



NEWS



April 2010

Building Strong®



GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

LAST EDITION

WHAT'S INSIDE



GRS Cases Its Colors



Ali Air Base Complex ready for business



Al Kut Fish and Meat Markets Opened by Dignitaries



Ur Location Commander takes possession of new and renovated facilities



History Site visits—team involvement and more!



TRANSITION

As Operation Iraqi Freedom fades into history, Operation New Dawn emerges on the horizon



BUILDING STRONG®

Gulf Region South District . Public Affairs Office
Talill, Iraq 09331
alicia.embrey@us.army.mil or 540-665-2656

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMANDER'S COLUMN FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER

Works Worth Doing

There will always be a special place in my heart for the moment we all called GRS



Tryon Edwards, a famous American Theologian from the 1800s, once said that "every parting is a form of death, as every reunion is a type of heaven." Perhaps death is a morbid way to look at a farewell but if you think about it there is a lot of truth in this quote. Throughout our lives we come together for a number of reasons, forming groups, clubs, organizations and other such encounters by which our participation brings a sort of life, character and definition to that specific union. And, when we depart that union, its character changes or as in the case of Gulf Region South (GRS) it ceases to exist. Like death, we leave friends that we will never see again, we experience mourning, we relish past memories of laughter, camaraderie, and success, we write epitaphs to document the existence of the union, and eventually we tell stories of the "good 'ole days" when we were part of the union. Experts will tell us these are all part of the separation cycle and Dr. Seuss reminds us "don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

I will leave here smiling because I not only had the opportunity to work with great people, but also the ability to work a mission

"far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing..."

Theodore Roosevelt

that has been truly honorable. Some unknown satirist once said "if it wasn't for people, life would be pretty great," alluding to the fact that it is people that make life

what it is. When I leave here it won't be the police stations, court houses or water compact units that top my list of the most rewarding moments, but the laughter in our staff meetings, the friendly criticism of each other's diets at the Dining Facility (DFAC), the shared agony of accomplishment in the marathons, the comical antics of our Personal Security Details (PSD), the cooking of Norma and her crew, the heaven like euphoria when the Command Sgt. Maj. sings "Like A Virgin" or Lt. Cmdr. Reme dances, and the shared long drives across the countryside with the field office personnel. It is the moments that we shared together as a team, working the issues, adapting to the circumstances, responding to questions and the professional and spirited way in which we did those things that leaves an indelible mark on my mind as I depart.

Theodore Roosevelt said "far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing" and I also leave



Col. Jeffrey Knippel



BUILDING STRONG®

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMANDER'S COLUMN FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER



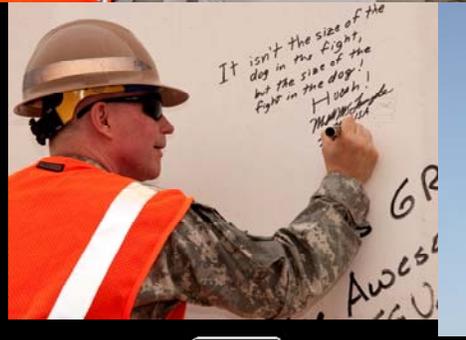
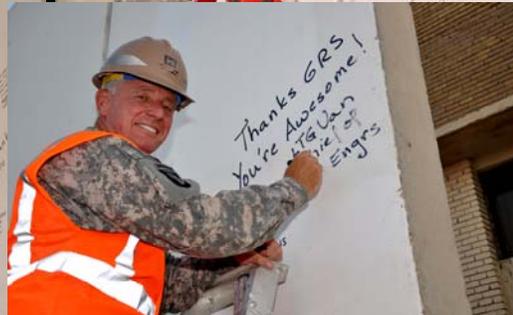
Maj. Melanie Dugar

here smiling because I have shared in that prize during my tenure as the commander. We can all take virtuous pride in the

water compact units, sewer systems and other community infrastructure we have provided will endure regardless of that success and will pay positive dividends for the Iraqi people. I will always take great satisfaction in knowing that our time spent here, however hard at times, was "work worth doing."

work we have, and are accomplishing here in Iraq. As the Corps of Engineers we are supplying hope and opportunity to others less fortunate. We are building the necessary components to allow the Iraqi people to live better lives in the future. Time will measure the success of their government but the hospitals, schools,

So I say farewell with a big smile and a great debt and gratitude to the men and women of GRS who have worked so very hard to produce very noble work. I thank each and every one of you for your friendship, and dedication, and especially for bringing me in and making me feel welcomed as one of the GRS family. There will always be a special place in my heart for the moment we all called GRS.



BUILDING STRONG®

The Final Formation

We demonstrated that the United States of America is a nation that cares for the world.



Well this is it, the final formation. Once the colors are cased, Gulf Region South (GRS) will cease to exist. However, the history and memories will continue. We have done some

amazing things during the few short years GRS has been operational. What I believe has made this possible were the exceptional people who have been a part of GRS and their willingness to change. It seems that we were always going through one type of change after another. Hiring people, moving people, reassigning workloads and the bittersweet farewells as people left. Then add all the changes of our customers and stakeholders, as they themselves, went through their own changes. Many a meetings I attended were spent discussing old issues, as a new person had to be brought up-to-speed or we had to adjust to a new set of priorities. Nevertheless, adjust we did, and the projects kept moving forward.

I acquired many memories over my travels throughout the GRS area of operation. Traveling long hours in an up-armored land cruiser, traveling over semi to non-improved roads that stretched the limits of one's bladder. Each camp has its own unique memory, sitting in the "Hot Tub" at KALSU, spending nights at the "Villa" in DELTA, Harry trying to engage me in boxing at ECHO, having 'runny

eggs' prepared by our chef at BASRA. Then the AEGIS teams, "Tommy from Ireland" is just one of many. He could strike up a conversation with anybody, even a young Iraqi woman while on perimeter security. I am not sure what they were talking about, but he sure had fun. Our life support crew, comprised of workers from India, Pakistan, and Iraq. They really spoiled me, they would make my

bed, clean my room and office, and not once did they have a bad day. Always smile



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren



Tammy Johnson ready for her move to Basra.



AEGIS team grabbing a bite.



Barney Davis



Karaoke fun on the patio with YMCA.



BUILDING STRONG®

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—CSM's COLUMN

CSM's FAREWELL MESSAGE TO THE DISTRICT

ing and wishing me a good day, not once did they have a problem, only wanted me to be happy.

For a place with no alcohol, we had some wild parties, wigs, grass skirts, coconut bras, and numerous other costumes would appear at some of our gatherings. I cannot even begin to describe the wonderful food that was prepared on our small apartment-sized stove, and how all of our cooks and chefs coordinated their efforts and time to ensure things were just right. Karaoke and line dancing were popular activities also, and while I might not be an American Idol contestant, I did bring tears to many faces.

This has been a great tour, and a real honor to work with the First (and Last) Air Force commander of

Gulf Region South, Col. Jeffry Knippel. The number's of projects completed and the monetary values show how much work was done. This was a very fast-paced environment, but the men and women who worked here are the very best. I thank every member of GRS, past, present and those who will work for the Corps in Southern Iraq. People like you make the US Army Corps of Engineers an outstanding organization.

We demonstrated that the United States of America is a nation that cares for the world.



During a site visit construction representative Victor Aquino shares some treats with a local Iraqi girl tending sheep in a nearby field.



Left back—Aseel Sami, Linda Frey, Bernice Chavez, Marilyn Fleetwood and Denise Quinn and Staff Sgt. Tiakka Johnson kneeling. Right back—Theresa Esplain, Ceann Cupp, Norma Dean, Charlotte Cramer and Cheyenne Hollow Horn kneeling



BUILDING STRONG®

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—DISCONTINUANCE CEREMONY SOUTH DISTRICT TRANSITIONS TO GRD

US Army Corps of Engineers district marks transition in Iraq



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and Col. Jeffrey Knippel case the colors during the 29 March Discontinuation Ceremony.

Gulf Region South District furls its flag

ALI BASE, Iraq – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Division completed its final transformation from three engineer districts in Iraq to one by casing the Gulf Region South District's (GRS) colors during a discontinuation ceremony, 29 March 2010 in the Contingency Operating Base Adder Chapel, Tallil, Iraq.

What is the ceremony about? What does it mean? According to Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox, Transatlantic Division commander and US Forces – Iraq J7 director, the



ceremony means SUCCESS and the conclusion of the mission for GRS. "Simply put it means success, amazing success here in the south, specifically throughout the GRS area of responsibility," said Cox. "Today's ceremony marked the conclusion of the mission for the GRS Headquarters but in no way ends their mission in support to the nation of Iraq, the U.S. and Iraqi security forces but most importantly for the people of the nine provinces here in southern Iraq."

Cox told the audience that GRS completed what he considered to be a monstrous program lead by tremendous leaders and accomplished by a superior work-



BUILDING STRONG®

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—DISCONTINUANCE CEREMONY

SOUTH DISTRICT TRANSITIONS TO GRD

force. The district completed more than 1300 projects valued at \$4 Billion over the last 6 years and today has an additional 116 projects under construction valued at \$528 million with a total of more than \$900 million to be completed over the next twelve to fifteen months.

But according to Col. Jeffry Knippel, commander of the Gulf Region South District, the ceremony also marks a milestone that signifies success. "GRS was created because of a great need to provide hope and stability for the Iraqi people, a need so large that from the US Army Corps of Engineers perspective it was determined that three engineering districts were needed to manage its overall execution," said Knippel.

Knippel added that the creation of the districts was a monumental task in its own right. "The provision of facilities and infrastructure to ensure the self sufficiency and security of Iraq's new democratic government and its people framed the parameters of the GRS mission," he said.

He said that for almost 6 1/2 years, GRS tenaciously labored to provide military, police, judicial, water, power, sewer, medical and educational fa-

cilities across southern Iraq in order to promote self-sufficiency and security. "New army bases and training camps to care for the Iraqi army, multiple court houses to process the Rule-of-Law, hundreds of water compact units to provide clean drinking water, refurbished power plants to provide whole cities electricity, complete city sewer systems and treatment plants to remove the breeding ground of disease, major surgical hospitals including a state-of-the-art children's hospital to care for the Iraqi's sick and scores of elementary and vocational schools to educate the Iraqi people – are but a few of the fruits of GRS's labor that dot the Iraqi landscape," he explained.

Knippel also gave credit for GRS's success to the many contractors who provided security, life support, and technical services were invaluable to accomplishing the mission. "... it must be specifically noted that it wouldn't have been possible without the 130 Iraqi engineers and construction representatives, almost two thirds of the GRS total technical staff, whose contributions alone deserve celebration," he added.

With the inactivation of the Gulf Region South District, the Corps of Engineers will have one remaining district in Iraq to finish the reconstruction mission. The remaining district, Gulf Region District, is headquartered in Baghdad under the command of Col. Dionysios Anninos.

"The Corps made history while others are writing about it," said Anninos. "Today is yet an-



Transatlantic Division commander and USF-I J7 director, Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox welcomes the audience to the last official Gulf Region South District ceremony. Photo by Martin McGuire—AEGIS



Col. Jeffry Knippel gives his farewell remarks as the last district commander of Gulf Region South District during the 29 March Discontinuation ceremony.



Resident offices—Officers in Charge Maj. Andrew Staiano (Delta), Capt. Christine Wolf (Echo) and Capt. Eleanor Gillis (Babil) sit together to watch the 29 March Discontinuation Ceremony at COB Adder Chapel, Tallil, Iraq.



BUILDING STRONG®

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—DISCONTINUANCE CEREMONY SOUTH DISTRICT TRANSITIONS TO GRD



Gulf Region South District Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and Gulf Region District Command Sgt. Maj. Phillips chat after the ceremony. Photo by Martin McGuire—AEGIS.

other event for others to write about while we collectively shape the future of Iraq."

"Just nine months ago there were three district

headquarters and a division headquarters in Iraq. Today there is one district headquarters in Iraq. Despite these changes, as we execute our responsible drawdown plan, we continue to deliver quality facilities and services to the citizens of Iraq and continue to develop their construction and architecture industry," he said.

"Today we are coming together, sharing together, working together and we will succeed together," he added.

The Gulf Region District is under the command and control of the newly established Transatlantic Division, headquartered in Winchester, Va. The new division unifies all Corps of Engineers programs in the U.S. Central Command operations area -- 20 countries from Egypt through the Arabian Gulf to Central Asia -- and

includes two districts in Afghanistan. In support of the end of reconstruction efforts under combat operations and the beginning of reconstruction under stability operations, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Gulf Region South District (GRS) cased its colors.



Col. Jeffry Knippel and Col. Dionysios Anninos are ready to cut the ceremonial cake. Photos by Martin McGuire—AEGIS.



Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox and AEGIS management.



Col. Dionysios Anninos, Col Louis Danner, Col. Jeffry Knippel and Brig. Gen Kendall Cox.



Photo by Martin McGuire—AEGIS



BUILDING STRONG®

GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—FLAG MOVES TO AFGAN DISTRICT SOUTH DISTRICT COLORS LIVE ON

Gulf Region South District Colors LIVE ON!



by Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren
Gulf Region South District

While the Discontinuance of Gulf Region South District was a sad moment. The proud heritage and lineage of a Corps district shall live on. The Cased colors are being shipped to Afghanistan Engineer District South, to continue their service.

As I was planning the discontinuance ceremony, I wondered what I should do with the colors, and the color guard harnesses. Knowing that the Afghanistan districts were quickly standing up, I sent an e-mail to the Command Sgt. Majors there, asking if they had a need. Immediately Command Sgt. Maj. John Werner, replied that he could defiantly use them.

Wow, talk about a win-win-win situation. The first and second win being I am able to send my difficult to find and procure, color guard harness's, flagstuffs and colors to someone who needs them, and that they will continue to used for many ceremonies into the future. Third win is the fact that we will be retaining Military history. The Corps Colors have been used in change of commands and other ceremonies in Iraq and around the world.

It is truly remarkable what the Corps of Engineers have done in Iraq, but we have done what we came here to do. We have helped jump start the country back onto the road to their future. Now as we are well into our way out of Iraq, that spirit will go forward with our colors into Afghanistan. Our colors and spirit live on!



BUILDING STRONG®

9

Ali Air Base Complex Celebrates Completion

Ali Air Base commemorates opening of Airfield Complex

ALI BASE, Iraq – Iraqi and American dignitaries celebrated the grand opening of the Ali Airfield Complex with a ribbon cutting ceremony in front of the new eight-story tall (104 feet overall) Airfield traffic control tower on Ali Air Base, Tallil, Iraq, 27 March.

According to Col. Jeffry Knippel, commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South District, the \$61.7 million military construction complex is just a capstone to improve overall airfield operations and provide bed down capacity for the combat aviation brigade.

The project was awarded to Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR) in September 2008 and was broken into four phases that required placement of 469 thousand tons of concrete. Due to Iraq's high temperatures, over 80 percent of the project was completed at night, which required special lighting and unique solutions to allow the work to be completed.

The four phases included construction of an armed helicopter apron, an unarmed helicopter apron, a fixed aircraft apron and finally the eight-story air traffic control tower.



The new \$4.7 million traffic control tower on Ali Air Base.



Dignitaries cut the ceremonial ribbon during the ceremony.



BUILDING STRONG®

Ali Air Base Complex Celebrates Completion

The tower was completed and turned over to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group on 15 March 2010. To support safety requirements for the tower, a ninety-thousand gallon fire suppression system, a ten-thousand gallon domestic water system and a 730 KVA generator system were also constructed.



Lt. Col. Michael Richardson and Mohammed Maarooof explain recent construction at the Ali Air Base Complex.

During a bus tour of the complex, Lt. Col. Michael Richardson, commander, 407 Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron pointed out the visual difference in the towers and need for a new modernized facility. "As you can see the height is different from the old tower. This new height allows Air Traffic Controllers the ability to see the whole airfield where before they could not. This ability increases the safety of the aircraft and the airfield," said Richardson.

The new tower modernizes the airfield's capabilities and improves flight and ground operations for the aircrafts. "The original tower was built 30 years ago and served as one of Iraq's busiest military airfields throughout the 1980's. During that time the about three-story structure was satisfactory to manage the original size of the complex," he said.

Today, the tower controls up to 3,000 feet of airspace over a five mile radius centered in the middle of the



Col. Knippel and dignitaries salute during the national anthem.

airfield. Within that airspace personnel working in the tower are responsible for separating, sequencing and issuing safety alerts to all aircraft.

"In addition to the concrete, electronics and labor poured into this impressive complex, the Ali Base Airfield truly represents something much larger," said ceremony host and commander of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group.



Col. Knippel signs the ceremonial scissors after the ribbon cutting while Brig. Gen. Dragon watches.

Danner told the audience that it represents the hopes and aspirations of the Iraqi and American people to work together toward a peaceful and stable Iraq. "The thousands of cubic yards of concrete poured in the air traffic control tower and the runways represent the strength of the United States' commitment to the Iraqi people," Danner said.

He added that the tower and airfield will serve the needs of the people of southern Iraq far into the future, just as the friendship of the Iraqi and American people will remain strong far into the future.

In his closing comments Col. Knippel said, "What stands before you today is more than just an airfield tower, it's a monument to the dedication, commitment and teamwork of many hard

working individuals, a monument that we can all be proud of as it reflects virtues we all hold dear."



AL KUT FISH AND MEAT MARKETS



Meat Market Ready for Business - The 2,000 square meter meat market courtyard contains four fountains and 30 butcher shops.

Al Kut welcomes new fish and meat markets

AL KUT, Iraq – Governor of the Wasit Province, Mr. Lateef AL Turfaa in conjunction with the Assistant Division Commander – South, Brig. Gen. Randall Dragon opened the, \$5.2 million Economic Support Fund, Al Kut Grand Markets during a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, 20 March, in the city of Al Kut.

The Wasit Governor spoke of the significant improvements to the existing markets in Al Kut and Brig. Gen. Dragon proudly announced that the new markets were a shining example of improvements made by Iraqis for Iraqis.

The market is part of an urban planning initiative devel-

oped by the Wasit Provincial Council, the Al Kut Municipality Office Director General, and coordinated with the Wasit Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). During the ceremony, PRT Leader Kevin Blackstone, commented that the opening of Grand Markets was a realization of over two years of work and coordination. Blackstone added that he is proud of the joint effort accomplishments for the people Al Kut.



Snipping the Ceremonial Ribbon - Assistant Division Commander – South, Brig. Gen. Randall Dragon, Governor of the Wasit Province, Mr. Lateef AL Turfaa, Wasit Province Assistant Governor Eng. Sabeeh, Deputy Governor Mr. Muhson Tumma snip the ceremonial ribbon during the 20 March ceremony.

According to Maj. Andrew Staiano, the US Army Corps of Engineers resident officer in charge of the project, "the Al Kut Grand Markets "consist of a fish and a meat market with open air designs containing spacious courtyards lined by



WASIT RESIDENT OFFICE—RIBBON CUTTING AL KUT FISH AND MEAT MARKETS



Architectural Security - The gates leading out of the fish market provide safety and security for vendors.



Fish Market Now Open - The 1,250 square meter fish market contains live wells and marble shelving in each of the 26 shops to display seafood for sale.



Fish Market Interior - Just like the meat market the fish market contains public rest rooms, coffee shops, and is handsomely decorated by custom stone work both inside and out.



Dignitaries and community members filled the complex during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Meat Market Interior - Meat market contains public rest rooms, coffee shops, and is handsomely decorated by custom stone work both inside and out.

dozens of shops where merchants can sell their products."

The markets were constructed by the Al Kahlaa Group in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region South District.

"The 1,250 square meter fish market contains live wells and marble shelving in each of the 26 shops to display seafood for sale," said Staiano. "The 2,000 square meter meat market courtyard contains 30 butcher shops surrounded by four fountains in the courtyard. Both markets contain public rest rooms, coffee shops, and are handsomely decorated by



custom stone work both inside and out."

"The two new facilities will provide a real boost to al Kut's economy," said Iraqi Engineer Hussein Sabry the Gulf Region South District project engineer and lifetime resident of Al Kut. "They will employ 300 people and most importantly, with the cold storage capability, residents will know they are getting a quality product."



BUILDING STRONG®

UR LOCATION COMMAND COMPLETED



With a snip of the ceremonial ribbon, Dhi Qar's Governor Aziz Kadum Alwan Al Ogheli and Ur Location commander Brig. Gen. Hassen welcomed an audience of over 300 to view the \$27 million renovation and new construction at Camp Ur Location Command & Regional Training Center near Nasariyah, Iraq, 28 March.

US and Iraq forces commemorate the opening of Ur Location Command and Regional Training Center



Starting To Gather - The crowd starts to gather for the official ribbon-cutting at the entrance to the new facilities.

UR, Iraq – With a snip of the ceremonial ribbon, Dhi Qar's Governor Aziz Kadum Alwan Al Ogheli and Ur Location commander Brig. Gen. Hassen welcomed an audience of over 300 to view the \$27 million renovation and new construction at Camp Ur Location Command & Regional Training Center near Nasariyah, Iraq, 28 March.

According to the US Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region South District commander, Col. Jeffrey Knippel, completion of the Location Command and Training Center represents a step towards Peace, Prosperity and Progress. "Over four thousand years ago, just a few miles from here, your ancestors celebrated the completion of the Ziggurat of Ur. At that time its completion and the city itself represented a time of peace, prosperity and progress. In the same way today, the completion of this Location Command and Training Center represents a step towards peace, prosperity and progress for the people of Iraq," said Col. Knippel.

The project provides sustainment and life support for approximately 2,700 Iraqi Army Soldiers, plus training facilities. "What stands be-



BUILDING STRONG®

UR LOCATION COMMAND COMPLETED

fore us today are 48 facilities, 22 barracks to house 2,700 troops complete with showers and latrines. It also provides command and associated support facilities for the Iraqi Army," Knippel said. "There are two dining facilities with the capacity to feed 1,000 personnel during a sitting. There are nine administrative buildings such as headquarters, medical and classroom, and fifteen other miscellaneous utility buildings and force protection facilities"

Work on the installation included—repair and upgrade of the existing potable water and waste water treatment systems, upgrade site electrical system, provide new roads and parking, construct new officer, noncommissioned officer, and enlisted billets, refurbish existing medical and dining facility, provide enhance-



Location commander Brig. Gen. Hassan with 10th Iraqi Army dignitaries chat during the Location Command speeches. The new facility has the capability of housing up to 2,700 soldiers on the compound.

ments at fire station, and construct new dining facility and latrines.

The \$27 million ITAM-Army construction and renovation project was awarded to ALMCO Company in September 2008 and was completed in only 18 months by a dedicated team of 800 employees working day and night.

Knippel asked the audience of over 300 to take a moment to reflect on the structures that stand before them. "I ask all to take a moment and realize that what stands before you today is more than just some ground with some buildings, in some way it represents a modern Ziggurat dedicated to the commitment and teamwork of many hard working individuals. A monument that we can all be proud of as it reflects virtues we all hold dear," Knippel said.



Dhi Qar's Governor Aziz Kadum Alwan Al Ogheli thanks the US Army Corps of Engineers and ALMCO for the new facilities.



Col. Jeffrey Knippel tells the media about ongoing projects in the Dhi Qar province.



10th Iraqi Army General tells Iraqi media about the future use of the facilities during an interview.



BUILDING STRONG®

QADISIYAH/NAJAF RESIDENT OFFICE—RIBBON CUTTING DIWANIYAH WELCOMES FEEDER NETWORK



Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) lead Michael Klecheski and Qadisiyah province Deputy Governor Abed Muslim Ghazzi cut the ceremonial ribbon.



A glance inside the electrical plant.

Diwaniyah welcomes new Al Mutakadeen feeder network

Diwaniyah, Iraq—Iraqi and United States dignitaries celebrated the completion of the Al Mutakadeen 33/11kV electrical underground feeder network 22 March in the city of Diwaniyah. Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) lead Michael Klecheski and Qadisiyah province Deputy Governor Abed Muslim Ghazzi cut the ceremonial ribbon during the opening festivities.

The 33/11kV distribution network was constructed by the International Limits Company in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Construction of the \$2.4 million network included the design and creation of the underground feeders to meet with Iraqi Ministry of Electricity standards. The cable system installed in the substation is designed to support auxiliary power, monitoring and control functions of the substation.

The project concept and funding was originated from the Diwaniyah Provincial Reconstruction



Posters along the perimeter wall of the substation showing construction of the project.

Team and funded through the Economic Support Fund.

The construction of the 33/11kV underground network provided employment to up to 60% of the local community.



BUILDING STRONG®

ADDER RESIDENT OFFICE—PROJECT SPOTLIGHT CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON NEW SCHOOL



According to US Army Corps of Engineers construction representative, Patrick McLaughlan, the 12-classroom primary school will have all the facilities necessary to give the youth of Al Majid village a decent, sanitary place to learn.

Al Sofora and Al Arba 12-classroom school under construction

Construction has started in July 2009 on the two-story \$1 million Economic Support Fund 12-classroom primary school that will serve the communities of Al Sofora and Al Arba.

Iraqi company Al Nawaris Al Beitha Company was awarded and is moving forward towards the August 2010 completion date.



According to Adder Resident Office construction representative Patrick McLaughlan the new primary school will benefit the village of Al Majid in Muthanna province.

"The school will have 12-classrooms and all facilities necessary to give the youth of Al Majid village a decent, sanitary place to learn... something they don't have now," said McLaughlan. "The local



BUILDING STRONG®

17

ADDER RESIDENT OFFICE—PROJECT SPOTLIGHT CONSTRUCTION STARTED ON NEW SCHOOL



Youth from the Al Majid village gather when they see Corps of Engineers at the construction site.

Shiek lives next door to the facility and brings his grandchildren, who will attend the school, with him when he sees Gulf Region South representatives on site. One of the engineers working on a sister school, Imam al Sadiq, has children that will be educated there as well... so there is an investment by local people to see that this project is successful."

McLaughlan added that the reinforced Concrete frame school will have the supporting administrative offices, library, kitchen, bathrooms, an auditorium, laboratories, landscaped inside and outside courtyards and a backup power generator. The facilities will have hot and cold running water, air conditioning, telephone and internet, and a fire alarm and suppression system.



A local Sheik helps Senior Airman Timothy Russell pass out gifts donated by organizations and friends in the United States to the local children.



Corps Safety Officer, Danny Wyatt with con. rep., Patrick McLaughlan tour the site.



Local sheik joins the Corps team during their site visit.



Senior Airman Timothy Russell and a local sheik passing out gifts.



BUILDING STRONG®

CITIES TO BENEFIT FROM WATER UNIT

Compact Water Unit to benefit the cities of Al Samawa and Al Abass

Residents of the Al Samawa and Al Abass communities in southern Iraq's Muthana province will soon enjoy a clean, ample water supply thanks to their local government and its partnership with the Gulf Region South District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.



Construction supplies staged at the site.

Al Gayath Company for General Construction has started construction on the \$2 million 200 cubic meters per hour compact water

unit with a 100 cubic meters per hour reverse osmosis water unit that will deliver high quality treated water to about 500 homes in the

neighborhoods of Al Samawa and Al Abass. Completion date of the project is January 2011. The project is managed by the Gulf Region South district, and constructed using funds from the Emergency Support Fund.



US Corps of Engineers construction representative and Al Gayath Company site manager checkout cement work during a recent site visit.

"Clean drinking water is a valuable commodity and in high demand in Iraq," stated Adder Resident Office construction representative, Patrick McLaughlan. "These water facilities are extremely valuable for increasing the quality-of-life for the average Iraqi citizen."



Typical structure under construction at the site.



BUILDING STRONG®

ADDER RESIDENT OFFICE—PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

CITIES TO BENEFIT FROM WATER UNIT

"The governments of the provinces are very happy to have these facilities and are working with Gulf Region South District and the contractors in a coordinated effort to insure maximum benefit to their people," McLaughlan added.

The project is to build a functional, stand alone facility, complete with two storage tanks, dosing equipment, filtration tanks and water points for both tanker trucks and individuals, a security wall, backup generator, chemical storage, operations, guard buildings and bathrooms. "This is a turnkey project that, when complete, will be turned over to the Iraqi Ministry of Water," McLaughlan added.

Water for the plant will come from the nearby Euphrates River, through an intake structure constructed as part of the compact water unit project. "The unit will produce 200 cubic meters per hour of clean, disinfected, filtered



Con. Rep., Patrick McLaughlan writes notes about the construction while talking with the construction firms site manager.

water suitable for consumption while the reverse osmosis water purification unit will produce 100 cubic meters per hour of even higher quality water, similar to that which is common in most cities in the United States," McLaughlan explained.



Con. Rep., Patrick McLaughlan and Safety Officer Danny Wyatt

view rebar placement at the construction site.



BUILDING STRONG®

Postcard from Iraq—Adder Area Office by Lt. Cmdr. Yves Reme, Deputy Officer in Charge

Postcards from Iraq

Veni, Vidi, but Vici'd

By LCDR Yves M. Reme, CEC, USNR, Adder Area Office
Transatlantic Division, Gulf Region South District, Tallil, Iraq
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tour: 6/8/09—4/17/10

While I am here in Iraq, today, March 27, 2010, is my daughter's 20th birthday. She is no longer a teenager. She has entered the world of adulthood for ever. Soon, I will be departing Iraq after more 10 months in theater and almost a year on active duty as a Navy Reservist. As I begin to think of my readjustment to civilian life my daughter Anne-Isabelle was the first thing that came to my mind. I still can remember standing in the delivery room at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, VA, 20 years ago when that little joy arrived on this earth to join the rest of us. I am grateful to God that she turned out to be a grown and responsible young adult. Despite the little glitches, she has always made me a proud father. Happy Birthday Annie and many more blessed years.

This is my second tour in Iraq. During my first tour (February to October 2004), as a Seabee, I was assigned to the Marines, 1 MEF Engineer Group in Al Asad Air Base, Al Anbar Province, which is a traditional assignment for any Seabee. This tour assignment was nothing but extraordinary for a Reserve Seabee. First, I was assigned to the US Army Corps of Engineers and, second, my Commanding Officer turned out to be a US Air Force Colonel, first one to ever Command a USACE District. How about that! A Navy Seabee assigned to the Army who found himself with an Air Force sea daddy. This is what we call a Joint Unit or Purple Force.

Aside from the small anomalies, this has been the apex of my naval career as a CEC Officer and an unforgettable experience. Veni, Vidi, Vici'd. I came, I saw, but I didn't conquer. The Iraqi people and their culture have conquered me, especially the children. This tour has given me the opportunity to be responsible for the USACE reconstruction effort in 4 Southern Provinces of Iraq, an area 5 times the size of the state of New Jersey. This effort consisted in over 90 projects worth over \$550 millions, of all kinds of infrastructure developments and improvements such as Primary Schools, Hospitals, Water Treatment Facilities, Roads, Police Stations, Courthouses, Electrical Substations, Air Traffic Control Tower, etc...

I feel very lucky that I was part of this effort and I hope that my contributions help make Iraq what the Iraqis seem to aspire to be with the recent elections "Iraq, a friend and ally of the United States of America, standing up on the world stage as a free people". Iraq is known as the "cradle of civilization". Abraham's birthplace and the Great Ziggurat of Ur are only a few hundred yards away.



My unforgettable friends of Al Ager, Thi Qar



Army Bee Made Our little friends visiting with us Princess Anne-Isabelle Ruins of the City of Ur & the Great Ziggurat Volleyball Not Salsa

This is my second tour in Iraq. During my first tour (February to October 2004), as a Seabee, I was assigned to the Marines, 1 MEF Engineer Group in Al Asad Air Base, Al Anbar Province, which is a traditional assignment for any Seabee. This tour assignment was nothing but extraordinary for a Reserve Seabee. First, I was assigned to the US Army Corps of Engineers and, second, my Commanding Officer turned out to be a US Air Force Colonel, first

one to ever Command a USACE District. How about that! A Navy Seabee assigned to the Army who found himself with an Air Force sea daddy. This is what we call a Joint Unit or Purple Force.



Our little friends during a site visit.

Aside from the small anomalies, this has been the apex of my naval career as a CEC Officer and an unforgettable experience. Veni, Vidi, Vici'd. I came, I saw, but I didn't conquer. The Iraqi people and their culture have conquered me, especially the children. This tour has given me the opportunity to be responsible for the USACE reconstruction effort in 4 Southern Provinces of Iraq, an area 5 times the size of the state of New Jersey. This effort consisted in over 90 projects worth over \$550 millions, of all kinds of infrastructure developments and improvements such as Primary Schools, Hospitals, Water Treatment Facilities, Roads, Police Stations, Courthouses, Electrical Substations, Air Traffic Control Tower, etc...

I feel very lucky that I was part of this effort and I hope that my contributions help make Iraq what the Iraqis seem to aspire to be with the recent elections "Iraq, a friend and ally of the United States of America, standing up on the world stage as a free people". Iraq is known as the "cradle of civilization". Abraham's birthplace and the Great Ziggurat of Ur are only a few hundred yards away.

*Lt. Cmdr. Yves Reme
USACE Gulf Region South District
Deputy Officer in Charge, Adder Area Office*

Veni, Vidi, but Vici'd

I came, I saw, but I didn't conquer

By LCDR Yves M. Reme, CEC, USNR, Adder Area Office
Transatlantic Division, Gulf Region South District, Tallil, Iraq
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tour: 6/8/09—4/17/10



While I am here in Iraq, today, March 27, 2010, is my daughter's 20th birthday. She is no longer a teenager. She has entered the world of adulthood for ever. Soon, I will be departing Iraq after more 10 months in theater and almost a year on active duty as a Navy Reservist. As I begin to think of my readjustment to civilian life my daughter Anne-Isabelle was the first thing that came to my mind. I still can remember standing in the delivery room at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, VA, 20 years ago when that little joy arrived on this earth to join the rest of us. I am grateful to God that she turned out to be a grown and responsible young adult. Despite the little glitches, she has always made me a proud father. Happy Birthday Annie and many more blessed years.



BUILDING STRONG

Gulf Region South District . Public Affairs Office
Tallil, Iraq 09331
alicia.embrey@us.army.mil or 540-665-2656

FAREWELL FUN BRIGHTENS MORALE



**OHOHOHO
BABY..... We're going
to miss the fun!**



BUILDING STRONG®

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS GRS—SIX YEARS IN IRAQ GULF REGION SOUTH—A TIME IN HISTORY

ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

The legacy and the spirit of its men and women will live on.

Months before, and soon after the regime of Saddam Hussein fell in March 2003, Army Engineers – both military and civilian - were on the ground, first in Kuwait and later in Iraq, addressing engineering challenges in the troubled country. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) division and district employees deployed in Forward Engineering Support Teams (FEST) which operated throughout the entire theater to assess infrastructure, develop projects, and initiate contracts during the early days of reconstruction. USACE also deployed more soldiers and civilians that year, forming several provisional organizations, that begin rebuilding the country as the scope of damage and disrepair to Iraq's infrastructure became apparent.

In addition to the FEST, in February 2003 a task force of military and civilians from various Corps districts led by Brig. Gen. Robert Crear arrived in Kuwait to form Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (TF-RIO). The first-of-its-kind mission was to restore the oil production, oil refining and gas processing capability to pre-war levels for the benefit of the Iraqi people. The mission also in-

cluded humanitarian assistance. TF-RIO provided emergency supplies of gasoline, LPG and other petroleum products to distribution points operated by the Iraqi Ministry of Oil for use by the Iraqi people.

Exceeding their project goals, the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and TF RIO, working together, brought crude production up to over 2 million barrels per day by 2004.



Boots and Coats oil workers preparing to put out an oil well fire in southern Iraqi's Rumaila oil field, March 2003. (Photo by Alicia Embrey, March 2003)



Boots and Coats president Brian Krause and Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Crear. (Photo by Alicia Embrey, March 2003)

While Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil worked to rebuild Iraq's oil production infrastructure, CENTCOM turned to the Corps, who called upon Brig. Gen. Steven Hawkins to form the new Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF-RIE). During combat the country's electricity system completely col-



Camels grazing near an open oil pit in the Rumaila oil field, southern Iraq, March 2003. (Photo by Alicia Embrey, April 2003)



BUILDING STRONG®

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS GRS—SIX YEARS IN IRAQ GULF REGION SOUTH—A TIME IN HISTORY



Baghdad was one of the few cities across Iraq that had electrical service prior to the fall of Saddam. Within months of freeing the Iraqi people, power was redistributed to help build a fair and equitable national power system for Iraq and its future. (USACE Photo)

lapsed and there was an urgent need to repair this infrastructure and provide electricity to the Iraqi people.

By September 2003, the new Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF-RIE) which comprised of eighty engineers and specialists from around the Corps, was on the ground in Iraq, to pursue more than 40 separate new and rehabilitation generation, transmission, distribution and control system projects.

Their success was crucial in the effort to secure a new and functional government as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division activated Jan. 25, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq, with Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson commanding. Three districts (North, first in Mosul, now in Tikrit; South, initially in Basra, and later in Tallil; and Central in Baghdad) organized simultaneously with the Division headquarters. This move consolidated the different USACE activities operating in Iraq (Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil, Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity, Iraq Provisional Command and Forward Engineer Support Teams) under one command, creating a sustainable, supportable engineer presence.

Gulf Region South District (GRS) was initially established at the Basrah Airport and then later moved to Ali (Tallil) Base in September 2004. The District provided responsive construction related services to the Multi-National Forces-Iraq. The South District was initially established to manage projects to support reconstruction in the Karbala, Babil, Wasit, Maysan, An Najaf, Al Qadisiyah, Dhi Qar, Al Muthanna, and Al Basrah provinces, an area covering more than 65,000 square miles.

Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre and Command Sgt. Maj. Mitch Prater cased the Gulf Region Division colors on October 23, 2009, during an inactivation ceremony at the Al Faw Palace, Baghdad, Iraq. The ceremony was not just the end of the division—but the end of reconstruction efforts under combat operations and the beginning of reconstruction efforts under stability operations. The inactivation signaled the continuation of the USACE drawdown and melding of GRC, GRN and GRS into one enduring



Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre



Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre (left) and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Mitch Prater (right) prepare to case the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Division colors during an inactivation ceremony at Al Faw Palace, Baghdad, Iraq. (Photos by Mike Scheck)

ing district designated the Gulf Region District (GRD), under the newly formed Transatlantic Division.

As of October 1, 2009, prior to the Division's inactivation, the USACE Districts had completed nearly 5,300 projects valued at more than \$9 billion. In Fiscal Year 2009 alone, USACE engineers completed 325 projects valued at nearly



BUILDING STRONG®

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS GRS—SIX YEARS IN IRAQ GULF REGION SOUTH—A TIME IN HISTORY



Iraqi boy holds his hand up for toys given by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during a site visit. Gulf Region South District received donations from generous family members, co-workers and friend for distribution to the Iraqi People. (Photo by Alicia Embrey)

\$1 billion. These projects consisted of 41 school projects, 20 village road projects, 25 water distribution projects, 21 electric distribution projects, 12 police stations, seven court projects, two military command centers and nu-

merous other projects aimed at improving the infrastructure and providing vital services for the Iraqi people. ing winds of world and theater politics, which have resulted in office expansions, closures, relocations and leveling out. The current District strength is stable at 21 Military personnel, 54 DoD civilians, 99 Iraqi associates, 180 AEGIS security personnel and 100 life support personnel spread across two Area offices, five Resident Offices and one Project Office.

numerous other projects aimed at improving the infrastructure and providing vital services for the Iraqi people.

To date, the total value of GRS projects is \$3.9 billion with \$528 million in active and future projects. The District is also responsible for all Military Construction (MILCON) projects in Southern Iraq. GRS, with its team of U.S. military and civilian professionals, contract security personnel and Iraqi associates, provides engineering and construction management services by partnering with contractors tasked with increase infrastructure services in Iraq.



Lt. Borders looks over the scope of work for the Umm Qasr Waste Water Treatment Plant repair with Col. Knipel and Iraqi General Mofaquee. (Photo by Alicia Embrey)

Over the last six years GRS has been responsible for

placing over \$3.9 billion of construction contracts, comprised of 1,730 projects with over 7,000 new facilities. Some notable accomplishments include the \$266 million Nasiriyah Water Supply System, \$250 million in refurbishments and upgrades of regional power plants in Basrah, Nasiriyah and Al Amarah, the \$51 million Basrah Children's Hospital, the \$35 million Memona Location Command and more than 60 Public Health Clinics worth over \$80 million.



Hundreds of proud Iraqi's turned out for the Al Kidr Pedestrian Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The quality of life boost was the first construction in their community for 25 years. (Photo by Alicia Embrey)

At the peak of its program management responsibilities, the district employed 32 military, 115 Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, 144 Iraqi civilians, 320 AEGIS security personnel and 175 life support contractors. District personnel were located in four Area Offices, 11 Resident Offices and two Project offices. During this timeframe, GRS had contracts valued over \$1.8 billion.

Since that time, GRS has been in perpetual transition, ebbing and flowing with the chang-



Transition moves from transparent to visual as the Fluor crew removes the GRS emblem. (Photo by Mohammed Maarroof)



And replaces it with the GRD emblem. (Photo by Mohammed Maarroof)

The continuing nature of this transition process interestingly led to discussions as early as July 2006 about GRS converting to an Area Office in July 2007. However, it wasn't until the signing of the Iraqi Security Agreement in November 2008 that it became clear, the GRS transition was imminent.



BUILDING STRONG

TRANSFERRING TO GRD



MAJ Rafael Pazos
OIC
Southern Area Office



Pietro Mistretta
Office of Counsel
GRD Headquarters



Steven Zeltner
USF-I, J7
Baghdad



Richard Rupert
Program Analyst
GRD Headquarters



Robert Peel
Program Analyst
GRD Headquarters



Bernice Chavez
S1 Admin Support
Southern Area Office



MAJ Curtis Tait
Ops/Plans Officer
Southern Area Office



SFC Franklin Ascura
NCOIC
Southern Area Office



Mike Monte
USF-I, J7
Baghdad



LTC Randy Boswell
E&C/PM
Stationed in Tallil



Doug Plachy
Project Manager
GRD Headquarters



Joe Ebert
Project Manager
GRD Headquarters



Fred Schelby
Project Manager
GRD Headquarters



Robert Leitch
Project Manager
GRD Headquarters



Paul Fowler
IT Deputy
GRD Headquarters



Charles Major
IT Specialist
Southern Area Office



Jose Gonzalez
Logistics Specialist
Southern Area Office



SSG Ifeyinwa Danzey
Supply Sergeant
Southern Area Office



Solomon Curry
Transportation
Southern Area Office



Denice Quinn
Property Book Tech
Southern Area Office



Derrick Mitchell
Const. Support Spec.
GRD Headquarters



Michael Prinaris
Design Engineer
Stationed in Tallil



John "Nick" Evancko
Program Manager
Stationed in Tallil



LTC Nathan Joseph
OIC
Forat Resident Office



BUILDING STRONG®

TRANSFERRING TO GRD



William Kiddy
Resident Engineer
Forat Resident Office



CPT Grace Richards
Operations Officer/LNO
Forat Resident Office



CPT Christine Wolfe
OIC
Qadisiyah/Najaf



Larry Drane
Const. Rep.
Qadisiyah/Najaf



Paul Jacques
Project Engineer
Qadisiyah/Najaf



Michael Seibel
Const. Rep.
Qadisiyah/Najaf



MAJ Andrew Saiano
OIC
Wasit Project Office



Scott Weaver
Const. Rep.
Wasit Project Office



David Tindall
Const. Rep.
Wasit Project Office



Eric Fry
Project Engineer
Wasit Project Office



CAP Eleanor Gillis
OIC
Babil/Karbala Resident Office



Peter Cooper
Const. Rep.
Babil/Karbala Resident Office



Dorothy Ivey
Const. Rep.
Babil/Karbala Resident Office



MAJ Justin Tryee
OIC
Adder Resident Office



Theresa Esplain
Admin Assistant
Adder Resident Office



Doris Turner
Project Engineer
Adder Resident Office



Greg Croon
Project Engineer
Adder Resident Office



John Morgan
Const. Rep.
Adder Resident Office



Toni Graves
Const. Rep.
Adder Resident Office



Clinton Tubbs
Const. Rep.
Adder Resident Office



Tom Lavean
Project Engineer
Adder Resident Office



Loyd McClinton
Const. Rep.
Adder Resident Office



Patrick McLaughlan
Const. Rep.
Adder Resident Office



MAJ Gerald Himes
OIC
Basrah Resident Office



BUILDING STRONG®

TRANSFERRING TO GRD



1LT Maria Borders
Project Engineer
Basrah Resident Office



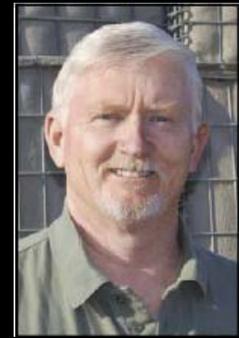
Dick Albert
Resident Engineer
Basrah Resident Office



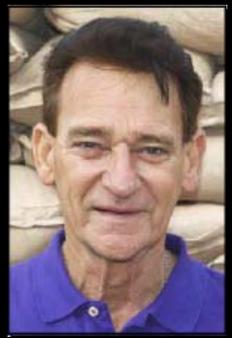
Pamela Mier
Admin Asst.
Basrah Resident Office



Tammy Johnson
IT Specialist
Basrah Resident Office



Gary Gatewood
Const. Rep.
Basrah Resident Office



Donald Plymel
Const. Rep.
Basrah Resident Office



Robert Jackson
Const. Rep.
Basrah Resident Office



Ryan Tan
Const. Rep.
Basrah Resident Office



Harry Friend
Const. Rep.
Basrah Resident Office



Charles Davis
Const. Rep.
Basrah Resident Office

Departing GRS Members



Kenny Burford
Const. Rep
Adder Area Office



MSG Jeff Jackson
NCOIC
Basrah Resident Office



Ceann Cupp
Chief Contracting Office
GRS Headquarters



Charlotte Cramer
Contracting Officer
GRS Headquarters



Deborah Boatwright
Logistics
GRS Headquarters



Norma Dean
Program Analyst
GRS Headquarters



BUILDING STRONG®

Departing GRS Members



Col. Jeffrey Knippel
Commander
GRS Headquarters



CSM Michael Sangren
Command Sgt. Major
GRS Headquarters



Linda Frey
Admin Asst.
Southern Area Office



Danny Wyatt
Safety Officer
GRS Headquarters



Marilyn Fleetwood
Human Resources/S1
GRS Headquarters



Alicia Embrey
Public Affairs Officer
GRS Headquarters



Dr. Larry Lang
Chief, E&C
GRS Headquarters



Doug Tripp
Engineer Tech
GRS Headquarters



Cheyenne Hollow Horn
Electrical Engineer
GRS Headquarters



Matt Horton
GIS Administrator
GRS Headquarters



Jason Terry
Project Controls
GRS Headquarters



Dustin Gilroy
Admin Assistant
GRS Headquarters



Roberta Williams
Admin Assistant
Forat Area Office



William Wilkinson
IT Specialist
Forat Area Office



CDR Darren Plath
Officer in Charge
Adder Area Office



LCDR Yves Reme
Deputy Officer in Charge
Adder Area Office



SSG Tiacka Johnson
NCOIC
Adder Area Office



**Senior Airman
Timothy Russell**
S1 NCOIC
GRS Headquarters

*Old Friends Will Never Be Forgotten—
Until We Meet Again!*



BUILDING STRONG®