



THE TRIPLE T

Too Tough Times



Vol. 1 Issue 11

"Telling the story of the 18th Military Police Brigade"

October 2008



MPs take cultural awareness on to the Baghdad streets on pg. 13

Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

An Iraqi Policeman mans a machine gun at a checkpoint in the Salhiya district of Baghdad Sept. 10. Salhiya was the first district in Baghdad to transfer from Iraqi Army to IP at all of its checkpoints.

IP transition to be Baghdad's first line of defense

By:
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – A large Iraqi Security Force convoy, which included several Iraqi Army humvees, exited the International Zone in Baghdad at midday Sept. 10. At the front and back of the convoy was an Iraqi Police patrol vehicle providing escort security for the convoy.

"That says something in itself," said Capt. Nathan Brookshire, commander of

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment 716th Military Police Battalion, while viewing the long line of humvees exiting the International Zone. "Iraqi police pulling security for an Iraqi Army convoy, you don't see that every day."

At least you don't in Baghdad, where until recent months the local populace security was provided by the Iraqi Army.

Now Iraqi Police are continuing the transition of becoming the primary ISF in Baghdad by taking over at checkpoints

to provide the first line of security for the citizens of Baghdad.

In recent months the process of turning all Iraqi Army manned checkpoints over to the IP has been very successful.

Coalition Forces and IP leadership have seen great progress in this effort to make IP Baghdad's primary local security force.

The Salhiya district is the first of the Baghdad districts to have all of its checkpoints turned over to IP control.

(see Transition pg. 4)

Out of Time?



By:
Col. Mark Spindler,
CDR, 18th MP Brigade

8th Military Police Brigade, and there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure your hard work takes root, and is not lost or diminished because of an unfortunate and unnecessary pause in momentum.

There are a lot of units that will be transitioning over the next few months, which poses significant threats to our mission that we must mitigate. Most notably there remains a very formidable and capable enemy that we must NEVER take our eye off of. We must remain *Ever Vigilant* and relentless in taking the fight to the enemy to our last day in sector. Only by doing this do we properly set up our brothers and sisters from Hawaii for great success.

On a lighter note, while home on R&R last month I visited with the rear detachment who are doing

A year ago I would not have imagined that I would be telling you today that we're running out of time and that there is so much more to do – but that is in fact the case.

We're just within weeks of beginning the transfer of authority activities with the

phenomenal work in running the day to day Military Police operations in Germany; all-the-while preparing for the redeployment and reintegration of the Brigade. There is great excitement in the communities and everyone is doing their part to ensure our return is smooth, enjoyable, and memorable. Both the 21st Theater Support Command and Brigade (Rear Detachment) are doing everything to ensure all reintegration requirements are met, in order to get everyone on block leave for the holidays.



Stay strong, stay focused and continue to take care of each other. One note of caution – I ask everyone to be very careful in discussing actual time lines or movement schedules for the unit's redeployment – let's not let down our guard.

Soldiers send a note or something back to your family and friends just to tell them you love them and miss them.

Kids, Happy Halloween!

Be careful, don't eat too much candy, and if you do.... don't puke ☺!.

Be well!

*Respectfully,
Mark Spindler*



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Too Tough Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions and comments to daniel.blottenberger@mnd-b.army.mil. The PAO staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy and clarity and space.

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'Ever Vigilant'

Focused and engaged!



By:
Command Sgt. Maj.
Bernard McPherson,
CSM, 18th MP Brigade

Fellow Warriors,
The 18th
Military Police
Brigade remains focused
and engaged as we continue
to improve our fighting
position. We will continue
the fight until wheels up.

Many of my colleagues
often ask me if we were
counting the days; my
response, "No, we are

departed. We also had a chance this month to visit the
320th MP Co.; I had not seen them since their TOA. I
had a great time talking to the 320th Soldiers and NCOs.
1SG Faulkner and 1LT Pangia are an excellent command
team that truly cares about its Soldiers.

Another important highlight of the month was the
visit from our USAREUR command team; Gen. Ham
and CSM Beam. Gen. Ham was energetic and very
interested in our pre-deployment train-up tasks. The
Soldiers gave him some candid and valuable feedback.
We are looking forward to returning to Europe and
rejoining the USAREUR team.

making everyday
count." That's
about the size of
it. Although we
are closing in on
the Transfer of
Authority, the
calendar is still
full, and our
Soldiers remain in
harm's way.

In September
we had the
opportunity to
witness perhaps
the most important
change of
command in recent
history; Multi-
National Forces-
Iraq, commander, General David Petraeus relinquishing
his command to General Raymond Odierno. I am proud
to say, I was there.

During most of the month we attended the TOAs
of several units: 59th and 988th Military Police
Companies; 164th and 302nd MP Co.'s, and Detachment
3 (U.S.A.F.) and its' replacement personnel.

I had the privilege to address each unit before it



Our Soldiers
morale and
resolve remain
high. I am very
proud of their
efforts. They
have done
everything that
has been asked
of them and
more. They are
the reason for
the brigade's
continued
success. They
are truly
phenomenal and
the privilege
to serve them
remains to be
the highlight of

my career.

Thanks, once again, to all of the Family Readiness
Group members and Rear Detachment Soldiers for your
prayers and continued support!!

Ever Vigilant
V7



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An Iraqi Army vehicle drives through an Iraqi Police checkpoint in the Salhiya district of Baghdad Sept. 10. Salhiya was the first district in Baghdad to transfer from Iraqi Army to IP at all of its checkpoints.

Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger



Iraqi Policemen man a checkpoint in the Salhiya district of Baghdad Sept. 10. Salhiya was the first district in Baghdad to transfer from Iraqi Army to IP at all of its checkpoints.

Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Transition, from PG. 1

There are many key terrain features in the Salhiya district, which makes it an important district in the overall security of Baghdad. One of these landmarks is the Seik Railway, which is Iraq's main railway that runs from Mosul to Basra.

"The trains have been running successfully for about a year now," said Capt. William Macugay, commander of Alpha Battery, 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

Along with the successful security of the railways the police transition team that works in Salhiya said, the transition has gone smoothly for the IP.

"The transition from IA to IP has been extremely smooth, because of the connection between Iraqi Police leadership and the IA," said Brookshire, a native of Richmond, Ken. "The ISF in Baghdad conduct joint security meetings so all the key leaders are in the same room talking about how to keep the area secure"

Aside from Salhiya, the transition continues to spread throughout Baghdad.

"Within the next year I predict we will have all of Baghdad transitioned to IP taking the lead at providing rule of law in their communities," said Macugay, a native of Ewa Beach, HI.

Macugay credits the IP success to the time the IA spent with preparing the IP for the transition.

The IP have gone through months of training and planning to be ready for this transfer. Now it was time for the Coalition Forces to see if the IP were ready to provide for their communities.

"A lot of planning went into the transition," said Brookshire, who conducts police transition team operations, mentoring IP, at four Salhiya IP stations, including the district headquarters.

The initial phase of transitioning was to test the IP to make sure they were able to provide adequate security for the area.

IP leadership and CF inspected the checkpoints to make sure they had all their proper equipment for the checkpoint to operate successfully.

They continued the inspection by conducting rehearsals to test communications and response time of the IP force in emergency situations.

Since the transition took place the IP have been tested several times by criminal elements and have responded by providing law and order during every situation.

"In the past few months the IP have responded to incidents on their own with minimal CF support," said Brookshire. "The situation now is IP are in the lead they respond to incidents within the district. They are the initial responders we act as more of a

liaison for them now."

The IP credit their success to the local community coming forth with information to reduce criminal activities in the area.

"The people in the community have an awareness of what is supposed to be there and what is not supposed to be there," said Brookshire. "We have seen increased reporting at the station level because the IP know the area."

"We have a good working relationship with the citizens," said Iraqi Policeman Capt. Nasser Abed, the Salhiya district headquarters operations officer. "Our door is always open for citizens to report problems and they use a tip line where they can report criminal activities to us."



See more Transition photos on pg. 8-9



Sgt. 1st Class Patricia L. Baiocchi

A female military police Soldier, Spc. Britnney K. Lloyd, (right), 212th Military Police Company, 728th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade and MND-N, shows a female Iraqi Police trainee how to properly maintain a 9 mm pistol Sept. 4 at the Regional Training Center in Diyala province. The RTC class welcomed 21 female IP trainees for the first time during a four week certification course.

Female IP trainees conduct weapons training

By:
Multi-National Division - Baghdad
Public Affairs Office

AL UDAIM, – Twenty-one Iraqi women, Iraq's first female police trainees, attended weapons familiarization training Sept. 4 at the Multi-National Division-North Regional Training Center in Diyala Province. During their four-week Iraqi Police certification course.

The Iraqi Police course is four weeks of instruction that trains basic police skills to include basic rifle marksmanship training. During this training, all students learn how to shoot a pistol, AK-47 automatic rifle and PKM machine gun on the local weapons range.

The female trainees, for the first time training alongside their male colleagues, were taught how to fire a PKM automatic machine gun and a 9 mm pistol.

"For many of the Iraqi women, this was the first time that they have handled a

weapon," said Capt David Castillo, officer in charge RTC, 728th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade and MND-N.

While IP and CF Soldiers provided instruction to all 750 trainees, at the academy, the 21 new female trainees showed a lot of potential at the range with some even displaying marked proficiency.

"The female police trainees have shown great enthusiasm and are eager to learn," said Castillo.

As this range was used for familiarization and safety awareness, the academy will conduct additional ranges this month to teach the 21 trainees how to perfect their shooting techniques and provide them with more hands on pre-maintenance inspections.

"Overall, the training was a success but they still need a lot of work," said Castillo. "Many of them have never handled a weapon before and some are still terrified of them."

The RTC is now in its fourth class since opening in March 2007. In the upcoming

months the CF will turn over full operations to the IP as they will be responsible for training and logistical functions of the Diyala Police Academy.

In addition to weapons training, the IP training course certifies trainees on basic personal defensive tactics, human rights and ethics, democratic policing, Iraqi Rule of Law and basic first aid.



See more female IP photos on pg. 8-9

MOI, IP leadership honor fallen Iraqi Policemen's families

By:

Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – The families of twenty Iraqi policemen, who were killed in the line of duty, were honored at a ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Interior and the Baghdad Provincial Director of Police Sept. 23.

The Iraqi Policemen, who served at the Provincial Director of Police Headquarters station in Baghdad since 2003, were remembered during the ceremony as their families received a plaque to honor the fallen IP's and a monetary compensation to help support the surviving families with their loss.

The evening began with the room of attendees divided into two sections, with one side of the room filled with Baghdad's top Iraqi Police commanders along with senior officials from the Ministry of Interior and on the opposite side of the room sat twenty families already with tear filled eyes.

The ceremony began with Baghdad's senior IP commanders and Ministry of the Interior officials speaking in memory of the fallen IP and honoring the surviving families' sacrifices.

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Kadhém Sharhan, commander of Baghdad's Provincial Director of Police, opened the ceremony by reciting a poem from the Koran reflecting on the meaning of fallen warriors and what they mean to Allah.

"Criminals in Iraq will know that this is a freedom built on the blood of these fallen warriors," said Kadhém. Kadhém then shared his condolences for the losses suffered by the families of the fallen.

"They did more than enough for the safety of the Iraqi people," said Kadhém, speaking to the families. "This ceremony is to not only



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

The family of an Iraqi policeman, who was killed in the line of duty, receives a plaque and monetary compensation from Maj. Gen. Iden Khaled Kader, deputy minister of police affairs, MOI, in Iraq, during a ceremony Sept. 23, at the Baghdad Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters to honor and recognize the surviving family members of IP, who were killed in the line of duty.

to honor the fallen, but honor their families as well."

Following the appreciative remarks expressed to the surviving families, a skit was acted out by local performers portraying an Iraqi policeman being killed in the line of duty while defending their country.

The performance depicted an IP carrying out his police duties at a checkpoint when he is confronted by several criminals. The IP did not back down as the criminals attacked him and took his life while honorably standing up for the new founded freedom in Iraq while he performed his duties.

The skit unleashed emotion throughout the room as the act continued as the wife and child of the IP came to find their loved one had been slain.

Upon completion of the performance, it was hard to find a dry eye in the room as the surviving families were brought forward and recognized as they received their individual gratitude and compensation for their loss.

"The sacrifice of the people, who fell in the line of duty, will not be forgotten," said Iraqi Maj. Gen. Iden Khaled Kader, deputy minister for police affairs, MOI, in Iraq. "We will also not forget their families."

In addition to the initial compensation received at the ceremony, surviving families'

are eligible to receive the fallen IP's full pay to make sure they are still taken care of despite their great loss, said Iden.

"The Iraqi Ministry of Interior requested us too personally check on their families of fallen IP to make sure they know they are not forgotten," Iden added.

Following the ceremony the families were encouraged to share in a Ramadan style dinner in the courtyard of the Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters.

During the dinner Iden, Kadhém and numerous local religious leaders personally expressed their condolences to the surviving family members and spoke of their grateful appreciation for the family's sacrifices their loved ones made in the line of duty.

Coalition Force Soldiers from the 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad also took the opportunity to express their condolences to the family members of the fallen IP.

"We thank you for all of your support in helping us," said the wife of one of the fallen IP, who works as a school teacher in Baghdad. "I will tell my students that Americans and Iraqis both share in the sacrifices of building Iraq into what it is today."

3 Iraqi Policemen awarded for IED find

By:
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – Three Iraqi Policemen were awarded \$200 each at the New Baghdad Iraqi Police District Headquarters Sept. 27 as part of the Coalition Forces-sponsored Iraqi Security Forces Monetary Incentive Fund Program.

The monetary incentive program was established to award IP for taking appropriate actions when handling unusual situations while in the line of duty.

The ISFMIF program is designed to enhance IP effectiveness and motivate IP, who can be awarded up to \$1,000 in bonuses and reward payment depending on the circumstances.

The three policemen are part of the Muthana IP force. They were awarded the incentive fund for finding an improvised-



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

An Iraqi Policeman is congratulated by Maj. Lawrence Clossum, commander, 340th Military Police Company, New York Army Reserves and native of St. Louis, after being presented a monetary award Sept. 27 under the Coalition Forces-sponsored Iraqi Security Forces Monetary Incentive Fund. The IP was awarded \$200 for finding an improvised-explosive device while on patrol in August. Two of his fellow IPs were also presented the award.

explosive device while on patrol in August.

Sgt. Sebah Kareem, IP Harby Na'aem and IP Hayder Ali were patrolling the Rubaiya Street Aug. 23 when they came across a suspicious looking box with wires protruding from it.

The IP managed the situation properly and called an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team to examine the suspected bomb. Upon examination of the box, the EOD team discovered two large artillery shells rigged into an IED.

After determining how to properly secure the site, the team safely disposed of the hazard.

For finding the potentially deadly device, the IP were presented the monetary award for their efforts by their station commander and the commander of the 340th Military Police Company, who oversees Police Transition Team Operations in the district.

"They deserve this reward for the hard work they do on a daily basis," said Brig. Gen. Ahmed Abood, the New Baghdad District commander.

The Coalition Forces commander said he felt the reward would encourage the three IP and other IP to continue to enforce the rule of law in their communities.

"Encouraging them by giving them a monetary incentive will keep them doing



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

An Iraqi Policeman signs for his \$200 monetary award at the New Baghdad District Headquarters Sept. 27 under the Coalition Forces-sponsored Iraqi Security Forces Monetary Incentive Fund. The IP was presented the award for finding an improvised-explosive device while on patrol in August. Two of his fellow IPs were also presented the award.

their job," said Maj. Lawrence Clossum, a native of St. Louis, who serves as the commander of the 340th MP Co., an Army Reserve unit based out of New York.

This was the first award the commander has handed out, and he said he expects the program to be effective in deterring crime in the area by motivating the IP to fight criminals.

"We will use this reward as an incentive for the IP to go out and find more IEDs and criminal activities," said Clossum.

The IP are only to be awarded for actions that are significantly beyond their normal duties, according to the Multi-National Corps – Iraq policy for the ISFMIF.



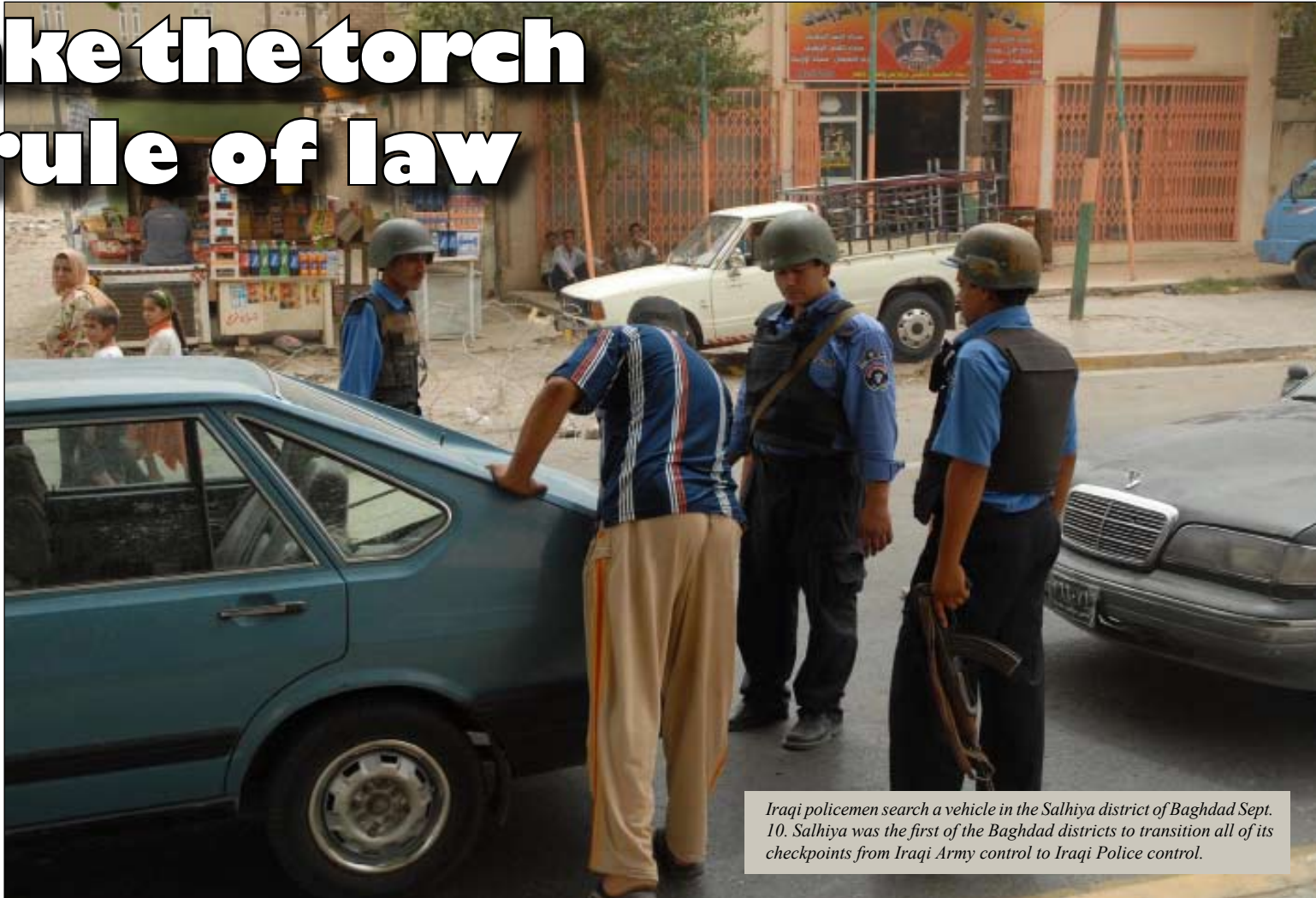
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Glanz, a member of the 340th Military Police Company, New York Army Reserves, and a native of Beacon Falls, Conn., directs an Iraqi Policeman where to sign as three Iraqi Policemen were awarded the Coalition Forces-sponsored Iraqi Security Forces Monetary Incentive Fund at the New Baghdad District Headquarters Sept. 27.

Iraqi Police take the torch to provide rule of law



A female IP trainee loads a PKM automatic machine gun on a local range at the Regional Training Center, Sept. 4 as she prepares to engage her targets. The RTC class welcomed 21 female IP trainees for the first time during a four week certification course.



Iraqi policemen search a vehicle in the Salhiya district of Baghdad Sept. 10. Salhiya was the first of the Baghdad districts to transition all of its checkpoints from Iraqi Army control to Iraqi Police control.

Iraqi Police take over security roles

By:
Lt. Col. Michael Indovina
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – Security improvements in Baghdad continue to progress as Iraqi Security Forces conducted a Transfer of Authority in more than 10 Muhallas (neighborhoods) yesterday in the Karkh Directorate of Baghdad.

In the Kindi and Qadasiyah Muhallas of Baghdad, Iraqi Army Soldiers handed over security responsibilities to the Iraqi Police.

“In the past months, the improvement in the security situation and the Iraqi Police capabilities gains have provided the IP the opportunity to take on independent responsibilities for security in their neighborhoods,” said Lt. Col. Michael Indovina, spokesman for the 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Iraqi Police in the past 12 months have expanded their forces to more than 10,000 ‘Shurtas’ (policemen). Through the expansion and development partnership with the 18th Military Police Brigade and other Coalition Forces efforts, the IP have grown and built their capabilities steadily and are preparing to take over more Muhallas in the near future.

Iraqi Police continue to train daily to develop their community policing skills in order to take over security duties and primacy of police operations here in Baghdad.

In past weeks, IP and Iraqi Army security forces have conducted a relief in place in selected areas of Baghdad. The “RIP” is a process where the IA soldiers transition with IP to ensure there is a seamless transition of responsibilities and duties.

Part of the RIP process was for all the ISF and community leaders to come together and talk through the transition.

“The transition from IA to IP has been extremely smooth because of the connection between Iraqi Police leadership and the IA,” said Capt. Nathan Brookshire, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 716th Military Police Battalion, who is a native of Richmond, Ky. “The ISF in Baghdad conduct joint security meetings so all the key leaders are in the same room talking about how to keep the area secure.”



An Iraqi policeman stands guard at a checkpoint in the Salhiya district of Baghdad Sept. 10. Salhiya was the first of the Baghdad districts to transition all of its checkpoints from Iraqi Army control to Iraqi Police control.



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Iraqi Police media advisor recruits take notes during a media class Sept. 23 at the Al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center. The IP recruits were in their first week of advanced individual training of a media course designed to teach them on how to work with the media in order to help communicate the capabilities and mission of the Iraqi Police force. The class is scheduled to graduate Oct. 24.

First IP media advisors train at Furat IP Training Center

By:
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – The inaugural class of 370 Iraqi Police completed their first week of training Sept. 29 in a course designed to teach the future media advisors the duties and responsibilities of how to become the connection between the Iraqi people and the IP organization at the Al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center in Baghdad.

The IP recruits are attending their version of advanced individual training during a media course that mentors them on how to work with the media to help communicate the police force's capabilities and missions.

The ultimate goal is to place at least two media advisors at each station in Baghdad to help station commanders communicate police activities within the city in order to tell the story of the Shurtas.

"There are many good things the Iraqi Police are doing at their stations, and the story is not being told by the IP," said Lt. Col. Michael Indovina, a native of Parma, Ohio, who serves as the public affairs officer with 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. "The Shurtas

and the IP systems have developed two-fold in the past year – now it is time for others to hear it from the IP perspective.

"Hearing these stories from the IP themselves will help increase their credibility and help build trust between the people of Iraq and the police forces."

This media training is the second phase of an eight-week basic IP recruit training at the center. In the first four weeks of the training course, the IP were trained on how to be an Iraqi policeman or "Shurta." The IP training focused on reviewing basic law enforcement techniques, such as weapons training, combative techniques, structure-clearing techniques, first-aid and defensive maneuvers against small-arms attacks.

During the second phase, which the Shurtas are currently undergoing, the training focuses on a variety of techniques designed to train the students on how to establish a link between the IP station commanders and the communities they live and serve in.

The media and communication training focuses on subjects that include public affairs planning, interpersonal communications, electronic press usage, information strategies, dealing with the media, PA and crime, human

rights principals, freedom of expression, crisis communications, news gathering and how to prepare for a press conference.

The training also focuses on informing the people of Baghdad about the IP's capabilities and keeping them informed of the truth of what the IP are doing for the people on a daily basis.

"We are here to help the people as well as help the IP get their messages out to the people," said Aidl Idan, a media advisor student attending the course.

The future IP media advisors will serve to provide an avenue for IP station commanders to keep the public informed.

"We are the bridge that delivers messages from the station commander, to the Ministry of Interior, and then out to the Iraqi people," said Aidl, who majored in media relations in college. In fact, a majority of his fellow classmates have already earned their college degrees as well prior to entering the training.

As the course continued throughout the week, perhaps the key message emphasized to the students pertained to the power of words – and the power of the press.

By keeping the populace informed and

(see Media pg. 11)

USAREUR CG visits 18th Military Police Brigade Soldiers in Baghdad...



Gen. Carter Ham, the commanding general of United States Army Europe and Seventh Army, meets with Soldiers of the Germany-based 18th Military Police Brigade for breakfast Sept. 21 at the Camp Liberty Division Dining Facility. Ham took command of USAREUR Aug. 28.



Media, from PG. 10

keeping them abreast of the facts, it provides them the avenue to address illegal activities and to “use media as a weapon to fight crime,” in a manner of speaking, said the representative from Baghdad Media College. However, he added, it is instrumental to ensure that as the Iraqi Police representatives, that they “always seek the truth.”

The instructor emphasized that the people of Iraq have a passion to fight crime, and it is the public affairs representative’s mission at the station to help them fight that crime by communicating the facts through words and photos.

“We all have a passion against the enemy,” said the college representative. “Don’t be scared to tell the truth about criminals.”

The representative went on to say

that religion plays no part when it comes to reporting the truth.

“Our religions have nothing to do with our jobs in the media,” said the representative.

In a seminar conducted Sept. 23, a representative from the Ministry of Health provided a block of instruction on the different diseases that are prevalent in Iraq and provided background information on health issues faced by the Iraqi people. For the IP media advisors, the background information could prove vital in helping them to formulate their plans in how to communicate the IP actions during a possible crisis.

Many of the students declared they feel it is their job to report the truth about the IP and, in doing so, they believe they will gain the trust of the Iraqi people.

“The Iraqi people have to trust us,” said Aidl. “We are the first source of information, so they

need to be able to trust us.”

The students explained that before the Coalition Forces liberated Iraq, the people were unaware of the truth of the IP because no one was allowed to report it.

“The IP lost the trust of the people before,” said Aidl, referring to Saddam Hussein’s regime. “Before reporters could not write about the police. Once the CF liberated us and we began to live in democracy, the people of Iraq began to trust the IP.

“We are excited to learn so we can better serve the people of Baghdad as media representatives for the IP.”

The recruits will continue to press on during their upcoming weeks of media advisor training and are scheduled to graduate from the Al Furat IP Training Center Oct. 24.



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Iraqi contractors conduct a site survey of the landscape at the Al Akad Station build site Sept. 27. The station, which is in the process of being rebuilt, was destroyed by extremist attacks in past years. Iraqi Police and Coalition Forces Police Transition Teams are in the process of reestablishing law and order in the area to protect the citizens within the Al Akad neighborhood.



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

An Iraqi National Policeman stands guard at a checkpoint outside the Al Akad Iraqi Police Station build site Sept. 27. Iraqi Police and Coalition Forces Police Transition Teams are in the process of reestablishing law and order in the area to protect the citizens within the Al Akad neighborhood.

ISF, CF reestablishing 'rule of law' in Al Akad neighborhood

By:
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – A black kite rises to the sky off in the distance as a convoy of military police Soldiers travel down one of the most dangerous routes in Baghdad.

"They know we are here," said Staff Sgt. Darrell Bamberg, a squad leader with the 340th Military Police Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, as his eyes scanned through his humvee window Sept. 27 at the black kites with the assumption criminal groups were signaling the arrival of Coalition Forces along the route as they entered the Al Akad neighborhood.

"The guys over here don't like us at all," said Bamberg, referring to the criminal groups in the area of the proposed building site of a new IP station.

The surveying of a new IP station in the Al Akad neighborhood was the squad's mission for the day, as well as escorting an Iraqi Police general and several contractors to a new station build site in northeast Baghdad to conduct a site survey.

As the squad traveled the route, more black kites popped up parallel to their

position and went down as they passed by en route to their destination. The squad is part of the 340th MP Co., and is an Army Reserve unit based out of New York.

"There are a lot of reports of criminal groups in the area," said Bamberg, a native of the Bronx, N.Y., referring to an area that borders Sadr City where much of the violence that was once contained in Sadr City has crept into.

Upon arriving at the future build site, the Soldiers were met by many children – some asking for water and candy. Soldiers, with comforting smiles, handed out as much as they had available.

As the children smiled and ran away, two more children approached and set sail to a black kite that was within viewing distance of the convoy, which was parked at the remains of a former IP station.

The unit's plan is to rebuild the Al Akad station to establish an IP force in the area, which will help to reestablish and provide rule of law for the citizens against criminal groups suspected of moving into the area.

"Our goal is to make this area secure for the citizens of Al Akad," said Maj. Lawrence Clossum, commander, 340th MP Co., who is a native of St. Louis. "We are beginning

the process of rebuilding a new station in Al Akad that will provide rule of law for the citizens of Al Akad."

The Al Akad station existed at one point but was destroyed by criminal group attacks on the station in earlier months.

"We will have to level what's left of the place and rebuild the station from scratch," said Clossum, looking at the remains of the perimeter of the former IP station.

The station would be a symbol of perseverance to the criminals in the area, he added, and will demonstrate that the IP forces have the capability to protect its citizens and not back down to anyone as they rebuild their nation.

"We cannot let the criminals think they have won the fight here," said Clossum. "It will take some time, but we will rebuild this station."

The construction evaluation crew gathered the needed information at the site and the group loaded back into the humvees and journeyed back from where they came leaving the black kites waving in the sky behind them.

The mission was completed for the day, which signified one of the many opportunities for the Iraqi Police and Coalition Forces as the combined forces strive to reestablish the police forces in the area to help rid the neighborhood of crime.

716th MP Bn. Soldiers take cultural awareness onto the streets of Baghdad

By:
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

BAGHDAD – “Kalo,” said the instructor in an Iraqi dialect to ten Soldiers who spontaneously began searching through their notes.

“Your mom’s brother,” answered one of the students.

“Correct,” said the instructor, as the class continued. “Next word, ‘Abn Amme.’”

A student instantly responded with, “Your cousin from your dad’s side of the family.”

This word familiarization exercise lasted for another ten minutes or more Sept. 19 during the 716th Military Police Battalion’s cultural awareness class, which teaches anywhere from ten to twenty Police Transition Team Soldiers a week on various subjects pertaining to Iraqi culture.

The instructor Fred Fachou, an interpreter with the battalion, and native of Troy, Mich., teaches the ten-week class.

“They use what I teach here, while conducting their daily Police Transition Team missions at Iraqi Police stations,” said Fachou, who lived in Iraq his entire life before moving to the United States in 1977. “I teach them a lot of the basics, because that is what they use every day at the stations to communicate.”

The course, which is forty hours of classroom instruction, educates students about the Iraqi language: how to use and recognize the Iraqi number system, how to recognize and pronounce Iraqi time, how to refer to someone’s relatives in Arabic, how



Sgt. Gary Moore, a native of Del City, Okla., asks a question to instructor Fred Fachou, an interpreter and native of Troy, Mich., during the 716th Military Police Battalion’s ten-week Arabic Cultural Awareness class taught on Camp Liberty. The class aim is to teach Soldiers more about the Arabic culture in order for them to better perform in their Police Transition Team mission. The 716th MP Bn., is deployed from Fort Campbell, Ken., and is currently assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

to pronounce days of the week in Arabic while teaching the Soldiers Iraqi customs and traditions in order for the Soldiers to have better situational awareness while on mission.

The course provides immediate effects on the unit’s mission success, by allowing the Soldiers to have better situational awareness through understanding the culture of their IP counterparts.

“The cultural awareness class has a direct impact on the capability of the PTTs mission,” said Capt. Nathan Brookshire, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 716th MP Bn. “Understanding the complex cultural environment the Soldiers work in with the added benefit of communicating in the native language enables the PTTs to build enduring relationships with their IP counterparts.”

The course also is a direct impact on the overall IP development mission.

“The relationships created by investing in cultural awareness training increases the battalion’s impact on police professionalism and effectiveness,” said Brookshire.

The course is taught once a week on Friday, which is normally a day the Soldiers use to recover from the countless missions during the week. The battalion uses Friday to recover; which works well as it coincides with the Iraqi weekend, which starts on

Fridays.

The Soldiers that have attended the class said that applying what they have learned at class has been very beneficial to them when conducting their missions.

“It helps us be able to direct traffic and communicate in Arabic while we are on mission,” said Pfc. Vanessa Enos, a military police Soldier, 978th Military Police Company, assigned to the 716th MP Bn. “The class teaches us the things not to do when dealing with the Iraqi people to make sure we show them the proper courtesies according to their customs.”

To help the Soldiers further understand Iraqi customs and courtesies, in one of the recent classes, Fachou taught topics related to Ramadan and customs Soldiers need to be aware of to ensure they display the proper respect to the Iraqi people during the religious observance.

Ramadan is the Muslim religious observance that takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, which is believed to be the month in which the Qur’an was revealed to Angel Gabriel, to deliver it to Prophet Muhammad. It is the Islamic month of fasting (*sawm*), in which participating Muslims do not eat or drink anything from true dawn until sunset.

During this serious month of worship it

(see *Awareness* pg. 14)

Military traditions: 'rite of passage' as units transition to combat ops

By:
Pfc. Glenn Manor
191st MP Co. UPAR

BAGHDAD- Traditions are to the military what snow is to North Dakota winters; it wouldn't be the same without it!

As units begin their transition from garrison mission sets to combat operations, military units execute this phase of deployments in Kuwait. This phase of deployments provides the unit time to acclimate to the environment and make their final preparations before moving north into the tactical fight.

The 191st Military Police Company from the U.S. Army's North Dakota National Guard is no different to this process.

Our military has many traditions and one in particular is near and dear to Soldier pride: displaying their unit's colors everywhere they go.

In Kuwait where the units stage and make final preparations for the next phase of their deployment, most units claim their stake on a 't-wall.' A t-wall is a cement barrier used to protect areas where Soldiers live or work.

Since the t-walls are a gray dull color and somewhat of a poor eye catching block, units use the space to display or paint their colors and mark that they have come through the area; somewhat like a 'rite of passage.'

Recently, the 191st MP Co. from the North Dakota U.S. Army National Guard, traveled through Kuwait's Camp Buehring and participated in the same 'rite of passage' as all other units have.

With a slight challenge from the unit's first sergeant, he asked if anyone was up to the task and willing to take on this noble challenge.

Several Soldiers from the unit volunteered and took on the task.



*Pfc. Glenn Manor
Military Police Soldiers from the 191st Military Police Company, Pfc. Ashley Glaspie (left) and Spc. Nick Jones, natives of Bismarck, ND, work on the unit's mural in Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The unit's mural builds pride within the unit and signifies a 'rite of passage' as they transitioned into combat operations.*

They were: Pfc. Ashley Glaspie, Spc. Nick Jones and Sgt. Kelly Schmidt.

While training and unit preparations took priority, the volunteers had several days to create the mural. As time grew near to depart the sands of Kuwait, the team decided to work around the clock on their final night in Kuwait to complete this mission before the 191st had to move north into Iraq.

With limited resources for this unexpected task, the team crafted many of the special pieces required for the design and made the best of the tools they were able to get their hands on.

Several of the elements of the design were done by Glaspie using no more than a steady hand and a sharp artistic eye. The Kuwaiti sun brought temperatures to 100°+ and the team forged ahead, bringing color and life to an otherwise drab grey piece of concrete.

On the final day of the project, the team rushed to complete the task with pride as an approaching sandstorm threatened to drive the team under cover and ruin the still drying paint.

In the end and seven gallons of paint later, the mission was accomplished and the colors are now a part of military history with all the other unit murals making their stake on Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The mural is now a showcase of the heritage that the 191st brought with them to the desert and it is the first of many historical landmarks the 191st will leave throughout their deployment in the deserts of Southwest Asia.

Awareness, from PG. 13

is important for the Soldiers to understand and respect the religious observance of their counterparts.

"We had a class just before Ramadan that told us what not to do when we are out on mission," said Enos. "We would not want to offend any Iraqis during their holy month."

During the cultural class, which meets for a one hour class per week, consists of: reviewing homework from the previous week, lessons of verbal communication and writing of different Iraqi words and reviewing common phrases the Soldiers would most likely use when operating at local IP stations.

"The Soldiers ask what they need to know from the experiences they have had out on missions," said Fachou. "I try to answer all of their questions, so they are more prepared the next time they go

out."

Soldiers will ask questions like: "Why do Iraqis do this? When is Ramadan over? Would it be disrespectful to do this to an Iraqi?" "Anything they ask me, I tell them what it means in Arabic and how to write it," said Fachou.

"If they ask me something then that means they will use it a lot when they are out there," added Fachou.

At the end of the class the Soldiers receive their homework assignment for the next week, which is usually a review from what they went over in class that day.

The Soldiers then have an opportunity all week to practice their newly learned Arabic as they head out into the streets while conducting PTT operations.

Brothers serve together as Baghdad 'cops'

By:
Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger
18th MP Bde. PAO

When deploying to Iraq for the second time, the phrase 'Brothers in Arms' took on a whole new meaning for Sgt. Ray Hogan, 27, who serves as a military police Soldier with the 978th Military Police Company.

His brother, Cpl. Roland Hogan, 21, also a military police Soldier, joined the unit prior to it deploying from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Baghdad, where it conducts Police Transition Team operations with the Baghdad Iraqi Police force.

"I would feel better if he was home," said Ray, of his little brother. "At least with him being in the same unit, I can make sure he is safe."

The two brothers train IP at different Joint Security Stations that are five miles apart in Baghdad.

Ray, a native of Long Branch, N.J., said because his brother is here this deployment, he has a lot more to worry about compared to his last deployment in Balad.

"Last deployment, I only had to worry about myself," said Ray, who deployed to Iraq in 2003. "This deployment, I have to worry about my squad and my little brother. It would be easier if he had a desk job."

The brothers' MP missions have them out on the dangerous streets of Baghdad on a daily basis.

"Most of the time when I roll out, he is already out on the road – and that kind of worries me," said Roland.

The Hogan brothers said they try not to worry too much because they know their mom is doing enough of that already at home.

"Are mom definitely did not approve of both of us being deployed at the same time," said Ray. "We stay connected with our Family the best we can while we are here so they know we are okay."

While they are out living at their respective JSSs in Baghdad, they stay communicated with each other and their Family back home through the internet service that is provided at the JSS.

"We hit each other up on MySpace as much as we can. We send each other messages to make sure we are doing alright," said Ray.

The Hogan brothers said the deployment has brought them much closer than they were growing up.

"We try to do everything that we can together; we play chess and video games together when we get the chance. We have become pretty close here," said Ray. "We weren't this close growing up, but now that we are away from home, we have grown a lot closer."

Roland, who has been in the army for three years, said he joined

the Army because it was something to do and that he became an MP because his brother was one.

"My brother was an MP, so I figured I would try it out," said Roland. "It has been a very rewarding experience serving with my brother."

Roland was promoted recently to the rank of corporal, and even as he closes in on becoming a sergeant, Ray said his brother is not trying to follow in his footsteps.

During the promotion ceremony, Ray was able to pin his brother and welcome the newly promoted noncommissioned officer to the Corps.

"I don't have a shadow for him to live in," said Ray, of his brother. "He is his own person."

Although they have the same last name on their uniform, they will tell you they are two very different people.

"I am the better looking one," said Ray with a smile, much to his brother's disgust. "Roland is still growing up. I am the stronger one; he is the smarter one."

Although the brothers joke with each other often, Roland said he uses his older brother as someone to go to for advice.

"I ask my brother for advice about all different kinds of things," said Roland of his brother, who is six years older. "Anything from women to help with my job, I'll ask him for advice about."

Although the brothers are not in the same squad and are separated by five miles of dangerous Baghdad streets, they take a piece of each other and their Families back home with them every

time they roll out on mission.

"We have a bit of each other everywhere we go," the brothers agreed. "We know our mom is stressed out about us being over here, but we want her to know that we keep each other safe and that we will see her soon."

To their father, who they said is no stranger to war after having served for 23 years in the Marine Corps and deploying during Operation Desert Storm, they said he knows what it's like over here.

"He has been here and done it before," said Ray. "He knows what it is like and understands it."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Cassidy, Ray's platoon leader, said he met Ray and Roland's parents prior to deploying and said he wanted them to know what a great job they had done raising their boys.

"They raised some great, well-disciplined sons, who care a lot about their Soldiers and get the job done at the same time," said Cassidy.



Sgt. Ray Hogan (Left) and his brother, Cpl. Roland Hogan, natives of Long Branch, N.J., are both military police Soldiers assigned to the 978th Military Police Company and serving in Baghdad as they conduct Police Transition Team operations at local Iraqi police stations. The 978th MP Co. is deployed from Fort Bliss, Texas, and is currently assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Around the 18th Military Police Brigade...



Soldier serves 2 countries he calls home

Iraqi-born American Soldier proud to serve both countries...



Spc. Emad Jadan

Most American Soldiers serving in Iraq are counting down the days to when they can pack up their bags and return home.

Returning home for one Soldier serving with Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 18th Military Police Brigade literally meant to deploy to Iraq.

Spc. Emad Jadan, an interpreter serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th MP Bde., left Iraq at the age of 20 and

started the process of becoming an American citizen living in West Bloomfield, Mich., until the age of 39 when he returned home to serve as an interpreter for the 18th MP Bde.'s provincial level Police Transition Team.

"I am just a Soldier, who happens to speak Arabic," said Jadan.

Jadan's journey to the U.S. began in 1990 when he and his mother and sister fled Iraq at the start of the Gulf War. They left Iraq, which at the time was under Saddam Hussein's regime, when Iraq invaded Kuwait starting what would later be known as the Gulf War.

After his father died in 1985 Jadan was left to care for his small family, being the only male remaining in the family.

Jadan said, that he credits his father for the strong values he carries with him today. His father, who worked for 22 years with the Government of Iraq controlling its finances, but declined when he was asked to join Saddam's political affiliation known as the Baath Party.

"The Iraqi government under Saddam asked my father to become part of the Baath Party and he refused, so he was forced to retire and open his own business," said Jadan. "He didn't join the party because he didn't believe in any of the things they believed in."

Growing up Jadan visited the U.S., several times, to visit relatives in Michigan. Jadan recalled one of those times when he was ten years old going into a toy store and how he was amazed by all the toys. Jadan knew the U.S. is where he needed to go to keep his

mother and sister safe from the war and Saddam's regime.

Jadan was forced to send his sister and mother ahead of him to the U.S., because his immigration papers were not complete and he had to spend two years in Jordan to complete the papers before reuniting with them in Michigan.

Life in the U.S. was safe for his family and Jadan went through several different businesses trying to make money to provide for his family. He owned a video store, cell phone retail store and then owned an auto glass shop. Business was going well for Jadan until Sept. 11, 2001, the day Jadan said that, changed his life forever.

"Then September 11th happened," said Jadan pausing to recall the event. "Did you see the image of that lady when she jumped from the window? That image is still stuck in my mind and I cannot get it out."

From that time on Jadan began working for the United States

federal government and for police stations in Michigan, doing jobs that he was not allowed to discuss for security reasons.

"I worked voluntarily to help out in whichever way I could," said Jadan. "I wanted the criminals behind the attacks to be punished for what they did and I wanted to prevent this from happening in the future."

Jadan said, he liked working for the government and when Operation Iraqi Freedom started in 2003 he was keeping a close eye on what was



Spc. Emad Jadan, (left), 39, an interpreter with Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 18th Military Police Brigade and native of Bloomfield, Mich., translates Arabic to English and vice versa at a ceremony to honor fallen Iraqi Policemen, Sept. 23, at the Baghdad Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters station.

happening.

"I don't call it the War in Iraq, I call it the Liberation of Iraq," said Jadan, who decided to join the U.S. Army as a Military Intelligence Linguist in 2007.

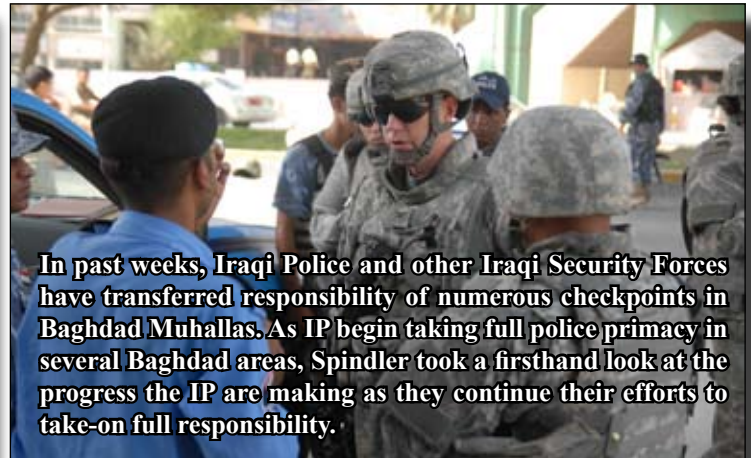
He joined the Army to get the experience he needed to reach his career goal of becoming an Iraqi government advisor one day; to work for a country that he says is one of his homes.

Now he is serving on his first tour in Iraq with the 18th MP Bde., serving as an interpreter for one of its PTT that trains and mentors the Baghdad IP force in hopes for IP primacy.

Since working with the brigade PTT, the team Jadan works with has seen how beneficial it is to have an Army trained linguist serving with them.

(see Jadan pg. 19)

Vigilant 6 checks IP progress in Baghdad



Jadan, from PG. 18

"The training is valuable, but linguistic skills are obviously developed over a long period of time," said 2nd Lt. Jonathan Holliday, the officer in charge of a PTT that Jadan works with. "Jadan can read, write and speak Arabic better than any linguist I have worked with. He attempts to view his translations in both the context of how the people I speak with see the world and communicate and in the context of how I view what is being said and what I want to communicate."

Holliday added everyday he works with Jadan it reinforces to him how important it is to have a disciplined Soldier who can translate for him and also understands the culture he is working with is a huge benefit for the team.

"Apart from the actual words being said, he can also help me understand many of the shared and differing cultural perspectives of Iraqis and Americans," said Holliday. "Being a soldier, he has an added perspective that soldiers share, which translates into the ability to further understand my objectives and perceptions. Having a civilian translator is valuable, but civilians see the world in a

slightly different way than military personnel."

Jadan said, he is able to do his job so well because he feels at home here.

"I like Iraq," said Jadan. "I am in a country that is more than 7,000 years old. It would be easy for the U.S., government and the Iraqi government to deal with an advisor that was both Iraqi and American as the link between the two nations."

From seeing Iraq as it was growing up and seeing Iraq under the Saddam regime, Jadan said that after seeing Iraq now, Iraq is much better today.

"The Iraqi people are tasting freedom for the first time," said Jadan. "Iraqi's are able to deal with any companies they would like and there are no restrictions on them as consumers."

Jadan feels Iraq is on its way to being a successful democracy and that once all the educated Iraqis return who fled during the war that the government and economy will become more successful.

"This is the first government in Iraq that is not run by a military force," said Jadan. "Things are better than they were and they will continue to get better as long as the Iraqi government continues to work for the Iraqi people."



Pfc. Rhonda J. Roth-Cameron

U.S. Army Soldiers and members of the 21st Military Police Company (Airborne), Military police gather for the grand opening ceremony and dedication of the newest combat out post built in the Basrah, Iraq Oct. 2. COP Perry is named in honor of fallen Soldier, Sergeant Joe Perry, who was a member of the 21st MP Company (Airborne), Military police.

21st MP Co. dedicates COP Perry in honor of fallen comrade

By:
Multi-National Division South East PAO

BASRAH – Military Police from the 21st MP Company dedicated their new Combat Outpost in honor of Sgt. Joseph Perry during a ceremony in Basrah, Iraq Oct. 2.

Perry, 23, of Alpine, Calif., died on Oct. 2 in Muhallah, Iraq, when his mounted patrol came under attack by enemy forces using small arms fire during combat operations. Perry was assigned to the 21st Military Police Company, 16th Military Police Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.

“I’d like to give you a picture of what Joe was like,” said Sgt. Rene Duvall, Perry’s best friend. “Always a Coke and a smile. That was his thing. Those were his luxuries.”

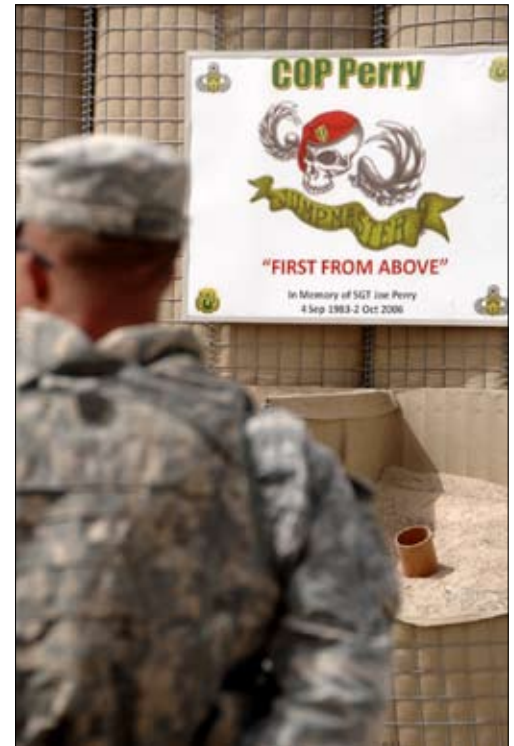
The company commander, Capt.

Charcillea A. Barrett, reminded the Soldiers that what they do today helps mold future Soldiers.

“The biggest thing I want you to take away from this is today is a piece of our history. We have the opportunity and privilege to take time to remember one of our comrades, Sgt. Perry,” she said.

“And today is important for another reason. As Soldiers, we’re not solitary beings. We’re out here together. And we’re tied to those who came before us, those who are standing to our left and to our right, and to those who are going to come after us.”

Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon, OBE, Multi-National Division Southeast Commanding General reflected on how Perry’s sacrifice helped get Basrah where it is today, on the



Pfc. Rhonda J. Roth-Cameron

U.S. Army Soldiers and members of the 21st Military Police Company (Airborne), Military police gather for the grand opening ceremony and dedication of the newest combat out post built in the Basrah, Iraq Oct. 2. COP Perry is named in honor of fallen Soldier, Sergeant Joe Perry, who was a member of the 21st MP Company (Airborne), Military police.

precipice of peace.

“A year ago when I was here in Basrah, I couldn’t imagine standing here like this with you fine Soldiers,” said Salmon. “Joe’s sacrifice, and everyone else’s, was all about getting us to this position now; in a position where we can bring peace and stability to Basrah and help the Iraqis stand on their own two feet. And we can collaborate and work together to make Basrah, which is one of the most important cities, as normal as possible. What we do is going to make a difference.”

First Sgt. Jeffrey A. Maddox read a letter from Perry’s parents, Everett Perry and Kirsten Yuhl. They thanked the 21st MP Co. for remembering their son two years later and for naming the COP after him. Both are U. S. Army veterans.