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Logistically Equipping The Government of Iraq

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ABU GHRAIB, Iraq – From Iraqi Police vehicles and school buses to medical supplies and electrical cabling the Abu Ghraib warehouse facility managed by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has received, stored, and transferred thousands of critical infrastructure items to the Government of Iraq.

“Everything that arrives and leaves the Abu Ghraib warehouse facility near Baghdad is for the Government of Iraq,” said Navy Cmdr. Mark Thompson, facility commanding officer. “It is their equipment; we just store it until it is needed.”

The Abu Ghraib warehouse staging area is one of four such facilities set up by the U.S. government to support logistics capabilities in Iraq.

“We are part of a supply chain management system that supports the reconstitution of the Iraqi Security Forces and reconstruction support of the Iraq civil infrastructure,” Thompson said. “Operations also include the management and receipt of inventory at Baghdad International Airport and Basrah Airport.”

The facility was created to support the mission of providing all resources required to coordinate and perform necessary logistics, supply, maintenance, communication, and transportation functions to receive, accept, account for, hold, store, secure, repackage, and redistribute equip-



The Abu Ghraib facility has more than 810,000 square feet of covered warehouse space and 58 acres of staging area for vehicles and heavy equipment, housing for support personnel, a dining facility and helicopter landing zone. [USACE photo by Travis Edwards]

ment, supplies, and materiel.

The facility also enhances capacity development of Iraqi logisticians.

“The best part about this team is that we have successfully worked to coach, train and mentor an Iraqi workforce for the eventual turnover of this compound,” he said. “It some day will be solely operated by the Iraqis people.”

The facility itself housed in a former Iraqi Army armored vehicle maintenance compound has more than 810,000 square

feet of covered warehouse space and 58 acres of hard packed staging of vehicles and heavy equipment, housing for support personnel, dining facility and helicopter landing zone, according to Deputy Site Manager Darrell Whitt.

“We also use the area to hold frustrated cargo in secure areas until rightful ownership is determined which saves the millions of dollars for both the client and customer,” Thompson said.

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