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Brig. Gen. Dorko to Team: 'Doing Great, Great Work'

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Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, standing, answers questions from military, government civilian, and contractor personnel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South district in a dining facility at Tallil, Iraq. [USACE Photo by Mohammed Aliwi]

TALLIL, Iraq – Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, who is scheduled to assume command of the Gulf Region Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers next month, said while visiting the division's Gulf Region South district that "I'm thrilled to be here" and that "you're doing great, great work."

Brig. Gen. Dorko, who will be headquartered in Baghdad, comes to GRD from a tour as Commander and Division Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer Division, Southwestern, headquartered in Dallas. He has been visiting his areas of future responsibility in Iraq and quipped that he doesn't



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, center, stands with members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South district headquarters staff at Tallil, Ira. Dorko is set to take command of the USACE Gulf Region Division on Oct. 10, 2007, to which the GRS district belongs. Editor's note – one face has been obscured to hide the identity of an Iraqi employee. [USACE Photo by Mohammed Aliwi]

yet know what he doesn't know.

The general's message while addressing USACE personnel during a visit to the GRS headquarters here was upbeat as he praised the entire team, including Iraqi associates, the private contractors who provide security and other services for USACE in Iraq, and the third country nationals who guard the GRS compound.

"I'm overwhelmed by what you guys have done," he said, referring to the whole team as family.

The general said he is not bringing in a new command philosophy. "I think things are running pretty well," he said.

He emphasized that he doesn't want "to add things to your rucksack" but in-

stead to look for opportunities make things easier for the GRD team to enable people to do their jobs better, to break down barriers where they exist so people can function more effectively.

"You're the point of the spear," he told GRS personnel.

"Don't expect this huge sea change," said the general, who stressed that he is "open all the time" and that "the only bad question is the question that goes un-asked."

Asked during a lunch meeting with GRS personnel about getting out the message about what USACE is doing in Iraq, Brig. Gen. Dorko said communicating effectively with the U.S. media is important but that the most important audience con-

sists of "these people right outside the gate"--the Iraqi people.

"These are the people I want to get the word out to," he said. "That's the media battle I want to win."

Questioned about his goals, Brig. Gen. Dorko said: "I am here to win. We're here to win, to make a positive difference." He said with regard to the Iraqi people that "our winning is dependent on them winning."

And to win, the general said, more people are needed to fill open Corps of Engineer slots in Iraq. "Get people," he said. "That is at the top of my list."

Elaborating on his philosophy, Brig. Gen. Dorko said, "We're a service organization" whose list of clients prominently includes the Iraqi people. He said much remains to be done after provinces are turned over to Iraqi control and told his audience that "we have a huge role in all that."

Brig. Gen. Dorko is scheduled to assume command from Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh at a change of command ceremony in Baghdad on Oct. 10. Brig. Gen. Walsh assumed command of GRD on Oct. 10, 2006.

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