

USF-I CHRONICLE

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28th CSH welcomes
visiting Iraqi doctors

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Capt. Ernest Dorema, an emergency room officer in charge with the 28th Combat Support Hospital, shows Sinna Abdul Azeez, an anesthesiologist at Yarmouk Hospital, how to use a Combat Application Tourniquet on a mock casualty during an exercise as a part of Operation Medical Alliance held at Sather Air Base, April 7.



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Iraqi Soldiers train to solve transmission troubles



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Baqubah QRF disperses mock riot



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And the bands played on....

USF-I CHRONICLE

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**May 2010
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Combat Lifesaver Training...

FEATURE UP FRONT

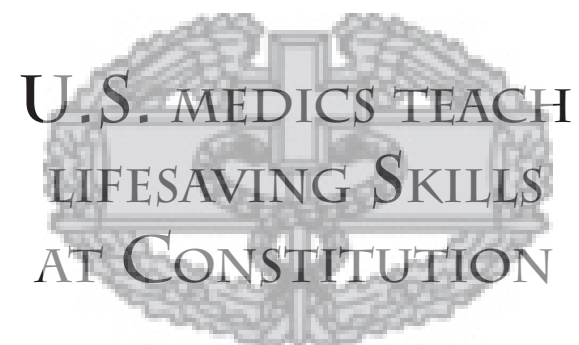


Iraqi students properly treat a simulated arm injury during the hands-on portion of their combat lifesaver class. To pass, they had to react appropriately by evaluating, evacuating, and transporting the casualty.



...Enables Iraqis to Save Lives

Story and photos by
Sgt. Samantha Beuterbaugh
USD-C Public Affairs



Pfc. Derek Miller, a combat medic assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, reveals realistic props of wounds and injuries to be used for the combat lifesaver exercise. The artificial wounds actually pump blood, forcing the medic-in-training to use proper procedures to stop the bleeding.

U.S. Soldiers gave Iraqi Army students a chance to apply their new combat lifesaver skills during a demonstration, March 31, at Contingency Operating Location Constitution.

Iraqi Army Soldiers engaged in the event as part of the wrap-up of their five-day combat lifesaver course administered by Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

“Combat lifesaver is a basic skill that is stressed upon enlisted Soldiers,” said Pfc. Derek Miller, a combat medic with HHC. “I know when we went to basic, it consumed a majority of [basic combat training] because it’s such an important task.”

The team of medics assigned to HHC conducted the combat lifesaver class for the Iraqi Field Artillery Directorate at Constitution in which approximately 15 Iraqi Soldiers participated. The class kicked off with several blocks of instructions to include detailed presentations and practical exercises, a final demonstration led by the Iraqis in a simulated combat environment, and the final exam.

Initially, U.S. forces were a bit concerned about the language barriers that would persist in the classroom

environment, said Miller. The Iraqi interpreters sat down with the instructors for briefings on class objectives each day, enabling the class to run smoothly and efficiently.

“We’ve been able to show the Iraqi students exactly what’s required of them in a combat situation to save their friends’ lives and to save their own,” said Sgt. Michelle Shorb, a native of Huntington Beach, Calif., and combat medic also with HHC.

This joint training provided the Iraqis with solid groundwork on which to build on their skills and become more knowledgeable in the medical field, said Capt. Paul Jachimek, the physician assistant with HHC and native of Tampa, Fla.

“They took in what the medics instructed them on [and] did a wonderful job,” said Jachimek.

It’s imperative for the Iraqis to know these life-saving skills. When the U.S. troops leave Iraq, many of the current medical clinics and operations spread across Iraq will go with them, said Jachimek. U.S. Soldiers are preparing the Iraqis, so they have the critical life-saving skills to take care of their injured.

“This makes me so efficient and a very active Soldier to save my friends on the battlefield,” said Juma’ab Alwan Thahir, a student in the combat lifesaver course.



Iraqi students demonstrate proper casualty loading techniques as a hands-on part of their combat lifesaver class, March 31. A team of medics, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, taught the five-day course to 15 Iraqi Army Soldiers.

The training the Iraqis obtained during the combat lifesaver course is something they can continue to practice with each other, train other Iraqi Soldiers, and successfully apply in real situations, said Jachimek.

“Everything that [U.S. forces] do is to help them build a stronger, better, safer Iraq,” said Jachimek. “One of the most important skills for efficiency is being able to save lives.”

“We’ve never been through these classes, so it’s something very good for us, and it’s going to lead us into the future,” said Juma’ab.

The students successfully completed the life-saving tasks given to them by the U.S. Soldiers, who were very pleased with the outcome of sharing their knowledge.

“If I’m able to teach what I know to someone else, that’s possibly a life I may save in the future ...,” said Miller.

An Iraqi Soldier checks a casualty’s pulse after taking fire on a simulated battlefield at Contingency Operating Location Constitution, March 31. A team of medics, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, taught the five-day combat lifesaver course to 15 Iraqi Army Soldiers.



Iraqi Soldiers tackle transmission troubles

Story and photos courtesy of
13th ESC Public Affairs

IRAQI ARMY CAMP UR, Iraq – The Ur logistics Training and Advisory Team made a trip out to Iraqi Army Camp Ur to conduct vehicle and maintenance training, April 21. At the request of the Iraqi mechanics, the team, with the 36th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), came to conduct training on transmissions.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael J. Hoover, the officer in charge of the Ur LTAT, and a Gatesville, Texas, native taught a class on transmission troubleshooting basics and throttle position sensor adjustment at the Camp Ur Iraqi Army Regional Maintenance Center.

The class was useful for the IA Soldiers because their M1114 up-armored Humvees routinely have shifting problems, said Hoover.

“I was trying to orient the lesson to the tools they have to do it,” he said. “I gave them the cables to do the testing, and now they do have the ability to perform the TPS adjustment with the equipment we provided.”

Iraqi Army Maj. Nowfal Kamal Ali, deputy commander of the Ur Iraqi Army RMC and Baghdad native, said the class will help improve the productivity and efficiency of the center.

“It was new information for (the Soldiers),” he said. “The topic of his lecture was troubleshooting problems with the engine. We fixed it a lot before, but we did not find the solution. Today, we got the solution for these problems.”

Nowfal said Hoover is an effective instructor for his Soldiers.

“He has a wide knowledge (of maintenance),” he said. “At the same time, he is in control of the behaviors and activities of his group – he is in charge.”

Nowfal said one of Hoover’s best qualities as an instructor is his ability to focus on the small details.

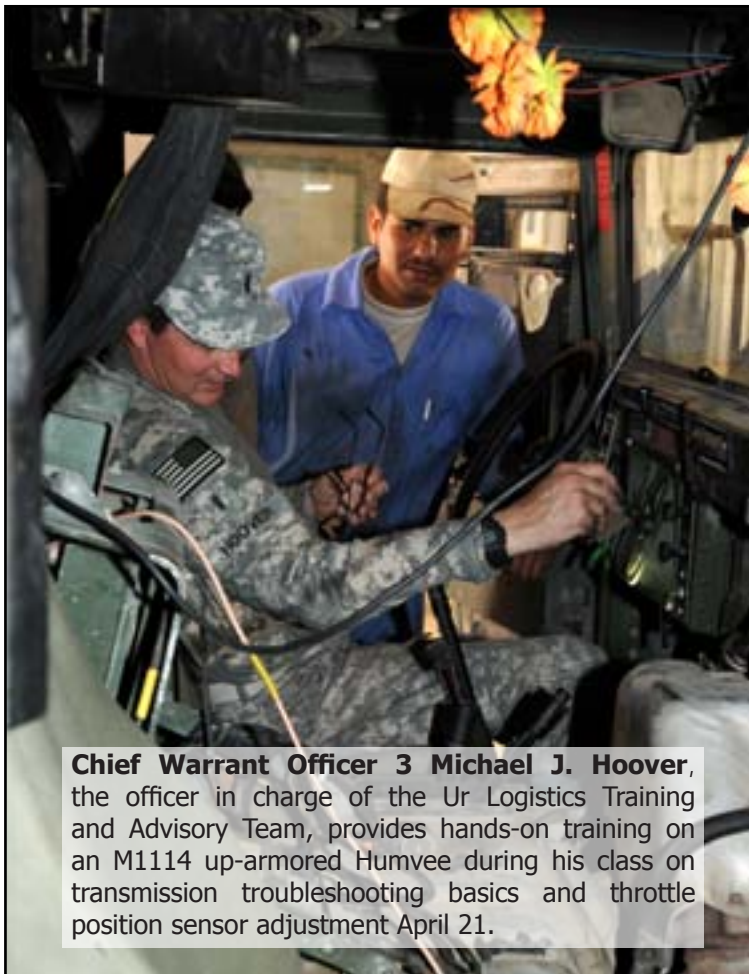
The class consisted of five Iraqi Soldiers who all had prior training with either the transmission or electrical system, said Hoover. The reason for such a small class was to ensure participants had a firm grasp on the lesson. If they have a good understanding of the process, they will be able to teach it to their peers, he said.

Hoover said he does not foresee a lot of these classes in the future because the RMC already has capable mechanics, and the Ur LTAT has worked to prepare the center to stand on its own.

While the team does plan on making daily trips out to Camp Ur as they had in the past, they will return to teach classes if requested, he said.



Students practice transmission troubleshooting basics and throttle position sensor adjustment on an M1114 up-armored Humvee during a class taught by **Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael J. Hoover**, the officer in charge of the Ur Logistics Training and Advisory Team, April 21.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael J. Hoover, the officer in charge of the Ur Logistics Training and Advisory Team, provides hands-on training on an M1114 up-armored Humvee during his class on transmission troubleshooting basics and throttle position sensor adjustment April 21.

Iraqi medics take flight with MEDEVAC training

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy L. Moore
USD-S Public Affairs



Sgt. Carey Atkins, a UH-60 Black Hawk crew chief assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, waves a Department of Border Enforcement litter team up to load a casualty. The DBE is advised by Border Transition Team Phoenix, attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. William Johnson)

JSS CHILAT, Iraq – A few hundred meters from the Iran-Iraq border, sentries from the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement conducted medical evacuation training with U.S. advisors attached to 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division.

U.S. Border Transition Team Phoenix conducted the crucial training at Joint Security Station Chilata – where the U.S. and Iraqi forces work and live side-by-side – at the request of the 11th Bde., DBE commander. Successful medical evacuation can save lives for Soldiers on the battlefield or at the scene of an accident.

The importance of such self-reliance could not be clearer than at the austere and isolated border fort in northern Maysan Province.

To that end, members of BTT Phoenix and the flight crew and medics of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, assisted their Iraqi medical partners by

providing basic MEDEVAC training to members of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 11th Bde., DBE.

Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Moore, BTT Phoenix medic and a native of Houston, Texas, assisted in the training of several techniques to the Iraqi’s, including 9-line MEDEVAC transmission, litter carries and improvised litter construction.

Moore, a veteran of multiple combat tours, emphasized the importance of remaining calm during emergency situations.

One of the main training objectives was to familiarize Iraqi DBE Soldiers with both hot and cold helicopter loading procedures, so that the first time they are exposed to working under a hot rotor system is not in combat.

This training opportunity also gave the DBE a chance to learn verbal commands. They also learned hand-and-arm signals for use when normal communication isn’t possible, like

when under a turning rotor system.

“The exercise covered various facets of MEDEVAC procedures. The aviation crew assisted (the DBE Soldiers) on how to set up landing zones, guide helicopters in, and load patients, but the Iraqi’s lead the training,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Ferrell, a flight medic with the regiment.

Maj. Dante Antonelli, commander of BTT Phoenix, praised the aviators for making the training a valuable experience.

“The MEDEVAC crew supported us completely, and together, we are committed to continuously trying to professionalize the force in Iraq,” he said.

Possibly the best evidence of the effectiveness of the MEDEVAC training, were Iraqi medics Salah and Ali. The recent graduates of the Ministry of Defense Medical Train-the-Trainer Course in Taji, Iraq, were training their Soldiers with minimal help from U.S. forces.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Austin Woertz, a member of Navy Customs inspects the tail components of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, April 15.

Navy customs team gets choppers ready for redeployment

*Story by Airman 1st Class Allison M. Boehm
Photos by Master Sgt. Linda C. Miller)
332nd AEW Public Affairs*

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - As part of the redeployment process, an airframe unit from Fort Hood, Texas, along with that, 27 of the unit's assigned helicopters, which includes Apaches, Black Hawks and Chinooks, must go through a rigorous inspection before returning home.

The job of JBB's Navy Customs team is to scrutinize every compartment of each airframe to ensure each helicopter is free of any agriculture or contraband and get them home quickly.

"We are inspecting every part of these aircraft," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Brandon Borden, customs border clearance inspector. "Everything from the rotor wings to the cockpit to the compartments. These helicopters have been out here a long time, and sand and dust gets in all of the compartments, and that cannot be brought back to the states."



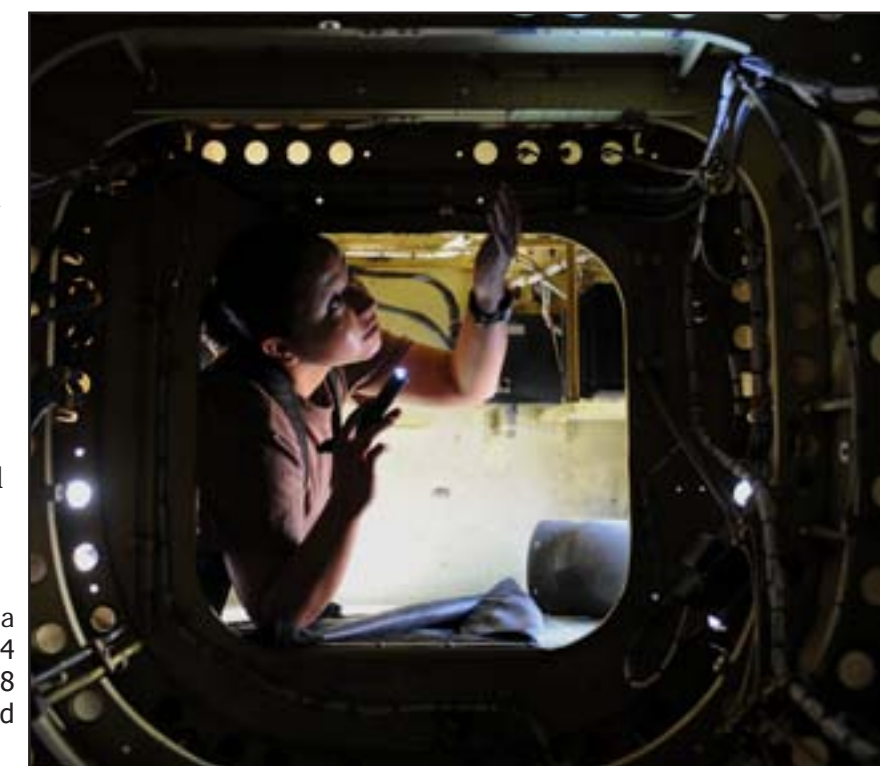
The boots of two Navy Customs team members hang out as they inspect the inside compartments of a UH-60 Black Hawk at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Along with the sand and dust, team members search for insects, plants, ammo, casings and other items that could be viewed as threatening or harmful, including maps that could show movement routes.

"It is important we ensure all contraband is removed before redeployment," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Levi Haugewood, customs inspector. "If something was leaked or fell into the wrong hands it could endanger the mission here."

The 12-man team worked from early morning until dark, April 15, inspecting the fleet of airframes.

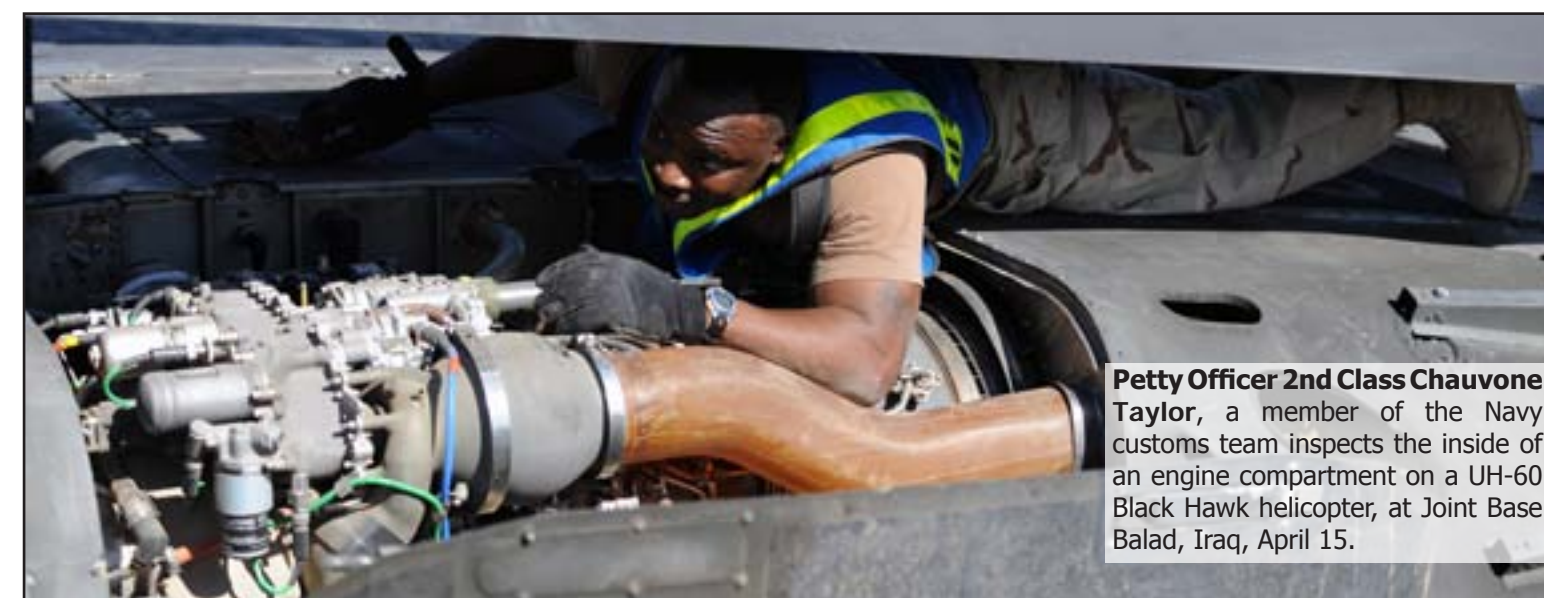
As units redeploy, Navy customs will continue to inspect every piece of cargo, personal gear, aircraft and vehicles to make sure nothing is inadvertently taken back to the states.



Right: **Petty Officer 3rd Class Lluvia Rodriguez**, a member of Navy Customs inspects inside the tail of an AH-64 Apache helicopter at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, April 15. The 28 helicopters consist of AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawks.



Soldiers clean under the hoods of UH-60 Black Hawk's in preparation for inspection at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Navy Customs personnel are inspecting 28 helicopters consisting of AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawks.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Chauvone Taylor, a member of the Navy customs team inspects the inside of an engine compartment on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, April 15.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TOURS USD-SOUTH OPERATIONS



Story and photos by
Spc. Samuel Soza
USD-S Public Affairs

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., U.S. Army chief of staff, listens to an operations brief April 28 during his visit to United States Division-South headquarters at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

CONTINGENCY OUTPOST BASE BASRA, Iraq – Gen. George W. Casey Jr., U.S. Army chief of staff, met with leaders of United States Division-South, April 28, to discuss operations within the division and the work being done as U.S. Forces transition out of Iraq.

Casey joined Soldiers from various brigades for lunch and then met with Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commander of 1st Infantry Division and USD-S.

Casey said of the four-hour visit, that he was struck by the work accomplished of the 1st Inf. Div.

“The Big Red One always does a magnificent job and my association with the division goes back many, many years,” Casey said. “Having been in Iraq for two-and-a-half years, dealing with these provinces, I’m very impressed with the way the division has organized [itself], and the plan that they have to execute the transitions that have been laid out.”

During the course of the visit, key leaders informed the general on various aspects of that plan, including overall efforts to train Iraqi Security Forces, as well as their approach to build more civil capacity in southern Iraq.

“I think they’re exactly on the right track and I have every reason to believe that the division’s going to be more than successful in accomplishing the mission,” Casey said,

following a comprehensive briefing.

During the information sessions, Casey was also briefed by commanders of several brigades working in USD-S, including 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas; 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Ga.; and 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division from Fort Carson, Colo.

Brigade commanders discussed their units’ evolution into “advise-and-assist” brigades. Casey said this transition is in line with the Army’s goal for a responsible drawdown of forces, as well as its modular template.

The Army chief of staff said that the modular formations allow brigade commanders to tailor their units to meet their own unique needs, best suited for their area of operation and was a crucial part of the transition from a tactical mission in Iraq to one focused on advising and assisting the ISF.

According to Casey, the Army has converted 90 percent of its 300 brigades to modular formations, explaining that these formations are much more versatile than past models.

“There’s not a cookie cutter solution; there’s a general design,” he said. “Each of the brigade commanders have taken the resources that we’ve given them and

applied them in their areas. I think, again, it’s just a demonstration of the versatility of the organization of our modular formations.”

Casey also talked about newer efforts being put forth to ease the stress that deployed Soldiers face today. According to Casey, 500,000 Soldiers have already taken the Global Assessment – a tool to help Soldiers identify where they rate within a five-pillar wellness concept that includes: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and family support.

“The comprehensive fitness program is designed to bring mental fitness up to the same level that we give to physical fitness,” he said. “It’s intended to give all of the Soldiers the skills they need to be better Soldiers and to be more resilient and to deal with challenges. I’m very pleased with the progress that we’ve made.”

Acting on the resiliency concept, Brooks plans to open a resiliency campus on COB Basra in August.

In October 2009, the Army began training Master Resilience Trainers to help Soldiers facing deployments.

“The most powerful part of the program is the Master Resilience Trainers,” Casey said. “Those trainers are designed to bring the skills down to platoon level – and that’s where this works best. It’s just something we’ve got to ingrain into our culture because we’re going to be deploying at a pretty steady tempo for the next 10 years.”

Casey said the progress he sees in Iraq – whether it’s

better infrastructure and services for the Iraqi people, or taking care of Soldiers on the ground – is the evolution of a plan first set in motion in 2005.

“We’ve grown the Iraqi security forces to a level where they are taking control of their own country and that’s exactly what we set out to do five years ago,” he said. “So I couldn’t be prouder of what all the men and women of the Army have done and have contributed here in Iraq. We’re in a much different place today than we were five years ago – it’s a much more positive place.”

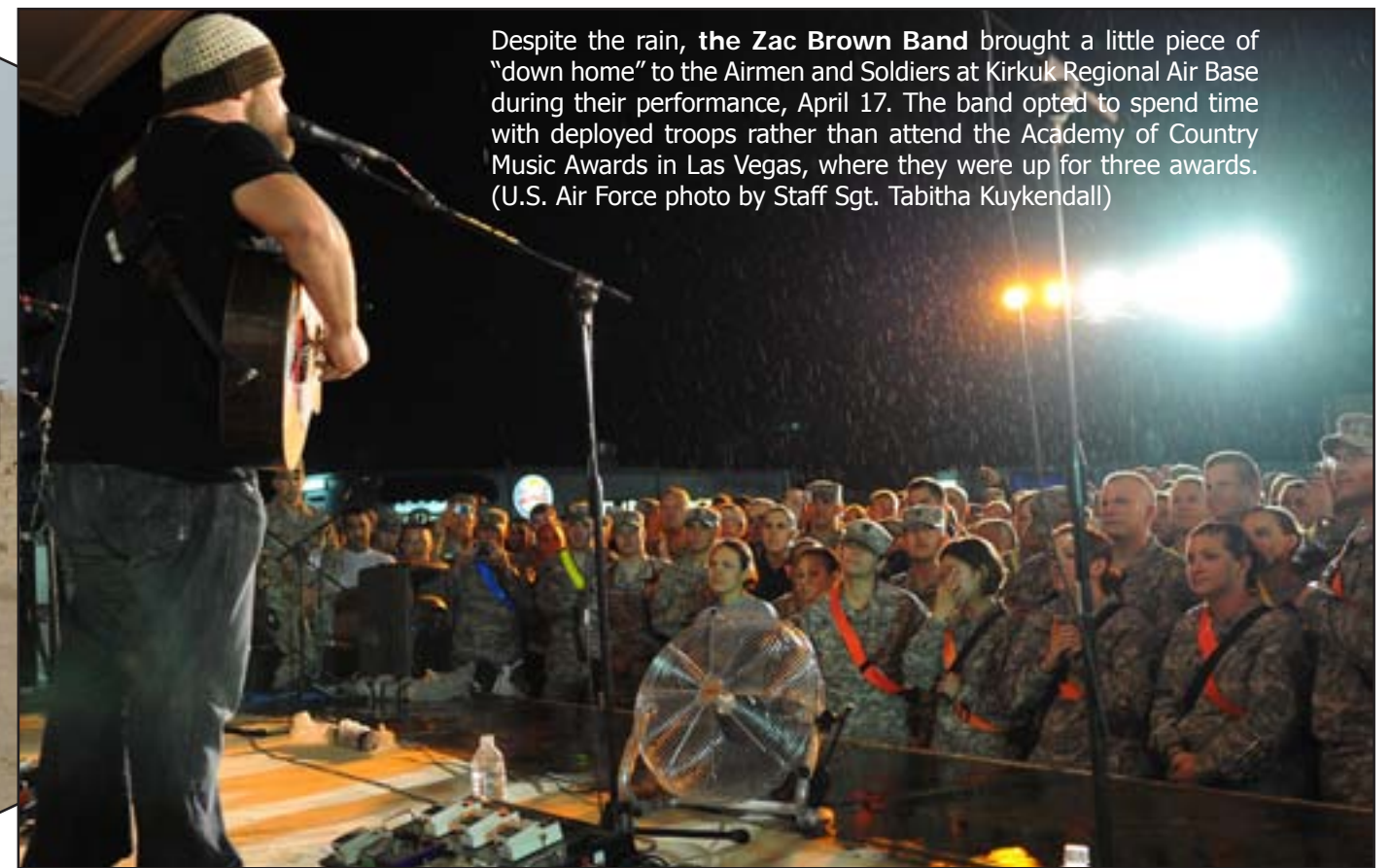


Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, command sergeant major of 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South, and a native of Springfield, Mass., welcomes the U.S. Army chief of Staff to USD-S headquarters on Contingency Operating Base Basra, April 28.



Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commander of United States Division-South and 1st Infantry Division, welcomes **Gen. George W. Casey Jr.**, U.S. Army chief of staff, during a visit to USD-S headquarters on Contingency Operating Base Basra, April 28.

A U.S. Air Force member and a local Iraqi Police officer discuss recent attacks during a joint presence patrol near Rufush, Iraq, April 4. The 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces, Detachment 2, conducted a training and mentoring mission, which was requested by the local police. During this mission, Air Force personnel trained the police in community policing and assisted with patrolling through a village recently overwhelmed by terrorist attacks. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Trish Bunting)



Despite the rain, the **Zac Brown Band** brought a little piece of "down home" to the Airmen and Soldiers at Kirkuk Regional Air Base during their performance, April 17. The band opted to spend time with deployed troops rather than attend the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas, where they were up for three awards. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Tabitha Kuykendall)



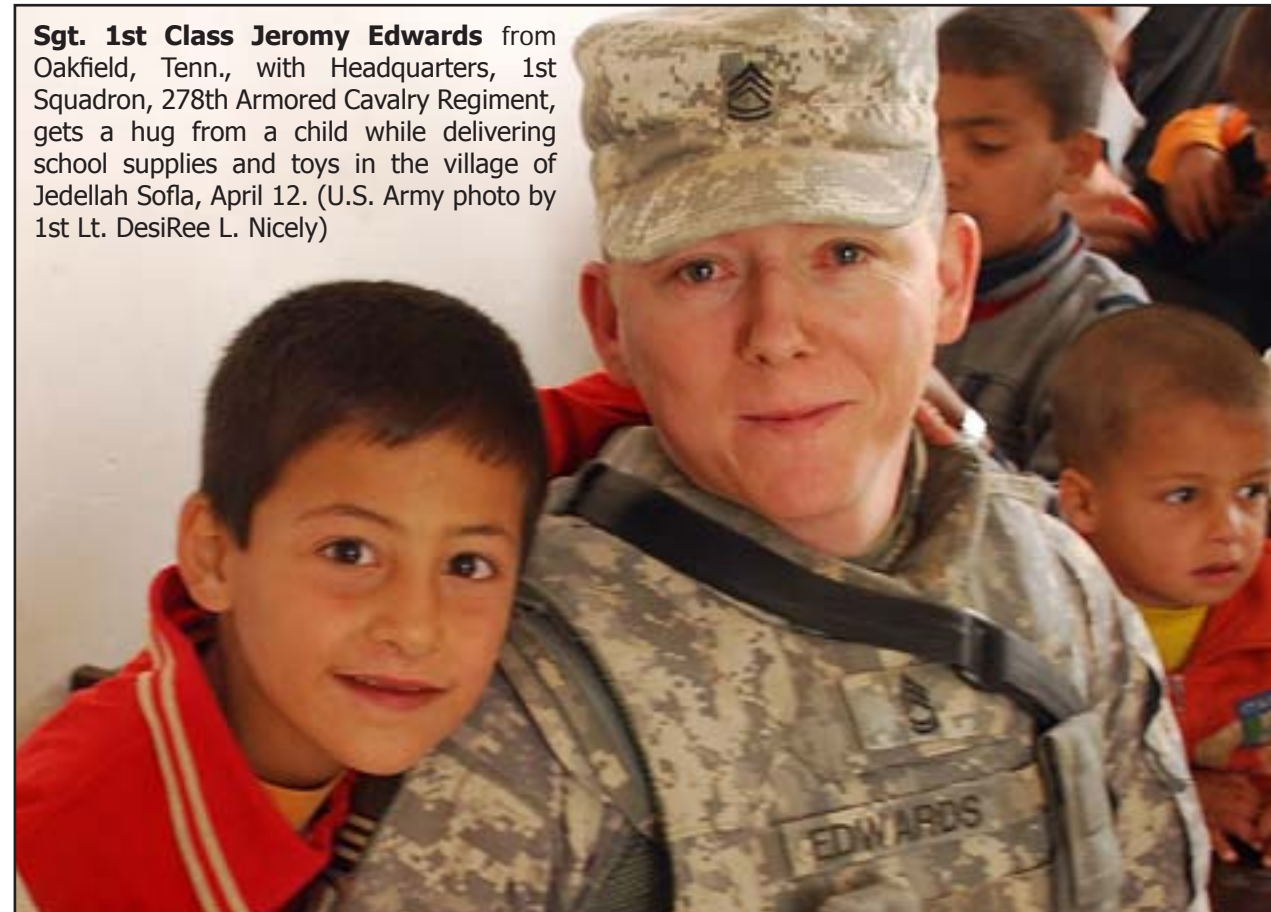
In preparation for an air assault mission, **Soldiers with the 36th Brigade, 9th Division Iraqi Army**, practice loading and unloading from a Mi-17 "Hip" helicopter. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks)

Wrens, Ga., native, **Spc. Colton Sanders**, assigned to 1st Maintenance Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, maneuvers up a bouldering wall April 24 at Camp Liberty. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Phillip Valentine)





Sgt. 1st Class Jeromy Edwards from Oakfield, Tenn., with Headquarters, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, gets a hug from a child while delivering school supplies and toys in the village of Jedellah Sofla, April 12. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. DesiRee L. Nicely)



An Iraqi policeman uses a back-of-hand technique to search **Pfc. Krystal Cuellar**, a Soldier with the 472nd Military Police Company who is part of the training force that is teaching a skills-refresher course to the IP at the Ramadi Training Center in Ramadi, Iraq, April 8. The MP company is teaching two courses simultaneously: force protection and VIP personnel security detail. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod)



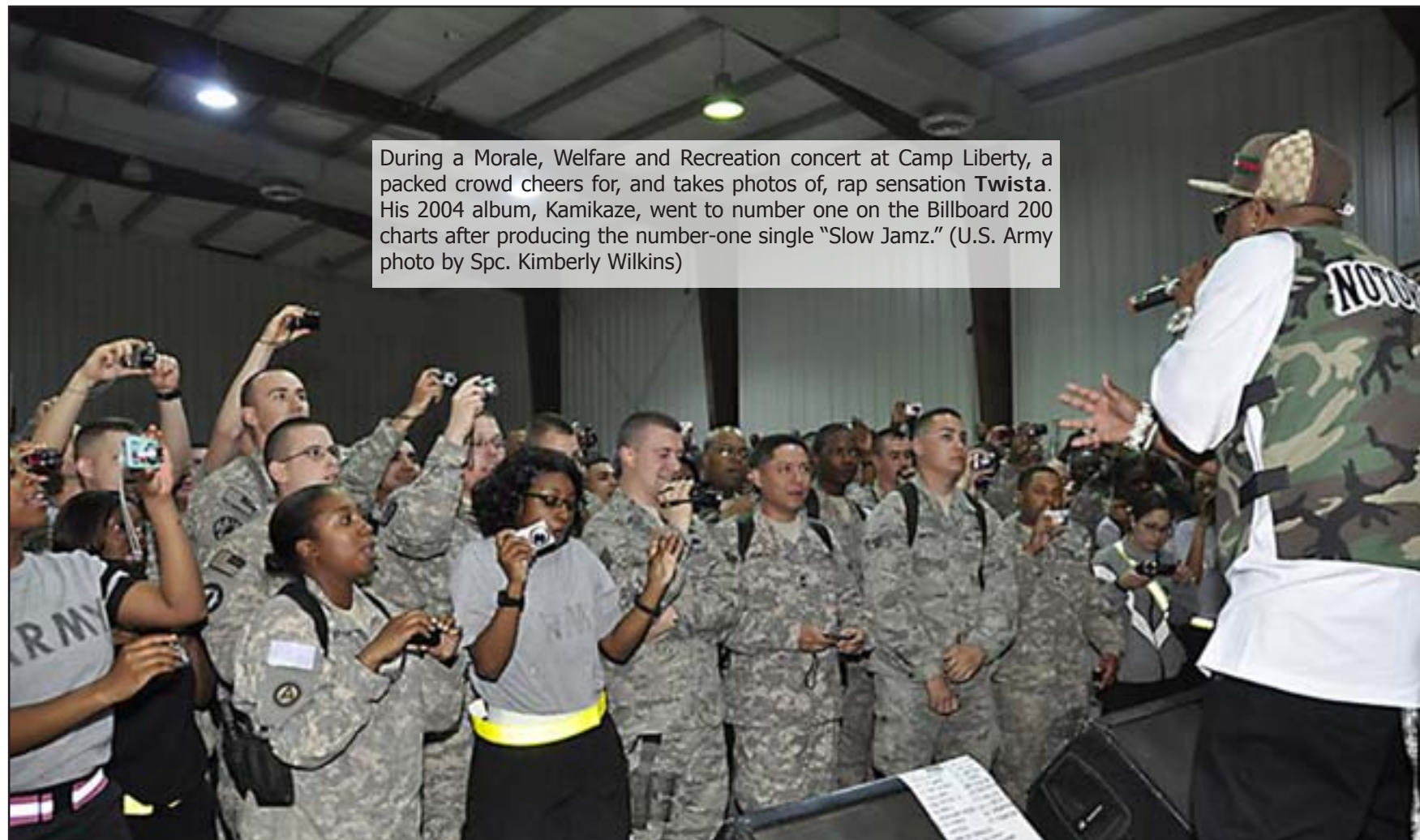
Master Sgt. Amor Bostwick, of Fort Lewis, Wash., assigned to 392nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 160th Signal Brigade, attempts to flee from a military working dog during a demonstration at Camp Slayer, April 17. The demonstration, which showcased how the dogs' skills are applied in military operations in Iraq, was held after a military working dog appreciation 5k run sponsored by the 248th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Phillip Valentine)

Capt. Greg Sablan, the 37th Eng. Bn., JTF Eagle Commander's Emergency response Program project manager holds the plaque he had made for the Director General of Municipalities, DG Kadim Hayder. The plaque will be displayed in the operations office of the landfill. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Meghan E. Keefe)





Iraqi police patrol the Tigris River in southern Maysan with U.S. Navy advisors from Detachment 2, Riverine Squadron 3. The combined river patrol landed at several small villages where the IP discussed security and other issues with local residents. The Sailors are attached to 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, deployed from Fort Bliss, Texas, to advise and assist Iraqi security forces. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Myles B. Caggins III)



During a Morale, Welfare and Recreation concert at Camp Liberty, a packed crowd cheers for, and takes photos of, rap sensation **Twista**. His 2004 album, *Kamikaze*, went to number one on the Billboard 200 charts after producing the number-one single "Slow Jamz." (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kimberly Wilkins)



After crawling through grass and brush toward their target, **a sniper team** from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-36 Infantry Division, attached to the 3rd Infantry Division, set their sights on their target during a two-week training school where U.S. Soldiers trained Iraqi Army Special Forces at the Al Kindi Iraqi Army base in Mosul, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gregory Gieske)



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Steve Stutzman, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and an Iraqi security force members with White Platoon, Combined Security Force, talk with a villager outside his home in Yaylri, Iraq, April 13. The Golden Lions of CSF visited Yaylri to look into potential projects that might help the village.

28th CSH welcomes visiting Iraqi doctors to Sather Air Base

Story and photos by
Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth
USD-C Public Affairs

Iraqi medical professionals at Yarmouk Hospital in Baghdad had to cut short a tour for U.S. doctors and Soldiers when an Iraqi Army soldier suffering from a gunshot wound was suddenly brought into their ward. As doctors from the hospital rushed to save the soldier's life, the Americans witnessed firsthand how the Iraqi medical system operates.

This encounter led to a suggestion by Dr. Khalil, an anesthesiologist with the hospital, that the Iraqi doctors see how their American counterparts handle similar traumatic injuries in their medical facility.

The result: eight Iraqi physicians were given that opportunity during a tour of the 28th Combat Support Hospital on Sather Air Base, April 7.

This was the first time the medical information exchange program, Operation Medical Alliance, took place on a U.S. military base. The program was organized by 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

The program, which has been conducted on a regular basis for several months, provides Iraqi medical professionals with knowledge and tools necessary to improve Iraqi healthcare through medical lectures and professional discussions on medical practices and treatment.

At the American hospital for their first time, the Iraqi doctors appeared very interested in the up-to-date facility,

raising their eyebrows in curiosity and whispering to one another. Khalil said he noticed many differences between his Baghdad hospital and the one he was currently standing in.

"Even though [rooms in the Yarmouk hospital Intensive Care Unit] are 10 times larger than this one over here," said Khalil in reference to the CSH. "This one has ... capabilities to be able to do a lot more with it than the one I have."

The head nurse of the military ICU, Maj. Jerry Ross, showed Khalil and the other doctors around the unit and explained the capabilities of the facility, how they accommodate an overflow of patients and answered any questions his guests posed.

"I think it's important that we [have] dialogue with host nation personnel and keep a good rapport with them, [and] have a good working relationship, because I know we learn a lot from each other," said Ross.

Service members from each section of the CSH had an opportunity to interact with the Iraqi doctors and build on the working relationship mentioned by Ross. It was also an opportunity for everyone involved to broaden their cultural boundaries.

"Some of [the doctors from Yarmouk] graduated a long time ago and they haven't left Iraq since, so it was a good experience for them to meet with foreign doctors who have the knowledge and expertise to exchange information," said Khalil.

"Personally, it's kind of a fulfilling experience," said Ross. "Any other time, we just have a little bubble [around us] of taking care of our patients – we don't get outside the wire to interact with the locals."

For Capt. Sean Riley, head nurse of the

Capt. Jeremiah Long, a radiologist with the 28th Combat Support Hospital, explains to Iraqi doctors from Yarmouk Hospital how the X-Ray machine works at the CSH, April 7. Long, a Washington, D.C. native, lectured to the Iraqi doctors during the first Operation Medical Alliance held on an American military base.



Iraqi doctors from Yarmouk Hospital watch as **Spc. Nicole Festini** treats a "casualty," **Spc. Alan Horsford**, during a tour of the hospital as a part of Operation Medical Alliance held at Sather Air Base, April 7. Festini, a Santa Barbara, Calif. native and Horsford, a Jackson, Mich. native, are combat medics with Task Force 28th Combat Support Hospital and participated in the simulated casualty exercise as part of the Iraqi doctors' first visit to the CSH to view U.S. military medical standard operating procedures.

emergency medical treatment section, it wasn't the first time he has had the chance to interact with Iraqis. On a previous deployment, he helped train Iraqi policemen on how to treat casualties at the scene of attacks or explosions.

Riley said this experience with Iraqis was a little different, because the people who visited were medical professionals and hold degrees in their respective specialties.

He said he was especially touched that one of the Yarmouk Hospital directors who attended the walk-through, was interested in what Riley had to say about the CSH organized system of treatment that patients receive from the moment they set foot in the door, through the trauma room, and all the way up until their departure from the hospital.

"That's an honor to be able to maybe have a little bit of influence on the outcome of the future of their nation and medical healthcare," said Riley.

At the conclusion of the tour, the Iraqi doctors encountered a similar situation that the U.S. Soldiers had witnessed at Yarmouk; an injured Soldier being brought

in for treatment. Fortunately this time, the injuries were simulated.

The "casualty," played by Spc. Alan Horsford, a 28th CSH combat medic and native of Jackson, Mich., yelled out in pain from the bed in the trauma room as his wounds seeped red-orange synthetic blood. As they scurried around the table tending to his injuries, CSH specialists kept conversation going with Horsford to calm him and to learn what happened. The Iraqi doctors peered over the shoulders of the medics, nurses and doctors surrounding the table, to observe the situation as it played out.

At the end of the demonstration, the Iraqi doctors applauded their American counterparts.

Riley, along with many of the other specialists involved in the walk-through and final exercise, said they hoped that they imparted some knowledge to their counterparts so they can better assist their patients.

"We reinforced that the system works and has proven results," said Riley; "I hope that they can take that back to their facility and apply ... our horizontal teamwork strategy and put it into effect so they're successful."



66th MPs conduct mock riot training with Baqubah QRF

Story and photos by Spc. Ry Norris
USD-N Public Affairs

DIYALA, Iraq – The crowd was out of control. What should have been a peaceful protest turned violent within minutes.

News of the riot reached the Baqubah Iraqi Police. They sent in the Baqubah IP Quick Reaction Force, which is trained to handle such incidents.

The QRF, fully equipped with face visors and body armor, arrived at a chaotic scene. They formed a line formation and marched toward the protestors, beating their Plexiglas riot shields in unison with their batons. The protestors formed a human chain, undaunted by the show of force.

Two massive riot control vehicles with mounted loud speakers pulled

up. “Go home!” is heard, directed by a QRF IP from inside the vehicle.

The protestors retaliated by throwing various objects at the force. But, the riot was short-lived as the QRF engaged the water turbo jets atop their “water buses,” shooting water at 20 pounds per square-inch at the crowd.

This brought the mock riot training exercise to an end.

Soldiers with 3rd Platoon, 66th Military Police Company trained the Baqubah IP QRF in crowd control and riot dispersal at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, April 18 and 19.

“The purpose of this training is to train the trainer,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Garrard, the lead instructor

for the training with 66th MP attached to 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

“We train them on certain techniques that they need to be aware of so that they can go back and train their counterparts.”

The 66th MPs put together a course that covered safety precautions, each member’s roles in different formations, escalation of force and practical applications.

The Baqubah QRF’s job is to effectively de-escalate the situation while minimizing casualties. They must be mindful of not only the crowd, but also their own welfare.

Full riot protective gear and situational awareness will assist the QRF in safety measures. Safety is

always of the utmost importance. The training included the fatal areas on the body that should be avoided if at all possible.

Different formations are used to control crowds. A line formation is used to drive a crowd back or to prevent further access. A wedge formation is used to penetrate and divide a large group into segments. A left or right echelon is used to move the crowd to one side or the other.

Each member’s role will differ depending on which formation the QRF wants to use. For example, the baseman’s role in a wedge is to breach the enemy’s line. Those behind him continue to widen that breach while protecting the previous flank from being surrounded.

“It’s important for them to identify each individual’s responsibility; they should know the purpose of their position and the person’s next to them,” said Garrard. “They can train the others and identify any

weaknesses so that they can improve.”

The QRF employs an escalation of force at the lowest level possible to disperse the crowd. When one level does not work, they proceed to the next.

The QRF vehicle is included in the escalation. It is equipped with cameras all the way around, allowing the two-man team to operate the vehicle without having to leave it.

The “water bus” can be equipped with a variety of non-lethal projectile weapons like bean-bags, rubber bullets and high pressure water dispersal.

“We were able to see what we learned during the practical application,” said Maj. Ibrahim Abd-Allah Asskv Al-Saady with the Baqubah QRF. “Now that my men are trained, we can begin training the others in the company.”


Al-Saady has 40 policemen in his company. He plans to begin training the others as soon as possible.

Soldiers with 3rd Platoon, 66th Military Police Company protect themselves from the water turbo jets operated by the Baqubah Iraqi Police Quick Reaction Force during a mock riot at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, April 19. The riot control vehicle can dispense water at 20 pounds per second, gaining more pressure with increased distance.

Spc. William Swartz, with 3rd Platoon, 66th Military Police Company, hurls an object at the riot control vehicle manned by the Baqubah Iraqi Police Quick Reaction Force, as part of a practical application portion of the crowd control training exercise.

U.S. and Iraqi musicians making music together

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jeff Hansen
USD-C Public Affairs

A large photograph showing Maestro Mahmud al-Qa'id, an Iraqi musician, leading a joint American and Iraqi band rehearsal session. He is wearing a camouflage uniform and a red beaded necklace, gesturing with his hands as he conducts. Several musicians, including American and Iraqi soldiers, are seated in front of him, playing brass instruments like trumpets and saxophones. They are in a room with stone walls.

Maestro Mahmud al-Qa'id leads a joint American and Iraqi band rehearsal session conducted in the International Zone, April 12. The group, consisting of members of the 1st Armored Division Band and the Prime Minister's Ceremonial Band, swapped music and performed for leaders of the Iraq Army.

The 1st Armored Division Band took a trip to the International Zone, April 12, to meet with their Iraqi Army counterparts. There, the bands joined together for a practice session and discussed the possibility of a future joint concert.

This was the second meeting of its kind but, with hope, it will not be the last, said Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Bettencourt, commander of the 1st Armored Division Band.

"We're really looking forward to doing more with these guys," said Bettencourt, referring to the Iraqi Prime Minister's Ceremonial Band. "It's been great so far."


Learning music has been an ongoing partnership activity - complicated, but so far, successful. Mahmud al-Qa'id, the Iraqi band's maestro, said he appreciates the Americans' assistance and is eager to try some new songs.

"Our music was limited at first," Mahmud said, "but it's getting better now."

In a show of musical partnership, members of the 1st Armored Division band donated replacement parts for Iraqi instruments - such as mouthpieces and reeds - which can be difficult for the local musicians to obtain through their own supply system.

The most important part of the meeting, according to Bettencourt, was a discussion about the possibility of a joint concert, sometime in the future. Whether held at Victory Base Complex or somewhere in the city, a concert involving both bands would be the epitome of their accomplishments, he said.

"It would definitely be great to see. A good concert with both of us would really show their leadership how far they've come."

A photograph of Sgt. Randall Oyler, a percussionist for the 1st Armored Division Band, pausing during a song. He is wearing a camouflage uniform and is standing next to Maestro Mahmud al-Qa'id, who is also in a camouflage uniform. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. Sgt. Oyler is holding a drumstick and is positioned behind a drum set.

Sgt. Randall Oyler, a percussionist for the 1st Armored Division Band, pauses during a song played jointly with the Prime Minister's Ceremonial Band in the International Zone, April 12.

IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF SERVICEMEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN APRIL 1 AND
APRIL 30, 2010 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

JOHN 15:13

April 4

Sgt. Kurt E. Kruize, 35

April 7

Pfc. Anthony Blount, 21
1st Lt. Robert W. Collins, 24

April 17

Staff Sgt. James R. Patton, 23

April 18

Pfc. Charlie C. Antonio, 28

April 22

Staff Sgt. Christopher D. Worrell, 35

April 27

Sgt. Keith A. Coe, 30



An Iraqi girl looks outside a window at Arbed Primary School during a book drop conducted by the Iraqi Security Forces and B Troop, 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, April 11. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jared Eastman)