

The Advisor



Learning to disarm

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

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ON THE COVER

An Iraqi Army soldier, who specializes in explosive ordnance disposal, practices locating explosive devices during training at the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School in Az Zubayr recently.

Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

General sees peaceful protests as signs of freedom in Iraq

By John J. Kruzal
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Organized protests in Iraq four years after the country's liberation are symbols of new political freedom that was suppressed by Saddam, said Multi-National Force – Iraq Spokesman, U.S. Army Gen. William Caldwell IV, in Baghdad April 11.

“I saw Iraqis exercising some of their political freedoms ... in Najaf and Kufa,” he told reporters two days after the fourth anniversary of Saddam's ouster. “As is their right in this new Iraq, some of them even demonstrated against their democratic government and its allies.”

Such displays are welcome given they are carried out peacefully. “Waving the new unity flag is better than what we saw in past years when marchers carried weapons, and held up photos and symbols of division,” Caldwell said.

Iraq is led by a representative unity government, and there is a constitution that secures the right of free assembly and political expression for its citizens, he said.

“We would all hope to be further along after four years,” the general said. “But I do think we should acknowledge how far the Iraqi people have come.”

Recent progress has been aided by Fardh Al-Qanoon, the Baghdad Security Plan announced Feb. 13, that includes initiatives to create joint security stations throughout Baghdad and deploy five additional U.S. brigades in and around the city. Civilian casualties in Baghdad have declined for the third consecutive month, Caldwell said.

Increased contact between Iraqi Security Forces and citizens builds confidence in the rule of law, and demonstrates to Iraqis that militias and outlaws are not the solution for long-term security, he said.

The third of five American reinforcement brigades just arrived, and the remaining two brigades will be in Iraq by the end of May. “We know

this increased security presence and cooperation from the people is having an impact in Baghdad,” Caldwell said. “For one thing, it is taking weapons off the streets, and out of the hands of murderers.”

Before Fardh Al-Qanoon, Coalition and Iraqi forces were finding an average of 24 weapons stockpiles per week. Seven weeks into the new security plan, combined forces are discovering weapons at a rate of 36 stockpiles per week - a 50 percent increase, he said.

“We know this increased security presence and cooperation from the people is having an impact in Baghdad.”

**U.S. Army Gen. William Caldwell IV
Multi-National Force – Iraq Spokesman**

In Baghdad's Al-Jihad district, an Iraqi citizen tipped off his local joint security station April 9 that a neighbor possessed illegal weapons.

“We dispatched a security force to the location specified by the Iraqi tipster; and they found a black Mercedes sedan in front of the home,” Caldwell said. “On the backseat was a recently manufactured Iranian rocket. They opened the trunk. Inside they found some recently manufactured weapons from Iran.”

Inside the house and in the backyard, combined security forces found a cache of Iranian weapons containing 60mm, 81mm and 107mm mortar rounds, and a type of rocket-propelled grenade only produced in Iran. The geometry of the munitions' tailfins and other unique markings distinguish the rounds as Iranian-made, said Caldwell, who warned against foreign influence in Iraq.

“The death and violence in Iraq is bad enough without this outside interference,” he said. “Iran and all of Iraq's neighbors really need to respect Iraq's sovereignty and allow the people in this country the time and the space to choose their own future.”

Q&A ■ Academy prepares Iraqi Police for combat zones

The 7th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division is currently attending the National Police Brigade-Level Training Course at the National Police Academy in Numaniyah as part of a program to bolster the professional development of the Iraqi National Police. The four-week training program includes classroom and practical training exercises and reinforces basic policing skills, emphasizes human rights, and focuses on the rule of law. Iraqi National Police Brig. Gen. Kareem, Commander of the 7th Brigade, spoke recently about the importance of the training his police are receiving.

Q: Why is your brigade attending this training?

A: The goal of our training is to give our police the skills and knowledge to defeat terrorism.

The training held at this academy completes our training cycle. The training is composed of theory lessons in the classroom and practical exercises in a field environment.

Why is this type of training important?

This training is very necessary for the policemen so they can be prepared to go into a combat zone.

What types of training are your policemen receiving?

We are training in the areas of urban warfare, how to conduct cordon and security, how to approach targets and methods of arrest.

What do you want your police to take from this training?

I'd like to see my shurtas - Arabic for policemen - acquire skills to behave responsibly in the field, do their job based on laws, understand how to interact with people, treat people with manners and respect and be able to handle conflicts



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

Iraqi National Police celebrate a graduation from the Numaniyah National Police Academy last year. The facility holds brigade-level National Police training in basic policing skills and human rights.

and crimes in order to make arrests. They must demonstrate loyalty to Iraq and be patriotic.

We are not going to lose hope that the sun will shine again on Iraq. We are military personnel, we look for peace for our homeland and the world.

What are you most proud of as a result of the training here?

I am proud of my shurtas because they are learning how to clear houses, approach crime scenes, file reports and how to treat detainees. I have full trust in my brigade, in my officers and the shurtas and our ability to conduct operations in the battlefields.

How is human rights training beneficial to your police and how does it help them in their daily jobs?

The human rights training helps our shurtas because it teaches them to treat people with dignity and this is also a benefit for Iraq. I have seen progress in

their human rights training because we have laws to follow. We cannot send our shurtas to make arrests unless there is a court order approved by a judge. We as military people have laws to follow – we cannot act forcefully out in the community unless we have legal approval.

What's next once you complete this training?

Our brigade will get its mission after we complete our training here. We will be assigned an area of operations by the division commander.

What future do you see for this training?

I hope it is extended so all National Police brigades receive this training.

How do you feel about your job?

I like my job and I respect it. I also respect those who help make Iraq a better place. I hope to see safety and peace come back to Iraq so that we can...rebuild our country.

ON THE STREETS:

Iraqi police return safety to Baghdad neighborhood

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi Police from the Juaifer Police Station have taken back the streets of the Al-Karkh district in Baghdad. The policemen have been making it safe for residents to raise their families and run their businesses by increasing their presence in the streets through regular patrols.

“Our mission is to investigate crimes and respond to emergencies,” said Iraqi Police Capt. Majid, the station’s Deputy Commander, as he pointed out the station’s responsibilities in the Salhiya neighborhood, an area composed of Shia and Sunni residents which borders the Tigris River and contains Haifa Street.

Majid, who has been an investigator for many years, attributes the change in the area’s crime patterns over the last few months to several factors beginning with the increased patrols.

“Our police conduct many patrols in cars and on foot throughout the neighborhood. We have several vehicle checkpoints,” Majid said. “We also have a patrol in the market where people buy their goods.”

Majid explained that they also routinely collaborate with the Iraqi Army.

“When we have a problem area, the Iraqi Army will provide an escort for our police,” Majid said. “We also work side-by-side at checkpoints.”

Majid cited another factor for the reduced crime rate.

“We used to have up to three to four murders a day, but since the Baghdad Security Plan started, murders and attacks have decreased tremendously,” he said.

Majid credited the betterment of the station to the leadership’s earnest efforts to

See POLICE, Page 5



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

Two Iraqi Policemen, from the Juaifer Police Station, staff a checkpoint in the Salhiya neighborhood of Baghdad recently.



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

The Baghdad Police Command Center in the Salhiya neighborhood.**An Iraqi motorcycle policeman gets ready for patrol duty in the Salhiya neighborhood of Baghdad.**

Local police take back the streets in Salhiya neighborhood

From POLICE, Page 4

increase security in the community.

“Our new commander has introduced many improvements to our station, but most importantly, we now have better discipline and he also continues to work with our Coalition forces advisors in the areas of logistics,” Majid said.

According to U.S. Army 1st Lt. Elizabeth Zerwick, one of the Police Transition Team Advisors helping the Juaifer Police Station, the station has been building relationships with local residents through interaction during their patrols.

“Children and adults come out to greet the police and seem happy that they are in their neighborhoods,” Zerwick said. “And the people will flag down the police when they drive through their areas.”

According to Majid, police have earned the residents’ trust by reaching out to the children and providing them with school supplies.

Majid mentioned that the station has its problems but has overcome them and continues to provide crucial security services in the community.

“Our station has many challenges and we can fix the simple ones but for bigger issues like the budget, we go to the

Ministry of Interior,” Majid said.

Majid cited attrition as one of the biggest issues the station faces in providing services to their residents. He said many policemen have left the station because they fear for their lives or because they or

“Children and adults come out to greet the police and seem happy that they are in their neighborhoods.”

**U.S. Army 1st Lt. Elizabeth Zerwick
Police Transition Team Advisor**

their families have been threatened. Others have simply been fired. But most of the 115 policemen who make up the force have several years of experience in the field and are the ones who are making the difference in the neighborhoods, Majid explained.

Majid described another issue - the processing of the people they arrest.

“We have an average of 15 to 25 people everyday in our holding cells that are in for anything from simply fighting in the street to more complex crimes like stealing cars,” he said.

Most of the people arrested may wait several days before their case can be seen

by an investigative judge, who renders a decision on their case.

According to Zerwick, while the Coalition forces continue to offer training and guidance, the Iraqi policemen have come a long way in the last several months.

“Their leadership has really taken charge of securing their neighborhood,” Zerwick said.

Majid echoed those comments. “We have a very good relationship with the community and many residents look for help from the police when they have an emergency because we respond to their calls.”

He also noted not all calls for help are crime related. “We have taken women who are having their babies to the hospital,” he said.

In spite of the challenges, Majid remains hopeful for his police station and also for the country.

Majid envisions new vehicles and more weapons so his men can do more patrols and he wants to continue building up his workforce with qualified personnel so his men can continue to make the neighborhood safe.

“This police station helps Iraq because it helps make it safe for people to live here,” Majid said.

Iraqi Air Force opens training center

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

TAJI, Iraq — As part of the continuing effort to train today's leaders for tomorrow's battles, the Iraqi Air Force is scheduled to open a new training school in Taji soon. The school will consist of a basic officer course, enlisted basic course and 21 technical courses.

"All the airmen that come here have already gone through Iraqi Army basic training before they branch off to come into the Iraqi Air Force," said Col. Wobbema, director of the Iraqi Air Force training school.

But, for a couple of airmen, the second phase of training has already begun. Maj. Aboub, whose real name is being withheld at his request, is a seasoned pilot with more than 740 hours of flight time

"I'm not scared to do my job. I am very proud to be doing this."

Iraqi Air Force gunner

from his more than 13 years in the Iraqi Air Force. Even with this experience, he still has to go through additional training. Most will be learned on the job.

He became a pilot because he wanted to protect his people and to serve his country. "The aircraft (Huey IIs) are very good, and they are brand new to the Iraqi Air Force," he said.

He has more than 21 hours of flight time on the Huey IIs.

The U.S. Air Force was gifted 16 Huey helicopters from Jordan. Over the past year, they have been rebuilt with reconditioned airframes and new engines to Huey II specifications. Five of the helicopters have been delivered to the Iraqi Air Force with the remaining 11 expected by mid-summer.

Aboub is proud to be flying again after three years. Now he wants to protect the people from the terrorists. "It is not for



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

A Huey II, shown here, is one of the helicopters that Jundi Ali and Maj. Aboub have used in training.

me, it's for my family," he said.

Before he can be fully operational, Aboub will go through intensive English language training. Not only is English the international language of aviation, but the training and technical manuals necessary to fly and maintain the equipment in the Iraqi Air Force are in English.

"English language training will be a six month program," Col. Wobbema stated. "Then they will go to their technical school for additional training in their career field."

Luckily for Aboub, he has attended some English training in the past. After completing the course, he will be mission capable of flying the Huey IIs.

Pilots aren't the only critical personnel onboard the Iraqi Huey's. In the counter-insurgency environment the Iraqi Air Force operates in, gunners are just as critical.

"This is my first day of training on how to be a gunner," said Ali, who also asked that his name be withheld from this story, with the help of Aboub and his English skills. "I'm not scared to do my job. I am very proud to be doing this."

Ali, who's been in the Iraqi Army for more than four years, had never flown before. "This is my first flight," he said. "I was so glad when we landed. The flight was good."

Of course an airplane or helicopter won't fly without good ground support. The Iraqi Air Force Training School at Taji also teaches maintenance, flight support operations, and other courses critical to rebuilding the once formidable Iraqi Air Force.

Huey II Background

**Configured weight:
5,627 lbs.**

**Maximum internal gross weight:
10,500 lbs.**

**Range:
175-225 nautical miles,
based on fuel flow**

**Endurance:
Approx. 2 hours,
based on fuel flow and
airspeed**

**Quantity of fuel:
208.5 gallons**

**Types of fuel:
Jet A, JP-4, JP-5 and
JP-8**

**Cargo configuration:
Variable configuration
with up to 13
passengers or 220
cubic feet of cargo**

**Number of main rotor
blades: 2**

**Number of tail rotor
blades: 2**

**New anti-torque system
tractor trail rotor**

**212 drive train and
tailboom**

**1500 SPI hydraulic
system**



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

Iraqi soldiers practice using ropes to pull unexploded ordnance clear of roadways during bomb disposal training at the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School in Az Zubayr recently.

Bomb conference to improve school's training

By U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

AZ ZUBAYR, Iraq —The Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School celebrated a first recently – hosting what it hopes will be an annual Bomb Disposal Conference in Az Zubayr.

The theme of the conference, Hand-in-Hand for Successful Training, set the pace for an open discussion of the school's training in the areas of bomb and improvised explosive device disposal, and how it supports the Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel who deal with these dangers out in the field.

Commanders from each of the Iraqi Army's 10 divisions were present with their Coalition forces advisors.

The forum provided the attendees an opportunity to discuss how Iraqi soldiers are being trained at the facility and to share ideas.

"The training we do at this school

improves the capabilities of the EOD personnel in the Iraqi Army and also in the National Police," said Lt. Col. Ahmed, commander of the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School. "We want to look at our weak points and improve our training. We also want to look at ways to develop future training."

The school offers several courses to include bomb disposal robot operation, use of personal protective equipment, crime scene investigation and forensics, X-ray equipment and explosive detectors, among others.

"If we remove bombs and plant flowers instead we will save lives," said Ahmed. "We are like doctors - it is our duty."

One of the goals of the conference is to facilitate the standardization of training and practices throughout the Iraqi armed forces.

The conference provided the opportunity for the division commanders to see for themselves the kind of

instruction their future EOD personnel receive.

According to U.S. Army Capt. Michael Schoonover, a Coalition forces EOD advisor in attendance, the conference allowed the Iraqi Army division commanders and Coalition forces advisors the chance to openly discuss the school's training.

"The conference was very positive," said Schoonover. "Many of the Coalition advisors will walk away with a better understanding of the training the soldiers are getting. This will help them to know in which direction they can proceed with their guidance.

"It also allowed the division commanders to see how each division is doing in the areas of equipment, manning and training of their soldiers," Schoonover said.

They also discussed safety tips.

See EXPLOSIVES, Page 8

Conference showcases explosive training capabilities



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal instructor at the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School in Az Zubayr demonstrates proper unexploded ordnance removal methods.

An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal soldier gets help putting on a protective suit before approaching unexploded ordnance during training.



From EXPLOSIVES, Page 7

One discussion demonstrated the level of candor between the school leadership and the commanders – illiteracy, how many of the soldiers do not know how to read or write. Ahmed explained that illiteracy alone is the leading cause of failure in a school where the material is highly technical in nature.

While EOD training is not a new concept in Iraq, it is a new capacity within the Iraqi Army.

“It previously existed under the Iraqi Police and Fire Departments. The engineers had EOD responsibilities but with limited capabilities,” he said.

Schoonover explained how this has now changed with the centralization of training at the location in Az Zubayr which will aid standardization throughout the EOD ranks in Iraq’s military. All Iraqi EOD personnel are required to attend.

Ahmed talked of his vision to increase the school’s course offerings to include robot maintenance, an officer and non-commissioned officer course, and a train-the-trainer course for division-level bomb disposal companies.

“Having these courses will help us increase the education and practical training of our students to better handle these dangers,” Ahmed said.

“This is a one-stop shop for any explosives training,” Schoonover said.



An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal soldier remotely controls a bomb disposal robot.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Sean Foley

Neighborhood watch program shows success

Iraqi National Police Col. Baha, commander of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Division, Iraqi National Police, addresses the concerns of a local resident while on a dismounted patrol in the Karkh District of Baghdad, March 28. The police are conducting presence patrols in the neighborhood to foster a closer relationship with residents of the area.

English language training takes flight

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Learning the technical aspects of aviation can be a challenge and having to learn a foreign language at the same time can seem impossible. But, that's what 30 students at the New Al-Muthanna Air Base have been doing for the past couple of months. The Iraqi Air Force English Language Training School opened here in Jan. 2006.

These students were recruited from Iraqi universities and possess engineering backgrounds. After graduation they joined the Iraqi Air Force as officer cadets. In order to become a pilot, the cadets need to first learn English. English is the international language of aviation and a lot of the flight and maintenance manuals critical to the functioning of an Air Force are only available in English.

Cadet Luday, whose real name is not being used at his request, joined the Iraqi Air Force because he wanted to fly airplanes and serve his country.

"It is my home," he said.

Brenda Brewer, a Coalition contractor from the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, Texas, is Luday's English teacher. "I am proud of all of the students," she said. "They are eager to learn the English language and culture."

The course is taught through instructor lectures and

computer-based lessons. Brewer teaches the cadets the correct pronunciation of words and the computer programs acquaint them with rules for grammar.

"English language training is a unique experience for our students and each and every one of them is anxious to learn," said Frank Lawrence, chief of the Iraq Mobile Training Team from DLI, who has been teaching here since Feb. 2007. "Upon entering the school, the cadets were below a 60 percent level of comprehension and few were able to adequately converse in English."

"We are all proud of all of our students," said Lawrence. "They are well motivated to learn and they have demonstrated a unique enthusiasm for learning," he said.

Presently there are two schools for English language training: one here and one at the Iraq Military Academy in Rustamiyah, which opened Jan. 2007. Prior to the school opening, English courses were taught at other sites throughout Iraq. The instructors at the school have volunteered to come to Iraq and teach English to new Air Force cadets.

Upon completion of the course, cadets will be selected to attend the Iraqi Air Force Academy in Taji. Those with high English scores on the language test will have preferential treatment in the selection process, according to Lawrence.

Thirteen former English language training students have already been selected to be the first cadets of the Iraqi Air Force Academy class in Taji which starts instruction soon.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Special Operations Forces capture 2 suspects

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Special Operation Forces and Coalition advisors captured two suspected insurgents during an air-assault operation April 11 outside Fallujah.

One of the suspects detained is believed to be a member of a terrorist organization called the Islamic Army and part of an improvised explosive device cell operating out of Fallujah. The other suspect is believed to be with the cell and responsible for emplacing improvised explosive devices specifically targeting Coalition forces vehicles.

Five other suspects were also detained during the operation.

No Iraqi or Coalition forces were injured during this operation.

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

Iraqi Police detain suspected chlorine improvised explosive device makers

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Police forces with the help of Coalition advisors captured two suspected insurgents during an operation in Kubaysah village in Al-Anbar province April 11.

The suspects are alleged to be responsible for planning and building improvised explosive devices containing chlorine.

No Iraqi or Coalition forces were injured during this operation.

— *Multi-National Corps — Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi and Coalition forces find 6 weapons caches in 2 days in southern Buhriz

BAQUBAH — Iraqi and Coalition forces found six weapons caches during the first two days of operations in southern Buhriz, a suburb of Baqubah, Iraq, April 10.

During the first day of operations, soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army and the Iraqi Police Emergency Reaction Force, partnered with Coalition forces, discovered more than five weapons caches, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device and eight IEDs.

The caches included several small-arms munitions, IED-making materials such as detonation cord, batteries and explosives, mortar rounds, mortar initiators and rocket-propelled grenade munitions.

The following day, the soldiers discovered a cache containing a mortar tube, more than 50 RPG munitions and cases of small-arms ammunition.

A coalition forces explosive ordnance disposal unit was on site to conduct controlled detonations of the caches and the IEDs.

The operation also resulted in the detention of five suspected terrorists, four of whom were associated with a cache and set up an enemy observation post.

The detainees were transferred to a detention facility for further questioning.

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

Searching the streets

Iraqi army soldiers wait to move to their next location after searching a house during an Iraqi Army lead foot patrol mission in East Mansour Baghdad, Iraq, April 7.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway