

# T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



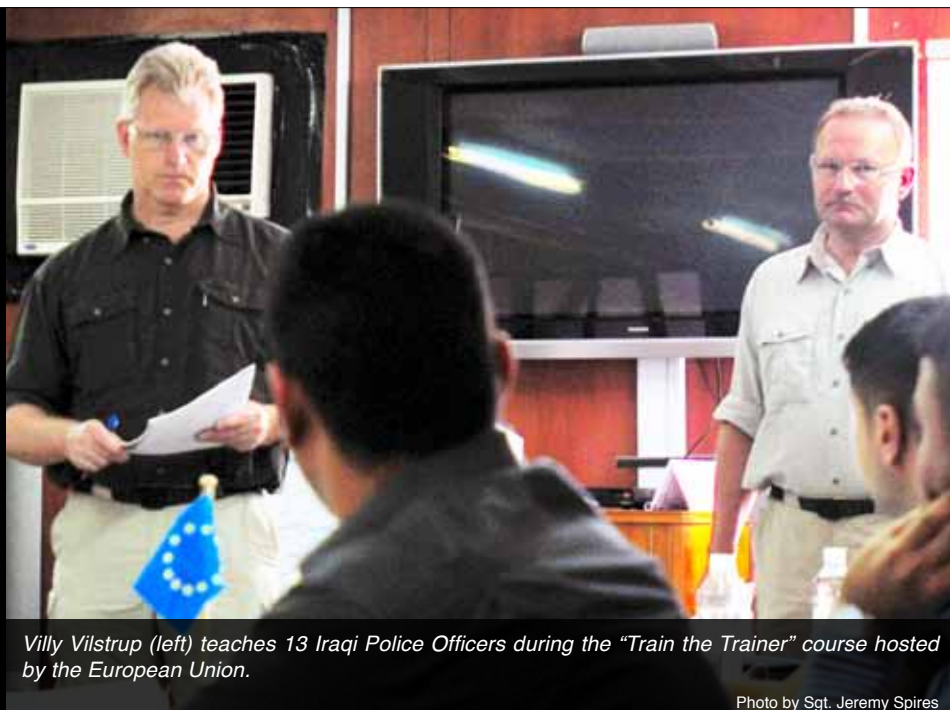
Volume 3, Issue 13

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

April 11, 2011

## JUSTICE LEAGUE

The European Union takes the lead in instructing Iraqi Police Officers



Villy Vilstrup (left) teaches 13 Iraqi Police Officers during the "Train the Trainer" course hosted by the European Union.

Photo by Sgt. Jeremy Spires

By Sgt. Jeremy Spires  
36th Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq** – Thirteen Iraqi Police Officers joined instructors from the European Union (EU) on March 19 to participate in a "Train the Trainer" course as part of the EU's Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST-LEX).

"The European Union is committed in the objective to leave Iraq the place it could be...prosperous, democratic and unified," said Francisco Diaz Alcantud, the head of mission for EUJUST - LEX, who spoke to the Iraqi Police Officers at the start of the two-week course.

The EUJUST - LEX - Iraq was established to strengthen the rule of law and promote a culture of respect for human rights in Iraq and it provides professional development opportunities for senior Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system.

"The purpose behind this class (Train

the Trainer) is to help the Iraqi's build up their own police capacity," said Villy Vilstrup, a course instructor and native of Denmark with over 20 years of police experience. "So the trainers we train here are supposed to be used as co-trainers on similar courses, like the 'Train the Trainers' course or even the 'Tactical Investigations' course."

The course itself was designed to teach the students different theories that will aid them in teaching their fellow police officers upon return to their respective stations. The course covers a variety of theory topics, such as: education planning, mind maps, adult focus training methods, and different forms of teaching.

"This is a two-week course," remarks Vilstrup. "We give them some different theories ... to use ... and work alongside fellow officers in a group project. For the final test, they will have to use all the theories that we have taught them and show that they have a sound understanding

of them."

Lt. Baker Nayef Musair, a police officer at the police college located in Basrah, attended the course.

"It was a very interesting course," said Musair. "We now have something that we can apply in our lives. It was very good information to have in our practical life as a police officer."

"It will be an honor to attend more courses like the one we have just completed in order to help us get ride of the terrorists and criminals," added Musair.

Once the class has graduated and returned to work, Vilstrup hopes that the students walk away with something more than just a certificate.

"I hope that from being with us for these two weeks and having had these theories," Vilstrup explained, "that it gives them an understanding on how things are done and that there are different ways of doing things and to get out of 'thinking in the box.'" ▼

By Spc. Sharla Lewis

3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

## CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq –

Units across the Army use a variety of tools to motivate, educate and recognize their Soldiers.

Some use training or classes, others conduct field exercises and some hold competitions to recognize the best Soldiers in their units.

On March 31, non-commissioned officers and Soldiers with 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division came to Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq to compete in the unit's NCO and Soldier of the Quarter competition.

The brigade's command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Kelley said the competition was intended for the events to encourage friendly competition between the battalions and esprit de corps among the troops involved.

The competition lasted one day and included an Army physical fitness test, a road march, several basic Soldier task challenges and a test of their Army knowledge before a board of their superiors.

Fourteen individuals, consisting of an NCO and a Soldier from each battalion as well as from the brigade headquarters, competed for the coveted title and an Army Commendation Medal, but only two made the cut: Sgt. Aquila Crigger with 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and Spc. Julian McKinnon with 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment.

They said the most difficult portion of the day was during the medical treatment evaluation.

After applying a tourniquet to a casualty, the troopers had to load the casualty onto a litter and drag them 50 meters to the next station.

"It was tough, really bad. The toughest was the (litter) drag! I had to tell myself not to quit moving because I knew if I lost my momentum I probably wouldn't make it," said McKinnon.

In order to prepare for the panel of questions, Soldiers studied handbooks, regulations, manuals and doctrine. Some were prepared for the onslaught of questions, and others were not.

"After the weapons, I had a feeling (the title) might come my way, but then I wasn't sure after the board," McKinnon said.

At the end of the day, the Soldiers and their leaders gathered for a barbeque and ceremony to announce the winners and celebrate the hard work of those that participated.

Kelley said the competition was open to anyone who felt qualified, no matter his or her position and he encouraged Soldiers to train for next quarter's competition.

"The harder you work at something, the more you can achieve," he said. ▼



Pfc. Larry Reed, with 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division attaches an antenna to a radio March 31 on Contingency Operating Base Adder during a Soldier/Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter competition.

Photo by Spc. Sharla Lewis

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# LIKE US

## *Regulators assist Iraqis in door-kicking and donations - but not in the same day*

By Staff Sgt. Mark Albright  
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

**DIWANIYA, Iraq** - As Operation New Dawn comes to an end this year in Iraq, the legacy of U.S. Forces in the country is very important. The Soldiers of 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment are contributing to that legacy through the training of Iraqi Security Forces and assistance to the Iraqi people.

Soldiers with Regulator Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, modeled this important mission during two separate events in Qadisiyah province recently.

In a training exercise March 22 at Contingency Operating Site Echo, the Regulators trained 8th Iraqi Army Soldiers on how to fight and maneuver as a team.

The training consisted of mounted patrol teams securing a training facility with a team of eight men. The IA Soldiers established security around the training site and then moved in to clear the area of any threats.

"From the first and second time I was out here, it was more of the officers that

would do the hands-on [training]. This time the noncommissioned officers are more hands-on with the Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bevington, a Regulator Battery platoon sergeant and Howard, Ohio native. "Their NCO corps is getting stronger." This is Bevington's third tour to Iraq.

The training the unit conducts provides IA Soldiers with the knowledge required to conduct security operations in defense of Iraq.

"I like coming here to watch how they train. Then we get to throw in our two cents to show them how we do it," said Pfc. James Bulice, a medic with Regulator Battery and a native of Cabot, Ark.

The other side of the unit's mission is assistance to the Iraqi people. The Regulators traveled to a local town in Qadisiyah province March 23 to hand out school supplies, including pens pencils, crayons and paper, to grade school children.

"This particular drop was the second we have done there, and the kids really need the supplies. We had over six boxes of supplies that were donated from different groups in

the United States," said Spc. Christopher Oltremari, a field artilleryman with the Regulators and a native of Houston, Texas.

The children were guided by their teachers to the central part of the school and waited in line to receive the supplies. Many of the Soldiers helped hand out the supplies to the children.

Soldiers of the Regulators perform their daily mission with the knowledge that each day's efforts will have a lasting impact on the country for decades to come.

"I think this is great. This is the future of Iraq, and this is our last chance to make a difference before we leave the country," said Oltremari. "This is a good mission. We are out there doing good things and making a difference for young people."

Both the training and the humanitarian assistance mission demonstrated by Regulator battery during these events are part of a larger U.S. effort to provide Iraq with the tools the country needs to move ahead in security and civil capacity. Through the efforts of Soldiers like the Regulators, the legacy of U.S. military assistance to Iraq continues as the planned Dec. 31 withdrawal of troops approaches. ▼



Soldiers with the 8th Iraqi Army Division enter a training site during security training at Contingency Operating Site Echo March 22. The Iraqi Soldiers conducted the training with Soldiers from Regulator Battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Albright

# Building bridges of understanding

By Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro  
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

**CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq** – When you don't understand another person's culture or religion it can sometimes create misconceptions, misunderstandings or barriers.

To prevent that, the Basra lecture series is offering a class to educate Soldiers and civilians about basic tenets of Islam on April 13 at the USO Theater here. It is open to all personnel at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Michael Heydari, currently with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Tatweer program, is scheduled to speak. The class will provide an opportunity for attendees to gain a little bit of insight into Islamic culture and religion.

"Talking to members of the military at COB Basra, they expressed a need and a desire to know about Islam," Heydari said in an e-mail interview.

Heydari added that military personnel also wanted to learn more about the differences between the Shia and the Sunni as well as other cultural issues, both because of the importance of understanding those subjects in relation to their mission in Iraq and because of the changes currently sweeping across the Arab world.

Additionally, some Soldiers, because of the nature of their jobs, do not get regular opportunities to interact with Iraqis.

"Talking to various members of the military on COB Basra, I was told by several people that they and their colleagues would be very interested in such a lecture as they have very little direct contact with Iraqis and Muslims outside of the wire and do not get much cultural information," Heydari said. "(The lecture) would help them better understand the culture."

Born in Tehran, Heydari moved to the U.S. at the age of 23 and received advanced degrees in engineering and economics. His first wife was a Catholic from Mexico and his second is from Kansas. With such a background, Heydari has had multiple occasions to practice tolerance and understanding of different cultures and religions throughout his life. Although he does not practice or advocate any religion in particular, he does aim to present an objective view of Islam to his predominately Western audience, he said.



*Michael Heydari, currently with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Tatweer program, is scheduled to offer a lecture on Islam to all personnel at Contingency Operating Base Basra April 13 as part of the weekly Basra Wednesday Lecture Series.*

*Photo by Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro*

**What:** Islam - an overview

**When:** April 13 at 1900 - 2000

**Where:** USO theater

**Who:** Dr. Michael Heydari

Learn about the Shia and the Sunni, prayers, fasting, Ayatollahs, pilgrimages, marriage, and more. The lecture is open to questions and discussions and all personnel are welcome to attend.

"I believe I am well placed to try to bridge the gap between the West and the Middle East by providing a better understanding of 'the other side,'" he said. "I would also like to dispel some misconceptions and misinformation that some people might have about Islam."

Heydari has given the same lecture twice before at COB Adder in August and October of 2008 for the Soldiers of the 4th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Planned lecture topics include information about the Shia and the Sunni, prayers, fasting, pilgrimages, marriage, and the role of women in Islam. ▼



## CHOW

Midnight • 0000 - 0130

Breakfast • 0530 - 0830

Lunch • 1130 - 1400

Dinner • 1700 - 2000

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## Chaplain Programs and Religious Services

### Holy Joe's Coffee

(Coffee Bar and Fellowship)

Monday - Saturday

0600 - 2200

william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

### Ladies of the Rosary

Tuesday at 2000

COB Basra Chapel

barbara.reilly@iraq.centcom.mil

### Mid-Week Prayer with Chaplain Mays

Wednesday at 1200

COB Basra Chapel

wayne.mays@iraq.centcom.mil

### Basra Chapel Bible Studies

Thursday

1900 - New Believers Bible Study

2000 - Bible Study Classes

### Protestant Services

**Sunday**

COB Basra Chapel

1000 - Contemporary Service

1130 - Traditional Service

1400 - Gospel Service

1700 - Liturgical Protestant

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS)

**Sunday**

Old PX Building

0900 - Sacrament Service

### Roman Catholic

**Saturday**

COB Basra Chapel

2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

**Sunday**

COB Basra Chapel

0830 - Catholic Service

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COB Basra, Iraq

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### Spc. Genevieve Plaza

Paralegal Specialist

858.4098 (VOIP)

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1400 - 1600

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Sgt. 1st Class  
Joe Lawton



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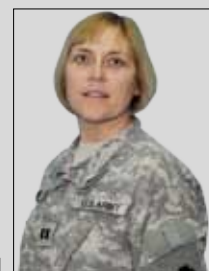
joseph.lawton@iraq.centcom.mil

lisa.lerma@iraq.centcom.mil

Anonymous Tip Hotline on NIPR

<https://msc.forces.iraq.centcom.mil/usds/default.aspx>

Capt.  
Lisa Ann Lerma





## Photo of the Week



Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Maloro

Lt. Col. Robert Wright, commander of Task Force 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division is seen here sharing a laugh with colleague Lt. Col. Jack Vantress, commander of 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion during a meeting with Sheikh Ali on March 21.

Think your photos are good enough for the Photo of the Week? Send them in! Just e-mail us your photo in a high-quality format, along with your full name and rank and a description of what your photo is about and when it was taken. Remember to include full name, rank and job title of each person in your photo. We look forward to seeing what you can do.

Send your photos to:  
[36idpao@gmail.com](mailto:36idpao@gmail.com)

*Want your family and friends to see just how awesome you look in full gear?*

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