

FULL SPECTRUM PARTNERING

By First Lieutenant Kristofer B. Melton

The K-1 Iraqi Army (IA) Base, Kirkuk Province, Iraq, is home to the 12th IA Division Military Police Company, which consists of 62 Soldiers, 21 noncommissioned officers, and 6 officers from across Iraq—most of whom have had no advanced military police-specific training. The company conducts static guard and civil disturbance operations and detainee transport missions and also mans traffic control points within Kirkuk Province.

But with the Iraqi national elections that were tentatively scheduled for January 2010, it became apparent that the 12th IA military police would need additional training. As a result, the 12th IA military transition team worked closely with the 218th Military Police Company, 716th Military Police Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, to forge a new partnership with the 12th IA military police, with the specific goal of preparing them for the elections. The 218th Military Police Company's 1st Platoon, which had aggressively accepted and completed their original police transition team mission in Kirkuk, was assigned to provide the actual training.

Leaders of the 1st Platoon determined that the best course of action was to divide the training into three progressive phases. The first phase focused on basic combat medical skills such as determining responsiveness, applying pressure dressings, applying tourniquets, and selecting types of litter carries for casualty evacuation. In addition, training on squad level civil disturbance formations, stances, and methods for properly using assigned equipment was also conducted. During the second phase of training, IA military police learned how to administer intravenous fluids and insert nasal pharyngeal airways. They also learned how to properly search combatants and noncombatants and how to perform preventive maintenance checks and services on, maintain, and ground-guide M1114 up-armored humvees. In the third phase of training, IA military police learned how to use platoon level civil disturbance formations, how to command and control the formations, and how to use extraction formations. In addition, they learned to drive M1114s in on- and off-road conditions. During the third phase, IA military police were also tested on the medical information presented in the first two phases.

After completing the three phases of training, the 12th IA military police were prepared to react to any situation that might arise during the national elections. "The training we are conducting with the Americans will help us during our missions in and around Kirkuk," said a platoon leader with the 12th IA Military Police Company. The commander of the 12th IA Military Police Company stated, "Most of my soldiers have come from across the Iraqi army and have never received any formal training on the missions they are expected to complete. This training will help prepare them for what we need to do as MPs [military police]."

Since achieving their initial training goals, leaders of the 1st Platoon, 218th Military Police Company, have been planning a more aggressive training schedule. They are considering further training for the IA military police, including training on hasty checkpoint operations, the proper handling of detainees, and weapon skills.

At a time when military police companies are moving farther away from the traditional police transition team mission, the partnership between the 12th IA military police and the 218th Military Police Company showcases a promising, new use for military police forces deployed worldwide.



Soldiers practice crowd control techniques.

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