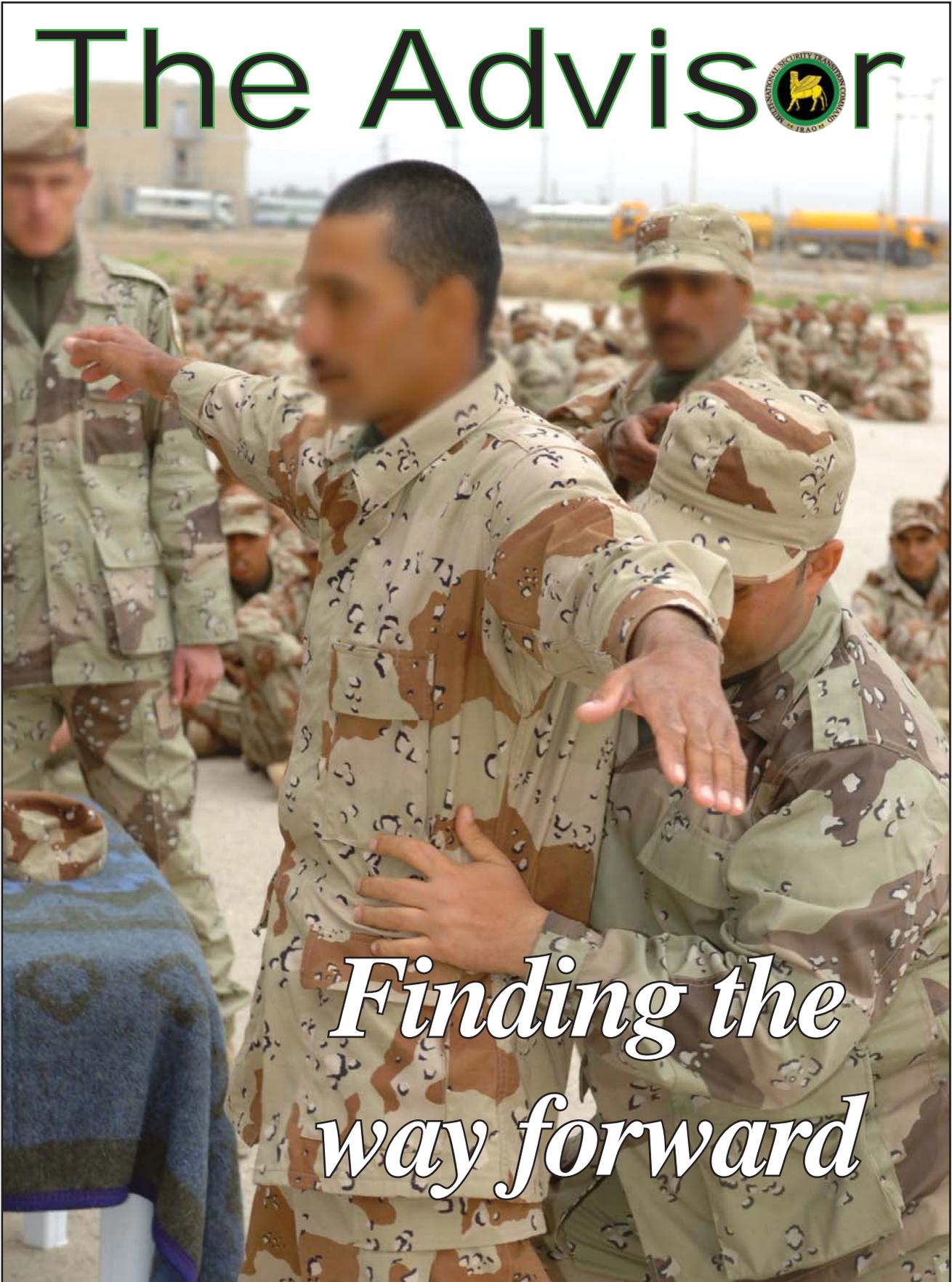


The Advisor



*Finding the
way forward*

THE ADVISOR

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The faces of Iraqi soldiers and police have been altered to protect their identities.

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ON THE COVER

An Iraqi student demonstrates search techniques to his class in An Numaniyah, Iraq, Feb. 23.

Photo by U.S. Army Maj. Nathan M. Banks, Sr.

General recaps first week of new Baghdad operation

By John J. Kruzal

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Baghdad security operation that began last week has quelled certain violent acts in the Iraqi capital, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad said.

“There has been a significant reduction in sectarian incidents and in ex-judicial killings in Baghdad,” Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell, the Multi-National Force-Iraq spokesman, told reporters via satellite connection from a news conference in Iraq.

Caldwell acknowledged that new security efforts have been hampered by vehicle-bomb and suicide-vest attacks. But combined forces are beginning to achieve success in “stopping the vehicles from getting into the crowded areas where the Iraqi citizens are,” he said.

“Although this effort to improve security in Iraq will take time, this past week we have seen some signs that Iraqi leaders are in fact making the tough decisions needed to demonstrate their commitment to serve all Iraqis,” Caldwell said.

The operation, called Fardh al-Qanoon, an Iraqi phrase that means “Enforcing the Law,” was announced Feb. 13 by Iraqi Lt. Gen. Abboud Gambar, the officer in charge of the plan. Operation initiatives include splitting Baghdad into 10 districts, creating four new joint security stations and temporarily closing Iran’s and Syria’s ports of entry into Iraq.

“In each of these 10 districts will be Iraqi police, an Iraqi Army brigade and a Coalition force battalion,” Caldwell said. “They remain there, in a permanent posture, in order to conduct operations

“Although this effort to improve security in Iraq will take time, this past week we have seen some signs that Iraqi leaders are in fact making the tough decisions needed to demonstrate their commitment to serve all Iraqis.”



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell addresses media during a Baghdad press conference in October.

within their district.”

“Elements of all three additional Iraqi army brigades have arrived and begun operations in the capital,” he continued. “They are deploying throughout the city and working also in the joint security stations, where they are living and patrolling jointly with the Iraqi Police and with Coalition forces.”

Officials hope this “permanent posture” will create an environment where Coalition troops and Iraqi law enforcers establish relationships with local residents and district advisory councils. Combined forces can approach local challenges more effectively if they learn the nuances of their respective districts through cooperation with citizens, Caldwell said.

“This war will not be won until the Iraqis are able to stand up and find solutions to their own country’s problems,” Caldwell said. “The intent is to ... have a dialogue ongoing so that when they find areas where there are challenges, where there are problems, (forces) are able to focus their efforts there.”

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Caldwell
Multi-National Force –Iraq spokesman

School trains those who uphold law, order

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq — In a combat unit, military police have a big role to play. While the war-fighting soldiers of a unit take care of the mission, the military police's main job is to take care of the soldiers, and at the Iraqi Army Military Police School at An Numaniyah, Iraq, the faculty takes that mission seriously.

Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Brashar, the military police school's assistant officer-in-charge said that the instructors teach basic and advanced military policing skills to soldiers by mixing a blend of classroom and tactical training.

"We try to develop the students' skills in police tactics. We are trying to build up our ability to teach different specialties like medical treatments and not just military police tactics that are very beneficial here and when they get to their units," he said through an interpreter.

A military police officer can be called upon to conduct a variety of tasks such as assisting with troop movement through a dangerous area, providing base security, guarding and transporting prisoners, controlling riots and assisting with investigations.

The school, which opened in July 2005, was originally run by Coalition instructors. Now, the entire courses are taught by Iraqi military policemen who have completed the necessary training.

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Carter Clendenin, a Coalition advisor to the military police school, explained that the mission of the MP in the Iraqi Army was new, as those who would be considered MPs in the old army were called "disciplinary units."

"The disciplinary police's mission was to enforce discipline on the members of the army," he said. "They were stationed in Baghdad and would travel to capture missing soldiers and would be responsible for keeping the other troops in line and carry out punishments."

However, with the start-up of the MP school, the Iraqi Army has transitioned the MP's focus to traditional military policing skills, Clendenin said.

"The main missions of a military police unit is force protection, convoy movements, the internment of prisoners, law enforcement and intelligence," he said. "The Iraqi Army asks their MP's to be focused on the first three missions, so that's what they teach here."

The training curriculum was developed by Coalition advisors, approved for use by the Iraqi instructors and sent to the U.S. Army school for Military Police School at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., for formal approval.

"Once it got back, we handed it off to them and they ran with it," Clendenin said.

The school's senior instructor, Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Abbas, was one of the first instructors to arrive at the school-house and was a part of the organization's transition to being completely Iraqi driven.

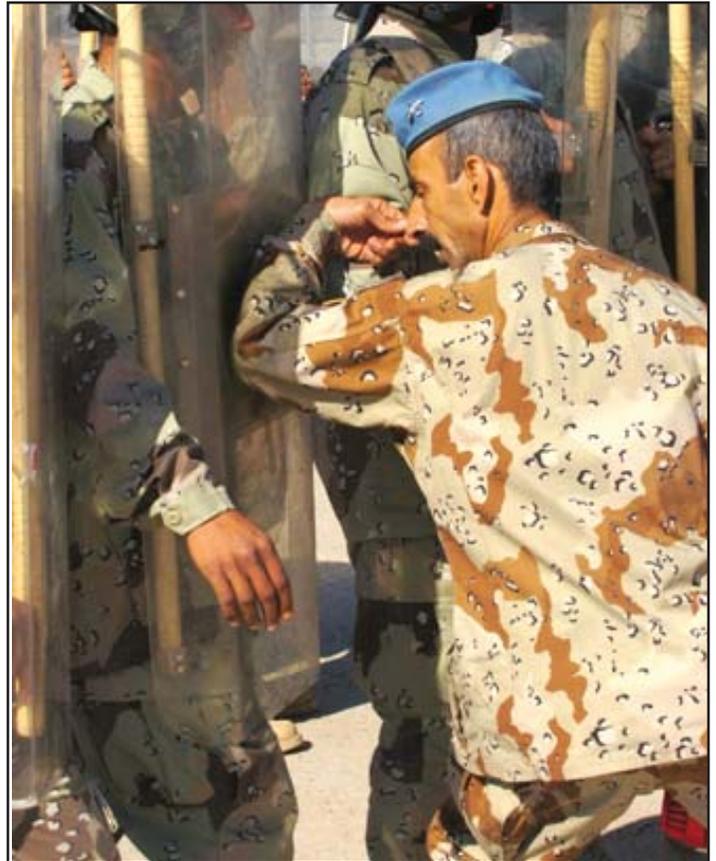


Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

An Iraqi military police trainer instructs soldiers on the proper techniques of controlling a riot Feb. 22 in An Numaniyah, Iraq. The soldiers are attending the Military Police School in An Numaniyah.

"I can say one word that can express my ideas of the military police: They are the nail of the Iraqi army because they control everything. They control the movements, the people and the help to make the army better."

Abbas said the material the school teaches is designed to reflect changing conditions in the field and provides the soldiers instructions on relevant army issues that MP skills can affect.

"I can see the training is very effective," he said. "A lot of the soldiers tell me that we teach new techniques for them and most of them felt they received benefits from this training, especially when they go outside the wire. We are proud of that."

Brashar said not every soldier can be an MP; the military police career field requires high-quality soldiers and they must meet several pre-requisites prior to being admitted into the specialty.

"The criteria for an MP are they have to be physically fit, must pass a health screening, and should be more than 5 feet tall. Additionally, (they) must have graduated from intermediate school and know how to read and write."

See SCHOOL, Page 6

Taji regional clinic saves lives

By U.S. Navy
MC2 Elisandro Diaz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — The Iraqi Army is strengthening their military healthcare capabilities through advances in medical and information technology at Taji Regional Clinic - its first fully functioning military clinic located in Taji, Iraq.

The clinic, built in 2006, has the capacity to provide comprehensive Level II medical care to more than 14,000 troops. The Taji Base is the biggest military base in Iraq.

A Level II clinic provides dental, x-ray, a fully functioning lab, pharmacy and an emergency room (ER). In comparison, Level I facilities provide basic first-aid, while Level III facilities are hospitals that provide surgical and rehabilitative care.

The clinic is open everyday, except Friday. “We have a staff of 32 people that work two shifts. There are two doctors (including one flight surgeon), several nurses, medics and physician assistants,” said 1st Lt. Qussai, Iraqi Air Force 1st Lt.

and flight surgeon.

The medical staff is learning medical procedures that have been put to the test in actual life-threatening situations.

According to Qussai the training taking place at the clinic is important because it readies medical personnel for the dangerous environment in which Iraqi Security Forces operate.

“Everyone here must know how to do their job, especially because we are exposed (to danger) daily,” Qussai said.

Qussai explained that before the clinic existed, the injured were transported to a Coalition forces’ facility for medical treatment, but now he says Iraq’s injured military personnel can be treated at the clinic by an all-Iraqi medical staff. He also noted how the recent addition of a helicopter landing zone on the clinic grounds greatly expands its capabilities to treat injured personnel by reducing the time between injury and treatment.

“We train the medics to deal with a patient when an emergency really happens, I want to see them do their job efficiently – they must know how to treat



Blood samples are analyzed at the laboratory at the Taji Regional Clinic.

a patient with serious injuries when a doctor is not available,” stressed Qussai.

Qussai described how a wounded jundi – Arabic for soldier – came into the clinic and was given less than a 10 percent chance to live.

“He had a serious gunshot wound right below the heart. He had lost a lot of blood ...but the clinic staff quickly teamed up to stop the bleeding and stabilize the patient and we saved him,” he said, “our job is to keep the patient alive until he can receive surgical intervention,” he said.

Qussai explained that the clinic has a morning and an afternoon sick call, where the soldiers can see a doctor or one of the physician’s assistants for anything from a headache to a toothache. The clinic sees more than 100 patients each at the morning and afternoon sick calls.

“We do not yet have enough doctors and clinics in Iraq’s military, but this is a good beginning. We want to make certain that the medical personnel who come here receive good fundamental training so they can use the appropriate medical procedures when a patient comes in,” said Qussai.

Iraqi Army Sgt. Maj. and Lab Assistant Saddam was in the middle of analyzing blood samples when he stopped to describe the role the clinic’s fully functioning lab plays in the correct diagnosis of a patient’s illness.



Photos by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

One of the medics at Taji Regional Clinic simulates an injured patient with multiple wounds during mass casualty practice drills Feb. 13.

See CLINIC, Page 7

Air Force Squadron 70 seeks to secure Iraq

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class
Kimberly A. Green
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

BASRAH, Iraq — While strategic planning is pivotal to the process of developing and sustaining a secure Iraq, so are the forces which enhance that capability. Iraqi Air Force Squadron 70, located at Basrah Air Station, are there to provide a closer look at just how secure Iraq really is by supplying an eye in the sky.

Their mission is to protect Iraq's infrastructure and secure the border. Through information technology the squadron carries out their duties with aid from reconnaissance aircraft - Seabird Seeker SB7L-360A's and SAMA CH2000's.

The organization consists of 58 personnel; 19 of them are pilots. They have coexisting functions - training and sustaining. More than half of their flying consists of training and the remainder consists of missions.

"I like the aircraft we fly here," said Iraqi Air Force Col. Sami, Squadron 70 commander and pilot. "It is different from what I used to fly but I have a different job now. I am doing good things for my country now," said Sami.

Each pilot at the unit served as an officer with the former regime. Many of whom flew a wide variety of aircraft - both fighters and transporters. But, none of them had previous experience with this type of aircraft. Therefore, they receive 'difference training,' according to a spokesman for the Coalition Air Force Transition Team.

"We are like family here," said Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Raheem, chief of maintenance, as he pointed to the board that displays the text 'work like family.' "We work, live and train together in harmony regardless of the past."

The squadron was established in the month of August 2004 and has made significant contributions to the security operation of Iraq. Even though Coalition pilots fly along with the Iraqi pilots, in support of their mission, the Iraqi Air Force loves to be behind the controls.

"Flying is my love," Col. Sami said with a glow. "We are capable of handling the mission. That is our job. We enjoy flying with our Coalition partners."

As much as the squadron likes to fly with their Coalition partners, the aircraft they maintain only provides seating for two. Although small in size the aircraft performs a large task.



Photos by U.S. Army Sergeant 1st Class Kimberly Green
A Coalition advisor shadows an Iraqi mechanic as he services a Seabird Seeker SB7L-360A.

Shoulder-to-shoulder the Iraqi and Coalition pilots take to the skies to provide vital intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions. This type of aerial observation performed by the two-year old squadron contributes to the overall plan for a more secure Iraq.

"We have our focus on the big picture a safer more secure Iraq," concuded Sami.



Iraqi and Coalition pilots review mission operations after returning from a flight together.



An Iraqi Air Force engine mechanic assists two pilots prior to take-off at the Basrah Air Station Feb. 17. Squadron 70 conducts intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Iraqi soldiers learn police tactics at MP school

SCHOOL, From Page 3

Brashar added that before becoming an MP, the soldier must go through several steps before arriving at the military police school for training.

“When the soldier comes from their local recruitment center, they come to An Numaniyah and are assigned to the Iraqi Training Battalion where they receive basic training for five weeks and then they go to their training for their specialties. For those selected to be military police officers, we train them for two months and we send them to their divisions to fill the shortages that happen because of casualties.”

Once the soldiers graduate from the course, the faculty still maintains responsibility for their development and ensures they get what they need to accomplish their mission, according to Brashar. “We also look to build their abilities outside of the wire,” he said. “We work with the Ministry of Defense to get them equipment to their company in different areas of Iraq.”

“This is the second year I have worked with the MP school,” Abbas said. “I am proud because I was the first to teach the MPs. We were a small group with limited capability, but we were able to establish the school here.”

Abbas said that the school trains students selected to join the MP career field and also provides basic training to all of the students



Photos by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zachary Wilson

An Iraqi military police instructor orders his students to assemble a formation during riot control training Feb. 22 in An Numaniyah, Iraq.

who attend basic training at the ITB located nearby on the post and supports units at the division level who need the skills that MPs bring to an organization.

“We graduate a lot of MPs from this school but we also train the (soldiers) in the ITB as well as soldiers (in other specialties) who come from different divi-

sions within the Iraqi Army to receive MP training to take back to their units.

Since it’s opening, the school has taught more than 25,000 Iraqi soldiers and has graduated enough MPs to fill 10 companies. Soon the school will begin a new mission that will pair them with National Police officers to protect the Golden Dome mosque in Samarra, Iraq. The sacred shrine was bombed last year and is seen as the spark to the current wave of sectarian violence in the country. The mission will give soldiers a policing role side-by-side with the country’s elite police officers.

“We’re going to train one brigade of soldiers from Samarra,” Brashar said. “There are 800 infantry soldiers, but they need to learn MP skills because the situation in Samarra needs to be controlled there.”

Abbas feels that his experiences serving with the military police has given him some insight into how the country could be if the differences were able to be resolved.

“We hope that one day the people of Iraq learn the teamwork that we have learned here at this school. How to work together as a team; one for all, all for one.”



Iraqi military police students form a strategic formation while responding to a simulated riot during training Feb. 22 in An Numaniyah, Iraq.

Military clinic planned to be pattern for future clinics throughout Iraq

From CLINIC, Page 4

“A soldier can have an appendix infection or parasites and the lab can find out what it is,” Saddam said.

“We train them and advise them – it (the operation of the clinic) is totally on the Iraqis. The Iraqis have had complete control of the clinic since November 2006 and they do a great job with the wounded,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. James Pank, Senior Coalition Medical Advisor.

Pank explained that there is a sister clinic on base that is fully-equipped but remains unopened pending staffing by the Ministry of Defence. He added that the goal is for the existing Iraqi staff to conduct the training of the new personnel.

According to Pank, the facility is operating at one half its staff capacity. However, “the clinic continues to provide quality care,” he said.

“We will have accomplished our mission by working ourselves out of a job,” said Pank, illustrating that he and his Coalition team will not be replaced when they complete their tour of duty in the coming weeks.

Pank stated that one of the reasons the staff has reached this level of readiness is because of the continuous practice of mass casualty drills. The medics rehearse assessing the type and extent of injuries and they determine treatment. This is followed by an assessment of how the group performs and areas to improve are identified.

Even so, the duties of the staff goes far beyond the walls of the clinic.

Pank described that the clinic undertakes preventive maintenance measures in support of the base’s life support infrastructure which impacts the health and welfare of its soldiers.

One such area is inspecting the nine dining facilities on base.



Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz

The helipad at Taji Regional Clinic decreases the clinic’s rescue response time by allowing the clinic to receive medevac patients.

This includes performing checks on the methods in which food is prepared, served and stored.

Another function of the clinic is responsible for is veterinarian services for the Iraqi Military Police dogs. The clinic also provides pest control services and is responsible for testing the water at the water treatment plant and throughout several locations along its distribution network.

The Taji Regional Clinic is the first of what Qussai sees as the model for future military clinics in Iraq.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Steve Hardy

Special delivery

Five Huey II helicopters arrived to New Al-Muthanna Air Base Feb 16. These aircraft are the first delivery of three shipments of 16 helicopters. They were granted by the Kingdom of Jordan to the Iraqi Air Force. This initial group of aircraft will be used in troop movement and to evacuate the wounded.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi forces capture IED cell members near Tikrit

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers from the 4th Iraqi Army Division captured three suspected members of an improvised explosive device cell during operations with Coalition advisors Feb. 22 in an area northwest of Tikrit.

The Iraqi-led operation targeted an IED cell responsible for carrying out IED attacks against civilians and Iraqi Security Forces in the area.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition Forces casualties were reported.
— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Iraqi police conduct Operation Shurta Nasir

HIT — Nearly 500 Iraqi Police from Hit conducted Operation Shurta Nasir (Police Victory) Feb. 22 to clear the town of Hit from terrorists and identify new locations for new police stations.

A combined force of 1,000 Iraqi and Coalition forces cordoned off the area to assist the police during the operation.

Hit Police captured 13 known terrorists and one large weapons cache in raids and targeted searches through the city of roughly 100,000 inhabitants.

— *Multi-National Force – West Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army captures members of IED cell

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Special Operations Forces captured the suspected leader of an improvised explosive device cell and two other cell members during operations with Coalition advisors Feb. 21 in eastern Baghdad.

The suspects are allegedly responsible for carrying out IED attacks against Iraqi civilians and security forces, and inciting sectarian violence in the Baghdad area.

The men are suspected of being part of a rogue Jaysh Al-Mahdi group operating against civilians and Coalition forces.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Border element discovers cache

MANDALI — The Department of Border Enforcement discovered a large weapons cache in Mandali Feb. 21.

The cache consisted of more than 190 anti-personnel mines, more than five mortar rounds, approximately 50 133mm rounds and a rocket-propelled grenade.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army captures 2 rogue JAM cell members

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Special Operations Forces with Coalition advisors captured two suspected members of a rogue Jaysh al-Mahdi militia cell during operations Feb. 21 in the Karadah district of Baghdad.

The suspects are implicated in the sectarian kidnapping, torture and murder of Iraqi civilians. They are also suspected of the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi Army soldiers.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Martin K. Newton

Combined operations

Left: An Iraqi Army soldier shines his light on a rooftop to ensure it is all clear during a combined mission with Coalition soldiers in Ghazaliya, Iraq, Jan. 27. **Above:** An Iraqi officer questions a civilian during a combined mission in Ghazaliya, Iraq, Jan. 27.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi police clear IEDs from neighborhoods

BAGHDAD — The Ministry of the Interior forces' continued activities in fighting terrorists by clearing Baghdad neighborhoods of explosives with police and explosive disposal experts Feb. 21.

The operations reported included:

- Three Katyusha rockets and one mine with 33 hand grenades were discovered in al-Hussein neighborhood in al-Basra province

- One IED was discovered in al-Harthiya area near al-Harthiya School on al-Kindi Street

- One IED was discovered in al-Mu'alimat Institute in Mansour area

- One IED was discovered in al-Amil neighborhood

- An emergency battalion patrol of Baghdad Police Directorate discovered 49 57 mm artillery projectiles, six RPG rounds near Baquba-Nahrawan intersection.

- 39 120 mm artillery projectiles, 10 155 mm artillery projectiles and four 82 mm mortar rounds were discovered in al-Mezbaniya Village in Maysan province near Amarra-Baghdad checkpoint.

— *Iraqi Ministry of Interior Public Affairs*

Iraqi Army troops discover cache

BAGHDAD — Reacting to a tip from a local resident, Iraqi Army troops discovered a large weapons cache in the Al Mansour neighborhood in the northern area of the capital city Feb. 20.



Courtesy photo

New look

Iraqi military officials recently converted a shipping container into an arms room for keeping track of their weapons and ammo at Kirkush Military Training Base, Iraq. The weapons will be used by the Samarra Brigade - a combined Army and National Police brigade which will be responsible for the security of Samara - particularly the Golden Mosque complex.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army followed the tip to the location of the cache.

The cache consisted of three 120mm artillery rounds, two bags of homemade explosives, one bag of plastic explosives, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers, one broken machine gun and other miscellaneous bomb-making materials.

— *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Joint operation leads to detentions

MUQDADIYA — During a combined operation, Iraqi soldiers and their Coalition counterparts targeted individuals in a cell responsible for creating and planting improvised explosive devices and other terrorist activity in Balour, Iraq, Feb. 20.

The cordon and search operation led the forces from 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division and Coalition advisors to detain seven suspected terrorists, one of whom is suspected of placing an IED at a cell phone shop in November 2006 which killed 12 people.

— *Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs*

Army forces raid bomb-making facility

Iraqi Army forces raided a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device and improvised explosive device making facility Feb. 18 at the al-Tuhmaziya intersection in Hillah.

The soldiers captured three suspected terrorists and confiscated three VBIEDs, 10 Katyusha rockets and three IEDs during the raid.

— *Iraqi Ministry of Defense Public Affairs*

Anti-aircraft weapon uncovered in cache find

MAHMUDIYAH — Iraqi Army forces teamed up with Coalition advisors and seized an anti-aircraft heavy machine gun and ammunition southwest of Mahmudiyah, Iraq, Feb. 18.

The joint force discovered the cache 20 miles southwest of Baghdad during a combat patrol.

The cache consisted of an anti-aircraft heavy machine gun, 20 30mm rounds, a tripod and three spare barrels. The weapon was in firing condition and configured for use.

The ammunition was destroyed during a controlled detonation conducted by an explosive ordnance team.

— *2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs*

Iraqi soldiers capture rogue militia members

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Special Operations Forces captured two suspected members of a rogue Jaysh Al-Mahdi militia cell during operations with Coalition advisors Feb. 18 in southern Baghdad.

The Iraqi-led operation targeted a cell believed responsible for attacks against Iraqi civilians in the area.

The cell is also suspected of participating in the kidnapping, torture and murder of an Iraqi Army officer in December 2006.

No civilian, Iraqi or Coalition forces casualties were reported.

— *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*