



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS PROGRAMS DIRECTOR IN IOWA SELECTED FOR ONE-YEAR MISSION TO IRAQ

Norwalk Resident and Fairfield Native Serving as an Agricultural Advisor on Reconstruction Team

DES MOINES – November 28, 2006 – Mark Reisinger, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa, today announced that Randy Frescoln, the agency's Business-Cooperative Programs Director in Iowa, has been selected by the Foreign Agricultural Service to serve a one-year reconstruction mission in Iraq.

Frescoln will be serving as an agricultural advisor on a military/civilian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Iraq. Earlier this year the Department of State requested assistance from the USDA to help support reconstruction projects and programs in Iraq.

“With more than 20 years of successful domestic development experience with USDA Rural Development and previous international development missions, Randy will make immediate and significant contributions to agricultural reconstruction in Iraq,” Reisinger said.

Earlier this month Frescoln departed Iowa and began final preparations and training in Washington, D.C. He is scheduled to leave for Iraq in early December.

In 2004, Frescoln participated in a six-month assignment in Afghanistan helping the area increase agricultural growth. During his assignment he also served as a senior agricultural technical advisor on a military PRT.

The purpose of PRTs is to provide a secure and stable environment in rural provinces from which development and reconstruction activities can take place. The USDA staff member assigned to each PRT is responsible for addressing agricultural reconstruction issues within the assigned area.

“I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve my country by supporting the USDA's contribution to rebuilding Iraq,” Frescoln said. “I want to thank my co-workers and especially my family for their understanding and support. I greatly appreciate the support and assistance I have received from many people that made it possible for me to get ready for this assignment.”

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling (515) 284-4663, at a local USDA Rural Development office, or by visiting the agency's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia.

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