

Postcards from Iraq

Overhead protection projects safeguard our soldiers

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Victory Area Office's (VAO) Public Works Resident Office recently completed the last of seven overhead protection projects on Victory Base Complex (VBC) — six DFAC's and the PX — a program worth well over \$60 million.

Each of these projects provides protection from mortar and rocket fire up to 122mm in size. Considering there are few facilities on VBC that provide such protection, these facilities provide an immeasurable



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contribution to force protection and soldier morale. Now coalition forces can eat and shop in relative peace without having to worry about the indirect fire that sporadically rains down on Camp Victory.

I was fortunate to have dedicated professionals working this project. Tom Anderson, the assigned Quality Assurance Representative, and Joe Pintal, the Project Engineer, have worked tirelessly, both night and day, overseeing this work. In addition to the difficult coordination issues associated with keeping each facility operational throughout construction, there was a host of technical and safety issues associated with overhead crane operations and structural steel work that required constant oversight.

Despite these challenges and countless hours of night-time work, each of the projects finished ahead of schedule, providing a huge boost to force protection onboard the camp.

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Two of the seven overhead protection projects at Victory Base Complex near the Baghdad International Airport