



Iraq Reconstruction Report

A Weekly Construction & Sustainment Update

08.25.06



A Corps High Five

1st Lt. Dawn Harrison, an Army Corps of Engineers project engineer, greets Iraqi children near a telecommunications center project her team is helping to construct in Baghdad. (U.S. Army Photo)

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Web Resources

U.S. Embassy Baghdad

The latest headlines and highlights of U.S. policy and efforts in Iraq.

View the site: <http://iraq.usembassy.gov/>

Notable Quotes

"After you arrive here and you've rolled out and have seen how the people live, you truly understand why we're here. I can honestly say we're here to help."

Petty Officer 1st Class Justin Hoffman, USN

[Note: Hoffman is a "boots-on-ground" Sailor attached to the U.S. Army's 414th Civil Affairs Battalion]

Major Project Dispatches



Saqliwiah Police Station Improves Security for 5,000 Residents

The Saqliwiah Police Station in Saqliwiah, Al Anbar Province has been completed. The \$555,000 renovation of the existing 3,500 square foot municipal police building includes a new electrical system, roof repairs, plastering, painting, air conditioning, lighting, and a new weapons vault. The renovation will house approximately 50 police officers and improve security for 5,000 Iraqi residents in the area.

Electrical Network Project Benefits Al Kut City

Construction is complete on the Hay Al Zehara 11kV electrical network project in Al Kut, Wassit Province. The \$421,000 project repaired and replaced electrical feeders and transformers. The electrical network project provides safer, more reliable electricity to approximately 250 homes and commercial businesses in Al Kut City.

Albo Ageel Water Compact Unit Services 25,000

The Albo Ageel Water Compact Unit in Tikrit, in Salah al-Din Province was completed in early August. The \$748,000 construction project consisted of the installation of a water compact unit to service up to 25,000 people in the Albo Ageel area of Tikrit.

Criminal Court to Get Secure Document Storage Facility

Construction has started on a Secure Document Facility in Baghdad, Baghdad Province. Construction began on Aug. 9. The \$1.8M construction project will consist of a 2,500 square meter climate-controlled building with half of the facility dedicated to document storage and the other half for administrative space. When complete, the Central Criminal Court of Iraq will benefit by having a safe and secure document storage facility.



What's Going on Here?

See Page 6.



Regiment Completes Several Construction Projects

by Sgt. Tanasha Stachelczyk
4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq – Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment completed several beautification and improvement projects in Zafaraniya. The projects included five playgrounds, two soccer fields, a soccer park and a sewing co-op.

“I have seen such an improvement with the Neighborhood Advisory Council members,” said Capt. Raymond Johnson, commander, Battery A, 4th Bn., 320th FA Regt. He added, “I participate in weekly meetings with local leaders to discuss long-term and short-term projects. In the beginning we’d have to provide the agenda for these meetings, now they already have an agenda waiting.”



A Soldier from the 320th Field Artillery Regiment pushes a child on the merry-go-round at a completed project site in Zafaraniya. (Photo Courtesy of Capt. Shelia Matthews)

The sewing co-op was the least expensive project, but probably the most beneficial of all them according to Johnson. The items provided for the project included five sewing machines and material. One of the Neighborhood Advisory Council members opened her home to the co-op women so they could come work using the equipment without having to pay. This enabled them to make items and sell them, which provided them an opportunity to earn an income for themselves and their family.

Not only are the projects being discussed by battery commanders, they are also being brought up by the Soldiers themselves. Staff Sgt. Christian Walters, a platoon sergeant who spends a lot of time in the neighborhood outside of the FOB, said the local residents are very receptive to him and his Soldiers.

Story continued on page 7.

Al-Amarah Province Fire Station Fully Functional Following Years of Neglect

Story & Photo by Lisa J. Anderson
Gulf Region Southern District

ALI BASE, Iraq – After more than 50 years of neglect and disrepair, the Al-Musharra Fire Station in the Al-Amarah Province is now a fully functioning, integral part of the community.

Located near the Tigris River, the structure was weakened by the high water table. Crumbling walls and floors, a polluted water storage tank and decayed roof tiles were just a few of the reconstruction problems.



An embedded water storage tank is now a viable water source for fire trucks.

New joists and wall supports, roof tiles and floor tiles were installed to bring vitality back to the building. Additionally, new electrical, water, sewage and air conditioning systems were installed. Other station improvements included sleeping quarters, a kitchen area and a general use room to accommodate the nine firemen stationed there.

The station now provides vital fire protection and deterrence to over 750,000 Al-Amarah residents.



The fire station has been restored to a fully functioning support facility for Al-Amarah residents.

Sector Overview: Current Status – End State

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO Washington

As of: August 18, 2006

- Over \$9.4 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 69.7% of total funds allocated to DoD
- 3,050 projects starts (out of 3,480 planned projects). This number includes the DoD projects funded by the IRRF (including MNSTC-I) and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI)
- 2,461 projects are complete

Sector	Current Status	End State
Electricity	1,420 MW capacity added* Increased power generation to 1.3 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 340K Homes*	1,879 MW capacity added* (2,555 for all USG projects) Increased power generation to 1.7 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 820K Homes*
Oil	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
Water & Sewer	Added 407,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 1.9 million Iraqis)*	Additional 1,038,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 4.8 million Iraqis*. All USG projects will benefit 8.2 million Iraqis)
Health	Six IRRF funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed (three of these are open). 66 PHCs are under construction 11 hospitals renovated	142 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis 20 hospitals renovated
Education	834 schools providing classrooms for 325,000 students*	847 schools providing classrooms for 330,000 students*
Security & Justice	342 police facilities completed 248 border forts completed	399 police facilities 253 border forts
Transportation & Communications	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

Navy Construction Unit Looks Back on Successes

Story by Chief (SW) Daniel Sanford

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — The 9th Navy Construction Regiment (NCR), is due to rotate out of Iraq within the next few weeks. During their deployment here, the unit attained numerous construction accomplishments.

"We've done projects throughout the Al-Anbar Province that are very diverse," said Navy Cmdr. Mark Bellis, 9th NCR's operations officer. "We created and built more than 40 combat outposts, rehabilitated more than 20 Iraqi police stations, repaired more than 650 road craters, and drilled two water wells that provide fresh water to Iraqi security forces camps."



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four Zero (NMCB-40) prepare a site for the construction of a bridge. (Photo by Specialist 3rd Class John P. Curtis.)

Bellis added, "We've also done some maintenance all over the Al-Anbar Province, such as repairing concrete aircraft runways and repairing electrical and water systems, both on and off base."

The construction regiment also designed and built more than 300 Southwest Asia Huts. These 16-foot-by-32 foot plywood and aluminum-covered dwellings are now used extensively by Iraqi security and coalition forces.

However, according to Bellis, the most rewarding aspect of the job was the opportunity to train Iraqi army engineers and preparing them to one day be self-sufficient.

"We've taught them how to operate heavy equipment and use construction techniques so they can build their own camps for the Iraqi Army," said Bellis. "They've partnered with us for the past three months doing road repairs and providing security and force protection for various Iraqi army camps," said Bellis.

Baghdad Essential Services Given Boost

Story & Photos by Staff Sgt. Kevin Lovel
363rd MPAD

BAGHDAD — U.S. Soldiers from the 412th and 414th Civil Affairs Battalions coordinated, supervised and checked on the progress of essential services projects in the Baghdad neighborhoods of Ghazaliya and Shula. After monitoring the progress of contractors' trash cleanup efforts in the two economically impoverished areas, the Soldiers, attached to 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, attended a meeting at the Neighborhood Area Council building in Shula where they listened to local community and religious leaders voice their opinions on the most pressing essential services needs.

"Today we're doing a trash cleanup project," said Sgt. 1st Class Peter Fernandes, civil affairs specialist and team sergeant. "The trash is unsafe and unsatisfactory, so we're trying to give the residents a helping hand."

Civil affairs Soldiers helped facilitate getting the contractors to areas where there is the most urgent need for cleanup, said Fernandes. Capt. Eric Fedak, a team leader, surveyed community residents as to what services they felt were most lacking. "What I look for are issues with the sewage, water, electricity and trash cleanup," said Fedak. "We want to work with the local government to make sure these get taken care of."

Essential Services Project Photos



A local contractor's bulldozer scoops up a pile of rubble near a mosque in the Ghazaliya neighborhood as part of a trash cleanup project coordinated between Multi-National Division - Baghdad civil affairs Soldiers, contractors and local community leaders.

Capt. Eric Fedak, civil affairs team leader, Company B, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, talks with residents in Ghazaliya about their essential service concerns, such as water, electricity, sewage and trash pickup.



A local religious leader speaks during a neighborhood council meeting in Baghdad's Shula neighborhood.



Arbil to Host Rebuilding Conference



The Arbil (Erbil) rebuilding conference will focus on Iraq reconstruction, the role of donors, and the Iraqi business market. Conference speakers will include representatives from Iraqi economic sectors, government ministries, business leaders, and the international community. For more information: <http://www.arbil-expo.com>

New Women's Center Opens: Vocational Training Focus



Col. Debra Lewis, a district commander with the Army Corps of Engineers and Sheik O'rhaman Hama Raheem, an Iraqi councilman, celebrate the opening of a new women's center in Assyria that the Corps helped construct. The center provides women with vocational training. (Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Eli Medellin)



Iraq 101 — The People

What you need to know:

- **Population:** 26,783,383 (July 2006 est.)
- **Ethnic Groups:** Arab 75%-80%, Kurdish 15%-20%, Turkoman, Assyrian or other 5%
- **Religions:** Muslim 97% (Shi'a 60%-65%, Sunni 32%-37%), Christian or other 3%
- **Languages:** Arabic, Kurdish (official in Kurdish regions), Assyrian, Armenian

Source: World Factbook

World Bank Iraq Trust Fund Project Update

Source: World Bank ITF Newsletter

Financed by the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF), two projects are showing signs of success. Implemented by the Ministry of Education (MOE), the ITF projects affect all Iraq provinces and aim to improve conditions of learning and support and for construction and rehabilitation of critical facilities. The World Bank also focuses on institutional strengthening of the MOE, and capacity building for system reconstruction and reform.

The \$40M Emergency Textbook Provision Project financed the printing and distribution of more than 79 million textbooks benefiting six million students in 19,000 primary and secondary schools for the 2004/05 school year. Also, \$9M of savings from using competitive procurement procedures were used to deliver an additional 3.5 million textbooks for 2005/06. Finally a capacity building activity to improve textbook quality will take place this year before the project closes in Dec. 2006.



The \$60M Emergency School Construction and Rehabilitation Project improved conditions of learning by completing the rehabilitation of 134 schools needing urgent repair nationwide. Planning is also ongoing for the construction of new buildings for about 117 existing primary and secondary schools that exist in unsafe or shared facilities throughout Iraq. This construction phase should be completed towards the end of 2006.



Iraqi children proudly display their new textbooks. The students consider the new textbooks so valuable that most of them cover their books with paper to protect them. (UN Photo)

Major repairs under way on a Baghdad school. (UN Photo)



In addition, the World Bank is contemplating additional financing for the construction of approximately 30 schools in villages without schools in the marshland areas of Southern Iraq.

Down with the Old...Up with the New



Story & Photos by Norris Jones

Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD – A 13-story 1600-ton rectangular concrete stairwell, the last remnant of the old Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunication Center, was removed to make room for a new seven-story telecommunications building on the 70x135-meter site.

Iraqi Army troops blocked off the nearby street to ensure security and safety during the demolition. “We’re doing this for the Iraqi people,” the First Sergeant in charge of the detail said. “We’re very pleased this new facility is being built.”

The facility will serve as a hub through which Iraq can connect to the global community. The Ministry of Communication offices will be located there as well as a 1300-square-meter post office. The structure will also feature a 200-seat auditorium, an exhibition hall, numerous conference rooms, several floors of communication switch gear. The \$22.7M building is expected to be completed next year.



Iraqi workers celebrate after successfully pulling down a 13-story concrete stairwell as they clear a site for the new \$22.7M Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center.



Artist's sketch of new Al Mamoon Exchange and Telecommunications Center.

Opportunity Seminar for Iraqi Business Women

Story & Photo by Tom Clarkson
Gulf Region Division

BAGHDAD – Recently a “Business Opportunities Seminar for Iraqi Business Women” was jointly sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division / Project and Contracting Office (GRD/PCO) and the Joint Contracting Command – Iraq & Afghanistan.

Representatives from the Multi-National Forces-Iraq also participated.

“Events such as these are a ‘must’ for my countrywomen,” said Ms.

Azza Humadi, the GRD/PCO Women’s Advocate Initiative Project Manager.

“Women will play an extremely vital role in the successful rebuilding this country,” she added.

A variety of topics were presented to the 80 attendees which ranged from electronic banking to monetary challenges to the contracting bid and proposal process.



Iraqi Media interview seminar coordinator Ms. Azza Humadi of USACE-GRD/PCO.

Iraqi Farmers Hold Elections to Select Board

Story & Photo by Cpl. Michael Molinaro

DIYARA, Iraq – The Diyara Agricultural Union held its first election in the history of the program at the Diyara secondary school recently. Farmers from the region voted for seven members to sit on the board of directors that will be depended upon to lead the union and its members into the future. The union is a resource for the more than 1,200 farmers in the southern Baghdad/northern Babil provincial region.

“They will decide the direction of the union and resource allocations in Diyara,” said Capt. Ben Simms, commander, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. It’s a program that enables them to buy seeds, tools, insecticides and other items at subsidized prices and earn profits previously not seen before, Simms said. They will also be able to make equipment trades with other farmers, making it a group effort to succeed.

“We had to rely on the government before,” said Saleh, a lifelong resident of Diyara. “Sometimes we would get things, sometimes we didn’t. There was no board to get our voice heard. The union allows all of us to work with each other and more importantly buy what we need much cheaper than before.”

He added, “The union was run by the Iraqi government during the Saddam regime. Things were handled by the Ministry of Agriculture, sometimes leaving the smaller individual farmer’s needs out in the cold as they tended to cater to those who would help stock markets in Baghdad.” After the fall of the regime, the unions closed up.



An Iraqi man casts his vote during the Diyara Agricultural Union elections in Diyara, Iraq. The 1,200 member union elected seven councilmen to decide the direction of the union, which will enable farmers in the southern Baghdad and northern Babil province region to make profits they haven't seen in years.

Agriculture is the primary means of business in this part of Iraq and more than 4,000 people from the region depend on it to keep fed and clothed.

By using a more democratic approach, the union will run more like a business than a government subsidy.

U.S. Soldiers donated fertilizer and other consumables to the union so the farmers had something to work with, “start-up cash,” as Simms described it.

After that, it will be up to those elected to set the prices for the farmers to buy their items and get things rolling at the union.

A Sunni was elected president and three Shia’s were voted to the other top positions, defining the diversity of the board and representing the demographics of the region.

Story Continued....Regiment Completes Several Construction Projects



Capt. Shelia Matthews cuts the ribbon at the sewing co-op opening. (Army Photo)

The Soldiers wanted to do something nice for the children in the neighborhood. They noticed an area that had been a soccer field but it was not level. Consequently, every time it rained, it would flood and the children would have to wait weeks before they could play, said Walters. The platoon sergeant said he gave Capt. Shelia Matthews, Civil Military Operations Officer and Command Emergency Response Program Coordinator, the location of the area, and with that information local contractors began the project.

“I have the best job. I get to interact with local leaders and people in these neighborhoods,” said Matthews.

The 4th BCT has spent approximately \$2M on projects since coming to east Baghdad and will continue to help in the building of a new and improved city.

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>Maj. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr.</i></p>
	<p>Iraq Project & Contracting Office http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net 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>
	<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. Darryl A. Scott</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 Iraq reconstruction, transition, and sustainment information:

- 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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