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## *Courthouse project helps build a secure and self-governing nation*

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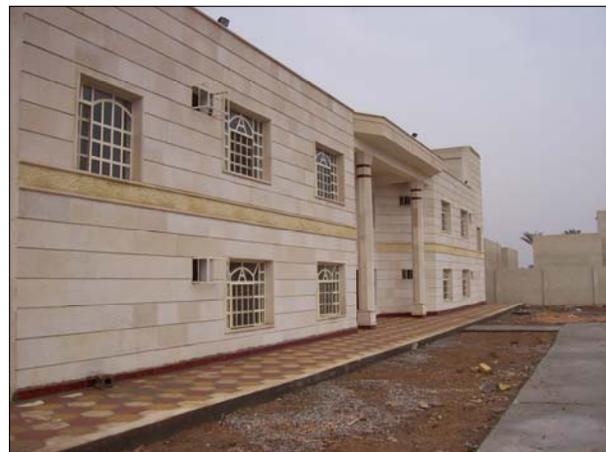
*TIKRIT, Iraq* - In support of creating a more secure and stable Iraq, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the \$347,500 construction of the Khan Bani Sa'ad Courthouse located in the Diyala Province.

Built in a highly volatile area, this 860 square-foot, two-story building will help the Iraqi government assume responsibility for the security and governance of their province. Consisting of one courtroom and 12 office areas, the facility compound has an inner and outer force protection brick wall with an entry control point and secure parking for the judge and other court officials.

Last December, construction of this project was delayed due to the security situation in the area and the murder of the prime contractor. However, the project reached completion in three months time and is ready to turn over to the Diyala Ministry of Justice.

"What makes this facility special is that our Iraqi Resident Office in Diyala Province did it all," said Col. Frederick S. Wolf, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region North commander. "They developed the project, managed its construction, and ensured that the contractor delivered quality work that we can be proud of."

With an expert staff to provide oversight and training, the USACE transitioned one of its resident offices located in the northern region to an all-Iraqi resident office. These engineers plan, resource, manage and construct projects at the local level. To support these offices, USACE provides the administrative and logistical support



[USACE Photo]

necessary to carry out and sustain this change. Khan Bani Sa'ad Courthouse is a product of this staff.

"During our last visit to the Courthouse, there was a genuine sense of pride and ownership of the facility," said Maj. Neil Doherty, USACE deputy area engineer-forward. "The local representatives were proud of the quality of the construction and looked forward to using the new courthouse. I hope they start using it soon and it helps affirm the judicial process in the area"

As Iraq continues to build its capacity to govern and provide for its people, ensuring justice is fundamental and at the forefront to build a secure, stable and self-governing nation.

*Note: Polli Barnes Keller is the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region North. Requests for more information should be directed to Polli at (540) 542-1437. E-mail requests can be sent to [CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil](mailto:CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil). For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit [www.grd.usace.army.mil](http://www.grd.usace.army.mil).*