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## PRESS RELEASE

### TENTS WITH A DIFFERENCE FOR TROOPS IN IRAQ

BRITISH soldiers in Iraq are getting a taste of the future with new-look accommodation set to become the standard on operations overseas. The Temporary Deployed Accommodation (TDA) is a set of modular tents containing bed-spaces, a cookhouse, recreational facilities and ablutions – complete with proper showers and flush toilets! The tent complexes are housing around 4,375 troops throughout Iraq, from Umm Qasr in the south to the remote Maysan province in the north. The standard format comes in 125, 250 and 500 man sizes. TDA has already proved to be a big hit with soldiers. The tents are also air-conditioned and equipped with heaters, which have proved very useful in the Iraqi winter. Although the accommodation is owned by the MoD, contractors are used to ship, construct, operate and maintain it, under contracts managed by the Royal Engineers – thus freeing up soldiers for other vital tasks.

Lieutenant Colonel Tony Bayliss RE, SO1 Infrastructure at MND (SE) in Basrah, said in future TDA will be the standard accommodation used on operations between the 30-day and 9-month point. “This is the first time that it’s been used, but it has been extremely well received,” he said. “One major advantage is that we do not need soldiers to construct and operate it, so they can be used for their primary task.”

TDA is not without its disadvantages though – including cost. It costs a staggering £10,000 per man to provide and has high maintenance costs. “It is expensive, and it also requires considerable planning and anticipation to establish it in the right location. That being said, the cost is far outweighed by the quality of life it brings to the soldier on the ground.” Lt Col Bayliss added.

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Images are available from Reuters or AFP. Also, the website [www.operations.mod.uk/telic](http://www.operations.mod.uk/telic) contains a library of images that you can download free of charge.