

Iraqi soldiers learn how to calculate and plot coordinates where mortars should land after being fired, during a class at Forward Operating Base Echo, Iraq, on Jan. 5, 2008. The two to three week course on mortars was designed by the mortar platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rasheen A. Douglas/Released) 090105-F-4860D-024



An Iraqi soldier receives instructions from an Iraqi Army Officer prior to leading a joint patrol with U.S. Soldiers of B Troop, 5th Cavalry, 73rd Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, in Muthana Zayuna, eastern Baghdad, Iraq, on Jan. 2nd, 2009.



Brig. Gen. Ghasson, Iraqi army, gives blood during a blood-drive in the Al Hussein Iraqi Police District Headquarters. Behind the walls Iraqi policemen and Iraqi soldiers are lined up to give blood to help support Baswari Medical Services. This gesture of giving is part of a campaign designed to gain the trust of the Baswari people in Basrah, Iraq, on Dec. 31, 2008.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andre McIntyre/Released) 081231-N-9286M-059



Brig. Gen. Ghasson, Iraqi army, shakes the hand of U.S. Army Capt. Charcillea Barrett, to show his appreciation and support with coordinating the blood-drive to help Baswari Medical Services. This activity is designed to gain the trust of the Baswari people in Basrah, Iraq, on Dec. 31, 2008.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andre McIntyre/Released) 081231-N-9286M-095



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matt Harvey from Houston, Texas, of the 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division talks with his interpreter before a mission to clear local routes on Camp Echo, Iraq, Jan. 3, 2009. The Soldiers look for improvised explosive devices and other hazards to make the routes safer for other convoys.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Eric Harris/Released) 090103-F-5751H-032