

# My Year Training the Iraqi Police: A Firsthand Account of Building a Stable Iraq



In the aftermath of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the United States faced the daunting task of rebuilding a shattered nation and establishing a stable government. One of the most critical challenges was training a new Iraqi police force capable of maintaining law and order and protecting the Iraqi people. This article provides a firsthand account of my year training the Iraqi police in the volatile city of Mosul.

## Under the Gun in Iraq: My Year Training the Iraqi Police

by Robert Cole

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5



Language : English  
File size : 1946 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 312 pages



## **Challenges and Risks**

The challenges of training the Iraqi police were immense. The country had been ravaged by war, and the police force had been infiltrated by insurgents and criminals. Corruption was rampant, and public trust in the police was at an all-time low. Moreover, the volatile security situation in Mosul posed a significant threat to our training operations.

Despite the risks, I was determined to make a difference. I believed that the Iraqi police were the key to creating a secure and stable Iraq, and I was committed to helping them succeed.

## **Building Relationships and Establishing Trust**

My first priority was to build relationships with the Iraqi police officers. I spent time talking to them, learning about their lives, and understanding their concerns. I also made a conscious effort to treat them with respect and dignity. Over time, I began to earn their trust, which was essential for effective training.

## **Training Methodology and Curriculum**

The training curriculum was designed to address the specific needs of the Iraqi police in Mosul. It covered topics such as patrolling techniques, crime scene investigation, and use of force. I used a combination of classroom instruction, practical exercises, and on-the-job training to ensure that the officers were well-prepared for their duties.

## **Overcoming Cultural Barriers and Language Challenges**

Training the Iraqi police also involved overcoming cultural barriers and language challenges. My team and I worked closely with interpreters to ensure that the officers understood the training material. We also made a concerted effort to understand Iraqi culture and customs, which helped us to build rapport and trust.

## **Impact and Legacy**

My year training the Iraqi police was both rewarding and challenging. I saw firsthand the challenges they faced, but I was also inspired by their determination and commitment to serving their country. The training provided them with the skills and knowledge they needed to make a difference in Mosul, and I am proud to have played a role in their success.

I believe that the Iraqi police have a bright future. They are now a professional and well-trained force that is committed to protecting the Iraqi people. As Iraq continues to rebuild, the police will play a vital role in ensuring its security and stability.

My year training the Iraqi police was a transformative experience that left a lasting impact on me. I learned about the complexities of nation-building and the importance of relationships and trust. I also gained a deep respect for the Iraqi people and their resilience in the face of adversity. I am

honored to have had the opportunity to serve with the Iraqi police and to contribute to their success.

As Iraq moves forward, I hope that the lessons learned from my experience will help to guide future efforts to build a stable and prosperous nation.



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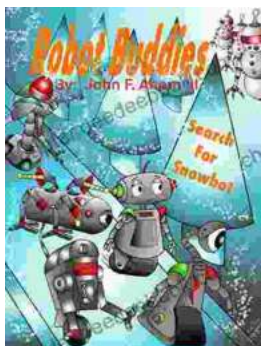
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