

Forwarded by Walla Walla District, USACE, Public Affairs Office for your consideration: **Ernster named top “New Face” in USACE**

Tim Ernster, an electrical engineer from the Walla Walla District, is currently deployed to support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ mission in Iraq. Tim’s parents are longtime residents of the Clarkston, Wash., area. A 2006 graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Tim received his B.S in Electrical Engineering.

If you wish to contact Mr. Ernster for additional comment, please contact the Gulf Region Division Public Affairs Office at the phone number or email address listed below. Keep in mind GRD personnel are in a time zone about 12 hours ahead of Pacific Time.



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NEWS RELEASE



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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
GULF REGION DIVISION**

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Timothy Ernster – top “New Face” in USACE

By Kendal Smith
Gulf Region Central district

Baghdad, Iraq - Project Engineer Timothy Ernster is the individual selected as the top “New Face in Engineering” from 22 nominees of young engineers in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for submission to the National Society of Professional Engineers. Tim was nominated from USACE’s Central District, Gulf Region Division, in Baghdad, Iraq. A picture of Mr. Ernster with colleagues from other organizations will be included in the USA Today during the National Engineers Week recognition, February 16-19, 2009. Tim will also be featured on the www.eweek.org website.

Timothy Ernster has successfully executed more than \$47.3 million in U.S. funded electrical distribution projects in Iraq since his arrival in Baghdad in October, 2007. These projects have been completed in the toughest areas of East Baghdad under the most difficult, openly hostile, and demanding conditions anywhere in the world an engineer might operate.

Working long hours and a rigorous schedule, Tim has shown himself to be dedicated, motivated and personally courageous beyond all reasonable expectations of a civilian in a war environment. Keenly aware of the consequences of this reconstruction mission set in his individual efforts to bring electrical power to some 9,000 Iraqi homes and 50 large commercial/industrial ventures, Tim’s initiative has monumental impact on the lives of those around him.

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He coaches, mentors, directs and supervises tirelessly, skillfully, to ensure projects are done correctly, safely and within both timelines and rigorous standards. Not only are these projects instrumental in reconstructing Iraq at present, but will also contribute directly to the security and well-being of Iraqis for years to come.

With insight and maturity beyond his experience, Timothy Ernster is approximately six months away from completing two 132/33kV substations valued at \$24 million each. When completed, these substations will benefit the 2.5 million residents of the volatile Sadr City district of East Baghdad in providing electricity, but, as importantly, contributing to the overall security.

Mr. Ernster is also responsible for the ongoing construction of a \$9.7 million National Training Center that, when completed, will serve as a hub for developing the technical skill sets for Ministry of Electricity technical personnel. Tim continues to make ongoing contributions to the Iraqi Police Forces, having completed a \$3.5 million 33/11kV substation to provide power to the 4,000 police cadets and faculty members of the Baghdad Police College, and managing other Iraqi Police electrical upgrades and facilities projects valued at \$16 million. The project count and dollar values are only part of the story of Tim's success. His can-do attitude is infectious and his willingness to train and engage local nationals multiplies success among the Iraqi workforce.

He is the direct supervisor of a team of nine Iraqi Engineers, who assist Mr. Ernster with managing his seven prime contractors and numerous projects. His competence and expertise is quickly reflected in the increased knowledge he willingly shares.

Mr. Ernster deployed to Iraq from the USACE Walla Walla District. Tim's parents are longtime residents of the Clarkston, Wash., area. A 2006 graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Tim received his B.S in Electrical Engineering.

The USACE Central District operates and administers more than 200 reconstruction projects in Iraq, valued at \$1.2 billion. Projects include electrical construction from generation to substations, schools, primary healthcare centers and hospitals, potable water and wastewater treatment facilities, roads, bridges and a variety of buildings encompassing all aspects of Iraqi life.

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Note: Kendal Smith is the public affairs officer with the Central District, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact Kendal at 540 665 2644 or email requests to Leslie.K.Smith@usace.army.mil For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit www.grd.usace.army.mil