

U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

contact: paoci@eur.army.mil
phone: 49-6221-57-5815 / DSN 370-5815
fax: 49-6221-57-6376 / DSN 370-6376



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TRANSITION TEAM LED BY U.S. ARMY EUROPE MILITARY POLICE HELPS TRAIN MORE IRAQI POLICE FOR BAGHDAD SECURITY

By **Sgt. Daniel D. Blottenberger**
18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The Iraqi capital's top police officials and members of the Provincial Police Transitional Team led by U.S. Army Europe's 18th Military Police Brigade gathered today at the Baghdad Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters Academy here Dec. 4 to witness a new class of 707 Iraqi police officers graduate and perform a training demonstration.



SGT DANIEL D. BLOTTENBERGER

New Iraqi police officers demonstrate room-clearing techniques following their graduation ceremony at the Provincial Directorate of Police Headquarters in Baghdad Dec. 4. A Provincial Police Transitional Team led by U.S. Army Europe's 18th Military Police Brigade has been working with Iraqi police to recruit and train more Iraqi police officers.

“This is a proud day for Baghdad, for these new Iraqi police, and for all of Iraq,”

Maj. Gen. Al Mishtawi Kathim Hamid, commander of the Baghdad Provincial Directorate of Police told the graduates.

“I am anxious to find out how many improvements there will be in the near future in Baghdad because of this increase in Iraqi police forces,” said the 18th's Maj. Larry Dewey, officer-in-charge of the PTT.

The ceremony included a demonstration of some of the many techniques the graduates learned during their four weeks training at the academy. The demonstration consisted of

combative techniques, building-clearing skills and defensive maneuvers against small-arms attacks.

“The demonstration and ceremony was extremely impressive, said Dewey. They have done so much in four weeks. They have turned civilians into well-disciplined police.”

The Iraqi police and the 18th continue their efforts to increase the number of recruits and train quality Iraqi police officers to improve the safety of Baghdad.



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