iraqi firemen) start out timid and quiet when they arrive at the base," said Tech. Sgt. Larry Peters, a 506th CES firefighter, also deployed from Hill AFB, Utah. "When they get into the training, we try to get them involved as much as possible and let them know we are on the same level as them. We share a connection based on our occupation- a

firefighter is a firefighter no matter where you're from," he said.

That connection is working according to Najm, who said weekly training with the U.S. Air Force surpasses one month's training in his firefighting community.

Some of the training focuses solely on saving lives in a blaze. Sergeant Kuropatwa said the Iraqi firemen don't get a lot of exposure to fighting fires from inside buildings. In that situation, the number one focus should be searching the building for victims according to Sergeant Peters, a Des Moines, Iowa, native.

Important Experience

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Robert Kane, commanding general, Iraq Training Advisory Mission- Air Force., said of such fire fighting training conducted in Kirkuk and elsewhere in Iraq: "It's important to experience this training so you will not be afraid when you are faced with real-life situations."

506th ECES Airmen helped their Iraqi counterparts practice fighting fires inside buildings by setting up a low-visibility training scenario. They restricted the Iraqi firemen's sight by covering their face masks with hoods to simulate black-out conditions. Using the buddy system, the firefighters entered a smoky building to

locate a casualty. The Airmen said this scenario will help Iraqi firefighters feel more comfortable when they deal with real-world low-visibility situations.

A recent, real-world tragedy tested one of the Iraqi firefighters who was on base training with the Airmen.

Sgt. Hussien Ali Akbar was one of many Iraqi firefighters who helped rescue victims in the June 20 Taza District vehicle-borne improvised explosive device bombing that killed more than 85 people. He rescued 11 people from the rubble and said he remembered one woman in particular because he had to cut through and move so much debris to pull her out.

Iraqi firefighters said they wish to improve their skills at these techniques.

Air Force firefighters here said urban search and rescue techniques, required as a part of U.S. fire training since 9/11, include locating and rescuing victims without increasing collateral damage, despite facing obstacles such as cutting through rebar and concrete, said Peters. Airmen make that possible in the training environment by creating obstacles to overcome while they conduct search tactics.

New Challenges

Najm said vehicle extrication is something they also want to learn from Airmen in future training drills.

"We are trying to acquire some wrecked vehicles from the local junkyards," said Kuropatwa. "Being that a lot of their emergencies do involve VBIED responses, they want to learn tactics on gaining entry into vehicles quickly," he said.

Armed with improved skills and a better understanding of firefighting tactics, techniques, and training procedures, Kirkuk firefighters are better prepared to respond effectively and save the lives of their fellow citizens, whether behind a burning door or inside a bomb-blasted building.

Such cooperative training is catching on, allowing Iraqi fire fighters to train other Iraqis in their skills. For instance, 21 new Iraqi firefighters concluded their training for the Ministry of Defence's Basic Firefighter Course at the National Fire Academy, Baghdad, in July. The course marked the first time Iraq instructors conducted the training without assistance from Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq's advisors. The success validated the success of the train-the-trainer concept practiced by MNSTC-I advisors.

Iraqi Instructors Teach Cultural Awareness to Educate U.S. Troops

BAGHDAD – The first Cultural Awareness course was held at the Ministry of Defense Ministerial Training and Development Center July 26.

While the two-day Advisor School provides new Coalition advisors the essential skills and confidence necessary to become effective advisors, this one-day version was designed differently. The course was conducted under the direction of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq. It fulfills a key element of the U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement that calls for strategic partnerships in fields such as culture.

"This course is designed specifically for people at Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq who aren't assigned to Advisor positions, but who nevertheless want to learn more about the culture and history of Iraq," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Sandra Kolb, chief, Training and Development Branch, Iraq Training and Advisory Mission-Ministry of Defense. "We feel that if you are serving in Iraq with MNSTC-I, you should have the opportunity to receive some formal instruction in its culture and history, and from teachers who are Iraqi."

"I think that Americans want to learn Iraqi culture and history from Iraqis rather than other Americans," said Dr. Cassidy Craft, MTDC superintendent.

The curriculum for the course was prepared through a collaborative effort of the instructors, who are all MOD/MTDC employees. "The information presented features parts of the culture of Iraq that the staff wanted us to know more about," Craft said.

The class opened with a lesson in the basic geography of Iraq, including a look at the unique features of each province.

A section on the notable rulers of Iraq and the Iraqi mindset took a look at past leaders from the lawgiver Hammurabi and King Nebuchadnezzar II to the dictator Saddam Hussein.

"In the class on notable rulers of Iraq, the instructor asked us who our heroes are," said Maj. Patrick Swan, a MNSTC-I staff officer. "Upon reflection, I nominate the instructors themselves. At great risk to their own security, they teach at the MTDC. These instructors do this despite the threats to their lives from terrorists who want the Iraq Republic to fail. These instructors do this for the benefit of Iraqi students who will be a future generation of Iraqi leaders in the various ministries. This meets the definition of a hero in my book."

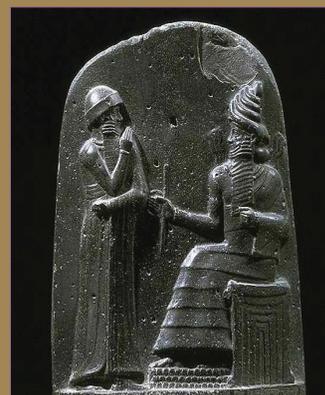
The basic Arabic language-and-phrases section allowed students to engage in basic dialogue and to understand common Iraqi slang phrases.

The topic of marriage and family allowed students to see the whole process of an engagement and marriage in Iraqi Islamic society. One MOD/MTDC instructor brought first-hand experience to the subject by sharing that he was currently going through the lengthy marriage process.

The marriage and family sections and lessons on gender issues in Iraq brought the greatest exchange of ideas between students and instructors. Instructors and students avoid inquiring about the sensitive subjects of the cultural differences between the West and Iraq's Islamic culture.

Comments on student evaluation forms ranged from, "It is great to know Iraq embraces its history" to "This course helps relieve the culture shock; Iraqis seem less alien now."

Students also had positive to say about the instructors. "They were very informative and professional. Their knowledge and passion to pass along their cultural history and growth is evident and truly appreciated. Thank you for offering this class."





Two First Commando Bn. students demonstrate the side-control dominant body position.(Photo by U.S. Army Capt. James R. Whitmore.)

Combatives Training

Iraqi Students Introduced to Hand-to-Hand Fighting

By U.S. Army Capt. William Kemerling

BASRAH, Iraq – U.S. Army combatives programs teach confidence and aggressiveness through hand to hand combat.

Recently, the First Commando Battalion of Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement, along with U.S. advisors from Team Darkhorse, certified nine border police commandos for level one in the program.

The commandos were introduced to the Brazilian Ju-Jitsu fighting style of Ultimate Fighting Champion Royce Gracie from which U.S. Army Combatives is based. They are encouraged to

mirror his techniques and violence of action.

The rigorous 20-hour course was packed into five days, concluding with 41 task evaluations on the final day.

Students were first introduced to the three basic principles of fighting: closing the distance, gaining and maintaining dominant body positions, and finishing the fight. Evaluated skills included the complete Drill 1, finishing moves, Drill 2, transitions, the positions, and

Students hours on thin of a parade field their days off.

U.S. Army Atienza, the he was impressed dedication, and commandos.

“The First Commando Battalion’s program is in its infancy,” he said, “but its leaders and policemen are capable, professional and able to grow and sustain a combatives program of their own.”



four dominant body clinch techniques. trained tirelessly for mats over the concrete without shade, and on

Staff Sgt. Clayton primary instructor, said with the motivation, technical ability of the

Afghanistan-based Security Transition Command Seeks MNSTC-I Best Practices

BAGHDAD – A team of U.S. advisors based in Afghanistan visited here in late July to capture best practices from their sister unit, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq.

“We came to see how MNSTC-I conducts business,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Michael Weisz, director security cooperation program in Afghanistan. “We can’t apply everything we have learned here because there are differences between Iraq and Afghanistan. But within bounds, there is a commonality that we can apply. We want to capitalize on every success and avoid every pitfall.”

Weisz is formally part of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. CSTC-A has the mission of training, equipping and mentoring the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, just as MNSTC-I has had that mission for Iraq.

“Presently, we are fielding an Afghan force of 134,000 soldiers and 96,800 police,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Trent H. Edwards, the CSTC-A director, Programs and Comptroller. “Our mission is to build sustainable capacity and capability within the Afghan National Security Forces. Ultimately, the Afghanistan National Security Forces must create the conditions for security and stability in Afghanistan.”

The CSTC-A team reviewed MNSTC-I’s

more-established process in Iraq that taps into a NATO trust fund for participating nations to contribute money and equipment to security forces.

“MNSTC-I’s successes,” Weisz said, “show us how we want to grow our program, with systems to track equipment and resources that we will eventually shift to Afghans for management.”

Weisz said the team studied how MNSTC-I works contracts that enable the Iraqis to obtain the equipment and training they need.

“Contracting is big player in moving forward,” Weisz continued. “It is key and essential to our ability to execute dollars. We need flexible, agile contractor support. MNSTC-I personnel have been showing us how this can be done.”

The team also met with senior leadership from the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq and Afghanistan to discuss contracting support to expedite CSTC-A mission requirements.

“We look forward to partnering with the contracting community to enhance the full spectrum of CSTC-A mission objectives,” Edwards said.

Edwards added that CSTC-A needs a program “to give us operational flexibility and ensure the transparency and efficiency that safeguards taxpayers’

dollars. This is a great opportunity to share ideas. This is good for America, the region, the coalition, and for Afghanistan. That makes it good for the world.”

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Craig Olson, director of Security Assistance and Iraq Security Assistance Mission, said his people were happy to share ideas on program management.

“We’ve opened our doors to the CSTC-A team,” Olson said. “We’ve shown them the process and systems so they know what to do to prepare for their own way of doing business.”

The Iraq Security Assistance Mission exercises oversight, implements the security assistance program in Iraq, orchestrates foreign military sales, international military education and training, and end-use monitoring. In addition, ITAM also advises the Government of Iraq on the acquisition of commodities, services, and infrastructure through direct commercial sales. They support the development of ministerial capacity in order to provide forces capable of ensuring the long term security of Iraq.

“Through our efforts to build sustainable forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, we’re having a great impact on history,” Olson concluded.



Acquiring Humvees through the Foreign Military Sales program is one example of best practices that interested the team from Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea)

Iraqis Blaze Trails Thru Live-Fire Training

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