

## U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army

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### 18th Engineer Brigade assumes mission in Kirkuk region

Multi-National Division – North Public Affairs Office

**KIRKUK, Iraq --** The 18th Engineer Brigade officially assumed responsibility for missions in the Kirkuk region when its leaders uncased the brigade colors here Nov. 6.

The engineers are responsible for Iraqi engineer partnership, as well as route clearance and construction projects in northern Iraq.

The unfurling was part of a traditional ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warrior that passed the Kirkuk area of responsibility from the 1st brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division to the 18th. During the event Col. Matthew Russell, the 18th's commander, and brigade senior noncommissioned officer Command Sgt. Maj. David Clark uncased their unit's standard.

Guests at the ceremony included Kirkuk Governor Abdul Rahman Mustafa Fatah; Maj. Gen. Mark Hertling, commander of 1st Armored Division and Multi-National Division – North; Maj. Gen. Michael Oats, commanding general of the 10th Mountain Division and Multi-National Division – Center; and Howard Keegan, Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team leader.

In his remarks accepting the 18th's new mission, Russell said his Soldiers will



SGT 1ST CLASS MARVIN L. DANIELS

Col. Matthew Russell, commander of the 18th Engineer Brigade (center), gets a briefing on the new Dibis Power Plant in Kirkuk, Iraq, from the 18th's Master Sgt. Andrew Premont (left) and Jim Ramage, Provincial Reconstruction Team infrastructure team leader (right), Nov. 3.

earn the respect of the people of Kirkuk and build on U.S. forces' successes there, just as the troops of the 1st Brigade Combat Team did.

The 18th Engineer Brigade, a U.S. Army Europe unit based in Heidelberg, Germany, deployed to Tikrit, Iraq, in May.



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