



Iraq Reconstruction Update

A Weekly Progress & News Report

01.09.06



PROJECT CLOSE-UP

ERBIL, Iraq -- Iraqi sub-contractors place and fill concrete tiles on a school renovation project. (Photo by Jim Gordon)

Notable Quotes

"Today we commemorate one million man hours on this site worked without a recordable accident,"

- Lt. Col. Victor Zillmer, U.S. Army Engineer, Irbil, Iraq

"This is a great day for my village. The coalition forces are doing great things here."

- Dr. Mohammed, Jedallah Sofia, Iraq

"We came over... to help the people of Iraq."

- Capt. Fritz Keel, Commander, A Battery, 3rd Battalion, 6th Field Artillery

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Reconstruction Video Download



Three Iraq reconstruction videos produced by the Pentagon Channel.

http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net/pls/portal/docs/page/ipmo/0_image_tool_contain/ner/vts_1.wmv

Progress Dispatches



Teacher's College in Hit Completed



Construction is complete on a \$1 million education project in Hit, Al Anbar Governorate. The project began in June 2004 and was completed last month by an Iraqi construction company. The college has 28 classrooms that can support up to 30 students each and has a total capacity of 600 students. Currently 45 of 51 school projects programmed in the Al Anbar Governorate are complete.

Tarmiya Road Improvement Project

Construction is complete on a \$421,000 road improvement project in Tarmiya, Baghdad Governorate. Iraqi workers cleared surface debris from four kilometers of road, graded the foundation, and performed other road surface improvements. This project will benefit 100,000 local people of Tarmiya by lessening congestion. In the total reconstruction program, there are a total of 106 village road projects, with 85 completed.

Ceremony Finalizes Taha and Al Khas Village Roads Project

A dedication ceremony finalized the Taha (3.5 km) and Al Khas (5.7 km) village roads construction project. Both roads segments were completed last month by an Iraqi road construction company. Additionally, the contractor installed six culvers in the Al Khaas roadway to assist the movement of water for agricultural irrigation. About 6,000 area Residents will benefit from the roadway. Currently, five village road projects in the Al Basrah Governorate are complete.



Muthanna Security Check Points Completed

Work is complete on six security check-point projects in three different districts of the Muthanna Governorate. Each project required construction of a vehicle checkpoint, vehicle search area, blast wall barriers, security lighting, and renovation of the existing on-site housing. These facilities enable the Iraqi police to conduct safe and efficient vehicle inspections along the Iraqi-Saudi border.





New Transformer Means Additional Reliable Power for Baghdad

By Jenna Bisenius
Project and Contracting Office
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The new transformer added alongside two existing transformers at a west Baghdad substation serves a dual purpose: to convert 132-kilovolt (kV) power down to 33-kV power and to act as a backup unit when workers take one of the other transformers off-line for maintenance. This addition ensures electricity that is more dependable for Iraqis living in the Baghdad area and helps to increase their hours of uninterrupted electrical service.

The Gulf Region Division (GRD) Electricity Sector provided management oversight of the \$1.1 million project. Work began in May 2005, and ended in November. Contractor Washington Group, International, managed the actual installation of the transformer; the GRD provided quality control through site visits conducted to check on construction details. The Iraqi Ministry of Electricity (ME) also was involved in the project, according to David Millson, GRD Electricity Sector Program Manager for Washington International.

“The Electricity Sector’s main piece of the project was to supply a working transformer. We relied on the ministry to work with the contractor to hook up the auxiliary wiring on either side of the transformer and then to test the wiring.

The ministry did a very competent job, and we found their engineers to be very knowledgeable,” said Millson.

He added that the electricity sector hopes to partner more on projects with the ME in the future.



Workers successfully installed a new transformer at a west Baghdad substation. (GRD Photo)

“Working together with the ME is very important due to the eventual handover of responsibility when we leave,” he said. “The more we involve the Iraqis on these projects, the better tools they will have to manage these facilities when we’re gone.

“Successful collaboration on projects such as this one definitely opens the door to some very exciting partnering opportunities down the road. We look forward to working with the ME on other electricity projects in the future,” said Millson.

- Did You Know? -

Reconstruction Factoids

-- 250 subcontracts worth over \$6.9 million have been awarded to Iraqi women-owned businesses in the water, electrical, and facilities and transportation sectors alone.

-- The water sector has provided over 100,000 hours of training for more than 68,000 Iraqis.

-- PCO contractors have hired more than 1,100 Iraqis directly onto their staffs in the following labor categories: management, technical, and unskilled.

Providing Health Care in Sobak Sur



U.S. and Iraqi soldiers conduct a community health program mission in Sobak Sur, Iraq. These programs are routinely held to bring much needed health care to areas that ordinarily would be unable to receive such services. (Photo by Spc. Charles W. Gill)



Armed with Hardhats...and Toys

Story and Photos by Sgt. Ashly Rice

Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – Armed with hard hats, interacting with local villages or inspecting the buildings of Q-West Base Complex, Soldiers of Facility Engineer Team 22 are happy to lend a helping hand.



The Tigris Pump station in Qayyarah.

FET Team 22 is an Army Reserve unit from Fort Devens, Mass., comprised of 35 teams of seven personnel from different states across the United States. Two noncommissioned officers and five officers with expertise in environmental, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering use their skills to construct a better quality of life at Q-West and surrounding towns.

“[We] touch every piece of engineering on base when we do something. It has been enjoyable to be able to interact with local villages and the kids,” said Lt. Col. Dan Gregory, team commander. Gregory oversees environmental, horizontal construction, electrical, utilities and vertical construction sections.

“We are providing jobs for half a dozen contractors on base, upgrading skill levels [to] how things are done in this industry in the states,” said Capt. Richard Long, FET 22 utilities and vertical construction team.

Twice a month, FET 22 travels to Qayyarah, a town outside of the base, where the Tigris River Pump Station is located. This pump station supplies local villages and the base with water.

During the utilities and vertical construction section visits, the engineers fix damage to the pumps and find and stop illegal taps into the water system.

The team looks forward to helping out, but not only in the field of engineering. Stacks of boxes with supplies and toys fill the team commander’s office.

“Whoever needs help, come on over,” said Gregory. “Anyone who wants to distribute boxes, come on by and grab some.”



The Tigris Water Pump Station near the town of Qayyarah.

Changes in the Making – The Azady Police Station

By Claude D. McKinney
Gulf Region North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Azady police station has expanded its guardhouse, received a new entry gate, covered parking for nine vehicles, and undergone a complete renovation of the interior of the building to include new doors, windows, restrooms, heating and air conditioning units, paint, floor tile, lighting, roofing, and water supply.

These changes will enhance the working conditions for the police officers working there, and, by extension, make the people within the community of 1.5 million safer.



Police stations across Iraq are being enhanced. (U.S. Army photo)

“One of the keys to an independent and functioning Iraq is their ability to govern themselves. That means they have to be able to enforce their laws. That task largely falls to the police departments in each city,” said David Crumpton the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Resident Engineer in Sulaymaniyah.

“Completing projects like this police station in Azady is a direct step toward an independent Iraq,” he said. Many good things are happening in Iraq, despite the violence that often claims the media spotlight.

Reconstruction efforts are continuing throughout the country and things are getting better. At the transfer of sovereignty in June 2004, there were just over 200 projects started. As of the end of December 2005, over 2,000 projects have been completed, valued at \$2.19 billion, and there are currently more than 1100 projects ongoing at a program value of \$2.9 billion.

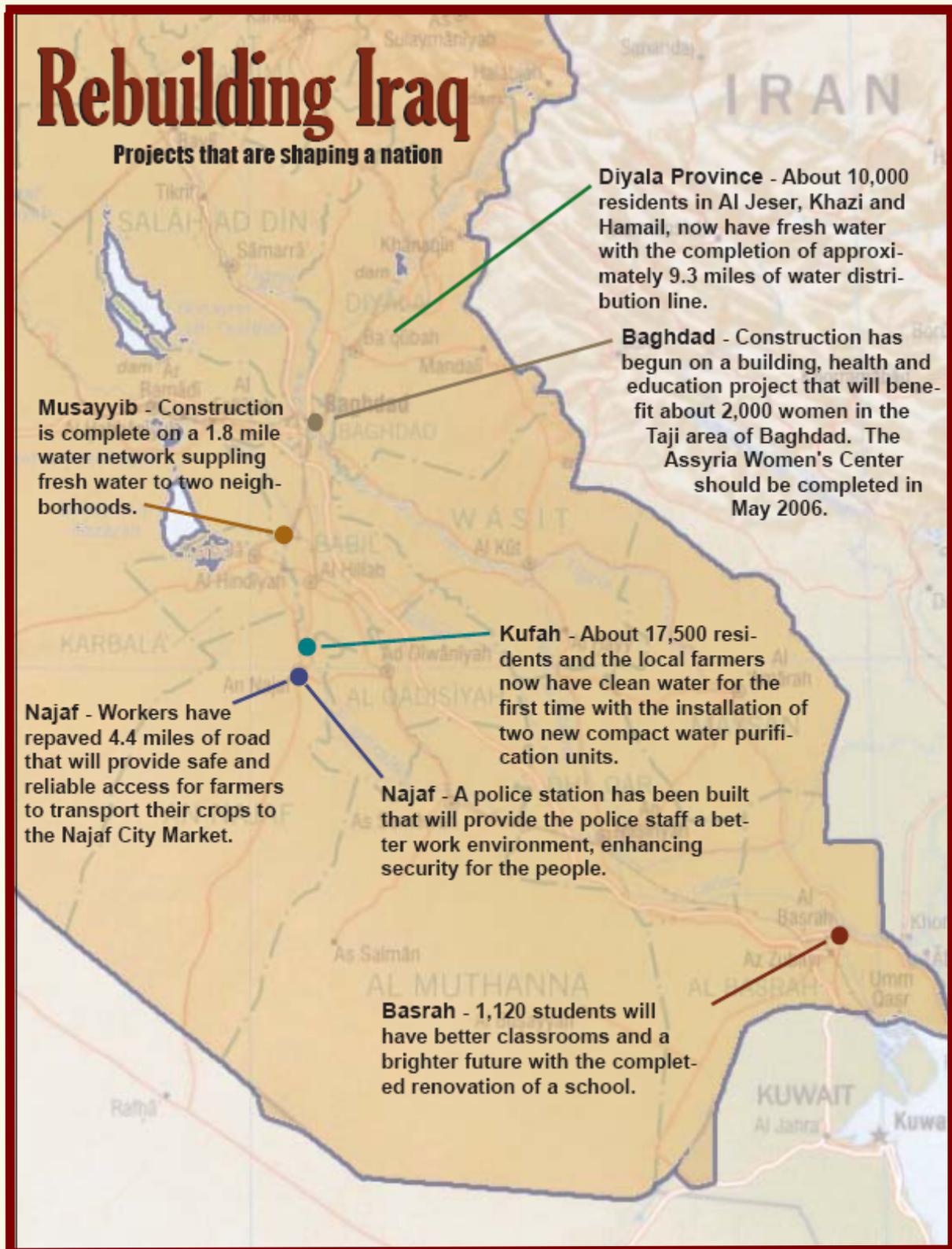
Construction will continue across the country as construction money is put to work.

“Completing projects like this police station in Azady is a direct step toward an independent Iraq.”

David Crumpton, Resident Engineer



PROJECT SNAPSHOT -- Some of the Rebuilding Projects: What and Where



Iraq Reconstruction Update



Projects at a Glance (As of: January 7, 2006)

Compiled by Katie Wall, PCO

•\$7.098 billion has been disbursed, representing over 54% of total funds (as of January 1, 2006)

•2,990 projects starts (out of 3,406 planned projects). This number includes 464 projects funded under the Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program (AIRP)

•2,156 projects are complete, including 408 that are funded under the AIRP

Reconstruction Sector	Project Type	# Under Construction*	# Completed*
Health & Education	Schools	15	784
	Primary Health Care Centers	138	4
	Hospital Projects	16	6
	Public Buildings	0	4
Public Works & Water	Potable Water Projects	94	116
	Sewer Projects	6	1
Security & Justice	Fire Stations	27	62
	Border Posts	98	129
	Military Base Projects	58	76
	Police Facilities	77	285
Transportation & Communication	Railroad Stations	17	79
	Village Roads	22	18
	Ports Projects	3	2
	Postal Facilities	1	23
	Airport Projects (FAA certified ready)	8	5
	Expressways	3	0
Electricity	Distribution Projects (including Substations)	103	78
	Transmission Projects	13	9
	Power Generation Projects	8	13
Oil	Dedicated Power Plants	2	3
	Water Injection Pump Stations	0	8

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

Source: Multiple PCO Management Reports



Sector Overview: Current Status – End State

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO



Sector	Current Status	End State
Electricity	1,327 MW	1,556 MW capacity added (enough for 1.4 M homes)
Oil	1.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) produced* 1.1 MBPD exports*	3.0 MBPD produced 2.4 MBPD exports
Water & Sewer	Added 131,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity 31,000 hectares of additional irrigated land	Additional 930,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity 251,000 hectares of additional irrigated land
Health	4 primary healthcare centers completed and 138 under construction	Population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis served in completed primary healthcare centers
Education	784 schools providing classrooms for 310,000 students	800 schools providing classrooms for 320,000 students
Security & Justice	129 border forts completed	247 border forts will secure 2,400 KM of border
Transportation	156 Kilometers (KM) of improved village roads Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 5.8 million citizens of Baghdad	424 KM of improved village roads 158 KM of improved major roads Provide emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities

* Note: Oil production and exports declined due to bad weather and southern storage facilities are at full capacity. Tankers were unable to dock at the oil terminals and production was subsequently reduced.

As of: January 7, 2006 Source: Multiple PCO Management Reports





Capacity Development: Spotlight on PCO Design/Build Contractors

Compiled By, Sheryl Lewis
Director, PCO-Washington Capacity Development

Capacity Development (CD) is critical to providing the foundation for a smooth transfer of day to day responsibility for completed projects to Iraqi management. Much of this foundation is provided through training by 11 separate design-build contractors. One of them – Washington Group International Inc. (WII)– is providing infrastructure level training through its Electricity Transmission and Distribution (T&D) North contract.

WII is working hard to prepare Iraqis to take over completed projects through a number of training efforts focused on turnover, commissioning, and sustainable operations and maintenance. WII provides in-country training through a combination of on-the-job training and the use of two centers located in Erbil and Baghdad. WII also provides training abroad in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Sweden, and the U.S. As part of this effort WII and the Ministry of Electricity identified twenty-four Iraqi professionals to attend a specialized technical training session from July through August 2005 in Egypt specifically aimed at transitioning substation control to Iraqi operations and maintenance professionals. The WII Erbil Commissioning Superintendent trained a six-man Iraqi team to handle the startup of three substations. Training included operations and functioning of the 33/11 kV switchgear, tap changers, fiber-optics testing, transformer testing, lock-out/tag-out procedures, and the overall commissioning process.

Learn More -- Pamphlet Download

Capacity development central to the Iraq reconstruction effort and provides the first step in building a foundation for the transfer of control for completed facilities to Iraqi management.



<http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net>



Washington Group International

Contractor Accomplishment File Card

- *Twenty-four Iraqi substation personnel were sent for four weeks of training at a facility in Cairo that specializes in electrical, T&D, and high-voltage training courses. The training included formal classroom sessions as well as hands-on training at substations that are similar to those that WII is building and refurbishing in Iraq.*
- *Five engineers/technicians were trained in Sweden for on breaker maintenance issues.*
- *Nine electrical experts are being trained in Minnetonka, Minn. on supervisory control and data acquisition.*
- *WII Quality Department has hired, trained, and used over seventy-five Iraqi personnel.*
- *As of Sept. 2005, WII had successfully trained 44 professional-level Iraqis to serve as safety inspectors for T&D projects.*

FOR FURTHER READING: An article written by Sheryl Lewis and Merriam Mashatt entitled "Oil Reconstruction in Iraq: Progress and Challenges" was printed in the Dec. 19, 2005 edition of the *Oil & Gas Journal*. The article discusses the status of construction in the oil sector as well as ongoing capacity development efforts being undertaken to facilitate sustainability.

Soldier Voices: Video Stories of Unit Level Iraqi Assistance

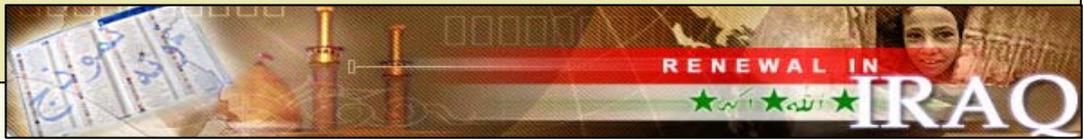


Video 1: How a visit to one Baghdad school touched the lives of a special group of deaf and mute Iraqi students.
<http://hn.afnews.af.mil/WMF/helping%20deaf.wmv> (Windows)
<https://hn.afnews.af.mil/Meta/Video/helping%20deaf.ram> (Real)

Video 2: 1st Armored Division Soldiers helping to rebuild a Baghdad school through community outreach.
<http://hn.afnews.af.mil/WMF/outreach.wmv> (Windows)
<https://hn.afnews.af.mil/Meta/Video/outreach.ram> (Real)



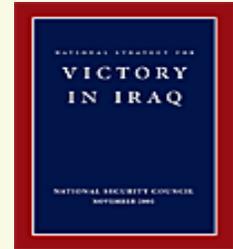
Spotlight: National Strategy for Victory in Iraq – The Big Picture



Rebuilding and reconstruction are part of an integrated effort which combines political, security, and economic tracks that are divided into eight strategic objectives listed in the “National Strategy for Victory in Iraq”.

The eight strategy objectives or “pillars” are:

1. Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgents
2. Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance
3. Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government
4. Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services
5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy
6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights
7. Increase International Support for Iraq
8. Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents



READ THE FULL NATIONAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT

http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/iraq/iraq_national_strategy_20051130.pdf

Source: White House Website:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Province Gets 15 Pure-Water Wells

By Claude D. McKinney
Gulf Region North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL, Iraq - More than 15 new well projects have been completed in villages within the Ninawa Province. These wells provide pure drinking water for more than 12,600 Iraqis. The completed wells are part of 44 wells started in the early fall, and make a considerable contribution to the health and well-being of many small communities.

A typical well is drilled approximately 600 feet and replaces centuries old, contaminated, surface-source water. The projects included not only the drilling of the well, but the construction of a securable pump house, a pump, and an 800-gallon, raised storage tank. These 15 new wells will permanently employ more than 45 Iraqis to operate and maintain the wells.

“Of all the types of projects I manage, completing water projects is especially gratifying,” said Lee Kenderdine, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mosul Resident Engineer.

“The result is immediate,” he said.

The water these wells deliver does not require additional treatment.



For increased pressure, the water tank is situated on a pedestal. (GRD Photo)

“The villagers can make use of it just as it is when it gets to their homes,” said Kenderdine.

At the transfer of sovereignty in June 2004, there were just over 200 projects started.

Today, over 2,000 projects have been completed, valued at \$2.19 billion, and there are currently more than 1100 projects ongoing at a program value of \$2.9 billion.





Apprentice Program Teaches Construction Skills to Young Iraqis

By Elaine Eliah
Special to American Forces Press Service

HABBANIYAH, Iraq – While western Iraq's Anbar province was making headlines with its voter turnout this month, a quieter turnout of its young men was making headway graduating from school.

In Habbaniyah, a volatile city where rockets and mortars destroy buildings and lives all too suddenly and frequently, the Iraq Construction Apprentice Program is facilitating Iraqi rebuilding efforts, one brick and one life at a time.

The apprentice course began in September at the military base here, an old British base that the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence contracted ECC International to renovate so the Iraqi army could establish a presence in Anbar. In the program, apprentices age 16 to 22 learn the construction skills most needed at the job site and most likely to find them future employment when the base work is complete.

Students were a cultural cross-section of Sunni and Shiia, like the city of Habbaniyah itself, and like virtually all the city's 30,000 residents, they shared a common bond of poverty, illiteracy and total lack of opportunity.

The ICAP program had more ambitious goals than simply teaching skill sets, officials said. ECCI benefits from higher skilled labor, AFCEE gets an improved product, and Iraq realizes a boost in construction sector capacity. Parents found new hope seeing their sons enter the labor market, and the local economy improved as the student stipends supplemented family income. For the young men, self-esteem grew along with competence. But more importantly, officials said, the hope is that self-reliance will make these young men less vulnerable to the appeal of insurgent leaders.



Lt. Col. Stephen Grumbach of the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence and Chuck Kubic, president of contractor ECC International, help to distribute tool kits to graduates of the Iraq Construction Apprentice Program. (Photo courtesy of ECCI)



The apprentices are helping to rebuild their town while learning valuable skills.

Retired Navy Rear Adm. Chuck Kubic, ECCI president, explained that the program is helping Iraqis and Americans alike. "The work these kids are doing is helping to build their own country and helping the transition to the Iraqi army replacing our own troops," he said.

Kubic had the idea for the apprentice classes when he led the U.S. Navy

Seabees into Anbar. Seabee engineers became his first teachers, and his first students were mainly adult men, desperate to earn even the student stipend to support their families. After returning to Iraq as a civilian, Kubic wanted to continue this training effort, concentrating on the specific skills required to improve quality on ECCI's construction projects and reaching out to younger apprentices.

On graduation day, Grumbach and Navy Cmdr. Scott Lister, an engineer with the Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq, helped Kubic and the ECCI staff distribute certificates and graduation tool kits consisting of a toolbox, a level, a tape measure, a file, a hammer, a spatula and a hardhat.

A new class will start in 2006, and some of the most promising current graduates will be invited to participate in advanced training. "This is the part of Iraq within which these young builders must now grow, develop, and apply their new skills. They must now do their part to build a new Iraq democracy and a country where they can live in peace with freedom."

Tall 'Afar Water Network Update

By Polli Barnes Keller
Gulf Region North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL, Iraq - Workers have completed a water network in Tall 'Afar, Iraq. An Iraqi firm completed construction of the Tall 'Afar, Iraq water network in mid-Dec. 2005. This \$85,000 project improved the water supply of 115 homes.

This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) awarded this water contract and oversaw the quality assurance of the work.

Bill Hood, senior construction manager, USACE Gulf Region North said, "This project is unique because the work was awarded to a state-owned contractor."

The U.S. government has allocated approximately \$2.7 billion from the Iraq Reconstruction and Relief Fund for water and sewage infrastructure repairs, maintenance programs, and capacity development activities in Iraq. Roughly 348 water and sewage projects, worth \$1.85 billion are completed or in progress.





Photo Story: Tarbia School

By Norris Jones

Gulf Region Central District



The Tarbia School, located in Adhamiyah, Baghdad is currently being renovated for \$100,000 by an Iraqi contractor. The school serves about 250 students in grades kindergarten through six.

The work includes installing or renovating bathrooms, fixing doors, structural repair, replacing water tanks, and electrical work.

The work started last October and is expected to be completed next month.





A Reconstruction Partnership

	<p>Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT) https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm Assistant Secretary: <i>The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr.</i> Principal Deputy to the ASA (ALT)/Director of Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management: <i>Mr. Dean Popps</i></p>
	<p>US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html Commanding General: <i>Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr.</i></p>
	<p>Iraq Project & Contracting Office http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net Director- Baghdad: <i>Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr. (dual-hatted GRD-PCO)</i> Deputy Director for Reconstruction: <i>Ms. Kathy Johnson</i> Director-Washington: <i>Mr. James M. Crum</i></p>
	<p>Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan JCC-IA provides responsive operational contracting support to the Chief of Mission and Multi-National Corps - Iraq to efficiently acquire vital supplies, services and construction in support of the Coalition Forces and the relief and reconstruction of Iraq. Commander: <i>Maj. Gen. John Urias</i></p>
	<p>Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement), Iraq DASA(P&P)-I provides the necessary administrative and contracting support to the Chief of Mission, Project and Contracting Office, Multi-National Forces, and supports the humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and security of Iraq. ADASA(P&P)-I: <i>Mr. Lee Thompson</i></p>

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For further U. S. Government reconstruction information:

U.S. Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov/iraq>
 U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>
 U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>

