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***Gulf Region Division—North District
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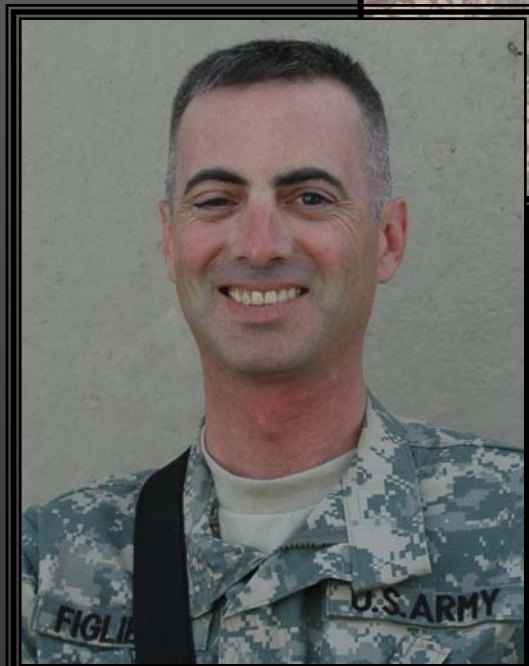
*May 2007
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MAJ Albert Soliz
Kirkuk Resident
Office OIC



SSG Wesley Fulton
Diyala PRT NCOIC



SFC Richard Figlietti
Sulaymaniyah Resident
Office NCOIC



SFC Harvey Torres-Del Valle
Anaconda Area Office NCOIC



(l to r) SFC Brian Breaker and MSG Charles Cain,
Dahuk Resident Office NCOIC and Mosul Area
Office NCOIC, respectively.

***40th Engineer Brigade Soldiers
redeploy to...home!***

(Story and photos, pages 5 & 6)

Commander's corner

by Colonel Frederick S. Wolf

We extend a warm welcome to the fine Soldiers of the 34th Engineer Brigade, North Dakota Army National Guard. Gulf Region North District is again blessed with a terrific group of Soldiers, each of them selected for their experience, skills, and dedication to mission accomplishment. They are assuming positions that are the backbone of this unit.

Along with these engineer Soldiers, we are transitioning an equally gifted group of civilians, who demonstrated uncommon courage when they answered the call to serve in Iraq. All of these new members of the GRN Team are set to carry-on the tradition of excellence and legacy established by their predecessors.

During a ceremony at GRN headquarters, we passed responsibility for the overall care, training, and readiness of the members of this command from CSM Mefford to CSM Boschee. This ceremony recognized the vital role Command Sergeant Majors hold in this unit. It was impressive, fully befitting this awesome responsibility.

Adding to the challenge of integrating so many Soldiers and civilians, we are in the throws of transitioning project management from the Division headquarters to the District. This is a sea of change in how



"We're in the throws of transitioning project management from the division headquarters to the district."

we do business; one that will greatly improve our effectiveness and responsiveness to organizations in the field. You will notice many new faces as we fill out the ranks of project managers and engineer technicians. While this is happening, we are rapidly moving forward with the new Provincial Economic Support Program, which at over 50 projects and \$100M, will keep project managers and engineers busy well into 2008.

Many of you met GRN's incoming commander COL Mike Pfenning during his full throttle pre-deployment visit. Coming from the St Paul District, where he has been in command for three years, he gained a full understanding of the challenges we face and will be a terrific addition to the GRN Team. He asked me to tell you how much he appreciated your hospitality and professionalism during his visit. You inspired him as he was able to witness first hand the passion and commitment of our GRN Team.

I ask all of you to remember that for a previous generation, containment of the Soviet Union was the defining moment. Iraq is a defining moment for this one. The outcome of this time in history will affect not only the future of Iraq but the future of the global community. You are a part of making this history.

Helping Iraq is the right thing for us to do; giving them a sense of hope; to nudge them, cajole them, and support them. But at the end of the day it will be their decision. They will choose the future that they want for their children.

I'm extremely proud of all you do to complete the mission. Your continued commitment to excellence during this challenging period is awesome.

Essayons!



Northern Exposure

COL Frederick S. Wolf, Commander
CSM Guy V. Boschee, Command Sgt. Maj.
LuAnne Fantasia, Public Affairs Officer
Lana Aziz, Iraqi PA Specialist

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Small project...big hope



To the Western world, this picture may seem rural and simple. It is. But, the benefits of this small water well and pump station project are big to the Iraqi people of this nearby village in the Erbil Province. They no longer have to depend

on spring sources for water, or trucks delivering water; or doing without water. This seemingly small project in the Iraq Reconstruction Program is a huge benefit to the local people. (USACE photo)

Number 13 is lucky for 13 villages in Erbil Province

by Lana Aziz

Gulf Region North

ERBIL PROVINCE, Iraq— More than 26,000 residents in 13 villages receive potable water today due to 13 water well projects recently completed as part of the Iraq Reconstruction Program.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the well project initiative last year and completed it last month. These 13 villages in Northern Iraq did not have flowing water. Now, another source of water has been found and tapped in this area.

Each one of these 13 projects consisted

of construction of deep water wells; supply of generators and submersible pumps; constructing a concrete and steel water tank; supplying and installing the water pipe line; construction of water taps; and expansion of the distribution system.

“Kurdistan is suffering from a shortage of clean water and lack of water sources and water pipe,” said Younis Talib, an Iraqi electrical engineer employed in the Corps’ Erbil Resident Office. “This project is one of many that is essential to solve water problems in the Erbil Province; designed to stabilize the water source in 13 villages,” he added.

Talib was responsible for quality assurance and quality control on the project.

The people in some of these villages did not have enough water, and some were depending on spring sources for water. Others relied on water delivery by trucks, or personally carrying water containers in their cars for many miles, according to Talib.

Nawzad Hadi, the governor of Erbil, said, “The water that US Army Corps of Engineers [made possible] to Bnberzi Gchka has allowed many village people

13 Villages (Continued on page 8)

Province in-brief: Project roll-up for the Diyala Province

by LuAnne Fantasia
Gulf Region North District

Electricity, medical, water projects enrich Diyala

Province. In the Diyala Province (state), the Iraq Reconstruction Program includes over 170 infrastructure projects. To date, 133 are finished with 28 currently active and 13 planned to start. Many of these projects are in remote locations and not readily visible to Iraqi citizens. Some of these projects are high-capacity electrical distribution projects and large treatment facilities for water and sewage. The following is a snapshot of projects—by sector—in the Diyala Province, with supplementary information on several focus projects.

Building, health and education projects—Of the 52 approved building, health and education projects for Diyala, 45 are completed. One project still in developmental stages is a General Hospital. This construction addition will update an existing facility with a new surgical building that provides an additional 75 beds, a surgical and trauma operating suite, and an intensive care unit. The \$7M upgrade will increase medical care and capabilities for roughly 320,000 people in the Baqubah area. This summer, Diyala citizens will start to reap the benefits of seven projects that are currently active—new primary healthcare centers. One clinic finished last week; two are scheduled to finish this month; one next month; one in July and two in August. Medical equipment for the April and May completed clinics is on its way now so that all three clinics are ready to receive and treat more than 100 patients a day.

Electrical—Of the 36 electrical projects budgeted for the Diyala Province, 25 are complete and two are still in developmental stages. One of the nine electrical projects currently in progress will improve the capacity of the electrical distribution system that will provide more reliable power for about 7,000 residents. This \$3.5M project is scheduled to be completed late-October.

Security and Justice—There are 52 budgeted projects in this sector. Forty-eight of those projects are complete; one is still in developmental stages and one is through the contractual stage and has a planned start date. Of the two current ongoing sites, one is a \$42M prison upgrade project that will add buildings to the existing facility, and increase inmate capacity to 1600 beds. This project is ongoing, and upon completion, will be an employment plus for the region.

Public works and water—Of the 25 water and/or sewage treatment projects financed, seven are still in developmental stages, and 10 are completed. One of the eight currently active water projects will ultimately provide 6.3M gallons of clean drink-

ing water daily to 72,000 Iraqi families in their city. This project is scheduled to finish in October. Another ongoing water project due to finish in December will ensure adequate flows available for land irrigation, as well as flood control—a \$5.5M project.

Transportation and communication—There are eight such projects budgeted across the Diyala Province; two are completed; one has a planned start, and two are currently active. Both active projects increase economic activity and emergency response through improved transportation routes and easier access—benefiting an untold number of citizens of Diyala.



The Gulf Region North District's area includes seven of the 18 total provinces, or states, in Iraq. Since GRN's activation in 2004 and to date, the district's service members, civilians, and contractors have completed 1,097 of the budgeted 1,443 reconstruction projects for the seven provinces. There are 218 projects currently ongoing and 128 still in the developmental stages. Of the original \$18B Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, the Iraqi people in GRN's seven provinces benefit from approximately \$2.5B. Gulf Region Central District is in Baghdad; Gulf Region South District is in Talil.



Gulf Region Division—North District welcomed Soldiers of the 34th Engineer Brigade in a Transfer of Responsibility Ceremony May 4...

...and said farewell to Soldiers of the 40th Engineer Brigade, California

Army National Guard. Those who were assigned to the headquarters at Gulf Region Division—North District for the past year are (l to r): MAJ Chuck Lyda; CSM Richard Mefford; CPT Curt Keppeler; SFC Paul Salinas; SFC Tom Silva and MSG John Mohon. Those Soldiers of the 40th who were assigned out in the Area and Resident offices are pictured on the front cover.



CSM Richard Mefford receives the Bronze Star for his tour as Command Sgt. Maj. at Headquarters, Gulf Region Division—North District.



Everyone helped with the ceremony. Julie Melow, GRN Chief, Resource Management, cuts the cake after the official program.



CSM Guy V. Boschee takes custody of the district colors from COL Frederick Wolf during the Transfer of Responsibility ceremony May 4. Boschee is the new Command Sergeant Major for the Gulf Region Division—North District, or GRN. His unit is the 34th Engineer Brigade, North Dakota Army National Guard.

New Soldiers at the district



The GRN team welcomes Soldiers of the 34th Engineer Brigade, Bismark, North Dakota... Front row (l to r): MAJ Bob Ruud, CSM Guy Boschee, SSG Gene Weil, MAJ Jeffrey Holzworth, CPT Jeremy Hall, CPT Jeff Owen (inner-post transfer), and LTC Pete Conlin. **Back row (l to r):** MSG Shawn Erickson, SFC Michael Groven, MSG Scott Horst, SFC Shawn Gjermundson, MSG Curtis Kaseman, and SSG Dave Bowersox. (Photos by Lana Aziz)

Where did everybody go?

MAJ Bob Ruud, Erbil Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineer
 CSM Guy Boschee, GRN Command Sgt. Maj.
 SSG Gene Weil, Erbil Resident Office NCOIC
 MAJ Jeffrey Holzworth, GRN Operations Officer
 CPT Jeremy Hall, GRN Liaison Officer with 25th Infantry Division, North
 CPT Jeff Owen, GRN Engineering and Construction
 LTC Pete Conlin, Gulf Region Central District, Baghdad
 MSG Shawn Erickson, GRN Operations NCOIC
 SFC Michael Groven, Dahuk Resident Office NCOIC
 MSG Scott Horst, Sulaymaniyah Resident Office NCOIC
 SFC Shawn Gjermundson, Warhorse Resident Office NCOIC
 MSG Curtis Kaseman, Mosul Area Office NCOIC
 SSG Dave Bowersox, Region Reconstruction Operations Center NCO



SSG Kellyglen Foley
 GRN HQ, Supply NCO

(More) new friends at GRN



*Evelyn Williams
GRN HQ
Contracting Office
Admin Assistant*

*John Byrnes
GRN HQ
Engineering &
Construction*



*Alicia Ciardullo
GRN HQ
Resource
Management*

*Alan Miller
GRN HQ
Engineering &
Construction*



*Chuck Riley
Chief of Engineering &
Construction
GRN HQ
Returning to Huntsville*

*Chris Egaas
GRN HQ
Contracting Specialist
Returning to D.C.*



*Todd Stoeckel
GRN HQ
Transportation Officer
Returning to St. Louis*



*Kele Owens
GRN HQ
Command Admin
Returning to Savannah*



*MSG Verna Nelson
GRN HQ
HR Specialist
Returning to Atlanta*

*Chris Butler
GRN HQ
HR Specialist
Going to Hawaii*



(More) friends who left GRN



*LTC "Thatch" Shepard
GRN HQ
Deputy Commander
Returning to Savannah*



Children everywhere love to play in the water--whether they're in their backyard or community swimming pool; or in the neighborhood streets of Inner City, USA; or in the Kurdish enclave of Erbil, Iraq--children everywhere love to play in the water. And thanks to local water well and pump station projects made possible through the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, and the Iraq Reconstruction Program, these children have water now that is vital to life and comfort...and playing!

13 Villages (continued from page 3)

to move back to their village. I'm grateful for all other projects which are done or under construction by US Army Corps of Engineers that positively impacted the Kurdish people."

Maj. Jennifer Munro, deputy area engineer in the Mosul Area office, added, "This is an exciting program that has provided water to 26,000 people. It revitalized communities that had stagnated when families were forced to leave their homes during Saddam's era. [Now] these villages are growing and thriving."

Years of a neglected infrastructure, violence, and sabotage created a shortage of potable water for Iraq's 30 million people.

But, since the time of sovereignty in 2004, the Iraq Reconstruction Program has effected improvements that bring 120 million gallons of treated water daily to an estimated 2.4 million Iraqi citizens. Estimates show that, nationwide, some 8.4 million Iraqis will benefit from 300 million gallons of treated water daily when all of the original funded water projects are completed. 