



## **USACE staffers looking for warm clothing for needy Iraqi children, women**

by John Connor  
*Gulf Region South district*



*Iraqi child at school where USACE personnel distributed school supplies and toys and later inspected a nearby project site. (USACE photo by Michael Fellenz)*

**TALLIL**, Iraq – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel do more in Iraq than just build public facilities.

In their spare time, some Corps people work to help the Iraqi people in more personal and direct ways.

Edmay Mayers, a USACE employee now departed from Iraq, set a high standard in this regard at USACE's Gulf Region South district by collecting and distributing loads of toys and clothing to needy Iraq children. After Mayers returned home several months ago, her duties were assumed by Natalie Sudman and Michael Fellenz of the GRS staff.

The 130 degree days of summer in Iraq are long gone and the nights and early mornings grow chillier by the day, even in southern Iraq. And Fellenz reports an

urgent need for warm clothing for about 60 Iraqi children, boys and girls of varying ages and sizes, as well as sweaters and other warm garments for approximately 30 Iraqi widows.



*USACE personnel prepare to depart on mission to distribute school supplies and toys to Iraqi children while visiting a project site. From left, Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, Michael Fellenz, Art Patterson, Charles Comeau. (USACE photo by Georgia Lewis)*

That's the starting line, said Fellenz, who added that it won't be hard to locate more people in need if more clothing becomes available.

As for now, he said, a clear need has been identified through an Iraq engineer working with USACE for warm clothing for 60 children, plus boots, gloves, mittens, sweaters and other warm clothes of various sizes for 30 women.

Fellenz is on his second tour in Iraq and said from experience that "it gets cold here," down in the 30s Fahrenheit at night. And it's a "bone chilling" kind of cold, he added.

Fellenz knows something about cold. He comes from Buffalo, N.Y., and works for the Corps Buffalo District Office when he is not in Iraq.

Persons who have winter clothing to donate can send their items to Michael Fellenz or Natalie Sudman, USACE GRS, APO AE, 09331.

**Note:** John Connor is a public affairs officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact him at 540-665-2656 or email requests to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).