

NATO Mission Iraq (NMI)

At the NATO Summit in Brussels in July 2018, following a request from the Iraqi government, Allied leaders issued direction to launch a new training mission in Iraq called NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). This new mission was established in Baghdad in October 2018 under the command of Major-General Dany Fortin of Canada.

NATO Mission Iraq is a non-combat training and capacity building mission that is conducted with full respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is designed to help strengthen Iraqi security forces and Iraqi military education institutions so that Iraqi forces can prevent the return of ISIS/Daesh. In particular, the mission helps Iraq to strengthen its own security forces by providing technical advice to relevant Iraqi defence and security officials within the Ministry of Defence, the Office of the National Security Advisor, and Iraqi military schools and institutions. In those institutions, the mission will help Iraq develop its capacity to build more sustainable, transparent, inclusive and effective national security structures and professional military education institutions, through the formation of a self-sustaining cadre of Iraqi instructors.

The end goal is a transition from foreigners training Iraqi troops to Iraqis training Iraqi troops.

NATO Mission Iraq includes up to several hundred trainers, advisers and support staff from Allied countries and non-NATO partners, including Australia, Sweden, and Finland.

NATO's advisory activities are conducted in Baghdad, including in the Iraqi Ministry of Defence, the Office of the National Security Advisor, and relevant national security institutions. NATO's training activities are carried out at the Iraqi military schools in the Baghdad area, Taji and Besmaya.

The following military schools are considered as initial training locations

Baghdad area:

- Ministry of Defence
- Office of the National Security Advisor
- Defence University for Military Studies
- Computer Science School
- Military Medical School



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg views NATO training activities at Camp Besmaya, Iraq, March 5, 2018. Stoltenberg greeted NATO trainers and Iraqi troops while touring the facilities



Major-General Dany Fortin



NATO Mission Iraq medical advisors are supporting the Iraqi Department of Military Medical Affairs in further developing military medical instruction.

Besmaya:

- Bomb Disposal (EOD/C-IED) School
- Armour School

Taji:

- Military Electrical and Mechanical Engineering School
- Military Engineering School
- Military Transportation School
- Military School of Administration and Logistics
- Military Signals School
- Military Intelligence and Security School
- Non Commissioned Officers Academy

NATO only trains members of the Iraqi Security Forces under direct control of the Government of Iraq. NATO Mission Iraq will advise and train in the Baghdad area and in Iraqi military areas in Taji and Besmaya, and will not deploy its personnel alongside Iraqi forces during combat operations.

NATO is also a member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS/ Daesh, and NATO Mission Iraq coordinates closely with the United Nations, the European Union and individual countries in their efforts to support Iraq. NATO Mission Iraq complements the broader international effort to help Iraq eradicate terrorism and increase the long-term stability of Iraq and the region.

NATO Mission Iraq has fully integrated civil and military personnel. This helps to maximize the effectiveness of NATO's efforts and the Alliance's cooperation with other entities on the ground. The mission builds on work previously conducted through other NATO Training and Capacity Building activities in Iraq.



Staff Lieutenant General Jameel Kamil Abdullah Al Shimari, President of the Defence University For Military Studies; Staff General Othman al-Ghanimi, Iraqi Army Chief of Staff; Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach; and General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, sign certificates of recognition of cooperation between NATO Mission Iraq and the Iraq Defence University for Military Studies.



NATO Mission Iraq Gender Advisor presents during a Code of Conduct and Harassment Course in Baghdad area.



Colonel Garcia Lodeiro, NATO Mission Iraq Chief of Staff, walks with Brigadier-General Ghanim Abd Al Jawad Abbas, Commander Iraqi Bomb Disposal School

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