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## **Sustainment Soldiers supervise construction of \$16 million fuel farm**

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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Sustainment Soldiers here completed construction of a \$16-million fuel farm, the second “steel-bolted-tank” fuel farm to be operational in theater, replacing the conventional berm fuel farm.

The project provides Speicher with a better facility to issue and receive bulk fuel. The facility will provide fuel to units in northern Iraq.

The 927th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, based out of Jacksonville, Fla., initiated the project in late 2007, though the actual construction began in March 2008, around the time the 391<sup>st</sup> CSSB assumed responsibility.

The project consisted of a total of nine steel-bolted-tanks: six tanks for JP8, a military grade diesel; two tanks for DF2, a diesel fuel; and one tank for Mogas, a military form of regular gasoline.

Master Sgt. Travell Brown, the supply and services non-commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 391<sup>st</sup> CSSB, 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, supervised the construction of this \$16 million project. Brown said that this project will help the fuel farm managers maintain and provide a more accurate accountability of a 3.5-million-gallon-capacity farm.

The physical construction of this project began with the prepping of the area for the building of the huge tanks, followed by building the concrete foundation, which required five months to complete.

The tank construction began with small metal slabs bolted together, eight of the nine tanks

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required 40,000 bolts to hold the tanks together and the ninth tank was welded together instead of being bolted. During this time, Brown regularly monitored and captured the progress to ensure the contractors maintained the required standards.

Staff Sgt. Paula Miller, petroleum supply specialist, HHC, 391<sup>st</sup> CSSB, also visited the construction site on a daily basis to supervise its progress.

Miller said she couldn't wait to get started.

“Because of the difficulty of the various tests and retests that are required to obtain an accurate reading on fuel in fuel bags at the current farm, I anxiously await the new farm,” she said.

After completion of the tanks, Soldiers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co., Contingency Operating Base Q-West, performed leakage tests using about 100,000 gallons of water. Water was used instead of fuel, to test the tanks, so that if leaks were detected it would not contaminate the area.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Thomas Harrell, the fuel responsible officer, 574<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Co., based out of Germany, closely monitored the tests.

The tanks passed without any major leaks, and the few minor leaks that were found were easily fixed with a little tightening of a couple bolts, he said.

The fuel farm is slated to open for business in March 2009.

“This is just one of many ways that the Soldiers and leaders of the 391<sup>st</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion look to the future and logistically plan for the handover to the Iraqi forces,” said Maj. Eduardo Santiago, executive officer, 391<sup>st</sup> CSSB.



Contractors work on one of the diesel tanks at Contingency Operating Base Speicher Sept. 28, 2008. Sustainment Soldiers here completed construction of a \$16-million fuel farm, the second “steel-bolted-tank” fuel farm to be operational in theater, replacing the conventional berm fuel farm. The project provides Speicher with a better facility to issue and receive bulk fuel, and will enable Soldiers here to provide fuel to units throughout northern Iraq. (courtesy photo)