



For Immediate Release
October 29, 2007
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes bridge project in Southern Iraq

By John Connor
Gulf Region South district



Newly completed bridge in Dhi Qar Province. (USACE photo by Sgt 1st Class Chris Golden)

The Al Dhiyabat Vehicular Bridge project, crossing a canal near Qala in the province's Suker subdistrict, was constructed at a cost of \$420,000, according to Navy Cmdr. Mike Lang.

Begun in May of this year, the project is designed to allow freedom of movement for community members who live on both sides of the canal and to facilitate the transportation of agricultural products.

"They are a farming community and the bridge is for access to fields and crops on other side of canal," said Lang, officer in charge of the Adder Area Office of the Corps'

Gulf Region South district, which serves nine provinces in southern Iraq.

"We are about to start renovation on a school in this same community - it is in the far north part of Dhi Qar, almost into Wassit," the commander added.

Lang pronounced the project complete on a day when he and Sgt. 1st Class Chris Golden spent more than eight hours on the road visiting six different project sites. Six site visits in the same day by the same people is unusual if not unprecedented in GRS.

Projects visited on the trip, in addition to the bridge, were a primary healthcare clinic, three compact water units, and a road, the commander said.

Lang recalled his first visit to the bridge project in July when he was approached by a man who turned out to be the brother of the governor of Dhi Qar Province. That chance meeting ended with the commander having tea with the governor.

Lang related that the contractor who did the bridge project told him he went into the Iraqi Army years ago, as everyone had to do

in those days, and that he was consigned to the enlisted ranks after training even though he had a civil engineering degree because he was not a member of the Ba'ath Party.

The contractor told Lang he was running a power plant in Nasiriyah during Operation Desert Storm and came to the base at Tallil and surrendered to the French.

Lang said the contractor completed another job for the Corps of Engineers earlier this year, the Engineering Syndicate Building in Nasiriyah, and added that he "did a very good job with that, also."

Note: John Connor is a public affairs officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more email requests to CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil or visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.