

ESSAYONS

Forward



BUILDING STRONGSM

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division, Iraq - Volume 5, Issue 9

October 2008

تصفح المقالات العربية



• Partnerships key to success in Iraq reconstruction

- Sulaymaniyah City is “growing children”
- USACE sewer projects, essential services
- New Imam Ali Bridge unites sister cities

ESSAYONS Forward is the field magazine of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, published in accordance with AR 360-1. It is produced for electronic distribution with limited hardcopy circulation as needed. It is produced in the Iraq theater of operations. The views and opinions expressed in this field magazine are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the Department of Defense. Letters, articles, notices of events, photographs and art are welcomed, but may be edited for clarity and brevity. Publication of submissions is at the discretion of the editor; photos must be high resolution and include caption information.

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ESSAYONS *Forward*

BUILDING STRONG..

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U.S. and Iraqi officials sign a Memorandum of Understanding as a key sign of partnership in Iraq reconstruction. See page 7

Volunteering for Duty in Iraq

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager Tonya Myrick sorts out donated toys for distribution to youngsters in southern Iraq. Myrick spent her Iraq tours with USACE's Gulf Region South district, which provides reconstruction services in the nine southern provinces of Iraq.



Message from ME



My command philosophy

I want to start by saying “THANK YOU!” Thanks for your selfless service here in Iraq, and thanks to your family, who is sacrificing a great deal in supporting your efforts. Your families are a part of our family – our GRD family, whether you’re a

Soldier, Civilian, Sailor, Airman, contractor, or Iraqi associate. So, please share this message with them.

If you haven’t seen it yet, you should know my command philosophy. This should be the baseline for everything we do:

- Reinforce mission first – full spectrum engineering; capacity building – safety always
- Provide a strong, positive and supportive command climate
- Adhere to the four Cs: Communication, Coordination, Cooperation, and Compassion
- Incorporate the four Os – Organizational effectiveness, Operational efficiency, unit Ownership, and professional Opportunities
- Foster consistent standards and practices at all levels
- Demonstrate leadership – set the example in appearance and conduct – “walk the talk”
- Develop leaders through mentorship and professional development - let Civilian leaders and NCOs do their job
- Take care of and respect Families, servicemembers, Civilians,

contractors and Iraqi associates

- Use your chain of command – there is only one
- Work and live in a values based organization – professional and personal – your word is your bond.

It’s important to me that those four C’s and four O’s really serve as the backbone for our organization. So, I am also encouraging my staff at GRD headquarters to get out to the districts once per quarter to make sure we’re all moving forward together in meeting current and future mission requirements.

As we look ahead to the next year, there is a lot of change in store – but let me clarify one thing that will not change. We will continue to be recognized as the ‘Gulf Region Division,’ in the near term. We have branded ourselves well in Iraq, and the people here know and respect GRD and the districts, GRN, GRC and GRS.

That name recognition, that branded identity is completely due to your hard work and diligence, so again – thanks for everything you’ve done so far and everything you will do in the future. We really are making a difference. We are helping meet the basic needs of the people of Iraq – with essential services that many people take for granted everyday. I believe that together, we will leave this country better than we found it.

ESSAYONS!

*Maj. Gen. Mike Eyre
Gulf Region Division
Commander*

Command Sgt. Maj. Message



People are our most precious resource

MG Eyre and I have traveled throughout the command now. We have met the majority of the commands' members and look forward to meeting anyone we may have missed. The mission is great and the work is hard, but we are getting it done - one project at a time

and one day at a time! We are amazed at all that you are accomplishing in this environment.

I want to share with you my philosophy. While some will notice it resurrects some old leadership doctrine, it is still true today.

I have four C's that I live by:

- Courage: To do the right thing always, even when no when is around in the face of challenge.
- Candor: Honesty and straight communication, with your leaders and subordinates.
- Competence: Mastering your craft; whatever it is, you must do it the very best that you can.
- Commitment: To your family, the organization, your work and your duties.

I also have four things to support the most critical thing we do; communicate.

There are four factors of communication regardless of the situation. They are:

- The Leader: Who must expressly state what it is that needs to be accomplished.
- The Led: Who must fully understand what the expectation is and be provided the resources to do so by the leader.
- The Situation: Dictates the course of action we will take when communicating in all directions - up, down, left and right.
- Communication: Is the actual execution of all of the above. Communication is part of the process as it is the most important and more often than not it is the part that is not done effectively.

For all of our accomplishments, we all need to be reminded from time to time that people are our most precious resource. They deserve the very best that we as leaders can offer. To do anything less is unjust to their sacrifices, as we serve at each others sides in whatever capacity you find yourself in.

Thank you for all that you do and for what you are going to do to accomplish our mission ahead! Thank you for your service and the time away from your loved ones. We could not do what we do without their unshakable support.

ESSAYONS! Army Strong!

*Command Sgt. Maj. Richard "Mitch" Prater
Gulf Region Division*

Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre assumes command of Iraq reconstruction efforts



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno and Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre salute the flag during the change of command ceremony, October 9, 2008, in Baghdad, Iraq.

BY PATRICIA RYAN
GULF REGION DIVISION

Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, a native of Syracuse, N.Y. who now calls Winchester, Va. home, assumed command of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a change of command ceremony here, on October 9. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq presided over the event.

“My three priorities are to continue and complete our reconstruction projects, build the ability of the Iraqis to carry on these efforts and support the safe return of our soldiers and civilians when our mission is complete,” Eyre said. He replaces Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, who commanded GRD since October of 2007.

“The mission isn't to rebuild Iraq; it's to help rebuild Iraq, because the Iraqis are the ones doing the real rebuilding,” Dorko said in his farewell speech to the audience of dignitaries from the Government of Iraq, the Coalition, the Department of State and many servicemembers, civilians, contractors and Iraqis who work for GRD.

Eyre brings extensive command experience to GRD. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Manufacturing and Management Engineering from the University of Vermont, and a Master of Science in Packaging Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York.

General overseeing Iraq reconstruction promoted

BY PATRICIA RYAN
GULF REGION DIVISION

Moments before turning over command to Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, out-going commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division, received a promotion to the rank of Major General. Commanding general of Multi-National Force-Iraq, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, presided over the ceremony on October 9.

“The greatest resource in Iraq is the people,” Dorko said, as he addressed the audience which included U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Ryan Crocker, Iraqi dignitaries, military and civilian personnel as well as contractors and Iraqis who work for GRD.

Dorko, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and native of Marblehead, Ohio, is departing Iraq to his new

assignment as deputy commander for Military and International Operations at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C., where he will continue to be intricately involved in the Iraq reconstruction mission.

During Dorko's tenure as commander, he oversaw completion of more than 500 projects in support of the mission of GRD to provide quality, responsive, full spectrum engineering in Iraq.

The projects include renovation and construction of hospitals, primary healthcare facilities; municipal buildings; water and wastewater treatment facilities; police stations, border forts, courthouses and prisons; electrical power generation and transmission; distribution systems and roads; seaports and airports.



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko receives his promotion from Commanding General Raymond T. Odierno, Multi-National Force-Iraq in a ceremony at the annex chapel, GRD.

Three significant water projects ongoing in Erbil Province

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: LUANNE FANTASIA
GULF REGION NORTH DISTRICT

“Approximately 40,000 people will go from two hours of water every three days, to three or four hours of water everyday,” said Younnis Talib, project engineer in the Erbil Resident Office.

A short distance from the Iraq/Iran border, the Sakran natural spring water flows into a recently constructed catchment, where a 5.5 mile pipeline carries it to a 450 cubic meter holding tank. Another five miles of pipe delivers the water to the town of Choman below and its two neighboring villages, where it connects to an existing water network.

the Choman Water Project employs an average of 90 local Iraqi workers a day and is a \$1 million Economic Support Fund project

“It is enough water to meet their needs because they don't have the same needs as someone living in Erbil, for example,” Talib said. At one point, local farmers prevented the contractor from working at the spring catchment area until the Kurdistan Regional Government negotiated a mutual agreement. Scheduled to finish mid-December, the Choman Water Project employs an average of 90 local Iraqi workers a day and is a \$1 million Economic Support Fund project. It is one of three water projects currently ongoing in the Erbil Resident Office.

Rosti Valley Phase II

Over a year ago, Rosti Valley in the Erbil Province suffered devastating damage from a flash flood that gained power and speed as it descended the mountain, leaving remnants of bridges, homes, and river banks behind. Phase I of the Erbil Resident Office's Rosti Valley project replaced a critical bridge and provided a massive clean-up of the debris the flood left in its wake.

Today, work is over 50 percent done on Phase II—a gabion weir and renovation of irrigation canal intakes along the mountain river that will minimize or diminish floods to come.

“We had to prevent future damage to the agriculture and irrigation for the people of these 17 mountain villages,” said Gailani Mahmud, project engineer in the Erbil Resident Office.

“A 7-meter gabion weir (about 23 feet) toward the top of the mountain provides most of the protection, because it breaks the initial current of flood waters. And, there are 15 other locations down river, each with a series of 3-meter gabions (about 10 feet),” he said. The wire gabion baskets are assembled and filled with rock at different locations up and down the river in Rosti Valley and the project employs approximately 50 local workers a day, said Mahmud. “But it is hard work. The men physically break the rock out of the mountain or haul them from the river bed.”

Sareshma Water Project

A third water project in the village of Sareshma will provide clean water to approximately 15,000 Iraqi citizens. Construction on the \$1.3 million Economic Support Fund project has temporarily stopped due to disputes with neighboring villages. The Erbil office is working with the Governor of Erbil and the Deputy General to find a solution for the dispute. The project is scheduled to complete late November.



Five miles of pipe delivers mountaintop spring water to the town of Choman below and its two neighboring villages, where it connects to an existing water network.



Rosti Valley Phase I bridge: During Phase I of the Rosti Valley project, a bridge was replaced that was critical for passage to 17 villages up and down the mountain river. This project also included the massive cleanup of debris from a flash flood in the spring of 2007.



Engineer Summit: “The only constant ... change”

BY: KENDAL SMITH
GULF REGION CENTRAL DISTRICT

“We need to look out and see what we face over the next few months, the only constant being change,” began then Gulf Region Division Commander, promotable Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, as he opened the GRD-hosted biannual Multi National Forces-Iraq Engineer Summit at Al Faw Palace September 20th in Baghdad.

“With coming elections in both our own country and Iraq, the approaching expiration of the UN Security Council resolution that governs a lot of what we do here, the Status of Forces Agreement under negotiation and the GRD change of command with a changeover to a Theater Engineer Command, we have a lot ahead of us,” he said in opening remarks.

The summit focused on “engineers in support of division operations” as districts related support operations with the respective maneuver units in their areas. Topics of discussion included the range of changing funding sources, project activity coordination with all engineering assets in theater, and the necessity for continuous information flow as well as education relating to GRD capabilities and limitations.

Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander of the 1st Armored Division that is deployed in northern Iraq, related the complexities of a counterinsurgency operations and the requirement placed on engineers. “Because of the Army’s organizational emphasis on Brigade Combat Teams, there is a lack of familiarization with what the different parts of an army division can do. In many cases, engineers need to help

educate maneuver unit commanders on capabilities, now more than ever before.” He went on to discuss many of the aspects of integration that may need to write new doctrines for the engineers.

In closing, Dorko called for the summit to continue to serve as a forum for the engineer community, even in the face of constant change, to resolve issues and solve the complex problems of rebuilding in Iraq.



More than 100 participants of the Engineer Summit at al Faw Palace in Baghdad focused on the theme of “Engineers in Support of Division Operations.”

Partnerships key to success in Iraq reconstruction

BY DEDE CORDELL
GULF REGION DIVISION

The Coalition Forces marked a significant milestone in reconstruction efforts within the city of Baghdad October 20, as the city's leaders and those of several U.S. government agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding to lay a solid foundation for all future partnerships.

The memorandum solidifies the partnership between the many agencies responsible for reconstruction efforts within the city of Baghdad, and spells out agreed-upon procedures and standards for each project, ensuring that everyone is working with a common understanding.

The signing ceremony included: Dr. Saber Al-Essawi, mayor of Baghdad; Maj. Gen. Jeffery W. Hammond, commander, Multi National Division – Baghdad; Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, commander, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Rear Adm. Kathleen M. Dussault, commander, Joint Contracting Command – Iraq; and John Bass, team leader, Provincial Reconstruction Team – Baghdad.

“The importance of this understanding cannot be overstated,” said Essawi. “This will ensure a solid foundation of partnership beneath us – not just superficial – but really solid partnerships.”

Eyre highlighted the cooperative spirit and the many months of negotiations and effort to make this agreement possible. “The key is what we do from this point forward,” he said. “We’re going to continue to enhance our working relationships, as – together – we support the needs of Baghdad and all of its citizens.”

Each of the signatories took a moment to discuss the significance of the partnership agreement, and their hopes for the future.

“There are still many challenges ahead,” said Hammond, “but I look forward to coming back in the future and looking at the splendor of one of the world’s greatest cities.”

“Communication and coordination are the most important

facets for success,” said Dussault.

Bass added that each of these agencies and organizations have been working toward a common objective, “to assist the people of Baghdad.” But, he said that now “we have the potential to do that in a coordinated fashion that truly reflects the needs and desires of the people of this city.”

The memorandum is a significant development in the growing partnerships between the governments of Iraq and the U.S. It helps facilitate and streamline the entire process of project development, from start to finish, allowing the city leaders to develop a sense of ownership in the projects from the beginning. This, in turn, ensures the Coalition Forces turn over projects that are acceptable to the city of Baghdad.



Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, commander, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with several other Coalition leaders and the mayor of Baghdad.



(Left to right) John Bass, team leader, Provincial Reconstruction Team – Baghdad; Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, commander, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Dr. Saber Al-Essawi, mayor of Baghdad; Maj. Gen. Jeffery W. Hammond, commander, Multi National Division – Baghdad; and Rear Adm. Kathleen M. Dussault, commander, Joint Contracting Command – Iraq each sign copies of the MOU.

Sulaymaniyah City is “growing children”

BY LUANNE FANTASIA
GULF REGION NORTH DISTRICT

The contractor has barely started turning dirt for the Shalaw School in this small district of Sulaymaniyah City, but that in itself is a major accomplishment. Since the original site for the project is a former landfill and unsuitable for construction, a new location had to be found.

"This project was on hold for almost a year," said Ric Wiedmaier, resident engineer in the Sulaymaniyah Resident Office. "Governor Dana backed us to find another site for the school, which is a garden area."

Wiedmaier said there is a rule in the Sulaymaniyah Province that a garden area is never used for anything otherwise. "But, the governor decided growing children in this school is more important than growing flowers, and pushed it through. Without him, we would have lost this project," Wiedmaier said, "and these people would have lost that hope."

"There was only one course of action we could take and that was to persevere," Wiedmaier said. "These kids are so stoked to get this new school, there was no way we could not make this happen for this village."

The Shalaw School is designed to accommodate 1,000 students a day, in two shifts of 500 each; and was easily adaptable to the new site, Wiedmaier added.

Sulaymaniyah Primary School

In the nearby district of Qirga, another school is close to completion and the villagers wait patiently.

"The people of the village are coming to me every day--since the first day--to ask when is their new school ready," said the foreman for the Iraqi construction contractor. "I tell them, 'soon, soon' and they are excited and proud." He said currently the 400 children go to school in a small, 200-square-meter house down the gravel road from their new, long-awaited school.

The bright, airy 12-classroom primary school gives these children--and an

additional 800 children--a spacious 1,800 square meters, with huge skylights, a multipurpose hall, play yard and a garden area offering them the experience of planting and nurturing flowers and vegetables. It will provide local employment to 24 teachers and 14 staff members, as well as 100 other workers during the school term.

When asked if the school will be ready for the children in October, the foreman

said, "The building is ready. I hope the deputy general will bring desks for the children...and blackboards for the teachers."

The Sulaymaniyah Resident Office currently has 25 reconstruction projects ongoing, with another five projects planned. To date, SRO has completed seven reconstructed schools; with six new school constructions currently ongoing, and one planned.



The bright and airy 12-classroom Qirga School will accommodate approximately 1,200 students. Currently 400 students go to school in a small, 200-square-meter house.



The Sulaymaniyah Ministry of Education made sure the students had desks. Village children went to the new school two days after the project was turned over to the Government of Iraq on October 20.



مدينة السليمانية "ترزع التلاميذ"

بقلم لوان فانتيزا
قسم الشمال في فرقة منطقة الخليج

الانجاز فيما كان أهل القرية ينتظرون بلهفة. وقال المشرف على العمال "منذ اليوم الأول يأتي الي سكان القرية يوميا للسؤال عن موعد افتتاح المدرسة الجديدة ... وأقول لهم قريبا، قريبا، وهم متحمسون وفرحون بها".

وأضاف أن هناك حاليا ٤٠٠ طالب يذهبون الي منزل صغير نسبيا مساحته ٢٠٠ متر مربع يقع في نهاية طريق مكسو بالحصى قريبا من مدرستهم التي طال انتظارهم لها. وتوفر المدرسة الابتدائية الجديدة التي تتكون من ١٢ قاعة دراسية لهؤلاء الأطفال ولـ ٨٠٠ طفل آخرين، مكانا رحيبا تبلغ مساحته ١٨٠٠ مترا مربعا فيه فتحات كبيرة في السقف وهي جيدة التهوية وفيها قاعة متعددة الاستعمالات وملعب وحديقة يكتسبون فيها خبرة زراعة الزهور والخضروات والعناية بها. وتوفر في الوقت نفسه فرص عمل لـ ٢٤ معلما و١٤ موظفا بعد ان وفرت أعمالا لـ ١٠٠ عامل.

وجوابا عن سؤال فيما اذا كانت المدرسة ستفتح في تشرين الأول، قال المشرف على العمال "المبنى على اهبة الاستعداد، وأمل أن يجلب نائب المدير مقاعد دراسية للتلاميذ، وسبورات للمعلمين". وتشرف دائرة السليمانية المقيمة، التابعة للقسم الشمالي في فرقة منطقة الخليج، على ٢٥ مشروع بناء قيد الانجاز حاليا، فضلا عن خمسة مشروعات في طور التخطيط. وحتى الان، أشرفت الدائرة على سبع مدارس اعيد بناؤها وهناك ست مدارس جديدة قيد الانجاز وواحدة في طور التخطيط.

السليمانية، العراق - بدأ المقاول للتو رفع الأوساخ من مدرسة شالاو-الحديقة في محافظة السليمانية، لكن ذلك يعد انجازا بحد ذاته، حيث يحظر اتخاذ الحدائق في هذه المحافظة لأغراض اخرى. وبسبب امتلاء موقع المشروع الأولي بالنفايات وعدم مناسبته للبناء عليه، كان ينبغي العثور على موقع جديد.

وقال ريك وايدماير المهندس المقيم في دائرة السليمانية "كان هذا المشروع في البداية متوقفا لنحو عام"، مضيفا "قدم المحافظ دانا لنا المساعدة في البحث عن موقع آخر للمدرسة، فكان الموقع الجديد عبارة عن حديقة".

واوضح وايدماير ان هناك قاعدة في محافظة السليمانية وهي أن الحديقة لا يمكن ان تستعمل لأغراض اخرى. وأضاف "لكن المحافظ يرى أن 'زراعة' الأطفال في هذه الحديقة أكثر أهمية من 'زراعة' الزهور، فقدم لنا المساعدة، وكاد المشروع أن يضيع لولاه، ولأضاع هؤلاء الناس الأمل معه أيضا".

وأكد "كان هناك اجراء واحد استطعنا أن نتخذه، وهو الاستمرار بحزم وتصميم"، مضيفا "هؤلاء الأطفال متحمسون جدا للذهاب الي المدرسة الجديدة، ولم نأل جهدا في مساعدة هذه القرية".

وصممت مدرسة شالاو للتوسع لألف طالب في اليوم، في وجبتين تضم كل منهما ٥٠٠ طالب، ومن السهل ان يتكيفوا مع الموقع الجديد، بحسب وايدماير.

مدرسة السليمانية الابتدائية
وفي مدينة قرعة القريبة، كانت هناك مدرسة جديدة على وشك

USACE sewer projects, essential services to improve quality of life

BY KENDAL SMITH
GULF REGION CENTRAL DISTRICT

“After all the suffering of deprived people in this neglected area by the hands of the former regime, Insha’Allah, those sufferings are going away as a result of the efforts performed by our Coalition friends and our brothers in the government,” said Sheikh Kemal Yoda, east Baghdad’s Nisan 9 Chairman of Civil Services, at the opening ceremony this week for the completed Kamaliya Sewer Network.

Iraqi officials and Coalition forces, including Gulf Region Division Central district’s Loyalty Resident Office staff, celebrated the \$33.5 million completed project in a ribbon cutting in one of Baghdad’ toughest neighborhoods. Taking more than four years to finish because of continued security issues in the area, the event was commemorated and applauded at Pump Station 5B. The pump station is one of two collection points which will bring sewage in, then lift and push it out through effluent trunk lines.

Overall, the 10 pump-station network with more than 160 kilometers of pipe serves 11 muhallas in the Kamaliya and Oubaidi municipalities. According to Deputy City Council Chairman Wadi al-Shammari, more than 175,000 of the poorest residents in the New Baghdad area will benefit from the sewer system. It was noted by all five of the Iraqi officials at the September 3 ceremony that this civic improvement will reduce diseases and provide an infrastructure crucial to improving health and well-being for citizens.

Dr. Kareem Anber, Nisan 9’s sector committee chief, noted that Kamaliya has suffered for over 60 years because of the lack of a sewer system. The city would not pave roads, for example, until central sewer lines were placed. There are no paved roads in Nisan 9, he said, and the residents eagerly await both the paving of long-neglected streets with the next step to improving living conditions, a water treatment plant. Dr. Anber remarked that this project was by far the largest for Nisan 9 and pronounced it to

be an example of defeating terrorism by all means in helping the people of the area.

“This is a historic event. Safety and health now have a tremendous advantage in this neighborhood,” said Maj. Robert Culberson, officer in charge of the USACE Central District’s Loyalty Resident Office. “It’s a great sign of growth and we’re proud to be a part.”



The Kamaliya Sewer Network will greatly improve public health and help make street scenes like this a thing of the past.



Officials prepare to cut the ribbon at the Kamaliya Sewer Network ceremony in new Baghdad’s Nisan 9. Holding the scissors are Deputy City Council Chairman Wadi al-Shammari and Brigadier General Amir of the Ministry of Interior’s National Police Command. Keeping the ribbon steady is Maj. Robert Culberson, OIC of the USACE Loyalty Resident Office.

New Imam Ali Bridge unites sister cities

BY ALICIA EMBREY
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

During the August 28 opening ceremony of a new bridge south of Baghdad, Iraq's vice president said the \$6.5 million project shows the Iraqi government's commitment to improving people's lives in poorer areas that were ignored by the former regime.

"Projects such as the new Imam Ali Bridge will help generate economic improvement," Adil Abdal-Mahdi said. Included in the project are sidewalks, railings, approach lighting systems, along with a paved area on each side of the bridge for fire truck access to the river.

The bridge will provide a safe and reliable crossing across the Euphrates River connecting the sister cities of Kufa and Najaf, a

vital component for commerce and transportation in that region, said Dr. Ameer, the Iraqi deputy Resident Engineer with the Gulf Region Division.

"Local residents are very appreciative," he said. "The 350-meter multi-span concrete bridge replaces a pontoon bridge and should help alleviate some of the traffic jams, especially during the religious season."

Imam Ali shrine in Najaf and the Kufa mosque are two of Shiite Islam's holiest sites. During the religious season, the new bridge now allows pilgrims and general traffic to bypass the congested market area in downtown Kufa. "This bridge is a great addition to the area," said Vice President Abdal-Mahdi.



Local residents and Iraqi government officials celebrate the opening of Imam Ali bridge.



Musicians perform during the opening of the bridge that unites the cities of Najaf and Kufa, south of Baghdad.

Basra neighborhood very pleased with newly opened primary healthcare clinic

BY A. AL BAHRANI
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Thousands of residents in the al-Risala neighborhood in Basra no longer have to walk or drive up to 20 kilometers to get medical care for their families, now that the Iraqi Ministry of Health opened a new primary healthcare center there in July.

Dr. Alia Al-Hassan, the clinic administrator said, "We're providing healthcare to about 300 patients daily, newborns to the elderly. This community, which has been neglected for a long time, is thrilled to have this new, modern medical facility." She pointed out they currently have a staff of 40 personnel. "We hope to increase that number in the near future to offer additional medical services."

Physician Assistant Hussein Na'ma said the new healthcare center features state-of-the-art equipment and for some patients "it's the first time their families have had access to preventive medical services, as well as certain high tech services."

James Hodges, Gulf Region Division construction representative, said, "It's great to see their smiles of appreciation. They are very happy to finally have local access to comprehensive medical care."

GRD, which has built six other healthcare centers in Basra Province, has three additional ones under construction. "These

projects are seen as a very positive thing, especially since they affect the lives of the people so directly," Hodges said.



A toddler receives an immunization by a physicians assistant at the newly opened primary healthcare center in Basra's al-Risala neighborhood.



Al Kut's downtown business area to get modern fish, meat market complexes

BY ALICIA EMBREY
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Al Kut's downtown business area will soon feature two modern complexes for fresh meat and fish.

A new \$2.7-million 1,500-square-meter fish market will include space for 24 fish shops with cold storage, a cafeteria, coffee shop, central courtyard, exterior sidewalks and parking lot.

Located nearby will be a new \$2.4-million 2,000-square-meter meat market housing 25 butcher shops with cold storage, coffee shops, central courtyard with two fountains, exterior sidewalks and parking lot.

"Those two new facilities will provide a real boost to al Kut's economy," said Iraqi Engineer Hussein Sabry with the Gulf Region Division. "They will employ 300 people and most importantly, with the cold storage capability, residents will know they are getting a quality product."

Sabry is a lifelong resident of Wasit and very proud to be part of the effort in helping the city move forward. "The markets are part of an urban planning

initiative developed by the Wasit Provincial Council, the al Kut Municipality Office Director General, and coordinated with the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team," he pointed out.

Construction on both projects is scheduled to be completed next spring.

More than 638 projects, including roads, schools, water treatment facilities and primary healthcare clinics, have been completed in Babil, Karbala, Wasit, al Qadisiyah, and an Najaf provinces over the past year, valued collectively at about \$700 million.



Construction is under way to build a \$2.7 million fish market and a \$2.4 million meat market in al Kut, Wasit Province.

During 43 years service, Bilstoft part of USACE history

BY JOHN CONNOR
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

You know you've been around for a while when you stumble across a picture of your youthful self in a history book.

John Bilstoft, a construction representative with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division South District (GRS), Iraq, had that experience recently when GRS received a shipment of books, "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A History." John was browsing thru the book and there, in the section of the history dealing with the role of Army Engineers in the Vietnam War, was a picture of John and another young soldier apparently preparing to ignite a charge to blow part of the infamous tunnels of Cu Chi.

John's immediate reaction to his discovery? "When you're in a history book, it's time to retire," he said.

Not quite yet — John and his wife Pat (administrative officer at GRS) are closing in on their first year anniversary in Iraq.

John knows the time and place that picture was taken —Cu Chi in 1966. The Viet Cong riddled the area, northwest of Saigon, with an elaborate system of tunnels from which they waged war on U.S. forces. He reports that he does not recall the exact circumstances regarding the photo — maybe they were about to blow some ordinance. In any event, John was an Army engineer on the job at Cu Chi with the 362nd Engineer Company (LE), attached to the 588th Engineer Battalion (CBT), with the mission of building a base camp for the



Construction Representatives John Morgan (left) and John Bilstoft with Gulf Region Division are each overseeing a number of essential service projects improving neighborhoods throughout southern Iraq.

in the 1960's with the 78th Engineer Battalion (CBT). They constructed many civic projects that included sports fields and sewage drainage systems. One project, a soccer field, was still in use when he and Pat visited it while working in Germany in 2007. He believes that recovery in Iraq can blossom as it did in Germany after that war.

He clearly cherishes the experience, joking that "When I discovered my mother was a civilian, I ran away from home."

In his own words when asked what was most impressive after serving 43-plus years with the US Army. "I'm most impressed with the more youthful American Citizens that I work with each day, both military and civilian. They are prepared to take over. What a novel idea."

headquarters of the 25th Infantry Division. While in Vietnam, John was involved in many engineering projects similar to the work he is now overseeing as a GRS construction representative — building roads and bridges, water treatment units, and medical facilities.

During his second tour of Vietnam in March of 1970, while serving as a construction supervisor with Company B 554th Engineering Battalion (Const) he was wounded in action ending his time with the engineers. John was reclassified and served the remainder of his 26-plus years of active duty as a recruiter/career counselor.

John also served in Germany

Vo-tech grads part of crew renovating, expanding facility

BY ALICIA EMBREY
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Iraqi workers, who are helping expand the job-training opportunities at a vo-tech school in Babil Province, have a personal interest in ensuring the renovation is done right.

"Many of the carpenters, electricians and masons on that construction crew attended classes at Iskandariyah Vocational Technical School and know the value of its curriculum," said Iraqi engineer Ali Edreise with the Gulf Region Division. The \$4.5 million project involves renovating seven school dormitories that will house up to 1400 students, as well as classrooms and the auditorium.

"After Iraq's liberation in 2003, the school was ransacked and looted," explained Edreise. "The furniture, doors and windows were stolen and the rooms had no water, electricity, or working

restrooms. The renovations will allow students from outside the area to attend classes and learn new skills."

Edreise pointed out this is the third phase of improvements at that facility. "In 2007, we oversaw a \$600,000 electrical upgrade so the automotive and machinery shops were functioning, as well as a complete new outfitting of the school's food preparation and dining facility. Earlier this year, new concrete flooring was installed in the grinding workshop, milling workshop, tools workshop and turning workshop, along with new electrical connections and exhaust fans there under a \$77,000 project," he continued.

"Prior to 2007, Iskandariyah Vo-tech was able to offer only one course with about 30 students in attendance," Edreise said.

"Today, the curriculum includes 18 classes with over 1,250 students enrolled. When the final phase is completed in December, the vo-tech will be able to house and educate over 4,000 students each year."

The curriculum includes classes in computer operations and maintenance, sewing, hair care, welding, auto mechanics and body work, electrician fundamentals and carpentry.

The project is located in Babil Province, about 50 kilometers south of Baghdad.

More than 638 infrastructure projects valued at \$700 million have been completed in Babil, Karbala, Wasit, al Qadisiyah, and an Najaf over the past year. These include roads, schools, water treatment facilities, electrical distribution improvements, and primary health care clinics.

New Baghdad courthouse

BY KENDAL SMITH
GULF REGION CENTRAL DISTRICT

“built by Iraqis for Iraqis”

“Iraq was the first country to introduce laws to the world and now it is important to bring back the rule of law to Iraq,” said Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, September 10, at opening of the Rusafa Justice Palace in Baghdad.

With a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Prime Minister Maliki officially opened the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built \$11.3 million new-construction facility. Members of the Higher Judicial Council and judicial members, Coalition forces, security teams and more than 30 international media crowded the central courtroom to overflowing to listen to the Iraqi judicial officers in the Justice Palace.

Prayers from the Koran and a moment of silence in the courtroom for all those judges and judicial workers killed in Saddam years under Saddam and during the turmoil of the past years, led off the array of speakers.

Iraqi Chief Justice Medhat referred to the importance of the Justice Palace in establishing the rule of law in Iraq. Medhat gave thanks to the Coalition forces and a special recognition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the workmanship and diligence.

Serving approximately 1.2 million people of the Rusafa Qada and adjacent areas east of the Tigris River, the Central District (GRC), Gulf Region Division, project was completed by the GRC's Loyalty Resident Office.

Built by local Iraqi construction companies with quality assurance by the Loyalty RO, the compound consists of a court house, a witness security facility and 16 additional structures for security, maintenance and concessions.

Courtrooms, offices and conference rooms for the High Judicial Council of Iraq are located in the two-story 10,200 square meter Court House. Secure, apartment-style living quarters for approximately 150 witnesses, and offices for the judges and other legal advisers are located in the 4,000 square-meter Witness Security Facility. The two buildings are joined by an enclosed corridor that allows witnesses and court officials to move between the facilities without exposure to danger. This structure is based on a generic courthouse design which serves



Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki and Chief Justice Medhat, far right, cut the ceremonial ribbon opening the \$11.3 million new Justice Palace complex in Baghdad on Sept. 10, 2008.

as the model for all other new courthouse construction throughout Iraq.

The compound also includes closed circuit television, security cameras and an outer force protection wall with an entry control point and secure parking. Additional security measures include walk-thru metal detectors, ion detectors and X-ray machines.

Begun on Nov. 10, 2006, the Justice Palace was completed Aug. 19, 2008. During the 22 months of construction, the project management team worked through numerous delays. The contractor's progress was interrupted by unrest in Sadr City, where the majority of the labor force resides.

Several times during construction, the Government of Iraq imposed all-day curfews on citizens to prevent movement on the streets. Delivery trucks were banned as a precaution because stolen trucks were used to carry vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED).

This is rightly called the Palace of Justice, said U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker. “It was built by Iraqis for Iraqis. But as great as this building is, what it will be used for is even greater. Because it is in this palace that the common man will receive justice,” he said. Crocker went on to thank all those involved in the heroic efforts to bring justice to Iraq.

“It was wonderful to have all the dignitaries and General Petraeus recognize the work it's taken to get this enormous project completed,” summed up Loyalty Resident Office Engineer Derrick Mitchell. “Having been through this project's trials and tough times over all 22 months of construction, it's a beautiful thing to see it today.”

The reconstruction of Iraq is about reconstructing justice as well. Rusafa is one of two major GRC projects for the reconstruction of the “rule of law” in Iraq. The other is the \$21.5 million Anbar Judicial Complex in Ramadi, now under renovation and construction. Phase 1 is to be finished by the end of October. Phase 2 will complete the project by June 30, 2009.



Attendees of the Sept. 10, 2008, opening ceremony gather outside the Rusafa Justice Palace.

USACE engineer helps improve Iraq security

BY JOHN CONNOR

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Jim Marple, an engineer managing projects in excess of \$325 million and developing future projects valued above \$828 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division, is finishing another tour.

In 2007, Marple served his first six-month deployment as a water project manager overseeing initiatives to bring clean water to Iraqi neighborhoods. Serving both tours with Gulf Region South district, Marple provides reconstruction services in Iraq's nine southern provinces.

"The local atmosphere seems to be much improved over the 2007 tour," said Marple. "The IDF (indirect fire) is much more infrequent and road conditions--IED's (improvised explosive devices)-- seem to be much better. Iraqi workers tell me they also believe things have improved."

An Arkansas native who works for the USACE Little Rock District, Marple in recent years deployed twice to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA and volunteered as a quality assurance representative along the Louisiana Gulf Coast and east Texas to work on the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery.

Marple resides in Cabot, AK with his wife. He served six years active duty as an Army CH-47 Chinook mechanic/Flight



USACE Project Manager Jim Marple checks construction quality at the new \$28.8 million prison being built near Nasiriyah in southern Iraq.

Engineer. He began his USACE career in 1995 in the Little Rock district as an Intern Park Ranger for the Greer's Ferry Lake Project Office's Recreation and Resource Management Section. Later in 1999, Marple graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration.

In 2003, he was tapped to be the Chief Park Ranger responsible for administering one of the Corps' largest recreation programs. His stateside administrative experience has come in handy in Iraq. He is now the Military Construction and Security & Justice Project Manager for Gulf Region South.

Marple's job involves developing and using project tracking tools, working with USACE resource management personnel to ensure adequate project funding; and providing the leadership, communication and coordination needed to resolve problems and issues in a timely fashion. He said what he likes about his job is the satisfaction of seeing the projects take shape and put into use the "interaction with his co-workers" and "constantly learning about PM (project manager) roles and responsibilities."

Among the many security and justice projects, Marple worked a half dozen courthouse projects. "These are important both practically and symbolically in terms of promoting the rule of law, a cornerstone of Iraqi society," he said.

He also manages the construction of a \$28.8 million prison near Nasiriyah that will house 1600 inmates. "Security and justice -- it's great to see things are improving in Iraq," he concluded.

USACE experts prepare Basrah contractors for success, sharing mastery of contracting

BY A. AL BAHRANI

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working closely with Iraqi businessmen to teach them how to bid on contracts for work with the U.S. government.

At a workshop in Basrah on Oct. 9, USACE contract specialist, Karen Johnson and project manager, Sheila Hyde provided information on topics such as how to read and understand government solicitation requirements; the key steps in the USACE contracting process, from initial scope of work to contract award; adhering to the Defense Base Act insurance requirements; other important documents (i.e. past performance evaluations, letters of recommendation, security plan); the need for accurate Electronic Fund Transfer information for payment purposes and accessing solicitation web sites such as www.baghdadbusinesscenter.org.

"It was great to see this kind of turnout," said Johnson. "They were very interested in learning about the fundamental requirements of a 'winning' proposal for new construction projects. I enjoyed interacting and networking with them."

Ammar Fadhel, a civil engineer and a representative of Al-Minnen Company for General Construction said, "This was a very helpful session. Through this meeting we have learned how to avoid mistakes that we made in our old proposals. It's a positive

step as those of us in Basrah Province continue to move forward."

Sabah Khadum, an executive manager for Alghasag Iraqi Engineering Company said, "We all have the qualifications to do business and we don't have any problems with the English language. The issue that we have faced is understanding what's specifically required to make a good proposal. Now we know. This is exactly what we needed."

The workshop is part of a major USACE effort to develop Iraq's ability to build and manage all the new infrastructure on its own.

The businessmen were provided an information packet with copies of the discussed material translated into Arabic and a compact disc with electronic copies of regulations and other information.

During the last year, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's South district overseeing work in Iraq's nine southern provinces, awarded 95 new projects valued at \$400 million and completed 174 projects in a variety of areas including new hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, courthouses, roads and bridges.

USACE design, engineering team blends Iraqi, U.S. experience

BY JOHN CONNOR
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

A ton of essential work on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in Iraq gets done before the first shovel-full of dirt is turned to get construction launched.

Among those first involved in a project are Andy Frank and his Engineering and Design Branch colleagues at USACE's Gulf Region South District: who are responsible for developing the plans and scopes of work in support of 200 active and future construction projects valued at over \$1 billion.

Frank is branch chief of a 16-person office that now includes eight Iraqi engineers. "This is a great staff, all dedicated professionals, working together to help Iraq move forward," he said. "The teamwork and camaraderie are the most satisfying aspects of my job."

The projects Frank and his mates have developed include schools, hospitals, universities, water treatment facilities, high voltage electrical lines, canal pumping stations, sewer systems, roads, bridges, health clinics, prisons, courthouses, slaughterhouses, police stations, and Iraqi Army bases.

"Andy has a great attitude with a permeating positive approach which really gets the others going. He's been great at pulling together the team," said his boss



Frank (GRS design chief) and a GRS Iraqi engineer discuss plans for a new water treatment plant in Muthanna Province.

Tom Eidson, GRS' Chief of Engineering and Construction.

Frank's staff assembles project information, performs site visits as needed, designs conceptual drawings and authors Independent Government Estimates. The team has reviewed over 35 design and construction project submittals, processed 84 contract modifications, and performed 55 bid

proposal price analyses in the last 6 months.

"Even though I miss my family, I feel I'm really doing something important to make the world a better place," said Frank, who works at home as the Installation Support Program Manager for USACE's Southwestern Division in Dallas. He has a wife and three grown children. His oldest daughter is getting married in November.

Frank is nearing the end of his second tour in Iraq. His first tour was for a year; the current one for six months. "It's been a huge advantage when Andy returned to GRS. He walked through the door and picked up where he left off and never missed a beat," said Eidson. "Andy's experience has been a catalyst to improving the synergy and overall production in the office," he added.

Frank graduated from Oregon State University in 1983 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He likes to fly powered paragliders, is active in his church, and enjoys exercising.

"There is so much that needs to be fixed, corrected or built over here and it is very rewarding to be a small part of a great effort to help the Iraqi people," Frank concluded.

Small Iraqi town will soon have access to clean water

BY ALICIA EMBREY
GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

A tiny community south of Baghdad will soon have access to clean drinking water for the first time ever.

Snaditch, a town with about 500 households, is located in Babil Province. With the help of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it will soon benefit from a 200 cubic meter per hour water compact unit and distribution network.

"The local village people and nearby farmers use tributary water from the Euphrates River for drinking, cooking and irrigation," said Iraqi Engineer Majeed Mhammeed Abass who works for USACE. "Less than 50 miles from Baghdad, the water is laden with water born bacteria posing a health hazard."

The \$1.1 million project will include the treatment facility itself, a pump station, intake riverside structure, and diesel generator, Abass added.

"The community is very happy that clean, drinking water will soon be available. It's a significant step forward and the project offers the added benefit of providing jobs for nearly 50 people

from the local area," he concluded. The project is 30 percent complete and is expected to finish next summer.



About 50 local Iraqis are on the construction crew building a 200 cubic meter per hour water compact unit and distribution network in Babil province.



Ninewa Province ready to spend \$6.6M for infrastructure improvements

BY LUANNE FANTASIA
GULF REGION NORTH DISTRICT

I-CERP is a new version of an old program.

The original Commander's Emergency Response Program was established by the coalition commander in 2003 with seized regime cash. Brigade combatant commanders were entrusted with CERP funds to respond to immediate humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people in their areas of responsibility. CERP coffers couldn't be used in conjunction with appropriated funds and were governed by strict parameters and control.

Since the inception of that nascent program, CERP money has repaired schools, jails and police stations; refurbished water and sewage treatment facilities; rebuilt bridges and roads; reenergized government and civic operations; and afforded untold thousands of displaced Iraqi people the means by which to return to their homes. Seized money well spent.

Conversely, a new initiative called the Iraq-Commander's Emergency Response Program is a voluntary financial arrangement between Iraqi provincial governments using their own government funds and asking the coalition forces to help them.

"The I-CERP program provides a good opportunity for coalition forces to work with the local government to develop and execute projects that are needed now—not three years from now when the local budget process catches up," said Lt. Col. William Gatewood, the Gulf Region North district's engineer on the Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is in the pre-award stage now for 10 proposed projects from brigade combatant commanders and the PRT in the Ninewa Province. The Joint Contracting Command-Iraq will award the 10 contracts, ideally by the end of December.

* Two are water projects that are small dollar with huge sustaining benefit to the people of Tal'afar's Al-Gada and Al-Jazera neighborhoods.

* Eight are road projects—including Routes Santa Fe and

Porsche in and around the city of Mosul.

The remaining six road projects are in the western part of the Ninewa Province. All are critical to the economic growth and will increase the flow of commerce into Mosul and the entire province. All support commercial, essential and emergency services from Iraq's second-largest city to its Syrian border.

Gatewood said the design of the road projects will be provided mainly by the local government and to their standards. "When questions arise concerning such items as curb and median specifications, the Iraqi engineers will work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop an acceptable standard."

Since some of the projects are essentially identical, USACE is considering "bundling" two or three projects together, allowing Iraqi construction contractors to bid on the bundle. One school of thought is this defeats the intent of I-CERP—to provide work for the small contractor. Another is that "bundling" is justified because the majority of the projects are located in Western Ninewa where skilled labor is limited. The bottom line is that either way, it gets Ninewa's economy moving.

"I-CERP projects mainly deal with basic services," Gatewood said. "With roads repaired and water systems functioning properly, business people can focus on running their businesses."

He went on to say, "The local government's involvement in the I-CERP program has been very good. The Iraqis carefully evaluate each project to make sure it's a prudent use of Iraqi money."

Since the beginning of the Iraq Reconstruction Program in 2004, the Mosul Resident Office has had project and construction management for over 400 reconstruction projects in the Ninewa Province. Projects include health and education; electrical and oil; security and justice; public works and water; transportation; and military construction. These improvements total more than \$44 million from different funding sources, including CERP.

Trevino sees the Iraqis moving on with their lives

BY LUANNE FANTASIA
GULF REGION NORTH DISTRICT

Wanting to help make a difference, Army Reserve Lt. Col. Mario Trevino from Nokesville, Va. volunteered for a tour in Iraq arriving for duty in March and scheduled to redeploy in January 2009.

Trevino is an Engineer officer with the US Army Corps of Engineers Contingency Response Unit—a Reserve unit based at the USACE headquarters building in Washington, D.C. In his civilian life, Trevino is the Lodging Program manager for the U.S. Navy, at the Navy Installations Command's Fleet and Family Readiness in the nation's capital.

"The US Army Corps of Engineers is the most important part of the reconstruction efforts here in Iraq," Trevino said. "Since the time when US troops arrived, rebuilding this country has required the expert and proven methods of construction that USACE has to offer...in addition to the expert and professional skills of more than 400 civilian and military volunteers who have answered the call of duty [in our northern district]."

Since the Gulf Region Division's activation in 2004, the Kirkuk Area Office and its two resident offices oversaw project and construction management of some 284 reconstruction projects in the Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces; totaling more than \$446 million. Projects include Transportation and Communication; Security and Justice; Oil and Electricity; Public Works and Water and Health and Education.

"The predominant projects in our Kirkuk area have been 40 border forts [along the Iraq/Iran border in neighboring Sulayminayah Province]; 74 schools in both Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces and the recently completed Kirkuk-to-Bayji Pipeline Exclusion Zone," said Trevino.

Begun in January 2007, the Pipeline Exclusion Zone is 80-kilometers of razor wire, fence, and anti-vehicle ditches and berms that immediately reduced theft, attacks and sabotage on the pipeline from the oil-rich fields of Kirkuk to the Bayji Oil Refinery. Today the project benefits the Government of Iraq to the tune of \$30 million daily.

Trevino sees the Corps of Engineers'

footprint changing in Iraq now. "As U.S. reconstruction funding becomes scarce, and Iraqi funding begins to make its way to the continued reconstruction efforts, we [USACE] will probably see a lull in project development until Iraqi funding becomes available," he said. "In the mean time some of our efforts will be focused on other type of projects, such as Iraqi bases for their current military."

On a more personal level, Trevino wanted to help make a difference for the Iraqi people and he feels he has. "I see that our efforts in Iraq have provided better facilities, new roads, and new water systems. Those projects have given many Iraqi people a better life. I see joy in the children when we complete their new schools. They'll be the next generation for this country and I believe education is the key to their future."

Trevino said it has been his pleasure to meet and work with the local elders of many of the smaller villages; provincial governors and director generals in Kirkuk and Sulayminayah and the Iraqi military leaders.

"The commanding general of the Iraqi military forces in the Sulayminayah Province recently asked our Gulf Region Division commanding general to help them develop a plan for an Iraqi equivalent to the US Army Corps of Engineers. I hope I can help complete a written plan for that before I leave in January," said Trevino.

It has taken a long time for the Coalition Forces to build capacity within the Iraqi government and military, according to Trevino. "We're still working at it but we're getting closer than ever."



Lt. Col. Mario Trevino, a resident of Nokesville, Va., feels he has helped make a difference for the people of Iraq.



Trevino said his most rewarding experience during this tour in Iraq is the difference the Coalition Forces have made since his first tour in 2005.

الخدمات الصحية قريبا في محافظة القادسية

بقلم أليشا أمبراي

قسم الجنوب في فرقة منطقة الخليج

لهذا المستوصف. وأشرفت فرقة منطقة الخليج وسلمت أكثر من ١٢٥ مستوصفا صحيا الى الحكومة العراقية، لحد هذا التاريخ.



الديوانية، العراق - سيفتتح في الخريف الحالي مستوصف الجمهوري الجديد للخدمات الطبية الأساسية في مدينة الديوانية، كبرى مدن محافظة القادسية، بتكلفة تبلغ نصف مليون دولار ليقدم خدمات طبية حديثة في منطقة يعاني معظم سكانها البالغ تعدادهم نحو ١٥ ألف نسمة من ظروف اقتصادية صعبة. وقال مهندس يعمل لدى فرقة منطقة الخليج التابعة لفيلق مهندسي الجيش الأميركي ان "المستوصف سوف يقدم خدمات طوارئ للمدينة، وهو شيء نفتقر اليه الآن".

وأضاف ان "نظامنا الصحي في الديوانية بحاجة ماسة الى مراكز صحية محلية للنساء الحوامل والأطفال، ومن دونها ستضطر العائلات الى السفر لمسافة طويلة في هذه الأوقات العصيبة ... سيقلل المستوصف من خطر تعرض الحوامل والأطفال الى الوفاة". وسيضمن المستوصف مكاتب للأطباء وغرف الاختبار والتشخيص، وغرفتين احدهما صغيرة والاخرى كبيرة للعمليات، فضلا عن غرفة للاشعة السينية ومختبر وقسم خاص بطب الأسنان، وهناك غرف للعناية بالامهات والأطفال، وصيدلية ومكان مخصص للممرضات وقسم للتنظيف الصحي وغرف لاجراء اللقاحات والتطعيم.

وأضاف المهندس "سكان المدينة سعداء جدا وهم يرون مبنى المستوصف الجديد يرتفع". وانجز نحو ٧٠ بالمائة من أعمال البناء

Modern healthcare services coming soon to Qadisiyah Province

BY ALICIA EMBREY

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

Located in the Qadisiyah Province, the opening of the new \$500,000 Al Jumhoury Primary Health Clinic in Diwaniyah will offer modern healthcare services to an economically deprived neighborhood of 15,000 people.

"The clinic will also provide emergency services to our city, something we don't have now," said Iraqi engineer Hael Abd Alameer with the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Our healthcare system in Diwaniyah is in dire need of local clinics for mothers-to-be and children. Without local clinics, families must travel long distances during these critical times. The clinic will reduce the danger of death for mothers and

children in the area," Alameer said.

The clinic will include physicians' offices with examination rooms, large and small operating rooms, x-ray room, laboratory, a dental area, mother and childcare treatment rooms, a pharmacy, nurse stations, health education department, and vaccination rooms.

"The people in the community are very happy to see the new clinic taking shape," Alameer concluded. To date, the Gulf Region Division, US Army Corps of Engineers have completed and turned over 125 health clinics to the Iraqi government. This project is 70% complete and is expected to open this fall.



Iraqi workers are building the new \$500,000 Al Jumhoury primary healthcare clinic in Qadisiyah province,



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Gulf Region Division

Hailing:



DeDe Cordell
GRD



Matthew Johnson
GRD



Mark Mazzanti
GRD



Patricia Ryan
GRD



Richard Haverinen
GRD



Lt. Col. Richard
Davis
GRD



Sgt. Shanna Wolf
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Ronald Shafer
GRD



SCPO James Burby
GRD



Lt. Col. Robert
Hynes
GRN



Maj. Jesus "Jon"
Nufable
GRN



Maj. Shavoka Douglas
GRN



Col. Joseph Goetz
GRD



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Manning
GRN



Todd Stoeckel
GRN



Roger Kohls
GRN



Carol Bunce
GRN



Terry Ashcraft
GRN



John Fay
GRN



Karen Wright
GRN



Lt. Cmdr. Michael
Dysart
GRN



Capt. Tiffany
Maraccini
GRN



Capt. Joshua Wilson
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Eddie Belk
GRN



Frank Scopa
GRN



Cedric Jones
GRN



Kimberly Brown
GRN



Tim Rogers
GRN



John Byrnes
GRN



Lane Gary
GRN



Henry Arnold
GRN



Crystal Livatt
GRN



Lt. Cmdr. Daniel
Ettlich
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Ralph Youins
GRC



Michael Ginalick
GRC



John Madison
GRC



William Cornett
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Ed Majano
GRC



Jimmy Waddle
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Ali Kaldi
GRC



Chester Miles
GRC



Alice Altom
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Maj. Michael Roark
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Michael Davis
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Nabil Abourialy
GRC



Dennis Howland II
GRC



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GRC



Jerry Leffel
GRC



Glen MacDonald
GRC



BUI Tracy Nunciato
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Sr Chief Ronnie L
Walker
GRC



Roland Belew
GRC



Erik Nelson
GRD



Staff Sgt. Marsha
Gonzalez
GRC



Gene Taylor
GRC



Sgt. Charles Lloyd
GRC



Charles Holland
GRC



Glenn McMaken
GRC



John Lozando
GRC



Gloria Lesane-Ayodeji
GRC



Michael Friedl
GRC



Lt. James E Smith
GRC



Tommy Penrose
GRD



Marguerite Amon
GRC



Ken Nelson
GRC



Luis Sigala
GRC



Maurice "Moe"
Gissendanner
GRC



Omar "Dean"
Shabeldeen
GRC



Brett Clark
GRC



Rick Guison
GRC



Shirley Goodine
GRS



Sgt. Bradley Doneth
GRS



Linda Wright
GRD



Sr Chief Joe Christian
GRS



Staff Sgt. Ginelda
Lyons
GRS



Jamie Howard
GRS



Jason Joseph
GRS



Robin Encarnacion
GRS



Bill Woodard
GRS



Gerald Ramos
GRS



Staff Sgt. Milo
Spethman
GRS



Craig Bush
GRS



Gregory Vaughn
GRD



Barry Campbell
GRS



Denver Gillespie
GRS



Eric Gillespie
GRS



Shelly Carter
GRS



Yung Lee
GRN



ATCS Clinton
Dawson
GRN



Matt Wigle
GRN



Jehu "Andy" Stewart
GRN



Jon Hosaka
GRD



Alan Avery
GRD