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Court House Complex creates a more secure and stable Iraq

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Al Rusafa Court House: Offices, conference rooms and court rooms for the High Judicial Council of Iraq are located in the 10,200 square meters Court House. The Court House and Witness Security Facility are joined by an enclosed corridor that allows witnesses and court officials to move between the facilities without exposure to danger. (USACE photo by Polli Barnes Keller)

Baghdad, Iraq - As Iraq strives to reform the country's system of justice, Gulf Region Division efforts are underway to complete Al Rusafa Court House complex located in Baghdad.

Built by local construction companies with quality assurance by GRD, the com-

plex consists of a court house, a witness security facility and 16 additional structures for security, maintenance and concessions.

Secure, apartment-style living quarters for approximately 150 witnesses, and offices for the judges and other legal advis-

ers are located in the 4,000 square-meter Witness Security Facility. Offices, conference rooms and court rooms for the High Judicial Council of Iraq are located in the 10,200 square meters Court House. The two buildings are joined by an enclosed corridor that allows witnesses and court officials to move between the facilities without exposure to danger.

“This courthouse provides the capacity to fairly and openly conduct trials of criminal suspects,” said David Crumpton, GRD deputy sector lead for security and justice. “The complex is essential to improve security and gain confidence of the Iraqi people in a fair judicial process. This courthouse complex will play an integral part in Iraq’s effort to implement an effective ‘Rule of Law’ process within the country.”

The compound also includes closed caption television, security cameras and

an outer force protection wall with an entry control point and secure parking.

Due to the unpredictable environment, construction progress was slow. The contractor’s progress was interrupted by unrest in Sadr City, where the majority of the labor force resides.

Several times during construction, the Government of Iraq imposed all-day curfews on citizens to prevent movement on the streets. Delivery trucks were banned as a precaution because stolen trucks were used to carry vehicle-bourn improvised devices (VBIED).

“This important court house construction project is another tangible demonstration of the GRD team’s capability to function under lethal and unstable conditions,” said GRD Command Sergeant Ma-



Court House Complex: Built by local construction companies with quality assurance by Gulf Region Division, the compound consists of a court house, a witness security facility and 16 additional structures for security, maintenance and concessions. (USACE photo by Polli Barnes Keller)

yor Eloy Alcivar. "We are committed to continue on delivering quality construction on time, on budget while simultaneously assisting the government of Iraq to assume full responsibility of their infrastructure."

Truck inspection areas are set up to allow deliveries once again. The project is expected to reach completion by mid- to late-September.

This \$10.8 million project was funded by the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Fund and built by a local Iraqi construction company. Engineers from GRD participated as the contracting and construction management/quality assurance for the overall project.

Once complete, Al Rusafa Court House complex will support the Baghdad Governorate in its efforts to govern and provide for its people, ensuring justice is fundamental and at the forefront to build a secure, stable and self-governing nation.



Witness Security Facility: Secure, apartment-style living quarters for approximately 150 witnesses, and offices for the judges and other legal advisers are located in the 4,000 square-meter Witness Security Facility. (USACE photo by Polli Barnes Keller)

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