

The North Star

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Training to save lives



Photo by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1AATF, 1AD PAO

Soldiers and Airmen show Iraqi Security Forces the proper way to carry a patient on a litter during medical evacuation training with Iraqi emergency medical technicians on Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 24. SEE MEDEVAC, page 2

Iraqi Air Force College re-opens, returns to Speicher

**By Sgt. Ry Norris
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.**

It took more than a year to plan, but now there are 157 Iraqi Air Force cadets, who will soon start training on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq. The cadets began arriving to the base Sept. 1.

Class 76 will be the first cadets to go

through the newly reopened Iraqi Air Force College, which closed in 2003.

"The Iraqi Air Force College will gradually increase its footprint," said U.S. Air Force Col. David Blanks, the Expeditionary Mission Support Advisory Group commander. "The Iraqi Air Force has approximately 5,000 airmen (officer and enlisted) today. That

number is projected to grow to nearly 12,000 by the end of 2012."

These cadets are part of a time-honored tradition that dates back to April 22, 1931, when five Iraqi pilots completed their pilot training in Britain. Iraq has since celebrated that event as the

SEE ACADEMY, page 2

Iraqi medics receive MEDEVAC training

By Pfc. Jessica Luhrs,
1AATF, 1st AD PAO

Troops from Georgia and Kansas joined forces last month to give medical evacuation training to 10 medics with the Iraqi Security Forces at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, near Kirkuk, Iraq.

The course was facilitated by medics with 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, 2nd Advise and Assist, 3rd Infantry Division, out of Fort Stewart, Ga.; flight medics with 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, out of Fort Riley, Kan.; and Iraqi emergency medical technicians, who previously graduated from a five-week course.

The training began with litter construction and the experienced flight medics with 1st CAB gave the Iraqi medics tips to make the pro-



Photo by Pfc. Jessica Luhrs, 1 AATF, 1st AD PAO

Iraqi emergency medical technicians practice loading a patient onto a litter during medical evacuation training at COS Warrior, Kirkuk, Iraq, Aug. 24.

cess faster and safer for the patient.

After mastering litter construction the medics moved onto cold- and hot-load training.

"During this part of the training the Iraqi EMT's first learned to load the patient without the rotor system running. Then after we knew they were ready, we turned the rotor on and

began hot-load training," said Sgt. Matthew Giersdorf, a flight medic with Company C, 1st CAB.

He continued by saying the hot load is the most important part of the training.

"We have to make sure they are familiar with loading a patient onto a Black Hawk with the rotors running so we know they are prepared for a real-life

emergency," he said.

At the end of the training Sgt. Giersdorf, a native of Mooselake, Minn., said that he was very impressed by the Iraqi EMT's willingness to learn.

"As soon as the class began they were very professional, worked hard and were ready to learn what we were teaching them," he concluded.

Continued from ACADEMY, page 1



Photo by Sgt. Ry Norris, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Two U.S. Airmen and a U.S. Soldier hang the Iraqi Air Force colors at COB Speicher, Iraq, Sept. 1. The colors were hung to welcome 157 Iraqi Air Force cadets to the Iraqi Air Force College, which was recently reopened on COB Speicher after seven years of it being closed.

establishment of the Iraqi Air Force.

However, Iraq's aviators continued to complete their training abroad until the 1970s, when the Iraqi Air Force College was built in Tikrit. The academy commissioned pilots until the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003.

In 2007, the academy resumed molding aviators at the Iraqi Military Academy in Ar Rustimiyah. The cadets will devote the next three years continuing their military education to receive a commission in the Iraqi Air Force.

The curriculum consists of a comprehensive study of general academics, leadership development and flight training on Iraqi-owned aircraft.

English is a major part of the curriculum, since it is the mandated international language of aviation set forth by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The students will learn how to be instructors themselves, teaching others how to fly fighter jets and protect Iraq's borders.

"We have a goal and end state to reach," said Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Hasan, the commander of the Iraqi Air Force and dean of the academy. "My job is to produce confident pilots to protect our international borders. Despite the obstacles or challenges we will prevail."

"We are not without challenges. That does not mean we stop training," said Staff Brig. Gen. Ali. "My goal is to produce the maximum number of pilots from each class. The academy is here to provide that training for the cadets."

I-BIZ sponsors employment fair to give long-term solution to drawdown

By Spc. Cassandra Monroe
135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Iraqi residents from the Salah ad-Din province gathered at the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone to attend a job fair, Sept. 4, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq.

The fair was held to provide an opportunity for Iraqi residents in the Salah ad-Din area to meet with local employers in hopes of eventual employment. The representing companies included local construction and trade specialty employers.

The purpose of this job fair was to link skilled Iraqi citizens with contracting companies and for businesses to figure out who the skilled employees are for potential jobs that may surface later on, said Capt. Calvin Fisher, the I-BIZ officer in charge with Division Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division. Businesses on COB Speicher are decreasing services and their personnel due to the reduction of military forces on base. Because of that, many Iraqi residents who worked with the I-BIZ had to be released from those duties.

All of the men who were invited to the job fair were taught and trained specialty trades, such as carpentry, electricity, welding, plumbing, small engine repair, HVAC repair, labor and linguist at the I-BIZ Skills Enhancement Center on base. They were then employed on COB Speicher to do various jobs, such as build water sheds and bus stop shelters, as well as weld containers and stairs for generators.

Their employment provided security and stability in their local areas," said Capt. Fisher, a Durham, N.C., native. Employers at the I-BIZ and the Skills Enhancement Center want the Iraqis to continue to do the right thing by being productive and not allowing negative influences of other organizations affect them, Capt. Fisher added.

When Capt. Fisher found out that the worker's contracts would soon end, he made flyers to notify the workers of the job fair, ensuring that they would have a chance at other employment paths.

The men filed into lines separating them by their trade and waited to meet with local employers. Many of the tradesmen brought along their official I-BIZ certificates and trade class graduation diplomas to further their chances of getting hired.

Getting hired by a local employer is the best long-term solution, Capt. Fisher said.

"These Iraqi companies may be here indefinitely, so this links them up with the Iraqi citizens and helps promote the stability of employment, as well as increase employment rates in Salah ad-Din," said Capt. Fisher. "This is a better avenue for the people. They are getting a head start with employment."

Khalil Abraham Salem, the brother of a sheik in charge of the Salah ad-Din Sons of Iraq and a local business owner, feels like

this job fair is a great opportunity for those in employer positions to hire men in the area.

"We're really happy about having the job fair here today, and we're really proud," said Salem. "As a business owner in the industrials zone, we're all looking for expertly skilled

persons, and by doing job fairs, it helps our companies a lot. I'm sure their skills are perfect, especially because they were trained at the Skills Enhancement Center.

"This is helping the community by creating more jobs. And by creating and filling more jobs, we see less terrorism."



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Monroe, 135th Mobile Public Affairs Det.

Iraqi residents give their work history information to a local employer in the Salah ad-Din province, Sept. 4, during a job fair. The job fair, was sponsored by I-BIZ partners and was held for Iraqi residents who were relieved of their jobs due to the transition to stability operations. The residents had a chance to network with local employers and apply for jobs that are parallel to their skill levels, such as construction, welding, carpentry and other trades.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private First Class William Buzzo, an Ocala, Fla., native with Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, served as the platoon medic during a recent escort mission. While conducting a key leader engagement mission, an Iraqi soldier approached his vehicle and appeared to be in poor health. Private First Class Buzzo questioned the Iraqi soldier about his condition. Then he revealed a severely infected wound requiring immediate medical attention. Private First Class Buzzo treated the wound, after which it was clearly evident the Iraqi soldier was experiencing significantly less pain and extremely appreciative of Pfc. Buzzo's assistance. Private First Class Buzzo's professionalism and desire to serve enabled him to help positive relations with the Iraqi counterparts operating within the operational environment by assisting a soldier in desperate need. His professionalism projects the core values of our Army and Troop C's mission and makes Pfc. Buzzo an obvious choice for the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.



Sergeant Charles Jobst, a Wilkes Barre, Pa., native with Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, performs as an acting section sergeant and a gunner on his platoon leader's truck. His actions were exemplary both on 23 missions and during pre- and post-operations maintenance and preparations over a period of 10 consecutive days. He and his crew worked diligently for seven consecutive hours, after returning from a 36-hour mission, to ensure their vehicle was fully mission capable. In addition to his own duties, Sgt. Jobst is invaluable to the platoon's operations at a tripartite checkpoint in the combined security area. He managed to keep a faulty generator operational, leveraging his considerable talents to keep the electricity running in the life sustainment area. His determined efforts ensured the U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers manning the checkpoint were able to maintain communications, lights and a functioning dining facility. Sgt. Jobst's dedication to his unit and his missions makes him a perfect selection for recognition as the Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

Safety thought of the week

Observation: Gunners using their individual weapon (usually an M4 carbine) while in the Objective Gunner Protection Kit (OGPK) have shot and hit elements of the OGPK, causing ricochets that have severely wounded themselves and other crew members inside the vehicle.

Discussion: A phenomenon called "parallax off-set" can allow a gunner to see a target, while the weapon muzzle may still not be clear of the intended target line. Firing from within the OGPK can result in bullets being fired into the inside armor and ballistic shield, causing bullets to ricochet about the turret and into the crew compartment.

Lesson learned: Having a clear line of sight on the target does not ensure the bullet travel path from the barrel is clear.

Recommendation: Individual weapons should be test fired from the dismounted position (on the ground) or by having another crew member test fire the weapon when gunner dismounting is not feasible.

Maintain muzzle awareness at all times.

When an individual weapon is fired from the turret, gunners should brace against the forward edge of the OGPK or as far forward as possible and support the rifle on the OGPK ensuring the barrel extends beyond the edge of the turret shield.

Ensure weapons are on safe at all times until ready to engage a target.

Hammer of the Broads (Led Zeppelin All-Girl Tribute

Band)

Where: COB Speicher

When: Sept. 8

Lone Wolf Comics

Where: Speicher - Sept. 11

Where: India/Diamondback - Sept. 12

Where: Cobra / Warhorse - Sept. 13

Where: McHenry/Warrior - Sept. 14

You are invited

NFL Kickoff

Arizona Cardinals Cheerleaders

Where: FOBs Sykes/Marez

When: Sept. 18

USA Express

(Army Touring Show Band)

Where: FOB Warhorse - Sept. 21

Where: COS Warrior - Sept. 22

Filter

Where: COB Speicher

When: Sept. 20

Galaxy

Where: FOB Sykes

When: Sept. 24

REGIONAL HEADLINES

Try at cheerleading record misses mark

www.upi.com

DALLAS, Texas -- An attempt in Texas to set a Guinness world record for the largest group of dancing cheerleaders came up short, event organizers said.

Those putting on the Saturday, Sept. 4, event, including a television network launching a series about cheerleaders, hoped to break the existing record of 297 set at a cheerleading competition in Tennessee last year, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Organizers contacted thousands of middle schools, high schools and cheerleading clubs and posted a YouTube video so participants could practice beforehand, the newspaper said.

But when the time came to dance their way into the records books, only about 100 cheer enthusiasts had gathered at Frisco Memorial Stadium north of Dallas.

Setting records is not always easy, official Guinness judge Mike Janela said, but it's also not always the point.

"Even when they do fall short, they wouldn't be here for that long if they

weren't having fun," he said. "And sometimes that's just as important."

The cheerleaders didn't seem disappointed at missing the records.

"Don't we get a T-shirt?" asked Paige Needles, a sophomore at Episcopal School of Dallas who belongs to a local club called Cheer Athletics. "I mean, for a free T-shirt, it's worth it."

Fugitive caught after trying to trade gun for NASCAR tickets

www.13wmaz.com

HAMPTON, Ga. -- Authorities arrested an Alabama fugitive after they say he traded a gun for tickets to the NASCAR race at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Hampton police Officer Eric Hayes tells WSB-TV that vendors alerted him on Wednesday, Sept. 1, to a man trying to sell a .22 caliber pistol. Hayes says 51-year-old Michael Lynn Sherer managed to trade the gun for two tickets to the race before the officer spotted him.

Authorities in Alabama say escaped from the Winston County jail, where he was being held on a murder charge in the killing of 52-year-old Thomas Lynn Smith on Aug. 24.

Hayes said that, when approached

by officers, Sherer initially gave them Smith's name, but they suspected something was wrong when he stumbled over his birth date.

Hampton police say a hearing will be held soon to extradite Sherer back to Alabama.

Dublin to fine residents for sagging pants, skirts

www.11alive.com

DUBLIN, Ga. -- City leaders in Dublin could soon fine people if their sagging pants or skirts expose their underpants.

Dublin Mayor Phil Best said he plans to sign an ordinance Tuesday, Sept. 7, that would fine violators \$25 for a first offense and \$200 for an additional offense.

The rule passed this week by the city council prohibits people from wearing pants or skirts more than three inches below the tops of the hips and exposing any skin or underwear below.

Best said the rule promotes mutual respect. He said not everyone wants to see other people's underwear.

The rule has its critics. Richard Moore said he doesn't like baggy pants. But he said people have a right to dress the way they want.

Task Force Marne Reflects on the Events of 9/11

Watch this compelling video of commentary and footage at:

www.youtube.com/TFMarnePAO

THE

North Star

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3rd Infantry Division

2nd Advise and
Assist Brigade,
25th Infantry Division

1st Advise and
Assist Task Force,
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