



Sol Undergo Iraqi Police Training

BAGHDAD — More than 1,000 former Sons of Iraq (SoI) recently completed their first phase of training at the al Furat Iraqi Police (IP) Training Center here.

To kick off the program, 608 SoI registered for the training Oct. 31. Now with the first phase of training completed, 1,031 SoI are integrated into the IP training program. The second phase of training began Nov. 3, with the inclusion of 19 female recruits preparing themselves to be future Shurta (Police).

“We have seen a great abundance of pride from the former Sons of Iraq and now IP recruits,” said Staff Sgt. Jacque Hayes, non-commissioned officer in charge, IP training center, who facilitates the training program with IP.

“I am impressed with the willingness of the recruits to learn and train as they train to become future Shurta,” added Hayes, a native of Louisville, Ky., who serves with the 233rd Military Police Company, 18th Military Police Brigade, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

The SoIs will continue to train for the

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More than 1,000 former ‘Sons of Iraq’ security watch volunteers completed their first phase of genuine Iraqi Police Basic Recruit Training, Nov. 6, 2008, at the al Furat Iraqi Police Training Center. Photo by Lt. Col. Michael Indovina, 18th Military Police Brigade.

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CAMP TAJI — Only a year ago, reliable electricity in Sab al Bour was just a dream. The city, just north of Baghdad along the Grand Canal, was practically deserted, with only diehard residents and pockets of insurgents sticking around in the dark.

As of Nov. 8, residents in this small agricultural city are literally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, according to sheik Nadeem Hatem al Tamimi, an influential leader in the area. Outside the city’s new electrical substation, the sheik spoke literally and metaphorically about the town’s emergence from darkness.

“We had evil forces trying to kill Iraqis
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One-hundred eighty-six servicemembers sit as brand new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Iraq, Nov. 4, 2008. Photo by Pfc. Christopher Gaylord, Multi-National Corps - Iraq Public Affairs.

Soldiers Become U.S. Citizens

CAMP VICTORY — On a day when Americans exercised an extremely important democratic right, 186 U. S. servicemembers from across Iraq became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony here at Al Faw Palace, Nov. 4.

Gen. Ray Odierno, commanding general, Multi-National Force – Iraq, presided over the ceremony and expressed his sincere appreciation for each and every new U.S. citizen, and the significance of becoming a citizen.

“Diverse as your backgrounds may be, you all now have one thing in common: you are all Americans,” Odierno said. “You represent the very best of all that our nation stands for: freedom, opportunity, equality and service.”

The ceremony was the 12th of its kind to be held in Iraq, but, for many troops, took on special meaning, as it occurred on Election Day for U.S. citizens. The newly

naturalized servicemembers – from 60 different countries – have earned the right to vote for their new leaders.

“I’m excited to be able to vote,” said Spc. Ruth McKoy, supply specialist, 62nd Quartermaster Company, 553 Sustainment Brigade. “If something good comes out of a future election, I can say I had something to do with that. It’s like my voice is being heard now.”

McKoy, born in the West Indies, Jamaica, joined the Army in December 2002 and has since aspired to become an American citizen. After one unsuccessful application in Germany, McKoy decided to apply for citizenship a second time from Fort Hood, Texas, and finally achieved her goal.

For each and every new citizen, the ceremony was the chance of a lifetime, but words couldn’t fully explain the joy one servicemember felt.

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Combined Operation Kills Senior Al-Qaeda in Iraq Leader

BAGHDAD — A senior al-Qaeda in Iraq leader was killed Nov. 6, during a combined cache-clearing operation by Iraqi security forces and a ‘Sons of Iraq’ citizen security group, supported by Coalition forces, military officials reported.

Abu Ghazwan, a key link in the network operations for al-Qaeda in Iraq, was killed during the cache-site raid in the Tarmiyah area, north of Baghdad, officials said.

Coalition officials said Ghazwan commanded numerous terrorist cells in the Taji and Tarmiyah areas, and advised and financed other terrorist cells throughout northern Iraq and was responsible for building and facilitating vehicle bombs in the Baghdad area.

Additionally, officials said, he was responsible for other terrorist groups that recruit and train children and females to conduct suicide attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

Based on tips from local citizens about possible enemy activities and caches at three locations, the combined forces moved to the areas to investi-

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An Iraqi Policeman stands watch in the busy marketplace of downtown Ramadi. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jerry Murphy.



A young girl gets a quick dental exam from a Navy Corpsman, Oct. 24, 2008. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. G.P. Ingersoll.



Iraqi Basic Close Quarter Combat Training on FOB Delta, Oct 31, 2008. Photo by Staff Sgt. Rasheen Douglas.