



Iraq Reconstruction Report

Focusing on Construction & Sustainment

04.16.07



Work Continues on Hospital



The construction at the Basrah Children's Hospital is nearly 50 percent complete. The fence surrounding the facility was painted, featuring cartoons and proclamations that the buildings will be a children's oncology hospital. (Photo by Betsy Weiner)

Gulf Region Division Project Dispatches

CERP Project Update...As of April 13, 5,926 Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) projects have been completed out of 7,116 planned. CERP is a program originally unique to Iraq that was established to give U.S. military commanders the ability to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibilities by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the Iraqi people and support reconstruction.

New Feeder Lines...The completed construction of new 11kv electrical overhead feedef lines from Al Madinaa to Sadeyah Substation in Diyala Province will provide direct, reliable power to the homes of 8,000 local residents.

Al Sulaymania Water Project...The Bestansoor Water project in Al Sulaymaniya Province was completed on April 5. This project increases the flow of water as well as renovates the pump house in Bestarsoor. This water project will serve approximately 200,000 people.

Electrical Generation Update...Completed Gulf Region Division generation projects have provided an additional 1,420MW of potential generation capacity to Iraq's national grid. At the end of the program, the projects will have added 1,879 MW of potential generation capacity, which can serve an estimated 1.7 million homes. All USG agencies' projects will add or restore a total of 2,555MW at the end of the program.

Underground Distributors Benefit Baghdad Province...The installation of new 11kV underground distributors from the Jadrai to Arasat substations in Karadah, Baghdad Province, has increased reliability of electricity to 65,000 local residents.

School Update...GRD has completed 99% of planned school renovations. Under Iraq Relief & Reconstruction Fund, 809 school renovations have been completed. Under the Development Fund for Iraq program, 88 additional school renovations are complete. These projects will provide improved school facilities for over 350,000 students.

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PROJECT VIDEO CENTER

Dahuk Metal Giants

Run Time: 1:40

Watch the Video:

<http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/video/playvideo.asp?ReleaseID=60>



Electricity Being Added to Baghdad Power Grid

Run Time: 1:36

Watch the Video:

<http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/video/playvideo.asp?ReleaseID=57>



Iraq 101 — Knowledge Brief

Exports - Commodities: crude oil 84%, crude materials excluding fuels 8%, food and live animals 5%

Exports - Partners: US 49.7%, Italy 10.4%, Spain 6.3%, Canada 5.6% (2005)

Imports - Commodities: food, medicine, manufactures

Imports - Partners: Turkey 23.4%, Syria 23.1%, US 11.7%, Jordan 6.3% (2005)

Kurdish Children Resettle into New Schools

Story & Photos by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North

KIRKUK PROVINCE, Iraq — More than 600 school children in this Kurdish enclave moved out of resettlement tents last week, and are settling into two newly constructed school — complete with windows, hard floors and classroom furniture.

Abdul Rahman Mustafa, governor of Kirkuk, attended an event at one site to recognize the cooperation and the unity it took to make the new schools possible for Kurdish school children. As the Kurdish people return to Iraq after years of fleeing to the mountains, students have attended classes in weather-torn, time-worn tents. The two new schools were funded by the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry's Commander's Emergency Response Program.



Students of the Panja Ali school in Kirkuk celebrate the ribbon-cutting event for their new school, attended by the governor of Kirkuk, Abdul Rahman Mustafa.

According to Project Engineer Joe Domingo, the contract for a third school will be awarded this month. "Each school has 11 classrooms and each classroom can accommodate about 25 students," Domingo said. He added that each facility has a computer room, administration building, toilets, and a back-up generator.

Due in part to the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, more than 800 schools have been refurbished or constructed since Iraq's sovereignty in 2004—providing a positive learning environment for some 325,000 Iraqi students nationwide.

Before



After



Before the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Program made the construction of this school possible, Kurdish children attended classes in weather-torn tents in a resettlement area of Kirkuk. The newly-constructed Panja Ali school in Kirkuk has 11 classrooms and a computer room. It accommodates about 25 students per classroom.

Train-the-Trainer: Critical to Capacity Development

Compiled By Sheryl Lewis
Director
Capacity Development ASA(ALT)

WASHINGTON — Capacity Development (CD) is critical to providing the foundation for a smooth transfer of day-to-day responsibility for completed projects to Iraqi management.

Through the Train-the-Trainer component of the Water Sector Capacity Development Initiative (CDI), Ministry of Municipality and Public Works (MMPW) employees have trained to become professional instructors who support the development of a sustainable CD program within the Ministry.

The Train-the-Trainer program consists of a three-phased curriculum comprising a series of eight workshops in which MMPW employees learn to plan, format, design, and implement training programs across a number of various disciplines.

During the first phase, 107 of the best participants from each of nine CDI tasks (*discussed in previous IRR issue*) received training on instructional techniques.



Through the Train-the-Trainer program, MMPW employees have become certified instructors. (GRD Photo)

Using the basic techniques learned during the first phase, the top 23 participants were asked to develop their own training materials.

In phase two, each participant presented their materials in a series of sessions which were evaluated by the MMPW Training Department.

Based on the evaluations reached during phase two, those participants who met certain requirements became certified as an instructor by an evaluation board comprised of senior MMPW officials and training department members.

Press Roundtable: Dept. of State Iraq Update



Briefer: Ambassador David Satterfield, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State and Coordinator for Iraq

Read the transcript:

<http://www.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rm/2007/82795.htm>

Sector Overview: Current Status – Final Effects

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO Washington

As of: April 12, 2007

•Over \$10.8 billion of the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) has been disbursed by DoD, representing 80.2% of total funds allocated to DoD
 •3,422 projects starts (out of 3,478 planned projects) and 2,923 projects are complete. This number includes the DoD projects funded by the IRRF and the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI).

Infrastructure Sector	Current Progress	Final Effects
Electricity	1,420 MW capacity added* Increased power generation to 1.3 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 372K Homes* Hours of Power: Iraq – 12.2, Baghdad – 6.6 (last week average)	1,879 MW capacity added* (2,555 for all USG projects) Increased power generation to 1.7 million homes* Improved Electricity Distribution to approximately 822K Homes* Hours of Power: 10-12 Iraqi, 10-12 Baghdad
Oil	2.6 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity Approximately 2.1 MBPD actual production Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production capacity of 1,700 Tons per Day	3.0 MBPD oil production capacity LPG production capacity production capacity of 3,000 Tons per Day
Water & Sewer	Added 434,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefits an estimated 2.3 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	29 IRRF-funded Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC) completed Remaining 112 PHCs under construction. 16 IRRF-funded hospitals rehabilitation projects completed	141 PHCs serving a population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis 25 IRRF-funded hospital rehabilitation projects
Education	809 IRRF-funded schools providing classrooms for 324,000 students*	809 IRRF-funded schools providing classrooms for 324,000 students*
Security & Justice	3 Training Academy Projects 93 Fire Station Projects 264 Border Forts	5 Training Academy Projects 97 Fire Station Projects 264 Border Forts
Transportation & Communications	56 IRRF-Village Road Projects 95 Railway Station Renovations 14 IRRF Aviation Projects Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities	94 IRRF-Village Road Projects 98 Railway Station Renovations 19 IRRF Aviation Projects

SPECIAL REPORT: Canines Assist Demining Effort

Story and Photo by U.S. Navy MC2 Elisandro Diaz
MNSTC-I Public Affairs

AZ ZUBAYR, Iraq — Iraq was once considered one of the most mine-stricken nations in the world, according to U.S. State Department figures, with more than 10 to 15 million land mines buried in the country by 2003. Most of these mines were placed along Iraq's border with Iran during their 10-year war.

Coalition forces, along with governmental and non-profit organizations, have contributed millions of dollars to clear minefields in Iraq. In order to remove them, land mines must first be identified which is a difficult task, because they lie buried below the surface.

Azhar, an Iraqi dog-handler, explained, "Our job is to detect subsurface mines and explosive materials with the help of dogs that we train for this job." While there are machines and expensive sensing devices for the job, Azhar says the dog is the most accurate...and friendliest.



A land mine, after it was located by a bomb-sniffing dog and unearthed by a bomb disposal technician, during training in Az Zubayr.



A dog handler and his German shepherd look for buried land mines during demining training at the Az Zubayr Training Facility.

According to Azhar, dogs are well-suited to find mines because of their keen sense of smell. A dog's sense of smell allows dogs to detect substances that go unnoticed by humans. With proper training, dogs can use their sense of smell to find mines and other explosive materials. "My primary duty as a dog handler is to train a dog so it becomes familiarized with finding mines that are buried in the ground," Azhar said.

Azhar described how mine detection teams operate. A team is made up of two dogs and their handlers. One dog begins to smell for explosives in a suspected minefield sectioned into square grids. The second dog and handler then repeats the process. This either confirms or denies whether the section is clear of mines.

When a dog does locate a mine or other form of buried explosive, it alerts its handler who orders it to return to him and rewards it with a treat such as a rubber ball. The demining team then begins the task of removing the mine. Azhar described how he began training his dog Malysh, a German shepherd, after it arrived from the Netherlands.

"I began by placing a bowl of food along with a small amount of explosive powder for Malysh to sniff. Once he got used to it, I started burying it so he could find it. When a dog can readily identify an area that has explosive materials consistently and accurately, it is moved to the minefields to do demining work," Azhar said.

"The best age to begin training dogs for mine detection is when they are one and a half years old. This is the age when they are mature enough and their sense of smell has developed sufficiently for the task of finding mines," Azhar explained.



A group of dog handlers and specially trained dogs wait to conduct landmine detection training.

Story continued on page 5.

Dept. of Agricultural Cites Three Projects with High Potential



Information Provided by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Mushroom Commercial Growing Farms: Mushroom commercial growing farm's have the potential of being a profitable business at several levels of the Iraqi economy. Mushrooms are easy to grow, using simple adopted technologies and do not require large pieces of land. The development of mushrooms is in line with the government's policy of diversification of the country's production base. According to the USDA, the purpose of this project is to create new jobs and potentially new income sources for lower income Iraqis. The project will increase local economic activity and decrease the amount of imported mushrooms.

Olive Production: Olives are a potentially important cash crop for Iraqi farmers. Olives are grown throughout the region, and they have demonstrated production capacity in all Iraq provinces. Construction is underway to establish the orchards in eight provinces: Salah ad Din, Diyala, Wassit, Babylon, Qadissiya, Muthanna, Thi-Qar and Basrah. The orchards will be planted with both high oil and table fruit olive varieties, according to the region of the country and the variety. The central area of Iraq is more favorable to table olive varieties, while orchards in the southern region will be planted with both table and high oil producing varieties of olives. USDA officials state that each orchard will be planted with 600 seedlings, for a total of 9,000 olive oil trees.

Soil Salinity: It is estimated that 28 million acres in Iraq are cultivable. However, salinity has always been a major issue. In fact, according to USDA, it was recorded as a cause of crop yield reductions some 3800 years ago. To reduce the region's inadequate drainage problems of and high soil salinity and to improve agricultural production, the USDA through a contractor, is assisting the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture with the creation of four pilot drainage and salinity catchment areas in Baghdad, Muthanna, and Wassit provinces. Each pilot area is between 250-1200 acres and is used to test drainage systems. An area of 24-74 acres is used as a test plot to carry out research activities.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Announces Reconstruction Project Loan

The Government of Japan has announced its intention to provide yen loans up to the total amount of 102,843 million yen to the Republic of Iraq for implementing the following projects:

- Khor Al-Zubair Fertilizer Plant Rehabilitation Project: 18,120 (million yen)
- Crude Oil Export Facility Reconstruction Project: 50,054 (million yen)
- Engineering Services for Basrah Refinery Upgrading Project: 2,079 (million yen)
- Electricity Sector Reconstruction Project: 32,590 (million yen)

Story Continued from Page 4...Sniffing for Danger

"Malysh has learned and also responds to commands in Arabic, but only in a recreational setting – for demining work the commands are all in Dutch."

According to Azhar, there is a special bond between a dog handler and his dog which develops during their training together and is essential to the task of locating mines.

"To the dog the job is a game - that it does to get rewarded," Azhar said. "We train for six months to qualify for this task with six-day work weeks to prepare our dogs for this job."



A demining technician goes over an area with a metal detector after a bomb-sniffing dog located a mine during demining training.

While he stated he is very fond of Malysh, Azhar said he was not always comfortable around dogs. "I like my dog. Before this job I was very scared of dogs and it took me a whole month before I lost my fear with them but now Malysh is like a very good friend and extremely loyal." Azhar added, "He would protect me without any hesitation. One time a friend was joking with me and pretended to box with me – Malysh quickly lunged at him to protect me, held back only by the leash."

The job of locating mines can be hazardous and has the potential of serious injury or death. Yet, the work he does is important for Azhar. "I like my job because I help to remove things that kill people and children – I'm making Iraq a safe place for people to live and work," he said.

Interview Download

FEDERAL NEWS RADIO

Listen to a recent interview conducted by DC-based Federal News Radio of Mr. Dean Popps, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology with additional duties as the Director of Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management.

The radio interview covers a wide spectrum of Iraq reconstruction issues.

Listen to the interview:

 <http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=325&pid=&sid=1097922&page=1>

Habbaniyah Official Looks to Future



Habbaniyah mayor focuses on infrastructure.

 See the video:

[http://www.cemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil/Public/InfolineMarines.nsf/0/66A13572C65DAEEC432572AA002DC78D/\\$File/Movie.wmv](http://www.cemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil/Public/InfolineMarines.nsf/0/66A13572C65DAEEC432572AA002DC78D/$File/Movie.wmv)

Getting Ready to Roll



Iraqi soldiers prepare 40 newly arrived vehicles for the drive back to their unit in Baghdad. The trucks were purchased by the Iraqi government as part of its modernization program. In total, the Iraqi Government has pledged \$2.6 billion to modernize the Iraqi Armed Forces. (Photo by MC2 Elisandro Diaz)

Independent Radio & TV Network Launched

Compiled from State Dept. and IRTN Reports

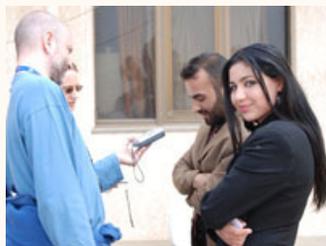


DIYALA, Iraq — The Iraqi Independent Radio & Television Network

(IRTN) was officially launched in Diyala on March 25. The station however, has been operational for several months.

IRTN has a combined Sunni and Shia staff and is based at a media center north of Baghdad and utilizes a 350-meter transmission tower built in 1986.

"Some of us may die. That may be the cost of freedom," Rafed Mahmood, 29, IRTN manager, said in a speech at the opening ceremony. "But let us not be so afraid of dying that we forget how to live."



IRTN broadcasters are interviewed by the international media.

The IRTN radio station reaches around 40 percent of Iraq while the TV signal reaches all of Baghdad and Diyala. Programming includes movies, cartoons, nature programs, Koran readings and prayers, and news.



IRTN has one of the tallest transmission towers in the Middle East.

Despite the small staff, Mahmood has big ideas -- he wears a blue arm-band that he hopes will launch a "Blue Revolution" for peace inspired by Ukraine's "Orange Revolution".

"I wear the color blue to remind myself that the blue sky is our only limit,"

The IRTN website:
<http://www.irtniraq.com/>

Cleaning Up Ramadi's Malaab District

Story & Photos by Cpl. Chris Stankiewicz
Multi-National Forces-West (USMC)

RAMADI, Iraq — Improving conditions in Ramadi's Malaab, or "stadium district," means shops are opening, schools are teaching and the garbage is piling up on the roadsides. Coalition forces have been largely successful in breaking the stranglehold terrorists held on the neck of this formerly affluent community, but the question has remained: Who's going to take out the trash?

Even before the vehicle ban, regular trash pickups were intermittent, threatened with the ever present risk of improvised explosive devices. This, coupled with the travel restrictions, has led to heaps of rubble, garbage and other debris littering the streets.

The formula seemed logical. Cleaning the trash would cut down on hiding places for IEDs, making the area for service members and locals alike.



A local man scrapes away the accumulated debris of months from the road in front of his home.

"We just finished a large clearance operation, so a lot of people are able to come out now," said Maj. James Lively, military transition team leader. "There's a little more security now from the enemy activity, and now today, the civilians have asked us to come out and help them."

The major catalyst for the cleanup has turned out to be the neighborhood residents themselves. Under the protection of Coalition troops, citizens came out in force eager to clean up their community. Wielding shovels, brooms and rakes, adults and children alike tackled the

mounds of refuse with a will. Backhoes and garbage trucks operated by Iraqi police and soldiers cruised the streets, bringing towering heaps of trash to an impromptu landfill. "We've impounded some sanitation trucks, and we're helping the people to clean the street," said Lively. "We've got Iraqi police here, the Iraqi Army, and the local civilians. So, all in all, a great day here, and getting the civilian population back involved with rebuilding their community."



An Iraqi police officer stands before Canal Street, a road that has been plowed free of garbage and debris.

Sidewalks that had been crowded with the remains of meals and discarded clothing were clean. The scars of battle remain on buildings, but a neighborhood had emerged from the war-torn city blocks.

France to Open Embassy in Erbil

ERBIL, Iraq — According to the Kurdistan Regional Government website (<http://www.krg.org/>), Jean-François Girault, France's ambassador to Iraq, said that his country hopes to open an embassy office in Erbil.

Minister Falah Mustafa, director of the Kurdistan Regional Government Office of Foreign Relations, said, "The KRG welcomes the opening of a French embassy office and we offer our full support and cooperation in making it happen. The embassy office will enhance cultural, economic and business relations. It will also be another step towards building stronger ties with EU countries."

Minister Falah Mustafa and Ambassador Girault discussed the long history of relations between Kurdistan and France. The April 8, 2007 KRG web posting, said that Girault discussed with KRG officials the possibility of increasing participation by French companies in the reconstruction of Kurdistan, as well as enhanced cultural relations and education links.

School Supplies Delivered by Combined Team

Story by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4th IBC, 1st Inf. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD — Iraqi security forces (ISF) and Multi-National Division-Baghdad (MND-B) troops delivered school supplies to the Al Ansar Elementary School in the Rashid district recently. The 1st Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police and 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div. dropped off supplies such as backpacks, paper, soccer balls and Iraqi flags.

Giving supplies to schools is part of the way MND-B and ISF are working to gain the trust of the local populace. "We want to build relationships between the kids and the coalition forces," said Samir Al-Abas, school headmaster. Al-Abas added that the children feel safer as this bond continues to be built.

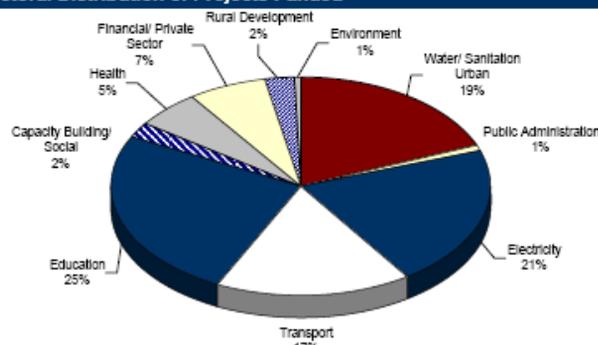
Sgt. Robert Savant, a squad leader, explained, "If we can help give a little bit back to them, help them get back on their feet, we're helping the children in the long run," Savant said. "They can get a better education and provide better for their families in the future."



World Bank Project Update (as of March 31, 2007)

World Bank Iraq Trust Fund Financed Projects	Project Amount (US\$ mln)	Approval/Effective Date	Implementing Agency	
Completed Projects				
Capacity Building I	3.6	Feb-04	World Bank	
Textbook Provision	40.0	May-04	Ministry of Education	
Active Projects				
School Reconstruction & Rehabilitation	60.0	Oct-04	Ministry of Education	
Capacity Building II	7.0	Nov-04	World Bank	
Baghdad Water Supply & Sanitation	65.0	Dec-04	Municipality of Baghdad	
Water Supply, Sanitation & Urban Reconstruction	110.0	Dec-04	Ministry of Municipalities & Public Works	
Health Rehabilitation	25.0	Nov-04	Ministry of Health	
Private Sector Development	55.0	Nov-04	Ministry of Planning & Development Cooperation and ITPC	
Community Infrastructure	20.0	Dec-04	Ministry of Water Resources	
Disabilities	19.5	Nov-05	Ministry of Health	
Social Protection	8.0	Jun-06	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	
Household Survey & Policies (Technical Assistance)	1.5	May-06	World Bank	
Household Survey & Policies Grant	5.1	Jul-06	Ministry of Planning & Development Cooperation	
Environmental Management	5.0	Dec-06	Ministry of Environment	
Marshlands School Construction	6.0	Oct-06	Ministry of Education	
Electricity Reconstruction	6.0	Mar-07	Ministry of Electricity	
Total Iraq Trust Fund Projects	436.7			
World Bank IDA Lending Financed Projects				
Project	Project Amount (US\$ mln)	Approval Date	Closing Date	Implementing Agency
Third Emergency Education	100.0	Nov-05	Jan-09	Ministry of Education
Emergency Road Rehabilitation	135.0	Jun-06	Jun-10	Ministry of Construction/G.D. for Roads & Bridges of KRG
Dokan and Derbandikhan Hydropower	40.0	Dec-06	Dec-10	Ministry of Electricity of KRG
Electricity Reconstruction	124.0	Mar-07	Jun-11	Ministry of Electricity
Total Iraq IDA Lending Approved	399.0			

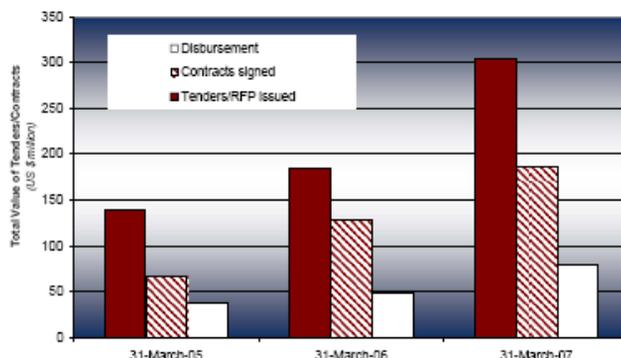
Active World Bank Iraq Program (ITF and IDA-financed Projects) Sectoral Distribution of Projects Funded



Status of Contracting and Disbursements

About 72% of the value of Iraqi-executed grants (US\$304 million out of US\$420 million) have been tendered or contracted. The value of signed contracts exceeded US\$185 million, amounting to 45% of the value of Iraqi-executed grants. Total ITF disbursements currently stand at US\$96.3 million.

World Bank ITF Projects : Iraqi-Implemented grants (13 projects)



Source: World Bank, Middle East and North Africa Region



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 Poppo</i></p>
	<p> US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html Commanding General: <i>Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, USA</i></p>
	<p>Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net 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, USAF</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, JCCI-I/A, GRD, 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/sites/uscentcom2/default.aspx>

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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