



US, Iraqis team up to improve detention system

Story Cpt. Charon Camarasa
49th MP Brigade Public Affairs Office

The Ministry of Interior held its first Jail Administration Course graduation ceremony at the National Corrections Training Center at Camp Cropper, Iraq, May 20.

The historic event was a partnership between the MoI and the Ministry of

Justice, during which 19 administrators graduated from the two-week course.

"Today is an historic day for Iraqi Correctional Services and the national academy. This is a celebration that will be remembered in the future," said Mohammed Hamadi Chiad, director of the Iraqi National Corrections Training Center.

Chiad welcomed the key leaders and

dignitaries and thanked the MoI and MoJ for their support.

He also expressed his gratitude toward Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for Detainee Operations and Provost Marshal General, for his efforts and contributions to the event.

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'Phantom Warrior' Soldier volunteers with Girl Scouts of Iraq

Story and photos by
Sgt. Rebekah Lampman
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

On Saturday afternoons you can find Pfc. Rebecka Smith, a native of Cleburne, Texas, teaching soccer, helping with crafts and coloring pictures.

Smith, a Signal Support Systems Specialist assigned to Company C, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, volunteers with the Girl Scouts of Iraq every weekend.

"I decided to volunteer because getting involved with a different culture sparks my interest," said Smith. "Plus when I heard I would be interacting with kids I was like, 'where do I sign up?' Kids are amazing and they can brighten up anyone's day."

Smith is no stranger to volunteering. Before deploying with III Corps in

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Pfc. Rebecka Smith, a Signal Support Systems Specialist assigned to Company C, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, teaches the Girl Scouts of Iraq soccer techniques during their weekly meeting.

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Relating to others through emotional intelligence

By Chaplain (Capt.) Larry VanHook
Special Troops Battalion Chaplain

The new idea bantered about by leadership and motivational gurus is “emotional intelligence.”

Daniel Goleman, the psychologist and author who popularized the concept, defined it as “the capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships.”

All this talk of emotions, relationships and leadership, has led some to see American society as becoming more feminine. To some extent this is true as women have progressively played a greater role in society during the last century. However, that doesn't mean that it is less masculine.

These ideas are more about being realistic than fulfilling gender roles. Emotional intelligence is being smart about what moves people; it is people smarts, the ability to read people, including ourselves. If that isn't consistent with our military values and concepts of leadership, then I don't know what is.

I know what you are thinking. Why is a chaplain talking about all this? The reason is because we help build righteous relationships, whether it is a right relationship with God or with others. We are instruments of peace. The Apostle Paul

wrote, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Romans 12:18).

What the military has discovered recently, we already knew: the best leaders, in the best Army, understand that human beings, whether friend or foe, officer or enlisted, are souls.

Souls are beings with minds, wills, and emotions. They have physical, emotional, social, mental, and spiritual needs that, when fulfilled, makes our military the greatest force for peace in the world.

When military personnel come to me about workplace problems, I encourage greater communication. Of course, we are concerned to impart vital information. Yet, we should also ask ourselves, “What is it that I want this person to feel?”

Remember, we are dealing with souls, not merely animals we condition like Pavlov's dog. We not only direct; we inspire! We not only motivate; we transform!

When we yell and curse at each other, are we inspiring and transforming? Are we acting in a way consistent with the inherent worth and dignity of all humanity?

When we gossip and demean others, are we thinking about what we want that person to feel?

Let us be emotionally intelligent.

Relating to each other as souls means we act ethically and respect the inherent worth and dignity of others.

SARC Smarts

What is a UVA?

The Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) provides essential support and care to the victim, such as providing information on available options and resources to assist the victim in making informed decisions as they progress through resolution and healing.

The UVA maintains communications and contact with a victim as needed for continued victim support throughout their process.

Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help.

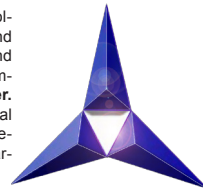
Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



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February, she helped out twice a week at her battalion's adopted school tutoring students in math.

At Camp Victory, she is one of the leaders for the Girl Scouts in Iraq, a program started in June of 2008 to provide the children of Iraq with a place to socialize with each other, and provide crafts that are not only fun but enforce positive values.

Smith, who's been in the Army for two years, sees this is a chance to give the Iraqi children something she didn't have growing up.

"As a kid I wish I would have had a mentor like the one's out here every Saturday," she said.

She's been volunteering for two months now, and her unit leadership thinks she's the perfect person to be with the children.

"She knows who she is and where she came from," said Master Sgt. Timothy Jackson, Smith's supervisor with Company C, STB, III Corps.

Jackson added that he was very proud to see his Soldier thinking of others and being a role model.

He isn't the only one who's impressed with Smith's dedication to the scouts.

"She definitely sets the example," said Maj. Gary Farley, a member of the Military Transition Team for the Iraqi Ground Forces Command and the Iraqi Scouts troop leader. "She's a younger Soldier, but she's willing to step up and go above and beyond what she has to do. When she's out there, you think she's been doing it for years.

"I want the girls to have a strong female to look up to," he added. "She was a great example for the children and showed strong leadership, but at the same time has a lot of fun."

Smith came to Farley eager to do everything she could to help develop the Iraqi children.

"I was relieved when she stepped up to take on the leadership role," said Farley, a native of Gowanda, N.Y. "I was very pleased at how proactive she was and excited to do all she can for these girls."

"To be able to help kids, nothing can compare to what they will learn," said Smith. "No award or recognition could compare to the feeling you get when you're working with these children, it's priceless ... and it feels great to be a part of developing the future of Iraq."



Pfc. Rebecka Smith, a Signal Support Systems Specialist assigned to Company C, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps shows an Iraqi Girl Scout how to make a flower out of egg cartons. Smith, a native of Cleburne, Texas is a volunteer for the Girl Scouts of Iraq.



Smith hands out egg cartons for an arts and craft activity for the Girl Scouts of Iraq. Smith meets with them once a week to play sports and do arts and crafts.

Butler²: III Corps brings two

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

Wielding a kid-size lacrosse stick, Army Maj. Shawn Butler dodged to the left of his older brother, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard Butler, and hurled a small red ball at a goal set up on one end of the concrete slab that doubles as a soccer field at Camp Victory, Iraq.

After being in Iraq for three months, the Butlers finally found time in their first deployment together to play the game they grew up with.

For the brothers, playing lacrosse together in Iraq was less exceptional than the path that brought them both here with III Corps, and dramatically changed Lt. Cmdr. Butler's career path.

As kids, the Butlers played Army in the back yard of their Rush, N.Y. home, inspired by their grandfather's stories about his time with the 101st Cavalry during World War II, and in spite of a three-year age difference they stayed close during high school, running cross-country and playing lacrosse.

By the time they reached adulthood, both men were headed toward military careers.

Lieutenant Commander Butler went to University of Rochester on a Navy ROTC scholarship and earned his commission in 1995.

Major Butler attended St. Bonaventure University on an Army ROTC scholarship, after his mother persuaded him to look at college instead of enlisting in the Army early. He was commissioned in 1998.

Five years later, Maj. Butler was in northern Iraq near the Iranian border. He was a captain then, in command of Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 17th Field Artillery.

Lieutenant Commander Butler, a



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard Butler, right, defends against his brother, Army Maj. Shawn Butler, during an informal lacrosse match at Camp Victory.

lieutenant at the time, was also in Iraq, commanding USS Firebolt, a coastal patrol ship. He and his crew patrolled Iraq's coastal waters and the Khar Abd Allah waterway south of Umm Quasr for seven months.

Maj. Butler returned to Iraq in September, 2006 with a Military Transition Team.

"I started in Kirkuk and brought a Kurdish Iraqi Army battalion down with the MiTT team. We were in for the surge in January of '07 and stayed in Baghdad until mid-September," he said.

That spring, Lt. Cmdr. Butler was finishing up his school and was on the lookout for new orders.

"It was time to do a joint tour. I didn't really want to do a joint tour that strapped me to a desk," he said.

During his search he came across III Corps' lone Navy slot under the Joint Military Exchange

Program.

He e-mailed his brother for his opinion. The corps was deployed in Iraq, and Maj. Butler had orders to join them at Fort Hood when they returned. It seemed like a good opportunity to co-locate their families and spend some time

Since I 'joined the Army' at III Corps, I've been healthier, my family life has been better, I've enjoyed helping solve the hard problems the Army has to solve.

He returned for a second deployment on the Firebolt in 2005. After that tour he had 10 years of sea duty under his belt and decided it was time to pursue his Masters in National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

brothers, two careers together

together.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Butler, his brother was on a phone about 10 minutes later.

“He grabbed an iridium phone, called and said ‘Swear word, yes’.”

By July, 2007, Lt. Cmdr. Butler had gotten his orders and found himself at Camp Victory with the corps.

Major Butler was stationed at Al Muthana at that time, scheduled to return to the U.S. in September and PCS to III Corps.

In 2008 the brothers reunited at Fort Hood.

“It’s like if we had grown up and been civilians and stayed in the same area,” Lt. Cmdr. Butler said, “We have an awful lot of mutual friends throughout corps HQ and at Fort Hood.

It makes social life a lot of fun.”

In February the brothers deployed together for the first time when III Corps returned to Iraq.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Butler, the chance to hang out with his brother isn’t the only thing that’s different about this deployment. After 15 years of Navy service, he’s jumping ship.

“I’ve always asked where the best place is for me,” he said. “Since I ‘joined the Army’ at III Corps, I’ve been healthier, my family life has been better, I’ve enjoyed helping solve the hard problems the Army has to solve.

Everything just sort of fell in line and I said maybe I should think about doing a blue-to-green transfer.”



Army Maj. Shawn Butler, left, and his older brother, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard Butler, are both assigned III Corps, despite belonging to different branches of the service. On June 28, Lt. Cmdr. Butler will complete a blue-to-green transfer to become an Army major.

With some research and a lot of support from his former bosses at the corps, he was recently approved for the transfer.

On June 28, Lt. Cmdr. Richard Butler will pull the U.S. Navy tape off his Army Combat Uniform and put on one that says U.S. Army and become Maj. Richard Butler, an Air Defense Artillery officer.

“He came on the winning team finally,” his brother said, “It only took 15 years.”

With III Corps, The Butler brothers’ lives and careers have come together more closely than either one imagined in 2007, but they both know it won’t last forever.

“After this deployment’s over, I have to go on to training at Fort Leavenworth,” Maj. Butler said. “I may not be able to come back to Fort Hood. The opportunity to be together this close, whether he’s in the Navy or the Army, or if one of us is retired, may not be there, so we take advantage of it as much as we can.”



The Butler brothers throw a lacrosse ball back and forth as they wait to start a game.

U.S. partners with Iraq to stabilize economy

Story and photo by
Sgt. Tresa L. Allemang
199th Garrison Command Public Affairs

Bank of Baghdad construction underway on Camp Liberty

Construction for the Bank of Baghdad is underway on Victory Base Complex, paving the way for vendors, contractors and civilians to have a local banking option.

“Iraq’s Victory Base Complex vendors, contractors, and civilians will soon have a new bank to meet their financial service needs,” said Maj. Andrea Singer, as bank officials and employees broke ground on Camp Liberty.

Singer, the theater financial management liaison officer for the 326th Theater Financial Management Center, said the Victory Base Complex branch of Bank of Baghdad will be one of 10 Iraqi banks to be established on U.S. bases throughout Iraq, and is the second on VBC, as part of the Banks on Bases Initiative.

According to the 15th Financial Management Company Banking and E-Commerce Officer, Capt. Eric C. LaBay of Denver, Colo., the new bank, expected to open in late July and will ease the impact on the Iraq Joint Operations Area as the financial management units to help strengthen Iraq’s economy.

The Iraqi Based Industrial Zone’s Golden Construction Company is handling the project.

Singer, of Los Angeles, Calif., explained that the goal of the Banks on Bases Initiative is to eventually transition the installation, as well as the rest of the country, into using Iraqi Dinar instead of U.S. currency.

“The dependence on U.S. currency has resulted in the dollarization of the Iraqi economy, which increases the probability of fraud and exposes service members to unnecessary risk by creating a potential funding source for our adversaries,” she said. “By de-dollarizing the Iraqi economy we are helping to



Bank of Baghdad employees break ground on Camp Liberty at the future home of the Bank of Baghdad. The Iraqi Based Industrial Zone’s Golden Construction Company is building the facility, which is scheduled to open in late July.

strengthen the Iraqi business and banking infrastructure and improving the value of the local currency.”

Singer said this bank will be available for use by local nationals, third-country nationals, and contractors working on Victory Base Complex, and also noted that the Bank of Baghdad was approved by the U.S. Treasury to hold government funds for U.S. Army finance companies.

“Having banks on bases throughout Iraq also allows the U.S. government to send electronic payments to our vendors rather than disburse cash,” added Capt. Shaun Miller, U.S. Army Central Command banking officer for Iraq and Washington D.C. native.

“We have already seen a domino-like effect at other bases, where vendors and contractors are turning around and paying their employees electronically as well.” Miller said. “We are promoting financial cultural change toward the banking system, and away from cash.”

“This bank will not only create jobs, but will also increase the confidence in the Iraqi Dinar and the Iraqi banking

system,” Singer stated. “Iraqis are still learning to place faith in their banking system because when Saddam was in power, it was not uncommon for him to seize bank assets.”

She said as local nationals see the benefits of using their banking system they will gain confidence and will begin establishing checking and savings accounts, as well as be able to obtain loans.

To date, the U.S. Financial Management Community and the Iraqi Based Industrial Zone, known as IBIZ, with assistance from Miller, have been responsible for officially opening Iraqi Banks on two of the U.S. Enduring Bases. Eight additional “Banks on Bases,” have been solicited throughout Iraq, and are expected to be operational within the year.

“This is a great example of the partnership we’ve created,” Fort Leavenworth, Kan., native, Maj. Jerry England, IBIZ project coordinator said. “Together we are working to build the economy.”

Ceremony, from Page 1

For the last month, Cannon has been facilitating meetings between the MoI and MoJ to help the government of Iraq standardize its jail management system and take on the responsibilities of detention operations at Camp Cropper.

“This course was the first step to incorporate the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice to develop jail operations within the prison system altogether. It helped achieve a standard in policies and regulations on human rights throughout our jails,” said Maj. Gen. Abid Al-Rasool Jafar, assistant

course outline and oversight of the ICS trainers. The curriculum consisted of jail operations, respect for human rights and basic corrections principles to run an efficient jail.

Topics included managing jail staff, recruiting staff, jail administrator responsibilities, jail security and procedures such as key control, inmate counting, and code of conduct.

“On behalf of my colleagues, we will work hard to carry on the jail operations techniques in our ministry. I hope to match your expectations,” added Jader.

“The interactions and experiences exchanged between the MoI and MoJ were incredible,” said David Duncan, assistant program manager for the Department of Justice ICITAP Corrections. “This is an Iraqi inter-ministry cooperative effort. They have done a wonderful job to try to gain cooperation and support.”



Photo by Spc. Shivvani Regert

Jail administrators from the Ministry of Interior pose for a group graduation photo during first Ministry of Interior Jail Administration Course taught by Iraqi Corrections Service at the Iraqi National

deputy of police affairs for the MoI.

“I want to thank each of you for participating in the class and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program for their dedication and providing all the equipment to make this course successful,” said Raid Jader, deputy general director for Iraqi Corrections Services.

The training facility and equipment were funded by and provided by USF-I. The ICITAP, U.S. advisors with extensive experience operating jails, was responsible for providing the

another step of building a legitimate and lasting jail operations program for the MoI. In order for this to work, ministries have to work together, to make their country strong and legitimate, especially in the area of corrections,” added Cannon.

Continual cooperation between ministries on jail administration and detention operations training throughout Iraq will help standardize jail administration and improve security in Iraq.

VBC Facility Operating Hours

Sports Oasis DFAC
Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 8:30 p.m.
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sandwich Bar open 24 hours

Education Center
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Camp Victory Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Paul Smith Gym
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**USF-I Unit Mail Room
Customer Services/Mail Call:**
Daily 3 - 6 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Golby TMC Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Websites

Check it out:

USF-I Web pages
www.usf-iraq.com
www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq
www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq

Facebook -
United States Forces-Iraq
U.S. Army III Corps
Phantom Battalion
III Corps Fort Hood

**Signal Corps 150th Regimental 5K
Anniversary Fun Run**
Start/Finish Victory Stage
Hosted by the USF-I J6
June 5th
0630
Register Online: Sign-in to USF-I portal and click on flyer

VBC celebrates Asian Pacific Heritage Month

Story by Spc. Kim Wilkins and Staff Sgt. Brandon Moreno
1 AD Public Affairs, USD-C

If you look below surface of the U.S., you find a society woven together by many cultures to create a fabric richer than most other nations.

The Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance held at the Camp Liberty Field House, May 23, highlighted those Americans who trace their ancestry to Asia and the Pacific Islands.

“It is important to recognize and celebrate the diversity that we have in the military,” said Maj. Douglas Gibson, an intelligence planner with United States Forces – Iraq, who demonstrated Kali stick fighting. “Asian Pacific heritage is a part of who we are as Americans and it is important that we honor it.”

The event, hosted by the United States Division – Center Equal Opportunity Office and volunteers from various units on Victory Base Complex, included displays representing the Pacific Islands, Japan, India and Thailand, among others.

There were also demonstrations of the martial arts and traditional dances of some of the different Asian Pacific countries.

Specialist Robert Salva, an intelligence analyst attached to the USD-C commandant cell took part in dances from the Philippines.

“I participated in the Karatsa, Pandanggo and Tinikling,” he said. “I have never danced those dances. It was a great opportunity to participate in some dances from my native land, but more importantly, speak with other Filipinos and experience a little bit of my family’s culture.”

Following the demonstration, service members had the chance to meet with many of the performers and get a taste of some of the local cuisine.

Food included everything from kimchee, a traditional Korean dish of cabbage fermented in a chili powder base, to a 50-pound pig roasted Filipino-style.

“It was just awesome and great fun for me to have participated,” said Salva. “I just have a hunger to reconnect with the culture, and this allowed me to a little bit of this.”



Photo by Spc. Britney Bodner

Eggrolls are served at for the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance to give personnel to get a taste of regional cuisine.



Photo by Spc. Britney Bodner

A student from Nam’s Tae Kwan Doe class splits two boards supported by his teammates during a demonstration at the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance at the Camp Liberty Field House.



Photo by Spc. Britney Bodner

A dancer with the Luz-Vi-Minda dance troop balances a candle on his forehead during the Philippine Pandanggo Sa Ilaw dance at the Asian Pacific Heritage Month Observance.