

## NATO's Training Mission in Iraq

by Ltc Mark Rosenstein

Unknown to the many personnel representing the 26 member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its 50 Euro-Atlantic Partner Council (EAPC) nations, NATO elements are participating in real-world operational and training missions throughout various regions of the world.

- **International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).** Assisting the Afghan Government in extending and exercising its authority and influence across the country, creating the conditions for stabilisation and reconstruction. ISAF is comprised of approximately 36,000 military personnel from 37 countries.

- **Kosovo Force (KFOR).** Providing a safe and secure environment for the whole population of Kosovo. KFOR is comprised of approximately 16,000 military personnel from over 30 countries.

- **Operation Active Endeavour.** Demonstrating NATO's solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism and to help detect, deter and protect against terrorist activity in the Mediterranean by monitoring shipping and providing escorts to non-military vessels through the Straits of Gibraltar. In addition to NATO Allies, Russia and Ukraine have provided vessels to contribute to the operation.

- **NATO Training Mission – Iraq (NTM-I).** Founded in 2004 to assist the Government of Iraq (GoI) in establishing an effective and enduring security sector. The Mission initially focused on training however, by 2008 the Mission has progressed towards advising and more recently towards mentoring to help GoI Ministries establish more effective and self-sufficient national institutions. NTM-I has a crisis establishment of 187 personnel and currently has 15 contributing NATO and EAPC nations.

- **Focus Areas.**

- Development of National Command and Control institutions aligned under the Strategic Security Advisory and Mentoring Division (SSAM). Formerly the National Command and Control Training Division (NC2TD).





- Military professional development institutions such as the National Defence University (NDU) and various other academies which aligned under the Training, Education and Doctrine Advisory Division (TEDC). Formerly the Iraqi Training and Doctrine Command (ITDC).

- National police training aligned under the Gendarmerie Training Division.

**- Operating Locations.**

- Baghdad (Green Zone) - NTM-I HQ (SSAM, TEDC and Staff).

- Ar Rustamiyah (NTM-I Forward) - Military Academy and Joint Staff College.

- FOB Shield - National Command Centre Advisory and Mentoring Team.

- Camp Dublin - Gendarmerie Training Centre.

**- Other.** The Mission also has an out-of-country training program, as well as an equipment donations program aligned under the Training and Equipment Synchronization Cell (TESC). As required, Training Augmentation Teams (TAT) are coordinated and brought into theatre for a limited time to support specialized, niche-type, training.

NRDC-Italy recently provided support to the Strategic Security Advisory and Mentoring Division in support of the Prime Minister's National Operations Centre, the Ministry of Defence Joint Operations Centre and the Ministry of

Interior National Command Centre by authorizing a member of the organization to support the JFC Naples led mission.

Pictured left, the Strategic Security Advisory and Mentoring Division and below, the GoI National Command and Control Exercise Working Group. Benefits of a tour with NTM-I include the ability to work directly with senior Iraqi Military and Civilian leadership as well as the professional and personal experiences gained from the Missions multi-national staff. NRDC-Italy members interested in supporting the NATO Mission in Iraq should seek approval through their NRDC-ITA chain of command, Senior National Representative and the JFC Naples, NTM-I Cell Coordinator.

