

New Kirkuk police officers stomp their feet during a recognition ceremony in Kirkuk, Iraq. For the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime a class of Kurdish, Arabic and Turkish Police men graduated from a shortened Kirkuk Leadership Class course taught by Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Airborne. A class of 72 ethnically diverse police officers graduated from a weeklong course held at a local technical college in Kirkuk, Iraq.

Police officers were trained in the following areas: tactical check point, snap check point, first aid, recon patrol, marching, surveillance, and close quarters combat training.

"Last week many of you couldn't march, couldn't do a left face, right face, but now you stand before us as police officers," said Capt. Ryan Dillan, Charlie Company commander during a recognition.

"Through our situational training exercises you have been mentally trained for the task at hand," said Dillan.

At the end of the course graduates received a diploma recognizing them as an official Kirkuk Police Officer.

(Photo by Pfc. Brandon Aird, 173rd Public Affairs)