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**KOSB TRAINING - 'NAE PROBLEM' FOR THE NEW IRAQI DEFENCE FORCE**

Soldiers from the King's Own Scottish Borderers are instructing the new Iraqi defence forces. The KOSB have been training 60 ICDC (Iraqi Civil Defence Corps) volunteers in basic civil defence skills like vehicle check points, patrolling, arrest and restraint procedures, human rights, and even first aid. The intensive course lasts approximately 3 weeks and should graduate soon; the next course is expected to have 350 men starting.

Members of the ICDC have been recruited from the old Iraqi Army, and are building on their previous military training. They are now getting the skills and knowledge from the British Army gained through years of experience in various conflicts across the globe in recent history.

Major Hikmet Hileem Daya who used to be a communications Major in the former army is now the senior officer for the ICDC in Maysan Province. He's responsible for the discipline and co-ordinating with training staff of the KOSB. They all have a good working relationship, and the Major has now started to pick up some of the KOSB phrases, as the training has been 'Nae problem!'

One of the key areas for training has been in safe weapon handling and practice; the previous regime did not pay attention to this when training its soldiers. Thus to assist safe weapon handling and practise, the ICDCs are receiving similar training to that of British soldiers.

Sgt John Moody, second in command of the KOSB training programme, said: "One of the major successes we've had is making them think as a team, to do this we use a variety of exercises."

As well as gaining the basics, ICDC are also being trained to work alongside coalition forces. To help they have been receiving English lessons.

They will finish their three weeks training with a joint operation exercise with soldiers from 1 KOSB, reinforcing the skills learned. After they graduate they will continue to work alongside British forces and Iraqi Police providing security and stability for their own people.

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