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## *Three primary healthcare centers handed over in Maysan province*

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TALLIL, Iraq--In an effort to improve the health care system in Iraq, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently turned over three primary healthcare centers to the Iraqi authorities in Maysan province.

Robin Parks, a project manager with USACE's Gulf Region South district, said the three bring to 19 the number that has been turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Health for the nine southern Iraqi provinces. Eight of those are now open to provide service to the public.

Fifty eight are planned in total for the southern provinces. Forty of the PHCs are in various stages of completion, with 35 of these over 80 percent complete, Parks said.

Parks added that two facilities continue to face security issues that have prevented progress and two new PHCs have been approved for construction in the Economic Support Funds (ESF) Program.

An Iraqi engineer with the GRS said there are three types of PHCs--Types A, B and C. All designs call for facilities providing medical and dental examination and treatment. Requirements also call for optometry; medical and dental X-ray capabilities; immunizations; testing laboratory; pharmacy; public education; maternity; surgical procedures; emergency services. These PHC projects include furniture, office and medical equipment, and an initial

supply of consumable medical and office supplies.

The Iraqi engineer said each of these health facilities will provide essential medical services to an average of 35,000 people per year. He noted that complete and usable facility projects allow for medical training for local health care workers and will employ many people.

Parks said the three types of PHCs differ in design and dimension:

--Type A--1,155 square meter two-story facility providing for medical/dental examination and treatment with space dedicated for X-rays, vaccinations, laboratory, pharmacy and public education.

--Type B--1,327 square meter two-story facility providing the same services as the Type A facility with additional medical training space that includes lecture halls, instructor offices and a library.

--Type C:-- 1,940 square meter facilities that provides space for all the Type A functions plus space for emergency room, labor and delivery department that includes a pre/post delivery ward, delivery room, newborn nursery, ultrasound room, laundry and sterilization, and staff living quarters.

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