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FINANCE SOLDIERS WITH V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION PUSH OUT SERIOUS CASH TO HELP TROOPS, IRAQIS

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DIYALA, Iraq – At the halfway point in their scheduled yearlong deployment, the Soldiers of Bravo Detachment, 106th Finance Battalion, the “Diamondbacks in Diyala,” have helped the Iraqi people and their fellow Soldiers by pushing some serious cash out their office doors here.

The detachment, part of V Corps' 1st Infantry division, has taken on tasks ranging from complex division- and brigade-level Commander's Emergency Relief Program projects benefitting Iraqi citizens, to cashing personal checks and making casual payments for their fellow Soldiers. In all, Bravo Detachment has provided service to the division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team with more than 21,000 transactions totaling nearly \$8.8 million.

The unit's disbursing cell streamlined the funding and clearing of projects within the 3rd BCT area of responsibility, and the detachment's paying agents have handled more than 600 projects valued at just over \$1.6 million.

Those projects have improved the quality of life of the residents of Diyala in a number of ways, by helping with the fielding and supplying of water sanitation

facilities, hospitals, schools, fire departments and police stations, as well as extensive road and canal construction. They even helped provide local soccer teams with a stadium, field and equipment.

The Soldiers of the Bravo Detachment disbursing cell also execute payments on behalf of the U.S. government for claims submitted by Iraqi citizens under the Foreign Claims Act. Unit cashiers regularly make payments on a regular basis in conjunction with 3rd BCT's Operational Law Team at the Civil Military Operations Center in downtown Ba'qubah. Thus far more than 100 claims have been paid for just under \$300,000, helping to maintain goodwill in local communities by providing redress for accidental damages.

The detachment also provides more down-to-earth services to their fellow Soldiers in the 3rd BCT. This includes cashing personal checks or providing cash advances in the detachment's office on Forward Operating Base Warhorse and on Combat Finance Support Team missions to the seven locations 3rd BCT Soldiers occupy in the region.

