



NEWS



OCT 2008

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division South District, Iraq



LTC Michael Darrow, Forat Area Office OIC, gives an Iraqi youngster a new soccer ball donated by supporters stateside.

Building more than structures

Much like communities in the U.S., Iraq is a mixture of the have and have not. The poor live with fewer luxuries, amid trash-lined streets and dilapidated housing. USACE employees, working beside Iraqis to rebuild their communities, delight in the effort. And it means even more when they bring a smile to the Iraqi children.

Recently during a site visit to the \$1.2 million new Snaditch Water Compact Unit project, Forat Area Office representatives, LTC Michael Darrow, Mac Drake and SFC Gary White brought smiles to the children by passing out donated soccer balls and candy.

“We often go to sites and focus on the long-term, big project we’re building. But the results of our efforts may not be seen for months,” said LTC Darrow, Forat Area Office deputy commander. “This helps provide an immediate impact and also reminds residents the USACE team is out there working “*everyday*” to make their lives better....even in just a small way. USACE is making a difference and Iraqi families appreciate our efforts.”





Nasiriyah Prison



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

USACE engineer works on projects helping improve Iraq's security . . .

*By John Connor
Gulf Region South district*

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq – 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 USACE GRD's 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 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 Re-

source 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.





**Basrah
Courthouse**



Judge Laith Abdul Sammad, Chief of the Basrah Supreme Judiciary Council, officiated at a media event Sept. 25 to mark the construction completion of the new \$10.9 million 11,200-sq.-meter Basrah Courthouse and Witness Protection Facility. Judge Laith signed the completion documents, and told Iraqi reporters about the new facility's importance in establishing the rule of law in southern Iraq. He recognized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their efforts and said he was very pleased with the quality of construction. There will be more than 70 judges and 200 employees working there. Nine media outlets attended including Al Salam TV, Al Masar TV, Kurdistan TV, IHA Turkey Press, Al Sumaria TV, Reuters TV, Radio Sawa, and a photographer with AFP (Agence France-Presse). USACE was represented by GRS Basrah Area Commander LTC Humberto Ramirez, MAJ Stephen Dale, and GRS Area Engineer James Mills. (USACE photos by A. Al Bahrani)

ARRIVING MEMBERS



SHIRLEY GOODINE
GRS S1
Admin Asst.
St. Louis
Human Resources CMD



SGT. BRADLEY DONETH
GRS HQ Security NCO
Ft. Belvoir, VA



**NAVY SENIOR CHIEF
JOE CHRISTIAN**
Operations NCO
Navy Manpower
Analysis Center
Millington, TN



SSGT GINELDA LYONS
S1 Admin NCO
Kirtland AFB, NM



JAMIE HOWARD
REO Hillah
Construction Rep
Savannah District

DEPARTING MEMBERS



ANDY FRANK
GRS Design Chief
Southwest Division
Dallas



KAREN RENEE ROBINSON
GRS HQ Chief
Resource Management
Europe District



**NAVY SENIOR CHIEF
TIM TREGONING**
Operations NCO
Naval Station
Great Lakes



MICHAEL SORRELS
Adder Area Office
Project Engineer
Vicksburg District



JIMMY MARPLE
Security and Justice
Project Manager
Little Rock District



**Year-end
pizza party**



GRS HQ staff at Tallil enjoyed a noon-time pizza party Oct. 1 marking the end of the fiscal year and the beginning of a new one. Joanne Milo, Deputy for Programs and Project Management, pointed out that last year GRS awarded 95 new projects valued at \$400M, started 98 new projects, completed 174 projects, and closed out 215 projects. Those marking October birthdays included (left to right) Senior Chief Tim Tregoning, Fred Levey, Tonya Myrick, Ceann Cupp, CPT Patrick Powe, Colleen Hickey, Karen Renee Robinson, and Norris Jones. Others at GRS marking October birthdays include Nelson Reyes, Sheila Hyde, Linda Christensen, MAJ Kevin Branch, and MAJ Glenn Kiesewetter.



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

By John Connor

TALLILAIRBASE, Iraq – 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 Tom Eidson, GRS' Chief of Engineering and Construction.



GRS Design Chief Andy Frank and a GRS Iraqi engineer discuss plans for a new water treatment plant in Muthanna Province.

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.

**Working
in Iraq**



USACE Project Manager Tonya Myrick in front of a new U.S. Army MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle.

Volunteering for duty in Iraq -- people ask why we do it

By John Connor

Gulf Region South district

TALLILAIR BASE, Iraq – “People back home ask why do we do it,” said Tonya Myrick, a project manager in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“Why do we give up our comfortable lives to come to a place where the norm is a seven-day work week, 12 hours a day most days?” questioned the Mississippi native, who is nearing the end of her second Iraq tour with USACE.

Why indeed? As Myrick noted, the temperature can soar to 130 degrees or more in the summer in southern Iraq where she resides, leaving one feeling “like you are walking with a hair dryer pointed at you.” And vicious dust storms can roar out of the desert without any warning.

Those are just the elements. There have been innumerable other challenges during what will be a total of 22 months in Iraq for Myrick, including mortar and rocket attacks by insurgents, which are much rarer these days than when she first served.

“Why do we do it?” she asked. “I think for me the answer would be to give the Iraqis a chance for things we take for granted — clean drinking water, electricity, drivable roads, and even a good education.

“I find it very rewarding to see a project go from start to completion in only a few months,” Myrick continued. “Don’t get me wrong. It takes a certain kind of personality to give up everything to come over here and endure these environmental and working conditions. But if you possess that personality, the rewards can be tremendous.”

Myrick hails from Vicksburg, Miss., and works at home for the Corps’ Vicksburg District where she is with the Standard Permitting Section of the Regulatory Branch. She holds a B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Louisiana Monroe (formerly Northeast Louisiana University) and an M.S. in Combined Science (biology and chemistry) from Mississippi College in Clinton, Miss.

Myrick has spent both her Iraq tours with USACE’s Gulf Region South District (GRS), which provides reconstruction services in the nine southern provinces of Iraq. She said there’s “a huge difference between my tours — both in job position and living conditions.”

Her first tour, in 2005, was spent as a project engineer at Camp Echo in Qadisiyah Province, with a staff of seven people in a small office building on what is mainly a Polish Army base. “We had nothing to start with — no desks, no chairs, no paper, no ink pens,” she recalled. “Our

(continued on next page)





Helping Iraqis

USACE Project Manager Tonya Myrick sorts out donated toys for distribution to youngsters in southern Iraq.

(continued on next page)

hooches were the bare necessities” and “the nearest bathroom and shower were both a walk across the camp.”

“At Camp Echo, we were the ‘boots on the ground,’” Myrick recounted.

“Our job was to start construction on projects once they were awarded at headquarters and see them through to completion.”

For her second tour, which will total 17 months when she completes it later this fall, Myrick has been at GRS headquarters at Tallil, a former Iraqi airbase near Nasiriyah in southern Iraq. She has worked during this current tour as project manager for the Transportation and Communication Sector.

“I oversee all road, bridge, and telecommunication construction projects in Gulf Region South,” she said, describing her work as very rewarding.

“We get to work directly with the Iraq officials, PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) engineers, military brigades, and field offices to develop scopes of work and award projects needed by the Iraqi people,” Myrick explained. “Project managers are involved with the projects from the design phase until the project is completed.

“Being able to oversee a project from an idea to its actual construction is truly a great feeling,” she added.

Myrick said the living conditions at the GRS compound in Tallil “are as good as they can get in Iraq. I now have a queen bed, refrigerator, TV, microwave, and, most importantly, a private bathroom.”

Particularly rewarding, Myrick said, has been her work on another sector that was added to her portfolio—the vocational training center rehabilitation program. She said there were several votech centers scattered across the GRS area that were barely functioning due to years of neglect by Saddam Hussein.

Rehabbing the centers became a focus of the U.S. Army’s 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, Myrick noted, saying the basic idea was that educating Iraqis in construction trades would help them get jobs and support their families without having to turn to militias for financial aid.

“After the rehabilitation, the centers went from offering one or two classes per semester helping 30-40 students to a curriculum with 20 or more classes involving over 1,000 students,” Myrick said. “Upon graduation, these students are using their new skills to get steady employment.”

(Myrick is also Acting Program Lead for GRS’ Civil Works and Energy Sector with a total program value of \$458.7 million.)

“So why do we do it? — we’re making a difference here and it’s great to be part of this effort,” Myrick concluded.



**Americans
donate shoes
to needy Iraqis**

SGT Danielle Colson helps a student select a new pair of shoes during a GRS visit to Ur Primary School located near Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq.



Iraqi first graders say hello to GRS staff as they stop by the Ur Primary School near Tallil Air Base.



GRS Commander COL Jack Drolet helps students select new shoes at Ur Primary School near Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq Sept. 25.



Over 600 pair of new shoes are being distributed to needy families in southern Iraq. GRS staff stopped by the Ur Primary School and handed out over 150 pair to some very happy youngsters Sept. 25. Those shoes were donated by a church group in Oklahoma City, and employees at a large discount store in Norman, OK. A veterans group from Midwest City, OK, paid to get those shoes shipped to Iraq. Ron Jarvis, Fluor manager for the service center at Tallil Air Base keeping the GRS Aegis Security vehicles maintained, coordinated the effort. Navy Senior Chief Tim Tregoning was among those helping hand out the new shoes.

**GRS staff
enjoys visit
to Ur School**



COL Jack Drolet promotes "teamwork" at a local Iraqi school.



Project Engineer Colleen Hickey gives an Iraqi 7-year-old a new stuffed animal.



SGT Danielle Colson has some fun with an Iraqi youngster at Ur Primary School.



COL Jack Drolet presents a soccer ball to Ur Primary School Headmaster Kamal Ali Yousef Sept. 25. Kamal thanked GRS for the donated toys and shoes and said the generosity of America was sincerely appreciated.



Senior Chief Tim Tregoning gives toys to Iraqi students Sept. 25



GRS visited the six-classroom Ur primary school Sept. 25 and gave away stuffed animals, shoes, and soccer balls to the students. That school is located near Tallil Air Base and has 159 students, age 6 to 12. The school was established in 1944 on the air base and then relocated nearby in 1991.

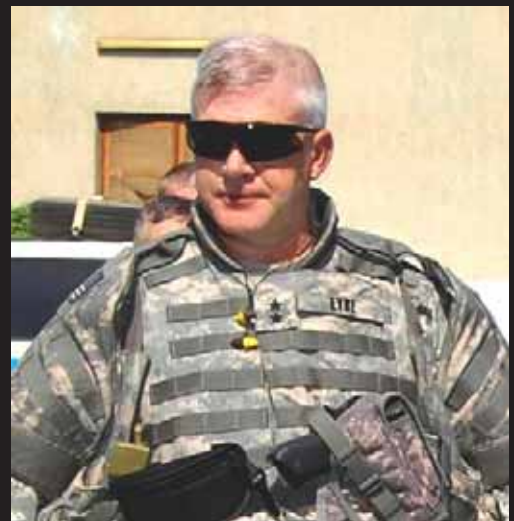
Al Hillah Courthouse



Al Hillah Courthouse

Al Hillah Courthouse \$7.2 million project is nearing completion. MAJ Kevin Branch (Officer in Charge) along with Iraqi Architect Abass Ismael escorted GRD's incoming commander, MG Michael R. Eyre, CSM Richard M. Prater, and GRS Commander COL Jack Drolet to the construction site Sept. 18. The project is scheduled for completion March 09.

Al Hillah Hospital



MG Michael R. Eyre (GRD's incoming Commander) and CSM Richard M. Prater saw the completed \$2.8 million renovation of Al Hillah Maternity and Children's Hospital Sept. 19 providing a modern medical facility for that community. The rehabilitation included new nurses' station, doctors' offices, operating room, hallways, patient rooms and cafeteria. The project began in June of 2006 and has been a collaborative effort between the Government of Iraq Ministry of Health and the US Government. The hospital has continued to operate throughout construction.



Hillah REO

GRS Hillah REO team recently hosted a visit by MG Michael R. Eyre (GRD's incoming Commander) and CSM Richard M. Prater (GRD's incoming CSM). Shown above are (standing, left to right) North Babil Construction Rep Winbourne "Mac" Drake, Babil Resident Office OIC MAJ Kevin D. Branch, COL Jack Drolet, MG Eyre, CSM Prater, Babil Construction Rep Ed Jones; (kneeling, left) Babil Resident Office Admin Asst. Ali Falah, Babil Resident Engineer Dominador "Jun" Morales.



Musayib Maternity Hospital

Construction of a \$5 million new maternity hospital for the city of Musayib in southern Iraq's Babil Province is 80% complete and scheduled to be finished this winter. This project has employed hundreds of local Iraqis and is essential in ensuring the local community has reliable healthcare. When finished, the project will benefit thousands of children in Musayib and the surrounding area.



**Iskandariyah
Votech
upgrade**



Many of the electricians, carpenters, and masons working to renovate the Iskandariyah Vocational Technical School in Babil Province south of Baghdad are graduates of that facility and know firsthand the value of the job-training skills being taught there. They plan to finish the work in December, four months ahead of schedule, and those renovations will allow the school to expand its enrollment from 1,250 students to 4,000 students annually. The \$4.5 million project involves renovating seven school dormitories that will house up to 1400 students as well as eight classrooms and the auditorium. MG Michael R. Eyre (GRD's incoming Commander) and CSM Richard M. Prater viewed the project Sept. 19. (USACE photos by Alicia Embrey)

Basrah Children's Hospital



Navy LT Natalie Ostrander

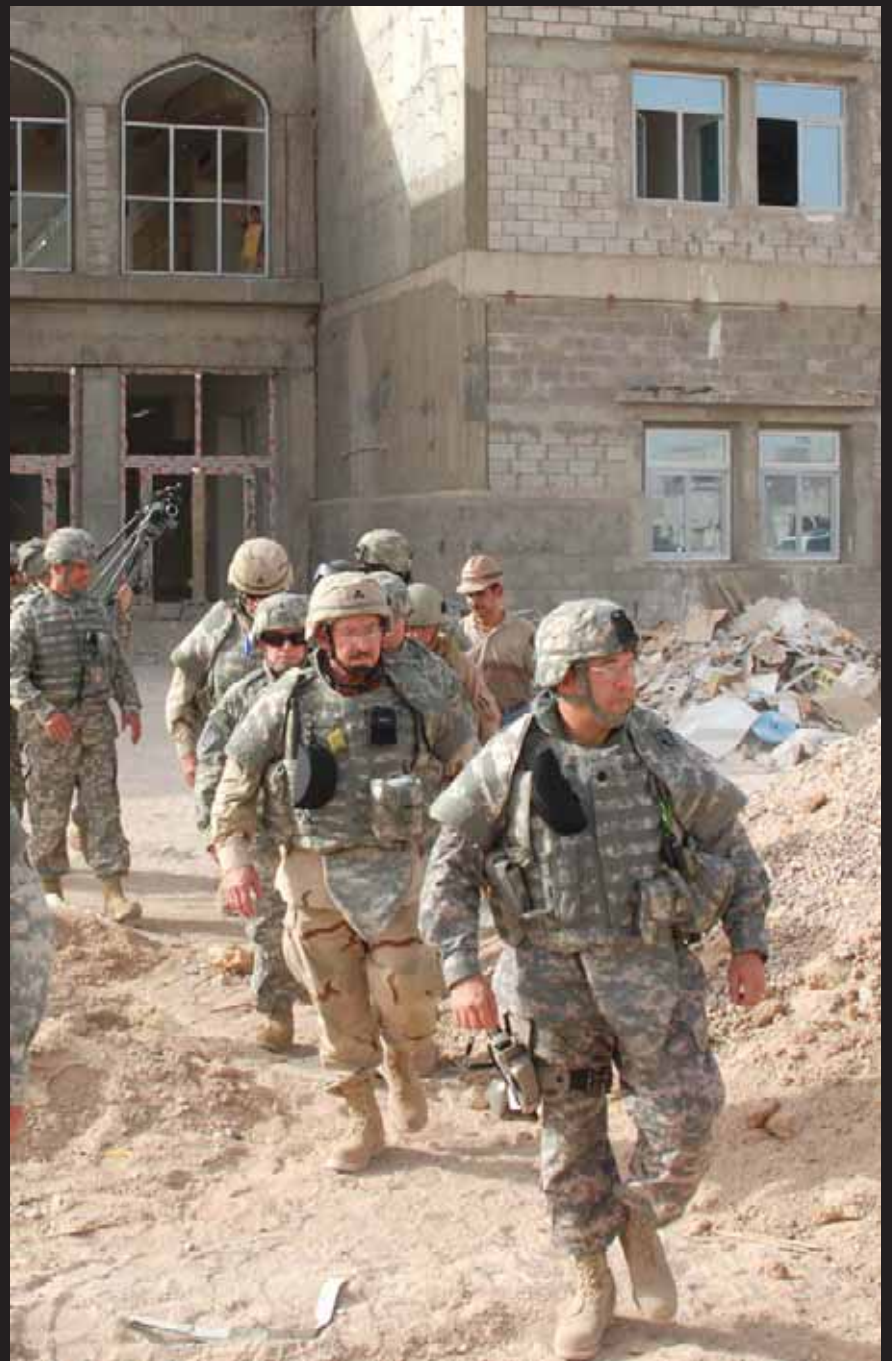


LTC Edward Pruett



USACE CSM Michael L. Buxbaum

LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp (USACE Commanding General), along with MG Bo Temple (USACE Director of Military Programs), BG Gregg Martin (Commandant U.S. Army Engineering School), and Mr. Michael G. Ensich (GRD Director of Programs) were among those viewing ongoing construction at the \$163.8 million Basrah Children's Hospital Sept. 28. The project is a partnership effort with the U.N. Development Fund providing a \$22 million grant from the Government of Spain, over \$30 million from Project Hope for medical staff training and medical equipment, and over \$10 million from the Iraqi Ministry of Health. Components of the project include a 160,000-sq-ft. 94-bed two-story children's hospital, mechanical and electrical plants, a 38-bed dormitory, medical waste treatment system, oxygen generation plant, warehouse, back-up generators, roads and landscaping on the 13-





**Basrah
Courthouse**



COL Jack Drolet (left) and MG Bo Temple, USACE Director of Military Programs.



LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp, USACE Commanding General, visited the recently completed \$10.9 million 11,200-sq-meter Basrah Courthouse Sept. 28. There will be more than 70 judges and 200 employees working there. Marble for the facility came from Italy, steel from Ukraine, York air conditioning system from Saudi Arabia, ceramic tile from Spain, wall ceramic tile from United Arab Emirates, and the bricks from Iraq's Maysan Province. There are five elevators, two 13-passenger elevators, three 8-passenger elevators. Shown speaking with LTG Van Antwerp are GRS Iraqi Engineer Al and Basrah Area Engineer Jim Mills.



Camp Bucca



Camp Bucca WTP and WWTP

Bucca Resident Office is overseeing a number of projects including a \$19 million water treatment plant and a \$22 million waste water treatment plant. The wastewater treatment plant, which is nearly complete, requires 2,000 cubic meters of concrete and 190 metric tons of rebar. The reverse osmosis water treatment facility will be able to treat 1.5 million gallons daily with a storage capacity of 3 million gallons. It gets its water from 10 new wells. Bucca Resident Engineer James Buckalew (shown above with the white hard hat) led a tour of those projects Sept. 29 for LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp (USACE Commanding General), along with MG Bo Temple (USACE Director of Military Programs), BG Gregg Martin (Commandant U.S. Army Engineering School), and Mr. Michael G. Ensich (GRD Director of Programs).



Mr. Michael G. Ensich (GRD Director of Programs) talks with LTG Van Antwerp.

Umm Qasr pier, seawall



MAJ Dale and LTG Van Antwerp



MG Bo Temple and COL Jack Drolet



LTC John Burgess showed LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp (USACE Commanding General), MG Bo Temple (USACE Director of Military Programs), BG Gregg Martin (Commandant U.S. Army Engineering School), and Mr. Michael G. Ensch (GRD Director of Programs) the site for \$53 million Umm Qasr Pier and Seawall project that is just getting underway. That new facility will provide the Iraqi Navy new port facilities enabling them to expand their capabilities. Assisting with the site visit Sept. 29 was Navy CDR Ray Deck, Umm Qasr Naval Base Development Officer.

USACE Chief views GRS projects



LTG Van Antwerp discusses way ahead

LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp, USACE's Commanding General, told GRS staff during a visit to Basrah Sept 28 and 29, "I am so happy to be here and so proud of what you're doing. This is a great district."

Van Antwerp, along with MG Bo Temple (USACE Deputy Commanding General for Military Programs and International Operations), and BG-promotable Gregg Martin (Commandant of the U.S. Army Engineer School) viewed ongoing work at the \$163.8 million Basrah Children's Hospital, Camp Bucca \$19 million water treatment plant and \$22 million wastewater treatment plant. They also toured the recently completed \$10.9 million Basrah Regional Courthouse and saw where the \$53 million Umm Qasr pier and seawall will be built.

During a town hall meeting Sept. 28 with Basrah Area Office staff, Van Antwerp provided his concept of four principles that are required for the Corps of Engineers to be a truly great organization. "Whether you're with Fluor taking care of the base camp, with Aegis providing security, a Program Manager or whatever, these things apply."

Superior Performance Every Time

"The first one is that you have to deliver superior performance every time. Your reputation depends on it. We learned in Katrina, you're only as good as the last good thing you did. For an engineer, it means the project will work as it was designed and not just meet expectations — it's going to exceed expectations. When people come here they're going to say, your facility today (the Basrah Regional Courthouse), that's a wow facility. I think the owner of the construction company wanted to make that something where people who look at it will say it exceeded expectations. People who do that do extra. I saw that at the Basrah Children's Hospital too, and it's going to be terrific when that comes in.

Set the Standards for your Profession

"The second thing is to set the standards for your profession. So what does that mean and how do you know if you've arrived. One answer is when others come to you because they know you're the pro — when people not only in the Army, but the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force ask how do you train, educate and inspire your soldiers at Ft. Leonard Wood. That's right, they're going to go to school on you. And we ought to be big enough to go to school on others too." (LTG Van Antwerp pointed out that when they were developing the post-Katrina repair plans, the Corps turned to the Dutch because they have been doing levees for a long time.)

"We went to school on them. They were part of our committee. When the Chinese had a problem recently with their earthquake and a valley wall slumped down into the river causing a makeshift dam, who do you think they called? They called those people in the Corps who are experts on dams. They called and we helped them — we discussed ideas how to breach it to let the water out in a controlled way. That's how you set the standards. When we hire a contractor in the United States, we're looking for experience, education, and certification. So one of the ways you set the standard for your profession is you get certified. If you're a Project Manager get your PMP, if you're in real estate get your real estate license, if you're an engineer get your PE.

Make a Positive, Unique Contribution

"The third one is that you deliver and make a positive, unique contribution to our country and other countries. I don't have to tell you the unique contribution you're making over here. If a lot of children live twice as long as they would have because of that Children's Hospital, we have made a unique contribution."

Build the Organization to Last

"We have a mountain of work in the Corps of Engineers right now. I'll give you a couple of metrics. Normally the Military Programs work in the Corps of Engineers is \$6 billion. At the end of 2008, MG Bo Temple and the military programs people are going to have \$28 billion under construction and growing. And for civil works, it's normally \$5 billion, but this year it's \$12.5 billion. If you go back in the history of the Corps, you won't find a workload this big.

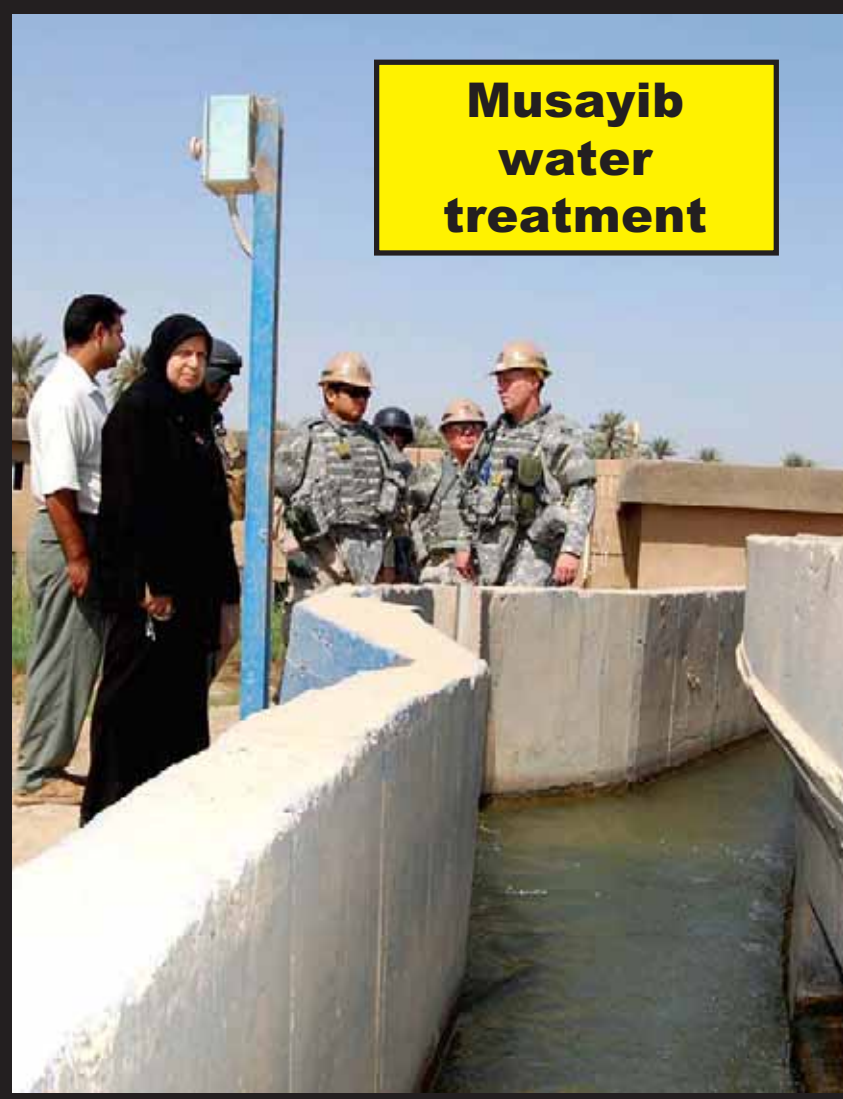
"That means one thing to me — that you have a unique opportunity right now to build this organization to last. When you look back five years from now, if you don't have the most experienced, the most credible, the best Corps of DA civilians in every section from interns up to 45-year veterans, we've blown it because when you have all this work, you have a lot of classrooms — \$28 billion worth of classrooms. So you're all charged with passing it on — I say reproducing yourself — coaching, teaching, and mentoring. One of the great things about this District is that you have better processes documented, so that when something else comes in they can fall in on that. That is building to last."

"We have a very, very good Corps right now. But we have an opportunity to take it to the next level. Let's do it."





Musayib water treatment



2,160m³/hr plant

Over 30 Iraqis are repairing the Musayib Water Treatment Plant in Babil Province south of Baghdad. The \$1.43 million project involves rehabilitating the major mechanical systems of the plant allowing it to function at its full design capacity of 2,160 cubic-meters-per-hour to meet Musayib's needs for nearly 300,000 households. After years of neglect, the work includes replacing the pumps used to move water through the plant's sedimentation basins, sand filters, and chlorination. The project is currently 32% complete.

Al Jumhoury PHC



New primary healthcare clinic in Diwaniyah takes shape

By *Alicia Embrey*

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – Qadisiyah Province’s healthcare system will soon have an added boost when the new \$500,000 Al Jumhoury Primary Healthcare Clinic opens.

The project will provide modern healthcare services to an economically deprived neighborhood of nearly 15,000 people in Diwaniyah. “The clinic will also provide emergency services to our city, something we don’t have now,” said Iraqi engineer Hael Abd Alameer with the 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. The project is 70% complete and expected to open this fall.



Iraqi workers are building the \$500,000 Al Jumhoury new primary healthcare clinic in Qadisiyah Province in southern Iraq.

ARRIVING MEMBERS



JASON JOSEPH
IT Specialist
43rd Signal Battalion
Heidelberg, Germany



ROBIN ENCARNACION
E&C Engineering Tech
MEDCOM
Ft. Gordon, GA



BILL WOODARD
Attorney
GRS Office of Counsel
Savannah District



GERALD RAMOS
Project Manager
Huntsville Center



SSGT MILO SPETHMAN
Prime Power
249th Engineer Battalion
Ft. Bragg, NC



**DFAC
overhead
protection**



MILCON Project Managers Craig Bush and Steve Farkus recently visited Forward Operating Bases ECHO, Iskandariyah, Kalsu and Scandia as part of a site precon for Overhead Coverage systems to be built this year as added protection for our soldiers and civilians serving in the theater.

Basrah businessmen meet



About 85 Iraqi businessmen attended a workshop in Basrah Oct. 9 to get a better understanding of what's required when submitting a bid proposal for a construction project. The event was hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Basrah contractors learn construction bid requirements

By A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South district

Basrah, Iraq—About 85 Iraqi businessmen attended a workshop in Basrah Oct. 9 to learn about bid submittal requirements for proposed contracts.

Contract Specialist Karen Johnson and Project Manager Sheila Hyde with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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 (DBA) 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.

MAJ Shawn Beauchamp with the Joint Contracting Command Iraq/Afghanistan and MAJ Daniel George with the Basrah Provincial Reconstruction Team also spoke.

"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 Khaduim, 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 contractors were provided an information packet (assembled by Admin Assistant Georgia Lewis), with copies of the discussed material translated into Arabic and a compact disc with electronic copies of regulations and other information. A question-and-answer period followed each presentation.

During the last year, Gulf Region Division 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.



Contract Specialist Karen Johnson with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers answers questions from an Iraqi businessman during the workshop Oct. 9.

Basrah businessmen meet



Project Manager Sheila Hyde with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was among those providing information to 85 Iraqi businessmen during a seminar Oct. 9 in Basrah about the fundamental requirements of a successful construction bid.



MAJ Daniel George, Basrah Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer, discusses bid submittal procedures and requirements with local Iraqi businessmen who participated in a Oct. 9 contracting workshop, sponsored by the Basrah Area Office, Gulf Region Division South District. (Photos by A. Al Bahrani)

Columbus Day luau



Line dancing part of the Columbus Day luau fun.



Karen Johnson, Charlie Thomas, Sheila Hyde



Craig Bush, Joanne Milo, and Nick Evanco in Hawaiian attire.



GRS maintenance crew gets into the "aloha" spirit.



Son & father - Eric and Denver Gillespie

Columbus Day Luau



GRS' outdoor pavilion was a popular place Oct. 12 as over 100 people packed into the new facility for a luau.



BBQ chicken, fresh fruit salad, and all the trimmings.



Bill Zett, Steve Farcus, John Kassebaum at the grill.



Art Patterson, Tonya Myrick, Sylvester Rainey



George Afram (left), George Sims, Denver Gillespie, Shelly Carter, and Dolores Rohm play Pictionary.



Columbus Day softball

GRS enjoyed some softball action Oct. 12 with temperatures above 100 degrees. Over 20 people participated in the game -- camaraderie, teamwork, and a lot of smiles all part of the holiday fun.



ARRIVING MEMBERS



CRAIG BUSH
GRS HQ
Project Manager
Louisville District



BARRY CAMPBELL
Camp Echo = Diwaniyah
Construction Rep
Little Rock District



DENVER GILLESPIE
Adder Area Office
Construction Rep
Little Rock District



ERIC GILLESPIE
Adder Area Office
Construction Rep
Little Rock District



SHELLY CARTER
Adder Area Office
Construction Rep
Jacksonville District
Miami Office

Postcards from Iraq

Proud to be helping Iraq move forward

By Keith Adams, GRS Construction Rep, Basrah Area Office

I am one of less than 400 DoD civilians working with the US Army Corps of Engineers helping rebuild Iraq. We work long hours every day. We are not overseeing repairs to facilities we destroyed — we are rebuilding a country whose infrastructure was in deplorable shape through years of neglect.

I work daily with educated Iraqi Engineers, and unskilled laborers alike, who love their country and are sincerely appreciative for what the US has done for them. The press would have you believe there are a large number of Iraqis who hate Americans — that is not the reality I see here on the ground.

Though our cultures are very different, their hopes and dreams are the same as ours. They want their children and grandchildren to have a better life. One of my Iraqi contractors told me a story about his son — he was away at secondary school (high school). My contractor was talking to his son on the phone and told him he had gone 2 weeks without the power going out once. His son did not believe him and said that was impossible. I remember a couple years ago my frustration and disbelief when during an ice storm we went 2 weeks without power — what a contrast.

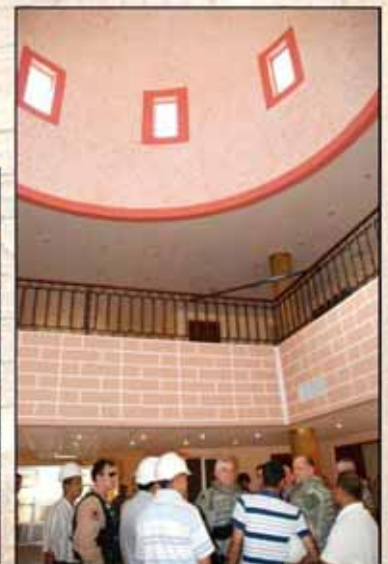
I am proud to be an American. We are doing wonderful things here, and the Iraqis are grateful. Their fragile democracy is taking hold and confidence is growing in their elected officials. I see it happening, little by little, step by step — we have made a difference and it's getting better every day. I go out in the red zone a lot, and when you talk to Iraqis on the street, you can't help but see in their smiles that hope has returned — they're on the road to a brighter tomorrow.



Construction Rep Keith Adams is from Willard, MO.



MG Michael R. Eyre, Construction Rep Keith Adams, and Iraqi Engineer Al-Muthana Naiel Abdul Jabbar visit the new \$10.9 million Basrah Courthouse.



Basrah Courthouse features an 11-meter-high rotunda.

Snaditch water treatment



Local townspeople south of Baghdad are pleased to see construction progress on a new 200 cubic meter per hour water treatment facility and distribution network that will provide their families clean, drinking water for the first time ever. The \$500,000 project is expected to be completed next summer.

Small Iraqi town grateful for project providing clean water first time ever

By Alicia Embrey

BABIL PROVINCE, Iraq—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 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% complete and is expected to be finished next summer.





**Snaditch
water
treatment**

About 50 local Iraqis are on the construction crew building a 200 cubic meter per hour water compact unit and distribution network in Snaditch, a community of about 500 households in Babil Province. The \$500,000 project is 30% complete and is expected to be finished next summer. (USACE photo by Alicia Embrey)