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Design Engineer Blends Iraqi and U.S. Experience

By John Connor
Gulf Region South District



Andy Frank, Gulf Region Division, South district's design chief and a GRS Iraqi engineer discuss plans for a new water treatment plant in Muthanna Province in southern Iraq. (USACE photo)

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq –Before the first shovel-full of dirt is turned on a construction site, Andy Frank and his Engineering/Design Team of the Gulf Region Division, South District are among those first involved in a project.

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," said Frank. "The teamwork and camaraderie are the most satisfying aspects of my job."

The projects Frank and his team have developed include schools, hospitals, uni-



Andy Frank is working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers overseeing work to improve essential services in southern Iraq. [USACE Photo]

versities, water treatment facilities, high voltage electrical lines, canal pumping stations, sewer systems, roads and bridges, just to name a few. His list also includes 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," said Tom Eidson, GRS's chief of Engineering and Construction. "He's been great at pulling together the team."

Frank's staff assembles project information, performs site visits as needed, designs conceptual drawings and provides 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.

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," said Eidson. "He walked through the door and picked up where he left off and never missed a beat.

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 Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He likes to fly powered paraglides, 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

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