



U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers
Gulf Region Division (Prov)

GRD Update

A publication of the Gulf Region Division, Iraq

Edition I, 25 January 2004



**Gulf Region Division
Commander MG Ronald
Johnson, left, and Sergeant
Major William Clarkson cut
the ceremonial cake following
division activation ceremonies
Jan. 25 in Baghdad. (Ed Evans
Photo)**

New Gulf Region Division Activated in Baghdad; LTG Sanchez Salutes Corps

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineer's Gulf Region Division (Provisional) was activated today at the Convention Center in Baghdad, Iraq. The new division unifies the separate USACE elements that have served in Iraq since the start of the war. Several hundred Iraqi, Coalition and American dignitaries joined the new division's personnel to mark the historic event that also celebrated the Corps' widely recognized contributions to OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Lieutenant General Flowers expressed his deep pride in the entire Corps, especially the hundreds of USACE volunteers who have selflessly served in Iraq, through a video that was shown during the ceremony.

Lieutenant General Ricardo S. Sanchez, commanding general of the Combined Joint Task Force - 7, was the presiding officer at the activation ceremony. He said the new division "underscores the coalition's absolute commitment to working hand in hand with the Iraqi people, their ministries and national government to improve the quality of life for all Iraqis and establish an enduring, safe and secure environment in which a democratic government may thrive."

Now under the Command of Major General Ronald L. Johnson, former Director of Military Programs for the Corps, the provisional division includes three districts, the North in Mosul, the Central in Baghdad, and the South in Basrah. The forward deployed division is lean but will take maximum advantage of the USACE "reach back" capability, employing the talents of all 35,000 USACE employees worldwide to support the division's requirements. The result of this USACE team effort will be tangible and rapid improvements to the Iraqi infrastructure, especially oil and electricity, as well as construction support to our own forces. The division will also continue to rely on partnering with Iraqi engineers to leverage their talents and to help build Iraq's public engineering capacity.

The major components of the division are the former Iraq Provisional Command, the Iraq Reconstruction Office, Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil, Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity and the Iraq Area Office. BG(P) Steven Hawkins, the Lakes and Rivers Division commander and the outgoing commander of the Iraq-based USACE task forces, was recognized by LTG Sanchez and MG Johnson for his leadership as USACE teams produced substantial results in record time and set the conditions for the future success of the division.

In addition to being Division Engineer, MG Johnson serves as the U.S. Deputy to the Program Management Office of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. Overall, the division is playing a major role in overseeing billions of dollars in reconstruction and improvements in the newly liberated nation of Iraq. During his remarks, MG Johnson said, "To the Iraqi people, I am honored to be here to work with you. The people of the Gulf Region Division are proud to be with you. We are not just builders, but teachers, mentors, partners, and friends."

At the conclusion of the well-executed ceremony, attendees enjoyed a reception that was catered by the 1st Armored Division's "Wolfpack" Brigade dining facility.

The Gulf Region Division stands ready to accomplish any mission while caring for the USACE volunteers who join the effort to help build lasting peace in this historically troubled part of the world. Nowhere is our motto more alive - *Essayons!!*