



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

# GRD Update

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## GRD Building a Palace of their Own

Perhaps it won't be so palatial, but the Gulf Region Division will soon have a new place to hang their booney caps and call home sweet home at Camp Victory.

GRD headquarters will be moving out of the Baghdad Green Zone along with the military's orders to relocate, this summer.

The new facilities, which are currently being built from ground-up will provide a comfortable and professional atmosphere for GRD personnel to work and live, said Chip Nieman, who helped develop the concept for the design-build project.

For safety, all the buildings

including billeting will be built as hardened structures. Days of living in tent city surrounded by sandbags and cement barriers will be a thing of the past.

As a project manager and Acting Chief of Engineering and Construction for GRD, Chip pointed out the plans includes fun things such as Internet cafes, day rooms, exercise rooms and open spaces outside.

The site is also conveniently located walking distance to a dining facility and is very close to North Camp Victory's fitness center and Post Exchange. At the PX one can find a variety of

toiletries, cookies, electronics, DVDs, music, gift items and other necessities to get by the hot summer months in Iraq.

"With temporary duty positions being converted to temporary change of station positions, this new facility will make longer tours of duty more appealing," said Chip.

The Gulf Region Division, Gulf Region Central District, and Victory Area offices will all be built together to create a village environment.

Only about 10 miles away from the Green Zone, Camp Victory is also a home away from home for the Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, TX.

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Contracting/Hamurabi Palace Group who was awarded the design-build contract to build the facilities has completed similar construction in Iraq. An Iraqi firm, they qualified for the contract through Camp Victory's Base Camp Construction Authority. Chip believes the Corps of Engineers is not only getting quality construction at a reasonable price, but they are also putting money back into the local economy and employing Iraqi citizens.



A small GRD team spearheaded the Camp Victory project. From left to right: Mack Ross, Chief of Contracting; Donald (Chip) Nieman, Project Manager and Acting Chief Engineering and Construction; Joe Hendrix, Program Manager; Charles Barton, Chief of Real Estate; COL (P) Schroedel, Deputy Commander



# What's Going On at Gulf Region South

*Photos and article courtesy of  
COL Tom Koning, GRS Commander*



LTG(R) Vald Heiberg, 46th Chief of Engineers, Steve Morgan, Coalition Provisional Authority Transportation Sector, Jim Beaujon, GRS Project Engineer and COL Tom Koning, GRS Commander, discuss plans for the installation of an oil-fired, turbine generator at Nasiriyah, Iraq.



GRS employees MAJ Trina Patterson and LTC Norm Grady discuss maintenance of primary inflow pumps at Qarmet Ali Water Treatment Plant in Basrah, Iraq. They are dressed in Tyvek PPE because they are in the HOT zone of the plant.

GRS has two offices that support the State Department's United States Agency for International Development (USAID). With four Corps employees in northern part of the District and seven in the south, they provided oversight on \$150 million worth of projects, including water and wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation, bridge reconstruction, road improvement and more.

GRS has an additional two offices that support the Coalition Provisional Authority, the interim government of Iraq. These corps employees work in a program of only \$60 million, but have hundreds of smaller projects – all under \$500,000 each and most in the \$20,000-50,000 range. Using Iraqi firms they work on the immediate improvement to the quality of life of local Iraqis in everything they do. Their projects focus on rehabilitation of schools and public buildings, road upgrades, and training of construction skills on the jobsite.

GRS is also providing support to the Oil Program in southern Iraq. With about 20 Corps



A turbine generator rises out of the desert during construction.

employees, Restore Iraqi Oil has rebuilt the Iraqi oil infrastructure to its pre-war capabilities. One of their largest projects is the rehabilitation of a giant water treatment plant used for groundwater injection to keep the oilfields open and flowing. The plant was looted after the war and is contaminated with Sodium Dichromate (remember the movie Erin Brockovich?). They are decontaminating the plant and placing all the treatment facilities back in operation. It is the largest water treatment plant I have ever seen.

GRS also has a vibrant program supporting the Program Management Office. With two New Iraqi Army bases under construction, and over \$1 billion in awards on the horizon they keep very busy.

GRS has assumed all the missions of the former Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity in southern Iraq. With 10 Corps employees, they oversee construction on \$390 million worth of gas turbine rehabilitation, new generation of both crude and gas fired turbines and over 350 kilometers of 400kV transmission lines. The electrical projects are big projects and provide focus to the District. New projects are coming in routinely for the Corps to strengthen a frail national electrical system that had been neglected for the past 30 years.