

The Daily Charge

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"Telling the MND-Baghdad Story"

Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Bennie Corbet, Joint Combat Camera - Iraq)

Can we get a ride?

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (LI) and 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, wait in a field for a Blackhawk helicopter to pick them up after they conducted an air assault operation into a village in eastern Yusufiyah, Iraq to search for a suspected terrorist mortar team and for weapons caches Dec. 1.

Iraqi National Police lead the way

By Spc. L.B. Edgar
7th MPAD

CAMP RUSTIMAYA, Iraq - The classroom has no desks, chairs or blackboards. The lesson never ends. The students speak Arabic. The instructors wear full camouflage fatigues. A pop quiz could mean life or death and the final exam will determine the fate of a nation. Welcome to

Rebuilding Iraq 101.

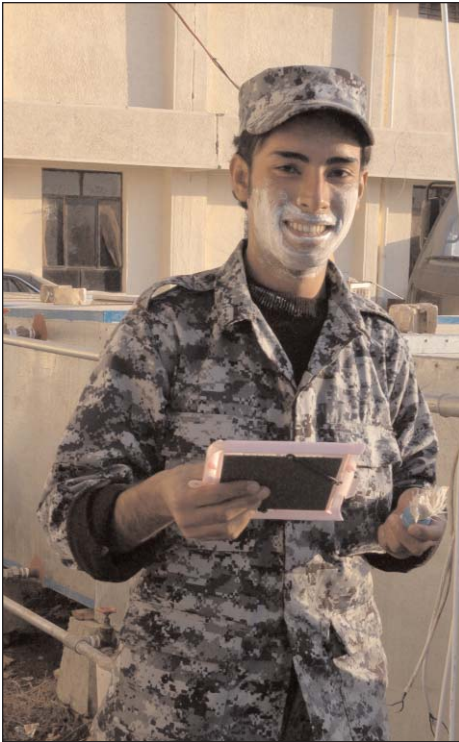
The Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, are not teaching their students, Iraqi National Policemen (NPs), in the classroom. They use the city of Baghdad, instead.

The daily lessons taught through translators to the NPs of 4th Brigade, 1st National Police Division, include the basics of rifle marksmanship, how to prop-

erly conduct checkpoint operations and the correct way to lead troops into battle, said Capt. Matthew Stuckey, company commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Division, attached to 2nd BCT, 2nd Infantry Div.

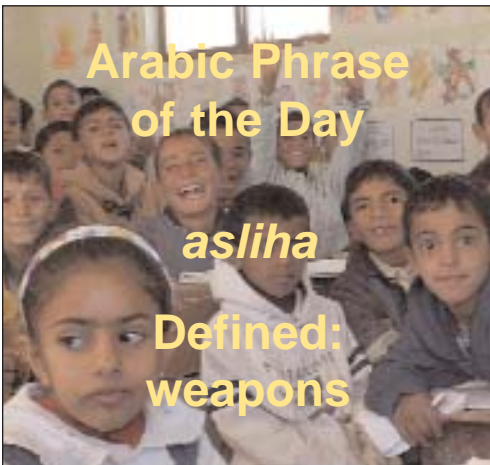
The Co. A "Commandos" plan on

see **Commandos** Page 2



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

An Iraqi National Policeman of 4th Brigade, 1st NP Division prepares to shave outside his barracks Dec. 1 in Baghdad. The renovation of the NP barracks is an ongoing project, which is completed in steps by Iraqi private contractors and is overseen by NP Transition Team.



**Arabic Phrase
of the Day**

asliha

**Defined:
weapons**

Empowering the INP

Commandos

From Page 1

using their noncommissioned officers as positive examples to their NP counterparts, Stuckey said.

"We have a lot more really strong NCOs. I trust any of my squad and team leaders to accomplish a mission. If I give them a mission I know they are going to do it. The Iraqi military is not at that point yet. I think that is one of the big things we can bring to this mission," Stuckey, a resident of Temple, Texas, said.

But the help the NP team lends is not limited to tactical tasks.

The renovation of the NP barracks also is an ongoing project, which is completed in steps by Iraqi private contractors and is overseen by NP Transition Team. The barracks just recently gained access to potable water.

The "Commandos" are also ready to lend a helping hand to their students.

"We're supporting them on their dismounted patrols through the muhallahs (boroughs or districts within Baghdad) and (also) helping them supervise their check-

points, provide some additional training on their checkpoints and vehicle searches. Generally providing any additional assistance they need," the veteran of 11 years said.

To measure the NPs progress, the "Commandos" will monitor the NPs capacity to accomplish individual and small unit tasks, which builds into the NPs overall ability to provide security for their area of responsibility, Stuckey said.

The focus is on troop leading procedures with the ultimate goal an effective Iraqi National Police corps, said Capt. Kurt Ritterpusch, battalion operations officer, 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt.

The goal is to eventually turn all of Baghdad's security over to Iraqi control.

Though the security forces bear the brunt of security challenges, the civilian population has a mutual responsibility, the native of Cincinnati, Ohio, said.

"People have to stand up and say, 'Not in my town!' Apathy has to stop," the married father of four said.

"By empowering the security forces and taking the necessary steps to secure the city, people should feel empowered to say 'Not in my town!'"

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

**High: 64
Low: 48**



Tomorrow

**High: 66
Low: 39**



Saturday

**High: 66
Low: 37**

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Range Control**Cav Troops teach basics to Iraqi police**

By Spc. L.B. Edgar
7th MPAD

RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq - He wears a different uniform. He speaks a different language. He shoots a different weapon and serves a different nation, and it's your job to teach him how to secure his country.

His ability to that it is all that stands between you and mission success.

The Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Division, attached to 2nd BCT, 2nd Infantry Div, have decided to start with the basics.

It's the first step toward teaching a brigade of Iraqi National Police how to secure their country.

Today's mission: train Iraqi NPs from 4th Brigade, 1st NP Div., to effectively fire their standard issue AK-47, said Capt. Matthew Stuckey, company commander, Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div., attached to 2nd BCT, 2nd Infantry Div. "We got about half of them



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

Staff Sgt. Keith McDonald, dismount squad leader, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., provides constructive criticism to an Iraqi National Policeman.

zeroed," Stuckey, who resides in Temple, Texas, said. "We'll work with them again tomorrow. We want them to be successful and if they're not able to do it on our timeline, then we'll adjust to theirs." The NPs

were trained similarly to how Soldiers are trained in basic combat training. The NPs received Primary Marksmanship Instruction and practiced dry firing positions, before stepping out on the range to zero with a coach, Stuckey said.

"We've just started working with them. This was our first training event with the 4th Brigade," he said.

"We've been working with their commander and his staff up at the brigade level and my platoon leaders have been meeting with the battalion commanders," Stuckey said.

"Their staffs to start planning out exactly how my men are going to be integrated with the 4th brigade. How we're going to work together," he added.

To start the NPs are learning the fundamentals of basic rifle marksmanship, which benefits the NPs as well as the Soldiers, Stuckey said.

"It's important for our guys so they have confidence in the Iraqi Soldiers they're going to be working with while out on missions," Stuckey said.

"It's important for the Iraqis, so they see us and know before we start doing our missions together."



Staff Sgt. Keith McDonald, dismount squad leader, congratulates an Iraqi National Policeman of the 4th Bde., 1st NP Div., after zeroing his weapon. McDonald, a native of Ft. Worth, Texas, is part of a company, which has the mission of training up NPs to assume control of security in Baghdad.

Iraqi Army graduates 500 new troops

By Sgt. Cheryl Cox
1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

CAMPTAJI, Iraq - The open field was filled with hundreds of proud Iraqi soldiers, who had spent the past two months working toward this very moment.

As the Iraqi Army (IA) Basic Training Graduation Ceremony began, more than 500 Iraqi Basic Training graduates prepared to do their final pass and review.

Not a twitch or wiggle came from the formations behind the steadfast Iraqi color guard.

Throughout the graduation, these new IA soldiers stood ready to defend their country and said they were proud to be the

newest members of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Iraqi Army Division (Mechanized).

"I want to congratulate all the soldiers," said Sgt. Maj. Hassin Aboud Hassin, Iraqi basic training instructor.

After the entire graduating cycle had completed the hard work and training, their trainer said he was still there to help them grow as soldiers. "I will be here," Hassin said. "I will continue to train more soldiers and fight the terrorists."

Observing this event were several senior Iraqi and Coalition Army Officers. Congressman Steve King (R), from the 5th District of Iowa, also attended the event. Congressman King was encouraged to see the enthusiasm and excitement displayed

by the newest soldiers in the Iraqi Army.

"This is what happens when you see Iraqi troops stand up and defend Iraqis," King said. "You can tell by the spirit here that they will be able to take over all security in this country one day."

Once the graduation ceremony was completed, the celebrating began. With dancing and singing, the soldiers showed everyone in attendance just how happy they were to finally graduate.

"I am very pleased and happy to see these soldiers graduate today," said Hassin. "These are the second teams of volunteer soldiers to graduate. I am very proud and can't wait for the next class to join them in their new units."



(Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox, 1st BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

Following the Iraqi Army (IA) Basic Training Graduation Nov. 26 at Camp Taji, Iraq, IA soldiers celebrate with songs and dancing. More than 500 Iraqi Army Soldiers, all of whom are volunteer Soldiers from surrounding areas near Taji, graduated, and will make up part of the new 3rd Battalion, 9th Iraqi Division (Mechanized).