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Iraqis successfully complete postal training

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BAGHDAD, Iraq – A nine-month postal employee training program for 27 Iraqis was recently completed in mid-November. The training took place in Baghdad; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Amman, Jordan.

The training program was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division as part of the Postal Point of Service (PPOS) project for Iraq. The PPOS project is a key step in helping the Iraqi Post Office (IPO) modernize their services to be better able to effectively and efficiently serve the Iraqi populace.

The recent training will enable Iraqis to operate the new equipment and understand the modern-day methodology that is the cornerstone of the PPOS project. Twenty males and seven females participated in the course. The students included administrative personnel, engineers, technicians, software and database developers, graphic designers and transportation and procurement staff.

The PPOS modernization effort includes installing up-to-the-minute hardware and software at IPOs selected for the project. This includes setup of computer-based

standardized postal services to allow secured systems and transactions, two-dimensional barcode identification systems and digital scales, all fully integrated. The integration of new-age software technology and advanced postal equipment will enable IPOs to provide improved postal services to Iraqi customers. For example, digital franking machines can be set up to interface with computerized scales to determine and print postage, thereby replacing traditional stamps.

Additionally, the PPOS project will permit IPO managers and the Iraqi Ministry of Communications to have global reporting and management control of IPO financial activity and revenues.

Upon completion, it is expected that the PPOS project will greatly improve Iraq's postal system security and will help to transform the Iraqi postal service into a service-oriented organization capable of competing with retail post office networks.

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