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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Forward Operating Bases Are Key to a Successful Iraqi Army

By Lana Aziz
Gulf Region North

NINEVEH PROVINCE, Iraq — A forward operating base for an Iraqi Army battalion in Mosul will lead to greater security for the local population in the Ninewa Province.

Construction started on new buildings for Iraqi Army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division in February 2006 and is expected to be complete in June 2007.

Existing facilities were no longer adequate to house the Iraqi Soldiers. The dining facilities were too small and unsanitary, the sleeping quarters could not sufficiently house the entire unit, and most officers slept in their offices while some Soldiers made temporary sleeping quarters in the building's stairwells. Hygiene facilities often backed up due to an inadequate sewage system.

The new compound addresses all of these issues. The battalion will have three new barracks building that can house 380 Soldiers; there are three latrine facilities in addition to restrooms in the administration and medical buildings; two shower buildings; a larger dining facility and a kitchen that will accommodate more than 250 people.

The administration building has two large conference rooms and seven offices. All of the buildings will have air conditioning units, and several will be configured with telephone and data ports.



Alda Ottley, project engineer for the Iraqi Army 2nd Bn, 2nd Bde, 2nd Div project in Mosul, Iraq, discusses construction issues with a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian. The project includes three new barracks building to house 380 Soldiers; three latrine and two shower buildings; a dining facility and kitchen that will accommodate over 250 people.

"The Iraqi colonel in charge of the battalion is extremely pleased with the new project. He said that it is one of the best facilities he has seen and is anxiously awaiting its completion so he can move his unit into the compound," said Mosul Resident Office project engineer Aldo Ottley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. USACE has quality assurance responsibil-

ity for this and all projects in the Iraq Reconstruction Program.

The base construction is funded by the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, or MNSTC-I; an organization responsible for building and training the Iraqi army and security forces to provide security for their country.

Army Maj. Jerry Dull, MNSTC-I project manager, USACE Gulf Region North district, said "Forward operating bases help the Iraqi forces manage and sustain their forces, and they're a key element for successful operations."

The \$2.3 million project will provide a permanent base of operations for the Iraqi Army and additional housing and support facilities for expansion of the Iraqi Army's 2nd Bn., 2nd Bde., 2nd Div. The expansion of the battalion will secure more Iraqi Army Soldiers in Mosul, which will lead to greater security for Iraqi citizens in the Ninewa Province.



Reconstruction on the Iraqi Army's 2n Bn., 2nd Bde., 2nd Div. facilities in Mosul, Iraq are scheduled for completion in June. The project includes three new barracks building to house 380 Soldiers; three latrine and two shower buildings; a dining facility and kitchen that will accommodate over 250 people. [USACE Photo]

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