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BRIGADIER APPOINTED FOR IRAQI CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS

The new commander of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps' 70th Brigade has been appointed in Basrah.

Brigadier Dhia Kadom Jawad Al-Kadony (53) has taken command of around 5,000 Iraqi troops who have been trained by the British Army and other Coalition forces. His appointment is a major milestone in the development of the ICDC.

Brig Dhia is from Basrah, and was formerly a Brigadier in the Marine Infantry who rose to command the Iraqi Naval Academy. He is married with two children.

The 70th ICDC Brigade will assist with security operations in the Al Basra, Maysan, Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna provinces.

Primarily operating in rural areas, they will support the Iraqi police with operations such as vehicle check points and patrolling.

Brig Dhia inspected a pass-out parade of officers in Basrah, and then held a short press conference yesterday.

He said he was looking forward to watching the ICDC grow as more and more soldiers were trained and equipped.

“We are at the beginning of our journey,” he said. “The essentials that we need for our task are there, and we can only build on that.”

Also present was Brigadier Nick Carter, the commander of the British 20th Armoured Brigade, and Lieutenant Colonel Jonny Gray, commanding-officer of the 1st Battalion the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's). His Battalion is responsible for training and developing the ICDC in southern Iraq.

Coalition Forces are continuing to work alongside the ICDC and other Iraqi security forces in joint operations and training programmes.

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