

30th BCT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN IRAQ

The 30th Brigade Combat Team continues to make a difference in the lives of the people in Northeastern Iraq. There are approximately 750,000 people in our Area of Operations, which includes a wide range of ethnic and religious diversity. The 3 main ethnic groups are Arabs, Kurds, and Turkoman. The majority of the people are Shia or Sunni Muslims, with a small percentage of Christians. The Brigade, working closely with Iraqi security forces, treats all people equal as we strive to improve security, meet basic infrastructure needs, and prepare for the upcoming elections.

We are making are making steady progress that is not reported on the “Nightly News”. The differences are a progressive trend of small steps and symbolizing of the irreversible momentum towards freedom and elections for the Iraqi people. In five months of operations, the 30th BCT has completed 186 projects. Another 43 projects are in currently progress, with more in the planning phase. All total, we have disbursed over \$2.1 Million dollars to local Iraqi contractors for projects in support the Iraqi people. The projects generally fall into the area of Civil-Military Operations. They are categorized into different functional areas including Economic Development, Public Works/Infrastructure, Public Health, Transportation, Education, Local Government, Cultural, and Security. Another positive result of the projects is that we are providing jobs and opportunities for the Iraqi people. Some of the typical projects funded and managed by 30th BCT are described below.



The renovation of an asphalt plant is one project that will employ local citizens as well as help sustain the growing economy. The plant, near the small town of Jisr Naft, will generate approximately 50 tons of asphalt per hour. The project was initiated by Task Force (TF) 120 and is now being managed by CPT Walt Coleman, of TF 150. The closest asphalt plant is several hours away and this newly renovated plant will help improve transportation in this rural area of Iraq.

Patching and repaving roads is important to local areas residents. Road crews are shown paving roads on Highway 5, a main route for commerce and trade between Iraq and Iran. Modern paving equipment and a steady supply of asphalt are essential for continued economic growth.





Clean drinking water is one of the major needs, especially for small communities. The 30 BCT has focused on drilling water wells for these communities. Drilling water wells is difficult in this region because much of the shallow ground water contains high salt levels making it unusable. Wells are often 400 feet or deeper to gain access to suitable ground water. The average cost for a water well is \$9,000. The 30 BCT has started or completed over two dozen water well projects. The well shown is being installed by TF 252, headquarters in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in the village of Wadi al Answar.



LTC Greg Wilcoxon, Commander TF 150 headquarters in Bluefield, West Virginia, participates with Mayor Muhamed Maroof Hussein in the Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the al-Salihah Primary School in Balad Ruz. Mayor Hussein indicated that the local people wanted the school and it will help provide educational opportunities for the children in this area of the town.

This picture shows a typical classroom at the al-Salihah Primary School in Balad Ruz. The project employed local Iraqi contractors and significantly improved the learning environment for local children. The school renovation included new security wall and gate, new doors and windows, painting, plastering, new desks, and upgraded plumbing.



Workers are shown here installing new phone lines in Balad Ruz. The new phone lines are critical to link the police department, the fire department, and the government facilities. This will help facilitate and coordinate the response of emergency workers in the town.



TF 120, headquarters in Wilmington, North Carolina, conducted a Health Fair in the Town of Yanijah. The event was organized E Troop, 196 Cavalry commanded by CPT Robert Bumgardener and headquarters in Elizabethtown, North Carolina. Events included a Soldier artist drawing pictures for kids, carnival games, and a medical screening station. The medical station was important and very beneficial as medics and doctors were able to treat minor injuries and provide immediate relief to children as well as screen for other problems, such as high

blood pressure. The Soldiers distributed Certificates of Appreciation and sports equipment to local children. The event helped build trust and cooperation between the different ethnic groups, local Iraqi Security Forces, and the US Military.



Medical Professionals screen local Iraqi children during the Health Fair in Yanijah. During the screening, they provided immediate relief for minor problems.



Local Iraqi children were receptive and enjoyed the Carnival events during the Health Fair. Breaking down cultural barriers between Americans and Iraqis will lead to future cooperation. The best way to break down the barriers is through regular interactions. The Health Fair was one step in that direction. The balloon figures and the artist drawings were very popular with the children.

The main event of the Yanijah Health Fair was a soccer game between Soldiers and Iraqi Citizens. The game brought together people from different countries, different backgrounds, and different religions like only a sporting event can. The citizens of Yanijah soundly defeated the TF 120 Soldiers, 5-1.



Kifri, located in northern Diyala Province, began to prosper in 1991 after Desert Storm. The people of Kifri were not controlled by the Saddam Regime, but were protected by the US in the Northern “No Fly” zone. As such, the economy of Kifri thrived and in many ways now resembles western style towns. Soldiers from TF 252 are shown here distributing library supplies in Kifri.



Company A, TF 120, headquarters in Jacksonville, North Carolina initiated a campaign to distribute school supplies in the Town of Balad Ruz. The children were very receptive and appreciative of the supplies, and are shown here with 2LT Raphael.

Managing water in the arid environment of Iraq is critical. Shown below is a typical pump utilized in the irrigation canals south of Hamrin Lake. These irrigation canals supply fresh drinking water to communities downstream as well as water for agriculture needs. The scope of work for this project included a complete pump rebuild, repiping, and installation to improve the water distribution.





Company C, TF 252, headquartered in Southern Pines, North Carolina, and commanded by CPT John McArthur, recently completed council elections in the town of Qara Tapa. One of the first priority projects of the town council was the construction of a clinic. The four-room clinic is shown here. With the necessary medical supplies being coordinated through the Iraqi Minister of Health, this project will help meet the basic health needs of the community.

The Barochali Water Distribution Facility pumps water from wells to Tuz, Sulayman Bak, and other local villages. Company C, TF 120, headquarters in Whiteville, North Carolina and commanded by CPT Wes Morrison, is renovating the pumping station. 1LT Mike McMichael is the project manager and the scope of work includes repairing 17 of 26 pumps, well head modifications, electrical upgrades, and piping and valve improvements. The increased performance of this water distribution facility will benefit area residents providing water 24 hours per day.



This picture shows a typical water well pumping configuration at the Barochali Water Distribution Facility. The facility was originally constructed in 1975 and poor maintenance resulted in reduced capacity. The project by C Company, TF 120, will greatly enhance the facility and significantly improve its performance.



Company B, 1-120, working for TF 150, commanded by CPT Mike Allen headquarters in Smithfield, North Carolina, completed an electrical project in the town of Qazania. The project included upgrades of the switching system at the electrical substation.

Prior to installing the new switches, the town electric department had no way to isolate electrical faults without completely turning all the power off to the town. With the new switches, the electrical system can be segregated and allow needed maintenance to be completed without disrupting power to the entire grid.



The 30th Brigade, in full partnership with Iraqi civil and military authorities, continues to conduct simultaneous full-spectrum operations to ensure a secure, stable, and self-reliant Iraq, thereby setting conditions for successful national elections. We are accomplishing our mission, one project at a time.

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