

Students Graduate From First Small-Boat Operation Course



Iraqi police navigate a patrol boat on the Tigris River.

A partnership recently formed between the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team headquartered in Baghdad, Iraq, and the Iraqi police provides the opportunity for Iraqi police to participate in a Small-Boat Operation Course conducted at the Baghdad River Patrol Station located along the eastern banks of the Tigris River. The course covers a wide range of topics including small-watercraft operations, daytime and nighttime small-boat tactics, and riverine patrol operations. The first eight-week, Small-Boat Operation Course began on 21 October 2007.

In an emotional ceremony held on 12 December 2007, fifteen Iraqi police ranging in rank from junior noncommissioned officer to midlevel officer received certificates of course completion. The graduation of these students paves the way for future Iraqi police to train on the Tigris River.

About three months earlier, following an ambush on the Tigris River, one Iraqi police officer had become paralyzed from the waist down. "He came to the graduation ceremony to show the new class that he will not quit, run, or hide from the enemy," said U.S. Army Brigadier General David Phillips, then deputy commander of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, as he presented the officer with a coin. According to Brigadier General Phillips, the coin was a small token of appreciation for the sacrifices that he and other Iraqi police officers make every day in their pursuit of democracy in Iraq.



Brigadier General Phillips presents a coin to a paralyzed Iraqi police officer.

Submitted by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command