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V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PARTICIPATES IN GRADUATION OF 241 IRAQIS FROM LEADERSHIP COURSE

1st Infantry Division release

TIKRIT, Iraq — Members of V Corps' 1st Infantry Division, local dignitaries and other guests were on hand for an Iraqi National Guard Primary Leadership Development Course graduation ceremony here October 9.



2ND LT AMY RUSCIO
Iraqi National Guard soldiers line up for their graduation from the Primary Leadership Development Course at the ING Training Academy in Tikrit, Iraq October 9.

The class was the fifth to graduate from the ING Training Academy. "The feedback we get from the units in the field is that the academy is really making a difference," said Maj. Scot R. Bemis, ING Training Academy commandant.

Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Danger, and Maj. Gen. Abdul Aziz Al Muftee, commander of the ING's new 4th Division, were guest speakers at the event. During his remarks, Batiste congratulated the graduates and thanked them for their service.

“Sergeants, you represent the future of the Iraqi National Guard and the future of your country,” Batiste said to the graduates. “Go forth and accomplish your mission and lead your soldiers to victory.”

Six of the 241 graduates were recognized as honor graduates of the course.

The two-week course consisted of physical training, leadership classes, basic soldiering skills, drill and ceremony, and human rights training.

