

Multi-National Division – North

Public Affairs Office, FOB Warrior, Iraq
APO AE 09338



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE No. 20090407-03
April 7, 2009

IPs make progress, improve security in Zaab

By Pfc. Justin Naylor
2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Kirkuk, Iraq— The Zaab Police Station was validated March 31 at a ceremony in Hawijah, Iraq.

“Being validated means that, as a station, they have qualified in a number of tasks, including everything from evidence processing to detainee handling,” said 2nd Lt. Lee Roberts, a Fairfax, Va. native, and the task force fire support officer for 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

Roberts said policemen from the town of Zaab have been working closely with U.S. military police transition teams on tasks the officers will need to know in order to work without U.S. military support.

“By successfully earning validation, the Zaab police have demonstrated through actions, not just words, that they possess competence and confidence in the skills necessary to serve and protect the people of Zaab,” said Lt. Col. David Lesperance, the

commander of 1st Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. “They have demonstrated that they are fully capable.”

The validation of police stations shows the progress IPs are making to improve security and the quality of life of the citizens they serve, said Lesperance.

“The Iraqi Police are the cornerstone of security and the only legitimate stewards of the rule of law in cities, towns, and villages in Iraq,” Lesperance added.

“The Iraqi Police are working hard and giving us security around our cities,” said Hussein Ali Saleh, the district council chairman. “I hope that all the Iraqi Police stations do as well as the Zaab station.”

The validation of police stations is a big step forward for the Iraqi Police, and exemplifies the progress they have made in recent months, said Roberts.

“It used to be a big achievement to just have an IP station up and running. This is a whole new level; they are actually performing their tasks to a standard,” said Roberts. “It’s not just doing what they are supposed to do, but doing it well.”

“Today we can say Kirkuk Province has some of the best IPs in all of Iraq,” said Maj. Gen. Jamal Tahir Bakir, the Kirkuk Provincial Director of Police.



090329-A-9546N-096

Col. Muhammad Mohsin, the Zaab police chief, shakes hands with Lt. Col. David Lesperance, the commander of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, during a validation ceremony held in Hawijah, Iraq, March 31. The validation honors the policemen of the Zaab police station who have diligently worked to improve peace and security in the region. (Photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)



090329-A-9546N-098

Lt. Col. David Lesperance, the commander of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gives a certificate to Col. Muhammad

Mohsin, the Zaab police chief, during a validation ceremony held in Hawijah, Iraq, March 31. Mohsin's policemen have begun to work independent of the U.S. military to improve security in their area. (Photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)



090329-A-9546N-103

An Iraqi policeman gives a speech at the Zaab Police Station validation ceremony to guests that include Maj. Gen Jamal Tahir Bakir, the Kirkuk province police chief, and Lt. Col. David Lesperance, the commander of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, at Hawijah, Iraq, March 31. The ceremony was held to honor the hard work and dedication of the Zaab police, who have improved security in their city. (Photo by Pfc. Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs)

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – NORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE AT: MNDNPAO@25ID.ARMY.MIL OR DSN 318-856-0218

FOR HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS, PLEASE CONTACT THE DIGITAL VIDEO AND IMAGERY DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BY CALLING (678) 421-6604 OR ACCESS THEM ON-LINE AT WWW.DVIDSHUB.NET <FILE://WWW.DVIDSHUB.NET>.