



ESSAYONS

Forward

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division

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Focus on the Districts

ESSAYONS FORWARD

News Magazine of the
Gulf Region Division,
U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers



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Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant



The projects done by the Public Works and Water Sector are very important to the health and welfare of the Iraqi people. Of the 346 water projects (\$1.19B) programmed, 169 have been started and 184 have been completed. The Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant is one of two plants being constructed. This particular facility will provide water to most of Southern Iraq.

Photo by Susan Celotto

Commander's Corner

Each month in Iraq brings new challenges and new successes in the work we are here to do, in our personal lives, and in the lives of the Iraqi people.

Recently we witnessed an Iraqi governmental shift with Nuri al-Maliki succeeding Ibrahim al-Jaafar as the Prime Minister and watched as many new people were appointed to ministerial positions. We hope that this will help stabilize the government and unite the people so that life here becomes better. The Corps' effort to help create a better life for the Iraqis is moving in the right direction.



of electricity generated in June was 4,500, which surpasses the pre-war average of 4,200 megawatts. Other good news includes the early award of two overhead transmission line projects worth more than \$48 million.

The Water Sector is having an impact on people's lives and health by making potable water available through small Iraqi-wide projects that include wells; collection and distribution systems; and storage tanks as well as through the large, on-going water treatment projects at Nasiriyah and Erbil.

Restored oil facility projects are starting to have a positive impact on the Iraqi oil industry. In June, the eighth and final gas-oil separator (GOSP) was re-built in the Kirkuk oil field. These completed GOSPs have increased production capacity up to 300,000 barrels of oil per day.

The Facilities and Transportation Sector reports that all of their design-build border fort and fire station programs are completed. This will improve border security and the safety of the Iraqi people. School projects are also almost finished and enrollment has risen every year, reversing more than a decade of decline and offering evidence of increased prosperity for Iraqis.

The Electric Sector has had their share of successes as well. So far this summer, the national average of electricity generated per day is 13 hours, with an average of nine hours per day in Baghdad. The average megawatt

Memorial Day was a time to remember the sacrifices of the military and the 4th of July celebration was a time to remember how great our country is. The 4th of July also marked another day for the Division. This is the day that CSM Gregory Glen left country. He was my right-hand man, my friend, and my eyes in the field. Someone else has arrived and some of you may have noticed a new face among our ranks. I'd like to welcome CSM William McDaniel as our new Division Command Sergeant Major. He is joining us from Ft. Leonard Wood.

Don't forget, we are moving into the hottest part of the year when dehydration and heat injuries can become problems. Drink plenty of fluids, wear a hat and sunglasses when outside, and try to have a buddy with you at all times. Be sure that you know the signs of a heat injury and what to do for yourself or your buddy in case of an emergency.

**Remember,
Work Safe and Play Safe!**

KARKH MATERNITY HOSPITAL



BEFORE

The \$11.5 million contract to renovate the Karkh Maternity Hospital in the Karkh District of Baghdad included installing new exhaust, fire alarm and intercom systems. The plumbing and electrical systems were repaired and a new generator was added. The air conditioning system was also upgraded along with numerous other interior and exterior repairs and upgrades.



AFTER

GULF REGION DIVISION (GRD)

Building a bridge over troubled waters

By Tom Clarkson

Salah ad Din Province, Iraq – Alongside the longest inhabited region in the world, the Tigris River has flowed unceasingly for thousands of generations. Its 1,146 miles have seen empires come and go. It's been a party to birth and death; a participant in destruction and construction. Commerce of all natures has trafficked its waters for centuries - Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian. It has been a constant, uninterrupted source of life for millennia.

Once again, the Tigris River is the focus of attention and the object of activity by man, this time through the building of a span over it – the Al Shirqat Bridge. When completed, this structure will provide a safe and reliable river crossing. Every bit as important, it will be a vital component for enhanced commerce in the region. Beyond that is the increased morale it will provide for the local populace and role it will play girding the restoration of national security.

Including a two-kilometer, two-lane approach on each end of the finished structure, the 560 meter long bridge will be 12 meters in width and incorporate sidewalks on both sides to accommodate pedestrian traffic. In addition to appropriate bridge railings, lighting systems will be included on the finished piece as well as in its approaches as will paved river access roads on each side of the river.



The present mode of transport across the Tigris River at Al-Shirqat is creative and functional, but cannot handle the flow of traffic, people or animals required in this area.

Presently, river crossings at this point are accommodated by small “homemade” ferries at a cost of 1,000 dinars (approximately 60 U.S. cents) per vehicle.

The project has been designed and is being built wholly by Iraqis with oversight and quality assurance provided by the the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division North.

With construction recently begun, completion of this exceedingly large endeavor is not anticipated until the middle of 2008.

Baghdad Idol

By Tom Clarkson

Born in the Land of the Lakes, MAJ Mildred LaVonne Shingler could have never imagined, as she grew up in the Minneapolis area, that she'd someday be a “Baghdad Idol.” But such she is!



And now, this most personable, 13-yr year Air Force veteran is completing five months as the Assistant J-3 of the Joint Contracting Command- Iraq/Afghanistan. Soon she returns to Incirlik, Turkey, where she will resume her duties as the commander of the 39th Contracting Squadron.

Having sung most of her life, the small, quiet officer with the million dollar smile says she's long been a part of church choirs. Additionally, during high school, she spent a year in a performing arts school. But, to a large degree, she comes by her magnificent singing voice somewhat naturally ... to the enjoyment of all who hear her!

Winnowed from 14 contestants to only two on the last night of the competition, the “Baghdad Idol” winner won singing “Greatest Love of All” and “Inseparable.” Shortly thereafter U.S. Ambassador Khalizaid asked her to perform at his Fourth of July activities where she sang “Bless the USA” with the 4th Infantry Division band.

But she doesn't describe her tour in terms of musical medleys or melodies, but rather as “one that was simply fantastic. While I am Air Force through and through, being here has allowed me to deal with many exceptional Army professionals on a daily basis. Additionally, it has provided me with an opportunity to meet, work with and get to know numerous Iraqis for whom I have the very greatest of respect and admiration.”

She clearly has more than a beautiful voice. Her entire personae are one of calm, collected assuredness. This officer is simply much, much more than a pretty song!

GULF REGION DIVISION NORTH



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THE 1,000th PROJECT

A milestone for Gulf Region Division North passed quietly on April 22, 2006, when the Al-Mansoriyah Electrical Feeder Project began. This \$58K electrical project was the 1,000th project started by GRN. It will put 1.75 kilometers of 11-Kilovolt (kV) electrical line in place and will balance the electrical current on the overloaded equipment that presently exists at the Al-Muqdadiyah substation. Because the current system is insufficient, frequent power overloads trigger the circuit breaker and cause 30 to 60 minute power outages. Occasionally the overloads damage the breakers as well. Powering up after an outage requires a manual reset. This new feeder will not only replace the current one, it will properly sustain the existing load, reduce equipment damage, add redundancy to the system, and allow for future electrical current growth.

THE ORGANIZATION

One thousand starts ... what got us to this point? In order for GRN to have started on its 1,000th project, it had to have started 999 other projects first. Those projects did not work themselves. They were started and managed by an organization. Here is some information and comments about that organization.

The Gulf Region Division, North District (GRN), headquartered in Mosul, was formally activated on January 25, 2004 as one of three provisional Districts under the Gulf Region Division. Prior to this date, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) elements provided support to maneuver units and supported project and area offices deployed and organized under the two USACE task forces: Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO) and Electricity (RIE).

As Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) rotated military units for OIF II, COL Richard W. Hobernicht, Portland District Commander, deployed for six months to serve as the first GRN Commander.

GRN was then responsible for all USACE elements operating north of Baghdad in the four major cities of Tikrit, Balad, Kirkuk, and Mosul. During this six-month period of support to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), GRN employees worked on RIE and RIO projects in the electric and oil sectors, as well as military construction and project management of Iraqi facilities.

Oil production and distribution pipelines were refurbished at Kirkuk, Baiyji, and Al Fathah; and a 50-kilometer primary oil pipeline from the Kirkuk oil fields to the Baiyji refineries was rebuilt.

The electric projects resulted in more than 1,000 kilometers of high voltage electricity lines. Renovating or building new power plants at Baiyji, Mullah Abdullah, Dibis and Mosul added 700MW of electricity to the national grid.

The District began project management on several new Iraqi army facilities in Kirkush, Kirkuk and Al Kasik, quickly completing a 2,500 soldier compound for the Iraq army's 30th Enhanced

Separate Brigade in Kirkush. In addition, GRN began several Military Construction projects to support U.S. Army and Air Force logistic operations at LSA Anaconda and Balad Airbase.



GRN OVERVIEW: DISTRICT & PROJECTS

On June 16, 2004, COL Kurt F. Ubbelohde, former Commander of Omaha District, assumed command of GRN. That same month, CPA transferred authority to the U.S. Embassy-sponsored Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO). The Iraq reconstruction mission was further delegated to the Project and Contracting Office (PCO), who partnered with GRD to execute roughly 3,000 Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Funds (IRRF) projects valued at \$12.4 billion dollars. Under COL Ubbelohde's command, GRN expanded the District footprint to 125 employees operating in four area offices and 12 subordinate resident offices throughout the seven Iraq Provinces and within three Coalition major subordinate command areas of operation.

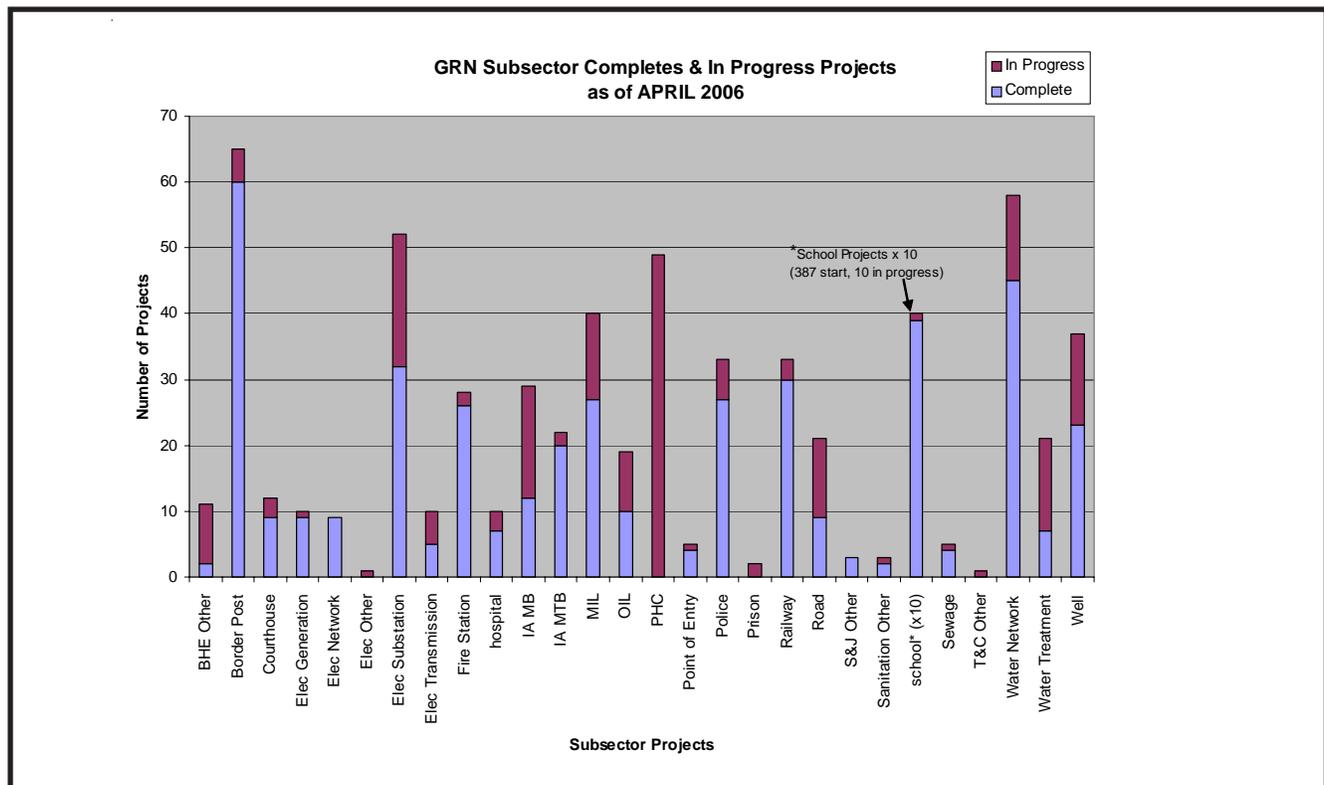


On May 17, 2005, BG Thomas Bostick, the GRD Commander, charged COL Richard B. Jenkins and the GRN team of USACE employees, military service members and contractors to continue the mission of building Iraq capacity and supporting Coalition forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom (see photo to the left).

On April 20, 2006, the move of HQ GRN personnel from FOB Courage to COB Speicher took place, and the new headquarters site was declared operational by the District Commander.

THE PROGRAM

In the early days of Iraqi reconstruction, large dollar projects and groupings of projects were awarded to major contractors who subcontracted the actual construction to local companies. It was found that a wide range and variety of skills and experience existed within the local construction companies. In a number of cases the subcontracts were let to third-country national companies in order to get the needed skills to perform the job. For some tasks, unskilled locals were intentionally used to bolster the local economy or to gather local support for the project. The accompanying chart is a sub-sector breakout of how the \$2.46 billion allocated to GRN projects has been allocated by numbers of projects.



GULF REGION DIVISION NORTH

A WORD ABOUT EACH MAJOR SECTOR

Oil



Among GRN's oil projects the pipeline crossing of the Tigris River at Al Fathah (pictured at left) received the most attention. This project was originally awarded as part of the Restore Iraqi Oil program to KBR as a horizontal drilling effort. When the project ran into difficulty due to unforeseen geological site conditions, GRD/PCO stepped in and decided the situation could be solved with a river-bottom trenching and pipe-pull project. The trenching and pipe pull were completed together with the hot-taps and manifolds in the early spring of 2006. This project provided additional capacity for the Iraqi Ministry of Oil to move crude and other oil products from the Kirkuk oil fields. Additionally, in the oil sector,

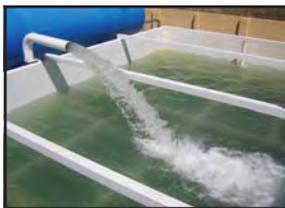
valve hardening has taken place at more than 30 sites. Valve hardening is comprised of building a security wall around oil pipe valves, erecting a perimeter fence around the area, and providing living accommodations for the guards.

Electricity

GRN will work more than 90 electrical projects which, like aligned dominos, will enhance the overall grid system when all the parts are put in place. Of those projects, 74 fall under the distribution category. The others are split evenly between generation and transmission. One of the key elements is the Northwestern Regional Control Center. This is an internal communication and decision system that allows the electrical grid to monitor itself and make shifts of the valued energy as demands, supply, and transmission capability changes. As the Iraqi national grid matures, these upgrades will prove their value.



Public Works and Water



The 47 wells and 12 water treatment plants aided many local communities to receive water services they had not had before. These, together with the 68 water rehabilitation projects, will benefit many tens of thousands of Iraqis. The signature water treatment project for GRN is the Erbil/Ifray project. It will soon be completed and will provide water to more than 600,000 of Erbil's 900,000 residents. All Iraqis will reap the benefits of better health from clean water and the sewer and sanitation cleanups.

Security and Justice

Providing for and educating Iraq's future security forces is fundamental to building a sovereign country. Projects of note include the facilities where Iraqi security forces -- police, military, and border guards -- are being housed and trained. Two of these projects top the list: Zahko Military Academy in Dahuk Province and the Department of Border Enforcement Academy in Sulaymaniyah Province. In spite of many challenges, including their remote locations, 64 border forts along the Iranian border were completed. Not to be lost in the 999 starts, are the 38 Iraqi military installation upgrades or complete fabrication, and the renovations to 30 police stations and 28 fire stations.



Close combat fighting techniques are taught in the training area next to the Zahko Military Academy.

GRN OVERVIEW: DISTRICT & PROJECTS

A WORD ABOUT EACH MAJOR SECTOR (*cont.*)

Buildings, Health and Education



It is difficult to highlight the benefit of schools over the benefit of medical treatment facilities to the future of Iraq. However, programmatically we cannot ignore the fact that the 487 school projects reflect almost half of the 1,000 projects started by GRN. Most of these projects added classrooms, and latrine facilities as well as plumbing and electrical system replacements or upgrades. In many cases, courtyards and playgrounds were enhanced, buildings were re-roofed, the school given a general facelift with plastering and painting, and a perimeter wall built for the safety of the students. The Sheile School in Dahuk province (pictured at left) was built from the ground up. Within the BH&E sector, 55 medical facilities projects were also worked.

Transportation and Communication

Railroad stations and road paving projects top the numbers game within the Transportation and Communications Sector with 30 and 58 projects respectively. However, for strategic purposes, two projects stand out – the Buhriz Bridge in Diyala Province and the Mosul Airfield air traffic control tower (pictured at right) and related upgrades to that airport. The Buhriz Bridge will be an instrument of progress for years to come. The Mosul Airport will become an international airport and will change the economy and commerce of the region. Another major project, the First Responder Communication Network, will change the manner in which Iraqi citizens will get emergency fire, police, and medical service – much in the same way that 911 changed emergency response in the U.S.



Military Construction



The Balad Ramps are memorable not just because of the sheer size of the concrete placement, but also that nearly fatal funding and expectation management challenges were overcome to successfully deliver this critical infrastructure for our warfighters. GRN instituted daily conference calls beginning in July 2005. These included the construction professionals at Anaconda, program management and contracting team at GRN HQ, GRD leaders, TAC partners, and the customer (both Air Combat Command in CONUS and the Air Wing at Balad). Those

telephone conferences were initially intense and rather painful sessions as the team stormed through some very complex issues. As this team gelled and matured, it eventually was able to move a program with visibility at the two- and three-star level, back on track, off the command radar, and delivered a quality product.

In Closing:

It has been said that if GRN were a CONUS-based engineering company with \$2.4 billion in business, it would have more than 1,000 employees. GRN has done this with less than 200 at any one time. It is understood that the work day is extended and the work week is seven days, but the bottom line is that GRN has been instrumental in the reconstruction of Iraq within the seven northern provinces of Erbil, Dahuk, Diyala, Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah, Salah ad Din, and Kirkuk.

GULF REGION DIVISION CENTRAL



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Husseiniya fire fighters move into new facility

Husseiniya city officials and fire fighters in North Baghdad Province hosted a ceremony recently marking the opening of a new \$1.1 million, three-story fire station that will benefit the city's 450,000 residents.

The 925-square meter concrete structure features five bays: three for ladder trucks and two for SUVs. It also includes a dormitory area for 25 fire fighters, a dining room for 30, a commercial-grade kitchenette that is equipped to prepare food for 40 people; a training room for 20; a locker room; a control room; and an office for the Fire Chief.

Parsons Delaware, Inc. had the contract and the subcontractor was Al Karaada Company. A daily average of 25 Iraqis were on the construction crew.

Mohan Al-Fiaydh, chairman of the Istakal Qada Council, officiated at the building's dedication and praised the workmanship of the structure as well as its value for the community. "We have 75 fire fighters who will work out of here with 25 per eight-hour shift. The city's former fire station was not suitable for their training, to house their equipment, or to respond to this

area's needs." He explained that city residents can call a "115" emergency number in order to provide information on the location of the fire.



Many of those in attendance at the dedication spoke about a mass-casualty event that had happened the week before when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) was detonated in Husseiniya's downtown market killing 22 and injuring 57 people.

The fire fighters earned high praise for their quick response as they provided first aid to the injured, rushed the critically wounded to the hospital, and used their new

equipment to extinguish the numerous blazes.

Baghdad Fire Department Major Raaft Nashat, who oversees five fire stations, says that the training is a critical element in upgrading their system. He emphatically stated that, compared to a decade ago, the Baghdad fire fighters today are much better prepared for emergencies because they are trained in the use of personal protective equipment such as the new rescue equipment as well as the large equipment such as the fire fighting pumpers and tankers. Nashat has 22 years experience and points out that continued training is essential; especially for new personnel now being recruited.

During their open house, the Husseiniya fire fighters were proud to show their new Mercedes-Benz Freightliner 500-plus-gallon mini-pumper, a Mercedes-Benz 1000-gallon pumper, a Sides 1000-gallon pumper, and two Mercedes-Benz Ateco 3,000-gallon water tankers. With few places to draw large quantities of water in the city, this equipment allows them to carry their own water in order to battle any fire.

GRC OVERVIEW: PROJECTS & PEOPLE

Cadets graduate amidst Baghdad Police Academy expansion

Baghdad, Iraq— Hundreds of cadets joyously celebrated June 29 after graduating from Baghdad Police Academy's 10-week basic course. In all, 444 police cadets successfully completed the program that included training in human rights, firearms, tactics, and democracy.

Baghdad Police Academy's capacity has been significantly expanded with a \$73 million investment.

When finished, the Academy will feature seven new classrooms, a library, and forensic laboratory. New training facilities will include an armory, a range control building, and firing ranges.

The living accommodations will expand and include a new dining

facility along with eight barracks for cadets and six for instructors. The cadet barracks are designed to house 400 cadets per building.

Other additions include guard towers, motor pool, warehouse, and contractor shop. Renovations to existing buildings, and new site utilities (water, sewer, internal power grid) are also included in the contract.

Jennifer Hunt and LTC Joel Holtrop with GRD/PCO attended the graduation and led 57 reporters on a tour of the new facilities. Hunt pointed out that the expanded campus now has the capacity to train 10,000 police recruits annually.



LTC Joel Holtrop is interviewed by reporters about the new Fire Station and the progress being made in Iraq

LTC Holtrop noted that Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad designated 2006 as the year of the police and "Baghdad Police Academy has definitely been a top priority. It's a very exciting time as the cadets move into the new structures."

Baghdad School gets eight new classrooms



Baghdad, Iraq—The renovations and additions to the Adya School in north Baghdad Province near Taji have been completed. The school serves 300 primary and secondary girls and boys.

The project included repairs, upgrades and a 280-square meter addition that houses two bathrooms and eight classrooms. This addition increased classroom space by 70 percent.

The existing structure of 390 sq. meters had its electrical, HVAC, and plumbing upgraded and the entire school got a new coat of paint.

The \$136K project was constructed with Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds and the work was overseen for quality assurance and quality control by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



GULF REGION DIVISION CENTRAL

Two Sergeants inducted into the Audie Murphy Club

Two GRC soldiers were inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club recently.

Sgt. Audie Murphy was the most decorated soldier in World War II and earned the Medal of Honor among many other awards. He exemplifies the finest aspects of a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the U.S. Army.

Twenty years ago, the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club was organized to recognize other outstanding non-commissioned officers who set the example for all to emulate.

SFC Joel Mason and SFC Sheliene Blombach were among dozens of soldiers eligible to compete for the honor in Gulf Region Division (GRD).

They were screened in April by a board (*seen below, from right to left*) consisting of Gulf Region Central District's CSM Richard Grab, as well as SGM Michael Leogrande, CSM Gregory Glen, SGM William Porter and 1SG Daniel Pierson, all of GRD.



During that board, they each answered questions on a variety of topics including land navigation, non-commissioned officer history,

maintenance, Army programs, evaluation reports, weapons, leadership, drill and ceremony, first aid, and Chain of Command.

Both soldiers said they were proud to be singled out and encouraged by CSM Grab to seek the unique honor and privileged to have been selected to join the auspicious club.



SFC Mason (*pictured above with MG William McCoy, GRD Commander*) is the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of GRC's resident office in the International Zone.

He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration from Ohio University and Masters of Business Administration from Amberton University in Garland, Texas.

Mason began his service with the active Army in 1986 and left in 1990. He then joined the National Guard and served in Texas from 1995 to 1999 and then in Ohio from 1999 to present. He deployed for Operation Desert Storm as well as to operations in Nicaragua and Kosovo. He started his one-year tour at GRC in August 2005.



His civilian career is as a home builder in Columbus, Ohio. SFC Mason and his wife have three children.

SFC Blombach (*pictured below with COL Debra Lewis, GRC District Commander*) is the Military Personnel NCO at GRC's headquarters at Camp Victory. She enlisted in the Army in 1985 and joined the Army Reserve after serving eight years. In 1994, she joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Europe District as a Military Personnel NCO.

In March 2003, she was mobilized and served 20 months at the Transatlantic Programs Center in Virginia. During this time, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Resources from Park University. While continuing her mobilization, she was re-assigned to the Europe District. While there, she began working on her Masters Degree in Human Resources Management.

In September 2005, SFC Blombach started her tour at GRC. She and her husband have two sons.



GRC OVERVIEW: PROJECTS & PEOPLE



Navy Chief Petty Officer Kevin Kumpf speaks with Iraqi Army Warrant Officer Jammal (left) who has played saxophone 22 years and 1st Lieutenant Ali (right) who has been a band conductor for 12 years. Currently none of the 25 musicians in the Taji Military Band have instruments.



California Lutheran University music professor Dan Getting is spearheading donation efforts in the states.

American college musicians reach out to Iraqi military band

Baghdad, Iraq - The Iraq Army Military Band, stationed north of Baghdad in Taji, is hearing a symphony of support from musicians throughout America thanks to the efforts of a U.S. Navy man.

Chief Petty Officer Kevin Kumpf says that shortly after arriving in Taji he received a personal appeal from the Iraqi Base Commander, Col. Alaa, about the specific equipment needs of his military band. Chief Kumpf is the Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District's Taji office. He says he searched the web and sent an e-mail to the president of the National Association of College Band Directors. "Within a few days, I started receiving e-mails from bands throughout the country interested in what they could do."

California Lutheran University music professor Dan Getting wrote Chief Kumpf that their local newspaper had recently run an article on the instrument drive they were conducting for the Iraqi band. They've collected a flute, two clarinets, three trumpets, two trombones, a French horn, and a few percussion items so far. The professor stated they had held a "Marches of Freedom" concert the previous weekend attended by a large audience and he received a loud applause when he told them about Chief Kumpf's efforts.

He reported that during that concert he gave some of the local youth a chance to "conduct" the college musicians, which they were excited to do. He continued, "All during this enjoyable, relaxed time I thought about the Iraqi kids you mentioned and how much they might have enjoyed being there. Maybe some day, Col. Alaa can have an outdoor concert and a few kids can try leading the band. If democracy and freedom can be established in the Middle East, then maybe, just maybe, things like this will become normal."

Apart from California, Chief Kumpf has heard from musicians in Maryland, Alabama, Massachusetts, and Washington. Those groups have collected instruments, sheet music and upkeep items such as reeds and oil. The Maryland organization even has some "like-new" band uniforms they want to donate. They're all currently



working on the logistics issue of how to ship the items to Iraq.

"It's a tremendous response," said Chief Kumpf who is a Boatswain's Mate Surface Warfare specialist from Naval Training Center Great Lakes, IL. "The Iraqi Army Band is going to be overwhelmed with this outpouring of support. It's one more step the Iraqi people will be able to take to try to return to some semblance of cultural normalcy."

GULF REGION DIVISION SOUTH



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Southern Views

Gulf Region Division South (GRS) is responsible for nine provinces in southern Iraq: Wasit, Maysan, Karbala, Dhi Qar, Babil, An Najaf, Al Basrah, Al Muthanna, and Qadisiyah. As of July 9, GRS has awarded nearly 1,300 projects worth \$2.6B and completed more than 1,000 of those projects valued at \$1.25B.

GRS works closely with provincial and local governments, military, law enforcement, and tribal leaders on all projects. GRS District is working on large-scale projects that affect the entire province, such as water treatment plants and electrical power stations. The large-scale electrical sector projects include feeders, towers, underground cable and substations that work together to support the national power grid. GRS is also working on smaller scale projects like checkpoints, school renovations, border forts, and roads.

Some highlights include:

ELECTRICITY:

More than 122 electricity projects valued at \$865M have been awarded and 46 projects, valued at \$522M, are now completed. The Khor Az Zubayr Power Plant, valued at more than \$125M, provides power to more than 226,000 homes or 2.5 million more people.

OIL:

More than 111 oil projects valued at \$652M have been awarded. Currently, 56 projects valued at \$206M are complete. There are 78 projects in progress valued at \$482,000. GRS is rebuilding and restoring the Port of Umm Qasr and the Al Basrah Oil Terminal. These projects and many others will help Iraq increase international commerce.

PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER:

More than 98 public works and water projects valued at \$442M have been awarded. Of those projects, 67 projects valued at \$48M are now complete. Those projects include water filtration, sewage treatment, and irrigation. Water is getting to places that people need it most and now more than one million Iraqis in the southern region are enjoying cleaner water.

BUILDINGS, HOUSING AND EDUCATION:

More than 458 buildings, housing and education projects valued at \$120M have been awarded. To date, 434 projects worth \$96M are now complete. Of these, 370 projects are school renovations. GRS is also renovating the Najaf Teaching Hospital in three phases with a total value of \$10.8M. The Najaf Maternity and Pediatric Hospital is being renovated in two phases and is valued at more than \$9.4M.

SECURITY AND JUSTICE:

More than 350 security and justice projects totaling \$390M have been awarded with 314 completed at a cost of \$274M. These projects include border forts, police stations, fire stations and Iraqi army barracks throughout the region, which has improved security for all Iraqis.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION:

More than 122 projects valued at \$132M for transportation and communication have been awarded, with 67 projects, valued at \$50M, completed.

❖ **PLANS FOR 147 FUTURE PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHERN REGION ARE VALUED AT MORE THAN \$417M.**

Building a Future

By Ken Holder

Al Basrah Oil Terminal, Iraq — In the 1960s, many issues and ideas were polarized. Hippies and “the establishment” battled each other. Bubble gum music and acid rock shared the radio airwaves while war and peace shared media time.

Public Service Announcements for the Peace Corps extolled the virtues of helping those in developing nations to build a brighter future for themselves. It was not uncommon to see Americans portrayed helping remote villagers to develop sources of clean water, or pointing out the benefits of proper crop irrigation to a farmer in a developing nation – in general, teaching those less fortunate than us to be more self-sufficient and build a brighter future.

The Army during that same period of time was not seen in such a positive light. The war in Vietnam was in full swing and the Army was seen as an instrument of destruction.

How interesting that here, in the early part of the 21st Century, the Peace Corps and the Army now seem to have a lot in common.

The Army Corps of Engineers is building a future for Iraqis one brick at a time ... one water treatment plant at a time ... one permanent school building at a time. The economic engine that will propel Iraq into the future, say most experts, will be oil and gas exports, and here too, civilian and military employees of the Army Corps of Engineers can be found hard at work building the future for this promising country.

Two of the Corps’ employees in Gulf Region South’s Basrah Area Office who are making a difference

are Oil Program Manager Sandy Rayl and Construction Supervisor Dave Anderson.

“I think you have to be a humanitarian to want to volunteer and come over here in the first place. You have to care about people,” said Rayl. “I think you have to ask your-



Gulf Region South employees Dave Anderson (left) and Sandy Rayl aboard the U.S. Coast Guard vessel, Adak. They visit the Al Basrah Oil Terminal on a regular basis to ensure the work being done is up to standards.

self at the end of the day, ‘what have I done for the Iraqi people today?’ You have to care about your fellow man and want to help. I can’t imagine why you’d want to be here if you don’t care about the Iraqi people.”

The sentiment is one echoed by Anderson, “It sickens me sometimes that the real story of the Iraqi people — what we’re doing to help them and what they’re doing to help themselves — doesn’t make it into the mainstream media. The Iraqis that we work with risk their lives every day just to come to work and try and build a future for themselves, their nation and their families.”

That’s something you don’t hear much about in the news. When we leave here I want to be able to look back and know I made a difference for these people. They [the Iraqis]

are incredibly friendly, intelligent and, for the most, part they understand that we’re here to help and, more importantly, they want and need our help.”

Rayl and Anderson are currently focusing a lot of energy and effort toward restoring the capacity of the Al Basrah Oil Terminal (ABOT), Iraq’s primary economic source in the South. When they’re finished, they hope their work will enable the platform to load 3 billion barrels of crude per day into tankers – a major boost to the nation’s economy.

“Oil and gas are obviously the economic engines that will run this country,” said Rayl. “Right now they are the major exports of the country. Someday that may change, but right now the Iraqi people need the income this facility is capable of generating. They need our help and they appreciate what we’re doing.”

During Phase One, work was done on Platform A and B. On Platform A, work was done to refurbish, repair and install components that would make the loading arms, hydraulic bridges and accommodation units operable at their maximum capacity. Platform B received the same kind of attention to its loading arms and hydraulic bridges (*pictured below*).



“These systems and the work we’ve done during Phase One means this platform will be a viable commodity,” said Anderson.

GULF REGION DIVISION SOUTH

Building a Future (Cont. from page 14)

Some of the things that will be completed during the \$42K Phase two portion of construction include emergency shutdown and fire suppression systems, as well as metering controls, generators, life boats and a life boat deployment system, and control buildings.

While current construction on the platform is substantial, Anderson says that the Iraqis are quick to learn and adopt improved safety and construction techniques and this is a big benefit for the Iraqis and their future. “When we first started out here, safety was an afterthought,” said Anderson. “I see more and more where the Iraqis are safety conscious. That’s something that I feel really good about – knowing that they’ve learned things from us that can save their lives. I see them out here now and they’re wearing eye protection, hardhats, they have hearing protection and they’re wearing boots. This is a real step forward.”

Rayl says that she wants to stay the course and see this project completed and for the program to succeed. “The Iraqi people deserve our best efforts. I think their future depends on what we [the Corps] do in the months to come – in the time we have left. The closer we get to



The loading arms on Platforms A and B were repaired and refurbished during Phase One of the contracted work at the Al Basrah Oil Terminal

completing projects and going home the more important it becomes to do this work and do it right,” said Rayl.

Rayl’s sentiment is one that’s not lost on Anderson. “We’ll be working hard to make sure everything that’s done out here is done right,” said Anderson. “The contractor’s representative is someone that I’ve worked with before and I know he’s serious about doing a good job, so I think working together we’re going to produce something very good for the Iraqis. I hope that if I come back here five to 10 years from now and I

come out here and see this platform, I’ll see that they took what we did here as the starting point and improved on it. I’ve already seen that in Phase One. They have embraced the ideal of improving the quality of their workmanship. I’ve seen them develop a real pride of ownership in this platform. It is very heartening to know I’ve been a small part of it.”

The Army Corps of Engineers embodies the spirit of the Army of the 21st Century – supporting democracy and helping people build a future where tomorrow is brighter than today. The great social activist W.E.B. Dubois could have been describing the Corps of Engineers, and the men and women serving in Iraq, when he said:

“Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season.

It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year.

It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow.

Today is the seed time, now are the hours of work, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime.”

No one could accuse Rayl and Anderson of not understanding that they are planting the seeds from which a Nation will grow.

Portraits of Southern Iraq



Photos by Susan Celotto

SIGIR visits Nasiriyah Correctional Facility

Mr. Stuart Bowen, Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, visited the Nasiriyah Correctional Facility worksite recently.

Accompanying Bowen was New York Times reporter Jim Glanz. Bowen came to assess the progress GRS was making on the facility. He and his party were given a comprehensive brief by COL Larry McCallister, Commander, Gulf Region South.

The multi-phased, design/build project is located near the city of Nasiriyah in the Thi Qar Governorate, approximately eight kilometers from of Camp Adder (home of GRS).

Currently, there are two maximum security buildings that will house 400 inmates per building with a visitor control building attached to each. Included in the construction plans are dining and laundry facilities, as well as a mosque. This correctional facility was started in November 2004 and is set to be completed later this year.



Jim Glanz (left) reporter for the New York Times toured the Nasiriyah Correctional Facility construction site with Stuart Bowen (center), Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

Construction Manager J.W. Woods (right) explained the progress of the construction.

U.S. Ambassador Speckhard visits port of Umm Qasr

U.S. Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, former Director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO), visited the Umm Qasr port recently to highlight a U.S. government contribution to the port's reconstruction.

Speckhard met with the Iraqi Ports Director General; the Umm Qasr Port North and South Port Managers; the Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South, COL Larry McCallister; and officials from the Iraqi coast guard and navy. The United States has provided assistance to the port since Spring 2003.

Through various programs, all 21 berths were dredged to receive deep-draft ships and the Iraqi Port Authority was provided with extensive equipment and support to assist in building key capacity. Unexploded ordnance was identified and removed; the grain-receiving facility was renovated, allowing it to process up to 600 metric tons of grain an hour; repairs were made to the roll-on/roll-off berth; and security upgrades were made.

The port reopened to commercial traffic mid-June 2004, servicing the first passenger vessel a month later. Since then, as many as 80 ships offload cargo at the port every month; the port loaded more than 21 thousand trucks in April. Cargo volume continues to increase across a range of commodities including cement, sugar, and wheat.

GRS has supervised port projects in both of Iraq's ports. The combined total of the port projects is in excess of \$40 million dollars. Those projects include: a second roll-on/roll-off berth to help clear up the current 2-4 day delay; a 9.7 km security fence around the perimeter with 19 observation posts, a Coast Guard and Inland Waterways Station and a security control facility. These upgrades will increase in security at the port and assist in obtaining the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) Certification, which will lower shipper's insurance rates and make the port more attractive port of call for foreign shippers.

Tom Eidson, area engineer from the Basrah office of GRS, conducted informational briefings for the media and Department of State officials at several of the stops along the tour. Eidson also spoke to the media to explain how the work would benefit the Iraqi people.



Ambassador Speckhard addressed the concerns of the media during his visit to the port of Umm Qasr.

Tom Eidson, area engineer (in DCU's next to the Ambassador), briefed the attendees on several of the projects at the port.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Meters	Inches	Approx Feet / Inch	Metric Conversion	Meters	Inches	Approx Feet / Inch
1.0	39.37	3 ft, 3 1/3 in		3.5	137.79	11 ft, 5 5/8 in
1.5	59.05	4 ft, 11 in		4.0	157.48	13 ft, 1 1/2 in
2.0	78.74	6 ft, 6 5/8 in		4.5	177.16	14 ft, 9 1/8 in
2.5	98.42	8 ft, 2 3/8 in		5.0	196.85	16 ft, 4 3/4 in
3.0	118.11	9 ft, 10 1/8 in		5.5	216.53	18 ft, 0 1/2 in

Phone Dialing Instructions

<u>Calling From</u>	<u>Calling To</u>	<u>Dialing Sequence</u>	<u>Example</u>
Cell Phone (MCI)	Cell Phone	1+ 914 + (Number)	1-914-822-9781
Cell Phone (MCI)	Int'l Commercial	011 + (country code) + (number)	011-49-718-778-8907
Cell Phone (MCI)	Thuraya	011 + (Full thuraya number)	011- 888216-215-51356
Cell Phone (MCI)	Iraqna Cell Phone	011 + 964 + (10 digit number)	011-964-790-191-0636
Cell Phone (MCI)	Palace DSN	1+ 703 + 343 + (last four)	1-703-343-9331
Cell Phone (Iraqna)	MCI Cell Phone	Plus Sign + 1 + (area code) + (number)	+ - 1 - 808 - 655 - 9776
Cell Phone (Iraqna)	Iraqna Cell Phone	0 + full number	0 - 790 - 191 - 7546
Cell Phone (Iraqna)	U.S.	Plus Sign + 1 +(area code) + (number)	+ - 1 - 791 - 882 - 9963
Cell Phone (Iraqna)	Palace DSN	Plus sign + 1+ 703 + 343 + (last four)	+ - 1 - 703 - 343 - 9346

You can reach a U.S. commercial outside line by dialing 8 and 9.

Please use 8 for business purposes. Dial 9 and use a calling card for personal phone calls.

U.S. Commercial	Palace DSN	1+703 + 343 + (last four)	1-703-343-9330
U.S. Commercial	Int'l Commercial	011 + (country) + (City) + (number)	011-44-20-499-4900
U.S. Commercial	Cell Phone (MCI)	1 + 914 + (number)	1-914-822-9290
U.S. Commercial	Iraqna Cell Phone	011 + 964 + (10 digit number)	011-964-790-191-0456
U.S. Commercial	Thuraya	011 + 13 Digit Thuraya number	011 - 8832965411558

**** Dial a 7 to get an outside DSN line ****

DSN	Other DSN	(DSN area code) + (7 digit number)	318-265-1234
DSN (international)	Thuraya	99 + 011 + (Full Thurya number)	99-011-8886952147365
DSN (international)	U.S.	99 + 1 + (area code) + (number)	99 - 1 - 910 - 672 - 3542
DSN (international)	Cell Phone (MCI)	99 + 1 + 914 + (number)	99-1-914-822-9296
DSN (international)	Iraqna Cell Phone	99 + 011 + 964 + (10 digit number)	99-011-964-790-191-0523
DSN (international)	Other Countries	99 + 011 + (country code) + (number)	99-011-49-718-7788907
Thuraya (satellite)	Cell Phone (MCI)	00 + 1 + 914 + (number)	00-1-914-822-9781
Thuraya (satellite)	Thuraya	00 + (Full Thuraya number)	00-88216-215-51356
Thuraya (satellite)	Palace DSN	001 + 703 + 343 + (last four)	001-703-343-9349
Thyraya (satellite)	U.S.	00 + 1 + (area code) + (number)	00-1- 352 - 732- 8599
Thuraya (satellite)	Iraqna Cell Phone	00 + 964 + (10 digit number)	00-964-790-191-0896
Thuraya (satellite)	Other Countries	00 + (country code) + (number)	00-49-718-778-8907

KEEPING COOL

Your body has a complex mechanism for cooling itself. Blood is pumped to surface capillaries just under the skin where the combination of sweat and air flow cool the blood. This blood then travels back to the body core and maintains body temperature. Dehydration by itself can cause problems, but combined with other factors such as high heat, exertion, or lack of air flow, the body's cooling system becomes stressed and can lead to heat cramps, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke, which can be deadly if not treated in time.

HEAT CRAMPS

- Painful skeletal muscle cramps or spasms
- Mostly affects legs and arms

First Aid

- Sit quietly in the shade or cool area
- Massage affected muscle(s)
- Replace salts - drink water with 0.05-0.1% salt solution (*one MRE salt packet to 1 quart canteen*)
- Drink oral rehydration package or sports drink
- Get medical evaluation if cramps persist

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Dizziness	Headache
Fatigue	Nausea
Weakness	Rapid pulse
Unsteady Walk	Shortness of breath

First Aid

- Initiate active cooling by best means available
- Move to shade and loosen clothing
- Lay flat and elevate feet
- Spray/pour water on soldier and fan for cooling effect or use ice sheets around neck, arm pits and groin, if available
- Assess soldier's mental status every few minutes. The monitoring should be done by the same person for the entire time.
- Have soldier slowly drink one full canteen (quart) of cool water every 30 minutes with a maximum of 2 canteens
- If not improved in 30-60 minutes, evacuate for further medical care

HEAT STROKE

- Any symptoms for heat exhaustion, but more severe
- Elevated temperature, usually above 104° F
- Nausea, vomiting
- Altered mental status with agitation, confusion, delirium and/or disorientation
- Can progress to loss of consciousness, coma, and seizures

**This is a medical emergency
and can lead to death!**

**Evacuate soldier to a medical facility
IMMEDIATELY!**

First Aid

- Begin cooling aggressively. Body temperature that does not go below 100° F with active cooling or ANY mental status changes calls for immediate evacuation
- Initiate measures for heat exhaustion
- Apply ice packs or iced sheets
- If conscious, give sips of cool water while waiting for evacuation or ambulance. Do not give water to unconscious soldier
- Monitor mental status every few minutes.
- Monitor airway and breathing
- All monitoring should be done by the same person for the entire time.
- If possible, measure body temperature
- Continue cooling process during transport (until body temperature reaches 100° F or shivering starts)