



THE ADVISOR

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MNSTC-I

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Iraqi Coastal Defense Force sailors perform mooring operations at the launching of the ICDF Sept. 30, in Umm Qasr. The training of the ICDF began in January using a combination of instructors from the multinational forces. Photo by U.S. Navy Chief Joe Kane

Iraqi navy casts off in defense of coastal waters

*By Navy Chief Journalist
Joe Kane, MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

UMM QASR, Iraq - The Iraqi Coastal Defense Force took official responsibility for protecting its coastline Sept. 30 at a ribbon cutting and pass in review ceremony at the port of Umm Qasr.

Senior Iraqi officials and members of the multinational forces attended the ceremony, witnessing an honor salute from the new fleet as the ships cruised by the VIP stand.

"Iraqis have taken responsibility for protecting territorial waters today, and actual work will begin tomorrow," said Colonel Hameed Balafam, commander of the Iraqi

Coastal Defense Force.

The ICDF begins operations Oct. 1 as the protector of Iraq's coastal territories and ensuring the security of Iraq's offshore oil wells and installations. The southern port of Iraq is the exit point for most of the country's oil exports.

"Our first mission will be to protect oil ports in Basra and Khor al-Amaya from saboteurs and infiltrators," said Balafam. "I'm fully confident because most of the Iraqi Coastal Defense Force personnel are from the former Iraqi navy and I'm confident about their skills."

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Understanding Ramadan

By U.S. Army Col.
Danelle L. Scotka
MNSTC-I J-2 Director of Intelligence



Col. Danelle Scotka

Ramadan is the month of fasting. It is a time for Muslims to focus on spiritual devotion, inner reflection, self control, and devotion to God. They strengthen community and family bonds during this time. Around the world, there are more than one billion Muslims who will observe Ramadan in some manner.

The third pillar of Islamic religious obligation is fasting. Fasting develops sympathy for the less fortunate when Muslims experience hunger. They also appreciate God's bounty through the fast.

The Fast of Ramadan lasts the entire month. During daylight Muslims do not eat, drink, or smoke. At the end of each day the fast is broken with prayer and a meal (*iftar*). A pre-dawn meal (*suboor*) is eaten before the fast starts again at the next daybreak. Although there are limited exceptions from fasting, any missed days are supposed to be made up before the next Ramadan.

Within the holy month of Ramadan, the last ten days have a special status and are a time to come closer to Allah through even greater devotions and good deeds. Within those last ten days is the Night of Power (*Laylat-al-Qadr*), which is celebrated on the 27th day of the month of Ramadan.

Laylat-al-Qadr marks the night of the first revelation of verses of the Quran to Mohammed around A.D. 610. The Quran is the sacred book of Muslims who believe that it

contains the words of Allah dictated to the prophet Mohammed through the angel Gabriel.

The Quran states this night is better than a thousand months; so many Muslims spend the entire night in prayer. It is also when Allah determines the course of the world for the following lunar year. Ramadan ends with the Feast of the Fast Breaking (*Id-al-Fitr*), which is celebrated for the first three days of Shawwal (the tenth month of the Islamic calendar).

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. This year Ramadan is Oct. 16 through Nov. 14. The dates change each year on solar calendars because the Islamic calendar is a calendar based on the cycles of the moon (lunar calendar).

Each new month begins about the time of the lunar crescent or "new moon." As a result, one year lasts 354 or 355 days instead of the 365 or 366 of the solar calendar.

A fixed date on the Islamic calendar does not match a fixed date on a solar calendar year after year. Last year Ramadan started on Oct. 27, this year it is Oct. 16, and next year it will be Oct. 5.

Iraqi police service trains in hostage negotiations

MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, as part of their on-going effort to organize, train and equip Iraqi police services, began a Hostage Crisis Negotiation course this week at an undisclosed location. Iraqi police officers from all over Iraq and from different Iraqi police agencies are attending the course.

"This course is a tool," said instructor Wayne Lehman. "We're giving them tools, resources, and ideas. We give them some concepts to be able to work things out for themselves."

The course has 31 students from the Iraqi Police Service, Department of Border Enforcement, the Iraqi Highway Patrol, the Major Crimes Unit and other agencies. The two-week course gives officers skills in coping with the rash of kidnappings occurring in Iraq. Many of Iraq's kidnappings target Iraqis.

The course covers principles of negotiation, negotiation criterion, considerations, techniques and guidelines, as well as other topics. But the course, Lehman says, is not all inclusive and it is not designed to prepare police officers for high-profile political kidnappings.

"It's a philosophy we're going to give them here," Lehman said. "We're here to try to teach them how to deal with the day-to-day stuff that the local cops have to deal with. It's got to start somewhere. They're on the street everyday."

Lehman, who taught the FBI's hostage negotiation lesson plan in the United States, assembled the course plan from scratch. Ordinarily, most hostage courses also include a segment where a psychologist teaches a block of instruction. CPATT's course doesn't yet include a psychological segment.

"The Fast of Ramadan lasts the entire month. During daylight Muslims do not eat, drink, or smoke. At the end of each day the fast is broken with prayer and a meal."



"Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar.

This year Ramadan is Oct. 16 through Nov. 14. "

ICDF

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The training of the ICDF began in January using a combination of instructors from the multinational forces including the British navy and marines, and the U.S., Australian, and Netherlands' navy. With a force of 412 personnel the ICDF is slightly more than 100 percent manned, with their original goal set at 409. Training included courses on basic seamanship, firefighting, and boarding operations.

"Maybe some of the training courses we knew already," said Balafam. "But we have new information about ship handling, seamanship, navigation and navigating in narrow water."

Balafam said new equipment like global positioning systems and improvements in radar have improved the capability of the ICDF. The ICDF has a relatively new fleet which includes 33 rigid hull inflatable boats and fast aluminum speed boats, and five 27-meter Chinese made Predator gunboats.

The captain of gunboat P104 said the goal is to rebuild the Iraqi Coastal Defense Force.

"Now we have new vessels better than the previous ones. We are not afraid. We volunteered to protect our



The new Iraqi Coastal Defense Force lines up in formation for a pass in review at the port of Umm Qasr. Photo courtesy of the Iraqi Coastal Defense Force.

country and God willing it will be all right," he said.

Like many of the new ICDF volunteers the captain of P104 is a former member of the former regime's navy. But now that the rebuilding is taking place recruits have signed up from all over Iraq

"Most of them are from the south," said Balafam. "Basra and Nasiriyah and Maysan ... but also some are from Baghdad and Kut and Hillah. When we opened for recruiting it is for

everybody, it's not just here. Anyone who wants to join the coastal defense force can come from everywhere in Iraq."

Brig. Gen. James Schwitters, commanding general of the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team attended the ceremony and commented that ICDF personnel have shown the ability to perform well.

"Certainly they've proven to be excellent seaman. They know the waters, they know the language they know the local threats and concerns, so I'm very confident," Schwitters said. "It's just the beginning."



Left: *An ICDF marine watches as the new Iraqi fleet passes by the pier.*

Below: *Two ICDF sailors on the bridge of P104 prepare to get the ship underway for the pass in review at the port of Umm Qasr Sept. 30. Photos by U.S. Navy Chief Journalist Joe Kane*



Diyala province inaugurates Joint Coordination Center in Ba'qubah

Written and translated by the Iraqi Media Team, Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq

DIYALA, Iraq - A Joint Coordination Center (JCC) has been inaugurated in Ba'qubah/Diyala province Sept. 20 by the commanding general of the Multinational Security Transition Command—Iraq Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, and Dr. Abdullah Hassan Rashied Al-Juboory, governor of Ba'qubah. Also Gen. Waleed Khalid Abdul-Salam the province Iraqi police commander and Gen. Talib Abid the province Iraqi National Guard commander attended the inauguration.

Petraeus stated the Iraqi prime minister agreed to station a new mechanized unit in the province for the purpose of increasing security forces there.

"There are 250 Iraqi police officers who will be sent to Jordan, and also another battalion will be added to ING forces to participate in making peace and security in the province. The new battalion of ING will be supplied with new vehicles to start the work," Petraeus said. "We don't want to just establish good police, we want the police to create a good relationship with people, and we want also our relationship to be good



From right to left: Lt. Gen. Petraeus, Gov. Al-Juboory and the Diyala Province Police Chief Gen. Abdul-Salam cut the ribbon on the new Joint Coordination Center in Ba'qubah, Iraq Sept. 20. Photo courtesy of the MNSTC-I Iraqi Media Team

with the Iraqi people and full of peace."

In his speech, the governor expressed appreciation to Lt. Gen. Petraeus for his visit to the province, and he considered it a big step of progress. The governor talked about the JCC saying it has support from the province's

leadership, people who have the interest of Iraq in their minds, and he considers the JCC a good resource in establishing cross-communications with the populace and assisting the authorities in collecting information about anti-Iraqi forces and criminals.

The province police commander mentioned that the JCC will be a great resource to make peace and security in the province. He also added that the JCC is connected with all parts of the province, and that's what makes the police capable of running their operations.

Gen. Abid the province ING commander emphasized that hard work was improving security conditions in the region, and that because of the commitment of the Iraqi Security Forces, the Iraqi people were opening a new page in history.

The JCC had 20 officers when it first was established, then they were increased to 40. The province now has more than 33,000 officers and soldiers.

Petraeus said that the JCC was established to face present difficulties, and he expressed his admiration for the progress being made in the province, one of the main goals of the Multinational forces in Iraq.

Despite challenges, Iraqi forces are 'In the Fight'

*By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – Although insurgents are making things difficult, the task of training, equipping and deploying new Iraqi security forces is progressing, a senior U.S. military official noted in a Sept. 26 commentary published in the *Washington Post*.

Army Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus acknowledged "there will be more tough times" in Iraq in the months lead-

ing up to the country's general elections in January – and beyond. However, while he predicted that insurgent attacks would likely increase, he also pointed out that the situation isn't out of control and that Iraqi security forces are "developing steadily and they are in the fight."

Petraeus, commander of the Multinational Security Transition Command - Iraq, is charged with overseeing efforts to prepare Iraqis to assume security of their country. In the past few months, he noted, 7,500 Iraqis signed up for the new Iraqi Army, while 3,500 new Iraqi police recruits recently reported for training.

Despite insurgent attacks, Petraeus observed, "there is no shortage of qualified recruits volunteering to join Iraqi security forces."

Noting that he regularly meets with Iraqi security force leaders, Petraeus praised their "determination and their desire to assume the full burden of security tasks for Iraq."

Petraeus compared the task of training Iraqi security forces in the midst of insurgent violence to "repairing an aircraft while in flight – and while being shot at." Yet despite terrorist attacks, Petraeus pointed out, "there has been

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Iraqi cadets celebrate after the graduation of the first Department of Border Enforcement class in Amman, Jordan. The Iraqi students graduated from the Jordanian International Police Training Academy Sept 27. Photo by U.S. Navy Chief Journalist Joe Kane

Iraq's border enforcement department graduates first cadets

By U.S. Navy Chief Journalist Joe Kane, Multinational Security Transition Command – Iraq Public Affairs

AMMAN, Jordan - Iraq graduated its first class of cadets from the Department of Border Enforcement (DBE) Sept. 27. Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commanding general of the Multinational Security Transition Command – Iraq attended the event along with Col. Ala'a al Ubaydi from Iraq's DBE, and the director of the border enforcement training facility in Jordan, Kathy Frie bald.

In his opening remarks to the graduating cadets Petraeus challenged them to take what they have learned back to Iraq with them and use it to set the example for others. That they are the beginning of a plan to secure Iraq's borders.

"In recent months we've determined that more attention and resources must be given to the DBE," Petraeus said. "We have worked with your leadership and it came up with a comprehensive plan – including a training program, an expansion of manpower, refurbishment of DBE infrastructure, and better equipment. This class is one of the elements of the larger strategy."

With more than 2,200 miles of border to cover Petraeus

said the task of training and equipping enough personnel is essential to ensure the security of Iraq.

"The Ministry of Interior and our team recently completed a manpower analysis that concluded that the Department of Border Enforcement is significantly under strength for the formidable task of securing Iraq's 3,600 kilometers of borders and its ports of entry," Petraeus said. "Over the next year, Iraq will double the size of the border enforcement – first expanding to 24,000 and then to 32,000 members. Iraq needs the right 32,000 people for this important job. Your loyalty must be to protecting the new Iraq – above any loyalties to tribe, ethnic group, religious sect, or easy profit."

Instructors from Jordan and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security trained 451 Iraqi students in Border Police Classes 1 and 2—a basic training course for border guards, the Border Police Supervisors Class, the Customs Police Class, the Customs Supervisors Class, Immigration Classes 1 and 2, and the General Instructors Classes 1 and 2.

The students who went through the four-week course varied in age and ethnicity, representative of many tribes and

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Challenges

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progress in the effort to enable Iraqis to shoulder more of the load for their own security, something they are keen to do."

Today, about 164,000 Iraqi police and soldiers – including 100,000 who've been trained and equipped – and another 74,000 Iraqi facility protection forces are performing myriad security missions across the country, Petraeus wrote.

"Training is on track and increasing in capacity," the general wrote, while also noting that necessary command and control structures and institutions are being stood up.

Some Iraqis have paid for their freedom with their lives, Petraeus pointed out, noting that more than 700 Iraqi security force members have been killed since Jan. 1. And hundreds of Iraqis who had sought to join the new Army and police forces, he noted, also have died through insurgent violence.

But despite insurgent efforts to destabilize the Iraqi government, Petraeus wrote, six battalions of the new Iraqi Army and members of the Iraqi Intervention Force are now conducting anti-insurgent operations across the country. In fact,

he pointed out, the existence of Iraqi security forces was a key factor in recent successful operations in Najaf.

Within the next two months, Petraeus wrote, six more regular Iraqi Army and six more Iraqi Intervention Force battalions will come on line.

And "nine more regular Army battalions will complete training in January, in time to help with security missions during the Iraqi elections at the end of that month," he indicated.

In the months ahead, the Iraqi border force is expected to expand from 16,000 members today to 32,000, the general noted. These forces, he observed, will be equipped with vehicle X-ray machines, explosive-detection gear and ground sensors.

Petraeus also pointed out that needed equipment "has begun flowing" to Iraqi security forces. Since July 1, he noted, Iraqi security forces received more than 39,000 weapons and 22 million rounds of ammunition, in addition to 42,000 sets of body armor, 4,400 vehicles, 16,000 radios and more than 235,000 uniforms.

Iraqi security forces have been gaining momentum in recent months, Petraeus observed. And, he wrote, with "strong Iraqi leaders out front and with continued coalition – and now NATO – support, this trend will continue."

Cadets

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regions across Iraq. The class was comprised of 42 percent Shi'ia Arabs, 43 percent Sunni Arabs, 16 percent Kurdish, one Christian student, and one percent from other ethno-religious backgrounds. Approximately 50 percent of the cadets had military experience, 46 percent had prior academy experience, and 74 percent had prior police experience.

"In partnership with your leadership, we have gone from province to province, determining where each of the over 300 border forts needs to be located. Some 41 are complete, and over 75 are under construction," Petraeus said.

The goal is to have more than 180 border forts completed by the end of the year and Petraeus said the rebuilding of infrastructure would continue, but that was not the only thing that needs to be done for the DBE to succeed.

"While forts are necessary, they are not sufficient," Petraeus said. "You also need the right technology and equipment to do your job."

Petraeus said new equipment is already flowing in – from radios for communication, to backscatter x-ray machines to assist in inspecting vehicles, to ground-sensors that will detect movement along

the border. The technology, along with manpower would be the key.

"It will take a joint effort to make this strategy and all of these initiatives a success," Petraeus said. "First and foremost, you must work with each other. Secondly, you need to work with the other Iraqi security forces. The Iraqi police, the Iraqi national guard, the Iraqi highway patrol will assist you – and you will need to assist them. Third, we are working on initiatives with border countries to improve communication and coordination with them. Lastly, we will work with you for as long as you need us – but not a day longer."

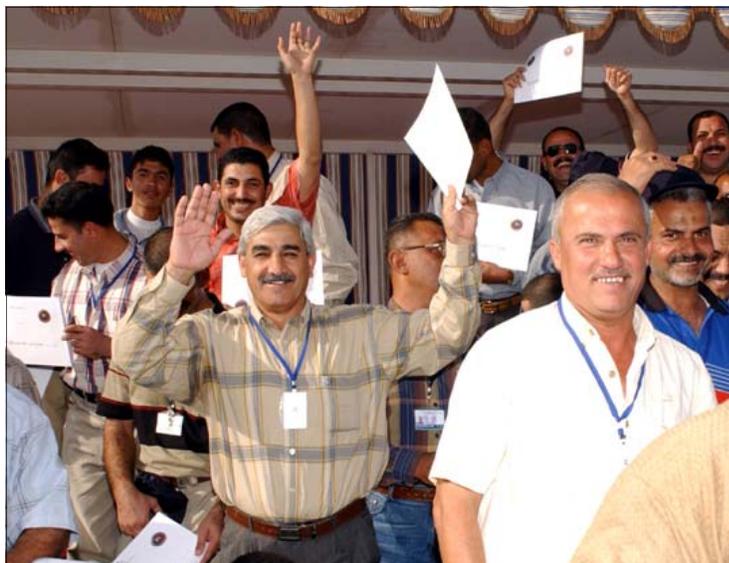
One cadet from Baghdad said the training will help Iraq help itself build the future of the country.

"For us to come here and get the help from the American and Jordanian instructors is the first step," said Abdas (full name

withheld for security reasons). "We are very proud to be with the first to stand by our new Iraq, the Iraq of freedom. This makes us very proud of our instructors and all the work they have done to teach us. We will now have the training to protect our country and our borders."

The training compound was built recently to support DBE and police training and has the capacity for about 3,500 police and DBE students. It contains

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Iraqi cadets wave their certificates after the graduation of the first Department of Border Enforcement class in Amman, Jordan. Photo by U.S. Navy Chief Journalist Joe Kane

Cadets

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a defensive driving course, classrooms, a helipad, and firing ranges. It is one of the largest police training facilities in the world.

Petraeus emphasized the task ahead for the cadets in his closing remarks.

“You are setting the standard for the new Iraq. I applaud you for your patriotism and willingness to assume the responsibility of keeping your country safe and secure. You are tasked to secure the border, and to prevent any more foreign fighters or their weapons from entering the country and aiding the insurgency,” Petraeus said.

“The task before you is far from simple. There will be setbacks along the way. But we must all remain determined, courageous, and persistent. You’re going to work long, hard hours in the harshest parts of Iraq. It won’t be easy, but then few things worthwhile ever are ... Today is a banner day for Iraq has taken another step on the road to building a safe and free Iraq,” Petraeus said.

MNSTCI WELCOMES:

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Commanding General
Civilian Police Assistance Training Team

MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED

Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses
U.S. Army Command and General Staff College
National War College

EDUCATIONAL DEGREES

San Jose State University - BS - Anthropology
U.S. Army Command and General Staff College
MMAS - Military Arts and Sciences
Central Michigan University - MS - Administration
National Defense University - MS - National Security and Strategic Studies

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

Chief, Requirements and Programs Branch, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Policy, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe/Deputy Commanding General U.S. Army NATO, Belgium

MOST RECENT ASSIGNMENT

Aug. 2002 — Sept. 2004 Commanding General, National Training Center and Commanding General Fort Irwin, Calif.



Two of a kind...

Michael (left) and William McLaren pause for a photo Sept. 30 at Balad Air Base. The McLarens are fraternal twins and were born Aug. 10, 1982 in Prince Georges Memorial Hospital, Md. Michael joined the Marines in Nov. 1999 and William joined the Army in July 2003. William was stationed in early January with the 512th Maintenance Battalion in Mannheim, Germany. His unit deployed to Iraq May 8. Michael volunteered to come back to Iraq and works for the Multinational Security Transition Command—Iraq. This was the first time they’d seen each other since January. William is older by four minutes. *Photo by Navy Chief Journalist Joe Kane*