

The

Adviser



YEAR IN REVIEW

(January -September 2011)



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Final Edition

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On the Cover

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Final Issue

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Introduction

As we near the twilight of Operation New Dawn, it is important to keep an eye on the horizon and also to take a moment to reflect on all we've accomplished to build future Iraqi success. We're proud of what our team of teams has achieved, and we look forward to continuing our progress. This final edition of the Advisor magazine chronicles what we've accomplished in 2011 with an eye toward the future.

When Operation New Dawn began on Sept. 1, 2010, U.S. Forces-Iraq transitioned from conducting combat operations to performing stability operations with partner Iraqi Security Forces. Since then, we have clearly increased the focus on transition and reposturing efforts, as we begin the final stage in development from a military-led to a civilian-led mission.

From the start of Operation New Dawn, the role of U.S. Forces-Iraq was intended to support the transition to the Department of State and the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq. In accordance with the Security Framework Agreement, the goal has always been to transition our mission and reposture our forces as the ISF grew stronger and more capable. The Iraqi Security Forces have moved toward the next level of competency and confidence. They are successfully completing training on multiple levels and are training their trainers to deliver the same high quality training into the future.

The ISF have moved beyond basic force development and are now focused on force enhancement. And, U.S. Forces continue to achieve during one of, if not the most, significant logistics move in the history of the modern military. Right now, the transition is in full swing. In September 2010, we had more than 50,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, today, we have about 12,000, and that number is decreasing according to the plan.

The drawdown of U.S. Forces further demonstrates the commitment of the U.S. to the Security Agreement with the government and people of Iraq. We will honor this commitment and ensure the safety of our service members and civilians at the same time. The partnership we share with our Iraqi counterparts is not ending. The partnership is enduring under the auspices of the Strategic Framework Agreement.

As United States Forces-Iraq draws down and the Office of Security Cooperation stands up, we'll continue to empower our Iraqi partners. The hard work is done and the harder work remains. As with any major change, transitions are challenging. We're confident in the ISF and our ability to rise up to meet these challenges.

We are very proud to watch the men and women of our military and civilian team stand shoulder to shoulder with the Iraqis and observing, guiding and training their counterparts. You should take great pride to be an integral part of this historic mission as the Iraqis make themselves stronger.

-With Honor and Success

Advisor Editors

By the numbers **AIR FORCE**



Ten Iraqi pilots are in the U.S. for multi-role fighter training and two are attending an aviation leadership program.



Six C-130Js are scheduled for delivery in 2012-2013 to augment the three C-103Es currently in the Iraqi Air Force inventory.



Thirty Iraqi Airmen are certified air traffic controllers and 52 more are in Air Traffic Control training.



The Iraqi Air Force currently boasts 75 fixed wing aircraft and is slated to have 78 in 2012. The Iraqi government also recently purchased 18 F-16 fighter aircraft.



Out of the 5,528 Iraqi Airmen 206 are mission ready pilots and 47 are instructor pilots.



The Iraqi Air Force operates 16 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance aircraft on an average of three sorties per day.

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Y numbers

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190,000

The Iraqi Army currently has more than 190,000 Soldiers and 5,162 Special Operation Forces.



56

Fifty-six of 1,026 M113 armored personnel carriers are at Camp Taji. De-processing and handover of all M113s is scheduled to be completed by March 2012.



24

The U.S. Army has deprocessed 24 M109A5 self-propelled Howitzers; 16 are ready for use by the Iraqi Security Forces.



54

Fifty-four M198 Howitzers have been delivered to Camp Taji. Forty-one are ready to be transferred to the Iraqi Army.



18

Eighteen of 21 M88A2 recovery vehicles have been transferred to the Iraqi Army.



140 M1A1 Tanks have arrived at FOB Hammer, 123 are de-processed and 85 have been transferred to the Iraqi Army.

BY the numbers

NAVY / MARINES



4,163

The Iraqi Navy has more than 4,163 Sailors and Marines. Eighty students are in training and more than 650 graduated from 30 different courses to date in 2011.



150

Iraqi Navy currently has 150 mechanics, electricians, and welders training in a year-long ship repair facility course.



60

The Iraqi Navy and Marines are operating more than 60 vessels to protect Iraq's territorial waters.



5

The Iraqi Navy currently has five SWIFT-class Patrol boats that are conducting missions in its territorial water. Seven more are expected to arrive in the near future.



26

The Iraqi Navy used twenty-six defender class boats to secure the Al-Basra Oil Terminal.



80

The Iraqi Navy has command and control of the Al Basra Oil Terminal, securing 80 percent of their territorial waters. They will have 100 percent responsibility by the end of 2011.

By the numbers

POLICE



4,389

4,389 Police Officers are currently in training ranging from basic recruit to specialty and advanced training.



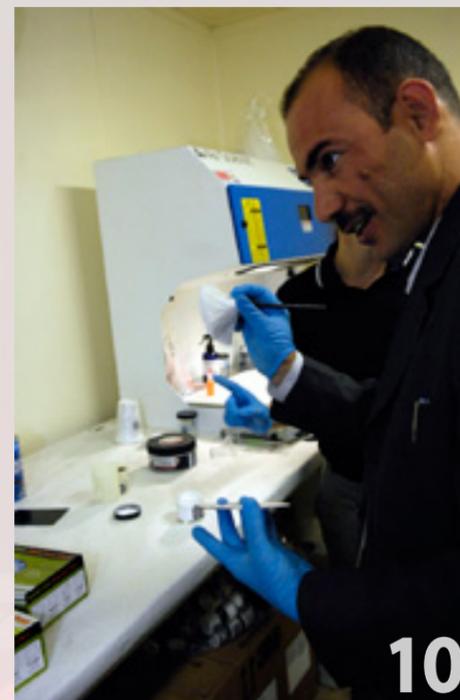
485,471

485,471 Iraqi Police are currently conducting internal security operations throughout Iraq.



3,631

Border police presently enforce 3,631 kilometers of sovereign Iraqi Border.



10

The Iraqi Criminal Evidence Directorate will have 10 labs with full comparatives capability, five labs with chemistry forensics capability, and four labs with DNA forensics ability



23

Twenty three Counter-Explosive Teams have been established with a \$23 million Iraqi Security Forces funding initiative. Seventeen more teams will be established by December 2011.



1,000

More than 1,000 Oil Police personnel received advanced oil police training since inception; 38 completed the train-the-trainer course.



175

One hundred seventy-five armored support vehicles have been fielded to the Federal Police and 80 more will be fielded by 2012.



B^{the}
Y numbers

ARMY AVIATION



Iraqi Army Aviation currently has 22 training helicopters. Including 19 Bell Jet Rangers and three Bell T-407.



Iraqi Aviation Command has 62 operational mission aircrafts, 22 are Mi-171s.

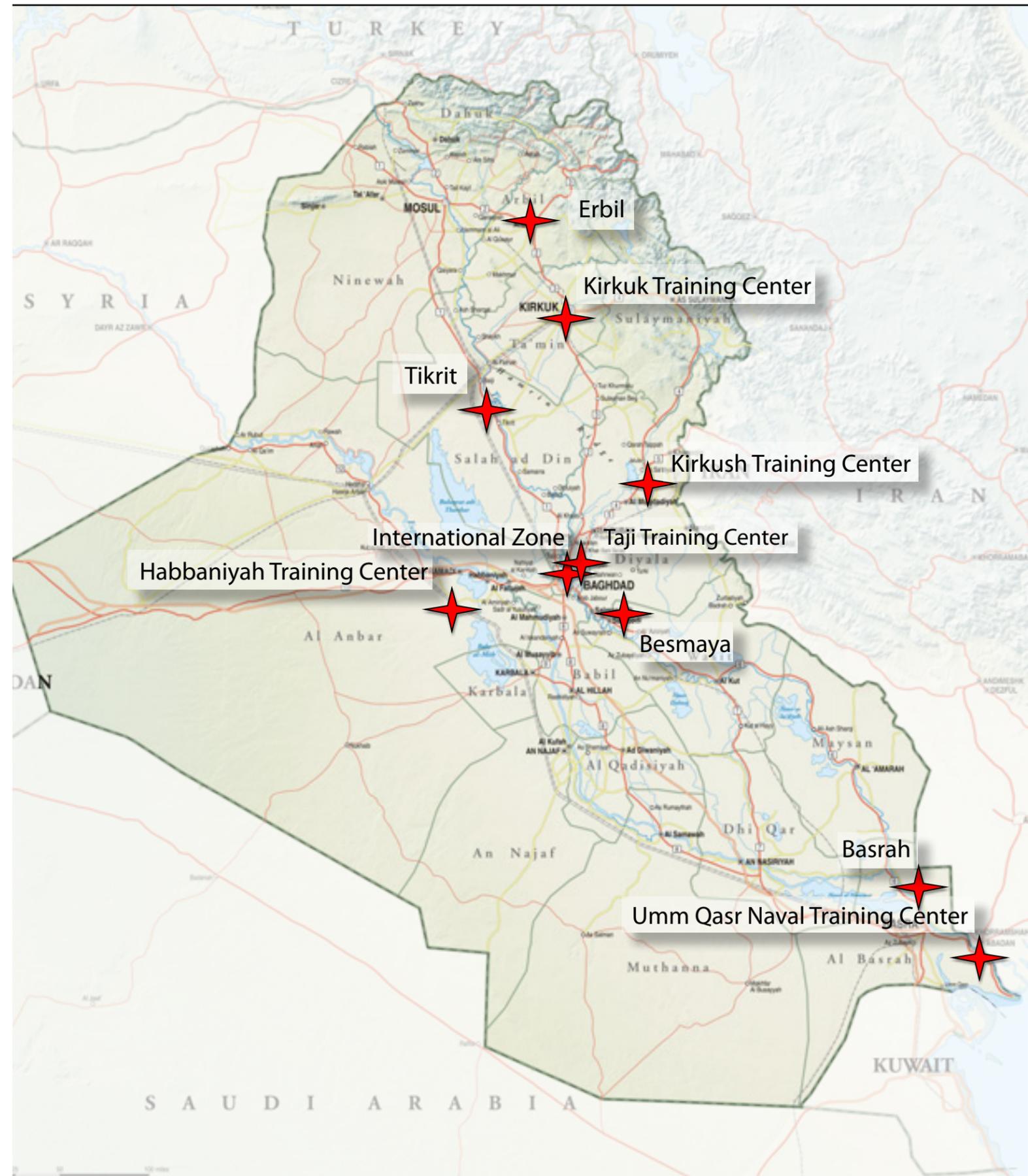


Iraqi Aviation Command currently has 2,486 personnel with four operation squadrons, three activating squadrons and two flight training squadrons.



The Iraqi Army Aviation Command had a monthly average of 1,169.48 flight hours in 2011. The average month hours is an increase of flight hours from the previous two years of flying.

ISF Primary Training Sites



January

2011 kicked off with high-profile events for both the U.S. Advising and Training mission and the Iraqi Security Forces to include Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter assuming command of United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general of Advising and Training.

During the change of command ceremony, Ferriter said, "I'm eager to help create an even stronger partnership between Iraq, the U.S. forces and the U.S. Embassy; one that sets the conditions for a successful transition and a stable Iraq for years to come."

The day after the change of command, U.S. and Iraqi forces celebrated Iraqi Armed Forces Day Jan. 6, the 90th anniversary of the Iraqi Army. The Iraqi Navy marked the occasion by completing its first 24-hour-patrol of Iraqi territorial waters, including the Al Basrah Oil Terminal, in Patrol Boat 301. Iraqi Navy Lt. Abdul, the ship's captain, said the historic patrol marks a great moment in the development of the Iraqi Navy.

"It was a significant day, especially since the patrol was a part of Iraqi Armed Forces Day," he said.

"The crew has been conducting training since September," said United Kingdom Royal Navy Lt. Richard Hurman, a Coalition Naval Advisory Training Team advisor.

The Iraqi Navy also took delivery of patrol boats 302 and 303 from U.S. Forces.

"The arrival of the new swift-patrol boats embodies the continued expansion of the Iraqi Navy in an effort to patrol their territorial waters and protect important pieces of national infrastructure," said U.S. Navy Rear Adm.

Kelvin N. Dixon, ITAM-Navy director.

The firsts continued with the Iraqi Air Force's first real-world Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance support mission to approximately 4 million

"I'm eager to help create an even stronger partnership between Iraq, the U.S. forces and the U.S. embassy."

pilgrims during the Arba'een pilgrimage. Also, the Iraqi Air Force Training School at Taji completed its first Language Training Course for pilot candidates while the Ministry of Defense installed English language labs at the Air Force College on Contingency Operating Base Speicher and at the Iraqi Language Institute in the International Zone in Baghdad.

"Aviation is different than ground skills," said Staff Brig. Gen. Ali Hasan, Iraqi Air Force College commander and

A month of 'Firsts'

1988 graduate of the school. "English is the international language of aviation. This computer laboratory will increase the level of learning by 25 percent or more, immediately."

The Iraqi Air Force acquired a European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellite to deliver weather and climate data, images and products 24-hours a day to Iraqi meteorologists.

"This system provides real-time aviation weather information as the basis for decision support for all meteorological support activities spanning Iraq," said U.S. Air Force Maj. James Bono, ITAM-Air's senior weather advisor.

January also saw the start of the first Iraqi-ran depot-level maintenance operations at the Joint Base Workshop in Taji. Also in Taji, the Iraqi Army Air Command received the first two of 24 Euro Copters equipped with laser-guided missiles and opened the largest free-span building in the Middle East—a 15-meter tall and 76-meter long Mi-17 helicopter hanger.

"The completion of the Mi-17 hangar and squadron operations building

will provide the Iraqi Army Aviation Command with facilities to conduct maintenance on their rotary-wing aircraft, protected from the harsh environs of Iraq and will provide them with needed office space and a simulator room in which to train their pilots," said U.S. Army Maj. John Stover, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division's Taji project office.

As January continued, ITAM-Army helped open the Al-Ghuzlani Training Center with a training exercise for 560 Iraqi Army Soldiers as part of "al-Tadreeb al-Shamil," or collective training.

"We're teaching them techniques used by American fighters," said U.S. Army 1st Lt. Sean Mitcham, platoon leader with Troop C, 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. "Once the training is complete, they'll be able to mold it into their own system to make it work for them."

ITAM-Army also kicked off the M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank Modernization Program with M1A1 familiarization classes for 140 tank crews.

"We focus on driving M1A1s to drive Iraq forward into the future and for the betterment of the people of Iraq," said



Three Iraqi physical therapists attend a six-week training course working with amputees and prosthetic specialists at Walter Reed Medical Center. (Courtesy photo)

IqA Jundi Anwar Hakim Khidher Al-Janabi, a tank commander with the 9th Armd. Div.

Iraq's Ministry of the Interior hosted the 89th Police Day Ceremony followed by the graduation of 2,350 police lieutenants including 80 females. During the ceremony, members of Iraq's police services marched across the Baghdad Police College's parade field rendering salutes and chanting "Long, live Iraq!"

The Iraqi Police Day celebration was a big success, said Baghdad Police College Dean Maj. Gen. Riyadh Abdul Baki Salman.

In addition to military and security training, three Iraqi biologist and chemist medical officers received specialized training in research in the U.S. and three physical therapists attended a six-week training course working with amputees and prosthetic specialists at Walter Reed Medical Center in D.C.

Iraqi Army 2nd Lt. Ali Nsaif said he benefited from the expertise of the hospital's physical therapists and has learned new exercise techniques he plans to use with his patients in the Iraqi Army. He said, "they [Walter Reed] are focused on the patient and are there through the whole process of recovery."

Iraqi Army Soldiers train on the M1A1 Main Battle Tank at the Besmaya training center in Baghdad. ITAM-Army helped open the Al-Ghuzlani training center and kicked off the M1A1 Abrams Modernization program with M1A1 familiarization classes for 140 tank crews. (DCG A&T Public Affairs photo)



Iraqi Mi-171 Helicopters fly in formation during Iraqi Armed forces day Jan 6, Baghdad. (DCG A&T Public Affairs Photo)



February

The steady progress of the Iraqi Security Forces continued throughout February. From patrol boats in Umm Qasr to humvees at Taji or broadcasters and network operators in Baghdad, the signs of a strengthening force were visible throughout Iraq.

ITAM-Navy certified Iraqi Navy crews in Swift patrol boats 302 and 303 for operational tasking, and workers finished construction of the Ship Repair Facility in Umm Qasr. There is a definite pride returning to the Iraqi Navy, said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Richard Jones, an engineering officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“Through my interaction with the Iraqi Navy, there is

an esprit de corps; a pride in service appearing to come back,” he said.

ITAM-MoI strengthened

“There is a definite pride returning to the Iraqi Navy.”

the Iraqi MoI’s vehicle fleet by transferring 430 non-tactical vehicles, 320 humvees and 40 flatbed trailers to Iraq, through the U.S. Equipment Transfer Program.

The Iraqi Air Force had

more firsts in February with the opening of a new \$5.7 million Iraqi Air Operations Center on Hawk base, and the start of the first Ground Support Officer class at COB Speicher for 136 officers.

“ITAM-Air’s advisors have made progress by exposing Iraqi leadership to the philosophy that joint integration between forces is the modern way to effectively assist security operations,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Pete Schnobrich, ITAM-Air Advisor. “This concept is new to the Iraqi military, particularly when it comes to the operational and tactical employment of forces.”

Iraqi Soldiers began M1A1 operator and maintenance training at Besmaya Combat Training

Strengthening the force

Center. This was the first M1A1 operator course featuring Iraqi Army Soldiers as primary instructors.

“In the future, we will train other Iraqi Soldiers about this tank,” said Iraqi Army Capt. Mouhaned, a student in the M1A1 operator course.

The M1A1 unit maintenance course covered material ranging from diagnosing and troubleshooting malfunctions to performing on-board support on the turret system.

“The UMNET course will teach them how to maintain the M1A1,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rodriguez-Barajas, an ITAM-Army operations noncommissioned officer. “[It will] teach them how to



Zeravani Police demonstrate hand-to-hand combat skills as part of graduation ceremony activities following a specialized Carabinieri training course at the Federal Police Special Training Academy at Camp Dublin. (DCG A&T Public Affairs photo)

be turret mechanics.”

For the Italian Carabinieri of NATO Training Mission-Iraq, February marked the graduation of nearly 650 students from their Iraqi Federal Police Dignitary Protection and Personal Security Course at Camp Dublin in Baghdad. Instructors trained the graduates on specialized close-distance protection techniques and advanced-driving techniques, said staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Jasim Muhammad al-Awadi, Iraqi Federal Police commander. The graduation of this personal security detachment training shows the positive development of the Iraqi National Police special-training institution, al-Awadi said.

Also in Baghdad, 30 students graduated from

Iraq’s first Computer and Information Technology Training Network Course at the MoD’s Development and Training Center.

“This is another step in what I know will be a good investment in the people who are going to take care of the technology that will carry the Iraqi military far into the future,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Tina Harvey, director of USF-I’s J-6 Iraq Communications Coordination Element.

Other ISF communication enhancements included U.S.-Iraqi information-sharing symposium and MoD’s first Advanced Broadcasting and TV production workshop.

“We now have media units in the Iraqi Army, in each unit or division,” said Qais Subhie Mustafa, a member of the MoD’s Media

Relations Department.

“This advanced class is filled with all the requirements for videography

“...Joint integration is the modern way to effectively assist security operations.”

and photography,” said Brig. Gen. Ali Muslih al-Jeboury, director of Media Relations for the Chief of Staff of the

ISF.

“It was rewarding to share information with the Iraqis,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Joe Cardenas who helped teach the course.

Later in the month, ITAM-MoD Intelligence advisors conducted new equipment training and capstone exercises for the 1st, 7th and 12th Iraqi Army Division Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance teams certifying them capable of providing tactical intelligence support.

For the ITAM-Police Federal Police Transition Team and the Iraqi Federal Police, preparing and training for the “Day of Rage,” one of the largest protests Iraq has seen, was a crucial real-world test.



Swift Class Patrol Boat 302 passes by the pier during Iraqi Navy Day in Umm Qasr, Iraq. The crew of Patrol Boat 302 was certified for operational tasking February, 2011. (DCG A&T Public Affairs Photo)

March

Milestones Achieved

In March, Iraqi training and capacity continued to grow. From language labs to Hellfire missiles, forensics equipment to trauma care, the breadth and depth of ISF capabilities expanded as U.S. advisors and trainers continued to enhance ISF abilities.

The Iraqi Air Force's successes continued with the demonstration of their first solo Hellfire missile launch with integrated ground control from Iraqi Special Operation Forces March 23. The Iraqi Air Operations Center director commanded the mission from

Baghdad via live video feed from an orbiting King Air 350 surveillance plane, while an Iraqi Forward Air Controller at the Aziziyah range 50 miles away controlled the shot.

"This is a great day for the Iraqi Air Force," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock, ITAM-Air director, who observed the mission from an ISR monitoring station at New Al-Muthana Air Base in Baghdad.

"From the Iraqi forward air controllers coordinating with the attack aircraft, to the arming and release of the

Hellfire missile—this capability is key to the Iraqi Air Force's ability to provide internal security and external defense," he said.

The first Iraqi Air Force pilot completed T-6 instructor pilot training and began teaching Iraqi T-6 students. Iraqi Air Force Lt. Col. Hamid "Godfather" Hussein, Squadron 203 commander, flew a training mission with an Iraqi student pilot further developing self-sustaining airpower. He said with determination, motivation and attention to detail, any Iraqi student pilot is capable of doing great things for the Iraqi Air Force.

"I think it is important for them to focus on the future of the Iraqi Air Force," Hussein said. "I also urge them to learn from examples set by the instructors they fly with... as they begin

"...focus on the future of the Iraqi Air Force."

to develop their instructional style and techniques."

The Iraqi Air Force gained a low cost alternative to sending pilots outside of Iraq for recurring altitude chamber training by installing two Reduced Oxygen Breathing Devices. The devices simulate hypoxia so pilots can recognize symptoms of oxygen deprivation in time to take proper action.

"This machine reduces the risk of decompression sickness because it doesn't affect the entire body," said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Flecker, aerospace operational physiology technician. She added that all pilots and aircrew members will continue to go to

an actual altitude chamber for initial training in order to fully understand what can happen to a pilot during emergency situations.

In March, MoI streamlined their recruiting process with an online system to aid in selecting the best-qualified police and officer candidates while eliminating corruption and fraud during the hiring process.

ITAM-Police's fifth and final group of 350 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians, 100 Federal Police Officers and 240 General Counter-Explosive Directorate Officers graduated from the International Mine Action Standards Level-4 Counter-Explosive Training course.

Also, MoI's High Institute for Security and Administrative Development labs at Erbil, Mosul and Basra gained capability to conduct digital exploitation forensics training, enabling investigators to collect evidence from electronic devices. MoD intelligence officials also gained capacity in electronic evidence collection by procuring 140 documentation and media exploitation kits that will help preserve captured hard and electronic data.

Additionally, the MoD installed language labs in Taji and Rustimiyah where members of the ISF, MoI and MoD will be able to learn English and the languages of other countries who work with Iraq's government.

In efforts to increase medical knowledge throughout the country, 12 Iraqis completed Biomedical Maintenance Training and the U.S. DoD Institute for Medical Operations Mobile Education Team taught a Nurse-Trauma course to 57 MoD, MoI and Ministry of Health healthcare providers.

"The course focuses on emphasizing the primary things you must focus on for a trauma victim to ensure a successful outcome – airway, breathing, circulation and cervical spine," said U.S. Air Force Col. Liz J. Bridges, instructor of the course. "We are going through every aspect of trauma care, going through all the systems, breaking them down and bringing them back together."

"Every year we work with the Iraqi Ministry of Defense's Surgeon General

"The INL team of experts will provide sophisticated tools and modern techniques to improve the... Iraqi police...."



An Iraqi Army Explosives Ordnance and Bomb Disposal School student threads a rope through a pulley during an exercise at an EOD range. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Frost)



An Iraqi Air Force pilot inspects an AGM-114 Hellfire missile loaded onto an AC-208 Cessna Caravan for an operational exercise March 23. Iraqi Air Force pilots from Squadron 3 hit a ground target with guidance and direction from Iraqi Special Operations Forces forward air controllers on the Aziziyah Training Range, south of Baghdad. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Levi Riendeau)

to identify Iraqi military health needs," said Dr. Adel N. Hansen, the medical advisor and liaison with ITAM-MoD's Strategic Advisor Group.

By the end of March, more than 10,500 Iraqis had graduated from MoD Training and Development Center programs and 2,500 completed ethics training at the Center for Military Values, Principles and Leadership Development programs.

One glimpse toward the future also came in March, when the State Department announced that it would continue efforts to increase Iraqi civilian police capacities through the U.S. Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

"On October 1, the State Department, in partnership with the Government of Iraq, will begin a civilian Police Development Program that focuses on strengthening

management, leadership and advanced policing skills and encourages community policing – promoting detection and prevention of crime in partnership with the community," U.S. State Department officials said.

"The Iraqi police have made substantial improvements during the past seven years as we provided the training and equipment to establish a basic foundation of law enforcement skills," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Michael Smith, director of ITAM-Police. "I look forward to continue working with Assistant Secretary Brownfield and his INL team..." said Smith. "The INL team of experts will provide sophisticated tools and modern techniques to improve the capabilities and professionalism of the Iraqi police while earning the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people."

April

Lion's Leap

April saw the largest and most anticipated event of the year so far—Lion's Leap. The ISF demonstrated their full range of capabilities during the joint-training exercise, which began operations at the Besmaya Combat Training Center in late April. The 10-day 4-phase exercise displayed Iraq's ability to provide security for the Iraqi people and maintain stability throughout the region.

From planning to execution, ISF were in the lead. All four phases of the integrated combined-arms exercise were conducted at training centers across Iraq, including Besmaya, Baghdad, Mahgoor and Khor Az-Zubayr. Lion's Leap culminated a year of planning and served as a major step in the development of the ISF.

"You (ISF) have achieved your goal and Iraq is even stronger today than before," said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, former USF-I deputy commanding general for Advising and Training, when addressing Iraqi troops during the exercise. "Lion's Leap '11 set a template for future Iraqi training. The planning and execution phases of the exercise tested the leadership capabilities of the Iraqi Army, Navy, Air Force and Army Aviation Command to plan and conduct Iraqi Combined Arms operations."

All exercise operations gave positive signals and indicate that Iraqi military combat and support is moving forward in terms of capabilities development, said Iraqi Army Gen. Babakir Badr-Khan Shawkat al-Zibari, chief of staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

ISF members are doing "an honorable task in providing security for the country and combating terrorism," said Iraqi Army staff Maj. Gen. Abass Fizza, the exercise's deputy director. "In order for you to surpass your peers, you have to train and fight professionally."

For one group of Iraqi Army Soldiers, April included a course at Besmaya

Combat Training Center on how to operate and maintain the M88A2 Hercules, a vehicle designed to recover the M1A1.

"We're trying to build an Iraqi Army that is a viable, and has a sustainable conventional defense capability," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. David C. Beachman, ITAM-Army senior advisor at BCTC, "soldiers can be trained on how to maneuver a tank, but if it breaks down and they are unable to tow it back to a maintenance facility to fix it, the platform won't be an effective combat multiplier."

In Umm Qasr, the third and final U.S. based Patrol Boat Training class graduated April 8, and the Iraqi Navy Training Team took the reins for training all future patrol boat crews.

Having the right gear and training is only part of the battle; professional militaries also need the technology to support their operations. One way ITAM-MoD helped Iraqi MoD in this aspect in April was with a Spectrum Management course. Spectrum management is the regulation and

organization of different communication technologies—such as radio, Internet and telephone—into their own specific frequencies to avoid interference and ensure seamless communication.

"Where the Iraqi Army, Navy and Air Force are going in communication is to the next level," said U.S. Navy Capt. Hank Bond, director of USF-I's J-6 Communications Directorate. "This school, and the focus on spectrum management, shows the United States that you are becoming experts in a broad part of complex communications."

ITAM-MoD imagery and Mapping Directorate advisors also provided

"Iraq is even stronger today than before."

geospatial support, imagery and mapping training to the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Command and Counter-Terrorism Service in Baghdad. This training will help ensure counter-terrorism forces are at the right place at the right time.

To further enable Iraqi investigators the ability to collect evidence, ITAM-Police advisors installed various forensics equipment throughout the country



An Iraqi UH-1 Huey lifts off from the battle scene carrying simulated casualties during a joint demonstration near Baghdad, April 18. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Randy Redman)



An Iraqi Mi-171 helicopter prepares to drop Iraqi special operations forces personnel into the middle of Exercise Lion's Leap April 26. The demonstration held near Baghdad was just one of several ongoing, multi-phase exercises designed to further integrate the Iraqi air force, Iraqi Army Aviation Command and Iraqi army. It was also an opportunity for the Iraqi military to showcase its capabilities. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Randy Redman)

in the continuing effort to build Iraq's evidence based legal system in accordance with the Rule of Law.

For the Iraqi Air Force and Army Aviation Command, the first Joint-Crash Rescue exercise at Sather Air Base involved UH-60s, a Huey 2 and an Mi-17 helicopter in conjunction with several Iraqi Air Base fire departments further illustrates Iraq's ability to provide crash and fire rescue services. U.S. advisors also hosted a joint coordination exercise at Kirkuk Regional Air Base.

"This exercise was a stepping stone toward more complex exercises using live fire in the future," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Sean Beasley, a firefighter from the 341st Civil Engineer Squadron. "It's important for the Iraqis to keep

An Iraqi Commando scans his area during a Joint-Exercise, Lion's Leap April 26. The exercise was just one of several ongoing, multi-phase exercises designed to further integrate Iraq's Military - the Iraqi Air Force, Iraqi Army Aviation Command and Iraqi Army came together for a successful mission. (Courtesy photo)

building upon what we teach, not only for proficiency, but for safety as well."

Iraqi Army Aviation Command took another step forward after Iraqi T-407 helicopter instructor pilots flew their first mission without U.S. advisors April 28.

The T-407 milestone came four months after U.S. Army Chief Warrant

Officer Daniel Hill and U.S. Army Maj. Kevin Ferner from the 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron began training more than twenty pilots from IqAAC's Squadron 21.



May

Lessons learned

Throughout May, ISF agencies performed after action reports, evaluating their performance during Lion's Leap. This review process is critical in developing a world-class military. The lessons learned will help the ISF hone future operations and further professionalize their organizations.

"The Ministry of Defense conducted informal and formal After Action Reviews and is feeding lessons learned into their doctrinal training model cycle to achieve their goal of conducting sustained planning and training execution," said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, deputy commanding general for Advising and Training. The MoD "determined, during their assessment of Lion's Leap '11, the need to develop their strategic logistics and sustainment planning

which make sustained combined arms operational capability possible."

While ISF reviewed their performance,

"Our Iraqi partners have embraced the importance of character development."

U.S. advisors turned over the Small Arms Repair Facility at Camp Taji to the MoD,

signifying the completion of the Joint Base Workshop integrator effort. To bolster the efficiency of the JBW, Iraqi Army Soldiers completed seven months of technical and mechanical M1114 humvee skills training, which will help the ISF maintain their fleet of humvees.

Also at Taji, Air Advisors facilitated the grand opening of sheet metals, metals technology and welding shops. The shops will help in the maintenance of helicopters to planes.

"This accomplishment significantly advances the Iraqi Army Aviation Command's organic structural-repair capability to enhance overall fleet readiness," explained U.S. Air Force Maj. Claudio Covacci, 721st AEAS maintenance officer.

"Over the last several years, the IqAAC sheet metal and machine shop technicians have been incrementally growing to maturity," he said. "The newly acquired repair facilities provide a state-of-the-art capability that builds trust and confidence in Iraqi flying operations."

Construction milestones continued when

U.S. and Iraqi Airmen opened an armory and conducted a joint-base defense exercise at Ali Base. With help from U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason Ross, base transition team member, Iraqi airmen spent three months setting up a secure armory.

"In order to provide force protection they need weapons and with that, a place to secure their weapons," said Ross. "Right now they have a section of base that belongs to them, and it's their proving grounds. It's a big step."

Iraqi MoI's recruiting directorate tested their online job application process that was originally implemented in March resulting in more than 82,600 submitted applications for more than 18,000 openings.

ITAM-MoI continued the efforts to enable ISF by issuing nearly 570 vehicles valued in excess of \$95 million to the MoI headquarters and various elements of the Federal Police Sustainment Brigade, General



Iraqi Oil Police learn riot control techniques from a member of the Italian Carabinieri at a training center in Baghdad. Iraqi Oil Police now have their own training center at the Al Dura Oil Refinery. (Courtesy photo)

Counter-Explosive Directorate and the Oil Police.

The Oil Police also gained their own training center at the Al Dura Oil Refinery, where they will be able to train on-site to protect Iraq's most abundant natural resource.

The Federal Police assumed control of the Federal Police Sustainment Brigade Facility at Salman Pak, which will be the main logistics hub for the force.

And finally, May 31 was an important day for the MoD Character and Ethics Center as a ceremony, marked the official end of mission for the school's American advisors.

"The ethics center has grown from an idea in 2005 to a self-sustained and self-reliant school that has already trained 2,500 Iraqi soldiers," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Willie Themes, Deputy Chief of ITAM-MoD's Special Projects Division. "The center continues to be a shining example as it grows course offerings and forges strategic alliances with international humanitarian organizations."

"Our Iraqi partners have embraced the importance of character development in a professional army," said George Litzsey, ITAM-MoD advisor.

An Iraqi Policeman prepares to throw a simulation flash grenade into a range house as part of a demonstration at the Ministry of Interior's National Police Special Training Academy at Camp Dublin, Baghdad. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Timothy Koster)



Iraqi mechanics at the Taji National Maintenance Depot perform maintenance on humvees that will be refurbished and turned over to the government of Iraq from the United States. The humvees go through numerous tests and checks before the transition to ensure the vehicles are ready for the Iraqi Security Forces. (DCG A&T Public Affairs photo)



June

Still going strong

In June, ITAM-Navy / Marines advisors witnessed a successful final evaluation of Swift patrol boat crew 305 by the Iraqi Navy Training Team in Umm Qasr. The event marked another milestone in the Iraqi Navy's efforts to be a self-sustaining force, able to conduct unilateral patrols.

Iraqi leadership with the support of ITAM-Log, directed the issue of parts-push packages to the medium and field workshops to streamline the parts requisition process. The push packages included M1114 humvee parts, International truck parts and weapons-cleaning kits. This was a major step in distributing repair parts to the points-of-use and keeping parts in reserve in national warehouses.

MoI's "eMinistry"—a computer-based human resources and payroll system—came online as the ministry's payroll system. This system is more efficient

than the previous ledger system and mitigates discrepancies and chances for corruption.

ITAM-MoI continued their progress with the Civil Defense Directorate working in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and ITAM-Police to teach and eight-day arson investigation course to Iraqi firefighter-trainers.

"They are doing great during this course," said Mark Bergstresser, an ATF agent and course instructor. "They are picking it up; they are all firemen, and they have been firemen for years, so they get it."

The Iraqi Air Force also had several firsts in June. U.S. Air Force advisors certified the first King Air ISR Mission System Operator and also certified two Iraqi airmen as maintenance instructors on the King Air's electronic countermeasure systems.

"The ECM is an extremely important defensive system for the aircraft and its aircrew," explained U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Travis Calmez, avionics and ECM advisor.

"The King Air mission is one of the most important airpower missions here," explained U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. John Melloy, commander of the U.S. King Air advisory squadron. "The King Air is a critical aircraft the Iraqi Air Force [has used] on a daily basis to protect the population and infrastructure. Now they have the capability to maintain and train the next generation of technicians."

The first Iraqi T-6 First Assignment Instructor Pilot, Lt. Hassan Ali Al Saedi, began teaching Iraqi pilot candidates. The FAIP program allows new pilots to immediately enter training to become instructors without waiting years to gain operational experience. This capability is essential for rapid airpower growth.

"As one of the Iraqi Air Force's first T-6 FAIPs, Lt. Hassan is going to rapidly gain experience flying and instructing future pilots—his potential is limitless right now," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Kent Bolster, training flight commander and air advisor. "Hopefully,

for Lt. Hassan, the future will hold a long and successful career as an officer and pilot in the Iraqi Air Force providing peace and stability for his country."

From fixed-wing trainers to operational helicopters, the first

"They are doing great during this course."

joint-exercise with the Iraqi Army Air Command and Iraqi Special Operation Forces took place at FOB Bennett to bolster inter-service relations.

For the Iraqi Police K9 program, discovering a large cache of mortar rounds, rockets and explosively formed projectiles, is just another day at work. The seized cache exemplifies Iraq's growing K9 and police capability. The K9 program is nearly two years old and will eventually boast more than 320 working dogs ready to sniff out everything from explosives to persons of

interest.

At MoI's Training and Qualifications Institute's Basic Recruit Training course, 174 female Facilities Protection Services officers graduated, further diversifying Iraq's civil service.

In a change of scenery for 15 Iraqi analysts, ITAM-MoD's Director General of Intelligence and Security Advisors facilitated a human-intelligence training course in Romania. The out-of-country course reinforces Iraq's foreign relations and diversifies the Iraqi analysts' foundational knowledge.

The GoI made a formal commitment to the Iraq International Academy's future by forming a joint committee to develop stronger academic standards. ISF and the government of Iraq plan to educate military and civilian personnel in public administration, management, logistics, strategic planning and analysis, rule of law and governance at the school. The academy will also provide a centralized location and state-of-the art facilities for conferences and executive seminars for the government of Iraq and its global partners.

"It is very important to us because we put all of these schools here in one area," said Iraqi Staff Maj. Gen. Jasim Saleem Hussein Al-Hammadi, National Defense University president.

"The hope is that in the future it will be used for regional security conferences, as well as in-country senior national security professional education training," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Christian Ortego, Iraq International Academy program manager.

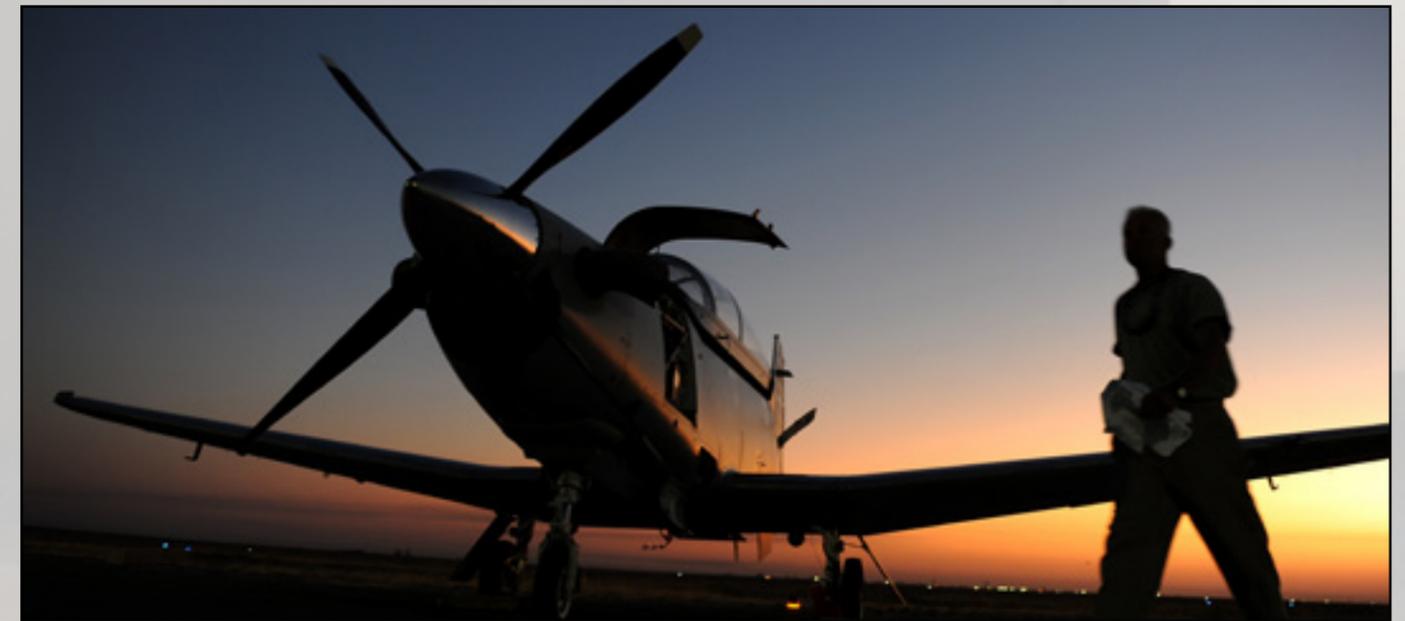
ITAM-MoD also helped close the contract on the Iraqi MoD Medical Training Institute providing the MoD Surgeon General's Office a state-of-the-art training facility for all Iraqi military medical personnel.

The DCG A&T Public Affairs Office hosted an ISF media relations roundtable in an effort to foster a partnership and initiate communication between media relations officials from different elements of the GoI, USF-I and NTM-I, which included members from the Iraqi MoD, Iraqi Ministry of National Security and the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Cheadle, DCG A&T public affairs officer said, "The goal is to share information between organizations. We all have the same goal of a stronger, united Iraq. Speaking with one voice, we are very powerful."



K9 Handlers School students and explosive detection dogs train together at the Baghdad Police College. The K9 Handlers course is a two-month class where Iraqi Master K9 Trainers provide training and certify select Iraqi Police as designated explosive-detection dog handlers. (DCG A&T Public Affairs photo)



Garry Argent, a maintenance contractor, prepares a T-6 Texan II aircraft for for a trainning mission between the 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron and the Iraqi Air Force Squadron 203, at Camp Speicher, Iraq. The Iraqi training squadron has 11 instructor pilots trained and ready to carry the torch. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Meares)

July

The transitions begin

With the U.S. drawdown just five months away, transition efforts became more apparent in July. Examples of the ongoing transition effort were apparent throughout Iraq. On territorial waters, in English language and forensics labs and in various other Iraqi training facilities, U.S. advisors continued their mission to build ISF capacity and capability in the midst of what some considered the largest logistical move in U.S. military history.

The U.S. Navy began transitioning responsibility for Al Basra Oil Terminal security and the remaining 20 percent of Iraqi territorial waters to the Iraqi Navy. This progression marks the culmination of the joint efforts between ITAM-Navy / Marines, Command Task Force-Iraqi Maritime and Navy Central Command.

Also on the Iraqi waters, the U.S. Coast Guard began training Iraqi Coastal

Border Guard Sailors on small-boat operations and the U.S. Marine Training Team began various types of training with the Iraqi Marines.

In an exercise between the Iraqi Navy and Kuwaiti Coast Guard, the two forces united to foster cooperation when dealing with illegal fishermen in territorial waters, was successful in strengthen their bonds. This exercise was the first entirely orchestrated by Iraqi and Kuwaiti forces, while the U.S. Navy served as observers, said U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Hoff, U.S. liaison to the Kuwaiti Coast Guard, who watched from aboard an Iraqi patrol boat.

“It’s the culmination of years of effort to encourage the Iraqi Navy and Kuwaiti Coast Guard to improve their operability,” said Hoff. “It’s a victory.”

And while U.S. Sailors continued to help ISF throughout Iraq, a group from the U.S. Naval Post-Graduate School’s Mobile Education Team graduated 42 participants from the Iraqi MoI, Kurdish MoI and the Ministry of Peshmerga from the Iraq Defense Resources Management Senior Leader Training in Erbil. The graduation completes the strategic planning series that ITAM-MoI developed and implemented over 15 months.

In other education efforts, the transition of courses into Iraqi control continued in July as the final 28 teacher-candidates completed their U.S. Defense Language Institute English-Teaching Certifications at Camp

Taji’s Air Force Training School. Their train-the-trainer certifications cemented a self-sustaining English training faculty and marked the official turnover to the Iraqis. U.S. Advisors also turned over control of the Iraqi Air Force College at COB Speicher.

In addition to formal English instruction, some U.S. air advisors volunteered their time to teach Iraqi airmen the international language of aviation.

“It’s the culmination of years of effort... It’s a victory.”

“What we are doing in the classroom is volunteering our time to help them learn (conversational) English and technical English because it helps us in our mission,” said U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Dent, advisor and maintenance superintendent at Camp Taji. “More important than that, we are U.S. ambassadors. The most important thing that we do over here, besides the obvious training and assisting, is we are representing our country. The relationships we build with the Iraqis are far reaching.”

In its continuing efforts to modernize information technology systems, Iraqi MoD set up and implemented the first electronic voting system for officer promotions mitigating lost ballots and corruption in the process.

The National Ports of Entry Transition Team completed the Smiths Detection Systems Project, which included installing 69 systems at 20 different land, sea and air ports-of-entry and oil refineries. The detection systems assist Iraqi security personnel in keeping the country’s ports-of-entry safe.

In late July, ITAM-MoD and Iraqi Joint Headquarters facilitated delivery of six Zodiac boats from USF-I to the 10th

Iraqi Army Division for patrolling marshland in the Maysan Province.

The deliveries didn’t stop there. ITAM-Police completed distribution of \$4.5 million worth of training aids to Training Qualifications Institute centers throughout Iraq providing police trainers the capability to sustain their instruction efforts.

ITAM-Police advisors also distributed 1,470 Crime Scene Investigation Kits to the Iraqi Criminal Evidence Directorate, which will enable properly trained crews to gather evidence in support of evidence-based prosecutions.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the Iraqis have it in their capabilities to be successful,” said U.S. Army Maj. Chris Heberer, Iraq forensics director and officer-in-charge of the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility 3.

ITAM-Air Advisors facilitated a joint-combined communications exercise with several Iraqi units at Camp Taji.

In another first, Iraqi Airmen began the Iraqi Air Force Weather Support Technicians Course.



An Iraqi Judicial Investigator observes latent prints on a water bottle through laser excitation during a training session at Camp Victory. U.S. advisors distributed 1,470 Crime Scene Investigation kits to the Iraqi Criminal Evidence Directorate. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Charlene Mendiola)



Iraqi Navy Sailors operate Defenders, small patrol craft, during a joint exercise with the Kuwaiti Coast Guard in the Persian Gulf, July 25. (DCG A&T Public Affairs photo)



An Iraqi Army Aviation Command, Squadron 21 ground crew member salutes a Bell-407 helicopter taking off at Taji Air Base, Iraq, July 12, 2011. Assigned at Taji Air Base, the 721st Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron trains, advises and assists Iraqi pilots and maintenance personnel, focusing on sustainability, reliability and interoperability. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Mearns)

August

Toward a strategic partnership



U.S. and Iraqi Air Force pilots fly in formation during one of the last training flights for the 52nd Expeditionary Flight Training Squadron and Squadron 203 over Iraq. Advisors from the 52nd EFTS turned over flight training operations to the Iraqi Air Force Squadron 203. The training program takes 18-month to qualify and certify an instructor pilot. (Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Tyler Placie)

With the U.S. reposture efforts in full swing, U.S. and Iraqi officials took large strides toward an enduring strategic partnership between the two nations. U.S. and Iraqi officials finalized the F-16 multi-role fighter jet letter of agreement content review. The purchase by Iraq will help create a long-term relationship between Iraq and the United States.

The Iraqi Navy's progress continued in Umm Qasr. The successful dry-docking of Swift Patrol Boat 301 marked a step forward in the IqN's self-sustainability.

"This event was very significant for Iraqi naval self-sustainment," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Quintin "QB" Bell, commanding officer of the ITAM – N/M at Umm Qasr. "It demonstrates that the Iraqis can dock their own Swift Patrol boat without having to rely on a foreign shipyard. They'll save time and money by doing it themselves, and they will also be able to conduct the follow-on

maintenance at their newly constructed and equipped ship repair facility."

"Ships need to be on patrol in order to provide security," said Bell. "Speedy

"We are trying to build up their capabilities..."

repairs mean more ships are available to patrol. The Swift boat docking capability puts a ship back to sea quicker because the docking and repairs are done at the Iraqi navy base. It dramatically decreases the amount of time that a boat is unavailable to the Iraqi navy for patrols."

The Swift patrol boat fleet grew by two when vessels 304 and 306 at Umm Qasr. "The delivery of the U.S. built Swift Patrol Boats 304 and 306 increases the Iraqi

navy's capability to effectively patrol and defend their territorial waters and critical oil infrastructure," said U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Kelvin Dixon, director of ITAM-N/M.

"The Iraqis have really done an outstanding job with the limited assets they had," said Bell, "The addition of these two very-capable patrol boats will greatly enhance their ability to carry out their assigned missions."

Iraqi Navy commander, Rear Adm. Ali, said that the delivery was an important day for the Iraqi Navy.

Not long after the vessels' arrival, the Iraqi Navy certified 306's crew and ship ready for operational duty.

From Iraq's maritime border to the country's borderlands, the ITAM-MoI logistics transition team gave the Department of Border Enforcement nearly 3,300 pairs of binoculars to strengthen their security efforts. And, in order for the

Civil Customs and Oil Police to screen cargo, ITAM-Police shipped the first eight of 10 Rapiscan GaRD trucks to their various ports-of-entry.

While protecting waterways and borders is crucial to security, so too is maintaining air sovereignty. ITAM-Air continued to help the IqAF build capability and capacity to secure their skies. Three IqAF T-6 pilots from Squadron 203 at COB Speicher passed their instructor pilot check rides, completing their 17-month pilot and instructor pilot upgrades with ITAM-Air instructor pilots. Squadron 203's commander, Lt. Col. Hamid "Godfather" Hussein, became the first IqAF T-6 flight evaluator and gave his first check ride to the seventh T-6 IP. Not long after their upgrades, these Iraqi instructor pilots jumped into instruction with the start of first class of Iraqi student pilots without previous flight experience.

ITAM-Air's accomplishments weren't

limited to the T-6s at COB Speicher as U.S. forces transferred control of the IqAF's Hellfire missile inventory and munitions storage to the GoI. U.S. forces also transferred 44,000 square miles of airspace to the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority and Air Traffic Control service began at the Baghdad Area Control Center. This transition aids in the airspace normalization process for the Government of Iraq.

"I am very optimistic about our Iraqi partners' ability to move forward and closer to independence by providing a safe, expeditious flow of air traffic operations throughout the country," said Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Stovall, 321st EOSS chief controller who helped facilitate the transfer.

From the seas, borders and skies to the classroom, ITAM-MoD launched the Iraqi Armed Forces Logistics Professional Military Education program. And the MoD Medical Training Institute agreed

to a information technology contract to provide the school with a computer network, lab, multi-media centers, VTC conference room, and campus-wide security system.

And from the classroom to the workshop, the Iraqi Army inducted the first humvees on the repair line at the Joint Base Workshop in Taji. JBW crews can refurbish six humvees a month.

"This is a major accomplishment considering that two months ago the IA had no plan of how to request for assets to support the depot for continuous production sustainment," said Donald Evans, a JBW wheel maintenance advisor.

"At the Wheel Depot, we don't just fix-up the humvees, we overhaul them inside and out," said Col. Jasim, the Joint Base Workshop Wheel Depot commander. "We started this two years ago and now we are a team; we work together to make everything go smoothly."



Maj. Mark Gray, 321st Air Expeditionary Advisory Group director of maintenance, meets with other advisers to help teach the English language two hours a day, four days a week, to the Iraqi maintainers at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq. (Courtesy photo)

September

New Dawn's twilight

September marked significant changes as U.S. Forces continued transition and reposturing efforts. The month saw the completion of many U.S. projects as well as more program handovers. Notably, the government of Iraq finalized the contract to purchase 18 F-16 multi-role fighter aircraft. While the F-16 purchase is a high-profile Foreign Military Sales effort, hundreds of other FMS cases have helped the ISF gain and keep their forward momentum.

One such example is the Iraqi Air Force's T-6 trainer program, a central piece of future Iraqi airpower, including the F-16. "They are the foundation of the Iraqi Air Force pilot training," said Lt. Col. Andy Hamann, 52nd EFTS commander. U.S. instructor pilots stepped back from their advisory role in September.

"The standard we've held here as we trained the Iraqis is the same standard we use in our Air Force pilot training as well as the instructor pilot training," Hamann said. "I'm confident they are able to take this mission."

Another key FMS case, and linchpin to the Iraqi Army's success, is the M1A1 Abrams tank. September saw the deprocessing of the final shipment of M1A1 Abrams tanks at Besmaya Combat Training Center. The delivery included the last five of the 140 tanks ordered by the Iraqi government.

"The tanks are the latest digital tanks coming out of the United States," said John Hutchings, ITAM-Army desk officer. "They are the most modern M1A1s in the Middle East."

"We are training the Iraqi Army so they can train, maintain and sustain all the tanks they have received," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark Bliese, senior training advisor for BCTC. "The M1A1 tanks provide the Iraqi army with the capability of defending its borders to protect the sovereignty of Iraq."

A central part of M1A1 gunnery training is live-fire practice, and U.S. advisors found an ingenious solution to a lack of targets... abandoned tank hulls. U.S. advisors transported 21 tanks and 29 armored-personnel carriers



Iraqi navy sailors speed out to sea during Iraqi Navy Day in Umm Qasr, Sept. 14. The Iraqi navy celebrated its 74th anniversary during the Navy Day ceremony in Umm Qasr, Iraq, Sept. 14, in which they showcased their accomplishments and capabilities. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph Vine)

from Camp Taji to BCTC and placed them at strategic spots throughout the range.

"We tried to find the largest number of vehicles with the proper silhouette and an emphasis on tanks and armored vehicles that the Iraqis forces would most likely encounter in combat," said 1st Lt. Justin Schultz, a senior engineer advisor with ITAM-Army.

"The newly placed tank hulks resemble the real shape of a tank or armored vehicle from a distance," said Luis Perez, ITAM-Army range control advisor. "This improves the training for the Iraqi army because they can identify a real target and not just a large piece of metal."

September's accomplishments weren't limited to BCTC. In Baghdad, 33 students graduated from the three-month Baghdad River Police Training Center's Dive, Search and Recovery Course. With the course's high standards and even higher physical demands, the BRPTC graduated 94 percent of its original class size.

"That's pretty good," said McGinty. "This course is very challenging and some of these guys couldn't swim when they first got here."

This was the ninth and largest class that graduated from the Dive, Search and Recovery Course and the last that had American civilians acting in the advisory role. "Our job is to mentor the Iraqis," said George McGinty, a civilian advisor for the BRPTC. "They're doing it all on their own now."

On the water in Umm Qasr, the Iraqi navy celebrated its 74th anniversary during the Navy Day ceremony Sept. 14 where they showcased their accomplishments and capabilities.

"Only a few years ago, the Iraqi navy did not have any ships," said Rear Adm. Edward G. Winters, executive director of DCG A&T. "They embarked on a rapid fleet modernization program and today have over 60 vessels and more than 4,000 Sailors and Marines."

Also in Umm Qasr, U.S. Marines from Iraqi Marine Corps Training Team 03 led training courses for Iraqi Marines on combatives, first aid and vehicle check points.

As U.S. Forces prepare to depart, the training conducted by IqMTT-03 improves the Iraqi Marines' abilities. The training helps them continue to develop the Iraqi Marines through train-the-trainer programs that establishes their training priorities and mission standards.

"The Iraqi Marines showed a lot of interest in the training," said U.S. Marine Sgt. Skyler Feller, an IqMTT-03 trainer.

October

Office of Security Cooperation - Iraq

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr. assumed command of the NATO Training Mission -Iraq from U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter in a change of command ceremony at Forward Operating Base Union III, Oct. 1.

The ceremony also marked a transfer of authority for the Deputy Commanding General - Advising and Training and the official activation of the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq.

The OSC-I will continue the security assistance and cooperation responsibilities with Iraq to assist the Government of Iraq with advising, training, assisting and equipping their security forces.

"We welcome a significant milestone in our Iraq campaign by activating the OSC-I," said U.S. Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander, United States Forces - Iraq and reviewing officer of the ceremony.

"As we continue to honor the security agreement by drawing down our security forces, OSC-I will become the core of our enduring military-to-military relationship with Iraq over the years to come," he added.

"Today's establishment of the Office of Security Cooperation -Iraq and the transfer of the NATO Training Mission marks a significant transition and the progress of our mission in Iraq as well as the commitment of the United States and the NATO partner countries for a strategic and enduring relationship with the government of Iraq and its people," said Caslen.

During the symbolic and time-honored tradition of the passing of colors to represent the transfer of responsibility of the mission, Ferriter handed the NTM-I colors to Austin, passing over his command of NTM-I and his duty as the DCG (A&T).

Austin presented the colors to Caslen, the new NTM-I commander. Caslen then returned the NTM-I colors to acting NTM-I Senior Enlisted Advisor, Sgt. Maj. Emanuele Salvagnin, to return to the color bearer, completing the symbolic change of command.

After the passing of the NTM-I colors, Austin spoke highly of Caslen and addressed the challenges ahead.

"Lieutenant General Caslen's proven talents as a leader, trainer and educator make him extremely well suited for this important assignment," said Austin.

"The task ahead will be challenging but I know that you are more than capable," said Austin to Caslen. "I cannot think of a better person to lead this organization into the next phase of our



General Lloyd J. Austin III, commander, United States Forces Iraq, hand the NATO Training Mission-Iraq colors to Lt. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, USF-I deputy commanding general Advising and Training, during a change of command ceremony for USF-I DCG (A&T) on FOB Union III, Baghdad, Oct. 1. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Joseph Viry)

military leadership with Iraq."

Caslen, takes command with multiple responsibilities as the commander of the NTM-I, USF-I deputy commanding general (advising and training) and the chief of OSC-I, to continue the training and advising mission as USF-I withdraws from Iraq by the end of this year in accordance with the security framework agreement signed in 2008 between the U.S. and Iraq governments.

"I am honored to serve as commander of the NATO Mission as we orchestrate training and professional military education for Iraq's leaders and its security forces," said Caslen.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Caslen highlighted the role of NTM-I and OSC-I and their importance to the development of Iraq and the Middle East.

"Iraq's partnership with NATO is significant, this relationship not only provides Iraq with superb trainers and educators, but it also provides legitimacy among the 28 NATO nations in a unique status within the Middle East region as a partner in the international community of nations," said Caslen.

"It is clear that a stable, secure and self-ran Iraq is not only important for Iraq, but for the entire region," he said. "I recognize the importance of both NTM-I and OSC-I to assist Iraq in developing the necessary defense capabilities to secure this great nation."

"To the people and leaders of Iraq, I am honored to serve alongside each of you in this incredibly important mission not only for the sake of Iraq but also for this region," said Caslen. "We must succeed and we will succeed."

Nato Training Mission - Iraq

The NATO Training mission – Iraq (NTM-I) was established in 2004, at the request of the Iraqi Interim Government, and under the provisions of UN Security Council resolution 1546. Since then, and for the last seven years, this tactical-sized mission (of approximately 160 military personnel) has assisted Iraq in the process of creating effective, self-sustaining and multi-ethnic Security Forces. To achieve this, NTM-I has conducted the training of Iraqi Armed Forces and Police personnel, provided advice and mentoring in the development of Iraq's training institutions and has assisted with equipping the ISF.

During the years of cooperation, Iraq and NATO have established close relations and have created a solid foundation for an effective future partnership. For seven years, members of the NTM-I team, drawn from many NATO Nations (presently 14 including a Partner nation) often operating in a complex threat environment and have worked side by side with their USF-I colleagues to overcome numerous difficulties to achieve significant strategic outcomes.

Foremost among NTM-I's successes is the transformation of the

Iraqi Federal Police (IFP) into a professional force capable of providing internal security in Iraq. Since 2007 approximately 9,500 Iraqi Police officers have received

“The Carabinieri are very good teachers.”

qualified police training from the

Italian Carabinieri.

“I found that this course taught me appropriate leadership,” said Capt. Abd Al Masheed Rasheed Tajal, who works in Mosul. “The Carabinieri are very good trainers.”

In October 2010, NTM-I began training the Iraqi Oil Police in order to develop a cadre of professionals capable of protecting Iraq's critical oil infrastructure. Since then, the Carabinieri have conducted five Oil Police basic courses, with nearly one thousand graduates.

Today, Iraqi policemen who have been certified as instructors carry

out the vast majority of students' instruction, an important step towards self-sustainability.

NTM-I has also assisted in thoroughly modernizing Iraqi Army officer training and education at all levels, through on-site mentoring and Out-of-Iraq training.

Since 2004 more than 2,300 Iraqi students have participated in a wide variety of OOI courses, conducted in such respected European military educational institutions as the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, the NATO Defence College in Rome, Italy and the Centre of Excellence – Defence Against Terrorism and the Partnership for Peace Training Centre in Ankara, Turkey. (Story by Capt. Oleksiy Mazurin, NTM-I PAO)



Iraqi Federal Police climb a cargo net during a run at an obstacle course at Rustamiya, Iraq. The members of Nato Training Mission - Iraq have conducted the training of Iraqi Armed Forces and Police personnel since 2004. (NTM-I Public Affairs Photo)



An Italian Carabinieri police trainer assists an Iraqi Policeman with his hand placement on a pistol during a live-fire training exercise at Camp Dublin, Baghdad. (NTM-I Public Affairs photo)



NTM-I Advisor Maj. Alex Kirik helps Iraqi security forces plot a course of action for war games at the Noncommissioned officer school at Camp Taji. (NTM-I Public Affairs photo)

