



NEWS



September 2009

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



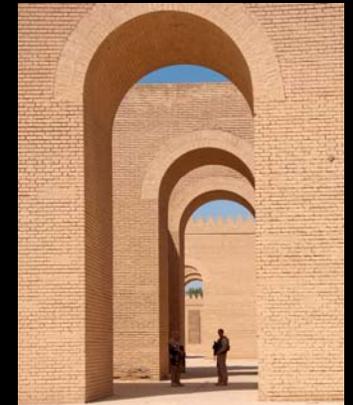
WHAT'S INSIDE



BABYLON



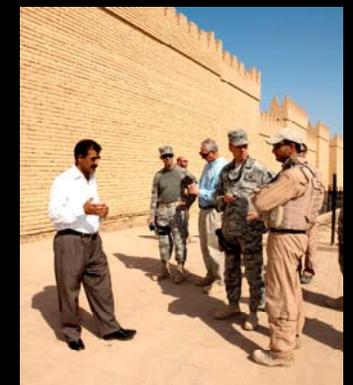
Maj. Pete Pazos and Aegis Team member at the procession area rebuilt by Hussein.



Procession area rebuilt by Hussein.



Stopping for a group photos at the Gate of Istar.



Visitors stop to chat with the tour guide about the city.



Photo by Dori Turner

FIESTA

Labor Day Celebration

Pedestrian bridge opens in southern Iraq.....pg 4

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School project inspires hope in Iraqi children.....pg 8

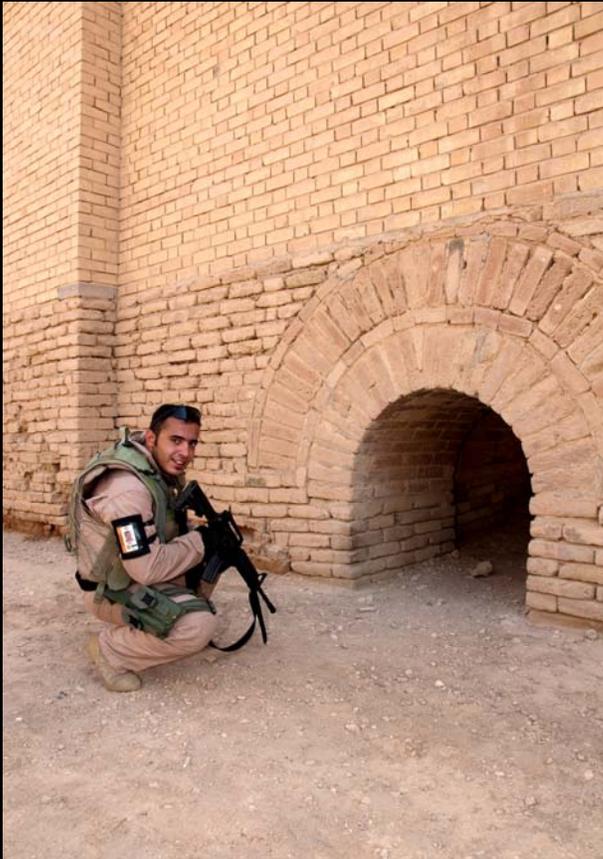
GRS brings clean water to Wasit Province...pg 10

Site visits— team involvement and more!

Gulf Region South District visitors to the ancient city of Babylon include Col. Jeffry Knippel, Maj. Pete Pazos, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Dr. Larry Lang, Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph, CW2 John Wallingford, Cpt. Seth Chappell, Shirley Goodine and William Wilkinson.



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Iraqi Aegis Security team member stops to point out an original entrance to the city. The rest of the original entrance is below ground buried by the reconstruc-



Saddam's home overlooking the Babylon city ruins.



Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren at a well with an uncertain history. The story of the well's use changes with each tour guide.

Babylon was a city of ancient Mesopotamia, sometimes considered an empire, the remains of which can be found in present-day Al Hillah, Babil Province, Iraq, about 85 kilometers (55 mi) south of Baghdad. All that remains of the original ancient famed city of Babylon today is a mound, or tell, of broken mud-brick buildings and debris in the fertile Mesopotamian plain between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in Iraq.

It was the "holy city" of Babylonia by approximately 2300 BCE, and the seat of the Neo-Babylonian Empire from 612 BCE (Before the Christian Era).

In 1983, Saddam Hussein started rebuilding the city on top of the old ruins, investing in both restoration and new



Col. Knippel points to Babylon city's original bricks stamped with the seal of King Nebuchadnezzar .



BABYLON



A section of the original street in Babylon is surrounded by a fence protecting it from pedestrians.

construction. He inscribed his name on many of the bricks in imitation of Nebuchadnezzar. One frequent inscription reads: "This was built by Saddam Hussein, son of Nebuchadnezzar, to glorify Iraq". This recalls the ziggurat at Ur, where each individual brick was stamped with "Ur-Nammu, king of Ur, who built the temple of Nanna". These bricks became sought after as collectors' items after the downfall of Hussein, and the ruins are no longer being restored to their original state. He also installed a huge portrait of himself and Nebuchadnezzar at the entrance to the ruins, and shored up Processional Way, a large boulevard of ancient stones, and the Lion of Babylon, a black rock sculpture about 2,600 years old.

As of May 2009, the provincial government of Babil has reopened the site to tourism.



View of Babylon from Saddam's Babil home.



Capt. Chappell takes photos of the ruins.



Col. Knippel and the Iraqi tour guide.



Dr. Lang and Col. Knippel taking pictures near the entrance to the city.



Shirley Goodine assisted by Aegis team members.



William Wilkinson takes a photo of the ancient city.



GRS visitors stop for a profile shot at the Lion of Babylon.



AL KHIDR PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Pedestrian bridge opens in southern Iraq

By Alicia Embrey
Gulf Region South district

Al Khidr, Iraq – After 25 years of neglect the community of Al Khidr, population 50,000, received a boost to its quality of life with the opening of a new covered pedestrian bridge.

The bridge, spanning the Euphrates River and linking both sides of the city of Al Khidr in Muthanna Province, was dedicated during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Aug. 18.

The construction of the \$360,000, 132-meter long bridge was managed by the South District of the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

“This bridge will provide a critical service to Al Khidr residents who suffered for a long time from the old, unsafe and unreliable pontoons bridge,” said Kamil Majhool Nino, deputy director general of Al Muthanna Roads and Bridges. “We consider this project the start for more projects for this area. Together we will build this country.”

In his opening speech, Al Muthanna’s Governor Ibrahim Salman Al Mayali said he was delighted to be there standing among his people and friends to open the bridge project that



Col. Jeffry Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and Project Manager Robert Moody inspect the bridge prior to the ceremony. (photos by Alicia Embrey)

connects the two banks of the Euphrates River.

“Thanks to our friends the Provincial Reconstruction Team and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their support in building and completing this project and other projects which directly benefit the people of this province,” said Al Mayali.

The idea for this bridge was first proposed by the Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee in 2007 as a way to aid the community by linking two sides of the city with a safe pathway for pedestrians.



Muthana’s Provincial Counsel Chairman. Abd Al Latief Al Hassani, PRT Lead John Kuschner, Al Muthanna’s Governor Ibrahim Salman Al Mayali, Kamil Majhool Nino, deputy director general of Al Muthanna Roads and Bridges cut the ceremonial ribbon signifying the opening of the bridge.



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"The committee recognized the difficulties and hazards the citizens of Al Khidr endured to simply cross this river," said Muthanna PRT Lead John Kuschner. "This footbridge will now make crossing the river routine, safe and easy."

Although safety and convenience are very important, Kuschner said there were other factors considered in the design of the bridge. "The committee also had the foresight to include a water pipe and a conduit for electrical wiring in the design of the bridge to improve the standard of living of people on both sides of the river," said Kuschner. "So this bridge now provides multiple benefits to thousands of citizens in this city and its surrounding area."

Maj. Sinlan Morrow, a PRT engineer and member of GRD's South district, said the pedestrian bridge may not have happened without the persistence of the Iraqi contractor and local leaders and officials.

"This project would not be possible without the efforts of the Provincial Reconstruction Team for identifying the need and funding the requirement; the local leaders and government officials for their support and oversight; Logal Company for Commerce Constructing, for their commitment to meet their contractual obligations, and to our team of Iraqi engineers for project quality assurance," Morrow said.



Maj. Sinlan Morrow thanks the community, contractor, PRT and Government Leaders for their support of the new bridge project.

"What is important to learn from this is that there was a commitment by one local Iraqi company, that said that they could do it – and they did just that," said Morrow.



Prior to construction of the new bridge the community used a pipeline spanning the Euphrates River as a makeshift bridge.

"This bridge is obviously an impressive feat of engineering, but it is also an excellent example of what can be accomplished when the elected officials from Muthanna work together with the PRT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to design and implement much-needed projects on behalf of the citizens of this province," said Kuschner.

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. government and the government of Iraq. Since 2004, GRD has completed 4,626 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$7.2 billion, and has 287 projects ongoing.



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BASRA AREA OFFICE VOTECH RENOVATION PROJECT



Col. Jeffrey Knippel, GRS commander, discusses the progress on the \$2.5 million Al Basra Institute for Vocational Training reconstruction project. (photos by A. Al Bahrani)



Command Sgt. Maj Michael Sangren checks out the construction of the vocational school renovation project. The project is scheduled to be completed in November 2009.

Basra project provides job skills, employment opportunities

By A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South district

Basra, Iraq — A vocational school renovation project here is slated to help residents of Al Hy-yaniya, a densely-populated neighborhood in Basra, learn job training skills that should increase their employment opportunities.

Funded by the Commander's Emergency Relief Program, the \$2.5 million Al Basra Institute for Vocational Training renovation project is being managed by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

"The renovation project will have a big impact for Basra Community," said Todd Harter, Gulf



An Iraqi construction worker shapes rebar for the Al Basra Institute for Vocational Training renovation project.

Region South Basra Area Office construction representative. "The aim of the project is to provide the residents of Basra a modern vocational training center that will offer a positive learning environment to train students for many years."

The skills learned at the center will enable the students to find better paying jobs, Harter said, and the additional wages will allow them to spend more money in the shops and area markets.

In addition, Harter said, "The graduates of the training center will provide a greater skilled pool of workers for companies to choose from in the area."



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Companies will be able to hire graduates and be assured that they are training properly.” Built in 1976, the Al Basra Institute for Vocational Training was completely unusable after 2003.

“All the buildings, warehouses, (and) classrooms were in very bad condition and there were not enough rooms for all the students who want to join the training center,” said Sabtee Thamer Al A’mara, the center’s headmaster.

“The center was able to accommodate about 400 students, but when completed we hope this number will increase to 1,000,” Al A’mara said.

“In addition to welding, carpentry, electric, plumbing, auto mechanics, and masonry classes, we are planning to include new computer, electronics, English and air conditioning and refrigeration courses,” Al A’mara said.

The renovation work includes demolishing the existing facilities, and constructing a new building, complete with all electrical, plumbing and mechanical equipment, Harter said. The project also includes a new backup diesel generator with an automatic transfer switch and transformer, landscaping, and fence work.



Lt. Col. Humberto Ramirez, Basra Area Office, Officer in Charge (OIC) and Todd Harter, construction representative, discuss the construction progress at the Al Basra Institute for Vocational Training renovation project with Iraqi project engineers.

On the Road Again!!! Snapshots while on the road!



Camels are a regular site seen while traveling throughout southern Iraq.

Share your Road Trip Photos—sending your photos to the GRS Public Affairs Office!



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QADISIYAH/NAJAF RESIDENT OFFICE AL⁸ HASAN AL BASRI PRIMARY SCHOOL



Most of the people in the Al Hamza district missed the opportunity to go to school as children. The newly designed school will benefit 800 children in the area with a safe location to study. When completed the school will be the first modern facility since 2003 in the area that meets international health and safety standards. Approximately 20 local Iraqis, including headmaster, teachers, administrative assistants and guards will work at the new facility when it's open by end of this year.

School project inspires hope in Iraqi children



The project will include 12 classrooms, an administrative area, library, potable water system, communication system with Internet capabilities and a fire alarm system.

By A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South district

Qadisiyah, Iraq — "Most of the people in this area missed the opportunity to go to school and learn as children. We want our children to have a better-educated future," said Ali Jalab Hasson, Al Hamza district mayor and civil engineer with the Qadisiyah Education Department.

That dream of a better education is just months away, as the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engi-



Gulf Region South Iraqi Engineers AJ explain the progress of construction and path forward for the new \$1.1 million school during a site visit to LTC Dwight Davies and Col. Jeffry Knippel. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



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About 25 Iraqis are currently working on this project which helps create much needed opportunities for employment .

neers in Iraq is helping with the construction of the Al Hasan Al Basri school.

The \$1.1 million project is being managed by the Division's Gulf Region South district and constructed using funds from the Emergency Support Fund.

"The Al Hasan Al Basri modern two-story facility will be the source of pride for Al Hamza residents," Hasson said. "All the people here wish to provide a good education for their children and that is what this school is going to do."

The school project in Qadisiyah province will improve the quality of education for more than 800 students.

"Most of the schools here are old and in need of windows, doors and bathroom repairs, said Hasson. "When completed this school will be the first modern facility since 2003 in the area that meets international health and safety standards."

Amjad Khnteel, the GRS project engineer, said the new school will feature many amenities.

"The project will include 12 classrooms, an administrative area, library, potable water system, communication system with Internet capabilities and a fire alarm system," said Khnteel.



By employing local workers the contractor enhance the economic situation of Al Hamza district and surrounding communities

Khnteel also said the project will benefit the local community.

"About 25 Iraqis are currently working on this project which helps create much needed opportunities for employment of the local populace and enhance the economic situation of Al Hamza district and surrounding communities," Khnteel said.

The school will also provide permanent jobs for Iraqis when it is completed.

"Approximately 20 local Iraqis, including headmaster, teachers, administrative assistants and guards will work at the new facility when it's open by end of this year," Hasson added. "That number is expected to grow once it's fully operational."



Iraqi construction workers prepare mortar for the perimeter walls.

The school construction project is 15 percent complete and expected to be completed in December 2009.

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. government and the government of Iraq. Since 2004, GRD has completed 4,626 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$7.2 billion, and has 287 projects ongoing.



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WASIT RESIDENT OFFICE AL¹⁰ JIHAD WATER COMPACT UNIT



Wasit Governor Lateef Hamed (center) attends the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new water compact unit for the 35,000 residents of Hay Al Jihad. The \$1 million project was managed by the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq. (photos by A. Al Bahrani)

GRS brings clean water to Wasit Province

By A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region South district

WASIT, Iraq – Residents of the Hay Al Jihad community in southern Iraq's Wasit province are enjoying a clean, ample water supply thanks to their local government and its partnership with the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

"We are very happy today to open an important project that will directly impact this community," said Lateef Hamed, Wasit governor, during the Aug. 18 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the \$1 mil-

lion, 200-cubic-meter Al Jihad water compact unit facility.

The project was managed by the Gulf Region South district, and constructed using funds from the Emergency Support Fund.

Last summer, residents of Hay Al Jihad faced an issue that is common in Iraq – water shortage.

"We suffered from a water shortage and anxiously waited for the district to complete a new modern water compact unit that would provide us fresh water," said Satar Farhan Jaber, who has operated the community's water compact unit for 14 years.



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"Those days are over," said Jaber. "Now all the people here are happy with the improvement."

Hamed was appreciative of the reconstruction team's efforts.

"I want to thank the Provincial Reconstruction Team and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their continued support to build and complete this and other projects in Wasit," Hamed said.

According to Maj. Andrew Staiano, GRS resident engineer in Wasit province, construction of the new facility brings many benefits to the 35,000 residents of Hay Al Jihad.

"Fresh water is becoming ever more precious and hard to find due to the current drought in southern Iraq," said Staiano. "By increasing the efficiency of the water management system, they will now enjoy more clean water."



Satar Farhan Jaber, Al Jihad water compact unit operator, checks the operation system at the new project.

"The unit will supplement the existing water treatment unit which was not adequately supporting the community," said Staiano. "The new facility will be more than capable of providing fresh water to the residents in Hay Al Jihad."

Dozens of Iraqis were on the construction crew for the project that includes approximately three kilometers of a water distribution network.

Apart from the renovation work, the project includes a new chlorine building and chlorination system, two 50-cubic-meter ground storage tanks, a new steel intake structure, and two new 200-cubic-meter-per-hour water treatment units. The crew also installed a new switch gear room, two five-megavolt amp transformers and four new one-megavolt back-up generators.



This 10-inch diameter pipe feeds the new project from Al Qaraf River, source of raw water to supply this project.



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Gulf Region South Commander holds Mini Town Halls around the district



Col. Jeffrey Knippel holding a mini town hall meeting with employees throughout the district. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Col. Jeffrey Knippel holding a mini town hall with employees at the Basra Area Office.

During Col. Jeffrey Knippel's first thirty-days as commander of Gulf Region South District, Knippel traveled throughout the district holding mini town halls. His mission: provide district employees with a snapshot of where the District is going in terms of employment future and transition from two fully functioning districts into one enduring district in Iraq.

"First and foremost, we have a real reconstruction mission, which is my number one priority; we will focus on this mission as a district until we transition. Do not take your eyes off the target," said Knippel.

He stated that in mid September there would be a meeting between Gulf Region and Gulf Region South district's to discuss the transition plan. During the meeting they will discuss current milestones that have been identified.

Milestones –

- Maysan/Dhi Qar/Muthanna merge into one Resident Office
- Babil North and Babil merge into one Resident Office
- Camp Bucca closes
- Camp Echo closes merges into Babil Resident Office



CW2 John Wallingford and Mike Abate discuss Forat's construction and reconstruction projects with Col. Jeffrey Knippel.

- Delta downsizes to a Project Office and merges into Forat
- Forat downsizes to a Resident Office under Adder Area Office
- GRS deactivates and Adder Area Office becomes part of the enduring district – GRD (Gulf Region District)



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Mini Town Halls around the district

"Manning will continue to be a challenge. We have a plan to hire the civilian personnel required to operate as a district and to complete our construction mission," he said. "Bottom line, we are affordable and should get the right people to execute our mission."

Knippel added that our priority is and will continue to be to implementation the Iraqi Reconstruction mission; our program next year is almost as large as the one for this year. "We must downsize while continuing to do our mission and remain affordable during the draw-down," he said.



During a visit to the Forat Area Office Col. Knippel held a mini town hall to discuss the future of the district in Iraq.



Col. Knippel and Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren pose for a photo with Forat Area Office Iraqi Engineers.



During the mini town hall Col. Knippel discusses future plans for Camp Echo and the employees.



Col. Knippel explains the transformation plan with Gulf Region South employees at Contingency Operating Base Adder during its mini town hall.



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Col. Jeffry Knippel, Lt. Col. Dwight Davies, SSgt. David Halstead, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph point their way home during a visit to Camp Echo, Diwaniyah Province August 6. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Qadisiyah PRT Lead Michael Klecheski visits with Lt. Col. Davies and Col. Knippel about the future of Corps supplied PRT engineers located at Camp Echo.



During Col. Jeffry Knippel visit he described future plans for Camp Echo and the employees.

GRS Commander visits CAMP ECHO QADISIYAH/NAJAF RESIDENT OFFICE



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph, Col. Jeffry Knippel, Aegis Nick Mayes, Tim Spicer, Harry Rule, Sarah Smith and Lt. Col. Dwight Davies pose for a group picture after a Camp Echo briefing.



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QADISIYAH/NAJAF RESIDENT OFFICE—PROJECT UPDATE AL HAFFAR IRAQI POLICE STATION



Col. Knippel is welcomed by Iraqi engineers during a site visit to the Al Haffar Iraqi Police Station . (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Iraqi construction engineer AJ gives Lt. Col. Dwight Davies, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Col. Jeffry Knippel, and Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph a tour of ongoing construction at the site.



Iraqi construction engineer AJ introduces the construction crew engineers to the GRS visitors during the site visit.



Iraqi construction engineer AJ and Iraqi contractor engineers describe how the concrete forms are used during construction to Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren and Lt. Col. Davies.

Construction of a new \$1.4 million Iraqi police station near the city of Al Haffar in southern Iraq's Qadisiyah Province is underway. This project is essential for the 140 police officers ensuring safety and stability for the community.

The compound will consist of a T-wall perimeter with four guard towers, an entry control point, a fuel point, parking areas, concrete sidewalk access, a two open bay maintenance facility, a police station building, water storage and distribution system, a power generation system and a sewage collection and treatment system.

When finished, the project will benefit thousands in the city of Al Haffar and the surrounding area.



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QADISIYAH/NAJAF RESIDENT OFFICE—PROJECT UPDATE AL GARAP IRAQI POLICE STATION



Top left photo— Lt. Col. Davies and Col. Knippel with the help of an Aegis Security Team interpreter visit with the local Sheikh about progress of the new station.

Top right photo— Col. Knippel and Lt. Col. Davies are greeted by an Iraqi Police Officer during the August site visit. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Col. Knippel, Lt. Col. Joseph and Lt. Col. Davies take a closer look at the ongoing construction.



Al Garap Iraqi Police Station construction site.



An Iraqi girl receives a sticker and candy from Lt. Col. Davies with the help of an Aegis Security Team member.

Iraqi Police to receive safe haven

GRS's commander Col. Jeffry Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph and Lt. Col. Dwight Davies were among those viewing ongoing construction during a site visit August 5 at the new \$1.2 million Iraqi police station near the city of Al Garap in southern Iraq's Qadisiyah Province.

The police station will provide crucial working space for the 100 police officers that ensuring safety and stability for the nearby community.

The compound will consist of a T-wall perimeter with four guard towers, an entry control point, a fuel point, parking areas, concrete sidewalk access, a two open bay maintenance facility, a police station building, water storage and distribution system, a power generation system and a sewage collection and treatment system.

Children from the local community received candy and stickers from the Lt. Col. Davies and Col. Knippel during the site visit.

The project started in April 2009 and is expected to be completed by January 2010.



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QADISIYAH/NAJAF RESIDENT OFFICE—PROJECT UPDATE

FOB Scannia Administration Building



Iraqi construction worker wraps an air conditioning unit with an insulated cover to protect it from extreme environmental conditions.



Col. Knippel and Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph visit with AISG's site manager Robert Grove during an August 7 site visit of the \$2.3 million admin building, FOB Scannia. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Iraqi construction worker forms conduit for communications' lines.



Iraqi construction worker places dust boards to protect the walls during cleaning.



Iraqi construction workers lay rock for easy access to the structure.

Scannia Administration Building in final stage

The \$2.3 million administration building at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Scannia is close to occupancy. The facility is designed to bolster the day-to-day operations of the military personnel managing activities on FOB Scannia.

During an August 7, site visit Col. Jeffrey Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph viewed and discussed the final stage of construction with American-Iraqi Solutions Group's site manager Robert Groves.

According to construction representative Barry Campbell the project is 97% complete.



The Scannia project construction Representative is Barry Campbell deployed to support GRS from Little Rock District.



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AL¹⁸HILLAH COURTHOUSE PROJECT



Interstate view of the Al Hillah Courthouse in Babil Province (photos by Alicia Embrey)

GRS commander visits Al Hillah Courthouse

During an Aug 8 site visit GRS's Col. Jeffry Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and construction representative "Dutch" Steele view ongoing construction of the \$7.2 million project. The project is scheduled for completion in October 09.

Located near a busy interstate in Al Hilla the new 59,202 sq. ft. multi-story courthouse will consist of the main office building and adjoining service buildings (cafeteria, guard houses and bathrooms), two fountains, public and employee park areas.

Currently, 90 judges and prosecutors, 175 employees, along with 190 judicial police and security guards are working at the older Municipal Courthouse. In addition, 450 lawyers use the existing facility. After the new courthouse complex opens, the total number of judges and employees is expected to increase.

About 100 Iraqis are involved with the construction daily.



An Iraqi engineer explains the security system of the new courthouse.



Iraqi engineer Naseer Aziz gives Col. Knippel, Sangren and Steele a tour of the project.



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Col. Knippel and Iraqi engineer Hussein discuss ongoing construction of the new courthouse during the August site visit.



Construction representative Dutch Steele inspects ongoing construction of new facilities' courtyard. Once completed the open-air courtyard will be a relaxing place for visitors to rest.



Col. Jeffrey Knippel checks out the winding stairs leading to the second floor of the courthouse.

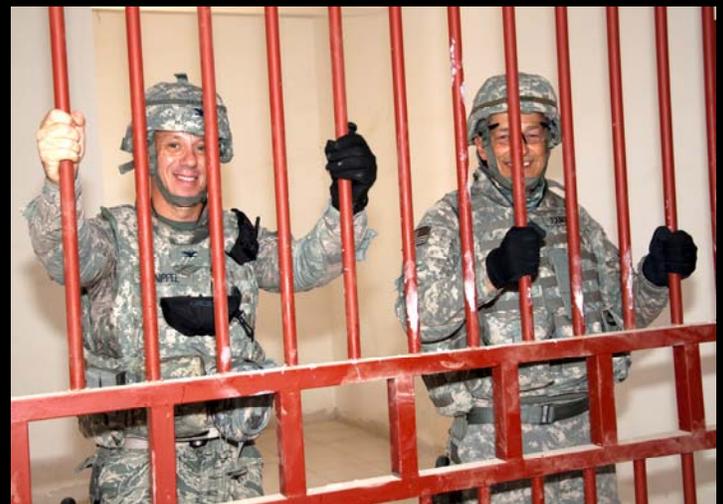


Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren stops to gaze at the dome of the courthouse from the second floor.

GRS's new Hillah Courthouse construction representative is Dutch Steele.

Steele deployed to support GRS's Babil Resident Office in October 08 from the Navy Facilities Engineering Command located in Hawaii for a 12-month tour.

This is Steele's second deployment to GRS in support of the mission. His first deployment was from January 07 to March 08.



Col. Knippel and Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren take a look from the other side of the holding room.



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NORTH BABIL (REO)-PROJECT UPDATE

AL ASKARI PRIMARY SCHOOL



Iraqi worker fires up a gas powered generator in front of the new school. The generator will only be needed during construction. In the back right corner of the photo is the new 250 kV 400/220 volt emergency generator for the school. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Roadside view of the new Al Askari Primary School.



Iraqi engineers Hydar and Kareem give a tour of the new school to visitors during an August site visit. Visitors included Col. Jeffrey Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Lt. Col. Nathan Joseph and construction representative Dutch Steele.

The new \$1.2 million Al Askari primary school located in the Hilla Alkari Quarter of Babil Province is nearing completion. This two story 1,600 sq-meter 12-classroom school will have a positive effect for the 600 families and 1000 primary students in the area by providing a superior facility for a quality education.

Apart from the classrooms, the project includes an administration wing, computer labs, library, multipurpose main hall, student's cafeteria, workshop, drinking fountains, male and female rest-rooms and playground.



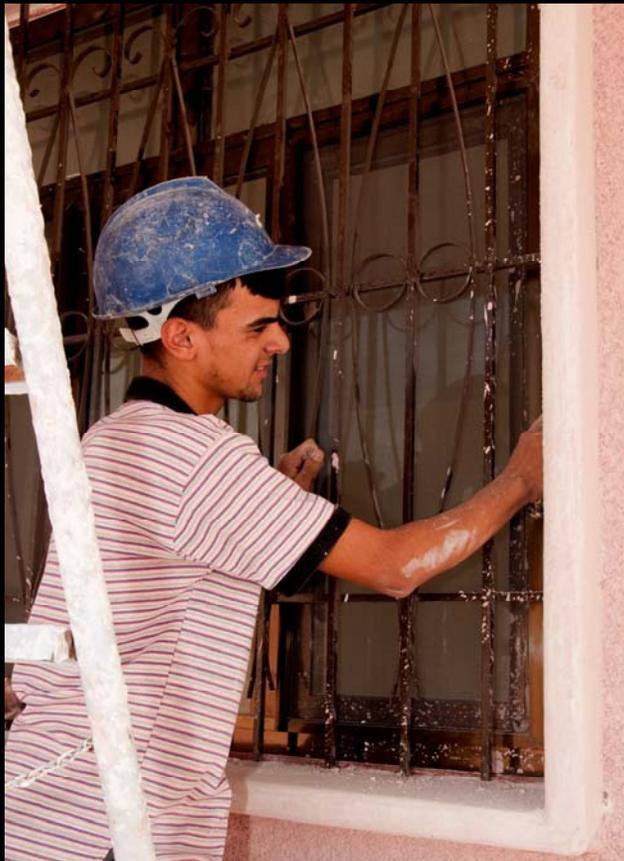
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Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren and Col. Jeffrey Knippel enjoy a little time-out while visiting one of the new classrooms.



The Iraqi worker is preparing for the opening of the school by polishing the floor tiles.



Iraqi worker placing decorative iron bar casings to protect the new windows from the environment.



Playground view of the new school. Once completed the playground will have room for a soccer field and more. Metal frames shown in the picture are for new desks.

In addition to the structures the new school will receive 250 two-person desks, filing cabinets, teachers' desks and chairs, classroom blackboards, water coolers, plus sofas and chairs for the teachers lounge.

Over 100 local Iraqis are on the construction crew.



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FORAT AREA OFFICE -PROJECT UPDATE

MUSSAYIB MATERNITY HOSPITAL



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Col. Jeffrey Knippel, Dr. Larry Lang, Victor Aquino, Barney Davis, Lt. Col Nathan Joseph and Iraqi project engineer Mr. Ammer look down from the second floor of the hospital. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Light radiates from the surrounding glass giving the second story an open-air feel. The dome ceiling and lighting signify the 9-months of pregnancy.

The new \$5.2 million Mussayib Maternity Hospital in Babil Province will be ready for turn over to the Iraqi Director General for Health with in a few weeks.

During construction the project employed hundreds of local Iraqis and is essential in ensuring that thousands in the Mussayib community and surrounding area have a reliable state-of-the-art healthcare facility.

The 50-bed hospital includes an emergency room, out-patient area, operation theaters, administrative wing, doctors' residence, reception area, wards, x-ray, laboratories, nurse stations, and pharmacy.



Iraqi project engineer Mr. Ammer greets Barney Davis, Dr. Lang and Lt. Col. Joseph.



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Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren and Con Rep Victor Aquino look over conference room. Education will play an important part in the success of the new hospital for both doctors and patients.



New doctors quarters for men only! Men and women doctors are separated while staying at the facility. Women quarters are on the second floor of the hospital.



GRS's Mussayib Maternity Hospital construction representative is Victor Aquino.

Aquino deployed to support GRS's Babil Resident Office in July 08 from the Navy Facilities Engineering Command located in California for a 12-month tour.

This is Aquino's first deployment to GRS.



The new Mosque is almost ready for visitors and spiritual meditation.



Sangren, Joseph, Davies, Dr. Lang, Aquino and Knippel checkout the outside buildings.



Visitors descending from the second floor of the hospital.



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FAREWELL TO OUR DEPUTY LT. COL. DAVID BERCZEK

On July 30, the GRS team composed of Military, government civilians, contractors and Aegis Security personnel bid a fond farewell to GRS's Deputy Commander Lt. Col. David Berczek.

Berczek received the Bronze Star for his work at GRS and is now redeployed as the Deputy Commander for Chicago District.



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ADDER AREA OFFICE -PROJECT UPDATE

FOB GARRY OWEN



Maysan Iraqi Police Major General Sa'ad greets Col. Jeffrey Knippel during a July 27 visit to FOB Gary Owen in Maysan Province. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Col. Knippel visits with Task Force 4-6 Garry Owen commander Lt. Col. Robert Menist and Maysan Province Iraqi Police Major General Sa'ad.



About to leave the Task Force 4-6, Aegis, Col. Knippel and Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren take time for a group photo.



Col. Knippel stops to take a picture of Arabs' dry marshland country side.

TAKING TIME TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

During site visits to Maysan Province, Col. Jeffrey Knippel and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren stop to make new friends at FOB Garry Owen. During the brief visit the commander met with Task Force 4-6 commander Lt. Col. Robert Menist and Maysan Iraqi Police Major General Sa'ad.

After the meeting Major General Sa'ad lent his Iraqi security team as support during the days site visits in the Maysan Province.



Sheep herder living in the Marshlands of Maysan Province.



The marshes along the Euphrates-Tigris river basin were drained by Saddam Hussein after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991.

Although they are restored to a point, his major drainage projects reduced the marshlands to 15 percent of its original land mass and destroyed the ecosystem, resulting in the extinction of the smooth-coated otter and sacred ibis and other local species.

Droughts over the last few years have exacerbated the situation.



BUILDING STRONG®

PROJECT UPDATE

MAYSAN HOSPITAL



The 62,500-sq.-meter hospital will improve medical care for 250,000 residents living in Amarah and will serve as a teaching hospital for students attending Maysan University's Medical College.

Maysan Surgical Hospital in Amarah, Maysan's provincial capital. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Maj. Morrow and Robert Moody checkout the construction.



Col. Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren, Maj. Morrow and Roger Moody examine the constructions progress.



Col. Knippel and Maj. Morrow review the schedule of the new \$13 million hospital.

During an August 1 site visit Col. Jeffry Knippel, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren, Maj. Sinlan Morrow and Robert Moody viewed ongoing construction of the Maysan Surgical Hospital in Amarah, Maysan's provincial capital. Over 60 local Iraqi laborers were on hand helping to construct the new \$13 million 100-bed hospital.

The 62,500-sq.-meter hospital will include four operating rooms, a delivery room, an emergency room, a pharmacy, and various labs. The facility will house Clinics for Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Dental and Nuclear Medicine. It will also include a residence building providing housing for 16 physicians.

The new facility will improve medical care for 250,000 residents living in Amarah and will serve as a teaching hospital for students attending Maysan University's Medical College.

The project is schedule for completion, March 2010.



Over 60 local Iraqi laborers are working on the new 100-bed hospital.



BUILDING STRONG®

ADDER AREA OFFICE -PROJECT UPDATE

MEMONA LOCATION COMMAND



Iraqi site managers explain the layout of the location command to Col Knippel during his site visit.



Col. Jeffrey Knippel discusses progress of the project with Iraqi site managers.

The Iraqi Army's new \$35 million Memona Location Command in Memona, Iraq is 93% complete. The project split into two phases with facility construction taking priority.

Facility amenities include utilities, billeting, latrine facilities, office space, warehouses, fuel and ammunition supply, a dining facility for 1000 people, barracks laundry, barber shop, medical clinic, and a fire station.

The project, which started in July 2008, is scheduled to be completed December 2009.

About 350 Iraqis are on the construction crew.



Iraqi site managers describe the purpose and function of a warehouse to Col. Knippel and Maj. Morrow during their site visit. (photos by Alicia Embrey)



Iraqi construction workers leveling the site before placing a bed of rock.



BUILDING STRONG®

ADDER AREA OFFICE -PROJECT UPDATE

AL²⁸RUMAITHA BRIDGE



Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren, Col. Knippel and Lt. Cdr. Yves Reme checkout the new bridge while Robert discusses the project with the Iraqi site managers.



Iraqi engineers survey the road leading to the bridge.



An Iraqi child looks after a herd of cattle near a new 12-meter by 55-meter bridge being constructed on the Rumaitha River in Muthanna Province, southern Iraq.



Iraqi site managers greet GRS's commander Col. Jeffrey Knippel, Lt. Cdr. Yves Reme and project manager Robert Moody during a site visit. (photos by Alicia Embrey)

Construction of a \$1 million bridge near the city of Al Rumaitha in Muthanna Province, southern Iraq is 83% complete and scheduled to be complete this fall.

According to Muthanna Resident Office Iraqi Deputy Resident Engineer Mohammed Fawaz, the 55 meters-long and 12 meters-wide bridge will benefit 90 thousand people from the city of Al Rumaitha and the surrounding area.

It will be an important crossing point for vehicles that come from Baghdad through the highway and enter Najmi -Rumaitha and Samawa road.

The project has employed 15 local Iraqis during construction.



The \$1 million project is 83% complete and is expected to be finished by year's end.



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GRS SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS CELEBRATE LABOR DAY

FIESTA



Alex Leslie, Aegis Security



*John "Homer" Kassebaum
Office of Counsel*



*Gulf Region South Commander,
Col. Jeffrey Knippel— Photo by
Martin Mcguire*



Lt. Col. Joseph Ebert, MILCON Program



Ssgt. Tiacka Johnson NCOIC



Robin Encarnacion, Engr. Tech



*Lt. Col. Joseph Ebert,
MILCON Program and
Patti Rivera, Contract
Specialist*



Charlotte Cramer Contract Officer, Robert Peel Program Analyst, Kathleen Wert Human Resources/S1, MAJ Sinlan Morrow Dhi Qar PRT Engineer, Doris "Dori" Turner Project Engineer



Charlotte Cramer Contract Officer, Robert Peel Program Analyst



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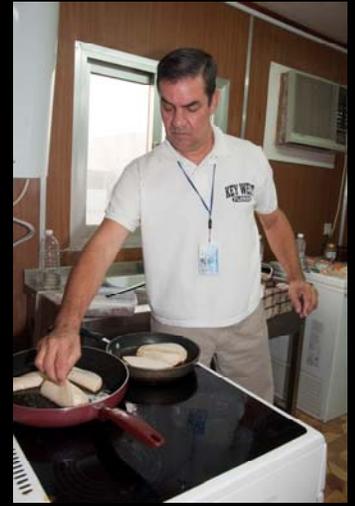
*Nelson Reyes
Budget Analyst*



*Mike Monte
Project Manager*



*Norma Dean
Program Analyst*



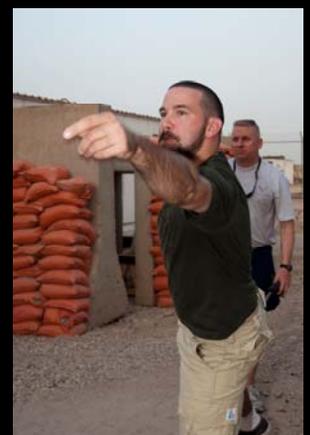
*George Christensen
Logistics*



Mike Monte & Chris Dening Project Manager



*Aaron Jolley Project Controls and Dustin
Gilroy Admin Assit playing bean bag toss
also called corn hole!*



*Dustin Gilroy
Admin Assit*



*Logistic' s George Christensen enjoying the evening with
visitor to Gulf Region South District Labor Day Fiesta!*



*Maj. John Volcheck
AF MILCON Liaison*



FIESTA



Aegis's Alex Leslie takes swing at the Labor Day Piñata! Photo by Martin McGuire



Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Sangren



Aegis Security watching Alex Swing at the Piñata.



Swing Alex --- Swing!!!! Photo by Martin McGuire



Command Sgt. Maj. Sangren and Lou Simonetti Contract Specialist



Departing GRS Members



LTC David Berczek
Deputy Commander
GRS HQ



LTC "Bear" Ramirez
OIC
Basra Area Office



Barney Davis
Deputy for Programs
& Project Management
GRS HQ



Sheila Hyde
Project Manager
GRS HQ



Israel Rivera
Facilities Services
Assistant



Mike Abate
Area Engineer
Forat



Tom Mullenhour
Engineer Tech
Wasit-Camp Delta



Lynn Hancsak
Resident Engineer
Dhi Qar
Resident Office



Jamie Howard
Const. Rep
Babil/Karbala
Office



Earnie Mendenhall
Const. Rep
Qadisiyah, Najaf
Resident Offices



Barry Campbell
Const. Rep
Qadisiyah, Najaf
Resident Offices



Belinda Dillback
Admin Asst.
Engineering and
Construction

Arriving GRS Members



MAJ Pete Pazos
Deputy Commander
GRS HQ



MAJ Cody Rasmussen
Project Manager
GRS HQ



Dustin Gilroy
Admin Assistant
Engineering &
Construction
GRS HQ



Deborah Boatwright
Logistics Management
Specialist
GRS HQ



CPT Seth Chappell
Ops Officer
Forat



Larry Drane
Const. Rep
Qadisiyah, Najaf
Resident Offices



Peter Cooper
Const. Rep
Babil/Karbala
Office



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