



# Operation RIO Update

8 Aug 2003

Workers from Kharafi International, an Iraqi sub-contractor to KBR, finish welding a 48 inch pipeline at Ham Dam Junction near Basrah. Army Corps of Engineer Photo.

*An update for all SWD employees and Operation RIO volunteers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

**Mission Update:** Oil production in Iraq is consistently exceeding one million barrels per day. Our latest production numbers on 3 August show a new high of 1,648,000 barrels of oil produced by the Iraqis, with 1,158,000 of those produced in the south. The Rumaylah Oil Field produced slightly more than one million barrels for a single day high, while the Kirkuk Oil Fields are consistently producing about 500,000 barrels per day.

Team RIO is starting a one billion dollar program consisting of 222 projects. The program, agreed to by the Iraqi Ministry of Oil, Coalition Provisional Authority and the Corps of Engineers Team RIO will end by 31 March 2004. BG Robert Crear signed the Memorandum of Agreement for Team RIO.

Team RIO will be on the move again. The Northern Area Office will locate with Iraq's Northern Oil Company; the Southern Area Office will be locating at the Basrah Airport now occupied by the British Army; and a significant part of RIO Main will relocate to the Presidential Palace Complex in Baghdad.

Meanwhile Team RIO continues to need good Corps employees to fill important jobs. It is an excellent time to gain project manager or PDT experience in a historic mission environment. Contact Linda Ranallo (214) 767-2385 or Jim Barton (214) 767-2370 to discuss deployment opportunities currently available or to add your name to the list of volunteers. Supervisory approval is required.

**Use or Lose Annual Leave:** Employees deployed as part of TF RIO and those working as part of TF RIO Rear may not be able to use all of their use or lose annual leave before the end of the current leave year (10 Jan 2004). Employees need to be aware that restoration of the lost annual leave will not be automatic. Authority to restore lost annual leave for all employees that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Noble Eagle and those working in support of those employees has been approved by the Office of Personnel Management. Although employees will not need to document that leave was scheduled and then denied, they will still need to request approval to have the lost leave restored. The request to restore leave should be made by employees to their supervisor through the CSR to payroll.

Employees not working on TF RIO, OEP or Noble Eagle missions may lose leave because leave was denied due to other missions. Those employees will need to have leave scheduled and denied by their supervisor and then request lost leave be restored. The approval is not automatic and the decision will be made by each commander based upon reasons submitted.

Once restored, the employee has two leave years to use or lose the restored leave.

## A view from down range: Roger Batchelor

Article and photo by Steve Wright



Roger Batchelor viewed himself and his teammates as ambassadors -- ambassadors in the desert where afternoon temperatures climb to 130 degrees Fahrenheit and it's polite to drink hot tea with co-workers.

Batchelor is an Army Corps of Engineers good guy. He went to Iraq with a desire to help and he is leaving Iraq and Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (TF RIO) having accomplished what he set out to do. In Iraq he has worked as a quality assurance representative for assessment and pipeline work in the Rumaylah Oil Fields, work being carried out by contractor, Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR). At home, Batchelor is a civil engineer tech in the Little Rock District.

"We are ambassadors out there in the desert. We stop and have tea with the Iraqi oil workers. In Iraq you're supposed to sit down with them, have tea and spend time talking. If you do, they will put a lot of faith in you," Batchelor said. "They were eager to know about us, where we lived in the United States and what our country is like. We had English and Arabic lessons where we learned words and numbers."

"I enjoyed my time here. I think the projects went great and the mission is going great. We are making Iraq a better place. We gave food to children. I love kids and it was good to watch them when we helped them out."

Batchelor reports that his most harrowing involvement occurred when a U.S. soldier was badly wounded in his presence. "I was there when the soldier was hit with an M42, a grenade-like submunition from an artillery round. One of the kids was on a berm and probably knocked it down the side of the hill where he was stepping. The M42 went off and hit the soldier in the back and shoulder. When it went off he dropped his shoulder and blood was coming from his back. We were able to give him first aid and get a helicopter in to evacuate him," Batchelor said.

The M42, the type of explosive that wounded the soldier, was from a US-made 155 mm artillery shell. Each shell contains 88 sub-munitions that are released just prior to impact. Some of these munitions do not explode and remain armed.

"Working on the pipelines went real well. The first time we saw the Iraqi South Oil Company workers (SOC) come in and work, it was amazing. They fixed a hole in the pipeline by driving a steel peg in it. Then they welded around it, cut it off and ground it down and went to the next hole. They patched 31 holes in half a day...absolutely amazing. They had worked on these pipelines all their lives and knew exactly what they could safely do. Karafi, a KBR sub contractor, was slower, but probably used a safer technique. They cut patches or put patches over the hole and welded them," he said.

"There was another incident that impressed me about the capability of the SOC workers. An SOC engineer volunteered to help us at the Gas Oil Separation Plant we were trying to get restarted. Without the GOSP Plans destroyed in the looting, KBR didn't have an idea how to operate the system. The SOC engineer said he could get it running in two days. In two days the plant was running and that's where the first oil in Iraq was produced," Batchelor said.

"It's been a blessing for me to be here. I've made some good friends. I absolutely would come back again."

Greeting him at the little Rock airport on 26 July were many friends, co-workers and his wife Carla. The Batchelor children, Keith (23), Sarah (20) and Daniel (19) could not make it to Little Rock. Keith is in the Marines at Norfolk, Va. Daniel will join the Marines in October. Roger and Carla observed their 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 15 July while he was deployed. Batchelor received the Army's Superior Civilian Service Award for his TF RIO work in Iraq. He has now returned to his job at the Millwood Tri-Lakes office in Arkansas.

**Oil Mission Factoid:** When writing about oil production, what is the correct abbreviation for barrels per day? B/d? bls/d? bbl/d?

Just as there may be different abbreviations, at one time there were different quantities of oil in a barrel. The following explains how bbl became the abbreviation for barrel within the oil industry.

**Barrel:** A standard measure of liquid hydrocarbons equal to 42 gallons. The abbreviation for barrel is "bbl." In the early development of the petroleum industry, the 40 gallon barrel used by many industries was increased to 42 gallons to compensate the buyer for evaporation during transport. Because of significant fraud and misrepresentation, the only barrels guaranteed to be 42 barrels were the blue barrels manufactured for and used by Standard Oil. Thus the standard measure for oil became the blue 42-gallon barrel or "bbl."

### **A view from down range: Mike Gooding**

Story and photo by Steve Wright



On the job training is a good way to learn if you don't make too many mistakes. Mike Gooding received his on the job training in a field where you can't make mistakes. Gooding, an environmental engineer with the Huntsville Center, learned his job as technical manager for the ordnance program--on the job--for Task Force RIO.

"I was thrown into the fire and I learned on the job. I got good help from the people I worked with. Master Sergeant Bud Morgan and Bill Sargent (contractor) helped me a lot," Gooding said.

"We removed ordnance so work on the oil infrastructure could be done safely and without concern about explosives in the work area. We removed Russian mortars, anti-aircraft missiles including surface-to-air (SA) six and seven missiles, SCUD missiles, artillery shells, grenades, small arms

ammunition, and RPGs. Then we detonated them. We also destroyed the breaches on artillery pieces and anti aircraft guns," Gooding said.

"We worked with a good contractor, USA Environmental from Huntsville, Alabama. We also worked in very hot conditions. Normally, it was 120 degrees and sometimes as high as 130 degrees. But now our work is done and I'm ready to go home," he said.

"I came for the experience and to be part of history," Gooding said. "The most amazing thing I've seen here is where the Tigris and Euphrates come together. It's a Biblical place; it's where the world began. I never would have guessed that I would be in Kuwait and Iraq. It's been a really good experience."

Gooding said that one of the good things about serving with TF RIO was the opportunity to meet new people from all over the Corps and to meet and talk with the Iraqi people.

"I enjoyed it, but won't come back any time soon, especially at this time of year. No, it's not the weather, I just don't want to miss watching my kids playing baseball. I really missed seeing them play this year. Justin (14) plays first base and outfield and Jared (9) is a second baseman or shortstop," Gooding said.

When he gets home, Gooding said he wants to take the boys for a week and then play some golf, which he plays for fun, and not to be good. For his Task Force RIO work Gooding received the Army's Superior Civilian Service Award.

**Tanner, Trautman receive awards:** Morris Tanner received the top award at the 2003 Worldwide Legal Services Conference. The Spirit of Arrowhead Award for Service to Clients and Leadership was presented to Morris Tanner, SWD Counsel. Joel Trautman received the Bert P. Pettinato Award for Pride in Public Service at the same conference. Tanner said the work he and Trautman did for TF RIO played a large part in both awards.

**"HOOAH!!"**

*MICHAEL L. SCHULTZ, COLONEL, EN  
Acting Commander,  
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