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## V CORPS SOLDIERS HELP RESTORE WATER TO TWO IRAQI TOWNS

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**FORWARD OPERATING BASE DAGGER, TIKRIT, Iraq** — Units from V Corps' Task Force Dagger here helped restore water to two local towns recently after valves failed and water flooded a pump house.

The towns of Ouja and Wynot were without water for three days, but a coordinated effort between Iraqi water officials and Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the corps' 1st Infantry Division got the water flowing again and created a back-up plan in the event the valves fail again.

Pumps force the water up from a water plant on the Tigris River, and "check valves" keep the water from flowing back downhill, said Capt. Jeyanthan Jeyasingam, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd BCT. When the valves failed, water flooded the pump house.

Tikrit Water Department officials removed the valves and sent them to Baghdad for repairs August 5, but they weren't sure how long the repairs would take, Jeyasingam said. His unit wasn't going to leave the two towns without water for an indefinite period of time, he added. Soldiers from the HHC maintenance section and Bravo

Company, 299th Forward Support Battalion mounted a combat patrol for the pump house, inspected the system and devised a plan to bypass the valves.

The only steel heavy enough to withstand the water pressure was excess steel plate left over from early efforts to armor the unit's vehicles, explained Sgt. Walter Earl Crump, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from Bravo, 299th FSB. Crump, a Harrisburg, Ark. native, and other Soldiers from his unit began constructing caps for the leaking valves and had mounted a second combat patrol to the pump house. Upon arrival, Tikrit Water Department officials were installing the repaired valves that had already come back from Baghdad.

When the power was turned on to the pumps, the entire area went dark, Crump said. His first instinct was to prepare for an ambush. After realizing the pumps had knocked out the power, his team checked the power generators and fixed the problem.

The team left the fashioned pieces behind for the water officials to use if the valves failed again, and the two towns now have a steady supply of water.

