

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMPLETE STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

OF

R. L. BROWNLEE
ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

FOR THE HEARING BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

ROOM 2362, RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, I welcome the opportunity to provide a statement in recognition of the accomplishments of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works Program in supporting our Nation's interests and security during times of peace and war. It is a great honor and privilege for me to lead an army that includes such a unique organization as the Army Corps of Engineers and its 25,000-member strong Civil Works program.

Today, underlying everything the Army—its soldiers, civilians, and families—does, it does as an Army at war, serving a Nation at war. The Corps of Engineers has played and continues to play an invaluable role in both fighting the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and, more importantly, bringing its considerable public works experience and expertise to bear on the continuing efforts to reconstruct Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Corps has engaged its Civil Works “know-how” since the beginning of the Global War On Terrorism. Their extensive experience in handling emergency response missions for the Federal Emergency Management Agency has provided them with the tremendous experience and skills in accomplishing the kinds of missions they are currently tackling across the globe—the same capabilities that allowed them to immediately respond to the events of 9/11, to assist in the recovery from that terrible day, and to help in securing our Nation's infrastructure against the further threat of terrorism.

General Flowers tells me that over 1,000 Corps civilians have volunteered to leave the safety and security of their families and communities to go in harm's way in support of our Nation and the principles for which it stands. They have been tremendous ambassadors to the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, building relationships across boundaries of mistrust and conflict. By reestablishing and reconstructing these countries' long neglected infrastructure, Corps employees, civilians and military alike, have begun to help turn both nations' economies around, in the process earning the respect and goodwill of the people. Corps personnel are representative of the ideals of quiet, selfless service and dedication that serve as examples for these budding democracies. These are good-news stories one rarely, if ever, sees in the media.

The special public works and engineering capabilities the Civil Works Program brings to the Corps, to the Army, and to the Nation, have proven immeasurably valuable in supporting current military operations, especially in war's aftermath.

In Iraq, for example, I assigned the Corps responsibility as the Executive Agent for repair and continuity of operations of the Iraqi oil infrastructure. Through Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (TF RIO), Corps employees—soldiers and civilians—have brought the country's oil infrastructure and production to higher than pre-war levels. Restoring oil is crucial to Iraq's recovery and future. Revenues from oil sales go directly to Iraqi authorities for rehabilitation of badly neglected infrastructure and for humanitarian needs. The Corps has teamed with

contractors to accomplish this mission, but it has been Corps employees who have been the heart and soul of the operation.

Beyond the important work of restoring Iraq's oil infrastructure, Corps of Engineers personnel have been working closely with CPA and the Iraqi ministries on oil and other infrastructure—including, electricity restoration, destruction of Captured Enemy Ammunition, and field force engineering. In addition, Corps employees are supporting the US Agency for International Development's infrastructure reconstruction program, and providing design and construction services to the United States Central Command. Corps hydrologists are inspecting hydrological structures and advising other agencies on restoring the southern marshes. Teams of damage inspectors have assessed schools and hospitals, followed by Corps contract workers beginning the identified repairs. Corps of Engineers volunteers have initiated adopt-a-school programs, to the delight of school administrators and children. Through the CPA and ministries, the Corps has completed much beneficial recovery work in the areas of housing, police and fire stations, government buildings, water resources, sanitary sewers, trash, recycling and waste, and information management.

The Corps efforts in Afghanistan have resulted in the reconstruction of key infrastructure throughout the country, including roads; facilities in support of the new Afghan National Army; facilities in support of U.S. military operations; site surveys and geotechnical investigations for the proposed Amu Darya Bridge—a bridge connecting Afghanistan and Tajikistan; and providing technical and management support to several Afghan ministries.

Mr. Chairman, in closing I would like again to thank you and the members of this Subcommittee for creating a forum to highlight the significant accomplishments and dedication of the Corps as represented by the employees who testified before you. I hope this hearing will help the public have a better understanding of the important work that's being done and the progress that is being made everyday in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our current and future success in rebuilding these countries and fostering hope and democracy, are in no small part dependent on the continued contributions of the people and values of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I am proud that they are an invaluable part of our great Army.