



# THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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August 19, 2008

# Kirkuk Training Female Police

**KIRKUK** — Thirty-seven females attended the first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy outside of Kirkuk City, Aug. 16.

It's been a year since the academy has seen any Iraqi females in blue, and never a class of this size.

"We need these females badly," Lt. Col. Muid, a cadre at the academy said. "It is our religious custom not to touch our women, so we cannot search females. Our female IPs will be extremely important to use at checkpoints and government buildings throughout the province."

The cadre pointed out that they would also be bringing a different perspective to policing.

"Women think differently than men," he said. "They will bring fresh ideas to how we conduct business."

The 37 females are split into squad-like elements. Each squad will have a female military police Soldier assisting - Sgt. 1st Class Sumalee Bustamante and Spc. Jennifer Swierk.

"This is going to be a big challenge,"

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Two female Iraqi Police candidates check-in to their first day of training at the Kirkuk Police Academy in northeastern Iraq, Aug. 16, 2008. Thirty-seven women are currently undergoing the four week training program in Kirkuk city. Photo by Staff Sgt. Margaret Nelson.

## This Week in News ...

**Detainees Return Home to Families**



**Press Conference:** Government of Iraq Projects, Activity

**Reconstruction Report:** The latest from USACE

**Hot Item:** See Footage from MNF-I on Our YouTube Channel

**Youth Program Cleans Up Market**



## IA Fosters Community Relationships

**PATROL BASE COMANCHE** — In the three months since the Iraqi Army began patrolling inside the Sadr City district of Baghdad, the Soldiers conducting these patrols have worked hard to cultivate a relationship with the people there.

Constant patrols, handing out food and water as well as providing medical services have helped advance this new relationship. In recent weeks, that relationship has also begun to pay dividends for the 11th Iraqi Army Division – the unit responsible for Sadr City.

A tip gleaned from a resident of the

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