



COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE

Public Affairs Office

Fact Sheet: Besmayah Base, Iraq

History

- Besmayah, also known as Besmayah Range Complex or “Gran Capitan” is an Iraqi military base located approximately 50 kilometers southwest of Baghdad.
- Spain has led efforts, on behalf of the international Defeat-DAESH Coalition, in training nearly 50,000 Iraqi Security Forces at the Building Partner Capability (BPC) site in Besmayah. In conjunction with other Coalition partners (Portugal, Australia, the UK and the U.S.) Spain’s military forces trained the ISF in conventional warfare.
- ISF soldiers and units trained at Besmayah were an essential component of the Iraqi Army’s 2017 liberation of Mosul.
- Spanish troops and Coalition partners provided training and military advice to their ISF partners in their fight against ISIS from Besmayah Range Complex since 2015, covering a wide variety of topics. Most importantly, the training conducted at Besmayah allows the Iraqis to continue to use the site to lead and conduct their own training as part of the mission to Defeat Daesh remnants in Iraq. Some of the training programs conducted at Besmayah include:
 - Training and education of ISF infantry and commando brigades, artillery, medical, armor and engineering units.
 - Specific training on demining and countering Improvised Explosive Devices. Experts from the Spanish Civil Guard and engineers provide instruction on one of the areas that the Coalition considers critical.
 - Improving the capacity of the Border Guard Police to protect the border with Syria through the project “Border Guard Presence in a Box”. Besmayah trainers pioneered this kind of instruction, which includes the installation of observation points along the border.
 - Providing courses on non-commissioned officer leadership and on Iraqi trainers’ qualification.
 - Australian Joint Terminal Attack Controller training, for ISF soldiers to conduct tactical control of artillery, mortars, fixed wing and rotary wing attack aircraft, to include employing live munitions from Coalition jets, Iraqi F-16s and U.S. AH-64 Apaches.
 - Ensuring the protection and mobility of the Besmayah base, as well as the conditions of its facilities.
- NATO Mission-Iraq also had a presence at the base. Instructors from Spain, Canada, and other nations conducted “train-the-trainers” programs at Besmayah’s Iraqi bomb Disposal School, enabling Iraqi personnel to provide future training independently.
- Spain’s helicopter aviation unit, “Task Force Toro,” operated in and around Besmayah and will continue to operate in other Iraq locations after the base transfer. Spain firmly believes that unified, well trained Iraqi armed forces are essential to defeating Daesh. This mission is a long and challenging task; hence Spain is fully committed to a long-term engagement with the Iraqi people in support of this objective.
- The Coalition’s military movements are conducted in coordination with the Government of Iraq. Besmayah Base will remain under Iraqi control and continue to be used as a key training site.



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Partnerships

- 16th and 17th Iraqi Army Divisions
- 9th Armored Division
- Iraqi Army Aviation Command
- Border Guard Police
- Iraqi Federal Police
- Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service

Departing Units

- Spanish military forces: TF Besmayah (after twelve rotations, more than 5,000 Spanish soldiers have served within the Task Force).
- U.S. Army communications team.
- Previous tenants include: British Armed Forces; Canadian Armed Forces; U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division, 82nd Airborne Division, and 3rd Armored Cavalry training teams.

Base Population

- Approximately 450 military personnel

Equipment Transferred to Iraqis *(Approximately \$4 million from Spain and \$1 million from Coalition):*

- Weapons ranges and mock urban training sites
- Containerized housing units, re-locatable office buildings and services areas
- Latrine and shower trailers
- Power generation equipment
- Operations center building and office furniture
- Dining facility, gym facility and associated equipment
- Assorted office furniture, beds
- Sand and concrete bunkers and force protection walls
- Asphalted roads

High Resolution Imagery

- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6009972/weapons-training-besmaya-training-center>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5997223/besmayah-military-operation-urban-terrain-training>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5993970/spanish-army-battalion-training-team-3-training>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5773945/federal-police-trainingv>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5797074/urban-combat-exercise>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5844564/final-exercise>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5842093/national-day-parade>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3639837/us-army-divests-vehicles-iraqi-security-forces>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3670398/isf-bangalore-torpedo-training>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3670274/isf-demolition-assault-course-training>
- <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5842075/checkpoint-training>