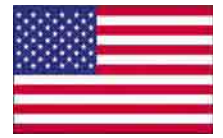


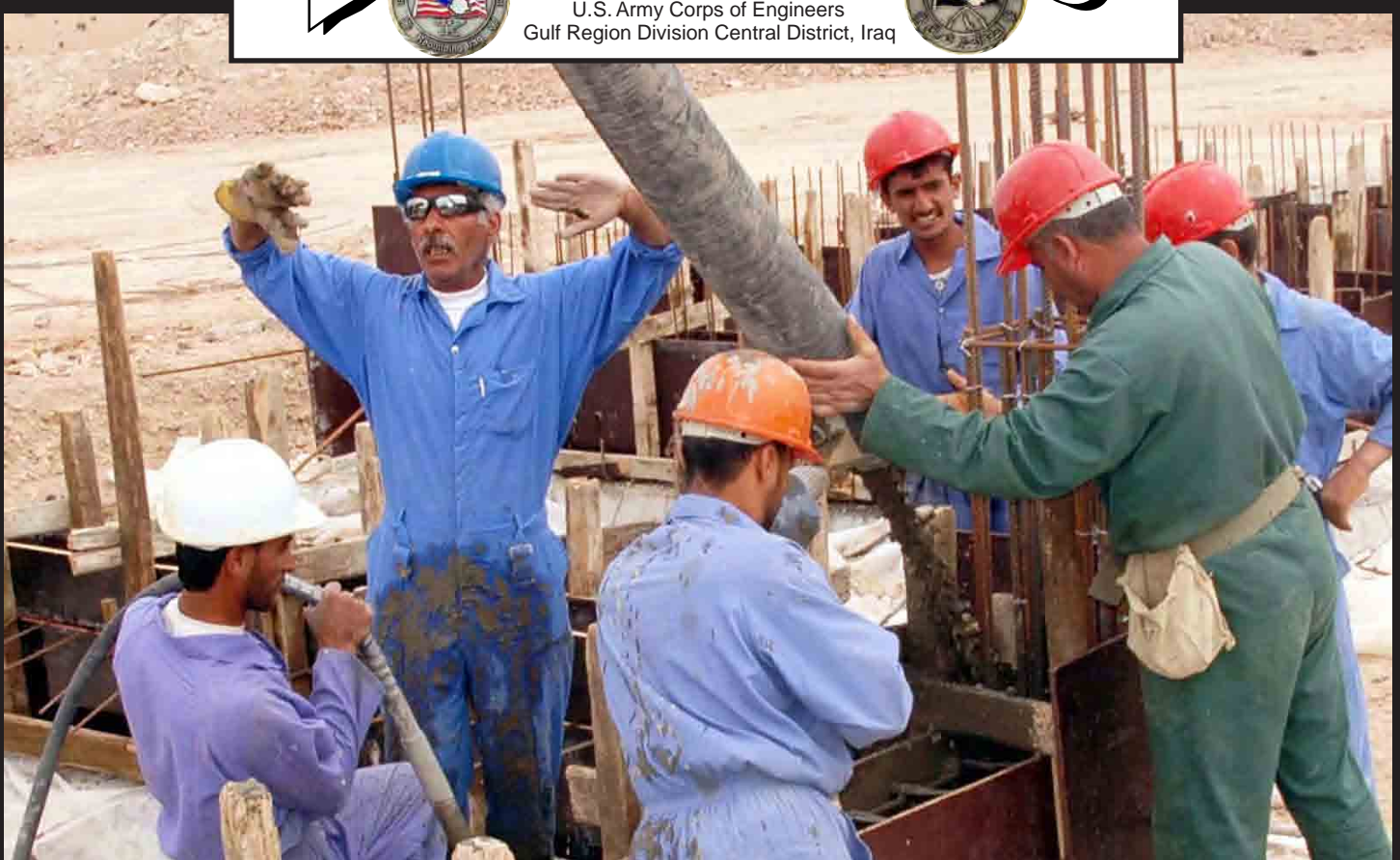


NEWS

MAY 2007



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



Iraqi workers pour concrete as the new Fallujah Wastewater Treatment Plant takes shape.

Fallujah to replace septic tanks with new sewer treatment facility

Involving hundreds of Iraqis in its work force, a new sewer system is taking shape in Fallujah.

It's the biggest construction project the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is overseeing in Al Anbar Province.

Fallujah's new facility involves the construction of pump stations trunk mains, and a treatment plant that will serve as the backbone for a city-wide system. This is the initial phase that will eventually connect every home.

"That community has been relying on septic tanks and the raw sewage is making its way onto the streets and into the storm sewers going directly to the Euphrates River," explains Michael Jakubiak, part of a team of USACE engineers involved with the project. "So you have residents downstream that are taking their drinking water from that contaminated source. This project will improve that situation."

Jakubiak says his office meets with the various construction firms (13 separate contracts), city and Iraqi ministry officials on a regular basis to ensure issues are resolved and the project moves forward. "It's those city and ministry officials who will eventually take over operation and maintenance of the new sewer system and

we want to make sure it meets their standards. They're fully engaged and eager to see this project completed."

Regarding the contractors, he pointed out, "we're doing a lot of work to mentor them especially in the areas of quality control and safety. Those are two key factors we continue to emphasize."

With the new system, two large pump stations will each have the capacity to handle 150,000 cubic meters daily. Fallujah's sewage will be sent to inlet tanks at the treatment facility, then aerated grit and oil removal tanks, on to 65-meter-wide aeration tanks, then settling tanks, with the last step being a chlorination contact chamber before being released to the Euphrates River.

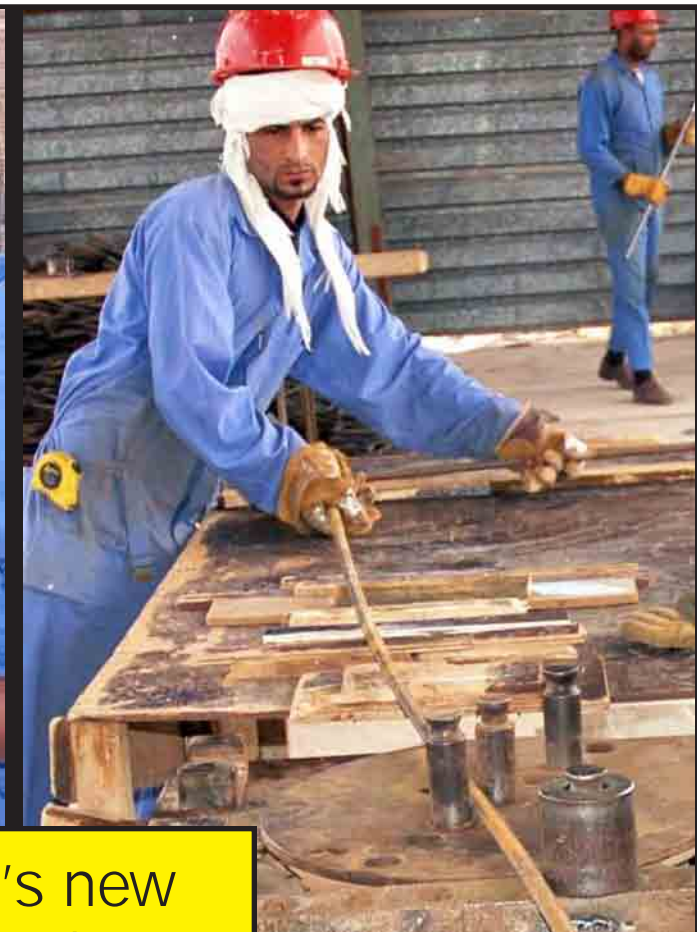
"There's no question the health of Fallujah's residents will be benefited by this project. Our mission is to help the Iraqi people get back on their feet and I'm proud to be part of this effort," said Jakubiak.

He had been involved with sewer-related projects in Cary, NC, prior to volunteering for a year's duty in Iraq. "This is a great assignment. We're helping a community with real needs. The local jobs created are a boon to Fallujah's economy. Those workers know they're making a difference."

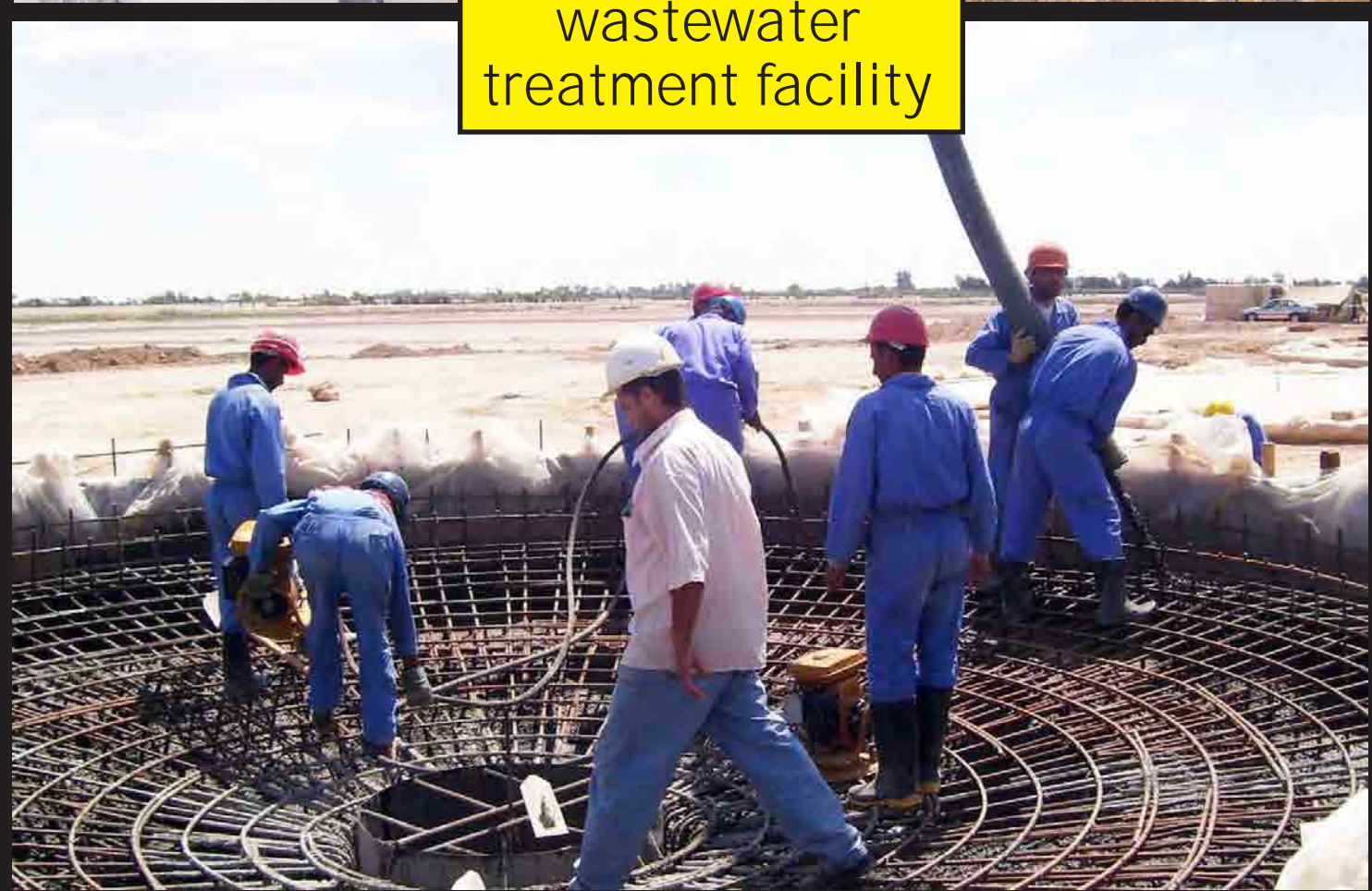
Iraqis building
sewage system
for Fallujah



A work force of nearly 200 Iraqis is constructing Fallujah's new wastewater treatment plant.



Fallujah's new
wastewater
treatment facility



Iraq crews work on the 12-meter-wide inlet tanks at Fallujah's new wastewater treatment plant.



Baghdad primary school nears completion

Youngsters in north Baghdad will soon be able to attend school right in their own community.

Local Iraqi leaders identified the need for a school and the U.S. military unit there funded it.

Construction on the 1250-square-meter two-story facility was started last year and should be completed mid-May. Currently it's 95 percent finished.

Andy May, Project Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has been overseeing a variety of essential service projects in Baghdad Province over the past four years. He says of all the work he's been involved with, the school is right at the top of his list. "We're making a difference in people's lives," May continued.

"You can see it in the pride the Iraqi workers have continued to display throughout the construction of that facility. It's their children, nephews and nieces, and other kids residing in that neighborhood who will be going to school there. They know how important that structure is and what it will mean to their community for decades to come," May said. "For many families the nearest school was simply too far for their children to go. Now a whole new chapter of opportunities is opening for them."

Lt. j.g. Robert McCharen, who is the USACE Officer in Charge

of that area, says the 23-classroom facility will be capable of handling up to 900 students, both boys and girls age 6 to 12 years old. It also contains a 90-square-meter four-room guardhouse. He noted his office is currently managing 19 projects in north Baghdad Province including new water compact units providing drinking water to local villages, electrical networks, and the new Husseinia primary healthcare center that's open and providing medical care to families there. "The contractor at the new elementary school has gone the extra mile. You can see the quality workmanship in the tile floors, the professional masonry touch in each room, down to the plumbing in the restrooms. The community should be very pleased."

McCharen leads a team of five Americans and seven Iraqi engineers. "I couldn't ask for a finer group. One of our goals each day is learning a new Arabic word. It helps us not only communicate but better understand the culture here. When I go out to the projects, it's fun to speak a little Arabic with them, it helps break the ice."

When construction on the school is completed, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion plans to enhance the project through the Commanders Emergency Response Fund by purchasing blackboards, chalk, desks and school supplies for the students. Cpt. Holly Hanson, a 414th team leader, says local residents continue to tell her how important this school is to their families.

Gulf Region Division has constructed or renovated over 960 schools throughout Iraq – providing quality learning environments for more than 500,000 students.



Project engineer Andy May checks the banister.



One of the youths who will be attending the new school.



Lt. j.g. Rob McCharen praises one of the workers for their quality workmanship in building a new primary school.



Andy May sketches out the requirements of the fuel containment area for the school's generator pad.



Polishing the new floors along with some electrical and masonry work are among the final items remaining to be finished to open a new primary school in north Baghdad.



Allan Nelson and Lt. Col. Culen Robinson with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visit Baghdad International Airport.

Baghdad International Airport -- Iraq's gateway to the world

Baghdad International Airport currently has 18 to 24 flights transporting 1000 passengers daily to destinations inside and outside the country. The environment there feels like any airport in the world with its duty free shops, restaurant and other stores selling books and clothing.

Allan Nelson with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says about 1200 Iraqis are employed there and he's proud of the numerous improvements that have been completed over the past two years.

"We installed 2600 new runway lights and 350 kilometers of cable," Nelson noted. "It was a tremendous undertaking and a very satisfying moment when we turned those on and the Airport was lit up for the first time in years."

He says when he started in November 2004 none of the air conditioning units worked, the sewer lines were blocked, and water was pouring from the bathrooms out into the corridor.

He oversaw the installation of 6,000 new florescent lights in the terminal and the renovation of over 250 bathrooms. "We repolished the marble floors, painted the walls, replaced about 500 broken panes of glass, put in a new potable water filtration system, new street lights for the section of highway leading to the airport, and cleaned the carpets," he continued.

"We put in two new 2400-ton chillers and rebuilt the two existing 1700-ton chillers. Today there's plenty of air conditioning capacity." Currently he's working on a project where 80,000 meters of new 33kV feeder lines will provide a more stable source of power to the area, helped by three electric substations that have been rebuilt.

"The new terminals were opened in the early 1980s and little was invested in routine maintenance over the years. Much of the infrastructure there was nonfunctional when I arrived." He singled out the Iraqi airport manager's staff for special praise. "They're doing their job for the same reason we're doing our job - to make it better."



Bright yellow signs help travelers navigate the airport.

Nelson is concluding 2 ½ years in Iraq and is returning to his job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District. The 54-year-old has three daughters and is heading home to see the arrival of his third grandchild. He resides in Hager City, WI, and plans to retire next year and find time to do a little fishing as he resides on a 40-acre farm near a trout stream.

He appreciates his opportunity to serve in Baghdad and help with the Airport project. "It's been a pleasure working here and to walk away and see what you did made a difference and will benefit this country for years to come."



Lt. Col. Culen Robinson (left) and Allan Nelson with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers talk about the recently completed improvements at the Baghdad International Airport with Tom High of Global Security who are responsible for protecting the facility.



Some of the numerous stores at the Baghdad International Airport open for business.



Anbar villages appreciate water treatment investment

Residents north of Ramadi will soon have fresh, potable water being pumped to their homes.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is overseeing the construction of two small water treatment plants as well as the installation of 24,000 meters of water main for Zangora, a community of 48,000 people.

Those two units, each capable of purifying 200 cubic meters per hour, are located several kilometers apart to ensure the entire city has an adequate source. "Residents there tell us they're definitely looking forward to the project's completion this summer when they will have access to clean water for the first time ever," said LCDR Arturo Aseo, USACE Officer in Charge of the Ramadi area.

Each unit is supplied raw water through a 500-meter intake pipe leading to the Euphrates River. The distribution system consists of 200mm (8-inch), 150mm (6 inch) and 100mm (4-inch) water mains.

"Projects like these are what it's all about – helping people. It's great to see the smiles from local residents– young and old. They appreciate what we're doing," Aseo continued. "Security is a challenge in Al Anbar Province. But in my four months here, I have seen a dramatic improvement in conditions. Local sheiks are now supporting us. They see we're here to assist them to make things better. Contractors are excited to do the work. These are all very positive signs."

The Zangora projects are among 31 water treatment projects Aseo's office is overseeing. His staff is also managing a number of electric projects including repair and commissioning of an 11-megawatt diesel generating facility in Tameem (south of Ramadi), \$27.8 million project to rebuild Ramadi's 132kV substation, and the construction of a new 132kV overhead transmission line.

"This is a great assignment. These projects will be benefiting the area for decades to come," Aseo concluded.



Iraqi crews are constructing two water treatment plants north of Ramadi. The projects are almost 50 percent complete.



LCDR Aseo speaks with the Iraqi project engineer constructing two water treatment units north of Ramadi.



LCDR Arturo Aseo, OIC at USACE's Ramadi office, enjoys gardening and despite the long hours found time to plant some sweet corn. His wife helped with the project by mailing him a bag of fertilizer. He hopes to roast some ears before he departs in June.



Villagers north of Ramadi are pleased with the progress of two new water treatment plants for their community.



Engineer Isam Kareem Hamadi, Fallujah's head of the city's electricity department, talks about ongoing work.

Fallujah rebuilding city's electric distribution network

Fallujah is rebuilding its electrical distribution network.

So far over 45,000 utility poles, 2200 transformers and 2400 kilometers of cable have been purchased.

Fallujah city officials and Ministry of Electricity personnel are working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the \$57 million project.

“One of the city's two existing 33kV substations is being rebuilt and two brand new 33kV substations added to ensure Fallujah has a reliable, stable system,” explains Chip Nieman, the Deputy Resident Engineer for USACE's Fallujah office. The work also includes rehabilitating a 132kV substation replacing two of the three transformers.

Neighborhood distribution networks – many with broken poles, snapped lines, damaged transformers — are being replaced one area at a time with Ministry of Electricity personnel taking the lead in getting that accomplished and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hiring additional crews to help.

“The city's old, dilapidated system just didn't have the capacity to meet the community's needs,” Nieman explained. “It's great to

see real progress taking shape.” In addition to the network improvements, Fallujah's Electrical Department is getting a new \$2.8 million maintenance facility that will include two warehouses, a workshop, and an administrative office.

“We're interacting with Fallujah officials on a daily basis. Their head of the electricity department, Engineer Isam Kareem Hamadi, has been great to work with. He appreciates our efforts.”

In all, Neiman's office is overseeing 87 projects in Fallujah and the surrounding area including health care clinics, sewage lines and pump stations, street lighting, and potable water treatment facilities. Nieman points out that hiring local residents is a priority. “It's a tremendous benefit to Fallujah's economy.”

Nieman is nearing the conclusion of a one-year assignment in Iraq. “Fallujah is a great place to work. It's a fast-paced, challenging environment and also rewarding – you get to see how your efforts are helping people. I believe in what we're doing or I wouldn't be here.”

Fallujah, a city of 200,000 residents, has about 40,000 homes and businesses.



Two new 33kV substations are being constructed in Fallujah as the city's entire network is being upgraded.



One of the dozens of water compact units being constructed for villages throughout Al Anbar Province.

Al Anbar Province building for its future

“Our residents are fighting the terrorists,” says Al Anbar Governor Ma’amoun Smai Rashid Alwani. “After years of turmoil, our people have started to understand these terrorists are working against them, not with them. Our townspeople are now volunteering to join the Iraqi police in numbers you can’t imagine.”

He pointed out the common citizens in Ramadi have begun to step forward identifying the location of weapon caches, explosives and IEDs to get rid of them in their neighborhoods.

Gov. Ma’amoun is an engineer and says those in Ramadi and other areas want to rebuild their communities as fast as possible. “They’re coming forward with projects they want and have a lot of great ideas. We started with the cleanup of debris and rubbish in Ramadi and we’re now working on projects to improve the supply of fresh potable water and eliminate the sewage in the streets.”

Gov. Ma’amoun explained that his province is rich in minerals and resources. He’s promoting private investment of industrial projects and hopes they can get the cement and glass factory in Ramadi re-opened. “That will bring a lot of employment,” he added.

Helping Gov. Ma’amoun in his quest to plan and implement improvements throughout Al Anbar is Navy Commander Geoffrey Schuller, the Provincial Reconstruction Team’s Engineer. “On a day to day basis, I deal with the Governor, his Provincial Council, and the Director Generals from all the ministries,” said Schuller.

“My mission is to help those officials develop a capability to move projects through the process to get them to the people as quickly as possible.” He noted Al Anbar is like any State back home and is the largest Province in Iraq covering 53,000 square miles. “There’s a wide variety of locales with most of its major cities, including Ramadi and Fallujah, located along the Euphrates River.”

He noted that under Sadaam, Iraq was a centralized government with Baghdad telling the outlying provinces what to do. “Now it’s decentralized and Al Anbar has the opportunity to come up with
(continued on next page)



Some of the youngsters in Al Anbar Province who will be benefiting from the improvements taking shape.



Al Anbar Governor Ma’amoun and Navy Commander Geoffrey Schuller.



Navy Commander Geoffrey Schuller and Al Anbar Governor Ma'amoun.

(continued from preceding page)

their own plan, identify priorities, and establish their own budget. They're anxious to do that and provide improvements for their people."

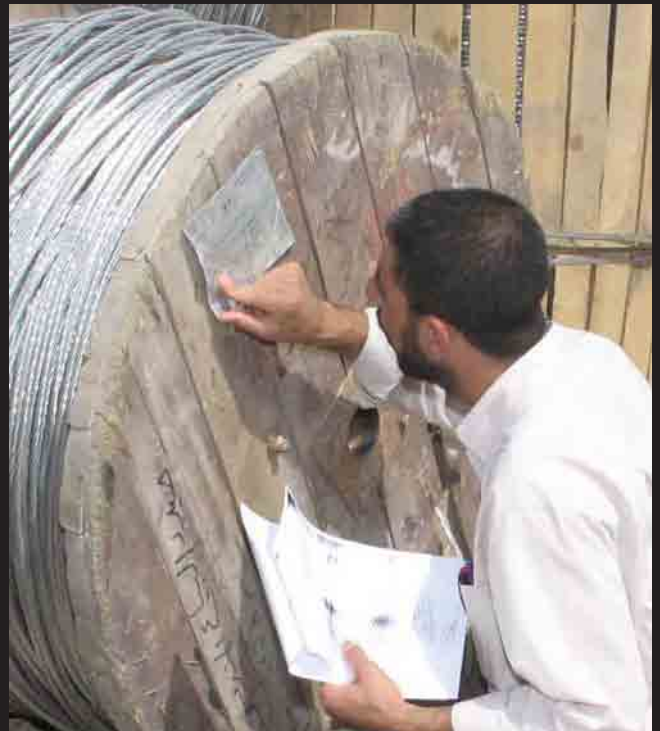
He said he's helping them address a wide array of essential service improvements from electrical, to sewage treatment, roads and bridges. "We're working on getting dozens of small water units on line to help villages throughout the Province get purified water for the first time ever."

Schuller praised the Governor for his ability to go out and make things happen. "He has a genuine desire to make Al Anbar a better place and he's doing that one neighborhood, one project at a time. This is a courageous individual. He's lived through over 20 assassination attempts but has not been dissuaded from going out to cities and villages throughout Al Anbar to meet community leaders and hear their views."

Schuller is concluding a six-month tour in Iraq this month and during that time says the situation has gotten better. He notes residents are now returning to their homes in Ramadi, they're cleaning up their neighborhoods, picking up the trash, knocking down abandoned buildings that are falling apart and starting new construction. "You're not going to do that if you don't have confidence in your government. So that's a telling sign that residents there are anticipating a great future."

Schuller says, "I feel blessed I've had the opportunity to contribute to what's happening here, watching Iraqis as they fulfill their dreams." He's a Naval Reservist and in his civilian career works for Turner Construction as a Senior Project Manager in Los Angeles.

Governor Ma'amoun said Schuller had become a dear friend. "What we have been able to accomplish here is due to people like him."



Fallujah is rebuilding its electrical distribution network.



Maj. Arturo Aseo, OIC of Ramadi's USACE Resident Office, talks to local residents about ongoing projects.

Ramadi leaders attend reconstruction conference

USACE Ramadi Resident Office (RO) participated in the Third Ramadi Reconstruction and Economic Development Conference held on April 22 at the Julayba Sajeriah Mosque, about 7 kilometers northeast of the Provincial Government Center.

Those attending included LCDR Arturo Aseo (OIC), Dean Mesenbrink (Project Engineer) and Waleed (IA Engineer). The conference attracted over 150 people, majority of which were local contractors, engineers, government officials and tribal leaders. The Coalition Forces, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army provided joint security.

The goal of the conference was to secure contracts with local contractors to fulfill all Phase I reconstruction projects consisting of rubble removal, trash removal, water and sewer repair, and road repair within the city of Ramadi and have these projects completed by August 2007.

Six of the seven speakers were local leaders, including the emcee. The number of Coalition Forces (CF) inside the mosque was kept to minimum. The president of the Julayba District Council made the opening remarks and was followed by a prayer. City mayor Latif discussed the great strides made toward improving security and the next step of rebuilding the city. Col. Abbas, Commander of the Iraqi Army Brigade, reiterated his alliance with the CF to drive out insurgents and restore normalcy in the city.

The DG of Water and DG of Sewer both expressed the lingering problems in their respective areas and urged immediate help to solve

(continued on next page)



Pride in the Iraqi flag



Ramadi's Third Reconstruction and Economic Development Conference held at Julayba Mosque.

(continued from preceding page)

the issues. Shiekh Sattar, who sponsored the first two conferences, thanked the CF and local leaders for their continuing unity. The lone CF speaker was Col. Charlton, 1BCT CO. After thanking the attendees, he talked about the many achievements accomplished so far to improve security and essential services. He stressed the importance of cooperation among the CF and Iraqis in rebuilding Ramadi. He then invited the contractors to look at and bid on the projects developed by the Civil Affairs teams at their respective display areas in the back of the assembly.

Since USACE does not advertise projects for bidding the way the CA teams do, the RO representatives manned their display showing photos of active projects with Arabic texts. They focused on talking to contractors about the upcoming contractors workshop planned for May 10 at the JCC/CMOC in Ramadi. Many contractors visited the display and seven of them indicated interest in attending the workshop. They provided their name, company, e-mail address and phone number for follow up. The USACE office personnel also responded to questions concerning active projects in and around Ramadi.

The event was culminated by Ramadi hospitality - a great lunch served in oversize platters of rice topped with noodles, nuts, raisins, and lamb meat. The overall mood was upbeat and there was a sense of camaraderie among all attending.



From the Commander . . .

Shifting Sands and Seeking Points of Leverage

"There lies within most of us an innate quality that compels us to give of ourselves to the good of mankind." - Clyde Kissinger

Just as the sands in Iraq shift over time, so have the many faces at GRC. This month new GRC leaders out front, making a difference to support the Iraqi people and our coalition forces, include: CSM Orville Wang (GRC CSM), Derya Smith (DPM), Milton Murphy (Chief of Construction), LTC Culen Robinson (OPS), LTC Jim Moore (Al Anbar AO), LTC Dan Jacobsen (Victory AO), LTC JPMoszer (Baghdad AO), LTC Pete Conlin (Taji National Depot), MAJ Ed Liu (IZ RO), LT(USN) Bob Leines (Loyalty RO), MAJ Ken Gudgel (Fallujah RO), MAJ Clark Johnson (Victory South RO), and many more officers, civilians, and contractors (9 of our 35 contractors), as you will see in this update.

We also welcomed back CDR Steve Frost who is on the mend after receiving great care in Landstuhl. On a sadder note, Aegis held a moving tribute and memorial in honor of Malcolm (Mally) Adjei, a man whose smile and professionalism will be deeply missed by his friends and co-workers. Our thoughts and prayers reach out to his family and loved ones during this difficult period.

While the only thing constant here seems to be change, one thing that doesn't change is the realization that getting things done is 90-95% interpersonal relationships and communication, with the remainder being the content or technical skills we bring to the table. This month LTC Culen Robinson has been working with many of you to capture our *keys to success*, as well as our key roles and responsibilities, tasks, definitions, meetings and reports. With the right information compiled in a district handbook, our personnel transitions within GRC and utilization of that information should greatly improve. Essential training beyond our newcomer's orientation now includes GRC personnel gaining critical proficiency with project reporting (RMS Training),

quality construction of our projects (CQM Training), contract administration (COR Training), and transferring projects (Project Closeout Training). Our ability to bring our new district members into the GRC family while executing our ongoing \$1.2B and past \$1.7B reconstruction program matters. Every job is an integral part of our success; although they may initially feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of our work, we must help each new person learn quickly, the role he or she must play to ensure we successfully accomplish our mission.

Transitions set the stage for even greater success in the future and make us richer for the experiences. I encourage each of you to frequently ask yourselves and others to seek ways to improve the effective and productive use of our limited time and efforts as part of this important and ambitious endeavor. In an earlier discussion, I recall David Schmidt telling me how his son had learned the application of force in karate by properly applying the force of his one knuckle. When properly applied, he showed how it acted as a *point of leverage* to bring down an opponent (his Dad!). BG Walsh once described to us how the opening of schools in the hurricane-ravaged parts of the US Southeast acted as a key turning point in the minds of the people that the worst was now over and lives could start to return to normalcy. Many of these points of leverage are potentially right in front of us, yet may be difficult to recognize using past thinking. Pay attention to available points of leverage and imagine the good that is possible to achieve.

*"It takes only a single idea,
a single action to move the world."*



Col. Debra M. Lewis
GRC Commander

From the CSM . . .

Greetings everyone, I'm Sergeant Major Wang and I arrived here on April 20. I'm most comfortable being called Sergeant Major and my job is simply to "bridge-the-gap" between you and Big Army.

My intent is to enhance your training requirements, help to provide you a safe environment, and to assist you through your day-to-day struggles while here in Iraq. My mission is to provide good guidance, coupled with firm but fair leadership. Is that a deal or what? You as individuals simply need to talk to me and I promise to listen. I enjoy people and that's truly what my job is all about. When people of this Army cease to be important to me, I'll have already hung up my uniform and retired.

I'm from North Dakota. Now, I didn't just pick that location and call it home. I'm originally from Minnesota (born and raised) and my Dad worked full time for the National Guard and chose to be closer to his work. I'm both a National Guard brat and a product of my environment. I'm proud that I have well over 30 years in the Military. The fact that I chose North Dakota to live remains a mystery to me. Because of the National Guard, I've had the opportunity to travel and see the world and yet, make my home anywhere. The quality of life, clean environment, four distinct seasons, and the peace and quiet that accompany country living convinced me to stay and raise my family there. No matter where you live, home is where you make it.

We have an old saying in the Army; "If Army wanted you to have a wife, one would be issued to you". Well, that's where I met my wife,

so thanks Big Army! My wife (Audrey) and I have been married over 20 years. She retired in 2006 with over 27 years and our wardrobe is no longer just Army issue. Somewhere between two careers and normal living we were fortunate enough to have kids. Like any parent, I'm quite proud of them. They are the most important reason I do what I do. Although, I miss them immensely, any deployment involving a long separation affects those at home severely. Please folks, keep the lines of communication open while you're here. That's more than enough about me. In the months ahead, some of you will return home, others will extend and stay longer than myself. I look forward to working with and for you. Several of you I've already had the chance to meet and do "the Grip-N-Grin". I look forward to meeting the rest of you sometime in the near future.

The job that you perform in this country is not without risks. Please, do not become complacent during your tour here. Stay alert and pay close attention to events going on around you -- we call it situational awareness. Take the time to identify who your "battle-buddy" is and become one, for that same individual. It all revolves around safety and security. I look forward to the months that lie ahead ... please take care. Essayons.



Command Sergeant Major
Orville Wang

Postcards from Iraq

Lifetime memories

By Valarie Albrecht

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
GRC Resource Management

I decided to volunteer for this Iraq assignment after working the Hurricane Katrina Relief Mission. While part of that team, I served with several Corps personnel who completed assignments here. They all told me how much they enjoyed the experience and thought I would too.

I was in the Air Force during peacetime and completed my enlistment before Desert Storm so I never got to participate in any conflicts. Since hanging up my military uniform, I've worked for the Air Force, Navy and the Army. Currently, I'm assigned to the USACE Sacramento District in California and feel I've found a home. I think our organization does important work in the U.S. and throughout the world and am very proud to be part of this organization.

I have enjoyed interacting with the Military, Foreign Nationals, Contractor Civilians and of course other Army Corps of Engineers personnel. I am very impressed by the professionalism and dedication everyone exhibits while serving here.

It's not easy being away from your family, friends and your home environment. The hours are long and sometimes it's quite lonely here. But, I feel that the sacrifice has been worth it. When I return home I'll be bringing back memories I'll have for a lifetime.

Accepting this assignment was one of the best decisions I've made and I will never forget the people I've met and the entire experience of being here...

I wish peace and harmony to the people of Iraq and a safe return home to everyone that is here contributing to the mission.

**Valarie Albrecht, Program Analyst
USACE Sacramento District**



Valarie Albrecht

To view GRC's 52 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>

DEPARTING MEMBERS



JEANNETTE NEWLEN
GRC Chief S1,
Human Resources
ASA (M&RA) Army, G1
Spotsylvania, VA



LTJg ROBERT McCHAREN
Taji Resident Office OIC
NAVFAC Southeast
Pensacola, FL



JOE RATH
Engineer Tech
Victory Resident Office
NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic
PW Pennsylvania



DAVID SCHMIDT
District Deputy Cdr.
Project Management
Savannah District



LOUIS ALFRED
Logistics Specialist
Antioch, CA

ARRIVING MEMBERS



JAMES WORTHINGTON
Al Asad
Resident Engineer
Galveston District



JAMES SEATON
GRC HQ
Security Manager
Cheyenne, WY



MILTON MURPHY
GRC HQ Chief
of Construction Division
Savannah District



TROY SWOFFORD
Fallujah Office
Project Engineer
Charleston District



SFC KIM SWANSON
NCOIC, IZ Office
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



CSM ORVILLE WANG
GRC CSM
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



MAJ KENNETH GUGDEL
OIC, Fallujah Office
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



MAJ CLARK JOHNSON
OIC Victory South/BIAP
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



LTC DAN JACOBSEN
OIC Victory Area Office
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



2LT GEORGE NORTON
IZ Project Engineer
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



**MSG SHERWIN
WANNER**
Victory Area Office
NCOIC
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



**SSG TYLER
SCHMOKER**
NCOIC
Victory South/BIAP
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



SFC DENNIS MANNING
NCO GRC S2/S3
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



DAN CEARLEY
Fallujah WWTP
Design Engineer
Washington
Black & Veatch



MICHAEL JAKUBIAK
Fallujah
Resident Engineer
Haw River, NC

ARRIVING MEMBERS



DERYA SMITH
District Deputy Cdr.
Project Management
Washington, D.C.



JEFFREY JONES
GRC HQ
IT Specialist
COE Ft. Riley, KS



MAJ BENJE JACKSON
Fallujah
Project Engineer
New Hebron, MS



**ADC (AW)
WILLIAM HARRELL JR.**
Ramadi NCOIC
NAVFAC Japan



LTC PETER CONLIN
OIC Taji National Depot
34th ENG BDE
Bismarck, ND



EARNIE MENDENHALL
IZ Resident Office
Project Engineer
Porum, OK



MSG KEVIN MAYER
Project Engineer
Fallujah
34th ENG BDE



LAURA McNAMARA
Construction
Manager
Kansas City



LCDR JOSHUA MALKIN
Al Anbar PRT LNO
NAVFAC FE
Yokosuka, Japan



LTC J. P. MOSZER
Baghdad Area Office
Deputy OIC
34th ENG BDE



SFC ROBERT STALLCUP
Security NCO
40th MP Det., Ft. Sill, OK
Home: Chattanooga, OK



JOE MINOR
PM Forward
Victory Resident Office
Del Rio, TX



ANTHONY CLARK
Project Engineer
Iraq National Depot
Henderson, NV



JAMES POSEY
Project Engineer
Iraq National Depot
Columbus, IN



KEITH WARD
Project Engineer
Fallujah
Las Vegas, NM



Combat Action Badge

Lt. Col. David King, GRC's Chief of Plans and Operations, received the Combat Action Badge for actions occurring March 27 while visiting two Primary Healthcare Centers in east Baghdad. His citation reads in part: "At approximately 1030 hours the team was struck with a multiple array of IED/EFP on the center vehicle disabling it and wounding four personnel." The wounded were transported to the nearest Forward Operating Base for medical treatment and then flown by helo to a military hospital in the International Zone.



Postcards from Iraq

Helping Iraq move forward

I am SFC David Johnson, a Combat Engineer from Sacramento California. I have been a proud member of the California Army National Guard for 17 years. During my deployment to Iraq, I have been lucky to be part of a diverse team in Al Anbar Province, working alongside the Army, Navy and Marine Corps in the reconstruction efforts in and around the city of Fallujah.

As a Project Engineer and the NCOIC of the Fallujah Sewer Project, I have been involved in several ongoing efforts including construction of clinics, schools and fire stations; however I am primarily responsible for the Fallujah Sewer System Project and the Fallujah Area Rural Water Program.

As the NCOIC for the Sewer System Project, I was responsible for coordination of movement for our project engineers, ensuring that they had what they needed to get their job done and overseeing our quality assurance team in the City. This project will bring a municipal sewer system to the City of Fallujah for the first time ever. The project will build the backbone infrastructure including a treatment plant, lift stations and trunk mains. Ultimately it will effect 200,000 residents of Fallujah who were using septic tanks that dumped raw sewage right into the streets.

As a Project Engineer for the Rural Water program I was responsible for 25 water treatment stations bringing clean fresh water to the people in small villages surrounding Fallujah. Prior to those new facilities going in, families there would chip in to have truckloads of potable water brought to their neighborhoods where they would hold it in tanks on their roofs. If the village was unable to pull together enough money to bring water to their village then they would take untreated water from the closest canal. These compact water treatment plants will have a direct positive impact on people who never had it before. The USACE Engineers taught me so much while I was here. Their dedication to this enterprise is astonishing. Working outside of their element and in a combat zone to bring a future to the country of Iraq, these engineers volunteer for often times multiple tours here to accomplish the mission. Their experience, resilience and work ethic under difficult and often discouraging conditions was an inspiration to all who interacted with them.

The Marines and especially 4th Civil Affairs Group were key to our mission. They allowed us to visit our projects in the rural areas, riding along on their combat patrols to evaluate our projects.

Above all, the real heroes are our Iraqi Quality Assurance Team who quietly risked their lives every day from Baghdad to Fallujah to show us what was happening on the sites from day to day. These individuals made the decision that they were going to make a difference and were dedicated to making their country better.

Most of all I want to thank My Family without whom I could not have done any of this. My wife Becky and our daughter Sage are my touchstone and have bore the brunt of this deployment. I look forward to rejoining them but I will never forget this experience of helping the people of Iraq.

*SFC David "Doc" Johnson
Engineer Brigade 40th Infantry Division
California Army National Guard, Sacramento*



SFC Johnson checks electrical materials for Fallujah



To view GRC's 52 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>

DEPARTING MEMBERS



SSG JACQUELINE JOHNSON
GRC Manpower NCO
412th ENCOM
Vicksburg, MS



LT DAWN HARRISON
IZ Resident Office
Project Engineer
412th ENCOM
Vicksburg, MS



MAJ ROBERT NASH
OIC IZ Resident Office
412th ENCOM
Vicksburg, MS



LTC DANNY THURMOND
OIC
Anbar Area Office
412th ENCOM
Vicksburg, MS



ALLAN NELSON
Victory South
Resident Office
BIAP QA Rep
St. Paul District

FAREWELL CALIFORNIA 40TH ID



CSM RANDALL CADY
GRC CSM
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Ferndale, CA



LTC DAVID KING
Chief Plans, Ops
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Suisun, CA



LTC ROBERT O'CONNOR
Victory Area Office OIC
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Granite Bay, CA



MAJ ANGEL ORTIZ
Fallujah Office OIC
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: San Pedro, CA



MAJ STEVE MARTINELLI
Victory South OIC
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Stockton, CA



MSG DALE DUPREE
Operations NCO
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Rancho Cordova



MAJ RON FORD
OIC Victory Resident Office
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Sattilo, MS



MSG CURTIS FREEMAN
NCOIC Baghdad Area Office
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Hesperia, CA



SFC LEAI TOELE
Logistics Specialist
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Sacramento



SFC GEORGE WONG
NCOIC Al Asad Office
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: San Francisco



SFC DAVID GARCIA
NCOIC Loyalty Office
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Santa Fe Springs, CA



SFC DAVID ECKERT
NCOIC Victory Area Office
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Chester, CA



SFC DAVID JOHNSON
Project Engineer
Fallujah
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard



SFC PERRY FOSTER
NCOIC IZ Office
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard



SSG ZANE MARTENS
Security NCO
ENG BDE 40th ID
Calif. National Guard
Home: Orland, CA

DEPARTING MEMBERS



DON HENDRIX
Al Anbar Area Office
Resident Engineer
Mobile District
Home: Mobile, AL



CHIP NIEMAN
Deputy Resident
Engineer, Fallujah
Jacksonville District
Home: Jacksonville, FL



JAY MORGAN
Haditha Dam Engineer
Al Asad Office
Seattle District
Omak, WA



JIM JACKSON
Project Engineer
Ramadi
Layton, Utah



DENNIS HENLEY
GRC HQ
Security Manager
Jacksonville District

Postcards from Iraq

A learning adventure...

By Janet Faust

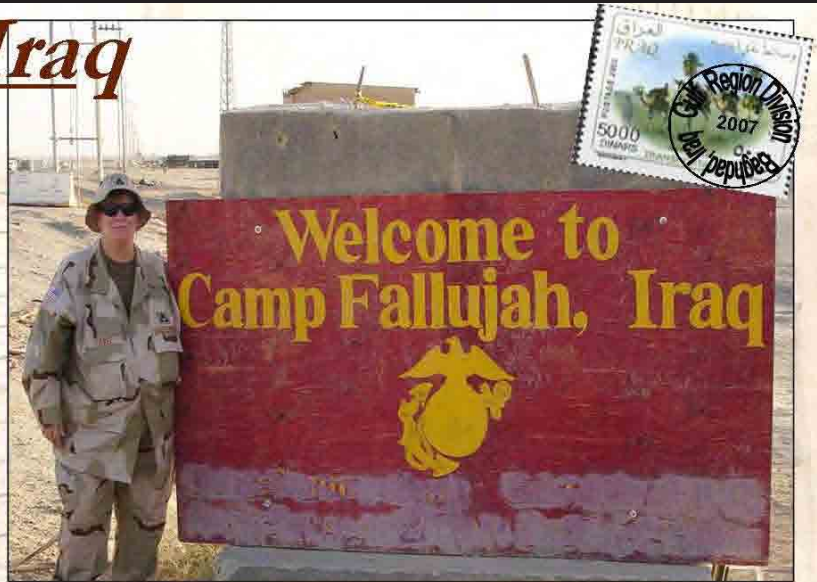
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
GRC Chief, Resource Management

The Corps' mission in Iraq is an awesome challenge, and yet we successfully work alongside Iraqis everyday to build and repair schools, roads, fire stations, courthouses, and other infrastructure projects. Being in the resource management (RM) business in Iraq, means you actually experience the important role that RM plays — helping Iraqi contractors get paid!

I will remember my time in Iraq as a two year educational journey working alongside some exceptional team members. Knowing the functionality of the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System (CEFMS) and very little about finance and accounting, contracting, project management, or budgeting, I volunteered for an 11 month assignment in Fallujah Area Office as a program analyst. Together with my team buddies, we often obliterated the preverbal “stay in your lane” concept as we were sometimes forced to cross over to help solve complex problems, all while learning from each other. Later, I was able to take my newfound knowledge and apply it to another one year tasker.

I accepted a program manager position to serve as Chief of RM at Camp Victory/Liberty in July 2006. In order to survive, I had to continue to rely on “seasoned” team professionals to teach me the basics...and beyond. I soon realized I was addicted to the pace and the rush of learning, as well as being a part of something far greater than myself. You can't learn in 10 years in a stateside District what you learn here in one. An Iraqi assignment provides a rich learning environment with many opportunities, whether personal or noble. I encourage any self starting RM looking for a learning adventure to join our team!

Janet Faust, Program Analyst, Baltimore District



Janet Faust with LTG Carl Strock and LTC Steven Miles

To view GRC's 52 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>

Combat Action Badge



1LT Dawn Harrison was presented a Combat Action Badge April 12. The citation reads in part that on March 21 while traveling to Camp Liberty (in east Baghdad), their three vehicle convoy came under small arms fire. As a result of the small arms fire, a tire was blown out, rear window shot out, and several rounds hit the vehicle body. Upon arriving at the next checkpoint, the team replaced the tire and proceeded on to their destination. 1LT Harrison is Army Reservist with the 412th Engineer Command out of Vicksburg, MS, and completed her one-year tour in April.



Promotion

Sgt. Katrail Smith was promoted to Staff Sgt. during a ceremony May 2. Smith was also a principle in the Command Sgt. Major Change of Responsibility that day as the USACE flag bearer.



GRC Deputy Commander, CDR Steven Frost, administers the oath of office to new employee James Seaton who is taking over as the District's new Security Manager. Seaton had been employed by Erinys, a British security company that provides protection and transportation for GRC employees visiting project sites. Seaton, who is from Cheyenne, Wyoming, says he believes in the USACE mission of helping rebuild Iraq, making a difference in the lives of some very needy people. "We're showing them what democracy and freedom is all about."



A few of the hundreds of Iraqi workers involved with helping rebuild Fallujah.



MAJ Angel Ortiz enjoys a chat with a youngster near one of the construction sites in Fallujah. 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.

Improving Fallujah's quality of life

He's working in one of the most challenging areas in Iraq.

Maj. Angel Ortiz says he and his staff have the job of rebuilding Fallujah, despite the ongoing threats. "Our hope is to do some good so that residents there see things are getting better." Ortiz is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Officer in Charge for that area and supervises a staff of 22 people including 8 Iraqis. "Those local nationals are risking their lives every day going out and visiting the projects to ensure our contractors are providing quality construction in a safe manner," he explained.

"We're managing 87 projects in Fallujah and the surrounding area valued at \$195 million. We're working on rebuilding Fallujah's entire electrical distribution system, constructing four primary healthcare centers each capable of providing medical care to 150 patients daily, and expanding the city's water treatment capabilities," Ortiz continued.

"My favorite project is the wastewater treatment system that will replace the city's reliance on septic tanks. That \$80 million effort includes pump stations, trunk mains, and a modern sewer treatment plant. It will get the



sewage off the street and out of the Euphrates River, benefiting this area for decades to come." All these projects have meant a boon to the local economy with hundreds of local residents now part of the work crews. "They have good jobs and know they're helping their community," Ortiz said.

Ortiz and his staff work in partnership with local community leaders including those on the Fallujah Reconstruction Committee, the Fallujah City Council, and Director Generals from the various Ministries. "We see them on a weekly basis to ensure our efforts are meeting their expectations."

Ortiz was mobilized as a member of the California National Guard's Engineer Brigade 40th ID and is concluding his one year tour this month. "It's been a great assignment. We're improving the quality of life for the citizens of Fallujah and I'm proud to be part of these efforts."

He had special praise for his wife, Mariluz, and their three children. "I have great support from them. My wife has done a tremendous job taking care of everything and that's allowed me to concentrate on the work here. I can't thank them enough for all they do."



CSM Randall Cady and CSM Orville Wang participate in a Change of Responsibility May 2 officiated by Col. Debra Lewis.



SFC Leai Toele smashes a hit.



California Army National Guard's 40thID engineers head home after a 1-year deployment.



Ike Borja and Jose Gonzalez grill some tasty steaks.



Maj. Angel Ortiz battles Navy Chief Matt Sutterluety at the net.



An early morning fun run opened GRC's Organization Day activities.



Combat Patch

A number of Gulf Region Division Central District military personnel were presented their combat patch May 2. Those qualifying were CSM Randall Cady, MSG Dale Dupree, SFC David Eckert, Maj. Ron Ford, SFC Perry Foster, MSG Curtis Freeman, SFC David Johnson, LTC David King, SSG Zane Martens, Maj. Steve Martinelli, LTC Robert O'Connor, Maj. Angel Ortiz, SFC Leai Toele, SFC George Wong, CDR Steven Frost, YNC Michelle Guilliano, LTC Quay Jones, SSG Katrail Smith, CDR Geoffrey Schuller, MAC Matt Sutterluety, MSG Lee Collier, LTC Cullen Robinson, LTC Pete Conlin, LTC Daniel Jacobsen, Maj. Clark Johnson, SFC Dennis Manning, LTC J.P. Moszer, SSG Tyler Schmoker, CSM Orville Wang, Maj. Edward Liu, and MSG Sherwin Wannger.



Joanne Gibbs and Derya Smith join in during karaoke.



GRC's facility staff also enjoyed the day's activities.



Karaoke proved to be a popular option at GRC's Organization Day May 2.

Postcards from Iraq

Setting the foundation ...

By SSG Zane Q. Martens
Intel Analyst

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

On Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, it's no surprise Physiological (breathing, food, water) is the first step and foundation of a person's needs. Safety (security of body, of employment, of morality) is second on this list...however, when most go to war, they go with the mission of helping people by using force against the opposition.

Ninety-five percent of our resources go towards step-two on Maslow's list. This leads to a shaky foundation. Those that have no clean drinking water, sewage running down the street, polluted air, limited electricity, and disease in every facet imaginable are less likely to fight to protect their nest. But if you give them a nest worth protecting or

show them there is a better life for them and their children; then they will stand up to those that continue to oppress them.

I was lucky enough to be part of the five percent that got the mission to go over to help build this severely damaged country and show the people there can be something better. There is nothing more rewarding to see than the countless impact statements of completed projects. When you see a project will provide sanitary water to 30,000 people, health care clinics that will give people the first opportunity in their lives to get medical attention, schools that will give those the opportunity to learn to read and write, and that is only naming a couple instances. It seemed like almost everyday we were completing one or several projects that helped literally thousands upon thousands of people.

Of course the suppressors do not want these projects to be completed, because when the "hearts and minds" are won; their stranglehold is lost. So they run constant interference, but they do not share our resolve. Therefore we will leave this country a better place.

SSG Zane Q. Martens, Onland, CA
Engineer Brigade 40th ID, California Army National Guard



SSG Zane Martens



To view GRC's 52 post cards, go to <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>

ARRIVING MEMBERS



SAM FARHAT
Project Engineer
Al Asad
Dearborn, MI



RUSSELL WRIGHT
Project Engineer
Fallujah
West Palm Beach, FL



ROBERT MABRY
GRC HQ
Project Controls
Wildwood, MO



SIDNEY J. HYMES
GRC HQ SBH
Program Manager
St. Louis



Anbar Media Roundtable



Signs of progress seen in Anbar

By John J. Kruzel, American Forces Press Service

Iraq's infrastructure is slowly improving despite years of neglect under Saddam Hussein's Baath party and the current "costly insurgency," a military commander said.

"The type of work we have undertaken is hard work. It takes time and constant attention," Army Col. Deborah Lewis, commander of the Gulf Regional Central District, told Iraqi reporters during a May 5 briefing on reconstruction in Anbar province.

The Army Corps of Engineer's Gulf Region Division is spearheading public works projects to improve Iraq's water, oil and electricity infrastructure. The division has completed 2,279 projects to construct or renovate security and justice buildings, health and education centers, transportation arteries and communications facilities in Iraq. According to the division's Web site, 325 such programs are ongoing.

Partnering with Iraqi ministries, provincial and local leaders, coalition forces and U.S. government agencies, including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the division continues to make progress in Anbar province.

"Our common goal for these many partners is to provide the people of Iraq access to these basic essential services," Lewis said. "We do this by ensuring quality work, and we work directly with each of these partners to select and find and then construct these needed projects for the Iraqi people.

"The road to improvement is always under construction, (and) nothing great is ever done without a whole lot of help," she added.

Lewis said the Gulf Region Division has hosted Iraqi contractor workshops in Ramadi and Fallujah to explain to local builders the fundamentals of competing successfully for labor-intensive public works projects.

"We've employed an average of 22,000 Iraqi citizens per week throughout Iraq," she said. "These projects not only have direct benefits by the services they can provide to the people, they also help the local economy because employment is ... an indirect benefit for the economy."



Twenty news organizations covered the one-hour Anbar media roundtable May 5. Afterward, Col. Lewis was interviewed one-on-one by Al Hurra TV, Biladi TV, Free Iraq radio, and Al Ein news agency as well as the Washington Post.



Tameen Southeast generating facility will soon be fully operational and providing 11 megawatts of additional electricity to the Ramadi grid.

Ramadi electrical projects underway

Work continues on efforts to upgrade Ramadi's electrical system.

Eight diesel-powered electrical generators in southeast Tameem will soon be on line providing up to 11 extra megawatts of electricity to residents in that area. (Tameem District is located in the southwest section of Ramadi.)

"We will soon be commissioning the plant," explained Dean Mesenbrink, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Engineer. "The community is definitely looking forward to some additional power being added to the grid."

Apart from that work, Mesenbrink is overseeing several other projects designed to provide a more stable, reliable electrical network for Ramadi residents.

Construction has started on a new \$27.8 million 132kV substation.

"With 25 years of neglect, Ramadi's existing 132kV substation was simply worn out," Mesenbrink explained. "This will help provide a stable grid for the community's electrical needs." In addition, new overhead transmission lines are being installed to power that new substation.



One other project he's managing is the installation of two new diesel-powered generators for the Kabeer Water Treatment Plant, the community's largest source of drinking water. That work includes new concrete pads for those generators, sunshades, a new fuel tank, cable, and operator training. That project will provide the facility four megawatts of power. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also overseeing the renovation of that facility with new pumps, construction of a laboratory, repair of its clarifiers, chlorinator, mechanical valves and electric controllers for the sand/gravel filters to bring it back to its 6000 cubic meters per hour full capacity.

Mesenbrink says his main job on all these projects is ensuring the contractors are providing quality construction in a safe manner. "Iraqis expect and deserve that," he noted. "There's no doubt these projects will benefit Ramadi."



Kabeer Water Treatment Plant in Ramadi is getting new pumps and other extensive repairs.



Two new generators at the Kabeer Water Treatment Plant in Ramadi will ensure uninterrupted power for that essential service facility.