

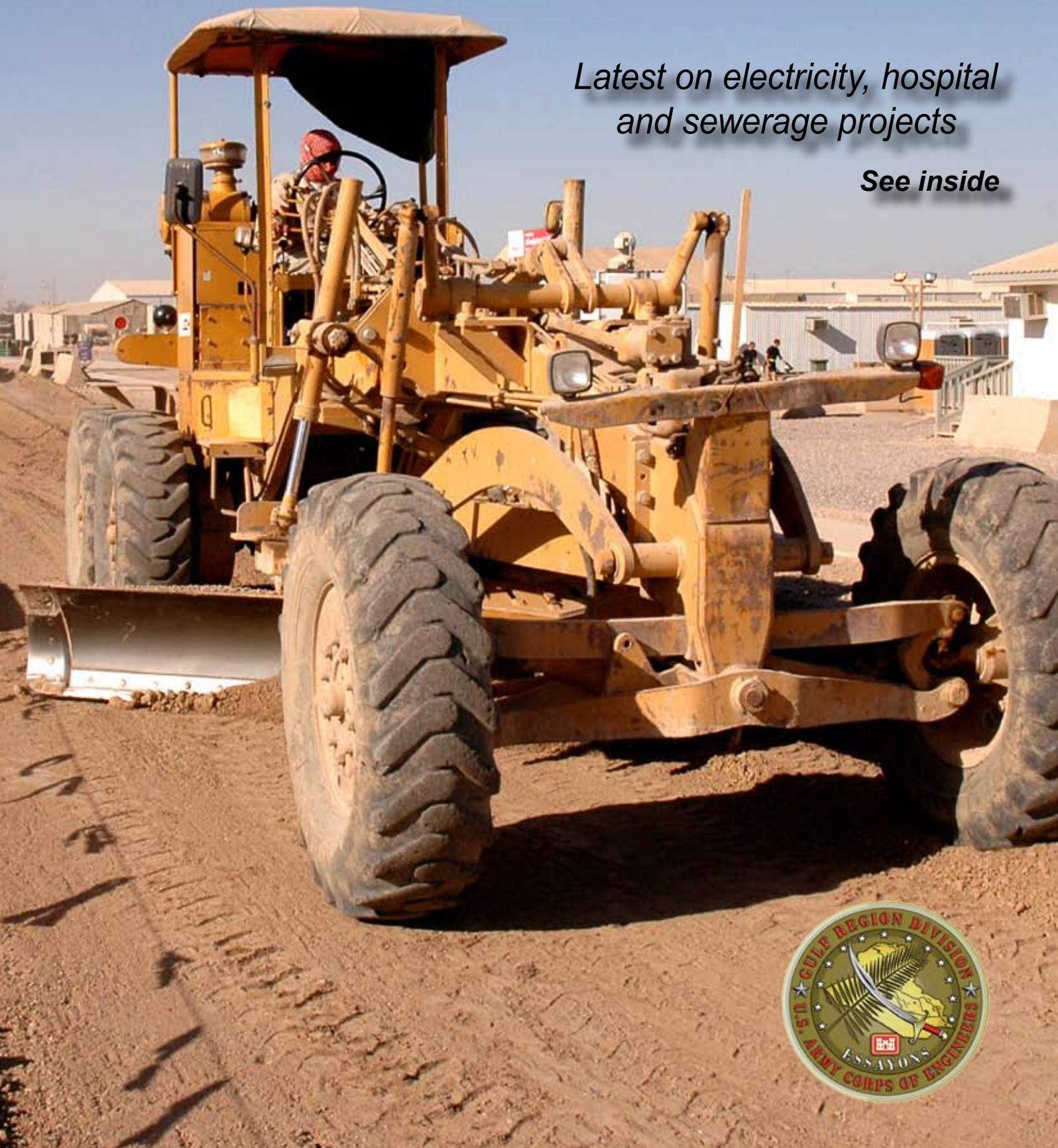
ESSAYONS *Forward*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division, Iraq - Volume 4 Issue 10

December 2007

*Latest on electricity, hospital
and sewerage projects*

See inside



December 2007
Volume 4, Issue 10

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On the cover:



An Iraqi grader operator levels roadbed for a paving project on Victory Base, Baghdad. Projects of all kinds are putting Iraqis to work rebuilding their country and increasing their capacity in the construction industry.

USACE photo by Norris Jones



USACE photo

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Civil Works John Paul Woodley met with Division leadership and officials from the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works on Nov. 15. From left: Col. Christian Klinefelter, deputy director of Programs; Director of Programs Lloyd Caldwell; Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Dale Adams; Ayad Al-Safi, deputy minister for Technical Affairs; the Assistant Secretary; Minister Riyad Ghurayyib; Dr. Linda Allen, Iraq Transition Assistance Office; Abd-Ellah al-'alaq, director general for Sewerage; Sundus Omar Ali; Air Force Col. Anthony Foti, Facilities Sector lead; and Navy Capt. Tom Brovarone, lead for Oil and Water Sectors.

ESSAYONS FORWARD

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KEEP IT LOCKED ON...

Baghdad: 104.1 and 107.7 FM
Kirkuk: 100.1 and 107.3 FM
Balad: 107.3 FM
Mosul: 105.1 FM
Q-West: 93.3 FM
Sinjar: 107.9 FM
Tallil: 100.1 and 107.3 FM
Tikrit: 93.3 FM

FREEDOM RADIO
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Commander's Commentary



are working together with improved security in demonstrating to the Iraqi people that rejecting the insurgency, rooting out terrorists and working together is the best course.

New Year's is, of course, about looking ahead as well. We have much yet to accomplish and the way is steep.

The security situation, although improving, is a far cry from where we would like it in many areas. We cannot afford to let our guard down or take shortcuts.

There will be the difficulties that come with the construction business anywhere and the difficulties unique to this environment. But we can see how far we have come and be confident that with perseverance and the lessons we have learned along the way we will continue to be successful.

A lot of outstanding people have served with us this year and many great people have stepped up to join the team in the continued commitment to this historic mission. I thank you, the men and women of the Gulf Region Division, for your continued diligence in your duties – taking that one step at a time.

I wish you all happy holidays and a joyous New Year and thank you for your service to the nation.

ESSAYONS!

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko
Gulf Region Division
Commander

Even the longest and most difficult hike is made a footstep at a time. Keeping one's eye on the prize is paramount, but at times it can help to reflect on just how far one has come. Looking back, one can see the trail from a new vantage point and appreciate those difficult places from a different perspective.

As we approach the New Year, the accomplishments of the past 12 months show us just how far we have come. This, the fourth year in the Coalition effort to rebuild this nation's tattered infrastructure, has seen more than 700 additional projects completed.

Major projects are coming on line and providing the Iraqi government greater ability to meet the needs of its citizens with basic services. This past year saw the attainment of production capacity goals for the Oil Sector, huge strides in adding energy to the improved national electrical grid, completion of water and sewerage projects that impact the lives of thousands, and the opening of a variety of needed facilities all across the country.

Your efforts to build these equitably distributed projects



Cmd. Sgt. Major's Message

As a member of an engineer organization, you may be familiar with concrete and the properties of

its binding ingredient, Portland cement, which gives it strength to handle the stresses of compression.

The cement of an organization that enables it to perform under stress can be likened to loyalty and a sense of duty among its members.

The Army defines loyalty as "Bearing true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the U.S. Army, your unit and other Soldiers." Similarly, duty is to "Fulfill your obligations."

As members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serving in the Gulf Region Division, loyalty and duty can entail:

- Learning your job the best you can
- Giving 100 percent
- Being the best performer you can every day
- Being the best team member you can
- Being proactive and innovative

In other words, loyalty and duty are about ensuring your section, branch and organization succeeds.

On the line, loyalty and duty is watching out for the Soldier on your right and on your left, so the mission gets done.

Here that translates into helping the next individual succeed in their mission task, whether it's providing them with the right information at the right time or helping ensure that engineering standards, quality assessment, construction management, schedule, and cost requirements are met. It goes along with our mission essential task list that states, "Districts delivering quality projects on time and on budget."

When loyalty and a strong commitment to duty are present in an organization, it can take pressure and perform as designed.

Loyalty works on many levels. As an individual you can be loyal to your co-workers, your leadership, your subordinates. You can also be loyal to the Corps of Engineers, looking out for its reputation as an organization that answers the nation's call whenever needed in the tradition of the first engineers of the Continental Army and through our country's history.

Certainly this organization confronts daily challenges, but we continue to attract people who are loyal to the Army, the Corps, the unit and the mission. You are all key to the Gulf Region Division's mission accomplishment.

All of you contributed to a very productive year and I am very proud and grateful to every one of you and your families.

I wish each of you a happy, safe and peaceful Holiday Season and a very prosperous New Year.

ESSAYONS!

Army Strong, Engineer Ready!
Command Sgt. Maj. Eloy Alcivar
Gulf Region Division

Commentary

USACE cares for Iraq's children

by J. Anajar

Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq – If you review the list of the projects executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, you will see they are many throughout the country—from the farthest north to the farthest south and from east to the west. No matter whether the project is in a heated area or in a quiet one, the most important thing is the interest of the Iraqi people.

Health of Iraqi children, in the new era, has been taken into consideration by the Gulf Region Division, which has embarked on building and renovating children's hospitals, such as Basrah Children's Hospital with the cost of \$123.3 million, now halfway to completion. This project will provide the only state-of-the-art pediatric speciality hospital in Iraq, and is viewed by the Minister of Health as one of the most important developments within the Iraqi Health Care System.

There is also Ibn Al Baladi maternity and children's hospital in Sadr City. After its renovation, it has helped cut down infant mortality and increase the likelihood of healthier babies and mothers. Another is the Erbil maternity and pediatric hospital that was renovated at a cost \$6.83 million to better serve a city with a population of more than 900,000 people.

GRD has supervised the renovation of even more maternity and children's hospitals like Diwaniyah maternity and children's hospital, Qudus hospital in Al Tamim governorate, Nasiriyah maternity and children's hospital, Al Anbar children's hospital,

Al Najaf children's hospital, Haj Jalal maternity and pediatric hospital in Wasit governorate, Al Hilla maternity and children's hospital in Babil, Baquba maternity and children's, Al Khansaa maternity and children's hospital in Mosul.

The latest renovation is Al Waiya hospital. This hospital is being upgraded to meet current international and Iraqi health codes and standards.

The work is phased to complete the 6,000 square meter, 144 bed facility while maintaining full hospital services throughout the duration of the project.

The contractor is coordinating work schedules and interruptions to minimize interference of hospital activities. The \$2.86 million facility renovation work includes the HVAC system, mechanical system (boilers), electrical, structural, reverse osmosis water purification system, new medical waste incinerator, medical gases center, nurse call system, data communication network, TV system, and fire alarm with fire extinguishing system.

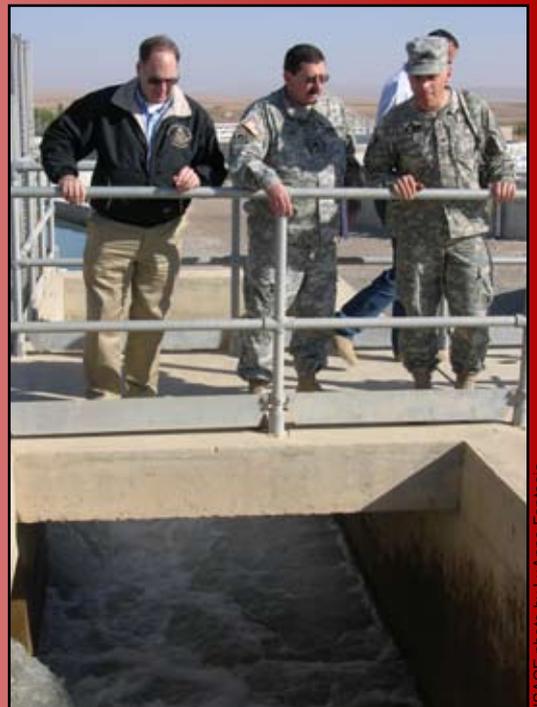
Once the renovation is completed, the facility will provide full medical care for children from a population base of more than 1 million people. The hospital staff includes 41 doctors and 40 nurses. The facility will also be used by the three medical schools in Baghdad for medical internships.

Understanding healthy children are a great asset for Iraq, GRD spares no pains to help Iraqi mothers keep their infants and children healthy and safe by providing better healthcare facilities everywhere in Iraq.

Distinguished visitor takes firsthand look at Division



While visiting Gulf Region Division, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley met with Iraqi and U.S. officials. Pictured after a working lunch are GRD Deputy Commanding Officer Col. Dale Adams, the Assistant Secretary, Director of Programs Lloyd Caldwell, Water Sector Lead Navy Capt. Tom Brovarone, Engineer Ramadan Bedran, Iraq Transition Assistance Office's Dr. Linda Allen, Senior Adviser and Government Liaison Sundus Omar Ali, Deputy Minister for Technical Affairs, Municipalities and Public Works Ayad Al-Safi, and Assistant for Interagency and International Affairs Bruce Smith.



Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley visited Erbil-Ifraz Water Treatment Plant with Erbil Resident Engineer Gary York and Col. Michael Pfenning, commander of the Gulf Region North district.

Amarah surgical hospital contract awarded

by Mohammed Aliwi
Gulf Region South

TALLIL, Iraq – A contract was awarded recently to build a new surgical hospital in Amarah, the capital of Maysan province, at a cost of \$12.7 million.

Col. Steve Hill, commander of the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said work could start as early as February if everything goes smoothly. And, again assuming that everything goes smoothly, the project could be finished by Summer 2009, Hill said.

Robin Parks, a USACE project manager, said the project is divided into two phases, with Phase 1 featuring the construction of the main hospital building and Phase 2 including the emergency department. Other elements of the initial phase are a support building, a physician residence, a sewage treatment plant and a guard house, she said.

Parks said the main hospital building will house a surgery department, an

obstetrics/gynecology department, a clinic and X-ray department, and ancillary support services.

An Iraqi engineer with GRS said the surgical department will have 10 surgical beds and that the OB/GYN department will have 18 beds and four incubators. Support services will include a pharmacy, laboratory, registration and medical records administration, food services and environmental services, the engineer said.

The support building will include a morgue, a laundry, materials management, engineering, external wall and a medical gas storage. The physician residence building will house eight physicians. The Phase 1 building is located on the site in such a manner that Phase 2 work can be added without major interruption to Phase 1 hospital services.

The Maysan hospital project has been the subject of several meetings over the last two months, including a meeting in October to discuss the quality control plan for the hospital and to explain to the Maysan

engineers the processes and regulations followed by USACE and U.S. government contracts.

Participating in that meeting were people from GRS, the Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), three engineers from the Maysan Ministry of Health (MOH) and one engineer from the Maysan Governor's Office. More recently, officials from Maysan, including representatives of the provincial council, police and governors office, traveled to GRS headquarters at Tallil to discuss issues related to the hospital and other projects with GRS and PRT leaders.

According to Parks, Phase 2 includes the emergency department, 50 additional medical patient beds, support services, and an additional eight-bed physician residence. The contract is for the structure only. The Maysan government has provided a "Letter of Sustainment" agreeing to provide for such things as the furniture, medical equipment, office equipment, medicines, staff and maintenance.

Maysan province officials cooperate on hospital, projects

by John Connor
Gulf Region South

TALLIL, Iraq – A delegation of officials from Maysan province traveled recently to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters for southern Iraq to discuss the value of potential reconstruction projects and the need for coordination between Maysan officials and USACE personnel and the Provincial Reconstruction Team for Maysan.

Darrell Jenks, leader of the Maysan PRT, said he has dreamed of being able to visit Maysan. "Come to Maysan, you will find Maysan safe," a provincial official assured Jenks and the other Americans present.

Jenks, a career diplomat with 28 years experience, said the PRT is working very hard to help the people of Maysan. He voiced hope that the meeting would allow key players from the U.S. and Maysan to get to know each other and facilitate the construction by the USACE of a surgical hospital in Maysan's capital of Amarah.

The Maysan delegation, whose members included representatives of the governor, the police, army, and provincial council, spoke of safety, security and stability in their province. They acknowledged some tribal feuding and limited criminal activity, but strenuously rejected the notion of significant major threats there.

They said Maysan is rich with oil resources, but suffers from poverty. They indicated repeatedly that they are anxious to cooperate with Americans who want to build projects for Maysan. "We give assurance for the safety of anyone who visits," one official said. "We will cooperate."

Located in southern Iraq and bordering on Iran, Maysan long has been known as inhospitable-to-hostile for outsiders seeking to exert control there. It was a source of irritation and rebellion during the reign of Saddam Hussein. Following the 2003 invasion, the British were responsible for Maysan. But their presence there receded and the province for some time has been known as a place resistant to Coalition forces and elements such as the USACE reconstruction staff and PRT personnel.

Col. Steve Hill, commander of the USACE Gulf Region South district, told the Maysanis he was honored and privileged to be able to meet them. He thanked them for visiting Tallil and complimented them on their efforts "to bring us together." However, he said their version of the situation in Maysan regarding security and project access was "somewhat different from what I've been told by others." He said part of his job is to decide how to use very limited resources in the nine southern provinces of Iraq.

"When you come to Maysan, you'll find peace," a Maysan official promised.

Col. Hill said he had to decide several months ago whether to proceed with the hospital project in Maysan. He said there was some pressure not to do the hospital project because of concerns about security and access to the project. But he said that "Dr. Jenks told me we must do the hospital and we have committed to do the hospital." The Maysanis also made it clear the hospital was pivotal in their thinking. They reported a meeting with various tribal and religious and political elements where it was agreed that Maysan would cooperate with the GRS and PRT on the hospital and other projects.

Al Waiya Children's Hospital renovations nearly complete

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

BAGHDAD, Iraq – After three years of cramped conditions, Al Waiya Children's Hospital patients will soon see a marked improvement.

To keep that important facility open, medical staff and patients crowded into half the structure so construction crews could completely renovate the other half. As work progressed, they switched places. The \$2.86 million project now nearing

completion involves modernizing the 6,000-sq.-meter, 144-bed facility including 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 toilets, showers and sinks, new exhaust system to remove unhealthy air and odors, a new generator for emergency power, new lighting, and structural repair.

“The original building was over six

decades old and the Iraqi contractor stripped the walls down to the bare bricks and then started the renovation work including new electrical and plastering,” said Mohammad Jabbar, the Iraqi project engineer overseeing the work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “This hospital takes care of the poorest people in Baghdad. The medical staff was working in miserable conditions. Al Waiya Children's Hospital is now providing health care at

see **Hospital**, page 7

قرب الانتهاء من اعادة تاهيل مستشفى العلوية للاطفال

صعبة اما الان فتقدم مستشفى العلوية جميع الخدمات الصحية وبمواصفات مشابهة للخدمات التي تقدمها المستشفيات الاهلية في بغداد.

هذا وقال الدكتور طالب حسان معاون مدير الادارة ان هذه المستشفى قديمة جدا وتحتاج الى معدات طبية ومستلزمات جديدة. وازداد قائلًا بأنه مازال لدينا البعض من الاصلاحات والعمل الا اننا نطمح الى الانتهاء المبني باكماله واستخدامه باحسن وجه. ويستقبل المستشفى يوميا 350 مريضا ، تتراوح اعمارهم ما بين حديثي الولادة وسن الرابعة عشر وجميعهم يتلقون العلاج كمرضى خارجيين الا ان البعض الاخر يحتاج الى رعاية صحية اكثر.

ويتألف الفريق الطبي الحالي من واحد واربعين طبيبا واربعين ممرضة وقد اشاد احد مهندسي فيلق المهندسين الاميركي في كلامه بأداء الكادر الطبي وللعناية الرائعة التي يقدمونها للمرضى. وقال ان هذا الفريق رائع بحق وانهم ابطلوا لانهم ندورا حياتهم خدمة مرضاهم.

وقد وقام الفريق الاميركي اثناء زيارته للمستشفى بتقديم الهدايا للاطفال حيث قام السكرتير التنفيذي للكولنيل فيستا السيد هانتر لوكين بجلب صناديق التبرع للاطفال العراقيين التي يتبرع بها العديد من افراد الشعب الاميركي وتختلف هذه التبرعات في انواعها فهناك الملابس واللعب والوازم المدرسية والمقرطاسية والبطانيات. وقد عبر عن سعادته لحظة تقديم الهدايا للاطفال.

سيشهد مستشفى العلوية للاطفال قريبا ، وبعد ثلاث سنوات من الترددي وسوء تقديم الرعاية الصحية للاطفال تحسنا ملحوظا . ومن اجل التواصل في تقديم الخدمات والرعاية الصحية فقد تم ابقاء هذا المرفق مفتوحا ومستمرا في عمله حتى خلال مراحل عملية اعادة اعمارها ، وتم هذا من خلال تهيئة الجزء الاخر من المبنى وتوفير الكادر الطبي الذي استمر بمزاولة عمله في استقبال المرضى من الاطفال ومعالجتهم. وقد قارب المشروع الذي تبلغ كلفته 2.86 مليون دولار على الانتهاء وقد تضمن الاعمال الاتية : تحديث 6,000 متر مربع وازدادة 144 سريرا هذا بالازدادة الى انظمة تنقية المياه والانظمة الميكانيكية الجديدة والمتمثلة باجهزة التبريد والتدفئة وكذلك تجهيز محرقة خاصة لحرق النفايات الطبية اضافة الى توفير المستلزمات الطبية الضرورية واهمها مادة الاوكسجين الطبي وانظمة الاتصال الداخلي في المستشفى واجهزة نداء الممرضات وبيانات شبكة الاتصالات.

وتم ايضا نصب انظمة جديدة للتهوية للتخلص من الهواء الغير نقي والروائح الكريهة ، ولتلافي الارباكات التي قد تحصل نتيجة الانقطاع المفاجئ فقد تم نصب مولد للحالات الطارئة اضافة للعديد من الاصلاحات الانشائية ونصب الانارة الجديدة. وقد قال المهندس العراقي الذي يعمل لدى فرقة منطقة الخليج والمشرف على العمل ان هذه المستشفى تتمتع باهمية كبيرة لما تقدمه من خدمات صحية للاطفال وللطبقات المتعففة وان الكادر الطبي للمستشفى كان يعمل في ظروف

Hospital renovation helps Baghdadis

continued from page 6

the same high standard as private hospitals in Baghdad,” he continued.

“It touches your heart every time you walk through the door and it’s great to see these youngsters benefitting from this effort. It comes down to the basics of humanity and helping save people’s lives. The doctors and nurses here are now using equipment that was simply not available to them three years ago,” he added.

Dr. Talib Hassan, the hospital’s deputy administrator, said he is pleased with the work. “Our hospital was old and needed new equipment. We still have a few more repairs to do but we look forward to finishing and putting the entire facility to good use.”

The hospital sees 350 patients daily ranging from newborns to age 14. Most are cared for as outpatients, but about 40 of those must be admitted for further treatment. Most common ailments are gastro-intestinal illnesses due to unclean water and flu/respiratory problems that increase during the winter months. Currently, the medical staff consists of 41 doctors and 40 nurses.

Col. Robert Vasta with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers complimented Dr. Hassan and his staff for the awesome care they provide Baghdad’s youngsters. “The doctors and nurses here are real heroes. They make the difference. They put their lives at risk to take care of Iraq’s most vulnerable citizens.”

During a trip to Al Waiya Children’s Hospital Nov. 7, Col. Vasta’s executive secretary, Hunter Logan, brought several boxes of donated items. “Fortunately, we have a number of people back in the United States who send us donations on a regular basis – toddler clothing, toys, school supplies, blankets. It was a very special moment handing out those items...touching the lives of the youngsters. Our renovation work is helping the medical staff treat those children. It was great to see how it’s all coming together.”

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently overseeing the renovation of five major hospitals in Baghdad.

Above: A mother receives medical care for her infant.

Right: Col. Robert Vasta discusses final renovation work needed with Al Waiya Children’s Hospital Deputy Administrator Dr. Talib Hassan.



USACE photos by Norris Jones



Al-Mishraq Primary Healthcare Center, one of the three PHCs that were recently turned over to Iraqi Ministry of Health, will offer more than a standard health clinic and should help reduce the overall infant mortality rate in southern Iraq.

USACE photos by A. Al Bharani



Undeveloped Basrah province areas opening Primary Healthcare Centers

by A. Al Bharani
Gulf Region South

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed and turned over three newly constructed Primary Healthcare Centers to the Basrah Health Directorate. The PHC projects managed by the USACE Gulf Region South district aim to provide essential medical care to people in undeveloped areas in Basrah province and represent another step toward the transition to the future of Iraq's health care system.

Two of the PHCs are of the Type A design for Primary Healthcare Centers and the third is a Type B. "The A-level clinics have the ability to treat routine medical problems that all communities face," said Chief of Engineering and Construction Thomas Eidson of the Adder Area Office. "The B-level clinics exceed the A-level clinic's abilities and provide an even greater level of care by having more sophisticated equipment and the ability to treat diseases that are less common."

He said USACE awarded the contracts to Iraqi local companies in July 2006 and the construction of the three projects was completed in September 2007.

"The projects have been designed to make healthcare service more accessible to the people of Iraq and provide essential care to people in undeveloped urban and rural areas," he said. "The three, two-story structures are equipped with modern medical and office equipment, furnishings and consumables. The facilities provide for medical/dental examination and treatment with space dedicated for X-ray, vaccinations, laboratory, pharmacy and public education," Eidson said.

Andrew Schmieder, Basrah Area Office resident engineer, said "[USACE] provided a modern and effective fire-alarm system, photo light system, telecommunications room, intercom system and water treatment system for all three PHCs."

The cost for each healthcare center is more than \$600,000, he said. Each PHC is estimated to serve between 10,000 to 12,000

patients each year.

Schmieder said the contractor has been conducting operations and maintenance training for the facilities and the equipment installed in the scope of the projects. "Training on the systems was arranged by the contractor and included appropriate technicians from the city of Basrah," he said.

Schmieder said that despite the challenges of building the facilities, USACE is helping provide people with something "... very good; they [otherwise] don't get this level of comprehensive medical care..." He said the availability of nearby medical attention should have an overall impact on reducing infant mortality.

He explained that while there are four additional clinics under construction in the region, there are far more people in outlying areas that will still need to travel fairly long distances to reach medical care. However, with the addition of these clinics, it should greatly reduce those distances and make medical care more readily available to the general population.

According to engineer Al, an Iraqi deputy resident engineer at Basrah Area Office, while these are not the first projects of this magnitude in Basrah, the newly constructed PHCs will offer more than a standard health clinic and should reduce the overall infant mortality rate in the southern area of Iraq. "The people of Basrah province will have found it much easier to access quality health care at local PHCs and they will be able to see their living conditions improve over the present," he said. "The construction of these three completed projects plays an important initial step for community healthcare. They will save Iraqi lives, provide healthcare services at the neighborhood level and employ more for the healthcare profession."

Iraq-wide the USACE effort to construct 142 PHCs is 95 percent complete with 69 turned over to the Ministry of Health and 33 open to the public. An additional 15 are complete and scheduled for turn over. There are 48 still under construction, three are in work stoppage for security reasons, two are re-programmed, four are deprogrammed, and one was bombed.

أهالي محافظة البصرة يتسلمون ثلاثة مراكز متطورة للرعاية الصحية الأولية

أ- البحراني

فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الجنوبية

البصرة، العراق - أكمل فيلق المهندسين الأمريكي، فرقة منطقة الخليج - المنطقة الجنوبية انشاء ثلاثة مراكز صحية متطورة تم تسليمها الى دائرة صحة البصرة . أن مشاريع الرعاية الصحية الأولية التي يديرها فيلق المهندسين الأمريكي تهدف الى توفير الرعاية الطبية الضرورية الى المواطنين في المناطق الأكثر شعبية في محافظة البصرة وفي نفس الوقت تمثل خطوة اخرى في اتجاه الانتقال الى مستقبل أفضل للعراق في نظام الرعاية الصحية.

وقال توم ادسون، وهو رئيس المهندسين في الفيلق ان اثنين من مراكز الرعاية الصحية الأولية تم تصميمها طبقاً للنوع (أ) اما المركز الصحي الثالث فقد تم تصميمه طبقاً للنوع (ب) . النوع (أ) يقوم بتقديم الخدمات الطبية المعتادة ، اما النوع (ب) فيقوم بتقديم خدمات طبية تتجاوز الخدمات التي يقدمها النوع (أ) حيث انه مجهز بمعدات أكثر تطوراً والقدرة على علاج الأمراض التي هي أقل شيوعاً."

كما وقال ادسون قد تم منح العقود الى شركات عراقية محلية في تموز / يوليو عام 2006 وقد تم الانتهاء من تنفيذ المشاريع الثلاثة في ايلول / سبتمبر عام 2007 .

وأضاف ادسون تم تصميم هذه المشاريع لتقديم خدمات الرعاية الصحية الأولية للشعب العراقي في مختلف المناطق الحضرية والريفية و أن المراكز الصحية الثلاثة التي تتكون من طابقين تم تجهيزها بمعدات طبية حديثة أضافة الى التجهيزات المكتبة والاثاث والمواد الاستهلاكية . وتجري هذه المراكز الفحص الطبي و فحص وعلاج الاسنان و الفحص بالأشعة السينية وتقوم باعطاء اللقاحات ويحتوي كل مركز على مختبر وصيدلية ويقوم بعمل التوعية الصحية.

أما المهندس المقيم اندرو شميدر فقد قال من جهته ان فيلق المهندسين الأمريكي قام بتجهيز هذه المراكز بنظام متطور وفعال للانداز ضد الحرائق و نظام انارة متطور وغرفة اتصالات ونظام اتصال داخلي ونظام لمعالجة المياه.

و ان كلفة كل مركز قد تجاوزت \$600,000 دولار امريكي علماً ان كل مركز يتوقع ان يقدم الخدمات الى ما بين 10,000 و 12,000 ألف مريض سنويا .

واضاف شميدر أن الشركة المنفذة قامت بعمليات التدريب على التشغيل والصيانة لجميع المراكز والمعدات التي تم نصبها حسب مخططات المشاريع ، كذلك تم تنظيم عمليات التدريب على النظام من قبل الشركة المنفذة وشملت عمليات التدريب تقنيين من مدينة البصرة.

وعلى الرغم من التحديات فإن فيلق المهندسين الأمريكي يساعد على توفير اشياء جيدة جداً للمواطنين الذين لم يكن باستطاعتهم الحصول على خدمات طبية شاملة. ان توفر العناية الطبية القريبة ينبغي ان يكون لها الاثر الكبير في خفض معدل الوفيات للاطفال الرضع.

وأوضح شميدر قائلًا على الرغم من ان هناك اربعة مراكز قيد الانشاء في المنطقة ، فإن هناك الكثير من المواطنين في المناطق البعيدة لازالوا يحتاجون الى السفر لمسافات طويلة للحصول على الخدمات الطبية . وعلى اية حال ان هذه العيادات ينبغي ان يكون لها الاثر الكبير في تقليص هذه المسافات وجعل الخدمات الطبية متاحة لجميع المواطنين.

أما المهندس العراقي المقيم فقال من جهته قال " على الرغم من ان هذه المشاريع هي ليست الاولى من حيث الأهمية في محافظة البصرة ، فإن مراكز العناية الطبية الجديدة سوف تقدم خدمات طبية على مستوى عالي من العناية وينبغي ان تخفض من معدلات الوفيات للاطفال الرضع في المناطق الجنوبية من العراق".

" أن المواطنين في محافظة البصرة سيتمتعون بخدمات صحية قريبة ضمن هذه المراكز وسيلاحظون مدى التحسن في مستوى معيشتهم خلال الوقت الحاضر " ، وأضاف " أن اتمام عملية الانشاء لهذه المراكز الثلاثة يلعب دوراً أساسياً للمجتمع من الناحية الصحية ، ان سيساعد على انقاذ حياة المواطنين العراقيين و تقديم خدمات صحية ضمن الاحياء السكنية وتوفير فرص عمل لذوي المهن الصحية".

يقوم فيلق المهندسين الأمريكي في انحاء مختلفة من العراق ببناء 142 مركز صحي وان 95% من عمليات الانشاء قد تمت مع العلم ان 69 مركزاً تم تسليمها الى وزارة الصحة العراقية وان 33 منها تم افتتاحها للمواطنين . بالإضافة الى 15 مركزاً قد تم انجازها وهي قيد التسليم ، و هناك 48 مركزاً قيد الانشاء ؛ 3 منها توقف العمل بها لاسباب أمنية ، وتم اعادة برمجة اثنين اخرى وتدمير مركز اخر.

أن فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الجنوبية مسؤولة عن تنظيم منحة مشاريع اعادة اعمار العراق لمساندة عمليات اعادة الاعمار في المحافظات الجنوبية وهي كربلاء وبابل وواسط وميسان و النجف و القادسية وذي قار والمثنى والبصرة والتي تغطي مساحة أكثر من 65,000 ميل مربع .





USACE photos

Pipeline attacks like that seen in the undated photo above cost the Iraqi government a substantial loss of revenue. When completed next spring, the 80-kilometer Pipeline Exclusion Zone project—combined with improved security—will save the Government of Iraq an estimated \$30 million a day in lost revenue.

انخفاض هدر المنتجات النفطية نتيجة لمشروع حماية الانابيب النفطية

فرقة منطقة الخليج- المنطقة الشمالية

التي تتولى حماية البنى التحتية.

هذا وقال جيمينز " ان هنالك سببان للهجوم على خطوط انابيب النفط : الاول هو السرقة والبيع في السوق السوداء والذي باعتقادي هو احد انواع تمويل المتمردين . والسبب الثاني هو خلق المشاكل للحكومة العراقية . "

ان خط الانابيب يقوم بربط الانابيب القديمة بالجديدة ، وتجلب بعض هذه الانابيب النفط الخام من كركوك الى بيجي ، وتنقل منتجات الديزل والكازولين من مراكز تكرير النفط الى باقي المحافظات.

وقد تم انجاز اربعة مشاريع من مجموع ستة ، حيث كانت نسبة الانجاز لاثنين من هذه المشاريع 50% اما المشروعين الاخرين فنسبة انجازهما كانت 20% .

واضاف جيمينز ان الحد من هدر النفط جاء ايضا نتيجة لتحسن الوضع الامنى في العراق بشكل عام وكذلك نتيجة لجهود قوات الامن العراقية التي تحسن ادائها في حماية خطوط الانابيب النفطية . ان عملية الحماية هي مهمة مشتركة بين هذه القوات وجنود الكتيبة 3/6 من القوات الامريكية.

تكريت ، العراق -قال اللواء انطونيو جيمينز مدير مشروع حماية الانابيب النفطية " لقد تمكنت شركة نفط الشمال خلال هذه الفترة من تصدير النفط الى تركيا بنسبة ومستوى ثابتين "

وسيساعد مشروع حماية الانابيب حال الانتهاء منه في الربيع القادم الحكومة العراقية على توفير اكثر من 30 مليون دولار يوميا . "

ان الغرض من هذا المشروع هو توفير الحماية للمناطق التي تمر فيها الانابيب النفطية وذلك للحد من تخريبها وكذلك الحد من هدر النفط الخام المار في الانابيب النفطية وضمان ايصاله من كركوك الى مصفى بيجي.

وبالرغم من ان هذا المشروع مازال قيد الانجاز الا انه قد تم الحد من هدر النفط الخام المار في الانابيب النفطية. وقد اوضح جيمينز بان البرنامج الذي تبلغ كلفته 2.8 مليون دولار يتضمن ستة مشاريع منفصلة تمثلت في وضع السواتر وحفر الخنادق ووضع الاسوار على كلا الجانبين وذلك للمساعدة في ردع الهجمات على خطوط الانابيب . وتتولى وزارة الدفاع ايضا تنفيذ مشروعا اخر مقارب لهذا يتمثل في مهمة بناء ثكنات للقوات

Oil interdictions down since Pipeline Exclusion Zone construction began

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North

Although construction on the 80-kilometer pipeline exclusion zone project, or PEZ, only began in mid-July, the project is already reinforcing efforts to deter costly interdictions.

“Since early August, the Northern Oil Company has been able to export oil through Turkey on a more consistent basis,” said Maj. Antonio Jimenez, project manager for this reconstruction project that will potentially save the Iraqi government more than \$30 million a day when completed next spring.

Jimenez, an Army Reserve officer from Colorado, is assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Gulf Region North district, which has project and construction management oversight for the USACE Gulf Region Division’s Reconstruction Program in northern Iraq.

The purpose of the pipeline exclusion zone is to reduce oil pipeline interdictions, improving reliability of crude oil delivery from Kirkuk to the Bayji Oil Refinery. Although the PEZ construction is still ongoing, the interdictions of the oil pipeline have already been reduced.

Jimenez explained that the \$28 million project includes six separate contracts (each for a different segment), developing berms, ditches and fences on both sides of the existing group of pipes, to help deter attacks on the pipelines.

A closely-related project, the construction of barracks for the infrastructure security forces along the PEZ by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense is also ongoing.

Jimenez said there are two reasons the pipelines are attacked: “Theft, for the black market (which some think funds the insurgents), and to simply cause problems for the Government of Iraq.”

The pipeline is a combination of old, new and refurbished pipes (sometimes as many as 16 running parallel) critical to Iraq’s economic rebirth. Some of the pipes bring crude oil from Kirkuk to Bayji. Others transport gas; product lines that take diesel and gasoline products from the oil refinery in Bayji back to the provinces; and export lines, he said.

Four of the six project segments are 50 percent completed and two are at 20 percent. But, Jimenez said the decrease in interdiction is also due to an improved overall security situation, as well as the year-long effort to upgrade the Iraqi security forces guarding the pipeline by the 3/7th Field Artillery Battalion—recently replaced by the 3/6th FA Battalion.

“The security forces along the pipeline are getting better,” he said, “but it’s a coordinated effort.” The 3/6th FA Battalion Soldiers are out there every day with the Iraqi military units guarding the pipeline; mentoring and training them to guard infrastructure of national importance, Jimenez added.

“This is one project where we didn’t have to wait until it’s 100 percent completed for it to start benefitting the Iraqi people,” Jimenez said. He added that gasoline deliveries to the provinces are up—progress due directly to the integrated efforts of the recently redeployed 25th Infantry Division in MND-North, with continued and ongoing efforts by the 1st Armored Division.

‘This is one project where we didn’t have to wait until it’s 100 percent complete for it to start benefitting the Iraqi people.’

Maj. Antonio Jimenez



The \$28 million pipeline exclusion zone project, or PEZ, develops berms, ditches and fences on both sides of the existing group of pipes to help deter attacks on the pipelines from Kirkuk to Bayji.

Pump replacement improves Maysan sewage management, living conditions

by A. Al Bharani
Gulf Region South

To improve essential services and decrease the incidence of disease, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is modernizing 25 pump stations and upgrading 41 submersible sewage pumps in the southeastern Iraq province of Maysan.

The project seeks to improve the sewage management systems in Maysan. Proper management of sewage helps avoid public health problems, such as cholera outbreaks.

Stephen Herda, Maysan resident engineer, Basrah Area Office, said the rehabilitation project is one of the first Economic Support Fund projects awarded in Maysan. These projects are directed toward developing economic benefits in the province and are reviewed and submitted by Maysan's Provincial Council.

The projects were developed by provincial officials who see directly what the people need, Herda said, and the Corps of Engineers can play a partnership role with the Provincial Council and the U.S. Department of State, which administers the ESF program. Herda said the \$629,000 replaces submersible sewage pumps and the electrical control stations for those pumps. These pumps are located in communities throughout Maysan province.

"While, this is not the first project of this kind in Maysan, the installation of new pumps and controls will allow for more efficient handling and management of sewage, and should reduce the likelihood of contamination of water sources from sewage discharges," Herda said.

The project was awarded on April 26,



Damaged pumps after removal.



USACE photos

New submersible sewage pumps delivered for installation.

2007, said Herda, whose activities are part of the operations of USACE's Gulf Region South district, which covers the nine southern provinces of Iraq. "This is a project that was requested by the Maysan Provincial Council on behalf of the people of Maysan," the major said.

He said USACE is eager to provide projects such as this that reflect the needs of the people as recognized and pursued by local leaders, and added that the project also provides an opportunity to train local authorities to properly operate and maintain the system.

"It creates a system that is sustainable because it will have long lasting impact on the people by creating a better place to live," he said. "The people will be able to see their living conditions improve."

Herda said the Corps of Engineers attempts to achieve nine things with each project: Ownership, capacity building, sustainability, selectivity, assessment, results, partnership, flexibility and accountability.

Many of the 25 pumping stations that will receive upgraded submersible pumps are located in Al Amarah city, but there are others in Qalat Saleh, Sayyid Hashim, Majjar al Kabir, Maymona and other locations, according to the Basrah Area Office Iraqi resident engineer.

"The contractor will also provide operator training to [Director General] personnel and provide 200 sets of protective clothing for operators," he added.

According to Natalie Sudman, project manager for the Water Sector with GRS, these sewage projects are important

because they help the average person in Iraq in a very immediate way. "I hope that the Iraqi people will have a little bit better quality of life from our building of these projects," she said, relating her experience elsewhere in Iraq of being thanked by villagers for public works projects.

Herda said the upgrade of a sewage system will bring many benefits to the people of Maysan. By increasing the efficiency of sewage management, he said, Maysanis will be less exposed to odors, vectors (such as flies and other insects) and diseases.

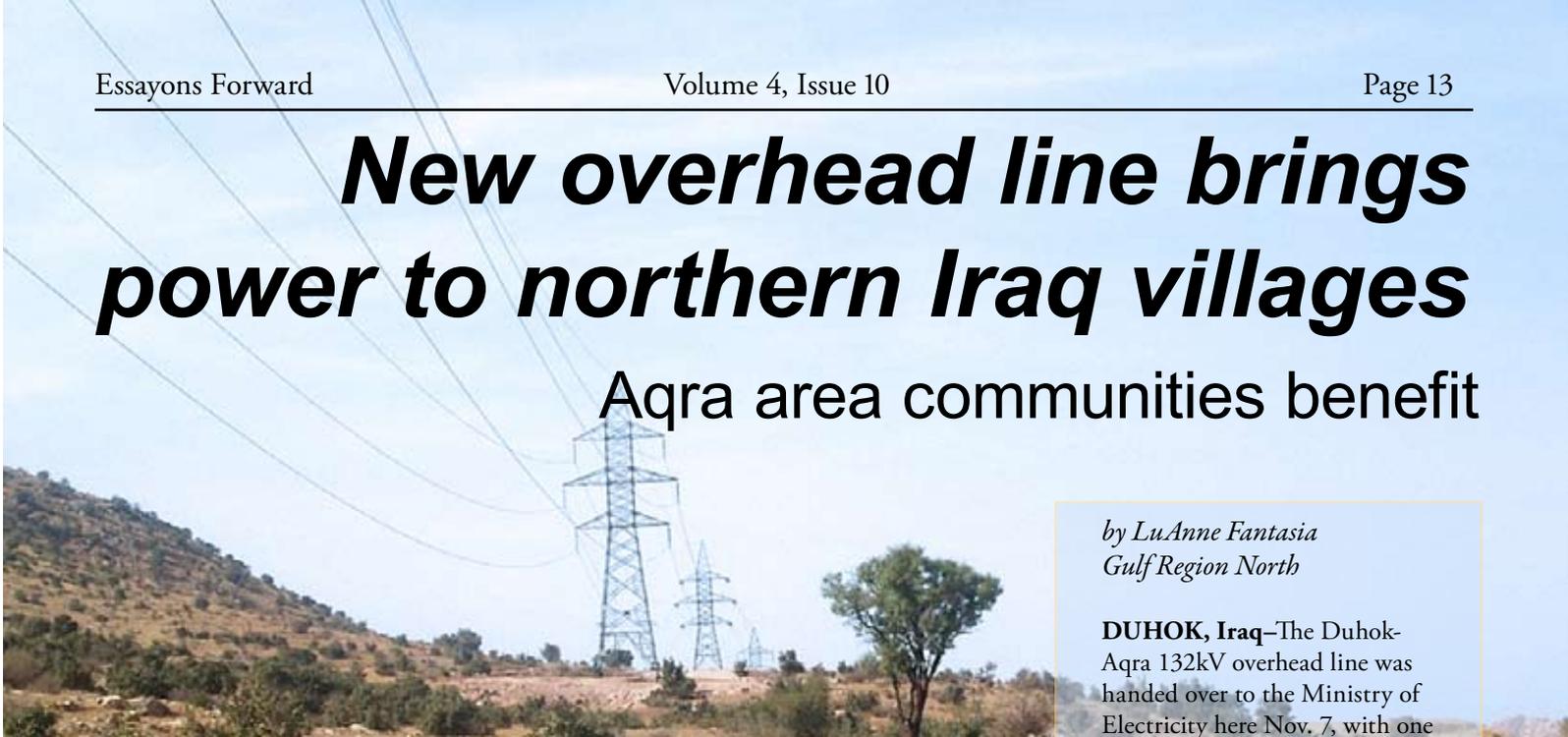
He said this should decrease the chances of people contracting diseases such as cholera from drinking contaminated water. It should also reduce the number of flies in areas where standing sewage occurs because proper pumping of sewage will no longer allow sewage to stand and form pools, he said.

Herda said the 41 pumps range in sizes from 300 cubic meters per hour to 1,000 cm/h. He said the pumps will be able to force liquid sewage away from populated areas, and reported that the pumps "were assessed and selected based upon input from the DG in Maysan."

Herda said a "very competent team" of two engineers will be working with the DG in Maysan to ensure that this project is a success. "By teaming with our local national Iraqi associates, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers not only provides the project to the people of Maysan, but we also build the relationship between our locally employed nationals, the people of Maysan and the governance of Maysan," he said.

New overhead line brings power to northern Iraq villages

Aqra area communities benefit



*by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North*

DUHOK, Iraq—The Duhok-Aqra 132kV overhead line was handed over to the Ministry of Electricity here Nov. 7, with one circuit fully energized to supply a mobile substation at Aqra.

In an area of northern Iraq with historically low electrical availability and capability, the new overhead line significantly and immediately benefits people in more than 100 Kurdish villages in and around the Aqra area.

“For many years, the people here have depended on diesel generator sets, receiving commercial power less than two hours per day,” said Gary York, resident engineer at the Duhok and the Erbil Resident Offices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division.

“And, the benefits will be further increased when the new substation in Aqra is complete and a second circuit is energized next March,” he added. “It’s been a 17-month project, but the people of Aqra are certainly enjoying a better life today than they were last month.”

York said an estimated 30,000 people now average 10 to 13 hours of electricity per day. Because the \$18 million project brings the power flow from Turkey directly through Duhok substation, it can now support the substation in Aqra.

According to sources at the Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, Turkey has a great deal of interest in maintaining this arrangement with Iraq for commercial and economic benefits. Iraq also receives power from Iran and occasionally, Syria.

Resource Management handles billions

*by Grant Sattler
Gulf Region Division*

The reconstruction of Iraq is a monumental program as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers executes 4,363 planned projects designed to kick start the long neglected Iraqi national infrastructure. Tracking the dollars required to make that happen is another huge task; one taken with fiduciary pains by the Gulf Region Division Resource Management team to ensure the U.S. taxpayer receives the best result for the money spent.

“We have almost \$33 billion at this time to close out, do contract close out and clean up the records on,” said B.J. Fagan, director, Resource Management. That figure includes a broad range of funds for a variety of customers, including \$13 billion for Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and the USACE Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund program cost of \$8.2 billion for construction and \$4 billion for non construction. Other funds include GWOT, MILCON, Commander’s Emergency Response Fund, Economic Support Fund and Iraq Security Forces Fund.

“We work with funds that are unique to the theater of Iraq, but we don’t work with some funds that our districts have back home such as Civil Works appropriations,” Fagan said. Some more familiar funds, such as the operations and maintenance based Commander’s Emergency Response Program are handled differently in contingency environments, she said.

“Resource Management work could be

boring, if you just dealt with papers coming in, papers going out, entering data, validating data, but because you’ve got to know about the programs here...a whole lot more than you would have to really know back home, I believe that makes it more interesting,” Fagan said.

The turnover in personnel in the Programs Directorate and the longevity of the Resource Management staff means they provide much needed continuity often-times for incoming project managers.

Fagan explained that GRD is an operating division. “Here we do hands-on work,” she said. “We develop the budgets for the whole division. We use the input of the districts [and] develop all the budgets here. We do all the certification here at division level. We just do a lot of things that we don’t push out that a district back home would normally do.” As a result, deployed individuals are often given greater responsibility than they have in their Stateside positions.

Fagan recognizes that such duty is not for everyone. “Being away from home, spouses, and children, it’s difficult...” she said. “I’ve been fortunate to have a team from all services, enlisted and officer, civilian volunteers from USACE and DOD agencies, and an Iraqi associate.”

Fagan returns to the States in January, but is not leaving the program. She will be helping Headquarters USACE define the Resource Management transition for the future of Gulf Region Division and how it will support operations in the theater in the years ahead.

Electricity projects bringing reliable power to southern Iraq

by John Connor
Gulf Region South

TALLIL, Iraq – Many power projects undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in southern Iraq are coming to fruition.

According to Allan Giese, a USACE electricity section representative, 22 power substations of the 33/11 kV variety were completed recently in southern Iraq served by the USACE Gulf Region South district. He put the total cost of these projects at \$55 million.

Examples of these facilities are the three substations completed in Thi Qar province—in Al Shatra, Al Aslah and Al Fajer. Each of these 33/11 kV substations cost \$2.4 million and includes a switchgear room, transformer room, and guardhouse in an enclosed compound with an entry gate.

“These substations are part of a master plan that the Ministry of Electricity and GRD [the USACE Gulf Region Division, headquartered in Baghdad] have created to upgrade the current electrical infrastructure here in Iraq,” said Mike Fellenz, a project engineer with GRS, which does reconstruction projects in Iraq’s nine southern provinces. “Overall, the plan is to provide increased capability and a modern electrical network that will increase the quality of life for the Iraqi people.”

In addition to the three Thi Qar facilities, there are six 33/11 kV substations in Maysan province, three in Karbala province,

Al-Garma substation turned over to Ministry of Electricity

by A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South

BASRAH, Iraq – The Al-Garma 132kV substation, one of the key components of the Iraqi electrical infrastructure system in Basrah province, has been turned over to Iraqi Ministry of Electricity.

“The \$8.8 million project is the first of the five 132kV substation projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South district, in Basrah province” said Andrew Schmieder, Basrah Area Office resident engineer. “This project seeks to improve the electrical management system in Basrah.

“Proper management of electricity helps avoid electrical outages and provides electricity with a more reliable and secure transmission network in the south area of the country,” he said. “This project will effectively ease and lower the electrical load rates on the existing substations.”

The project entailed assessing,

evaluating, rehabilitating, repairing and installing electrical systems in an existing 132kV substation that supplies electricity to a gas/oil separation facility and serves the Al-Garma district north of Basrah City, Schmieder said, adding that the project benefits more than 13,000 residents.

The Al-Garma substation was turned over to Iraqi authorities on Oct. 31.

According to Thomas Eidson, chief of Engineering and Construction of GRS, a reliable distribution of electricity is critical for Basrah province. He said the existing electric substations are aging and suffer from a lack of maintenance and spare parts, causing them to break down or not operate at full capacity. The new

eight in Qadisiyah province, one in Najaf province, and one in Muthanna province, according to Giese.

Constructing these facilities was harder than anticipated, with security issues and supply problems among the factors cited as causing delays. “It was more difficult and took longer, but in the end there is a revitalized electrical distribution system in southern Iraq,” said Giese.

Iraqi officials have agreed to accept all 22 of these substations, Giese said, and had accepted a dozen at last count.

Then there are larger 132 kV substations. According to Stephen Pitts, a GRS project manager for Electricity, 10 such substations have been energized in southern Iraq and are expected to be turned over to Iraqi authorities soon. The total cost of these facilities is \$80 million, he said.

Saying many power projects in the Iraqi south are “moving toward completion,” Pitts said an additional five 132 kV facilities costing a total of \$50 million are expected to be finished by Christmas. And three more 132 kV facilities, one new and two rehabilitation jobs, are expected to be finished during the summer of 2008 at a cost of \$34 million.

Also nearing completion, about 97 percent done at present, is a 400 kV substation in Amarah in Maysan province, costing about \$37 million, Pitts said. He also said three overhead 132 kV feeder lines costing a total of \$53 million have been under construction, with one completed recently and the other two to be completed in the first quarter of next year.



Al-Garma 132kV substation, the first of five 132kV substations turned over to Iraqi Ministry of Electricity.

substations will enhance the ability to supply power throughout the province and reduce electrical outages.

An Iraqi engineer working with the GRS’ Basrah Area Office said, “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.

Electrical substation opens in Najaf province



Courtesy photos

Above: Forat Electricity Director General Engineer Raheem talks with local press about the new substation following a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Left: Najaf province and electricity officials visit the substation during the opening.

by John Connor
Gulf Region South

Completion of an electrical substation in southern Iraq recently brought forth happy citizens and an array of Iraqi officials, including the deputy governor of Najaf province and the directors general of involved regional and local electrical directorates.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project is a rehabilitation and expansion of the Mutanabi 33/11 kV substation at a cost of \$2.47 million. It had been in the process of being turned over to Iraq authorities since October, said Fitsum Kebede, USACE project engineer for Najaf. The substation is located in the Al

Mutanabi/Kufa area of Najaf province.

As part of the process, the contractor had to complete testing, energizing and commissioning of the substation in the presence of Ministry of Electricity officials, according to Kebede, who said everything was completed and that substation operations were initiated last week.

Kebede, who is attached to the Forat Area Office of the USACE Gulf Region South district, said 30,000 people are receiving power from the substation. Completion of the project was marked locally by a ceremony and public remarks by Iraqi officials.

Allan Giese, a Corps of Engineers electricity sector representative, said the contract was started in September 2005

with Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund money. He said the project took longer to finish than expected, as has been the case with many electrical projects in Iraq, due to issues including job site security and Ministry of Electricity and Director General concerns.

But in the end, the contractor turned the substation over to the Ministry of Electricity, Giese said, marking "a successful completion of a facility that should last at least 40 years."

The substation is one of 22 power stations of the 33/11 kV variety to be completed recently in the southern nine provinces of Iraq served by GRS, according to Giese, who put the total cost for these projects at \$55 million.

اعادة تاهيل المراكز المهنية في عموم القطر

فرقة منطقة الخليج على اهمية هذا البرنامج وعلى الدعم الذي تقوم بتقديمه فرقة منطقة الخليج .

واعربا قائلين من اجل الحصول على نخبة جيدة من العاملين المحترفين يجب توفير العديد من المراكز المهنية والتقنية والتي ته عمل على تقديم التدريبات وكذلك تطوير القدرات والقابليات من حيث استخدام المكنان والمعدات الحديثة وهذا كله تم ايضا بالتنسيق مع وزارة العمل والشؤون العراقية . ويتمحور دور فرقة منطقة الخليج في دراسة التقييمات للمباني والمراكز المهنية ومن ثم تحديد البرنامج وادارة المشروع لاعادة التاهيل هذه المراكز المهنية والمدارس وقد تم حاليا الانتهاء من سبع تقييمات ومنح سبعة عقود لاعادة التاهيل حيث تشمل هذه المراكز دورات مختلفة في الدادة والنجارة والخيطة والسباكة والكهربائيات وكذلك الدورات المتخصصة في اللغة ودورات الكومبيوتر.

بقلم شهرزاد

بغداد - العراق, عقدت فرقة منطقة الخليج مؤخرا مؤتمرا صحفيا تناول موضوع المدارس والمعاهد الفنية ولما لهذا القطاع من شان مهم في رفع مستوى الشباب وتطوير قدراتهم وزيادة فرص العمل لهم وبالتالي يعتبر نوعا من القضاء على البطالة .

ويتألف قطاع النقل والمنشآت وهو احد اقسام فرقة منطقة الخليج التابع للجيش الاميركي من عدة اقسام وهو قسم النقل وقسم المباني الحكومية والمستشفيات والمدارس وقسم الامن والسجون. وجميع هذه الاقسام اعلاه انجزت ومازالت تنجز العديد من مشاريع الاعمار من مشاريع ومن ضمنها تطوير القدرات والقابليات والمهارات ويعتبر برنامج المعاهد الفنية والتقنية واحد من اهم البرنامج في جميع انحاء القطر . وقد اجمع كل من الكولونيل فوتي انتوني مسؤول قطاع النقل والمواصلات والسيد داوسن مدير مكتب تطوير القدرات في



BRIDGE CONNECTS FARM COMMUNITY

USACE photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Golden

A new bridge spans a canal near Qala in Dhi Qar province's Suker subdistrict in southern Iraq. The Al Dhiyabat Vehicular Bridge project was constructed at a cost of \$420,000, said Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang, officer in charge of the Adder Area Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Gulf Region South district. Construction began in May of this year. The bridge allows freedom of movement for community members. "They are a farming community and the bridge is for access to fields and crops on other side of the canal," Lang said.

Power plant expansion work under way

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Qudas electric generation facility in north Baghdad is getting two new gas turbines, which will add 200 megawatts of power to the national grid.

A crew of more than 150 Iraqis are involved with the \$160 million project and, in November, placed 1,000 cubic meters of concrete to create the two pedestals where those new turbines will be located. The contractor expects to have the new turbines online and providing electrical power to Iraq sometime next spring.

Col. Robert Vasta, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, says, "This is important for Baghdad and the entire country. We're working directly with the Ministry of Electricity at each step to ensure we're meeting their quality standards and expectations."

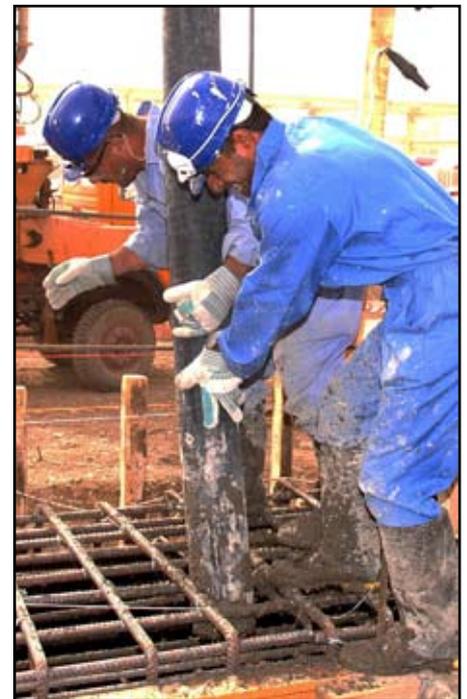
Currently there are four large turbines and four smaller ones at Qudas with a total generating capability of 492 MW. The \$160 million expansion project will increase that power output 40 percent. (One megawatt of electricity is enough to power more than 900 Iraqi homes, so

those additional 200 megawatts will impact an additional 180,000 households.)

"It's tremendously satisfying to be part of the efforts to rebuild Iraq," Vasta said. "Whether we're renovating a hospital, building a new school, installing water or sewer lines, or overseeing a project like Qudas, it's all part of restoring and improving basic essential services. Iraqis want some normalcy in their lives. It's great to be part of this work."

Iraqi Electrical Engineer Farooq Hasan is working shoulder-to-shoulder with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers quality assurance team each day monitoring the ongoing construction. "The Iraqi crew is there seven days a week and they know the importance of getting this additional electrical capacity up and running," Hasan said. "Their efforts will benefit all of Iraq."

Mohammad Hassan, a member of the construction crew at Qudas, travels to work each day from his home in a nearby community. He said, "We are all working hard to complete this project as soon as possible. With God willing, Iraq will eventually have electricity 24 hours a day and we will live in peace."



USACE photo by Norris Jones

Iraqi workers place hundreds of cubic meters of concrete at the Qudas gas turbine expansion project in north Baghdad. In all, 1,000 cubic meters of concrete create two pedestals that will serve as the foundation for two new 100 megawatt gas turbine generators.

BUILDING FOR BUSINESS

Business development opportunities will soon be expanded at the Baghdad International Airport complex as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing work to convert the two former domestic terminals into a modern convention center. In addition, an eight-story structure is being remodeled to offer 250 office spaces for lease.

*by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central*

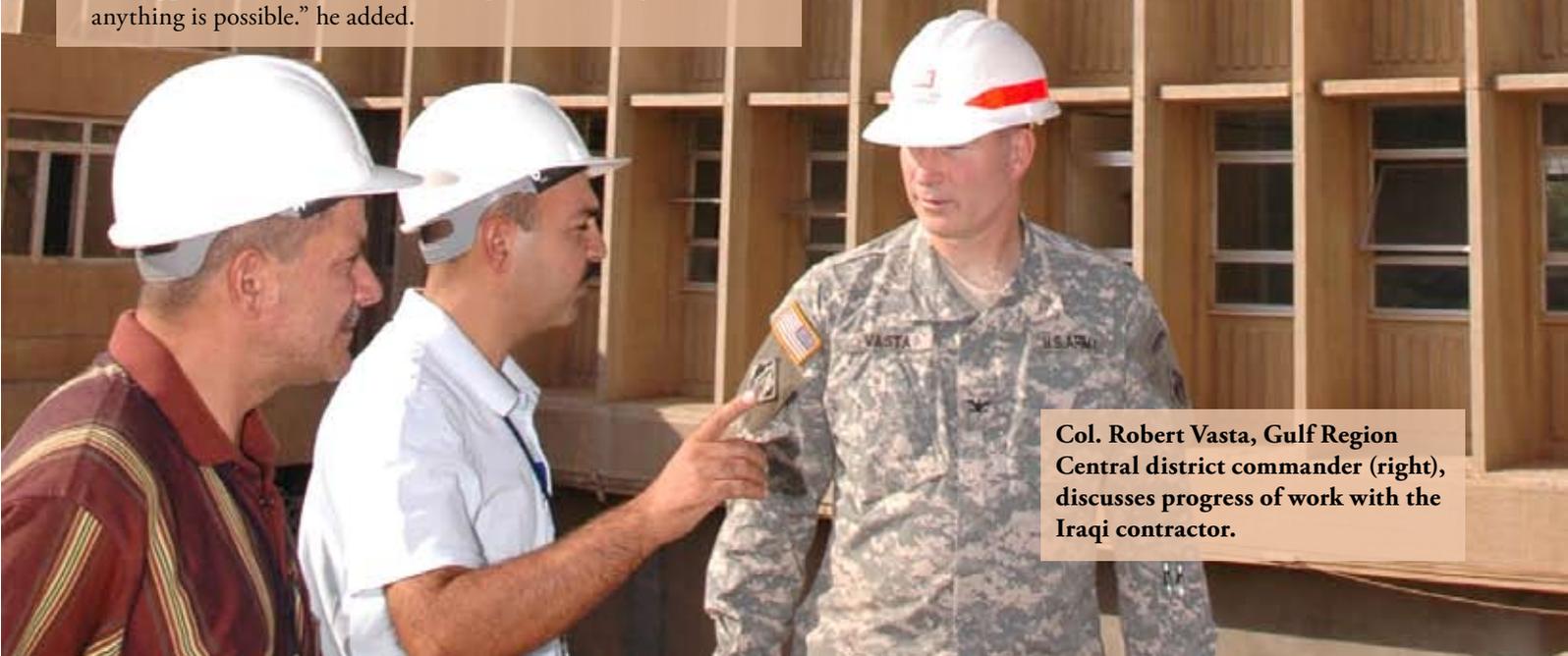
“That convention center will have the capacity to handle gatherings up to 25,000 people,” says USACE project engineer Matthew David. “It will include exhibition halls, offices, conference rooms, and a restaurant. We’re putting in new plumbing, plastering, electrical, lighting, and air conditioning. It is located at the transportation hub of Iraq, a perfect location for such a facility.” The two former terminals are both two-story structures, one measuring 53 by 138 meters, the other 31 by 150 meters. The \$6.3 million renovation project is about 20 percent finished with a projected completion date of next spring.

Next door to the convention center is an eight-story 3,076-sq.-meter office structure. “Businesses will be able to come in and rent space as needed, from one office to several floors of offices. Work there includes new restrooms, electrical, fire protection with sprinklers, lighting, new ceilings, plastering, new mechanical system including two 200-ton air conditioning chillers, office furniture, a lighted parking lot, and a cafeteria. “Our Iraqi contractor is definitely interested in the mission of rebuilding Iraq and is taking extra steps to ensure that the office building will meet the needs of its customers,” David said. Currently the \$4 million project is about 30 percent finished with a projected completion date of April 2008.

Majed Michel, manager of the Baghdad Business Center located between the new Convention Center and the office building, says he is very encouraged by what the new facilities offer Iraq.

“This will significantly enhance our economic development opportunities here. We’re already planning our first trade show in the new convention center next spring that will focus on the oil industry. We’re encouraging international companies to consider opening a satellite facility in the ‘executive suites’ office building here at the Baghdad International Airport. I’m very optimistic about Iraq’s future,” he continued.

“There are good people all over the world who I would like to encourage to visit Iraq and help us move forward. This is an historic opportunity. When you have cooperation among individuals, anything is possible.” he added.



Col. Robert Vasta, Gulf Region Central district commander (right), discusses progress of work with the Iraqi contractor.



Event connects government, vendors; opportunity for Iraqi businesswomen

by Shahrazad and S. Ahmed
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq and the Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan sponsor various Iraqi contractor meetings to help local businesses with networking with other contractors and to train Iraqi vendors how to search the U.S. Government Website for solicitations, how to fill out required applications and forms and to become familiar with the reply to tenders.

The Nov. 3 event held in Al-Rasheed hotel in the International Zone was the sixth contractor training and business opportunity day organized this year by the USACE Gulf Region Division's capacity and development office. The November event was funded by the Taha-Kubba Group and attracted 85 Iraqi vendors, including 20 businesses owned by women.

Through these forums, GRD seeks to facilitate networking and to serve as a liaison between U.S. companies and Iraqi vendors. Among those attending were representatives from the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, National Iraqi American Center, Stanley Baker Hill, Laguna Construction, Kellogg Brown and Root, Wazn Company, Armor Group, USAID, MSI, *Izdihar* (prosperity), *Inma* (development), Provincial Reconstruction Teams, Embedded PRTs, many Non-Governmental Organizations and Iraqi contractors.

Scott Johnson, the local Partner Coordinator for *Inma* organization said, "It's very important for business people to continue to get together like this." He said it is especially valuable as Iraq is slowly getting back on its feet and people are returning to their homes.

Azza Humadi, women's issues coordinator with Capacity Development at the Gulf Region Division, has been organizing similar forums for business leaders for several years. In addition to being inclusive of Iraqi business women, capacity development offers additional outreach and training efforts focused on the economic empowerment of Iraqi women. These events are highly

appreciated by the Iraqi business women, who say they feel that they become stronger because of the program. One Iraqi woman who owns a start-up company said, "It is a small company, but it will grow! When I first started my job as a contractor, I started with GRD and JCC-I/A. They helped me a lot to gain experience and achieve success. That was great start for me. The support was distinct for the Iraqi women."

The Iraqi business women's community continues to evolve to meet the need, according to Humadi. She says the Iraqi business woman has improved her ability to challenge the conditions and work confidently on construction projects aimed at building a new Iraq.

Another woman Iraqi contractor, Basima said, "The GRD and JCC-I/A made a great job for our country and for us as contractors within the last three years. I myself with my company achieved many contracts, exactly 39, until now. Only three of them I could not complete."

Basima said she established her company in 2004 but did not successfully bid any U.S. government contracts until mid-2005. She credits the training and networking program developed by GRD and JCC-I/A and efforts of women's issues coordinator Humadi with her success. She credits the contractor meetings for much of the growth of her business. "Before, I worked only by myself, where as now I have six people working with me as permanent and many others as temporary depending on the volume and the type of the contract we work."

Larry Stanley, procurement manager for KBR said the conference was rewarding. "We were able to meet with many Iraqi suppliers and fully anticipate doing much business with many of them," he said.

The Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division awarded \$20 million in 60 reconstruction contracts to Iraqi woman owned businesses for the month of October 2007. In September, women owned businesses received 154 contracts worth \$20.5 million, and in August, 160 contracts in excess of \$18.5 million.

Elementary solution

Baghdad school expansions, renovations relieve classroom crowding



USACE photo by Norris Jones

Elementary school pupils in a number of Baghdad schools will see less crowding as school renovations are completed.

by Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central

A number of schools in Baghdad are overcrowded and construction is under way to help alleviate that problem. Saad Al Gandour, an Iraqi project engineer, is overseeing work at five schools in west Baghdad for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). “They had up to 50 students in some classrooms and that’s just too many. The optimum number is no more than 30. So we’re adding five additional classrooms, expanding each of those 12-classroom facilities to 17.”

Apart from the new construction, those Iraqi construction crews are also renovating the existing facilities including electrical and plumbing improvements, and a fresh coat of paint.

Gandour earned a degree in civil engineering from Baghdad University and has been working for USACE for nearly two years. “This is very satisfying work. Families in those neighborhoods appreciate the investment. It also means jobs for local workers who are on those construction crews. And it’s those workers who have the most to gain because in many cases, it’s their children who will be attending those schools.”

In addition to the building improvements, those projects also include funding for new school supplies including desks, blackboards, cabinets, notebooks, pens and pencils. “I recently visited one of those schools and had a chance to talk to the students and teachers. They were very pleased with the improvements.”

‘...what’s at stake—Iraqi children need fundamental educational opportunities if they and this country are to succeed. It all starts in the classroom.’

Lt. Col. Glen Masset

Lt. Col. Glen Masset, commander of the 9th Engineer Battalion, keeps track of all essential service projects in his area of responsibility that covers most of northwest Baghdad. He notes that not only is USACE involved in construction projects improving local education, but USAID, World Bank, and Coalition Forces are also lending a hand with their own programs. “We all understand what’s at stake – Iraqi children need fundamental educational opportunities if they and this country are to succeed. It all starts in the classroom.”

Besides the improvements to existing facilities, Ministry of Education has approved plans to build several new million-dollar schools in Baghdad. Gandour points out that construction is under way on a new two-story, 12-classroom elementary school in the Al Bayaa beladiya. “It’s a new design that will include a computer lab, audiovisual studio, multi-purpose room for assemblies, workshop, cafeteria, library, science lab, playground, as well as administrative offices for the faculty.”

Gandour noted that education is very important to all Iraqis. “We want the best for our children and grandchildren. One definite sign of progress is how proficient our elementary students are becoming with their computer skills and accessing the internet—they have a definite interest in expanding their horizon and joining a global dialogue. I’m very pleased to be part of USACE’s efforts in rebuilding Iraq. In Baghdad alone, over 100 schools have been renovated. These projects are having a direct positive impact on thousands of students every day.”

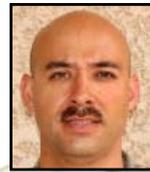


Hail and Farewell

Hailing:

1st. Lt. Jennifer Alecci, GRC
 Michelle Bannister, GRC
 Chief Petty Officer
 Matt Bergman, GRC
 Chief Petty Officer
 Ed Buenaflor, GRC
 Jim Childs, GRC
 Vincent Daniels, GRC
 Tom Dodd, GRC
 Michael Donoho, GRC
 Tim Ernster, GRC
 Susan Fink, GRC
 Mark Gibson, GRC
 Mitchel Glenn, GRC
 Master Chief Petty Officer Warren
 Hendon, GRC
 Rosalinda Hernandez, GRC
 Elizabeth Johnson, GRC
 Robert Mathews, GRC
 Lucrecio Pascua, GRC
 Lt. Cmdr. Tabitha Pierzchala, GRC
 Lt. Brent Richardson, GRC
 Michelle Whitmore, GRC
 Ulysses Gracia, GRS
 Michael Prinaris, GRS
 Thomas Semotuck, GRS
 Senior Chief Petty Officer
 Darren Kujawa, GRS
 Sgt. Haley Bliss, GRS
 Tracey Shaw, GRS
 Betsy Weiner, GRS
 Lee Wolf, GRS
 Jeff Boutwell, GRS
 Lt. Cmdr. Neal Underwood, GRS
 Samuel Lowery, GRN
 Marilyn Kwentus, GRN
 Gary Lowe, GRN
 George Mallery, GRN
 Kamilah Smith, GRN
 Mike Seibel, GRN
 Maj. Michael Helton, GRN
 Florentine Gilkey, GRN
 Julie Meyer, GRN
 Keith Hayter, GRN
 Lloyd Caldwell, GRD
 Van Williams, GRD
 Kenneth Mentzer, GRD
 Bruce Brown, GRD

Farewelling:



Navy Lt.
Dean Allen
GRC



Janab Mudhafa
GRC



Harry Turrell
GRC



Troy Striffler
GRC



Navy Lt.
Robert Leines
GRC



Scott Gates
GRC



Terry Steuart
GRC



Jeremy Way
GRC



Neil Meyers
GRS



Linda Brzuskiewicz
GRS



Georgia Lewis
GRS



Tia Chandler
GRS



Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Chad Lorenzana
GRS



Karen Neumann
GRS



Kelly Brown
GRS



Senior Chief
Chris Benavides
GRS



Nancy Brighton
GRS



Jeff Tidyman
GRS



Christine Epps
GRN



Rigoberto Farias
GRS



Norma Gapsin
GRC



Al Gapsin
GRC



Navy Lt. Cmdr.
Andrew Sullivan
GRC



Troy Rolan
GRC



Connie Byer
GRN



Chief Petty Officer
Edén Olguin
GRC



Linda Tompkins
GRD



Army Col.
Douglas Gorgoni
GRD



Celia Cockburn
GRD



Margaret Jones
GRD



Tracy Grimberg
GRD



Patrick Hope
GRN



Navy Cmdr.
Johnny Wolfe
GRD



Air Force Lt. Col.
Andre Dempsey
GRD



Army Lt. Col.
Steven Lawson
GRD



Air Force Lt. Col.
Marc Pincince
GRD



Army Sgt.
Trinity Southworth
GRD



Laura Long
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Elizabeth Ivy
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Todd Hughes
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