

## Soldiers ensure high standards for new Iraqi construction

By Spc. Brian Johnson  
16th Eng. Bde. PAO, USD-C

BAGHDAD – Local contractors are a key component of the rebuilding process in Iraq because their work contributes to the construction efforts, generates local business and promotes growth.

Another key component involve quality control and assurance measures, which ensure that construction projects are completed to a high standard of safety within a reasonable timeframe and with quality materials.

One of the valuable sets of skills offered by the engineers of the 16th Engineer Brigade is their ability to ensure those high standards are met when projects are completed by local contractors. Responsible for this quality assurance and control process is the 16th Engineer Brigade’s Survey and Design team.

“Quality assurance and quality control of construction projects is one of our most important missions,” said Capt. Dolph Watts of Marion, Ohio, a Civil Engineer with the team.

Use of local contractors contributes to the construction efforts, generates local business and promotes growth. Watts said he and the rest of the Survey and Design team visit construction sites to make sure no problems arise during construction.

“Our team tries to ensure that a contractor is not cutting corners or delivering an inferior product that could cost someone’s life,” said Watts.

The Survey and Design team is currently working on a quality



Photo by Spc. Brian Johnson

1st Lt. Adam Stickley holds up a tile for Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Markel to photograph. The two are responsible for ensuring a high standard of quality is upheld during construction of new rooms by local contractors at a school west of Baghdad, Jan. 4. Markel, from Chillicothe, Ohio, is the senior technical engineer NCO for the 16th Engineer Brigade’s Survey and Design team.

assurance and control mission at a school just west of Baghdad. A local Iraqi contractor has been hired to renovate existing classrooms at the school, as well as to construct six new rooms.

Sgt. 1st Class Kyle Markel, a senior technical engineer NCO for the team and a Chillicothe, Ohio native, said he works in partnership with the 1472nd Civil Affairs Company, Civil Affairs team 722 to ensure projects are done to standard and equitably.

“The civil affairs teams set up many reconstruction projects, they establish rapport with the locals, keep the project moving, and make sure everyone is happy with the

end result,” Markel said.

When doing quality control checks, Markel looks for specific benchmarks and whether the contractors adhere to the construction timeline.

“There is an agreed upon timeline by all parties involved,” said Markel.

“I help the civil affairs teams to accurately assess if a construction mission will be done by a certain time,” he added.

“If we were told that the walls would be up by a certain day, or the roof would be installed on a building by a certain day, those are some of the things that I look for.”

During a visit with one local contractor, the Soldiers listened as the contractor explained that while he has made great progress, he will need a few additional days to finish the project to standard.

As he returned to Camp Liberty, Markel discussed the day’s events with the civil affairs team. This time, they said they were very pleased and reassured by the progress.

Markel is keenly aware that his window of opportunity to affect high standards among local contractors is short.

Markel said, “What is being constructed has to be a lasting structure. The building cannot fall apart months after we leave.”

## Leadership visit engineer Soldiers at COS Carver

Photos by Staff Sgt. April Mota  
101st Eng. Bn. UPAR 16th Eng. Bde. USD-C



BAGHDAD- Brig. Gen. Glenn C. Hammond, III, (left) Commander of the 16th Engineer Brigade, meets with Staff Sgt. Todd Thomas, of the 1434th Eng. Co., during a site visit to observe progress being made at Contingency Operating Station (COS) Carver's new JOC, planning annex and b-huts, Dec. 31.



Command Sgt. Maj. Verna Henderson, of 16th Engineer Brigade, spends some time talking about the progress at COS Carver with Sgt. 1st Class Theodore Blanford, noncommissioned officer in charge at the project site.



Brig. Gen. Glenn C. Hammond, III, discusses progress at the project site with 101st Engineer Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Charles Cody a native of Braintree, Mass.

# Trash talk: think before you toss

## OPSEC chief guides Soldiers on remaining safe

By Spc. Daniel Schneider  
USD-C PAO

BAGHDAD – While most people might think it is just trash going into a dumpster, Soldiers must remember operational security before throwing controlled items into the trash.

Gen. George Casey, chief of staff of the Army, has decreed in Army Regulation 530-1 that OPSEC is everyone's responsibility. Failure to properly implement OPSEC measures can result in serious injury or death to personnel, damage to weapons systems, equipment and facilities, loss of sensitive technologies and mission failure.

So, what are these OPSEC items, and how can you dispose of the items when they are no longer needed?

One example of the many items that should not

be casually thrown into the trash includes military uniforms, said Master Sgt. Mario Dovalina, the OPSEC program manager assigned to Company A, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division.

"This includes the blouse, pants, boots and shirts," Dovalina said. "PT uniforms are also military uniforms and should be treated the same way."

Anything with the Army Combat Uniform pattern on it should be incinerated as it can be used by the enemy to imitate a U.S. Soldier, said Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Copeland, the supply sergeant for Co. A, DSTB, 1st Cav. Div.

Additionally, supply sergeants can take items that cannot be disposed of by burning or shredding to the Central Issue Facility or Mayor's Cell, said Copeland. Other items that should not



Photo by Spc. Daniel Schneider, USD-C PAO

**Stirring the fire will help to ensure that documents are destroyed properly.**

be thrown into a trash can include mailing labels and boxes with your address or full name still intact.

"Someone can take a mailing label, Google your full name, and find out all kinds of information about you and your family," said Dovalina. "This information can later lead to potentially harming both you and your family."

The easiest way to answer the question of what should and should not be thrown away is to err on the side of caution.

"If you have to think twice about what you're throwing away, then you should think twice about who might be able to see it," said Maj. Brian Adamson, OPSEC officer for U.S. Division-Center and assigned to Co. A, DSTB, 1st Armored Division. "When in doubt, burn it or shred it."

Among 1st Armd. Div. personnel, Adamson has trained representatives within each section on basic OPSEC criteria to help provide

easier access to Soldiers who might have questions about what violates OPSEC policy. He also urges Soldiers who cannot obtain their OPSEC answers from these representatives to utilize their chain of command.

Paper mail isn't the only mail that needs to be protected. Email also needs protection.

"Any email with personal information, location or identification should be encrypted," Adamson suggested. This protects both your physical security as well as preventing identity theft.

Cell phones are another high security risk.

"With the right software and computer viruses, someone can turn on your cell phone remotely and listen in on your conversations and even take pictures with your phone," Dovalina pointed out. "When used properly, operational security can save lives and prevent information from falling into the hands of those who will cause harm."



Photo by Spc. Daniel Schneider, USD-C PAO

**Discarded boots are just one of the items that should not be thrown into the trash for operational security reasons. Uniform materials should be incinerated to keep them from potentially being used by unauthorized personnel.**

## On This Day In History

January 11, 1908

### Theodore Roosevelt makes Grand Canyon a national monument

On January 11, 1908, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt declares the massive Grand Canyon in northwestern Arizona a national monument.

By the end of the 19th century, the Grand Canyon was attracting thousands of tourists each year. One famous visitor was President Theodore Roosevelt, a New Yorker with a particular affection for the American West. After becoming president in 1901 after the assassination of President William McKinley, Roosevelt made environmental conservation a major part of his presidency.

After establishing the National Wildlife Refuge to protect the country's animals, fish and birds, Roosevelt turned his attention to federal regulation of public lands. Though a region could be given national park status--indicating that all private development on that land was illegal--only by an act of Congress, Roosevelt cut down on red tape by beginning a new presidential practice of granting a similar "national monument" designation to some of the West's greatest treasures.

In January 1908, Roosevelt exercised this right to make more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon area into a national monument. "Let this great wonder of nature remain as it now is," he declared. "You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see."

Congress did not officially outlaw private development in the Grand Canyon until 1919, when President Woodrow Wilson signed the Grand Canyon National Park Act. Today, more than 5 million people visit the canyon each year. The canyon floor is accessible by foot, mule or boat, and whitewater rafting, hiking and running in the area are especially popular. Many choose to conserve their energies and simply take in the breathtaking view from the canyon's South Rim--some 7,000 feet above sea level--and marvel at a vista virtually unchanged for over 400 years.

## USD-C Pic of the day!



Photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks, 4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Eric Richardson, a platoon sergeant for 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division from Grass Valley, Calif., adjusts the straps on his M4 during a search for insurgents and improvised explosive devices southeast of Taji.

## FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



### DID YOU KNOW?

In a fight between Batman and Darth Vader, the winner would be Chuck Norris.

## Quote For Today

“A leader leads by example, whether he intends to or not.”  
-Unknown-

### Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today  
69° F | 48° F



Tomorrow  
69° F | 53° F



Wednesday  
66° F | 48° F

### TRIVIA TIME!!

What was the name of General Meade's horse?

Last Issue's Answer: FULTON, MISSOURI

## Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

### USD-C PAO

BAGHDAD – The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across United States Division – Center

For this newscast, please contact the Media Relations Staff with DVIDS at 678-

421-6612 or e-mail [news@dvidshub.net](mailto:news@dvidshub.net).

Today's Cav Round-Up # 237 was produced by Sgt. 1st Class Brian Scott, USD-C Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the following stories:

1. Soldiers from the Iron MPs of the 1st Armored

Division polish their mission skills under the supervision of the unit they are replacing. Interviews with Pfc. Katelyn Parente, 501st driver, Spc. Eric Dutschek, 501st MP team leader, Spc. Robert Brubaker, 501st MP gunner.  
<http://www.dvidshub.net/?script=general/general>

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## Trigger's Tease

2								
	8	4		9	7			
		1		5			4	3
		9	6				2	1
3				1				9
1	4				9	6		
6	3			4		1		
			1	6		7	3	
								5

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in. The more squares that are known the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in the squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

### Yesterday's Answers

4	7	5	9	2	1	3	6	8
8	6	2	7	5	3	4	1	9
9	3	1	6	8	4	2	7	5
2	4	7	3	9	8	1	5	6
1	9	3	2	6	5	8	4	7
5	8	6	1	4	7	9	3	2
3	5	8	4	7	9	6	2	1
7	2	4	8	1	6	5	9	3
6	1	9	5	3	2	7	8	4



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