

September 25

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

- On Sep 23 07, a contract was awarded in Sulaymaniyah Province for the construction of a Vocational and Technical school. The project includes a main building with 16 classrooms, administrative offices, and six large workshops fully equipped to teach specific trades. Estimated completion date is within one year.
- A recent visit to the Albo Ilwan Water Treatment Plant project site near Fallujah by the Ramadi Regional Officer showed that the project is approximately 85% complete and the Estimated Completion Date is Oct 07. The contractor has finished construction of the plant with the distribution pipe network still to be completed. The scope of the project is to supply the materials, labor and equipment necessary to install a 200 m³/hr compact water treatment plant and over 10km of distribution piping. This new plant will treat and deliver potable, drinking water to approximately 10,000 Iraqi citizens within the village of Albo Ilwan located 4km west of Fallujah.



Iraqi children play tug of war outside a school in Ramadi

Transportation

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Security

Biometric enrollment and badging of airport terminal staff continues. Over 6,258 employees have been enrolled to date. Three additional enrollment stations have been added to the operation along with additional staff to expedite the completion of the re-badging of the airport community. The target completion date is mid-September, 2007.

Basra Security

Arrangements to transport and install a biometric badging system are being made. The planned move of the badging systems had been placed on hold due to a British civil rights law that will not allow British air to handle any type of personal information gathering systems. Office of Transportation Staff is working with MNF-I on this problem.

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Area Control Center (ACC)

The Baghdad Area Control Center opened at 0900 on August 30, 2007 and commenced 24 hour operations. This is the first step in the Iraqis working high altitude airspace in the country.

Letter of Agreement (LOA) between Iraq/Iran

No change from last report. The travel by ICAA officials to Iran to sign an LOA enabling direct flights between Iran and Iraq, as well as increased over flight traffic to points outside the country, has been postponed for the next two weeks. A request is in to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to process the visa paperwork.

Mosul Security

On Sept. 22, 2007, a group of officials from the State Departments Transportation Attaché and the Government of Iraq completed a trip to Mosul for an assessment for the upcoming Hajj season. Making the trip was a necessary step to ensure that the Ministry of Transportation had all the information required for its report and recommendations to the Hajj Committee. Global Security will forward a cost analysis by the week's end with an equipment list for searches at 2/3 checkpoints.

ROADS & BRIDGES

Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH) Technology Exchange Center Project

The Local Technology Assistance Program (LTAP) project includes developing a Technology Exchange Center at the MoCH to be modeled after LTAP centers in the US. An Iraqi Contractor will be selected from bidders in early Fiscal Year 2008. The Iraqi Contractor will develop the Center using the expertise of subcontractors where appropriate.

MoCH Projects and Programs

Overview

- The Ministry of Construction and Housing will continue highway construction with a program in widening (dual highway construction) existing roadways and new bridge construction.

Highway projects include:

- Mosul, Dokuk, Rabiya, in Ninewa Province
- Baquba-Khanaqin-Mundhiriyah, Al Qalas-Azaam, Baquba-Qalas in Diyalah
- Kut-Nasiriyah in Wasit Province
- Kirkuk-Eltonkobry in Tameem Province
- Numaniyah-Alshowmli-Diwaniyah in Qadisiyah and Wasit Provinces
- Bridge projects include:

- Hadethi, 3rd Faluja, Al Warar, Al Amiryah (Faluja) Bridges in Anbar Province
- Sinharib (Mosul) in Ninewa Province
- Shatt Al Basra, 2nd Qurnah, Al Dair Bridges in Basrah Province
- Al Abasat, Iron (Kufa River) Bridges in Najaf Province
- Awasah & Qalat Salah, Al Dvas Bridges in Missan Province
- Samara Bridge in Salah Al Din Province
- 2nd Indian Bridge in Karbala Province

Funds for these projects will be provided by the Government of Iraq. The Ministry of Construction and Housing has taken responsibility for the complete Sarafiya Bridge reconstruction including the removal of the damaged spans in the Tigris River. They have decided not to pursue GRD contracting for the removal of the center span.

Communication

Ministry of Communication gets boost to re-establish its wholesale telecom business

Telegeography Inc., the leading provider of international telecommunications statistical information to carriers worldwide, is supplying access to its data bases on a temporary license to help the MoC reestablish its wholesale telecom business. The re-establishment of the MoC wholesale business will provide up to \$40 million in revenues that are currently lost to non-licensed carriers.

Cross border fiber cooperation

The ITAO Office of Communications is advising the Ministry of Communications on cross border fiber optic cable development with Turkey. Discussions are being held with TurkCom and the Turkish Ministry of Communications prior to ministerial level meetings in early November 2007. There is the possibility of the Iraq and Turkey funding a neutral third party company to build and maintain the fiber. TeliaSonera, a respected Swedish-Finnish company has been mentioned.

The **Mamoon Telecommunications Facility** (seen below) will be the heart of Baghdad's telecommunication system. The Al Mamoon is a \$22.7 million Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund project (IRRF). The project is slated for completion next year. The offices for the Ministry of Communication will be housed in the facility as well as a 14,000 square-foot post office. The structure when complete will also feature a 200-seat auditorium, a cafeteria capable of serving 150 people, and exhibit hall, numerous conference rooms, several floors of communication switch gear, a 250-car covered garage, and loading dock. The structure when complete will also feature a 200-seat auditorium, a cafeteria capable of serving 150 people, and exhibit hall, numerous conference rooms, several floors of communication switch gear, a 250-car covered garage and loading dock.



September 18

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

- After beginning construction in November of 2004, FluorAMEC recently completed construction on the \$276M Nassiriyah Water Supply Project in Dhi-Qar Province. The project was turned over to the Ministry of Public Works and Water this week. The project included the design and construction of a new 240,000 m³/day Water Treatment Plant, 110 km transmission piping, three booster pump stations, and five elevated storage towers. The plant will benefit an estimated 555,000 people. The Water Sector Sustainment Program contractor is now on site and providing plant operator training and augmentation. Fluor AMEC personnel remain at the site providing reach-back support and performing contract closeout.
- The completed Iraqi Railroad Tracks and Iraqi Railroad Ties projects provide tracks and ties for the Iraqi Railroad Company in Fallujah. In addition, local Fire Departments will benefit from the completed Sadiya Road Repair project in Baghdad.



Construction on a Water Clarifier Tank, Nassiriyah Water Supply Project

Transportation & Communication

Training Contract Awarded

A contract totaling \$2.4 million was awarded to Today Communication Technology, an Iraqi training company, for management, technical and administrative training of Ministry of Communication's operating company Iraq Telephone and Postal Company (ITPC), which is responsible for developing and maintaining the core fiber optic network in Iraq. The training is designed to improve operations and sustainment of the national fiber infrastructure. The training will improve the ability of ITPC to manage the core fiber and assist private operators and applications services providers to make effective use of the network. This will enable smaller companies and the USG to move from expensive satellite services to lower cost and higher bandwidth terrestrial services. All of the training will be held in Iraq at MoC training facilities in Baghdad and Erbil.

New cadre of Chief Information Officers

Nine Iraqi ministry Chief Information Officers (CIOs) have submitted the necessary documents to attend the CIO Executive Development Institute at the Information Resources Management College at the National Defense University in Washington, DC, for three weeks beginning late October. The course has been specially designed for Iraqi ministries as part of the emphasis within State and DoD to emphasize information technology more effectively in stabilization and reconstruction efforts. Eventually the course will be offered to technologists in other countries where rapid improvement in the telecommunications and IT sectors can accelerate economic development. A key feature of the course is that each ministry attending will be partnered with a senior IT executive in a comparable US government agency or institution.

Provincial Reconstruction Team Updates:

Northern Region

- PRT programs in **Ninewa Province** continue to conduct essential engagements in Mosul and other key districts within the province. PRT engagements during the reporting week included a site assessment of the UNHCR refugee camp in Makhmur, meetings and program events at the Ninewa and Tal' Afar Business Centers, and engagements with principal leadership at the provincial government and provincial council. The PRT continued its response and role in the wake of the August 14 car bombings in the Sinjar region by assisting in the coordination of an assessment of needs and the provision of emergency supplies to the victims of the attack.
- The respective Ministries and the **Ninewa Provincial Government** appear to be moving forward on all the action items for DFI. Compensation Payments are continuing with claimants being paid in Tikrit (**Salah ad Din Province**), after receiving a voucher in Samarra. A new proposed tracking system is in work to

- keep a consolidated list of all claimants and total monetary pay outs. The last report is that 50% of claims have been processed and half of those, or 25%, have actually been paid.
- The Salah ad Din PRT Leader in a conference call with “Military Bloggers” and “Civilian Defense Experts” about ongoing work in the Province. Such opportunities to speak with members of the public are not only a good way to discuss Provincial governance and economic development, but also to help elucidate what’s going right and what’s not, with insight and detail seldom available in the general press. Some discussion ensued on the relationship between the central government and the Province. It was opportune to explain that the Provincial Government has been well-served on the budget side with the efforts of the central government to provide and monitor the expenditure of the 2007 Provincial Budget in particular
 - A graduation ceremony for the 11th course of the Vocational Training Center (VOTEC) recently took place in **Arbil Province**. There have been more than 1,600 graduates and an employment rate close to 80%. In addition, the USAID/LGP Governance Advisor visited the Secretariat of the **Kurdistan Regional Government’s** (KRG) Council of Ministers (CoM) to evaluate possibilities for training and technical assistance. The Deputy to the Secretary of CoM stated that there is no need for any training for the Secretariat staff. The UK National School of Government has been contracted by the KRG for the governance capacity building. British diplomatic colleagues indicate that this is an initiative of the Prime Minister. Approximately 30 Deputy Directors General will be enrolled in on-line courses over the next 15-month period.

Central Region

- In **Diyala Province**, the end of August saw the second month in a row in which no money was lost during the currency transfer from the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI). This achievement is especially notable because it was the first time that the Coalition Forces did not accompany the Iraqi Army escorts during the transfer, which is evidence of the Iraqis’ ability to perform essential government activities.
- A three-day reconciliation and advocacy conference for NGOs was held during the first week of September in **Baghdad Province**. The participants focused on the fact that NGOs need to increase their participation in the Government of Iraq’s National Reconciliation Strategy and International Compact for Iraq. The conference participants included 60 people from various NGOs in Baghdad, Baghdad Provincial Council members, and Iraqi politicians (including Sunni Arab Tawafuq block members). The participants will draft a white paper on the outcomes of the conference, which include a need for increased security, disbandment of the militia groups, more cooperation between the GOI and civil society, and the passage of the draft NGO law. This paper will be distributed to the PM, the President, the Council of Representatives and the Ministers.

- The **Anbar Provincial Council** recently approved the Human Rights, Rule of Law and Security Committees, all of which will begin regular bi-monthly meetings in the near future. As the security forces assert more control over Karmah and Saqlawiyah, previously strongholds of Al Qaeda, the civic leaders are beginning to return and address the communities' social and economic needs. The mission is also being transitioned from a combat focus to one of law-enforcement.
- Members of the **Babil PRT** visited the Hillah Textile Plant to perform an initial assessment of their electrical system, and develop an implementation plan for the plant's revitalization. The plant has received a \$1 million grant from TF BSO, a \$1.8 million loan from the Government of Iraq, and another \$1 million dollar grant from the Babil provincial government.
- Prime Minister Maliki visited **Najaf Province** and met with Ayatollah al Sistani, in addition to separate meetings with other Najaf officials. They discussed security concerns and the completion of the Najaf Airport. In addition, the South-Central Regional Agribusiness Development Board met to discuss the development of a regional agricultural strategy. They will begin meeting bi-monthly to identify projects and their funding sources that will support regional agriculture.

Southern Region

- On September 2, 40 unemployed citizens of Nassiriyah, **Dhi Qar Province** started attending two professional courses on masonry lasting a total of four months organized at the newly refurbished Vocational Training Center.
- **Wasit PRDC** submitted 15 project nominations for ESF projects. Most packages are now below acceptable quality standards, but the ePRT and GRS are working closely with DGs and their engineers to ensure the appropriate quality for submission to NET by 15 SEP. ePRT is working closely with the 214th Fires Brigade and the PRDC on a secondary string of PRDC projects to be funded with CERP, applying standards designed by the PRDC Program to build the capacity development of Iraqi institutions. The actual funding source will be transparent to GOI. In this category, we are considering approximately 33 projects totaling \$8M USD.
- Following the successful re-posturing of the **Basra PRT** from Basra Palace, the situation in Basra City remains calm and there has been no reporting to indicate that the Mehdi Army has or intends to use the event to recommence attacks.
- **PRT Maysan** is preparing to meet with the Maysan Governor's assistant and a technical team to discuss future projects. The PRT is proceeding with plans to create office space for new staff in an adjacent building and bring their full complement of Locally Employed Staff on board. PRT staff has briefed a series

of military as well as civilian visitors their present engagement strategy with the Province.

- The assassination of former **Muthanna Governor** al-Hassani on August 20 exposed fault lines in what had been considered a “quiet” province. Despite Sadr’s order of a “freeze” for his militia, Jaish al-Mahdi is seeking to exploit bubbling popular discontent over the failure of the government to deliver essential services.
- On September 5 the **Muthanna Provincial Council** ratified the 2008-2010 Provincial Development Strategy (PDS), a comprehensive plan for the allocation of government resources across all sectors for the next three years. This is a major milestone for the government and the PRT.
- An embedded PRT in **Wasit Province** met with the Chamber of Commerce chairman to discuss Wasit’s commercial situation and economic activity to identify opportunities to support the Province’s private sector.

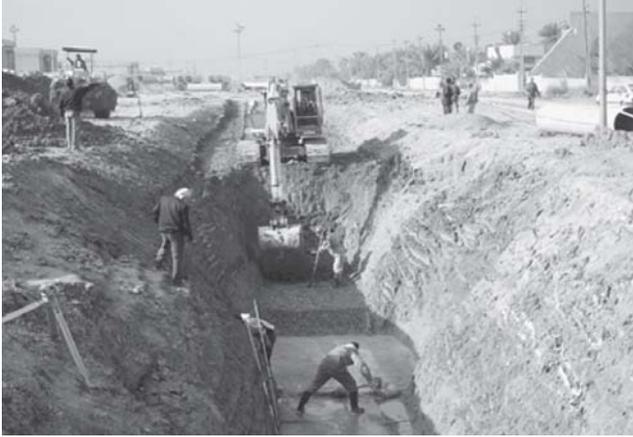
Also, a meeting was held with the head of the Wasit Lawyers’ Union to accumulate information on the court system, manning, infrastructure, the roles and missions of the union and the potential for the PRT to work with the union to impact the Wasit judicial system.

September 11

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

Construction began on an \$870,000 ESF project to restore and rehabilitate a combined sanitary sewer in the Karkh District of Baghdad. In addition to generating plans for the sewer system, the project also includes the replacement of drainage lines, inlets, and manholes. Such projects are an integral part of Iraqi efforts at maintaining a clean, healthy water distribution system.

Work on An Nazal Public Health Clinic completed this week in Fallujah, Anbar Province. As a result, up to 35,000 residents in the area will have increased access to quality health and dental care.



Sewer Line Construction, Baghdad

Transportation

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Security

Biometric enrollment and badging of airport terminal staff continues. Over 5,317 employees have been enrolled to date. Three additional enrollment stations have been added to the operation along with additional staff to expedite the completion of the re-badging of the airport community. It is estimated that over 6,000 individuals will ultimately be enrolled.

Basra Airport

No change from last report. The special advisor to the Prime Minister visited Basra International Airport. The advisor was the first high official to personally meet with the Basra Airport staff. The meeting provided progress reports on commercial growth and the need to provide stable power, security, and a detailed budget.

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) Area Control Center (ACC)

Aviation English screening began on September 8. This will determine how quickly controllers progress on to ACC and aerodrome training or whether they must continue English training.

Letter of Agreement (LOA) between Iraq/Iran

The travel by ICAA officials to Iran to sign an LOA enabling direct flights between Iran and Iraq, as well as increased over flight traffic to points outside the country, should commence soon.

Revision of Iraqi Civil Aviation Law

The Committee to revise the Civil Aviation Law met in Erbil on Sept. 6-8 to review and revise the working draft. It is expected that a final version will be completed within a month and submitted to Parliamentary committees for their action. The revisions to the old law will bring Iraq's aviation law into compliance with ICAO standards.

RAIL

Overview

The Iraq Republican Railroad (IRR) indicates that the security situation between Baghdad and Basra is improving. However, an unexploded IED was reported in the Latafayah area late last week. MNF and IA forces are attempting to locate and clear the device.

Water

Turnover of Nassariyah Water Supply Project to Ministry of Municipality's and Public Works (MMPW)

The USG will turn over the Nassariyah Water Supply Project on September 12 to the MMPW. The water supply project cost \$270 million and includes the largest new water treatment built in Iraq by the USG and will serve over 500,000 residents of ThiQar. The plant is only operating at 20 percent capacity for one shift per day due to lack of permanent power and insufficient trained operators. The USG will continue to provide technical guidance and training to MMPW personnel under the Water Sector Sustainment Program until December 2007 to ensure the personnel are capable of operating and maintaining the system on their own.

MoWR Examines Long-Term Solution for Mosul Dam

The Minister of Water Resources and other senior officials from the Ministry of Water Resources conducted four days of meetings with two international firms with expertise in equipment and installation of positive cutoff walls, Bauer of Germany and Trevi of Italy, in Istanbul this past week. A positive cutoff wall is one of the long-term solutions being evaluated by the Ministry for Mosul Dam. This solution was evaluated in 2005 and determined at that time not to be feasible.

StreamGauge Training for MoWR in US

Training for fourteen officials from the Ministry of Water Resources on installation of stream gauges will commence this coming week at the US Geological Survey Idaho Water Science Center. The training is part of USG efforts to assist the Ministry with re-establishing a nationwide hydrological monitoring network in Iraq. The USG has also purchased around \$3 million in stream gauge equipment for the Ministry that will be installed by the trainees once they return.

Iraq Geospatial Reference System

The National Geodetic Survey developed a preliminary transformation model (IRAQTRANS) for converting the existing geospatial reference system for Iraq to a new coordinate system. The Ministry of Water Resources has been gathering field data that will be used in the transformation model.



Mosul Dam

Communication

IRAQ TELECOMS CONFERENCE 2007

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi attended the Iraq Telecoms Conference which was held September 3,4 in London. Minister Allawi played a prominent role at the conference as he delivered a key note speech outlining his plans for the future of Iraqi telecommunications. The Minister's plan is to retain national control of the core fiber optic infrastructure while privatizing the access and applications networks that use the core network. In addition:

- Fiber optic repair services in several provinces have already been outsourced to private companies. Minister Allawi also intends to privatize the US funded Wireless Broadband Network when it is gifted to the Iraqi government. Arrangements and negotiations for the gifting are underway between the Ministry of Communications (MoC) and ITAO Office of Communications. The transition is expected in October. Several private companies and organizations have expressed interest in operating the network for profit.
- The ITAO Office of Communications also participated in Iraq Telecom 2007 with a presentation outlining several investment opportunities in the Iraq telecoms and IT sectors that should be attractive to Iraqi and foreign investors.
- In several comments at the conference Minister Allawi underscored his intention to produce a Telecommunications Master Plan for Iraq under the responsibility of the Ministry's Planning Directorate. The plan will establish the long term planning for the Iraq Telecommunications and Post Company (ITPC) and State Company for Internet Services (SCIS). ITAO Office of Communications has been asked to participate in the development of the Master Plan and to assure that PRT activity with provincial telecoms directorates is consistent with the national direction. It is likely that the result of the Plan will be the privatization SCIS and clearer management and funding processes for ITPC as the responsible agent for the core fiber infrastructure

September 4

Local Reconstruction Snapshots

In Ninewa Province, a \$621,000 project was awarded to complete the construction of the Hai Mansoor Primary Healthcare Center. This contract has a 180 day duration to finish the Type A clinic. The clinic will include six exam rooms and doctor offices, a pharmacy, two dental rooms, a records storage room, x-ray, and a laboratory. When complete, the clinic will have the capacity to serve approximately 150 patients per day.