

# IRON STRONG DAILY

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## *Iraqi judges polish Kirkuk's justice system*

**Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Mary Mittlesteadt  
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The third meeting of the Criminal Justice Counsel, which consists of Iraqi police and judicial leadership from Kirkuk Province, was held at the Iraq Police Academy of Kirkuk City to discuss standards for detainees and investigations.

The judges in counsel, included Judge Noaman, chief judge, and Judge Farook, chief investigative judge, and Maj. Gen. Jamal Thaker Bakr, provincial director of Iraqi police, who represented the Iraqi police. The panel

took turns to discuss a variety of issues with police and district officials who attended.

The main topic of discussion was the requirements to obtain detention orders.

One specific requirement is the need to get the detainee's full name versus their nickname, which is commonly used.

The investigating judges and police investigators must use their experience to obtain as much information as possible in order to ensure they are detaining the right individual, Noaman said.

He also stated that judges and Iraqi police must "put our hands together" to protect our citizens.



**Judge Noaman, chief judge, briefs to an auditorium lined with Iraqi police officials during a conference held to discuss legal issues within the Kirkuk province of Iraq, at the Kirkuk Iraqi Police Academy.**

During the open floor several of the Iraqi police investigators asked the panel of judges about detainee abuse allegations and how they can receive an arrest warrant when needed to allow for a more organized and swift system.

"One of the significant changes for this council meeting was the inclusion of district investigative judges, who haven't been at other meetings," said Maj. Rose Bennett, the brigade command judge advocate for 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. "Extending the reach of the Criminal Justice Counsel and its important messages to the district level is an important step to furthering the rule of law throughout the entire province."

The conference drew a congregation of more than 50 police investigators and several district investigative judges. According to Bennett this was the largest gathering the counsel has seen in attendance since the Criminal Justice Counsel began to host these conferences in May 2008.



**Maj. Gen. Jamal Thaker Bakr, provincial director of Iraqi police, introduces the Criminal Justice Counsel members to the guest consisting of Iraqi police officials during a conference held to discuss legal issues and rule of law within the Kirkuk province of Iraq, at the Kirkuk Iraqi Police Academy.**

## IP, SoI discover numerous caches in Salah ad Din Province



*Courtesy Photo by 25th Inf. Div.*  
Iraqi Police and Coalition Force Soldiers examine a large weapons cache found in Tikrit, Nov. 11. Sons of Iraq and Iraqi Police have found or provided information that has led to the discovery of more than 25 weapons caches in Salah ad Din Province so far this month.

### Story by 101st Airborne Division Multi-National Division - N PAO

Iraqi Police and Sons of Iraq in the Salah Ad Din Province have found or provided information leading to the discovery of two large weapons caches.

Tikrit police found Al Qaeda propaganda, which led them to the location of a cache with more than 150 mortars, more than 30 rockets and bomb making materials.

Sons of Iraq provided information that led to the discovery of a cache containing 220 mortar rounds of various sizes, a rocket and bomb making munitions southwest of Samarra. Both caches were handed over to Coalition explosive ordnance disposal forces to

destroy.

Sons of Iraq and Iraqi Police, who together have found more than 25 caches this month, are continuing to take dangerous weapons and bomb making materials off the street.

"I love working with the Sons of Iraq. They have turned in many caches, and call us whenever something suspicious is happening. They have really helped bring security to this province", said Maj. Sean Brown, brigade plans officer, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

SoI, Iraqi Police and local citizens provided information leading to the discovery of 47 caches in September and 24 caches in October, substantially contributing to the safety and security of Salah ad Din Province.

## Kirkuk senior leaders interact with local shop owners

### Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Mittlesteadt 11th Public Affairs Detachment

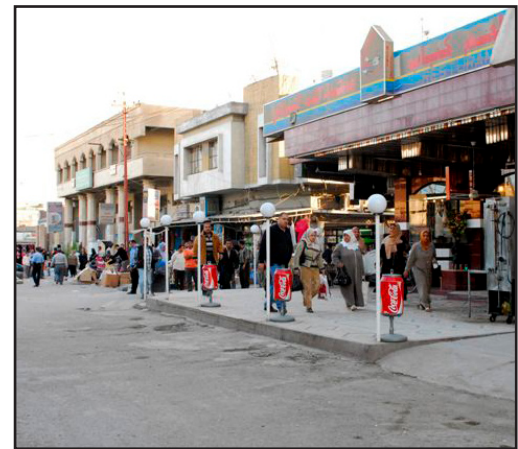
Kirkuk leaders, the commander of 18th Engineer Brigade, Col. Matthew Russell, and the Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team Leader Howard Keegan spent time at the Maiedja Market in downtown Kirkuk City, Iraq, to talk to local business owners.

Local leaders including PRT and Coalition Forces go into markets or business areas in Kirkuk Province to get feedback on the economy and the security situation on an almost weekly basis. The increased stability of the Kirkuk has allowed better access and a safer environment for Coalition Forces and the PRT to interact with the local people.

Kirkuk Province has seen more than a 70 percent decline in violence since the beginning of 2008, according to Russell's statistics of attacks against local civilians, Iraqi security forces and Coalitions Forces.

"Being able to walk through the market place, talk to the shop owners and people shopping shows me there has been tremendous strides in security," Russell said. "I am proud of Maj. Gen. Jamal (the police chief) and the efforts of all the local police force. The IP's along with the Son's of Iraq have formed a strong bond with the people, and the people are placing their trust and respect in them more and more each day."

Prior to leaving the market the leaders had chai, a local tea, with some of the shop owners while they discussed progress with security, the local government and the economy with the allowing both sides to share ideas.



Local residents shop in the mid-afternoon at the Maiedja Market in downtown Kirkuk City, Iraq. The increased stability of the Kirkuk Province has allowed better access and a safer environment for Coalition Forces and the Provincial Reconstruction Team to interact with the local people. Kirkuk Province has seen more than a 70 percent decline in violence since the beginning of 2008, according to Russell's statistics of attacks against local civilians, Iraqi security forces and Coalitions Forces.

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## ENTERTAINMENT NEWS



(AFP) Hollywood mermaid Daryl Hannah will be on board a militant conservationist group's ship for a looming confrontation with Japan's whalers in the Antarctic, the captain said Thursday.

"Daryl is joining our group," Sea Shepherd captain Paul Watson was quoted as saying by Australia's national AAP news agency. "She'll be on board -- she's joining us at the end of the month."

Hannah, blonde star of Ron Howard's 1984 mermaid fantasy "Splash" and more recently featured in Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill" movies, will be on the Sea Shepherd's flagship the Steve Irwin for its annual joust with the whalers.

The ship was named for the Australian environmentalist and television 'crocodile hunter' killed by a stingray in 2006.

Watson claimed earlier this year that the ship's harassment of the Japanese whalers on their annual mission into the icy waters of the Southern Ocean had saved the lives of 500 of the giant mammals.

Japan uses a loophole in a 1986 whaling moratorium allowing "lethal research" to kill up to 1,000 whales each Southern Hemisphere summer.

The International Whaling Commission has condemned Irwin's tactics, which include boarding

the Japanese vessels, but he is unrepentant.

A video game based on the Sea Shepherd's encounters with the whalers is being developed, Watson said after his arrival in the Australian city of Brisbane to prepare for the new campaign.

Hollywood and video games all helped keep the campaign in the spotlight but it was the actions of volunteers on board that saved the lives of thousands of whales, he said.

"This is the fourth year (of the Southern Ocean campaign)," Watson said. "That is three years of lost profits (for Japanese whalers). How much longer can they keep this up?"

"This is really the key to stopping them -- to keep making them lose profits."

The Steve Irwin is due to leave Brisbane on December 1 for the Japanese whaling season. Campaigners expect to come up against eight Japanese ships -- six harpoon vessels, a supply ship and a factory ship.

## TECHNOLOGY NEWS

(Reuters) Google Inc said on Thursday it is launching a new feature to help businesses that use its Site Search service to instantly incorporate and update new Web pages in the latest phase of its expansion into business services.

Although Google is best known for its free consumer search, which is supported by advertising revenue, the company has been developing more services that make money by licensing search technology or services to client websites.

Website owners who use Google's Site Search service will now be able to add new web pages immediately so the most up-to-date information shows up on search queries thanks to a new on-demand indexing feature.

Before now an automated Google Site Search system 'crawled and indexed' the client website's pages from time to time. But this offered no guarantee of being up-to-date, the new on-demand indexing feature gives control to the website owner.

Site Search is a paid Google service that website owners use so visitors are able to search for

information on their site's pages.

Google licenses the service to website owners at fees starting from \$100 a year for smaller sites and can charge several thousand dollars for larger sites with thousands of pages. Google executives said they do not break out charges to major site owners whose sites have over 300,000 pages.

For smaller sites Google will license the service for free if ad query results are included in the results.

Google Site Search is hosted on Google's network of computers instead of requiring customers to install and maintain search equipment of their own. Google aims to improve the search quality of individual sites that contain important information, but are usually cluttered and inaccessible.

Site Search is an alternative to the Google Search Appliance, which Google offers to sites wishing to maintain their own search services inside their own data centers.

Google still makes the bulk of its revenue from consumer search marketing and advertising, but has been expanding its search services for small to medium sized businesses, as well as for large enterprises.

As well as site search services it has rolled out a software suite of productivity services similar to Microsoft Corp's Office suite, which it calls Google Apps. The suite features documents, calendar and presentation applications. The consumer version of Google Apps is free, but the company charges organizations a fee to license for a professional service.



## BASKETBALL

**(AP)** The Los Angeles Lakers had a surprisingly easy time staying undefeated. Only a "Super" effort kept the Atlanta Hawks from joining them.

Paul Pierce made a jumper with 0.5 seconds left to give the Boston Celtics a 103-102 victory over Atlanta on Wednesday night, handing the Hawks their first loss of the season.

The Hawks (6-1) provided another tough test for the Celtics, just as they did in going the distance against the eventual champions in the first round of last season's playoffs.

"The last play was drawn up: Get the ball to Pierce; get the hell out the way," Boston's Kevin Garnett said. "Superman's in the booth. Let's go home. That was the play, and if you don't believe that ask Doc Rivers and he'll say the same exact thing."

A night that featured a skirmish in Phoenix, Greg Oden's first NBA points and Dwight Howard's first triple-double — a 30-point, 19-rebound, 10-block masterpiece — ended with the Lakers as the last unbeaten team.

Los Angeles (7-0) led by as much as 23 in New Orleans before holding on for a 93-86 victory over a Hornets team that is expected to

be one of the Lakers' chief rivals for Western Conference supremacy.

"If at the end of the season it's like this, then it would mean a lot," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "There have been a lot of teams that have gotten off to good starts and it doesn't mean they have a great finish, but this is what we want to do and we're doing the right thing."

In other NBA games Wednesday night, it was: Philadelphia 106, Toronto 96; Indiana 98, New Jersey 87; Washington 95, Utah 87; New York 132, Memphis 103; Orlando 109, Oklahoma City 92; Milwaukee 82, San Antonio 78; Portland 104, Miami 96; Houston 94, Phoenix 82; and Sacramento 103, the Los Angeles Clippers 98.

Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher each scored 20 points for the Lakers, who got a clutch 3-pointer from Bryant in James Posey's face after the Hornets had trimmed the lead to three with a little more than a minute left.

"I'm never surprised to see him do anything," Fisher said. "He's one of those rare guys in the history of the game that I think can actually make the ball go in. ... Mentally, he's able to lock in on that rim and get the ball in the basket. That's what separates him from some of the best to ever play."

Pierce did it, too, faking out a pair of defenders before his bucket. He finished with 34 points, Garnett had 25 with 12 rebounds and Rajon Rondo had 10 assists for the Celtics.

"A great player hit a great shot," Hawks coach Mike Woodson said. "I hate for the game to end — not like that. That game was played beautifully on both ends of the floor, by both teams, and they made a great play at the end."

Joe Johnson scored 28 for Atlanta, finding an open Marvin Williams for the go-ahead 3-pointer with 7.4 seconds left before Pierce answered. The Hawks couldn't get off a final shot, but didn't let the loss damage their confidence much.

"Our team swagger is really high right now," Al Horford said. "We just want to play the game the right way, let people know we're serious."



**(AFP)** Rookie Rudy Fernandez of Spain scored 14 of a career-high 25 points in the fourth quarter on Wednesday as the Portland Trail Blazers defeated Miami 104-96 in a National Basketball Association victory.

Brandon Roy scored 22 for the Blazers, and rookie center Greg Oden, the first overall pick in the 2007 draft, made his return to the court after spraining his right foot in the season opener on October 28 against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Oden came off the bench to collect three points and two rebounds with two blocks in 16 minutes for Portland.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 14 points for the Blazers, who won their fourth straight game.

The Heat, led by Dwyane Wade's season-high 36 points, lost for the first time in four home games.

It was the fourth straight game Wade has scored at least 30 points. He also had eight assists and six rebounds.

Fernandez made all five of his shots, including two 3-pointers, in the fourth quarter as Portland rallied from a 75-73 deficit heading into the final period.

He made both 3-pointers early in the fourth, and the Blazers later used a 10-4 run to take a 90-83 lead with six minutes to play.

The Heat pulled within 96-92 with a minute remaining, but Fernandez nailed a turnaround 20-footer with 44 seconds left.





## COLOMBIA

(AP) The soldiers in Antelope Company's Third Platoon hadn't registered a guerrilla kill in months. And without results, they feared they wouldn't be let off base for Mother's Day.

So they hatched a plan, according to Pvt. Luis Esteban Montes: Lure a civilian to their camp, murder him and register him as a rebel slain in combat.

Montes, 24, didn't object — until he met the quarry. It was Leonardo, the older brother he hadn't seen since he was 9.

Montes said he tried to dissuade his commander, who responded with threats. He slipped his brother out of the camp, he says, only to see him show up dead a week later, a "guerrilla kill" with three bullets in his torso and a gaping facial wound likely caused by a knife.

The men of Antelope Company of the 31st Rifle Battalion, 11th Brigade, 7th Division, did not get their "liberty passes." Montes' family filed a formal complaint, one of 245 complaints involving alleged killings of civilians by Colombian security forces last year that prosecutors are investigating.

It is among the most chilling examples of what the United Nations' top human rights official, Navi Pillay, calls "widespread and systematic" extrajudicial killings by Colombia's U.S.-backed military. Many of the killings were allegedly committed merely to

inflate rebel casualty numbers.

Five of Montes' fellow soldiers now face a criminal probe in his brother's April 2007 death, joining some 480 soldiers under investigation for about 1,000 extrajudicial killings during the presidency of President Alvaro Uribe.

The scandal comes at a particularly delicate moment for Uribe. President-elect Barack Obama has cited human rights concerns in opposing the U.S.-Colombia trade agreement President Bush wants ratified before he leaves office in January. Obama told Bush on Tuesday that he opposes including the deal in an economic stimulus package the U.S. Congress is to begin debating next week.

Uribe, meanwhile, is cleaning house: A week before Obama's election, he ordered the biggest-ever purge of Colombia's military, firing 20 officers — including three generals and four colonels — for negligence. On election day, the army commander resigned.

Armed forces chief Gen. Freddy Padilla told The Associated Press that the Montes case contributed to the sacking of the commanding general of the 7th Division, based in Medellin. Prosecutors say there is no evidence Leonardo was a rebel — or for that matter anything more than a 33-year-old farm worker.

Montes, meanwhile, is isolated under special guard for his own safety at a military post outside Medellin.

"I can't sleep. I'm awake all night, tossing and turning in bed," he told the AP. "I have this psychosis that at any moment someone could come, something could happen to me, that they are going to kill me."

Montes told his story last month to the Colombian newsmagazine *Semana*. In several telephone interviews, he declined to retell the details because he is under orders not to. But he said the magazine quoted him faithfully. His testimony is also supported by declarations made to judicial authorities by Montes and others.

Here is Montes' account:

The 31st Rifles was bivouacked in the hamlet of San Juan in the northern province of Cordoba. Soldiers were listless, some malarial. Mother's Day was coming.

Montes said his battalion had a policy: "For every enemy killed you get 15 days leave." So soldiers in Montes' company began talking about "legalizing" someone — cynical service slang for killing a civilian.

One moonless rainy night, Montes' platoon leader, a corporal, told him they had chosen a victim, he said. It was a man from La Guajira, the Caribbean coastal province from which Montes himself hailed.

Curious, Montes went to see the man, gave him a cigarette and, not recognizing him in the dark, determined they were from the same town, the same street. It was Leonardo, with whom Montes shared the same father.

The two hugged and Montes, incredulous and outraged, told his brother of the sinister intentions of the soldiers who had befriended him and invited him to the camp.

Montes pleaded with the company commander, Capt. Jairo Garcia, to let him go, but said the captain told him that if he tried to stop them he would put Montes on point during patrols "so my legs could be blown off by a mine." The captain, who is under criminal investigation, called Montes a liar and a chronic slacker in a sworn declaration.

Montes got Leonardo safely out of the camp that night and figured the episode was over. But a few days later, as he was being treated for malaria in a nearby town, he learned his company had scored a "positivo" and that soldiers tried to bury his brother in an unmarked grave.

The after-action report said Leonardo was killed in a firefight with a small group of rebels. It said the others got away. Montes, citing fellow fighters, told investigators that the 9mm Browning pistol and grenade found on the body were planted by soldiers.

Montes was enraged. His brother had been killed "for nothing more than a liberty pass." The romanticized vision of soldiering Montes held when he joined the army in 2006, he says, was buried with Leonardo.

"Officers get promoted on merit and you win merit by ... killing the most subversives. But that's not so easy," Montes said. "So what happens? They look for the easiest victims."

