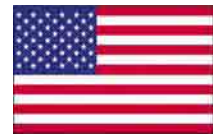




NEWS

APRIL 2007



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



Col. Debra Lewis with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says hello to a toddler awaiting medical care.

Helping Baghdad's youngest residents get well

Construction continues on renovating the Alwaiya Children's Hospital in east Baghdad. Nearly 100 Iraqi workers are involved with the \$2.9 million project that is expected to be completed in August.

Currently they're involved with plastering, installing ceramic wall tiles and terrazzo floors, new ceilings, painting, electrical and putting in heating and air conditioning duct work. Half the 217-bed facility has already been upgraded and is in use. Alwaiya Hospital Administrator, Dr. Tariff Fazil says his hospital sees an average of 350 patients daily and most are cared for as outpatients. About 30 to 35 youngsters are admitted. "We're very pleased with the improvements," he added.

"It touches your heart every time you walk through their door," says Iraqi Engineer Abdul-Kareem who is employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) overseeing the work. "It comes down to the basics of humanity and helping save people's lives. Doctors and nurses there are now using equipment that was simply not available two years ago."

The projects includes a new water purification system, new mechanical system (both air conditioning and heating), medical waste incinerator, oxygen plant and central vacuum system, nurse call system, intercom paging system, data communications network, new restrooms, new exhaust system to remove unhealthy air and odors, a new generator for emergency power, new lighting, and structural repair

"This hospital takes care of the poorest people in Baghdad. The medical staff had been working in absolute miserable conditions prior to our start of the project. Newborns and young children were dying there every day," said the 33-year-old engineer who is a lifetime resident of Baghdad. "We've made a difference and I'm pleased to have been part of it. Alwaiya Children's Hospital is now providing health care at the same high standard as private hospitals here. It's great to see these youngsters benefiting from our efforts."

Joe Nolin, Resident Engineer of the USACE International Zone Office, says when he recently visited the project he was amazed at the number of families being helped every day. "Although we have work going on throughout the facility, they've been able to stay open. Obviously, there's a huge need for quality health care in Iraq and it's heart-warming to see the progress going on there. Just the little things we take for granted in the U.S. such as air conditioning and an oxygen plant were unavailable until we stepped in. This is definitely a great story."

Nolin's office is responsible for essential service improvements in half of Baghdad. They currently oversee about 150 projects valued at over \$500 million including repairing sewer lift stations, installing new potable water networks, paving roads, putting in neighborhood electric distribution networks, rehabilitating water treatment plants, constructing public healthcare centers, and rebuilding gas stations.



A Baghdad mother proudly introduces her daughter to Col. Debra Lewis with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Media visit

Alex Kingsbury (center) with U.S. News and World Report, and a crew from Slovenian TV recently visited Alwaiya Children's Hospital. The facility's Administrator, Dr. Tariff Fazil (right), led the tour of the 217-bed facility and told the reporters the hospital sees an average of 350 patients daily. The hospital is being renovated under a \$2.86 million contract and the work is expected to be completed in August.



An Iraqi newborn's breathing is assisted inside an incubator.



Nearly 100 Iraqi workers are helping renovate the hospital.



Mr. Ali, chairman of the Fajr City Council, is looking forward to the completion of the Kadamiyah Courthouse addition as his office will be among those located in the new facility.

Kadamiyah expands local community complex

Construction workers are busy building an addition to the Kadamiyah Courthouse in western Baghdad. A new one story 427-sq.-meter building is under construction that will expand the overall facility 25 percent.

The Criminal Investigation Court includes three judges, two prosecutors, and 11 judicial investigators. The Personal Status Court has three judges. About 300 litigants attend the court daily.

That new building, which adjoins the existing facility, will be utilized by both the Al Fajr and Atifiya city councils. Al Fajr chairman, Mr. Ali, said the new structure is a great addition to the community. "This facility demonstrates what first class workmanship is all about. It's excellent from the foundation up. I'm very pleased with the contractor's efforts."

Lt. Col. Glen Masset, Commander of the 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, tracks ongoing community improvements in northwest Baghdad. "These projects are important. They're visible and they're lasting. When people walk or drive by, they know their government is investing in their community, trying to make things better. It serves as a constant reminder their government is working."

Joseph Nolin, whose U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office is overseeing the work, said, "All these projects mean local construction jobs. The average Iraqi wants the same things we all do...to provide for their families as they help rebuild their country. They want opportunities for their children. They're concerned about the safety and well being of their loved ones. This project strengthens local governance. It provides a facility so local leaders can gather to make decisions bettering their neighborhoods. It's another step in getting this country back on its feet."

Currently the project is 80 percent complete and should be finished by May



Workers install the floor in the new addition for the Kadamiyah Courthouse complex. Work on the project started in August and should be completed in May. Kadamiyah Courthouse has about 300 litigants attending the court daily.



Before



Before



Today



Kadamiyah Courthouse complex

Kadamiyah's Courthouse complex is being expanded with a new administration building providing 25 percent more room. That new structure will be utilized by both the Fajr and Atifiya city councils. The project is 80 percent finished and should be completed by May.

Joseph Nolin with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says hello to a couple Kadamiyah youngsters.



Kadamiyah repairing large sewage lift station

One of Kadamiyah's largest sewage lift stations is being rebuilt.

The station's four high-capacity vertical pumps are all being overhauled as well as four submersible pumps, explained Joseph Nolin with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers whose staff is overseeing the work. "We're installing new valves, new fittings, new electrical control panels, a new 350kva generator, and repairing/painting the exterior walls. If you can imagine what it's like without a functioning sewer, this project will have a very positive impact on this neighborhood," Nolin said. "It was operating at only about 50 percent capacity. Through a lot of effort we're getting it back to being fully functional."

The Iraqi manager at that lift station says the work was definitely needed. "This provides an important service to this community," he noted. "I'm very pleased with what they're doing."

Lt. Col. Glen Masset, Commander of the 9th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry



Division, tracks ongoing community improvements in northwest Baghdad and says this definitely is a key project for that area. "When sewage is no longer standing in their streets, when it's disposed of in accordance with western standards, it will be a much healthier place. The infrastructure throughout Baghdad was in absolute terrible condition when Coalition forces arrived. It had been neglected for years. We're taking steps to correct those deficiencies."

Masset pointed out that the project demonstrates to local residents that their government is working and things are getting better. He notes that the Iraqi contractor dealt directly with Baghdad's Director General for Sewers along with the Amanat to secure a permit for every proposed improvement. "The D.G. and the Amanat are the ones who will be signing off that the finished project meets their specifications."

The work started in December and should be finished in April.



Kadamiyah Sewage Lift Station operator shows two of the new electrical panels at his facility.



Kadamiyah Sewage Lift Station

From the Commander . . .

Our Time is Now!

"Hard things are put in our way, not to stop us, but to call out our courage and strength." - Anonymous

On the radio one morning, I briefly heard the announcer state that a new report found animals and plants do better when put under stress rather than enjoying only the easy life. Something also was mentioned that developing character and strength resulted from pain. I had hoped to hear more, but radio waves from another station playing music took over.

I thought about the story, my own experiences, and my beliefs. Even my most painful experiences have taught me something important. Ultimately, my circumstances have turned out for the best, even when they had to get much worse before things improved. Knowing the outcome does not usually make it easier to accept the circumstances at the time. Perhaps more significant is the timing of these events. Ever notice how frustration can easily develop when the "best laid plans" are delayed or derailed by actual events? Even when we are setting the conditions for progress and future opportunities, we must not let our negative first responses cloud our judgment. Ever notice there is usually a very good reason why something doesn't happen as fast or as you planned it? Believe it!

Life is all about transitions and new experiences. Just like a hot fire can temper steel, our time together during these simultaneously exciting, hostile and increasingly complex circumstances make each of us better for the experiences. While normal monthly rotations are 15%, over 60% of our personnel will be rotating out in the next three months. Each month, we share some of the best of times, quickly followed by significant challenges we must overcome, as if we are running a sprint marathon. Words will never be adequate to express my sincere appreciation for everything each of you has done and continues to do for others and me as we take this journey together.

This next month is especially bittersweet as we say goodbye to so many of you who have put so much of your heart and soul into making GRC the success it is today, as we serve our great Nation and the Iraqi people. A special thanks to David Schmidt, our District Deputy for Project Management for being the best DPM I could ever hope to serve with. David, your unwavering support

definitely made a difference to every employee assigned to GRC, especially me, and everyone else we worked with or supported. Thanks also to CSM Randy Cady... you will be remembered as someone who cares deeply for others with a terrific sense of humor and love of all things John Wayne!

Other key district military leaders we say a fond farewell to include CDR Jerry Gompers, LTC Danny Thurmond, LTC David King, LTC Ken O'Connor, MAJ Rob Nash, MAJ Ron Ford, MAJ Steve Martinelli, MAJ Angel Ortiz, LCDR Jeff

Powell, LCDR Jay Mitchell, and LT Harrison. We certainly could not have done all that we did last year without the great units from the 412th Engineer Command (Vicksburg, Mississippi) or the Engineer Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard, led by COL Mike Herman. What a great group of military professionals to serve with!!!

We welcome to GRC this month military leaders from two key units: the 416th Engineer Command (Chicago, Illinois); and the Engineer Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, North Dakota National Guard. We already know each of you possesses special talents to enhance our GRC team. I also know you are well prepared to carry on with an eagerness and energy essential for strengthening our abilities. We will continue to be tested during the next critical phase of this conflict. Yet we are also certain we will be better for the experiences we gain and the amazing relationships and friendships we form with our many partners, employees, and especially the inspirational people of Iraq working beside us and now leading our efforts in a variety of ways as we build a better future for us all. Our time is now! We must and will make the best of it. What an honor it continues to be for me to serve with each of you.

"People may forget what you say, but they never forget how you made them feel." -Sherry Gaylor



Col. Debra M. Lewis
GRC Commander

From the CSM . . .

As I think about what to write this month, I realize this will be my final newsletter from Iraq. I ask myself, where did the time go? It hasn't seemed like a year since we arrived, but this month it's time to turn our duties and responsibilities over to another group of fine individuals who are fresh, willing, and able to take care of business. Many outstanding individuals have passed through our organization during this time and I've had the pleasure to meet them all and work directly with several. What a great mixture—Army, Navy, Reserve Forces, and civilians from all over, every individual working toward a common goal. Outstanding!

I've enjoyed the visits I've made to the different offices and site locations seeing everyone and the projects they are involved with: fire stations, water purification, electrical upgrades, sewer, schools, police stations, health clinics. The progress and accomplishments you've made since I first arrived is amazing. This has been a definite team effort that could not have been done without each and every one of you. Hold your head up high and be proud of being a part of this great reconstruction effort and important part of Iraq's history which will increase the quality of life for the Iraqi people for generations to come. Those staying behind—continue the great work you are doing, stay safe, stay hydrated, and don't get complacent in your tour. Take care of the incoming personnel and teach them what you know. You're a great team and your job here is to "do what's right, not what's easy". Essays, let us try!

To those leaving, I want to thank you for your service and dedication.

Remember, your deployment isn't over until you are back at home safe and sound sitting on your living room sofa. There may be changes when you return home, but most changes aren't bad. They're usually made because a situation dictates a change. Don't make any drastic assumptions—ease back into your family life and enjoy time with them. We talk situational awareness here. Well, the same applies at home. Remember where you are and don't practice the driving techniques you learned in Iraq at home. I'm sure the local authorities will not be impressed. Relax, use common sense, and enjoy life, but most of all...be safe.

And to everyone, again I express my thanks for all you have done and a special thank you goes out to your families for their support allowing you to be here. I hope my time here has made a difference and that I am leaving things a little better than when I arrived. This has been an indescribable experience for me and I could not have asked for a better deployment. Thank you!

"A man's got to have a code, a creed to live by. I won't be wronged, I won't be insulted, and I won't be laid a hand on. I don't do these things to other people and I require the same from them." -John Wayne from his final movie "The Shootist"



Command Sergeant Major
Randall Cady



Maj. Steve Martinelli (right)

Mahmudiyah contractors meet

GRC hosted a 2 ½-hour seminar Feb. 20 attended by 15 Iraqi contractors representing 13 construction companies at the Mahmudiyah Civil Military Operations Center. Purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview on regulations and practices to bidding on USACE-level contracts.

GRC's Chief of Contracting, Sherry Gaylor, led the discussion assisted by Victory Area Office South OIC, Maj. Steve Martinelli, and GRC HQ Bilingual Bicultural Advisor Shirwan Awan.

Gaylor pointed out that access to the internet was a critical first step as all tenders were advertised there on the Iraqi Business Center web site - www.baghdadbusinesscenter.org

She briefed the contracting process from the Statement of Work, Advertisement, Site Visit, Amendments, to the receiving of proposals, and awarding the contract. Her presentation was entitled, "Writing a Successful Proposal."

Gaylor emphasized the critical need to meet bid deadline requirements along with the importance of past performance evaluations. She then went step by step explaining the various sections of a solicitation offer and concluded her remarks answering questions.

Maj. Martinelli presented his role and responsibilities in solicitations, project management and payment. He told those in attendance that by "being here today it demonstrates your willingness to learn professionally how you can become an important part in the building of Iraq."



GRC's Chief of Contracting Sherry Gaylor

ARRIVING MEMBERS



DAVID VALEN
Facilities, Transportation
Project Manager
Mendota Heights, MN



JASON JOSEPH
GRC HQ
IT Specialist
Ft. Leavenworth, KS



PAUL ANDERSON
GRC HQ
Construction Manager
Elora, TN



DR. WILLIAM DELEO
IZ Office
Resident Engineer
Greenville, NC



JOSE MARRERO
IT Specialist
Lansing, KS



DEAN MESENBRINK
Project Engineer
Ramadi Resident Office
Seattle District



SIGMUND ROH
Project Engineer
Taji Resident Office
Washington, DC



WAYNE BIRGADO
Construction Rep
Victory Resident Office
Honolulu, HI



CHIEF JAMES DAVIS
NCOIC
Loyalty Resident Office
Washington Navy Yard



LT ROBERT LEINES
OIC
Loyalty Resident Office
NAS Atlanta, GA



JAY MORGAN
Haditha Dam
Const. Rep
Seattle District
Chief Joseph Dam



ROBERT HENSON
GRC HQ
Legal Counsel
Japan Engineer District



MAMIE ANDERSON
GRC HQ
Contract Specialist
Wilmington, NC



LTC JAMES MOORE
Anbar Area Office OIC
416th ENCOM
Potomac Falls, VA



SGT KATRAIL SMITH
GRC HQ
Manpower NCO
Ft. Wainwright, AK

ARRIVING MEMBERS



LTC CULEN ROBINSON
OIC Plans & Ops
416th ENCOM
Clarksville, TN



ATC GREGORY PERRY
Anbar Area Office
NCOIC
Oak Harbor, WA



CHRISTOPHER MANSFIELD
IT Specialist
Sylmar, CA



MSG LEE COLLIER
Baghdad Area Office
NCOIC, 416th ENCOM
East Alton, IL



MAJ EDWARD LIU
IZ Resident Office OIC
416th ENCOM
Ft. Meade, MD

Postcards from Iraq

Starting 4th tour in Iraq —
it's still very motivating work

Who would have thought being in Iraq, as we say in Mississippi about the river, could get in your blood. Proof is hopping off a C-130 transport at the Baghdad International Airport for my fourth tour in as many years. Another sign is running into people from my three previous tours almost every week passing through to other Corps locations. Since 2003 many Corps of Engineers volunteers have made the trip to contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq and many of them, like me, repeat offenders. There is something so rewarding about the people and work that until the mission is over there is a magnetic attraction to see it through to the end. In this way we mirror the military; mission, country and family. Our mission is #1 and we do it for our country but we do miss our families!

My first tour in Iraq in June of 2003 took me to Al Hillah for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) where I spent 6 months rehabbing 100 schools and several clinics. I clocked thousands of miles going all over central Iraq each day visiting my schools and meeting local Iraqis. Each visit to a school brought out the local children who were so excited to see us come, knowing their school was going to be reopened and made to look and function like new. I would receive ripe dates and big smiles from all of them. Like anything you do for the first time, I was taken by storm with the excitement of a different culture and the pride of giving for the benefit of others through the Corps.

My second tour in 2004 took me to the Green Zone in Baghdad to the newly opened Gulf Region Division Central District. There I was given 23 electrical substations in central Iraq and Baghdad for rehab. Once again I was able to travel to my job sites and experience first hand the country, cities and people. I'm still not sure who was more grateful, them or me.

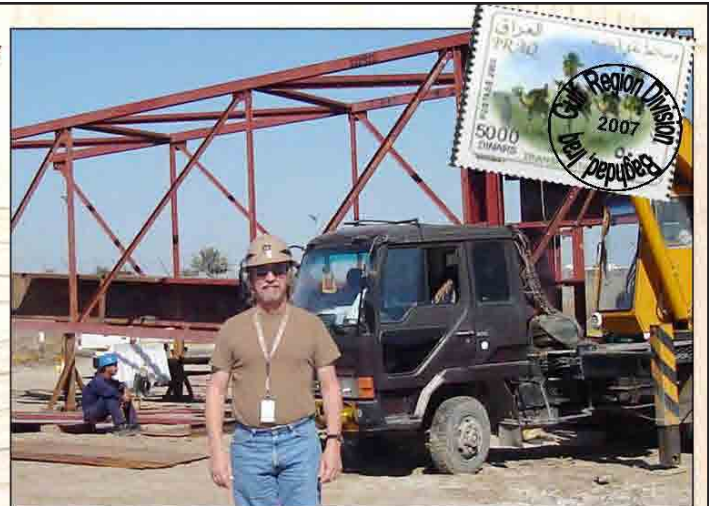
My third tour came in 2005 and once again landed in the now called International Zone, same place but different name. I was not alone, working with several Corps folks from the second tour. This time Central District allowed me to work on all the major water and sewer treatment plant contracts in Baghdad. By this time I was capable of driving a cab in Baghdad because I knew my way around as if I had lived there most of my life. The Corps was hiring local Iraqi engineers to assist with the day to day inspections allowing me several trips a week to help coordinate with the contractors and the Army. Rehabilitating the existing plants and building additional capacity was the focus of this mission. As with the second tour the theme was, "What have you done for the Iraq people today?" I hope we made General O'Neal of the 3rd ID proud! After spending the next year working with Hurricane Katrina, as thousands of people did, I made it back to Iraq for one more tour.



Now working at Victory Base, for the Central District again, my job is mostly concerned with support for the military soldiers and their needs. Stationed in and around the Baghdad International Airport, I am fortunate to work with several people from all my previous tours. It does get in your blood and the friendships have lasted and will continue to last probably the rest of my life.

I now have a much greater understanding of what the Corps and the Army does for a living, and have become more grateful for what we have in America. When I see how much the Iraqi people want freedom, it drives me to do all I can to see they get it. No one can say you're spoiled if you share!

**By Walter L. Mattingly. Construction Rep, Victory Resident Office, Baghdad
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- Mechanical Engineering Tech, Vicksburg, MS**



To view GRC's 36 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>



Combat Action Badge

Maj. Angel Ortiz, Officer in Charge of the Fallujah Resident Office, was presented the Combat Action Badge March 22 by GRC's Deputy Commander, Cdr. Steven Frost. The citation reads in part: "On 10 July 2006, Maj. Angel M. Ortiz was satisfactorily performing his duties while traveling in a three-vehicle convoy to the Civil Military Operations Center in Fallujah, Iraq, to participate in the weekly Fallujah Reconstruction Committee meeting with Iraqi city officials and the U.S. Marine Civil Affairs Group. At approximately 0915, the convoy came under attack from Anti-Iraqi Forces (AIF) using small arms fire and an improvised explosive device (IED) buried on the north shoulder of the road. The IED detonated approximately 10 feet from Maj. Ortiz's vehicle. The convoy was able to drive through the blast zone and continue to the destination. Upon arrival, battle damage assessment revealed significant shrapnel damage to Maj. Ortiz's vehicle, but no injuries to himself or the crew."



Postcards from Iraq

Honor, courage, commitment

By LTjg Robert E. McCharen
OIC Taji Resident Office, Baghdad Province

Honor, courage, commitment — you would think these values only apply to the U.S. military. I have been in Iraq going on a year now and I can tell you first hand I have seen the values applied by both the Iraqi Army and the local nationals that are employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

My split tour in Iraq began with Multi-National Security Corps — Iraq as a Liaison between the Iraqi Army and their Life Support Contractors. Most of my time was spent with Iraqi Army Brigade Commanders and Senior Enlisted. They were truly committed to the well being of their troops by enforcing the contractor to

provide the minimum requirements of their contract. There were some challenges to overcome with alleged corruption but this was minuscule in the grand scheme of things. Six months later I was assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers as the Officer in Charge of the Taji Resident Office in north Baghdad responsible for construction contracts for the people of Iraq. I have seven local nationals that work outside the wire. They have the courage to travel on a daily basis in and around Baghdad with no protection. If they were linked with the US Army in any way it would potentially have fatal consequences.

One of my Iraqi Engineers was kidnapped and the only way out was to lie and tell them he worked for the Ministry of Construction (doesn't exist). A couple of them have been threatened by insurgents for having ties to Coalition Forces. For this, it takes a great deal of courage to travel to hostile areas not knowing what to expect on a daily basis. While working with the Iraqi Engineers, I became very interested in their culture and history. They take great pride and honor in their efforts in rebuilding Iraq. They are very eager to learn from the classes that are offered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This results in projects that are inspected at every level of detail which produces quality workmanship, something rarely seen in Iraq in the past. They love their country and can see the direct impacts we are having while rebuilding their nation.

As you can see, these values are very much a part of the Iraqis as much as they are for the U.S. military. They each have the fortitude that makes for a nation that will be back on its feet soon. These are just two examples of what I have seen in the short 11 months that I have been in Iraq. I am due to return to the states very soon and I look forward to passing on my experiences to those who have doubts about our efforts. It humbles me to see the courage the Iraqis show every day when they report to work not knowing whether or not they will return home. (LTjg McCharen deployed from PWD Pensacola, NAVFAC Southeast.)



To view GRC's 36 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>

DEPARTING MEMBERS



MA1 ROBIN JONES
Ramadi Resident Office
NCOIC
Norfolk, VA



MMCS NORMAN WHITE
Anbar Area Office
NCOIC
Memphis, TN



LCDR JAYSON MITCHELL
OIC Victory Public Works
Resident Office
NAVFAC, Bethesda, MD



CDR JERRY GOMPERS
GRC HQ
Deputy Commander
West Linn, OR



JOSEPH NOLIN
IZ Resident Office
Resident Engineer
North Pole, AK

GRD hosts Engineer Summit



GRD hosted the MNF-I Engineer Summit April 2 at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace.



*Ms. Hilda Arellano,
USAID's Mission Director for Iraq,
and MG Darryl A. Scott (CG, JCC-I/A)*



BG Michael J. Walsh (CG Gulf Region Division) with COL Gary E. Johnston (GRS Commander), COL Debra M. Lewis (GRC Commander), and COL Frederick S. Wolf (GRN Commander, right).



*LTC Sheri Pence
GRC G2*



LTC Salata



*MG David A. Fastabend
MNF-I STRATEOPS*



*MG (Ret) Rick Olson
Director, NCT*



*CAPT Richard Marrs
MNSTC-I J7*



LTC Glen A. Masset, Commander 9th Engineer Battalion



David J. Leach, P.E., GRD's Director of Capacity Development, and Donn Booker



COL Michael Hoxie, COL Michael Herman (GRD's Deputy) and COL Patricia Anslow.



COL Debra M. Lewis and Ms. Hilda Arellano, USAID's Mission Director for Iraq



412th ENCOM, Vicksburg, MS, was well represented.



MAJ Richard Kostecki and Frank Trent



Milton Naumann and B.J. Fagan



MG Fastabend & MAJ Todd Lazaroski



**CDR James Sellner & MG Steven Abt
IRMO's Director of Operations**

Engineer Summit



BG Michael Silva, Commander, 411th Engineer Brigade, talks about Route Clearance.



COL Tim Clapp



Dr. Lester Dixon



GRS CSM Benny Hubbard & SGM Larry Bursey



LTC Wolak, LTC Andrysiak, COL Lewis, and LTC Masset.



Donn Booker, Allen Shelvin, & COL Douglas Satterfield (MNC-I C7 Facilities Chief)



CAPT Richard Fritzley



David Thomas



COL Larry McCallister



BG Mark McDonald, MNC-I Effects Coordinator



BG Michael J. Walsh, GRD Commanding General



Engineer Summit's theme - "Active Engagement for Success"



MG Darryl Scott, Bonnie Corbin, BG Michael Silva



MG Darryl Scott and LTC Andrysiak



IT Specialists Jose Marrero and Jason Joseph



GRD's G6 Laura Callaway



Behind-the-scenes helpers Heather McDonnell, Theresa Esplain, Dan Markwick and Mary Bowman

GRD senior leaders meet



*GRN CSM Richard M. Mefford, GRD CSM William D. McDaniel Jr.,
GRS CSM Benny L. Hubbard, GRC CSM Randall J. Cady*



*COL Douglas Gorgoni
GRD's Deputy Directory Business Management*



*Chris Nelson
GRN*



*1LT Dawn Harrison
GRC*



*Charles Bauer
GRS*



*MSG Robert
Lamoureux, GRS*



*Mark Gibson
GRC*



Gulf Region Division hosted a moving ceremony at the conclusion of its Senior Leader Conference April 3 to remember the long heritage of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and specifically one former soldier who served during World War II. SGT Robert Thomas Dutton was deployed to the western Pacific and while serving in New Guinea with the 499th Engineer Company made a Corps of Engineers ring. Following WWII he drilled with the Army Reserve, was called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis, and retired as a Master Sergeant. He died in 1989 and his family this past year contacted GRD about their interest in giving the ring to a USACE soldier. His daughter Dixie Dutton Emerson, in a letter dated Jan. 13, 2007, wrote: "I can safely say I know how he would react to the war in Iraq. He would have gone if called, disagreed with the politics, and prayed for the brave men and women of our military. He came home safely with friendships that lasted until his death." BG Michael Walsh, CG Gulf Region Division, presented the ring to GRD's CSM William D. McDaniel Jr. This summer CSM McDaniel will participate in a ceremony in Memphis (where the Dutton family lives) to officially pass the ring on to the USACE Command Sergeant Major who will wear it and eventually turn it over to his successor ... the start of a new tradition.



LTC Reinhard Koenig



COL Jon Christensen



Dr. Lester Dixon



Stanley Reese



Paula Morris

BBQ, volleyball conclude
GRD senior leader conference





Victory Area Office bid farewell April 3 to LCDR Jayson Mitchell, outgoing OIC Victory PW Resident Office, including bringing in an anchor to recognize the Navy element supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Shown in that photo at left with LCDR Mitchell are Chief Matt Sutterluety and Chief Michelle Guiliano.



Postcards from Iraq

Overhead protection projects safeguard our soldiers

Victory Area Office's (VAO) Public Works Resident Office recently completed the last of seven overhead protection projects on Victory Base Complex (VBC) — six DFAC's and the PX — a program worth well over \$60 million.

Each of these projects provides protection from mortar and rocket fire up to 122mm in size. Considering there are few facilities on VBC that provide such protection, these facilities provide an immeasurable contribution to force protection and soldier morale. Now coalition forces can eat and shop in relative peace without having to worry about the indirect fire that sporadically rains down on Camp Victory. I was fortunate to have dedicated professionals working this project.



LCDR Jayson D. Mitchell

Tom Anderson, the assigned Quality Assurance Representative, and Joe Pinal, the Project Engineer, have worked tirelessly, both night and day, overseeing this work. In addition to the difficult coordination issues associated with keeping each facility operational throughout construction, there was a host of technical and safety issues associated with overhead crane operations and structural steel work that required constant oversight. Despite these challenges and countless hours of night-time work, each of the projects finished ahead of schedule, providing a huge boost to force protection onboard the camp.

LCDR Jayson D. Mitchell
 Director, Facilities Engineering & Acquisition Division
 PWD North Potomac, Bethesda, MD
 NAVFAC Washington



Two of the seven overhead protection projects at Victory Base near the Baghdad International Airport



LTC Ken O'Connor and LTC Quay Jones demonstrate the prone position.



LTC Ken O'Connor and LTC Quay Jones



Weapons familiarization

GRC offered M-4 and M-9 familiarization training for its staff Feb. 17. Teaching the class were MSG Dale Dupree (above, right) and SSG Zane Martens. Those participating included Muhamed Aziz, Joseph Curet, Braven Dyer, Maj. Ron Ford, SFC Perry Foster, Simeon Francis, MSG Curtis Freeman, Al Gapasin, CDR Jerry Gompers, Bert Gray, YNC Michelle Guiliano, 1LT Dawn Harrison, LTC Quay Jones, Larry King, MAJ Steve Martinelli, Wenda McGilberry, Eric McKinley, LCDR Jay Mitchell, MAJ Robert Nash, David Newman, Joseph Nolin, Roger Nowicki, LTC Ken O'Connor, Maria Otero, Eric Peterson, Joseph Pintal, Joseph Rath, Rich Sallans, Brian Souter, MAC Matt Sutterluety, Philip Taylor, Wanye Taylor, Sandi Williams, and Cherita Williams.



David Newman



Joseph Nolin



Wayne Taylor



Joseph Pintal



Thirty-nine GRC civilians and military got an opportunity to fire M-4s and M-9s Feb. 17.



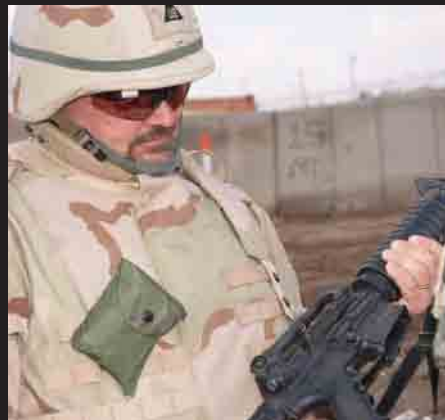
Maj. Robert Nash & Al Gapasin



SFC Perry Foster and Cherita Williams



Maj. Ron Ford



Braven Dyer



CDR Jerry Gompers, LCDR Jay Mitchell, Chief Michelle Guilliano, Chief Matt Sutterluety



Wenda McGilberry



Maria Otero



Combat Action Badge

MSG Curtis Freeman was presented the Combat Action Badge March 1 by Col. Debra Lewis. The citation reads: "On 26 December 2006, MSG Curtis Freeman was traveling to Camp Liberty from Camp Taji with Erinys Set Team One, a five-vehicle team, consisting of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer personnel and a security detail. The process of negotiating intersections, IP checkpoints, and traffic congestion caused vehicle spacing to be between 15 to 30 meters. At 1545 hours, while traveling southbound on Route Senators, an IED was detonated between vehicles 2 and 3. MSG Freeman, a passenger in vehicle 2, felt and heard a large explosion behind and saw flames and smoke pass his right window from the rear. Vehicle 3 was immobilized and vehicle 2 damaged. The Set Team Leader verified no injuries as the fourth vehicle and the rear Wolf moved in to perform the crossover of personnel from the immobilized Excursion. Upon arrival at the IZ, a further damage assessment was done and vehicle 2 sustained shrapnel holes and loss of the rear window."



Al Anbar Area Office hosts contracting workshop

Fallujah construction firm representatives attended a seminar Feb. 24 to learn about the regulations and bid submittal requirements on proposed contracts.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Al Anbar Area Office hosted the “Contractor Workshop” at the Fallujah Development Center which was attended by 20 Iraqis.

Dan Cahill, a USACE Contract Specialist, and Saber Qader, the U.S. State Dept. Bilingual Bicultural Advisor assigned to USACE’s Al Anbar office, presented the following information:

- Accessing solicitation websites - www.baghdadbusinesscenter.org.
- Reading and understanding government solicitation requirements;
- Understanding the key steps in the USACE contracting process, from Scope of Work to Contract Award;
- How to create a winning proposal;
- Complying with the Defense Base Act worker insurance requirement;
- Submitting accurate Electronic Fund Transfer information for payment purposes.

Engineer Khaled from the Al Anbar provincial administration also spoke to the group about the bidding process.

Following the event, Cahill said many of the workshop participants commented the real value of the training was understanding how critical the various bid documents were. “They’re now in a great position to compete with large Baghdad and international firms for reconstruction work in Fallujah and the surrounding area,” he added.

The USACE Resident Office in Fallujah currently has 62 civil works projects valued at \$89 million in such areas as the installation of a city sewer system, construction of the city’s first sewer treatment plant as well as many small potable water plants for nearby communities, repair of various electrical distribution lines and substations, and construction of several public schools and health clinics.

Twenty Fallujah-area construction firm representatives attended a one-day workshop Feb. 24 to learn about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers bid requirements on contracts. They were told the importance of meeting bid deadlines as well as past performance evaluations.



Contract Specialist Dan Cahill (left) and Engineer Khaled with the Fallujah Reconstruction Committee were among those talking to contractors Feb. 24 in Fallujah about bid requirements on U.S. Army Corps of Engineer contracts.



Baghdad Mayor

Col. Debra Lewis, Gulf Region Division Central District Commander, spoke with Baghdad Mayor Sa'adi Saber during a meeting in early March about her staff's interaction with city officials as they worked together to ensure the successful completion of a variety of construction projects in his community. Almost \$1 billion in work is underway in Baghdad including new sewer and water lines, electrical distribution, road paving, hospital and school renovations, new courthouses, police and fire stations.

DEPARTING MEMBERS



JOSE MORALES
Anbar Area Office
Contracting Officer
Ft. Bliss, TX



BERT GRAY
QA Rep
VAO Public Works
Memphis District



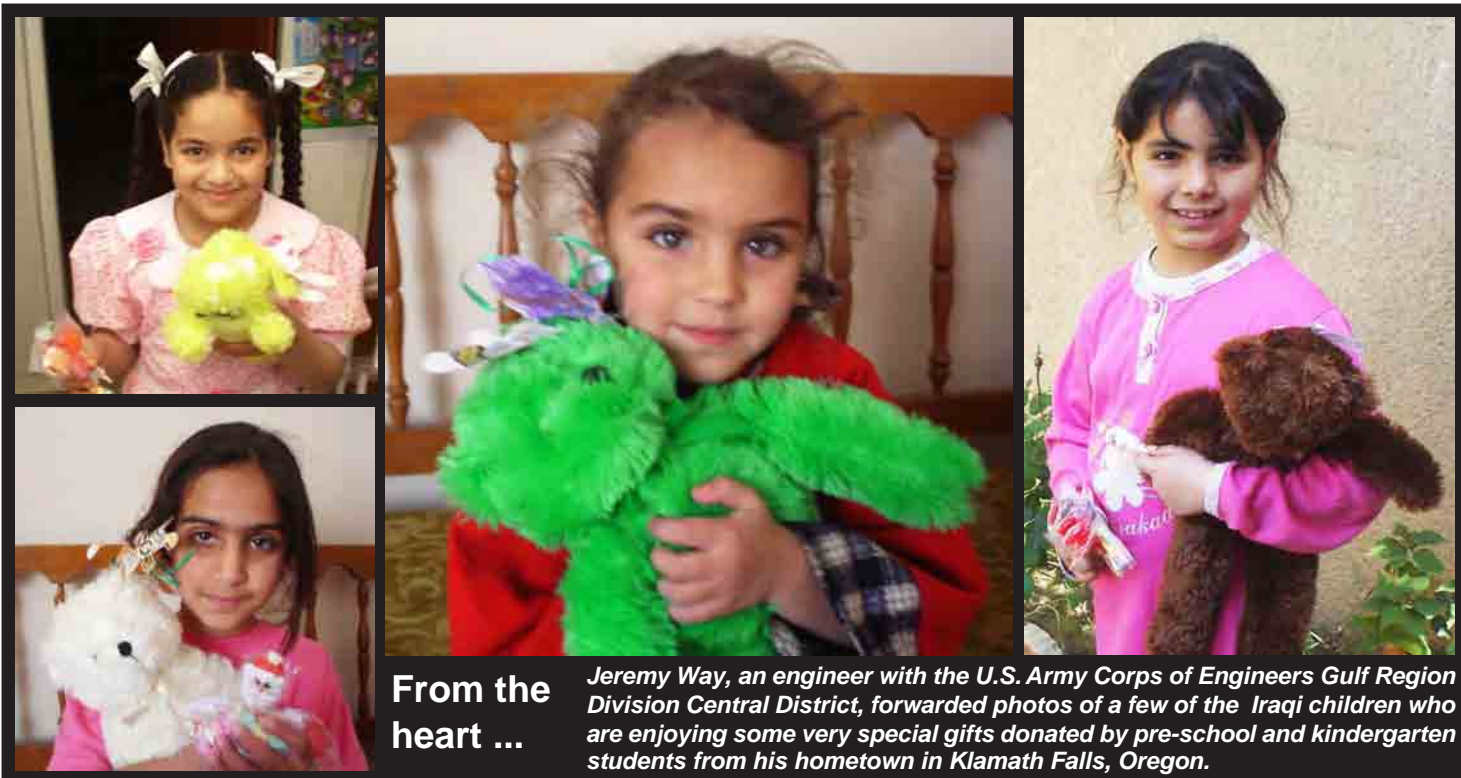
LT DAVID NOYA
Baghdad PRT LNO
NAS Sigonella



IRENA WILLIAMS
Logistics Specialist
Loyalty Resident Office
Washington, D.C.



LCDR JEFF POWELL
OIC, Loyalty Office
MCAS Beaufort
Beaufort, SC



From the heart ...

Jeremy Way, an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District, forwarded photos of a few of the Iraqi children who are enjoying some very special gifts donated by pre-school and kindergarten students from his hometown in Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Postcards from Iraq

Volunteering for Iraq...
no experience like it

By Al and Norma Gapasin

What were we thinking leaving our comfortable jobs back in the states? As our children are all grown up starting their lives with their own families, Al & I found ourselves as empty nesters. Our life was boring with no kids to take care of anymore. We have been dreaming of taking positions in other countries, but what held us back were the kids. Nothing was holding us back now and what a great time to be in a new place helping rebuild a country.

Al and I talked to the kids regarding our decision to go to Iraq. We saw the concerns on their faces but explained that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. What a story to share with our family when we return home.

The day we left, Al and I were like two giddy 18 year olds happy to finally leave our parents' home and start a new adventure. Once we arrived at our destination at GRD in the IZ and settled down, we met a lot of wonderful people including our co-workers in the office, people we met at the DFAC (dining facility) while eating our meals, the security guards from Aegis/Eriny's, the servers and our own U.S. soldiers as well as military personnel from other nations.. We became close to everyone, as if they were family. In fact, people started calling Al and I "Pop" and "Mom" including the Iraqi guards.

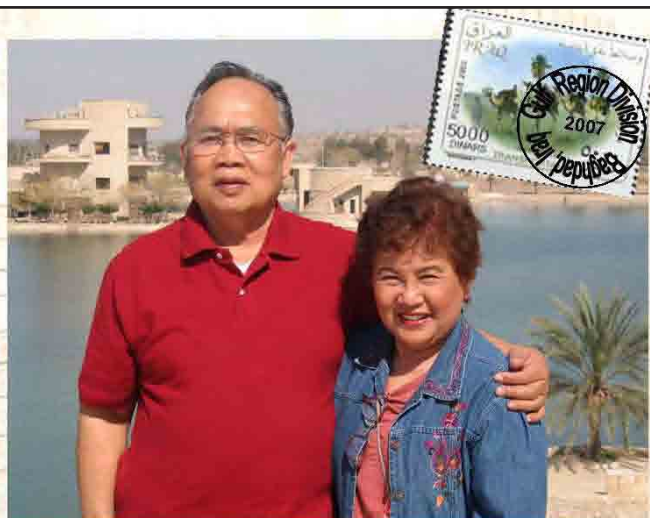
I was able to help distribute items to the less fortunate and our injured troops in the hospital. What a great feeling to show our soldiers how much we care along with being able to put a smile on their faces.

This is also a great experience for young Civilian employees. Not only is it for young adults, but it is also a wonderful experience for oldies like us. We need employees with a wide variety of experience as there is a lot of work here that still needs to be done.

If you are looking for a change or wanting a mid-life adventure like us, come on over. If someone were to ask Al and I, "Would you do it again?", our answer would be "Yes, because this experience is priceless!" We have so many wonderful memories that we cannot wait to share with our family and friends.

Al Gapasin
Program Analyst, Seattle District

Norma Gapasin
Accountant, Seattle District



Al and Norma Gapasin mark their 40th wedding anniversary in Baghdad.

To view GRC's 36 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>



USACE and other U.S. military representatives interact with Ramadi community leaders at the March 7 reconstruction and economic development conference in Ramadi.

Ramadi leaders attend reconstruction, economic development conference

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) participated in the Second Ramadi Reconstruction and Economic Development Conference held March 7 at Sheik Sattar's conference center. The conference attracted over 200 people, including tribal leaders, local leaders, and coalition forces. USACE representatives attending included LCDR Arturo Aseo (Officer in Charge of the Ramadi Resident Office), Dan Cahill (Contract Specialist from USACE's Al Anbar Area Office), and Saber Qader (Bilingual, Bicultural Advisor from the Area Office). Among the dignitaries present were Ramadi Mayor Latif Obaid Ayadah, and Sheikh Sattar.

In addition to informing Iraqis of the great strides being made to rebuild their country, USACE's other goal was to invite local contractors to attend a free contractors workshop planned for late March at the Joint Coordination Center in Ramadi. The objective is to educate contractors on the basics of contracting, bidding process and submitting proposals. About 20 contractors expressed interest in the workshop. Sheik Sattar, a contractor himself, promised to provide a list of contractors he knows. Mayor Latif also indicated he would do the same. The workshop is to mirror the same workshop that was successfully held in Fallujah earlier this year.

USACE also handed out 45 16-page calendars to contractors and community leaders. The color calendars were written in Arabic and have photos of completed and ongoing projects, website information for bidding future projects, and USACE contact information. All attending agreed, the conference was a big success.



USACE Contract Specialist Dan Cahill speaks with Sheikh Sattar and Engineer Hikmet Sulaiman (left).



Saber Qader (right) interprets for the DG of Water for West Area (center) as Cdr. Foster and Cdr. Howl listen.