

The INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, Inc.  
Eastern Idaho Section  
Idaho Falls Lunch Meeting

**TOPIC: Building a Data Center in A War Zone**  
**SPEAKERS: Captain Steven J. Lucks, U.S. Navy, Member IEEE**

**DATE:** Friday, September 19, 2008  
**TIME:** Noon.  
**PLACE:** Puerto Valarta 340 E. Anderson, Idaho Falls, Idaho (the old Remo's location).  
**COST:** Order from the menu.

**Abstract:**

Building a data center in a war zone is an extreme challenge requiring creativity, diplomacy, statesmanship, and the can-do spirit. This is the story of an Iraqi/American team that, with uncommon persistence and under extreme duress, built a world class data center and fully functioning office complex.

Building the data center system involved Many obstacles, some of which hopefully are not faced during the development of most systems: Addressing the requirements of others that would want to access this system in addition to our own requirements, danger of attack on those developing the system, cultural adversity of men and women working together, limited skills with commercial off-the-shelf software used, electrical working conditions. These were overcome with the relationship management, statesmanship, diplomacy, trust building, technical training, security, dedication, and perseverance. The team effort between American and Iraqi people produced a positive development in Iraq.

More details available in the following article in CrossTalk: The Journal of Defense Software Engineering, August 2007. at <http://www.stsc.hill.af.mil/crosstalk/2007/08/0708Lucks.html>



**Biography:**

Steven Lucks served with distinction for 30 years in the Navy Reserves, rising to the rank of Captain. His expertise is in Business Strategy, Human Resources, Finance and Information Technology. His specific forte is managing complex contracts and developing information systems under challenging conditions, including the construction of a state of the art information technology infrastructure and \$7 million United States/Iraqi data center. Under the Coalition Provisional Authority, Captain Lucks worked directly with the Iraqi government to setup the Iraq Cell Phone and Postal System/Business Center. Steven is accomplished in driving efficiency into the challenges of the battlefield.

**\*\*\* VISITORS AND NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME \*\*\***

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