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BAGHDAD – The Iraqi War College faculty welcomed a four-member team from the U.S. Army War College teaching staff here July 12, who shared knowledge and ideas across a wide spectrum of military subjects.

US Army War College faculty members Dr. Steve Gerras, Dr. Boone Bartholomees, Col. Paul Cale and Dr. Thomas McManus bring American insights to the Iraqi War College

during a trip there this week.

Army War College faculty members Dr. Steve Gerras, Dr. Boone Bartholomees, Col. Paul Cale and Dr. Thomas McManus listen to an introductory lecture of the Iraqi War College by Commandant Maj. Gen. Zeiad Mahmood. NATO photo.

The weeklong visit, sponsored by Deputy Commanding General, Advising and Training and NATO Training Mission-Iraq, featured the U.S. instructors sharing their expertise in the fields of military history, strategic studies and ethics, operational studies and educational technology with their Iraqi counterparts.

The two military colleges, which are considered gateways for officers destined for senior positions, are seeking to build a mutually supporting and enduring relationship that will continue beyond 2011.

From left to right, NATO Training Mission-Iraq Deputy Commander General Claudio Angelelli discusses educational processes with U.S. Army War College faculty



members Dr. James Bartolomees and Dr. Thomas McManus during the Mobile Educational Training Team visit. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Daniel Symonds.



"Professional educational relationships grow over time and this allows senior military personnel to better see through the eyes of others. The U.S. team came a long way to help, did a fantastic job and this is a great start," said British Lt. Col. Matthew Sharp, Iraq War College advisor for NATO Training Mission-Iraq.

Iraqi Army Staff Brig. Gen. Jabbar Naima Karam, Iraqi War College director of operational studies is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and understands the importance of sharing ideas and building enduring relationships. "This visit is an excellent opportunity for our staff to learn how our sister college is educating its future leaders and look at how we can incorporate these ideas for our professional culture," said Karam.

During one of his briefings, Dr. Thomas McManus, U.S. Army War College director of educational technology, explained the importance of using all educational technologies in the classroom setting. McManus recognized that although Iraq may not have all the latest classroom technologies, Iraqi educators can still effectively use their current tools as they pave the way for future technological advancements. "We can assist them in targeting their own needs," said McManus, "This is just the beginning--we look forward to creating a long-lasting relationship."

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