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GRD Update

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Over 800 tons of gear moved across country

Second huge generator creeps into place

For the second time in as many months, a strange convoy of flatbed trucks and

support vehicles crept slowly across Iraq last week bringing a huge generator to a power

production site and helping to bring a better life to Iraqis in their homes and businesses.

The 19-vehicle convoy movement was guarded by soldiers and armed escorts, while Gulf Region Division personnel watched the weather, double-checked the transport schedule and all the while worried about the possibility of an attack that could have crippled the generator.

Weighing over 305 tons, the generator was moved on a specially-built, 13-axle trailer with 104 tires. Other parts of the convoy included a turbine weighing 281 tons and two 130-ton transformers. The 800-tons of cargo put a strain on men, equipment and highways as it inched through remote sections of Iraq, destined for its final site, just north of the city.

Exact locations of the generator's origin, route and final site are being generally obscured, due to its value to the nation's power grid and the vulnerability of the expensive equipment to incoming rounds. This work, when completed, will add about 125 megawatts of dependable electricity to the national grid.

The stealthy move of the convoy mirrored a similar convoy that came through Baghdad under cover of darkness on Jan. 26, just a day after the GRD's activation. With a slightly

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At speeds of 5 to 10 miles per hour, these giant flatbed trucks could have been inviting targets for terrorists, so their route across Iraq was kept secret. Leaders of GRD's Restore Iraq Electricity Directorate oversaw the progress of the 19-vehicle convoy last week.

Even fuel pumps coming through RIO

The success of Army Engineers is well known when it comes to reopening Iraqi oil fields, supporting refinery operations, pipeline repairs and exports. Now the Restore Iraqi Oil team has added one more element of service, literally putting improvements into the hands of everyday Iraqis.

The first of 800 new fuel pumps, with double hoses and modern dependable gauges, have been delivered this week to major cities, including Baghdad. The combined efforts of the Corps, the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi Ministry of Oil will improve daily efficiency of local fuel stations and help to keep gas lines short.

The \$3 million investment in new equipment is a small part of the over \$1 billion in assistance provided in the past year by Task Force RIO, now known as the RIO directorate of GRD.



Huge generator moves slowly in dark of night

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different configuration, the earlier convoy required 18 vehicles, but with somewhat lighter loads. It also will add 125 megawatts to the power grid, supporting Iraq residents and insuring more consistent operation of factories and oil refineries.

One key concern during both moves was the ability of the massive 14th of July bridge over the Tigris River into downtown Baghdad to carry loads that it had likely never before had to carry. Prior to the crossings, Army Engineers had conducted extensive load-testings and predicted it would bear the weight. It did.

Col. Todd Semonite, commander of the Restore Iraqi Electricity directorate of GRD, said, "the success here is really two-fold. First, we managed to bring multi-millions of dollars worth of vulnerable generators and turbines weighing hundreds of tons across the dangerous countryside and through Baghdad in the middle of the night, and put them in place to help the Iraqi people."

He added, "secondly, this was a great piece of planning on the part of CPA's Capt. Davina French and all those who worked diligently to effect the delicate security handoff from one U.S. Army unit to another all the way across the country. Each soldier who participated, every unit, had a stake in the success of this mission. It's a win-win for the RIE directorate staff, the U.S. army and the people of Iraq," he said.



Col. (P) Joseph Schroedel, P.E., president of the Baghdad chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers, presents a gift to retired Rear Adm. David J. Nash, P.E., main speaker at the inaugural meeting of the Baghdad Chapter Feb. 7. The chapter meets next on March 6 at 12:30 at the Al Rashid Hotel, 2nd floor.



The Latifiyah fuel depot and distribution center, where power outages have led to fuel shortages, has more dependable power this week, arranged through the RIO directorate. This 1,000 KVA generator was purchased through the Coalition Provisional Authority using a portion of funds seized from the former regime. The depot serves about half of Baghdad's service stations.