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Women's educational initiatives take priority in MND-C

SGT. AMBER EMERY
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – Not only has the safety and security situation in Iraq improved in the last year, but the educational system, especially for females, is also progressing.

For females, there are programs in place and educational centers in planning; and in Karbala alone, there are about 300 women running for office in the upcoming provincial elections.

"There is a need for programs like these, especially for females in rural areas, because they have been kept home for the last five years, and there have been a lot of school drop-outs," said Zahraa Baker, bilingual bicultural advisor for women's initiatives in Multi-National Division - Center. "We are not only talking about adults; we are talking about young girls. Now, some of this is possible with the security situation changing."

Women make up 60 to 65 percent of the population in Iraq, and in the MND-C area, 70 percent of the agricultural work force is made up of women.

"If we are talking about the women of Iraq, we are talking about a whole nation," said Baker. "If we don't educate them, then they have nowhere to go."

The first step of the educational initiative is to create literacy programs, which lead to better employment opportunities. There are currently two different provinces within MND-C providing literacy classes, teaching approximately 260 people.

"Right now, we are focusing a lot on the economic piece and getting women plugged into jobs; and a lot of times, that means teaching them how to read and write," said Capt. Jennifer Glossinger, MND-C women's ini-



Photo by Pfc. Rhonda Roth-Cameron
Iraqi women's committee representatives from Iraq sit together for a meeting regarding the needs of women and children of Iraq at the Women's Council Social held May 5, 2008 at the Rasheed Nahia City Center.

tiatives coordinator. "One thing I am pushing is getting women's initiatives tied in with the Agricultural Extension Centers, (which consist of agricultural programs and training)."

The women's initiative section is also working on the development of women's centers. These facilities could host any of the following: a medical provider, exercise area, different types of skill training and literacy programs.

"In two of the smaller towns in Babil Province, we will be opening women's centers in a couple of months," said Baker. "They couldn't possibly have one in every village, but we are planning them in the smaller towns where

females (in more rural areas) can travel."

The women's initiative program has made great strides since its beginning in February 2008.

The first meetings consisted of only military personnel and have grown to include the Government of Iraq, the Ministry of Education and the United Nations.

"I remember when I first came in with 3rd Infantry Div., the women's initiatives program was very small still," said Baker. "Now, everyone is talking about it clear up to the Multi-National Force - Iraq level. So that is a big step."

The most imperative part of the women's initiative program here is to develop a plan for it to continue once Coalition forces are no longer in Iraq.

"It is really important to make sure programs are in place for the Iraqis to continue with these initiatives once we leave the country or else all of the progress we have made will be for no reason," said Glossinger.

To do this, a new directive will be implemented by Multi-National Corps-Iraq for all brigade combat teams to report progress to their headquarters so that they can track successes and failures. There will also be guidance to link all projects implemented in our area of operations back to the GoI to ensure they will be sustainable in the future.

Coordination and plans for future efforts will continue during the Women's Initiatives Seminar scheduled for Jan. 17-18 on Camp Victory. Representatives from the GoI, Ministry of State Women's Affairs, and Women, Family and Children Committee will discuss future efforts with members of the provincial reconstruction teams from around the country.

Chameleons of MND-C: GRECC

Spc. Justin Snyder
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – Chameleon: A reptile belonging to the lizard family that is most notably known for its ability to change colors to adapt to and match their surroundings.

Often found in tropical regions throughout the world, since May 2008 a new group of chameleons have made their way to Iraq in the form of the GRECC. Dressed in Army combat uniforms, these Soldiers have adapted to different surroundings and an unfamiliar mission.

Constantly changing, the Governmental Reconstruction Economic Coordination Cell (GRECC) is really a reconstructed Fires and Effects Coordination Cell (FECC) based out of Fort Drum, N.Y.

The roots of what would become the GRECC team were planted in October 2007 when 10th Mountain Division received notification they would be working as MND-C headquarters during their deployment to Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, MND-C commander, then came up with his terms of references, or how he would use his resources over the next year. He decided that Brig. Gen. Jefforey Smith, deputy commanding general for support, would overlook the governance and economics lines of operations.

Goldman, who joined the 10th Mountain Division to lead the FECC in 2007, and his undermanned 20-man staff went to work and began to do research on how the FECC team could contribute to that fight once arriving in Iraq. In March, during the division's mission rehearsal exercise, the FECC team realized that there was a need for change.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Col. Glenn H. Goldman, MND-C fire support coordinator, speaks during a Civil-Military Cooperation Conference in August. 11. Goldman works in the GRECC, which is a reconstructed Fires and Effects Cell that focuses on capacity building in Iraq.

"We really learned a lot about our mission in that final train up in March," said Goldman, whose branch is field artillery. "We realized that the FECC wasn't really structured right to get after the (lines of operation) of governance and economics and be effective.

"Our regular mission involved artillery, missiles and air support. We saw that the war was changing, and we needed to change with it. So, in turn, we basically dropped the (fires) part and evolved to the GRECC," he added.

The fires section now functions under

the watch of the G-3 shop.

To help make the new mission possible, there was a need for more Soldiers. At its height, the GRECC section hosted 137 people, including Soldiers of the 10th Mtn. Div., 41st Fires Brigade, and 445th Civil Affairs Battalion, Air Force engineers, civilian contractors and bicultural bilingual advisors.

"We became a non-lethal version of the FECC with more people," said Goldman, who calls Ft. Drum, N.Y. home.

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THE Mountain View

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354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
793rd Military Police Battalion
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
Task Force 449

Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

GRECC

From previous page

"We added military civil affairs, information operations, PSYOP, and targeting. A lot of this was all new to us, but our new mission focused less on killing people and more on influencing people."

Once arriving in Iraq, the GRECC team went to work, looking to capitalize on the huge security gains that had been made by the departed 3rd Infantry Division.

Using all of their new sections, like the Key Leader Engagement Cell, which acts as a liaison to critical members of the Iraqi communities; the Iraqi Advisory Task Force (IQATF), which augments the division and brigade staffs and provides atmospherics on anything from local issues, to opinions or prices of market goods; and the Human Terrain Analysis Team (HTAT), which uses open source information to provide information on the culture; the GRECC began focusing their efforts on supporting the professionalization and development of the Iraqi Security Forces; and developing capacity in government and economics.

"We wanted to build them up, that way we could get away from doing these things and let the ISF do it themselves," said Goldman. "The improvements in security allowed us to assist the Iraqi government and help them make their economy better... that leads to stability."

About half-way through December 2008, the GRECC team did a self-assessment on where they were and where they needed to be. They realized that the threat and environment had changed again. In turn, it was time to alter the team once more.

"We saw that the division had made a lot of head way with security, and we had made a lot of progress in professionalizing the ISF," said Goldman.

"It was obvious that we needed to change our team to focus more on civil capacity building," he said.

Shifting focus meant the GRECC would no longer be responsible for information operations and PSYOP. Instead of providing these functions, they now work more as a customer to them. Also, targeting is no longer a focus of the GRECC team; however, they continue to be participants in targeting.

The team now has two main cells: the governmental capacity cell, also known as the G cell, and the economic capacity cell, more commonly called the E cell.

For the remaining time in Iraq, the G cell will work hand-in-hand with the provincial reconstruction teams; work on the elections; and work to improve the rule of law. They are also largely emphasizing the provision of essential services to the people of Iraq.

"The number one complaint we have gotten from our information is people are lacking essential services like water and electricity," said Goldman. "That's a good thing though, because they are not complaining about the insurgents, and now, we can work to help fix these problems."

The E cell is split into five different sections, each with its own focus: agricultural development, service sector/busi-

ness. He said that being able to take a traditional war-fighting cell and adapt to the current fight is a big accomplishment.

With a list of accomplishments including previous deployments as part of Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Storm, and two short observer/study missions to Kosovo, Goldman has a lot of experience in the military.

However, he believes this deployment and mission has been different from anything he's ever done and nothing could've adequately prepared him for this.

"The only 'GRECC' training I had consisted of self-study, the pre-deployment site survey (visit to MND-C in Dec 07), the MRX, the battle command seminar, and division taught classes. All of which was very useful...but there really was no way to prep other than just getting in and doing it," said Goldman.

"We never had a complete team built until weeks after we arrived.

"There was no book to read or any notes to look off of and I can honestly say that I've learned a lot of new things working in this team. My team and I are using everything we have as Soldiers to make this mission a good, successful one. We are constantly evolving and learning to meet requirements," he added.

The GRECC will continue to evolve in order to help them accomplish their mission.

Goldman stresses that anyone who may have worked in a bank, worked on a farm, been an elected official; these people can all help.

"We are not necessarily looking for people with college degrees, but people with special skills that can relate to our work. We are kind of working in unfamiliar territory, but we are doing a great job. We can only get better," he said.

They are also using their new found knowledge to help the unit that will replace them when they redeploy.

"We've been in close contact with our replacement, and they are paying close attention to how we are doing things," said Goldman.

"I'm not saying we got it right... they might not even have a GRECC team, but we are doing everything we can to set them up for success as well as the people of Iraq."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Col. Glenn H. Goldman, MND-C fire support coordinator, speaks with Department of State officials during a Civil-Military Cooperation Conference here Aug. 11-13.

ness, industry/housing, transportation/commerce and women's initiatives.

"All of these sections are important. When we say we are working with the service sector, we are talking about a city like Najaf," said Goldman, referring to one of the holiest cities in Iraq. "Millions of people make the pilgrimage there every year. We want to help the Iraqi's take advantage of the high business potential and make some workable plans to develop and boost their economy.

"I don't want to build a Holiday Inn there, nor can we, but I would like the Iraqis to link up with businesses that can help them establish these ideas and projects," added Goldman.

The GRECC also has a small plans cell and an operations cell to support the G and E cells.

Overall, Goldman is very proud of his

Staff Section Round-up

EO Corner: A Day On, Not a Day Off!

The Multi-National Division - Center Equal Opportunity office will be hosting a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Jan. 15, in the Hope Chapel at 4 p.m.

The theme, "A Day On, Not a Day Off," illustrates the fact that King's dream is still a work in progress, which requires our commitment even today.

The observance will include an account of King's life, as well as poetry, performances by members of the Honor Chapel Gospel Choir, a transitional video interview titled "Warrior Impact of MLK" and a cake-cutting ceremony.

King's words still resound with stunning power and grace more than 40 years after he was silenced by an assassin's bullet April 4, 1968.

As I think of the message within his "I See the Promised Land" speech of April 3, 1968, I thank God I am Black and for the changes we, as a people, have endured. I am glad as a black person about things such as not having to sit in the back of the bus when I choose to ride one, being able to attend the university of my choice or not having to stand in the kitchen to eat my food at the restaurant I choose to visit. I am glad I do not have to look for a "colored" sign when I

need to relieve myself or when I want a drink of water. King had a part in bringing these changes about.

As we continue to celebrate the life and legacy of this great leader, we must remember the words spoken within the "I See the Promised Land" speech and realize it is constantly unraveling. As we watched America elect the first African-American to the office of the President of the United States and again as the United States Army appointed its first female four-star general, we see the changes, the realization of King's dream.

In the words of President-Elect Barak Obama, "Change has come to America."

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time? Who still questions the power of our democracy? Tonight is your answer!"

While we celebrate King's birthday, let us honor him by keeping his dream alive, and pursuing a future where all people work and live together as equals as we Climb to Glory!

—Sgt. 1st Class Terrell Tammie, of the MND-C EO office

G-1 Corner: Unit Awards Guidelines

Units serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom's area of responsibility are eligible for unit awards for heroism or meritorious achievement displayed as part of a group effort. The Presidential Unit Citation, Valorous Unit Award or Meritorious Unit Commendation may be awarded to Army units if eligibility requirements are met.

Recommendations for VUA and MUC awards for units of a battalion size or smaller will be initiated by the requesting commander and forwarded through command channels to Multi-National Force – Iraq for approval.

The following is guidance for submitting recommendations:

Valorous Unit Award:

- Be very detailed in submission
- Focus on short periods of combat

operations

- Include graphics of operations
- List all badges awarded
- Provide detailed documentation of patrols
- List casualties sustained on both sides to include civilians
- A statement from the commander stating that 65 percent of each unit's Modified Table of Organization and Equipment strength participated in the action
- List those not injured due to heroic actions that prevented loss of life

Meritorious Unit Commendation:

- Target days or weeks of a named operation
- Focus on key leader engagements, governance and reconciliation as well as building Iraqi capacity and

professionalism

- A statement from the commander stating that 65 percent of each unit's Modified Table of Organization and Equipment strength participated in the action
- Primarily given for combat service support type activities but can be given to combat units as an exception

Recommendations for unit awards should be submitted to Multi-National Division – Center, G-1 Award section six months prior to redeployment. Specific guidelines on the submission of these awards can be found in AR 600-8-22 and the MND-C G1 awards Standard Operating Procedure. Any questions in reference to unit awards can be addressed to the Awards Section at 485-0013.



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Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

Their budgets in crisis, governors, legislators and prison officials across the nation are making or considering policy changes that will likely remove tens of thousands of offenders from prisons and parole supervision. Collectively, the pending and proposed initiatives could add up to one of biggest shifts ever in corrections policy, putting into place cost-saving reforms that have struggled to win political support in the tough-on-crime climate of recent decades.

Politics:

Over the years, several presidents have been forced to ponder the delicate (and sometimes unpleasant) question of whether to move the in-laws into the White House. Ulysses S. Grant shared space with his father-in-law, who grumbled and squabbled with other relatives, historians say. Harry S. Truman lived with his mother-in-law, who declared that she knew "dozens of men better qualified" to preside over the Oval Office. The transition team of President-elect Barack Obama confirmed Jan. 9 that his 71-year-old mother-in-law would be moving, at least temporarily, into the grand residence at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. While Grant and Truman might have been forgiven for gritting their teeth at such a prospect, Mr. Obama has said he will be delighted to have his wife's mother, Marian Robinson, join the first family in Washington.

Entertainment:

They play brother and sister on "Dexter." Now in real life, Michael C. Hall and Jennifer Carpenter are husband and wife. Hall's spokesman, Craig Bankey, said the couple eloped in California on New Year's Eve. They will walk the red carpet together at the Golden Globe Awards on Sunday — the first time publicly acknowledging their relationship.

Sports News:

The Arizona Cardinals were considered the softest team in the playoffs, unable to win far from home and carrying the scars of years of ineptitude. But behind their cagey quarterback, dynamic receiver, improved defense — and a big assist from Jake Delhomme's horrible night — the Cardinals are a win away from the unthinkable: a chance at the Super Bowl. Kurt Warner threw two touchdown passes, Larry Fitzgerald had 166 yards receiving and the Cardinals pounced on Delhomme's six turnovers Jan. 10 in a 33-13 win over the bumbling Panthers.

Quote of the Day

"A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed." — Henrik Ibsen

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IF YOU COULD GO
ANYWHERE IN THE
WORLD, WHERE
WOULD IT BE?



Photo by Spc. Sophia Lopez

"I would go to Greece to study and learn more about Ancient Greek Culture and visit the sites," said Spc. Kevin Hollingsworth, of Ft. Drum, N.Y., G-1, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Spc. Sophia Lopez

"Italy because it's such a beautiful country with a lot of history," said Spc. Benjamin Sieben, of Astoria, Ore., personnel actions clerk Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.