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New Healthcare Center opens in Qadisiyah Province

By John Connor
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A new primary healthcare center just opened its doors in Qadisiyah Province, the first new clinic opened in the southern Iraq province in 25 years.

Construction of the facility was managed by the Gulf Region

Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A recent ribbon-cutting ceremony at the center, located the province's capital of Diwaniyah City, was presided over by Qadisiyah's lieutenant governor and the deputy commander of the Polish Army unit stationed in the area.

The clinic is one of seven new Primary Healthcare Centers being constructed in Qadisiyah Province by USACE's Gulf Region South district, according to Su-Chen Chen, resident engineer in the Qadisiyah Resident Office. GRS provides reconstruction services in the nine southern provinces of Iraq.

Chen said the new PHC has a staff of 47 and provides health care services to a patient population of about 20,000 Iraqis. The facility was built at a cost of nearly

\$1.5 million with money from the U.S. Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund.

"For some patients, it is the first time they have experienced dental care and preventive medical services," as well as certain high-tech services such as electrocardiograms, she said.



Deputy Commanding General Butlak and Lt. Governor Shahir cut the ribbon. [USACE Photo]

Chen thanked the government of Iraq for its cooperation and assistance in completing the project.

Qadisiyah Lt. Gov. Dhyaa Abid Alka-reem Shabir in turn thanked the Gulf Region Division for providing such a beautiful clinic, calling the project a true demonstration of a successful partnership.

The Iraqi official said his government and GRS are working toward the same goal--improving the lives of Iraqi citizens by providing them with much-needed medical services--and voiced his hope and expectation for more successful projects in the future.

The lieutenant governor and Polish Brig. Gen. Stanislaw Butlak performed the ribbon-cutting following a traditional ani-

mal sacrifice and toured the facility with the clinic's administrator, Dr. Abid Alameer Lielo.

Dr. Lielo expressed delight at the grand opening of the clinic and said he is receiving an adequate supply of medicine and consumable items to meet the PHC's needs. He gave a special thanks to Coalition Forces and the U.S. for a gift his people desperately need.



Patients line up for care in the new clinic [USACE Photo]

Note: John Connor is a former Public Affairs Officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, email requests to CEGRD.PAO@usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit www.grd.usace.army.mil.