Iraq Reconstruction Update

A Weekly Progress & News Report

02.23.06

CLOSE-UP: Salute to Convoy Personnel

The Human Toll of Logistical Support to Reconstruction: Iraqi and other non-U.S. convoy and convoy security personnel risk their lives daily to deliver much needed supplies to project sites. Since Aug 2004 there have 249 convoy attacks that have resulted in a number of dead and wounded. (Photo: Master Sgt. Chris Calkins)

(Source: PCO Logistics Movement Coordination Center/As of Feb 15, 2006)

Notable Quotes

"This opening shows that we are headed in the right direction. This is a testament to the hard work of the Iraqi people and the strong partnership we have with Coalition Forces."

Hussein Jabor,Mayor of Al Muhawil commenting on the opening of a new water treatment plant.

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Brochure Download

Capacity Development Download

Capacity development is central to the Iraq reconstruction and assistance effort and provides the first step in building a foundation for the transfer of control for completed projects to Iraqi management.

Learn more: http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net

Progress Dispatches

Ninewa Sewer Network Project Completed

A $525 thousand sewer network project in the Ninewa Province is complete. The project consisted of replacing an open ditch sewage system with a below-grade, closed pipe-network. This project will benefit approximately 30,000 people in Al-Zahraa, a village of Mosul.

Amara Checkpoint Station Provides Secure Police Area

Construction is complete on a police check point station renovation project in Amara, Maysan Province. The $595 thousand project required construction of a permanent vehicle checkpoint which included two blast-protected vehicle inspection pads, two security buildings, and concrete perimeter walls. This completed facility increases the security of Kumayt by controlling traffic flow through town and providing a secure area for police to inspect vehicles for weapons and explosives. Of the 21 police facilities projects programmed for the Maysan Province, 20 are complete.

Electrical Distribution Projects in the Erbil Province Online

Construction is complete on two electrical distribution projects in the Erbil Province. Construction on the Khanzad Substation ($3.9M) and installing an overhead feeder ($2.9M) was completed late last month. The construction also included installation of transformers, building rooms for switchgears, and guardhouse. The overhead transmission line project included construction of six km of transmission line. It also includes two underground fiber optic cables for future expansion. These two completed projects benefit 30,000 people in the Khanzad and Erbil communities.

Northern Gas Company Improvements Increase Security

Construction on the Northern Gas Company security walls/towers in Kirkuk Province has been completed. The $432 thousand project included construction of a 2.3 km block security wall, observation tower and guardhouse that will improve security along the front and main entrance of the plant.

Published by ASA(ALT)

New Facilities for Iraqi Highway Patrol Officers

by Suzanne M. Fournier
Gulf Region Southern District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BASE CAMP ADDER, Iraq – The Iraqi Highway Patrol was a little known entity under the former regime. It was a small paramilitary-trained police force of approximately 600 officers, driving junk vehicles and operating out of dilapidated buildings.

Since the US Army Corps of Engineers began reconstruction activities in Iraq two years ago, the Iraqi Highway Patrol has made major advancements. Ten times more men and women now serve as Highway Patrol officers. They are trained by the US Army Special Forces and military police on modern apprehension, detection, security and enforcement techniques.

The junk vehicles are gone, replaced by a fleet of new 4-door blue and white Chevrolet pickups, outfitted with blue and red lights, radio systems and spotlights.

Also disappearing are the dilapidated buildings. Currently, safe, secure and professional highway patrol facilities are under construction or already occupied.

Thirty-three Iraqi highway patrol stations and six border-entry Barracks are identified as needed to provide law enforcement along Iraq's six major highways. The stations are being built sequentially to ensure that continuous sections of road remain secure until the entire network is completed.

The goal is to have an Iraqi highway patrol station every 50-60 kilometers, starting in the south where three of six stations on Iraqi Highway One are compete and the other three will be finished next month.

Two newly constructed facilities are included in the $2 million construction projects at Fawwa in Qadisiyah Province and Al-Shaiba in Basrah Province, where the two-story Iraqi highway police headquarters buildings are ready for the 160 officers to move into their new quarters.

Another facility just completed is the $2.4 million Iraqi highway patrol station and border-entry barracks at Safwan, in Basrah Province, where two, two-story buildings were constructed to support 404 highway patrol officers who control the Kuwait-Iraq point of entry.

Contractors and civil engineers hired by the US Army Corps of Engineers do a final inspection of the Al Shaiba Iraqi highway patrol building in Basrah Province. (GRD photo)

Each Highway Police building consists of offices for commanders; conference rooms for meetings; separate sleeping quarters for men and women officers; complete shower and bathroom facilities; fully furnished dining facility and dining areas; separate jail areas for men and women; weapons ranges; covered parking; and a maintenance garage with a wash bay and fuel point station for the new vehicles.

The facilities are often located in isolated desert terrain, so the buildings are self sustainable with their own generator, back up generator, sanitation system, potable water tanks and surrounded by a double perimeter security wall with lighting, concertina wire and guard towers.

These facilities are designed to sleep 60 male and 10 female patrol officers at the compound while on duty in order to protect the highways as well as to also protect officers from intimidation or targeting by terrorists.

Story Continued on Page 9

Fallujah's Four New Schools

Four new schools are being constructed by an Iraqi contractor. All four share a common design that includes classrooms, cafeteria, administration space, courtyards, and play areas. The total size of each school is approximately 3,000 square meters.

The school projects consist of:

- $1.27M contract for Al Medyna Al Munawara Primary School awarded June 27, 2004; construction started March, 2005; required completion May, 2006.
- $1.27M contract for Palestine Primary School awarded June, 2004; construction started April, 2005; required completion April, 2006.
- $1.27M contract for Al Nazal Elementary School awarded June, 2004; construction started March, 2005; required completion May, 2006.
- $1.27M contract for Fallujah Elementary School awarded June, 2004; construction started March 2005; required completion May, 2006.

School Site Photos:

Photos by Norris Jones, USACE

CAT Helps Secure Micro Loans for Iraqis

Program promotes growth and stability

By Capt. Sebastian Montagne and 2nd Lt. Cassandra Crosby

BAGHDAD – Over the past four months, the Soldiers of Company D, 490th Civil Affairs Team (CAT) met with more than 20 key Iraqi leaders in an effort to promote economic and social growth.

One of the ways the CAT promotes financial growth is through a process of micro loans. Micro loans are similar to loans in the United States with one exception, micro loans focus on developing countries - but in Iraq they're focused on families.

An average micro loan consists of less than $500 invested toward a necessity such as a family business.

The theory is the profits of the investment will pay off the loan and a subsequent loan will be drawn. They cycle will then continue as a family grows more financially stable to work its way out of poverty.

The 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division team coordinated new projected development with local officials and businessmen for a U.S. Agency for International Development program, which will build the first micro-loan center to serve the greater Iraqi community.

Loans granted at micro-loan centers are usually focused towards agricultural initiatives.

The team's interaction with the leaders helped foster a climate of working relationships between the local citizens and 1st Sqdn., 75th Cav., according to Capt. Jeff Davis, who serves as the leader for the four-Soldier team. The team is responsible for the coordination of the Consequent Management Support Packages, which contain supplies directed to assist local citizens and businesses.

Davis added that he had attended several micro-finance seminars in Amman, Jordan.

The result of those meetings secured more than $250,000 to build the micro-loan center and, if milestones are met, there is a possibility to secure more than $1 million in additional funds.

The "Pishkhabor Project"

Story and photo by Spc. Richard Vogt

DOHUK, Iraq - In this northern province, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Company B, 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, laid some foundations of nation-building by improving living and working conditions for the Iraqi Army Soldiers who guard Iraq's Syrian and Turkish borders.

"The Pishkhabor Project", commonly referred to by U.S. military, civilian workers and local Iraqis, is a renovated regional training compound for the 104th Iraqi Army Battalion.

The project is a monumental undertaking in both labor and money according to Derek Walker, a civilian with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District and is the project's quality control and construction manager. "A water pumping pipeline, barracks housing, an administration building, a motor pool, a landing airstrip for helicopters, and two abandoned Russian castle renovations, which are basically the border forts."

Walker drove to the compound on a sunny day to check the pace of construction. Recent heavy rains collapsed some of the foundations, setting work back by a day.

Sgt. John Tyvela and Sgt. Matthew Mullally, Co. B, 401st CA Bn, traveled with Mr. Walker on the trip. Both sergeants learned from an Iraqi military official that the 104th needed an upgraded compound. After conferring with the battalion, Sgt's Tyvela and Mullally were on a mission to secure funding for the "Pishkhabor Project."

Iraqi workers in Pishkabor lay the foundation for a new barracks building that will house Iraqi Army Soldiers who guard the border with Syria and Turkey.

Story Continued on Page 6

Progress Being Made on Iraqi Reconstruction, Official Says

By Steven Donald Smith
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Significant progress is being made on Iraqi reconstruction projects, while economic prospects continue to grow, a U.S. official told reporters via telephone from Baghdad yesterday. "In spite of difficult challenges, significant progress is being made on reconstruction," Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office, said, "and in what I see out here, that is having an effect on the Iraqi economy. ... You can't separate these two."

The Iraqi economy is expected to grow by roughly 3 percent this year and by about 10 percent next year. About 30,000 businesses were formally registered in the course of the last year, which shows a "dynamism" that is obvious to the Iraqi people, Speckhard said.
The director said around half of the current electricity being produced in Iraq is the result of coalition rehabilitation projects, and "about 75 percent of the oil production today is the result of rehabilitations that have been done through U.S.-supported projects."
Iraqis are increasingly taking charge of many of these reconstruction efforts, he noted.

"We're getting Iraqis much more involved in the process of making decisions on projects," he said. "The real focus here is trying to accelerate the transition to self-sufficiency in Iraq in terms of their ability to carry the progress forward that we've started."
The office is setting up provincial reconstruction teams that will combine military and civilian engineers, rule-of-law experts, economists, aid directors and contractors to help support the Iraqis in this endeavor, he said.

Workers replace the road surface following the installation of new sewer pipes in Mosul. (GRD photo)

"We have a program where we're trying to improve training for the operation and maintenance of all of our projects and the ministries technical capacity to support these projects," Speckhard said. He added his office is also working with the government to make sure Iraqis understand the challenges in having proper budget resources to maintain and support the infrastructure the U.S. has helped develop.

The U.S. has also greatly improved the Iraqi water and sewage systems. "When you look at clean water and sewer, we have added capacity for several million Iraqis in water and over 4 million in sewage," he said.

In addition, Speckhard spoke about other U.S. contributions in Iraq, such as the fact that Americans have trained more than 30,000 teachers and provided 8 million new textbooks to Iraqi schools, as well as offered vaccines against measles and polio to more than 5 million children.

The United States has helped with several of the "most pressing needs," in Iraq, like water and electricity, Speckhard said, but he added that reconstruction progress cannot be calculated in isolated sections.

"It's all integrated and we will be judged on the integrated package," he said.

"My sense on this is that we'll be judged on how well we are able to support the capacity development of this new permanent Iraqi government," Speckhard said.

U.S. Embassy, Baghdad Website: http://iraq.usembassy.gov/

Iraqi worker upgrading a water network project in East Baghdad. (Photo by Norris Jones)

Story Continued From Page 4… "The Pishkhabor Project"

The Corps of Engineers told the civil affairs Soldiers that it had money for this project and gave them the green light. That was when they teamed up with Walker.

The two Soldiers and the engineer designed the renovation project based on the needs described by the Iraqi military. The battalion officers told the U.S. team they needed more living quarters, an administration building, motor pool, and a landing strip. In addition, if there was a sufficient amount of money, the battalion wanted to renovate the two old Russian-built castles which overlooked both Syria and Turkey.

"I love it, I love the work," Walker said. "I like working here. This office is involved in more than 100 projects. We had the honor of doing the 1000th [total] project in Iraq."

When the compound renovation is completed, it will house more than 2000 Iraqi soldiers.

"We are extremely proud and pleased that we were able to facilitate this construction project for the Iraqi Army," stated Sgt. Mullally. "They have been living in very crowded conditions. The new construction and renovations will give them enough space a Soldier is entitled to. The rest of the compound can serve as a model for the rest of the country."

Zafaraniya Sewage Line Construction Will Serve Thousands

Construction on the Zafaraniya main sewage line. The line will serve approximately 130,000 residents of Zafaraniya. The sewage line is just one of the infrastructure improvement projects which have been completed or are underway just east of the Tigris River around Baghdad. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich)

Turnover of Darkar Substation

Last week, the Gulf Region Division (Army Corps of Engineers) and the Ministry of Electricity signed its acceptance of the turnover of the Darkar Substation. This is one of two substations constructed by Washington International Inc. and its Iraqi subcontractor in Dahuk Province.

Final grading was accomplished this week to improve drainage at the Darkar Substation site. The old Darkar Fortress can be seen at the right . (Photo Provided by WII)

Projects at a Glance (As of: February 17, 2006)

Compiled by Katie Wall, PCO

•$7.685 billion has been disbursed, representing over 59% of total funds (as of February 18, 2006)
•2,730 projects starts (out of 2,992 planned projects). This number includes 360 projects funded under the Development Fund Iraq (DFI)
•2,068 projects are complete, including 325 that are funded under the DFI

Reconstruction Sector	Project Type	# Under Construction*	# Completed*
Health & Education	Schools	21	825
	Primary Health Care Centers	139	14
	Hospital Projects	16	13
	Public Buildings	4	51
Public Works & Water	Potable Water Projects	93	182
	Sewer Projects	6	31
Security & Justice	Fire Stations	24	63
	Military Base Projects	13	64
	Police Facilities	49	296
Transportation & Communication	Railroad Stations	19	79
	Village Roads	25	87
	Ports Projects	2	3
	Postal Facilities	1	23
	Airport Projects *(FAA certified ready)*	8	6
	Expressways	3	0
Electricity	Distribution Projects *(including Substations)*	94	97
	Transmission Projects	15	12
	Power Generation Projects	1	19
Oil	Dedicated Power Plants	2	3
	Water Injection Pump Stations	0	8

* Note: Project numbers include projects funded by the Development Fund Iraq.

Source: Multiple PCO Management Reports

Sector Overview: Current Status – End State

Compiled By: John Daley, PCO

Sector	Current Status	End State
Electricity	1,366 MW capacity added Increased Power Generation to 1200K Homes Improved Electricity Distribution to over 130K Homes	1,523 MW capacity added Increased Power Generation to 1,300K Homes Improved Electricity Distribution to over 600K Homes
Oil	2.5 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD) production capacity 1.95 MBPD produced	3.0 MBPD crude oil capacity
Water & Sewer	Added 181,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (benefit an estimated 756,000 Iraqis). 31,000 hectares of additional irrigated land	Additional 897,000 cubic meters per day of water treatment capacity (will benefit approximately 3.6 million Iraqis.) 251,000 hectares of additional irrigated land
Health	5 primary healthcare centers completed and 137 under construction. An additional 29 completed with DFI funds.	Population of 5 to 6.5 million Iraqis served in completed primary healthcare centers
Education	824 schools providing classrooms for 325,000 students	846 schools providing classrooms for 330,000 students
Security & Justice	292 police facilities completed 137 border forts completed	345 police facilities 248 border forts
Transportation	224 Kilometers (KM) or 53% of planned improved village roads Provided emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 5.8 million citizens of Baghdad	424 KM of improved village roads 158 KM of improved major roads Provide emergency response dispatch system ('911' service) covering 12 million Iraqis in 15 cities

Water Treatment Plant in Sadr Al-Yousefiyah Receives Renovation

2nd Lt. Brett Matzenbacher
2nd BCT, 101st Airborne Division

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Clean drinking water had been in critically short supply in south Baghdad.

However, through hard work and the close cooperation between local leaders and U.S. Soldiers, the water is gradually being turned back on throughout this region. One example is the Sadr Al-Yousefiyah Water Treatment Plant renovation."This plant is capable of supplying potable water to residents throughout the northwestern portion of the Nahia of Yousefiyah," said Maj. Eric McFadden, Project Manager, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division. Clean drinking water provided by the plant will reduce the number of illnesses associated with drinking and cooking with contaminated water.

Local residents have also benefited in other ways. The Iraqi government hired local contractors and laborers to design and carry out the work, providing jobs to many locals.

A full time staff will also be trained to run and maintain the plant now that it has been brought back to operational status. Although a significant achievement in its own right, this project is not unique. Rather, it is one of more than a dozen ongoing or completed projects focusing on improving the treatment, storage and distribution of water in South Baghdad. This covers a wide scope of undertakings, from cleaning canals to completely renovating a dilapidated treatment facility. "Our goal is to link these pockets of progress," McFadden said, "so every resident, not just those in urban areas, can benefit from the improvements."

Story Continued From Page 2…Iraqi Highway Patrol Facilites

The Iraqi Highway Patrol faces many challenges. The new government of Iraq has unlicensed drivers, countless broken-down vehicles and Biblical-era donkey-carts all co-existing on highways with modern military vehicles and fuel-tank convoys of 25-50 tractor trailers.

The men and women patrol officers have responsibilities similar to law enforcement in other parts of the world, but they also have to deal with tribal rivalries,and jurisdictions; dangerous, extreme-climate deserts; insurgents and terrorists; thieves and smugglers; and surveillance for improvised explosive devices.

Assistance From the Private Sector: Actor Says Iraq was Moving Experience

Actor Gary Sinise, traveled to Iraq and was so moved by what he experienced that he founded a charity, Operation Iraqi Children.

Sinise Transcript (from ABC "This Week" Interview)

"*The school that we went to was very, very modest by our standards … nothing but a dirt floor — no windows, no fans, no toilets. It was just a cinder block structure with nothing.*

So the troops went in there. And they put a concrete floor in. They knocked some holes in. They put windows in. They put fans in. … To these kids and to those Iraqis who had been living there, dealing with that school, it was like a brand-new place.

I was so moved by the experience and these kids were hanging on us and just hanging on the troops and just — They were so wonderful with our soldiers. … And so I came home and … founded Operation Iraqi Children

.

We've sent hundreds of thousands of school supplies over to the troops in Iraq. And they've taken them out all over the country and given them to the kids. … It's a way for you to support the troops by sending some pencils, some Beanie Babies, some soccer balls, some erasers, some notebooks. … And that all started because of one of those convoys that I went on.

> **"I saw hope in their eyes and gratitude in their hearts for what was done for them."**
> ***Sinise Comments on the OIC Website***

Having played Lt. Dan Taylor in, in "Forrest Gump," a wounded veteran who lost two legs, a lot of these troops — the young ones especially, you know, they were 8, 9 years old when "Forrest Gump" came out. Now they're serving in the U.S. military, and maybe they have the same situation had happen to them that's happened to Lt. Dan. So when I walk in and I talk to them about their wounds or, you know, what happened to them, they identify and, you know, and I feel like I'm giving them something back.

We know what it was like for our Vietnam veterans to come back from war. … If they wore the uniform, they'd get spit on or whatever, or they were ashamed to wear their uniform. We never want that to happen to our veterans again, our service members. You know, it's an honorable thing to serve your country, to join up, to volunteer. We need those volunteers. We need those defenders."

For further OIC Information:

http://www.operationiraqichildren.org

Project Spotlight: The What and the Where

Rebuilding Iraq

Projects that are shaping a nation

FOB Dagger

Renovations to the water and electrical systems at the forward operating base will effect more than 300 Iraqi Soldiers preparing to take over security in the Salah ad Din Province.

Samarra

About 136 yards of feeder wire is all it took to give 200,000 residents of Samarra reliable power after the installation of a electrical substation.

Samarra

Five miles of unimproved road was paved in Samarra, providing access to a local school and other community services.

Afaq

Finished ahead of schedule, the Security and Justice project in Afaq included a highway police headquarters, jail, barracks, bathroom facilities and a dining area for the Iraqi Police.

Amara

A vehicle checkpoint has been built in Amara, increasing the town's security and giving Iraqi Police a safe place to check for weapons and explosives.

Abo Bosari

Work has begun on a water compact unit for the people of Abo Bosari. The $590,000 project should be finished in mid-May, providing water to the town's residents.

International Support Factsheet: World Health Organization Mission in Iraq

The World Health Organization, the United Nations specialized agency for health, was established on 7 April 1948. The objective of WHO, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in the constitution of WHO as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. WHO is governed by 192 Member States through the World Health Assembly which is composed of representatives from WHO's Member States.

What is the relationship between WHO and the United Nations in Iraq?

In Iraq, the World Health Organization has been given the role of leading the Health Coordination Group, also known as the UN Health Cluster, a planning and implementing umbrella under which UN agencies, governments, international organizations and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have teamed up to provide a coordinated response to health risks in Iraq and surrounding countries during and after armed conflict in the region. The Health Coordination Group aims to be as inclusive as possible and as such welcomes the participation of all organizations which have experience in providing health services and health care support in emergency situations and their aftermath.

What is WHO's role in Iraq and how does WHO relate to the Iraq Ministry of Health?

WHO/UN's comparative advantage is in the depth and breadth of its mandate, technical competencies, and activities. The UN's relations with the Iraqi authorities provide a solid basis for on-going institutional development and capacity building as well as critical linkages to other clusters related to health and well-being. The first partner of WHO is the Ministry of Health, at both national and local levels. On this basis, WHO's role in Iraq is closely related to its partnership with the MOH. It assists, advises, and supports the MOH in bringing about its vision of providing accessible, affordable, safe and comprehensive quality health services of the highest possible standard that is financially sound and founded on scientific principles in order to meet the present and future health needs of the Iraqi people regardless of their ethnicity, geographic origin, gender or religious affiliation. WHO has been a constant source of support in helping the MOH face these challenges and regain some of the stability that has eluded them for so long.

In the absence of the UN in Iraq, how does WHO work and with whom?

Following the attack on the UN HQ in Baghdad in August 2003, all WHO international staff, along with UN international staff, evacuated from Iraq and are now working from neighboring countries like Jordan and Kuwait, and even from Cyprus. However, WHO's work did not stop, thanks to the Iraqi staff who did and is still performing with excellence and dedication. Once the security situation permits, all WHO staff would return to Iraq to assume their humanitarian responsibilities. Moreover, WHO continues to coordinate the emergency response of other agencies and NGOs involved in providing items requested by the MoH, including the International Committee for the Red Crescent (ICRC), Iraqi Red Cross Society (IRCS), Premiere Urgence (PU), Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Mercy Malaysia (MM).

WHO Team Investigates Avian Outbreak

A WHO team was sent to Iraq at the request of the Iraqi Ministry of Health following the death of a 15-year-old girl on Jan. 17. The team of epidemiologists and animal disease conducted an assessment of the situation in the Sulaimaniyah area in northern Iraq and confirmed that the girl died of avian influenza.

What are the expected outcomes of WHO in Iraq?

- Increase access to quality health care services especially for the vulnerable groups and the un-reached.
- Reduction in under-5 and infant morbidity and mortality.
- Reduction in maternal morbidity and mortality.
- Enhance Disease Prevention and Control including HIV/AIDS .
- Enabling environment for healthy life styles.
- Emergency preparedness and response.

Source WHO Website: http://www.who.int/en/

Northeastern Iraq's Electricity Improving

By Polli Barnes Keller
Gulf Region North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL, Iraq —The 80,000 local residents of Erbil will have a more reliable source of electricity service through two new substations and several overhead feeder lines.

The $10.2 M network requested by the Erbil governorate and built by a local contractor completed this month. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had quality control and assurance over the project.

Building the Khanzad and Debaga substations included installing two 10 MVA transformers, a building switchgear room and a guard house at each location. Each substation has two 33kV incoming lines; one that feeds from the Salahaddin to the Khanzad and the other from Azadi to Debaga, both located in Erbil.

These over-head feeder lines deliver electricity from the transmission substations at Azadi and Salahaddin via the 33kV feeders. the installation of the Northwest Regional Control center along with substations and feeder lines throughout the country, the pieces of Iraq's electrical puzzle are being put into place and the big picture of reliable electricity is coming into focus.

"Khanzad and Debaga substations will help to expand and support the residents via supporting local industry which needs electricity as a basic factor," said Saman Mosa, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer project manager-electrical sector. "In general, it will improve the life of local citizens."

An aged and ailing infrastructure that has suffered from a lack of maintenance for 25 years further complicates the reconstruction process.

"The Debaga sector was suffering during Saddam's era as did many areas in Iraq," Mosa explained. "However, Debaga is located in a Kurdish region. Being Kurdish, Saddam wanted this area to suffer more than others, which it did. So, this substation will significantly improve the infrastructure and life in Debaga and subsequently the Kurdish region."

With the installation of the Northwest Regional Control center along with substations and feeder lines throughout the country, the pieces of Iraq's electrical puzzle are being put into place. Overhead feeder lines deliver electricity from the transmission substations at Azadi and Salah al Din via 33kV feeders. (Photo courtesy of Gulf Region North District)

'Beanies for Baghdad' Bring Smiles

BAGHDAD– In a country where having any kind of toy is a rarity, Soldiers passing out beanie babies to Iraqi children can become very popular.

At left, Sara, a Baghdad youngster, shows off her Beanie Baby, "Courage." The toy was a gift from Maj. Jim Barker, whose letter back home telling his family how much the child loved the toy resulted in the non-profit organization Beanies for Baghdad being founded in May 2003.

More than 150,000 of the miniature stuffed animals have been distributed throughout Iraq.

Read the full story:
http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/read.php?story_id_key=8569

For additional information about Beanies for Baghdad:
www.beaniesforbaghdad.com.

Story & Photo by Spc. Karl Johnson

A Reconstruction Partnership

Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ALT)
https://webportal.saalt.army.mil/main/aae.htm
Assistant Secretary: *The Honorable Claude M. Bolton, Jr.*
Principal Deputy to the ASA (ALT)/Director of Iraq Reconstruction and Program Management: *Mr. Dean Popps*

US Army Corps of Engineers - Gulf Region Division http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.html
Commanding General: *Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr.*

Iraq Project & Contracting Office
http://www.rebuilding-iraq.net
Director- Baghdad: *Brig. Gen. William H. McCoy, Jr. (dual-hatted GRD-PCO)*
Deputy Director for Reconstruction: *Ms. Kathye Johnson*
Director-Washington: *Mr. James M. Crum*

Joint Contracting Command – Iraq/Afghanistan
JCC-IA provides responsive operational contracting support to the Chief of Mission and Multi-National Corps - Iraq to efficiently acquire vital supplies, services and construction in support of the Coalition Forces and the relief and reconstruction of Iraq.
Commander: *Maj. Gen. Darryl A. Scott*

Office of the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Policy and Procurement), Iraq
DASA(P&P)-I provides the necessary administrative and contracting support to the Chief of Mission, Project and Contracting Office, Multi-National Forces, and supports the humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and security of Iraq.
ADASA(P&P)-I: *Mr. Lee Thompson*

For further Iraq reconstruction and assistance information:

U.S. Agency for International Development: http://www.usaid.gov/iraq
U.S. Department of Commerce: http://www.export.gov/iraq
U.S. Embassy in Iraq: http://iraq.usembassy.gov
U.S. Central Command: **http://www.centcom.mil**
Multi-National Force – Iraq: **http://www.mnf-iraq.com**

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The Iraq Reconstruction Update is compiled and published by the Project and Contracting Office (Arlington, VA), Office of Strategic Communications.

Past IRU issues can be found at: http://www.dvidshub.net/index.php?script=pubs/pubs_show.php&id=201&name=Iraq%20Reconstruction%20Update