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Engineers in Support of Division Operations

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More than 100 participants of the Engineer Summit at al Faw Palace in Baghdad focused on the theme of "Engineers in Support of Division Operations." [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]

Baghdad, Iraq -"We need to look out and see what we face over the next few months, the only constant being change," began Gulf Region Division Commander, promotable Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, as he opened the GRD-hosted biannual Multi National Forces-Iraq Engineer Summit at Al Faw Palace September 20th in Baghdad.

"With coming elections in both our own country and Iraq, the approaching expira-

tion of the UN Security Council resolution that governs a lot of what we do here, the Status of Forces Agreement under negotiation and the GRD change of command with a changeover to a Theater Engineer Command, we have a lot ahead of us," he said in opening remarks.

The Summit focused on "Engineers in Support of Division Operations" as districts related support operations with the



The GRD-hosted Engineer Summit sessions in al Faw Palace discussed "Engineers in Support of Division Operations." [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]



Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Commander of the 1st Armored Division, points out the evolving roles of "Engineers in Support of Division Operations" during the September, 2008, Engineer Summit. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]

respective maneuver units in their areas. Topics of discussion included the range of changing funding sources, project activity coordination with all engineering assets in theater, and the necessity for continuous information flow as well as education relating to GRD capabilities and limitations.

Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Commander of the 1st Armored Division that is deployed in northern Iraq, related the complexities of a counterinsurgency operations and the requirement placed on engineers. "Because of the Army's organiza-



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko opens the Engineer Summit at al Faw Palace. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]

tional emphasis on Brigade Combat Teams, there is a lack of familiarization with what the different parts of an Army Division can do. In many cases, engineers need to help educate maneuver unit commanders on capabilities, now more than ever before." He went on to discuss many of the aspects of integration that may need to write new doctrines for the engineers.

In closing, Dorko called for the Summit to continue to serve as a forum for the engineer community, even in the face of constant change, to resolve issues and solve the complex problems of rebuilding in Iraq.



Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Commander of the 1st Armored Division, points out the evolving roles of “Engineers in Support of Division Operations” during the September, 2008, Engineer Summit. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]



GRS Commander, Colonel John Drolet, makes a Summit point as GRD Director of Programs, Michael Ensich (right) and GRS Command Sgt Maj. Thomas Thrasher listens. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]

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