



Coalition troops mark Iraqi reference points

Senior Airman Chawtain Sloan

MNC-I PAO

The weight of their body armor combined with the strain of lifting a jackhammer over their heads makes their arms quiver like jello.

Sweat pours down their faces and burns their eyes, but they won't stop now. They can't.

One after another, they connect four-foot stainless steel rods together and drive them further below the Earth's surface. Thirteen rods and 52 feet later, they have finally reached their breaking point -- the rods refuse to be driven anymore.

The engineers assigned to Multi-National Corps - Iraq don the section of rod that protrudes from the surface with a custom access cover and insert a fluorescent orange sign that signifies the location is ready to be surveyed.

The team of U.S. and British army geodetic surveyors has successfully established another reference point along the road to reconstruction in Iraq, one of many in the first Iraqi Geospatial Reference System that identifies geospatial locations using names or numeric coordinates.

Coalition and Iraqi engineers use the data collected by IGRS to create accurate maps of Iraq and safely rebuild the country's roads, bridges and pipelines.

"Establishing a geospatial reference system is the first and most crucial step to reconstructing Iraq," said Motaz Mostafa, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of one of six MNC-I geodetic survey teams and assigned to the 175th Engineer Company, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The joint Coalition team began working on the project in April, which is modeled in the likeness of the National Spatial Reference System in the United States.

Geospatial reference systems have already proven to be quite effective in helping the United States and several other countries in Central and South America, Africa and Eastern Europe recover from natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. War-torn countries like Iraq require the same geospatial reconstruction, said 1st Lt. Kenneth Joyce, IGRS project leader



photos by Senior Airman Chawtain Sloan/MNC-I PAO

A team of British and American army engineers assigned to Multi-National Corps - Iraq try to beat the heat by starting the installation process of reference points in a High Accuracy Reference Network before sunrise. The HARNs are part of the first Iraqi Geospatial Reference System, which identifies geospatial locations using names or numeric coordinates.

assigned to the 175th Eng. Co.

By the time the project is completed around June 2006, the IGRS will be comprised of six hubs called Continuously Operating Reference Stations and about 300 different reference points known as High Accuracy Reference Networks that are geographically located throughout Iraq.

Using Global Positioning System-based data collected by the International GPS Service and American- and British-established reference stations and networks, Iraqi engineers will be able to determine near-precise distances between two locations.

"They will be able to pinpoint a distance that is so precise, there is only a few centimeters of error if any at all," said Joyce. "When you are talking about building something as major as a sewage system, for example, having a minimal amount of error becomes rather important if you don't want a mess on your hands."

The benefits of having such a precise geospatial reference system is something that the team of IGRS engineers have already experienced first hand.

"We have been out setting up HARNs and made a wrong turn a couple times," said



British Lance Cpl. Neil Dicken, 42nd Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, Hermitage, England, levels the last stainless-steel rod that comprises a reference point in a High Accuracy Reference Network.

Mostafa. "We radio to one of our guys who are monitoring the CORS, and they tell us exactly where we are at, where we need to be and how to get there."

Since April, the American and British team has established six CORS and 69 HARNs.

While establishing the remaining 231 HARNs in as little as 10 months may seem

Preventive Points

*Tips from Multi-National Corps -
Iraq Force Health Protection*

Smoking risks

While smoking has long been linked to a wide range of health problems, recent research shows that the harmful habit is worse than previously known.

According to the Surgeon General's 2004 report, quitting smoking has immediate as well as long term benefits, reducing risks for diseases caused by smoking and improving your health in general. The list of diseases caused by smoking has been expanded to include abdominal aortic aneurysm, acute myeloid leukemia, cataract, cervical cancer, kidney cancer, pancreatic cancer, pneumonia, periodontitis, and stomach cancer.

Regardless of age or smoking history, there are advantages to quitting.

The Surgeon General concluded:

- Quitting smoking has major and immediate health benefits for everyone of all ages. Benefits apply to people with and without smoking-related disease.
- Former smokers live longer than continuing smokers. Those who quit smoking before age 50 have one-half the risk of dying in the next 15 years compared with continuing smokers.
- Quitting smoking decreases the risk of lung cancer, other cancers, heart attack, stroke, and chronic lung disease.
- Women who stop smoking before pregnancy or during the first 3 to 4 months of pregnancy reduce their risk of having a low birth weight baby to that of women who never smoked.
- Health benefits of being smokeless far exceed any risks from the average 5-pound weight gain or any adverse psychological effects that may follow quitting.
- Combat fitness will improve due to improved health.

Listed below are some tips that may help in the quitting process:

- Enroll in a tobacco cessation class.
- Avoid places or activities that involve smoking.
- Join a support group.
- Practice breathing exercises.

For more information, contact the 55th Medical Company at 822-2781.

GEOSPATIAL

like an impossible feat, the engineers seem confident and credits the project's success so far to their "one-team, one-fight" mentality.

"Before we started the project, we did 30 days of convoy, communications and installation training, and that's when we really came together," said Mostafa. "The first day, we had the U.S. on one side and the U.K. on the other. ... At the end of the 30 days, we had a confirmation exercise, and we were no longer U.K. and U.S. We were one team -- Team IGRS -- and that's how it's been ever since.

Aside from helping Iraq take the first step toward a new future, the Coalition team has laid down the building blocks for a lasting partnership.

"I've met a lot of amazing individuals that I plan on being friends with for a lifetime," said Mostafa. "I am going to look back on this as one of the biggest achievements of my life. We'll always be the first people to make history in Iraq (with geodetic surveying), and we did it together."



photo by Senior Airman Chawtain Sloan/MNC-I PAO

A team of British and American army engineers work together to lift and steady the jackhammer used to drive 4-foot stainless rods drive into the ground.

Chilling out



photo by Spc. Jeremy Crisp/MNC-I PAO

Spc. Jerry L. Caspersen, a gunner with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry Regiment, Alaska Army National Guard, takes a break atop his Humvee Aug. 10, 2005, at the water and ice distribution point at Camp Victory, Iraq.

Voices of Victory: What quirky things do you do to feel closer to your family?



"I read books over tape and send them home to the kids."

Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Matson, budget analyst, Detainee Operations, HQ NORAAD Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



"We play the playstation against eachother online."

Stephanie Tobin, Blackhawk Houston Texas.



"We talk over voice chat and webcam."

Sgt. Andrew Pasch, driver, Physical Security Detachment, Mannheim, Germany

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe
 Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
 Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
 Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis
 Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
 Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shopette
 Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
 Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center
 Open 24 Hours

Chapel
Sunday:
 Protestant Service 7 a.m. and 8:45 a.m.
 Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
 Gospel Service Noon
 Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
 Episcopal 4 p.m.
 Full Life Service 6 p.m.
Saturday:
 7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
 Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)
Friday:
 Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

Post Office
 Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic
Sick Call Hours:
 Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
 Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick call:
 Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:
 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:
 Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:
 Over the counter prescription refills
 Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
 Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Your equipment can't save your life if it's not turned on.

ON

OFF

STAY ALIVE

0009 IEDs KILL

ARMY RESERVE
 It's not your everyday job.

The Mission of the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Army Reserve Affairs.

This office provides Army Reserve Soldiers and their chain of command guidance and service support in addressing issues unique to Army Reserve units in theater. The actions include:
 Reception, Redeployment, Demobilization, and Stabilization
 AJP (Additional Incentive Pay) Advisement
 Reserve Promotions
 Military Benefits and Entitlements
 Advising Reserve Commanders and Individual Reserve Soldiers
 Providing Forward Support through Main and Reach Back capabilities

Army Reserve Affairs
 Bldg, M15 A&B, Victory Blvd.
 Camp Victory, Iraq APO AE 09342
 DSN# 318-822-1657/1661

Army Reserve Affairs (FWD)
 Warrior Support Center
 LSA Anaconda, Iraq APO AE 09391
 DSN# 829/1053

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Kirkuk 107.3 FM	Tikrit 100.1 FM

Freedom Radio

Victory MWR Events August 23 - 29

Today: Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Nine-ball at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday: Dominoes at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Spades at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 5 - 6:30 a.m. and from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

Thursday: Country night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes Tournament at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Ping Pong at 7:30 p.m.

Friday: Ping Pong at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Latin night at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday: DJ Young at 7 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Dominoes 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Tae-Kwon-Do from 6 - 7 p.m.; Boxing from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

Sunday: Jazz at 6 p.m. and Chicago step at 6:30 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Chess at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Fencing from 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Monday: Chicago step at 6:30 p.m. at Bldg. 124; Halo at 8 p.m. at Bldg. 51; Classes at the Gym: Aerobics from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Boxing from 8 - 9:30 p.m.

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