

Group to transition Sons of Iraq

SGT. 1ST CLASS KERENSA HARDY
3RD BCT, 101ST ABN. DIV. (AASLT)

CAMP STRIKER — Representatives from the Iraqi National Police, Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces met with the Iraqi prime minister's director of reconciliation Feb. 2 at the Ministry of Defense complex.

Dr. Bassima Lu'ay Hasun al-Jaidri was appointed by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki last August as head of Iraq's Implementation and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation. She met with Iraqi and CF brigade commanders and NP officers to discuss the way forward in transitioning the Sons of Iraq, formerly known as Concerned Local Citizens, into other jobs.

Twenty percent of the SoI will shift into positions with the Iraqi Police or Army forces. An attempt will be made to put the other 80 percent into general

services jobs, such as electricians and teachers.

Employment priority will go to the SoI and other applicants may be hired in later phases of the process.

The hope, al-Jaidri said, is that IF-CNR committees, in partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces and CF, will prevent any corruption or infiltration by al-Qaeda.

"So far we have a verbal directive from the prime minister to try and take in all the Sons of these areas ... into these general services jobs as it is available," Al-Jaidra said. "Now we need to clarify how we will tackle this operation here together."

Al-Jaidra outlined the plan for employing the thousands of men serving as SoI. "We need to identify all the names (associated with) all the differ-



Sgt. 1st Class Kerensa Hardy

Dr. Bassima Lu'ay Hasun al-Jaidri speaks to representatives from the NP, IA and Coalition Forces Feb. 2 at the Ministry of Defense complex.

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MARNE THUNDERBOLT UPDATE

1-30th Inf. Regt. medics treat 160 at Bayjiya CME

2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — Citizens from Bayjiya, Iraq, received medical aid during a coordinated medical engagement Feb. 1 held south of Baghdad.

Medical personnel from 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division treated more than 160 residents during the CME.

Conditions treated included scrapes, sprains and allergies; antibiotics and toiletry items were distributed. The 1-30th Inf. leadership said Bayjiya citizens were appreciative of the medical assistance. During a patrol after the CME, residents approached Soldiers and thanked them for their help.

Sayifiyah residents enter local Sons of Iraq program

2ND BCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB KALSU — The community watch program, Sons of Iraq, recently formed in the town of Sayifiyah, south of Baghdad. More than 500 residents were entered into the program between Jan. 27 to Feb 2.

Soldiers from 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division organized the Sons of Iraq program.

Sayifiyah saw little Coalition presence over the last two years and it became a safe haven for extremist groups such as al-Qaeda in Iraq. Massive air strikes in

January and the arrival of 5-7th Cav. Regt. have helped push AQI out of the area. Now, the SoI are in place to help keep extremists out of the community.

"The men of Sayifiyah were very eager to join the Sons of Iraq and serve their community," said 1st Lt. Ross Kastner, from Charleston, N.C., Troop A, 5-7th Cav. Regt. fire support officer. "Every day the line stretched down the street."

The volunteers received ID badges and high-visibility vests upon signing up. They are now manning checkpoints throughout the community to keep the peace in Sayifiyah.

1-10 FA Regt. holds clinic in Fursan

SPC. BEN HUTTO

3RD HBCT, 3RD INF. DIV.

FOB HAMMER — Soldiers from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery and the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Knoxville, Tenn., currently attached to the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, held a coordinated medical engagement at a school in Fursan, a small village east of Baghdad, Feb. 4.

Combat medics were able to help 175 people by providing minor medical treatment and assistance.

“Every week we attend the Sabah Nissan Council meeting and Fursan was brought to our attention by the representatives there,” said Capt. Chas Cannon, from Moultrie, Ga., commander of Battery A. “Their representative expressed their needs to us and we were happy to help.”

In addition to providing medical assistance, Battery A also handed out 80 backpacks filled with school supplies to children there.

The schoolmaster was pleased with the supplies his students received.

“Captain Cannon is very good to us,” he said through an interpreter. “We appreciate this visit very much. He has always helped the people in this area with their needs.”

According to Capt. Josh Beard, from Opelika, Ala., the civil-military operations officer for 1-10 FA, school supplies are badly needed in the Mada’in Qada.

“As much as the bag drop affects the kids, it really affects the teachers just as much,” he said. “An important need is filled through these bag drops. Essential tools such as pencils and paper



Spc. Ben Hutto

Sons of Iraq and Soldiers from the 489th CA Bn. unload medical at an elementary school in Fursan, a small village east of Baghdad, Feb. 4.

are needed so that teachers can focus on teaching and not on acquiring supplies.”

Beard also explained that the Sabah Nissan Council and Sons of Iraq are directly responsible for the success of 1-10 FA’s operations in the area.

“Since the Council has organized, it has been much easier to set up operations like this one,” he said. “The council has done a great job organizing these events and getting the people who need help down to them. They are really doing all the hard work and letting us know where to be. The Sons of

Iraq have stepped up and have provided security at all of these operations. All of these people are working with us to help secure their communities.”

Cannon believes the operations are part of the reason Battery A has been able to find insurgent caches.

In the past two months, Battery A has received information leading to the destruction of 10 weapons caches.

“We’re building trust with the locals,” he said. “They feel much more comfortable with giving us and the Sons of Iraq information because they know we are both trying to help them.”

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3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Abn. Division (Assault)
4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division
3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division
214th Fires Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
720th Military Police Battalion
302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

TRANSITION: *Iraqi group finds jobs for SoI*

From Page 1

ent kinds of services, whether it's rebuilding, health, schools ..." she said. "For the ones who don't have education, we might be able to send them to training schools... so we can try to help them out."

Applicants will be separated by profession and each will be transferred to the ministry that corresponds with that specialty; electricians will go to the Ministry of Electricity, etc.

"Right now we have the ministries, we have the mechanisms as to how we're going to distribute these people, all we have left is the commitment from the ministries," Al-Jaidra said. "Our role is to help support all the ministries."

She said she sees this effort coming together and everyone working together hand-in-hand. So far, the IFCNR has looked at 10,000 of 13,000 SoI names for ISF jobs.

"The best part about today was that the Iraqis took charge of transitioning the Sons of Iraq into other opportunities for employment," said Col. Dominic J. Caraccilo, commander of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "They're serious about providing a future for these former disenfranchised individuals."



Super Bowl Festivities

Above: A Soldier leaps for joy as the New York Giants score the winning touchdown in the Super Bowl. Soldiers gathered in the Forward Operating Base Kalsu dining facility at 3 a.m. the morning of Feb. 4 to watch the football championship.

At right, Staff Sgt. Tommy Brown, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, points to a banner of the New York Giants once their victory was assured in the Super Bowl.



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Safety Thought of the Day

HEAT Trainer

Mitigations:

- Remove objects that can be a hazard while still maintaining the training environment.
- Add padding if necessary.
- Teach the importance of bracing before releasing the seatbelt to avoid someone head and neck injuries.
- Teach the importance of controlled movements inside the cabin.

Training enhancements:

- Add objects in the cabin (i.e., rubber weapons or empty boxes to replicate the ammunition cans, coolers, etc.) that are found inside most humvees.
- Loose objects in the cabin provides realistic training and demonstrates the importance of properly securing all equipment.
- Practice removing IBA while inside the trainer to simulate rollovers in canals; no one can swim in full battle rattle.



File photo

Headline Highlights

Shaving while driving; cheap Mexican dentistry

You can't even shave while driving anymore?

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) — Motorists in northern Mexico who are caught dabbing on lipstick, shaving or carrying a pet at the wheel will now face hefty fines as authorities try to cut down on traffic accidents.

Putting on make-up or shaving with an electric razor will land drivers fines of up to 346 pesos (\$32) in the northern Mexican city of Torreon from this month, Mexican media reported on Saturday.

Along with a slew of higher fines for common traffic offenses such as driving while intoxicated, speeding, and talking on a telephone without a headset, Torreon city hall said new misdemeanors included throwing trash out of a car window, and driving with another person or an animal on a motorist's lap.

City halls across Mexico are stiffening traffic laws as motorists in Mexico regularly ignore stop lights, drive drunk or with children in the front seat, and carry passengers in the back of pick-up trucks.

Fatal accidents are common.

Americans go to Mexico for a cheaper perfect smile

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (Reuters) — It was fear of the hefty bill as much as fear of the drill that kept American musician Don Clay away from U.S. dental clinics for 30 years.

When a sorely infected tooth eventually drove him to the dentist last month,

it was to a clinic in a Mexican border city better known for violent crime and drug cartels.

Shrugging off concerns about hygiene and Mexico's brutal drug war, thousands of Americans are heading to Ciudad Juarez and other Mexican border cities for cheap dental treatment.

"I had to get my teeth fixed. I need a perfect smile to make a successful career in music. Treatment in the United States is so pricey," said Clay, a Texan trying to get a record deal as a hip-hop artist.

U.S. dental treatment costs up to four times as much as in Mexico, making it tough for uninsured Americans to treat common problems such as abscessed teeth or pay for dentures.

A dental crown in the United States costs upward of \$600 per tooth, compared to \$190 or less in Mexico.

Aspiring Mexican dentists are moving to border cities in droves and are luring American patients away from farther flung discount destinations such as Hungary and Thailand. Americans have long crossed the border for cheap medicines, flu vaccines, eye surgery or specialist doctors, but dentists are now in highest demand.

Dental clinics are on almost every block in central Ciudad Juarez, ranging from dingy dives to clinics that look more like posh hair salons. Getting there involves dodging prostitutes, drug pushers and cowboy-boot sellers.

"We've gone from a handful of patients when we started 2-1/2 years ago to 150 new patients a month," said Joe Anadel, an American who owns the Rio Dental clinic in Ciudad Juarez with his

Mexican dentist wife, Jessica.

Rio Dental, which uses U.S. labs to make its crowns, picks patients up at the airport in El Paso, Texas, across the border and has treated people from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii.

"The Internet makes this possible. It allows patients to find us and research us and shows we can do dental work of equal or superior quality to the United States," Anadel said.

Internet bloggers swap stories and compare notes about Mexican dentists, but it always comes down to money.

Dentistry in the United States has become prohibitively expensive for some patients, with bills that can run to tens of thousands of dollars. Malpractice insurance premiums, operating costs that are much higher than in Mexico and dentists seeking to claw back the rising cost of their tuition all weigh.

Even among Americans who have medical insurance, many find they are not covered for treatment other than the basics, and paying on credit means high interest payments.

"I did \$4,000 of dental work in the United States and put it on my credit card. Because of the interest, I only paid off \$400 in three years," said a U.S. teacher from New Mexico getting treatment in Ciudad Juarez who gave his name as Bill.

Cosmetic dentistry, which insurers do not cover and which can be paid in dollars in many Mexican border clinics, is also popular, Ciudad Juarez dentist Luis Garza said.

"If you want a perfect smile, you have to pay for it, and we can do it cheaper, that's all," he grinned.

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			7				1	
1		4				9		2
		5	2					4
	3			7			8	9

from Sudoku: The Original Brain Workout From Japan

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

9	1	2	3	6	7	4	5	8
4	8	5	2	9	1	3	6	7
7	3	6	4	8	5	1	2	9
6	5	8	1	7	9	2	4	3
1	7	4	8	2	3	5	9	6
3	2	9	6	5	4	7	8	1
8	4	3	9	1	2	6	7	5
2	9	7	5	3	6	8	1	4
5	6	1	7	4	8	9	3	2

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

Yes

in-teh