



# Diwaniya Celebrates Iraqi Police

**CAMP ECHO** — The city of Diwaniya held an Iraqi Police Day celebration at the downtown parade field, Jan. 8.

The ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Safa Jassim, provincial director of police, with the governor of Diwaniya and provincial council members among the guests of honor in attendance.

“We appreciate the hard work of the Iraqi Police,” said Gov. Hamid al-Khudari, during the ceremony. “They do an outstanding job. We congratulate them and honor their anniversary.”

Local Policemen from the different branches paraded before their audience in marching formations or rode in vehicles, followed by members of the fire department.

Some of the Police elements also put on demonstrations during the ceremony. Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team demonstrated apprehending a group of criminals who were driving in a vehicle.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team then demonstrated diffusing an improvised explosive device,

[READ MORE](#)



Iraqi Police bearing their nation's flag march across the parade field during Iraqi Police Day in downtown Diwaniya, Jan. 8, 2009. Local Policemen from the different branches paraded before their audience. Photo by Pfc. Seth Barham, 4th Infantry Division.

## This Week in News ...

[Airman Helps Mold Iraqi Officer Cadets](#)

[Texas Students Send School Supplies](#)

## U.S. Transfers Tactical Vehicles to Iraqi Army



**CAMP TAJI** — The Iraqi Army (IA) received thousands of armored humvees from the U.S. military as part of an ongoing effort to enhance the IA's combat effectiveness.

Administered by Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, the program is a joint-effort between the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force with the intent to turn over 8,500 of the vehicles to the Iraqis by July 2009.

Col. Michael Sage, MNSTC-I supply division, manages an approximate \$200 million contract to refurbish the vehicles before they are sold to the Iraqis.

[READ MORE](#)

**Press Briefing:** Security Brief, Maj. Gen. Oates, Jan. 14

**Reconstruction:** The Latest Corps of Engineers News

**AFN's Iraqi Freedom Minute:** See This Week's Shows



Iraqi women's committee representatives sit together during a 2008 Women's Council Social at the Rasheed Nahia City Center. For females, there are programs in place and educational centers in planning for the future. Photo by Multi-National Division - Center.

## Future Bright for Women's Education

**BAGHDAD** — Not only has the safety and security situation in Iraq improved in the last year, but the educational system, especially for females, is also progressing.

For females, there are programs in place and educational centers in planning; and in Karbala alone, there are about 300 women running for office in the upcoming provincial elections.

"There is a need for programs like these, especially for females in rural areas, because they have been kept home for the last five years, and there have been a lot of school drop-outs," said Zahraa Baker, bilingual bicultural advisor for women's initiatives in Multi-National Division - Center. "We are not only talking about adults; we are talking about young girls. Now, some of this is possible with the security situation changing."

Women make up 60 to 65 percent of the population in Iraq, and in the MND-C

area, 70 percent of the agricultural work force is made up of women.

"If we are talking about the women of Iraq, we are talking about a whole nation," said Baker. "If we don't educate them, then they have nowhere to go."

The first step of the educational initiative is to create literacy programs, which lead to better employment opportunities. There are currently two different provinces within MND-C providing literary classes, teaching approximately 260 people.

"Right now, we are focusing a lot on the economic piece and getting women plugged into jobs; and a lot of times, that means teaching them how to read and write," said Capt. Jennifer Glossinger, MND-C women's initiatives coordinator. "One thing I am pushing is getting women's initiatives tied in with the Agricultural Extension Centers, [which consist of

[READ MORE](#)

## Iraqi National Fire Academy Graduates First Class of Firefighters

**BAGHDAD** — The first class of apprentice firefighters, designated Class 08-001, graduated in a ceremony at the Iraqi National Fire Academy here Jan. 10.

Twenty firefighters, along with one future train-the-trainer instructor, completed the rigorous two-month course of instruction to earn their firefighting certificates.

The new firefighters are comprised of 13 Iraqi Ministry of Interior civilians, five Iraqi Army Soldiers, and two Iraqi Air Force Airmen. The train-the-trainer instructor, IqAF Chief Warrant Officer Abood, rounded out this first group to complete a new, Coalition-designed curriculum at the INFA.

The 60-day course is a result of joint efforts between Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Coalition Air Force Training Team and the 50th Joint Area Support Group, working closely with the Iraqi Army, Air Force, and Civil Defense. Iraqi Air Force equipment was utilized throughout the training, with U.S. Air Force instructors and mentors providing oversight.

[READ MORE](#)

## Moments in Time: Still Images from the Military's Best Photographers



A working dog awaits her root canal in Southwest Asia, Jan. 15, 2009. Photo by Senior Airman Courtney Richardson.



An Iraqi commander in formation at the Karmashiyah Border Fort, Jan. 13, 2009. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Thompson.



An Iraqi woman pays for her merchandise in a Basrah market, Dec. 31, 2008. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Andre McIntyre.