

MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

Media Release

HQ-MND Baghdad

Camp Liberty

Baghdad, Iraq

APO AE 09344

Commercial: (703) 621-0781

IRAQNA 011-964-770-252-3225

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE No. 20081125-06

November 25, 2008

MND-B Engineers turn on lights, add showers for Soldiers

Staff Sgt. Jason Jones

Company B, 46th ECB (H), 926th En Bde, MND-B

JOINT SECURITY SITE SUJ, Iraq – The Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), based in Fort Rucker, Ala., serving with Multi-National Division Baghdad, set out from Camp Liberty Iraq to renovate a 36-room facility for Soldiers to utilize, and along the way extended their upgrades to make living conditions even nicer for the service members at the site.

“Our mission was to repair a former Iraqi Security Force building; making it safe for living by U.S. Soldiers,” commented 1st Lt. Samuel Jefferson, a native of Milton, Del., the officer-in-charge of the project. “The team accomplished this mission by covering the windows, repairing the plumbing and adding electrical necessities – lights, power outlets, and air conditioners.”

The first wave of improvements included mounting fluorescent lights, wiring them to a light switch and then the construction team covered the windows for added force protection.

Next the team installed four receptacle boxes and receptacles per room; they also installed new air-conditioning units in each of the rooms.

“This was not only a great opportunity for our Squad to work together and really get to know one another’s strengths and weakness, but also help out our fellow comrades at JSS SUJ,” stated Spc. Gary Karnap, a Carpenter from Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The plumbers had their work cut out for them, as they had to fix a number of cracked sewer lines. The experienced plumbers went to work on the sewer lines and then snaked all the drains to ensure any clogs were removed. The upgrades weren’t completed until the team replaced shower heads and supply lines, providing an additional ten showers for the JSS to utilize.

When the mission seemed to come to an end, the team received additional requests for upgrades, tying into their current project, when they were tasked to excavate and repair a broken water main that was flooding the JSS.

On top of the water main repair the team was called on to install a main distribution panel that would supply additional power to the building. The team needed to run a new main power line into the camp which took some additional help from the Infantry Soldiers based on the joint security site in the eastern Baghdad district of 9 Nissan.

After the wire was installed, the team began testing it, making sure it was wired right.

The team did not rest and spent many late nights on the project site to make sure the electricity was wired correctly, before the Soldiers were allowed to move in.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Martin, platoon sergeant, 46th ECB (H), commented on his crew's experience and dedication to duty.

“While at JSS SUJ they went above and beyond by completing various plumbing repairs outside of their original project to help improve the quality of life,” said Martin, a native of El Paso, Texas.

Teamwork led the engineers to be appreciated by all.

“This was a perfect mix of trades for the work we finished,” said Pfc. Joseph Buckles, a plumber from New Florence, Penn., stated. “The Soldiers at JSS SUJ were greatly appreciative of all our hard work that was done by our construction team.”

-30-



Let there be light.

JOINT SECURITY SITE SUJ, Iraq – Pfc. William Bynum, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), an electrician from South Pittsburg, Tenn., sits atop a ladder to install new lighting for Soldiers' living quarters, Sept. 8. Basic lighting is a drastic upgrade to Soldier's living quarters that the skilled engineers can install in a matter of minutes.

(U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Jones, 46th ECB (H), 926th Eng. Bde., MND-B)



Shower head installation.

JOINT SECURITY SITE SUJ, Iraq – Pfc. Joseph Buckles, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), a plumber from New Florence, Pa., wraps thread sealing tape around a shower head to be installed in a shower unit for Soldiers on a remote camp in Baghdad Sept. 13.

(U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Jones, 46th ECB (H), 926th Eng. Bde., MND-B)



Mounting receptacles.

JOINT SECURITY SITE SUJ, Iraq – Spc. Gary Karnap, Company B, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), an experienced carpenter from Myrtle Beach, S.C., uses a rotary hammer drill to place holes in the building's solid concrete walls. His holes will allow the electrical team to mount receptacles providing the Soldiers with electricity at JSS SUJ Sept 16.

(U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Jones, 46th ECB (H), 926th Eng. Bde., MND-B)