



# Iraq Reconstruction Report

## A Weekly Construction & Sustainment Update

08.14.06



### Border Fort Construction Project Complete

The As Sulaymaniyah Province is the last region in Iraq to complete the \$161 million border fort construction project. To date, nearly 250 border forts have been completed. (Photo by Staff Sgt Lucia Newman)

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Asphalt Plant Upgrades Provides Results
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### Videos of Note

A Pentagon Channel Report on how Iraqis are rebuilding a Ramadi government center "one brick at a time." Watch the video:



[http://www.imef-fwd.usmc.mil/imef/InfolineMarines.nsf/DPSByID/68498FB2A3442278C32571B9004AF1DC/\\$file/PCH%20%20w.wmv](http://www.imef-fwd.usmc.mil/imef/InfolineMarines.nsf/DPSByID/68498FB2A3442278C32571B9004AF1DC/$file/PCH%20%20w.wmv)



An Army Corps of Engineers water purification specialist talks to a reporter about the process for treating water in Baghdad. Watch the video:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/vjump.php?vid=15699>

### Major Project Dispatches



#### Substation Completion Improves Kirkuk Electrical Distribution

Construction has been completed on the Al Wasety Substation in Kirkuk. The \$4.6M project included the installation of a new substation and transformers. This new substation will improve the electrical power distribution to businesses and residences benefiting over 10,000 people in the southern part of the city of Kirkuk.

#### Mahmudiyah Hospital Emergency Room to Serve 75,000

The Mahmudiyah Hospital Emergency Room in Mahmudiyah, Baghdad Province was completed on Aug. 3. The \$157,000 project expanded the emergency room area. As a result, additional gurneys can be utilized for faster ER service. The medical facility serves a population of about 75,000 residents and will allow it to more effectively meet area medical care needs.

#### Najaf Road Paving Project Allows Better Medical Access

The Najaf road paving project in Head, Najaf Province is now complete. The \$1.3M project repaired and paved approximately 15 kilometers of rural roadway near Header. The project provides a safe, all-weather surface for transportation which allows for better access to the local hospital.

### Setting the Record Straight: "Why Won't They Tell You the Truth"

Read the op-ed by Maj. Gen William H. McCoy, Jr. Commander Gulf Region Division & Director, Iraq Project & Contracting Office. The op-ed was sent to the *Washington Post* newspaper following an extensive interview with a WP correspondent and subsequent article. See Page 5.

### A Sea of Trucks — Nearly 20,000 Delivered



Hundreds of trucks destined for Iraqi police and security forces await transfer and service at the Port of Umm Qsar. The vehicles are being transferred to the Iraqis from the U.S. Army's Tank and Automotive Command in support of the Multi-National Security Transition Command mission. The movement of the thousands of vehicles is being managed by the combined Gulf Region Division/Iraq Project & Contracting Office logistics team. (Photo by Jack Holly)



## Reconstruction Program Funding: Just what is CERP?

Compiled by Terry Heidi  
Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Policy and Procurement), Iraq

WASHINGTON — The Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) was designed to give field commanders in Iraq the ability to have a direct impact on the day-to-day quality of life for Iraqis. Two factors led to the creation of the program. First, after the fall of Saddam Hussein, humanitarian needs in Iraq increased greatly and funds to meet those immediate needs were not available. Secondly, those financial assets of Saddam Hussein that were held in banks outside of Iraq were seized by the U.S. government. On May 7, 2003, the "Brigade Commander's Discretionary Recovery Program to Directly Benefit the Iraqi People" order authorized a program to utilize an initial allocation of about \$180 million of these seized financial assets for the benefit of the Iraqi people. This program would use the seized funds in small reconstruction projects, including schools, hospitals, homes, and roads.



In a memorandum dated June 16, 2003, Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Administrator Paul Bremer gave the program its current name and authorized the Commander of the Coalition Forces to take actions necessary to operate CERP. The

memo also outlined the purpose of CERP as follows: "This Program will enable commanders to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility, by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the Iraqi people and support the reconstruction of Iraq."

The memo also set a limit on the expenditure of seized funds under CERP, and dictated spending ceilings and transactional caps for commanders at different levels.

Later, the Commander of Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7) issued FRAGO 89, which officially ordered CERP into operation. FRAGO 89 stated that CERP activities included, but were not limited to: water and sanitation infrastructure; food production and distribution; healthcare; education; telecommunications; irrigation systems installation or restoration; use of day laborers to perform civic cleaning; purchase or repair of civic support vehicles; repairs to civic or cultural facilities; projects in furtherance of economic, financial, management improvements, and transportation; and initiatives which would further restore the rule of law and effective governance.

*Story continued on page 6*

## Asphalt Plant Improves Tal Afar Roads

Story & Photo by Claude McKinney  
Gulf Region North

TIKRIT, Iraq — Not long ago, Iraq's northwest desert city of Tal Afar was a hotbed of insurgent activity. Then the coalition forces rolled through and pushed out the bad guys. For several weeks Tal Afar became a fortified city. Access was limited to a few roads in or out. The mayor, working with his city council and coalition forces, implemented a plan to rebuild his city. As this plan has moved forward it's now time to prepare to work on the city's roads. This road work will require a lot of asphalt over many years. Consequently, the asphalt plant is being renovated to satisfy that need.

The old and dilapidated asphalt plant in Tal Afar is being modernized to meet its design capacity and surpass any production output it ever reached in the past. When upgrades are completed in November of 2006, this plant could produce 100 tons of asphalt per hour. Even as far back as 1982 when it was new, the plant could only produce 80 tons per hour. As recently as 2003, its output was down to just 25 tons an hour. Upgrading and repairing the plant will give it capacity to provide the badly needed asphalt for paving the ancient streets of Tal Afar.



*The asphalt plant in Tal Afar is being modernized by the city's residents and contractors.*

For months the mayor and his city council have worked with Coalition forces to clean-up and modernize the city. These plans include new water wells to provide potable water and waste water management, school refurbishment, health centers, road work, and fire and police stations. Many of these contracts are being administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assure product quality and delivery. One of the Mayor's stipulations was that any work to be done within the city would be done by the city's residents and contractors. The only exception to this would be items where the skills needed were not available within Tal Afar. The city and surrounding areas will now realize an increase in the number of asphalt roads in lieu of the more common gravel roads.

## Sector Overview: Current Status – End State

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO Washington

As of: August 7, 2006

- Over \$9.3 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 68.9% of total funds allocated to DoD
- 3,030 projects starts (out of 3,455 planned projects). This number includes covers the DoD projects funded by the IRRF (including MNSTC-I) and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI)
- 2,446 projects are complete

Sector	Current Status	End State
<b>Electricity</b>	1,420 MW capacity added*  Increased power generation to 1.3 million homes*  Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 280K Homes*	1,879 MW capacity added* (2,555 for all USG projects)  Increased power generation to 1.4 million homes*  Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 720K Homes*
<b>Oil</b>	2.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity  2.2 MBPD actual production  Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production capacity of 1,200 Tons per Day	3.0 MBPD oil production capacity    LPG production capacity production capacity of 3,000 Tons per Day
<b>Water &amp; Sewer</b>	Added 226,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 1.4 million Iraqis)*	Additional 1,245,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 5.8 million Iraqis*. All USG projects will benefit 9.2 million Iraqis)
<b>Health</b>	Six IRRF funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed (three of these are open)  11 hospitals renovated	142 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis  20 hospitals renovated
<b>Education</b>	834 schools providing classrooms for 325,000 students*	847 schools providing classrooms for 330,000 students*
<b>Security &amp; Justice</b>	342 police facilities completed  248 border forts completed	399 police facilities  253 border forts
<b>Transportation &amp; Communications</b>	217 Kilometers (KM) of village roads    Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities	424 KM of improved village roads  157 KM of improved major roads and five bridges  Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities

\* GRD-PCO Contribution (does not include impact of other agencies' projects unless stated otherwise)

Source: Multiple GRD-PCO Management Reports

## Women's Center Opens for Business



The new \$230,000 Assyria Women's Center – funded by the Commander's Emergency Response Program --includes 12 sewing machines and 12 computers to encourage female business opportunities. [See Page 2 for CERP funding background.] The center not only benefits the 4600 residents in Assyria Village but women in the surrounding area as well. (Photos by Norris Jones)

## Secretary of Agriculture Meets with Iraqis

BAGHDAD — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns met with senior-level Iraqi government officials, as well as Iraqi agricultural producers. Johanns was joined by representatives from the private sector, academia and the press.



"Many people are surprised to learn how important the agriculture sector is in Iraq and how much potential it holds," said Johanns. "I am eager to meet face to face with Iraqi ministers and agricultural producers to strengthen our relationship and intensify our collaboration."

The agriculture sector is the second largest contributor to the gross domestic product in Iraq and employs 25 percent of the workforce. "Iraq is an agricultural country, but it needs rehabilitation," said Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki during his meeting with Johanns. The USDA secretary agreed and said agriculture should play a major part in Iraq's development.

"Opening Iraq's economy to the world is critical to Iraq's future," said Johanns. "As you noted, this country is a bread basket for the world," said Johanns to Maliki.



Agriculture Secretary Michael O. Johanns, left, and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Salam al-Zawbai sign an agreement to keep working together to help Iraq's agricultural future.

USDA provided agricultural and extension service training to 13 Iraqi individuals involved in agriculture as part of the Cochran Fellowship Program to help them develop market-driven food systems.

In June 2005, USDA signed a \$10.8 million Food for Progress food aid agreement with the U.S. Grains Council under which USDA provided Iraq with nearly 30,000 tons of corn and soybean meal.

*Story continued on page 6.*

## Setting the Record Straight: "Why Won't They Tell You the Truth"

By Maj. Gen William H. McCoy, Jr.



BAGHDAD – After spending almost three days traveling with and being interviewed by one of the co-writers of a very poorly written article (“Much Undone in Rebuilding Iraq, Audit says”, Washington Post, August 2, 2006), I’m astounded at how distorted a good story can become and what agenda drives a paper to see only the bad side to the reconstruction effort here in Iraq. Instead of distorting the facts, let’s get to the truth.

There is no flailing reconstruction effort in Iraq. The United States has rightfully invested \$20 billion in Iraq’s reconstruction - in the opinion of many here, we should do more. This massive undertaking is part of a wider strategy for success in Iraq that involves the establishment of a democratic government, the development of professional Iraqi Security Forces, and the restoration of basic essential services and facilities to promote the sustained economic development of this new country.

Yes, this reconstruction effort has been challenged occasionally by security, poor materials, poor construction program management practices, and in some cases poor performance by contractors for a variety of reasons. The Department of State and Defense professionals over here, many of them civilian volunteers, and the Iraqi associates who risk their lives every day to have a future that approximates what America has today, continuously see the challenges and develop and implement solutions. This is a core part of managing construction anywhere in the world and, while somewhat more complex here, it is successfully being accomplished. Have we been guilty of poor planning and mismanagement? The answer to that is, at times, yes. But professionals constantly strive to overcome challenges that arise and we are succeeding and making Iraq better every day!

The heart of the article rests on several old statements by the Special Investigator General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) which infer these are recent or recurring problems. The SIGIR knows that, in fact, program management, construction quality, progress, and accountability have all improved significantly since the early days of the effort some three years ago. Yet, the reporters’ “project problems” comments infer that these are recent issues.

Such actions inflame public opinion in the United States and create resentment by the very people so many conscientious Americans over here are trying to help here in Iraq and worse, embolden our very enemies.

When I arrived here a year ago we planned to complete 3,200 reconstruction projects. Today we are focusing on the completion of 3,700 projects. We’ve started 3,500 of those projects and completed almost 2,800...and work is continuing! This is not a failure to meet our commitment to the Iraqi people as the article states. In some cases we are not executing the same projects—we have changed to meet new priorities of three government changes in Iraq since our arrival—but in all cases, rest assured, these projects will be completed. We discussed this at length with the reporter...and he was taking notes and recording our conversations.

We told the reporter that, while 141 health clinic construction projects were taken away from a U.S. contractor who failed to perform, they were re-awarded to Iraqi contractors who are already demonstrating progress, have improved quality and shown their great desire to work with the United States to help Iraq improve...and they are doing so phenomenally!

We did talk to the reporter about electricity. Three-quarters of Iraq gets twice as much electricity today as they did before the war. Furthermore, we are working with the Minister of Electricity to improve the situation in Baghdad daily and have doubled the hours of power from four to eight in the capitol in the last six months in spite of the fact that demand is markedly increased with Iraqis’ new ability to buy personal electrical products. What is truly amazing to me is that we took the reporter to the Nasiriyah prison project and, while it is true that we terminated the prime U.S. contractor for failure to perform, the Iraqi sub-contractor continues to work there (now directly for us) and his progress and quality have improved significantly...and he saw that! We are not turning unfinished work over to the Iraqis as he stated in his article; we are fulfilling the U.S. commitment to the people of Iraq and using Iraqis to do it!

The reporter didn’t tell you about the hundreds of dedicated military and civilian professionals he saw over here working to make Iraq better, or the Iraqis who come to work every day at their own peril because they believe in what we, and they, are accomplishing together.

*Op-Ed continued on page 7.*

## CERP Funding...Continued

The memo also set a limit on the expenditure of seized funds under CERP, and dictated spending ceilings and transactional caps for commanders at different levels.

Later, the Commander of Combined Joint Task Force 7 (CJTF-7) issued FRAGO 89, which officially ordered CERP into operation. FRAGO 89 stated that CERP activities included, but were not limited to: water and sanitation infrastructure; food production and distribution; healthcare; education; telecommunications; irrigation systems installation or restoration; use of day laborers to perform civic cleaning; purchase or repair of civic support vehicles; repairs to civic or cultural facilities; projects in furtherance of economic, financial, management improvements, and transportation; and initiatives which would further restore the rule of law and effective governance.

***The intent of CERP is immediate on-the-ground emergency response to humanitarian needs for the Iraqi people.***

In the program's early stages, \$180 million in seized assets (which included Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) monies) supported the program. These funds were later specifically supplemented by appropriated funds of \$140 million from the FY2004 Supplemental and \$368 million from the FY2005 Supplemental.

As the name states, the intent of CERP is immediate on-the-ground emergency response to humanitarian needs for the Iraqi people. Funded projects must be small-scale, low-dollar, short term, employment oriented, and of an emergency nature.



To meet these criteria, the acquisition process for projects implemented under CERP do not, unlike other programs, require compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations. Projects and needs are established by local

US commanders and local Iraqi leaders, and then a contractor is identified and an estimate cost is prepared. US commanders then nominate the project for CERP funds via email to a CERP regional officer. Approval is based on a number of variables, including the needs of the specific community, the priority of the geographic location, and the likelihood of achieving local goals.

Levels of contracting authority are determined by the commander's position: brigade- and division-level commanders have contracting authority to spend between \$200,000 and \$500,000 per project, with transaction limits of \$50,000 and \$100,000. Commanders must report weekly to higher headquarters with the dates, locations, amounts spent, and description of the project. Commanders also must appoint trained and certified project purchasing officers to document and follow purchase order procedures. These procedures include standard forms for purchases up to \$100,000.

CERP has been extremely successful in meeting the immediate needs of the Iraqi people. In fact, Congress appropriated an additional \$500 million for the program under the FY06 Defense Appropriation Bill.

As of Aug. 9 over \$6 million has been awarded and expended for the provinces of Najaf, Babil, Wasit, Kalsu and Abu Graib. Projects included sidewalks for hospitals, water treatment facilities, telephone networks, agricultural supplies, electrical lines and other assistance.

In summary, CERP has bolstered local economies, provided employment opportunities for individuals and small businesses, and most importantly, has fostered good will with local Iraqis thereby reducing the effectiveness of recruitment efforts by the insurgency.

## Secretary of Agriculture...Continued

The Grains Council is using the proceeds from the sales to revitalize the country's poultry sector.



*A crop sprayer sprays a farmer's wheat field earlier this year. (DoD Photo)*

The U.S. government has worked with the Iraqi government to advance the agricultural infrastructure and capabilities in Iraq. This collaboration has led to accomplishments such as:

the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure reaching nearly a half million rural residents; making more than 31 tons of cleaned and treated wheat seed available for planting (benefiting 41,000 farmers); and the reconstruction of nearly 70 veterinary clinics throughout Iraq that serve more than 4 million animals and more than 100,000 animal breeders.



## Coalition News: Brits Open Lifeline in Iraqi Marshlands

Story & Photo by Cpl. M Swales, UK Defense News

BAGHDAD – The British airmen are relaxed as they meet and greet the familiar faces of the Shaghamba tribe. This is a happy occasion – a ceremony to mark the completion of a project financed by coalition forces in Iraq to pump water into a Marsh Arab village near Basrah Air Station.



Wing Cdr. Tim Heyworth and Sheikh Abdul Bari cut the tape to open the water project.

"We are very pleased to be here, it is an honor to us to help," says Wing Commander Tim Heyworth, stepping forward to cut the ribbon. The crowd erupts and the Wing Commander disappears in a wave of singing and dancing into the village, led by a huge

burgundy tribal banner. Once in the village the crowd disperses as the villagers admire their new lifeline. "This is a critical change. We used to grumble about the lack of water, now we have enough," says village elder Sheikh Badr. The project takes water from a canal and pumps over a kilometer to a network of 30 basins or 'pods' within the villages. The water is not treated for drinking, but is used for washing and also for watering the 300 water buffalo of the village. Chief engineer Ali Kshaishesh is

clearly delighted with his work. "It's great for the people, they cannot conceal their happiness...they were suppressed under Saddam for 14 years; this is a huge step forward," he explains, while narrowly avoiding a soaking from some of the children playing at one of the pods.

The elders of the village escape the searing heat of the midday sun and retreat into the 'mudhif' or meeting place. The RAF men join them inside, discarding their flak jackets and weapons to sit with the elders cross-legged on rugs. Colorful trays of baby shark, flat bread and vegetables are brought-in and a feast begins.



Members of the Shaghamba tribe invite British forces to lunch following the water project opening ceremony.

"This project is very different...it's low cost but has a huge impact. The women don't have to walk 1.5km to collect water 2-3 times a day, the buffalo can be kept at home so their milk production increases," said the 45 year-old Wing Commander. The feast finishes and the young airmen pour out of the mudhif, enthusing about the food they have just sampled.

## McCoy Op-Ed...Continued

He failed to tell you about Aseel or Salah who worked for the Corps of Engineers since we arrived in 2003, because they wanted to make their country like ours, but who were recently brutally murdered in the streets because they worked for the Americans.

He never wrote about the Water Treatment Plant he visited that will provide fresh potable water to over half a million people in southern Iraq in just two more months, or the one in northern Iraq that is providing water for the 330,000 citizens of Irbil.

He never told folks back home about the thousands of children that are now in 800 new or rebuilt schools, or about oil production now being back to pre-war levels and getting better everyday, or raw sewage being taken out of the streets and put back in the pipes where it belongs, or about the thousands of miles of new roads, or post offices, police stations or courthouses or... well, he just left a great deal out now, didn't he?

Why? Perhaps it's because some in the press don't want the American people to know the truth and prefer instead to only report the negative aspects of the news because "it sells papers." We deserve better from those who claim the protection of the Constitution we are fighting to support and defend. America, don't give up. You are doing much better over here than all too many of your press will tell you. If you are tired of fighting for freedom and democracy for those who so strongly long for the country we have, then think of the alternatives for a moment. Iraq will be better for our efforts and so will the world. And you are making it happen. Be proud and keep supporting this vital effort. It is the most important thing America can do.

I took a risk with Mr. Mosher and obviously got what I consider to be a very unbalanced representation of what he saw, personally. But I still believe in general in the press and will always be open to helping you tell a balanced story.

## A Reconstruction Partnership

	<p><b>Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT)</b>  <a href="https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm">https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm</a>                  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><b>US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division</b> <a href="http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html">http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html</a>                  Commanding General: <i>Maj. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr.</i></p>
	<p><b>Iraq Project &amp; Contracting Office</b>  <a href="http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net">http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net</a>                  Director- Baghdad: <i>Maj. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr. (dual-hatted GRD-PCO)</i>                  Deputy Director for Reconstruction: <i>Ms. Kathye Johnson</i>                  Director-Washington: <i>Mr. James M. Crum</i></p>
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	<p><b>Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement), Iraq</b>                  DASA(P&amp;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&amp;P)-I: <i>Mr. Lee Thompson</i></p>
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- U.S. Department of Commerce: <http://www.export.gov/iraq>
- U.S. Embassy in Iraq: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov>
- U.S. Central Command: <http://www.centcom.mil>
- Multi-National Force – Iraq: <http://www.mnf-iraq.com>
- Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq: <http://www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil/>



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