

ESSAYONS *forward*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division (Provisional), Iraq - Volume 4, Issue 8

October 2007



Reconstruction logistics

Delivering the goods across Iraq

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October 2007
Volume 4, Issue 8

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On the cover:

Iraqi employees move inventory in an Abu Ghraib warehouse in preparation for shipment. (USACE photo by Grant Sattler)



Staff Sgt. George Anderson, left, 28th Combat Support Hospital laboratory technician, prepares to collect blood platelets from Col. Doug Gorgoni, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, during Gorgoni's Aug. 13 visit to the Ibn Sina hospital. Many USACE members in the International Zone donate regularly. (USACE photo by Grant Sattler)

ESSAYONS FORWARD

USACE GRD, Baghdad APO AE 09348 DESK: 540-665-1233* *Va. area code

ESSAYONS FORWARD is the field magazine of the Gulf Region Division (Provisional), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in accordance with AR 360-1. It is produced for electronic distribution with limited hardcopy circulation as needed. It is produced in the Iraq theater of operations. The views and opinions expressed in this field magazine are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the Department of Defense. Letters, articles, notices of events, photographs and art are welcomed, but may be edited for clarity and brevity. Publication of submissions is at the discretion of the editor; photos must be high resolution and include caption information.

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Commanding General: Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko

Division/District Public Affairs staff:

*Kimberly Mielcarek (Chief PAO, GRD) * Erich Langer (GRD) * Grant Sattler (Editor, GRD)
J. Anajar (GRD) * Shahrazad (GRD) * S. Ahmed (GRD) * Laith Hashim (GRD)
Norris Jones (PAO, GRC) * Troy Rolan (Broadcaster, GRC) * LuAnne Fantasia (PAO, GRN)
John Connor (PAO, GRS) * Mohammed Aliwi (GRS) * A. Al Bahrani (GRS)*

KEEP IT LOCKED ON...



Baghdad: 104.1 and 107.7 FM
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Q-West: 93.3 FM
Sinjar: 107.9 FM
Tallil: 100.1 and 107.3 FM
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Commander's Commentary

I am deeply honored to be entrusted with the responsibility of command of the Gulf Region Division and to be joining this tremendous team on the front lines for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our nation and the Iraqi people.

I want to express my gratitude to all in the division headquarters and each of our districts for your warm welcome to this outstanding, one-of-a-kind organization. As I come onboard, I am extremely fortunate to take the helm from Brig. Gen. Mike Walsh and to have the counsel of Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar and Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Dale Adams as we navigate the course ahead.

As I have had an opportunity the last days to travel throughout Iraq to see first hand many of our ongoing projects, it has been my great pleasure to meet many of you.

You own a great reputation as an adaptive, hard-charging group of professionals. But it is only upon getting to know you in person that I have been struck by the common character that our Soldiers and service members, volunteer Civilians, Iraqi Associates and contract team members exhibit in their personal commitment to make this mission happen.

You are an elite group; individuals who have the courage to do what is right, the tenacity to push ahead despite the difficulties,



and the ability to keep your focus yet modify your *modus operandi* when required.

Like many, I have family back home supporting me. I want to acknowledge my wife Amy and ten-year-old daughter Caroline for their support from back in Dallas and being part of this new command team by allowing me to give you the complete attention you and this mission require. I encourage you all to say "thank you" often to those who support you.

Our mission here remains vitally important to the reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure and the capability of the Government of Iraq to provide basic services. Our success influences the population of Iraq and their support directly impacts on the ability of the Multi-National Force-Iraq to neutralize the threat from remaining insurgents, anti-government extremists, and Al Qaeda in Iraq.

Your daily contribution is creating the conditions for representative democracy to bring stability to the region. You are a vitally important part of the Army and your service is essential to our success.

To each of the members of the Gulf Region Division who serve, have served, and will soon serve, thank you for your dedication.

ESSAYONS!
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko
Gulf Region Division
Commander



Cmd. Sgt. Major's Message

Recently the Gulf Region Division recognized one of our finest enlisted Soldiers by selecting him for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award.

Selection for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award clearly shows that an enlisted Soldier is recognized as an outstanding noncommis-

sioned officer by their peers. A board of Army NCOs is tough to impress, but Staff Sgt. Thomas Washington demonstrated loyalty, caring, discipline and professionalism in the performance of his duties: the hallmarks of an exemplary NCO.

The motto on the award – "You lead from the front" – is a quote by Staff Sgt. Audie Murphy, the United States' most decorated Soldier of WWII. We will be holding another board in January. I encourage supervisors of our eligible Soldiers to begin preparations now to ensure candidates are well prepared.

It is often said that noncommissioned officers are the backbone of the U.S. Army and indeed NCOs fill many critical positions in the Gulf Region Division and in our districts. But the traits they exhibit are not exclusive to those wearing chevrons and rockers in our organization. The leadership characteristics highlighted by the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award are shared by effective leaders throughout our organization, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all service branches of the U.S. military.

The leadership characteristics the board looks for in Soldiers are loyalty, caring, discipline and professionalism. I believe each of those characteristics should be exhibited by every member of

this organization.

Loyalty – bearing true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, our unit, and other Soldiers. We have had the tremendous leadership of Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh for the last year, and now our loyalty is to another outstanding leader, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko.

Caring by looking out for our battle buddies in this stressful and often dangerous environment. Check on each other. NCOs take care of Soldiers. Leaders take care of their people.

Discipline to continue to square away every assignment and keep after a project until it is done right. To comply with existing policies and regulation; to do the right thing in the absence of supervision. The fantastic job throughout the districts and the division on the Fiscal Year '07 close out is a great example.

Professionalism to not let things slip by just because others may not notice, to exceed the mark and take innovative steps to improve our performance. Our actions make or break the reputation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Please join me in congratulating Staff Sgt. Washington on selection for the Sergeant Audie Murphy Award. I look forward to the coming year under Brig. Gen. Dorko's command leadership and to continuing to serve you, the fine men and women of the Gulf Region Division.

I will continue on expressing my gratitude to all of you and your supporting family members for your honorable service.

ESSAYONS! ARMY STRONG!!
Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar
Gulf Region Division

Brig. Gen. Dorko tours districts



Left: Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, right, visits the Al Anbar Provincial Government Center Sept. 21.

Lower left: Brig. Gen. Dorko visits an incinerator expansion project at Victory Base Complex.

Below: Lt. Col. J.P. Moszer briefs Brig. Gen. Dorko on the Iraqi Secure Document Storage Facility project in the International Zone. (USACE photos by Norris Jones)



Above: Brig. Gen. Dorko speaks with members of the Gulf Region South district at Tallil. (USACE photo by Mohammed Aliwi)

Above right: Brig. Gen. Dorko visits the Dibis drinking water project in Kirkuk on Sept. 29. (USACE photo)

Right: Hameed Darweesh, deputy resident engineer at the Kirkuk Area Office hosts Brig. Gen. Dorko at the Altum Copri Courthouse project. Darweesh was also the project engineer for the Dibis and Daquq Courthouses in the Kirkuk province. (USACE photo)



Overhead transmission line doubles Nasiriyah, Shatra link

by Mohammed Aliwi
Gulf Region South district

Modernizing electrical distribution systems and reducing electrical outages is one of the main goals of the reconstruction mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq. According to Michael Fellenz, Gulf Region South district project engineer, the Corps of Engineers has recently completed and turned over a new power transmission project to the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity in Thi Qar Province.

"The 132 kilovolt overhead power line was built in the vicinity of an existing line between the Nasiriyah Power Plant and the Ash Shatra substation," he said. "The transmission line project provides relief to an existing overloaded distribution system in a more efficient and safe manner."

Fellenz said that projects of this kind lower the incidence of power outages and help modernize the electrical power system, since electrical service has been improving in Iraq.

"The main reason for the lack of electricity production in Iraq is that the older

equipment has been destroyed over time and by sabotage," said Tommy Nason, project engineer with the Adder Area Office. "This project will lower the load rates on the old overload feeders and will effectively modernize the electricity transmission and increase local area jobs."

Nason explained that the \$14.8 million electrical feeder will ease the overloaded condition on the existing power line and will supply power to the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant and several local neighborhoods.

"The contractor's responsibility was to ensure that the equipment and system warranties were valid during the construction and commissioning stages of the projects, and were transferred to the Iraqi Minister of Electricity on project completion," Nason said. "The contractor had sole responsibility to liaise with the MoE in pursuance of any additional information and permits."

Fellenz said that engineering services, which were provided throughout the contract duration, included all design, supply, construction and commissioning activities for the project. "Design functions



included the preparation and submission for review by the (Iraqi) government of all design calculations, construction drawings, test programs and methodologies, and as blueprints," he said.

"The construction functions included activities such as preparation and submission for review by the government of vendor data, vendor profiles, catalogs, and production of all equipment including all required type and routine tests, factory acceptance tests, as well as supplying all equipment to site to enable completion of the line as defined in the scope of work," Nason said.

فيلق المهندسين الامريكى - منطقة الخليج - فرقة الجنوب يسلم مشروع مرسلات خطوط الضغط العالي 132 كي في الناصرية - شطرة

محمد الشامي

منطقة الخليج - فرقة الجنوب

الناصرية , العراق - ان تحديث شبكة التوزيع الكهربائي و التقليل من الانقطاعات في التيار الكهربائي واحدة من المهام الرئيسة لمهمة اعادة الاعمار لتلحق المهندسين الامريكى في العراق.

وفا الى مايكل فيلنز مهندس المشروع في فيلق المهندسين الامريكى - حنطقة الخليج - فرقة الجنوب ان التلحق قام بتسليم مشروع مرسلات الطاقة الكهربائيه الجديده الى وزارة الكهرباء في محافظة ذي قار.

ذكر فيلنز ان خط نقل 132 كيلو فولت قد بني في المنطقة الغربية بين محطة كهرباء الناصرية ومحطة الشطرة الثانوية الكهرباء " مشروع خطوط النقل سوف يقلل من الضغط الحاصل على شبكة توزيع الطاقة الكهربائيه بطريقة فعالة ومضمون "

واضاف فيلنز قائلا ان مثل هذه المشاريع تحمل على تقليل من حالات انقطاع التيار الكهربائي وتساعد على تحديث شبكة الطاقة الكهربائيه , وخصوصا ان الشبكة الكهربائيه تشهد تحسنا في العراق.

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" ان من اهم الاسباب الرئيسة لتلحق الحاصل في إنتاج الطاقة الكهربائيه يعود الى قدم الاجهزة والتي تحطمت بمرور الوقت بالاضافة الى عمليات التخريب " قال نومي ناسن مهندس المشروع - فيلق المهندسين - فرقة الجنوب " ان المشروع سوف يقلل من معدلات الضغط على مزودات الطاقة القديمة و سوف يتطور الشبكة الكهربائيه ويزيد من فرص العمل المحليه ."

واضاف ناسن " ان مسؤوليه المقاول المنفذ هو تأكيد ضمان المعدات و النظم خلال فترة التنفيذ و التكاليف للمشروع و عندما يتقل ويسلم المشروع تم اضاف المقاول هو المسؤول الوحيد للاتصال مع وزارة الكهرباء في حاله وجود معلومات او تصاريح اضافيه.

قال فيلنز ان الخدمات الهندسيه التي قدمت خلال فترة عمل المشروع تتضمن كل التصاميم و النجهيز و عمليه التنفيذ و تمويل المشروع و المنهجيات و الخطط الى الحكومه العراقيه من اجل استعراضها و مراجعتها.

قال ناسن " ان مهام التنفيذ تضمنت نشاطات كالنقصيرات من اجل استعراضها من جانب حكومه البائع و الملفات و الكتلوجات والاختبارات الروتينييه واختبار قبول المصنح بلاضافة الى تجهيز كل المعدات و الاجهزه الى موقع العمل من اجل انتهاء المشروع في الوقت المحدد له في هخططات العمل "

ترجمه علاء البحراي

USACE turns over \$277M water project



Minister Riyadh, left, of the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Ambassador Charles Reis, and Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commander of the Gulf Region Division, take part in a signing ceremony Sept. 12. (USACE photo)

The Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant in Dhi Qar Province was turned over to the Government of Iraq in an official signing ceremony Sept. 12.

The ceremony, which took place at the Gulf Region Division headquarters in the International Zone, was attended by approximately 100 people – including Minister Riyadh of the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works and Maj. Gen. James Snyder, deputy director of the Iraq Transition and Assistance Office.

The \$277 million project provides potable water to five major cities in Nasiriyah province – approximately 550,000 residents – and employs a staff of more than 120.

“The Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant culminates three years of partnership and hard work by each of our governments,” said Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commanding general of the Gulf Region Division. “The facility makes a positive impact in terms of fresh water and a boost to the economy.”

The project is the largest water project undertaken in Iraq and is capable of pumping out more than 10,000 cubic meters of water an hour.

“It’s a fitting symbol of accomplishment and friendship between Iraqis and Americans,” said Ambassador Charles Reis from the U.S. Department of State. “That partnership will continue over the next few months as the Ministry learns the operations of the plant.”

Concurrently, a similar ceremony took place at the plant itself as the Gulf Region South district handed over operations to the Ministry and the Governorate Council. The previous week, the plant’s completion was marked by opening the city connections and allowing the water to flow into the distribution network.

The U.S. Government currently has completed 662 of 886 planned water projects. Of those completed projects, 508 are water treatment and sewage projects.

—USACE Gulf Region Division release

منظومة لمعالجة المياه بكلفة \$277 مليون دولار تزود اكثر من 550,000 مواطن بالمياه العذبة

بقلم محمد الشامي

فيلق المهندسين- المنطقة الجنوبية

اكملت فرقة منطقة الخليج التابعة لفيلق المهندسين الامريكى- المنطقة الجنوبية واحدا من اكبر مشاريع الماء في العراق وبكلفة \$277 مليون دولار امريكى في منطقة الشطرة ، من اجل تزويد الاف المواطنين العراقيين بالمياه العذبة الصالحة للشرب

ومن خلال احتفالية حضرها مسؤولون من وزارة البلديات والاشغال العامة ومجلس محافظة الناصرية تم افتتاح هذا المشروع الكبير وتشغيله ، حيث تم ربط المشروع بشبكة الانابيب الرئيسية لتغذية المدينة. أن نظام المحطة والتوزيع سوف يساعد على توفير المياه العذبة الى اكثر من 550,000 مواطن في خمسة من اهم المناطق في المحافظة وهي الناصرية ، سوق الشيوخ ، الضوية ، الشطرة و منطقة الغراف. ان توفير المياه النقية والعذبة في المنطقة سوف يساعد وبشكل كبير على الحد من انتشار الامراض التي عانت منها مناطق الجنوب ، و من المعروف انها تعاني من ارتفاع في معدل الوفيات لدى الاطفال حتى سن الخامسة ويرجع ذلك الى افتقار هذه المناطق الى المياه النقية.

لقد احوالت فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الجنوبية العقود الى شركة فلور امك وهي شركة بريطانية – امريكية متحدة من اجل وضع التصميم والتنفيذ في منطقة الشطرة.

و تقوم المحطة بانتاج 10,000 متر مكعب من المياه العذبة في الساعة ، على حد قول العميد البحري مايك لانج وهو ضابط في فيلق المهندسين الامريكى – فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الجنوبية.

و وقد قال العميد مايك لانج " يتضمن المشروع انشاء محطة لمعالجة المياه والتي تتكون من عشرة فلاتر لتصفية المياه و 100 خمسة صهاريج لخرن المياه و نصب اكثر من ثلاثة مضخات للمياه كيلومترا من الانابيب

تعتبر شركة فلور من الشركات الرائدة و الكفاءة جدا" في تنفيذ مثل هذه المشاريع ، فقد انجزت المشروع خلال مدة مليون ساعة اعتبارا من شهر اب 2004 حتى تشرين الاول 2006, اي بما يعادل 793 يوم و 4.5 تجاوزت السنتين من ساعات العمل دون ان تسجل اي حادث خلال فترة التنفيذ.

ترجمة علاء البحراي واحدا من اكبر مشاريع الماء في العراق

Safe drinking water on tap



Shown under construction, the volume of the six clarifiers at the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant is clear. (USACE photos)

by Mohammed Aliwi
 Gulf Region South district

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq — The Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed one of the largest water projects in Iraq - a \$277 million facility in Al Shatra to provide thousands of Iraqis with clean drinking water.

At a recent ceremony, officials from the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works and the Nasiriyah Governate Council gathered to mark the completion of the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant by opening the city connections at an elevated storage tank allowing water to flow into the distribution network.

The plant and distribution system will provide clean water to more than 550,000 residents of Dhi Qar Province in Southern Iraq serving five major communities in the province: Nasiriyah, Suq Ash Shuek, Al Diwaya, Al Shatra, and Al Gharraf.

Safe drinking water will prevent the spread of disease in an area that historically has suffered from a lack of clean water and the resulting adverse health consequences. Southern Iraq has an extremely high mortality rate for infants and other children under the age of five due largely to preventable water-borne diseases.

GRS awarded the contract in 2004 for the water project to FlourAMEC, a joint U.S.-British venture, to design and construct the facility at Al Shatra. The plant is capable of producing 10,000 cubic meters of treated water per hour, according to Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, Adder Area Office, GRS.

“The overall project included the construction of a water treatment plant with 10 clarifiers, three booster pump stations, five elevated storage tanks, five river crossings, and a pipeline of more than 100 kilometers,” Lang said.

FlourAMEC was recognized in August 2006 for its outstanding efforts in the prevention of job site accidents in connection the project. For more than two years from August 2004 to October 2006, 793 days and 4.5 million contract hours were put in without a recorded workday accident.



Northwest Baghdad welcomes work

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central district

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing more than \$50 million in essential service projects in northwest Baghdad. Water and sewer lines are being repaired, roads paved, and electrical distribution networks upgraded under contracts USACE is managing.

“And that’s just a portion of the work being carried out there,” said Lt. Col. Glen Masset, commander of the U.S. Army’s 9th Engineer Battalion, who keeps track of all ongoing work in his battlespace. Baghdad city government (Amanat), U.S. Agency for International Development, the Provincial Reconstruction Team, and 9th Engineer Brigade are all sponsoring projects to help the Iraqi people.

“Our top priority is ensuring the Iraqi government is in the lead on all this work as it strives to improve the lives of families there with functioning water and sewer lines, electricity, fuel, and an economy generating jobs,” Masset said.

USACE project engineer William Deleo visited the area with the 9th Engineers Sept. 8. “It’s great to see the various improvements taking place,” he said. “Iraqi construction crews are hard at work. Families there are seeing firsthand that their



Sgt. 1st Class Mendez Frith, Bravo Battery 9th Engineer Battalion, enjoys a brief chat with neighborhood children while checking on a variety of essential service projects in northwest Baghdad. (USACE photo)

government is functioning and things are getting better. They’re all hoping for a better tomorrow and these are all steps leading to that goal.”

Distinguished Visitors come to Gulf Region Division



Secretary of the Army Pete Geren visited Sept. 14.



Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Civilian Policy Patricia Bradshaw visited Sept. 25 for briefings and a town hall meeting with civilian employees.

Department of Defense Inspector General Mick Kicklighter visited Sept. 23.



Solar street lights shine on Fallujah

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central district

FALLUJAH, Iraq — With a marked decline in insurgent activity in recent months, Fallujah is on the road to a much brighter future.

And the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing a project helping shine light in that direction.

That work involves the installation of 740 new state-of-the-art solar street lights that are illuminating Fallujah’s main roadways. Currently, the city’s main east-west thoroughfare has the new lights up and functioning and work in other parts of the city is continuing.

“Residents tell us how much that project means to their community,” said USACE project engineer Troy Swofford. “City leaders and the police are thrilled. It’s getting a lot of positive attention.”

Fallujah laborers are digging the holes, anchoring the 9-meter steel poles in concrete, and bolting on the solar panels and



lights. Those fixtures, manufactured by a Florida firm, contain a photo-voltaic switch that turns them on at sundown and off at sunrise. The work got under way Aug. 7 and is scheduled to be completed in October.

“The project is bringing a ton of smiles to people in Fallujah and benefiting everyone there. It shows them things are getting better,” Swofford said. “You can see other signs of improvement as well. That main thoroughfare, where the new lights are now operating is no longer covered in dirt and garbage. The street curbs have a fresh coat of paint and in various parts of Fallujah, I see new shops opening.”

USACE’s Fallujah resident office is currently overseeing 57 projects valued at \$117 million. Apart from the solar lights, Swofford is overseeing the \$14 million upgrade of Fallujah’s 132kV substation, construction of two new 33kV substations (that work is nearly complete), new feeder lines connecting those substations, and supplies to rebuild portions of Fallujah’s neighborhood electrical network.

Swofford, who has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 20 years, deployed from the Charleston District. He signed up for a six-month tour but has already requested an additional year of duty. “This is very satisfying work. You get to see the direct positive impact of our efforts. We’re helping people and the city leaders appreciate what we’re doing,” he said.

“What’s great about the solar street light project is that it will provide clear evidence of how this 21st century technology works in this climate. We’ll know its viability and other Iraqi cities may soon be following Fallujah’s lead,” he added.

Taji training tower rises



Project Engineer Andy May, right, who has been with USACE for more than four years in Iraq, shows Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko the Taji Training Facility 9-meter-high rappelling and fast-roping tower which will be used by Iraqi army soldiers. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)



Iraqi workers mix concrete to place roof supports at the Basrah Regional Courthouse in Al Basrah Province. The \$10 million courthouse scheduled to open by the beginning of 2008. The project currently provides more than 300 Iraqis with jobs in the area and has been a boon to the local economy. (USACE photos by Alaa Al Bahrani)

*By Mohammed Aliwi and Alaa Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South district*

In an effort to support security, unity and prosperity in Iraq the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building a new courthouse in Al Basrah Province.

Leo Sandoval, resident engineer with Gulf Region South district's Basrah office, said the Basrah Regional Court House project involves the construction of a two-story courthouse and witness protection annex in the city of Basrah. When completed, the installation will provide the Iraqi people with a complete courthouse and witness protection facility to assist in the justice process.

"The witness protection facility portion of this project will provide a level of protection for those that are willing to come forward in the name of justice," Sandoval said.

Andrew Schmieder, Basrah Area Office area engineer said "The 11,000 square meter facility includes five elevators [and] a link between the main building and the witness protection facility.

"It has a café, parking lot, electricity room, generator platform, maintenance room, water tank room, clerk kiosk and benches, bath rooms, administrative check point, public check point and vehicle check point and a garden," Schmieder said. "The facility is scheduled to open by mid-year 2008. Currently, more than 300 Iraqi workers are helping build the facility."

Lt. Col. Jan Carter, senior project manager with the Multi-

National Security Transition Command-Iraq, said the Basrah courthouse has been designed and constructed to support the Iraqis within the design/ build budget. Basic systems to be installed are the sanitary, electrical, communications, and security camera and video surveillance systems.

"The contractor has been conducting operations and maintenance training appropriate to the facilities and equipment installed and constructed in the scope of this project," Carter said. "Training on the system will be arranged by the contractor and will include appropriate technicians from the city of Basrah."

Sandoval said the current costs of these facilities are split into two separate entities, although they are considered as one. "The courthouse is approximately valued at \$8 million and the annex is valued at \$2 million for a total of \$10 million for the entire complex," he said. "We in the Corps want in this project to ensure quality management and construction techniques are being implemented by local Iraqi contractors and employees. This project will provide the local governance with a quality facility for its intended purpose."

Sandoval said he has a strong belief in the justice system. He said the rule of law will be enhanced by this facility's capabilities and help make Iraq a safer place for all who want peace and justice.

Carter said that the electrical work includes a complete building electrical power and lighting system, and a complete telephone and local area network. Perimeter and security lighting system includes

محكمة البصرة الإقليمية سوف تحسن من نظام العدالة في العراق

بقلم محمد الشامي وعلاء البحراني

الناصرية , العراق – يقوم فريق المهندسين الامريكى – منطقة الخليج- فرقة الجنوب بأثناء محكمة جديدة في محافظة البصرة من اجل تطوير ودعم الاستقرار الامني و الوحدة والازدهار للعراق.

فقد قال ليو ساندوفال مهندس المشروع ضمن فريق المهندسين الامريكى – منطقة الخليج-فرقة الجنوب –مكتب البصرة " ان المشروع يتضمن انشاء محكمة من طابقين مع ملحقات اضافي يتضمن بنياية خاصة لحماية الشهود في مدينة البصرة . وفي حال انتهاء المشروع فانه سوف يقدم خدمات كاملة لشؤون المحاكم وحماية الشهود والتي تساعد في تطوير النظام القانوني في العراق.

" وأضاف ساندوفال " أن قسم حماية الشهود سوف يقدم مستوى كبير من الحماية للذين يرغبون في سير المحاكمه وتحقق العدالة اما بالنسبة الى اندرو شمابندر , المهندس المقدم لفريق المهندسين الامريكى – المنطقة الجنوبية –مكتب البصرة " ان المشروع والذي تبلغ مساحته 11,000 متر مربع يتضمن خمسة مصاعد وممر خاص يربط البناية الرئيسية بقسم حماية الشهود."

ونظرة تفصيلية خاصة بالحجالات بالإضافة الى الحديقة للمولدة , غرفة الصيانة , غرفة خاصة لخزانات المياه موفقت خاص نظمة تفويض ادارية , نظمة تفويض عامة علما انه حاليا اكثر من 300 عامل يساهمون في عملية البناء مصيفا " ان افتتاح المبنى سيكون في منتصف عام 2008.

فقد قال المقدم جان كارتر, مديره المشروع الأقدم – ضمن قيادة الامن القومي لقوات متحدة الجنسيات – العراق . ان محكمة البصرة قد صممت ونفذت ضمن التصاميم وميزانية البناء فقد نصبت أنظمة اساسية منه , الصحية , الكهربائية , الاتصالات و أنظمة كاميرات المراقبة " قالت كارتر " ان التدريب على النظام سوف ينظم من قبل المقاول المنفذ " ان المقاول المنفذ يقوم بتقديم دورات تشمل التشغيل والصيانة للموقع والاجهزة التي تم نصبها في المشروع وسوف يتضمن فريقون من مدينة البصرة.

اضاف ساندوفال قائلا ان كلفة المشروع الحالية قد قسمت الى قسمين على الرغم من انها تعتبر كلفة واحدة . " ان كلفة المحكمة تقدر ب 8 مليون دولار والملحق الاضافي يقدر ب 2 مليون دولار اي بما يساوي 10 مليون دولار للمجمع ككل "

واضاف " نحن فريق المهندسين الامريكى نريد ان نضمن السيطرة النوعية و نظريات البناء التي يطبقها المقاول والعمال العراقيين. والمشروع سوف يوفر الادارة المحلية مع التقم النوعي للمشروع "

ساندوفال صرح قائلا بأن لديه ايمان قوي بالنظام القانوني . فقد قال ان النظام القانوني سوف يتطور بأمكانيات هذا المشروع ويساعد على جعل العراق مكان آمن لمن يريد الامن والعدالة.

وقد قال كارتر بأن اعمال الكهربائية تتضمن نظام كهربائي متكامل للمبنى بالإضافة الى الانارة , و نظام اتصالات كامل مع شبكة محلية . نظام انارة امني محيط بكامل المبنى والذي يتضمن انارة على مداخل ومخارج المبنى , الحديقة ومحيط المبنى.

واضاف كارتر قائلا " بان المقاول سوف يقوم ببناء الطرق الداخلة والتي تتضمن اعمال صرف المياه وربط المبنى بالممرات الخارجية والطرق الرئيسية و دخول المركبات والانارة العامة ونقاط المراقبة "

وقد قال شمابندر ان عملية بناء محكمة البصرة تعتبر واحدة من المشاريع المهمة للمنطقة الجنوبية والذي سوف يخدم اكثر من 2 مليون مواطن . فقد بدأ المشروع في سبتمبر 2006 وحاليا تبلغ نسبة الانجاز النصف .

وأضاف شمابندر " في حالة انتهاء هذا المشروع فانه سوف يكون له الدور الاساسي لتطبيق عملية القانون."

BASRAH COURTHOUSE TAKES SHAPE FOR IRAQI RULE OF LAW

lights at building entries, exits, building perimeters, and courtyard areas.

"The contractor had to build internal roads including all sub-grade work and storm drainage and sidewalks connecting buildings and along roads, utility access points, vehicles, public and administrative check points," Carter said.

Schmieder said the construction of the Basrah courthouse is considered one of the critical projects for the southern region and will serve more than two million residents. The project started in September 2006 and is currently halfway to completion. "Once completed, Basrah courthouse is critical to enforcement of the rule of law," he said.



Workers on the second floor tie in rebar before concrete placement for an elevator shaft.

West of Baghdad, the once derelict military industrial compound hums with activity 24/7

Abu Ghraib warehouse

Delivering the goods

by Travis Edwards
Gulf Region Division

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq – From Iraqi Police vehicles and school buses to medical supplies and electrical cabling, the Abu Ghraib warehouse facility run by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has received, stored, and transferred thousands of critical infrastructure items to the Government of Iraq.

“Everything that arrives and leaves the Abu Ghraib warehouse facility near Baghdad is for the Government of Iraq,” said Navy Cmdr. Mark Thompson, facility commanding officer. “It is their equipment; we just store it until it is needed.”

The Abu Ghraib warehouse staging area is one of four such facilities set up by the U.S. government to support logistics capabilities in Iraq.

“We are part of a supply chain management system that supports the reconstitution of the Iraqi Security Forces and reconstruction support of the Iraq civil infrastructure,” Thompson said. “Operations also include the management and receipt of inventory at Baghdad International Airport and Basrah Airport.”

The facility was created to support the mission of providing all resources required to coordinate and perform necessary logistics, supply, maintenance, communication, and transportation functions to receive, accept, account for, hold, store, secure, repack-age, and redistribute equipment, supplies, and materiel.

The facility also enhances capacity development of Iraqi logisticians.

“The best part about this team is that we have successfully worked to coach, train and mentor an Iraqi workforce for the eventual turnover of this compound,” he said. “It some day will be solely operated by the Iraqi people.”

The facility itself housed in a former Iraqi army armored vehicle maintenance compound has more than 810,000 square feet of covered warehouse space and 58 acres of hard packed staging of vehicles and heavy equipment, housing for support personnel, dining facility and helicopter landing zone, according to Deputy Site Manager Darrell Whitt of Agility Logistics.

Thompson said, “We also use the area to hold frustrated cargo in secure areas until rightful ownership is determined which saves millions of dollars for both the client and customer.”



The Abu Ghraib facility has more than 810,000 square feet of covered warehouse space for secure storage and 58 acres of staging area. (USACE photos by Travis Edwards)





High value items are stored in a secure warehouse until delivery to the Iraqi end user.

‘Shipper Award’ recognizes USACE GRD Logistics director

MARAD Release

WASHINGTON, D.C.—For the first time ever, the Maritime Administration has presented the agency’s Shipper Recognition Award to an individual instead of a company.

This year’s recipient, Jack Holly, is the director of logistics for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Gulf Region Division in Iraq. Holly, a retired Marine colonel, was presented with the award at a special ceremony conducted during the Corps’ quarterly logistics working group meeting here, Aug. 9, 2007.

Maintaining and developing a U.S.-flag merchant marine is one of the Maritime Administration’s primary missions, and this award recognizes quality companies that transport a significant share of international cargo on U.S.-flag vessels, thereby supporting the U.S. merchant marine industry.

Maritime Administration officials said they considered Holly’s extraordinary personal efforts on behalf of the U.S. government and in support of U.S.-flag merchant marine services transporting the Iraq reconstruction cargoes, and deemed it appropriate for the agency to recognize and honor the outstanding national service of an individual.

The U.S. flag merchant fleet is a vital part of America’s economic and defense security that saves the U.S. military more than a billion dollars a year while also guaranteeing U.S. consumers, manufacturers and farmers access to the world’s markets.

Order of St. Martin awarded



Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody awards Jack Holly the Order of St. Martin in a Pentagon ceremony.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody, Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, presented Jack Holly with the Order of St. Martin Aug. 8, 2007.

Dunwoody praised Holly for his role as a logistician serving on the frontlines in the Global War on Terror.

“Our Army is counting on logisticians like Jack Holly to deliver the goods to austere places over extended and dangerous lines of communication,” she said. “I am honored to award Jack Holly with the Order of St. Martin because he epitomizes the selfless dedication we witness from so many who are continually in the fight to defend our Nation’s freedoms.”

The Army Quartermaster Corps awards the Association of Quartermasters’ Order of St. Martin, the patron saint of the Quartermaster Regiment, to deserving Active Duty, Reserve, or Civilian Quartermasters.

Gulf Region Division obligates \$5.84 billion in FY07

Efforts of districts, entire Gulf Region Division team contribute to success

by *Donn Booker*
Gulf Region Division

In a remarkable team effort that underscores the Gulf Region Division's focus on customer service and the mission while maintaining fiscal responsibility, GRD finished up an outstanding fiscal year. In FY07, total obligations were \$5,845,878,849 resulting in a total of 27,063 lines processed.

In September, GRD obligated more than \$1.64 billion, which includes \$546.66 million on Sept. 30, 2007 alone.

The GRD Resource Management team ran a 24-hour operation Sept. 30 to accommodate the final awards for Multinational Security Transition

Command-Iraq/Afghanistan that were being made by the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and kept the financial database open until midnight Central Standard Time to allow AFCEE time to obligate the final ISFF expiring funds. GRD-TAC RM rear cell also worked Sept. 29-30 to support the effort.

In September, GRD conducted a 100 percent triennial review of all un-liquidated obligations and commitments. The team reviewed and validated 14,803 lines of accounting and entered remarks for each line in the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System. GRD funded \$20,393,452 in un-financed requirements from Sept. 26-30, which provided for critical mission support for the Logistics

theater mission and camp expansions and services for the districts.

The GRD team significantly reduced the amount of prompt payment interest, which allowed for more funds to go to direct support of the mission.

GRD executed a \$564.6 million Global War on Terrorism operating budget, which supported the operations of the division and included life support and security for the districts and Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan. The life support and security supported a population of more than 2,000 personnel. Additionally, GRD has employed more than 400 Iraqis complementing the workforce with professional, engineer and administrative skills.



Above: Members of the Gulf Region Division Business Management Directorate's Resource Management forward team pause for a few moments Sept. 30 to celebrate the New (Fiscal) Year. Kneeling from left: Donn Booker, director, Business Management; Lt. Col. Frank Holinaty, deputy director, Resource Management; B. J. Fagan, director, Resource Management; and Col. Doug Gorgoni, deputy director, Business Management. Second Row Kneeling: Aliyaa Al-Nadawy, Jo Ann Ingraham, Myrna Boehning, and Budget Officer Mako Agulto. Third Row Standing: Team Leader Air Force Maj. Tina Nguyen, Danny Huffman, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Devon Blackwell, Ruth Goodman, 1st Lt. Scott Diehl, Melissa George, Tracy Grimberg, Army Sgt. 1st Class Hector Ortiz, Diane Davis (with green hat), Melissa Filbert, Team Leader Leanna Dagley, Linda Tompkins, Jim Simmons, Navy PS1 Rose Wasko, Theresa Explain, Team Leader Bonnie Tudor, Cynthia Gianareas, and Ray Hann. (USACE photo)



Gulf Region Division-Transatlantic Center Resource Management rear cell photographed during orientation with incoming Commanding General Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko. From left: Carrie Loy, Lisa Peterson, Besty Hall, Brig. Gen. Dorko, Finance and Accounting Officer Phyllis Ritchie, Mary Carter, Marty Lowe G-4 support, and Howard Cheatham. (USACE photo)

Not pictured - District Resource Managers Julie Melow, GRN, Karen Robinson, GRS, and Gene Embry, GRC.



Baghdad school project shows key to success: hard work, education



Above: A worker mixes a batch of concrete. Inset: Forms come off after placing a section of the concrete roof.

*by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central district*

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Families in one west Baghdad neighborhood are looking forward to the re-opening of their secondary school.

That facility, which is being doubled in size, sits between a Sunni and Shia area says Maj. Clark Johnson with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which is overseeing the work.

Local leaders there believe that once the project is finished, the school will help the community refocus on basic fundamental Iraqi priorities such as education and help reconcile their differences, Johnson noted. “They know that the key to success is hard work and education. Just like in the United States, their schools are the heart of their community – a place for hope. And the local council president is very grateful for this investment. He knows the unifying potential it offers residents there.”

The existing 13-classroom structure is more than 30 years old and little had been invested in maintenance and upkeep. The roof was leaking, some of the classroom floors were buckled, the sidewalks cracked, and the restrooms were in deplorable condition, Johnson noted. “The contractor is repairing the roof, putting in a whole new electrical system, replacing the florescent lights, installing ceiling fans and smoke detectors, renovating the

restrooms, repairing and painting all the interior walls, and putting in new floors and sidewalks where needed,” he continued.

“We’re significantly expanding the school as well, constructing 11 additional classrooms and two labs. We’re also increasing the size of their playground area installing colored concrete tiles in a new 476 square meter area so the students have more mud-free space for recreation. When we’re finished, it’s going to have a dramatic impact on the learning environment there.” (Thifaf Al Neel School is located near the Baghdad International Airport in the Al Bayaa neighborhood.)

Johnson is currently overseeing a half-dozen other projects involving schools in southern Baghdad Province and that number should double in the near future. “It’s very rewarding work helping the Iraqi people rebuild their country. I’m proud to be part of our efforts here.”

Johnson is a member of the North Dakota Engineer Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, that deployed in April to Iraq. He is a National Guard soldier and for the past 12 years has been the Civil Engineer at Camp Grafton, Devils Lake, N.D. He says his wife Lisa and their two children Stephanie 8, and Daniel 7, understand how important his mission is and have been very supportive during his time away along with the entire community of Devils Lake.

USACE has overseen the renovation of more than 100 schools in Baghdad Province in the past four years.

North Dakota brother, sister help Iraq move forward

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central district

BAGHDAD, Iraq—They're overseeing some of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers key projects rebuilding Iraq.

Lt. Col. J.P. Moszer and his sister, Lt. Col. Jan Carter, deployed with the North Dakota National Guard Engineer Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, in April.

Moszer is the Officer in Charge of the Baghdad Area Office responsible for 150 projects valued at \$600 million. He's working with seven Brigade Combat Teams and 53 Battalions improving essential services to residents throughout the Capitol. "We're building water, sewer and electrical networks, courthouses, schools, clinics, renovating hospitals, and repaving roads."

As USACE's Security and Justice Program Manager and Military Construction Program Manager in southern Iraq, Carter is responsible for 60 projects valued at \$500 million including courthouses, detention facilities, and Iraqi Army camps. Working out of Tallil Air Force Base near Nasiriyah, she says part of her efforts is helping establish the Rule of Law, providing facilities where those arrested can be held and their case adjudicated in a timely and fair hearing. "We're making a difference in helping the Iraqi people regain control of their country," she added.

Moszer is proud of his older sister. He points out she enlisted in the National Guard in 1975 and received her commission six years later. This is her second deployment to a war zone. Activated for Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1991 as an operations officer, she was awarded a Bronze Star, as well as a field grade promotion. She later became North Dakota's first female Battalion Commander. "She's a true patriot. She does great work and I've always looked up to her." (In her civilian career, Carter works for the U.S. Postal Service in Glendive, Mont., where she has resided for over two decades.)

Moszer says it was his sister and her late husband, Col. (Ret.) James Carter, who mentored him in his formative years. "They would come to Bismarck once or twice a month and stay at our house during drill weekends. It was Jim who talked me into enlisting in the National Guard in 1980 and it was my older brother, Lt. Col. Rick Moszer, who officiated at my oath of enlistment."

So being in the National Guard definitely seems to be a Moszer family affair and Jan's children are following in that tradition. Her daughter, Barbara, is a first lieutenant and her son, James Robert Carter, a specialist 4. "They're both very supportive

of our deployment to Iraq," Carter noted. "They know our mission and what wearing the uniform is all about."

Carter says, "J.P. had a huge influence on my children and their decision to volunteer. It all goes back to the family thing. J.P. is a little intense at times but he likes to be around people and is very knowledgeable about his job. I am so proud of him."

Moszer does know construction. He worked as a brick mason, with concrete and structural steel for over a decade. He then made a career change and for the past three years has worked for the North Dakota Association of Counties in their Homeland Security Training and Exercise Program. He's responsible for



training emergency responders in western North Dakota, including law enforcement, ambulance squads and fire fighters.

He is a lifelong resident of Bismarck and this is his second deployment to a war zone. Four years ago, he was the senior engineer officer in Bosnia. As the brigade engineer, he was responsible for minefield extraction operations, route clearance, and demolition work as well as ongoing reconstruction efforts including water and sewer lines, bridging, road building, schools, and clinics.

"The difference between Bosnia and here is that our work in Baghdad is on such a massive scale. Iraq's infrastructure obviously had little or no investment for decades. We're doing projects in all parts of Baghdad and residents are seeing that their government is working and things are getting better."

see Siblings, page 17

Siblings serve together

continued from page 16

Moszer was hesitant to single out any one project as a favorite because "they're all great." But he did mention three as examples of the positive impact they're having on the community.

He noted that the \$2.9 million renovation of the Alwaiya Children's Hospital in east Baghdad is nearly finished. That hospital sees an average of 350 patients daily with 30 to 35 admitted to their 217-bed facility. "It touches your heart every time you visit there. Doctors and nurses are now using equipment that was simply unavailable before we started." The project includes a new water purification system, new mechanical system (both air conditioning and heating), medical waste incinerator, oxygen plant and central vacuum system, nurse call system, intercom paging system, data communications network, new restrooms, new exhaust system to remove unhealthy air and odors, a new generator for emergency power, new lighting, and structural repair. "It serves some of the poorest families in east Baghdad and they're now able to get health care at the same high standard as private hospitals."

Another one he mentioned is the installation of a whole new water network in Sadr City benefiting over two million residents there. "In addition we've nearly completed a new water treatment plant that will serve that area, capable of producing over 25 million gallons daily. Good, clean drinking water is a necessity for everyone."

The final project he listed was the two-year \$1 million renovation of the Student Center at Mustansiriya, one of the oldest universities in the Islamic world. "That student center was

burned and looted in 2003 and was unusable until we finished the project last month. It is a key structure on that campus especially during graduation festivities where families and students can once again gather to celebrate that special day." The project included new air conditioning units and ductwork, new skylights, roof repair, new marble interior walls and floors, new plumbing and electrical, 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 irrigation system installed. "Education is a priority for every Iraqi family. This project along with the new elementary and high schools we're building in Baghdad are providing a brighter future for the children here."

Moszer pointed out he has a total of only 23 U.S. military and civilian personnel managing the work, most of whom are located at his Resident Offices in the International Zone and at Loyalty Forward Operating Base (south of Sadr City). The IZ office is responsible for projects west of the Tigris River, the Loyalty Office projects in eastern Baghdad.

He credits the Iraqis on his staff as the single reason USACE is able to oversee such a robust reconstruction program. "We have over 70 Iraqi associate engineers and quality assurance representatives who work out of our offices. They visit our projects on a daily basis, verify construction quality and progress, check on adherence to safety regulations, and provide project engineering. There's no way we could do this without them. They not only report problems, but propose solutions. They're the ones who will help Iraq continue to take steps forward long after we're gone. They courageously report to work every day, because they want to provide a brighter future for their children and grandchildren."

Couple deploys to serve in Iraq

by John Connor
Gulf Region South district

TALLIL, Iraq—Adding to the sense of family at the headquarters of the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a newly-arrived couple, Patricia and John Biltoft.

Definitely not stay-at-home-and-watch-TV married folks, the Biltofts are looking forward eagerly to their one year tour in Iraq. Pat will be the personnel officer in GRS and John will work in engineering and construction. Before coming to Iraq, both worked in Germany, where Pat was in the U.S. Army Europe personnel shop and John was with the Criminal Investigation Division.

Pat said a German neighbor asked them why they were going to Iraq and that John responded with a question of his own: "Why don't the Iraqi people deserve the same opportunities to enjoy a good life as the German people?" John, a veteran of 26-and-one-half years of Army service, recalled building projects in Germany as an Army engineer in 1967.

John paraphrased General and later

President Dwight Eisenhower as saying during World War II that while he wasn't airborne, he liked being around airborne Soldiers. John added that after his many years of service, he wanted to stay around Army people. Pat said she was inspired several years ago by a young colleague who left her family, her husband and children, to serve in Iraq, sacrificing to help the Iraqi people. She said that stuck in her mind until she decided that the time had come to do the same thing.

The Biltofts have been married for 27 years and have five children and five grandchildren. Pat said they both like to fish, and indeed, that they met while fishing in Kansas. They have family in Riley, Kan., but don't currently have a home in the States. After their tour in Iraq, they



plan to settle in Guntersville, Ala., where the fishing is good.

Neither has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before. Why did they sign up for a joint tour in Iraq? "We're together because we're married," said John, who quipped that "the kids wouldn't leave home, so we did."

Pat, more seriously, said a joint tour enables them to share a great adventure, to support each other, to avoid separation anxiety, and to try to help the Iraqi people.

Corps projects impact northern Iraq cities

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North district

With project management and construction management responsibilities in seven of Iraq's 18 provinces, the Gulf Region North district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has far-reaching strategic effect in northern Iraq's four strategic cities.

"Our reconstruction mission in Iraq is more than bricks and mortar," said Col. Michael Pfenning, commander of the Gulf Region North district, or GRN. "It's reconstructing the young Government of Iraq's capability to become self-sufficient and to sustain through rebuilding its infrastructure."

Pfenning said each Iraqi Governorate has GRN's local engineers on the provincial reconstruction team or at one of its Area Offices as their local "go to" person. "The Corps of Engineers is joining the Iraqi people in reconstructing their country, because once the Iraqi people know their government can provide them with basic services, their societal needs will expand in other economic areas," Pfenning said.

Two northern strategic cities—Mosul and Baqubah—benefit today, respectively, from 100 and 24 reconstruction projects, totaling \$235.5 million.

With a population of 1.7 million residents, Mosul—in the Ninewa Province—is Iraq's third largest city, after Baghdad and Basrah. One meaning of the name, Mosul, is "linking point", since the city's epic history as an important commercial center dates back to the 6th century. In recent history, Mosul's importance as a strategic trading center declined after the Suez Canal opened, which enabled cargoes to travel to and from India by sea rather than by land across Iraq.

Pfenning's Mosul Area and Resident Offices have managed the city's 100 projects at \$140.3 million of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, or IRRF. More than 90 projects have started, with 80 completed, 10 ongoing, and 10 projects in pre-construction phases.

In addition to the IRRF projects, another 84 projects are funded through the Commander's Emergency Response Program, or CERP—whereby the combat unit commander works directly with local Iraqi community leaders to address immediate needs. These 84 projects total \$13.3 million; with 79 completed and five ongoing.

- One completed oil project in Mosul; funded through CERP \$0.7 million; an improvement project for the Ninewa Province's oil infrastructure.

- In electricity, the goal is to provide a reliable supply of electricity to 80 percent of businesses and residences in Mosul. About 80 percent of the homes in Mosul have power approximately 10 hours a day. There are 17 IRRF planned projects valued at \$90 million; with 16 completed and one ongoing.

- In the Public Works (sewage) and Water sector, the goal is to provide improved and more reliable service with safer drinking water. Approximately 60 percent of homes and businesses in Mosul have potable water and 40 percent have sewage lines. About 42 planned projects total \$4.8 million; with 28 complete, seven ongoing, and seven planned but not started.



- There are also 27 CERP projects valued at \$8.3 million, with 24 complete and three ongoing.

- More than \$49.6 million in facility and/or transportation improvements has been invested in Mosul to date.

Baqubah is the capital of the Diyala Province. Its population is approximately 500,000, and is located about 50 km north-east of Baghdad, on the Diyala River. Baqubah is known as the center of Iraq's commercial orange groves.

In spite of the current large-scale offensive, Operation "Arrowhead Ripper," involving more than 10,000 Coalition forces, there is reconstruction progress.

The Warhorse Resident Office manages 24 planned projects in Baqubah, totaling \$95.2 million. Twenty have started; with 17 complete; three ongoing, and four are in pre-construction phases. There are seven planned, CERP-funded projects, totaling \$1.2 million. The goal is to provide a reliable supply of electricity to 100 percent of the homes and businesses in Baqubah. Most houses have power from 6-12 hours daily with Iranian power augmenting local power.

- There are nine planned projects valued at \$37.9 million to improve the electricity in Baqubah; eight have started; seven are completed; one is ongoing, and one has not started.

- The goal is to provide potable water and sewer services for the majority of businesses and residences in Baqubah. The city pumps river water to the treatment facilities and then into the city via main water lines—servicing roughly 90 percent of Baqubah. Six compact water units supply the rest.

- Roughly 65 percent of the Baqubah population has serviceable sewage lines. The central sewage treatment plant services half of the greater Baqubah area and needs rehabilitation.

- There are six public works and water projects planned for Baqubah at \$25.6 million; three are complete and one is ongoing. Another six CERP projects are planned, with five ongoing and one to start.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq is helping the Iraqi Government assume full responsibility for its national reconstruction, Pfenning added. "We're trying to work ourselves out of a job here."



Workers wash down finished tile work on the Basrah platform as renovation work is completed on the \$480,000 project.

Basrah railroad station renovation complete

by Mohammed Aliwi
Gulf Region South district

BASRAH, Iraq—The rehabilitation of the Basrah railroad station, one of the main transportation projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the south of Iraq, marks an important achievement in developing the basic transportation services and strategic infrastructure for the Iraqi people.

“The Basrah Railroad station was recently completed and turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Transportation,” said Rebecca Wingfield, GRS project engineer with Adder Area Office. “This \$480,000 project does not only help to develop the basic services and the strategic infrastructure, but it provides a critical link for the country of Iraq. It ties the southern portion of the country with the northern portion.”

Wingfield said the Basrah railroad station was unusable without renovation, noting that the structure of the building was damaged and unsafe and that the platforms and the walkways were torn up or removed.

An Iraqi engineer said work on this facility included the construction of many outer buildings as well as rehabilitation to the existing structures. In addition, he said, the platforms and sidewalks were replaced so people could get on and off the trains.

“Transporting goods and services is extremely important for any growing region and economy,” Wingfield said. “The railroad system will continue to grow in serving the Iraqi people while [they are] rebuilding their country.”

She said the mission of the Gulf Region South district throughout Basrah Province includes performing site evaluations and rehabilitation work on seven railway stations, many of which were looted and damaged after the fall of Saddam Hussein. She said the goal is to repair the stations and make them safe and efficient once again.

“The railroad [is a] main source of transportation and the major transporter of goods, materials and people throughout the

country of Iraq,” Wingfield said. “This project was to install all new platforms and walkways as well as renovating portions of the interior of the station and exterior façade.

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

The Iraqi engineer said rebuilding the rail industry in Basrah is very important to Iraq’s economy. Basrah, one of the oldest cities in Iraq, has a great impact on the country’s economy.

“The Iraq railroad system provides efficient, reliable transportation,” the engineer said. “It is also essential for trade and commerce from the port and business centers in Southern Iraq to the population centers in Northern Iraq.

“Iraq has a network of 2,603 kilometers and the main railway routes are Baghdad –Husaiba and Umm Qasr/Basrah – Baghdad” he said, pointing out that there are also branches to Kirkuk and Akashat.



Renovation of walkways, platforms and the existing station buildings bring the Basrah station into usable condition. (USACE photos by A. Al Bahrani)



Hail and Farewell

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 Maj. Clayton Biddle, GRN
 Maj. Mark Madaus, GRN
 Capt. Carl Wohlfeil, GRN
 Capt. William Nye, GRN
 Spec. Walter Whitley, GRN
 Jeremy Price, GRN
 Glenn Myrick, GRN
 Connor Owens, GRN
 Jamie Determann, GRN
 Bruce Pfleging, GRN
 Mark Tolleson, GRN
 Kirstin Wiley, GRN
 Ivan Ramirez, GRN
 Gary Carroll, GRN
 Sigmund Roh, GRN
 Paul Yates, GRN
 Bobby Hall, GRN
 Sheila Hyde, GRS
 Karen Wright, GRS
 Amy Williams, GRS
 Kelly Bertoglio, GRS
 Arthur Bennett, GRS
 Patricia Biltoft, GRS
 John Biltoft, GRS
 Barry Bragg, GRS
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 Patrick McLaughlan, GRS
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Navy Cmdr.
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Edmay Mayers
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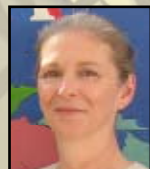
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Get more information on the reconstruction progress in Iraq on the Gulf Region Division Web Site. Updated print, photo and video content is added regularly. Get the news you are not otherwise hearing about the real progress on the ground by the men 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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