



NEWS RELEASE
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Defense Energy Support Center

DEFENSE ENERGY SUPPORT CENTER TO HELP RESTORE IRAQI OIL

Fort Belvoir, Va. – The Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) announced today it will support the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and Task Force-Restore Iraqi Oil (TF-RIO) by importing and distributing fuel to the Iraqi civilian population.

In a memo dated Dec. 23, 2003, Michael Wynne, acting under secretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, directed Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), through the Defense Logistics Agency, with this mission.

DESC, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency.

DESC will work with the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and its marketing arm, the State Owned Marketing Organization (SOMO), to assist them in meeting the country's imported petroleum product requirements, such as diesel, gasoline, kerosene and liquefied petroleum gas. Although the Ministry of Oil is currently meeting the majority of Iraq's fuel requirements through domestic production, significant quantities of all types of fuel must be imported to meet demand.

Richard J. Connelly, director of DESC, said his Center will work closely with TF-RIO to implement a smooth transition from the current TF-RIO contracts to those awarded by DESC.

“The Center will strive to put competitively awarded contracts in place as quickly as possible for this mission,” said Connelly. “Existing TF-RIO contracts will remain in place until adequate DESC contract solutions are implemented. Paramount in this transition process will be the assurance that petroleum support to the Iraqi people will not be interrupted,” Connelly added.

DESC will retain this mission until the Iraqi government has the infrastructure in place to support the petroleum needs of its population.

Additional information and answers to frequently asked questions regarding DESC's role in Task Force-Restore Iraqi Oil can be found on the Defense Energy Support Center homepage at www.desc.dla.mil under "News and Events."

DESC serves as the energy procurement agent for the Department of Defense and other customers throughout the world. Additional information about the Defense Energy Support Center can be found at www.desc.dla.mil.

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