

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 José Antonio Agüero Martínez from Spain.

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, and Prime Minister's National Operations Centre. The mission also advises Iraq's professional military education institutions in the greater Baghdad area. Iraqi authorities have identified a number of primary objectives for cooperation with NMI. These include security education, logistics, cyber defence, and good governance.

In February 2021, NATO Defence Ministers decided to expand the NATO mission, following a request by the Iraqi government. Any expansion of our mission will be incremental and upon Iraqi request. In August 2023, following a request from the Iraqi authorities and a decision by the North Atlantic Council, the scope of NATO Mission Iraq now also includes advisory and capacity-building activities in support of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior and the Federal Police Command. This additional activity complements support offered by other nations and international organisations.

All efforts of NATO Mission Iraq are carried out with the consent of the Iraqi government and conducted in full respect of 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 only advises members of the Iraqi security institutions and forces who are under the direct control of the Government of Iraq. Throughout its activities, NATO Mission Iraq promotes inclusiveness, gender awareness and respect for international humanitarian law and human rights.

All 31 NATO members, NATO invitee Sweden, and partners Austria and Australia contribute to NATO Mission Iraq. Currently, the mission consists of several hundred military and civilian advisors and support elements.

NATO complements the broader international effort to help Iraq eradicate terrorism and promote stability. NATO Mission Iraq coordinates with other stakeholders, such as Operation Inherent Resolve, the United Nations, and the European Union Assistance Mission. NATO as an institution is also a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/Daesh.



Lieutenant General José Antonio Agüero Martínez



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)



NATO Mission Iraq advisor explains fundamental training theories with Iraqi counterpart at Al-Rustimaya on February 3, 2021. (NATO photo by Sgt. I. Vega)



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