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## V CORPS INFANTRY COMPANY HELPS REPAIR WATER PLANT IN SMALL IRAQI TOWN

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**OWJA, Iraq** – It was a very big day when residents of this small town near Tikrit could water their gardens and trees for the first time in more than a year and half.

The town's water plant reopened earlier this month with help from V Corps' 1st Infantry division, thanks to newly installed water pumps that will carry water from the Tigris River into the town.

Long before the division came to Iraq, this town had a limited supply of drinking water, and none to lavish on their gardens and lawns. And without irrigation, nothing grows here.

Mandu Hazali, who manages the water plant project for the town with the help of 10 workers, took the town's need for water so seriously that he worked 12-14 hours a day for 40 straight days completing a job that was originally slated to take four months.



CAPT PAULA L. SYDENSTRICKER  
Mandu Hazali, project coordinator of the Owja, Iraq water plant, shows the city council the brand-new pumps recently installed in the station with the aid of Soldiers from V Corps' 1st Infantry Division.

"I am very happy about this project because I see what this will mean to my town," said Hazali.

"My friends come to me and tell me how happy they are about this project and what good it will do for the town," said Hazali.

While Hazali put in the long hours, the division provided critical support, facilitating the paperwork for contract bids and bringing in supplies, said Capt. David Krzycki, commander of Alpha Company of the division's 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry. But he said Hazali was the real force behind the project.

"All the credit for this project goes to Mandu and the workers along with the city council, they deserve all the credit," said Krzycki.

The project started in May with bids for the pump to be fixed. With funding approved it was just a matter of waiting for the material to arrive. The new city council started getting involved and eventually took over. Hazali updated the city council weekly on the project.

The first real problem came when Hazali, an electrical engineer and a professor in Tikrit, had to convince others involved in the project to install horizontal pumps, rather than submersible ones. Eventually Hazali was able to prove the value of the horizontal pumps.

The project cost \$17,600 for two large water pumps and the parts. Hazali has offered to repair any parts that break in their first year of operation.

With the pumps repaired, the city council and Hazali are looking at a project for the city park, which needs irrigation system repairs, and some other ventures.

“After this they will finish the park and also revamp some schools before they open,” said 1st Lt. Matt Angliss.

