



# Abu Ghraib Hospital Lights the Way

**ABU GHRAIB** — For the first time in many years, the Abu Ghraib Hospital recently turned on its lights without having to count down the hours until the lights went out again.

After several months of planning and work, the Hospital started receiving constant power through an 11kv power line that stretches nearly 1.5 kilometers back to the Al Ban Substation.

The new power line is exempted from the load-shedding plan that forces substation operations to ration limited power to the various neighborhoods connected to it on a two hours on and a four hours off schedule, said Capt. Mark Gillman, a native of Las Vegas, who serves as an engineer, assigned to 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team “Warrior,” 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

With sufficient power, the more than two dozen physicians are now able to run basic services without disturbance, including laboratory equipment, refrigeration of medications and more complex neo-

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A newborn baby sleeps in an incubator at the Abu Ghraib Hospital. A new electrical line now allows physicians to run basic services without disturbance, including complex neonatal incubators and echocardiograms. Photo provided by 25th Infantry Division.

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## Medics Give Hearing Tests to Iraqi Children

**COB ADDER** — Approximately 15 Samawa school children received their first hearing exams here, Dec 28.

The Soldiers assigned to the 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division identified candidates for the exam during a visit to al-Amal school for the deaf, which is located in the town of Ar-Rumythan, about an hour north of Samawah in southern Iraq.

“I hope we can continue working with the local populace,” said Staff Sgt. Heidi Barber, a combat medic from Fort Worth, Texas. “Essentially, we are all here for one

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Two students of the Huda Girls' School patiently await the official reopening ceremony for their school in Tarmiyah, northwest of Baghdad, Jan. 5, 2009. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christina Bhatti, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs.

## School Prospers Despite Past Violence

**CAMP TAJI** — The Huda Girls' School in Tarmiyah, northwest of Baghdad, officially reopened its doors with a ceremony, Jan. 5.

The school provides education to approximately 950 girls, who attend at various times throughout the day to accommodate the valuable education opportunity.

"This is really something big for the people. This is a fort of science," said Muhamad Ibrihim Jassim, administrative supervisor for the Ministry of Education in Tarmiyah about the opening of the school. "This is the largest school in the area."

The school has long been recognized by the Ministry of Education for its excellence in education, but in 2003, that excellence was threatened.

The building was the scene of significant violence, said Dr. Malcom Phelps, senior education advisor for the embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team attached

to the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

During major combat operations in 2003, the school slowly ceased to function as a fort of science and transitioned into a fort for terror.

The school, which lies up the road from a Joint Security Station, was the launching point of ambushes, improvised-explosive device attacks and sniper fire against Coalition forces and the then nascent Iraqi Security Forces.

After a cautious stability was reached in the area in 2006, Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division helped to rebuild the badly war-damaged school.

Approximately \$300,000 dollars of Iraqi and U.S. funds were spent to rebuild and refurbish the school, which contains 18 classrooms, science labs, an admin-

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# U.S.-Iraq Agreement Opens Door to Long-term Partnership

**WASHINGTON** — As the United States carries out the terms of its new status-of-forces agreement with Iraq, it has the opportunity to successfully conclude the American effort in Iraq and gain a long-term democratic partner in the Middle East, National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said, Jan. 7.

Hadley, who is slated to be succeeded by retired Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones when President-elect Barack Obama takes office Jan. 20, gave his assessment of the state of national security in a speech to The Center for Strategic and International Studies here.

"Today, violence is down in Iraq," he said. "The Iraqi people govern themselves under one of the most progressive constitutions in the Middle East. And, for the first time in the region's history, Sunni, Shiia and Kurds are working together within a democratic framework to build a more hopeful future for their country."

Hadley noted that U.S. forces will be completely withdrawn from Iraq by the end of 2011 under the status-of-forces agreement. As the

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An Iraqi Police station commander meets with U.S. Military Police in Nafeer, Dec. 17, 2008. Photo by Senior Airman Eric Harris.



Iraqi Soldiers lead the patrol in the Karradah district of eastern Baghdad, Dec. 31, 2008. Photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Licea.



Girls smile for a photo during exhibition soccer at Taji's Club Sport Stadium, Dec. 26, 2008. Photo by Spc. Neil Stanfield.