

# **AHEC Perspectives lecture will redefine how conventional U.S. Army forces fight an urban war**

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The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center will present a lecture by Maj. Greg Tomlin entitled, "The Gods of Diyala: Transfer of Command in Iraq," as part of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Perspectives in Military History Lecture Series at 7:15 p.m. on Jan. 16, 2013. Maj. Gregory M. Tomlin is assistant professor of history at the U.S. Military Academy and a doctoral candidate at the George Washington University specializing, in U.S. Cold War diplomatic history.

Maj. Tomlin deployed to Baquba, Iraq, in March 2004 and was on the front lines, redefining how conventional U.S. Army forces fight an urban war. He led his field artillery platoon through a transition into a counterinsurgency rifle platoon, carrying out daily combat patrols in one of the region's most notorious hotspots. Tomlin chronicled Task Force 1-6 Field Artillery's year in Iraq and its response to the insurgency that threatened to engulf their corner of the Sunni Triangle. After he relinquished control of his platoon, he spent five months in the Diyala provincial police headquarters in Baquba. In this environment, he found himself living with, and advising, senior Iraqi security leaders, many of whom served as colonels and general officers in the former Iraqi army. Together they planned security operations for the province's 165 polling stations during the January 2005 national elections, Iraq's first democratic elections in nearly thirty years.

Rather than presenting a snapshot dominated by battle scenes, Tomlin's book and lectures present a wide-angled view of his experiences. He assesses the implications of his platoon's mission, starting with their pre-deployment training in Germany and ending with the handing over of duties to the replacement task force at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. From chaotic security planning and grieving the loss of fallen comrades – both U.S. and Iraqi – to late-night debates with Iraqis about democracy, Maj. Tomlin's lectures discuss how Iraqis perceived the value of their post-Saddam elections and the political future of their country as it tried to reinvent itself in the wake of a dictator's fall.

All Perspectives in Military History Lectures are FREE to attend and open to the public. The doors will open at

6:30 p.m., and the lecture will begin at 7:15 p.m. Parking is free, and the Café Cumberland and USAHEC Museum Store will also be open. For directions, more information, and a complete schedule of USAHEC events, please visit [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org) or call 717-245-3972.

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