

Focusing on Construction & Sustainment



Port of Umm Qsar Expansion



Iraqi metal tradesmen work on the steel framework for the pier of the new roll-on and roll-off berth at the Port of Umm Qasr. (Photo by A. Al. Bahrani) See story page 2.

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New Schools Open in Mushahidah



Staff Sgt. Riley Smallwood shakes the hand of a young child outside the newest school in Mushadhidah. Smallwood was one of several Soldiers who attended ribbon cutting ceremonies and delivered school supplies. (U.S. Army Photo) See story page 4.

Gulf Region Division Project Dispatches

01 29 07

Al Najaf Teaching Hospital...The Al Shafiy Group Company completed construction on the Najaf Teaching Hospital Phase III in Al Najaf Province on Jan. 26, 2007.

Muthanna Substation Completed...Construction was recently completed on the Rumaytha substation in Muthanna Province. The US Army-funded project provides additional electricity to the municipal grid system for the local population of Rumaytha.Electrical Projects

Baghdad Transmission Lines...Contractors has started work repairing transmission lines that connect Baghdad South substation to Mussaib, Qaddasia, and Al Ameen substations. Work is expected to be complete by the end of January.

Projects Add Capacity...Completed GRD electricity generation projects have provided an additional 1,420MW of potential generation capacity to Iraq's national grid. At the end of the program, GRD projects will have added 1,879 MW of potential generation capacity, which can serve an estimated 1.7 million homes.

Water Treatment Project Update...Completed GRD water treatment projects have added over 430,000 m3 of daily water treatment capacity, which potentially benefits 2.2 million Iraqis. At the end of the program, an additional 1,136,000 m3 of water treatment capacity will benefit approximately 5.2 million Iraqis (and all USG agencies' projects will benefit 8.4 million Iraqis).

Courthouse Nearly Complete...The Khan Bani Sa'ad Courthouse (\$358,000) in Diyala Province is 96% complete. The estimated completion date Jan. 31.

Ninewa Road Project Benefits...Construction was recently completed on five concrete paved roads in Ninewa Province, totaling approximately 1.16 km. This US Army-funded project provides increased traffic flow and reliable access to major infrastructure arteries while serving a community of approximately 10,000 residents.

Iraq 101 — Knowledge Brief

Karbala is located 100 km southwest of Baghdad. Karbala's religious significance arises from the legacy of the Battle of Karbala, (680 c.e.) when the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, Husayn ibn Ali (called the Third Imam by Shiites) was killed. His tomb, the Mashadu-I-Husayn is inside the city. By the early 20th century, 75% of Karbala's population was of Persian (i.e. Iranian) descent. The family of the Shah of Iran ruled the city until 1915, when the British took over.

Developing Iraq's Port Capacity

Story & Photo by A. Al Bahrani Gulf Region South District

BASRAH, Iraq — The Port of Umm Qsar directly influences the economy of Iraq and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) works to help improve the services of the Iraqi berths to handle the cargo flowing in or out of the country.

Natalie J. Sudman, a USACE Construction Representative with the Gulf Region South (GRS) District, oversees the \$13.8 million project helping to expand the capacity of the port located south of the city of Basrah near the Kuwait border. "It is Iraq's only port, which helps to export and import commercial goods and services for the people, and it's security and safety is a priority," says Sudman.

"To provide port security and harbor defense at the port of Umm Qasr, we [USACE] installed a 9.7 kilometer chain link security fence around the perimeter of Umm Qasr North Port and South Port, built 19 observation posts, two points of entry, and interior and exterior truck staging areas," she said.

A key benefit of providing port security and harbor defense is to give the Iraqi armed forces the facilities they need to protect their economy and promote growth.

"This is a major step towards attaining the international ship and port facility security code (ISPS) certification. This certification will lower insurance rates and make the Umm Qasr Port a more attractive port of call for foreign shippers," Sudman said. "The ISPS certification will effectively increase the foreign trade with Iraq and increase employment rates in the local area jobs," she explained.



Umm Qasr will have a second roll-on and roll-off cargo pier. Here Iraqi construction workers prepare a metal pier pylon for installation.

To increase the commercial trade through the port and improve capacity, Army engineers are constructing a new second roll-on and roll-off berth facility. The new roll-on, rolloff berth will be about twice the size of the existing one, and will increase the commercial trade capability at the port. The new berth is also strategically located in the center of the existing port and provides ships more room to maneuver.

Providing Safe Drinking Water to Iraqis

Story Sheryl Lewis Director, Capacity Development, ASA(ALT)

WASHINGTON — Currently, millions of Iraqis who once had no clean drinking water under the reign of Saddam Hussein now have access to safe, potable water following refurbishment, new construction and capacity development training efforts by the Gulf Region Division (GRD) and its contractors.

GRD has approximately 377 projects planned related to providing potable drinking water to the Iraqis and 19 projects related to wastewater treatment. GRD also has 8 projects aimed at improving the country's reservoirs, dams, and irrigation systems.

Through the Small Water Rehabilitation Program and other similar programs, nearly 500,000 villagers in remote areas of Iraq are able to receive clean water each day. As a result, there have been significant decreases in waterborne diseases.

Construction of small water systems such as compact treatment units, pump stations, wells, and distribution networks in rural areas allows for easier and more reliable transfer of drinking water by pipe, truck, donkey, and individual Iraqis back to their villages.

These projects will serve as a foundation for the continued provision of potable water to all Iraqis by improving the availability, quality, and level of water and sanitary sewer services in Iraq.





Iragis living in remote areas use donkeys and buckets to transport water to their homes. Newly constructed rural water facilities throughout the country now provide safe, potable water to Iragis in isolated communities that do not have access to water purification plants and pipe sytems. (GRD Photos)

Sector Overview: Current Status - Final Effects

Compiled By: John Daley, Emily LaMarsh, PCO Washington

As of: January 26, 2007

•Over \$10.4 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 77.2% of total funds allocated to DoD •3,367 projects starts (out of 3,438 planned projects). This number includes the DoD projects funded by the IRRF and the

•3,367 projects starts (out of 3,438 planned projects). This number includes the DoD projects funded by the IRRF and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI)

•2,740 projects are complete

Infrastructure Sector	Current Progress	Final Effects	
Electricity	1,420 MW capacity added*	1,879 MW capacity added* (2,555 for all USG projects)	
	Increased power generation to 1.3 million homes*	Increased power generation to 1.7 million homes*	
	Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 372K Homes*	Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 822K Homes*	
	Hours of Power: 7.5 Iraq, 4.5 Baghdad (last week average)	Hours of Power: 10-12 Iraqi, 10-12 Baghdad	
Oil	2.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity	3.0 MBPD oil production capacity	
	Approximately 2.0 MBPD actual production		
	Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production capacity of 1,200 Tons per Day	LPG production capacity production capacity of 3,000 Tons per Day	
Water & Sewer	Added 433,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 2.2 million Iraqis)*	1,136,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 5.2 million Iraqis*. All USG projects will benefit 8.4 million Iraqis)	
Health	Nine IRRF-funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed (seven of these are open). Remaining 132 PHCs under contract. 15 IRRF-funded hospitals rehabilitation	141 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis	
	projects completed	26 IRRF-funded hospital rehabilitation projects	
Education	808 IRRF-funded schools providing classrooms for 323,200 students*	811 IRRF-funded schools providing classrooms for 324,000 students*	
Security & Justice	3 Training Academy Projects 92 Fire Station Projects 264 Border Forts	5 Training Academy Projects 97 Fire Station Projects 267 Border Forts	
Transportation & Communications	38 Village Road Projects 91 Railway Station Renovations 14 Aviation Projects Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities	94 Village Road Projects 98 Railway Station Renovations 19 Aviation Projects	

New Schools Open in Mushahidah

Story and Photo by Sgt. Cheryl Cox 2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division

MUSHAHIDAH, Iraq — It has been said that fostering education is one of many steps toward improving safety and stability for Iraq's future — its children. The soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment helped the city of Mushahidah, Iraq, get one step closer to this goal by opening three new schools within the city recently.

The soldiers assisted with opening a girl's elementary school, a girl's secondary school and a boy's elementary school. "This project is an example of the close partnership we have with the Mushahidah city council to create a secure, safe and stable environment in Mushahidah," said Capt. Adrian Spevak, the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment commander, during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the girls' schools. "It is an honor and privilege to be here for the ceremony, and I look forward to continuing our close relationship with future projects."

Just as Spevak said he was excited to see the children have a new place to go to school, the Mushahidah city council members said they were also very excited. "This is a great example for the projects in this area," said Shiek Naif Moutlak, the chief of the city council. "We thank the coalition for all they have done and hope for other projects in the area to help the people."And helping people is what makes all the hard work worthwhile. While the council members and the soldiers celebrated the ribbon cutting, McGowan had a chance to talk to a few people at the school. "By being here talking to the students, I know that they are very happy to have a better place to go school," he continued. "And the teachers are happy to have a good place to go to work and teach from."

The newly opened schools are a great improvement from the old schools the children were attending, according to McGowan. "The children now have classrooms with new desks and unbroken windows," said McGowan. "They also have new school supplies that they may not have had without the help of the coalition partnership. am honored to be here to help make this school a better place," he told the school girls. "It is definitely a privilege to look into the eyes of tomorrow's leaders in Iraq."

An Newsweek International article (Dec. 25, 2006 - Jan. 1, 2007 issue) written by Silvia Spring says that "Iraq's economy is growing strong, even booming in places." Citing reports from Global Insight - an economic and financial forecasting company - and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Spring cites that real estate, retail, construction, and wholesale trade sectors are doing very well. Read the article:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16241340/site/newsweek/

Other Developments in the News

President Talabani Visits Syria Iraqi President Jalal Talabani was the first visit to Syria by an Iraqi head of state for 30 years. Talabani met with President Bashar al-Assad January 14. Syria's leader promised to help ease tensions in neighboring Iraq, while Talabani seeks to improve US-Syrian relations.

Japan Offers Training Courses on Consular and Diplomatic Affairs The Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, Hisau Yamaguchi, met with Iraqi Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshyar Zebari, where several issues were discussed, including the exchange of visits by top officials from both countries, the developments of the political and security situations in Iraq, the future of the Baghdad security plan, and the International Compact with Iraq. Japan also offered to train members of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry staff members in two special courses for consular and diplomacy affairs.

USIP Hosts Seminar on Iraq's Hydrocarbon Law On January 19, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) hosted a seminar on Iraq's hydrocarbon law. The two speakers were one of the original drafters of the central government's version, and the legal advisor to the Kurdish Minister of Natural Resources and former adviser on the constitution to the USIP. The Iraqi participant in drafting the law said the parties were still ironing out final wording on approval of contracts, after which the framework law will be submitted to the Council of Ministers. He said there would be an appropriate return to the investor so that Iraq could develop a longterm relationship with the international oil community.

December Inflation Figures Released The Iraq December consumer price index (CPI) inflation was 11.3%; making 2006 inflation 64.8%, a relative increase from the 51.7% year-on-year rate in November. The US government estimate of Iraq's core inflation figure (which excludes fuel, transport, and rent) was 3.0% in December and 32.5% for 2006. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimate of Iraq's core inflation figure (which excludes fuel, transport, but includes rent, and which the IMF uses to judge the efficacy of exchange rate appreciation) was 3.2% in December, and 31.9% in 2006. The sharp rise in December was driven largely by a 37.6% rise in fuel prices, while other CPI components rose less that 5% or fell slightly.

25 Countries with Forces in Iraq (in addition to 05)					
Albania	Denmark	Lithuania	Slovakia		
Armenia	El Salvador	Macedonia	South Korea		
Australia	Estonia	Moldova	Ukraine		
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Mongolia	UK		
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Poland			
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Romania			
Czech Republic	Latvia	Singapore			

25 Countries with Earoos in Irog (in addition to US)

Information Taken from "Iraq Weekly Status Report" Compiled by Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, US Department of State

Iraq Electrical Grid Gets a Boost

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

TIKRIT, Iraq — The \$31.2 million rehabilitation and expansion of a 400kV/132kV substation along with the five feeders in the Diyala Province will provide a more reliable power source for over 63,000 people.

Built by local construction companies with quality assurance managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, these renovations and additions will add stability to Iraq's electrical grid. This 400kV substation is considered to be an important component of the national electrical system, having a significant impact on the national grid.



Rehabilitating this substation not only improves the electrical distribution network in the province by reducing the load of the already overloaded substations; it also increases the reliability of the power supplies for domestic, industrial and commercial uses with less down time.

This substation ties into the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA). SCADA is the system that controls the overall national power management and national electrical grid system monitoring and control. It also synchronizes the power facilities throughout Iraq, so they may work together as a system, which ultimately protects the National Network from shutting down when there is an unsynchronized situation.

Shutdowns are common in Iraq as the electrical systems are not yet stable and consumption is more than the source can handle. SCADA is designed to reduce and eventually eliminate blackouts by the continuous automatic monitoring and control of the system which results in a smooth power management procedure and distributes the power available on the national grid evenly all over the country.

"Since 2003, the Government of Iraq has imported electricity from Turkey and Iran, and at one time, Syria to help sustain the national system," explains Saman Mosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, electrical sector project manager.

India Donates \$1.3 Million to World Food Program

Source: World Food Program

NEW DEHLI — The UN World Food Program (WFP) has recently received a \$1.3 million dollar donation from India for WFP's Iraq operation. This is India's third donation to WFP's operation. The first two donations included over 3,000 metric tons of high-energy biscuits and later, over 500 metric tons of biscuits.



World Food Programme The current cash donation will be used to buy wheat that will be transformed by local Indian manufacturers into 2,000 metric tons of high-energy biscuits.

This will be distributed among the nearly two million Iraqi children. According to a WFP household survey in 2005, over 27 percent of all Iraqi children up to the age of five were chronically malnourished.

Since the start of the current operation in 2004, some 28,876 metric tons of commodities have been dispatched into Iraq, according to WFP officials.

Countries Contributing to WFP Operations in Iraq:

Japan, India, The Netherlands, Denmark, the United States, Canada, Italy, Spain, Australia, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Syria, Iceland, Kuwait, Vietnam, Ireland, Finland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Qatar, Greece, Morocco, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Thailand, Andorra, and Portugal.

"This solution adds power to the national grid but at a great cost. The goal is for Iraq to be self sufficient and provide its own power source instead of sending money out of the country that can never be recovered." It would take 10,000 Mega Watts of electricity to sustain Iraq with constant power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Currently, the country is only producing 3300 Mega Watts which is only 33 percent of the actual demand and leaves a shortage of 67 percent. Most of the country receives an average of seven hours of 'power a day broken into two to three hour increments throughout the day.

"While the impact of these projects may not be felt immediately," explained Major Neil Doherty, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, deputy area engineer-forward, "they are all a part of a larger plan. If the projects continue to proceed at this pace, the people of Iraq will see the results in a matter of months."

Currently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Gulf Region North has 35 completed substations with four under construction and four more scheduled for construction within the year.

DoD Iraq Reconstruction Projects Total Program (As of Jan. 2007)



GoJ Announces Yen Loan to Iraq

The Government of Japan announced its intention to provide loans up to nearly 80 million yen to the Republic of Iraq for implementing projects. The projects include port sector rehabilitation, an irrigation sector loan, rehabilitation of the Al-Mussaib Thermal Power Plant, and a "Samawah Bridges and Roads construction project.

Project and amount of loan: Port Sector Rehabilitation Project/30,211 million yen, Irrigation Sector Loan/9,514 million yen, Al-Mussaib Thermal Power Plant Rehabilitation Project/36,764 million yen, and the Samawah Bridges and Roads Construction Project/3,348 million yen

Project Total: 79,837 million yen

Project Legend

Chronology of Significant Iraq Reconstruction Events: Part III of a Series

Compiled by Sherman L. Fleek Historian, ASA(ALT)

<u>2003</u>

Oct 17 Spain announced it would contribute \$300 million in aid to help with the reconstruction of Iraq.

Oct 18 South Korea announced it would commit an additional as yet unspecified number of troops to Iraq as well as contribute \$200 million in aid over the next four years.

Oct 22 The World Bank Board of Directors authorized the Bank's president to pledge between \$3- 5 billion in loans to Iraq over the course of the next several years.

Oct 23 The Madrid International Conference on Reconstruction in Iraq opened in Madrid, Spain, with over 70 countries participating.

<u>2004</u>

Oct 24 New international pledges of grants and loans were submitted at the Madrid International Conference on Reconstruction in Iraq. Some of the largest previously unannounced pledges included Saudi Arabia - \$500 million in loans and \$500 million in export credits; Kuwait - \$500 million in aid; the United Arab Emirates - \$215 million in aid.

Oct 26 A rocket attack on the Al-Rashid Hotel, which housed coalition military and civilian officials, wounded at least 16 people and killed one American colonel. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz was staying one floor above the blast, but was not injured in the explosion.

Oct 27 A suicide bombing at the International Red Cross Headquarters killed at least 12 individuals including two security guards. An explosive laden ambulance carrying the Red Cross and Red Crescent insignia was used to detonate the explosion. Red Cross officials indicated that they would scale back their operations and remove remaining foreign staff.

Oct 31 The House passed the emergency supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan by a margin of 298-121. Within the \$87.5 billion appropriations bill, approximately \$18.6 billion in grants was designated for reconstruction in Iraq.

Nov 1 The Department of Defense created the Project Management Office under the CPA.

Nov 3 The Senate passed the FY emergency supplemental appropriations request for Iraq and Afghanistan by a voice vote, called the Iraq Recovery and Reconstruction Fund or IRRF.

Non-Profit Spotlight: The Iraq Foundation



The Iraq Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(C)3 corporation, working for democracy and human rights in Iraq, and for a better international understanding.

of Iraq's potential as a contributor to political stability and economic progress in the Middle East. The Foundation was established in 1991 by Iraqi expatriates with the purpose of working with Iraqis and non-Iraqis in promoting its vision. The Foundation is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-ethnic, and is not affiliated with any other organization or political party

The Iraq Foundation recently received a grant to train and build a network of Iraqi non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to carry out human right monitoring, documentation, reporting, and advocacy. The Iraq Foundation will partner with Brussels-based Human Rights without Frontiers to provide training for Iraqi NGOs, and will work collaboratively with the Ministry of Human Rights and the High Commission for Human Rights on the project.

Find out more: http://www.iraqfoundation.org

Food Transport Mission to Al-Furat



Sgt. 1st Class Todd Hensley, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade, Kentucky Army National Guard, unloads a truck full of food for the local residents of Al-Furat, Iraq who have difficulty receiving food and other products. Al-Furat is a Sunni neighborhood surrounded by Shiites. "They needed a little help and coalition forces were willing to do so." said one of the Kentucky Guard members. (Photo by Maj. Chris Cline)



A Reconstruction Partnership





For further Iraq reconstruction, transition, and sustainment information:

- U.S. Department of Commerce: http://www.export.gov/iraq
 - U.S. Embassy in Irag: http://irag.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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