

## Concerned Citizens lead IA recruiting drive

Kim, et al,

Here's the fruit of what we have been able to accomplish. Many of these guys in the photos were folks fighting us because they couldn't get jobs in the Shia communities. After three aborted attempts (stopped by the GOVT), GEN Petraeus intervened for us and got the GOVT to accept the Sunnis into the Army (where many of them used to be employed – hence their skill as fighters). We filled the recruiting capacity each of the four days we recruited and signed up 1500 Iraqis - about an even 50-50 split of Sunni and Shia. Violence in our area of operations has plummeted and the militias are nervous. More proof that while detaining these folks is satisfying in the short run, in the long run, we've got to find a sustainable answer that brings folks into the process through reconciliation, and if we do, it will work. Our Paratroopers can do whatever is asked of them; what we need is the GOVT of Iraq to give way toward reconciliation and representative governance so that we can finish this up.

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