
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Dianne Chase
704-442-9199 (o)
704-606-1144 (c)
dianne@alacartepr.com
www.alacartepr.com

‘North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police’ Officers Called-up For Iraq Training Delegation

Charlotte, NC--Feb. 9, 2004—A number of North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police members are being called to duty in Iraq to assist in the training of Iraqi law enforcement officers. NC F.O.P. President, Donald Penix, says 26 members of NC F.O.P. Lodge 9 in Charlotte are among those heading to Iraq as part of this post-war effort.

“We are very proud of our law enforcement officers who are dedicated to helping in this important mission,” says Penix. “Our F.O.P. members from departments across North Carolina are being sent to the Baghdad region to assist in delivering and evaluating the training of law enforcement personnel. The NC F.O.P. is paying all the dues that are owed to the state office for members who have been called up,” he adds.

This special delegation was launched after the president of the National Fraternal Order of Police, Chuck Canterbury, visited Iraq in January. Canterbury was among an American delegation headed by Department of Labor Secretary, Elaine Chao, that traveled to Baghdad to help evaluate the law enforcement training program now underway.

As a result of the visit, Canterbury pledged to have the F.O.P. send a delegation of its members to the region to assist in the training programs. “We’re going to assemble a group of F.O.P. members who have expertise in delivering law enforcement training and get them over here to help,” he said.

“This is not an easy task.” Canterbury said. “The mission here is to create a police force from the ground up. Under the previous regime, there was no law enforcement, just thugs armed by a dictator that we now have in custody. Now, instead of bringing terror, they will defend the peace and protect the public; instead of committing injustice, they will be sworn to see justice served. It’s a long and difficult process, but it is well begun. I am very impressed with the progress made by the United States in training law enforcement officers.

Secretary Chao invited Canterbury and Jim Pasco, the Executive Director of the National Fraternal Order of Police, to assess the progress of the training of Iraqi law enforcement officers. “I am certain that the skill, courage and commitment of the Fraternal Order of Police will be as valuable to the Iraqi people as it is to the American people,” said Secretary Chao. “The F.O.P. is demonstrating its commitment to help win the war on terror both at home and abroad.”

“I can tell you that I am very impressed with the speed of the progress being made and the quality of the training modules that are being delivered,” Canterbury said. “The feedback I have to give to the men and women engaged in training the civilian force has been overwhelmingly positive.”

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 310,000 members. The NC F.O.P. has 51 local lodges with more than 5,200 law enforcement officers.

###