



NEWS



OCT 2006

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Gulf Region Division Central District, Iraq



The new Al Askari Water Treatment Plant is currently under construction and when finished will provide water to homes in Fallujah's northeast quadrant.



Fallujah worker at new Al Askari water treatment plant

U.S. rebuilds Fallujah's potable water capabilities

Water is a precious resource in Iraq ... clean, drinking water even more so.

Fallujah residents last spring celebrated the opening of a new water treatment facility, the first such investment in their community in a quarter-century.

Fallujah's main water treatment plant was built in 1981 capable of producing 2,000 cubic meters per hour. But over the years little was spent on equipment upgrades, and today that facility is producing only about half what was originally intended.

In April, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed work on a new 400 cubic meter per hour plant in the southwest corner of Fallujah along the Euphrates River to help the community's water needs there. The Al Tahadi water treatment plant has the capacity to produce enough water for about 50,000 residents in that area.

An identical facility, the Al Askari Water Treatment Plant, is being constructed to pump fresh water to Fallujah's northeast section. That project is currently about one-third finished and will include a 6.2 kilometer water main.

"When you finish that second project, we will finally have enough water for our city," said Fallujah's Water Department

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Work continues on the Al Askari water treatment plant



Al Tahadi Water Treatment Plant

Fallujah townspeople gathered in April to celebrate the official opening of the new Al Tahadi water treatment plant. It is now producing 400 cubic meters per hour of fresh, potable water for residents on the south side of the city. A second identical facility that will serve residents in Fallujah's northeast corner is currently under construction.



Fallujah residents see variety of improvements

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engineer. "A lot of residents are anxiously awaiting its completion. I get calls all the time about its status."

Fallujah's vice chairman of the Reconstruction Committee, Engineer Khalid, had high praise for the investment being made in his community regarding key essential services.

He singled out the four schools that are being constructed in Fallujah as a special source of pride. "These are high quality structures with an excellent design. We're asking the Ministry of Education to consider using two of those buildings for a medical, engineering, or girls college in Fallujah." Each of those 3,074-square-meter two-story masonry structures features 24 classrooms, 4 labs, a gym, cafeteria, courtyard, play area, and can handle 1200 students.

He noted that the new \$80 million wastewater collection system and treatment plant under construction is one of the largest such projects outside Baghdad. It will replace the city's current reliance on septic tanks and involves 32 contracts.

In addition, Fallujah's electrical network is being totally rebuilt and upgraded and four new primary healthcare centers constructed. "We consider these as gifts from the American people. Our residents understand that millions that are being spent to rebuild our community. We appreciate your efforts."

Fallujah city officials participated in an open house and dedication of the Al Tahadi water treatment plant in April. That facility produces 400 cubic meters per hour and is capable of meeting the water needs of over 50,000 residents. The work included installing intake cribs, filtration and chlorination systems, pumps, and piping taking raw water from the Euphrates River located nearby.



Education *Mahmudiyah Mayor Muayid places a high priority on education for youngsters in his area and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently overseeing the renovation of two primary schools there.*

Mahmudiyah mayor spells out top priorities

Mahmudiyah's mayor met with coalition forces Sept. 30 to discuss his community's essential service needs and how best to coordinate efforts to ensure ongoing and planned projects meet their intended objectives.

Those attending included Mayor Muayid Fadhil, COL Debra Lewis (GRC Commander), COL Norberto Cintron (Strategic Effects Directorate, MNFI), and members of the 2/10th Brigade Engineer Staff along with Task Force 217th, 432nd Battalion and the 413th Civil Affairs Team A. Also present were MAJ Steve Martinelli and Navy Chief Richard Devlin from GRC's Victory South Resident Office who interact with Mayor Habib on a regular basis.

The Mayor stated his top priorities were fresh, drinking water for his community and rebuilding the bombed-out Mahmudiyah Market.

MAJ Martinelli pointed out the Mahmudiyah Market contract had been awarded and work should soon be getting underway. (They're expecting that \$245,000 project to be finished by the end of November.) The contract calls for fixing damaged storefronts, pouring a large concrete foundation, constructing open air stalls the length of the previous market, and installing gates at entrances.

Regarding the CiCi Bar Pump Station (which provides the largest percentage of fresh, drinking water in that area), Martinelli says the scope of work has been completed, and once the funding of about \$445,000 has been allocated, a contract will be awarded. (CiCi Bar Pump Station was extensively damaged by a VBIED in August.)

Mayor Muayid also discussed the importance of schools in his community. "We need to raise the education level in the countryside and in town. We have to fight terrorism in different ways. They have bad ideas and we have to battle those thoughts. We need to provide alternative activities for our children such as playgrounds, sports facilities and theaters. By being involved there, it will keep them away from the insurgents."

He encouraged everyone to work together to ensure contractors perform quality work and future projects meet the needs of families in his community. He understood that funds were limited and requested a collaborative approach for the best use of remaining U.S. monies. He closed his remarks stating, "Victory is coming soon against our enemy. This meeting is a sign we are winning."



Mahmudiyah Mayor Muayid and COL Debra Lewis



MAJ Steve Martinelli and Mahmudiyah Mayor Muayid



Baghdad International Airport renovations nearly complete

It could be an international airport anywhere but this one connects the world to Iraq. Walking from its coffee shop with its inviting aromas to its duty-free store where a new Harley Davidson Road King is parked inside, it's hard to believe one is still in Baghdad.

The ceilings of the main terminal are shaped to represent Iraq's favorite tree ... the date palm. And after 21 months of extensive renovations, Baghdad International Airport has the welcome mat fully extended for travelers entering or exiting the country.

Allan Nelson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Quality Assurance Representative, has been overseeing the \$13 million in improvements there for nearly two years and that work is almost finished.

He says when he started none of the air conditioning units worked, the sewer lines were blocked, and water was pouring from the bathrooms out into the corridors.

He's been involved with rebuilding three lift stations, repairing the plumbing, getting a new potable water filtration system installed, renovating three electric substations there, new street lights erected for the section of highway leading to the airport, new fire detection system, painting the walls, and cleaning the carpets.

"We put in two new 2400-ton chillers and rebuilt the two existing 1700-ton chillers. Today, there's plenty of air conditioning capacity." He's currently working with a contractor who is placing new 33kV feeder lines to provide a more stable source of power to that area.

"The airport was built in the early 1980s and little

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QA Rep Allan Nelson, Gulf Region Division Central District





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was invested on routine maintenance over the years. Much of the infrastructure there was nonfunctional when I arrived."

New runway light fixtures, 2600 in total, were replaced along with 350 kilometers of cable. "The tower now has a new control panel and all the new runway signs and lights can be turned on or off from that one location," he explained.

Baghdad International Airport, which employs 1200 Iraqis, currently has 20 flights daily transporting 2000 passengers to and from locations outside Iraq. "With the improvements, it has the capability for 10 times that amount," Nelson noted.

The Airport plans to open the newly rehabilitated Terminal D next month and will then temporarily close Terminal C for routine cleaning.

Nelson is from Hager City, WI, and works out of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District. The 54-year-old has three daughters and will be returning stateside next summer. He plans to retire and find time to do a little fishing with his two grandchildren as he lives on a 40-acre farm near a trout stream.

He appreciates his opportunity to serve in Iraq and help with the Airport project. "I find it tremendously satisfying to walk through the terminals today and see this great facility back to being fully operational."



Airport Manager Mr. Kaldoon shows MG McCoy many of the improvements there.



QA Rep Allan Nelson



Father, son talk about service in Iraq

It's been nearly four decades since Dennis Henley filled a sand bag in a war zone. (In 1967, he was a Marine Corps corporal in Quang Tri, Vietnam.) This September while visiting Camp Ramadi, Iraq, he found himself once again holding a sand bag, but this time the chore proved to be a very special, emotional moment as the individual standing beside him with the shovel was his youngest son, Marine Corps Corporal Stephen Henley. (Sand bags are required for admission to Camp Ramadi's dining facility.)

Dennis Henley is the Security Officer at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District that's overseeing \$2 billion in reconstruction work in Baghdad and Al Albar Provinces including new schools, health care centers, water and wastewater treatment plants, electrical projects, police and fire stations. His 20-year-old son is in his final days of a deployment to Iraq with the Marine Corps Reserve Battalion out of Jacksonville, FL. Stephen is the senior communications technician on a 4-boat riverine small craft unit.

The Henley family knows something about service, honor, and duty. Dennis did six years with the Marine Corps, then 20 years in the U.S. Army, retiring five years ago as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. He and his wife Mary have been married 35 years. Three of their sons joined the Marine Corps, one the Army, another son is a fire fighter, and their daughter is a deputy sheriff. Stephen is the fourth son to serve in Iraq

"We didn't direct our children what career choices to make. We left that up to them," Dennis explained.

Stephen was completing a high school pre-seminary program in New Hampshire when he attended his brother Bryan's graduation from U.S. Marine Corps basic training. "That's when I decided I wanted to enlist, I wanted to be a Marine."

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in March, 2003, and attended four months of boot camp and six months of communications A-school. After completing his active duty, he applied for and was selected as the first-ever recipient of a full scholarship offered only to Marines at Ave Maria University in Naples, FL. (The scholarship was funded by Dominos founder Thomas Monaghan, a former Marine.)

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Dennis Henley and his son, Cpl. Stephen Henley, USMC, fill a sand bag at Camp Ramadi.



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Stephen was in his sophomore year as a political science major when his Reserve unit was activated. His long-term goal is to work for the FBI, CIA, or Secret Service. He plans to get married next June to his fiancée Krista and father Dennis says he won't miss that special event.

This is Dennis' third tour in Iraq. He served in Baghdad in 2003 and returned in 2004. For his civilian job, he's Chief of Security and Law Enforcement at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District.

At Gulf Region Division Central District his area of responsibility includes Ramadi and Fallujah. On Sept. 14, he visited Camp Ramadi and that's when he had the opportunity to say hello to his 6-1 190-pound son. He talked with his son's Commander and saw the all-too-familiar living conditions including how 50 Marines can be packed inside one tent.

His son's unit conducts their missions on the Euphrates River supporting special force operations and ground troops. Stephen had been part of an all-night patrol and had returned to camp just a few hours before Dennis arrived, but there were no signs of fatigue when seeing his 5-8 165-pound dad who was also wearing a Desert Camouflage uniform.

Of his various duties in Iraq, Stephen appreciates the one month they patrolled near Haditha Dam because his unit was able to interact with the fishermen there giving him a glimpse of Iraqi life.

He's grateful for the educational opportunities he's earned as a Marine and is proud of his decision to serve. So is his father.

Semper Fi.



Cpl. Stephen Henley, USMC, gives his dad, Dennis, a tour of the boat he mans on missions near Ramadi.

From the Commander . . .

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit." -Greek Proverb

October starts a fresh new fiscal year. Looking back over just the past two months of FY06, GRC awarded almost 150 contracts valued at over \$370M. Well done! Our amazing GRC team, along with our many partners, executed planned project awards plus a whole host of unplanned awards without missing a beat. Many of these unplanned awards evolved from our support to the maneuver commander in Baghdad to meet new plans and changing priorities, along with projects emerging from capacity building efforts through the Baghdad Provincial Council and Coalition Force collaboration process.

I think of every project award as a new seed ready to be planted. Once started, these projects must be properly nurtured to completion to directly benefit the Iraqi people as intended. In other words, now the tough job begins! Remember, here in this land, our combined efforts and a shared understanding can achieve what individually we cannot.

Recently, to assist us in our daily tasks, our GRC team created some terrific tools that we can share with others, including our senior leaders. Successfully simplifying our complex processes makes it easier to achieve key milestones, such as what it takes to "turn dirt" after contract award or complete a project, and helps us to manage expectations. Each of you received some tools by e-mail. I encourage you to share them with others so you can begin a dialogue to clarify priorities, roles & responsibilities, individual tasks, and the best ways to communicate project updates. Keep in mind, everyone else around you also wants to succeed, no matter what you may see them doing at a particular moment. One tool may be exactly what you need to

offer them so they can better help, instead of hinder, your ability to accomplish your many tasks.

In any case, no matter how busy we are, recognize just how special you are to others around you, and continue to find ways to have some fun. Earlier this month, Logistics Management led the way in hosting another terrific barbeque for Columbus Day. "Thanks" doesn't seem to be enough to convey our appreciation for the effort it takes to put these events together and help us share some good cheer with each other in a relaxed environment.

Next month, we will not have a newsletter since our talented PAO, Norris Jones, is going on a well-deserved R&R break. A number of you will also be going home to celebrate Thanksgiving. The rest of us will be here and giving thanks for the many wonderful people who have left the comforts of home to join us in both serving our deployed soldiers and, as importantly, supporting the Iraqi people so they can flourish, despite some of the most challenging conditions in the world. I would also remind you that in serving others, we soon learn that we often benefit ourselves. Over the upcoming holiday season and during each day you are away from your loved ones, may your burdens be light, your trials few, and your blessings many.

"When he took time to help the man up the mountain, lo, he scaled it himself." -Tibetan Proverb



Col. Debra M. Lewis
GRC Commander

From the CSM . . .

An important date which many may not know is the 13th of October. On this date in 1775 the Continental Congress authorized the procurement, fitting, manning and dispatching of two armed vessels to search for munition ships supplying the British Army. This was the birth of our Navy and for the last 231 years the Navy has been an important part of our Nation's security, defense and support of the Global War on Terrorism. Currently almost half of the Military personnel in GRC are Navy personnel, all part of our one big team

Having been overseas for several months I'm sure we've all noticed a lot of differences between home and here. There are many things that we take for granted that the Iraqi people are hoping exist somewhere in their future. All that we have, began with what we fought for in our quest for independence, much like the Iraqi people are doing today. Thanks to the defenders of freedom which leads me into our Veterans Day.

In 1918 on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month all major hostilities of World War 1 ended after four long years. This was done with the signing of an armistice in the Forest of Compiegne between the Allied Forces and Germany. The ending was known as "the war to end all wars" and this international day of remembrance became known as Armistice Day. In 1938, Congress passed a bill that each November 11th be a Federal holiday dedicated to the cause of world peace. On June 1st, 1954, the holiday was changed to

Veterans Day, to honor those who served in all American wars and now it honors all veterans who have served their country. From 1971-1975 the holiday was changed to the 4th Monday in October. In 1978, Federal Law returned the Federal observance of Veteran's Day to November 11th, due to popular support through out our nation. This day is not just a day off, it's a day to honor American Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for our country's common good.

To each and every veteran, I salute you! Thank you for your service, dedication and patriotism. To your families, friends and loved ones, thank you for your support and sacrifices allowing these individuals to help keep the world free! If you are able to fly a flag on Veterans Day, please do so, and recognize all who are serving, have served and those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom.

"Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be." John Wayne



Command Sergeant Major
Randall Cady



Project Engineer Jim Ruyak

‘Retired’ engineer finds Iraq duty satisfying work

Even though he’s officially retired after four decades of government service, 72-year-old Jim Ruyak is at work every day serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“I’m here because the work of helping people in need is the most satisfying undertaking one can do,” Ruyak said. “When you look at the conditions these people are living, you just naturally want to help in any way you can.”

Ruyak is overseeing 30 projects in western Al Anbar Province, working out of Gulf Region Division Central District’s Al Asad office. He’s helping build five schools, three primary health care centers, an electrical transmission line and substation, and a water distribution network.

Ruyak arrived in May and is heading home this month. He says he plans to return to Iraq but is looking forward to a short break. “I get a little tired after six months at this pace,” he added.

Ruyak knows something about contingency deployments as he volunteered for short-term

duty on a number of occasions while with the St. Paul District from 1973-2000. He helped with recovery operations in the aftermath of floods and hurricanes.

Shortly after Operation Desert Storm, he went to Kuwait to help restore that nation’s infrastructure. In October 1992, he served as Resident Engineer/Contracting Officer rebuilding Ali Al Salem Airbase there.

In 2004, he arrived at Gulf Region Division Central District in

Baghdad where he was responsible for over 50 projects including electrical power generation plants, hospitals, sewer systems, water treatment plants, police training facilities, and Iraqi Ministry Buildings.

Ruyak is widowed and is the parent of three daughters and one son (who graduated from U.S. Military Academy at West Point). Regarding his current Iraq tour and the military personnel he works with every day, Ruyak said, “I have a great sense of pride when I see our young troops doing the great job they’re doing. I wish our folks at home could see all the good stuff that goes on over here.”



Jim Ruyak checks construction progress at Rawah Primary School, Al Anbar Province.



**I MEF Area Office
Fallujah Wastewater Treatment**



During his final visit to Fallujah before his Change of Command ceremony Oct. 14, MG William H. McCoy Jr. toured the outfall area where 300,000 cubic meters of soil is being moved. Fallujah's Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection system involves 32 contracts for 14 separate projects including new lift stations and the wastewater treatment plant itself. Over \$80 million is being invested so Fallujah residents can connect onto a functioning wastewater system.



**I MEF Area Office
Fallujah's Al Nazal School**



Al Nazal Elementary School in Fallujah is a 3074 sq. meter facility that is currently under construction and once finished will be able to accommodate 1200 students. It includes 24 classrooms, 4 labs, a gym, cafeteria, courtyard, and play areas. The \$1.27 million project is 70% finished. This is one of four identical new schools being built in Fallujah, a city of 200,000 residents.

MG McCoy's farewell tour to GRC



GRC staff at the Fullujah Resident Office and I MEF Area Office participating in MG McCoy's final visit to Al Anbar Province before his Change of Command Oct. 14, include (front row, left to right) Mr. Yousif, Kevin Addison, COL Debra Lewis, MG McCoy, MAJ Angel Ortiz, LTC Danny Thurmond, Jose Morales, Allen Shelvin, CPT Barrett Emenheiser; (back row, left) Dan Cahill, Bill Kiddy, Don Hendrix, Chip Nieman, Esther Keneipp, Navy LT Carl Kirar, Ross Maris, Jesse Dalby, Chuck Ogle, Peter Collins, Navy Senior Chief Jo Prewitt, and Susan Rice.



Don Hendrix, I MEF Area Engineer



Jose Morales, Contracting Officer



LT Carl Kirar, MG Richard C. Zilmer (I MEF CG), and MG McCoy



LTC Danny Thurmond, I MEF Area Office OIC



I MEF Area Office
Fallujah 132kV substation



MAJ Angel Ortiz, Fallujah Resident Office OIC, provided MG McCoy an update Sept. 21 on the 71 reconstruction projects in that community including the \$14 million renovation of a 132 kV substation that is just getting underway. In all, \$220 million is being invested in various reconstruction projects throughout Fallujah. Among those projects are two new water plants and water mains, a wastewater treatment plant and collection network, four new schools, a new police station, four primary healthcare centers, and rebuilding the city's electric distribution network.



**4 ID Area Office
Taji Training Facility**

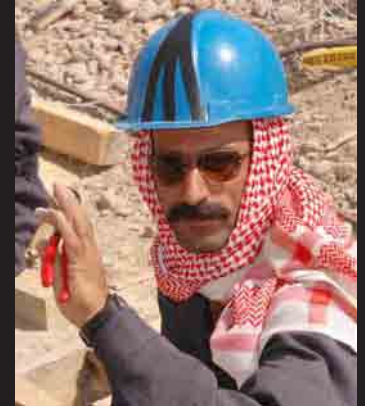


MG McCoy makes final visit to Taji

LT Glen Messer, OIC, and Resident Engineer Fred Nightengale of GRC's Taji Office (photo at left) as well as Project Engineer Andy May show MG William H. McCoy, Jr., Commander, Gulf Region Division, the ongoing work on a \$1.8 million training facility there that is currently 27% finished. That project includes a three-story 1,118-sq.-meter "shoohouse" where troops can train in room-to-room combat as well as a separate 9.15-meter-high rappelling tower. This was MG McCoy's final visit to Taji before his Change of Command ceremony Oct. 14.



Taji Base "Shoot House" taking shape.



Taji Base new repelling tower being built.



**4 ID Area Office
Taji Training Facility**

Taji Training Facility

SCOPE OF WORK – This \$1.8M facility consists of two separate but adjacent training structures. The first is a "shoot house" used to train Iraqi troops room-to-room combat and building assaults. The three-story 1,118-sq.-meter building (372.3 sq. meters per floor) will be designed so that the rounds can be safely fired inside the structure. A 5-meter-high berm surrounds the building. The 2nd facility is a 9.15-meter-high tower that will be used to train fast-roping, repelling, and climbing. The "shoot house" will incorporate monitoring and targeting equipment. The building will have climate control, lighting and plumbing. Theodor Willie Intertrade GMBH has the contract. Construction started Dec. 1, 2005, and should be complete Jan. 2, 2007. It's currently 27% finished. URI 20828.

EFFECTS — This facility provides a training platform for the thousands of Iraqi military personnel assigned to Taji.





Engineering Tech Dennis Graham discusses the Central Criminal Courthouse of Iraq renovation.

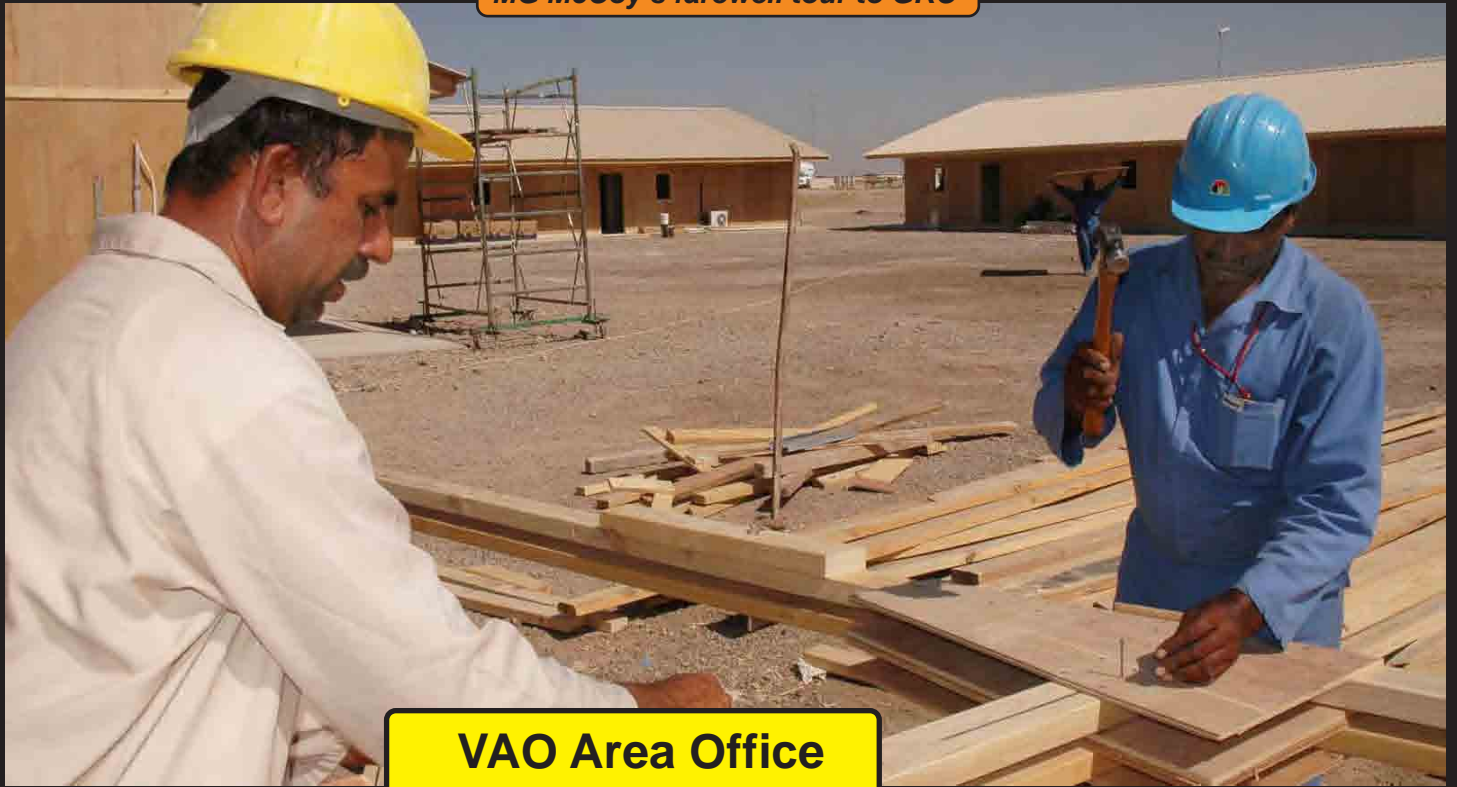


LT Michael Chucran, OIC Loyalty, briefs MG McCoy about GRC projects in East Baghdad.



**4 ID Area Office
Central Criminal Courthouse**

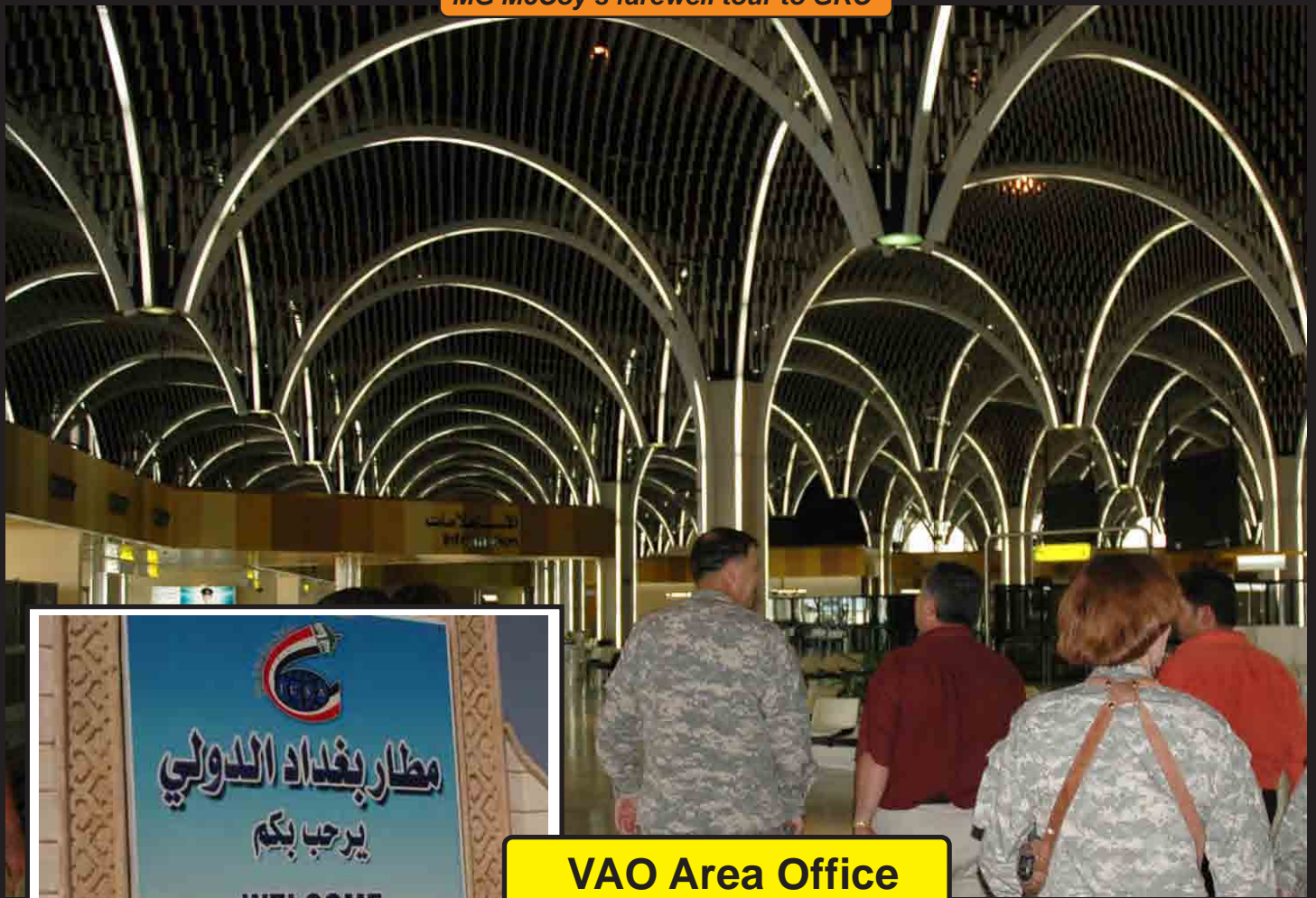
MG McCoy climbs to the top of the clocktower at the Central Criminal Courthouse of Iraq located in Baghdad. GRC's IZ office was in charge of overseeing the facility's \$2.8 million renovation.



VAO Area Office
Freedom Village SEA huts



Victory Resident Office is overseeing a \$566,000 project involving the construction of four SEA Hut buildings near Freedom Village that will be used for additional office space there. Currently 35% of the project is finished with an expected completion in November.



VAO Area Office
Baghdad International Airport

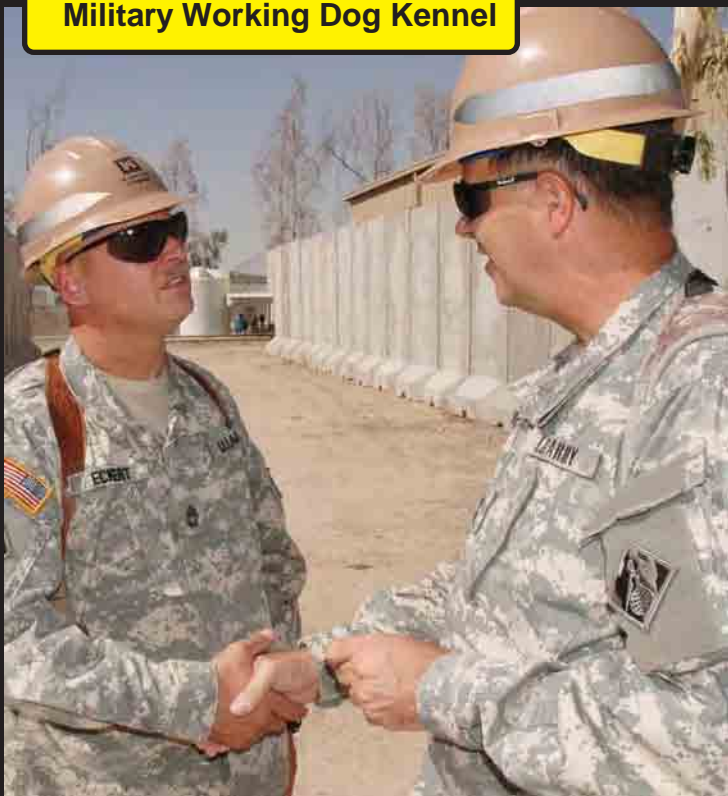


Baghdad International Airport Manager Mr. Kaldoon hosted a tour of his facility for MG McCoy Sept. 20 accompanied by Major Steve Martinelli, Victory South/BIAP Resident Office OIC and QA Rep Allan Nelson. The \$13 million project included rehabilitating the terminal with new plumbing, fire detection and electrical systems along with two new 2400-ton chiller units and repairing two 1700-ton chiller units. In addition, the BIAP Visual Air Navigation Facility infrastructure was upgraded including the installation of 2600 new runway light fixtures and 350 kilometers of electric cable. The airport currently takes care of about 20 flights and 2000 passengers daily. It has the capacity to handle 7.5 million passengers a year.





VAO Area Office
Military Working Dog Kennel



VAO Area Office NCOIC SFC David Eckert (photo at left) is thanked by MG McCoy for his leadership and dedication in the Iraq reconstruction effort. In the photos above, MG McCoy gets an up close inside and outside view of the new military working dog kennel facility. That project includes a training area and building that can house 22 dogs and a separate structure providing living quarters for the dog handlers.

MG McCoy's farewell tour to GRC



Carolyn Stuart and COL Debra Lewis try a piece of Iraqi confectionery



Navy Chief Richard Devlin chats with MG McCoy about his work in Mahmudiyah.



Debra Ramirez and Valarie Albrecht

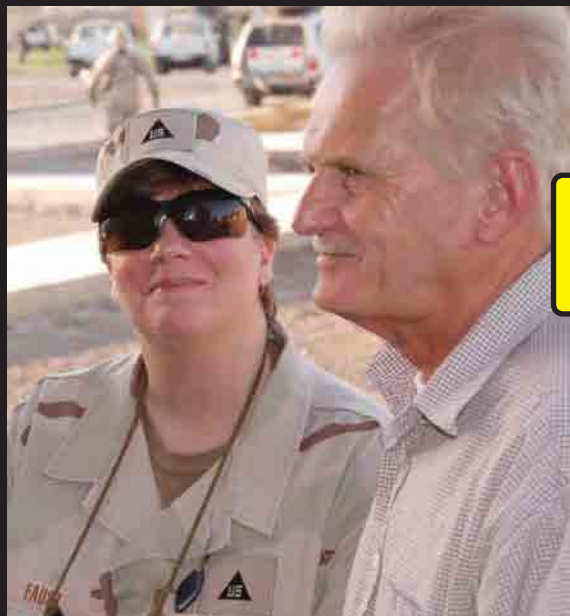


LCDR Gregor Bo



GRC hosts BBQ for MG McCoy

Steve Gibbs (left), Louis Alfred, Desmond Brumfield, Jose Gonzales



Janet Faust and Joseph Loop



CPT Barrett Emenheiser



Braven Dyer, Al Everett, LT Dave Noya

Joanne Dishmon-Gibbs encourages others to consider USACE duty in Iraq

(Editor's note: The following letter was written by Joanne Dishmon-Gibbs, the database manager at GRC's USAID Project Office. Joanne is from the Vicksburg District where she's worked over 30 years, first as a budget analyst, then as a management analyst, and for the past five years as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist.)

June 3, 2004 is a day I will never forget. It is the day I learned that my son, Darrin would be deployed to Iraq. I experience several months of heart-wrenching crying. The thought of my son being in such a violent country broke my heart. Needless to say, Darrin was never unnerved about the idea of serving his country. It's a mommy thing!!! Keep in mind, mothers cry when the kids get their shots, scrape a knee, go to the prom, go on first date...we just cry for any event in our child's life. Darrin served his tour, arrived back home safely and returned to college. He returned a very, very mature, responsible individual. The tour to Iraq made a drastic change in his life. Seeing him, I thought "if my son can do it, so can I" and there started my quest to get a tour in Iraq. With the assistance of a dear friend, Eddie Miller, who has served in Iraq, I am here and experiencing one of the most proud moments in my life. It is a proud moment because of the vast impact we are making in the lives of others.

I am currently serving as Database Manager for the USACE Gulf Region Central District (GRC) — USAID Project Office (UPO) which provides construction management support to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction Program. The total value of USAID infrastructure construction in Iraq is approximately \$2.8 Billion. UPO is co-located with USAID in the International Zone of Baghdad, Iraq. As Database Manager, I am responsible for the proper maintenance and archiving of data relating to the infrastructure contracts issued.

This is a history making event for this country and I am honored to be a part of that history. The Iraqi people are a very grateful and kind people. Each day I am in awe at the number of Iraqi people who risk their lives and the lives of family members by working with the Americans in improving the infrastructure and quality of life in this country. I have made lasting friendships with many of the Iraqi people. When the day comes when I return home, leaving these friends will be most difficult. I see lots of Iraqi children; and anyone who knows me knows that every child everywhere owns a piece of my heart. I LOVE KIDS!!!! I try to keep something of value on me at all times to give to them. Not only have I made many Iraqi friends, I have developed friendships with people from all around the world. Everyday I interact with people from all parts of the United States, Rwanda, Thailand, Guatemala, Russia, Peru, and the list goes on and on. The people that I have met have been such a blessing and joy in my life.

I have been to basic training, so living conditions were no issue to me. A tent or whatever would have been ok. Yet in the back of my mind, I was curious about the entire venture I was about to undertake; and boy, was I in for a rude awakening. The

living quarters are excellent. My biggest challenge is to avoid overeating. There is lots and lots of food everywhere...hamburgers, hot dogs, lobster, prime rib...all you can eat. Then there are the desserts...cheese cake, red velvet cake, apple cobbler...all you can eat.

The most difficult part about coming was leaving my daughter, Dorrian, who is a sophomore at Mississippi State University. She's there alone as my son deployed to Kuwait, second tour in the Global War on Terrorism, one week prior to my arrival in Baghdad. This time I did not cry, you see, not only did Darrin have a life changing experience while in Iraq; I had one while he was there as well. I learned that if I truly trust in God, like I profess, I must surrender ALL to Him. ALL includes Darrin; so this time there were no tears, only praise. Both of us leaving Dorrian was difficult and a lot for her to handle; however, like her brother, she too is a trooper. She loves, understands and supports our decision. Modern technology has kept us in constant contact with each other.

Life is full of chances. I don't see coming to Iraq as a chance but an opportunity. I am here in Baghdad loving every minute of it, and invite you to consider stepping forward and being part of this life changing experience.





Baghdad Embassy Sept. 11 flag raising

Dennis Graham volunteered to help unfurl and fly 650 American flags over the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Sept. 11, to mark the five-year anniversary of that tragic day. Dennis works as a Engineering Technician at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District IZ office. During a ceremony at Camp Victory that day, LTG Peter Chiarelli, MNCI Commander, said the United States has broken much of al-Qaida's network and captured many of its leaders but warned that the struggle in Iraq and elsewhere will take time. "Let there be no doubt...we will prevail."



Haditha Dam Generator



Haditha Dam, which has the capability of producing 660 megawatts of power from its six hydroelectric units, sent out word the old back-up generator there needed to be replaced. GRC coordinated getting a 2.4 megawatt generator from USAID in Baghdad. The 32-ton 48-foot generator was hoisted by crane onto a flat bed truck and a second truck hauled the 52-foot diesel tank. A day later it was at its destination.

(Photos by Dennis Graham)

HELLO TO OUR ARRIVING MEMBERS



LT DAVID NOYA
Baghdad PRT
NAS Sigonella



CPT JOSHUA KOVACIC
Project Engineer
WWTP Fallujah
Colorado Springs, CO



PETER COLLINS
Project Manager
WWTP Fallujah
Newcastle, UK



JOSE CURET
Loyalty
Project Engineer
Puerto Rico



GEORGE HASKETT
GRC GIS
Nibley, Utah



BERT GRAY
VAO QA Rep
Memphis District



GLORIA MARKOVCI
Construction Services
Project Engineer
Baltimore District



JOE ARIAZ
Al Asad
Engineer Tech
Santa Rosa, NM



FRANK KELLY
4 ID Area Engineer
Prichard, AL



CATHARINE BOSOLD
Safety Manager
Mobile District



SANDI WILLIAMS
GRC
Budget Analyst
Millington, TN



DANIEL MARKWICK
GRC Operations
Ft. Polk, LA



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4 ID Bilingual,
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MARY BOWMAN
GRC HQ
Admin Support
Pentagon



MAJ Robert Nash, OIC of GRC's IZ office, helps pass out school supplies.



Aegis Civil Affairs 'small change' makes BIG impact

Aegis Reconstruction Civil Affairs, G7 (RCA) made a difference in local communities throughout Gulf Region Division Central District (GRC) by distributing sports equipment and toys to children in urban areas in Baghdad. RCA distributed goods through Aegis Reconstruction Liaison Teams and GRC staff that used their regular duties of visiting and assessing GRC project sites to give something directly to the people that live in the same areas.

GRC's Major Nash explains, "Every time I visit projects, I try to interact with the kids. If kids are in the streets, the moms are with them. The kids here are just like kids anywhere else – they just want to play and have a good time. So I try to give them things like crayons that they can use more than once. The women and children are going to be the driving force of change for this country and interacting with kids is just one way to help move this forward."

All RCA projects are supported by *Aegis Foundation* donations. All donations, whether cash or goods, go directly to Iraqi communities – communities which are often neglected and in dire need of such help. RCA Deputy Director Suzanne M. Sullivan states, "because we at RCA use 'boots on the ground' to get *Aegis Foundation* donations to Iraqis, we can effectuate change and Iraqis will remember that. It might be small and seem meaningless, but RCA leverages the duties, time and interaction of its own colleagues and GRC with local communities, to have an even greater impact in areas that need assistance or a reason to find hope in the future." RCA does not conduct its projects on their own; it works through existing structures and projects which GRC is directly part. For instance, RCA always links to another GRC activity, whether it is a visit to a construction site, during a water pump assessment or attendance at a local council meeting.

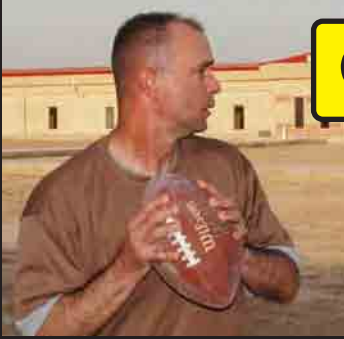
For more information on donations, contact Aegis Reconstruction Civil Affairs, G7 at G7@AegisIraq.com or visit the *Aegis Foundation* website at www.Aegis-Foundation.org. The *Aegis Foundation* is a registered charity in the United States and United Kingdom.



What's a good Aegis Foundation Non-Cash Donation

- Footballs/soccer balls, deflated w/pump (preferably without national affiliation)
- Small, wrapped toys – i.e. plush or foam sports' equipment; unisex toys
- Small soft animals – i.e. *Beanie Babies*
- School supplies – paper notebooks, crayons, pencils w/ sharpener, coloured paper (i.e. construction paper), glue sticks, thin/small colouring books (with appropriate pictures)
- Art supplies – brushes, paint (non-toxic); paper
- Basic medical supplies (consumables) including bandages, cloth wrap/bandage, medical tape, alcohol swabs, wood sticks, cotton swabs, small towels; latex gloves – small kits are ideal
- Basic dental supplies – cotton, wood sticks, toothbrushes, toothpaste; latex gloves – small kits are ideal
- Individually wrapped, hard candy (i.e. suckers) and gum
 - Balloons
 - Puzzles
 - Packaged matchbox cars
 - Food items – small, individually wrapped, dry/non-perishable foods (i.e. breakfast/toaster tarts; granola bars)
 - Children's shoes – cloth or plastic; sturdy/practical
 - Small, lightweight, English picture books (i.e. children's number/letter books)

GRC flag football



MAJ Ron Ford



2LT Benjamin Dahle



Mark Gibson



SSG Zane Martens races for yardage Sept. 23.



David Newman



MAJ Martinelli diagrams a play.



MAJ Ford (left), LCDR Bo, 2LT Dahle, SFC Eckert



Contracting Division ...

GRC's Contracting Division oversaw the award of more than \$140 million in contracts in August and September as they closed out the Fiscal Year. Team members include (left to right) Fanny Quesada, Gloria Martinez, Joseph Moody, Mark Heiller, Susan Newby, Frank Spears, Bob Egan, Dora Navedo, and James Sinclair.



Tom Semotuk, GRC's Chief of Construction, presents a memento to Gloria Martinez during a BBQ the staff hosted Oct. 1. The flag reads in part: "Gloria M. Martinez, Best of the Best." Gloria told those attending it was hard to leave the GRC family. She said she felt privileged to have been offered the opportunity to serve in Iraq and asked all to continue to work with and help the Iraqi contractors succeed. "I will always remember this experience."



Gloria Martinez, Gulf Region Central District's Chief Contracting Officer, was presented the Superior Civilian Service award Oct. 1. Her citation reads in part: "Ms. Martinez has provided valuable assistance in the overall administration of the largest contracting mission ever undertaken by a USACE District." She was responsible for awarding and managing 1,199 contracts valued at \$753 million during her three years in Baghdad. Presenting the certificate was COL Debra Lewis, GRC Commander.

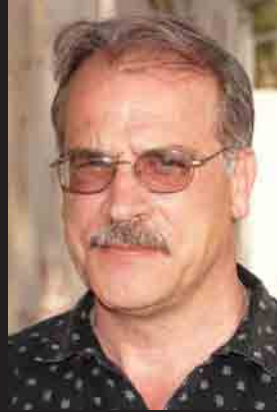
DEPARTING MEMBERS



RICHARD WALKER
Security and Justice
Project Manager
Oklahoma City, OK



EMILY WICOFF
MILCON
Project Manager
Lenexa, KA



ROBERT SUEMNICHT
USAID Project Office
Resident Engineer
Watersmeet, MI



GLORIA MARTINEZ
Chief
Contracting Division
Far East District



LT Javier
Lopez-Martinez
Baghdad PRT LNO
NAVFAC SW, San Diego



Village School

The Ramadi Resident Office recently completed construction of the Quaidisiya Village School near Habbaniyah in Anbar Province. The nine-room, \$150,000 school accommodate about 250 students. The facility includes a central concrete courtyard, garden, two restrooms, three fresh water tanks, and a 43x33 meter masonry perimeter wall with entry gate around the school.



Al Benook fire fighters in eastern Baghdad provide a demonstration during a media visit Oct. 3.



Al Hurra TV reporter interviews COL Debra Lewis

Equipment, training help Iraqi fire fighters get the job done ...

As a fire fighter, he's working in one of the toughest neighborhoods in the world.

Jwaad Mohammed, Chief of the Al Benook Fire Station in east Baghdad, has 15 years experience as an emergency responder. He says his 52-person squad gets 3 or 4 calls daily as they're responsible for a 12-sector area involving some 60 streets and several hundred thousand residents. He and his crew also provide mutual support to nearby fire stations when needed.

Apart from normal house and car fires, his squad has responded to a number of explosive device detonations. "Our job is to get to the scene as quickly as possible," he explained. "My squad is well trained, some of them going to Bahrain and Jordan for advanced courses."

Jim Otwell, a fire fighter from Engine 32 in Buffalo, NY, has been working with the Iraq Civil Defense Directorate equipping and training Iraqi firemen including those at the Al Benook Fire Station. "On an average day, Baghdad fire fighters respond to 20 calls that anywhere else in the world would be considered a major catastrophe," Otwell said. "And because they're often the first at a scene, they know there's a possibility of a secondary explosive device. They have a tough job but understand the challenges and are very motivated individuals."

He remembers asking some fire fighters one day why they reported late to a training class. He said they explained they had provided emergency assistance at a bus bombing earlier that day that had killed 26 people and when they finished they discovered Baghdad roads had been closed. "So they walked the 7 miles to class. No matter where you go as a fireman

(continued on next page)



Al Benook's new \$1.2 million fire station in east Baghdad.



A Baghdad fire fighter is interviewed by Al Iraqia TV.



Al Benook Fire Chief Jwaad says hello to COL Lewis

Equipment, training help Iraqi fire fighters

(continued from preceding page)

worldwide, whether in the United States or here in Iraq, it's duty first. They put their people and their government first. They have a proud tradition."

He noted that last year they trained 1000 fire fighters and this year "we're going to train two HAZMAT (hazardous materials) teams, one for Baghdad's east side, one for the west side. In addition, search and rescue teams are being formed for the north, central and southern areas of Iraq. We're looking at providing the fire fighters portable lights for fire and rescue calls at night and portable compressors to fill up their air tanks."

Under Saddam Hussein, Baghdad had just 17 fire stations in various states of disrepair, Otwell continued. Today there are 25 fire stations including 17 older structures that have been totally renovated. "Five years ago places like Sadr City had just one fire station covering 2.5 million people. Today, we have at least three supporting that area, including Al Benook. Response time has decreased from 15 minutes to 5 or 6 minutes. Throughout Iraq \$125 million is being invested in fire stations, equipment, and training."

Al Benook is one of eight new 925-square-meter fire stations in Baghdad. They each feature 5 bays (3 for ladder trucks and 2 for SUVs). It includes a dormitory area for 20 fire fighters, dining room for 30, commercial grade kitchenette to feed 40 people, a training room for 20, locker room, a control room, and a Chief's office. Construction on the \$1.2 million facility was started in December 2004 and completed this May.

"Bless those who built this station," Chief Jwaad said. "This is a fine facility. Our community really appreciates it."