



Defense Security Cooperation Agency  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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### Vinnell Wins Contract to Train New Iraqi Army

26 June 2003— Yesterday the U.S. Army awarded a \$48 million contract to the Vinnell Corporation of Fairfax, Virginia, for training the nucleus of a New Iraqi Army.

Under the one-year contract, which begins on 1 July, Vinnell Corporation employees will enroll, screen, and train the core of a New Iraqi Army. The contractor will also train recruits that will form the first infantry battalions of the new force; teaching basic infantry skills to the enlisted, noncommissioned officer, and officer candidates at a training center in central Iraq.

The initial recruitments are expected to take place on or about 1 July, 2003, within Iraq. The interim Iraqi capability will perform point security, convoy security, route security, foot and vehicle controls, border controls, and other duties for territorial defense and stability operations within Iraq.

The contract was competitively bid with the solicitation issued on 9 June via the World Wide Web. Five proposals were received. To meet the requirements laid out by Walter Slocombe, the US advisor for Defense and Security in Iraq, the entire competitive process had to be completed in about 30 days. A normal timeline for awarding a similar contract is three to six months. "This contract is particularly important, not only for the training it will provide, but for the agility displayed in the Army's contracting system," said Lt Gen Tome Walters, Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency that oversees foreign military sales (FMS) and other international security cooperation programs.

"While not an FMS contract, the speed and efficiency that this contract was awarded is an excellent example of the close coordination between the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Department of the Army. Working long hours over just a few short weeks, OSD helped expedite the process by facilitating the coordination between Mr. Slocombe's organization and the Army staff. The Army's response has been phenomenal and exemplifies what can be accomplished when the Army team and the OSD Policy organization work together," according to Lt Gen Walters.