

Vol. 1 Issue 12

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95th Military Police Battalion, MND-B





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716th Military Police Battalion, MND-B



793rd Military Police Battalion, MND-C



728th Military Police Battalion, MND-N



Commander's Corner: COL Mark Spindler

Out of Time...



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

ut time to Go! If you would have told me back in June or July we would find ourselves out of time to do what we need to do by the end of our deployment, I would have thought your nuts (TIME WE GOT!). But, you would have been absolutely right! As strange as it seems, after so much time and so much

accomplished we leave handing off to our Watch Dog brothers and sisters a whole lot of things to do - things we started but were unable to finish. Don't take this as any kind of shortcoming or failing, on the contrary. This is simply a reflection and reality of the extraordinary amount of work you initiated during our time here, work that has been profound in setting the conditions for the Government of Iraq and Iraqi Security Forces to take hold, and serve its people. The 8th MP Brigade will run with these initiatives and carry your work to fruition.

We still have a lot of work to do towards completing our redeployment and reintegration, so we can't afford to let our guard down. We will remain battle focused, but no doubt the finish line is in sight, and we are all energized by the thought of returning home to our friends and families for the holidays.

In the days following the redeployment and block leave we, as a unit, will spend much time assessing our performance, capturing lessons learned, and incorporating these lessons into our initial preparations

to return back to combat when called. I would ask that each of you find some time alone in the weeks ahead to reflect upon what happened here, the true importance of what we did, and your extraordinary performance and selfless service - service to a people who will never know your name, but will in the generations to come live the freedoms you and our Iraqi patriots have struggled to win for them.

Simply saying thank you for everything you have done here seems so unworthy of the magnitude of service and sacrifice rendered by you and your families. Nevertheless, I do so with sincerity and will continue to do so in the days to come. Soldiering with you at this moment and time in our Nation's call to war has been the highlight of my professional career, and a privilege that I will hold in highest regard.

Let's Go Home.....





18th Military Police Brigade Commander: Col. Mark Spindler 18th Military Police Brigade Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Bernard McPherson 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michael Indovina 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Specialist: Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

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

Visit our website at www.18mp.army.mil

Team Vigilant!



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

warriors thanks. I thank the Leaders for allowing me to unfettered access to their Soldiers. Every unit leader that I have visited treated me and my security team with dignity and respect. I am truly grateful.

This tour has taught me many things. First of all, 15 months is a long time (smile). Secondly, the resolve of our Soldiers can never be under estimated. I

have been blessed to witness that resolve, first-hand.

Our Soldiers have performed unbelievably heroic and their exploits will become stuff that folk singers sing about and story tellers talk about.

OIF 07-09 will go down in history as the most memorable period of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This period produced the "Surge" and great leaders such as Generals' Petraeus, Odierno, Hammond, Hertling and Command Sgt. Majors' Hill, Allen, Blackwood, and Gioia. I am personally indebted to advice given from Senior Enlisted Leaders (Hill, Allen, Ciotola, Blackwood, and Gioia). When I needed sanity checks, these leaders were always available.

I would like to thank the military police paratroopers

It seems as though our time has come, OIF 07-09 is coming to an end.

The past fifteen months have been the greatest period of my life. The opportunity to serve in a theater of combat with such extraordinary Soldiers and Airmen has been humbling. For the past few months I have been telling all of the of the 21st MP Co. (Capt. Barrett and 1st Sergeant Maddox) for hosting me and Sgt. Thomas, my security non-commissioned officer during our visit to their "drop zone."

This command team is rock solid and well connected. They are truly an outstanding command team. Their Area of Operation is unique and challenging. They share the battle space with Co. C, 1st/21st Field Artillery, another outstanding well led unit (Capt. Plowey and 1st Sergeant Bey). While down in their area of operations, I was challenged to a basketball game by Jump Master 6. I accepted.....she won the game 10-08. What a way to be remembered by a unit (smile).I was also privileged to go out on a couple of missions with the units. Both



units were flawless in their execution of their missions.

The 8th MP Bde. is here! Command Sgt. Major Patterson and Col. Freeman (Watchdog 6 and 7) are on the ground. They arrived ready and willing to go. I am often asked by Soldiers, whether or not I was ready to go home? My response is always yes, I am ready and that I

am not counting the days; but making a day count. It seems like I am on those "lasts:" last community, CSM meeting, and last visit to????.

Feels kind a funny. Our Rear Detachment has been working very hard in preparing the arrival for our redeployment. Currently it is hard for me to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I will see that light once wheels are up after the Transfer of Authority and I have turned in my ammo and weapons.

Once again, I would like to thank the family readiness groups, and many, many, Soldiers for their prayers and support.







Army Staff Sgt. Jacque Hayes (left), non-commissioned officer in charge IP training center, 223rd Military Police Company and 18th MP Brigade, who facilitates the training program and native of Louisville, Ky., works with an Iraqi Police instructor as they prepare for training to begin on Nov. 6, at the al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center.



An Iraqi Police instructor demonstrates the proper marching technique to IP recruits that are part of a 1031 Sons of Iraq transition training program during a class at the al Furat Iraqi Police training Center, Nov. 6.

1000+ Sol complete 1st week of IP training

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

BAGHDAD – More than 1,000 Sons of Iraq (Abna al-Iraq), Iraqi Police recruits, completed their first week of IP training at the al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center.

To kick off the program, 608 SoI registered for training at the al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center Oct. 31. Now with the first week of training completed, 1,031 SoI are integrated into the IP training program. The second phase of training began Nov. 3 with the inclusion of 19 female recruits preparing themselves to be future Shurta.

"We have seen a great abundance of pride from the former Sons of Iraq and now IP recruits," said Staff Sgt. Jacque Hayes, non-commissioned officer in charge, IP training center, who facilitates the training program with Iraqi Police.

"I am impressed with the willingness of the recruits to learn and train as they train to become future Shurta," added Hayes, a native of Louisville, Ky., who serves with the 233rd Military Police Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

The SoIs will continue to train for the next three weeks as they take on the challenge to become certified police.

Throughout the four-week basic recruit training the SoIs will be trained in basic police skills. The first week's sessions taught the recruits the basics of what a police officer stands for and included an orientation on how the Iraqi Police is organized and basic drill and ceremony techniques.

"We taught the students classes on human rights," said Iraqi Police Lt. Sejed Swadde, an IP instructor. "It is important for the recruits to know when they are Shurta that all people are created equal and race or religious background should not mix with enforcing the law."

Throughout the course, the recruits will also be instructed and trained on basic marksmanship techniques, arrest tactics, to include how to conduct proper checkpoint operations, search of vehicles and personnel, as well as Rule of Law background and community policing techniques.

The SoI program was organized by Coalition Forces in recent years, but the Iraqi Government program assumed responsibility over the SoI program Oct. 1 in order to integrate the SoIs into the ISF.



Iraqi Policemen stand in formation during an Iraqi Police graduation ceremony at the Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters in Baghdad Oct. 21. Four hundred one new IP joined the Iraqi Security Forces as media advisors that will be assigned to local stations throughout Baghdad after graduating the 8-week media course and basic recruit training at Al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center here.

Baghdad welcomes hundreds of new media relations IPs

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

BAGHDAD – Baghdad's top Iraqi Police officials and members of Multi-National Division – Baghdad's 18th Military Police Brigades' Provincial Police Transition Team gathered at the Iraqi Directorate of Police Headquarters here Oct. 20 to witness the graduation of 401 new Iraqi Police media relations officers.

"The IPs will be assigned at every IP facility throughout Baghdad to work with the community and the media to help improve the public perception of the IP at the local level," said Maj. Larry Dewey, 18th MP Bde.'s Provincial level Police Transition Team chief.

The media graduates' mission will be to tell the story of the IP to the citizens of Baghdad.

"This is a great opportunity for IP to tell their story," said Lt. Col. Michael Indovina, who is the 18th MP Bde.'s public affairs officer and works with the Iraqi Directorate of Police Public Affairs Officer to develop the IP public affairs program.

"The IP are doing great work over here," said Indovina, a native of Parma, Ohio. "They are making great strides to improve the security in Baghdad. With the new IP media personnel, they will now be given the opportunity to tell their story from their perspective."

The IP public affairs graduates, most of whom have college degrees, were taught during the course to tell the truth of the IP to the citizens of Iraq.

"The Iraqi people have to trust us," said Aidl Idan, an IP media relations officer, who was among the graduates of the course. "We are the first source of information, so they need to be able to trust us."

The media and communication training that the students were trained on focused on subjects that included public affairs planning, interpersonal communications, electronic press usage, information strategies, dealing



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

An Iraqi Policeman kneels as he pulls local security while demonstrating a room-clearing techniques during an Iraqi Police graduation ceremony at the Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters in Baghdad Oct. 21. Four hundred one new IP joined the Iraqi Security Forces as media advisors that will be assigned to local stations throughout Baghdad after graduating the 8-week media course and basic recruit training at Al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center here.

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, which is held at the Al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center, also focused 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.

"The media advisors will help build the credibility of the IP force among the citizens they protect," said Indovina.

As well as being media relations advisors for their local Police commanders, the recruits were also trained in basic police functions. The 401 new media relations officers are also certified Iraqi Police Shurta.

MND-SE

Too Tough Times

Too Tough Times



logistics with an Iraqi Police supply officer at the 6th Emergency

Battalion Headquarters in Basra Oct. 26.

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

rule of law to the citizens of Basra.

mentoring and training them to move toward self reliance in providing

hen Soldiers of the 21st Military Police Company (Airborne) arrived at what was to be Combat Outpost Perry they found an open field covered in trash and waste.

After a month and a half, of British engineers and contractors working on the compound, COP Perry was born in the city of Basra.

The COP would house Army military police Soldiers of the 21st MP Co., who would be the first U.S military police in the area.

The unit, which is mainly, based out of nearby Contingency Operating Base Basra decided that to better conduct its mission, of training, mentoring and transitioning the Basra Iraqi Police force, they would need to move out into the city to the COP to be closer to the citizens of Basra and their IP counterparts.

"By being closer to the IP and the

people we will be able to spend more time coaching the IP of the city," said 1st Lt. Steve Caldwell, platoon leader 21st MP Co., and native of Mt. Vernon, Wash.

The COP was placed in the center of some of the most dangerous streets that the Coalition Forces have traveled on to date in hopes that it would deter criminal activities in the area.

"Working at the COP we now have less traveling time spent on the roads to get to the IP stations we work with," said Caldwell. "The majority of our tips on enemy activities are given to us or the IP by civilians and being in the city gives us a quicker response time to react to those tips."

While conducting its daily Police Transition Team operations at the collocated Hussein District Headquarters, Oct. 25, The PTT was able to test their quick reaction time when they received report from the IP at the District Headquarters, that IP at

the nearby Jehad IP station that they had found six rockets in a field.

The military police squad was able to go to the scene quickly and examine the site where the rockets were found.

Along with the Jehad and Hussein stations the unit works with two other stations in the al Hussein District of Basra, as well as, the 10 Emergency Response companies in Basra.

Even though they are starting from scratch with the IP in the area they have found the IP have done a lot on their own because they want to do their jobs.

"They want to do what they are doing and they are professionals about it," said Sgt. Christopher Daniels, who conducts PTT operations at the 6th Emergency Battalion Headquarters in Basra, and a native of Lake Charles, La.

The emergency battalion, which was formed in May of this year after the criminal uprisings in Basra has seen great progress in providing rule of law for the people of Basra.

"They are really motivated and they are doing the right things when they are out in the communities," said 1st Lt. James Webb, who is the Police Transition Team, team chief at the ERU District Headquarters

The goal for the PTT is to help coach the IP to become the primary Iraqi Security Force in Basra similar to the transition plan that was used in Baghdad.

"Eventually we plan for the IP force here to expand and the Iraqi Army to move out of the city allowing the IP to be the primary security force in Basra to provide rule of law for its people," said Webb. "That is our goal."



Basra ISF hold luncheon to welcome military police unit

Capt. Charcillea Barrett, commander 21st Military Police Company (Airborne), talks with Basra Iraqi Police commanders following a luncheon held by the Basra Iraqi Security Forces welcoming the 21st MP Co. to Basra. The 21st will be working with the Iraqi Police in Basra in order to bring them to self reliance and allow them to become the primary security force to provide rule of law for the citizens of Basra. The 21st MP Co., deployed from Ft. Bragg, N.C., is currently assigned to the 793rd Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade.

Ist Lt. James Webb, platoon leader, 21st Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, discusses arms room operations with an Iraqi Police armor at the 6th Emergency Battalion Headquarters in Basra Oct. 26.

Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Task Force 95 Military Police Battalion

he Task Force T(TF) 95 Military Police (MP) was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 from 07 October 2007 to 01 December 2008. The TF was responsible for five MP Companies and a Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD). The TF conducted police partnership in order to train, advise, and assess the Iraqi Police (IP) at all levels within the Rusafa Police

successful results. The TF was directly responsible for increasing the amount of fuel received by the Iraqi Police stations level from 30% to 50% allocated. This is significant because it allowed the police to conduct more mobile patrols on the streets of Baghdad in order to reduce the amount of crime and insurgent activity within the city. The TF Companies created crime trackers and patrol distribution plans with the Iraqi Police so they could visually see and understand crime trends within their area of responsibility. Doing so allowed the Iraqi

Directorate. The TF has spent the 14 month long deployment developing and improving IP competencies and operating systems to allow transition to Iraqi primacy. We also provided combined MP/IP support to three **Brigade** Combat Teams. The TF accomplished the mission it was assigned and the Iraqi Police



Police to target areas of high criminal activity to better protect their populace. We also recruited over 11,000 new Iraqi Police into the Police Directorate. Two-thousand have been hired and the remaining 9,000 are awaiting their formal police training and hiring orders.

The TF partnered with the Iraqi Police during

are much better than when we arrived. Ultimately, the populace has a greater sense of security.

The TF was responsible for partnering with over 12,000 Iraqi Police on the East side of Baghdad. We oversaw the building and equipping of four new IP stations; Rabi expedient Local Police Station, Al Amin Local Police Station, Al Sha'ab expedient Local Police Station, and the Al Qahira Local Police Station. We also coordinated and supervised the building process of another four stations; Al Sha'ab Patrol Station, Al Fahama Local Police Station, Ur Local Police Station, and Al Akad Local Police Station. There have been several major milestones throughout the year, all with five highly celebrated religious observances in which most of the city stops working and travels to particular shrines across Iraq. These were highly stressful times, but the TF assisted the Iraqi Police with providing adequate security during the observances and very few attacks happened within our operational environment.

To enhance mission success, we created several mission specific teams within the TF. The Police Partnership Program section, otherwise known as P3, provided our subordinate companies with guidance so they could accomplish the police partnership mission at the Company level. The P3 themselves completed many

Superstars, from PG. 8

tasks assigned to the TF from our higher headquarters; most of which needed to be completed in short order. They did a superb job with all missions assigned. They conducted monthly Iraqi Police Leadership Development Courses in order to improve the Iraqi Police leadership and their investigative capabilities. Iraqi Police leadership is now beginning to teach their own Iraqi Police Leadership Development Courses.

The TF created a new concept; the Enhanced Police Transition Team (ePTT), which consisted of two TF Soldiers and ten International Police Advisors. This team's mission was to partner with the Iraqi Police at the Police Directorate Headquarters level so they could enhance the logistical, operational, and administrative system issues utilizing a top-down approach. The International Police Advisors provided their experience

as previous civilian law enforcement officers to resolve some of the issues we were seeing with the IP leadership and various departments within the IP leadership. The TF Officer and Noncommissioned Officer responsible for the ePTT provided military oversight and leadership needed to improve the Iraqi Police capabilities. The team coached and assisted the Rusafa Police Directorate, which includes seven IP Districts and over 8,500 Iraqi Police. The team helped track, manage, and establish three Emergency Response Unit (ERU) Battalions, which consist of 750 IPs in each Battalion. The ePTT was the first of its kind and has produced nothing but positive results. The Iraqi Police continue to make progress and it is evident when we conduct our daily visits to the individual police stations that our mission was accomplished.

2 Event Highlights

Voter Registration

In June 2008, the Task Force 95 Military Police was given the mission to locate all voter registration sites within the Rusafa Iraqi Police Directorate. The Task Force Police Transition Teams coached and assisted the Iraqi Police to secure the registration sites to ensure a safe registration process for the Iraqi citizens that wish to vote in the December 2008 elections. The Task Force completed reconnaissance of all 66 registration sites and helped the Iraqi Police create plans on how best to secure the sites during the registration process. The voter registration period was a success, as there were no incidents reported against our sites.



Cpt. Nowak from HHD discusses the plan for voter registration security with the Rusafa Iraqi Police Directorate Operations Officer.

Recruiting Drives

The Task Force, in conjunction with the Iraqi Police, recruited over 11,000 Iraqi Police during our 14 month deployment; of which 2,000 have already been hired. The recruiting process was very demanding and typically lasted 3-5 days. The average number per recruiting drive was about 500 applicants.



2nd Lt. Durant from the 340th MP Company reviews application paperwork with Iraqi Police leadership, with the help of an interpreter.



he most decorated Military Police Battalion in the world commenced its next rendezvous with destiny on December 14, 2007 when they deployed to Baghdad in support of OIF 07-09.

As they boarded the plane, officers, NCOs and Soldiers of the 716th

Military Police Battalion were focused on the upcoming mission, their posture and attitude displaying an unmatched commitment to excellence. However, as they left Fort Campbell, saying goodbye to their family and friends, lingering

thoughts of what an upcoming 15 month tour would entail filled their minds.

Like Peacekeepers past, they would sacrifice the milestones of life: weddings, graduations, births and deaths. They would miss sharing not one, but two Christmas holidays with

longtime Peacekeepers, this was a beckoning to be part of yet another evolution in 716th lineage as the battalion entered a combat theater of operations for the third time in five years.

The Global War on Terrorism is in a period of transition with

in operations being conducted by the nine companies and 1,845 Soldiers they were now entrusted with supporting. Additionally, each Peacekeeper section plays a vital role supporting the administrative needs of three additional companies

Task Force 716th **Military Police Battalion**

their loved ones as they embarked on a journey to add yet another milestone to the battalion's storied and glorious history.

For some Peacekeepers, this was a first deployment, a call of duty, an opportunity to affect change during a pivotal time and add to the unit's already impressive reputation. For

many viewing the Police Transition Team Mission as the way ahead and primary operational focus for continued success.

The TOA between the 92nd and 716th Military Police Battalions embodied this shift as the innovative Peacekeepers are the forefront in the campaign for Iraqi Police primacy.

U.S. Afremen assigned to Detachment 3, 782nd Expeditionary Security arrival, the Forces Squadron, currently attached to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, take part in weapons check prior to leaving Forward Operating Base Falcon Nov. 4.

Peacekeepers inherited the Western Baghdad area of responsibility that encompasses nine districts, more than sixty stations and over 14,000 IPs and immediately established their footprint by immersing

Upon

themselves

716th Military Police Battalion

Peacekeepers, from PG. 10

executing PTT missions in support of MNF-W.

During their time in sector, Peacekeeper units continuously serve as a catalyst for increasing the concentration of IP forces within Iraqi communities to reinforce ISF legitimacy and expansion within the local populace.

The key factor in this campaign has been

embedding PTTs in joint-security stations and combat outposts allowing PTTs to develop a closer working relationship with both their Iraqi counterparts and respective land owners.

It has fostered an environment of continuous information

environment.

In less than a month, the 411th has already assisted Zohour through the planned addition of two stations to complement the 18 other new stations Peacekeeper units have aided in establishing since their arrival.

To alleviate the strain on IPs as they continue on the path toward independent operation, the 716th has facilitated an SOI recruiting program

academies and Coalition Forces will no longer be the main law enforcement agents in Baghdad.

Most recently the 194th, 812th, and 2228th Military Police Companies combined efforts with the Marines contributed to the overall success of turning Anbar Province, once the most violent region in Iraq, to provincial Iraqi control.

> This increase of

responsibility

will play an

essential role

in a final exit

strategy for

Coalition

Forces and

it was not

without its

sacrifices.

Since

December

07, sixteen

companies

Soldiers and

airmen have

and over

3,600



attached to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division - Baghdad, group together for a prayer Nov. 4, at Forward Operating Base Falcon.

sharing and the ability to react to actionable intelligence at a moment's notice. It also provides PTTs the constant opportunity to oversee police procedures from beginning to end and instruct IPs on critical policetasks as crimes occur.

Halfway through the tour, the the spear in supporting and shaping PTT operations. Most recently, 716th responsibility expanded to the east side of the Tigris, incorporating the police district of Zohour into the 411th MP Company's operating

to reduce personnel shortages which has generated an average of 1,000 IP candidates a month

As Iraqi security forces continue to improve and Iraq shifts towards autonomy, the 716th Military Police Battalion PTTs and International Police Advisors have been the force of choice Peacekeepers continue to be the tip of in validating the transition of IPs from a paramilitary organization to a police force through a heavy emphasis on basic policing skills and community policing. Iraqis have already taken the lead by serving as the primary instructors at mandatory police training

served under the colors of the 716th Military Police Battalion. They've sacrificed family, apple pie, the comforts of home, and in the cases of CPL James Hale, SSgt Travis Griffin, and PFC Aaron Ward, their very lives, to serve their nation, and each other, just as Peacekeepers always have. AIR ASSAULT. PEACEKEEPERS.



he 728th Military Police "Warfigher" Battalion arrived from Hawaii to Kuwait, Iraq in November 2007.

The mission of the battalion and companies

Task Force 728th Military Police Battalion

"The Battalion set standards in Iraq Police development that not only has driven the pace and path of Iraqi Police development throughout MND-N but they have also had a profound impact on IP development throughout Iraq with the initiatives and ideas that they have implemented," said Lt. Col. Brian

made by the War fighter Battalion has been the development of the Regional Training Center in the Diyala Province, which has trained more than 2,500 Iraqi Police," said Command Sgt. Major Gerald B. Stegemeir.

The Academy was opened in March 2008 with the training of

who operate in the Northern Iraqi Provinces of Ninewa. Kirkuk, Salah ad Din, and Diyala were to train. mentor and assist Iraqi Police to become a



Sgt. Tamekia Henderson, a military police Soldier with 164th Military Police Company, 728th MPBattalion, 18th MP Brigade shares a few laughs with Iraqi children and Iraqi Police during anccent patrol through the streets of Yethrib. Months ago, cooperation between the two services would not have been possible due to terrorist activity in the area. However, the recent decrease fnytolence demonstrates that the IP capability continues to improve as they strive to take control

Iraqi Police instructors who would form the cadre for the new academy. The academy is Iraqi led and supported by the Battalion who mentors and assists the academy in daily operational needs. "The classes literally hold hundreds

professional police force capable of enforcing the Iraqi Rule of Law.

The battalion provided command and control for nine combat support MP companies. Additionally, the Battalion was the 1st Armored Division/MND-N lead for the development of Iraqi Police in all provinces. Bisacre, Commander, 728th Military Police Battalion.

The 728th Military Police Battalion was instrumental in the planning, resourcing, and operating of the Regional Training Center in Diyala, Iraq.

"One of the biggest contributions

of Iraqi Police who receive training that spans from weapons handling, defensive tactics, rule of law, democratic policing, range operations, and checkpoint operations," said Captain Franklin Dennis, 728th Military Police *(see Warfighter pg. 13)*

728th Military Police Battalion

as well as the Civilian Police

Assistance

Corps and Force,

Warfighter, from PG. 12

Battalion. As 2008 closes, the Battalion will hand all academy operations and responsibilities over to the Diyala police.

The Battalion contributed to the advancement of Iraqi Police with the conception and execution of two major CF-Iraqi Police conferences. The first occurred in

the spring of 2008 and was dubbed "United and Just".

This conference centered on establishing IP authorizations for

the provinces and addressing logistical issues to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. As a follow up, and to further involve high level CF and MOI officials, the Northern **Province** Police Conference was held in July 2008. In both conferences Lt. Col. Brian R. Bisacre, 728th Military Police Battalion,

Major General Mark P. Hertling, 1st Armor Division, Task Force Iron Commander and Brigadier General James Boozer, Deputy Commanding General were all in attendance at

Sgt. Cruz Munoz, a 3rd platoon squad leader, 164th Military Rolice Company, 728th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade and native of Chicago, IIL, discuss police procedures with an Iraqi Policeman during his squad's recent patrol of Yethrib, Iraq, As part of the partnership between CF and IP, his unit's efforts assisted and deterred violence in the Yethrib area; violence has gone down 90% in recent months. The recent decrease in violence demonstrates that the IP capability continues to improve as they strive to take control of the rule of law while protecting the citizens of Yethrib.

Transition Team (CPATT), was key in setting conditions for Iraqi Police primacy in Northern Iraq. The Battalion made numerous other Division level staff contributions

that helped shape

not only the way

Military Police

conducted the PTT mission but also the way senior CF leaders interfaced and advised their Iraqi Police counterparts.

Aside from the monotonous task

of tracking Iraqi Police statistics and progress, the Battalion made significant impacts on the ground.

these conferences, which were important steps in assisting the provinces with increasing IP authorizations and addressing systemic logistical and operational



issues.

The ability to bring CF and Iraqi Police key leaders together with members of the Multi-National



Task Force 793rd Military Police Battalion

he 793rd Military Police Battalion

deployed to Iraq in April 2008 for its second time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

operations in three Multi-National Divisional areas, is evidence of the Battalion's ability to remain "Ever Vigilant".

Units assigned to the Spartan Battalion include the 230th Military Police Company, "Warmasters", from Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Assigned to Multi-National **Division** Center (MND-C), the battalion assumed the responsibilities of overseeing the Iraqi Police Transition Team (PTT) mission, as well as providing support to seven military police companies operating across two Multi-National Divisional areas. Shortly after the battalion's arrival to Iraq. the 18th Military Police Brigade tasked the 793rd



They exemplify the motto of "ever vigilant" by demonstrating that a single company could partner with over 20 Iraqi Police stations and simultaneously mentoring an Iraqi Provincial Directorate of Police. They are one of only two units partnered with an Iraqi Police Provincial headquarters, and the only unit to partner with 6 Iraqi Police districts and 20 stations across two provinces.

to expand their duties to include overseeing the PTT mission in a third Multi-Divisional area located in the Southeast (MND-SE).

The confidence displayed by the Brigade in selecting the 793rd to be the only MP battalion in Iraq to support One of its platoons is required to operate independently from the company in austere patrol base conditions, and establish relationships with Iraqi Police stations throughout an operational area where no previous Coalition Forces partners have served.

Spartans, from PG. 14

Soldiers of the 511th Military Police Company, "Strike", from Fort Drum, New York, also overcame early challenges upon their arrival to Iraq.

Within the first three days of the deployment, 1st Platoon had to become a satellite platoon in order to perform the PTT mission, and serve as the largest American force within the entire province of Qadisiyah. Second, Third and Headquarters platoons at FOB Delta in Al-Kut, Iraq, are the only US maneuver elements within the Wasit Province. by providing tactically sound and highly disciplined Soldiers to fulfill the Tier 1 Security mission directed by MNF-I.

The mission requires the unit to provide motorcade and static security to the seven highest ranking Iraqi government officials, their families and guests, as well as government leaders and heads of state that visit the country of Iraq.

Due to the high visibility of this mission, and its strategic and geo-political importance to Iraq, the mission must be accomplished with the highest standards possible at

The company has not only trained the Iraqi Police, but also trained coalition partners from Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and El Salvador. The Soldiers continue to coordinate operations with over 20,000 Iraqi Police, while conducting missions over



all times. Each Soldier performs optimally every day so the leaders of Iraq are able to safely travel and conduct business in order to transition to an autonomous, selfreliant country. The most recent unit to join the Spartan Battalion is the 21st Military Police Company (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, which recently deployed

Wasit's 170,000 and Qadisiyah's 8000 square kilometers. Another unit in the Spartan Battalion that remains "ever vigilant", is the 65th Military Police Company (Airborne) from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The 65th has opened 3 new IP stations within the area known as the "triangle of death", and all continue to successfully conduct police operations.

The Yusifiyah IP Station, located in an area where there was barely a foundation standing in the empty trashfilled lot where their IP Station is now located, is a testament to the 65th MP Company's accomplishments as the station serves the Yusifiyah area. The paratroopers partnering with this station, in conjunction with the Joint Community Center (JCC), have received numerous accolades, to include one from General Petraeus who stated that the JCC was the example of what CF needs to do in order to succeed in Iraq.

In MND-Baghdad, the 110th Military Police Company from Fort Carson, Colorado, remains "ever vigilant"

to MND-SE.

They are the first Military Police Company to conduct PTT Operations in Basra, Iraq, with the unique opportunity of working with a coalition partner from the United Kingdom. Following the successful operation "Charge of the Knights" in March 2008, many Shiite militia members were forced out of the city, but the city still remains in a delicate balance.

The areas that were previously known as Jaish al-Mahdi (JAM) strongholds are now the very areas that the paratroopers from the 21st remain "ever vigilant" while partnering with the Iraqi Police in order to enable them to take up the internal security of Iraq. In keeping with the Brigade's motto, the 793rd MP Battalion and its subordinate units remain on point as the force of choice for the United States Army in Iraq.



Children of the Draya Elementary School in Harthiyah here hold up newly received backpacks Oct. 10, after receiving donated school supplies from the Mansour District Iraqi Police force.

Backpacks: Shaping the future of Iraq one smile at a time

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

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Brig. Gen. Raheem, the Mansour District Iraqi Police commander, walked up and down rows of desks packed with smiling elementary age students at the Draya Elementary School in Harthiyah Oct. 10.

His large smile seemed comforting to the several hundred kids, who were eagerly awaiting the new school supplies the Mansour Iraqi policemen were in the process of handing out.

"What is your name? How old are you?" asked Raheem, to students whom responded with beaming smiles.

After receiving backpacks packed with donated school supplies ranging

from scissors to crayons the grateful students would kiss the hands of the IP who gave the gift to him or her, which is a great gesture of respect in Iraqi culture.

"Be good now," said Raheem with a smile before exiting the classroom and heading on to the next one.

Upon entering the next classroom the deliverers were met with students jumping to their feet and singing songs in both Arabic and English for their guests.

"This is awesome," said Capt. Eric Minor, commander, 463rd Military Police Company, and native of St. Peters, Mo., who partners with the Mansour District police. "We are finally getting to see the fruits of our labor."

The Multi-National Division -

Baghdad military police unit, currently assigned to the 716th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, has been working with the Mansour district police force since arriving in Iraq in early September.

Their mission while in Iraq is to mentor and train Iraqi police forces in their assigned area in order to move the IP force into a state of self reliance.

The 463rd Police Transition Teams working in the district are already seeing the IP force moving into a path of self reliance. They are taking the lead in daily operations such as community engagements like the event at the Draya Elementary School.

"We helped resource the event," said

MNC-I CG visit

Backpacks, from PG. 16

Master Sgt. Daniel O'Brien, a native of Dunedin, Fla., and member of the 463rd MP Co. "The IP really took the lead in handing out the school supplies to the kids."

The 463rd was able to resource the event after receiving donations from schools back at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where they are deployed from.

Progress South Elementary School in St. Peters, Mo., Fort Leonard Wood Elementary School and several Iraqi organizations helped by donating to the school; backpacks, scissors, crayons, folders, pens, pencils, notebooks, paper, as well as some candy the military police Soldiers managed to throw in.

Events, like the one in Harthiyah, are



Brig. Gen. Raheem, the Mansour District Iraqi Police commander, hands out backpacks filled with donated school supplies to children. Raheem, walked up and down rows of desks packed with smiling elementary age students at the Draya Elementary School in Harthiyah Oct. 10.

often used to build the trust and develop community relationships between the local populace of the security forces in the area.

"Events like this help shape the future of Iraq," said O'Brien. "The children and teachers were happy to have us there and welcomed us back when we left. This is a new Muhalla for the IP we wanted to make a good impression on the community."

The smiles from the children and gratitude from the teachers proved that the IP did leave a lasting impression on the next generation of Iraq.

"It is a great thing that the IP are moving into the area to provide security," said the principal of the school to Minor following the event. "At the local checkpoints the IP are treating us with respect and that really shows they are here to help."

MNE-I EG visits







Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commandinggeneral, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, talks with Soldiers in the 21st Military Police Company (Airborne), Oct. 28 at Combat **Outpost Perry.**



MND-B Soldiers learn electronic warfare skills in eastern Baghdad

Бу. Sgt. Jeremy Todd 4th BCT PAO, 10th Mtn. Div. (L), MND-B

BAGHDAD– Multi-National Division – Baghdad personnel conducted electronic warfare training for selected 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light) Soldiers and other MND-B Soldiers on the base Oct 29.

Electronic Warfare can be defined as applying the radio frequency spectrum to defeat an enemy and save lives on the battlefield. Improvised-explosive devices are the highest threat to Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces personnel safety, and defeating that threat is the biggest concern for leaders, explained Navy Lt. Christopher Winters, the 4th Infantry Division's EW training officer from Waterville, Maine.

EW specialists are Air Force and Navy personnel, but the Army is moving toward educating its Soldiers in these skills and will soon offer the EW career field.

"This is something the Army needs to be concerned about," said Air Force Maj. Jason Eckberg, an EW officer for MND-B, who hails from Las Vegas.

The Army will be adding electronic warfare specialist to its collection of military occupational specialties in 2010, he explained, adding that the Soldiers attending the EW class on Forward Operating Base Rustamiyah will be among the first to attain the new MOS.

"This job offers the Soldiers a sense of pride; it is a very important to them," expressed Eckberg. "The most important factor of this job is the care and maintenance of the equipment. The components of the counter-IED systems are extremely intricate and must be cared for by trained personnel."

Eckberg said training the Soldier at the lowest possible level ensures mission stability and offers leaders the capability to alleviate the responsibility from a brigade asset to the company level.

Civilian technicians and military officers conducted the EW workshop, which entailed 40 hours of hands-on



Sgt. Nicholas Hoffert, a Bismarck, N.D., native, with 191st Military Police Battalian, applies the final additions to an antenna system of a DUKE Version 2 during a class on the base Oct. 29. The DUKE deters improvised-explosive device attacks. The training taught the skills necessary to install and make minor repairs to the system.

training. Fourteen Soldiers from throughout MND-B attended the class. The 18th Military Police Brigade, which is based out of Sandhofen, Germany, sponsored the training.

"I am extremely excited to learn a new skill – especially one that will save Soldiers' lives," said Sgt. Nicholas Hoffert, a Bismarck, N.D., native, assigned to 191st MP Battalion. "This skill will save time on the battlefield as well.

"We will no longer have to wait in line to fix a fault in the system. We will be the on-site technician for most problematic issues that may arise."



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Sgt. Joshua Klassen (left), a native of Pocatello, Idaho, and Lori Klassen, a native of Portland, Ore., both members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, hold hands Nov. 10 as their marriage vows are blessed by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Peter Baktis, 18th MP Bde., who is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and the brigade's headquarters building. The Klassens were married Nov. 7 by way of double-proxy marriage through the state of Montana.

Soldiers share name tags *Married couple exchanges wedding vows in Iraq*

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

BAGHDAD – As the Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, serve in the final weeks of their 15-month deployment, they took time to gather together just before sundown Nov. 10 for a rather unique ceremony that would be the first of its kind in the unit's history.

The reason for the gathering was that two of the brigade's Soldiers: Sgt. Lori Cortner, a native of Portland, Ore., and Sgt. Joshua Klassen, a native of Pocatello, Idaho, both of whom are assigned to HHC, 18th MP Bde., were actually married mere days prior to the event Nov. 7. The ceremony served to commemorate their new union as they exchanged name tags and wedding vows as the unit chaplain blessed their marriage.

Col. Mark Spindler, the commander of the 18th MP Bde., walked the 'bride to be' down the aisle – in this case, the motor pool – and

presented her to her 'soon to be husband,' before the couple recited their wedding vows.

What made this unique coupling possible was the fact the couple was married by way of a double-proxy marriage through the state of Montana. A proxy marriage is performed in cases where either the bride or the groom could not be physically present for the wedding ceremony. During the solemnization of the marriage, which is based on a power of attorney, a stand-in, or proxy, acts on behalf of one of the parties. If neither party is present, it is called a double-proxy marriage.

In this case, the Klassens' parents stood in as the party acting for them at the courthouse in Montana while the couple was deployed to Iraq.

"We were in a hurry to get married so that we could make sure we stayed together when we redeployed in the upcoming weeks," said Joshua.

Even though they were deployed, they said they wanted to have a small ceremony with their unit and freinds, which they now



Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger

Sgt. Lori Klassen, a native of Portland, Ore., who is assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, recites her marriage vows to her husband, Sgt. Joshua Klassen, a native of Pocatello, Idaho, also with HHC, 18th MP Bde., during a ceremony Nov. 10 at the brigade headquarters building.

call their Family after spending 14 months deployed in the capital city of Iraq.

"Everyone in our unit has been so supportive, and that meant a lot to us," said Lori, following the ceremony. "This unit has become like Family to us here, and we wanted to share this special moment in our lives with them."

During the ceremony, the couple recited their wedding vows to one another, followed by the blessing of their marriage by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Peter Baktis, 18th MP Bde., who is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y.

"It was a very nice and unique ceremony," said Baktis. "It showed total brigade support for their marriage and showed them having a religious commitment to their marriage."

Having their fellow Soldiers there, in Iraq, was a fitting background for their wedding, said the couple.

"We have known everyone in this unit since we met," said Joshua. "We wanted them to be a part of our ceremony and to share in the joy of our marriage."

Memoriam



Spc. Jon Menke, 38th MP Company, 95th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, medo with local Iraqi children, for whom he felt great compassion. Menke made the ultimate sacrifice, giving his life for his country Aug. 4.



Spc. Jon Menke (right) and Spc. Amy Griggs, both of whom are Indiana National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, meet with local Iraqi children near their base in Baghdad.

Tribute to an American hero

By: Sgt. Vickey Jones 38th Military Police Company UPAR

BAGHDAD – Spc. Jonathan "Jon" Menke made the ultimate sacrifice for his country Aug. 4. Most will remember Jon by his infectious laughter, zest for life and sense of compassion for all. The loss was not only felt by his fellow Soldiers, Family and friends, but the entire community of Madison County, Ind., where he grew up.

When Jon would call home to talk to his father, Daniel Menke, he would tell him stories about the Iraqi children and request toys and shoes for them. He explained to his father that the 38th Military Police Company's mission was to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. What better way to do this than thru the Iraqi children?

Menke often expressed his concern of the living conditions of the Iraqi children that he interacted with on a daily basis. So every Friday as Daniel Menke would pack up a care package for his son, he would include beanie babies and hot wheels. This soon became a Family affair. Jon's younger brother, Matthew, donated his beanie baby collection.

Just days after the loss of Jon, Daniel was telling the story to a local newspaper, sharing the stories of the Iraqi children and Jon's desire to bring happiness to them. After reading this, a local woman, Lindsie Wilson, who works in the Human Resources Department of Grote Industries, approached her supervisor with the idea of helping. Her supervisor told her to run with it – and that she did.

Toy drives were conducted all over Madison County.

There have been more than 5,500 beanie babies and 2,500 hot wheels collected. However, Grote Industries did not stop there. They packaged up the beanie babies

and covered all shipping cost of the toys to Iraq.

With the overwhelming collection of the toys, not only have the packages been shipped to Jon's fellow Soldiers in the 38th Military Police Company in Iraq to hand out but also to other units throughout Iraq to help carry out the mission that Jon so believed in.

On Oct. 4, Soldiers of the 38th Military Police Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, who were with Jon during the attack Aug. 4, delivered the Operation Menke bags and hot wheels to a local orphanage in eastern Baghdad. Upon entering the orphanage and meeting the staff, Sgt. Spencer Edgington gave the head master of the orphanage, Aber Mahdy Al-Galby, a flyer from Jon's memorial.

Edgington wanted everyone to understand the sacrifice that Jon made and his love for the Iraqi children. Aber Mahdy Al-Galby expressed her deep gratitude for Jon's sacrifice and her admiration to his Family for still believing a difference could be made and their selfless giving even as they grieve.

As the children entered the room, the looks on their faces were priceless as they stood in astonishment at all the toys in front of them. Each child walked to the pile of toys and graciously picked out one, expressing appreciation before turning and heading back to his or her room.

After much encouragement from the Soldiers, some of the children sat on the mound of toys and dug into the pile, looking for the perfect bag of beanies or coolest pack of hot wheels.

"If we can touch one child's heart and change the direction of their life, then Operation Menke has been a success," said Daniel Menke.

For Jon's fellow Soldiers still serving in Iraq, Operation Menke touched each of them. Still struggling through the healing process, Operation Menke has bestowed upon them a new strength to continue the daily mission. They will continue to spread Jon's kindness, keeping his memory alive and, in turn, making the world a better place.

Spc. Jon Menke is a true American Hero. His mission is complete. Jon's Family, friends, and fellow Soldiers will now proudly stand in for him, continuing the mission that he was so passionate about.

Mosul



U.S. Army Military Police Officer, Maj. Jon Myers, Police Transition team Chief, 728th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade works with Brig. Gen. Khalaf, commander, Iraqi Police as they discuss additional resources and training needed for local Iraqi Police stations. Recently the 728th MP Bn., has increased the PTT mission in Mosul to help eliminate the increased security threat in the area.

MP lead surge into Mosul in the training and equipping of Iraqi

By: Sgt. Blair Carlo 728th Military Police Battalion UPAR

Baghdad- Military Police Soldiers from the 728th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade and Multi-National Division North converge on Mosul to increase partnership with Iraqi Police and improve security in one of the last volatile areas remaining in Iraq.

The move to Mosul will increase the Coalition Force's Police Transition Team mentorship and interaction in the area to increase the development of IP.

"The increased partnership with our Iraqi Police counterparts will greatly assist them in their training and development," said Lt. Col. Brian R. Bisacre, commander, 728th Military Police Battalion and native of Wakefield, Mass. "The end result is that the citizens of Mosul will be safer."

The increased presence of military police in Mosul will reduce the time it normally takes to assist Iraqi Police officials in communicating their needs in the training and equipping of Iraqi policemen. With the added resources on the ground in Mosul, military police leadership can react quicker and provide additional law enforcement tactical training and assistance in the area.

"With us having an overwhelming force on the ground, we can spend more time training, equipping and developing the IP in order to provide security within the city of Mosul," said Maj. Jon Myers, Police Transition Team Chief, 728th MP Bn., and 18th MP Bde.

The PTT mission and mentorship program with IP provides direct assistance to the IP at multiply levels from the Shurta (policeman) on the ground to the Directorate of Police. The teams help assist the IP in the systems necessary to sustain their operations in communications and logistics.

At the local stations the IP and MPs work hand in hand to provide proper



Lt. Col. Brian Bisacre, commander, 728th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade walks the streets of Mosul as he surveys the security situation.

guidance on the conduct of checkpoint operations, personnel and vehicle searches. By conducting this community policing techniques and operations it will reduce the insurgency activity merely by the presence and actions the IPs are taking daily.

Additionally, PTTs inspect and ensure proper procedures are being adhered to with detained or arrested criminals who have been caught causing these crimes against the Iraqi citizens. This process ensures IP can build a proper case against them to ensure the insurgents are not released to harm again.

One goal of the PTT is to train the IP to get more involved in the communities they are protecting. A technique called community policing. The more the IP are out interfacing with the citizens, a trust will be built between the citizens and the police will be developed that protect them.

"With more daily interaction between the IP and our MPs, it is sure to improve the security situation and reduce the insurgent and criminal activities in Mosul," said Bisacre. "We have also seen in other areas, that once the trust is built between the IP and the citizens, the citizens will become more involved in cooperating with the IP, which in the end will lead to an improved security situation in the city."