

# A'am al-Bina'a

**"The year of 2008 will be a year of reconstruction for Iraq"**  
-- Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki



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## Village of Hope training center graduates final class

Sixty students graduated from the fourth Village of Hope training center rotation during a ceremony at Patrol Base Stone Sept. 25.

"The Village of Hope was part of a civil service corps program that took Sons of Iraq members from checkpoints and taught them useable trades," said U.S. Air Force Capt. Michael Askegren. "Not every Sol is going to make it into the Iraqi Security Forces, so the Village of Hope gives them an alternative to make a good living."

Askegren noted progress and trust made from one class to the next since the first graduation. "When it started, we had to build trust within the community and get them to believe that we are here to help and teach



**The fourth and final Village of Hope class and cadre pose together for a group photo after a graduation ceremony at Patrol Base Stone Sept. 25.**

them something they can use," said Askegren. "Each class has steadily gotten better."

The day also saw the official re-opening of the Almainn School for boys, which was remodeled through construction efforts of both contractors and the graduates.

"Iraqi service workers did all of the work on the school," said U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael McKeen. "After their training, we put them straight to work. In the beginning, we had to do a lot of hands-on training with them, but after we got their first group of supervisors through their course, they kind of filled in our role."

Individuals from each class, who displayed exceptional leadership skills, were placed into a supervisors' course where they learned su-

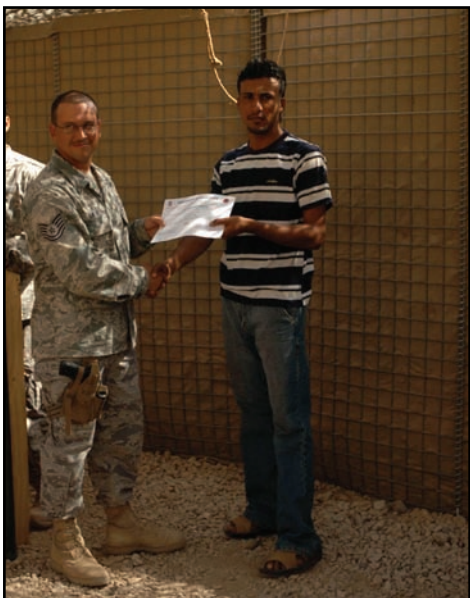
pervisory skills and responsibilities.

"Having actual supervisors out on the construction sites allowed (Coalition Forces) to take a step back and let Iraqis train Iraqis," McKeen said.

Since the inception of the Village of Hope, four classes have yielded a total of 210 graduates. The attendees are trained in construction, plumbing and electrical wiring. The supervisors learned to coordinate necessities and maintain equipment for the various trades.

Although no additional classes will be offered at the Village of Hope, Coalition Forces say good things lie ahead for Hawr Rajab.

"We've officially planted the seed to a new future, now it's time for us to step back and watch it grow," Askegren said.



**A student receives his diploma during the final Village of Hope graduation ceremony at Patrol Base Stone Sept. 25.**



Iraqi farmers from Babil province unload bags of fertilizer donated by the Government of Iraq and delivered by U.S. Soldiers Oct. 1.

## Fertilizer distribution sprouts self sufficiency

Iraqi farmers in Babil Province received 11 truckloads of fertilizer donated by the Government of Iraq and delivered by Coalition Forces Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

"We are applauding this action," said Sheikh Hussain Ali al-Sam, who will help distribute the fertilizers. In all, the U.S. Army delivered more than 5,500 bags, which will benefit more than 2,000 farmers in the Jabellah area and surrounding regions.

"The fertilizer distribution will go to the needy farmers in the area to help them become more productive farmers," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jay Wheeler.

Wheeler said the donations are meant to help bring the people to a state of self-sufficiency.

"The farmers in this area are very happy," said Adil Zambur. "The area needs some help... I too thank the Government of Iraq and Coalition. Some people in government help bring happiness to Iraqi people."

The decision to deliver the fertilizer came during a meeting to discuss ways of improving the area's ag-



Workers at the Khalis Primary Health Care Clinic celebrate the grand opening of the center Sept. 28. The facility is designed to provide basic medical service for up to 50,000 people and will provide advanced diagnostic and monitoring capabilities for acute and chronic illnesses as well as provide improvements in maternal and prenatal care.

## *Khalis Primary Health Clinic opens its doors in Diyala*

The Khalis Primary Health Care Clinic in Diyala province opened its doors to local citizens during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 28.

The new facility, which has six doctors' offices with adjoining exam rooms, an X-Ray room, two dental exam rooms, a pharmacy, two treatment rooms and a classroom, is designed to provide basic medical service for up to 50,000 people and will provide advanced diagnostic and monitoring capabilities for acute and chronic illnesses as well as provide improvements in maternal and prenatal care.

"This clinic not only brings a wonderful medical capability to the people of Diyala, but also a wonderful environment for the medical personnel to provide their services," said Jerry Gardner, the Provincial Reconstruction Team senior public health advisor. "We are hoping with these new facilities and the improvements in the security situation, we will be able to recruit and retain additional highly skilled medical personnel to work within our evolving system."

riculture and support the people of Iraq between the Mayor of Jabellah and Coalition Forces. Eight trucks delivered fertilizer to the Jabellah agricultural warehouse in conjunction with the local Agricultural Union, which has been helping the local area improve its crops. In addition to the fertilizer, 75 electric and 28 diesel-powered water pumps will be distributed throughout October.

## Three significant water projects ongoing in Irbil province

"Approximately 40,000 people will go from two hours of water every three days, to three or four hours of water every day," said Younnis Talib, project engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A short distance from the Iraq/Iran border, the Sakran natural spring water flows into a recently constructed catchment, where a 5.5 mile pipeline carries it to a 450 cubic meter holding tank. Another five miles of pipe delivers the water to the town of Choman below and its two neighboring villages, where it connects to an existing water network.

"It is enough water to meet their needs because they don't have the same needs as someone living in Irbil, for example," Talib said.

Scheduled to finish mid-December, the Choman Water Project employs around \$90 local Iraqi workers a day and is a \$1 million Economic Support Fund project. It is one of three water projects currently ongoing in the Irbil USACE office.

### Rosti Valley Phase II

Over a year ago, Rosti Valley in Irbil province suffered devastating damage from a flash flood leaving remnants of bridges, homes, and river banks behind. Phase One of the Irbil USACE Office's Rosti Valley project replaced a critical bridge and provided a massive clean-up of the debris the flood behind.

Today, work is over 50 percent complete on Phase Two—a gabion weir and renovation of irrigation canal intakes along the mountain river that will minimize floods to come.

"We had to prevent future damage to the agriculture and irrigation for the people of these 17 mountain villages," said Gailani Mahmud,



**During Phase One of the Rosti Valley project, a bridge was replaced that was critical for passage to 17 villages up and down the mountain river. This project also included the massive cleanup of debris from a 2007 flash flood.**

USACE project engineer in Irbil. "A seven-meter gabion weir toward the top of the mountain provides most of the protection, because it breaks the initial current of flood waters. And, there are 15 other locations down river, each with a series of 3-meter gabions," he said.

The wire gabion baskets are assembled and filled with rock at different locations up and down the river in Rosti Valley and the project employs approximately 50 local workers a day, said Mahmud. "But it is hard work. The men physically break the rock out of the mountain or haul them from the river bed."

### Sareshma Water Project

A third water project in the village of Sareshma will provide clean water to approximately 15,000 Iraqi citizens. Construction on the \$1.3 million Economic Support Fund project is scheduled to be completed in late November.



**Five miles of pipe delivers mountain-top spring water to the town of Choman below and its two neighboring villages, where it connects to an existing water network. Approximately 40,000 people will go from two hours of water every three days, to three or four hours of water every day when the Irbil projects are completed.**

## Musayib's new maternity hospital under construction

Next to the rubble of the deteriorating 1983 Musayib Maternity Hospital, a new facility is emerging. The \$5 million project in Musayib City, Babil province, will open this fall replacing the nearby facility.

The old hospital, undersize for the growing population, is finally making way for a new, modern facility that will help reestablish reliable healthcare for the people in Musayib and the local area.

"The new hospital will offer Musayib advanced medical services," said Ali Edreise, an Iraqi civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The people here are very excited, very pleased with this development and are definitely looking forward to its opening."

"Many doctors, surgeons and nurses left the country during and after the war to avoid assassination and kidnapping. Due to improved security conditions in the area, the new hospital is expected to employ



**Construction of a new \$5 million maternity hospital for Musayib City in Babil Province is 80 percent complete and scheduled to open this fall.**

100 medical staff while benefiting thousands," said Edreise.

Once complete, the new two-story, 11,000-square-foot facility

will include an emergency room, outpatient area, operating rooms, laboratories, X-Ray department, pharmacy, administration wing, doctors' residence, laundry and services department, modern communication system and much more. "The project is 80 percent complete and the construction firm...is scheduled to complete the work in November," added Winbourne "Mac" Drake, USACE construction representative.

The new hospital is just one example of the many healthcare improvements being planned by the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team in collaboration with the Government of Iraq Ministry of Health and the Babil Provincial Council.

More than 638 projects, including roads, schools, electricity projects, water treatment facilities, and primary health care clinics, have been completed in the five Iraqi provinces of Babil, Karbala, Wasit, Qadisiyah, and Najaf over the past year.

## Officials open Al-Naitakeen School for girls in Baghdad

Schoolgirls, parents and New Baghdad government officials celebrated the opening of the Al-Naitakeen primary school for girls in eastern Baghdad Sept. 29.



**Students of Al-Naitakeen all-girls school in Baghdad's Al-Amin neighborhood line up to sing and offer thanks during the official opening of the school Sept. 29.**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to commemorate the opening. The school, which caters to underprivileged girls, will open its doors for students and teachers in October. Hato Abdul Hassan, 9 Nissan District Council Chairman, and Abd Al Zahra, District Council Education Chairman, headed a list of dignitaries who officiated the opening.

Sadah, the English teacher at Al-Naitakeen, said the school is a nice building and although everything is not yet in place, the students will still be pleased.

"They just aren't accustomed to such amenities," said Sadah. "As they are learning, they won't complain."

Thirteen-year-old Fatima said she loves to learn, and her favorite class is reading. "I am so happy to finally be allowed in school, especially one so close to my home," expressed Fatima.

Zahra said schools such as this one offer an opportunity for children to stay busy shaping their futures. He thanked Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces for their diligence in providing security.