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# News Release

**Number: 09-004**

**Date: October 20, 2008**

## **Bayji Depot control transitions to Iraqi Army**

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When the U.S. Army handed over full control of the depot to the Iraqi Army in a ceremony Sept. 29, Bayji National Ammunition Depot became the location of an historic milestone for military operations in Iraq.

The Bayji Depot (formerly Arlington Depot), located 135 miles north of Baghdad, is the one operating depot for receiving, packaging and issuing ammunition to the new Iraqi Army.

The Huntsville Center Coalitions Munitions Clearance program has been active in the Global War on Terror mission since Aug. 23, 2003, when they first took control of six former Iraqi Ammunition Supply Points throughout Iraq. They have been responsible for destroying more than 670 million pounds of captured enemy ammunition. Over time, the smaller ASPs were closed and all ammunition saved for the new Iraqi Army was transferred to two remaining ASPs, including the largest location at Bayji.

Iraqi forces have now assumed control of operations at Bayji depot and have assigned 700 to 800 Iraqi Army personnel to the site. The Multi-National Security Transition Command Iraq has an assistance team located at the site and the Huntsville Center has two contractors, Environmental Chemical Corporation and Parsons Engineering at the site. The Huntsville Center contractors are providing depot transition oversight and logistics support to the U.S. Army team. Kirk Baumann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project manager, oversees the Corps contractor operations at Bayji and are expected to remain onsite until July 31, 2009.

“We are here to document observations of the Iraqi Army ammunition program, give guidance to the Iraqi Army when required and to report back to MNSTC-I,” Baumann said.

Brenda Hatley, Huntsville Center project manager for CMC, said the goal over the next eight months is to help the Iraqis become self-sufficient in operating and maintaining the depot. The Iraqi Army spent four weeks transitioning prior to the turnover. The four-week transition was twofold. Force protection was handed over to the Iraqi Army after sufficient onsite training on entry control point and guard tower operations. Their initial training on weapons qualification and ECP operations was conducted at Besmaya Combat Training Center during the unit’s training in August prior to movement to the depot. Depot specific standard operating procedures were done on site in September. The Iraqi Army is learning how to maintain and run a depot and continues to get daily

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