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Iraq Project and Contracting Office

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Iraq Reconstruction Weekly Update

Reporting progress and good news

August 12, 2005

www.rebuilding-iraq.net

Project Completion Reaches Halfway Point

The PCO has crossed the halfway completion mark of planned infrastructure projects assigned to it by the U.S. Department of State in Iraq. More than 1600 of the planned 3200 projects—such as power generation and distribution, water treatment, schools, and oil production—have been certified as successfully completed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Finished structures are subsequently consigned to the appropriate Iraq ministry.



Key Tigris River Bridge Receives Upgrade



The Al Sharquat Bridge, which spans the Tigris River, is one of eight major projects planned under Grant Agreements with the Ministry of Construction and Housing. The existing pontoon bridge will be replaced with a modern concrete bridge, lighting systems will be installed, and asphalt approach roads will be constructed. The Al Sharquat Bridge Project is expected to generate more than 500 jobs during peak construction and employ 300 Iraqis in stable jobs during the regular construction period. (For further grant background please see the Spotlight article on page 2)

Sewer Restoration Project

The Sadr City Sewer Network Rehabilitation project has restored the principal sewage collection elements in Al Sadr City and surrounding districts. The network channels the collection of sewage to the main wastewater treatment plant. The project immediately improved living conditions in Sadr City by eliminating standing sewage in the streets, as well as employing local Iraqis from the affected neighborhoods.

New Generation at Khor Al-Zubair



PCO transported and is currently installing two heavy capacity General Electric Frame Nine Generators at Khor Al-Zubair. Once operational, the generators will provide 246MW of electrical power to the Iraqi grid, which will provide enough power to supply 220,000 households. About 70% of PCO's planned electricity generation projects have been completed in Iraq.

Fire Stations See Major Improvements

Construction is now 13% complete on the Al Sadr Fire Station in Sadr City. The station will be a three-story structure with five bays, three for ladder trucks and two for SUVs. The facility will include a dormitory area, a dining room with kitchenette, a training room, an operations control section, and a fire chief's office. Of PCO's 90 planned fire station projects, 97% have broken ground and over 50% are completed.

Building on a Foundation of Freedom



Spotlight on Grant Agreements

PCO has established grant agreements with the Ministry of Construction and Housing to provide fiscal support for the reconstruction of select infrastructure in Iraq, which contributes to the reconstruction of Iraq as a whole, secure, and independent nation. Projects include:

- Kufa Bridge
- Shirkat Bridge
- Al-Diwaniyah 2nd Carriageway
- Kirkuk Carriageway
- Shaikh Sa'ad Bridge
- Zuba Bridge
- Nassirriah Bridge

There are no US contractors -- managers or engineers -- on site.

- The Iraqi ministry is doing the initial funding, hiring of all the contractors, and managing the projects themselves.
- Along the way, the Iraqi ministry is required to show that requirements for planning, accounting, environmental impact, engineering, and other considerations are being met.
- PCO reimburses the ministry through the IRRF when the contract conditions have been met for that phase of the project.

Important Aspects:

- No US contractors are exposed to insurgent attacks
- No life support costs are needed to house US construction personnel
- The Iraqi ministry is gaining experience in conducting a transparent, well-managed construction project.

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U.S. ARMY

Projects at a Glance (August 12, 2005)

- \$5.077 billion has been disbursed to date, representing over 39% of total funds
- 2,593 PCO projects starts out of 3,200 planned projects. This number includes 415 projects funded under the Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program (AIRP)
- 1,617 PCO projects are complete, including 351 that are funded under the AIRP

Reconstruction Sector	Project Type	# Under Construction*	# Completed*
Health & Education	Schools	64	656
	Primary Health Care Centers	144	0
	Hospitals	17	4
	Public Buildings	2	2
Public Works & Water	Water Treatment Capacity Projects (planned projects will add 1 million cubic meters per day in capacity)	60	73
	Sewage Projects	2	0
Security & Justice	Fire Stations	42	46
	Border Posts	150	85
	Military Base Projects	42	32
	Police Facilities	168	165
Transportation & Communications	Railroad Stations	31	64
	Village Roads	35	5
	Ports Projects	2	2
	Postal Facilities	1	23
	Airport Projects (FAA certified ready)	7	1
	Expressways	1	0
Electricity	Distribution Projects (Substations)	75	48
	Transmission Projects (400KV Towers)	5	8
	Power Generation Projects	3	12
Oil	Dedicated Power Plants	3	2
	Water Injection Pump Stations	2	6

* Note: Does not include projects funded by the Development Fund for Iraq.



About PCO

The Project and Contracting Office (PCO) is responsible for nearly \$13 billion of the total \$18.4 billion designated by the US Congress to support the reconstruction of Iraq. The PCO mission includes contracting for and delivering services, supplies, and infrastructure identified within the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund. PCO is aligned under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology to provide contracting and project management support. PCO reports to the Department of State's Iraq Reconstruction Management Office on matters relating to project requirements and priorities. PCO activities in Iraq directly benefit Army ground commanders as these projects are linked to stabilization and peace, which in turn can positively affect the security situation.

News Media Requests: If you are a news media member and are interested in the possibility of scheduling an interview with a PCO program manager, please contact (703) 697-7592.

News Clips Available: PCO compiles a daily collection of news clips about Iraq Reconstruction and related subjects sourced from major media organizations world wide. If you are interested in receiving this information on a daily basis, please contact Mary Maloney at (703) 696-5090.

For further information please see:

U.S Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov/iraq>

U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/iraq/iraq.htm>

U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>

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