



# NEWS

GRC IRAQ

JULY 2006



## Baghdad Police Academy hosts graduation



CNN camerawoman Margaret Moth was among 57 news media attending the June 29 ceremony when 444 cadets graduated from the Baghdad Police Academy. Other media included LA Times, NY Times, Newsweek, AP, NKK (Japan), ABC, AFP, BBC, Getty, Iraqia TV, Al Sumaria TV, and Baghdad TV.



Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani speaks to the press following police graduation June 29 at the Baghdad Police Academy.



LTC Joel Holtrop and Jennifer Hunt with GRD-PCO spoke to media June 29 and led them on a tour of the facilities regarding the \$73 million investment to expand Baghdad Police Academy with additional classrooms, barracks, and other infrastructure improvements so it now has the capacity to train 10,000 cadets annually.



*Following a graduation ceremony, 57 media tour Baghdad Police Academy campus June 29.*

# Baghdad Police Academy expands, can train 10,000 recruits annually

Hundreds of cadets joyously celebrated June 29 after graduating from Baghdad Police Academy's 10-week basic course.

In all, 444 police cadets successfully completed the program that included training in human rights, firearms, tactics, combat life saving, and democracy.

Baghdad Police Academy's capacity has been significantly expanded with a \$73 million investment. When finished, the

Academy will feature seven new classrooms, eight cadet barracks, six new instructor barracks, a new dining facility, library, forensic laboratory, range control building, firing ranges, guard towers, motor pool, warehouse, armory, contractor shop, renovations to existing buildings, and new site utilities (water, sewer, internal power grid).

The cadet barracks are

designed to house 6 to 8 cadets per room, 400 cadets per building.

Jennifer Hunt and LTC Joel Holtrop with GRD/PCO both attended the graduation and led 57 reporters on a tour of the new facilities. Hunt pointed out the expanded campus now has the capacity to train 10,000 police recruits annually.

LTC Holtrop noted that Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad designated 2006 as the year of the police and "this facility has

definitely been a top priority. It's a very exciting time as the cadets move into the new structures."

James West, the Academy's Training Program Coordinator, was asked how cadets of various religious backgrounds got along. "That's really not an issue. We've received Iraqis from all over the country," West said. "The Iraqis have done a very good job of bringing all sides together."



*Reporters interview James West, the Academy's Training Coordinator*



*Stanley Reese, GRC's IZ Office Resident Engineer, answers questions June 22 about the 6,000-sq.-meter renovation of Alwaiya Children's Hospital.*



*GRC Project Engineer Gerry Ramos (right) discusses the new 8762-sq.-ft. Academy of Health and Science project under construction.*

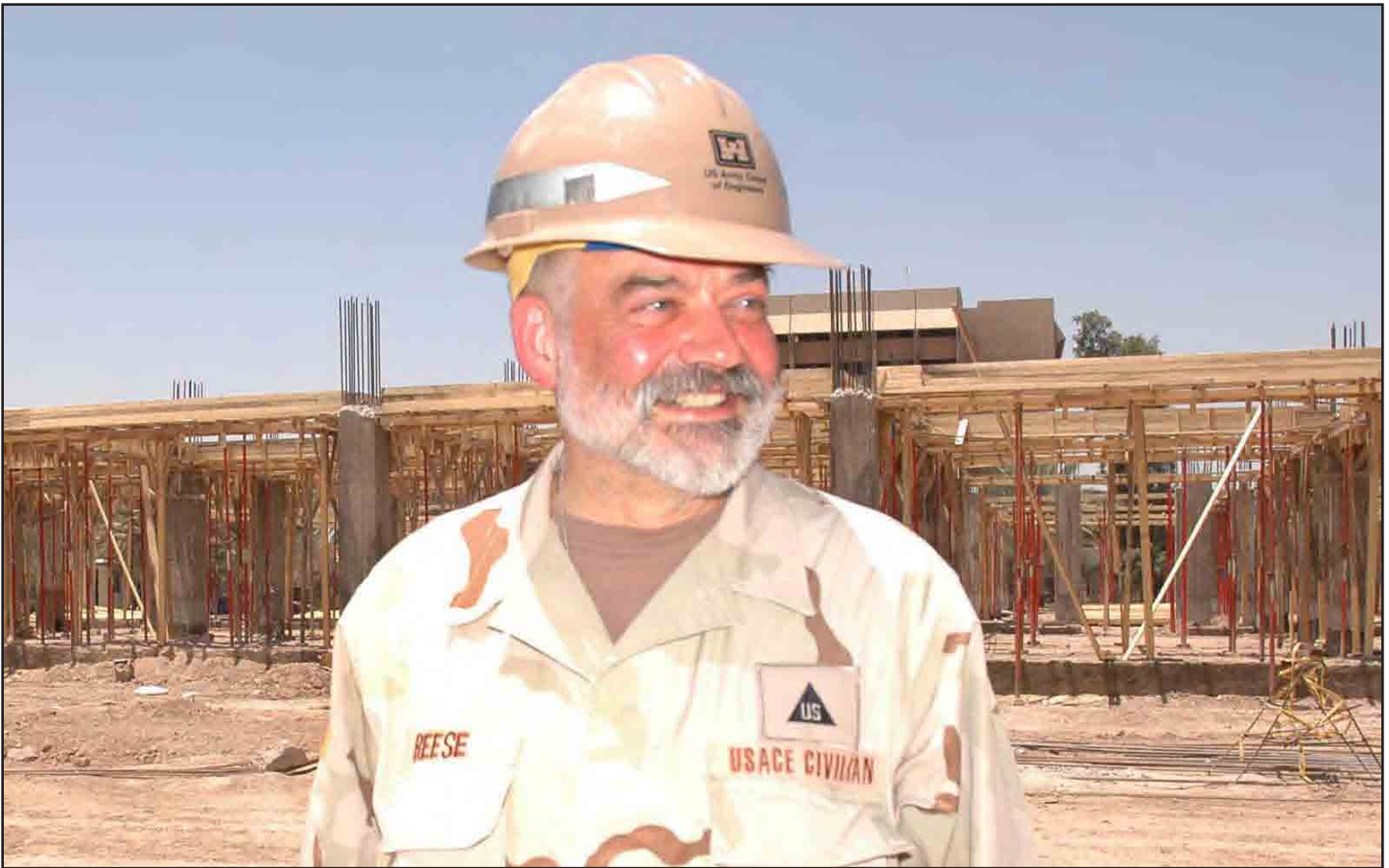


## Five radio reporters visit GRC projects

Tom Marr with 680 AM Baltimore, Eben Brown with News Radio 970 WFLA Tampa, Rick Regan with KNSN Wichita, Greg Saber with WTAM Cleveland, and Jim Sharpe WKFI Phoenix interviewed troops and visited reconstruction projects in Baghdad June 22. Dr. Tariff Rahman, Alwaiya Children's Hospital Administrator, led the group on a tour of his facility; LTC Steven Drennan, Deputy Commander of Nursing and Hospital Services, briefed the reporters at the IZ's Ibn Sina Hospital; and Gerry Ramos took the group to the construction site of the new Academy of Health and Science also located in the IZ. At the end of the day, the reporters commented: "Reconstruction and medical care, it really drives the message home that we're making a difference."



*1LT Kara Theresa Beattie talks to radio reporters about her nursing duties at the IZ's Ibn Sina Hospital.*



*GRC's IZ Office Resident Engineer Stanley Reese*

# A building for training the healers

**By Tom Clarkson**

**(Baghdad)** - Stanley Reese may well have been the first U. S. Army Corps of Engineers civilian to come into Iraq. He first arrived in January of 2003 . . . but that's another story for another time.

From his brown Corps of Engineers hard hat through the brown and tan battle dress uniform down to his suede army boots he has the fit – tending to stocky – appearance of a Soldier. But his short cropped and graying beard tells otherwise. He is, in fact, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Central, International Zone Resident Engineer.

Today, in 120 degree noon time heat, he is visiting the Iraqi Academy of Health and Science. He's accompanied by "Gerry" Ramos, who not only serves as Project Engineer for that particular site but also as Chief of Party, GRC's USAID Project Office. Also on hand is GRC's Iraqi Engineer Mohammed, a structural engineer.

With a broad and proud smile his associate Mohammed says, "This is a message my fellow countrymen need to hear. When this facility is completed and operating it will train doctors and nurses who will help people throughout Iraq. It will save much money as we will be able to bring in skilled medical professionals from Europe and the United States to train here, in the safety of the International Zone."

This is one of two major projects for which the Iraqi engineer is presently responsible. Recently he completed work on another one of importance in the providing of security for the future of Iraq -- its children -- in overseeing construction of 191 guard shacks for schools throughout Baghdad.

Like all of the blue overall clad laborers swarming, busily around the construction site, Mohammed is cheerful and excited about his work. Sometimes next to Reese, other times on his own, he carefully ensures that the quality of workmanship is satisfactory. Slowly, his eyes looking this way and that, he thoughtfully walks around the 64 20"x20" concrete and rebar columns rising up from the base of the two 8,762 square foot buildings which will soon be the ground floor of the structure.

The quiet, yet articulate, Reese pauses and looks past the concrete columns and metal jacks shoring up forms for soon to be poured concrete beams seeing, in his mind, the finished structure. He observes that the long, hard hours he has put

in over the last four months are well worth it. "Our team is close knit, close comrades, a family," he muses, "and this all has been a once in a lifetime opportunity that, I truly believe, will make a highly positive impact on the future of the world."

Through his Baghdad office, he has been involved with building new and rehabilitating old hospitals, Primary Health Clinics, police and fire stations, post offices, sewer systems, water projects and electricity projects. "And all of these," he hastens to say, "have been constructed through the efforts of our competent and dedicated Iraqi engineers. Creation of a good, stable infrastructure for this country is what this is about and they recognize that they are playing a vital role in building structures of long lasting value."

"You know," he notes, "the end result of how this building will be effectively used is a metaphor for what we are doing - 'training and working with people to heal Iraq.'"



*One of the Iraqi laborers at the Academy of Health and Science*

# From the Commander . . .

*"We define ourselves by the best that is in us, not the worst that has been done to us."* -Edward Lewis

I am extremely proud to serve you and this great Nation of ours as your commander. Time sure has flown by since I landed on 10 June, even when each day really feels like two normal days of work back home.

GRC is a remarkable district with a \$2.6B program and \$1.9B in progress. The GRC District covers an area of over 54,000 sq. miles, including two of Iraq's 18 provinces. These two provinces experience the highest frequency of insurgent activity in Iraq: Baghdad -- the most populated and smallest in size, and Al Anbar -- the least populated and largest area. The complex nature and numerous challenges of performing essential reconstruction missions in this environment is a daunting mission... for most ordinary folks. However, the GRC District represents an extraordinary team of highly talented professionals from multiple services, districts, hometowns, and backgrounds in partnership with many others. The inspiring and unifying force binding us together is each member's keen desire to make a difference for the people of Iraq today and for future generations. WOW!

My special thanks to everyone for making it easy for me to get here and hit the ground running... at least until the Baghdad bug caught and reminded me of something everyone else knew... find best ways to take care of yourself and pay attention to the signals around you while operating in this harsh environment. I certainly do appreciate your patience and concern.

Shortly after arrival, there was a surprise visit by one of our Washington State Congressional Leaders, Rick Larsen (WA-2), who had lunch with several of us Washingtonians. From his questions and our answers, I soon realized few others serving in Iraq are given the opportunity, as we are, to work directly with

Iraqis and to see the impact of our coalition efforts through the eyes of others.

Already, I have traveled from Camp Victory to such exciting places as the IZ (many times) along with the former Presidential Palace and Rasheed Hotel there, Camp Loyalty, Al Anbar Area Office and the Resident Office at Fallujah, a public meeting at Fallujah, the city and provincial government offices in Baghdad, and I flew to the Al Asad Resident Office, Haditha Dam, Camp Speicher (Tikrit) for the GRN Change of Command, and Camp Adder (Tallil) for the GRS Change of Command. I also rode with the 101st to visit a Firehouse, Medical Clinic and Maternity Hospital in Sadr City. While I know progress may not be easy, it is visible and ongoing. USACE and many others make it possible for GRC to help the Iraqi people with our many reconstruction projects.

Within USACE, MG McCoy and LTG Strock established a leadership climate to encourage us all to be the absolute best we can be while here, and they continue to provide us their unwavering support and confidence. As most of you are keenly aware, each and every day the Iraqi people face the toughest conditions with amazing courage, persistence and hope. I am humbled and proud to serve with you as we support the Iraqi leaders and work alongside our Iraqi associates who enrich our lives daily. I have so enjoyed meeting each of you and seeing the great things you are doing. I will continue to get out to where you are and look forward to our time together.

*"Proud to serve and happy to be here!"* - Navy Chief Omar Brunson (former Ramadi NCOIC)



*Col. Debra M. Lewis  
GRC Commander*

# From the CSM . . .

We are entering into a busy time for us, especially with end of year funding for more projects, R&R, and vacancies. With that, comes stretching our time to the limits, getting caught up in our work, and the possibility of becoming complacent. Be aware of your surroundings and don't take any unnecessary risks. Construction is a dangerous business and even more so in a hostile environment. Watch yourself, your battle buddy, and those around you. If you know someone needs to see a doctor, make sure they do ... we're all in this together. If you see an unsafe condition or act, bring it to the attention of the leadership, no matter the location. We all have the responsibility of ensuring that the safety and well being of those around us are our top priorities.

With the constant changeover of personnel, I'd like to remind everyone of the seriousness of acclimation, dehydration, and sleep deprivation. Acclimation to this region takes approximately two weeks. The temperature has already been into the 120's and most of us have come from cooler regions. With the progressive degrees of heat exposure and physical activities your body will reach and maintain its cooling process and your resistance to heat will increase, but remember there is no total protection against the effects of heat. Staying fully clothed with long sleeves helps retain the cooling moisture on your skin. Maintaining a proper diet will also assist you in the acclimation process.

Dehydration is a very dangerous condition that can lead to heat

cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. It is caused by the loss of body water through perspiration and is extremely critical, especially during the acclimation period. Leaders must be aware of their personnel's water intake as thirst is not an adequate warning. When you're thirsty your body may already be 2-3 quarts low. Watch your urine color, a dark color indicates dehydration and it's essential to start fluid intake. It is recommended to drink a minimum of 3 liters of water per day.

Sleep deprivation can interfere with memory, energy levels, mental abilities, and emotional moods. Exhaustion, fatigue and lack of physical energy are common symptoms. It is recommended that everyone gets at least six hours of sleep per night to sustain our level of performance. Your actions are reflected by the decisions you make, or don't make, and impaired mental awareness can result in accidents causing injury or death. Know yourself and your capabilities. If you have trouble sleeping, let someone know and we will get help.

Bottom line is, we're a team and we all need to watch out for each other. Be safe!

Essayons.



*Command Sergeant Major  
Randall Cady*



*Col Lewis talks about Fallujah's reconstruction projects with Al Anbar Governor Ma'Moun Sami Rashied*



*Fallujah Mayor Najim Abdullah Saud is interviewed by Iraqia TV*



*Fallujah Reconstruction Committee Chairman, Engineer Khaled S. Ali Al-jumily, chats with Col Lewis and her interpreter Natalia Najjar at the Fallujah Expo June 27.*



*A Fallujah businessman asks about more electricity.*



*Iraqi Police Gen. Salah and Col. Larry D. Nicholson, RCT5 Commanding Officer, briefly meet with Col Lewis following Fallujah's Reconstruction Expo.*



LTC Mike McCarthy (right), Det 3 Third CAG out of Camp Pendleton, ensures final details are ready for Fallujah's Expo June 27 with GRC's LTC Danny Thurmond and Major Angel Ortiz.

# Fallujah hosts reconstruction expo

Fallujah's City Council and Reconstruction Committee hosted an exposition June 27 to provide city leaders including sheikhs, imams, and business owners an update on current efforts to modernize the community. Fallujah's mayor noted his city had not seen any infrastructure improvements since the 1960s. This meeting was led and briefed by Iraqi government officials who discussed plans and construction underway to improve such basic services as electricity, water, communications, sewage, and trash. Among those attending were MG Richard Zilmer (Commanding General 1st Marine Expeditionary Force), Iraqi Police Gen. Salah, Al Sumarria TV, Al Iraqia TV, and Al Anbar Provincial Governor Ma'Moun Sami Rashied.



Fallujah Resident Engineer Bill Kiddy (back row, left) and Project Engineer Mike Doty (back row, right) with City of Fallujah engineers (front row).



Maj Ortiz and CSM Cady talk with a Fallujah businessman.



Al Sumaria TV interviews Col Lewis at Fallujah Expo.



Major Robert Nash, Officer-in-Charge of GRC's International Zone Office, visits the Baghdad Central Train Station July 15.



Reuters TV interviews Aladdin Sadig Al Khanak, Director General of the Iraqi Republic Railroads July 15.



Joseph Saloom (right), Director of Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office, gets a tour of the Baghdad Central Train Station from Aladdin Sadig Al Khanak, Director General of the Iraqi Republic Railroads, during a media visit July 15.

## 'Jewel of Baghdad' once again shines

"It's the gateway to the world," says GRC's International Zone Deputy Resident Engineer Karem about the recently-renovated Baghdad Central Train Station. "It's a symbol of our freedom."

The 33-year-old recalls that when he was a youngster using Iraqi trains the Baghdad station was notorious for non-functioning restrooms and a foul odor from standing sewage in the basement. "But the trains themselves were always clean, comfortable and a great bargain."

When Karem graduated from Baghdad University in 1995 with a degree in civil engineering, he and his classmates took the train to Mosul Dam for a four-day celebration. "It's a tradition here and the train was a great way to go."

He foresees Iraqi Republic Railroad in the years ahead re-establishing its customer base. "People go on pilgrimages in Iraq as it has the three holy places — Najef, Karbala and Samarra," he continued. "Eventually we'll have a track line from Iraq to Iran so people in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran can visit here."

He says Iraq historically has been the hub for rail transportation from Turkey south to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, from Jordan and Syria west to Iran.

"Baghdad Central Train Station has the potential to generate a lot of jobs – not only those working at the railroad station itself, but taxi drivers picking up passengers, bus drivers, as well as those at nearby hotels, shops and businesses," Karem continued. "Of the 19 projects I

oversee, this is my favorite. I see the huge potential here. The \$5.9 million project includes an all-new power plant including two 1.25mva generators, two 500-ton boilers, and two air conditioning chillers. "We have replaced all the electrical, water and sewer lines, repaired the roof, replaced broken mosaic floor tiles, repaired the plaster, new partitions, replaced all the single-pane metal windows with aluminum-frame double-pane windows, replaced all the clocks and now have them connected to one central system, two new seven-passenger elevators, rehabilitated the restaurant, new fire alarm system as well as a fire fighting system throughout the facility,

new entrance, a new automatic switch-transfer so the station has power 24-hours-a-day, new bathrooms, refurbished the station's eight exterior platforms, and added a VIP hotel with 13 rooms."

The train station was originally built by the British in 1954 and was considered the "Jewel of Baghdad" for travelers of the day. It offered telegraph services, a bank, a post office, shopping, a saloon and restaurant, and even had printing presses (still used today for the train tickets).

"The structure was in great shape and we tried not to alter its historical look despite the many improvements. If something needed to be added, we tried to match the same architectural style." (continued on next page)



GRC IZ office Deputy Resident Engineer Karem is interviewed by Al Hurra TV reporter Ziad Zubaidy.





*This 1914 engine, capable of doing 25 miles per hour, is the oldest Iraqi railway steam locomotive. It was retired in 1951 and is at the Baghdad Central Train Station.*

(continued from previous page)

The current project is nearing completion and Karem says a proposed \$8 million maintenance facility for the locomotives and freight/passenger cars is now being considered. That structure would be about 7000 square meters in size. "The locomotives and other cars would be serviced and fueled there. It's a critical piece for the rail industry of our country," Karem noted.

"Rail service offers an affordable way for people and goods to move in Iraq." Currently Iraqi Republic Railroad has a daily train to Mosul. Freight trains are also scheduled at various times. "I'm proud to have been involved with this project – a tangible improvement that will benefit Iraq's economy for years to come."

Major Robert Nash, Officer-in-Charge of Gulf Region Central District's International Zone office, says he's proud of Karem and the other 35 Iraqis who work there. "Karem came here as a Quality Assurance Representative, was promoted to Project Engineer, and is now one of our two Iraqi Resident Engineers. All are qualified and degreed professionals. We worked together and helped put in motion a plan to increase the potential of what the Baghdad Central Train Station can become. It was just one of Sadaam's toys, and sat there in a state of disrepair for decades. And although the number of trains currently being operated is limited, I'm confident this facility will eventually regain the prominence it once had."

Major Nash said he looks forward to the day when he can fly into Baghdad International Airport, take a cab to the train station, and travel to any point in Iraq in a safe, secure and comfortable environment. He's optimistic that in the years ahead many of those Iraqis currently employed in his office will advance to leadership positions for the Iraqi government as they continue to make key engineering decisions on the ongoing development of their country.

"Our Iraqi engineers are providing oversight to important projects such as health clinics, hospitals, post offices, schools, water and sewer projects, electrical substations and distribution networks that will benefit their families and neighbors for years to come. They're having a significant impact on this country's basic infrastructure as they work directly with local officials from the Baghdad Mayor to muhalla leaders. They're building relationships that will last long after the last American has departed."



*Baghdad Central Train Station*



*Courtney Kealy with Fox News, Rick Jervis with USA Today, Ziad Zubaidy with Al Hurrah Iraqi TV, and Reuters were among those documenting IRMO Director Amb. Joseph Saloom's visit to the Baghdad Central Train Station July 15. They toured the station and discussed the \$5.9 million rehabilitation of the facilities there.*

# DEPARTING MEMBERS



**MAC OMAR BRUNSON**  
NCOIC Ramadi FOB  
Joint Service  
Commendation Medal  
NAS Willow Grove, PA



**LTC MITCHEL GLENN**  
4th ID Area Office OIC  
Bronze Star Medal  
USACE HQ  
Washington D.C.



**MATTHEW DAVID**  
Project Engineer  
Victory Resident Office  
Commander's Award  
for Civilian Service  
Louisville, KY



**PAT DOUGHERTY**  
Ramadi Office  
QA Rep  
Commander's Award  
for Civilian Service  
McAlester, OK



**BM1 RUDDY BARRENOS**  
Victory Resident Office  
QA Rep  
San Diego, CA



**MA1 LARRY MARENO**  
Victory Resident Office  
NCOIC  
USS Wasp, Norfolk



**DENISE MELLINGER**  
Contract Specialist  
Commander's Award  
for Civilian Service  
Baltimore District



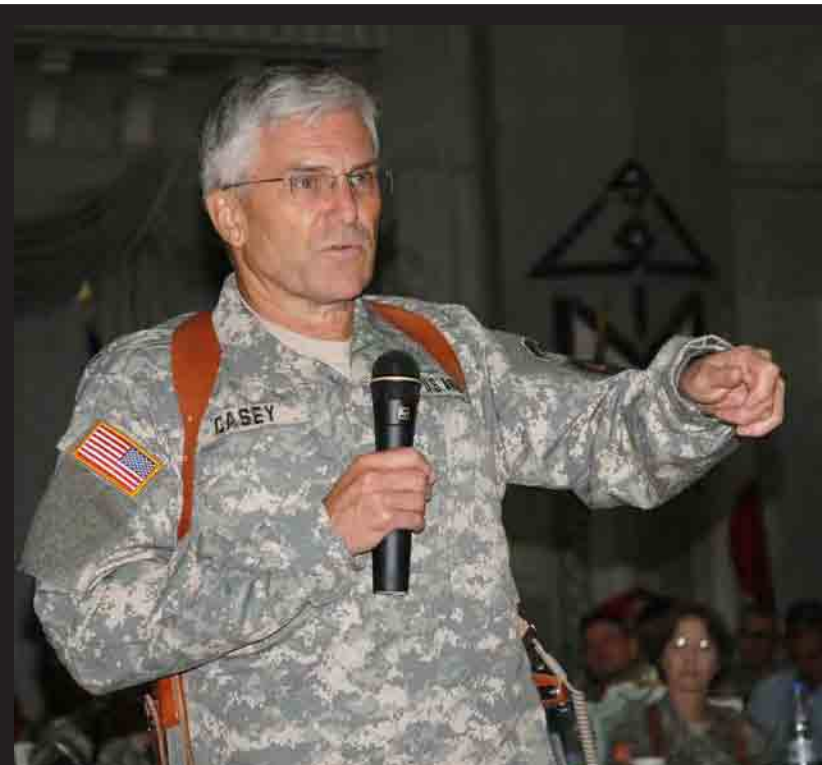
## Congressman visits Iraq

Col. Debra Lewis joined five other soldiers from Washington State to have lunch with Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-2) on Camp Victory. Congressman Larsen was part of a Congressional delegation visit to Iraq. Col Lewis had an opportunity to discuss the tremendous work being accomplished by the Corps of Engineers and how the various projects are benefitting Iraqi families. (U.S. Army photo by SFC Laurence Lang)

## Thank you ...

Those who helped with the July 17 Engineer Summit and July 18 Senior Leadership Conference on Camp Victory included Major David King, MSG Dale Dupree, SSG Zane Martens, David Stanton, Desmond Brumfield, Jose Gonzalez, Russ Wood and his RSOI team, Roy Harris, Gerald Barker, Bob Klimenko, Sandy Harpe, Norris Jones, Ryan Gonzales, Paula Curry, Ted Falcon, Ross Maris, Monique DeZiauto, Stephen Gibbs, CDR Keith White, and CSM Randall Cady.





*Gen. George W. Casey Jr., MNF-I Commander, spoke at the Engineer Summit July 17. He quoted T.E. Lawrence who in 1917 advised, "Do not try to do too much with your own hands...it's their war, and you are to help them, not to win it for them"*

# GRD hosts Engineer Summit



*LTG Peter W. Chiarelli, MNC-I Commander, said it was his view reconstruction offered the best alternative for getting the insurgency under control -- the resultant jobs ... Iraqis with a shovel in their hands, not AK-47s.*



*William B. Lynch with IRMO and COL Michael Herman, GRD Deputy Commander*



*Howard Stickley and MG Darryl A. Scott*



*COL John Medeiros (GRD/PCO's Water Sector Director) and Kathy Johnson (GRD/PCO's Director of Reconstruction)*



*BG David Halverson (4th ID's Asst. Division Commander for Support) and MG McCoy*



**Jose Gonzalez**



**COL William Ryan III**



**GRS Commander COL Gary Johnston, GRN Commander COL Frederick Wolf, MG McCoy and GRC Commander COL Debra Lewis**



**LTC Garry Hines, MAJ Victor Walton, and Stephen Gibbs**



**GRC CSM William D. McDaniel Jr. (left), GRC CSM Randall Cady, GRS CSM Richard Mefford, GRN CSM Benny Hubbard, and MG William H. McCoy Jr.**



**MAJ Mo McAllen (Protocol), COL Billy Tollison (GRD/PCO Chief of Staff), and Bonnie Corbin (MG McCoy's EA)**



**COL Smith and SGM Lee**



**Donn Booker**

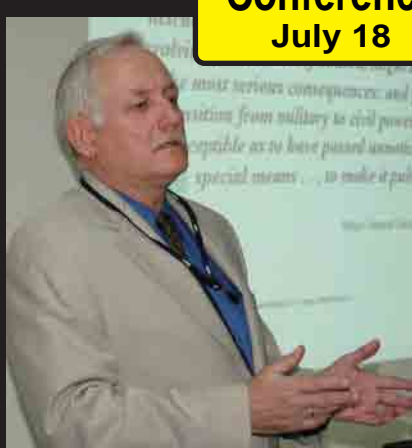


**LTC Hines and GRS CSM Hubbard**

**Senior Leadership Conference  
July 18**



**COL Herman, COL Johnston, COL Knapp**



**Historian Dr. Robert Rush**



**Terry Bautista and COL Wolf**



**MG McCoy cuts the cake.**



**LTC Tosten, SGM Burse, and GRD CSM McDaniel**

# HELLO TO OUR ARRIVING MEMBERS



**WAYNE TAYLOR**  
Project Controls  
Manager GRC HQ  
China Lake, CA



**ALDEN FOOTE**  
MNCI C7  
Project Manager  
Walla Walla District



**JOHN OVERFIELD**  
AI Asad  
Resident Engineer  
St. Mary's Falls Canal



**MA1 (SW) LAURIE TAYLOR**  
NCOIC  
Victory Resident Office  
NSF Guam



**ABE1 (AW) DAVID CAYER**  
NRDC Kansas City  
Hometown:  
Shelton, Conn.



**JOSEPH MOODY**  
Procurement Tech  
GRC Contracting  
Mobile District



**SUSAN RICE**  
GRC RM  
Budget Analyst  
Los Angeles District



**MOHAMMAD DADKHEH**  
Project Engineer  
Victory Resident Office  
Ft. Stewart



**THERESA BENNETT**  
GRC RM  
Admin Support Asst.  
Albuquerque District



**BONNIE TUDOR**  
GRC RM  
Budget Analyst  
HQ USACE



**NAVY CHIEF RICHARD DEVLIN**  
NCOIC Victory South  
NAVSTA Everett, WA



**CDR JAMES LEE**  
AI Anbar PRT  
Pearl Harbor  
Naval Shipyard



**SENIOR CHIEF JO PREWITT**  
Taji NCOIC  
VR-59 Ft. Worth



**CHARLES OGLE**  
Construction Rep  
Camp Fallujah  
Nashville District



## 4th of July in Iraq

GRC personnel at Camp Liberty took time off July 4 to mark the holiday. Engineer Khaled, chairman of Fallujah's Reconstruction Committee, sent a note to COL Lewis saying he wanted to congratulate her on the occasion of Independence Day of the USA. "We wish you, your family and all those in the USA peace. Today all Iraqi people know more the meaning of independence."



**Dave Schmidt**



**MSG Dale Dupree, MSG Curtis Freeman, Norris Jones**



**John Thompson**



**CSM Randall Cady**



**SFC David Eckert**



**Matthew David**



**SSG Jackie Johnson**



**LTC Ken O'Connor**



**SSG Zane Martens**



**Stanley Salter**



**Mark Gibson**





*Louis Alfred*



*Ted Falcon and Desmond Brumfield*



*1LT Dawn Harrison*



*MA1 (SW) Laurie Taylor*

BBQ, volleyball  
highlight activities  
celebrating July 4



*Debra Ramirez*



*CDR Keith White*



*Mark Heiller, Don Caldwell, Denise Mellinger*



*Stanley Salter*



*MAJ David King*



*Peggy Poindexter & Theresa Gonzales*



*LCDR Gregor Bo*



## Fallujah's Palestine School

Four new schools are being constructed by AL-Abid AL-Araby Co.in Fallujah, a city of 200,000.

Blueprints: All four share a common design that includes classrooms, cafeteria, administration space, courtyards, and play areas. Total size of each school is approximately 3074 square meters **Each will accommodate 1200 students.** The \$1.27M contract for Falujah's new Palestine School was awarded June 27, 2004; construction started March 6, 2005; completion expected Sept. 15, 2006. Project is 41% complete with about 20 Iraqis on the crew. GRC is working to get payment delays resolved. URI 13299.



## Karma Water Plant



Construction started Oct. 17, 2005, with an estimated completion of Sept. 15, 2006 by Liqaa Al Mustakbal Co. of Baghdad. (\$437K IRRF-funded). Project is 20% finished. 20 Iraqis are on crew. URI 21125. Located in Karma, east of Fallujah.

**Capacity:** 200 cubic meters/hour. Water needs for 20,000 people including 10,000 residents of Karma.

**SOW:** The work included Installing intake cribs, generator, filtration and chlorination systems, pumps, piping, and building.



## California reminder...

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger reached out to members of the California National Guard's 40th Engineer Brigade when he sent boxes of his own cigars to Iraq for his deployed soldiers. Shown above (front row, left) MSG Curtis Freeman, MSG Dale Dupree, 1LT Jessica Secor; (standing, left) Major David King, Major Ronald Ford, and Major Steve Martinelli. The photo was taken at GRC HQ located near the Baghdad International Airport on Camp Liberty.



One happy guy -- SFC David Garcia enjoys a quality cigar sent by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for California National Guard 40th Engineer Brigade members who were activated for a one year deployment to Iraq. SFC Garcia is assigned to GRC's Loyalty office, located just south of Sadr City.



Major Angel Ortiz and SFC Leai Toele in Fallujah enjoyed a special gift from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger -- two of his personal cigars. The Governor decided to send cigars to all soldiers from California's 40th Engineer Brigade deployed for a year to Iraq. For Father's Day, he made a surprise visit to Major Ortiz' San Pedro home to tell his family his service was appreciated. He brought gifts including gubernatorial pens and paperweights, promotional T-shirts for "Terminator 3," an autographed copy of his 1990 film "Kindergarten Cop," and a soft teddy bear.



## Fallujah's Al Nazal Elementary School

Four new schools are being constructed by AL-Abid AL-Araby Co.in Fallujah, a city of 200,000.

Blueprints: All four share a common design that includes classrooms, cafeteria, administration space, courtyards, and play areas. Total size of each school is approximately 3074 square meters. **Each will accommodate 1200 students.**

The \$1.27M contract for Al Nazal Elementary School was awarded June 27, 2004; construction started March 28, 2005; completion expected Sept. 15, 2006. Project is 60% complete with about 33 Iraqis on the crew. URI 13297.



Al Khaldoon Co. of Baghdad has the \$90,374 CERP-funded contract to rehabilitate Al Feda'a Girls School located in the Karadah District of Baghdad, which was originally built in 1982. Construction started May 14, 2006; work is currently 99% finished, with a required completion of Sept. 11. **SCOPE OF WORK:** The project includes new 400A 3-phase electrical power service entrance, new panels, wiring, switches, outlets, junction boxes and lighting system, renovation of the existing water and sewer system, new hot water heater, a new roof, classroom repairs, painting, and flooring; a new guardhouse with bathroom, kitchen, and bedroom. **IMPACT:** The work benefits 1800 students daily attending that school. About 40 Iraqi workers have been involved with the project. URI 26254



GRC IZ Resident Engineer Stan Reese and MAJ Robert Nash (IZ office OIC) along with Ismail Ertunc (Project Manager for contractor EMTA) "judge" the \$2.8 million CCCI renovation a success! A final inspection was conducted July 8.

# 'Justice without force is powerless . . .

*By Tom Clarkson*

(and) . . . force without justice is tyrannical." Blaise Pascal understood the obvious nearly 400 years ago!

In fact, his preceding observation is an apt description of Iraq's evolution from a country under the forceful heel of a tyrannical leader to one now working through the growth pains of becoming a maturing democracy, with a deep and true desire for fair justice!

So it is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Project and Contracting Office has proudly conducted Iraq Reconstruction and Capacity Development labors in the building of numerous courthouses. Work on 22 has been completed so far, with five more under construction and four more soon to be started. In fact, the number of actual courthouse projects is even greater, in that some have multiple phases.

One major Baghdad structure, of historical significance, symbolizes all that was bad and wrong before in Iraq, but which has come to reflect the country's emerging positivism.

Once, well playing to the despotic dictator's megalomaniacal ego, the large, three story building served as a museum for numerous "look at me" artifacts – such as, purportedly, silver plated AK-47 assault rifles. Now, with an almost delicious, poetical irony, the nearly fully remodeled facility will be the site in which justice will be meted out to numerous of Saddam Hussein's Baathist Party, corrupt-criminal cronies.

After nearly three million dollars worth of rehabilitation – with architectural renovations and construction labor all done by Iraqis – the large Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCCI) reconstruction work will soon be complete.

Iraqi Project Engineer Hasam Abdulla described the challenges of the projects saying, "As we often encounter, we had significant electrical power, materiel and security challenges that needed to be

addressed and resolved." But with a keen recognition for the magnitude of the approximate 3,000 USACE-GRD/PCO reconstruction efforts going on throughout Iraq and the fact that asymmetric terrorism has insinuated itself into the equation, he says that the nearly \$3 million dollar project will be one deeply appreciated by his countrymen. "It will stand for all of the good that can be realized if we work together in a strong and focused manner."

Prior to his attention to this milestone effort, Abdulla had been a part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team for over two years. Previous to this, he had been working on water treatment and communications projects of consequence.

Now nearly at the finish of his work on this endeavor, he is increasingly moving his attention to his next big challenge -- the large Al-Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center project.

GRC IZ Resident Engineer Stan Reese, with whom he daily, closely, works, says, "Hasam and the CCCI are outstanding examples of the fine work and accomplishments that are being done under Iraqi direction."

His comments were strongly echoed by Major Robert Nash, OIC of the GRC IZ office, who stated, "One cannot speak strongly enough about the professionalism and bravery of Hasam on this 'Hall of Justice' work."

Looking around at the Iraqi crew still laboring in CCCI's large atrium, he adds, "Hasam and that for which he has worked so diligently in this structure are key components of the very future of this country. He, those like him, and what they are creating represent the core tandem of two basic and very important human principles tantamount to success in Iraq."

Pausing to remember it correctly, he says, "These words bracket an appropriate and very applicable thought articulated by Agesilaus the Second, 'Courage is of no value unless accompanied by Justice!'"





## USACE Combat Patch

Nearly 20 GRC military members recently participated in ceremonies as they became eligible to wear the Combat Patch. Shown in the top photo are (left to right) MSG Curtis Freeman, LTC Ken O'Connor, SFC David Eckert, LCDR Gregor Bo, MAJ Ron Ford, MAJ Fred Cox, MAJ David King, MAJ Steve Martinelli, MSG Dale Dupree, 1LT Dawn Harrison, CDR Keith White, SSG Jackie Johnson, CSM Randy Cady, and SSG Zane Martens at GRC HQ. Also receiving the Combat Patch were SFC Leai Toeli (shown at left), LTC Danny Thurmond, and MAJ Angel Ortiz in Fallujah. LTC Jonathan Revolinsky and COL Debra Lewis were presented their Combat Patch July 20.

## Huntsville couple making a difference in Iraq

*(Editor's note: The following article was written by Andrea Takash at the Huntsville Center.)*

Carol and Terry Stuart have embarked on a yearlong journey in Iraq to support Soldiers and witness history in the making.

Both work at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Engineering and Support Center. Carol is a project engineer in the Electronic Security Systems branch there. Terry is project manager for the center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate.

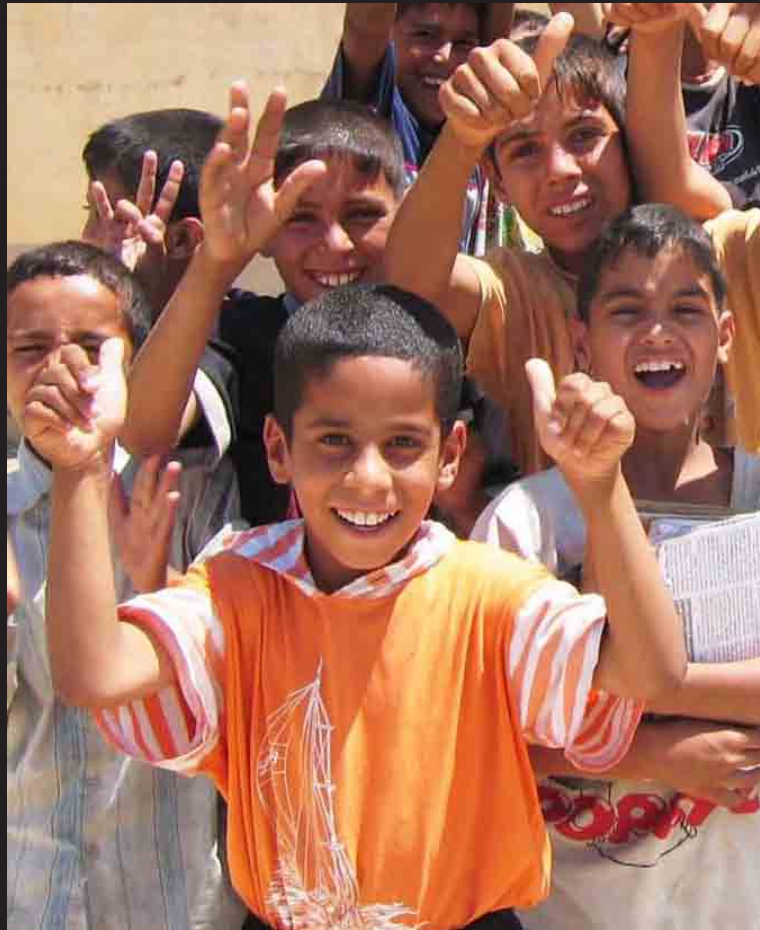
The Stuarts are assigned GRC HQ at camp Liberty. Terry is the Resident Engineer with the Victory South Resident Office and manages such off-base construction projects as schools, water networks and sewage networks. Carol is part of VAO's PW/B (Public Works/Baghdad International Airport) Resident Office and does quality assurance for such on-base construction as canal pumping stations, canal cleanup and sewage pump stations. Despite the daily challenges,

Terry said the experience is rewarding, and he is

impressed with the resiliency and dedication of the Iraqi workers. "Iraqis keep on plowing through the terror, deaths of family members, kidnappings, loss of property and all the things our forefathers went through to gain our independence. Sometimes we don't realize it because the media reports so much of the negativity of this war, but there are some good people here in Iraq who risk their lives daily in the attempt to acquire the same freedom we take for granted." Even with the danger at the project sites and threat of insurgents,

Terry said the Corps is making progress in helping rebuild Iraq. Recently he has closed out 14 contracts that include four sewer projects, three water projects, three council buildings and four schools. "We are making great strides getting schools ready for the students," he said. "Once we get the infrastructure up and running, I believe the people will settle down and start making a life."





# Iraq's future ...

*Aegis RLTs (Reconstruction Liaison Teams) visit projects throughout Baghdad from Taji south to Yousefiya, from Abu Ghraib east to Sadr City. Chris Roberts (photo, lower right) is the team leader and says they talk with area residents and occasionally get an opportunity to give away soccer balls and stuffed animals to local youngsters. They have collected information on such projects as hospitals and healthcare centers, schools, police stations, electrical, water and sewer projects. The above photos were taken by Roberts' team which consists of 6 Iraqis and 4 coalition members.*