



Iraqi sergeants major attend conference

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Crisp

MNC-I PAO

More than 50 Iraqi sergeants major from across the country gathered at Al Faw Palace Oct. 21 to discuss top issues regarding noncommissioned officers in their respective security forces.

Attending the conference to offer insight and advice was the U.S. Army's top NCO, Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston, who was joined by the senior enlisted advisor for Multi-National Force – Iraq, Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill.

The main purpose of the conference, according to Preston, is the teambuilding among the sergeants major.

“You see these senior sergeants major collaborating, sharing ideas,

empowering each other to provide thoughts and ideas and bring that back to their leadership,” Preston said. “They are well on their way to building a professional NCO corps.”

The meeting, which also featured guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. Adel Abdul Jabar, the Iraqi Ground Forces Command top NCO, helped enlighten fellow sergeants major on the way ahead for the Iraqi NCO. This included discussion on the reformation of the senior NCO academies for the Iraqi military as well as highlighting lessons learned from fellow sergeants major.

“Those sergeants major; some of them do excellent jobs in their units, and they are going to be excellent examples for the other units,” Jabar said. “They cannot voice what they did unless they have the channel in order to voice those successes, so this meeting is an excellent oppor-



Command Sgt. Maj. Adel Abdul Jabar, the Iraqi Ground Forces Command top NCO talks to more than 50 Iraqi sergeants major Oct. 21 during the Iraq Security Forces Sergeants Major Conference held at the Al-Faw Palace.

tunity to show other sergeants major from the other units, from the other divisions, what they do and to share ideas.”

It has also given the Iraqi Security Forces senior enlisted personnel a chance to finally meet their counterparts, those of which they may have only talked to on the phone.

“These types of meetings do another thing: it creates harmony between the different sections of the army and the sergeants major,” Jabar said. “It also put a face to a name with all the other senior NCOs.”

This is the third successful conference between the Iraqi sergeants major, Hill said.

“The conference is going extremely well,” Hill said. “They [Iraqi NCOs] are truly becoming the backbone of their army, just in the few years that they have been reestablished.”



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, senior enlisted advisor, Multi – National Force – Iraq, give a round of applause for Command Sgt. Maj. Adel Abdul Jabar, the Iraqi Ground Forces Command top NCO following his speech Oct. 21 during the third day of the Iraq Security Forces Sergeants Major Conference held at Al-Faw Palace. The main purpose of the conference, according to Preston, is the teambuilding among the Iraqi sergeants major.

Home Stretch: *Getting out of debt*

Victory Times Reports

An estimated 56 percent of military personnel say they are experiencing financial hardship or concerns. With increased personal spending awareness and a debt repayment plan, servicemembers can begin moving towards the financial stability they want and deserve.

The first key to getting rid of debt is to restructure your spending and saving habits. Many people turn to debt consolidation companies to fix their financial issues. In truth, these companies simply consolidate your debt and spread it out over a longer period of time. Monthly payments towards your debt are less because you'll be paying towards them longer. This means losing more money to interest. Instead, it's better to fix the source of debt – personal financial habits.

When deciding to pay off debt, you need to fit it in to a monthly spending plan. This plan, or budget, allows you to earmark your funds at the beginning of the month to ensure they aren't wasted. Start by allotting money to pay for your higher interest debt first and gradually moving down. Don't forget to save while you're paying off debt. A solid savings account prevents emergency situations from destroying the debt recovery progress you've made.

In your budget, savings account contributions should be approximately 10 percent of your earnings. A good way to make sure you save this amount every month is to make an allotment from your bi-monthly pay. This ensures you can't spend your savings money on something else before you get to transfer it. If you are saving for something specific, such as a family vacation or a new car, you should allot an additional 10 percent into another account. Your standards savings should be in case of emergency and should consistently have a balance equivalent to three to six months of your necessary expenses.

After monitoring your spending for at least a month, you will be able to see where you could afford to spend less money each month. When starting your budget, allow for 35 percent of your earnings to go toward housing and utilities. The remaining funds go toward costs such as food, gas, clothing and entertainment. To decide where to spend this money, you need to prioritize. If you really want to go out on the town a few times a month, you might need to cut back on your clothing expenditures or use coupons when grocery shopping.

A good way to ensure you

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Unsung Hero



Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Glassey, 13th PAD

Sgt. 1st Class James Finney, non-commissioned officer in charge, C3 Air, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, was awarded a Certificate of Achievement from Brig. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, chief of staff, MNC-I, at Al Faw Palace Oct. 16. Finney was awarded for his exemplary mission execution during Operation Look South near Basra. His performance as air traffic control NCOIC in a harsh and high threat environment was instrumental in transforming Sparrowhawk Landing Zone into a safe and efficient airfield conducting 24-hour operations. Finney and his three-man team safely landed 30 U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army fixed-wing aircraft. His team's initiative and phenomenal accomplishments were at the forefront of successful visits MNC-I and Multi-National Division – Center commanding generals.



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The Victory Times online welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to joy.pariente@iraq.centcom.mil. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Musician hosts concert, entertains Camp Victory



Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez, 13th Public Affairs Detachment
Staff Sgt. Johnny Alvarez, targeting noncommissioned officer, Multi-National Force-Iraq, took center stage to play harmonica during two of Nell Bryden's songs during her performance on Victory Stage Monday.



Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez, 13th Public Affairs Detachment
Musician Nell Bryden played more than two hours for personnel stationed on Camp Victory Monday on Victory stage.



Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez, 13th Public Affairs Detachment
Musician Nell Bryden signs CDs after performing a blend of blues and soul to a crowd of 100 Victory Base Complex personnel on Victory Stage Monday. She is from New York City and has released 3 albums including her most recent CD "Second Time Around."

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keep within your budget is to pay cash for many items such as food, clothing, incidentals and entertainment. If you take out your month's allotment for these items in cash at the beginning of the month, you're less likely to overspend. You can think more clearly about purchases and their worth if you're not just swiping a card.

The most important thing to remember when dealing with finances is to live within your means. Overspending leads to debt. Everyone wants to own nice things and to have fun, however, you need to think about your credit score and your financial future. If you have questions about getting out of debt, you can contact your unit finance office or unit financial advisor.

Information gathered from www.johnramsey.com and www.bankrate.com.

Home Stretch is designed to give servicemembers valuable information on situations they may deal with upon returning home from deployment. If you have a topic that you think would be of value to redeploying servicemembers, please submit it to Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente at joy.pariente@iraq.centcom.mil.

Announcements

Scouts

The Victory Base Council invites anyone who is interested in helping with Boy and Girl Scouts for the Iraqi children to attend the planning meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Mayors Cell conference room and attend the events they host for the children on Saturdays. The show up time is at 2 p.m. at the shot-up tower in front of Al Faw Palace. They depart at 2:10 p.m. and head to the Iraqi camp within Victory Base Complex. The event starts at 3 p.m. and ends around 5 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join. No prior scouting experience required. More information can be found at www.victorybasecouncil.org.

Stories

If you have a religious activity or event

that you would like to see in the Victory Times please contact Pfc. Eric J. Glassey at eric.glassey@iraq.centcom.mil or at 435-2035.

Change of Stole Ceremony

A Change of Stole ceremony will be held at Hope Chapel at noon on Nov. 16. The Change of Stole will be for Chaplain Warren Watties as he transfers the ministry for the noon gospel service at Hope Chapel on Sundays. This will also be his farewell service.

R&R Briefings

Reunion and Suicide Intervention Briefings are held at Victory Chapel, Monday at 3 p.m., Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. All service-members going on leave or redeploying must attend this briefing.

The Corps Report

The "Corps Report" is a 15 minute monthly television newscast highlighting the stories and events happening in the Multi-National Corps-Iraq area of operations. The program airs Sunday at 8:15 pm and Monday at 11:15 a.m. on the Pentagon Channel here in Baghdad. The October edition of the newscast will feature stories on the Task Force 62nd Medical Brigade transfer of authority, 9/11 memorial 5k run, Armenian end of mission ceremony and Air Force birthday, to name just a few. Be sure and catch the latest edition of "The Corps Report" and contact the broadcast team at MNC-I if you have a story idea at 485-4652.

AFN Freedom Radio

Al Asad 107.3	Fallujah..... 105.1	Taji 107.3
Ali Base 107.3	Kirkuk..... 107.3	Tal Afar..... 107.3
Ar Ramadi.. 107.3	Kirkush..... 107.3	Taqquadum.. 107.3
Baghdad 107.3	Mosul..... 105.1	Tikrit..... 100.1
Balad 107.3	Q-West 93.3	All stations are FM

Camp Victory Bible Studies

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F; Gospel Protestant Bible Study 7 p.m. Hope Chapel	Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 p.m. Purpose Driven Life Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell, Black Forge Conference Room)	Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Hope Chapel	Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Victory Chapel; Spanish Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 Book of Matthew Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell, Black Forge Conference Room)	Foundations Bible Study, Mini Chapel 6:30 p.m.	SeventhDay Adventist 10 a.m. Victory Chapel	

Do you have an announcement about an event of interest to the Camp Victory community? Contact Spc. Christopher M. Gaylord at chris.gaylord@iraq.centcom.mil with the information. Information for community announcements needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event to allow for timely publication.

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Sports Oasis
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.
Education Center
8 a.m.-midnight
Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fitness Center
Open 24 Hours
Victory Main Post Office
Monday-Sunday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
MNC-I STB Mailroom
9 a.m. - noon
5 - 7 p.m.
Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
1-6 p.m.
Golby Troop Medical Clinic
Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon
Dental Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon
Post-Deployment Health Briefings
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m.
Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon
Legal Assistance/Claims
Saturday-Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Worship Hours

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)
Thursday
7:30 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Seminary
Friday
6:30 p.m..... Jewish Shabbat Service
Saturday
11 a.m..... Seventh Day Adventist Service
8 p.m. Catholic Mass
Sunday
7 a.m..... Liturgical Protestant Service
2 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Service
4 p.m..... Episcopal/Lutheran Service
Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F)
Tuesday
7:30 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Service
Wednesday
7 p.m..... Men's Fellowship
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
11:30 p.m..... Roman Catholic Mass
Friday
1 p.m..... Muslim Prayer Service
8 p.m..... Women's Fellowship
Sunday
8 a.m..... Eastern Orthodox Service
10 a.m..... Protestant Sunday School
3 p.m..... Church of Christ Service
7:30 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Service
Hope Chapel (Bldg 24B)
Monday
12 p.m..... Charismatic Prayer Meeting
Sunday
8:30 a.m..... Collective Protestant Service
10 a.m..... Roman Catholic Mass
12 p.m..... Gospel Service
6:30 p.m..... Contemporary Protestant Service
Warrior Chapel (Camp Liberty)
Friday
6:30 p.m..... Victory Base Open Circle

MNC-I Chaplain's Office:
822-7358