



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Exclusive Interview In ACEC's *Engineering Inc.* Magazine

***Rebuilding Infrastructure The Key To Peace In Iraq,
Corps of Engineers' Chief Says***

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Demonstrated progress in rebuilding the Iraqi infrastructure including water treatment, oil production and electric generation systems, will help improve the scenario for peace, and reduce the almost daily attacks and casualties among U.S. soldiers, the chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts.

In an exclusive in-depth interview in *Engineering Inc.* the association magazine for the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), Lt. General Robert Flowers, chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is coordinating much of the infrastructure rebuilding in Iraq, discusses many of the reconstruction challenges being faced in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

ACEC is the Washington, D.C.-based engineering industry association representing the business and political interests for owners and principals of approximately 6,000 independent engineering companies nationwide. The exclusive interview with Lt. General Flowers appears in the November/December issue of *Engineering Inc.* available November 7.

"There is a tie between rebuilding infrastructure and the hope for a more peaceful future in Iraq," Corps of Engineers' Chief Flowers said. "Time is on our side. As we repair Iraqi infrastructure, and improve quality of life, the Iraqi people will no longer tolerate oppression."

In the interview, Flowers cautioned the U.S. from considering abandoning Iraq even amid the almost daily attacks on U.S. soldiers. Instead, he said the U.S. and the world community should intensify the reconstruction of the war-torn nation estimated to cost as high as \$20 billion.

"If we leave there now because of the casualties we've been taking, it will send absolutely the wrong message to the terrorists," Flowers said. "This would greatly prolong the global war on terror because they are willing to sacrifice 75 people to get one American. They think if they can kill enough of us, we'll leave."

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Flowers believes the key is to improve Iraq's very old and poorly maintained infrastructure as quickly as possible, to demonstrate progress and create hope among the people, many of whom still live in desolate and unsanitary living conditions.

"What we're about now is putting people back to work, creating infrastructure and restarting the agriculture. I think when you do that, you hold out hope for the people," he said. "The quality of life is going to improve day-to-day and as it does, the security situation will improve as well. I think as the situation gets better, the local people are going to say 'Enough of this,' and will provide intelligence on the attackers. They won't tolerate the terrorists coming in and messing up what's happening in their country."

"Within the next six months, you will see a large difference in the quality of life for the Iraqi people, and within a year there will be a huge difference. That's my expectation."

ACEC President Dave Raymond noted that many ACEC member firms have been actively involved in reconstruction efforts in Iraq since the beginning of the reconstruction phase.

"America has a long tradition of rebuilding nations after the devastation of war, and our industry has played a crucial role in these efforts," Raymond said.

"The effort to rebuild a stable society and a stable peace in Iraq is going to require a sustained commitment, particularly from the engineering community."

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To obtain a copy of ACEC's *Engineering Inc.*, featuring the complete interview with Lt. General Robert Flowers, contact Alan D. Crockett, 202-682-4031 or acrockett@acec.org.

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) is the business association of America's engineering industry, representing approximately 6,000 independent engineering companies throughout the United States engaged in the development of America's transportation, environmental, industrial, and other infrastructure. Founded in 1910 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ACEC is a national federation of 51 state and regional organizations.