

Postcard from Iraq

Showing results, not thinking about them...

After three years of close involvement with Iraq's rebuilding efforts through my work as interpreter for the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Baghdad, I was pleasantly surprised a few weeks ago when I found myself interpreting for Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, the

Commanding General of the Gulf Region Division (GRD), as he was presenting a slide presentation to Iraq's Prime Minister - Nuri Al-Maliki.

The brief concerned thousands of construction projects the GRD has completed in various locations in Iraq since reconstructions efforts were started by



U.S. agencies in 2003. The projects covered a wide variety of the country's infrastructure requirements and included newly-built electricity generation stations to increase production of electricity required for an expanding economy in Iraq.

It also explained the relative distribution network which required extending hundreds of miles of new cables lines in Iraq.

We talked about the construction and rehabilitation of train stations, public health clinics, schools, pumping stations and water purification plants with the Prime Minister.

What was really interesting to me during the brief was the presence of commander of all U.S. Forces in Iraq, General David Petraeus, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

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Above is a photo of me briefing Iraqi media during a press conference regarding the progress of the rebuilding Iraq at the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad, Iraq.