

The Advisor



**Intel
soldiers
take
down the
enemy**



THE ADVISOR

Volume 4



Issue 19

Commanding General

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey

Command Sergeant Major

U.S. Marine Corps
Sgt. Maj. Daniel Burs

Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Daniel T. Williams

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Veronica Brown

Public Affairs NCOIC

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronda Jordan

Editor

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class
Kimberly A. Green

Journalists

U.S. Navy
Mass Communication Specialist
2nd Class Elisandro DiazU.S. Air Force
Senior Airman Christie Putz

The Advisor is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Defense Department and multinational partners.

Contents of this paper are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government or multinational partners of the U.S. Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Multi-National Security Transition Command — Iraq Public Affairs Office.

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

Direct questions and comments to:
pao@mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil
MNSTC-I PAO
APO AE 09316
DSN: 318-852-1334

To subscribe to **The Advisor**,
visit us online at:
www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/advisor.html

ON THE COVER

An Iraqi Army soldier escorts a suspect captured in a raid during the Military Intelligence School's field training exercise at Taji military base, Iraq, May 9.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz



White House photo by David Bohrer

Vice President Richard B. Cheney meets with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of Iraq, May 9, during his visit to Baghdad.

Cheney notes 'greater sense of urgency' among Iraqi leaders

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – After meeting with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other Iraqi leaders in Baghdad May 9, Vice President Richard B. Cheney said he noticed “a greater sense of urgency now than I’d seen previously” on the part of those leaders to meet their obligations toward continuing the country’s progress.

Cheney stopped in Baghdad for an unannounced visit to kick off a weeklong tour of the Middle East to include stops in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

In his meetings with Iraqi leaders, Cheney emphasized the importance of making progress not only on security issues, but also on the political issues pending before the Iraqi government.

“I think they recognize that it’s in their interest as well as in our interest that they make progress on the political front just as we deal with the security issues,” said Cheney.

He also stated the Iraqi leaders believe progress is being made.

“I can say that, based on the conversations I’ve had today -- and most of those conversations were with Iraqis and Iraqi leaders, some of them in the government, some of them not -- that

they believe the situation has gotten better,” Cheney said.

Specifically, he added, the Iraqi leaders noted that sectarian violence between Sunnis and Shiites “has curtailed very dramatically.”

Still, the vice president said, Iraq’s leaders know much remains to be done.

“I think everybody recognizes there still are serious security problems, security threats -- no question about it,” he said. “But the impression I got from talking with them -- and this includes their military as well as political leadership -- is that they do believe we are making progress, but we’ve got a long way to go.”

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, Multi-National Force - Iraq, told reporters that Iraq’s civilian and military leaders know what they’re up against and are committed to the task at hand.

“I think one of the interesting messages that the vice president heard today from the Iraqi leaders and from the Iraqi military leadership in particular was their absolute determination to carry forward in the face of very significant terrorist activity,” the general said.

All the Iraqi leaders who met with Cheney today noted the turnaround in Iraq’s Al Anbar province, where citizens previously aligned with enemy fighters are now helping to rid the province of terrorists, Petraeus said.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

An Iraqi Army soldier detains four suspects involved in a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device terrorist circle during the Military Intelligence School's field training exercise in Taji May 9.

Iraqi Army exercises their intelligence

By U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq — In one area of the base, neighborhood locals are getting suspiciously sick from the drinking water. In another area, a terrorist cell is producing vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

It is the responsibility of the students at the Military Intelligence School to track down who is responsible for the damage in both of these situations.

That is exactly what they did during the school's cumulative field training exercise May 5-9, which showcased these new scenarios written by the school's Iraqi cadre.

"There is a stronger push toward more theoretical training in this academy," said Ali, Military Intelligence School cadre, who requested his real name not be used. "The previous FTX was not reflecting the real situations in my country."

So, in order to teach soldiers the skills they really need after graduation, an update of the material was needed. This time, that responsibility fell on the shoulders of the Iraqi leaders.

Ali was the mastermind behind the exercise scenarios, having less than two weeks to devise all the details, from locations to

role players, all while ensuring the best training situation for the students.

"I think it was a good test for everybody," he said. "Everybody has a role."

The situations were specifically designed to allow each student a chance to practice their skills in a realistic environment. For example, each human intelligence soldier is given the chance to conduct at least one interview or interrogation during the course of the exercise.

The rest of the students were also given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge.

Using props such as brooms or shovels, or simply their surroundings for concealment, reconnaissance and surveillance soldiers blended into the scene and staked out locations, brought back detailed information, photographs and videos of suspects.

Low-level voice intercept soldiers scanned and analyzed airwaves, honing in on cell phones, radio or other transmissions to gather information that could prove useful in their search.

Representatives from all intelligence functions collected and evaluated these pieces of information in the control center, while leaders orchestrated the missions that led to the successful

See EXERCISE, Page 4



Two simulated suspects have a secret meeting at one of the training locations, while reconnaissance and surveillance soldiers from the Military Intelligence School watch from under cover.



The raid team responds to the students' request to enter the building, capture suspects and secure the facility to allow the intelligence students to survey the site for additional information.

Photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

"I think this training will prove very useful for the students if they can find the right environment out in the field."

Ali (not his real name),
Military Intelligence
School cadre

A human intelligence student questions a walk-in source during the field training exercise. This type of interview is one of the many ways soldiers can collect information that can either work for or against their suspects.



A student in the control center reviews photographs taken by the reconnaissance and surveillance students while staking out one of the scenes.



Students team up for intelligence exercise at Taji

From EXERCISE, Page 3

capture of all identified suspects.

Both the Iraqi cadre and Coalition advisors commended the students' performance during the exercise, noting that they performed above their expectations.

However, even after the quality execution, Ali pointed out he already had pages of notes on things he would like to change before the next exercise to further improve the students' learning experience.

"There are a few gaps that we can close," he said. "We don't want to close all the gaps, but there are a few that we can without damaging the education of the students."

Much like the general curriculum at the school, field training exercises are in a constant state of evolution and change. According to a Coalition advisor at the school, these scenarios with minor tweaks will most likely be used for a few iterations, and then new scenarios will be written in accordance with emerging threats.

"I think this training will prove very useful for the students if they can find the right environment out in the field," said Ali. "The skills they are learning here are what we want to see used every day."



New accountability

TAJI, Iraq —The Iraqi Army started issuing U.S. M-4 carbines and M-16 rifles to their soldiers this month. In order to account for the weapons issued, a series of biometrics, such as finger printing, eye retinal scans and voice recordings are collected. A photograph of the soldier with his weapon is taken, showing the serial number. This type of accountability is all new to the Iraqi military.



Photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Christie Putz

Iraqi health care professionals enhance skills

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq – To a large extent the medical capabilities of health care providers depend a great deal on the type of training the provider receives. In the International Zone, Ministry of Defense students were recently afforded the opportunity to build on their medical skills.

Nearly 30 Iraqis – nurses, doctors, medics, and laboratory and radiology technicians – completed an 8-week Trauma Clinical Rotation Program May 10, at the Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad, Iraq.

“Today is a great day and a movement towards medical diplomacy and progress as we continue to transition and rely on our Iraqi counterparts to care for themselves,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Adolf A. Edward, director of Health Affairs, MNSTC-I.

In an effort to improve training for Iraqi health care providers, Edward collaborated with the 10th Combat Support Hospital to develop a plan of action in 2006.

The program began with only two students, Iraqi Special Operations Forces medics, who attended a four-week rotation in the emergency room.

“This is a great step forward and another step toward transition which has been happening since last year.”

Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Samir, surgeon general for the Iraqi Ministry of Defense

The following class consisted of eight students who completed a four-week rotation.

As the quantity of the class has grown so has the quality.

“My people used to train only in the hospital’s operating and emergency room,” said Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Samir, surgeon general for the Iraqi MOD.

“Today we not only celebrate a graduation but the grand opening of the Iraqi Surgeon General’s Trauma Simulation Lab. Our health care staff will now train with state of the art equipment as they would perform on the battlefield,” he said.

“This is a great step forward and another step toward transition which has been happening since last year,” stated Samir. “Together we are training Iraqis to take care of Iraq.”



Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly A. Green

An Iraqi Army staff soldier listens for vitals on Mustafa, a lifelike medical patient simulator, in the Trauma Simulation Lab.



Medical Operation and Clinical Services Advisor, Dr. Julio E. Garcia, provides a walk through of the Surgeon General’s Trauma Simulation Lab, during a grand opening May 10, at the Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad.



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Amanda Morrissey

Sharpening their skills

Iraqi police cadets at the Kirkuk Police Academy practice drill and ceremony techniques during training in Kirkuk, Iraq.

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Iraqi forces conduct cordon and search to capture suspects linked to al-Qaida

BAGHDAD – Iraqi forces conducted a cordon and search operation, May 10, in a Muqdadiya neighborhood in eastern Iraq which resulted in the capture of 10 suspects who are believed to have ties with al-Qaida.

Iraqi forces also raided several residences in the Al Ahmar Village of Muqdadiya. During the search, several suspects fled into a nearby mosque, Iraqi Security Forces followed and detained their primary targets without incident. Ten suspects were detained.

Also seized during the search were large weapons caches, ammunition and improvised explosive device makers.

The primary targets of this operation are alleged to have used the mosque and village as a safe haven for al-Qaida operations.

No Iraqi forces were injured during this operation.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

Tips lead to twin car bomb discoveries

BAGHDAD – Acting on tips provided by civilians, Iraqi Security and Coalition forces discovered two vehicle-borne explosive devices May 9, in the Rashid District.

Soldiers found the vehicles while investigating information given to them by Iraqi citizens.

Soldiers were enroute to investigate a red Mazda when the vehicle exploded in the Bayaa area. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team conducted post-assessment.

One 120mm and one 105mm artillery round, two propane tanks, eight artillery fuses, two 2-liter bottles of homemade explosives, a cellular telephone and three batteries were discovered in the wreckage.

In another discovery, soldiers halted a red vehicle while investigating a tip from a local Iraqi about a suspicious car matching the description. After Iraqi and Coalition forces cordoned off the area to protect bystanders, an EOD team detonated the vehicle after confirming it was a car bomb.

The EOD team also recovered one 120mm, one 107mm, six 57mm unexploded projectiles and four 2-liter bottles of homemade explosives with detonation cords attached from the scene.

There were no injuries to civilians or military personnel in either incident.

– *Multi-National Division – Baghdad Public Affairs*

Iraqi SOF detain individuals suspected for Sarafiyah Bridge VBIED attack

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Special Operations Forces conducted a morning operation May 9 in Baghdad. During the operation three suspects were captured. They are believed to be involved in the vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack on the Sarafiyah Bridge April 12 that killed innocent Iraqi civilians.

Iraqi forces raided a residence in a Baghdad neighborhood and detained their primary targets without incident.

No Iraqi forces were injured during this operation.

– *Multi-National Corps – Iraq Public Affairs*

IRAQI SECURITY FORCES / in brief

Kidnap victim helps foil car bomb plot

BAGHDAD — A suspected kidnap victim turned himself into Iraqi Army troops at a traffic control point in western Baghdad May 9, telling the soldiers he had been ordered to drive a car bomb to the checkpoint.

The man approached the control point in a vehicle then stopped short, got out and ran up to the Iraqi security forces, claiming he had been kidnapped two days earlier. He said he had been ordered to drive his vehicle to the checkpoint.

The man told the troops he believed the vehicle was a car bomb. Moments later, the car exploded.

There were no injuries from the detonation. The man was taken into custody for further questioning.

— Multi-National Division — Baghdad Public Affairs

Iraqi Army troops repel insurgent attack

TAJI — Iraqi forces repelled an attack by insurgents on the Al Numan Hospital, in Baghdad's Adhamiyah District May 9.

The Joint Security Station (JSS) in Adhamiyah was tipped off to the impending attack by a caller. The JSS notified Iraqi Army soldiers near the hospital who responded to the threat.

Iraqi Army troops engaged insurgents at the back of the hospital. One insurgent was killed and another was wounded while trying to climb over a security wall with duffle bags of weapons and explosives.

Behind the hospital soldiers discovered; one AK-47, three AK-47 magazines, one hand grenade and a 60mm mortar round was found rigged to explode with a hand grenade fuse.

— Multi-National Division — Baghdad Public Affairs

Taking control

An Iraqi soldier of the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division scans for "terrorists" at a demonstration of techniques during the battalion's formal celebration of taking the lead in the Yusufiyah, Iraq area May 8.



Photos by U.S. Army Spc. Chris McCann



Iraqi soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division stand in company formations during the battalion's formal celebration.



Iraqi soldiers, led by their company commander bearing a ceremonial saber, march in the pass-in-review.