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Iraqi Commentary:

We Always Extinguish What They Burn...

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BAGHDAD, Iraq – The liberation of Iraq that took place in 2003 bothered the oppressive and tyrant ruling regimes. What they feared was the wind of democracy that might blow their rusty chairs to and turn them up side down. To survive, all of the wicked forces have unified their efforts to thwart the process of reconstruction and freedom in Iraq. These forces have begun to target innocent citizens in their houses, at work, and in the streets as well as targeting construction projects every where in Iraq. They do this in hopes of depriving Iraqis of the new change and progress in their lives.

Despite of all the sabotage actions performed against the projects, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division has continued to execute more essential projects that benefit Iraqis in their everyday lives.

The GRD has helped to create many new fire stations in Iraq. Because of these fire stations, many of the fires created from car bombs targeting civilians, their houses and shops have been extinguished.

One project, a fire training tower, allows fire fighters from all over Iraq to train on live fire scenarios on elevated floors along with sprinkler and stand pipes. The project began in September 2006 and was completed on June 8, 2007. The project cost of \$1.3 million and is used to train for various scenarios for rescue purposes to include elevated windows and confine space entries.

Another project, a classroom/barracks facility for the Baghdad Fire Academy, was started in November 2006 and completed on June 2007. The project cost of \$1.8 million. It has the capacity to house 50 personnel and train more than 100 individuals on a daily basis. The building includes a kitchen for meal preparation

purposes and a dining room along with showers to house some of the students attending the classes.

The facility has four classrooms and one library computer room that is located on the bottom floor along with supply storage and office showers for cadets and cadre. The second floor of the barracks has four large sleeping quarters and additional office space for meetings.

Establishing a fire station academy in Iraq, for the first time, with such features and training equipment will largely improve the Iraqi Civil Defense Directorate's training capabilities that will benefit the entire Iraqi Civil Defense force and all of Iraq.

The wind of democracy in Iraq will fan the fires of freedom, and support these fire training projects so that Iraqi fire fighters will be able to put out the fires started by the wicked.