

# ESSAYONS

## Forward

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Gulf Region Division, Iraq - Volume 5, Issue 8

August 2008

**Potable water flows to  
Baghdad neighborhoods**

**Page 17**



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**On the cover:**



Children play with water to beat the summer heat as potable water is connected to houses in Daura and Mansour neighborhoods in Baghdad, see page 17

USACE photo by Erich Langer

## Digging deep

A heavy equipment operator clears the way for installation of new sewer main connections in a Baghdad, Iraq neighborhood. Multiple projects by the Gulf Region Division and the Government of Iraq are connecting homes to improved potable water and sewer services.



USACE photo by Grant Sattler

## Commander's Commentary



# 'Building Strong' in Iraq

Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp recently announced the selection of a new slogan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Building Strong!

Two words that fit the Gulf Region Division like a glove.

The linkage of "Building Strong" with the U.S. Army's "Army Strong"

motto not only highlights the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' role as an Army major subordinate command, but also embodies several USACE attributes.

Nowhere are these core attributes more clearly lived out than in the Gulf Region Division: an organization that works for Soldier, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in theater, supports the Multi-National Divisions and partners with the Government of Iraq to rebuild this nation.

Construction is our business... and GRD people are "building"—facilities and infrastructure—building strong projects that will last decades for the Iraqi people through our programmatic and Quality Assurance efforts.

Building Strong—GRD came out strong in 2004 and has maintained tremendous stamina in executing a huge program of great importance to Iraq, the region and the world. GRD has completed 4,151 projects across Iraq.

Building Strong—As individuals and as an unit, each difficulty we surmount increases our ability to do more. Like a work out in

the gym, being a part of GRD and contributing to this historic mission makes each of us better, stronger.

Building Strong—GRD is building strong relations with our partners in the Ministries, the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi people; relationships that will impact the future of this great country.

Building Strong—GRD is increasing the strength of this nation by building capacity, from semi-skilled and skilled labor to management to modernizing systems. GRD's demand for high standards is improving the abilities of the construction community. Developing appropriate training is equipping those who will carry on the operations & maintenance of facilities for the future.

These concepts are embodied in the logo recently developed for our strategic communication plan intended to reinforce the positive impact of our reconstruction efforts. The logo is emblazoned with the Arabic words *Binaa Qaida Qawiyah* meaning we are "Building a Strong Foundation."

I thank each of you and your families for the sacrifices you are making in order to build a strong foundation for the people of Iraq.

Building Strong!

**ESSAYONS!**

*Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko  
Gulf Region Division  
Commander*

## Command Sgt. Maj. Message



# No better place, time to serve

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served all of you, our Army, our nation, and the people of Iraq as the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division.

I encourage each of you to continue to honorably serve in GRD. I personally believe that there is no better place for an engineer to serve

than in Iraq today. Being a part of this organization offers the opportunity for all of us to contribute in a significant way to the reconstruction of a whole country.

Iraq and its people need us to continue to assist them in developing capacity and rebuilding the infrastructure of their nation.

Coalition troops, through their constant, arduous and magnificent work and engagement together with Iraqi Security Forces have greatly improved the security situation making the environment much more conducive to achieving expected construction progress.

We must remain earnestly committed to continuing delivery of

quality construction on time and within budget while simultaneously building the capacity our Iraqi partners need to assume full responsibility for their infrastructure.

There is so much to be done in this country. An engineer, or anyone who has a deep passion for his/her profession, can feel the captivating environment—it is difficult not to be drawn to this challenge and creates a reluctance to depart—especially as freedom of movement is improving across the country.

An environment and conditions offering all of you the opportunity to contribute to a cause greater than oneself, an opportunity for you to see the tangible results of your labor, an opportunity for all of us to grow and become more proficient in all we do; it is indeed a win-win situation.

I express my infinite gratitude to you and your family for your continuous honorable service.

**ESSAYONS! Building Strong!**  
*Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar  
Gulf Region Division*



Workers place concrete during construction of a \$25 million new 132 kV substation for the city of Diwaniyah.

## Substation stabilizes Diwaniyah's electrical grid

STORY & PHOTO BY ALICIA EMBREY

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Al Diwaniyah 132 kV substation in southern Iraq's Qadisiyah Province is scheduled for completion this fall. Currently 82 percent finished, this massive project has sparked the interest of al Diwaniyah's 400,000 residents and local officials.

According to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South district Iraqi Engineer Sahib Dukman, the project was originally planned in 1982. Dukman explained that at that time the Iraqi Government developed an electrical

master plan, but projects under the plan were delayed due to what Dukman called Saddam Hussein's bad behavior.

"The 132 kV substation in East Diwaniyah is very important for the electrical grid in this region. This new substation will reduce the load currently on two 33/11 kV substations built in 2003 to a reasonable level," said Dukman. "The substations built in 2003 are part of the master plan developed by the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity but were not built to handle the current demand for power," he added.

"More substations are being built throughout the Qadisiyah Province and when finished will link together, forming

a stabilized grid," explained Gulf Region Division Construction Representative John De Los Santos. "With the help of Iraqi Engineers like Dukman working with contractor Pauwels International who has employed hundreds of local Iraqis, this \$25 million project is nearly complete."

Dukman said the Qadisiyah Province deputy governor recently visited the site and was impressed with the quality of construction.

Once completed, the contractor will test, energize and commission the substation, working directly with Ministry of Electricity officials ensuring the facility meets their standards.

## اقتراب موعد تسليم محطة كهرباء فرعية في الديوانية

بقلم أليشا أمبراي

قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج

فرعيتين بطاقة 33 / 11 كيلوفولت تم بناؤهما في 2003 إلى مستوى معقول".

وتابع ان "المحطتين الفرعيتين اللتين بنيتا في 2003 هما جزء من الخطة الرئيسية التي وضعتها وزارة الكهرباء العراقية، لكنهما لم تبني لسا حاجة الطلب الحالي على الكهرباء"، حيث ازدادت الفجوة بين الانتاج والطلب.

من جانبه، أكد مسؤول البناء لدى فرقة منطقة الخليج جون دي لوس سانتوس أن "الان يبني مزيد من المحطات الفرعية في جميع أرجاء محافظة القادسية، وفي حال اكتمالها سوف تربط مع بعض حتى تشكل شبكة كهرباء مستقرة".

واضاف "بفضل مساعدة مهندسين عراقيين يعملون مع الجهة المتعاقدة التي شغلت مئات من العراقيين، توشك الاعمال لهذا المشروع الذي بلغت تكلفته 25 مليون دولار على الانتهاء". وبحسب المهندس العراقي فان نائب محافظ القادسية زار الموقع مؤخرا وأعرب عن ارتياحه حيال جودة البناء. وفور انتهاء العمل، سوف يختبر المقاول المحطة الفرعية ثم يسلمها الى مسؤولي وزارة الكهرباء العراقية لكي يتأكدوا من انها ستلبي الاحتياج

الديوانية، العراق - من المقرر انجاز محطة الديوانية الفرعية بطاقة 132 كيلوفولت في محافظة القادسية (جنوب) بحلول خريف 2008 لكي تسهم في استقرار شبكة الكهرباء في المحافظة. وتم انجاز 82 بالمائة من هذا المشروع الذي يهيم المسؤولين المحليين فضلا عن سكان الديوانية البالغ تعدادهم 400 ألف نسمة. وبحسب مهندس عراقي يعمل لدى قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج التابعة لفيلق مهندسي الجيش الأميركي، فان التخطيطات لهذا المشروع وضعت في البداية عام 1982، حين وضعت الحكومة العراقية خطة رئيسة للكهرباء لكن ارجئت المشروعات في اطار تلك الخطة بسبب ما وصفه المهندس بسوء سلوك صدام حسين.

وقال المهندس "تعد (هذه) المحطة الفرعية بطاقة 132 كيلوفولت في شرق الديوانية مهمة جدا للشبكة الكهربائية في المنطقة. حيث تقلل هذه المحطة الجديدة الحمل على محطتين

# Reintegration

## Education, trade skills contribute to Iraq security

STORY & PHOTOS BY KENDAL SMITH  
GULF REGION CENTRAL DISTRICT

“The Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Center in Taji has been constructed to integrate detention with reintegration programs. The overall goal of the TIFRC is to reintegrate detainees with basic education and trade skills such that they can contribute to a peaceful and secure Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Ronald Pieri, Task Force 134 Engineer.

TF 134 is the organization in charge of detainee operations in Iraq. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \$77.3 million project to build the TIFRC is 67 percent finished with a completion date of Nov. 30, 2008.

The facility has two distinct parts, explained Michael Vantzelfden, Central district, Gulf Region Division project manager. On one side of the facility, detainees are housed in a secure environment in 13 dormitory-style buildings. Each 19,600 square foot dormitory has a K-span overhead cover for weather protection. On the other side, they are educated and trained; “reconciled” for reintegration into Iraqi society. Arabic, English, math and other basic courses are taught in eleven classrooms of varying sizes built to accommodate the resident population of the facility.

Importantly, detainees are also taught vocational skills for reintegration into Iraqi society and future employment. Three vocational-technical facilities are the largest structures at the facility. One textile manufacturing mill and a brick factory with a production capacity of 12 million bricks per year highlight the training opportunities.

Support facilities include a 20,000 square foot medical facility for use by everyone at the Center. The Coalition forces also have a warehouse and support facilities.

Two operational centers are under construction for Local National housing of instructors and other LN workers employed at the TIFRC brick factory, textile mill, etc. There will be several adjunct buildings and units for the Center: one Coalition Forces Dining Facility, one detainee dining facility, laundry facilities, a water treatment plant capable of producing 360,000 gallons per day, water storage and a waste water treatment plant designed for 400,000 gpd. Other Center infrastructure includes power generation plants, air conditioning for all spaces and approximately three miles of roadway.

Besides education and training, there are judges’ chambers and parole areas with a family visitation center incorporating a family embracing area to assist with the reconciliation and reintegration efforts.

A \$4 million third division of the TIFRC project is a temporary housing unit or Modular Detainee Housing Unit with more than 20,000 square feet of living space, ablution facilities, a medical facility and a compound control trailer.

Maximum capacity of the Taji TIFRC is 5,000 detainees and 2,000 Coalition forces.

“To rebuild people means contributing a very critical part of rebuilding the country. That is exactly what the TIFRC is designed and constructed to do. It plays an essential role in the reconciliation of useful citizens for a stronger Iraq,” summed up Lt. Cmdr. Paul Chan, officer in charge of the Central District’s Taji Resident Office, who is overseeing the construction.



*Above: Workers prepare security lights for the Modular Detainee Housing Unit area.*



*Right: Taji workers prepare the brick factory buildings and drying kilns for use in vocational education.*

# Opportunities for next generation at Ameriya Technical High School



*Views of the Ameriya Technical High School in Baghdad's Mansour District.*

STORY & PHOTOS BY POLLI BARNES KELLER  
GULF REGION DIVISION

The \$615 thousand renovation and expansion of the Ameriya Technical High School in the Mansour District of Baghdad will soon provide vocational technical training for high school students.

"This school is very important," said Mohammed Abdullah, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Central district's International Zone project engineer. "It will have a great impact on the families who cannot afford to send their children to universities. They will learn a profession to earn a living."

As the executor of the contract, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division watches over the contracting and construction management/quality assurance of the over-all project, while local contractors do the construction.

The renovation of the main building where the classical education is taught began in August 2007. Architecturally, the 43-year-old building with 32 classrooms was re-plastered inside and out, walls were painted and tiles were repaired and replaced. All windows were inspected and replaced where necessary, as was the fence around the school which was raised to 2.5 meters. External lighting was added and the tiled recreation area between the buildings was extended.

Electrically, the building was upgraded and hooked into the city's electrical grid. A new generator and fuel tank were installed to allow continuous operation of the facility and each classroom received four fluorescent lights, as well as a new heating, ventilating and air conditioning window unit that cools in the summer and heats in the winter.

Renovations were also made to the school's plumbing and then connected to the city's water and sewage systems. Restrooms were repaired, new fixtures were installed and four new one cubic meter potable water tanks were delivered for the roof, as



well as sunshades to cover them.

In addition to renovating the existing building, two additional out buildings were constructed on site, adding four large classrooms for technical training and additional restroom facilities.

Abdullah said construction for this project was slow due to the security situation. Four months after the renovations to the main building were complete an insurgent group moved into the school. He explained that construction of the out buildings continued but, "workers were hard to come by because of the security issues."

With the troop surge of U.S. forces in 2007, the security situation improved in Baghdad and the insurgents moved out. Assessments of the facility were made and modifications were added to the contract to repair the damages the insurgents left behind.

"This particular construction project is a tangible representation of perseverance and commitment to the reconstruction of Iraq," said Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division. "Our GRD team does not terminate a construction project because challenges emerge. We find solutions to continue on delivering construction for the Iraqi people."

Ameriya School is now 87 percent finished and scheduled for completion by the end of the year. Desks, computers and other school supplies are starting to arrive.

Currently GRD has completed 1,079 schools in Iraq at the cost of \$201 million and there are 39 more in progress.



*A child is seen at the renovated and repaired Alwaiya Maternity and Pediatric Hospital in Baghdad.*



*An Ibn al Bitar conference room.*



*A furnished Ibn al Bitar dormitory room.*

# Helping medical community

STORY & PHOTOS BY POLLI BARNES KELLER  
GULF REGION DIVISION

Two quality healthcare facilities boost Baghdad's medical community.

Once a thriving cardiac hospital, the Ibn al Bitar Hospital was severely damaged during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The hospital, located in an urbanized area of Baghdad west of the Tigris River, was destroyed by looters who stole all of the equipment and burned the building to the ground—only the concrete foundation and the ground floor remained.

The Director General of al Bitar and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division worked together to rebuild a new modern and functional critical care unit. At the cost of \$371,000, the final stage of this rebuild is to construct 16 residential apartments within the hospital grounds for the doctors and staff who reside outside of Baghdad and need a place to live during their work shifts.

"Now that security in Baghdad has improved, we hope the new facility will be an incentive to draw professionals back into the area," said Cmdr. Darlene Graddock, officer in charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Central district's-International Zone resident office.

Construction of this two story building began November 2007 and is now complete. It contains 16 dormitory rooms, a conference room and a communal kitchen. Each room comes furnished and has its own bathroom, telephone and internet connection. The communal kitchen and the conference room also come furnished. The kitchen with a refrigerator, stove, sink and cabinets; the conference room is furnished with a table and chairs.

"GRD is looking to build a dorm facility for nurses at another facility. This project was such a success, we are interested in patterning residential quarters for other hospitals after this model," said Robin Parks, GRD's Building, Health and Education sector lead.

Also located in Baghdad, the Alwaiya Maternity and Pediatric Hospital is receiving major repairs and renovations. Two years ago, the hospital could only support 70 beds. Now it can support 344 beds and provide a full spectrum of medical care for women from a population of one million. The hospital staff includes 45 doctors and 60 nurses and will be used by three medical schools in Baghdad for internships. Upgraded to meet current international and Iraqi Health codes and standards, the hospital remained open offering full services throughout the duration of the renovations.

At a cost of \$2.3 million, Alwaiya is 87 percent finished and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. The renovations include a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, boilers, electrical and structural upgrades, a reverse osmosis water purification system, new medical waste incinerator, medical gasses center, nurse call system, data communication network, television system, elevator upgrade and fire alarm with a fire extinguishing system.

"The construction on these two facilities is of a high quality," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hector Cruzalicea, Gulf Region Central district's-International Zone resident office non commissioned officer in charge. "Security in Baghdad is so much better; we are now able to get contractors who produce quality work and have set the bar for future projects."

As the executor of the contract, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division over-see the contracting and construction management/quality assurance of the over-all project, while local contractors do the construction.

To date, GRD has completed 21 hospital projects and has 4 more that are on-going. GRD also completed 115 Primary Health Centers in Iraq and has 17 more currently in progress, 28 of these are located in the Baghdad area.

# Managing power

## *Training center develops procedures*

STORY & PHOTOS BY ERICH LANGER

GULF REGION DIVISION

At a southern Baghdad electrical power generation facility, Iraq's Minister of Electricity and the Gulf Region Division teamed up to put an additional 216 mega watts of needed power on the grid.

The plant completed in 2006 with U.S. funding of \$223.7 million, is doing its bit to increase electrical power available to Iraqis and teaching electrical employees about all things power.

In the midst of the noise from the General Electric Frame 9E gas turbines, 30 students from the Ministry of Electricity are on site learning the finer points of electrical procedures development and management. These students and the 1,000 others that were trained since February are part of a growing group of trainees learning about electrical power plant management.

Nine months ago the Baghdad South Training Facility was a medium sized U.S. government standard issue dining facility. Through the genius of Gulf Region Division program managers and contractors, a building that formerly served 'three hots' a day was transformed into a facility to teach the finer points of electricity.

"GRD was in the process of dismantling a man camp of trailers at a completed electricity project in southern Iraq," said Vincent Dorio, GRD electrical sector program manger for capacity development. "Then, one of our high speed contractors came up with the idea of using the old DFAC and some other trailer bits and pieces laying around camp to fabricate the parts into a training facility for Baghdad South. We worked together to design and reconfigure the trailers into a MoE schoolhouse; and, of course, transport the unassembled pieces 300 miles north to Baghdad."

The MoE and GRD put all the pieces of the puzzle together for the physical facilities and curriculum. Nearby student housing is within a short walk and can accommodate 40 students.

"We really wanted to develop a facility with a housing component since students will be coming from all parts of Iraq," said Dorio. "If you have a five-day class you can use all of your time teaching...some students, actually many students, stay late



*The Gulf Region Division and the Ministry of Electricity recently trained 30 Ministry of Electricity engineers and technicians. To date, more than 1,000 MoE employees have trained at the new facility.*

and come back to talk with the instructors and other students late into the evening. You just lose so much time with commuting; so, we've addressed this with the trailers we've set up for lodging."

At a recent course for Mussayib Electric Plant engineers and managers, students learned to write clear instructions according to International standards for Iraq's power generation technology and industry managers.

"Anybody, I guess, can learn to be a skilled technician or skilled engineer by just being on the job," said Dorio. "But, you can learn a lot faster if someone teaches you the ins and outs. This is what we are trying to do with the Baghdad South Training Center."

As students finish their final lessons in 'Procedure Processes' one of seven modules in the week long Procedures Development class, a student exclaims his satisfaction about updating the procedures and providing input for others to learn by in the future.

"The training is excellent," said this software engineer who asked that his name not be used for security reasons. "As I am using the procedures database, I can input my recommendations and suggestions into the system for others that use the procedures to learn from. It is dynamic, very dynamic."

All types of curriculum are taught and

new classes are developed and fine tuned along the way. Training is now very popular throughout the ministry.

"The people are learning their jobs better," added Dorio. "They are performing better on the job and have a better understanding of what they are supposed to do."

In most cases the new knowledge hits after the students return to their power generation facilities. "The biggest effect that I see is that because they have become better trained more people now want the training," said Dorio. "In fact, we hosted a training course for Directorate General level managers and many showed up. From all indications they enjoyed the training and now the employees working for them are beginning to attend training in higher numbers."

The training team is comprised of skilled training professionals from all over the world; including many from Iraq. The long range goal according to GRD is for the MoE trainers to take the lead.

"I want them to be as reasonably self sufficient as they can as far as developing the skills they need to run their country," said Dorio. "I think they are on their way of making this happen."

To make his point, Dorio reflects on the past six months as hundreds of new procedures were developed for Iraqi power plants – many of these coming from students training at the Baghdad South.



# Real Estate key in base returns

COURTESY OF REAL ESTATE  
GULF REGION DIVISION

Gulf Region Division-Real Estate Division recently received accolades from the Multi-National Force-Iraq CJ1/4/8 for developing a strategy and executing return of five bases formerly used by the U.S. military to the Government of Iraq—all within 6 months.

GRD-RE was approached in February to assist with the MNF-I “Shrink & Share” base closure concept because of the relationship the team had established with the Government of Iraq’s Office of the General Secretariat for the Council of Ministers (GSCM), said Brian Woodbury, chief of Real Estate. In only 6 months, the team was able to formulate a strategy for base closures acceptable to both governments and return five bases to the Government of Iraq. Most recently, Habbaniyah, which has a rich military history dating from its 1930’s construction by the British Royal Air Force, was returned to the Government of Iraq on July 17, 2008.

“The theater role of the Real Estate Division is diverse and evolutionary,” said Woodbury. In 2003, the real estate requirements of the United States Government to support the Warfighter in Iraq were met by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Contingency Real Estate Support Team, known by the acronym CREST. CREST members, willing and able to deploy within 24-48 hours notice, are trained volunteers with the authority and expertise to obtain, as necessary, real estate leases to adjudicate land claims and secure temporary real estate interests needed by U.S. Forces.

When Iraq regained its sovereignty on June 28, 2004, MNF-I’s role changed from an occupying force to one of providing security assistance at the invitation of a sovereign nation under a United Nations mandate. To assist in the new change of status, the Gulf Region Division was born and real estate responsibilities transitioned from CREST to the Real Estate Division, Woodbury said.

Although no longer officially known as CREST, the Real Estate Division, in addition to supporting the Warfighter through leasing actions and adjudicating various land claims, has morphed into the lead U.S. Government entity on real property matters in Iraq. Woodbury said that GRD-RE is a learning organization; the knowledge acquired, documented, and passed along by predecessors has shaped the Real Estate Division into a center of expertise utilized by multiple theater commands, and other USG



Courtesy photo

**Scott Mason, Brian Woodbury, Col. Calvin Williams, director, CJ1/4/8 Engineering Division, and John Manning pose for a photo following presentation of a certificate of appreciation July 18, 2008, from Multi-National Force-Iraq CJ1/4/8 Director Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale.**

entities such as the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

“The stakes are high,” Woodbury said. “To boost Iraq’s fledgling democracy, the U.S. taxpayer is funding tens of billions of dollars in effort to assist the reconstruction of Iraq’s neglected infrastructure. Iraq, which is slightly more than twice the size of the State of Idaho, has land owned by both the government and by private citizens. With a population of 22.6 million people, there’s a potential for a large amount of land to be privately owned in Iraq. We remain very sensitive to the land rights of the private individual to avoid undermining the sovereignty of the host nation and our efforts of promoting democracy.”

How do they do it with only a staff of 6 people? “By support of the entire Command, reach back support from USACE Headquarters, and most importantly selecting a staff that is highly talented, dynamic and willing to step out of the box,” he added.

Because of the partnership established by the Real Estate Division, the GRD-RE acts as both a multiplying force and as a conduit between the U.S. Government and the Government of Iraq on real estate matters. Woodbury said, “Iraq is the fifth largest country in the Middle East and North Africa. Even if our group had 20 additional people, we could not possibly meet the real estate needs of an effort of this magnitude.”

“Through our partnership with the ministries, we leverage the talent and skill of the host nation so they are providing the real estate assets for the reconstruction effort,” Woodbury said. “We also mandate through policy as needed, as well as educate and enable our customers so they are able to work more effectively with their GoI counterparts. It’s truly a joint effort.”

In addition to the five base closures, recently the Real Estate Division successfully had the Government of Iraq allocate 200 Donums (123.55 Acres) of land needed for two critical Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq projects, and through the efforts of title work provided by the GRD-RE, prevented the construction of a project on private property with multiple owners.

“Although we are more than 6,000 miles from home, we absolutely will not abandon both the business practices and doctrine that has made us the premier engineering organization in the world,” said Woodbury.



Courtesy photo

**John Manning, seated left, participates in a lease week meeting in Fallujah.**

# New water pipes, schools

BY POLLI BARNES KELLER  
GULF REGION DIVISION

Two schools and a renovated water distribution network under construction in the Dohuk Province will improve the quality of life for the residents.

The projects - overseen by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – are constructed by Iraqi firms using funds from the Economic Support Fund.

The schools in the Malta and Shindohka neighborhoods each consist of 12-room compounds that include an administrative building, laboratory rooms, toilet facilities, a play area and garden, as well as a perimeter wall, guard house and a maintenance room. The facilities will support approximately 2,400 children in two school sessions a day and create employment for more than 40 teachers. At a cost of \$2.5 million collectively, these schools are currently under construction and scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

“Education is the key to a bright future, and these educated children are Iraq’s future leaders,” said Jim Hilario, the Dohuk resident engineer for the Gulf Region North district. “I am grateful that I played a small roll in providing the tools necessary for the growth of this nation.”

The Masike to Jami Bini water network will provide a reliable



*This school in the Malta neighborhood and another under construction in the Shindohka neighborhood each consist of 12-room compounds. The facilities will support approximately 2,400 children in two school sessions a day and create employment for more than 40 teachers.*

water supply for approximately 65,000 people. Replacing the existing damaged network and installing new water lines will improve the quality and quantity of safe drinking water in the area. The \$1.5 million project also provides collateral benefits of increasing water pressure, which reduces contamination; filling existing water storage tanks; and slowing aquifer depletion. As long as there is a reliable source of water serving the Dohuk

province, growth potential is unlimited. This project is also under construction and scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

“Americans take a lot of things for granted,” said Hilario. “Just by turning on the faucet, we are assured clean reliable water for cleaning, cooking or drinking. I am blessed to be part of re-building the infrastructures of Iraq.”

The Gulf Region Division plays a vital role in the reconstruction efforts in Dohuk Province. To date, GRD has 22 ESF projects in the Dohuk Province at a total cost of \$32.5 million. Four projects are completed, 14 are under way and four are still in the planning stages. These projects are in areas including water, health and education, transportation and communications.

Economic Support Funds provide reconstruction projects across Iraq through coordination with the Provincial Reconstruction Development Committees in each province. The role of GRD is to provide oversight for some of the PRDC projects.

“One of GRD’s goals is to provide on-site engineering and planning expertise to Iraqi engineers for reconstruction progress in Dohuk,” said Lt. Col. Tina Deguzman, GRD’s Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee sector lead.



*The Masike to Jami Bini water network will provide a reliable water supply for approximately 65,000 people, improving the quality and quantity of safe drinking water in the area. The \$1.5 million project also provides collateral benefits of increasing water pressure, which reduces contamination; filling existing water storage tanks; and slowing aquifer depletion.*

USACE photos by Polli Keller

# مشروعات مهمة لتحسين المعيشة في محافظة دهوك

بقلم بولي كيلر  
فرقة منطقة الخليج

دهوك، العراق - تتواصل اعمال البناء في مدرستين وشبكة توزيع المياه في محافظة دهوك بهدف تحسين معيشة سكان المحافظة. وتنجز الاعمال شركات عراقية تعمل تحت اشراف فرقة منطقة الخليج التابعة لفيلق مهندسي الجيش الأميركي وبتمويل من صندوق الدعم الاقتصادي الأميركي. وتضم كل واحدة من المدرستين في حيي مالتا وشيندوخا ١٢ صفا ومبنى للادارة وقاعات مختبر ومرافق صحية وملعبا وحديقة يحيط بالجميع سياج ومنزل للحارس وغرفة للصيانة. وسوف تتسع هاتين المدرستين ل ٢٤٠٠ تلميذا وبواقع وجبتين صباحية وظهرية، ويعمل فيهما ٤٠ معلما، وتكلفتهما ٢,٥ مليون دولار. ولا تزال هاتان المدرستان قيد التنفيذ ومن المقرر انجازهما او اخر العام الجاري. وقال جيم هيلاريو، المهندس المقيم في دهوك لدى قسم الشمال في فرقة منطقة الخليج ان "التعليم هو المفتاح لمستقبل مشرق، وتلاميذ العراق المتعلمون هم قادة المستقبل"، مضيفاً "أشعر بالفخر كوني لعبت دورا متواضعا في تقديم ما هو ضروري بغية ازدهار هذا البلد". أما شبكة مياه جامي بيبي فسوف تجهز المياه بنحو فعال لنحو ٦٥ ألف نسمة. وسوف تستبدل الشبكة المحطمة الحالية وسيتم نصب خطوط المياه الجديدة لتحسين نوعية وكمية مياه الشرب في المنطقة.

ولهذا المشروع التي تبلغ تكلفته ١,٥ مليون دولار منافع اضافية، فهو يرفع ضغط المياه ما سيقلل التلوث، ويسهم في ملء خزانات المياه الموجودة ويقلل طبقة الرمل. وهناك امكانية نمو عالية جدا ما دام هناك مصدر مياه يمكن الاعتماد عليه في محافظة دهوك، وهذا المشروع قيد التنفيذ ومن المؤمل ان ينجز في اواخر العام الحالي. وقال هيلاريو "ياخذ الأميركيون أشياء كثيرة كامور مسلم بها"،

واضاف "بمجرد فتح الحفنية، نحصل على ماء نظيف يستعمل للتنظيف والطبخ والشرب، انا محظوظ لمشاركتي في اعادة اعمار بنية العراق التحتية". وتلعب فرقة منطقة الخليج دورا حيويا في جهود اعادة الاعمار في محافظة دهوك، وحتى هذا التاريخ مول صندوق الدعم الاقتصادي الأميركي في هذه المحافظة ٢٢ مشروعا تبلغ تكلفتها ٣٢,٥ مليون دولار. وهناك ١٤ مشروعا قيد الانجاز واربعة في طور التخطيط. وتشمل هذه المشروعات قطاعات معالجة المياه والصحة والتربية والنقل والاتصالات. ويمول صندوق الدعم الاقتصادي مشروعات اعادة الاعمار في طول العراق وعرضه من خلال التنسيق مع لجان تطوير اعادة اعمار المحافظات في كل محافظة، فيما يتركز دور فرقة منطقة الخليج في تقديم الاشراف على بعض مشروعات اللجان. من جهتها، تقول اللوتنانت كولونيل تينا ديكوزمان مسؤولة لجنة تطوير اعادة اعمار المحافظات لدى فرقة منطقة الخليج ان احد أهداف الفرقة هو "تقديم الخبرة الهندسية والتخطيط الموقعي الى المهندسين العراقيين للمضي قدما باعادة اعمار دهوك".





# Basra courthouse opens soon

STORY & PHOTOS BY A. AL BAHRANI  
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

**T**oday's judicial process can trace its roots to Iraq's Code of Hammurabi created in 1760 B.C. Soon Iraqis will open a new 11,000-square-meter two-story courthouse and witness protection facility in Basra providing visual proof that the rule of law is once again a fundamental pillar of this nation.

"When completed, the new judicial facility will serve more than two million residents," said Keith Addams with the

Gulf Region Division. The courthouse is approximately 94 percent finished and the annex 99 percent complete. "It's a magnificent structure built by local Iraqis who tell me they're very proud to be part of this effort. As I drive around to different job sites in Basra and I see the dome of the new courthouse off in the distance, I can't help but think of its impressive monumental impact on the people here," Addams continued. "As the rule of law reduces the power of selfish men, the economical and agricultural capacities of Iraq will blossom. I honestly believe that all this, and so much more, is possible, through creating,

enforcing and obeying fair and just law."

Laith Abdul Sammad, chief of the Basrah Supreme Judiciary Council, said the Iraqi Ministry of Justice is very satisfied. "Everything is good. It's a critical step in helping make Iraq a safer place for all who want peace and justice," he said.

The Gulf Region Division, which has renovated three other courthouses in Basra Province, is constructing another courthouse in the Shatt Al-Arab area. "These projects are seen as a very positive thing, especially since they enhance the southern region of Iraq's capabilities to bring justice here," Addams said.



*Iraqi workers prepare to install the irrigation system at the Basra Regional Courthouse.*

*The project has employed about 350 Iraqi local workers and helped the local economy to grow.*

# Building hope for children

BY A. AL BAHRANI

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

“I feel blessed to be working on this important project,” said Ryan Hartwig, construction representative with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Basrah Children’s Hospital Office

“Each time we go, we see more progress. I can look at the place now and actually visualize patients using this facility,” he continued. “It’s just very satisfying being part of this effort that will no doubt save or change the lives of so many Iraqi children.”

Several key partners are involved in the project including Project Hope (a nongovernment organization), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Iraqi Ministry of Health, explained Hartwig.

The overall price tag for the project now stands at \$163.8 million. This total encompasses more than U.S. funds. It includes the \$22 million grant from Spain being administered by the UNDP, \$30 million from Project HOPE for high end medical equipment and hospital staff training, and \$9.8 million from the Iraqi Ministry of Health for consumables. The MoH is also providing permanent electrical power, a wastewater treatment plant, and all the staff to operate the facility.

The hospital is designed to reduce child mortality in half within five years of its opening in southern Iraq – “a goal that will affect over one million children,” Hartwig said. The hospital will primarily be a referral center with a special focus on pediatric cancer, providing state-of-the-art specialty services never before available in Iraq.

Components of the project includes a 160,000 sq. ft. two-story, 94-bed children’s hospital building, mechanical and electrical plants, a 38-bed dormitory, medical waste treatment system, oxygen generation plant, warehouse, back-up generators, roads/parking and landscaping.

“We’re truly doing good things over here and changing people’s lives,” Hartwig said. “What you don’t see on TV are the positive projects we’re completing and turning over to the Iraqi government—new water treatment facilities, road paving, sewer lines, primary healthcare centers, substations, and schools,” he added.

A native of Le Center, Minn., Hartwig had been working as a natural resources manager at USACE’s Savannah District prior to his deployment to Iraq. “I couldn’t have made a better decision. It has been a life-changing experience. I feel like I have grown leaps and bounds personally, professionally and even spiritually,” he added.

“I really enjoy the diverse team I work with in Basrah. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Neil Underwood has kept this project together through the thick and thin and deserves a lot of the credit for where it is today, along with our Iraqi engineers who are at the project site every day. I can’t say enough about my guys out there. They are very capable and competent and have all the local knowledge that really allows this project to continue moving ahead,” said Hartwig. “I will never forget these moments at Camp Blackadder (located alongside the Basrah International Airport). The paradigm shift I have experienced in the seven months I have been here would have taken me seven years to realize back in the States.”



USACE photo

# Modern school highlights ancient education in Iraq

BY KENDAL SMITH

GULF REGION CENTRAL DISTRICT

“This ancient civilization of Mesopotamia, between the two historic rivers, taught the world how to read and how to write,” said Ahmed Rubayee, the Director General of Baghdad’s Rusafa 2 Education Department at al Neel school opening on Thursday. “That is what we are doing here today, establishing a school, and to once again, be civilized and concentrate on teaching our children to read and write.”

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Director General Rubayee congratulated Officer in Charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) Loyalty Resident Office, Maj. Robert Culberson, for the successful completion of the \$797,000 “well-constructed, attractive” elementary school. The Director General described the school as a treasure and a lesson in what is important. More than 50 guests and visitors toured the modern school facilities and freshly-manicured grounds nestled in a Rusafa neighborhood that is one of the oldest parts of Baghdad. Officials from the Ministry of Education, Baghdad’s Rusafa Governate, the Iraqi National Police, the Rusafa Fire Brigade, the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and USACE Gulf Region Central district took part in the celebration.

“This is a feel-good moment for us to give this to the community,” commented Maj. Culberson. “It is so very important for further stability, and shows the progress we’re making in Iraq.”

The two-story masonry buildings contain 12 classrooms, an administration section, a workshop, and bathroom facilities, in a 3,500 square meter walled compound. By some U.S. standards, the school would be expected to have approximately 250 students; however, Rubayee said that al Neel is expecting to open September 1 with more than 1,000 students divided in two sessions. Neel School’s construction firms used 60 percent of their material from Iraq and, in the various building phases, hired an average of 40 local workers a day.

Loyalty’s Deputy Officer in Charge and Project Officer, Navy Lt. Ben Dunford, noted that project is unique since it



*Maj. Robert Culberson, right, and Rusafa 2’s Director General of Education, Ahmed Rubayee, center, open al Neel elementary school.*

included modern amenities such as playground equipment, air conditioners and all the furniture required to have a fully functional school.

“We’ve been coming to this school since January,” said 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Capt. Timothy Green “It’s been great to see the construction and track its progress to the opening today. Al Neel School is a real breath of fresh air for the neighborhood.” The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division is the U.S. military unit responsible for Coalition operations in the Rusafa area.

According to Rubayee, there are 100 more schools, similar to the high standards of al Neel, to be built in the Rusafa area. He further explained that Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki has announced plans for 4,000 more schools in the very near future. Rubayee believes this is an essential task in order to bring Iraq to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

“Thank you for your patriotism and the support to the great Iraqi people in this critical time,” he concluded. “We are doing this for the children, for the future of Iraq.”



*Modern al Neel School in one of Baghdad’s oldest neighborhoods, constructed at a cost of \$797,000, is ready for classes.*

USACE photos

# Engineers distribute donations



*It's all smiles as Army Sgt. Danielle Colson gives out some toys and clothing to Iraqi youngsters during a July 27 visit to Hilal Al Bajari elementary school in Muthanna Province, southern Iraq.*

STORY & PHOTO BY NORRIS JONES  
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

**B**ecause of the generosity of individuals and groups in America, Gulf Region Division is doing more than just overseeing the construction of essential service projects in Iraq.

"We're going out in the community distributing donated clothing and toys to some very grateful Iraqi families," said Sgt. Danielle Colson, the NCOIC of Gulf Region Division South District's supply office. "Our goal is to make a trip each month to villages in southern Iraq."

Those interested in supporting the effort are asked to mail clothes and shoes (any size), and toys for all ages to the following address: USACE GRS, Toys/Donation Closet, COB Adder, Tallil, Iraq AE 09331.

"It touches your heart when you're out there seeing their smiles," said Colson. "We sincerely appreciate those who have already responded and encourage others to consider joining this special effort."

Colson and three other GRS HQ personnel visited a four-classroom rural elementary school in Muthanna Province July 27. Hilal Al Bajari School Headmaster Salem Jaheel said, "The gifts mean a lot to our students. This is a special day. You have made them very happy." He said he is working with the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team to get funding to expand his school that currently has more than 100 students attending grades 1-6.

The headmaster has a personal investment there as he used his own funds to build the facility four years ago. "We need at least two additional classrooms," he added.

Apart from Colson, others participating in the school visit included Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffrey Jackson, Ed Burdios and Norris Jones.

# Developing southern Iraq business

BY A. AL BAHRANI  
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

To help Iraqi contractors meet the U.S. government's scope of work requirements, proposals and other aspects of the bidding process, Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team along with Joint Contracting Command-Iraq's Regional Contracting Center Basrah, successfully conducted a one-day business development conference at the Basrah International Airport.

The Aug. 12, 2008, event presented the contract acquisition process for obtaining a construction contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the JCCI-RCC Basra, said Army Maj. Daniel George, a PRT engineer from the Gulf Region Division.

About 95 Iraqi contractors representing more than 75 companies from Basrah Province were given information to help them understand the contracting process used to award new projects that will provide services to the Iraqi people.

"We welcome you to the first, but not the last, business development conference," said Chief of Contracting Lt. Col. James Bamburg from the Army Basrah Joint Regional Contracting Center. He

also thanked Basrah Airport Director Abdul Ameer for use of the facility.

"The aim of the one-day business development conference was to provide contract registration training to local Iraqi contractors and teach them how to access business opportunities that are offered by JCCI-RCC Basrah and GRS. Also provided in the presentation were how to prepare responses to solicitations and how the proposals are evaluated," Bamburg said. "There is a clear difference in the quality of proposals from contractors that receive this type of training versus contractors that have not had training, the contractors and the proposals also become competitive."

He explained that the training clearly makes the Iraqi business owners and managers effective leaders both within their respective industries and their communities. The contracting actions that they participate in have very strong, positive impacts for the Iraqi population and economy, Bamburg said.

Al Baraa Technical Company Director in Basrah Province, Ali Al-Baghdadi said, "I consider today's conference one of the most important events. There were lots of mistakes made in our previous proposals that we didn't know about. Now we are

able to avoid those mistakes and compete to win more projects to help build the future of our country."

Ali Khreeb, a representative of Al Sairafi Company for General Construction said, "we got very useful and valuable guidance that will help us make successful proposals."

George said it is very important that contractors understand the process and how USACE evaluates proposals based on technical abilities and past performance; what they have done and how well they did it. He also said USACE wants to make sure that contractors understand how they are being evaluated. "So they give us all the documentation we need for a successful evaluation," George said. He explained that teaching local contractors how to bid on U.S. contracts--improving their ability to successfully obtain work--should increase employment in the local community.

"Basrah Area Office has 35 active projects and several projects coming available in the next several months," George said. "In addition JCCI-RCC Basrah will have 40 to 70 smaller contracts in the next three weeks that will permit new companies excellent opportunities to gain experience."

## Sulaymaniyah emergency operations center rises



*Workers lay block outside the Joint Coordination Center under construction in Sulaymaniyah Province. The center will provide a central location to dispatch emergency services for Sulaymaniyah. The two story masonry and concrete structure includes modern electrical, mechanical and plumbing systems.*

USACE photo by Erich Langer



# Water flows to neighborhoods



USACE photo

**Sgt. 1st Class Hector Cruzalicea, Gulf Region Central district's International Zone NCOIC, one of the construction inspectors for two water networks, checks on progress.**

BY POLLI BARNES KELLER  
GULF REGION DIVISION

Serving more than 2,000 homes and businesses, two water networks at a cost of \$2.6 million are almost complete in the Kadamiyah area of Baghdad.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division and the Baghdad Water Authority are working together to replace the old and damaged pipeline system in the Kadamiyah district to supply a better quality and quantity of water.

According to the Gulf Region Central districts International Zone project engineer, Malath Al Rawas, approximately 17,000 linear meters of ductile iron water pipe was laid at each of the sites. Per Baghdad Water Authority requirements, both pipe systems were hydrostatically tested, then sterilized and flushed before being put into use. All materials used in the network such as the ductile iron pipes, iron fittings, valves, fire hydrants and house connection pipes are tested in the BWA lab to ensure they meet international codes and specifications.

"We're replacing the old pipe network with ductile iron water

mains," said Al-Rawas. "It is a better quality than the previous pipes and the benefits are longer lasting."

As the heat of summer rises and water is in more demand, unauthorized tapping into water systems is common in Baghdad. Steel pipes will lessen this occurrence. The steel is more difficult to damage than the standard polyvinyl chloride pipes and lessens the threat of tapping. Water tapping affects the network's ability to operate properly by lowering the water pressure and greatly increase the risk of contamination.

Al-Rawas explains the benefits of the new system, "The existing system is old and does not serve the area adequately. The new system will not only last longer but is designed better. If there is a problem in a sector, we can isolate the area and make repairs without stopping service to the other sectors."

The old networks are being replaced and extended to service more homes and businesses. Included in the new design are 10 fire hydrants located throughout the neighborhoods.

These combined water networks costing \$2.6 million are funded by the Economic Support Fund and built by a local Iraqi construction company. Engineers from the Gulf Region Division participate as the contracting and construction management/quality assurance of the over-all project.

Sgt. 1st Class Hector Cruzalicea, Gulf Region Central district's International Zone non-commissioned officer in charge, is one of the construction inspectors for the two networks. Traveling to the sites several times a month, he ensures the construction is performed based on the scope of work according to the contract and meets international codes.

"I gain personal satisfaction knowing I am part of this joint reconstruction effort," said Cruzalicea. "It is such a crucial mission and there aren't many jobs out there where you witness the progress of a project from start to finish. Here you are able to see the end results of your work and meet the people it affects."

Started in August 2007, these water networks are under construction and scheduled for completion by the end of 2008. Currently GRD has completed 24 water distribution projects in the Baghdad area costing \$18.5 million and is working on 9 more at \$16 million.

"GRD is working hard to provide Baghdad with safe, quality water," said Wade Ricard, the Gulf Region Central district's International Zone resident engineer. "We're giving more water to more people so the need to tap into the systems is alleviated, in turn so are the problems associated with tapping, which are low water pressure and contamination."



USACE photo

# انشاء محطة في البصرة تجهز ٢٠ ألف من سكانها بالمياه

بقلم: أ. البحراني  
قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج

البصرة، العراق - أصبحت مدينة الزيرجي الواقعة شمالي محافظة البصرة (جنوب بغداد)، تتمتع بالماء الصالح للشرب للمرة

في الساعة".  
وقال كبير مهندسي المديرية العامة لماء البصرة أنه مسرور جدا بافتتاح هذه المنشأة الواقعة بمحاذاة نهر شط العرب، فهي موصولة بشبكة الكهرباء الوطنية ولها مولدة كهرباء خاصة بها ما يضمن لها الكهرباء من دون انقطاع، وزاد "هذا يعني بيئة أكثر صحة للمجتمع كله".

من جهته، قال جيمز ميلز، مهندس مكتب منطقة البصرة ان "هذا المشروع وغيره من مشروعات الخدمات الأساسية التي نشرف عليها مهمة لأنها تؤثر ايجابا في حياة العراقيين كل يوم. ومع أعمال الصيانة الضرورية، بإمكان هذه المشروعات اثراء حياة السكان لعقود من الزمان".

من جانبها، تقول ام محمد وهي ام لستة أولاد، "كنا ننتظر اكمال هذا المشروع بلهفة، سوف لن نحتاج الى استعمال مياه النهر ولا المشي لعدة كيلومترات لشراء قناني الماء النقي"، مضيئة وترتسم ابتسامة على وجهها ان "الماء الصافي يصل للمرة الاولى الى منازلنا، كل ما علينا فعله هو ان نفتح الحنفية".

الاولى بعد انجاز مشروع معالجة المياه بتكلفة ١,٢ مليون دولار.

وقال جيمز هودجيس ممثل الرقابة الحكومية الاميركية لدى فرقة منطقة الخليج

التابعة لفيلق

مهندسي الجيش

الاميركي ان

"هذا (المشروع)

هو واحد من

سبعة مشروعات

يشرف عليها

فيلق المهندسين،

ويجهز المشروع

الذي يعمل

بالتناضح العسكري

المياه الصالحة

للشرب لأكثر من

٢٠ ألف عراقي،

وتم انجازه في

٢٠ حزيران وهو

الآن يعمل بكامل

سعته، فهو ينتج

٢٠٠ مترا مكعبا



أربعة أطفال عراقيين يتمتعون بماء نظيف صالح للشرب أصبح بالإمكان وصوله الى حيهم في شمال محافظة البصرة.

## Water treatment plant benefits 20,000 Basra Province people

STORY & PHOTO BY A. AL BAHRANI  
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Al-Zierji, a town located in northern Basra Province, has fresh drinking water for the first time ever.



The plant operator runs the Reverse Osmosis unit now providing potable water to al-Zierji.

James Hodges, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said, "This is one of seven USACE water projects in the province. The \$1.2 million reverse-osmosis plant is providing potable water for more than 20,000 Iraqis. It was completed June

20 and is now fully operational, producing 200 cubic meters per hour." Hodges is the chief construction representative with Gulf Region Division Basrah Area office.

Salah Ali, chief of engineering with the Basra General Directorate of Water, said he is very pleased with the opening of the new facility, located alongside the Shatt Al-Arab waterway. It is connected to the

national power grid and also has its own generator, ensuring 24-hour continuous power. "It means a healthier environment for the entire community," he added.

According to James Mills, area engineer with the Basrah Area Office, "This project and other essential service projects we're overseeing are important because they positively impact Iraqis every day. With proper maintenance, these facilities will enrich Iraqi lives for decades to come."

With a huge smile, Um Mohammed, a mother of six children, said, "We were anxiously awaiting the completion of this work. Now we don't need to use water from the river or walk miles to buy bottled water. Clean water, for the first time, is reaching our homes. All we have to do is turn on the tap."

Across Iraq, the Gulf Region Division has completed 203 water treatment projects to date and another 11 are still in progress.



An Najaf officials hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 19 to open the 2200-sq-meter Sooq-sha'lan primary healthcare center that is expected to serve 200 patients daily.

# Sooq-sha'lan healthcare improves

STORY & PHOTO BY NORRIS JONES

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Provincial and local officials hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony July 19 to open a new primary healthcare center in Sooq-sha'lan.

Those attending included an-Najaf Deputy Governor Hassan Abtan, the Director General for an-Najaf's Health Directorate Dr. Radhwan, the PHC's Administrator Dr. Enaas, and Mayor Farooq. An Najaf is a province located south of Baghdad.

Abtan pointed out that, prior to the PHC's opening, residents traveled for an hour to get medical care. "Now it's just 5 to 10 minutes away," he added. He praised the quality of the construction, said the Iraqi crew who built it should be proud, and also complimented the partnering effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and provincial officials to ensure the project's successful completion.

Dr. Radhwan thanked those involved in getting such a fine facility built. Dr. Enass said, "This is a great day."

The new facility is expected to serve 200 patients a day and is the largest-type PHC being built in Iraq, 2,200 square meters. It offers basic health care, dental exam, x-ray room, laboratory for blood work, pharmacy, treatment rooms, emergency trauma services, inpatient and maternity care (pre-natal and birthing).

"The project is designed to make health care service more accessible to the people of an Najaf," said Gulf Region South district Construction Representative Ken Lloyd. "This modern one-story structure is equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment, furnishings, and consumables. It has a back-up generator, water treatment system, fire-alarm system, a telecommunications room and intercom system. It's an important step in Najaf's quest to improve neighborhood healthcare," he added.

Gulf Region South district is overseeing the construction of a variety of essential service projects in Iraq's nine southern provinces including new water and sewer treatment facilities, hospitals, road paving, courthouses, electrical distribution upgrades, and schools.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Gulf Region Division

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 Joshua Adekanbi, GRN  
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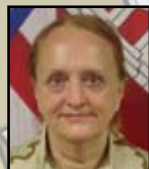
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