

# Multi-National Division - Center

## Media Release

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## Iron Rakkasans Welcome Daughters of Iraq

**Capt. Mike Starz**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault)**

**Yusifiyah, Iraq** – The organization known as Sons of Iraq, which has brought peace to much of Iraq, has just taken a bold step in its evolution—the addition of Daughters of Iraq (DoI).

Today Colonel Aman, Battalion Commander of 4/4/6 Iraqi Army, met with Capt. Starz, Company Commander of C Co, “Choppin Charlie,” 3-187 IN, and discussed creation of the first Daughters of Iraq into their security checkpoints. These women would be able to search other females at checkpoints, further expanding the capabilities of the current Sons of Iraq checkpoints.

Mr. Steve Martinez, Law Enforcement Professional (Chicago PD), stated, “As the insurgency begins to utilize females to carry out suicide attacks against Local Nationals and Coalition Forces, I as a career Law Enforcement Officer, find the need to employ women into Law Enforcement and Security Roles so we can provide a complete and thorough search of suspect females with the utmost respect for the individual and local customs without compromising the safety of others.” DoI will search other women in and around Yusifiyah to ensure no trafficking of weapons, explosives, and dangerous materials is done by women before Medical Outreach days, vehicle registrations, and festivals.

In addition to the significant security gains that these Daughters of Iraq will bring to the currently all-male checkpoints, another advantage is that the creation of DoI helps empower women’s rights. SGT Jason G. George, Choppin’s Intelligence NCO, added, “The Daughters of Iraq will facilitate female empowerment, and the creation of the group represents a significant step towards a properly functioning democratic society. While the group may face criticism from traditionalists, ultimately their success will demonstrate their value to the populace.”

A third benefit of the creation of DoI is the opportunity it is providing to provide social welfare benefits for some of the more disadvantaged women, most

of whom have been specifically targeted to work in the DoI. 1LT Chris Hafner, Intelligence/Field Artillery Officer for Choppin', stated, "We have been working to assist the impoverished women and particularly the widows in the area. There are limited employment opportunities for women widowed by insurgent violence and burdened with supporting their children. This program is ideal for these women. The searches will only occur during the daytime and in public areas accessible to women."

Choppin' Charlie is finalizing the last details on the DoI contract now, which will start with 30 women. Most members of Choppin' Company wholeheartedly agree that the creation of DoI is a step in the right direction for Iraqis. SSG Thai A. Starkovich, Choppin' MiTT NCOIC, concurred saying, "Integrating patriotic Iraqi women into the Daughters of Iraq is a huge step in the right direction of freedom for the Iraqi People. With the cooperation of the Iraqi Army, and the Sons and Daughters of Iraq, the safety of Iraqis is a goal that is now visible on the horizon."



### **Daughters of Iraq**

Colonel Aman, Battalion Commander of 4/4/6 IA, and Capt. Starz, C-3/187 Commander, discuss the creation of Daughters of Iraq with Fatim Hussein Fayal, the female DoI leader.