



For Immediate Release
Feb. 11, 2007
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Baghdad renovating 18 Gas Stations

By Norris Jones
Gulf Region Central District

BAGHDAD, Iraq— Despite being in one of the world's largest oil producing countries, Iraqis continue to wait in long lines to fill their vehicles with gas.

Iraqi officials are working with Coalition forces to correct that problem as 18 Baghdad gas stations are currently being refurbished.

"The pumps are old and worn out," said 1st Lt. Andrew Webber, a member of 2nd Brigade's Infrastructure Coordination Element (ICE), 1st Cavalry Battalion. "The first station we stopped at today in south Baghdad had only four of 18 pumps operational, the second one had none. The upgrade will dramatically improve that situation."

Webber noted that many residents have opted to buy black market gas — costing two or three times the standard rate to avoid those long delays. "We're helping the City of Baghdad in a systemic way and it's going to have a very positive impact on residents everywhere."

An average of about \$180,000 is being spent to renovate each gas station. Most of the work started in late-November/early-December and overall is nearly 50 percent complete.

"Those renovations include all new pumps, general clean-up, repair and re-painting of the perimeter walls, building new guard shacks, and installing overhead cover on the pumps to provide shade in the summer," said Maj. Robert Nash with



A Baghdad motorist waited in line three hours to fuel his vehicle. The situation should dramatically improve as 18 gas stations currently are being renovated and non-working pumps replaced with new ones. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We're working in partnership with the Ministry of Oil to get this work completed. They want gas, diesel and kerosene more accessible to Iraqis everywhere."

According to two gas station managers in south Baghdad, supply currently is not a problem. One manager reported all his above ground and underground tanks were full of diesel, gasoline and kerosene.

"Iraq's Ministry of Oil has committed to provide fuel to those 18 stations," Nash continued. "It's a very good sign to see that the fuel is getting to these stations. It's pretty common right now to see lines



Only four of 18 pumps are currently working at this Baghdad gas station, but soon 18 new pumps will be installed. (USACE photo by Norris Jones)

over a mile long and drivers pushing their vehicles because they've run out of gas. When Iraqis can go and get gas and it's no big deal, that's going to have a huge positive impact. If local people are happy, they're more apt to be upset when the bad guys show up. So this goes hand-in-hand benefiting Iraq's security."

Nash recognized both the 2nd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division and the 9th Engineer Battalion for their help in getting out to the

projects and seeing what's going on. "We couldn't do this job without their support."

Webber added, "We're all part of the same team trying to get Baghdad up on its feet."

Note: For additional information, contact Norris Jones, Public Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Central District at (540) 665-2644 or Norris.Jones@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, email cegrd.pao@tac01.usace.army.mil or visit our Web site at www.grd.usace.army.mil.