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V CORPS COMMANDER TAKES ON NEW TITLE IN IRAQ

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WASHINGTON – V Corps Commanding General Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez put on a slightly different hat May 15 when he took the reins of one of two new military commands built to replace the current coalition military organization in Iraq.

Multinational Corps Iraq and Multinational Force Iraq are replacing Combined Joint Task Force-7.

Coalition spokesman Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said the change addresses a concern that a combined joint task force headquarters was not sufficient to handle the military workload in Iraq efficiently.

As a result Sanchez will command the new Multinational Force Iraq designed to focus on the more strategic aspects of the military presence in Iraq, such as talking with sheiks and political leaders, and on training, equipping and fielding Iraqi security forces.

Multinational Force Iraq "will certainly be involved in the tactical operations, but only to the extent that they have somewhat of an operational and strategic impact on this country," Kimmitt said. Sanchez already has been working the strategic issues, and the new command structure will enable him to focus more of his time and energy in that direction, Kimmitt said.

"It's certainly more than a formality," he said. "It is trying to get the proper command structure for the days, weeks and months ahead."

Kimmitt explained that the other new organization, Multinational Corps Iraq, will focus on the tactical fight -- the day-to-day military operations and the maneuvering of the six multinational divisions on the ground. Army Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz will command the corps.

For more information and news on the new organizations and their roles and activities, visit their web site by [clicking here](#). At present, many of the links on the site still refer to CJTF-7.

