



For Immediate Release  
March 7, 2008  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

## *Generating success at Haditha Dam*

By Kendal Smith  
Gulf Region Central District



Local Haditha Dam electricity and water resource managers meet with Marine Maj. David Johnson and USACE Project Manager Jeff Daniels (far right) to discuss better methods for electrical generation. (USACE photo)

**Haditha Dam, Iraq** – Decades of directed non-interaction and perpetual isolation by Saddam Hussein closed interdepartmental Ministries communication and continued to severely affect Haditha Dam operations after his downfall. But two U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' workers at the dam are changing that, and with their efforts have launched a grass-roots movement to improve electrical generation.

Program Manager Jeff Daniels started and continues to facilitate monthly managers' meetings referred to as the Major's or Town Hall meetings. Construction Representative and functional expert Bob McKechnie attends these meetings as the USACE Gulf Region Central district contact. It seems simple, but information was not so easy to exchange.

The meetings were originally developed to encourage trust and communication among the Ministry of Electricity managers concerning electrical generation, transmission and distribution with the consideration of the Ministry of Water Resources. Trying to reach an integrated and mutual agreement about production is not easy, however, given the primary purpose for the dam.

"The main focus of Haditha Dam is for irrigation, and, because of that, the electrical production takes the background and doesn't seem to get the focus it deserves to keep the production up. I don't think they have as big a voice as the irrigation department and that makes it frustrating for everyone," reports McKechnie.

MNF-West Marine Maj. David Johnson understood the need to develop such meetings and agreed to be the focal point to prevent residual interdepartmental antipathies from interfering with attendance or any solutions. Johnson is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 23<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, Headquarters Support Company Commander, for the Haditha Dam area. Open discussions in the meetings set a foundation that solidified local management into a unified and well-balanced team.

The team then requested to meet the province governor. Engineer members went to the Marine Corps Commander at Haditha Dam, who coordinated a visit with the al-Anbar province Governor Ma'amoon Al-Alwani. The Haditha management team presented their issues and concerns to the Governor. Issues were shared regarding electrical power generation, transmission and distribution.

Adel R. Abdulsalam, the al-Anbar Manager of Electric Transmission at the dam, says, "Yes, these meetings are very beneficial. We are meeting with the Governor every two weeks and are a part of the Governor's Power Committee."

An ongoing success story, the Power Committee is designed to help solve some of the major electrical problems for al-Anbar province and work on solutions that will result in a stable power grid to support electricity 24-7.

The issues of electrical generation and distribution are being resolved by the citizens of Anbar, the local Ministry Managers, the Province Governor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' staff, the Marines and Coalition Forces at Haditha Dam and in Anbar province, all working together as a team. It is a new way for the Iraqis to conduct business, but the way electricity will best be available to the province.

That is generating very good news for the more than 160,000 Iraqis who are served by Haditha Dam.

**Note:** Kendal Smith is a public affairs officer with the Gulf Region Central district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact Kendal at 540-665-2644 or email requests to [Lie.K.Smith@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lie.K.Smith@usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil)