OCTOBER 30, 2009

REPORT TO CONGRESS

PROVINCIAL PORTRAITS

Wassit

Governance

The PRT reported that Iraqi officials continued this quarter to press for large-scale “milestone” and “legacy” projects such as dams, major research hospitals, and industrial installations. The PRT clarified that a new phase in the provision of assistance had shifted priorities toward government capacity-building efforts. The news of the PRT’s transition was met with mixed reactions: Many Iraqi government institutions welcomed the governance focus of the initiatives, while others noted the unfinished job of infrastructure and capital project reconstruction.595

The PRT also reported a meeting with key supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr who expressed willingness to engage with the PRT, a development the PRT described as an “unusual dynamic in Iraq.” The PRT saw this as an opportunity for outreach to al-Sadr’s followers in ways that could potentially reduce political tensions, bolster security, and increase support for political reconciliation in the province.596

Regarding budgeting, the PRT reported that the provincial coffers had received a substantial infusion of cash this quarter from a government-run truck-staging area in the province, though how much cash had been collected remained unclear.

The PRT reported that as both a significant revenue source and a potential point of controversy about transparency and corruption, the trucking operation invited continued scrutiny.597 USAID’s Tatweer program trained nearly 400 provincial officials in public administration and management, and worked with district officials and citizens to identify community needs and effective ways to respond to those needs at the lowest levels of government.598

Security and Rule of Law

PRT Wassit reported that the security situation in the province was generally stable this quarter despite an increase in security incidents directed against FOB Delta and convoys traveling in the province after June 30. Two separate bombings reportedly killed 15 Iraqi civilians in August—the first such attacks in some time. There were few security-related restrictions on movement this quarter, though certain communities presented greater relative danger to the PRT than others. The PRT predicted that as U.S. troops begin to withdraw further, its ability to travel throughout Wassit will decrease, and reconstruction efforts will need to be redirected to the most vital areas.599
The PRT’s RoL section continued this quarter to engage judges and prosecutors on a regular basis at six courthouses under renovation. During one visit, a judge brought up the issue of detainee treatment at the jail, including a case of prisoner abuse. RoL reported that judges appeared increasingly aware of due-process issues. Iraqi police continued training in the mechanics of crime scene investigation and the issuance of arrest warrants. The PRT sponsored symposia this quarter to educate Iraqi attorneys.\(^{600}\)

**Infrastructure**

The PRT reported that only 2 of 10 "CERP surge" projects submitted for approval by the end of the quarter had been granted. Obtaining approval for the remainder was among the PRT’s most important remaining priorities.\(^{601}\) The MND-S brigade commander reported 35 ongoing projects this quarter and another 29 in the planning phase. The focus was on improving the water supply for drinking and irrigation, building courthouses and schools, and border security, including:

- an ISFF grant to provide solar and wind power at a border outpost, which could be duplicated at other outposts
- an ISFF project designed to reduce smuggling by creating a customs point of entry
- a water pumping station along the Halwar canal that will provide water for agriculture, cooking, and bathing

**U.S. Infrastructure Spending in Wassit**

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Additionally, a CERP-funded project to rehabilitate the al-Muntanabi Primary School was in its final stages.\(^{603}\) Some $4.8 million in I-CERP funds were earmarked for rehabilitation of the Jassan-Dabuni canal pump station, which will aid communities in western and northern Wassit.\(^{604}\) USAID provided technical assistance and maintenance to the al-Shuahmiyah water pump station that will provide uninterrupted water flow to about 40,000 people.\(^{605}\)

The GRD reported that the Wassit Engineering College Laboratory was 98% complete this quarter. Scheduled for completion on October 15, 2009, the project will install new laboratory equipment and supply faculty training for modern computer labs, soil and asphalt testing labs, and a surveying lab at Wassit University Engineering College.\(^{606}\)

**Economy**

The PRT reported that Wassit’s agricultural sector was beset with serious problems, such as declining water resources, increasing soil salinity, poor irrigation methods, a lack of modern equipment, and demographic shortfalls that have forced farmers to abandon land and head to urban areas.\(^{607}\) The PC this quarter asked PRT Wassit to focus on agricultural projects.\(^{608}\) The PRT’s economics section conducted a lengthy brainstorming meeting with the Chamber of Commerce’s board of directors to identify companies to approach about possible investment in the province.\(^{609}\) PRT Wassit inspected a CERP-funded market and refined the management of a QRF-funded tractor rental...
USAID’s Tijara program provided technical assistance to two small-business development centers.

Wassit’s Provincial Investment Commission considers agriculture among the province’s most important industries, employing 38% of the workforce, growing wheat, barley, fruit, and dates. Tomato paste and fisheries are also important areas of production. To aid in this sector, PRT Wassit organized an agricultural conference, facilitated agriculture training this quarter, and sponsored a workshop on greenhouse technology.

A modern auto dealership opened in Wassit this quarter as a result of an earlier PRT-sponsored Opportunities Fair that attracted a Lebanese company. The dealership uses auto financing and has plans to open a parts and services department—two firsts for the province.

Babylon

Governance
The PRT reported that attendance by the PC was so poor last quarter that the chairman threatened in July to start fining members who missed sessions. The government staff, meanwhile, recommended creating a provincial secretary position, which PRT Babylon and USAID viewed favorably as a way to improve transparency, reduce corruption, and increase public participation in PC activities.

Despite budgetary problems, the PRT reported that the PC had allocated funds to purchase a new SUV for each PC member shortly before firing a municipal director to save public funds from being wasted. In a separate issue, the provincial minister in charge of civil-society organizations claimed that 300 of the 400 registered NGOs in the province were “fictitious.”

Security and Rule of Law
PRT Babylon reported that public reaction in Babylon to the June 30 redeployment of U.S. forces was muted, and the popular mood was a mix of “indifference” and “apprehension” over security. The PRT characterized provincial security as “good” and the province as “stable,” but also reported a slight uptick in roadside bombs in July. Also in July, unknown gunmen attacked police in two different incidents, and an SOI checkpoint came under fire. In August, 8 car bombs exploded (killing 3 and wounding 39), a grenade exploded at the office of the Iraqi National Stream party, gunmen killed the brother of a ministry director, and the PRT reported potential for an increase in tribal disputes. One local politician warned that late payments to SOI members could jeopardize security.

The PRT reported that the rise in violence represented a change from previous quarters. Babylon had been relatively safe—safe enough that less than half of the IDPs residing in the province told pollsters that they wanted to return home, though a portion hoped to resettle in a third location. Despite the deteriorating security situation, the Shia holiday of Shabaniya was celebrated without a significant security incident.
A survey conducted by the PRT-supported al-Meezan Legal Newspaper revealed a widespread perception that the centralized Administrative Court is “overwhelmed and inefficient.”

In mid-September, a Center for the Defense of Arbitrary Detainees opened with support from the European Union, the United Nations, and an Italian organization.

Infrastructure

PRT Babylon reported that the transition from brick-and-mortar projects was underway this quarter, and there were no plans for additional large structures. Still under construction were two primary schools, two secondary schools, and one regional courthouse. The Mussayib Civic Center, the last large structure to be built with U.S. funds, is scheduled for completion in August 2010. The new Hillah Courthouse project was nearing completion this quarter and is scheduled to open in 2010.

In the areas of electricity, water, and sewage, the PRT and USAID worked this quarter on:
- sustaining the finished Jebalah substation and the al-Karya al-Asryah water project by training Iraqi officials and testing equipment
- preventing a cholera epidemic due to drought conditions and poor water quality
- bringing water tanks to rural areas that have contaminated or poor quality water and helping to construct solar-powered water filtration units to purify contaminated irrigation water

U.S. Infrastructure Spending in Babylon

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According to the MND-S brigade commander, there were 29 projects in progress and 31 more in development this quarter, including a $1 million ESF project to improve security of the local police force in the northern town of al-Khidr.

The GRD reported that the al-Eskan Water Compact Unit was 70% complete this quarter with a scheduled completion date of April 5, 2010. Once complete, the unit will treat water, provide storage tanks, and sludge lagoons. The project is expected to provide potable water for up to 10,000 people.

Economy

As the cradle of Iraq’s ancient civilization, Babylon is rich in historic ruins that could form the basis of a tourist industry. To that end, the State Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities allocated $500,000 this quarter to renovate archeological sites with the goal of opening them to the public soon. Disagreement remained on how to preserve the archeological heritage while making the site available to tourists. Other than archeology, Babylon is known for its dates, and agriculture employs roughly 25% of the population.

This quarter, the PRT and USAID assisted in economic development through these projects:
- the Abu Ghurak Market—third in a series of six neighborhood markets being provided through
Security and Rule of Law

The PRT reported that Qadissiya enjoyed a relatively stable security environment, though this quarter there was an apparent assassination attempt on the director general for agriculture. The province is secure enough that almost half of the province’s IDP population reported that they hoped to stay in Qadissiya despite poor infrastructure and limited job opportunities. PRT Qadissiya’s movements around the province were sometimes hampered by the absence of an IP escort on missions within the provincial capital. Occasionally, the problem prevented the PRT from visiting project sites and meeting with Iraqi officials in their offices.

PRT Qadissiya reported that it has not had a full-time RoL advisor for several months. Nonetheless, the PRT worked on a number of RoL activities this quarter, including visits to the province’s chief judge and to several courthouses. The PRT is currently working with CERP funds to rehabilitate the offices of the provincial COI.

Qadissiya

Governance

PRT Qadissiya reported that it had conducted urban planning and community management training at the district levels this quarter. Mayors of four districts participated in the program, which teaches government officials how to envision and plan for community development by targeting available financial resources. The PRT reported that the new governor and PC were more open to working with the PRT than the previous provincial administration. In this environment, the PRT has been able to offer new ideas for best practices, including a strategy for changing government and public attitudes toward NGOs, which had been viewed with suspicion. The PRT also reported that the provincial Commission on Integrity had begun anticorruption efforts.

USAID reported that about 310 provincial officials participated in its Tatweer program, which sought to improve governance capabilities through courses on leadership, human resources, project and fiscal management, procurement, and anticorruption.

Security Incidents in Qadissiya

(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)

Infrastructur
The PRT reported that the provincial government focused this quarter on improving its water and electricity delivery systems. To that end, the PRT obtained CERP funding for the mechanical refitting and filter replacement of the Diwaniya Water Treatment Plant, as well as four electrical feeder line projects. When complete, the plant should provide drinking water to the provincial capital, Diwaniya. In all, there were 10 projects being executed and 16 others in planning stages this quarter, according to the MND-S Brigade Commander. In addition to the water plant, there were three planned sewer improvement projects and four IP stations under construction.

In July, the project to refurbish and expand the al-Akhlaas Primary School was completed, including 6 new classrooms that will accommodate nearly 500 students attending this school, new bathrooms, and a courtyard. Two other schools received new QRF-funded bathrooms, desks, chairs, and air conditioners.

Economy
Agriculture is at the core of Qadissiya’s economic activity, and the PRT sought to strengthen this sector by training farmers to use advanced technology to map the province’s limited water resources. Funding was approved for a soil-testing laboratory, and the PRT reported improvement in the province’s agricultural capabilities to ensure better water allocation and grow crops that are less dependent on water.

In August, the PC chairman announced a deal with Hyundai to buy 10,000 cars for unemployed residents and recent college graduates for use as taxis or as transport while seeking employment. The Iraqi National Investment Council reported that the provincial government also sought this quarter to build a sports arena and an international airport. Officials consulted private investors interested in transforming the historic Niffar archeological site into a tourist attraction, although the PRT reported that the idea could have disastrous effects on the site, which has yet to be fully excavated and preserved.

Kerbala
Governance
PRT Kerbala reported that preparations for the January 2010 national elections were underway this quarter. Election officials reported that 85% of Kerbala voters had received updated voter registration cards by mid-August.

The PRT also reported it had worked with provincial officials this quarter to implement advanced technology systems designed to aid in government planning and agriculture, and that the PC was supporting these efforts. However,
the provincial finance director refused to pay for data entry personnel for the systems, forcing the PRT to underwrite a short-term project to pay for the extra workers. Generally, the PRT reported improved PC governance, including activity to form a committee to ensure that decisions are carried out and completed, as well as new anticorruption efforts undertaken in conjunction with the governor’s office.

In July, the PC reported that it had received $23 million from the central government to cover an estimated 2009 budget of $77 million. By August, the PC had received 60% of its budget. To plug budget shortfalls, provincial officials were considering establishing a tax on religious tourism to the province. Some 420 officials attended USAID training sessions on public administration and management, including fiscal management, procurement, and anticorruption.

Security and Rule of Law
PRT Kerbala reported that security concerns remained low this quarter. There were two roadside bombs, but neither caused damage or injury. Similarly, no security problems were reported during the Shia holy day of Shabaniya, which drew an estimated six million to seven million pilgrims to the province’s main shrine. The ISF implemented a successful security plan that included an additional 20,000 security personnel, emergency medical support, and air surveillance. PRT movements were restricted over the holiday, but not at other times. Kerbala’s relatively calm security situation and predominantly Shia population have led many Shia fleeing the violence in Baghdad and Diyala to seek refuge in the province.

The RoL section reported several women’s initiatives, including:
- A proposal from Women for Women International to establish a program for women in war and post-conflict zones. Under funding review for an IRAP grant this quarter, the proposed year-long
course is designed to help women learn to cope with the effects of war, to teach basic human rights principles, and to offer vocational training.

- A project to develop job skills, literacy, and human rights awareness among women in western Kerbala.
- Expansion of a project to provide free legal service to women through funding of the NGO, “Women for Justice.” The PRT reported that the NGO was meeting a request from the Family Courts to provide a secure environment for parental visits with children in custody and divorce cases.663

Additionally, the PRT visited Baghdad Police College’s Forensics Training Lab to arrange a future tour of the facility for members of Kerbala’s legal community.664 PRT members visited the main jail and found adequate, though crowded, housing and generally good conditions. The PRT was awaiting approval of CERP and I-CERP funding for projects to build the Hindiyah Courthouse and the Ayn Tamr Courthouse.665 USAID hosted 20 conflict resolution workshops for 575 people, including local sheiks, human rights activists, and law professors.666

**Infrastructure**

PRT Kerbala reported that it had been instructed to maintain a high level of CERP activity through August 2010.667 Progress continued this quarter on seven I-CERP projects (five schools, a clinic, and a courthouse), three CERP projects (school bathrooms), and seven “CERP-surge” projects (transformers, a courthouse, a laboratory, a materials testing facility, a youth sports complex, a school renovation, and cold storage facilities).668

MND-S Brigade Commander reported that there were 14 projects underway and another 16 in the planning stages this quarter, including school and courthouse construction. Four schools were entering the “groundbreaking” phase, while two courthouses were being planned.669

USAID selected an alfalfa forage demonstration site, registered five Kerbala fish farmers for training in neighboring Babylon province, and made two agricultural micro-finance loans totaling $8,000.670

**Economy**

Home to a major Shia shrine, Kerbala is one of Iraq’s foremost tourist destinations. The PIC boasted of a thriving hotel industry, including 62 resorts. Additionally, the province produces large quantities of wheat, barley, and dates.671 In July the PIC announced an $18 billion residential and commercial development on a lake funded by a UAE developer. The plan still requires approvals from the NIC and an allocation of land.672

The PRT reported efforts this quarter to help Iraqis develop bank lending programs for small- and medium-sized businesses in the province. A business roundtable conducted this quarter recommended improving the process for new business registrations. A second roundtable is planned for early December.673 PRT Kerbala
participated with USAID on two initiatives this quarter:
- technical assistance on three horticultural projects designed to import seedlings and vines, establish greenhouses, and improve post-harvest handling of fruits and vegetables
- a project to educate local farmers on forage management and to introduce salt-tolerant Bermuda grass into Iraq

The PRT also met with German investors interested in establishing car dealerships in Kerbala. These investors were staying in local hotels, traveling in unarmored cars, and without a security detail, which PRT Kerbala interpreted as welcome signs of investor comfort with local security and the provincial investment environment.

Najaf

Governance
Najaf’s provincial government continued to receive relatively high marks this quarter in the CMM compiled by the PRT. Though the PRT did not rank Najaf self-reliant, it gave relatively high marks to the PC for national unity and political development. USAID trained more than 500 government officials in administration and management, including human resources and anticorruption.

The PRT reported that the PC regularly asked for assistance in building infrastructure projects, particularly in the areas of water and electricity. Though the PRT is no longer seeking large-scale brick-and-mortar projects, the team oversaw I-CERP projects this quarter and provided advice on technical issues.

Security and Rule of Law
The PRT reported that security incidents were rare in Najaf this quarter, but noted that its movements were limited in some areas, such as the old city of Najaf and nearby Kufa, due to the influence of Iran and the presence of the Mahdi Army, the armed wing of Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr’s party.

In RoL, lawyers working for the Women’s Assistance Project opened 30 new cases. Since May 2009, the project has accepted representation on behalf of 483 widows and completed 47 cases.

PRT Najaf reported it had made progress with access to counsel for detainees and legal services for orphans through PRT-supported NGOs.

The MND-S Brigade Commander reported that there were 6 projects being executed in Najaf and another 56 projects in the planning phase this quarter. One project underway will purchase eight generators with CERP funds to provide more electricity to commercial buildings. Four health clinics were under construction this quarter, and 27 vehicle and pedestrian bridges were in the planning stage.

Infrastructure
The PRT reported that the Najaf Reconstruction Council, an Iraqi engineering organization, agreed to provide professional engineers at their own cost.

Security Incidents in Najaf
(Resulting in Two or More Deaths)
at all Najaf I-CERP sites.\(^\text{643}\) Also this quarter, the PRT reported that work on four district health clinics continued on schedule and on budget, with more than 50\% of work completed. Clinics are expected to be handed over to the Ministry of Health next quarter.\(^\text{644}\)

The PRT confirmed that $62 million worth of electric generators had been installed at the Gasak Power Plant. With the installation of the new generators, the Gasak plant will generate an additional 250 MW of electricity.\(^\text{685}\)

The PC asked the PRT to help oversee I-CERP projects for schools and health centers this quarter. The PRT reported that most of the current QRF and USAID funding (IRAP) is now targeted toward government capacity building or small projects and away from brick-and-mortar projects.\(^\text{686}\)

### Economy

Najaf hosts a major Shia shrine and a cemetery that attract millions of pilgrims each year, and it produces large quantities of wheat, barley, rice, and dates. A state company producing tires and rubber employs about 2,400 people. The PIC hopes to expand the province’s potential for foreign investment, noting interest from Arab companies in commercial complexes and hotels.\(^\text{687}\)

PRT Najaf this quarter facilitated a visit by several agricultural specialists who toured a feedlot forage site where alfalfa is being grown. The site was supplied with deep wells providing clean water. The next step is to introduce beehives to pollinate the alfalfa flowers. The site is projected to provide 10 harvests per year and approximately 2,000 metric tons of alfalfa.\(^\text{688}\)

In other areas of agriculture, PRT Najaf reported it had worked with the Najaf Agricultural Committee to obtain plastic greenhouses, promote drip irrigation systems, and diversify crops.\(^\text{689}\)

### Muthanna

### Governance

The PRT reported that the PC functioned “reasonably well” and “without the use of violence,” though there were incidents of tribal conflict this quarter, including the brief kidnapping of a tribal sheik, who was released unharmed.\(^\text{690}\) The provincial government agreed to a five-year plan prioritizing capital investment, which the PRT plans to use as a mechanism to better identify possible CERP projects in closer cooperation with provincial officials. The PRT’s subject matter experts began taking more of a supporting role, advising government officials only when invited.\(^\text{691}\)

PRT Muthanna met this quarter with provincial leaders, including the Iraqi Governorate Election Office director, to assess how the PRT could support the January 2010 parliamentary elections, including using QRF/CERP funds to support voter education.\(^\text{692}\)

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**U.S. Infrastructure Spending in Najaf**

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Security and Rule of Law
PRT Muthanna reported that the security situation in the province remained calm this quarter. The PRT’s RoL section assisted with literacy training for prisoners and advised provincial officials on ways to alleviate overcrowding in the prison.693

Infrastructure
The PRT noted that Muthanna suffered in particular from a lack of water. Water-borne disease is a problem because of low water levels in the Euphrates River. This quarter, there was at least one outbreak of typhoid, which the PRT said was probably due to degraded water quality. The PRT assessed inoperative water plants and discussed emergency distribution of water, development of wells, and repair of water plants.694

This quarter, the PRT reported progress on the following projects.695
- distribution of water purification units to hospitals, youth centers, and orphanages
- construction of the Rumaytha Slaughterhouse and the Warka Slaughterhouse
- funding for seven projects, including water distribution, roads, and a four-classroom school

In addition, the GRD reported that a fuel station was 88% complete this quarter that would allow for refueling and resupplying of vehicles and equipment used by the Department of Border Enforcement in remote areas of the province.696

USAID worked with local officials to vaccinate more than 110,000 sheep and cattle, provided training to 45 veterinarians and 100 others in the agriculture industry, and promoted an artificial insemination program that has increased the province’s cattle herd.697

Economy
Sparsely populated, Muthanna’s vast desert contains oil and salt, and the province is Iraq’s main producer of cement. Provincial farmers breed poultry and produce large quantities of dates. This quarter, the governor announced plans to develop new oil wells with private investment funds, while

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Iraqi children attend the grand opening of the Women’s Training and Rug Display in Muthanna province. (OPA photo)
the Ministry of Oil expanded its oil refinery in the provincial capital, Samawa, that is projected to produce 10,000 barrels per day.698

The PRT reported that Muthanna’s PIC was successful this quarter in licensing well over $1 billion in investment deals. The PRT also reported that if heavy industrial projects to produce cement, plastics, salts, cleaning products, and medical oxygen come to fruition in the next few years, the province has the potential to substantially change its economic landscape.699 One impediment to investment noted by the PRT has been the PIC’s lack of access to public land.700

**Thi-Qar**

**Governance**

PRT Thi-Qar reported that the province enjoys a relatively well-developed political climate where the PC is able to mediate competing political goals in a relatively peaceful manner.701 The PRT also reported success in anticorruption efforts after an influential tribal sheik and three others were jailed for extortion in an alleged reconstruction contracting scheme. The PRT leader characterized the case as proof of the effectiveness of Iraq’s legal system.702 USAID trained 280 local government officials to deal with the effects of political and tribal affiliations on governance.703

The PRT and USAID reported aiding the PC in its preparation of the provincial budget and training in governance issues, including the use of technology, and the formulation of a provincial development strategy.704

**Security and Rule of Law**

Thi-Qar had few security incidents this quarter, though local police found caches of weapons and defused bombs. Despite the success touted in the arrest of the sheik on corruption charges, the PRT reported that the province’s chief judge complained that provincial police and judges did not know how to use technology to build cases and did not cooperate with one another.705 Training continued in this area, however, with ISF members from seven provinces attending a one-day seminar on the collection, preservation, and exploitation of forensic evidence found at bombing sites.706

**Infrastructure**

PRT Thi-Qar sought CERP funds for water and veterinary care, among other sectors this quarter, including:

- a proposal to construct a surgical unit at the Thi-Qar Veterinary Hospital 707
- a proposal for a reverse osmosis system to upgrade existing water networks708

PRT Thi-Qar reported working with the provincial government to draw up proposals for CERP-funded brick-and-mortar projects.709

**Economy**

The PRT funded several agricultural training programs this quarter:
Ten farmers from Suk al-Shuyukh and Chubaish were trained at Camp Mittica in the production of dairy product. The Farmers Union will distribute the milk and cheese during Ramadan\textsuperscript{710}.

Students from the Akad Palm Station were trained in procedures for safer date harvesting, including mechanized harvest techniques.\textsuperscript{711}

The Farmers Union received 6,000 newly hatched chickens this quarter, and all chicks at the Nassriya rearing site were vaccinated.\textsuperscript{712}

A CERP funding request was pending for the construction and outfitting of a fish hatchery, which is designed to have an output of 10 million carp fingerlings to supply juvenile stocks for all the fish farms in Thi-Qar.\textsuperscript{713}

The PRT reported that in an absence of national policies that would create a more propitious environment for a market-led, entrepreneurial business environment, economic development remains a challenge.\textsuperscript{714}

**Missan**

**Governance**

PRT Missan reported that access to provincial government officials continued to improve this quarter, and that the governor had encouraged provincial leaders to work with the PRT. It also reported that this was due in part to significant cuts in the 2009 provincial capital budget and to what the PRT called the “profligate spending” of the previous PC.\textsuperscript{715} One PC member asked specifically for assistance for reconciliation workshops intended to help tribal leaders resolve disputes peacefully.\textsuperscript{716}

The PRT worked with provincial leaders regarding voter registration in the January 2010 elections and met with representatives from the NGO “Towards Democracy” to discuss voter education program proposals.\textsuperscript{717} As the elections draw near, the PRT plans also to focus on increasing contacts with political parties and journalists to facilitate political reporting.\textsuperscript{718}

USAID completed training on bylaws for PC members, setting up committees and assisting them in creating budgets. USAID also trained about 680 provincial officials in public administration and management, including fiscal management, procurement, and anticorruption.\textsuperscript{719}

**Security and Rule of Law**

The PRT reported an “improved yet irregular” security situation that included more willingness by Iraqi Police escorts to assist in movements around the province. However it reported continuing small-arms fire directed against the U.S. military’s FOB.\textsuperscript{720}

Despite the lack of an RoL advisor for some of the quarter, the PRT reported it had developed an excellent working relationship with provincial judges and was able to arrange for two investigative judges to participate for the first time in two days of training on evidence collection methods conducted by the U.S. military.\textsuperscript{721}

**Infrastructure**

The PRT reported that provincial leaders were relying this quarter on the successful completion of several large building projects, including the 70-bed Missan Surgical Hospital and the 23-kilometer Amarah-Maimouna Carriageway—but the status of both projects has been in question:

- Missan Surgical Hospital: Health Attaché staffers worked with the GOI this quarter to determine the Iraqi government’s level of commitment to

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**U.S. Infrastructure Spending in Thi-Qar**

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<td>Electricity</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Infrastructure</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>541.26</strong></td>
</tr>
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OCTOBER 30, 2009 | REPORT TO CONGRESS | 129
Elsewhere in the province, responsibility for operating two water compact unit rehabilitation projects was turned over to provincial leaders this quarter. These $300,000 projects are intended to improve the public health and quality of life of more than 22,000 residents in the area. The units had been operating at 50% of capacity before the renovation and are now functioning at 100%.725

**Economy**

Missan has suffered from a crumbling infrastructure and poor access to resources.726 But its eastern side has large oil fields and the province produces large quantities of wool, fish, sugar, and paper. The PIC hopes to exploit natural gas as well as oil.727

The PRT reported that its economic advisor met with members of the Mobile Agricultural Training
Team who provide training, information, and assistance to women and girls in rural agricultural communities. The team has asked the PRT for assistance in delivering their programs to women and girls residing in the rural areas.  

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**Basrah**

**Governance**

PRT Basrah reported this quarter that the province lagged behind many others in governance, economic development, and the RoL, which the PRT attributed to years of war and repression. The PRT reported that overcoming these governance and economic problems was critical because roughly 50% of Iraq’s GDP originates in Basrah, primarily in the oil industry, but also in other areas. The majority of Iraq’s trade transits Basrah’s pipelines, ports, and roads.

PRT Basrah reported it was working this quarter to steer Iraqi stakeholders away from reliance on U.S. government funding to improve essential services. In anticipation of Basrah obtaining budget resources from the national government in 2010 to fund operations and the most urgent capital investment needs, PRT Basrah has begun transitioning to a strictly government capacity-building role. The PRT also reported that the stable security situation had allowed the PRT and USAID to focus on improving the ability of local officials to govern.

**Security and Rule of Law**

There were few security incidents in Basrah this quarter, with only three incidents occurring in which more than two people were killed, including the murder of two minority Mandaean women. The PRT reported that COB Basrah continued this quarter to receive indirect fire and that one such attack had killed three soldiers in July. Military movements also came under attack. The PRT noted a need for additional troops to secure movements and allow the PRT to move during the January 2010 elections.

The PRT reported that RoL efforts in Basrah have a brick-and-mortar component, including the U.S.-funded construction of a $10 million provincial courthouse, two other major courthouse construction projects, and the construction of a prison. The PRT reported that these projects had led to significant goodwill among local judges, corrections officials, and police.
also reported what it called a “strategic need to inoculate against malevolent Iranian influence” by showing the populace that essential services are improving under the new Iraq.\textsuperscript{733}

The PRT also reported that judicial intimidation and corruption remained concerns. The PRT noted a lack of identified and trustworthy civil society RoL partners. The relationship with the local Iraq Bar Association and Iraqi Jurist Union was poor because of recalcitrant and obstructive leadership, despite a $300,000 project to renovate the IJU’s building in 2008. The PRT sought this quarter to change these relationships.\textsuperscript{734}

**Infrastructure**

PRT Basrah continued this quarter to oversee the implementation of more than $100 million in brick-and-mortar projects.\textsuperscript{735} The Garma Water Reverse Feeding project was 92% complete this quarter. Once completed, the facility will be capable of providing potable water for up to 220,000 people in Basrah.\textsuperscript{736}

**U.S. Infrastructure Spending in Basrah**

$ Millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
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</table>

**Economy**

The PRT reported two important events this quarter that were likely to affect Basrah’s economic development and business environment: \textsuperscript{737}

- construction of a $485 million sports center
- refurbishment of the Rumaila oil field under the contract awarded in the first round of bidding for oil service contracts

The PRT worked with the PIC to leverage these events to bring foreign investment to the province.\textsuperscript{*}