

On Monday August 16th construction began on a new primary school in the village of Albu Shukur in the area of Yethrib located east of the city of Balad. This project made possible through the cooperation of the Yethrib City Council, Task Force 1-77, 372nd EN Group, and the 185th AV BDE will bring the first new school to the area in over 20 years.

TF 1-77 and their partnership units are investing \$74,900 in this school that will house over 300 local area children. The village of Albu Shukur currently has over 1000 children attending only one school in the immediate area. "This school will bring hope to many that have not had hope in a very long time," stated Yethrib mayor Shouket Abudal Rahman Ahmed. TF 1-77 HHC Commander CPT Richard Johnson whose unit is responsible for part of the area stated, "This is another example of what good we can all do when we work together instead of fighting. In a month this field will be a school and children will learn about the freedom they now have."

This project is another school project that is part of OPERATION TIGER CUB an ongoing Task Force 1-77 operation that links Task Force companies to communities and sponsor schools. Units located on LSA ANACONDA have been invaluable in providing funding and supplies to support the operation which is currently supporting the construction or renovation of 9 schools in the Task Force area of operations. The commander of C Company Task Force 1-77 CPT Robert Gagnon stated, "This program has really had an effect in the area. It creates more than just good will but a real link from soldiers to the communities that they are really a part of."

Task Force 1-77 has continued aggressive Civil-Military operations throughout the Balad area. These operations combined with traditional military operations are stabilizing an area that is still recovering from over 30 years of abuse and neglect by the former regime.



