



# Southern Views

*Produced for the Men and Women of Gulf Region South*



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ARMY PHOTO BY JAMES BULLINGER



Col. Gary Johnston presented a Commander's Safety Recognition Award Nov. 18 to Fluor-AMEC's Ricky Moore, left, and Gerald Shaw, for achieving 4.5 million man-hours without a recordable lost work-day accident.

## Contractor Recognized for Site Safety Record Milestone

*By Mohammed Aliwi and James Bullinger*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Gulf Region South (GRS) recognized the extraordinary team effort of a contractor and its employees Nov. 18 for achieving 4.5 million man-hours without a recordable lost work-day accident.

Fluor-AMEC Joint Venture Corp. (LCC), the principle contractor responsible for the design and construction of the massive water treatment plant located north of An Nasiriyah, was recognized for its success in accident prevention from Aug. 7, 2004, the start of the project, to Oct. 8, 2006.

GRS oversees the contract, which, when finished, will provide safe water to about 500,000 people in the Dhi-Qar province.

During those 793 days, the contractor supervised more than 750 workers a day, with a peak work force of up to 1,419 people without a recordable loss work-day accident.

The work in this 26-month period included the construction of five skimmer tanks, a water clarifier facility, five elevated storage tanks, three booster pump stations, and over 100 kilometers of water transmission pipelines with five river crossings.

*Milestone continued page 5*

## Engineers Rebuild Rumaylah Gas Compressor Stations

*By A. Al Bahrani*

To bolster the economic position of Iraq in the global marketplace, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently modernized two gas compressor stations in Basrah.

"The new project increases the gas pressure and removes moisture from the gas before it is pumped in to the North Rumaylah Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) plant and the Khor Az Zubair Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) production plant," said Bob Tillisch, a USACE oil program manager with the Basrah Area Office.

The CS-2 and CS-5 compressor stations operated by the South Oil Company were built in the late 1980s.

Tillisch noted that the \$5.5 million project enables gas to be processed from the two gas-oil separator-degassing stations at four pressure levels, with a capacity of 2.2 million standard cubic feet per hour.

"The CS-2 and CS-5 are two of nine gas compressor stations refurbished in southern Iraq," Tillisch explained. "Five of them are located in north Rumaylah and the remaining four are located in south Rumaylah. Those nine compressor stations experienced varying degrees of looting and damage after the war."

He added that most of the units of those stations were in fair mechanical condition; however, the

*Compressor continued page 7*



Sgt. 1st Class David Adlard with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers checks the construction and installation of an in-line moisture analyzer at Gas Compression Station 2 near the North Rumaylah Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) plant in the Al Basrah Province, Iraq. (ARMY PHOTO)



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### Going to the Market



A merchant sells his wares in the Basrah marketplace. Markets serve not only as a place for the exchange of goods, but also for gathering of friends and family to exchange pleasantries.



## Southern Views

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# Commander's Corner

By COL Gary Johnston

## Why December?

As I sit here pondering Christmas away from my family, it sort of gets you thinking about what is the season really about.

In my family tradition, we celebrate the birth of Christ, while others may celebrate Hanukkah or Kwanzaa. But why do we celebrate in winter, in December of all months?

In all these traditions, why do we celebrate new life in a month that is cold and devoid of vegetation? I'm not sure, but as with most things, I have a theory.

If we look at the month historically, December is a pretty rough month for civilizations prior to the mid-1800s.

In a time before preservatives, it was the time food begins to go stale. The weather is cold and damp in most places as opposed to just cold.

It is the point in time where game becomes harder and harder to find as it spreads out to find something to eat.

So why in so many traditions do we celebrate in December? Is it so we can have one last good feed before the food really goes bad?

Or maybe it is just because it is the last month of the year and we need a party, but wait, we have the New Year for that.

So why all the holidays in the December timeframe? Why this month of the year to celebrate a Savior?

I don't know, but here is how I have it figured out. In early civilization, you could be sure of two things:

1. Since most economies were based on agriculture, life would be a day-to-day struggle with rains, droughts and the seasons just to meet the needs of a community.

2. There would be wars to try to take what little you had away from you.

Not much to celebrate...is it?

However, you have to look a little deeper into how war was conducted prior to the Civil War.

In early warfare, you had a campaign season, normally running from late Spring to early Fall.

The reason for this was simple; you have to feed an army and the animals that support it. Hence, you made war when you had grain for your animals and could feed the troops on other people's crops.



Successful armies would normally return for the harvest and the associated celebrations.

Unsuccessful armies and their families had to try to find a way to survive the winter.

That brings us to December. The crops are in, the weather starts to turn really bad, you are homebound, and for the first time you have time to reflect...to think...to dream.

You begin to think what if there was no war next year, what if life is bigger than this day-to-day existence, and what if we let our hate melt with the snow?

We dream of peace. To put that dream to action, we exchanged gifts, share food; celebrate our life and our dreams for tomorrow. Peace, Hope and Faith for tomorrow.

In the dreariest of months, we have chosen to celebrate our hope for our future.

Over 2,000 years ago the angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth and goodwill to ALL men."

Not much has changed, as I sit away from my family in another war, my prayers must be very similar to those of my forefathers. "Lord please let there be peace on earth."

As I sit here with this prayer in mind, my faith has been justified as He answers my prayer. I reflect on my blessings and what he has allowed me to do for the people of Iraq. I recall what this district has accomplished in reconstruction and the Iraqis that have helped us accomplish it.

His answer to my prayer is hope, hope for the future of Iraq; but more importantly...hope for peace on earth. Christmas is a time to dream dreams, but more importantly a time to build those dreams.

Thank you for your sacrifice and the hope for peace it brings.

I wish to you and your families a Merry Christmas and God's peace to all men.







# The “Word” from the Desk of the Command Sgt. Major

By SGM Benny Hubbard

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to pause and reflect on our many blessings. Early settlers to this

country, like the Mayflower Pilgrims, knew they had much to be thankful for following their first year in America, despite the difficult year they endured.

Without the help of the natives, they would not have survived. The following year, they enjoyed a bountiful harvest, invited their neighbors to a three-day feast, and gave thanks.

As American Warrior-Citizens, we have an obligation to ensure those opportunities remain for upcoming generations.

I personally want to take time out and give thanks for all of the people that make up the GRS family. I appreciate your fellowship and your professionalism. You really make GRS number one and for that I am thankful.

Over the past couple of months, I have reminded us of our situational awareness and our safety. We should always keep those in the forefront of our mind. This month I will touch on fitness.

I would like to tell you the secret to my success and how I stay balanced in life. I hope this helps someone and you are just as successful.

I try to lead a balanced life. I know my fitness contributes to a great part of me living a balanced life.

I break fitness down in several categories. In these categories, I look at my Spiritual fitness, mental fitness and my physical fitness.

I try to exercise these areas daily to maintain an even balanced lifestyle and to stay focused and motivated for any task the day brings to me.

### Spiritual Fitness

I exercise my Spiritual fitness as soon as I awake and realize I have been blessed with another day and another opportunity to improve

from the previous day.

I continue to exercise my faith throughout the day and end my day in prayer where I give thanks for all of the blessings of the day, especially for my GRS family.

The time we share in Iraq is a great time to get focused on your faith. Please take time to exercise your faith when given the opportunity.

### Mental Fitness

I exercise my mental fitness every chance I get. I tend to get away and meditate. I want to have a clear mind at all times so my decisions are clear, concise, understandable, and the right thing to do. I read motivational material and keep a positive attitude towards all situations.

I constantly challenge my mind and keep it occupied.

Please take some time and reflect on the opportunities we have here in Iraq. Think of the good we really are doing for this country.

Clear your mind from time to time and try not to let it get overloaded. This is a great way to relieve stress and to solve the problems life tries to throw at us.

### Physical Fitness

I exercise physically on set schedules so I can maintain my performance at top level.

I try to mix my aerobic exercises with strength training. It helps me feel better as well as look great. We have plenty of time before and after work to get physically fit.

Your discipline determines how physically fit you can get. Set goals and stick to them. If you are starting a program remember what you are trying to change didn't happen overnight and you can't fix it overnight.

Most people give up because they don't see immediate results and are not patient.

Six months to a year is a long time, you can make it work.

Together Each Achieve More.





Milestone continued from page 1

The project required the placement of over 40,000 cubic meters of concrete up to heights of 52 feet.

Col. Gary Johnston, GRS commander, presented the Commander's Safety Recognition Award to Fluor-AMEC's Ricky Moore, the task order manager, and Gerald W. J. Shaw, the safety advisor and project safety manager at the water treatment plant.

The company also recognized the efforts of others helping to contribute to its safety record, including presenting plaques to its subcontractors and safety certifications to its workforce.

Daniel Fujimoto, Gulf Region Division's chief of Safety and Occupational Health for the Gulf Region Division, said that Fluor-AMEC's record is an outstanding achievement.

"Not too many contractors in the states can claim this level of excellence. This is truly a success story on what can happen when we (USACE) and the contractor partner together for safety," he said.

This award refers to the company's accountability; with recognition of many individuals who have done their best to provide guidance and advice.

According to Fujimoto, the idea of the recognition award was started by June Morales, a former GRS project engineer, who wanted to recognize Fluor-AMEC for their safety.



ARMY PHOTO BY JAMES BULLINGER

"GRD supported his idea and provided the guidance and direction to GRS on how to generate the safety recognition certificate. Ms. Margaret Williams was the acting GRS safety manager who completed the task," Fujimoto said.

For Williams, a project engineer, it is Fluor-AMEC's approach and commitment to safety that made the difference.

"(The company's) safety engineers do an excellent job. They walk around the construction sites with the on-site engineer and point out items of concerns. Many times they have the violations corrected immediately," she said.

Williams believes that safety in Iraq is improving and safety violations and hazards are minimized.

"By continuing to educate the Iraqi contractors on the importance of safe work practices, it minimizes accidents on our construction sites. By doing so, it also makes the contractors more efficient and more productive," she added.

Shaw said construction safety is different from in the U.S.

"This varies tremendously at the different ends of the scale. There are Iraqi laborers who apply all they are taught for their own safety and the safety of others around them. They wear and take care of their personal protective

Gerald Shaw, the safety advisor and project safety manager, checks in by radio after inspecting one of the skimming tanks at the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant.



ARMY PHOTO BY JAMES R. LONG

equipment. They work safely and carefully while also keeping their work area clean and tidy."

"Then there is the challenge with the higher educated and more qualified Iraqi line management, who sometimes have difficulty accepting their responsibility to implement safety and to care for the workers under their control," he said.

Shaw also mentioned he's been challenged with maintaining the company's record.

"Mentally, it has been very hard to continuously work at being proactive, while not being distracted by the symptoms creating negativity," he said. "Initially, there was a very hard set of attitudes to overcome and still that journey goes on."

Shaw explained a change in roles can change a person's

focus and make a difference in responsibility and performance.

Here Fluor-AMEC's Ricky Moore, left, and Gerald Shaw, right, presented safety recognition plaques to James R. Long and Margaret Williams, the project engineer and the acting safety officer, who helped contribute to construction safety efforts.

"The Iraqi safety engineers have had their role changed from safety officers to safety managers. This has been a huge step for them and has seen their effectiveness levels increase with proven results," he said.

"Getting workers to comply is a challenge. 'Leading' workers is the solution applied. Our success is humbling because we are not perfect and we go on with all the

compassion and determination we can maintain.

"At all times it has been essential to use approved standards. Here in Iraq our company group safety management systems are developed from the Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual," Shaw said.

Fluro-AMEC's safety program theme is simple and easily understood by the workforce – "Nobody Get Hurt."

According to Shaw, Fluor-AMEC uses a variety of methods to impart safety, including 'training the trainer' classes; using on-site interpreters; pre-work safety meetings; and on-site demonstrations and examples.

Shaw is quick to point out it is a team effort that contributed to the company's safety record.

"Here in Iraq it is my company, through our corporate Safety Department for Systems, the site safety engineers and helpers, the company site line management team, and the GRS construction representatives as part of the combined team," he said. "And it is also the subcontractors' management teams and their workforce, for without them we achieve nothing."





# Water Treatment Plant Offers Employment Opportunities

By Betsy Weiner

Building and completing a multi-million dollar water treatment plant in Nasiriyah poses many challenges under present security conditions, but training local workers to properly operate and maintain that plant introduces another set of challenges project engineers and contractors working in the Gulf Region South district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division (GRD) must meet.

The plant, designed to serve over 500,000 people in the Dhi Qar communities of Nasiriyah, Suq Ash Sheuk, al-Diwaya, al-Shatra and al-Gharraf., is a "world-class facility," according to Lt. Col. Dale Johnson, Adder area engineer, "and the largest water treatment facility in Iraq."

"The project contractor, Fluor-AMEC (LLC) has worked for 26 months without an on-site work accident—that is 4.5 million man hours without a recordable lost work-day accident," he said. "Now we are looking for people to fill the technical employment positions."

The Ministries of Municipalities and Public Works (MMPW) will own the water treatment facility and it is recruiting for employment at the plant. Fluor-AMEC, according to the terms of its contract, must provide three months of training for operators and plant staff on all levels, said Ken Dorr, GRD Project Contracting Office water sector program manager.

"Training for the position is a 30-day block and people interested in employment must attend all 30 days to be eligible for employment," he said. "The positions are for plant operators, the plant manager, maintenance crew, software technicians and laborers."



A contractor talks with Army Corps of Engineers officers about training requirements to operate and maintain the equipment on one of five skimmer tanks at the Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant.

Fluor-AMEC has successfully held the training in other parts of Iraq, said Dorr, because of support from the local governate.

"This training is classroom and hands-on," he said. "We have a three-month operations and maintenance period so that when we are done and the commissioning is complete, we have Fluor technicians working there doing on-the-job training with the local work force."

Dorr emphasized the importance of local government support and added that doggedness and diligence is the answer to staffing the plant adequately with the properly trained individuals.

"The folks I have encountered are high quality people who care," he said, "from both sides. We need to have more teamwork because on the projects where it does exist, we have a wonderful success rate. If we work on something together, people will be more motivated because they have invested time into the project."

Johnson added that the training classes at the plant are a "perfect opportunity for Iraqis who have a technical background, in biology or engineering for example, or someone who has a degree to go out, learn a skill and function as a professional."

James R. Long, project engineer for the water treatment plant, said that he met with the local representative for the MMPW in Baghdad to resolve some issues involving training attendance, which has been sporadic.

"The (representative) assured me that his ministry is working on these issues," he said. "Part of the problem has been transportation because of the distance some trainees have to travel. The problem has been solved now and he came out to speak to one of the training classes. He encouraged all trainees to continue attending and awarded each a monetary stipend for their efforts thus far. This underscores the ministry's support of our program."



As the water treatment plant nears completion, Iraqi plant technicians will train to operate and maintain complicated systems such as the control consoles for the clarifier tanks.

ARMY PHOTOS BY JAMES BULLINGER



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An Iraqi engineer who works for GRS noted that working at the water treatment facility offers inexperienced engineers an excellent place to begin their careers, and that these kinds of positions are important because they offer skill development.

"We have to make the young engineers understand that this is a good first step for them," he said.

"The engineering students from the school in Nasiriyah often do internships in the summer, fixing pumps or working on oil generators. But this is an

opportunity for a permanent job. And they receive a stipend to attend the training – this only encourages the beginning engineers."

He underscored the need for training, not only in the engineering profession, but also for Iraq's businessmen and potential project managers.

"The most effective thing we can have here in Iraq is training," he said. "The problem right now is that no one is taking his role in our society. We are looking for people who care. This is what will make a difference for our country."



Compressor continued from page 1

facilities had aging equipment, obsolete technology and lacked adequate spare parts for repairs.

The electrical systems repairs ranged from minor fixes, to major refurbishment, to replacement of transformers and switchgears.

"This effort is part of an overall refurbishment package to support the production of 3,000 metric tons per day of liquid petroleum gas, to meet Iraq's cooking and heating needs through the winter season," Tillisch said. "Improvements at CS-2 and CS-5 aid in the recovery of flared gas and contribute 188 and 164 metric tons of LPG per day, respectively."

Tillisch said that, according to the Oil and Gas Journal, Iraq has 110 trillion cubic feet of proven natural gas reserves and roughly 150 trillion cubic feet of possible reserves.

"Currently, Iraq burns about \$10 million of natural gas per day (because of the lack of refinement ability). By increasing Iraq's natural gas production, oil can be freed up for other purposes such as petrochemical production and export," he said.

Ray Gonzales, a Basrah Area Office construction representative, said, "The renovation of CS-2 and CS-5 will increase the refurbished stations reliability and capacity to produce more gas, which will stimulate Iraq's economy and support Iraq's needs of the LPG for domestic use."

The Corps has repaired and started up the compressor stations and the dehydration train projects, he added.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative Ray Gonzales, center with beard, completes the project completion paperwork with the contractor and Southern Oil Company members at Compressor Station 5 in Rumaylah, Iraq. (ARMY PHOTO)





ARMY PHOTOS BY A. AL BAHRANI

# Army Corps of Engineers Helps Iraq Keep Waterways and Borders Safe

By Mohammed Aliwi

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recently turned over another newly constructed facility to Iraqi law enforcement in October, this time on the Al-Faw peninsula south of the City of Basrah, intend to enhance security, unity and prosperity.

"This \$550,000 project, completed on Oct. 16, has been designed and constructed to support the Iraqi Coast Guard, the Border Police and the Customs Police," said Russell Holeman, chief of Engineering and Construction for the Gulf Region South District.

"The new facility provides the Iraqi police with a secure forward operating base along the Sha'at Al Arab waterway," he said.

Holeman explained that the construction project includes a joint operations center, administrative offices, medical areas, sleeping areas and a dining facility; along with water, electric and sewer systems for the facility.

"The project also includes a boat ramp and pier with a floating dock. Watch towers provide improved visibility of the waterway and port operations," Holeman said, "The new construction will enhance the capabilities of the coast guard, border police and customs police to stem the flow of river borne smuggling activities, such as oil, weapons, or terrorists," he said.

According to Holeman, the USACE has been constructing many border forts and coastal police stations throughout Iraq to help the Iraqi's control their country and keep it safe from insurgents and criminals.

"Al Faw peninsula is a marshy region adjoining the Persian Gulf in the extreme south-east of Iraq. Its



**Above:** The Al Faw Forward Operating Base supports the Iraqi Coast Guard, the Border Police and the Customs Police. **Below left:** The Al Faw FOB along the Sha'at Al Arab waterway includes a pier with a floating dock for watercraft.

chief importance is its strategic location, which is controlling access to the Shatt al-Arab waterways and access to the port of Basrah," he said.

For Holeman, Al Faw is also a site for a number of important oil installations. It has two main oil tanker terminals: Khor Al-Amaya and Mina Al-Bakr, which are notably supporting Iraq's oil resources.

The new facility on Al Faw peninsula will increase port level security at both the ports of Umm Qasr and Khor Az Zubair.

"For Iraqis, the military construction projects are the key to stability in Iraq and one of the first steps to protecting the country from the influx of terrorists and increase in criminal activities," Holeman said.

Holeman said that the USACE cooperates with the Iraqi ministries of the Interior and Oil to provide them with new facilities needed for more security support.

"The duties of the joint police include protecting the territorial integrity of Iraq, providing security for fixed points of entry and patrolling the borders, which include mountainous, desert, marshy and coastal areas," he said. "The USACE is working to help rebuild Iraq's infrastructure and to help restore law and order by building and refurbishing military facilities, border posts, and police and fire stations."

Holeman said when the Iraqi police control waterways and borders, that they will have control of those key strategic, commercial and economic targets.



**Russell Holeman**





# GRS Welcomes GRD's Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh



Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh, commanding general of the Gulf Region Division, made his first command visit to the GRS district Nov. 6-8. Traveling with Walsh was Lester S. Dixon, director of Military and Civil Programs; Thomas O'Hara, GRD public affairs officer; Command Sgt. Maj. William D. McDaniel Jr., GRD CSM; and Capt. Asfandiyar Khan, aide de camp. Stopping first at the Basrah Area Office at Camp Blackadder II, Walsh's group met with the GRS work force and toured the Children's Hospital. Then, Walsh traveled to Camp Adder for more briefings, a visit to the Nasiriyah Correctional Facility, and a dinner and town hall meeting with the GRS headquarters and Adder Area Office members. Pictured clockwise are highlights of the trip: 1) Being greeted by GRS Deputy Commander Air Force Lt. Col. John Balzano. 2) A group photo after the visit, front row (l to r): McDaniel, Kahn, Walsh, Col. Gary Johnston and Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, GRS commander and Command Sgt. Maj.; back row (l to r): Dixon and O'Hara. 3) A contractor points out details at the Basrah Children's Hospital to Walsh, escorted by Lt. Cmdr. Scott King, BCH resident engineer. 4) Lt. Col. Dale Johnson, center, Adder area engineer, assisted by Rick Mers, construction representative, left, briefs Walsh on the progress of the Nasiriyah Correctional Facility, with Dixon and Hubbard in background. 5) Walsh presented Kenneth Brown, GRS logistics specialist, with a commander's coin for his contributions to GRD. 6) Balzano, in background, listens as Walsh gives a moving speech during a town hall meeting following a dinner with GRS employees on Nov. 7.





GRS People Notes

Pins and Patches



Pins and certificates for *Civilian Service in a Combat Zone* were presented by Col. Gary Johnston, GRS commander at the Forat Area Office, Camp Echo, on Nov. 19. Arturo Sosa, above right, a project engineer in Qadisiyah Resident Office, and Cassandra Harriman, TI specialist, qualified for the award after serving more than 60 consecutive days in a combat area in Iraq.

Promotions



GRS S2 Pins on Capt.

GRS Operations and Intelligence Officer Jubilee Satale, center, was promoted to captain on Dec. 2 at Camp Adder. Col. Michael Herman, left, GRD deputy commander, served as host for the ceremony and promoted Satale before the GRS headquarters staff, assisted by Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, GRS Command Sgt. Maj. Satale is a California National Guardsman and the executive officer for Co. C, 578th Eng. Bn., 40th Inf. Div. (Mech.) from Sacramento. He is on a one-year deployment with the Gulf Region South District.





# Awards & Recognitions

## Employee of the Month



James Lockhart, project manager for Transportation and Communications, was named the GRS Headquarters' *Employee of the Month* for November. Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, GRS Command Sgt. Maj., presented Lockhart with a USACE flag, certificate and a commander's coin as a thank-you for his outstanding service.

## Combat Action Badge



Col. Michael Herman, left, GRD deputy commander, presented the Army's Combat Action Badge to Master Sgt. Stephen McKim, GRS security NCO on Dec. 2 at Camp Adder. Herman served as host for the ceremony and pinned McKim before the GRS headquarters staff. McKim, a National Guardsman from Sacramento, Calif., on a one year deployment, earned the CAB for actively being engaged by enemy forces while serving with the Gulf Region South District.

## Job Done Well



Col. Gary Johnston, assisted by Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, presented the *Achievement Medal for Civilian Service* to Cheryl Hodges-Snead on Dec. 3. Snead, a contracting specialist in the GRS Contracting Office, was recognized for her contributions to the Iraqi Reconstruction efforts during her four month deployment. Thanks for a job done well.

## Public Service



Tim Salthouse was recognized for his service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Col. Gary Johnston with the presentation of a *Commander's Award for Public Service* on Dec. 1. Salthouse, the leader of the GRS Reconstruction Liaison Team, led an important mission between June 22 to Aug. 29 to provide 50 emergency transformers to help restore electricity to An Nasiriyah.



## Awards & Recognitions

ARMY PHOTOS BY JAMES BULLINGER



Above left, Col. Gary Johnston presented the Bronze Star and the Iraq Campaign medals to Lt. Col. Lorenzo Valenzuela Nov. 1 during a farewell dinner. Valenzuela served as the GRS deputy commander (Multinational Division-Central South) based in the Forat Area Office at Camp Echo during his one-year deployment. Above right, Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard presented Valenzuela with a memento, a vehicle warning banner, for his time with GRS. The banner symbolized the dangers that USACE employees face when traveling as part of their duties to accomplish the mission. Valenzuela experienced numerous convoy ambushes during his tour.

## Jobs Done Well



Col. Gary Johnston presented Andy Adams with the *Superior Civilian Service Award* on Nov. 5 for his contributions as the chief of Engineering and Construction at GRS. Adams helped to oversee hundreds of construction projects in the southern nine Iraqi provinces comprising the GRS District. Adams returned to his position with the Fort Rucker Area Engineer Office in Alabama.



Gail Thearle, GRS administrative officer (S1), was presented with the *Commander's Award for Civilian Service* and a safety mug by Col. Gary Johnston during her Nov. 5 farewell. Thearle supervised the S1 section and was instrumental in keeping the personnel positions within the district filled during her six month tour. She has returned to her job with the Sacramento (Calif.) District Office.



## New Arrivals

GRS welcomed two new arrivals and one transfer on Nov. 5. Pictured here between Col. Gary Johnston, left, and Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, right, are (l to r): Michael Osborne, who moved from the Qadisiyah Resident Office to the Dhi Qar RO as the resident engineer; Altaf Rehman, mechanical engineer, and Andrew Frank, project engineer. Rehman and Frank are assigned to the Basrah Children's Hospital project office.



ARMY PHOTOS BY JAMES BULLINGER

Col. Gary Johnston, left, and Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, right, welcomed new arrivals to GRS Dec. 3. A warm welcome was extended to (l to r): James "Dick" Aldrich, Forat Area Office area engineer; Leo Mueninghoff, engineering technician, Babil Resident Office; and Bruce Bartoo, construction representative with the Qadisiyah Resident Office.

## more Jobs Done Well



Coins for Excellence from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works were presented to GRS Headquarters staff Dec. 3. The Honorable John P. Woodley Jr. sent coins back to Iraq following his Oct. 28 visit as a thanks for a successful trip. Receiving coins are (l to r): Air Force Lt. Col. John Balzano, Col. Gary Johnston, Sgt. Maj. Benny Hubbard, Navy Master Chief David McVane; accepting for Rick Mers (not present), Lt. Col. Dale Johnson; Jenny Hughes and Staff Sgt. Jessica Harvey. Woodley was grateful for the support and informative presentations.