

Iraqi security forces increase their ranks

by UPI

BAGHDAD -- The Iraqi police and military forces increased the number of personnel in its ranks in preparation for the departure of foreign troops, a spokesman said. Ali al-Dabbagh, the spokesman for the Iraqi government, said the Iraqi ministers of defense and interior have more than 700,000 members in their forces, the Kuwaiti news agency said. These numbers don't include security guards or other forces, Dabbagh said. The number of recruits entering the military rose to 46,000 and those enlisted in the national police force reached 40,000, the spokesman said. KUNA also noted both ministries bought about \$3 million worth of defense equipment in 2006 and 2007.

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