



Government of Iraq takes control of Sons of Iraq



Photo by Sgt. Mark Albright, 14th PAD

A member of the Sons of Iraq stands guard at a local checkpoint south of Balad Ruz, Iraq, June 12. The SoI manage the checkpoints in coordination with the local Iraqi police to provide better security for their village.

**Story by
Pfc. Eric J. Glassey**

13th Public Affairs Detachment

The Sons of Iraq have worked for more than a year to help bring stability to Iraq. Since the shift of Sunni Muslims helping the coalition forces establish security in their local neighborhoods, stability has settled on Iraq that hasn't been seen in the past five years with attacks dropping 80 percent since June 2007.

"Our commanders credit the Sons of Iraq with contributing to the security gains in Iraq," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Kulmayer, chief of reconciliation and engagement, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. "There has been a lot of press on what brought stability to Iraq. It is a combination of a lot of factors. The surge was important,

as were the the improvements in the Iraqi army, the Iraqi security forces and the Government of Iraq. But it is unquestionable that the Sons of Iraq also played a critical role. They conducted a lot of the hold operations that have been going on. They know their neighborhoods. They know their towns. By them securing their areas, they freed up Iraqi army and coalition forces to really go after al-Qaeda. They thickened the battlefield with their presence."

The Sons of Iraq program started informally in Anbar Province in the fall of 2006 when some of the sheiks organized young Sunni men to take back their neighborhoods and towns from al-Qaeda control.

"The people of Anbar decided they had enough, and the SoIs came at a crucial time," said Lt. Col. Arnold Csan, chief, civil affairs plan-

ning team, 4th Infantry Division. "Last year was one of the most violent years across Iraq. These are folks who said, 'Enough is enough.' They wanted to stop the violence from going on that was out there."

"As this was happening, the coalition realized it was an opportunity for us to engage with these tribes and tribal leaders and have them side with us to defeat al-Qaeda in Anbar," Kulmayer said. "These tribal leaders organized local security forces, and they began to cooperate with the coalition."

The success that started in Anbar was then replicated by other tribal leaders and sheiks in other parts of Iraq. The Sons of Iraq are now in the battle spaces of five of the Multi-National Divisions and eight Iraqi provinces.

The Sons of Iraq were formally endorsed in June, 2007, through coalition forces' Critical Infrastructure Security Contracts. Under these contracts, the average individual in the Sons of Iraq was paid around \$300 a month. The SoI, who started out with a few hundred men, numbered 99,000 by the summer of 2008.

The shift of these Sons of Iraq now working with coalition forces changed the dynamic of the battlefield.

"Al-Qaeda can no longer use this pool of predominately Sunni young men to continue waging the war on the people of Iraq," Csan said.

One of the most significant contributions by the Sons of Iraq

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Home Stretch: *Buying a car*

Victory Times Reports

Editors note: The following report is gathered from www.edmunds.com.

Many people want to celebrate their return home by getting a new set of wheels. A new or used vehicle meeting all your requirements can be purchased without blowing all of your hard earned deployment money in the process.

If you are looking at buying a brand new car, be sure to be up to date with current rebates and incentives offered. A manufacturer rebate or low-interest financing are often offered for many different makes and models.

Used cars usually run 20 to 30 percent less than new cars, even if they aren't very old. Used cars also cost less in insurance. Look for a certified used car and get a vehicle history report online by using the vehicle identification number. The vehicle history report will help ensure you have the proper odometer reading and that the car doesn't have a sal-

vage title.

The sticker price on a vehicle is not always the amount you have to pay. The dealership may be willing to sell the car for less as long as they still make a profit. Checking various car pricing Web sites can give you a solid idea of what the car is actually worth and can help you negotiate a fair price.

Make sure you test drive the vehicle, whether it is new or used. Ensure it meets your daily transportation needs and you feel comfortable in it. Check visibility, braking, cornering, power, suspension and acceleration during your test drive. With used cars, start the vehicle when the engine is cold to ensure it starts up smoothly. While driving, listen for engine noise, any rattles or squeaks. Also ensure you check the service records on the used vehicle, if available. Be cautious with any vehicle that hasn't been consistently maintained or has had any significant engine

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Unsung Hero of the week



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

Brig. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, chief of staff, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, presents a certificate of achievement to Capt. David M. Jennings, orders manager, C3, MNC-I, Oct. 23 at Al Faw Palace for outstanding performance, professionalism, dedication to duty and commitment to excellence. He has contributed to ensuring the quality and timeliness of over 1,000 fragmentary orders, warning orders, and digital tracking unit tasks and over 3,000 request for informations, which has ensured the accuracy and immediate processing of orders impacting MNC-I, Multi-National Force – Iraq, Central Command, Headquarters, Department of the Army and Department of Defense.



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



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includes the Iraqis taking control of Anbar Province Sept. 1. Much of the credit for the security gains was given to the SoI. This is another step in transitioning control of Iraq back to the people of Iraq. Another milestone was when coalition forces transferred 54,000 Sons of Iraq members to the con-

rol of the Government of Iraq Oct. 1.

“The Government of Iraq took control of all the SoI in the Baghdad area,” Csan said. “The coalition forces still control the Sons of Iraq outside of Baghdad and will be transferring them by province in the future.”

For the time being, the

SoI are going to provide security at their checkpoints under the control of the Iraqi army, but when sufficient security gains have been made, they will be transitioned to other forms of employment provided by the GoI, said Kulmayer. In addition, 20 percent of the SoI are going to be put in the various Iraq security forces services, principally the Iraqi police, he added.

“It is a milestone of reconciliation,” Kulmayer said. “Here you have Sons of Iraq, some of whom were former insurgents who have reformed and have stood up and defended their country, and now they are being integrated into the security forces of Iraq.”

All individuals going into the Iraqi security

forces will go through a screening process led by Iraq’s Implication and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation, Kulmayer said.

“As for the majority of the SOI, the Iraqi government promised the Sons of Iraq permanent employment, and they [the Iraqi government] are going to put them in ministries and public works projects,” Kulmayer said. “Some will receive literacy, vocational or other types of apprentice training. Some of the SoI will want to go back into private enterprises.”

With this milestone, Iraqis and the Sons of Iraq have shown the world that insurgency can be defeated if the people stand up against al-Qaeda and other criminal organizations.



Photo by Sgt. Mark Albright, 14th PAD

A Sons of Iraq manager informs the Iraqi police and coalition forces of the checkpoint’s abilities and condition, June 12. The SoI’s are manning the checkpoints to provide better security for the area south of Balad Ruz.

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or transmission work.

New or used vehicles can be paid for in cash, with financing through a bank or other lender or through the dealer. Independent source financing is the best option because it helps build your credit and it doesn’t leave you relying on the dealer for financing. You can often get better rates and monthly payments this way. Be wary of dealerships that offer financing for all, regardless of credit. This often results in a mark-up of vehicle price and a significantly increased interest rate.

This option will end up costing you much more in the long run.

Review your contract thoroughly before signing and ask about any additional charges listed. Keep in mind that there will be taxes and Department of Motor Vehicle fees added to your final cost. Before you take possession of the vehicle, ensure that you check for any damage that will have to be repaired by the dealer. Get the agreement for repairs in writing before you leave with the vehicle.

If you are careful and well-in-

formed during the buying process, you can expect to enjoy your new or used car purchase for many years to come. If you have questions, you can contact your unit finance office or unit financial advisor.

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.pariante@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 features 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 <i>Purpose Driven Life Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell) 7:30 p.m.</i>	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 p.m. Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell)	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 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:
485-3252