



D57 Advancing Forensics Through Training: Police Transition Teams

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The goal of this presentation is to explore the advancement of forensic applications within Iraq and specifically the Iraqi Police.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by highlighting the advancement of forensics in challenging and often austere environments.

Military operations increasingly occur outside traditional warfare, including counter insurgency (COIN) environments. These types of conflicts often include several types of transition teams. One type of transition team is the Police Transition Team (PTT). The mission of a PTT is to coach, train, and mentor host nation (HN) policemen in all aspects of basic and advanced law enforcement. Host nation military forces are often the primary contact agencies with a civilian populace in a COIN environment. However, police transition teams and host nation leadership seek to create and support a professional, educated police force in an effort to provide legitimacy to an effective police force. The objective of the transition team is to create an Iraqi Police Force capable of safeguarding and gaining the trust of the local populace, ultimately serving as the primary contact agency with Iraqi citizens.

A well-constructed and effective transition team is ideally an interagency and multinational operation. Police transition teams generally include military, military police units, International Police Advisors (IPA's), Law Enforcement Professional's (LEP's), and other individuals or agencies with skill sets suited to training common police skills. Additional individuals with specific skill sets may assist the PTT by conducting specialized training. This training may include detentions, interrogation, communications, traffic or riot control, or police administration. These skill sets also include knowledge of crime scene forensics involving the identification, collection, and preservation of items of evidentiary value. The challenge is establishing these skills and gaining acceptance within the Iraqi Police Department. These challenges include establishing and enhancing the capability of forensic applications as well as developing an understanding of how to effectively incorporate forensics into the judicial process, often not conducive to dramatic changes in existing processes.

Several independent but supporting divisions exist within the Iraqi National Police. One such agency is the Criminal Investigation Division (CID). This agency acts as the lead investigative agency and maintains interdependence between a code of law and a judicial system (further supported by judicial transition teams). Accordingly, the CID served as the optimal division to introduce crime scene forensics into the Iraqi judicial process.

The application of forensics by Iraqi Police (IP's) is similar to traditional law enforcement operations with the added responsibility of a significant tempo of counterterrorism and intelligence gathering operations necessary in a COIN environment. This wide ranging relevance and broad application provide ample opportunities to introduce forensic training into PTT operations. These include both classroom and practical scenarios. Finally, the training given can be applied immediately in real world situations.

In conclusion, this presentation will provide a brief history of forensics in Iraq as well as the current efforts and state of forensics within the Iraqi National Police Agency. Additionally, the potential for future forensic applications as well as pitfalls and challenges will be presented. This information impacts the forensic community by highlighting the advancement of forensics in challenging and often austere environments.

Police Transition Team (PTT), Training, Iraq