



# NEWS



March 2010

Building Strong®



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

### WHAT'S INSIDE



*GRS and Aegis build relationship with local Iraqi dignitaries.*



*SECAF visits New Flight Tower*



*GRS MEDVAC Training*

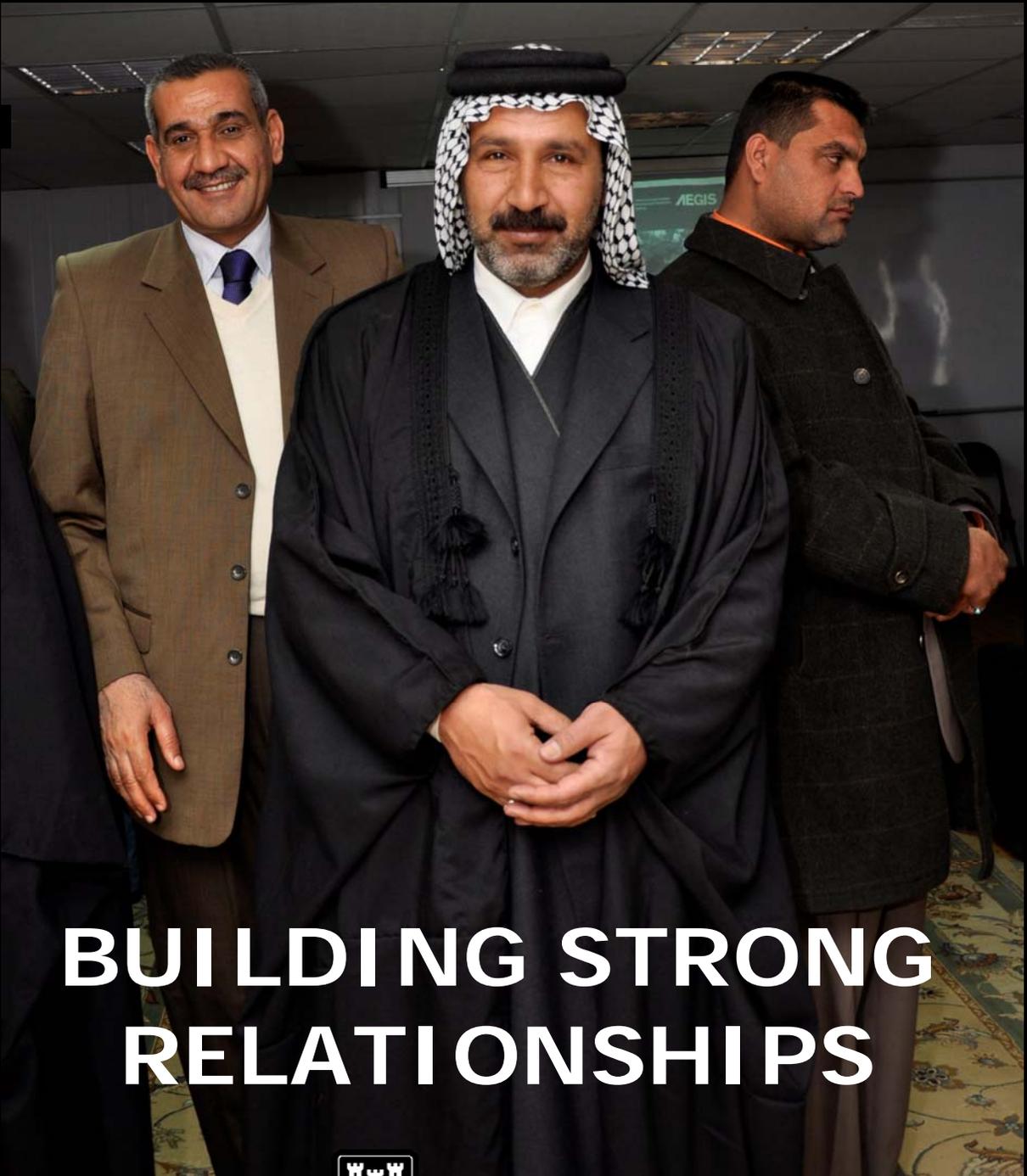


*Filling the port at Umm Qasr*



*GRD visits GRS*

*Site visits—team involvement*



# BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMANDER'S COLUMN TRANSITION TO GULF REGION DISTRICT

## *Winds of Change* sweep across GRS

After almost 6 -1/2 years of outstanding accomplishments that we can be truly proud of, the Gulf Region South (GRS) District staff will transfer responsibilities on 29 March 2010 to the Gulf Region District (GRD) as part of the continuing U.S. Forces-Iraq responsible draw-down. Though this change ends a period marked by exemplary achievement earned through the blood, sweat and tears of many, it will be a seamless change whose time has come. However, those left behind have an obligation to carry on the GRS legacy to the end and complete the remaining work with the same zeal and excellence.

The South Region District has been shaped by continuing change and evolution since its inception, driven by the influences of foreign policy and Iraq's contingency environment.

The District stood up on 5 Jan 2004 at Camp Black Adder, Basrah Airfield, however, due to increasing workloads and a need for centralization within the area of responsibility, GRS Headquarters moved to Tallil, Air Base in December 2004 where it is currently located. Over the last 6 years GRS has been responsible for placing over \$3.9 billion of construction, comprised of 1,730 projects with over 7,000 new facilities. Some notable efforts over these years include the \$266 million Nasiriyah Water Supply System, \$250 million in refurbishments and upgrades of regional power plants in Basrah, Nasiriyah and Al Amarah, a \$51 million Basrah Children's Hospital, a \$35 million Memona Location Command, more than 60 Public Health Clinics worth over \$80 million, and the list goes on and on.

At the apex of its program, the district employed 32 military, 115 Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, 144 Iraqi civilians, 320 AEGIS security personnel, and 175 life support contractors, located throughout 4 Area

Offices, 11 Resident Offices and 2 Project offices. Also, during this time GRS had contracts valued over \$1.8 billion (365 projects) on the street compared to today's \$540 million (116 projects).

Since that time, GRS has been in perpetual transition, ebbing and flowing with the changing winds of world and theater politics, resulting in office expansions, closures, relocations and ending with a current strength of 21 Military, 54 DoD civilians, 99 Iraqi civilians, 180 AEGIS security personnel and 100 life support personnel spread across 2 Area offices, 5 Resident Offices and 1 Project Office. The continuing nature of this transition process interestingly led to discussions in July 2006 about GRS converting to an Area Office as early as 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.

Planning and execution for the impending transition into GRD started in February 2009 and will culminate in an effort that provides a full and seamless transition into GRD. From the



Col. Jeffrey Knippel



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The ability to reduce adverse personnel actions was aided by the unique use of the civilian award system which allows management to financially award those who save the government money by extending their tours for short periods of time without resetting. As a result, all of the GRS Headquarters' staff whose tours ended prior to the transition, but yet were needed until the transition date, volunteered to extend their tours without resetting. This was monumental as it both eliminated the need to hire numerous personnel only then to turn around to curtail them and it also eliminated large personnel gaps due to resetting and new hire transitions.

*Col. Jeffrey Knippel and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren pass out soccer balls during a good will mission.*

start, the foundational premise of this plan was to minimize adverse personnel actions and to ensure a seamless transfer of responsibilities while accomplishing the mission. Initial planning focused on relationships to the Gulf Region Division's stand-down, the impact of the Gulf Region North's transition into Gulf Region District, defining the end state of Gulf Region District as the single remaining district in the area of responsibility, and predicting the general date for the GRS transition.

In October 2009, Col Dan Anninos, the GRD commander, visited GRS and an overall agreement was reached with respect to the structure of the transition. These guidelines were then used by the districts' staff offices to develop detailed plans. Workload and placement predictions were the primary drivers used to determine that the end of March 2010 would be the best date for the GRS transition. In addition, from a command and control perspective, this date was favorable as it also allowed time for GRD to operate as the sole remaining district for several months, allowing any unforeseen transitional issues to be worked out, before the new incoming GRD commander arrived in early July 2010.



*Construction Representative Toni Graves and Kenny Burford discuss construction methods during a site visit.*

In order to ensure the seamless transition, the GRS Resource Management Officer relocated to Baghdad in January 2010 to take over as the new overall GRD Resource Management Officer for the USACE Operations in Iraq. This allowed for budget consolidation to start early and provided time to transfer key financial processes prior to the actual transition.

As a final phase, GRD command and staff leaders met with the GRS staff in February 2010 to conclude specific plans which culminated in a final approved plan by both the GRD and the GRS commanders. Although some minor tribulations are expected to arise as a result of the transfer, because of the diligent planning by both the GRD and GRS teams, the transition will be relatively seamless to staff personnel and transparent to field personnel. However, as seamless as the transition will be, 29 March will be observed by



*Basrah Children's Hospital*



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMANDER'S COLUMN TRANSITION TO GULF REGION DISTRICT



*Corps Iraqi Engineers show Linda Frey a computerized rendition of the Basrah Children's Hospital.*

new Area Office will have a total of \$245 million in construction placement in order to finish its entire program.

Workload and project placement in the Forat Resident Office will reduce rapidly over the next four months. In fact, actions are now underway to close the Forat Resident Office at FOB Kalsu and relocate operations by 1 May 2010 and to manage the remaining projects in the 5 northern provinces from the Camp Echo location/office.

The Adder Resident Office, with its major MILCON projects on Tallil and several other small facility projects in the local provinces, will stay strong until late fall 2010.

those remaining field personnel as the beginning of the final lap and not the end of the race.

While the GRS Headquarters is going away, the field offices are not and the new GRD Southern Area Office has the task of aggressively pushing the remaining projects across the finish line prior to the scheduled departure of US Forces from Iraq in December 2011. The GRD Southern Area Office (SAO) will start with about 160 field personnel spread throughout 3 resident offices located in Tallil, Basrah and Echo. SAO will have an average placement of about \$20 million per month over the next several months. The



*Richard Rupert watches as Flour workmen remove the old GRS sign.*

Finally, the Basrah resident office which is being fueled by a significant build-up at the Umm Qasr Naval Facility, as well as several other small projects, will

remain very active into early 2011.

Overall, these programs will need continued strong vigilance, especially the smaller projects



*GRS Town Hall to discuss the transition.*



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMANDER'S COLUMN TRANSITION TO GULF REGION DISTRICT

like water compact units, as they cross into that last 15 percent of construction that we call the "red zone." With a deadline looming and financial leverage decreasing these will be the most challenging projects of all to successfully complete, but there is no doubt that with continued team work, enthusiasm, and "git 'er dun" attitude that has been prevalent in those who choose to serve here... it will happen!

So though GRS is fading into the history books, its legacy and the spirit of its men and women will live on. GRS has accomplished many great things during its tenure, has prepared for a

graceful exit, and leaves a competent team of field personnel to finish the job. Only time will tell if GRS effort's served their purpose or if they were in vain, however I can tell you now, they have not been in vanity, but in humility, hope, and in the foundation of truth that all are created equal and are endowed with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...and of all the foundations that GRS laid during

its tenure, it is this one that I believe will leave the most indelible mark on the hearts of the Iraqi people.



*Gulf Region South District have a little fun during the last GRS 2010 team photo.*



*2010 Gulf Region South District Farewell Photo.*



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMAND SGT. MAJ'S COLUMN HISTORIC MISSION ABOUT PEOPLE

## ANOTHER CHAPTER IN *History*

We in Gulf Region South (GRS) are preparing to close a chapter in history. Six years ago this chapter started when the US Army Corps of Engineers stood up GRS. Those who preceded us started writing the chapter with projects they planned, started, completed and terminated.

This has been a history rich with accomplishments. First and foremost every project that has been initiated will leave a lasting legacy for the people of Iraq. All the projects we have built have helped to increase the quality of life in southern Iraq. Secondly, we nurtured capacity development during the construction of our projects and this effort will pay dividends for Iraq well into the future.

We have worked with, trained, and mentored Iraqi construction firms in construction management practices,



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren



During project briefing Col. Jeffrey Knipfel with the aid of a project board discusses the challenges ahead to Maj. Gen. Bo Temple while Andrew Constantaras, Steve Zeltner and Master Sgt. Jeffrey Jackson listen.

quality control and safety. This has flowed down to literally thousands of Iraqi construction workers who now know what good construction is. This base of skilled workers will continue to build quality projects after we leave Iraq.

All of this was accomplished through the hard work and dedication of hundreds of people who have called GRS home for a time in their lives. People who served in GRS were a very diverse group of people. A large portion came from USACE districts across the USA, personnel who volunteered to leave the safety and security of their "normal" jobs, to come to a strange and often dangerous place, to make a difference. We also had Schedule A's, Reimbursable detailee's from other government agencies, and contractors, as civilian partners.

The GRS employees not only took a break from their normal lives, but also joined a new organization, just to help make a difference. On the Military side, we have had active duty Army, Air Force, and Navy officers, NCO's, and mobilized Army reserve personnel filling positions. A large portion of our success can be attributed to our Iraqi Engineers. These Engineering profes-



NAVFAC employee Victor Aquino (a reimbursable detail from the Navy) gives lolly pops to a young Iraqi during a site visit to a nearby water treatment plant.



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—COMMAND SGT. MAJ'S COLUMN HISTORIC MISSION ABOUT PEOPLE



*Maj. Melanie Dugar listens to valuable advice from an Aegis member during a ribbon cutting ceremony.*

group, whose members include, South African, Australian, Irish, and a few other United Kingdom groups.

They can have long conversations in English, but I have not a clue as to what they were saying. However, they were absolutely first class in protective service, and when you look at the big picture, we have civilians who spend more time outside-the-wire than many Soldiers do. Their contribution to our mission cannot be overlooked. When you look at all the factors, what you see emerge is a unique district.

As we approach the day when GRS discontinues, the colors furled and cased, this chapter in the GRS history will come to a close. However

sionals were the bridge between our technical experts and the Iraqi contractors. They were on-site every day, inspecting, checking, reporting, and communicating.

They were and will continue to be a vital link in our construction management success in here in Iraq. One very important group that I cannot forget is AEGIS, the lads (& lasses) who provided our personnel security when we went outside-the-wire, and their brothers, the Reconstruction Liaison Teams. Comprised mostly of former British Soldiers, they also were a very diverse



*Iraqis show they are pleased with a new pedestrian bridge at Kufa, Iraq.*

as with any history, as one chapter closes another opens. To all who have called GRS home, take pride in what you have accomplished, for it has truly been historic. You have made your mark, weather in a supporting role, or going outside-the-wire, what you have personally accomplished is in the history book. I personally thank all of you for your

dedication, commitment, and selfless service to make the world just a little bit better place to live.



*Aegis members during a training exercise.*



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# AEGIS/GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—IRAQI LEADERS ENGAGEMENT SOUTHERN IRAQ'S ELITE MEET AEGIS/GRS



## Key Leaders Engagement helps build a strong foundation of friendship

What does it take to make a friend? A smile? A kind gesture? Extending a hand in friendship and trust? Taking time to get to know each other?

About 30 local Iraqi leaders representing tribes, military, police and the governances joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and AEGIS representatives for a Key Leaders Engagement in the spirit of building a strong foundation of friendship February 6 at Camp Mitica, Iraq—part of COB Adder, Tallil, Iraq.



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# AEGIS/GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—IRAQI LEADERS ENGAGEMENT SOUTHERN IRAQ'S ELITE MEET AEGIS/GRS

According to Col. Jeffry Knippel, commander USACE Gulf Region South District, meetings with the Iraqi people are important to develop working relationships. "Key Leader Engagements play a critical role in forging strong friendships."

Unlike the fast-paced society in America, Iraqis place a high premium by placing hospitality first. Iraqis always take the time to get to know you and exchange in polite conversation and refreshments before business. Communication takes time and is worth the effort. "Communication is the essential underlining objective of such engagements. The strength of any relationship is based on the ability to trust, understand and respect each other. By sharing our viewpoints, our challenges and our overall purpose face-to-face



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# AEGIS/GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—IRAQI LEADERS ENGAGEMENT SOUTHERN IRAQ'S ELITE MEET AEGIS/GRS

we have a chance to not just hear words but see expressions, read body language, and form bonds with real people," Col. Knippel explained.

Knippel pointed out that many times we discover that we share similar frustrations that not much can be done about, but just being able to discuss and share can make it better.

"One thing is always clear at these meetings and that is what we think we have communicated through our standard Information Operation campaign, contractor training, and other communication methods is not what is always being received," Col. Knippel said.

He explained that the numerous questions, misconceptions and confusion that are brought to light during these meetings clearly indicate the need to keep a strong focus on our communica-

tion to the outside world. So, GRS will continue to listen, adjust, speak and use the various assets in its communication portfolio, such as these key leader engagements to get the message out and build the trust, understanding and respect with our Iraqi brothers and sisters that we need for a successful mission.



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# SECAF VISITS NEW FLIGHT TOWER



Construction of the \$61 million Combat Aviation Brigade Beddown project located on Ali Air Base was completed March 2010.



Maj. Melanie Dugar, Adder Resident Office –Officer in Charge welcomes SECAF Michael B. Donley during the brief visit.



Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Davis with the 407th EOSS briefing Donley.



Gulf Region South District commander Col. Jeffrey Knippel takes his place as the SECAF arrives.



Maj. Melanie Dugar and Senior Airman Timothy Russell prepare for the SECAF to arrive.



Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley

## SECAF visits New Tower

Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF) Michael B. Donley visited the New Flight Tower January 31 during a stop at Ali Air Base, Tallil, Iraq.

Construction of the \$61 million Combat Aviation Brigade Beddown project located on Ali Air Base was completed 05 March 2010. The base, also known as Contingency

Operating Base Adder and Tallil Air Base is located about 310 kilometers southeast of Baghdad and 20 kilometers southwest of the city of Nasiriyah.

The four phase project involved construction of a nine-story Air Traffic Control Tower and over 75



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ADDER RESIDENT OFFICE—VIP VISIT

# SECAF VISITS NEW FLIGHT TOWER

acres of contingency airfield parking for rotary and medium load fixed wing aircraft along with supporting utilities and infrastructure.

The additional helo pavements at Ali will provide a quicker reaction time for missions in southern Iraq. If launched from Baghdad support could take up to two-hours per mission.

The existing air traffic control tower was constructed 20 years ago to meet the needs of Iraq's military. The tower controls the airspace up to 3000 feet over a five mile radius centered in the middle of the airfield. Within that airspace they are responsible for separating, sequencing and issuing safety alerts to all aircraft.

In addition to the pads and tower the base lacked sufficient transient parking to support the nearly 100% increase of personnel and cargo flowing through this critical location.



Army and Air Force representatives salute as Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley arrives at the new flight tower on Ali Airbase, Tallil, Iraq.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



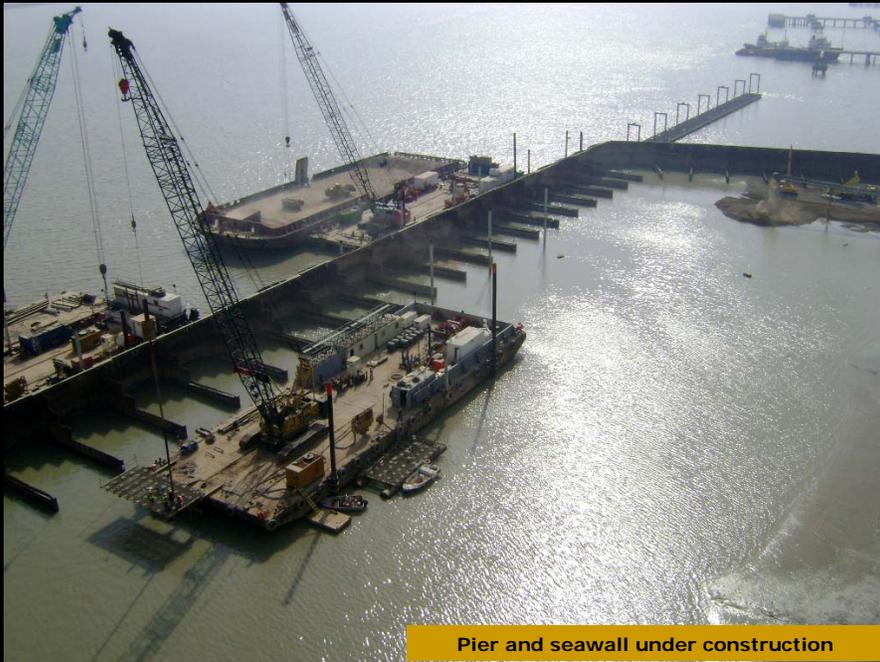
## CONGRATULATIONS

February Birthday well wishes go to Maj. Pazos, Harry Friend, Bernice Chavez, Alicia Embrey, Solomon Curry, Peter Cooper and Kenny Burford.



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# UMM QASR PIER AND SEAWALL



Pier and seawall under construction

## Building a strong foundation for the Umm Qasr Pier and Seawall

Building a strong foundation can take many forms. At Umm Qasr a strong foundation is needed to construct the pier and seawall.

Currently fill dirt is slowly being added to what will become the new shoreline at the pier and seawall.

The Basrah Province facility will provide state-of-the-art berthing capability for the Iraqi Navy and support patrol vessels charged with securing the vital port infrastructure and seaways in Iraq's territorial waters.

The project includes about 370 meters of Open-Cell® sheetpile. The award winning Open-Cell® sheetpile system designed by PND Engineers includes a sheetpile seawall pier and a floating pier which will provide additional berths to support new ships ordered by the Iraqi Navy.



Andrew Constantaras, Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox, Col. Jeffrey Knippel and John Snelgrove reviewing the schedule of work.



Conceptual rendering

Conceptual rendering



Placing of fill between the seawall and shore.

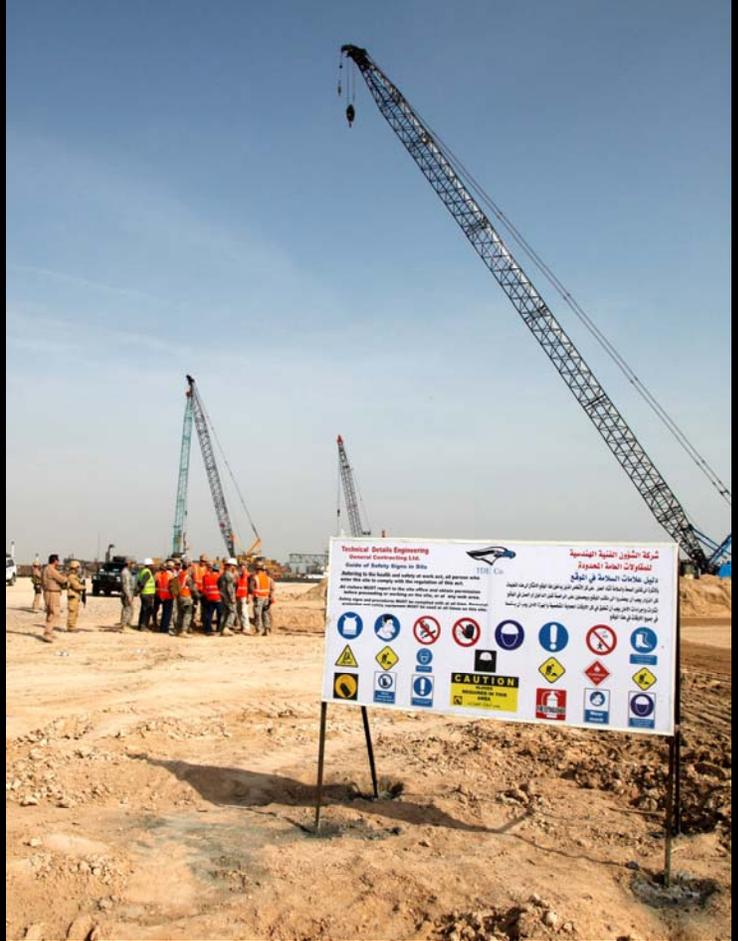


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# UMM QASR PIER AND SEAWALL



CCI representative John Snelgrove describes the steps needed to complete the pier and seawall on time.



Safety board on the project.

Both the sheetpile pier and floating pier will provide state-of-the-art lighting, water, electrical, and fuel services for the vessels.

The project incorporates the latest marine technology to support the Iraqi fleet that is charged with protecting Iraq's oil infrastructure, critical to the nation's economic growth and development.

According to CCI representative John Snelgrove the project is on target for completion by June 2010.



Large vessel passing near the pier and seawall project.



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## BASRAH RESIDENT OFFICE—SITE VISIT

# UMM QASR PIER AND SEAWALL



*Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox and Lt. Maria Borders discuss the project as guests watch ships pass by.*



*GRS visitors gather for the site tour of the Umm Qasr Pier and Seawall.*

Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, director of U.S. Forces-Iraq J7, U.S. Navy Capt. Craig Fulton, the United States Forces-Iraq J7 chief, of Engineering and Project Management Division, Andrew Constantaras, programs director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division Senior Executive Service, Air Force Col. Jeffry Knippel, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South District, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren of GRS, Maj. Gerald Himes, Officer in Charge of the GRS Basrah Resident Office, Lt. Maria Borders, project engineer with Basrah Resident Office; Capt. Jennifer Brown and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Peter Prosek both with J7, viewed construction progress during a February 16 site visit to the \$45 million pier and seawall project at Umm Qasr.



*Brig. Gen. Cox, Andrew Constantaras, Navy Capt. Fulton listen as Col. Jeffry Knippel describes some features of the project being used by the contractor.*



*Brig. Gen. Cox discusses construction methods with his team.*



*Col. Jeffry Knippel looking over the project site to look over the project.*



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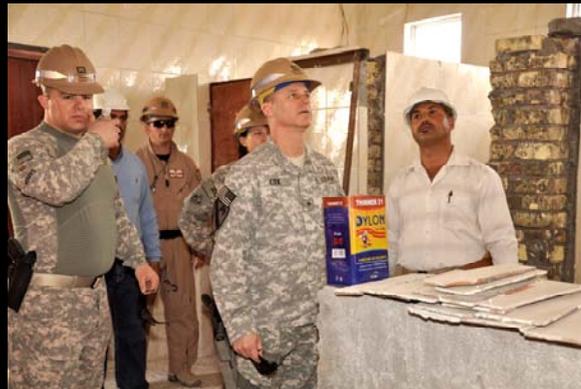
# IRAQ NAVY BARRACKS CONSTRUCTION

## Umm Qasr Barracks nearing completion

Construction of the \$5.7 million barracks project that will house 800 sailors at the Umm Qasr Naval Base in Basrah Province, Iraq is nearing completion.



*Iraqi labors cleaning up the outside of barracks three.*



*Maj. Gerald Himes and Brig. Gen. Cox looking over construction progress in a latrine building at the barracks project.*

The work consists of demolishing existing structures, debris removal, constructing four (two story) barracks, and four latrine buildings with connections to existing water and sewer lines.



*GRS guests tour the outside of the Iraqi Navy Barracks project at Umm Qasr.*



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# IRAQ NAVY BARRACKS CONSTRUCTION



*Iraqi electrician installing a control panel.*



*Iraqi laborer mixing plaster for the inside walls.*



*Iraqi labor making sure the window is level and square.*



*Navy Capt. Fulton takes a look from the top of barracks one.*

The four new barracks will be ready to occupy by late summer 2010.

Visitors during the Feb 17 site visit included Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, director of U.S. Forces-Iraq J7, U.S. Navy Capt. Craig Fulton, the United States Forces -Iraq J7, chief of engineering and Project Management Division, Andrew Constantaras (SES), programs director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, Air Force Col. Jeffry Knippel, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South District, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren of GRS, Maj. Gerald Himes, Officer in Charge of the GRS Basrah Residence Office, Lt. Maria Borders, project engineer with Basrah Resident Office; Capt. Jennifer Brown and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Peter Prosek with J7.



*Iraqi project manager discusses progress of the project with Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox and guests.*



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# BASRAH PRISION SITE VISIT



*Brig. Gen. Kendall Cox and Maj. Gerald Himes walk along the perimeter of the renovated facility during the February 17 site visit.*



*Maj. Gerald Himes looks over a site map with Iraqi engineers working at the renovated facility.*



*Maj. Gerald Himes and Iraqi Engineers discuss bunk beds the contractor is building for the minimum to high security facility.*

## Former Fedayeen military barracks has new purpose

Basrah, Iraq –A former military facility and training camp for Fedayeen Saddam, a paramilitary organization formerly loyal to the Ba’athist government and Saddam Hussein, will take on a beneficial use for the people of Basrah, Iraq.

According to U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Gulf Region South District construction representative Gary Gatewood located at the Basrah Resident Office, the site is getting a complete renovation to include sewage system to high security reinforced perimeter prison walls.



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# BASRAH PRISION SITE VISIT



*Maj. Gerald Himes explains the layout and future use of the compound.*

**"To help alleviate the congested Iraqi prison system, the \$9 million renovation of a former military facility and training camp for Fedayeen is taking place in Basrah, Iraq,"** said Gatewood.

**"The project includes renovating existing buildings for a minimum to high security prison complex holding approximately 1,200 to 1,500 inmates. The compound contains approximately 32,400 square meters of area inside the perimeter walls and consists of 29 buildings (7,047sq. meters),"** Gatewood explained.

**"In addition to the inmate holding buildings there will be a visitors' center, reception building, medical building, administra-**



*Iraqi labors placing steel manhole covers over infrastructure outlets.*



*Col. Jeffry Knippel discusses the construction progress and scheduled completion. Currently the project is expected to be completed by May 2010. Turn over of the facility to the Iraqi Ministry of Justice will take place once the USACE approves the faculty.*

**tion building, staff building, kitchen, and a recreation yard,"** Gatewood added.

**The new southern Iraq prison is expected to be completed in May 2010 and will be the main prison holding center for the southern provinces under the control of the Ministry of Justice.**

**Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox the J7 director of U.S. Forces-Iraq and guests viewed ongoing renovation at the \$9 million Basrah Central Prison during a February 17 site visit. Other guests present during the site visit included U.S. Navy Capt. Craig Fulton, the United States Forces-Iraq J7, chief of engineering**

**and Project Management Division, Andrew Constantaras (SES), programs director for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Division, Air Force Col. Jeffry Knippel, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region South District, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren of GRS, Maj. Gerald Himes, Officer in Charge of the Basrah Resident Office, Capt. Jennifer Brown and U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Peter Prosek both with J7.**



*Eastside of the former Iraqi military facility in Basrah, Iraq.*



**BUILDING STRONG**®

# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT PREPARES FOR CHANGES GULF REGION DISTRICT LOOKS SOUTH



**FIRST STOP  
FORAT AREA OFFICE**

*GRD deputy commander Lt. Col. Richard Pratt and Forat Area Engineer Bill Kiddy during the District's visit to meet the employees at Kalsu.*



*GRD deputy commander Lt. Col. Richard Pratt and Babil Resident Office Constr. Rep. Dorothy Ivey stop to chat during the visit to Kalsu.*

## Gulf Region District visits the South

Changes are on the way for Gulf Region South District. In preparation for the Discontinuance of the south district, Gulf Region District visited GRS offices in Forat, Echo, Tallil and Basrah as well as projects throughout the district.

Military and Civilians from Gulf Region District also visited their counterparts in the south this week. Clear and open communication between each district is vital to a smooth transition.

During the visit GRD deputy commander Lt. Col. Richard Pratt, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregg Phillips and Larry Petrosino visited GRS offices and projects in Forat, Qadisiyah/Najaf, Tallil and Basrah.



*Forat Area Office briefs Gulf Region District representative on the mission and projects in their Area of Operation.*

Gulf Region Division visitors included Lt. Col. Richard Pratt, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregg Phillips, Larry Petrosino, Frank Fedele, Desmond Brumsfield, Leai Toele from Logistics Management, Maj. Brian Ketz, Capt. Charlotte Smart-McGee and Scott Harris.

Gulf Region South District will blend into Gulf



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT PREPARES FOR CHANGES GULF REGION DISTRICT LOOKS SOUTH



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT PREPARES FOR CHANGES GULF REGION DISTRICT LOOKS SOUTH



THIRD STOP  
GULF REION SOUTH DISTRICT  
HEADQUATERS

During the site visit at Gulf Region South District, the district office chiefs brief Gulf Region District Deputy commander Lt. Col. Richard Pratt and Larry Petrosino on their missions and transition plans.



During the visit Gulf Region District Command Sgt. Maj. Gregg Phillips, Larry Petrosino, Maj. Justin Tyree, Lt. Col. Richard Pratt and Maj. Pete Pazos receive a site tour of ongoing project on Ali Air Base by construction representative John Morgan.



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT PREPARES FOR CHANGES GULF REGION DISTRICT LOOKS SOUTH



LAST STOP  
BASRAH RESIDENT OFFICE

Last stop on GRD's tour of the south district was at the Basrah Resident Office. Our guests viewed the Basrah Prison, Basrah Children's Hospital and Umm Qasr projects.



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—MEDEVAC TRAINING TRAINING AND PRACTICE = PERFORMANCE



*Photo back – left to right – Sgt. First Class Luck, Sgt Todd, Patrick “Mac” McLaughlan, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Matt Horton and Kenny Burford. Front – left to right – Spc. Kim Gray, Ceann Cupp, Linda Frey, Theresa Esplain, Bernice Chavez, Marilyn Fleetwood, Mike Monte and Charlotte Cramer.*

## Soldiers and Civilians receive MEDEVAC Training

### Training and practice relates to performance

Eleven Soldiers and Civilians from Gulf Region South District used their precious free time to learn basic Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) skills from members of Charlie MEDEVAC Company, 3-238 Aviation Regiment, a split unit from Michigan and New Hampshire.

Flight medic Spc. Kim Gray from Michigan with the help of flight medics Sgt. Todd and Sgt. First Class Luck from Hew Hampshire led the two-hour MEDEVAC training.

According to Spc. Gray the class is divided into three phases called the crawl, walk, run phases. The team started out with the crawl phase leaning basic safety when around a helicopter, then the walk phase that involved preparing a simulated casualty for loading and unloading on a UH-60 helicopter.

Phase three involves practicing the previously learned skills with the helicopter operating and will occur at a date to be determined.



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—MEDEVAC TRAINING

## TRAINING AND PRACTICE = PERFORMANCE

When asked why he attended the training, Kenny Burford a construction representative for Gulf Region South, said its simple; training and practice, relates to performance. "My thought regarding the training was simple, living and working in Iraq, I never know what I am going to encounter. Because my mission takes me outside the wire, I realize, I might be put in the situation where I have to help load someone on to a MEDEVAC helicopter and because of that I want to be prepared,"



*Spc. Gray explains the medical equipment in the Blackhawk to trainees during the two-hour course.*



*Sgt. Todd and Spc. Gray gather needed supplies for the trainees to examine.*



*Spc. Kim Gray explains the safety procedures necessary when approving or exiting a Blackhawk.*



*Matt Horton, Mike Monte and Kenny Burford watch as Sgt. Todd shows how to use a florescent light for signaling.*



*Getting the helicopter's attention is important. Sgt. Todd and Spc. Gray explain the use of material and color.*



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—MEDEVAC TRAINING

## TRAINING AND PRACTICE = PERFORMANCE



*Exit—Stage right! Spc. Gray shows Bernice Chavez, Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren, Patrick McLaughlan and Mike Monte the proper way to move away from a helicopter after you have loaded wounded individuals.*

said Burford. "I believe that training and practice relates to performance."

"This is not something you want to have to learn when your life is on the line," said Patrick "Mac" McLaughlan, a construction representative with GRS. "While I am intimately familiar with the sound of gunfire I can see it being a big shock to some people. Just having that realization of what is happening and knowing what the proper course of action is could save someone's life."

"Just learning how my weight distribution changes while trying to lift a litter while wearing the Individual Body Armor (IBA) and all was a good experience. It's not as easy as it looks and I can see someone falling over face first if they did it without having done it before. Of course there's always something good to be said for learning where to enter/exit the Blackhawk so you don't get your face burned off by the jet exhaust. It was a good experience, interesting and practical. Even though I've been in and around military aircraft, vehicles and personnel for a long time it's invaluable to get the familiarization in a low-stress environment. You do NOT want to have to figure all this out in a real life situation," McLaughlan added.

For Marilyn Fleetwood, chief of GRS's Human Resources Department, and Ceann Cupp, chief of GRS's



*Spc. Gray encourages the trainees to take a look inside the helicopter.*

Contracting Division, the training will leave a lasting impression that they will carry with them to their next deployments." "I want to learn as much about these procedures as I can here in Iraq because I plan on going to Afghanistan next and I want to be as prepared as I can be just in case I ever do have to step up and help if the situation arises," said Fleetwood. "It's unbelievable how much I learned in just a few hours. I had no idea how little room there is inside for the wounded and the crew."

"I wanted to see firsthand what inside of the helicopter looked like and how the medics were able to attend to patients once airborne," said Cupp. "I had



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—MEDEVAC TRAINING TRAINING AND PRACTICE = PERFORMANCE



*Patrick McLaughlan, Matt Horton and Kenny Burford prepare to lift Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren on a litter prior to loading on the blackhawk.*



*Head first the team loads Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren into the bed of the Blackhawk.*



*Patrick McLaughlan and Mike Monte carefully guide the litter on to track that keep the litter secure during loading.*

no idea the space inside was so cramped and how hard it would be to attend to a casualty."



*Linda Frey, Bernice Chavez and Theresa Esplain watch as Spc. Gray secures Marilyn Fleetwood to a litter for loading on the Blackhawk.*

Although we are drawing down forces in Iraq, all that attended the training agreed, it is value added. "I am not sure at this point whether I will be able to complete the final step of the training program, based upon my departure date. But either way I feel like what I have already learned is beneficial," Burford said.

Those attending the two-hour training were Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Kenny Burford, Ceann Cupp, Patrick McLaughlan, Linda Frey, Theresa Esplain, Bernice Chavez, Marilyn Fleetwood, Matt Horton, Mike Monte and Charlotte Cramer.



*Safely loaded Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren gives the team a thumbs up for a job well done.*



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GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT

# VALENTINE GIFTS FROM THE HEART



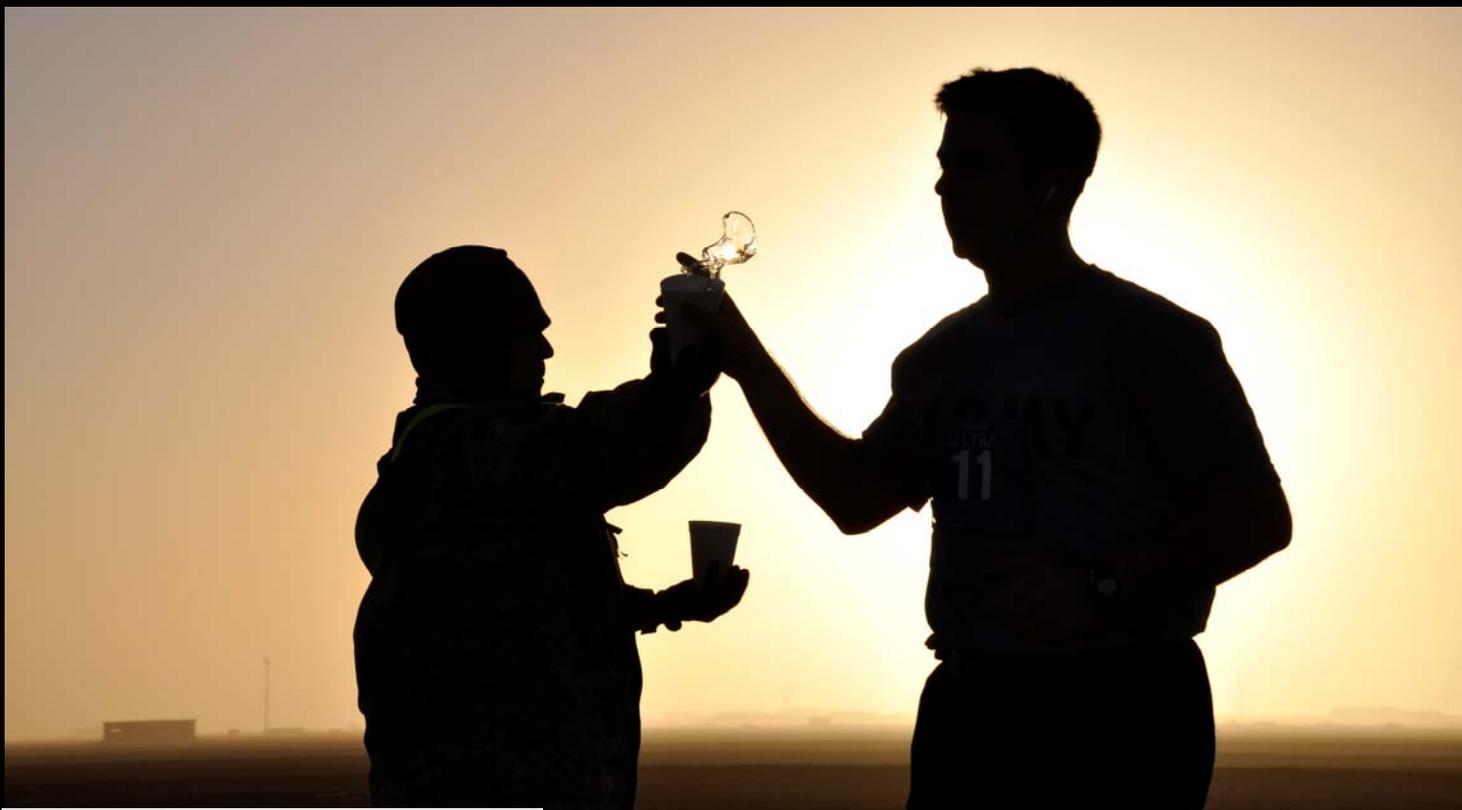
*Gulf Region South District Soldiers and Civilians recently received Valentine Well Wishes from the children at Trinity Christian Academy in Massachusetts.*

# THANK YOU Trinity Christian Academy



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# HALF MARATHON DRAWS OVER 500



## GRS runners places first and second in their ages groups

Elite and novice runners gathered at 0500 hrs in front of the House of Pain February 27 to join in the First International Michelob Ultra IRAQ Half Marathon and Spira Half Marathon.



Cmdr. Darren Plath turning the corner at mile marker four.



Over 500 lineup at Ali Air Base to participate in the El Paso Half Marathon in Tallil, Iraq.



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—PERSONAL TIME

## HALF MARATHON DRAWS OVER 500



Staff Sgt. Tiakka Johnson took first place in the 25-29 age group and Maj. Curtis Tait placed second in the masters age group!



Maj. Curtis Tait

Gulf Region South District's Col. Jeffry Knippel, Cmdr. Darren Plath, Maj. Curtis Tait, Dr. Larry Lang, Mike Monte and Staff Sgt. Tiakka Johnson participated with over 500 runners and walkers.



Col. Jeffry Knippel

GRS participants back row Dr. Larry Lang, Cmdr. Darren Plath, Col. Jeffry Knippel and Staff Sgt. Tiakka Johnson. Front row Maj. Curtis Tait and Mike Monte.



Mike Monte and Staff Sgt. Tiakka Johnson crossing the finish line.



Soldiers ready to pass water to thirsty runners at mile marker nine.



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GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT—PERSONAL TIME

# HALF MARATHON DRAWS OVER 500



*Cmdr. Darren Plath crossing the finish line!*



*Maj. Curtis Tait and Mike Monte enjoying a little fresh OJ. Nice Smiles!*



*Staff Sgt. Tiakka Johnson all smiles after the run!*



*Mike Monte and Maj. Curtis Tait replacing carbs after the run.*



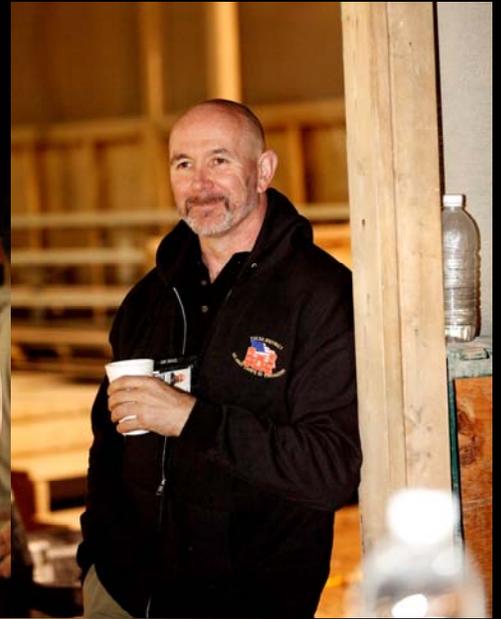
*After the run the group gathers for a little runners' camaraderie.*



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SOFTBALL SCRIMMAGE—TALLIL, IRAQ

# BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



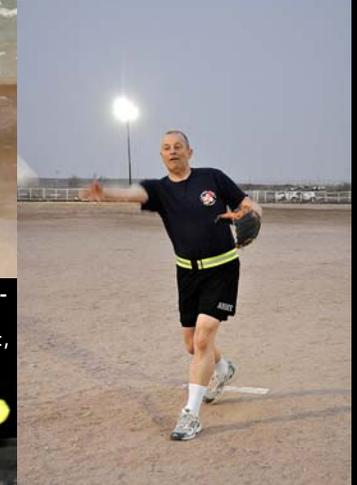
## SOFTBALL SEASON BEGINS!



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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT SOFTBALL –TALLIL, IRAQ

## SANDCASTLES BEAT REAPERS 39-01

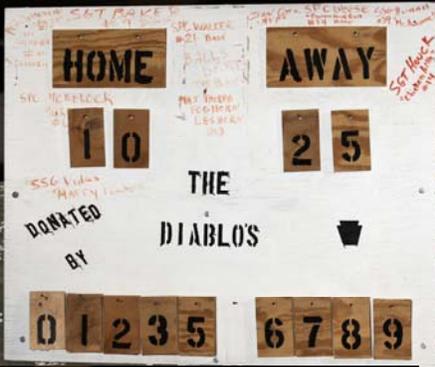


GRS wins first game of the season. Sandcastles 39– Reapers 01 Team players with the addition of Gulf Region Division friends are –back row left to right, Lt. Col. Richard Pratt, Command Sgt. Maj. Gregg Phillips, Willis Mahaffey, Allen Gillaspie, and Mike Melville. front row left to right, Jeanne Guerrero, Maj. Curtis Tait, Mac McClinton, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Senior Airman Timothy Russell and Joe Ebert.

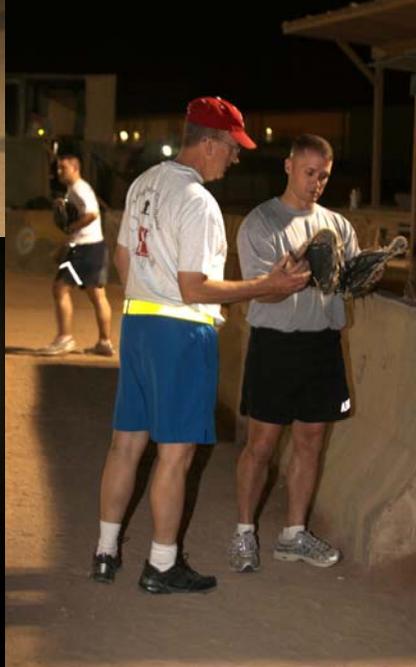


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# GULF REGION SOUTH DISTRICT SOFTBALL —TALLIL, IRAQ SANDCASTLES BEAT 36TH THRILL-



**WE DID IT  
AGAIN!  
SANDCASTLES  
WIN  
25-10**



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# Departing GRS Members



*MAJ "Coach" Wright  
Basrah Resident Office  
OIC*



*1LT Wesley Todd  
Forat Area Office  
Operations Officer*



*Georgia Lewis  
Basrah Resident Office  
Admin Asst.*



*Rick Mers  
Programs and Projects  
Management  
Project Manager*

# Arriving GRS Members



*Fred Schelby  
Programs and Projects  
Management  
Project Manager*



*Robert Leitch  
Programs and Projects  
Management  
Project Manager*



*Joe Ebert  
Programs and Projects  
Management  
Program Manager*



*Michael Seibel  
Qadisiyah/Najaf Resident  
Office  
Const. Rep.*



*Eric Fry  
Wasit Resident Office  
Project Engineer*



*Dick Albert  
Basrah Resident Office  
Resident Engineer*



*Pamela Mier  
Basrah Resident Office  
Admin Asst.*



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