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Ninewa Operations Center is mission capable

By LuAnne Fantasia
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MOSUL, Iraq – he Ninewa Operations Center here, a 4,000-sq.-ft., refurbished operations center for Iraqi Security Forces, has been completed and turned over to the Ministry of Defense and is now occupied and fully operational.

The operations center is part of Phase I of the overall Ninewa Operations Command, or NOC, project, funded through the Iraqi Security Force Fund. The \$1.8 million reconstruction project is vital to the ISF's successful interdiction of insurgent activity in the Ninewa province.

"The building is a former [Kellogg, Brown and Root] training site that was only a shell of a building," said Alda Ottley, the project engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mosul Resident Office. "We used that shell, constructing the office facilities..." The core of the operations center is its amphitheater-style operations room with multiple computer stations.

"This Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq project is enabling the Iraqi army and Iraqi police forces to assume more responsibility for the security of northern Iraq," said Col. Mike Pfenning, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region North district. "In order to assume that responsibility, the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi police need training, equipment and the facilities to be successful."

Refurbishment of a second building adjacent to the operations center, the NOC headquarters, is scheduled to be finished in July. "We're completing life-support work on the two-story headquarters building where General Rhiad and his staff will live and work," Ottley said.



NOC Photo 1: In order for the Iraqi military and police forces to assume more responsibility for the security of their own country, they need training, equipment, and the facilities to be successful. The operations room pictured above is the nerve center of the Ninewa Operations Command project, funded through the Iraqi Security Force Fund. The \$1.8 million Reconstruction project is vital to the successful interdiction of insurgent activity in the Ninewa province. (USACE photo by LuAnne Fantasia)

Lt. Gen. Rhiad Galal Tawfek is the Iraqi Army commanding general of the Ninewa Operations Command. Until the headquarters building is completed, he and his staff officers are living at an Iraqi Army battalion facility in Mosul; another project Ottley completed and turned over to the Iraqi Army last year.

"The NOC headquarters building renovation will include basic force-protection, structural and life-support enhancements," Ottley said. "We're upgrading the electrical, water supply, waste water and climate control systems; renovating bathrooms and installing equipment for a small kitchen; as well as completing basic interior and exterior cosmetic repairs," she added. "The Iraqis prefer to live where they work, so we'll also

install small partitions in their offices to give them some sleeping privacy.”

Phase II of the NOC project is still in the planning stages, which will include separate billeting and dining facilities, according to Ottley.

Pfenning explained the phased approach to this and other reconstruction projects in Iraq. “We work with the customer to determine what can be done within the time and available funding, identifying features that could be completed in subsequent phases,” he said. “It’s another phase, but often within the same contract.”

The Gulf Region North district has project and construction management responsibility for the reconstruction mission in the seven provinces of northern Iraq. In the Ninewa province, the Mosul Resident Office has completed more than 394 reconstruction projects since 2004: 47 security and justice; 176 buildings, health and education; 26 electrical; 115 public works and water; 59 transportation and communication; 19 military construction; and 10 oil projects.

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NOC Photo 2: The headquarters building, adjacent to the operations center building, is scheduled to be completed in July. The building renovation includes basic force-protection, structural and life-support enhancements; upgrades to the electrical, water supply, waste water, and climate control systems; renovations to bathrooms; as well as basic interior and exterior cosmetic repairs. (USACE photo by LuAnne Fantasia)

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