

ESSAYONS

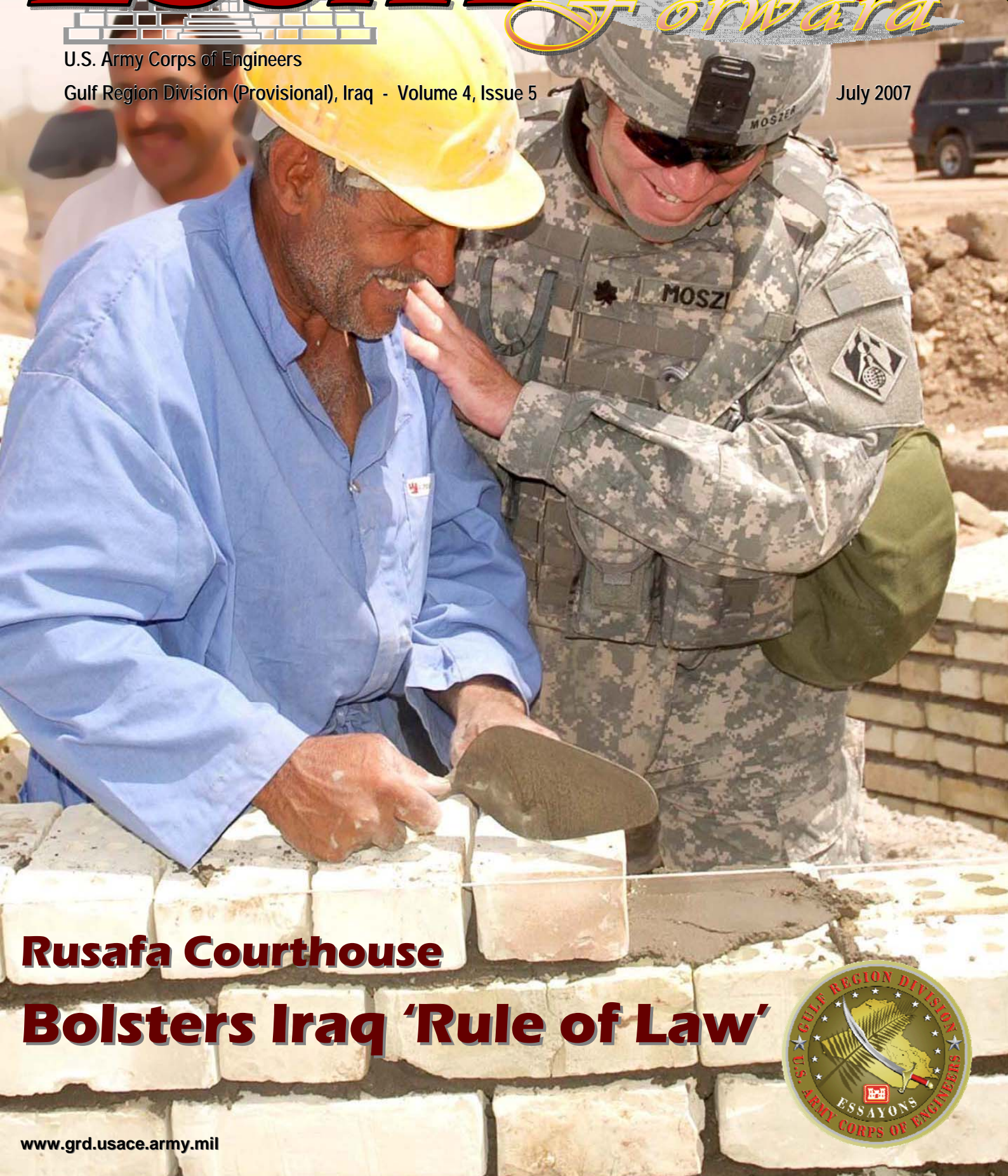
Forward

وبسرتنا وجود مقاتلتين باللغة
العربية في الصفحتين العاشرة والحادية
عشر في هذا العدد

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Gulf Region Division (Provisional), Iraq - Volume 4, Issue 5

July 2007



Rusafa Courthouse

Bolsters Iraq 'Rule of Law'



July 2007
Volume 4, Issue 5

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Gulf Region Division



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USACE photo by Travis Edwards

Army Spc. Michael Mercado (right), Gulf Region Division headquarters, Air Force Sgt. Phillip Black (center), 732 Expeditionary Support Squadron, and other service members and civilians from units within the International Zone deliver donated toys, candy, food and supplies to an Iraqi family in Baghdad, Iraq.

ESSAYONS FORWARD

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Letters, articles, notices of events, photographs and art are welcomed, but may be edited for clarity or brevity. Publication of submissions is at the discretion of the editor; all photos must be high resolution and include caption information.

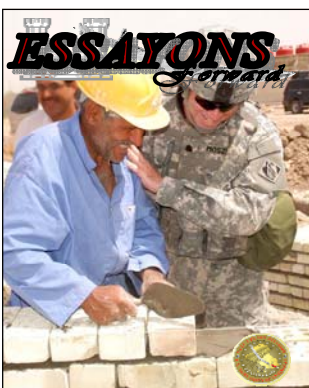
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USACE photo by Norris Jones

(Cover) Lt. Col. J.P. Moszer, Gulf Region Central district, Baghdad Area Office, who worked nearly a decade as a brick mason and concrete/structural steel engineer shares stories with an Iraqi worker who has over 30 years of similar experience while on site at the 5,000 square feet two-story Rusafa Courthouse project in Baghdad, Iraq.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue represents a change in style for the magazine, which now uses the publication and distribution month as the issue date. To make this change, this issue covers May and June. The next issue will be August, covering July's news.



KEEP IT LOCKED ON...

Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
Ali Base	107.3 FM	Mosul	105.1 FM
Ar Ramadi	107.3 FM	Q-West	93.3 FM
Baghdad	107.7 FM	Taji	107.3 FM
Balad	107.3 FM	Tal Afar	107.3 FM
Fallujah	105.1 FM	Taqqadum	107.3 FM
Kirkuk	107.3 FM	Tikrit	100.1 FM

Freedom Radio



Commander's Two Bits

On July 4, 1776, an assembly of brave and farsighted Americans declared to the world the birth of a new nation - one born of ideals rather than of coercion, where the legitimacy of government emanated from the consent of the people.

Bold Colonial Americans set in motion a radical experiment in representative democracy. It is easy for us to forget just how challenging this experiment really was then, and is today for the nation of Iraq. The Declaration of Independence signed by those visionaries caused panic in monarchies of Europe. But it also inspired enlightened men everywhere to abandon old ways of power and privilege.

But such world-shaping, radical change would not come without cost. A great and protracted armed struggle ensued. Farmers and tradesmen against British Regulars and German Hessians, but also neighbor against neighbor. For seven years, until the spring of 1783, musket ball, cannon shot, saber and tomahawk punctuated the struggle of ideas. Amid the American victories of Saratoga, Cowpens, and Yorktown were many stinging defeats, notably the loss of Fort Ticonderoga and the capture of Charleston. At the end of the struggle, much of Colonial America lay in ashes. But what remained was the idea.

The call to defend that idea has continued to be answered by America's sons and daughters, who have fought and struggled to preserve freedom and justice.

On the Fourth of July, amid fireworks and backyard barbecues, Americans reflect on the meaning of Independence Day, and pause to remember the tremendous effort and sacrifice



of millions of Americans who have preserved that endowment of democracy in the past and for generations yet to come.

What does this day, 231 years later, mean to us as we are engaged in this struggle for representative democracy in the cradle of civilization?

For our military, this day is an affirmation of their Call to Duty, and a reminder of why they put boots on the ground and risk life and limb to preserve freedom throughout the world. For our Army Civilians and Contractors, this day affirms the idea that perseverance and effort for the common good will have lasting consequences. For our Iraqi associates, this day affirms America's commitment to the ideals of individual freedom, the rule of law, and representative government. Not unlike our American forefathers, millions of Iraqis democratically chose their government for the first time in history on January 30, 2005, and continue to support democracy despite repeated threats of violence and retribution.

We are all engaged in a great struggle to protect not only our Nation and way of life, but Iraq's freedom as well, in this Global War on Terrorism. Terrorists in Iraq know that freedom, once ignited, can never be stopped. Their days are numbered.

I thank all of you for your service. We must continue to push forward and continue to light the torches of freedom through reconstruction and its positive effects on the people of Iraq. We move forward with a new command sergeant major, of whom I have great faith and trust, and an ever changing staff of dedicated warriors, both military and civilian.

ESSAYONS!

Col. Dale Adams
Gulf Region Division
Deputy Commander

Command Sergeant Major's Message

Greetings to all Gulf Region Division service members, Army civilians, contractors, and Iraqi associates. I arrived in Baghdad during the first week of June 2007 and I have the honor and privilege to become the fourth command sergeant major of this great unit.

I am very grateful to Brig. Gen. Walsh for granting me the opportunity to be the next Command Sergeant Major of this great team.

The transition has been very expeditious, efficient, and pleasant thanks to Command Sgt. Maj. McDaniel and our exceptional GRD staff members. I am

glad to be part of the Gulf Region Division team and feel very welcomed.

All of you should expect me to live by and uphold the Army values and to show you a very high degree of work ethic.



In return, I expect all of you to consistently demonstrate the values of your profession and this organization as it goes a long way to maintaining your health, welfare, and safety. These areas are very important to me personally and professionally.

Brig. Gen. Walsh's priorities are my priorities and I will enforce his policies to the letter, as well as those originating from our higher commands.

These policies are very critical to our organizational success and to our personal safety here in Iraq.

Our mission is very important and requires a constant synergistic and cohesive approach to achieve the desired results. I encourage you to maintain a robust relationship with your fellow GRD team members, our Iraqi associates, and combatant units operating in your area of responsibility.

You and your Families have made significant sacrifices in order for you to honorably serve our nation, our host nation and the great people of Iraq. I am glad and proud to be part of the GRD Family. Thank you for your service.

ARMY STRONG,
ENGINEER READY!
Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar
Gulf Region Division
Command Sergeant Major

Final Words from Command Sgt. Maj. McDaniel

I have passed the NCO Sword, which symbolizes my release of responsibility as the Gulf Region Division Command Sergeant Major, and with that ends my tour of duty here in Iraq. It is time for me to start the long journey home to my Family.

Just as it is with so many of us, this time for me has been significant in so many ways, whether it was helping the people, increasing my understanding of the local culture, bonding with my deployed Army Family, supporting each other and understanding those on our team. Also, experiencing the many risks and dangers associated with living, traveling and working together in this dangerous environment with the many complexities we encountered in just doing our business.

In volunteering to serve in Iraq, we all worked together to help so many in a war-torn country during this historic reconstruction mission, while at the same time helping the world, this and future generations fight and combat terrorism.

I use the word “we” not only for my GRD Family here in Iraq, but the USACE Divisions, Centers and Districts back in the States, but equally as well for my Family (my wife & children) back in Missouri who have stood by my side as we all sacrificed and assumed the same uncertain risks during my deployment...none of us do it by ourselves! I also must say thanks to my extended Family (my mother, father, brother, sisters, aunts, uncle, cousins, in-laws and all the children) in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Missouri.

Finally, thanks to the greater Fort Leonard Wood communities, my friends, church groups, school children and others throughout the world that have encouraged me, stayed in touch with me, sent me cards, care packages or emailed just to check on me, all the while supporting me in this effort. Thanks for understanding what my Family was experiencing and being there for them.

I served two great general officers who are superb leaders (Maj. Gen. McCoy and Brig. Gen. Walsh) and I must thank them

both publicly for the opportunity to serve this great Gulf Region Division. I have enjoyed meeting and working with so many great people who selflessly give of themselves each and every day. The memories are forever lodged in my mind. My hope is that our efforts will continue to make a positive difference for the people of Iraq and their country. These efforts are real and significant and it will probably be years before they are fully understood by many around the world. Let us not forget the solid contributions of those before us, those who are serving now and those who follow us in the future.

I know we will never forget our wounded and fallen comrades who gave so much during the fight in this war on terrorism and our historic reconstruction mission. Reflecting on my own experiences, I can clearly say that freedom comes at a cost and the price of our freedoms will never be free! I have always said those things that we sacrifice the most for in life are those that we remember the most!

For those of us who stepped onto the field of battle while placing ourselves in harms way and clearly in danger, day in and day out, understand in this game of life that helping others will always challenge us to greater heights. In my book, we will always be winners and we are clearly different because of this experience! We know our efforts are significant and we all feel a sense of pride in our volunteerism to this effort. We clearly send a message everyday throughout the world, which is loud and clear, to everyone about our patriotism, our honor and selfless service to a noble cause of helping others.

I pray that God will continue to bless you and your Families with happiness, good health and safety, as well as your ability to continue to make such a positive difference for so many others here in Iraq and throughout the World!

The Dust Don't Settle Here...

Proud to Serve...

ESSAYONS!

THE DUST DON'T SETTLE HERE

Command Sgt. Maj. Bill McDaniel

Gulf Region Division

Command Sergeant Major



USAC photo by Julie Cupernall

Command Sgt. Maj. Bill McDaniel, then Command Sergeant Major of the Gulf Region Division, keeps his eyes on the terrain while flying in a helicopter to visit a remote construction site in northern Iraq.

Combat Capstone Tour Completes CSM Career

by Sgt. Mark Burrell
Gulf Region Division

“I’ve never second guessed what I’ve done,” said a teary-eyed Command Sgt. Maj. William McDaniel when asked about his career.

The outgoing command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division packed up his desk not just from his tour in Iraq but as a final time in his career as he heads home to retire. “Our course is chartered; there’s a plan out there and it’s up to us to make the choices. I think I’ve made the right ones.”

The command sergeant major’s office did not echo of mortar concussions this day, but instead with heavy and emotional words.

McDaniel reflected upon his year-long deployment to Iraq and his 32 years in the Army with a metered pace perfected from years of mentoring Soldiers.

After spending more than 100 days on the roads of Iraq traveling to more than 45 different locations and project sites, he reflected on his upcoming retirement and revisited his early years.

“When I was a kid, I loved machinery and spent a lot of time outside playing ‘war’ and just jacking around,” McDaniel remembered. He eventually was offered a job when he was 13 years old by a father figure named Chuck, a former U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot. Chuck owned a grocery store and introduced him to horizontal construction at a young age.

“Every year, Chuck would introduce me to a new piece of equipment – graters, dozers, scrapers and back hoes — it rounded me out a little bit and showed me a little bit of life that I wouldn’t have seen otherwise,” he said.

The Army continued building on that foundation when McDaniel joined at the age of 18.

“I just wanted to become a crane operator,” said McDaniel. “My whole intention was to serve my country, then come back home to work in construction.”

When his first enlistment was up four years later, he figured, “I’ve already spent four years in, now I just have to knock off the next 16 to have 20 years in. Then, I can retire and go home.”

Throughout his career in the Army, McDaniel stayed with the engineers and spent many years in Germany.

“I am particularly proud of one project that I worked on doing major congressionally mandated construction at Graffenwoeher, Germany, working side-by-side with more than 5,500 other engineers,” said McDaniel

After attending the Drill Sergeant Academy at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., McDaniel was convinced that he could not see himself being anything but a noncommissioned officer.

“I was hard, not abusive, but I expected a certain level of discipline,” McDaniel said.

He was not only an instructor, but a mentor and a leader to everyone from general officers to privates.

“I’ve come to realize that the difference between a



USACE photo by Julie Cupernall

Command Sgt. Maj. Bill McDaniel (right) spent more than 100 days of a year-long tour traveling by road, helicopter, airplane and even boat to provide site visits and support to Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, coastguardsmen, civilians, contractors and Iraqi associates working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Overall, he visited more than 45 different project sites during his time as the Gulf Region Division Command Sergeant Major.

young private and a veteran sergeant equates to years of experience and level of maturity; rank doesn’t make you better,” he said. “I realized that the Army, regardless of your stage of life, or your status, or class – everybody that walks in the door is equal. It gives young people such great responsibility that in a civilian capacity they wouldn’t be charged with.”

In the Army, that is an everyday occurrence, especially in the fluid, ever-changing battlefield that is Iraq.

The Army nurtured this Soldier from a young man into a leader of men. One that says what he feels and thinks before he speaks. “If we fail, America fails - it’s more than a job.”

A weathered Soldier like McDaniel can look back on his lifetime of military accomplishments and just sigh contentedly, “Back in my younger days they’d call me a lifer – I guess today I’d be an old Soldier.”

After spending years being shaped by the military, then shaping the military’s future leaders, that “old Soldier” has a well deserved Rest and Recuperation waiting for him on his Missouri ranch aptly named, “Rolling Meadows.”

He contends that he will never be 100 percent out of uniform, but is focused on spending time with his wife and child. McDaniel is steadfastly set on his next “post”, raising his newborn and only child, Mackenzie, for whom he has “waited a lifetime to raise.”

Forward Operating Bases Key To Successful Iraqi Army

by Lana Aziz
Gulf Region North

NINEWA PROVINCE, Iraq - A forward operating base for an Iraqi army battalion in Mosul will lead to greater security for the local population in the Ninewa Province.

Construction started on new buildings for Iraqi Army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division in February 2006 and is expected to be completed in June 2007.

Existing facilities were no longer adequate to house the Iraqi soldiers. The dining facilities were too small and unsanitary, the sleeping quarters could not sufficiently house the entire unit, and most officers slept in their offices while some soldiers made temporary sleeping quarters in the building's stairwells. Hygiene facilities often backed up due to an inadequate sewage system.

The new compound addresses all of these issues. The battalion will have three new barracks that can house 380 soldiers; there are three latrine facilities in addition to restrooms in the administration and medical buildings; two shower buildings; a larger dining facility and a kitchen that will accommodate more than 250 people.



USACE photo

The Mosul Iraqi army project includes three new barracks to house 380 soldiers, three latrine and two shower buildings, a dining facility and a kitchen that will accommodate more than 250 people.

The administration building has two large conference rooms and seven offices. All the buildings will have air conditioning units and several will be configured with telephone/data ports.

"The Iraqi colonel in charge of the battalion is extremely pleased with the new project. He said that it is one of the best facilities he has seen and is anxiously awaiting its completion so he can move his unit into the compound," said Mosul Resident Office project engineer Alda Ottley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. USACE has quality assurance responsibility for this and all projects in the Iraq Reconstruction Program.

The base construction is funded by the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I); an organization responsible for building and training the Iraqi army and security forces to provide security for their country.

Army Maj. Jerry Dull, MNSTC-I project manager, USACE Gulf Region North district, said "Forward operating bases help the Iraqi forces manage and sustain their forces, and they're a key element for successful operations."

The \$2.3 million project will provide a permanent base of operations for the Iraqi army and additional housing and support facilities for expansion of the Iraqi army's 2nd Bn., 2nd Bde., 2nd Div. The expansion of the battalion will secure more Iraqi army soldiers in Mosul, which will lead to greater security for Iraqi citizens in the Ninewa Province, according to Dull.

Engineers Build New Female Training Police Station

by Mohammed Alimi
Gulf Region South

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is helping to create new situations to enable Iraqi women to take an active part in the reconstruction and security restoration of Iraq.

"The Corps of Engineers is building a new Female Training Police Station (FTPS) in An Najaf Province," said Army Lt. Col. Jan Carter, senior project manager, Gulf Region South (GRS), Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I). "It is a three-story facility with offices, jail cells, an armory, a communications room, guard towers, sleeping quarters and a courtyard for training new female police officers."

"The objective for building the \$134,000 female training police station is to help advise, organize and train Iraqi female officers on basic infantry tactics from squad to battalion level to further enhance the Iraqi police stations," Carter said.

"This project is very important and will help to eliminate terrorist acts and restore security in the Iraqi provinces," she said.

MNSTC-I is responsible for developing, organizing, training, equipping, and sustaining the Iraqi Security Force (ISF). Its mission is to train the ISF so they are capable of defeating the insurgency and take responsibility for maintaining security within Iraq.

"To date, \$435 million has been used to support 404 projects for security and justice facilities in southern Iraq. These projects include firehouses, courthouses, prisons and jails, police stations, border posts, vehicle control points, barracks, and Iraq military bases," Carter said.

Falih Kadim, an Iraqi engineer, said all work performed and materials supplied under the requirements of the scope of work are subject to inspection by Gulf Region South.

"The new police station will replace the existing station located near the Euphrates River. The project consists in providing the labor, supervision, equipment, and materials to construct the IPS in the city of An Najaf, southeast of Baghdad," Kadim said.

Carter said the Iraqi women impressed her, especially during elections when older women speak their minds and when women in the Government of Iraq act with authority while still respectful to their culture.

"There are Iraqi women in some very high-level positions in the Government of Iraq," she said. "That surprised me to see them in these positions because I didn't expect them to speak up bravely and openly - but they definitely do speak their minds where it is needed."

"They are here to make a difference in their lives and to help them to regain their country. This is a new element of security for the Iraqi people - to have female police officers. Females are a very important part of the society," she added.

An Iraqi female officer said, "As an Iraqi woman, I wish I could see more changes in the Iraqi community. I joined the Iraqi army to participate in the noble mission of restoring security in Iraq. I want to see all the Iraqi people happy and living in peace."

New Courthouse Complex Taking Shape To Bolster Baghdad’s ‘Rule of Law’

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A new regional courthouse is taking shape to help Baghdad enforce the rule of law.

Construction on Rusafa Courthouse got under way in November 2006 and is currently 25 percent complete. About 120 Iraqis are on the crew helping build the facility that is scheduled to open in December 2007. The 5,000-square-meter two-story structure will serve Rusafa District and neighboring areas east of the Tigris River - benefiting more than one million residents. A Witness Protection Facility is also part of the complex and will house 200 people testifying for the prosecution.

“We’re building the Rusafa Regional Courthouse for the Ministry of Interior,” said Navy Lt. Robert Leines who is assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). “It’s a key institution in Iraq’s quest for law and order.” Once open, 350 Iraqis are expected to work there including judges, lawyers, investigators, administrative assistants, and security personnel.

Leines said that the majority of his staff of 50 are Iraqi engineers. “Our Iraqi Quality Assurance representatives visit that courthouse site every day, taking photos, ensuring we’re getting quality construction in a safe manner.” He praised the courage those individuals

display reporting to work and getting the job done. “They believe in what we’re doing and want to make Iraq a better place.”

He and his staff are overseeing 100 active projects valued at \$400 million including new water and sewer lines, school renovations, primary healthcare centers, upgrading gas stations, and installing new electric distribution networks in east Baghdad. He noted they work in partnership with the Baghdad public works directorate, or Amanat, and Iraqi Ministries on these projects.

USACE is overseeing the construction of five such courthouses throughout Iraq. The Karkh Courthouse is nearing completion in western Baghdad and the others are in Mosul, Basrah and Erbil.

“These facilities are critical to enforcement of the rule of law,” explained Navy Cdr. Joseph Mauser, USACE Security and Justice sector lead in Iraq. As an interim measure, a temporary courthouse has opened at Rusafa. “As the case load continues to grow, having a



USACE photo by Norris Jones

(Above) A crew of more than 120 Iraqis build the new Rusafa Courthouse complex east of the Tigris River.

permanent facility with sufficient capacity becomes increasingly important,” he added.

Apart from the courthouse complex itself, Rusafa also features a facility where up to 5,400 accused individuals will be housed awaiting their arraignment or trial dates.

The entire area is surrounded by concrete barriers similar to the International Zone located on the other side of the Tigris River, and they have identified themselves as a second Green Zone — this one called the “Rule of Law Green Zone.”



(Left) An artist’s rendering of the future 5,000 square-meter two-story Rusafa Courthouse complex.

USACE graphic

NASIRIYAH PRISON SUPPORTS

IRAQ SECURITY SYSTEM

by Lisa Coghlan
Gulf Region South

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq - Supporting the security and justice systems in Iraq is one of the main challenges that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) confronts to help the Iraqi Government develop the infrastructure countrywide.

According to Rick Mers, a project engineer with the Gulf Region South (GRS) District "The New Nasiriyah Maximum Security Correctional Facility, which is built by USACE in the Dhi Qar Province, is considered to be the biggest prison in the south of Iraq.

"The project is a new maximum security correctional facility located near the city of Nasiriyah. The prison will hold up to 800 inmates and includes holding areas, laundry, dining facilities, and administrative offices," he said.

Michael Osborne, a resident engineer with GRS, said the prison will help provide employment for security personnel, medical personnel and support staff. It will also improve the quality of security correctional facilities south of Iraq.

Phase I has two maximum-security buildings. Each building will house 400 inmates and has a visitor control building.

"The construction at Phase I started Nov. 2, 2004. It encompasses 26 acres



USACE photos by Lisa Coghlan

An Nasiriyah Maximum Security Correctional Facility is being built to modern prison specifications by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

and will have an exercise area, a medical clinic, maintenance buildings, and a kitchen and laundry facility," Mers said.

Osborne said that the correctional facility will be self-sufficient with an administrative building, armory, water treatment plant, storage tanks, and a sewage treatment plant.

"It will also be capable of producing its own electric power within its utility area. There is also a room for prayers and other religious events," he said.

Mers explained that the prison will generally run on generators because the Dhi Qar Province routinely has outages at the electricity power supply, which is caused by outdated equipment that have been used for years.

"The correctional facility has four generators and fuel tanks, associated transformers and switchgears to provide power," Osborne said.

Mers said that Phase I projected completion date is October 2007.

"The second phase was just awarded a couple of days ago. The second phase of construction is an additional 400-inmate security building would be built to further enhance a larger inmate population," he added.

"The multi-million dollar project is less than half of the way through to completion. The completion of these modern correctional facilities will help improve the quality and availability of inmate incarceration space," Mers said.

(Left) Rick Mers and Michael Osborne, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South district, conduct a site visit to evaluate the construction progress at An Nasiriyah Maximum Security Correctional Facility.



Reconstruction Overview:

Salah Ad Din Province Projects

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North

TIKRIT, Iraq - In the Salah ad Din province of Iraq, the Iraq Reconstruction Program includes more than 300 infrastructure projects. There are 209 finished, with 48 currently active and six planned to start. The remaining 45 projects are currently still in the developmental stages.

Many of these projects are in remote locations. Some of these projects are high-capacity electrical distribution projects and large treatment facilities for water and sewage.

The following information provides a snapshot of projects in the Salah ad Din province with additional information on several projects.

Building, health and education projects:

- Of the 103 approved building, health and education projects for Salah ad Din, 92 are completed. The 84 completed schools provide an enhanced learning environment for more than 29,000 school children.

- Eight Primary Healthcare Clinics are completed, and when fully operational, each will benefit 100 medical patients daily. Currently, one healthcare center is operational, while the others are preparing to open.

- A school project planned to start next week is a school for deaf and mute children. This new two-story structure will accommodate the special learning needs for about 150 students, with a dormitory area, as well as classrooms and administrative space. It is scheduled to be finished December 2007.

- A \$750,000 project to upgrade and repair a vocation technical school started November 2006 which is scheduled to be completed in July 2007. The industrial school will be tied to the provincial employment offices and will support job postings, which include the oil refinery, power plant, drug industry, fertilizer plant, textile mill, and water bottling plant. The renovated school will accommodate a student body of approximately 200.

Oil Sector:

- Two oil refinery projects scheduled to begin this summer will protect the refinery, enhance operations, and secure refinery output to increase fuel delivery to the Iraqi marketplace. Both projects, which have a combined total cost of \$12.5 million, are scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

Electrical Sector:

- Of the 47 electrical projects budgeted for the Salah ad Din, 20 are complete, four are still in developmental stages, and one is planned to start this month.

- One of the six electrical projects currently in progress will provide more reliable power to approximately 20,000 people in the city of Baiji and the surrounding villages. The project includes installation of four kilometers of 33kV overhead lines and steel towers from the substation.

Security and Justice:

- There are 21 budgeted projects in this sector. Sixteen of those projects are complete and four are still in developmental stages.

- One Iraqi army project started last week that will renovate an existing facility for an Iraqi army battalion. The \$2 million project is due to be completed November 2007.

Public works and water:

- Of the 24 water and/or sewage treatment projects financed, 11 are finished; two are planned to start in May and June; and one is still in developmental stages. Twelve projects are currently ongoing, with three being more than 90 percent finished—a water compact unit project; a landfill and incinerator project, and one sewer network.

- A project to repair a drinking water treatment plant started November 2006 with plans to be completed August 2007. When complete, the plant will supply cleaner drinking water for approximately 200,000 people in Salah ad Din. The scope of work consists of general repairs to the plant operations, a generator, new operator's facility, and electrical maintenance work. The cost of this project is \$417,000.

Transportation and communication:

- There are 28 transportation and communication projects across the Salah ad Din province; 23 are finished and the five currently underway are a bridge project; a train station renovation; an access road to a power plant; and two other road improvement and road paving projects.

- All of these projects enhance mobility and access for the Iraqi people of this province. These five ongoing projects alone total more than \$9.6 million.

This is only a synopsis of progress in the Salah ad Din Province, one of 18 provinces in Iraq. Since the time of Iraq's sovereignty in 2004, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed more than 3,000 nationwide.

WATER PROJECTS RAMADI

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

RAMADI, Iraq - Residents north of Ramadi, Iraq, will soon have fresh, potable water pumped into their homes.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region Central district is overseeing the construction of two small water treatment plants, as well as the installation of 24,000 meters of water main for Zangora, a community of 48,000 people, in central Iraq.

Those two units, each capable of purifying 200 cubic meters per hour, are located several kilometers apart to ensure the entire city has an adequate water source. "Residents tell us they're definitely looking forward to the project's completion this summer when they will

have access to clean water for the first time ever," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Arturo Aseo, USACE Officer in Charge of the Ramadi area.

Each unit is supplied raw water through a 500-meter intake pipe connected to the Euphrates River. The distribution system consists of 200mm, 150mm and 100mm water mains.

"Projects like these are what it's all about – helping people. It's great to see the smiles from local residents— young and old. They appreciate what we're doing," Aseo continued.

"Security is a challenge in Al Anbar Province. But in my four months here, I have seen a dramatic improvement in conditions.

"Local sheiks are now supporting us.

They see we're here to assist them to make things better. Contractors are excited to do the work. These are all very positive signs," he said

The Zangora projects are among 31 water treatment projects Aseo's office is overseeing.

His staff is also managing a number of electric projects, including repair and commissioning of an 11-megawatt diesel generating facility south of Ramadi in Tameem, \$27.8 million project to rebuild Ramadi's 132kV substation, and the construction of a new 132kV overhead transmission line.

"This is a great assignment. These projects will be benefiting the area for decades to come," Aseo concluded.

مساعدة ودعم شيوخ العشائر لنا حيث ادركوا ان وجودنا هنا هو لمساعدتهم وتقديم وتوفير الخدمات لهم وكذلك من اجل النهوض بواقع الخدمات في المحافظة، اما بالنسبة للمقاولين فانهم متحمسون لانجاز العمل وهذه الامور تعتبر عوامل ومؤشرات ايجابية".

ويعتبر مشروع زنگورا من بين 31 مشروعا لمعالجة المياه والذي يتولى الاشراف عليها فريق مكتب المقدم ارتورو اسيو، هذا ويتولى الفريق ايضا ادارة العديد من المشاريع الكهربائية المتضمنة تصليح وتشغيل مولدات ديزل بطاقة 11 ميكاواط في حي التاميم جنوب محافظة الانبار هذا بالاضافة الى مشروع اعادة بناء محطة الكهرباء الثانوية والتي تبلغ طاقتها 132كي في.

وقد انتهى اسيو حديثه قائلا " انها مهمة عظيمة حيث ان هذه المشاريع ستقوم بتوفير الخدمات لسكان هذه المنطقة".

المشروع هذا الصيف ليتمكنوا من الحصول على المياه الصالحة للشرب ولاول مرة".

وتتوزد كل وحدة من هذه الوحدات بالمياه عبر انبوب ممتد من نهر الفرات، ويكون نظام توزيع المياه بطاقة 200 مليمتير و150 مليمتير ترد من وحدات المياه الرئيسية.

"مشروع كهذه تكمن اهميتها في مساعدة الناس - انه لعمل رائع ان ترى الابتسامه مرسومة على شفاه الناس وهي تعبر عن امتنانهم وتقديرهم لما تقدمه لهم من خدمات".

واضاف المقدم ارتورو قائلا " ان الامن يشكل موضوعا مهما وتحديا كبيرا في محافظة الانبار الا انني قد شهدت تطورا وتحسنا ملحوظا للوضع الامني خلال فترة الاربعة اشهر التي قضيتها هنا وقد كانت هذه التغييرات تغييرات دراماتيكية وقد حدث هذا من خلال

نوريس جونز

فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الوسطى

العراق، الرمادي : سيحصل اهالي شمال الانبار على المياه العذبة والتي سيتم ضخها اليهم قريبا، حيث تتولى فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الوسطى- التابعة لفيلق المهندسين الاميركي عملية الاشراف على انشاء محطتين صغيرتين لمعالجة المياه فضلا عن نصب 24,000 الف مترا من الانابيب لمشروع ماء زنگورا الذي سيستفيد منه حوالي 48,000 نسمة من السكان، والذي سيقوم بتنقية 200 ميتر مكعب من المياه في الساعة بالاضافة الى استمرار تزويد المنطقة بالمياه الصالحة للشرب.

وقد قال المقدم ارتورو اسيو وهو ضابط في فيلق المهندسين الاميركي والمسؤول عن تنفيذ المشاريع في منطقة الرمادي "لقد اخبرنا السكان المحليون بانهم يتطلعون الى انجاز



(Above) One of two water treatment facilities being managed by the Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to bring improved water services to the residents in and around Ramadi, Iraq.

RAMADI ELECTRIC PROJECTS

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

RAMADI, Iraq – Work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central district continues to upgrade Ramadi's electrical system in the Al Anbar province west of Baghdad, Iraq.

Eight diesel-powered electrical generators in southeast Tameem will soon be online providing up to 11 additional megawatts of electricity to residents in that area. Tameem is located in the southwest section of Ramadi.

"We will soon be commissioning the plant," said Dean Mesenbrink, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central district project engineer. "The community is definitely looking forward to some additional power being added to the grid."

Apart from that work, Mesenbrink is overseeing several other projects designed to provide a more stable and reliable electrical network for Ramadi residents.

Construction started recently on a \$27.8 million 132kV substation, said Mesenbrink. "After 25 years of neglect, Ramadi's existing 132kV substation was simply worn out," Mesenbrink explained. "This will help provide a stable grid for the community's electrical needs. In addition, the new overhead transmission lines are being installed for the station."

Mesenbrink also manages the installation of two new diesel-powered generators for the Kabeer Water Treatment Plant, the community's largest source of drinking water. That work includes new concrete pads for the

generators, sunshades, a new fuel tank, cable, and operator training to provide the facility four megawatts of power.

The Gulf Region Central district is also oversee the water treatment facility renovation which includes the addition of new pumps, construction a laboratory, repairing clarifiers and chlorinators, repairing mechanical valves and electric controllers for the sand/gravel filters to bring the system back to its 6,000 cubic meters per hour max capacity, he said.

Mesenbrink says his main job with all the projects is ensuring the contractors are providing quality construction in a safe manner. "Iraqis expect and deserve that," he noted. "There's no doubt that these projects will benefit Ramadi."

الإشراف على إعادة تأهيل محطة معالجة المياه التي تتضمن مضخات إضافية وإنشاء المختبرات وإصلاح معمل تنقية ومعالجة المياه بمادة الكلور، وكذلك إصلاح الصمامات الميكانيكية والكهربائية وأجهزة التحكم الخاصة بفلاتر الحصى، والرمل من أجل إعادة الطاقة الاستيعابية والبالغة 6,000 متر مكعب كحد أدنى من الطاقة.

ويقول ميسينبرك إن المهمة الرئيسية هو ضمان توفير النوعية في البناء وبطريقة مأمونة وأشار أيضا "إن العراقيين يستحقون ذلك ومما لا شك فيه أن هذه المشاريع تعود بالنفع والفائدة لعموم أهالي هذه المحافظة ومحاولها".

وقال السيد ميسينبرك "إن السكان هنالك يتطلعون إلى إضافة مزيد من الطاقة إلى الشبكة" وكجزء من العمل فإن ميسينبرك يتولى الإشراف على العديد من المشاريع التي تهدف إلى تعزيز الطاقة في الرمادي، حيث بدأ العمل مؤخرا في المحطة الثانوية وبطاقة 132 كي في هذا بالإضافة إلى توليه إدارة وتنصيب اثنين من مولدات الديزل لوحدة معالجة مياه الكبير حيث تعتبر هذه الوحدة أكبر مصدر للمواطنين من حيث توفير المياه الصالحة للشرب.

ويتضمن هذا العمل أيضا بناء مظلات وقواعد كونكريتية وخزانات وقود وكبيلات، وكذلك تدريب المشغلين حيث ستزود المحطة بأربعة ميكرواوط من الطاقة وتتولى فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الوسطى

نوريس جونز

فيلق المهندسين- المنطقة الوسطى

ما زال فريق المهندسين في فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الوسطى- يواصل العمل من أجل تحسين وتطوير منظومة الكهرباء في الرمادي.

وهناك ثمانية مولدات تم نصبها جنوب شرق حي التاميم في الرمادي ستعمل قريبا وستضيف ما يزيد على 11 ميكرواوط من الطاقة الكهربائية لسكان هذا الحي الذي يقع في الجانب الشرقي لمحافظة الرمادي.

وقد قال دين ميسينبرك، وهو مهندس في فيلق المهندسين- المنطقة الوسطى- "سنقوم قريبا في الانتهاء من إنجاز هذه المحطة".



(Above) The Tameem Southeast generating facility will soon be fully operational providing 11 megawatts of additional electricity to the Ramadi grid in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

SOC Takes Control of South Rumaylah Gas Compressor Station

by *A. Al Babrani*
Gulf Region Southern

BASRAH, Iraq – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently turned over the biggest gas compressor station in Basrah to the Southern Oil Company, which will help boost Iraq's economic position in the global marketplace.

“The \$19 million South Rumaylah Central SRC project will help increase the gas pressure and remove the moisture from the gas before it is pumped into the

North Rumaylah Natural Gas Liquid plants and Khor Az Zubair Liquid Petroleum Gas production plant,” said Marek Kaszuba, a project manager with the Gulf Region Division Oil Sector in Basrah.

The compressor station was designed and built jointly by Nippon Kokan – Bechtel in 1976.

Kaszuba explained the rehabilitation of the SRC compressor station enables gas to be processed from the gas or oil

separator at five pressure levels. “The compressor station is one of four South Rumaylah gas compressor stations refurbished in Southern Iraq. It has two glycol dehydration trains and four multi-stage compressor trains,” he added.

Ray Gonzales, a construction representative with Basrah Area Office, said, “The compressor station was extensively damaged during the 1991 and 2003 wars.” He explained that the ancillary equipment that was installed includes instrumentation and controls, air compressors, valves, piping and fittings.

This effort is part of an overall refurbishment package to meet the SOC requirement to produce 3,000 metric tons per day of liquid petroleum gas,” Gonzales said.

“Improvements at this project help in the recovery of flared gas and contribute 1,026 metric tons of LPG per day, respectively,” said Kaszuba.

He explained that experts say that Iraq has about 110 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, and approximately 150 trillion cubic feet of probable reserves, concentrated mainly in the South.

According to Iraq's Oil Ministry, 60 percent of all natural gas in Iraq is uselessly burned as a result of the refinement process because Iraq lacks sufficient infrastructure to capitalize on it. By increasing the country's natural gas output, oil can be freed up for other purposes, such as petrochemical production and export, said Kaszuba.

“Of the four top priority compressor stations, SRC is the highest gas producer and the biggest station with significant impact on the daily LPG production,” he added.

USACE, Gulf Region South district, Basrah Resident Office has also repaired two more compressor stations located in North Rumaylah.



USACE photos by B.J. Weiner



(Opposite page) Workers adjust settings on pipes at the South Rumaylah Central gas compressor station.

(Left) A worker files away grime from a pipe fitting at the South Rumaylah Central gas compressor station.

(Below) An Iraqi oil worker sorts places a thick paper-like material under a pipe at the South Rumaylah Central Gas Compressor Station.

USACE photos by B.J. Weiner



Joint Mail Terminal

An Iraqi laborer works on a new 60-meter by 38-meter concrete pad at the Joint Military Mail Terminal located at Baghdad's International Airport which will help containerized mail be more effectively processed. The Gulf Region Central district oversees the \$335,000 project.



USACE photo by Norris Jones

New Tal' Afar Granary Opens

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North

TAL'AFAR, Iraq - City councilman and directors, sheiks, the granary director and its employees officially inaugurated this city's renovated granary in April - a reconstruction renovation project that now adds 75,000 tons of grain storage capacity in northern Iraq.

With security tight, an Iraqi contractor hosted an event that included a photo exhibit reflecting the granary's many renovations, a tour of the main control room, and a demonstration of how trucks download the grain.

"This [reopening] is a hope for the people," said Mohammad Hayder Hussein, the granary director. The Tal' Afar granary has been inoperable since 2003.

The Western Ninewa Province's brigade combat team, 4th Calvary Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was there to help dedicate the facility.

"The granary is empty right now, but

reportedly there are shipments of wheat at the port in Basra to supplement the upcoming harvest season," said Capt. Matthew Davis, an engineer from the BCT.

"We're trying to encourage the Government of Iraq to get some of that grain up from Basrah," he said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working with the Government of Iraq to help restore the grain marketing infrastructure by renovating this granary and a second granary in the Ninewa Province.

Once considered the second largest value sector in the country, agriculture in northern Iraq has taken a nosedive in past years, but renovation of these two facilities provides a reliable means to process, store and distribute various grain crops — a step toward restoring Iraq's agriculture productivity.

According to reports, more than 85 percent of the four million tons of wheat consumed by the Iraqi people annually is

imported.

This creates an economic burden on the country.

The storage capacity of the two granaries in Ninewa reduces the amount of import requirements and drives the agriculture sector to achieve greater efficiency and output, which will gradually ease that burden.

Ninewa is one of 18 provinces in Iraq. Since the time of Iraq's sovereignty in 2004, the USACE, Gulf Region Division has completed more than 3,000 of the original 3,786 projects nationwide.

Throughout Iraq, U.S. government ongoing projects contribute to improving the quality of life and economic stability—helping provide a foundation for the Iraqi people to build upon as their country overcomes more than 35 years of neglect.

New Monitoring Networks Control Iraqi Electricity

by *Mohammed Alimi*
Gulf Region South

AN NASSIRIYAH, Iraq - In an ongoing effort to improve electricity supply in Iraq, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has established new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) networks to monitor and control electrical transmission and generation systems throughout the country.

The main function of SCADA is to serve and check power loads for each province through a digital connection and control loads easily by connecting them to the central power distribution points, according to electricity sector project manager Lewis Tyler, USACE Gulf Region South district.

“Turnover packages are being prepared for transition to the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity (MoE),” he said. “The MoE will be able to continue with this project at their convenience.” Turnover packages include spare parts, drawings and test equipment.

An Iraqi engineer stated that the term “SCADA” usually refers to a central system that monitors and controls a complete site or a system spread out over a distance of kilometers or miles. The bulk of the site control is actually performed automatically by a remote terminal unit or by a programmable logic controller.

Tyler explained that the purpose of this project is to provide a national power line carrier upgrade and renovation, and to build new northern, central and southern regional control centers. The project also adds remote telemetry units, equipment cabling in substations, power plants, and provides a microwave upgrade and renovation.

“SCADA system includes input/output signal hardware, controllers, networks, communication, and software,” he said.

The Iraqi engineer noted that the old SCADA networks were not working properly due to the lack of maintenance during the previous regime period saying “this project is very important for the power plants and substations.”

The SCADA National Control Center in Baghdad is the main center, which monitors all the regional centers. The Regional Control Center controls the

substations to shutdown or divert power when needed.

“SCADA is an important step in modernizing the electrical grid for all of Iraq. It will help the electrical utilities personnel to get the most use of the available electricity, and deliver it to the largest number of people. It will save wear on the equipment used to deliver power to peoples’ homes and businesses, and when a piece of equipment does break down, it will help us to find the exact problem and fix it sooner,” said the

communication station can contact any part of the country and ask for reduction in loads,” he said.

The Iraqi engineer identified SCADA as a full control system focused mainly on the supervisory level. It is a software package, positioned on top of hardware with which it is interfaced, in general via programmable logic controllers, or other commercial hardware modules.

“Once finished, the project will allow the substations to communicate with each other to distribute the electrical power



USACE photo

Electrical engineers fasten a control panel at one of the monitoring networks in an effort of enhancing electrical production south of Iraq.

Iraqi Engineer.

Tyler mentioned that SCADA networks are commonly used by electricity and natural gas utilities, water and sewage utilities, railroads, and other critical infrastructure organizations. They enable remote monitoring, control of an amazing variety of industrial devices, and are used for industrial measurement and control systems. A new SCADA system could provide a good connection between all the power plants and the substations.

“The newly provided systems have never been used in Iraq before now. For example, the central control

better than using the power load carriers. The Iraqi people want more electrical power to reach their homes and this project will make that much easier,” he said.

Tyler said that Iraq needs more power generation to balance the requirement for new power consumption and USACE engineers are working hard in Iraq to restore electricity to homes, public facilities, and businesses by replacing old, worn out and undersize equipment to realize additional efficiencies and power supplies.

Contractor Workshop Draws Large Ramadi Turnout

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

RAMADI, Iraq – Representatives from several Ramadi construction firms attended a seminar May 17 to learn about U.S. Army Corps of Engineers bid-submittal requirements for proposed contracts.

The “Contractor Workshop” was attended by 24 Iraqis and was hosted by the USACE, Gulf Region Division Central (GRC) District, at the Ramadi Joint Coordination Center.

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Arturo Aseo, officer-in-charge, Ramadi Resident Office, Gulf Region Central, coordinated the training event. Those providing the detailed information were GRC contract specialist Dan Cahill, and Bilingual Bicultural Advisor Saber Qader, assigned to the GRC, Al Anbar Area Office, from the

U.S. Department of State.

Topics included accessing solicitation web sites; how to read and understand government solicitation requirements; the key steps in the USACE contracting process from initial scope of work to contract award; how to create a winning proposal; complying with basic construction safety requirements; adhering to the Defense Base Act (DBA) insurance requirements; and the need for accurate Electronic Fund Transfer information for payment purposes.

A Question-and-Answer session followed the presentation where contractors were able to ask questions of the subject matters experts Aseo, Cahill and Qader.

The contractors were provided an information packet with copies of the discussed material translated into Arabic

and a compact disc with electronic copies of regulations and other information.

The USACE GRC Ramadi Resident Office, who hosted the event in Ramadi, currently oversees 32 projects valued at approximately \$42 million, which includes projects such as the installation of new electric distribution lines and substations, electric generation plants, renovations of the Kabeer potable water treatment plant, and construction of smaller water treatment plants in villages outside Ramadi.

(Below) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central district hosted a contractor workshop in Ramadi, Iraq, for 24 local construction firm representatives who learned about the requirements to successfully bid for Iraq reconstruction projects.



Iraqi Healthcare Infrastructure Strengthening

by Erich Langer
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Nearing construction completion are 142 new primary healthcare centers (PHC) completion across Iraq, which is good news for millions of Iraqis who historically have had little access to preventative medicine.

Healthcare was the topic of discussion during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division (GRD) Reconstruction Roundtable: Focus on Health press conference June 30.

The GRD Reconstruction Roundtables are biweekly media engagements that feature subject matter experts from the Government of Iraq, U.S. Embassy, GRD and other government and non-government entities responsible for helping rebuild Iraq's antiquated infrastructure. Representatives gather to highlight infrastructure construction accomplishments in areas as far-ranging as education, electricity, oil and security.

"Some of the completed PHCs are seeing 350 or more patients per day," said GRD Facilities Sector Director Col. Paul Babin and leader behind GRD's health construction program that also is rehabilitating 20 hospitals and building a new state-of-the-art pediatric oncology hospital.

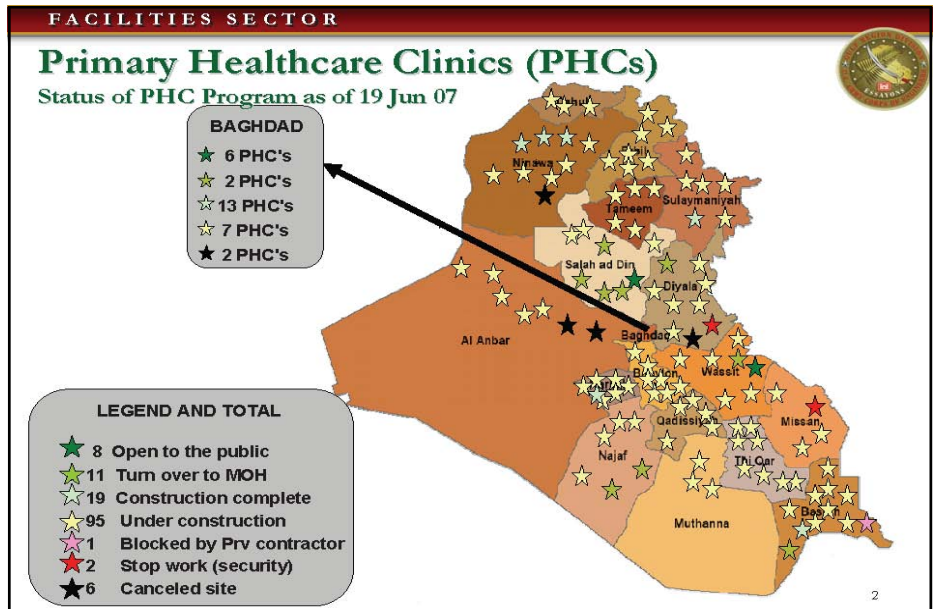
"The PHCs are being built in *maballas* or neighborhoods across Iraq near the people they will serve," Babin said. "Originally designed to see 200 patients per day, some PHCs are treating twice as many people."

The centers come in three varieties; Type A clinics include physician and administrative offices, examination rooms, pharmacy, laboratory and café, Type B clinics include the same amenities but do double duty as teaching facilities. They also have two classrooms, a medical library and additional storage, Type C facilities are the largest model which adding emergency room and labor delivery facilities. They also have a nursery, conference room, teaching facilities and residential apartments for four doctors.

"Each PHC is equipped with modern medical and office equipment, furnishings and consumables," said Babin. "Pharmacies, dental offices and even X-ray diagnostic equipment are standard fare at Iraq's PHCs. Following construction, clinics are turned over to MOH for staffing by Iraqi doctors and medical staff and begin seeing patients."

GRD and MoH officials anticipated a large demand for PHC medical care estimating 35,000 patients annually to visit each location. So far, PHC visitation has exceeded all estimates. If the trend continues at levels reported nearly 10 million Iraqis may annually benefit from PHC medical services, Babin said.

Most of Iraq's hospitals are structures that date back several decades. New construction and rehabilitation of existing public health facilities was largely ignored during the previous regime. In fact, the nation's newest hospital was constructed in the 1980s.



USACE graphic

"Today, the MoH has a plan and they are beginning to execute their \$500 million budget," said Deputy Health Attaché Lt. Cdr. Anthony Marci, U.S. Department of State. "The MoH is moving proactively to manage their 39 hospitals and clinics, have increased doctor salaries 100 percent and are preparing to staff all PHCs."

"Since arriving here, I witnessed the MoH undertake a huge public health vaccination program," said Marci referring to the Ministry's recent efforts that resulted in the administration of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccinations to more than 3.5 million Iraqis.

Hospital renovations spearheaded by GRD have been underway since 2004. To date, 13 hospitals have been rehabilitated with seven more currently in various phases of construction.

"Our principle focus is to renovate Iraq's maternity, pediatric and children's hospitals. We do most of the work in phases so each facility can continue providing essential medical services to the community," said Babin. "Construction efforts are centered on updating mechanical, electrical, sanitary, life safety and communication systems."

GRD is also equipping hospitals with new equipment such as beds, incubators, radiography and laboratory equipment are being replaced with U.S. funded equipment.

Perhaps the prime jewel in GRD's health construction program is the Basrah Children's Hospital (BCH). Scheduled for completion in 2008, the new 94-bed facility will be a clinical and training pediatric oncology hospital serving Iraq and her neighbors, according to Babin.

"Construction on BCH is about 52 percent complete and demonstrates a true model of partnership," said Babin. "In addition to U.S. government funding, the Spanish government, Project HOPE, the United Nations and MoH are all working together. It's much more involved than constructing a building. We're integrating critical equipment, consumables, major medical equipment and training all into one extremely important project."

Capacity development is a key component as well. Future BCH administrators, facility engineers and biomedical engineers will receive job specific training at hospitals outside Iraq as they prepare for their role in helping Iraqi children.

"The PHCs are being built in *mahallas*, or neighborhoods, across Iraq near the people they will serve."
— Col. Paul Babin
Director, Facilities Sector, Gulf Region Division

Basrah Railroad Station: Vital To A Growing Region, Economy

by A. Al Babrani
Gulf Region South

BASRAH, Iraq - The rehabilitation of the Basrah Railway Station is one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region South (GRS) District efforts to build and develop the basic services and strategic infrastructure for Iraq.

“The \$480,000 project provides a critical link for the country of Iraq and it ties the southern portion of the country with the northern portion,” said GRS Chief of Engineering and Construction Thomas Eidson.

“The Iraq railroad system provides efficient reliable transportation and many people rely on the railroad for traveling. It is also critical for trade and commerce from the deep-water marine port and business centers in southern Iraq to the population centers in northern Iraq,” stated Eidson.

Stanley Dowdy, Basrah Area Office Resident Engineer, said “The railroad station was unusable without renovation. The platforms for getting on and off the trains and the walkways were all torn up or removed and the building structure itself was damaged and unsafe. This project installed all new platforms and walkways as well as renovating portions of the interior and the exterior façade.

“These improvements will greatly facilitate enhanced operations at this site,” he added. “We applaud the Iraqi team with whom we have closely worked in making this challenge become a reality.”

“The Corps’ mission for this project consists of performing onsite evaluations and rehabilitation work of seven railway stations throughout the Basrah Province. The goal of the project is to repair the stations and make them safe and efficient once again,” said Dowdy.

“Now, as reconstruction is gaining momentum, the need for a transportation network to provide for efficient movement of essential products such as construction materials, equipment, merchandise, fuel and other supplies is essential for Iraq,” said Hadi Mashkor, the directorate general for Basrah Railroad Station.

“The Ministry of Transportation is responsible for the railway sector in Iraq,” said Mashkor. “Iraq has a network of 2,603 kilometers and the main railway routes are Um-Qasr/Basrah - Baghdad, Baghdad -Husaiba (Syrian border), and the remaining branches to Kirkuk and Akashat,” said Mashkor.

According to Mashkor, rebuilding the rail industry in Basrah is very important to Iraq’s economy. Basrah is one of the oldest cities in Iraq and it is in the heart of the petroleum industry and directly impacts the Iraqi economy.

“Being able to transport goods and services is vital to a growing region and economy. The railroad system will continue to grow in serving the Iraqi people,” said Eidson.



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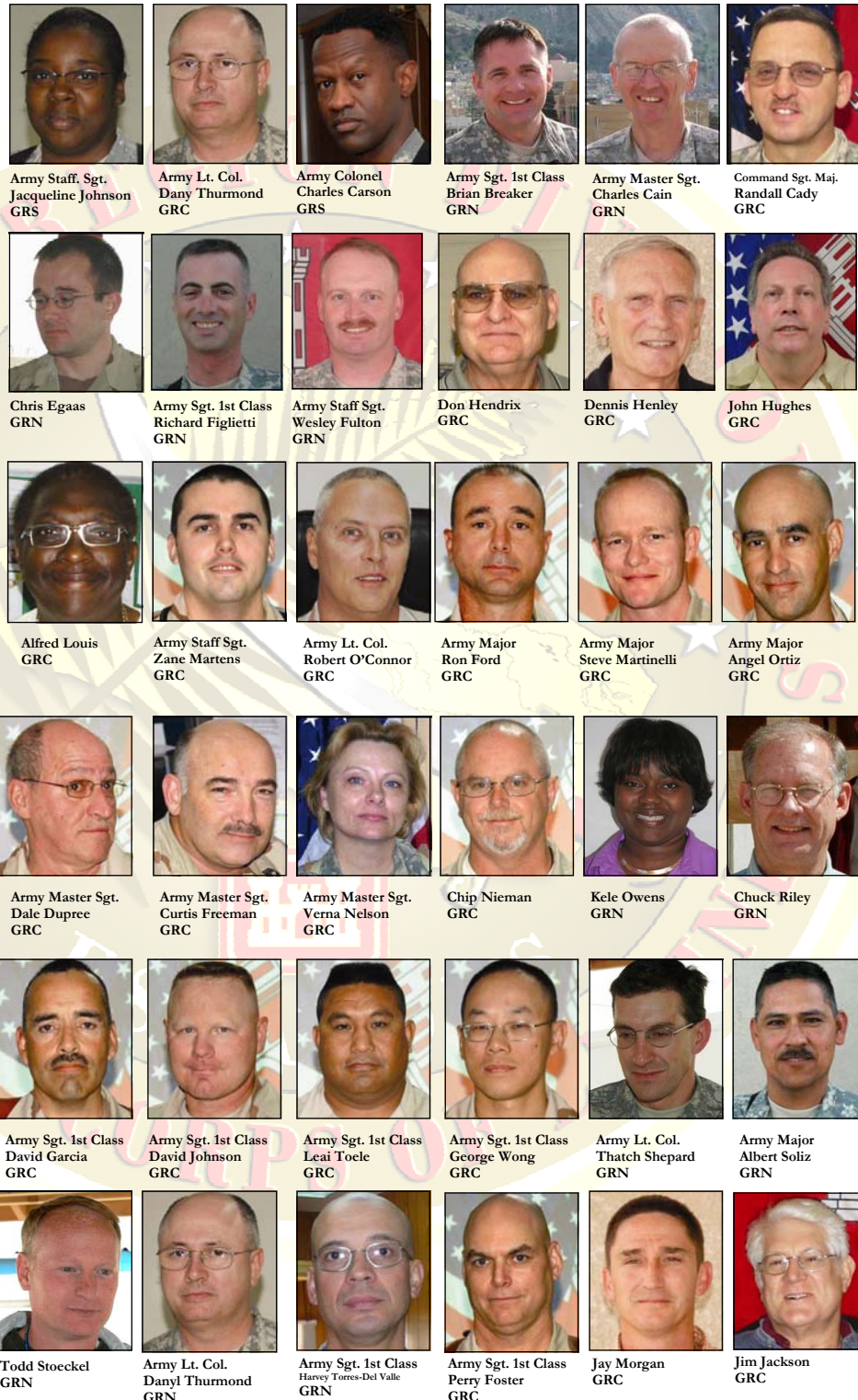


Hail and Farewell

Hailing:

Barbara Bass, GRN
 Aaron Bradley, GRN
 John McNamara, GRN
 Chief Petty Officer Henry Horne, GRN
 Jeff Tidyman, GRS
 Sgt. Thomas Washington, GRS
 Ricardo Vazquez, GRS
 John Hughes, GRS
 Randall Lewis, GRS
 Daniel Foltz, GRS
 Connie Conley, GRS
 Ernest Myers, GRS
 Georgia Lewis, GRS
 Mammie Anderson, GRS
 Lt Chad Lorenzana, GRS
 Lt. Col. Richard Painter, GRS
 Kelly Brown, GRS
 LCDR Chad Lorenzana, GRS
 LTC Richard Painter, GRS
 Philip Schmitt, GRS
 Dale Weaver, GRS
 Linda Brzuszkiewicz, GRS
 Jehu Stewart, GRS
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 Merlina Simonson, GRD
 Thomas Tucker, GRD
 Sgt. April Dobbs, GRD
 1st Lt. Cole Yanish, GRD
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 Sgt. 1st Class Hector Ortiz Del Valle, GRD
 Maj. Anthony Hughes, GRD
 Capt. Thomas Brovarone, GRD
 Sgt. Trinity Southworth, GRD
 Maj. David Lee, GRD
 Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar, GRD
 Cdr. Mark Thompson, GRD
 Maj. Stanley Robinson, GRD
 George Clarke, GRD
 Jana Edwards, GRD
 Laura Long, GRD
 James Brinson, GRD
 Robert Malton, GRD
 Navy Senior Chief Wydena Mosley, GRC
 Navy Senior Chief William Condit, GRC
 Azad Khidr, GRC
 Elizabeth Johnson, GRC
 Kathy Driskill, GRC
 Cheryl Parks, GRC
 Wade Ricard, GRC
 James Sager, GRC
 Janet Embrey, GRC
 Ben Roos, GRC
 Deryck Solomon, GRC
 Len Fairbanks, GRC
 Carl Smith, GRC
 Faez Shukur, GRC
 Frank Acker, GRC
 Thomas Manok, GRC
 Robert Phelps, GRC
 Navy Lt. Dean Allen, GRC
 Navy Lt. Cdr. Andrew Sullivan, GRC
 Michael Perkins, GRC
 Tim Johns, GRC
 Robert Lambert, GRC
 Daniel Chavez, GRC
 Abu Nasser, GRC
 Akbar Ray Hasham, GRC
 Army Sgt. 1st Class Michael Reat, GRC
 Bill Gross, GRC
 Newton Armstrong IV, GRC
 Daniel Esqueda, GRC
 Tray Cashman III, GRC

Farewelling:



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