



Pier Designed for Iraqi Navy

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi Navy has given the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region Division (GRD) approval to initiate construction of the \$53 million Umm Qasr pier and seawall project in Basrah province.

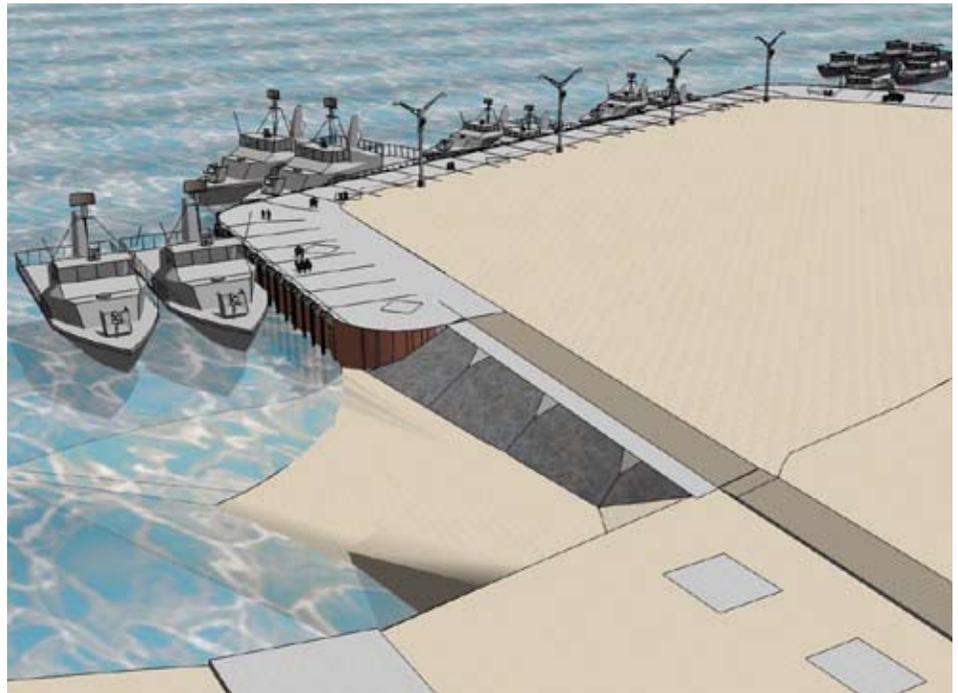
This is the first Foreign Military Sales (FMS) project between Iraq and the USACE. FMS is a program where the host country pays the U.S. government for construction and supplies related to its military.

“FMS is a new process for us,” said Rear Adm. Jawad Kadhum, head of the Iraqi Navy. “We are satisfied with the project design, and ready for construction to begin. A trust has been built between the Iraqi Navy, Ministry of Defense and GRD. This is a very important project for us and will help build a strong Navy for Iraq.”

“This is an excellent example of the Iraqis taking the lead and the dramatic transition taking place in Iraq right now,” said Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre, commanding general of GRD.

“In this case, the government of Iraq is

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This U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' conceptual drawing shows the planned Gulf Region Division's \$53 million Umm Qasr pier and seawall project in Basrah province. The project will begin in March and is expected to be complete in September.

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Father, Son Work Together to Rebuild Iraq

TALLIL AIR BASE — An Arkansas father and son team are part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' massive rebuilding efforts throughout Iraq.

Father Denver and son Eric Gillespie will soon be completing their six-month tours here.

They say what made the deployment so special was meeting, working with, and getting to know the Iraqi people.

Shortly after returning stateside, Denver will be retiring. He says the Iraq deployment was a great way to finish his 34-year career with USACE, where he currently serves as the senior electrician at the

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Under moonlight, ground and flight crews of 2nd Squadron, Iraqi Air Force begin their first night-vision goggle certification flight at Camp Taji, Feb. 8, 2009. Photo by Spc. Neil Stanfield, Baghdad Media Outreach Team.

Iraqi Aircrew Flies Night-Vision Mission

TAJI AIR BASE — An initiative that has been in the works since August 2008 is now a realization as members of the Iraqi Air Force continued their quest toward night-vision operations with the help of U.S. Air Force aircrews.

Members of the 721st Air Expeditionary Advisor Squadron, who train Iraqi aircrew members, relinquished controls to an Iraqi aircrew that flew their first all-Iraqi night-vision mission in a UH Huey, Feb. 8.

“They have flown at night, but none of these guys have flown [using] NVGs [night-vision goggles], specifically the instructors we are training,” said Capt. Kevin Burns, 721st AEAS pilot advisor. “This gives the Iraqi Air Force a night operation capability that was previously non-existent.”

Before flying as an all-Iraqi aircrew, Airmen from the 721st AEAS flew with the Iraqis, ensuring mission success.

Lt. Col. Abbas, Iraqi 2nd Squadron training officer and pilot, said without the help of the U.S. advisors they wouldn’t be where they are today.

Before taking off for the all-Iraqi aircrew flight, Burns, who is deployed from Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., had to certify one last aircrew member in night mission aerial maneuvers. After being certified, the member joined Abbas, the lead instructor, to complete the milestone Iraqi flight.

“The ultimate goal is to have one advisor that is not doing any training with them, and then eventually pulls out completely and the 2nd Squadron can fully self-sustain not only their day training, but their NVG missions as well,” said Burns.

The Iraqi Air Force first acquired night-vision goggles in June 2008 and began their night training on American OH-58

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MEDEVAC Pilot Awarded for Heroism

CAMP TAJI — An aeromedical evacuation pilot from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross here, Feb. 6, for heroism and extraordinary achievement in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 James Frederick was presented the award by Maj. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, the commanding general of the 4th Inf. Div., for rescuing four trapped Iraqi National Police officers in eastern Baghdad, July 18, 2008. Frederick, from Groves, Texas, piloted his UH-60 air ambulance helicopter while hovering over a burning building to save the men.

The rescue called for a possible hoist; a unique operation that requires the crew to drop a cable and foot harness in order to hoist up each rescue victim individually using a winch-like apparatus.

In order to make the hoist successful, Frederick maneuvered and maintained a stabilized hover approximately seven feet over the rescue location while each Police officer was safely lifted into the aircraft one by one by the MEDEVAC crew members.

The rescue was expedited due to Frederick’s low hover as each victim was able to use the cable hoist as a step into the aircraft.

“I went out and did what I was trained to do, what I have practiced to

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Moments in Time: Still Images from the Military’s Best Photographers



Iraqi workers build a canal outside the village of Multaka, Feb. 10, 2009. Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Short.



Lt. Jonathan Kehoe sets the record for the fastest mile in a bomb suit, Feb. 2, 2009. Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente.



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Gary Lamewb checks the level of a foundation in Mahawil, Feb. 4, 2009. U.S. Navy Photo.