



# NEWS

SEPT 2006



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



## Al Hayan School Renovation *East Baghdad*

The renovation benefits the 1800 pupils in grades K-6 attending the school located in the Kadamiyah area of Karadah District in Baghdad Province.



Before



After



Before



After



Al Dhaan Company of Baghdad had the \$90,895 CERP-funded contract to renovate Al Hayan School in Karada District, Zafaraniya area in East Baghdad. That work included a new room for the administrative staff, 400A 3-phase electrical service, new panels, breakers and switches, new sewer components including a new septic tank, elevated water storage repaired, new commercial water heater installed, an addition for new bathrooms, new furniture, a computer and copy machine. About 20 Iraqis were on the crew. The work started Oct. 26, 2005, and was completed July 22, 2006.



*Fallujah's AEGIS team familiarizes GRC staff Sept. 9 with emergency procedures.*



*MAJ Angel Ortiz in Fallujah enjoys a chat with a youngster near one of the construction sites. That lad, whose father is employed there, says when he gets older he hopes to be involved in the same kind of work helping build Iraq's future.*



## Mustansiriyah University



Al Barz Company of Baghdad has the \$979,606 contract for the repair and rehabilitation of Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad Province, Rusafa District. Construction started Oct. 27, 2005, with a scheduled completion of Oct. 22, 2006. Currently 20 Iraqis are on the crew involved with rendering work for interior walls as well as installing the ducts and insulation for the air conditioning system. About 70% of the work is finished. URI 23134.



*MAJ Robert Nash (right), OIC of GRC IZ Resident Office, talks to the Deputy Chairman of the Karadah District Advisory Council (left) as well as a fellow Council member who oversees the Electrical Dept. operations there. Karadah DAC hosted a visit by Robert Zelnick as he gathered information about reconstruction efforts, the economy, and security in Baghdad.*

## **Bob Zelnick visits GRC IZ office**

*Former ABC executive and correspondent Bob Zelnick and his daughter Marni visited GRC and the IZ Resident Office Aug. 17. Zelnick has been asked to write a 10,000-word report for the Hoover Institution on the status of the U.S. effort in Iraq. Zelnick spent 21 years with ABC where he had assignments in Moscow, Israel and the Pentagon and won two Emmy Awards. For the past eight years he's been a journalism professor at Boston University. Shown at right is MAJ Robert Nash showing Zelnick a video of a 13-story rectangular concrete stairwell at the old Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunication Center being demolished to make room for a new \$22.7 million facility there. Others in the photo include GRC Commander COL Debra Lewis, Tom Clarkson, Zelnick's daughter Marni, and GRC's District Deputy Commander Project Management David Schmidt.*



# DEPARTING MEMBERS



**DON CALDWELL**  
GRC HQ  
Contracting Specialist  
Seattle, WA



**MIKE DOTY**  
Project Engineer  
Fallujah  
Fairbanks, AK



**SFC CRAIG MASON**  
NCOIC  
IZ Office  
Columbus, OH



**LCDR DAMON LILLY**  
OIC Al Asad  
ROICC  
New London, CT



**LCDR MATT McCANN**  
OIC Ramadi  
NAVFAC Pacific  
Pearl Harbor, HI



**LCDR DALE SEELEY**  
Deputy OIC  
1 MEF Area Office  
NAVFAC PWD Crane



**JERRY BREZNICAN**  
GRC HQ  
Security Manager  
Nashville District



**STANLEY SALTER**  
GRC HQ  
Safety Manager  
Ft. Polk, LA



**MSG RICHARD  
PYLYPUW**  
NCOIC  
Victory Area Office  
Anaconda, MT



**WES SNOWDEN**  
Resident Engineer  
Victory Resident Office



**Patrick D'Auray**  
Construction Rep  
Fallujah Resident Office  
Portland District Center



**PETER DEBSKI**  
Project Engineer  
VAO PW/B Office  
La Chapelle Pots,  
France



**JOSEPH FAGLIE**  
QA Rep  
Victory Resident Office  
NAVFAC, San Diego



**GHASSEM KHOSROWNIA**  
Project Engineer  
USAID Project Office  
Sacramento District

# From the Commander . . .

*"In the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." -JFK*

This month marks the anniversary of 9-11, an event that shook our world. While disasters past and present may have taken more lives, I would wager that every one of you can recall exactly what you were doing that dreadful day.

I was working antiterrorism engineer issues at the highest military levels in the Pentagon on the Joint Staff, located on E-Ring in the next wedge from where the plane went in. I lost a number of friends that day, although the pain and the reality would not really hit me until a month later when I saw my brother. You see he called me soon after, agreeing to contact my husband and family for me because immediately after impact, outgoing cell phone calls were impossible. My office went right into 24-hour operations, just as military units across the world did 5 years ago and many continue to this day supporting the GWOT.

Today, joining with these fine military professionals, is an army of Americans, volunteers from many other countries of the world, and many brave Iraqis, all risking their lives each day striving to make a better world for us all.

I'm writing this column in the wee hours and realize it is now September 11<sup>th</sup>. Today many of us will be observing a moment of silence from 9:11-9:12 a.m. in memory of those men, women, children, and heroes who lost their lives on 9-11-2001, and the families who still suffer from the memory of this terrible tragedy.

How have things changed? I recall my view of combatants twenty-six years ago that may or may not surprise you. In an interview after graduation from West Point, I explained how the front and rear lines of

battle now blurred together. Therefore, it made absolute sense to me to undergo the best military training available. How else could I prepare and be expected to make a difference during periods of future conflicts? Sadly, today the lines between combatants and non-combatants are essentially non-existent. Anyone, anywhere can be a target for terrorists.

My hope is that the leaders of the prime offenders will eventually speak out and condemn those who have perverted their religion to justify the murder of others simply for holding different beliefs or being an outsider. But since they have not, it is that much more vital for ultimate success that every community leader and citizen expand their efforts to work together to drive out such tyranny, fear and oppression. When we succeed in strengthening the resolve and skill of the Iraqi people, we enhance their ability to overcome these threats seeking to steal Iraq's future, and support their chance to make Iraq the most stable country in the Middle East with the highest quality of life for its people.

As I've mentioned before, 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. While our existing conditions create many challenges, your efforts ensure progress here is visible and ongoing. Be very proud and never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we could enjoy our way of life.

*"For those who defend it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know." -Unknown*



**Col. Debra M. Lewis**  
GRC Commander

# From the CSM . . .

This being the end of the fiscal year and also the busiest time for GRC, it can be very stressful. Therefore I'd like to distribute a little information concerning stress. Stress is the wear and tear our bodies take in our daily dealings with life and changes. It has both physical and emotional effects that can leave us with positive or negative feelings. Positive feelings can drive us into action resulting in a new awareness and a positive perspective. As a negative influence, stress can result in distrust, anger, and depression which can eventually lead to health issues. Stress is a necessary element in our lives that everyone reacts to differently. It is inescapable, continuous and only changes in intensity. We all need to find our own optimal level.

There are three phases to stress. First is the alarm phase which gives us physical reactions which include nausea, heartburn, sweating, chest pain, rapid breathing, rapid heartbeat, increased blood pressure, muscle aches and disturbance to sleep and appetite. Next is the resistance phase which gives emotional reactions including anger, anxiety, depression, fear, guilt, grief, irritability, sadness, and feelings of isolation and wanting limited contact with others. The final is the burnout phase which can lead to health issues including ulcers, heart attacks, strokes, clinical depression and death.

Identifying our unrelieved stress and the awareness of its effect

on our life alone is not enough to reduce the harmful effects it may cause. There are many sources of stress and many possibilities to manage it. These all require work towards changing the source and your reaction to it. First become aware of your stressors and your physical and emotional reactions.

Recognize what you can change and try to reduce the intensity of your emotions. Learn to moderate your physical reactions and build up your physical and emotional reserves. These can be done through a combination of aerobic exercise, proper nutrition, minimum caffeine intake, proper time management, relaxation, changes to your environment (if possible) and social support with your friends and family. Look out for your "Battle Buddy" and take care of yourself. Stress can be managed!

The 883<sup>rd</sup> Medical Company at Camp Liberty offers stress related classes. Point of contact is CPT Tim Fahey 914 822-1926 or timothy.fahey1@us.army.mil

*"When the road looks rough ahead, remember the Man upstairs and the word Hope. Hang on to both and tough it out." John Wayne*



**Command Sergeant Major**  
Randall Cady



# Chief Yule among those helping rebuild Fallujah

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW)  
Daniel Sanford

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq - The Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) has recently been augmented by some senior enlisted Navy leadership who volunteered as individual augmentees to help rebuild cities within the Al-Anbar Province in western Iraq.

Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler (AW/SW) Michael Yule, who three months ago was teaching at the Center for Navy Leadership in Little Creek, Va., has now found himself playing a vital role in the rebuilding of the provincial cities of Al-Asaad, Ramadi and Fallujah.

Right now we're rebuilding more than 50 new houses in Fallujah," said Yule, a native of Pittsburgh. "We're also repairing roads and coordinating the expansion of office and living spaces on camp and building billboards that promote the Iraqi army and police."

The ACoE arrived at Camp Fallujah in 2004. Since then, it has helped to coordinate dozens of projects - all aimed at rebuilding the war-damaged country.

"We're building a whole new electrical grid system in Fallujah," said Yule. "We're also giving them indoor plumbing and a sewage system that works."

Yule coordinates projects between the Camp Fallujah's ACoE area office and local and regional companies. Because he's one of only two Sailors attached to this unit, he often finds himself doing more than coordinating.

"I coordinate, but I'm also the manpower,"

said Yule, an 18-year Navy veteran. "We have a large spectrum of people who are trying to make these projects work, but often I'm the guy who's also out there helping to build these projects."

For a Sailor who has spent the majority of his career around aircraft, it may seem unusual to find him managing the construction of sewage lines in the middle of the desert. However, Yule says it was just a matter of raising his hand.

"I was the command career counselor at the time," he said. "We kept receiving requests for someone to fill this billet and after no one responded, it looked like they were going to pull one of the guys who just arrived at the command with recent months. So I stepped up and said I'd do it."

Like many individual augmentees, Yule is taking six months away from his current shore duty to assist in the U.S. and coalition efforts in the Middle East. While his wife and two children were disappointed in his departure, Yule says they also support his decision.

"It's difficult to be away from them, but they understand what I'm trying to do out here and they support me."

But even with their support, Yule realizes that he's stationed in a very dangerous place.

"At first I was a little apprehensive, but as time rolls on you can see progress," he said. "You see the dedication of the workers and the importance of the job firsthand.

"I love it when the kids run out to see us when we arrive," said Yule with a smile. "The workers come up to us, shake our hands and slap us on the back. You can sense the general feeling toward the U.S. and coalition changing for the better. And to be a part of it," said Yule, "you can't beat it."



*Navy Chief Michael Yule*

# HELLO TO OUR ARRIVING MEMBERS



**MAJ QUAY B. JONES**  
Deputy OIC  
4 ID Area Office  
Korea



**DENNIS HENLEY SR.**  
GRC HQ  
Security Officer  
Jacksonville, FL



**DERRICK C. MITCHELL**  
Project Engineer  
Loyalty FOB  
Kansas City District



**KEVIN N. ADDISON**  
Project Engineer  
Al Asad  
Louisville District



**SUSAN NEWBY**  
GRC HQ  
Contract Specialist  
Seattle District



**FELIX GUZMAN**  
GRC HQ  
Internal Review  
Ft. Lewis, WA



**ALLEN SHELVIN**  
Fallujah  
Project Engineer  
Huntsville Center



**ARTHUR CAGE**  
Fallujah  
Project Engineer  
ERDC Alexandria, VA



**GERALD CARDEN**  
VAO Project Engineer  
San Antonio, TX



**THOMAS ANDERSON**  
VAO Project Engineer  
St. Paul District



**BRAVEN DYER**  
VAO Project Engineer  
Kansas City District  
Ft. Riley, KS



**VALARIE ALBRECHT**  
GRC HQ Budget/  
Program Analyst  
Sacramento District



**JESSE DALBY**  
Project Engineer  
Fallujah WWTP  
Savannah District  
Ft. Bragg, NC



**CURTIS BRAGG**  
VAO  
Engineer Tech  
Savannah District



**DAVID CARTE**  
MILCON  
Project Manager  
Kansas City District



## Zafraniya paving, storm, curbs ...

Dsag Company of Baghdad has the \$8M contract to install storm drains, curbs and paving on main streets in east Baghdad in Mahalas (listed by priority) 953, 950, 952, 952, mahala for Zafaraniya Hospital, 951, 949, 955, 959, and 961. The project will improve the quality of roadways in Zafraniya along with protecting the sewer, water, telephone, and electrical lines. Work started Sept. 12, 2005, with a required completion date of Sept. 7, 2006. Currently 96% of the project is finished. About 65 Iraqis are on the crew. URI 22417.



## Sadr City's Al Baladi Hospital

Work continues on the \$12.3M project to modernize Al Baladi Hospital. Al Farouq Co. of Baghdad is the Prime Contractor with a required completion of Jan. 10, 2007. Work consists of modernizing the hospital including repairing or replacing sanitary and storm sewer works and plumbing systems, electrical systems, mechanical systems, cosmetic renovation. Construction started July 5, 2004. Construction completion is scheduled April 18, 2006. About 140 Iraqi men and 20 women are employed on the crew. Current work includes refurbishing floors, installing ceramic tiles, suspended ceilings, water pumps and piping, rehabilitating the water-cooled chiller system, and masonry work. URI 10296 and 26676.





**GRC Commander, Colonel Debra Lewis, gets an opportunity to say hello to Fallujah Mayor Jassim Bedawi during their city council meeting Aug. 29.**



**Fallujah City Council Secretary Abbas Ali Hussein al-Jaboori speaks to COL Debra Lewis and MAJ Angel Ortiz about the ongoing reconstruction work.**

## **Fallujah city officials discuss reconstruction**

**GRC Commander, Colonel Debra Lewis, attended Fallujah city council's Aug. 29 meeting to meet with key leaders and discuss the \$170 million in reconstruction work being conducted in their community.**

**Those elected officials had an opportunity to ask a variety of questions and Major Angel Ortiz, GRC Fallujah Resident Office OIC, told them tremendous progress was being made upgrading the city's electrical and water systems. All agreed Fallujah's top priority is security and once that's under control, economic and business development will follow.**



**Fallujah Water District Engineer Hameed Metlag Munther talks to COL Deb Lewis and her interpreter Natalia Najjar.**



**GRC CSM Randall Cady is greeted by an Iraqi Army soldier at the Fallujah city meeting.**



**COL Lewis speaks with Fallujah Engineer Isam (electrical sector) and Engineer Thaker (wastewater sector) along with their interpreter.**



Colonel Dennis D. Doyle (10th CSH Commander) and CSM Cy Akana honor Dennis Graham during a special ceremony Aug. 18.



SFC Craig Mason is presented a memento by TF10 CSH Aug. 18 for contributing platelets at the IZ Blood Bank 12 times during his year-long tour.

## Graham, SFC Mason recognized for exceptional support to IZ Blood Bank

Two GRC personnel were individually recognized during a special ceremony Aug. 18 for their support of the Blood Bank at Ibn Sina Hospital in Baghdad's International Zone.

That facility supports TF10 CSH (Combat Support Hospital), the busiest trauma unit in the world. With a 71-bed hospital including 24 beds in its ICU ward, the staff sees 600 soldiers in its emergency room monthly admitting 400 of those.

Many of those wounded warriors are in desperate need of blood. GRC Engineering Tech Dennis Graham, who has overseen millions of dollars in reconstruction work at the hospital, was praised for his effort in recruiting 31 volunteers to donate over 71 units of platelets during a nine-month period.

Graham says that nearly 100% of GRC's International Zone Office stepped forward. He points out it takes about 1 1/2 hours to donate the platelets but the final product, one unit, can be used on any injured soldier regardless of blood type.

"In fact," says Graham, "there's enough platelets in one unit that 6 or 7 individuals can benefit from that one donation."

During the Aug. 18 ceremony, Colonel Dennis D. Doyle, 10th CSH Commander, pointed out that often immediately following the collection process, those platelets were rushed directly to the Operating Room to injured soldiers who desperately needed a transfusion.

He praised not only Graham but also SFC Craig Mason who donated blood 12 times during his one-year tour. Mason served as GRC IZ Office's Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge and helped oversee \$400 million in reconstruction work. He's proud of the various projects that were completed during his tour such as fresh potable water and sewer lines being connected to local neighborhoods for the first time ever. But he says his participation in the blood drive was a very personal thing and he was just glad he could help out.

Graham is starting his third year in Iraq and continues to encourage those he meets to consider taking time out of their hectic schedules to stop by the Blood Bank. "It's an opportunity, in the midst of some of the insanity we see on the streets in Baghdad, to make a real difference -- to give the gift of life to not only American soldiers but injured Iraqis who are being treated here."

Apart from its emergency room, Ibn Sina Hospital provides medical care to about 1900 patients monthly in its newly-opened outpatient clinic. Its mission is helping others, and COL Doyle appreciates the priority SFC Mason, Graham and the rest of the GRC IZ staff have placed in supporting them.



**Victory Area Office projects**



**Iraqi crews help upgrade Camp Victory**

*Hundreds of Iraqis are on construction crews at the Camp Victory complex working on a variety of projects including widening and resurfacing roads, drainage, erecting new observation towers, installing dining facility overhead protection, and upgrades to Entry Control Points. In all, Victory Area Office is overseeing over 100 projects valued at \$215 million.*



QA Rep Dorothy Ivey views concrete slump test.



## Al Asad opens new AAFES facility



Concrete being placed



Customers flock to opening of new facility.



Concrete overhead from pump truck



III MAW Chief of Staff, COL Scott Kerchner, officiates at ribbon cutting of Al Asad's new AAFES facility..



Smoothing placed concrete

## Al Asad AAFES Retail Facility

**SCOPE OF WORK** — This \$669,887 AAFES facility is a prefabricated 30-meter by 45-meter building that also features a warehouse and 15-meter by 30-meter office space. The contractor, Global Freight Systems Co., ensured the structure met U.S. building standards for a three-year design life. The building is a turn-key installation and includes an operation and maintenance (O&M) plan. Construction started Dec. 29, 2005; and was completed Aug. 25, 2006. GRC Project Engineer on the site was James Ruyak and the QA Rep Dorothy Ivey.

**EFFECTS** — This new AAFES building offers the capacity to serve a populace of 12,000 people. The previously used facility will now be reverted back into a much-needed gymnasium.

## Hotel California

Before → After



## Hotel California Barracks renovation

GRC's Ramadi resident office recently completed a \$943K renovation of the Hotel California barracks at Camp Taqaddam. The Hotel California complex consists of six open-bay barracks with four auxiliary buildings, and is used for bed-down of transient Marines passing through Camp TQ. The contractor, Serka Turizm Nakliyat Insaat Tic Ve, completed the work in six months, repairing extensive damage and correcting many safety deficiencies in the original structure. The renovated barracks are bright, clean, and comfortable, and provide Camp Taqaddam a vastly improved surge space for transient troops.



Aerial view of Camp TQ's "Hotel California"



## GRC's Ramadi staff

GRC staff members at Ramadi include (top photo, left) CDR James Lee (Al Anbar PRT LNO), OIC LCDR Chris Via, GRC CSM Randall Cady, Navy Chief Autumn Trainer, COL Debra Lewis, Project Engineer Jim Jackson, Resident Engineer In Park, Project Engineers Jesse Dalby and Martin Munoz. In the photo at left is Project Engineer Derek Walker who had just returned from downtown Ramadi looking over battle damage of the Provincial Government Center.





*Louis Alfred, Jose Gonzalez, and Desmond Brumfield*



*Debra Ramirez and Roy Brase*



*Peter Debski and Mark Gibson*

## GRC's Labor Day BBQ



*LTC Ken O'Connor and SFC Leai Toele*



*CDR Keith White*



*SFC Leai Toele*



*Braven Dyer, Thomas Anderson and Eric Peterson*



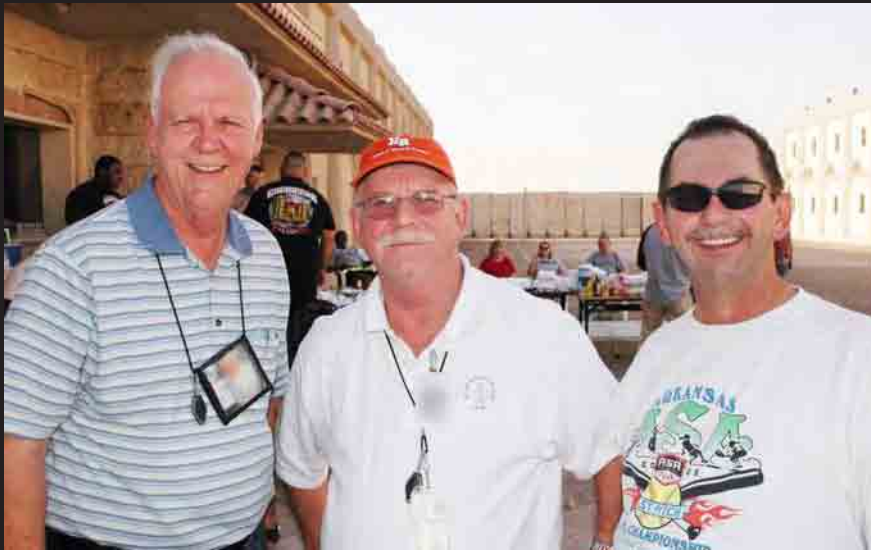
*LTC Jon Revolinsky and MAJ Quay Jones*



*Carolyn and Terry Steuart*



*MSG Dale Dupree and Lisis Batista*



*Gerald Carden, Curtis Bragg, and David Newman*



*Navy - Army  
MA1 Laurie Taylor & CSM Randall Cady*

**Staff enjoys  
Labor Day BBQ**



*David Newman*



*Roy Harris, Gerald Barker, and Bob Klimenko*



## First Aid Training

GRC's VAO Area Office hosted a First Aid Refresher Training Class Aug. 31, led by SGT Ronnie Moore with the 602nd ASMC at Camp Liberty's Whitmer TMC as well as GRC's SFC David Eckert. Training included instruction on the QuikClot Absorbent Hemostatic Agent, Hemorrhage Control Compression Bandage and Trauma Wound Dressing, and Basic First Aid. One of the volunteers who stepped forward as a "patient" was Alfred Everett (bottom photos). About 40 GRC personnel attended the class.



## Baghdad's Al Karkh Central Courthouse

Al Juthoor of Baghdad has the \$11.2M contract to construct a Regional Court judicial facility in the Al Karkh neighborhood of Baghdad. This is a 4,000 sq. meter building, composed of 2 floors with 2,000 sq. meters per floor. Construction started May 25, 2005, with an estimated completion date of Nov. 1, 2006. Currently the project is 85% finished. About 165 Iraqis have been on the crew. **IMPACT:** This Regional Courthouse will serve about 1.2 million people in Kadhamiyah, Karkh, and adjacent areas west of the Tigris River in Baghdad.







*MG McCoy presents LTC King's new silver oak leaf cluster.*



*MSG Dale Dupree gives a cigar lighter for the special occasion.*



*CDR Keith White, COL Deb Lewis, MG William McCoy, LTC David King.*



*COL Michael Herman*



*CDR White & MSG Freeman*

## **King promoted to Lt. Colonel**

*MAJ David King was promoted to Lt. Colonel during a special ceremony Sept. 8 officiated by MG William H. McCoy Jr., Commander Gulf Region Division. MG McCoy praised LTC King's leadership saying he "keeps everything moving in the right direction to accomplish the mission."*

*LTC King deployed with the California National Guard's 40th Infantry Division's HHD Engineer Brigade in May 2006 for a one-year tour in Iraq and is GRC's Chief of Operations and Plans. He's involved in GRC's reconstruction efforts that total over 1500 completed and ongoing projects involving nearly \$3 billion in work. The 50-year-old enlisted in the Army in 1975 when he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division for a 3-year tour. He earned his commission in 1988 and has served as both a Logistician and an Engineer. He and his wife Patricia have four children and their home is in Suisun, CA.*



*LTC David King cuts the cake following his promotion ceremony Sept. 8 officiated by MG William H. McCoy Jr., Commander Gulf Region Division.*



*Teresa Reinig, Bill Graney and Patrick Guertin were among those on the first-ever EnvST team. (Not present for photo Susan Tianen.)*

# USACE helps assess American environmental compliance in Iraq

Environmental concerns may seem somewhat out of place in a war zone.

But a number of U.S. regulations including the Overseas Baseline Environmental Guidance Document (OBEGD) requires an assessment when American forces are stationed in a foreign country.

Multi-National Corps Iraq (MNCI) asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for help to meet those guidelines and David Carte from the Kansas City District was tapped as the Project Manager to lead the newly-established “Environmental Support Team” (EnvST), the first-time ever such a group deployed. Others on the 5-person team included Susan Tianen from the Los Angeles District, Bill Graney Seattle District, Teresa Reinig from the Omaha District, and Patrick Guertin from ERDC’s Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, IL.

“We visited seven bases in central and northern Iraq and checked such areas as air quality, solid waste and hazardous waste management, potable water and wastewater treatment facilities, weapon ranges, and

unexploded ordnance disposal. Our mission was to determine if we were in compliance and brief MNCI’s C7 on our findings,” Carte explained

“What we discovered, and MNCI concurred, is that our findings apply generically to most bases in Iraq. In fact, we’re writing a Scope of Work (SOW) specifically addressing trash/dump guidelines (such as the need to sort recyclables and plastics to reduce the volume) and remediation.” This is Carte’s third tour in Iraq. He was part of a Forward Engineering Support Team from June to September 2003 providing technical help to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Tikrit. He returned and served from December 2004 to June 2005, most of that time as the Resident Engineer at the Baiji Power Plant halfway between Baghdad and Mosul.



*EnvST Project Manager  
David Carte*

Following the conclusion of his 5-week mission as the EnvST team leader, he agreed to continue on in Iraq until January 2007 as Gulf Region Division Central District’s Military Construction Project Manager. In that job he will be responsible for overseeing \$131 million in ongoing MILCON projects in Baghdad and Al Anbar Provinces.



*Soccer balls, toys, stuffed animals among the items AEGIS teams distribute to Iraqi families.*



## Aegis Reconstruction Civil Affairs aids Iraqis with ‘Quick Impact Projects’

Iraqi communities are getting critical needs met through low-cost, high impact projects by the Aegis Reconstruction Civil Affairs team, G7 (RCA). The *Aegis Foundation* supports RCA with donations which provide goods or services that are put directly into local Baghdad and Anbar communities where humanitarian assistance is needed most. “A unique feature of the Aegis Foundation is that it has no administrative overheads. All donations in their entirety go to providing humanitarian aid,” explains RCA G7 Director David Cooper.

With the challenging security situation, most non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other assistance agencies cannot gain entrance into communities. Cooper points out that the RCA, working internally with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Gulf Region Division Central District), Coalition Forces’ Civil Affairs (CA) and other partners, is able to establish relationships with local leaders in rural and urban areas to assess and help those community needs.

Earlier this year, RCA worked through Aegis Reconstruction Liaison Teams (RLTs) to provide Baghdad neighbourhood youth with soft toys and sport equipment, including soccer balls. With insurgent activity and other negative pressures, the community could not provide their youth basic recreational

equipment. Through donated goods from individuals, including some GRC employees, the RLT allocated time during one of their missions to hand out toys and equipment to youth. “Now, these children have the means to explore recreational activities,” Cooper said.

RCA projects in the GRC area of operations have also included the procurement and installation of a water purification unit for a school in western Baghdad. With cash donations, that unit dispenses drinking water from taps set up in that facility. “Now, students and their families can benefit from a clean water supply,” Cooper continued. “We hope to enable healthy minds to exist in healthy bodies.”

RCA does low cost, high impact projects, each averaging about \$3,000, that either directly or indirectly complement GRC activities, Cooper said. “While, the majority of reconstruction projects are long term in nature, they will in time bring marked improvements. In the interim, RCA helps ease tensions and build hope for the future, as well as enhance security and ensure entrance into communities for GRD.”

RCA project identification comes from on-the-ground knowledge – from the “eyes and ears” of RLTs, GRD and CA. Because they are in the community on a daily basis, working with Iraqis to address needs, RCA can assess where a donation will have the greatest impact.

Other RCA projects throughout the country have included art, school and medical supplies, orphanage and retired persons’ home goods, soccer field rehabilitation and tournaments, and generators for community and school buildings.



*Water purification unit installed at school in Baghdad.*



*Stephen Gibbs and his son Specialist Stephen S. Gibbs Jr. are both serving in Iraq and another son is on the way.*

# Gibbs along with his two sons answering Army's call to Iraq

A father and his son are currently serving in Iraq and another son will soon be joining them.

Stephen Gibbs is Chief of Logistics Management at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District in Baghdad. He started his tour in Iraq in September, 2005.

His 20-year-old son, Army Specialist Stephen Springfield Gibbs Jr., is a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 22<sup>nd</sup> Mechanized Infantry Regiment with 4<sup>th</sup> ID out of Ft. Hood Texas. He is with Military Intelligence and reported to Iraq in December. He spent his first six months at Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad where he was nominated for a Combat Action Badge when a 107mm incoming Katyusha rocket exploded 50 yards away.

His other son, 19-year-old Army Private First Class Christopher Gibbs, is with 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division also located at Ft. Hood and expects to be in Iraq next month.

Gibbs is proud of his two sons. "They're doing good things for a good reason. They're getting a quick dose of adulthood. They enlisted in the Army to better themselves."

Father Gibbs served 23 years as an Army enlisted logistician at posts throughout the world and retired as a First Sergeant. "It's great to know they took a little bit of their father with them," he added.

Specialist Gibbs moved to Camp Liberty near the Baghdad Airport three months ago, the same area his father works. "We try to get together weekly for dinner or a pizza," Stephen Sr. noted. "We discuss what's going on as well as our plans for the future."

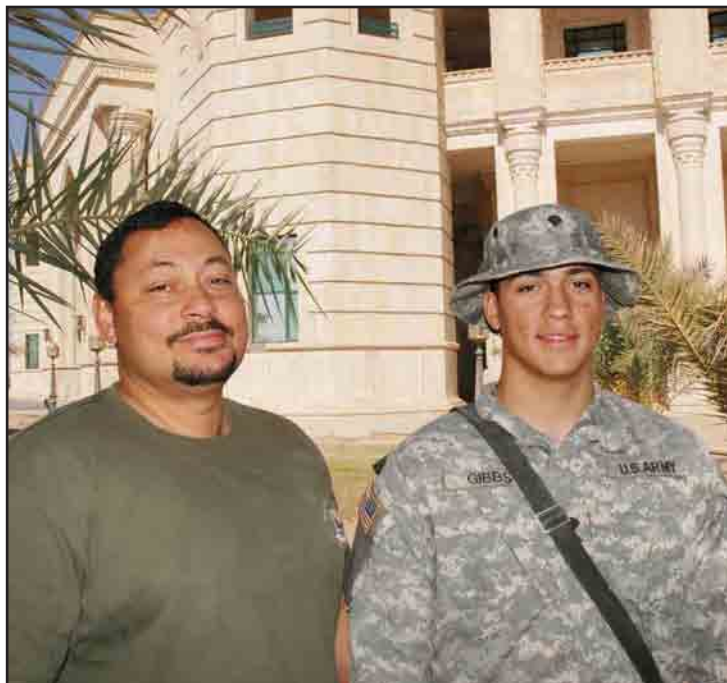
His older son has three more months in Iraq and two years left on his enlistment. He says he joined the Army to get his life "jump started. I was doing construction work and I wanted to do something more."

He plans to pursue a college degree and is currently looking at either

San Diego State University or University of Arizona studying to become a nurse anesthiologist. He's grateful for the college benefits he's earned by serving in the Army. And down the road, after completing a college degree, he says applying for an Army commission may definitely be something he pursues.

Not too many families can say they have three members serving in a war zone, said Specialist Gibbs, who is called "Junior" by his dad and others.

On Sept. 9, Stephen Sr. was pleased to be invited to his son's promotion ceremony when he advanced from E-3 to E-4. "Both sons are doing great," Gibbs said. "They're motivated and when you enjoy something, you don't mind the extra hours it takes to get the mission accomplished."



*Stephen Gibbs, & his son Spec.Gibbs at the Al Faw Palace.*



## Al Bitar Cardiac Hospital's 21-patient Critical Care Unit nears completion in Baghdad

One of Baghdad's few hospitals that offers open heart surgery will soon be opening a new Critical Care Unit (CCU).

Ibn Al Bitar Cardiac Hospital in the Salhiya District of downtown Baghdad was first opened in the late 1950s to offer health care for the thousands of employees working at Baghdad Central Train Station located nearby.

Then in the 1970s it was designated a public hospital treating Baghdad residents with various types of illnesses. Twenty years later, it began specializing in helping those with cardiac problems, one of only three Baghdad Hospitals to offer such treatment. Following Operation Desert Storm in 1991, humanitarian aid was obtained to renovate the hospital adding three critical care units — one for youngsters, one for men, one for women.

But following Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, looters ransacked and tore down those three steel-frame metal buildings. Gulf Region Central District International Zone Deputy Resident Engineer Kareem says that's when the hospital asked the U.S. Army Brigade Combat Team operating in that area if they could help and \$579,284 was authorized in CERP funds (Commander's Emergency Response Program).

Construction on the new addition started on Jan. 4, 2006, and is expected to be completed around Oct. 1. Currently the work is 97% finished.

In the meantime and over the past three years, the hospital's cafeteria has served as a makeshift Critical Care Unit with the capacity of just 11 beds.

Kareem says the 20 doctors and 45 nurses who work at Al Bitar Cardiac Hospital are looking forward to the opening of the 646-sq.-meter Critical Care Unit that will feature 8 private rooms and one public area with 13 additional beds (total 21 patients). The structure also contains an unfinished 646-sq.-meter 2<sup>nd</sup> floor that will double that capacity to 42 patients when additional funds are identified.

Kareem says he's proud to have helped oversee the work and knows it will be an improvement that will benefit Baghdad families for years to come.