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**Mandaree firm helping in Iraq – *Computer Specialists are working in Iraq on contract*
TRIBALLY OWNED FIRM**

MANDAREE., January 21, 2004 – A firm from the small community of Mandaree on the Fort Berthold Reservation has a global presence, as it helps rebuild Iraq's infrastructure.

Three computer specialists hired by Mandaree Enterprise Corp., a tribally owned firm, are working in Iraq on contract with the Pentagon's Coalition Provisional Authority. A fourth computer specialist with Mandaree Enterprise will also be going to Iraq shortly.

Coalition Provisional Authority has the job of assisting the country of Iraq in its transition to a self-governing democratic nation.

The computer specialists with Mandaree Enterprise Corp. are processing critical information so people can come in and have all of the supplies they need – from food to machinery – to do their jobs. They are working with other U.S. personnel, Iraqis, and foreign nationals to support the rebuilding of the country.

Mandaree Enterprise Corp. is a full service information technology and electronic manufacturing corporation owned by the Three Affiliated Tribes.

'The firm became involved with the work in Iraq when the Army approached the company and several other American Indian businesses last February to bid on the reconstruction work in Iraq, said Clarence O'Berry, president and chief executive officer of Mandaree Enterprise Corp.

Mandaree Enterprise did a nationwide advertising for personnel to fill slots for the work, O'Berry said. The four computer specialists, three men and a woman, are from Texas and Maryland.

The three men went to Iraq last month. The fourth computer specialist will go there this month or early next month. The contract is for six-month increments.

In Iraq, one of the four employees is in Baghdad staying at one of former Iraqi Leader Saddam Hussein's old palaces. The other two are stationed in other towns. Their jobs and specific locations from day to day are classified so sometimes even their boss doesn't know exactly where they are.

Mandaree Enterprise has clients all over the world. Two weeks ago the firm operated a new location in New Town. It also has a location in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C., and manages a warehouse for the EPA in Ohio. Another location at White Shield temporarily is not operating.

Of the company's approximately 70 employees, 80 percent are American Indians.

Part of the reason the government is interested in having tribally-owned businesses bid on contracts is that federal and state agencies see the price advantage small businesses can offer because they do not have the high overhead large businesses do, O'Berry said.

"Ninety-five percent of our personnel are directly tied to a contract of one kind or another, so their salaries and benefits are covered. Only four of our people cost the company money without directly generating income," O'Berry said.

"Small Business is key to the U.S. government, and relationships are key to small business. We have key relationships that allow us to team with individuals and keep up with what's going on in this business," he said.

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