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ESSAYONS

Forward

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division (Provisional), Iraq - Volume 4, Issue 7

September 2007



Khor Az Zubair Port Substation Coming Online

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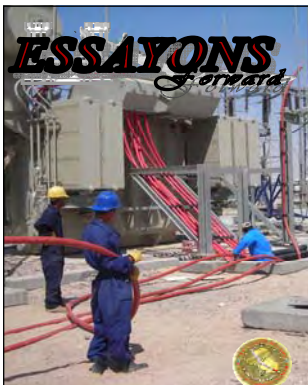
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USACE photo by Mohammed Aliwi

Over the summer the Iraqi soccer team won the Asian Cup uniting the country's diverse population in celebrations all across Iraq similar to this one in Nasiriyah. The team, know as the Lions of the Two Rivers, overcame more than competitive adversaries, but also the challenges of living and training in Iraq. Community members took advantage of increased electricity capacity and the use of neighborhood generators to ensure everyone could watch the tournament games.



USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani
(Cover) Iraqi local workers prepare to connect 33 kilovolt power cables to one of the two 63 megavolt transformers at the port of Khor Az Zubair in southern 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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KEEP IT LOCKED ON...

Al Asad	107.3 FM	Kirkush	107.3 FM
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Freedom Radio

Commander's Two Bits

As I reflect on the last 11 remarkable months, my heart and mind are filled with many memories of sights and sounds – but it is the people I see and remember the most. You are an incredible group – incredibly diverse, incredibly gifted, incredibly committed, and incredibly courageous. No matter how complex the question, no matter how daunting or difficult the task, I knew that there was someone out there who could provide the answers, put the solution in motion, and accomplish the mission of the GRD.

We are ordinary men and women assembled from everywhere, willing to go anywhere, to do anything.

In volunteering to serve in Iraq “we” have 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, Districts, and Centers back in the States and from all the locations where we come. It includes our Families as well as they stood by our sides as we all sacrificed and assumed the same uncertain risks during our deployment...for none of us do it by ourselves.

We are making an indelible mark on the history of Iraq. Building institutional capacity takes time, but in this ancient land comes a new Nation. People are still figuring out what it means to be an Iraqi. They are still working ways to share political and economic power. But just as Yogi Berra said “you can observe a lot just by watching” we saw the Iraqi soccer team – men who were Shia, Sunni, and Kurdish – put aside their differences and win together. The Iraqis can do this on a national scale as well, if they so wish. This country has been broken since 1968 and it has only been four years since its liberation – it cannot be fixed so rapidly.

I have enjoyed meeting and working with so many great people who selflessly give of themselves each and everyday. These memories are forever lodged in my mind and I know 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.

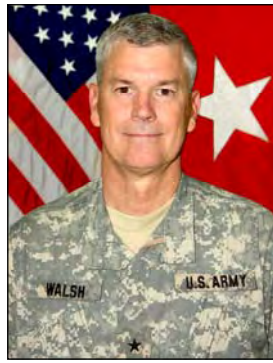
As I think about sitting on a porch 40 years from now telling my grandkids stories, I know they will be about you and what you did to affect the world. We, the quiet professionals, who ruck up every morning, sometimes good days and sometimes not, but we ruck up.

A poem from an uneducated Irish bricklayer comes to mind. “Oh from the top of the towering wall; came the master bricklayer’s hue and call; brick by brick and lay them up quick; but lay them to the line boys, lay them to the line.”

Remember – we ain’t done yet!!

ESSAYONS!

Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh
Gulf Region Division
Commander



Command Sgt. Major's Message

Self development is an essential part of the professional development process for both military service members and government civilians. It must be a continuous process that takes place during institutional training and challenging assignments. It is also a positive way to spend your free time while deployed with the Gulf Region Division.

Whether you are developing your body or mind – there are many options available to you through MWR and online training resources. Also, there is a lot of experience and expertise around you in your co-workers. Share information and experiences with each other whenever possible.

Initial self development is structured and narrow in focus. Self development broadens as the individual gets to know himself or herself, determines needs, and becomes more independently proficient, confident, and productive.

See the following list for self development resources for the military and civilian personnel:

- U.S. ARMY:** AR 350-1, DA PAM 600-25, <http://www.usapa.army.mil/>
- U.S. NAVY:** Navy Personnel Command, Career Management Symposiums, <http://www.npc.navy.mil/careerInfo>, <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil>
- U.S. AIR FORCE:** AFI 36-230, <http://www.au.af.mil/au>
- DA CIVILIANS:** AR 690-400, AR 690-950; The Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System Training Catalog, <http://cpol.army.mil>

Self development is necessary to remain competitive in our profession and under the current conditions there are resources readily available for most of us to employ. In several services and agencies personnel, military and civilian self development courses count towards promotion and serve as are a good barometer of one’s work ethic and self motivation.

I strongly believe that every one of us has the potential and capacity to function productively at a higher level or to be more productive at our current level. Self development is an effective and beneficial tool for individuals, teams, and the organization as a whole.

I encourage all of you to make good use of your available time here in Iraq. I also encourage supervisors to support self development initiatives whenever possible.

Self development should be a planned, dimension-based, and progressive process for individuals to improve performance and achieve developmental goals.

The amount of information and experience you can gain while deployed is exponentially greater than day to day operations in garrison and at the Reserve unit. Take advantage of it now!

Again, I thank you and your families for your continuous and honorable service to our country and your support to the Iraqi people.

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

Minister of Health Visits New Health

By Travis Edwards
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Iraqi Minister of Health visited two Primary Healthcare Centers in Karkh observing the clinics' progress since their completion earlier this summer.

Dr. Sultan, the Minister of Health, was accompanied by Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commanding general of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "I am very pleased with the healthcare centers," said Sultan, "They are very important to helping the Iraqi people."

The Gulf Region Division's \$254 million primary healthcare center program is 95 percent complete, according to Walsh.

"The PHCs are being built near the people they will serve in *mubalas*, or neighborhoods, all across Iraq," Walsh

said. "Originally designed to see 110 patients per day, some PHCs are treating upwards of three times that number."

The two healthcare centers visited, Al-Washhash and Al-Hibna, are located in the north and south of Karkh, a neighborhood of Baghdad, respectively.

Al-Washhash:

- The project is a Type-A design two-story facility providing space for medical/dental examination and treatment as well as X-ray capabilities, vaccination, testing lab, pharmacy, and public education

- Construction began in August 2006 and was completed in April 2007.

- The project cost \$938,000 and was funded through the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund

Al-Hibna:

- The project is a Type-B design two-story facility providing space for medical/dental examination and treatment as well as X-

ray capabilities, vaccination, testing lab, pharmacy, public education, training center and medical library.

- Construction began in July 2006 and was completed in June 2007

- The project cost \$915,000 and was funded through the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund

The Gulf Region Central district of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided quality assurance and control for both projects.

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

According to recent trends in Baghdad PHCs, the Al-Washhash and Al-Hibna facilities that were each originally expected to see approximately 110 patients each day may now see more than 300 patients each day per clinic.

"Each patient that goes to a local healthcare center is one less patient who seen by regional hospitals helping to reduce their heavy workloads," Walsh said.

Seventy-three healthcare centers have been completed and turned over to the Ministry of Health. Of those centers, 23 are open and seeing patients and 32 are not yet open.

(Left) Gulf Region Division Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh (left) and Government of Iraq's acting Minister of Health Dr. Sultan (right) review the dental wing of the \$938,000 Al-Washhash primary healthcare center during a visit to the center.

قائد فيلق مهندسي الجيش الامريكى العميد والش يزور عيادة طبية تم افتتاحها مؤخراً في منطقة الوشاش في بغداد مع وكيل وزير الصحة.



USACE photo by Travis Edwards



وزير الصحة يزور مراكز الرعاية الصحية الجديدة في الكرخ

ترافس ادواردس
فرقة منطقة الخليج

العراق ، بغداد - قام السيد وزير الصحة بزيارة تفقدية الى اثنين من المراكز الصحية التي تم الانتهاء منها مؤخرا في منطقة الكرخ ببغداد. وكان بصحبة السيد وزير الصحة العميد مايكل وولش، قائد فرقة منطقة الخليج التابعة لفيلق المهندسين الامريكى.

وقد اعرب الوزير عن سعادته لانجاز هذين المركزين مشيرا الى اهميتهما الكبيرة في تقديم الخدمة والرعاية الصحية للمواطنين .

هذا ووضح الجنرال وولش من جانبه بان المشاريع المنجزة في برنامج الرعاية الصحية من قبل فرقة منطقة الخليج بلغت نسبتها 95% اما كلفتها فتبلغ 254 دولار ، و اضاف وولش قائلا بان بناء هذه المراكز الصحية تم بالقرب من المناطق السكنية للمواطنين، وسيكون ذلك مفيدا لهم من حيث تقديم افضل الخدمات لهم في كل محلة وفي كل حي وفي جميع انحاء العراق اما من ناحية حجم الخدمات التي تقدمها هذه المراكز للمواطنين فان كل مركز يستقبل حوالي 110 مريض يوميا وفي الواقع ان هذه المراكز تقوم بالكشف وتقديم العلاج لثلاثة اضعاف هذا العدد .

ويقع هذين المركزين في منطقة الوشاش والهبة في جانب الكرخ من بغداد. **مركز الوشاش للرعاية الصحية :**

هذا المشروع هو من نوع (ا) من حيث التصميم ويتكون من مبنى ذو طابقين مزودا بصالات مخصصة للعلاج والفحص العام

وعلاج الاسنان وغرفة الاشعة السينية وغرفة اللقاحات ومختبر للتحليلات المرضية وقد بدأ العمل به في شهر اب 2006 وتم الانتهاء منه في نيسان 2007 وتبلغ كلفة المشروع \$938,000 حيث تم التمويل من برنامج اعمار واغاثة العراق هذا وقامت فرقة منطقة الخليج بالاشراف السيطرة النوعية على هذا المشروع.

مركز الهبة للرعاية الصحية:

• وهذا المشروع هو من نوع ب من ناحية التصميم حيث يتألف من مبنى ذو طابقين مزودا بصالة خاصة للعيادة الطبية وعيادة طبيب الاسنان وغرفة التحليلات الطبية والمختبرية وغرفة الاشعة السينية واللقاحات اضافة الى الصيدلية وقاعة التعليم ومركز التدريب وكذلك المكتبة الطبية.

وقد بدأ العمل في هذا المركز في تموز عام 2006 وقد تم الانتهاء منه في حزيران عام 2007 وتبلغ كلفة المشروع \$915,000 وقد تم تمويلها من صندوق تمويل و اغاثة اعمار العراق وقد قامت فرقة منطقة الخليج - المنطقة الوسطى والتابعة للجيش الاميركى بضممان النوعية والدقة في هذا المشروع .

ان التصميمات الخاصة بمراكز العناية الصحية هي على ثلاث انواع وهى :

- التصميم او يتكون من عيادات الاطباء والمكاتب الادارية وغرف الفحص ومختبر ومقهى

- التصميم ب ويتكون من جميع ماتم ذكره اعلاه اضافة الى غرف للدراسة ومختبر طبي ومخازن اضافة حيث ان هذا النوع يقوم

بواجبات اضافية.

- اما مركز العناية الصحية نوع ج ويعد هذا النوع من افخم الانواع حيث يحتوي ايضا، اضافة الى العيادات والمختبرات وجميع ما تم ذكره، على غرفة الطوارئ

وقال الجنرال وولش ان كل مريض يذهب الى مركز الرعاية الصحية سيقبل من عدد المرضى الذين تتم معالجتهم في المستشفيات وبالتالي سيقبل من الزخم والضغط عليها.

وقد استعرض الجنرال وولش عدد مراكز الرعاية الصحية التي تبلغ حاليا 65 مركزا والتي مازال قيد الانشاء حيث تم الانتهاء من 48 مركزا وتم افتتاح 16 مركزا ويقوم المرضى بمراجعة هذه المراكز وهناك 32 لم يتم افتتاحها بعد .

هذا المشروع هو من نوع (ا) من حيث التصميم ويتكون من مبنى ذو طابقين مزودا بصالات مخصصة للعلاج والفحص العام وعلاج الاسنان وغرفة الاشعة السينية وغرفة اللقاحات ومختبر للتحليلات المرضية

(Above) The Al-Washhash primary healthcare center project is a Type-A design two-story facility providing space for medical/dental examination and treatment as well as X-ray capabilities, vaccination, testing lab, pharmacy, and public education.

Ancient University Opens Rebuilt Student Center

By Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Renovation work one of the oldest universities in the Islamic world was completed this month in Baghdad by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Mustansiriya University, founded in 1234 by the Abbasid Caliph al-Mustansir, is located on the east side of the Tigris River near Sadr City.

Mohammad Attar, a 29-year-old civil engineer who works for USACE, graduated from Mustansiriya and says he is proud to have helped oversee the \$1 million in improvements to the student center and soccer field there.

The student center was burned and then looted following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003 and had been unusable until this month. Historically, it has been a key structure on the campus. Attar remembers attending many graduation festivities there when families and students would gather to celebrate the special day.

The project included new air conditioning ductwork and chillers, new skylights, roof repair, new marble interior walls and floors, new plumbing and electrical wiring, new doors and windows, plastering and painting, and rebuilding the cafeteria kitchen and dining area.

In addition, the university's soccer field was reseeded and an irrigation system installed.

"Education is a priority for every Iraqi family," Attar explained. "We are taught from a young age that through education and hard work, anything is possible. That's the reason, despite two separate bomb blasts earlier this year that killed and wounded hundreds of students; their fellow classmates still risk the journey every day."

He says helping with Mustansiriya is definitely a highlight of the projects he deals with. "Our efforts have made a difference benefiting thousands of Baghdad students," he said.

He explained that in Iraqi culture, the two top educational choices are medicine and engineering. He finds his work rebuilding Iraq a very satisfying



USACE photo

profession. "We're constructing new schools and courthouses, installing water and sewer lines, renovating hospitals, upgrading electrical substations and networks, building new fire stations and youth centers."

Attar's has a goal of returning to the college himself someday to earn a Masters Degree and is confident his children will possess that same passion for learning – "it's a fundamental part of our Iraqi society."

Mustansiriya University in Baghdad has re-opened its Student Center which underwent a two-year \$1 million renovation managed by the Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

الجامعة المستنصرية العريقة تفتح النادي الطلابي



انتهت فرقة منطقة الخليج التابعة لفيلق المهندسين الامريكى العمل في اعادة ترميم النادي الطلابي في الجامعة المستنصرية التي تعتبر من اعرق واقدم الجامعات على مستوى العالم العربي والاسلامي . وقد اسست الجامعة المستنصرية سنة 1234 من قبل الخليفة العباسي المستنصر بالله، وتقع بنايتها التاريخية على ضفاف نهر دجلة.

وعبر المهندس المدني الاقدم، الذي يعمل لدى فرقة منطقة الخليج والذي تخرج من الجامعة المستنصرية عن سعادته لكونه قد شارك في عملية اعمار النادي الطلابي وساحة كرة القدم .

وقد تعرض النادي الطلابي في الجامعة المستنصرية للنهب والحرق اثناء الحرب التي ادت الى سقوط النظام سنة 2003 وعلى اثرها تم اغلاقه.

ويعتبر النادي الطلابي من الاماكن المهمة في الجامعة ككل وذلك لان جميع الطلبة وفي يوم تخرجهم يتجمعون هناك ويؤدون القسم فهو في ذاكرة كل طالب قد تخرج منها وكذلك في ذاكرة اهاليهم حيث يتجمع نوي الطلاب في الساحة المقابلة للنادي في يوم التخرج .

وتضمن مشروع العمل اعادة ترميم واعمار النادي الطلابي بما فيه اجهزة التكييف والسقوف والانارة السقفية وكذلك الرخام والممرات والارضيات والابواب والنوافذ وترميم الجدران وطلائها واعادة بناء المطعم والمطبخ وقاعة تناول الطعام .

وتم اعادة ترتيب ملعب كرة القدم في الجامعة المستنصرية وتركيب نظام ري له .

واوضح المهندس الاقدم قائلا "اننا نبدا التعليم في العراق من سن السادسة من العمر حيث نكون طلابا مجدين ومثابرين ونحرص على الدراسة والتعليم حتى في اصعب الظروف محاولين تخطي جميع الصعاب و مثال على ذلك الاتفجارين الارهابيين والذين وقعا في الجامعة المستنصرية لم يثبطا من عزيمة الطلاب والمواضبة على الدراسة هذا على الرغم من ان العديد من الطلبة راحو

الطرق والمياه والمجاري وفي جميع المشاريع الخدمية وفي الكهرباء والنفط والشبكات الفرعية الكهربائية وفي مراكز الاطفاء وغيرها من المشاريع ذات النفع العام .

ضحية هذه الانفجارات. وقال المهندس عطار انه قد عمل في الكثير من المشاريع الا ان هذا المشروع يعتبر من المشاريع المميزة التي عمل فيها .

حيث وجد عمله في اعادة اعمار العراق هو مهم جدا وعمل احترافي واطاف لجد عملنا ومازلنا نعمل في انشاء المداري والمستشفيات والعيادات الصحية والمباني والمحاكم والعمل في

Iraqi Commentary:***We Always Extinguish
What They Ignite****By J. Anajar**Gulf Region Division*

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The liberation of Iraq that took place in 2003 bothered the oppressive and tyrant ruling regimes. What they feared was the wind of democracy that might blow their rusty chairs to and turn them upside down. To survive, all of the wicked forces have unified their efforts to thwart the process of reconstruction and freedom in Iraq. These forces have begun to target innocent citizens in their houses, at work, and in the streets as well as targeting construction projects everywhere in Iraq. They do this in hopes of depriving Iraqis of the new change and progress in their lives.

Despite of all the sabotage actions against the projects, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division has continued to execute more essential projects that benefit Iraqis in their everyday lives.

The GRD has helped to create many new fire stations in Iraq. Because of these fire stations, many of the fires created from car bombs targeting civilians, their houses and shops have been extinguished.

One project, a fire training tower, allows fire fighters from all over Iraq to train on live fire scenarios on elevated floors along with sprinkler and stand pipes. The project began in September 2006 and was completed on June 8, 2007. The project cost \$1.3 million and is used to train firefighters various scenarios for rescue purposes to include elevated windows and confine space entries.

Another project, a classroom/barracks facility for the Baghdad Fire Academy, was started in November 2006 and completed on June 2007. The project cost \$1.8 million. It has the capacity to house 50 personnel and train more than 100 individuals daily. The building includes a kitchen for meal preparation and a dining room.

The facility has four classrooms and one library computer room that is located on the bottom floor along with supply storage and office showers for cadets and cadre. The second floor of the barracks has four large sleeping quarters, showers and additional office space for meetings.

Establishing a fire station academy in Iraq, for the first time, with such features and training equipment will largely improve the Iraqi Civil Defense Directorate's training capabilities that will benefit the entire Iraqi Civil Defense force and all of Iraq.

The wind of democracy in Iraq will fan the fires of freedom, and support these fire training projects so that Iraqi fire fighters will be able to put out the fires started by the wicked.



USACE photo by Norris Jones

Maj. David Noble, Victory Resident Office, Gulf Region South, briefs Col. Robert J. Vasta, GRS district commander, about two new 20-meter high observation towers under construction during a site visit Aug. 11 at Camp Slayer on Victory Base Complex.

GRD Co-Hosts Real Property Claims Awareness Training

By Travis Edwards
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A training and information session on Iraqi Property Law and Real Estate Procedures was held recently at the U.S. Embassy in the International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq.

The training session was jointly hosted by Claims and Fiscal Law attorneys from the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Multi-National Corps-Iraq and Real Estate, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Major subordinate command claims judge advocates, paralegal noncommissioned officers, engineers and attorneys from several American military and government organizations were in attendance.

“Even those judge advocates and Soldiers who were unable to attend will be able to draw upon the increased knowledge that the participants have taken home with them,” said Army Capt. Howard Matthews, a judge advocate, Contracting and Fiscal Law Division, MNC-I. “The information will also be posted on the web for later review by authorized DoD users. CDs will be made available upon request.”

According to Flo Jordan, chief, Gulf Region Division Real Estate, the training

session was vital. Land ownership and the payment of claims and leases is a “complex issue in Iraq due to the varied influences which have all affected how land ownership is defined here.”

“This better understanding of land ownership, deeds and the processes involved will expedite the execution and payment of claims and leases. Understanding the rights and entitlements of the Iraqi people in regards to their land ownership is important to provide advice to commanders, and further recognition of sovereignty of Iraq as a nation, and strengthening their faith in the rule of law,” she said.

The GRD Real Estate office exists to assist Multi National Forces-Iraq with the leasing process for new requirements, with the resolution of real estate claims through retroactive leases and with ownership issues for government owned properties. It also maintains real estate records for the majority of the land occupied by the Forward Operating Bases and advises the commander, GRD staff and districts on real estate matters throughout Iraq.

The Foreign Claims Commissions at each Major Subordinate Command within MNC-I adjudicate claims under the Foreign Claims Act. The FCCs investigate and compensate claimants for loss caused

by noncombatant activity of the Armed Forces or by the negligent or wrongful acts of U.S. Forces and civilians accompanying the Force, as defined by law.

The Contracting and Fiscal Law Division of MNC-I provides advice and guidance to the commands and staffs of MNC-I as related to funding operations. They also provide legal advice and guidance to ensure that the command makes informed decisions according to U.S. basing strategy while supporting and encouraging the security and stabilization of Iraq, as well as support its sovereignty and respect for the rule of law.

Areas of instruction included the history of Iraqi property law; private vs. public land; claims vs. leases; tactical basing vs. strategic basing; Government of Iraq notification/leasing; and a sensing session regarding Foreign Claims Commissions.

“The most important thing we can do is to treat each and every person fairly, honorably and well,” said Army Capt. Tom Bartleson, chief of claims, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. “We want to be sure we explain what we have to deal with and the type of process that must be completed so that no one leaves feeling as though we did not support them.”

The training increased an awareness of the teamwork needed to investigate real estate claims and pay compensation under the Foreign Claims Act, or establish retroactive and future leases for long-term use and occupation of Iraqi land.

“I feel that this training provided the necessary awareness and over-arching connection that I needed to understand my mission better and be more effective for the command,” said lawyer Kalmarie Black, Office of Counsel, GRD. “And I definitely know who I can turn to for guidance and help.”

According to Matthews, participants took away an awareness of the complexity of land ownership in Iraq and the necessity to understand the issues and process so that the people of Iraq can be paid for the use of their private lands while protecting the interests of the U.S. Government and at the same time providing flexibility for enabling coalition forces to conduct operations.

“We want to be fair, not arbitrary, when we make decisions on claims that affect the lives of many of our Iraqi friends,” Bartleson said.



USACE photo by Travis Edwards

Claims judge advocates, paralegal noncommissioned officers, engineers, and attorneys from several American military and government organizations were in attendance at training and information session on Iraqi Property Law and Real Estate Procedures recently held at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq.

Khor Az Zubair Port

Harbor 132 kilovolt Substation

by A. Al Babrani
Gulf Region South

BASRAH, Iraq- The multi-million dollar rehabilitation and expansion of the 132 kilovolt substation at the port of Khor Az Zubair in the Basrah Province will provide a reliable power source to the port facility and to residential and commercial areas.

“The main purpose of this project is to engineer, procure, supply, construct, and commission electrical equipment necessary for the expansion and

rehabilitation of the Harbor substation,” said Rebecca Wingfield, Project Engineer, Basrah Area Office, Gulf Region South district.

“One of USACE’s important missions here is to improve and enhance the Iraqi electrical grid,” Wingfield explained.

“The significance of the project is to strengthen the electrical grid system so there is some redundancy to prevent power outages and keep the power supply constant,” she said.

Wingfield said, the project will help

correct distribution problems in the system by relieving overload on transformers and switchgear in the system. It will relieve some of the load currently carried by the Umm Qasr substation, which services about 180,000 people.

“It should allow power to be on an additional two hours a day,” she said.

According to Thomas Eidson, chief of engineering and construction, Gulf Region South, the project is essential to the operation of the port facility and the industry in the region, because it “supplies power to the port and the free zone, which directly influences the economy of Iraq.”

“Reliable power from the harbor substation is necessary for the major industrial plants in the port area to be commercially viable. A major fertilizer and steel plant both need reliable power to bring the port to its design shipping potential. The port berthing and cargo handling equipment and storage facilities all require reliable power from the Harbor substation,” Eidson said.

Electricity is generated by huge turbine engines and fed in high voltage to substations that step down the voltage in various stages. “The major task of the 132kV substation is to take the high voltage and transform it to 33kV and 11kV for local use,” said Andrew Schmieder, a project engineer, Basrah Area Office, GRS.

Electrical systems are not stable in Iraq and rebuilding this substation is a step forward in the overall reconstruction of the area electrical system to reduce and eliminate shutdowns.

The equipment used in the facility includes two 63 megavolt transformers, a building control room, a high voltage switch gear room and a guard house.

The completion of the project will increase the capacity of power which can be delivered to the port facility and surrounding industry. The increased ability to deliver reliable power to local industries benefits the local community by creating employment opportunities through an expanded industrial base, Schmieder said.

Currently GRS has more than 15 similar projects in various stages across the Basrah Province which will improve the country’s electrical distribution infrastructure.



USACE photo by A. Al Babrani

Essential To Industry Operation



USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani

(Above) Transmission towers at 132kv harbor substation in southern Iraq are part of a larger effort to upgrade the southern region of Iraq's electrical distribution network.

(Right) Iraqi workers test the main switchgear at harbor 132kV substation at the port of Khor Az Zubair in southern Iraq.

(Opposite) Iraqi local workers prepare to connect 33 kilovolt power cables to one of the two 63 megavolt transformers at the port of Khor Az Zubair in southern Iraq.



USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani

‘Strong women build strong nations’

Networking, Training Empowers Iraqi Businesswomen

by *Travis Edwards*
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Training and networking provided by U.S. reconstruction organizations are meant to provide guidance for Iraqis applying for business contracts with Coalition Forces, but their events secondary purpose has a much longer lasting effect...empowering Iraqi businesswomen to take part in the rebuilding of their economy and country.

Several contract training and networking events hosted by the Gulf Region Division and the Joint Contracting Command Iraq have been held recently in the International Zone here.

While these events have been open to all Iraqi business leaders, additional networking opportunities were made available by Azza Humadi, project manager for the GRD’s Women’s Advocate Initiative.

Humadi, an Iraqi/American is a contractor with Stanley Baker and Hill has organized and managed these types of events for several years while working in Iraq for the GRD. “I want to give back to my country and help to empower the strong women of Iraq so they may shine brightly in a new Iraq,” she said.

More than 40 companies were represented at a recent meeting in July; 10 were female owned.

“Many of the women of Iraq are widows or single young women who need to be able to take care of themselves now and in the future,” Humadi said. “Being financially independent and having a good

business sense improve standards of living and provide for a better life.”

Several Iraqi businessmen attended the July meeting and they pointed out, “there is not much difference between a woman and man” with regard to operating a business. Some women “have shown excellent talents” and are respected “because they are good leaders regardless of being man or woman.”

“It also is a critical component to the successful rebuilding of the economy and country,” she said. “We need all Iraqis to work towards this goal in every way they can – men and women.”

Humadi is not the only person giving advice and information on successfully applying for contracts. She is joined by several members of the Joint Contracting Command Iraq/Afghanistan who explain the proper way to complete the complex forms to Iraqis in attendance such as Host Nation Business Advisors.

“You have to look at the way Americans and Iraqis do business. Each has been successfully doing business their own way for centuries,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Adam Crockett, JCCI.

Nadia, an Iraqi businesswoman said “I come here to get to know the people who review the paperwork and offer solicitation. I come to get my company an opportunity at working with the Coalition or GoI. My country needs these kinds of meetings and contracts.”

Thikra, another successful Iraqi businesswoman who attended a recent networking event said “it was an event just like this one that got me started with

my business. An American civilian from the contracting office took the time to show me the proper procedures of filling out what then looked like complex paperwork.”

“Now, I am a successful businesswoman with international partners. I provide my company’s services to those who are making a positive difference in our country,” Thikra said.

Each of the training and information events has been filled to capacity despite the challenge of accessing the IZ.

“All of the people who attend are clearly applying, or want to work with the U.S. and Coalition Forces, even during this time of threats and violence against those who work with Americans and their allies,” Humadi said. “This is a great message to the world. Also, it is clearly noticed that they would rather work with the Coalition partners because they know they’ll be paid for their work.”

At all of the events the important networking and communicating that follows the briefings always lasts far beyond the schedule times.

“People enjoy sharing ideas and seeing how they can work with others to make their companies stronger,” Humadi said. “Strong women build strong nations.”

Luma, an Iraqi businesswoman, said “Women are a part of this society and together everyone who had an unfair chance during the last regime can now take advantage of their new opportunities within our new country.”



USACE photo

Engineers Relief Stress, Raise Money

Lt. Col. J.P. Moszer, (left) Baghdad Area Office Engineer with the Gulf Region Central district and member of the 34th Engineer Brigade, Bismarck, N.D., poses for a photo after playing in the McQuade Softball Tournament at Camp Victory .

The event helped raise more than \$55,000 for more than 45 different charities to include a local Baghdad orphanage.

GULF REGION DIVISION HELPS STEADY IRAQ'S FOUNDATION

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

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The forward momentum continues as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its Iraqi partners work together to build a solid foundation on which the country can grow.

The Gulf Region Division began with just 200 projects in June 2004. The original goal then was to jump start the Government of Iraq's efforts to stabilize its infrastructure by infusing more than \$13 billion dollars into the nation - even though the World Bank estimate at the time predicted between \$60-\$80 billion was needed.

Currently, more than 4,600 projects have been planned in the areas of security and justice; public works and water; buildings, health and education; oil; transportation and communications; and electricity.

In the month of August, the Gulf Region Division started more than 30 projects and completed more than 45 - bringing the total number of completed projects across the country to more than 4,060.

Great strides continue to be made in reconstruction, especially in the areas of electricity and healthcare.

Iraq has had 22 days in the month of August where the peak megawatt output over a 24-hour period has exceeded 5,000 megawatts - meaning about 450,000 homes are receiving electricity.

"Iraq's national grid is meeting approximately 30-40 percent of Baghdad's total electric demand, with Baghdad consuming about 20 percent of all electricity generated," said Gulf Region Division Commander Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh. "Certainly when you flip the light switch and nothing happens people get upset. But we are working diligently with our Government of Iraq partners to remedy this issue."

For the first time since 2001, all four thermal turbines at the Doura Power Plant in Baghdad have been infused - adding upwards of 330 megawatts per hour to the power grid.

Iraq's demand for electricity has increased more than 70 percent since 2004, Walsh said, because Iraqis are purchasing more energy-intensive products such as air conditioners, refrigerators, computers and other electronics. "This shows that the economy is bouncing back, which is a good thing," he said.

While most of the country hovers around an equitable distribution of 12 hours of power daily, essential services - hospitals, water sewage pump stations, fire stations - receive 24 hours of power daily.

In the next few months, an additional 400 megawatts will be added to the grid when the Mussayib Power Plant is commissioned. This will improve stability for the system and increase the hours of power to the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi electrical generation capacity is improving, but

lack of fuels and the failure to load shed leads to blackouts and reduces the amount of electricity provided to the Iraqi people.

Electricity, along with the oil, are the foundations of the economic development here in Iraq. They are interdependent and linked. Refineries need dependable electrical power to refine fuel and electrical generation requires high quality fuel to operate their plants.

So far, the Gulf Region Division has completed more than 1,500 electrical projects in the areas of generation, transmission, and distribution; and more than 75 oil projects in the areas of pump stations and liquefied petroleum gas plants.

Another area in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sees a daily positive impact in the lives of Iraqis is in the construction of healthcare facilities.

The Gulf Region Division plans to build 142 primary healthcare clinics across the nation. Currently, 73 clinics have been turned over to the Government of Iraq - 10 of these in August alone. The \$254 million primary healthcare center program is 95 percent complete and continues to fulfill a great need.

Dr. Abd Al-Samad Rahman Sultan, the Iraqi Minister of Health, recently accompanied Walsh on a visit to two clinics in Baghdad. "I am very pleased with the healthcare centers," Sultan said. "They are very important to helping the Iraqi people."

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

"Each patient that goes to a local healthcare center is one less patient who is seen by regional hospitals, helping to reduce their heavy workloads," Walsh said. "The PHCs are being built near the people they will serve all across Iraq. Originally designed to see 110 patients per day, some PHCs are treating upwards of three times that number."

While projects undertaken by the Gulf Region Division have a huge impact on Iraq's people, "we continue to strive for success in helping rehabilitate and rebuild the nation of Iraq and we are not doing this alone. By teaming with our Iraqi partners, we are building the foundation for continued success," said Walsh.



"By teaming with our Iraqi partners, we are building the foundation for continued success."

**— Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division
Commander**

New Kirkuk Courthouses Ease Judicial Procedures

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North

KIRKUK PROVINCE, Iraq — Two courthouse projects were completed and turned over to the Government of Iraq over the last two months helping to create a viable judicial system in northern Iraq.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North district completed the Dibis and Daquq courthouses—two of 21 completed security and justice projects for the Kirkuk Province in the nationwide Iraq Reconstruction Program.

“The Daquq courthouse was a good project for us to manage,” said Lt. Col. Bob Ruud, deputy area engineer, Kirkuk Area Office, GRN. “It was the second courthouse in a series of



USACE photo

Army Lt. Col. Bob Ruud, Kirkuk Area Office deputy area engineer, visits the Dibis courthouse.

four...we learned some things on the Dibis courthouse that we incorporated into Daquq.”

Navy Lt. Cdr. Tim Keeton, Deputy, Rule of Law section, Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team said both courthouses were sorely needed. “The previous Dibis courthouse was the second floor of a women’s center in Dibis. They didn’t even own their own real estate. Their situation made proper screening and control of defendants impossible.”

Marlon Cobar is the Kirkuk PRT’s resident legal advisor and an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Together, he and Keeton help Kirkuk’s provincial government build the legal stability necessary to transition to full control of its province.

Cobar said, “The rule of law infrastructure program is a key part of standing up the rule of law in this province, and in restoring public confidence in the provincial legal system.” He added that the Corps of Engineers developed the program in partnership with civilian officials in Kirkuk and U.S. military.

According to Keeton, security in the Kirkuk Province has improved with the new courthouses. “Both cities now have a courthouse with detention areas, spacious courtrooms, rooms for the guards and the judges, and separate areas for searching men and women before they can enter the building,” he said. Both facilities are within enclosed compounds.

Although the Dibis and Daquq courthouses are well-used, Keeton explained that insurgent cases are still tried in Baghdad.

“The provincial courthouses handle less complex criminal cases, as well as family law, land claims, business contractual type cases, and notarizations—those kinds of legal procedures,” Keeton said.

PRTs are small combined civilian-military units created to support and empower Iraq’s new and local provincial governments. They’re composed of U.S. and Coalition diplomats, military officers, development experts, and other engineering, agribusiness, and rule of law specialists.

“The rule of law section of the PRT encompasses criminal justice, the Iraqi police, its court system and to some extent, the Iraqi Army,” Keeton added.

The courthouse projects cost about \$300,000 each and were funded by the Commander’s Emergency Response Program, whereby brigade combat team commanders work with their local Iraqi communities to address immediate needs.

More than \$375 million of the nationwide \$18 billion Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund has been obligated in the Kirkuk Province. To date, more than 140 reconstruction projects have been completed with 18 ongoing projects and 10 projects still in developmental stages.

Ruud said there are two more courthouses planned for the Kirkuk Province. “Altum Copri will be the next courthouse to finish, and even though they all share the same basic design, it will be even better, due to our experience with the first two,” Ruud said. The fourth courthouse is planned for Tuz but that project will not be managed by GRN, according to Ruud.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North district has project management and construction management responsibilities for military and civilian construction projects in the northern seven provinces in Iraq. The district also assists the Iraqi Government in assuming full responsibility for national reconstruction.

Since Iraq’s sovereignty in 2004 and to date, the Gulf Region North district has completed 1,212 of 1,469 planned projects to improve the failing infrastructure in northern Iraq; helping build the Iraqi peoples’ confidence in their young government. At a price tag of \$2.5 billion to date, reconstruction projects in northern Iraq include schools, health clinics and hospitals; water and sewage treatment plants and networks; electrical; oil; roads and bridges, and Iraqi security and military facilities.

(Opposite Top) A Dibis judge prepares for the day in his new chamber within the recently completed Dibis courthouse.

(Opposite) The Dibis and Daquq courthouse projects were turned over to the Government of Iraq over the last two months. The courthouses are two of 21 completed security and justice reconstruction projects for the Kirkuk Province in the nationwide Iraq Reconstruction Program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North district has construction management responsibility for more than 1,400 reconstruction projects for its seven provinces.

محاكم كركوك تسهل من الاجراءات القضائية

لوان فانتازيا

فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الشمالية

العراق، محافظة كركوك – تم تسليم اثنين
من المحاكم في محافظة كركوك الى
الحكومة العراقية بعد الانتهاء من العمل فيها
خلال الشهرين المنصرمين وستعمل هذه
المحاكم على خلق نظام قضائي متقدم في
شمال العراق وقد انتهت فرقة منطقة الخليج
التابعة لفيلق المهندسين الاميركي – المنطقة
الشمالية من انجاز محكمتي الدبس وداقوق
وهما من بين 21 مشروع من مشاريع الامن
والعدالة في محافظة كركوك على مستوى
برنامج الاعمار في العراق ويعتبر مشروع
داقوق من بين المشاريع المميزة التي قمنا
بادارتها .

حيث قال العقيد بوب رود من مكتب فيلق
المهندسين في كركوك. بان هذا المشروع
هو المشروع الثاني من المشاريع الاربعة...
فقد تعلمنا بعض الاشياء حول محكمة الدبس
والتي دمجت مع محكمة داقوق.

وذكر المقدم كيتون الذي يعمل في القسم
القانوني لفريق اعمار محافظة كركوك قائلاً
ان بناء المحكمتين كان ضروريا حيث كانت
محكمة الدبس في الطابق الثاني في قسم
النساء لان المحكمة لاتملك عقارا خاصا بها
وكان هذا الوضع يعيق تنفيذ الاجراءات
الاعتيادية والضرورية كالتدقيق ومراقبة
المتهمين.

وحسب مادلبي به كيتون فيما يتعلق
بالوضع الامني فانه قد شهد تحسنا وبشكل
ملحوظ من خلال هذه المحاكم الجديدة وقال
ان كل مدينة تحتوي الان على محكمة تضم
غرفا للقضاة والحراس وكذلك غرف حجز
المتهمين والمعتقلين وتوجد كذلك مناطق
مخصصة لتفتيش الرجال والنساء بشكل
منفصل وازداد قاتلا وبالرغم من ان
محكمتي داقوق والدبس جديدتين الا ان
جميع قضايا المخربين تتم احوالها الى بغداد.

وقد وجدت وحدة اعمار المحافظات او
مايطلق عليها بفريق اعمار المحافظات
كوحدة عسكرية – مدنية مترابطة وذلك من
اجل دعم وتعزيز المحافظات في العراق
حيث تتألف هذه الوحدة من الدبلوماسيين
الامريكيين ومن الائتلاف وضباط عسكريين



قاضي كركوك في المحكمة الجديدة

وخبراء اضافة الى عدد من المهندسين
والاختصاصيين القانونيين.

واضاف كيتون بان هذا يشمل ايضا قسم
سيادة القانون التابع لفريق اعمار المحافظات
والعدالة الجنائية والشرطة العراقية ونظام
المحاكم والى حد ما الجيش العراقي .

وتبلغ كلفة مشروع المحاكم 300 الف
دولار لكل محكمة حيث تم تمويلها قبل
برنامج قيادة الاعانات الطارئة حيث يعمل
قادة فريق الطوارئ سوية في المجتمعات
المحلية العراقية لتبينة الاحتياجات الفورية .
وتم تخصيص 375 مليون دولار لمحافظة

كركوك من مبلغ 18 مليار دولار الخاص
بصندوق اعمار واغاثة العراق. وهناك 18
مشروعا مازال قيد الانجاز في حين تم
الانتهاء من تنفيذ 140 مشروعا وهناك 10
مشاريع بلغت مراحل متقدمة من الانجاز.
وقال رود توجد هنالك محكمتان اضافيتان
في محافظة كركوك وستكون محكمة التون
كبرى هي التي سيتم انجازها قريبا.

وعلى الرغم من ان جميع المحاكم ذات
تصميم واحد الا ان هذه المحكمة ستكون
الافضل.



المحكمة الجديدة والتي تم انجازها في كركوك من قبل فرقة منطقة الخليج

New Sewer System For East Baghdad Residents

By Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Raw sewage is no longer inundating a neighborhood in east Baghdad. Residents in Oubadi, located near Sadr City, are benefiting from a recently completed \$14.9 million Gulf Region Central district project that connected their homes for the first time ever to a new functioning sewer collection system.

“People there are very pleased with the improvement,” said Iraqi engineer Mustafa Haddad who works for the GRS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “For over two years we’ve been working on this project and the community has been very supportive throughout. They were using slit trenches and lakes of raw sewage, which presented a definite health hazard.”

More than 24 kilometers of sewer pipe were installed, ranging in size from 110 millimeters for house connections to 800 millimeter trunk lines. In addition, four pump stations were

constructed with the largest having the capacity to pump 600 liters per second.

“About 80,000 residents were positively impacted by this project. They appreciate our efforts and are seeking help with other community improvements. We’re currently working on a new \$1.3 million water network project there which is 50 percent finished and will ensure they have better access to fresh potable water,” Haddad said.

Haddad is the deputy resident engineer of GRC’s Loyalty Office located south of Sadr City. Over 20 Iraqi engineers work out of the office overseeing over \$125 million in infrastructure improvements in east Baghdad, from school and hospital renovations, electric network upgrades, road paving, and new water treatment facilities.

Haddad has put up with mortars, one of his fellow Iraqi engineers was gunned down after visiting a school project, other office workers have been injured, and he personally has been targeted by insurgents and had to move his family to a different area.

“We’re here because we know how important this work is for our country and our people. Yes, it’s a difficult time. But those in need are looking for help and we’re going to continue to do everything we can to offer it to them,” he said.

“Their streets are now dry and clean. They see their government is working and things are getting better,” he said.

Haddad is overseeing more than 20 sewer projects similar to the one just completed in Oubadi.

The 29-year-old earned a Bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Baghdad’s University of Technology. “My family worries about me and the dangers I face. But they understand how important this work is. We need to keep making things better and someday soon Iraq will turn the corner.”

(Left) Iraqi workers place concrete at one of four new pump stations managed by the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 2007 in Oubadi, a neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq.

(Below) Heavy machinery makes room for a new sewer system in Oubadi, a neighborhood in Baghdad, Iraq.



USACE photos



Postcards from Iraq

Helping Iraq move forward

By Staff Sgt. Katrail Smith
Ft. Wainwright, AK

I'm entering my 5th month in Baghdad and there's no question in my mind I've got one of the best jobs in the military being part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as we help rebuild Iraq.

And this isn't just talk. I've already extended my deployment an extra six months and this month I participated in my final formal re-enlistment ceremony signing up for an "indefinite period" as I'm at the 10-year mark and am now a career soldier.

So what's so special about our mission? We're building schools and primary healthcare centers, installing water and sewer lines, repaving roads, renovating hospitals, putting in whole new electric distribution networks, constructing fire stations and courthouses. We're helping Iraq take its first steps toward democracy – we're working directly with Iraqi leaders and because of our projects, Baghdad families are seeing their government is working and things are getting better.

One of my favorite teachers at Purnell Swett High School, Maxton, NC, was Mr. John Hodges. He instilled in me a true passion for history. When I look at Iraq, a cornerstone of our civilization, I see such tremendous potential here. There's significant archeological sites in every direction. And their natural resources are unbelievable – it's the land of two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates), rich farm ground, abundant oil, a society that deeply believes in the values of education. I'm proud to be a part of this undertaking.

I interact with Iraqis on a daily basis. They want the same things we all do – and they put their lives on the line every day working hard to provide a better future for their children and grandchildren.

When I finish my Army career, I'd like to return to my hometown. Who knows – maybe teach in those same classrooms motivating, encouraging students like Mr. Hodges did for me.

My wife, Ebony, and I married seven years ago immediately after she graduated from boot camp. We're both now stationed at Ft. Wainwright, AK, and have two children – Mahogany, 3, and Kalea, 2. The Army has been very good to us and I sincerely appreciate my family's total support during this deployment.

I have a compassion in my heart for what we're doing here and I have no doubt Iraq will once again be a magnificent place. When they recently won the soccer championship game in the Asian Cup, it was a special moment – Iraqis throughout this country were all celebrating that victory. We're working hard to help them move forward to a brighter tomorrow.



Gulf Region Central district postcard

Engineers Build New Army Barracks in Muthanna

By Mohammed Alivi
Gulf Region South

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region South (GRS) district continues supporting the security and justice systems in Iraq to help the Government of Iraq develop infrastructure countrywide with the construction of a new barracks facility for the Iraqi Army.

The Gulf Region South district is building Army Barracks facilities for the 2nd Brigade, 10th Iraqi Division, located near Al Samawah, Muthanna province, according to Army Lt. Col. Jan Carter, Senior Project Manager with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I), GRS.

"The main goal of this project is to develop, organize and sustain the Iraqi Security Forces and the military of Iraq," Carter said. "The mission of the Iraqi

Army now is to defeat the insurgency and take responsibility for maintaining security within Iraq - and they can't do this without having good reconstructed buildings for their headquarters.

"We in the Corps are trying to make sure that our professional engineering experience is used for the benefit of the Iraqi community," she said. "We are sure that we understand the requirements, and we are able to provide the best quality of construction available to support the Iraqi goals and objectives."

According to Carter, the project will help to provide employment for security personnel, medical personnel and support staff. It will also improve the quality of army barracks facilities in southern Iraq.

"The Gulf Region South district is trying to deliver the project on time, within scope and budget in a safe, secure manner. Another focus is to assure quality design, workmanship, materials and product; and to maintain a courteous, professional working relationship between Iraqi Army leaders and the representatives on the work site and the

GRS," she said.

Hadi Jasim, a project engineer, GRS, said "when this project is completed, it will provide a secure forward operating station, improve stability operations, governing and safety, and achieve security transition."

GRS has built 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.

Jasim explained the barracks camp was constructed for use by the Iraqi Army. "With the establishment of the 10th Iraqi Division, this camp was selected to house the brigade headquarters and support units.

"Several additions have been made to the camp during construction—barracks, bathhouses, armories, jail cells, sleeping quarters, administrative and support buildings," he said. "However, the original public works support facilities have been expanded to provide for additional camp use and activities."



USACE photo by Norris Jones

Embedded Media Visit Projects, Kids

Bob Calvert, host of Talking With Heroes, hands out candy to Iraqi children during a visit to a Gulf Region Central district project as Jim Martin, Chief Executive Officer of Altitude Sports and Entertainment Cable Company Denver, Colo., videotapes in the background. Embedded media live, eat and travel with military units to cover events in Iraq. These reporters visited with dozens of service members serving in Iraq for their program.

Rural Water Treatment Facilities Provide Clean Water to Residents in Al Anbar

By Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

FALLUJAH, Iraq – Families in a number of rural communities in Iraq’s Al Anbar Province are enjoying filtered drinking water for the first time ever.

Master Sgt. Kevin Mayer, Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is overseeing the construction of 22 water treatment facilities along the Euphrates River Valley near Fallujah. Four have now been completed. Mayer inspected a 200 cubic meter per hour facility at Shuhada Aug. 21 which now is producing enough water for over 10,000 residents in that area.

Mayer met with the operator, Omar, and the individual who donated the land for the site, Mohammad. Both expressed their community’s thanks.

“We hosted a grand opening and area families brought food for a feast to celebrate. Our only choice before the facility was to take raw water from the canal, posing serious health risks for our families. This will safeguard our children

and grandchildren. Our residents sincerely appreciate the investment made here,” Omar said.

“I’m proud to have been able to give up a piece of my land for this project and

Mayer is helping construct rural water treatment facilities in communities ranging in size from 2,500 to 10,000 residents. “This was the kind of work I was hoping to be involved with, improving the lives of Iraqi families,” he added. Mayer is a member of the North Dakota National Guard’s 34th Infantry Division and began his one-year deployment in April.

In his civilian career, he has served as public works supervisor for 16 years in Casselton, N.D., a town of 2,200 residents. “There’s something very satisfying in helping others.”

Mayer appreciates the unwavering support from his family and the entire town of Casselton. “My wife Fran and

my two daughters, Brittany and Brooke, are proud of what I am doing to help rebuild Iraq.”

The Shuhada Water Treatment Plant, located in a rural area west of Fallujah, became fully operational in August and produces drinking water to support the 10,000 residents in that area.



happy the way it turned out,” Mohammad said. “This is an important improvement for everyone living here – we all benefit.”

Mayer complimented Mohammad on his unselfish decision to donate the land to help his community. “Stepping up and doing this clearly defines what kind of person you are,” he said.





Hail and Farewell

Hailing:

Col. Michael Pfenning, GRN
 Navy Cmdr. James Liss, GRN
 Lynne Schweitzer, GRN
 Henry Melendez-Marreno, GRN
 John Lozano, GRN
 Robert Williams, GRN
 Jim Lockard, GRN
 James Hourican, GRD
 Cmdr. Johnny Wolfe, GRD
 Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Chandler, GRD
 Cmdr. Hewitt Hymas, GRD
 Leanna Dagley, GRD
 Capt. Christina Majewski, GRD
 Lt. Col. Bridget Niehus, GRD
 Cmdr. Angel Salinas, GRD
 1st Lt. Jose Gamboa, GRD
 Vincent Dorio, GRD
 Allan Giese, GRD
 Sgt. First Class Chris Golden, GRD
 Janet Smith, GRD
 Cmdr. Randall Roberts, GRC
 Master Chief Donald Miller, GRC
 Lt. Cmdr. Scott Shaulis, GRC
 Joseph Gandara, GRC
 Jack Fogarty, GRC
 Ryan Nelson, GRC
 William Neimes, GRC
 William Tweedy, GRC
 Mustafa Mohamad, GRC
 Stephen Gibbs, GRC
 Wesley Snowden, GRC
 Tommy Manning, GRC
 Gary Potts, GRC
 Troy Strifler, GRC
 Charlie McCormick, GRC
 Bruce Travis, GRC
 Sgt. First Class Hector Cruzalica, GRC
 Frank Spears, GRC
 James Reeder, GRC
 Steven Foster, GRC
 John Conner, GRS
 Samuel Curry, GRS
 Leonard Sandoval, GRS
 Lauren Kelly, GRS
 Cecil Whitehouse, GRS
 John Connor, GRS
 Karen Renee Robinson, GRS
 Clayton Waller, GRS
 Francis DeBoer, GRS
 Ronald Niemi, GRS

Farewelling:



Joaquin Duenas
GRN



Mac Wimbish
GRN



Van Lee
GRN



Army Capt.
Chris DeGraff
GRD



Army Lt. Col.
Will Covey
GRD



Army Capt.
Angel Carey
GRD



Pamela Lawrimore
GRD



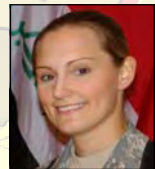
Air Force Tech Sgt.
LuAnna Campbell
GRD



Army Lt. Col.
Reinhard Koenig
GRD



Army Colonel
Billy Tollison
GRD



Army Capt.
Jessica Secor
GRD



Milton Boyd
GRD



Travis and Jana Edwards
GRD



Braven Dyer
GRC



Debra Ramirez
GRC



Fanny Quesada
GRC



Jose Curet
GRC



Thomas Manok
GRC



Paul Kosterman
GRC



Lisa Coghlan
GRS



Navy Chief
William Harrell
GRC



Brian Souter
GRC



Janet Faust
GRC



Dean Mesenbrink
GRC



Army Lt. Col.
Joseph Maun
GRS



Nick Ash
GRS



Raymond Tidd
GRS



Navy Cmdr.
Billy Davis
GRS



Lou Tyler
GRS



Larry Jeffers
GRS



Frank Sanchez
GRS



Rick Mers
GRS



Thomas
Chamberland
GRS



Army Lt. Col.
Jason Tanaka
GRS

Get more information on the reconstruction progress in Iraq on the Gulf Region Division Web Site. Updated print, photo and video content is added regularly. Get the news you are not otherwise hearing about the real progress on the ground by the men and women of our U.S. and Coalition effort in Iraq. You can also sign up for automatic e-mail alerts to notify you when new information is added. Help get the true word out on the ground in Iraq.

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