

The Advisor



Feb. 16, 2008



Watering down the threats

Iraq's police dive at the opportunity
to keep the Tigris safe

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The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have
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>> FROM THE COVER

An Iraqi Police
diver from the
Baghdad River
Patrol practices
breathing tech-
niques during
a confidence
training course
Feb. 5.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class
Erica R. Gardner

>> IRAQI ARMY: MASSCAL TRAUMA TRAINING



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

An Iraqi medical student applies a bandage to the leg of a medical mannequin to stop the flow of blood during a litter carry training scenario. The mass casualty exercise is done to test the skills and medical competency of the students after the 10 week course prior to graduation.

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Other features

No planned U.S. bases in Iraq

3 President Bush has advised no U.S. military bases will be established in Iraq until the necessary reports and recommendations are received from military officials.

Weaknesses identified

4 Recent capture of key al-Qaida leader reveals the weaknesses in their organization to wreak havoc on the success of the Iraqi government.

Out with the old in with the new

8 Iraqi Army Presidential Brigade trades in their older equipment for newer, more accurate equipment purchased using the Foreign Military Sales program.

Coming back to spread his wings

10 Former pilot in Saddam Hussein's regime has returned to the Iraqi Air Force Academy to share his knowledge with the new crew of Iraqi Air Force cadets.

Iraqi Army and National Police join forces

12 The Iraqi Army and National Police have joined forces to become Civil Affairs representatives to assist the neighborhoods around the nation to a higher standard of living for the Iraqi people.



Courtesy Photo

No permanent U.S. bases planned for Iraq, Bush says

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The United States does not plan to establish permanent bases in Iraq, President Bush said Feb. 10.

Appearing on “Fox News Sunday,” Bush told host Chris Wallace that the best interests of the United States and Iraq would guide any agreement on long-term U.S. presence in Iraq, just as similar agreements are in place between the United States and other countries that host U.S. forces.

“We will be there at the invitation of the Iraqi government,” he said. “And we won’t have permanent bases.”

For the near term, Bush said, he’ll make decisions on the next steps in Iraq when military leaders provide their next reports and recommendations in the spring. U.S. Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; U.S. Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command; and U.S. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-national Force - Iraq, are slated to present their recommendations to Bush in April.

Bush said he met with Petraeus in Kuwait during a recent trip to the Middle East, and that he urged the general to base his recommendations on whatever is necessary for success in Iraq, which he defined as having enough security and stability for reconciliation to take place and for the country’s democracy to take hold.

“My message to the general was, ‘Success is paramount. Therefore, whatever you recommend, make it based upon the need to succeed,’” Bush said. “I’m not sure what his recommendation will be, nor am I sure what the recommendation will be of the Pentagon. ... They may be all the same; they may not be all the same.

“But I will listen, give them careful consideration, and make up my mind,” the president said. “But it’s going to be based upon whether or not we can succeed.” ■

what key leaders are saying

>> **U.S. ARMY MAJ. GEN. MARK HERTLING**,
Multi-National Division – North commander



“A year ago, we were often reacting to al-Qaida and what they were going to do next. Now, I think the tables have turned a little bit, and they are attempting to react to where we’re going to go next, and that’s a critical difference.”

>> **U.S. NAVY REAR ADM. GREGORY SMITH**,
Multi-National Force – Iraq spokesman

“Al-Qaida brought nothing in a positive, constructive way. What the people are looking for is a change in a positive direction. Beyond just the reduction of violence, they’re also looking for an opportunity to get their lives back.”



>> **U.S. AIR FORCE COL. JOHN PROBST**,
Civilian Police Assessment Training Team
deputy director of plans and assessment



“What we are steering toward has got to be an Iraqi solution. Back home we’re used to very proactive police. The policing here is a lot more of a reactive endeavor, and has been for some time.”



Courtesy Photos

Captured al-Qaida documents detail shift in support

By Fred W. Baker III

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Documents released by U.S. military officials in Iraq detail the deterioration of al-Qaida in Iraq, as hundreds of its fighters have deserted to fight alongside the coalition or have been killed or captured.

U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Gregory J. Smith, a Multi-National Force – Iraq spokesman, briefed reporters Feb. 10 on a letter and diary recovered in raids by Coalition forces, both thought to be written by senior leaders of al-Qaida in Iraq.

The documents are believed to have been written last year, and detail a shift in support as citizens who formerly supported al-Qaida in Iraq joined ranks with Coalition and Iraqi forces, leaving the terror organization in a substantially weakened state.

The letter was most likely written over the summer by a mid- to high-level al-Qaida in Iraq emir, Smith said, and states, “The Islamic State of Iraq is faced with an extraordinary crisis, especially in al-Anbar.”

Anbar was the first Iraqi province to experience what became known as an “awakening,” in which local tribes joined forces to repel al-Qaida from their villages. The groups, along with the U.S. troop surge, have been widely credited with changing the tide in the fight against al-Qaida and creating security gains across the country.

The citizen security groups were first called Concerned Local Citizens by Coalition officials and now are known as Sons of Iraq. In his letter, the al-Qaida emir called them renegades.

“The renegades and Americans started launching their attacks to destroy us,” the letter reads. “We lost cities, and afterwards villages, and the desert became a dangerous refuge. We got away from people and found ourselves in a wasteland desert.”

The letter delivers a pessimistic assessment of al-Qaida’s long-term prospects in Anbar, and even recommends that remaining foreign fighters there be moved to other areas of Iraq, where



Coalition forces provide security in Iraqi neighborhoods, stabilizing the violence brought on by insurgents. Since the surge of Coalition forces in Iraq, security gains in the region have paralyzed many al-Qaida operatives, making it difficult to carry weapons or wear suicide belts. This information was referred to in documents recently released by U.S. military officials in Iraq.



they might have greater freedom of action. The author states that security gains in the region had paralyzed many al-Qaida operatives, making it difficult to carry weapons or wear suicide belts.

He also wrote that foreign terrorists became disillusioned and disgruntled after arriving in Anbar, and many were asking for new assignments or to be allowed to return to their home countries.

The diary was recovered in a raid south of Balad in November. Its author is believed to be Abu Tariq, who claims to

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Courtesy Photo

Iraqi military, working with Sons of Iraq and Coalition forces, are helping to weaken the forces of al-Qaida. Since the surge of Coalition forces in Iraq, security gains in the region have paralyzed many al-Qaida operatives, making it difficult to carry weapons or wear suicide belts. This information was referred to in documents recently released by U.S. military officials in Iraq.

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be a sector emir for al-Qaida in Iraq, and its writings are dated from the fall of 2007.

"Abu Tariq's diary provides clear and compelling evidence that Iraq's volunteer citizen groups are making their country safer by weakening al-Qaida and restricting the terrorists' freedom of movement," Smith said.

In the diary, Tariq claims to have commanded almost 600 fighters at one time, but that many quit after local tribes "changed course," and he was left with fewer than 20.

The leader of one 300-member battalion deserted just before the awakening movement was organized, he wrote. Afterward, the unit's strength declined to only two fighters, both of whom were captured while the rest joined citizen security groups aligned against al-Qaida.

In another battalion, nearly 200 fighters deserted, he wrote, leaving it with only 10.

"Some were killed and some arrested, but the majority betrayed us and joined the awakening," Tariq wrote.

Smith said progress has been made in converting the citizen security groups into Iraq's formal security forces. About 77,500 Iraqis now serve in the groups, he said, with 7,700 of those having transitioned into the Iraqi Security Forces so far.

Smith was quick to point out that neither the letter nor the diary signals defeat for al-Qaida in Iraq, though they tell "narrow, but compelling, stories of the challenges al-Qaida Iraq is facing as Iraqis have stood up against their indiscriminate violence and broken ideology."

"By no means does either of these documents tell the whole story," he added, "but it is heartening to know that in at least two areas in Iraq, al-Qaida is feeling the pressure of our operations and the rejection of the Iraqi people.

"It does not mean that the Iraqi people have defeated the foreign scourge plaguing their country," he continued. "What it does show is that as Iraqis stood up to al-Qaida, rejected foreign terrorism, (and) denied them safe haven, it had a direct impact on al-Qaida. The citizen volunteers have made a real difference."

IRAQI ARMY TESTS TRAUMA TRAINING SKILLS WITH A MASS CASUALTY DRILL

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD - A hands-on medical trauma training course conducted at Ibn Sina Hospital here is using the experience of medical crews who have treated thousands of wounded military to teach others.

The Host Nation Trauma Training Program is a collaborative effort to train Iraqi personnel in the provision of advanced trauma care, with the final goal being a smooth transition of

medical care responsibility.

The program is in the process of transitioning to the Iraqi Army for coordination and presentation of the course, following the formal curriculum in the training school at Ibn Sina Hospital. Iraqi and U.S. military trauma surgeons, physician assistants, nurses and medics lead the staff of trainers for the program.

The purpose of the course is to prepare Iraqi Army medics by providing hands-on clinical sustainment training in the care of seriously injured patients said, Iraqi Army Dr. (Lt.) Gassan Abd, Ministry of Defence physician coordinator. The classroom exercises involve trauma scenarios the students are likely to encounter.

"The students are doing a great job retaining the training information," said U.S. Army Sgt. Gene Hansen, 86th Combat Support Hospital clinical education coordinator. Hansen is experienced in training trauma medicine and basic combat medical skills.

Students participating in the program are Iraqi Army non-commissioned officers, warrant officers and officers. They make up the medic, nurse and physician military occupational specialties. The various levels of experience and knowledge help design the training course.

The 10-week course starts with a written exam to determine the knowledge level of the students to set the course pace. Instructors provide orientation lectures to get the students familiar with the trauma training and medical equipment.

Physicians, nurses and medical technicians, selected by the Ministry of Defence, attend the course and are well trained before returning to their duty station.

"I am proud to see Iraqi students learning the trauma training from the American government," said Gassan.

As the Ministry of Defence physician coordinator, Gassan ensures each student is able to demonstrate the assessment or reassessment of the trauma patient in the prehospital and hospital settings within an individual scope of practice. The trauma training has been provided to more than 75 students since the induction of the program.

U.S. Air Force Capt. Mia Neurell, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, health affairs liaison and advisor, visited the training program many times during its course and recently watched a human simulator or Sim-Man, as he is called,



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

An Iraqi Army medical student monitors the vital signs of the Sim-Man patient after applying life-saving techniques during a mass casualty training scenario.

scenario executed by the Iraqi Army students.

The Sim-Man has computerized sensors that react to any medical treatment a student applies.

The life-like mannequin has the replicated anatomy of a man. Because of the technology built in the human patient simulator, it comes to life and can die too, just like a real wounded soldier. It can breathe, talk, choke and scream. The eyes can dilate and blink, and the heart beats. It even has bodily functions such as urination. The mouth can drool, and the eyes and ears can secrete fluid.

"The Sim-Man seemed so real," said Iraqi Army Lt. Nassir. "I was afraid to let him suffer."

As part of the learning comprehension of the students, many of the scenarios are not preplanned, but use various topics of the training course. The instructor has the capability to control the Sim-Man's voice and vital signs based upon the actions of the students. When treatment is correct, Sim-Man's condition improves. If incorrect treatment occurs, the patient's condition will worsen.

In a trauma care scenario, a life-sized mannequin, thrown from a vehicle because of an explosion, was lying in a field awaiting care. The leg, amputated from the knee down was gushing blood; his hand had a deep cut while he was screaming in pain.

The medical team immediately went into action assessing the patient's injuries and stabilizing him. The amputated leg is wrapped in sterile gauze and bound tightly. A tourniquet, strapped tightly to the leg, suppressed the bleeding.

As the scenario progresses, the patient is checked for and circulation challenges, airway blockages and breathing difficulties, such as a collapsed lung. Once stabilized, the patient is prepared for transport.

The Sim-Man is just one part of the training curriculum. Hands-on experience for the students include working in the intensive care and burn units, anesthesia, neurological injuries and orthopedic injuries to name a few.

"I look forward to the day when we can help our own in the hospital or in the field," said Gassan. ■

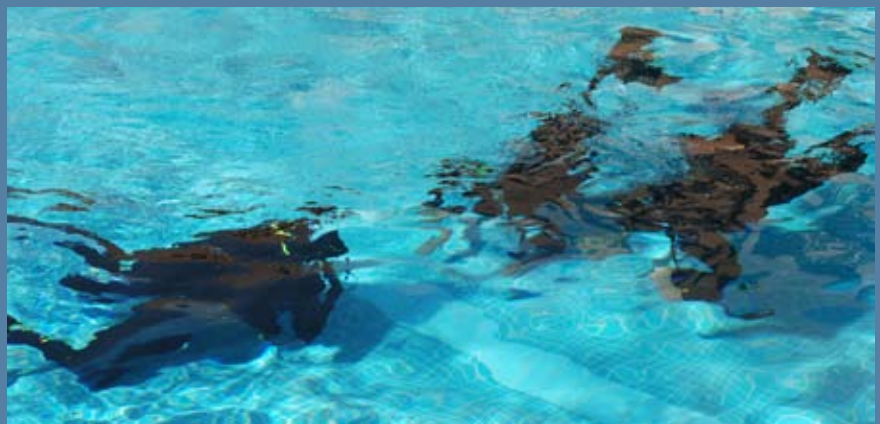


Photos by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner



Baghdad River Patrol learns advanced diving skills

BAGHDAD - Iraqi Police of the Baghdad River Patrol graduated five police divers from the intense, three week advanced diving course Feb. 5. The course objective teaches the students to strengthen breathing skills and build confidence in breathing equipment. The specialized training included decompression, history and definition, U.S. Navy tables and procedures, no-decompression dives, repetitive groups, Standard Air Table, Surface Oxygen Table, Surface Air Table, exceptional exposures, and altitude diving tables and computations. Students keep track of each other's decompression during dives, encouraging teamwork.





Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

On Target

Iraqi Presidential Brigade trades in AK-47s for the accuracy of the M-16

The Iraqi Army's Presidential Brigade turned over their older AK-47 model rifles for newer and more accurate M-16s at Besmaya Range Complex in Iraq starting Feb. 5. The weapons were issued using the biometrics system, which ties each soldier's photograph, fingerprint, voice, retinal scan and name to the weapon they receive for accountability. The M-16s were purchased via Foreign Military Sales, a program that allows Iraq to purchase military equipment, materiel, and services using their own money from the United States.



After being thrown in jail and banned from Iraq's military by Saddam Hussein, an Iraqi pilot has found a way back into the air ...



Returning to the skies

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

Iraqi Air Force Maj. Abbas walks across the flightline to an Iraqi Air Force Cessna 172, which he instructs on. Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the major flew Mirage F1 fighters under Saddam Hussein's regime.

**By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt.
Christopher Frost**

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



He took the controls of a Bravo, a single engine, propeller-driven training aircraft, and performed his first solo flight before most Americans could even drive.

Today, Iraqi Air Force Maj. Abbas, his name changed in this story for security reasons, serves once again in the Iraqi Air Force, but he's no longer asked to fly for the dictator but to fly for his country.

“When you did something, (Saddam) gave you a car. When you did something against Iran – shot something down – he would give you some money or a gift.”

Iraqi Air Force Maj. Abbas
Iraqi Flight Training School instructor

Abbas is an instructor pilot with the Iraqi Flight Training School in Kirkuk, Iraq, where he teaches initial pilot training to future Iraqi pilots. Like many instructor pilots who have returned to the school to teach, he was a fighter pilot under Hussein's regime with a great deal of experience and training.

“My education was only for flying,” said Abbas, while he kept watch over a pitcher warming a batch of his “famous” chai tea. “These pilots that we have now have more education. We know everything about the

weather, the sky and the airplanes.”

After he finished his education in his late teens, he began attending the Iraqi Air Force Academy in Tikrit, Iraq. Upon completing his training at the academy, Abbas was sent to France, where he learned to fly advanced fighter aircraft.

“They sent me to France to finish my education,” he said, pointing to the name patch on his chest and the stitched wings

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above his name. “I have the wings I earned in France.”

Abbas returned to Iraq in 1990 after the Iraq and Iran war came to an end, although missing battle is something that doesn’t seem to bother the pilot much.

“Not for the war, but because I love flying – only for that,” said Abbas about why he enjoys his duties.

Upon his arrival in Iraq from France, he was placed in a squadron that flew Mirage F1 fighter aircraft. That same year, Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait, triggering a response by U.S. and Coalition forces. Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm followed in early 1991.

Abbas, only a lieutenant at the time, was grounded during the war, he said. The combat missions were reserved only for higher-ranking officers.

The war ended quickly and left Iraq’s Air Force decimated, sanctions against the country, and no-fly zones that kept the air force limited in the areas it could train and fly in Iraq.

“In 1993 something went wrong. I was in Mosul, and they told me to scramble, to climb, to take off. I did some combat with an F-16. He fixed his missile on me six times.”

Iraqi Air Force Maj. Abbas
Iraqi Flight Training School instructor

Things changed quickly for the Iraqi Air Force after that, as pilots’ salaries dropped, he said.

“In 1988, all the pilots from the war with Iran loved their jobs,” said Abbas. “Saddam sent them a lot of money for flying. When you did something, he gave you a car. When you did something against Iran – shot something down – he would give you some money or a gift.”

Despite the pay changes and limited resources for the air force, Abbas’ squadron

continued flying.

“In 1993 something went wrong,” he said when U.S. planes entered his base’s airspace that day. “I was in Mosul, and they told me to scramble, to climb, to take off. I did some combat with an F-16. He fixed his missile on me six times.”

The cat and mouse game with the American fighter ended after Abbas began descending toward his home airfield.

“He came beside me, and I saw him,” he said, pointing out that there were only 50 meters between him and the American pilot. “I saluted him, he saluted me, and he went away.”

His time in the Iraqi Air Force only lasted six more years. In 1999 Hussein had him thrown in jail and relieved from the military after the dictator thought he was planning to fly to another country with his fighter and defect. He was only jailed for one month, but he never returned to the air force.

After Coalition forces announced plans to rebuild the Iraqi Air Force, Abbas answered the call of his country.

His chai tea is complete at last. He fills three small tea glasses halfway with sugar, pours the dark brown tea into them and gives two to his American guests.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost

Iraqi Air Force Maj. Abbas stands next to a Cessna 172 after performing a preflight check on the aircraft. Abbas instructs at the Iraqi Flight Training School in Kirkuk, Iraq.

“Is it good?” he asks.

His tea isn’t the only thing that receives the praise of his peers. American advisors from the 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron, which helps train Iraqi pilots and advise the Iraqi Flight Training School, have dubbed him “Maj. Atlas” for his ability to handle many tasks at once and for the enormous role he is playing in rebuilding Iraq’s Air Force.

He instructs students on small Cessna aircraft that were purchased by the Iraqi government through Foreign Military Sales, a system that allows the Iraqi government to purchase military equipment with their own money from foreign nations, including the United States.

Although he is impressed with the strides the Iraqi Air Force has taken over the past few years, he says that he would still like to see Iraqi jet aircraft take to the skies once again.

“I am old now,” he said. “If I wait six more years for another aircraft, I don’t think that’s good for my health.”

For now, Abbas will have to stay with training the future pilots who will be piloting the jets. He doesn’t seem to care as he beams a smile across the flightline, places a red ball cap saying “Rig Boss” on his head and walks to his plane to take off for another flight over his home country of Iraq. ■



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

Iraqi National Police and Iraqi military forces come together to learn about Civil Military Operations during a two-week introduction to the future of Iraq.

Iraqi Army and National Police attend Civil Affairs Training

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Erica R. Gardner

MNSTC-I Public Affairs



BAGHDAD – The Iraqi National Police and Iraqi soldiers have come together to attend on Introduction to Civil Military Operations Course to educate them on

coordinating military operations with civilian agencies and local authorities.

The reason for the course is for when military operations - whether during conflict, peace or humanitarian assistance - take place within a larger civilian environment. Civil affairs soldiers are those with the skills, knowledge and abilities to deal with civilians in the area of operations.

"Civil affairs are those designated forces organized, equipped and trained to carry out missions that specifically include the conduct or support to CMO," said U.S. Army Col. Don Rush, 492nd Cavalry Bn civil affairs training advisor.

Military forces conducting business

normally accomplished by civilians are done prior to, during or after other military actions have been executed. Developing a civil military company helps military commanders by working with civil authorities and civilian populations in the commander's area of operations to provide assistance to meet life-sustaining needs of the population.

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Hussein told the participants of the course how much of an asset they are to the future of Iraq because of the type of work they will do for the country.

"You all are a good picture for the work in the future, he said. "There is no civil affairs work done in the Ministry of Interior or Ministry of Defense."

Some of the activities that are performed by the civil affairs team are population resources control, humanitarian assistance, military civic action, emergency services and support to civil administration.

The role of the Iraqi Army and Iraqi National Police is to act as a liaison, coordinator and mediator for the military and the community by providing expertise in planning, coordinating and supervising the activities. ■

MAN ON THE STREET What have you done for the Iraqi Security Forces that you're most proud of?

U.S. AIR FORCE CAPT. ANTHONY PICKETT,
Coalition Army Advisory Training Team

"I created and developed an Instructor of the Cycle recognition program that consists of a certificate to recognize participants and winners for the Instructor of the Cycle at each one of CAATT's regional and division training centers."



U.S. MARINE CAPT. DILLON VADEN,
J-5, Program and Budget Officer



"I help ensure Iraqi funding requests are properly addressed during the Working Program Budget Advisory Committee."

U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. HARRISON JENKINS,
Taji FMS/Security Assistance Office LNO

"I am most proud of the title given to me by my counterparts as "thiqah." It simply means trustworthy. Continuing to uphold Army values, have ensured that we are seen as a "thiqah" Coalition."





Courtesy Photos Ministry of Defense Media

Fardh al-Qanoon Ceremony (Imposing Law)



BAGHDAD - One year after the law and order campaign and the troop surge, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki praised Baghdad's security forces for their part in reducing violence in Baghdad at the Iraqi Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Feb. 15. The U.S.-led coalition troops began supporting Sunni Iraqi militias, some of who they had previously fought against, to help establish order and drive out foreign fighters and al-Qaida terrorists. The event was attended by Iraqi Minister of Defense Abdul Qadar, Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al Bolani and U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus.



Fardh al-Qanoon (Imposing Law)



Courtesy Photos Ministry of Defense Media



IA, SOI rescue kidnapped Iraqis

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army soldiers and Sons of Iraq, or Abna'a al-Iraq, rescued two Iraqi citizens in western Baghdad Feb. 13.

Following a tip of a possible kidnapping, Iraqi soldiers and Sons of Iraq raided a home in western Baghdad and found two local nationals bound in a hole inside the home.

The victims were returned to their families.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

ISOF detains splinter group leader

BALAD – Iraqi Special Operations Forces, with U.S. Special Forces advising, detained a suspected leader of a criminal splinter group near al-Hillah, Iraq, Feb. 13.

The suspect and his criminal splinter group are suspected of mortar attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces and attacks using IEDs and EFPs.

According to intelligence reports, the group is also involved in the torture, kidnapping and murder of Iraqi citizens.

Also detained in the operation was an associate member of the criminal splinter group.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi Security Forces rescue kidnapped Iraqi woman

BAGHDAD – Iraqi soldiers, rescued an Iraqi woman following a kidnapping in the Karkh District of western Baghdad Feb. 10.

After receiving a tip, the Iraqi soldiers were able to locate the kidnappers and rescue the woman.

The two men allegedly responsible for the kidnapping were arrested and taken into custody.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi and Coalition forces target criminal elements

TAJI – Iraqi and Coalition security forces conducted an operation targeting special group criminal elements Feb. 7 in eastern Baghdad. Sixteen criminals were initially detained, one died later from wounds received during the operation.

The operation involved Iraqi forces and coalition soldiers.

As ground forces approached the target house, they came under attack by small-arms fire. Iraqi and Coalition forces returned fire in self-defense, mortally wounding one terrorist. A woman also sustained a minor injury and was treated on site by military medical personnel.

The operation targeted members of a special group believed to be responsible for multiple indirect fire and EFP attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces, as well as the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi citizens.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi provides cache information

RAMADI – An Iraqi civilian provided information that enabled Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition forces to unearth a large cache seven kilometers south of Ramadi Feb. 4.

Acting on a tip to the possible location of a buried cache, Iraqi soldiers and Marine companies maneuvered to the possible location and discovered a partially buried cache.

The buried cache consisted of 120 23 mm rounds, three 82 mm mortar rounds, three antiaircraft weapons, 4000 14.5 mm ammunition rounds and 70 pounds of assorted propellant.

An EOD team destroyed the munitions at the site with a controlled detonation.

As the ISF and Marines have improved security and returned life to normalcy, local citizens have been providing information concerning cache locations to security forces on a routine basis.

– *Multi-National Force – West Public Affairs*

ISF, Soldiers deliver school supplies

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces partnered with Coalition Soldiers to distributed supplies to the Al Esha'a School in Saydiyah in southern Baghdad Feb. 4.

Policemen from the Iraqi National Police division delivered tables, chairs, book cases, a couch and backpacks to the students.

American Soldiers provided security while the NPs distributed the truckload of furniture and backpacks.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

3 suspected extremists arrested

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Soldiers arrested three suspected Sunni extremists Feb. 3 during operations across the Rashid District of the Iraqi capital.

Policemen from an Iraqi National Police division arrested a man believed to be an al-Qaida operative after he tried to pass through a traffic control checkpoint in Massafee.

The man, suspected of murder, placing IEDs and weapons trafficking, was taken to an Iraqi facility for further questioning.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Hostages found after 15 days in underground prison

SAMARRA – Working with intelligence from Iraqi Police in Northern Iraq, Coalition Soldiers liberated two men locked inside a large storage container being used as a subterranean prison in the Al Jazeera desert near Samarra Feb. 4.

Local Iraqi Police were given the information from Sons of Iraq.

Coalition Forces arrived at the prison site and found two men inside the buried container. The hostages, both from Yethrib Village near Balad, were taken from a gas station along with a fuel truck by men in black masks.

The two men were malnourished and dehydrated, but showed no signs of torture. They were able to move freely inside the container.

– *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

ISF, SOF detain 3 terrorist arms dealers, 3 insurgents in separate operations

BALAD – Iraqi Security Forces, with U.S. Special Operations Forces advising, detained three suspected terrorist weapons dealers and three insurgent cell members in separate operations Feb. 3.

Iraqi Police and U.S. Forces detained three individuals suspected of trafficking arms in support of terrorist activities near the city of Ramadi.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*