

NATO Mission Iraq (NMI)

At the NATO Summit in Brussels in July 2018, Allied leaders launched NATO Mission Iraq following a request from the Iraqi government. The new, non-combat training and advisory mission was established in Baghdad in October 2018. The mission's current Commander is Major General Jennie Carignan of Canada.

NATO Mission Iraq assists Iraq in building more sustainable, transparent, inclusive and effective security institutions and armed forces, so that they are better capable to fight terrorism, prevent the return of Daesh and stabilize the country. To achieve this, NATO advises relevant Iraqi defence and security officials in the Ministry of Defence, the Office of the National Security Advisor, and the Prime Minister's National Operations Centre. The mission also carries out "train the trainer" programmes in Iraq's professional military training and education institutions. This includes Iraqi military branch schools – in the greater Baghdad area - covering subjects such as military engineering, bomb disposal, military medicine and armour.

NATO Mission Iraq is in Iraq in response to an invitation by the Government of Iraq. The mission's activities are agreed by the Iraqi government and conducted with full respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. As they operate in a non-combat mission, NATO personnel do not deploy alongside Iraqi forces during their operations. The mission works in close collaboration with the Iraqi Ministry of Defence. It only trains and advises members of the Iraqi security institutions and forces who are under the direct control of the Government of Iraq. In all of its activities, NATO Mission Iraq promotes inclusiveness, gender awareness and respect for international humanitarian law and human rights.

NATO complements the broader international effort to help Iraq eradicate terrorism and promote stability. NATO Mission Iraq coordinates closely with other stakeholders, such as Operation Inherent Resolve, the United Nations, and the European Union. NATO is also a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/Daesh, which the alliance supports through AWACS intelligence flights. Since May 2020, NATO is- via its Euro Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre- also supporting the Iraqi authorities with their request for COVID-19 assistance.

At their meeting in February 2020, NATO Defense Ministers reaffirmed their support to Iraq and agreed to enhance NATO's role. Due to the security situation and the COVID-19 health crisis in spring 2020, NATO Mission Iraq had to temporarily suspend some activities and relocate personnel outside Iraq. However, the mission is now rebuilding its capacity in Baghdad and planning for NATO's future engagement. The planning is conducted in close coordination and consultation with the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/Daesh and the Iraqi government.



Major General Jennie Carignan



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg meets leaders, instructors and students at the Iraqi School of Military Communications in Taji (September 2019)



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



NATO Mission Iraq medical advisors are supporting the Iraqi Department of Military Medical Affairs in further developing military medical instruction (2019)

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