

The North Star

Serving Task Force Marne
U.S. Division - North, Iraq



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PRT conference plans way ahead for Iraq

By Spc. Andrew Ingram
USD - N, COB Speicher

Soldiers, U.S. Government and other U.S. agency officials with expertise ranging from agriculture to economics met at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Oct. 18 to discuss the future of Provincial Recon-

struction Teams in Iraq.

Subject matter experts from United States Forces-Iraq, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Agriculture and other governmental participated in panels and working groups collaborating on current reconstruc-

tion efforts in Iraq.

Lieutenant General Robert Cone, deputy commanding general-operations, United States Forces-Iraq, said the Soldiers of United States Division-North and Department of State officials have a unique opportunity to collaborate, facilitating local governments' mission to create a stable and prosperous Iraq.

Attendees held open discussions and participated in panels to share their experience and plan how best to work toward a stable and self-sufficient Iraq for the Iraq people.

"This team from the embassy has brought a level of energy, a level of professionalism, a level of focus that has literally energized everybody at USF-I to think that as we look into the future, everything is going to be just fine here," Lt. Gen. Cone said.

Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Little, civil military affairs officer,

3rd Infantry Division, said conferences such as this are important tools in the working relationship between the military and U.S. Government officials, especially as the military's role in Iraq decreases over the next year.

"Every quarter we put together a PRT conference to try to get an azimuth check between U.S. military efforts, the PRTs and the state department," said Lt. Col. Little.

"Military folks need to understand in a clear and unambiguous way the priorities of the PRTs and the state department," he said. "It is important for the state department to understand and build relationships with the incoming units. As we have a new division and brigade transitioning in, we have a lot of new relationships being formed and this is a good atmosphere for that."

Lieutenant Colonel Little, who organized the conference, said the PRTs were created to provide planning and operational support to local populations in Iraq and Afghanistan; to assist in humanitarian, stabilization operations, and to provide training for community



Photos by Spc. Andrew Ingram, USD - North PAO

Ambassador James A. Jeffrey, the senior U.S. government official in Iraq; Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commanding general, Task Force Marne and the 3rd Infantry Division; and Brig. Gen. Thomas Vandal, deputy commanding general-support, Task Force Marne and 3rd Inf. Div., talk shop during a Provincial Reconstruction Team Conference at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, Oct. 20. The conference brought Soldiers, U.S. Government officials, and other U.S. agency officials together to discuss the plans for future operations in Iraq.

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ISF rally to reduce violence in northern Iraq

By Sgt. Shawn Miller
109th Mobile Public
Affairs Detachment

Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army leaders met alongside directors of numerous security agencies from across the province in a collaborative effort Oct. 18 to reduce violence and extremist attacks across northern Iraq.

What started this summer as a grassroots effort to foster intelligence sharing between Iraqi police, military and intelligence agencies developed over time into a weekly meeting between the local Iraqi Security Forces to share information and collaborate security efforts.

"I assessed that that was one of my roles as a battalion commander," said Lt. Col. Donald Brown, commander of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. "If we were going to do anything to set the Iraqi Security Forces up for success post-2011, it was getting them to synchronize what they were doing, share intelligence, and coordinate their efforts in the counter-terrorism fight."

In the wake of multiple violent attacks earlier in the week, several of which targeted

military and security forces, the leaders focused the meeting on how to be better prepared and root out the perpetrators.

"People rely on us to protect them," said Maj. Gen. Hamid Namis Yasin Musa, Provincial Director of Police for Salah ad-Din.

While some agency leaders voiced concern during the meeting about a lack of funding and resources, the group worked toward building interagency trust and cooperation.

"The Iraqi Security Forces have made tremendous progress during that time from what I have seen," said Brown, who

was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2005-2007. "It is putting the mechanics in place for the various Iraqi Security Forces and the intelligence agencies to synchronize their efforts and share intelligence in a transparent manner that is very unlike how they have operated in the past."

As the meetings continue to grow, the Iraqi security leaders control the agenda and continue to share information with U.S. forces as they continue their advisory and support role.

One goal discussed by the leaders included development of a unified

targeting approach across boundaries and cultural barriers in which the different security and intelligence entities can track and defeat suspected extremists.

Such an approach could help ISF prevent violent attacks such as a recent bombing of an IP leader, Oct. 19, said Lt. Col. Brown.

"While this may have temporarily shaken their confidence, it has not destroyed it," he said. "The Iraqi Security Forces are strong enough and competent enough that they see themselves as capable of taking this fight to al-Qaeda."



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, USD-N PAO
Major General Hamid Namis Yasin Musa, Provincial Director of Police for Salah ad-Din province, leads a meeting between Iraqi police, army and security force leaders, Oct. 20, in Tikrit. The meeting between the leaders focused on sharing information to provide a collaborative effort toward defeating terrorist networks in northern Iraq.

'Bushmasters' teach Kurdish Regional Guard how to keep dangerous weapons off the street

**By Spc. Kandi Huggins
1st Advise and Assist Task Force
Public Affairs**

The Soldiers of Company B, "Bushmasters," 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, trained soldiers from the Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade to operate traffic control points Oct. 18.

Deployed in support of United States

Division – North, as part of Operation New Dawn, the 2nd AAB, part of the 25th Infantry Division, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, trained the KRG soldiers at the 1st Battalion KRGB Headquarters training site in the Laylan province near Kirkuk, Iraq.

"It is important for the Iraqi security force to conduct TCPs because it helps prevent dangerous weapons from being brought into the area and used against

the Iraqi Security Forces," said Capt. Patrick Stauffer, commander, Company B, 1/27 Inf., 2-25 AAB.

The Soldiers taught the KRG how to set up a TCP, the procedures to be conducted during a search and how to react to enemy contact.

The purpose of a TCP is to control traffic and search vehicles and passengers to prevent the smuggling of weapons and wanted individuals.

Specialist Ted Choate, an infantry team leader and class instructor, said the training will take about a week to perform.

The training will then provide the KRG members with experience and the ability to teach their respective Soldiers how to establish and conduct TCPs, said Spc. Choate.

After completing the classroom instruction, the KRG members will build upon their learning experience establishing and operating their own TCPs, he said.

Soldiers of Company B, "Bushmasters" 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, train Soldiers from the Kurdish Regional Guard Brigade to establish and operate traffic control points at the 1st Battalion, KRGB Headquarters training site in the Laylan province near Kirkuk, Oct. 18.



Photo by Spc. Jessica Luhrs, 1st AAT, 1st Armored Div.

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Lieutenant Colonel Mary Krueger, sergeant, 4th Infantry Division meets Larry Milam, senior economic advisor, Regional Reconstruction Team, Kurdistan Region, during a Provincial Reconstruction Team Conference Oct. 20. The conference was an opportunity for long standing officials like Milam to meet and network with incoming 4th Inf. Div. Soldiers.

members owning small businesses to local politicians.

"Much like the aftermath of any major conflict, there has to be a focused and directed effort in assisting the affected nation, and that is the idea behind the PRTs," Little said. "Governance, economics, rule of law and essential services are the main focus we have had over the past year."

Ambassador James F. Jeffrey, the senior U.S. government official in Iraq, said he was impressed with the work the American Soldiers and civilians had accomplished in USD-N.

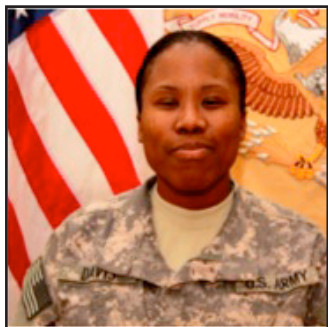
"We try very hard to have a great military and civilian team country wide centered in Bagdad, but our model is what you folks are doing up here; the relationships between the PRTs, the brigades, and the division are really extraordinary," Jeffrey.

Lieutenant Colonel Little said PRT conferences between the U.S. military and Department of State officials will continue, providing both parties the opportunity to share and create plans to take back to their respective provinces until the U.S. forces final departure from Iraq.

Task Force Marne Heroes of the North



Private First Class Gray, a Long Beach, Calif., native, with Company A, 1/30 Infantry, has been executing the duties and responsibilities of a team leader for several months, flawlessly operating in a position above his current rank. He is highly regarded by his peers and looked to as an informal leader. During recent advanced Combined Security Force training, Pfc. Gray, an infantryman, taught several blocks of medical related instruction in the absence of a medic. His expert instruction on administering an IV, rescue breathing methods, clearing airway obstructions, and several other lifesaving procedures ensure CSF Soldiers are prepared to operate in the austere Iraqi environment. Private First Class Gray continuously demonstrates that he has both the knowledge and devotion to lead Soldiers in the Army, making him most worthy for selection as a Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

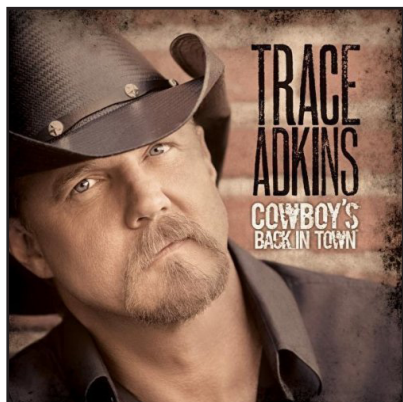


Specialist Kimberly Davis, a Columbus, Ga., native, with Charlie Company, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, is a true force in her unit's supply room. Though new to her unit, she takes a lead role in an incredibly high number of equipment turn-ins during ongoing reduction and retrograde of equipment operations. She diligently ensures Soldiers throughout her unit's operating environment have the equipment necessary to continue bringing the fight to the insurgents. Ensuring excellence in all facets of supply operations, she took responsibility for the company's direct ordering program to ensure the Soldiers in her unit received the necessary individual clothing and equipment. She takes the lead on developing Needs Statements and other documentation to get the equipment her unit requires in its daily operations. Her hard work and ruthless commitment to recouping and reallocating excess property, and provisioning when necessary, make her a most deserving Task Force Marne Hero of the North.

You are invited

Trace Adkins

Where: COB Speicher - Nov. 1



Comics Ready to Entertain

Where: COB Warhorse - Nov. 4

Where: COB Marez - Nov. 5

Phil Vandel

Where: COB Warrior - Nov. 14

Purrfect Anglez

Where: COB Speicher - Nov. 23

Aevenged Sevenfold

Where: COB Marez - Nov. 27

USO Tour Thrill Writers Tour

Where: COB Marez - Nov. 10

Aaron Tippin

Where: COB Warrior - Nov. 25

Gin Blossoms

Where: COB Speicher - Nov. 29



REGIONAL HEADLINES

Survey finds wealthy districts get best teachers

www.hawaiinewsnow.com

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Television and movie productions are thriving on Oahu, but they are driving motorists nuts.

Some of Oahu's busiest roads have been closed to facilitate filming.

People with the state who grant permits for road closures know the closures have an impact on traffic, but told Hawaii News Now the benefits of productions shot here often outweigh the inconvenience of road closures.

Friday, Oct. 15, confusion over a permit kept the crew of "Hawaii Five-0" on Kalaniana'ole Highway through the afternoon rush. As a result traffic backed up from Aiea Haina onto the H-1 Freeway.

In September the Kaneohe bound lanes of the H-3 were shut down until mid afternoon to facilitate a shoot for the movie "Battleship."

"I think what we have to look at is a balance. I mean we want to do that. We don't want to impact the community greatly, but the film industry and all that it brings to the state is so important to us, for our economy right now," said Georja Skinner, Chief Officer of the Creative Industries Division of the Hawaii Film Office.

Skinner said 2010 is the biggest year

ever for the film industry in Hawaii.

"We're at \$391 million right now in terms of economic activity in just the film industry alone, and if you multiply that it's about \$600 million into our general economy, so yes we need the film industry here and yes we have to be sure that we can balance this with our local communities," Skinner said.

The next scheduled closure was on Nimitz Highway Thursday, October 21. Two East-bound lanes near the airport between Valkenburgh Street and Elliot Street were shut down between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. for a "Battleship" shoot.

"Some people are trying to pick up their kids or go to work and they're being inconvenienced, so we do apologize. We're trying our best to balance everything out and most of all use media outlets and get the word out there so they are aware of these closures," said Tammy Mori, spokesperson for the state Department of Transportation.

Mori told Hawaii News Now some permit requests are denied, especially when there is not an alternate route. And if traffic gets too bad, Mori said permits can be pulled and movie crews kicked off the road.

People were encouraged to avoid the Western most end of Nimitz Highway (under the Airport Viaduct between Valkenburgh and Elliot Streets) Thursday so they did not get stuck in traffic.

Escaped psychiatric patient terrorizes shop

www.wsbtv.com

ATLANTA, Ga. – A teenage girl escaped a local psychiatric center and went on a destructive rampage at a midtown Atlanta shop on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 19, Atlanta police said.

The outburst was triggered after the 16-year-old became angry that her caregiver would not tend to her, police told Channel 2's Ryan Young. The patient stormed into Richard's Variety store on Monroe Street and started shaking things up.

Surveillance video shows the teen walking down aisles, knocking and throwing items off of shelves. The new store was packed with customers who witnessed the incident.

"You can only imagine this kind of thing in a movie," said store owner Ming Yang.

The cashier was screaming, "Get out of the store," but she continued to throw things, Yang said. Yang said she even picked up a barbecue fork to keep people away.

The psychiatric center's staff caught up with the teen and followed her around the store. Staff members reprimanded her, but Yang said they didn't do enough.

"I know she has problems ... I'm angry at the situation. All just follow her. No one tried to stop her," Yang said.

Eventually, seven police cars arrived and she was escorted out of the store, Yang said.

THE

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