

## NATO Mission Iraq (NMI)

At the NATO Summit in Brussels in July 2018, Allied leaders launched NATO Mission Iraq, following a request and upon invitation from the Government of Iraq. The mission was established in Baghdad in October 2018. Its current commander is Lieutenant General Ramón Armada Vázquez, from Spain.

In March 2026, in response to the security situation in the region, NATO personnel were temporarily relocated from Baghdad to Allied Joint Force Command Naples, where they continue NMI's mission.

NATO Mission Iraq is a non-combat advisory and capacity-building mission that assists Iraq in building more sustainable, transparent, inclusive and effective security institutions and forces, so that they themselves are able to stabilise their country, fight terrorism, and prevent the return of ISIS/Daesh. To achieve this, NATO advises relevant Iraqi defence and security officials in the Ministry of Defence, Office of the National Security Advisor, Prime Minister's National Operations Centre, and the Federal Police Command within the Iraqi Ministry of Interior.

The mission also advises Iraq's professional military education institutions in the greater Baghdad area. The Iraqi authorities have identified a number of primary objectives for cooperation with NMI. These include security education, logistics, cyber defence, border security, crisis and disaster management, and good governance. All efforts of NATO Mission Iraq are carried out on request and with the consent of the Iraqi government, and conducted in full respect of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

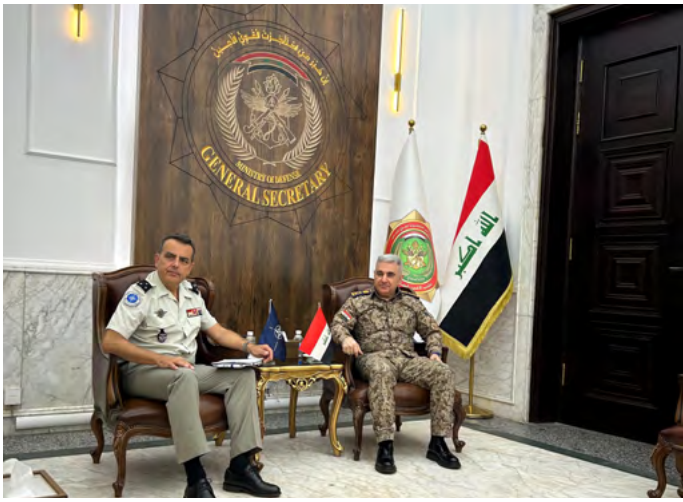
With NATO support, Iraq's Ministry of Defence is gradually improving its procurement system and beginning to use NATO standards in various aspects of its courses and exercises.

All 32 NATO Allies as well as partner Austria contribute to NATO Mission Iraq.

NATO complements the broader international effort to help Iraq eradicate terrorism and promote stability. NATO Mission Iraq coordinates with other stakeholders, such as the United Nations and the European Union Advisory Mission.



Lieutenant General Ramón Armada Vázquez, Spain



On 27 August 2025, NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) Commander, Major General Christophe HINTZY visited the Secretary-General of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, Lieutenant General Shawan Mazhar Ali Al- Rawandouzi



Major General Christophe Hintzy from France assumed command of NATO Mission Iraq on Thursday (22 May 2025), at a change of command ceremony in Baghdad. He succeeds Lieutenant General Lucas Schreurs of the Netherlands, who had been in post since May 2024.



Commander NATO Mission Iraq Major General Christophe Hintzy with Iraqi Federal Police Commander Lieutenant General Saad Khalaf Badar Awad Al-Halfi, August 2025.



Commander NATO Mission Iraq Major General Christophe Hintzy with President of Iraqi DUfMS (Defence University for Military Studies) Lieutenant General Akeel Mustafa Mahdi Al-Ramah, June 2025.



The CHOD\* Reform Committee (CRC) was held on 23 June 2025 in Baghdad at the Iraqi Minister of Defence, chaired by Staff Lieutenant General Sameer Abdul Kareem Jasim Mohammed Al-Akabi.

The Commander of NMI, Major General Christophe Hintzy, NMI Advisors and other member of the CRC huddled to discuss Long Term Objectives (LTO) of which Protection of civilian and Out of Country Activity topics.

\* CHOD: Iraqi Chief of Defense



Commander NMI, Major General Christophe Hintzy, visits the Iraqi Minister of Defence, Mr Thabet al-Abbasi, 27 May 2025.



NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte visits Iraq (February 2025)



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NATO Mission Iraq Gender Advisor presents during a Code of Conduct and Harassment Course in Baghdad area (2019)



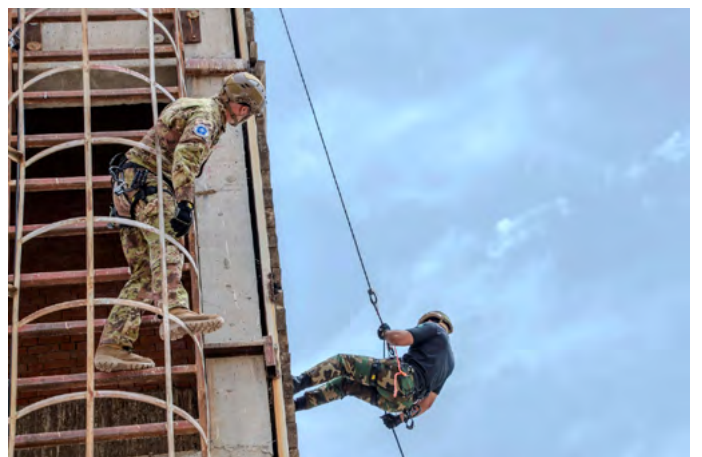
English language course



Iraqi military personnel attends Medical school workshop (2023)



Combined Arms Training Course (CAT-C), May-June 2024



Mountain Warfare Course by Italian Mobile Advisory and Training Team, 13 May 2024



On 26 August 2025, Commander of NATO Mission Iraq (NMI), Major General Christophe HINTZY, conducted his first visit to the Iraqi Special Forces. During the visit, meetings were held with the Commanders of the 1st and 2nd Special Forces Divisions as well as the Commander of the Special Forces School. Major General HINTZY received briefings from the division commanders regarding the current activities of the Iraqi Special Forces.

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