



## ***Departing USACE employee cited for efforts on behalf of the Iraqi people***

By John Connor  
Gulf Region South district

**TALLIL, Iraq** – On the final day of his tour in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Neil Myers said, “I think I’ll try it again.”

He said he would like to take “a little break” from working in Iraq, but repeated, “I think I’ll try it again.”

After six months in Iraq, Myers is returning home to North Carolina where he works for the Wilmington District of the Corps of Engineers.

Myers said the first month in Iraq was the toughest. “After that, you get in the groove working on projects,” he said.

“Through his direct efforts, over half a million citizens of Qadisiyah will have six new primary healthcare centers, a new water treatment unit and a new electrical distribution network,” according to the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service presented to Myers by Col. Steve Hill, commander of the Corps’ Gulf Region South district.

Myers served as a construction representative in the Qadisiyah Resident Office at Camp Echo, near Diwaniyah in Qadisiyah Province, an area where coalition forces from many countries served during his tour, including troops from Poland, Mongolia, Slovakia, El Salvador and Denmark. The resident office is part of the Forat Area Office, which in turn is part of the GRS district of the Corps’ Gulf Region Division.



Neil Myers. (USACE photo)

Projects of the sort cited in Myers’ award are representative of key areas of work undertaken by the Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

For instance, water projects ranging from high-profile facilities such as the recently completed \$277 million Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant to compact water treatment units sprinkled across the country are providing clean water to countless Iraqis. Corps of Engineers power projects, large and small, have strengthened the country’s power grid. And scores upon scores of primary healthcare centers have been constructed throughout Iraq or are in the pipeline.

The Corps’ Gulf Region South district has handled a workload of more than 1,500 projects valued at nearly \$3.5 billion, \$2.6 billion of which been completed to date. It has some 209 projects active now, valued at about \$815 million.