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## *Improvements continue at Iraq's busiest trauma center*

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Ibn Sina Hospital is currently staffed by the U.S. Army's 28<sup>th</sup> Combat Hospital out of Ft. Bragg, NC. (U.S. Army photo)

Baghdad, Iraq – It's the U.S. military's busiest trauma center in the world.

Ibn Sina Hospital, built in 1964 and located in Baghdad's International Zone, has been operated by the U.S. Army since October 2003. It has handled more than 13,000 emergency room visits, air evacuated over 10,000 patients, taken over 60,000 x-rays, accomplished 14,500 surgical hours, and given over 33,000 units of blood.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is overseeing a \$21.3 million Operations and Maintenance contract that includes funds for the repair and improvement of the 43-year-old structure.

"Currently we're renovating its labora-



Hundreds of Iraqi families live in Baghdad's International Zone. Ibn Sina Hospital has delivered 20 newborns over the past year. This little boy weighed 2.8 kilos. (U.S. Army photo)

tory area with new floors, counters and cabinets," says Dennis Graham, the USACE project engineer. "To date over 165,000 lab tests have been conducted there and these improvements will enhance the turn-around time."

He also noted renovations were continuing on the wards and living units as they strive to improve the quality of life for the wounded soldiers and staff. "We constantly are trying to make things better." The hospital is currently manned by the 28th Combat Support Hospital from Ft. Bragg, NC.

"When a fallen soldier comes through the hospital doors, they have a 96 percent chance of survival," Graham is proud to point out. The Army obviously has some of the best doctors and nurses anywhere, he continued. "This facility truly is a 'House of Angels.'"

Graham has helped oversee a variety of renovations there since first reporting to



New flooring is installed by Iraqi workers at Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad's International Zone. (U.S. Army photo)

Iraq in March 2005. Those projects include the construction of an outpatient clinic, a dental clinic, blood bank, "Return to Duty" barracks, a chapel, new central suction system, new oxygen storage building, and CT scanner placement. "It's been an honor to be part of this effort," he concluded.

**Note:** Norris Jones is a Public Affairs Specialist with the Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact him at 540-665-2644 or email requests to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).