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## *US, Iraq partner on \$15 million police academy project*

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The new academy will provide training for more than 650 Iraqi Police cadets at any given time; with the specialized training Iraq needs to uphold the Rule of Law. [USACE Photo by LuAnne Fantasia]

**Erbil, Iraq**— - The Erbil Police Academy was turned over to the Government of Iraq Oct. 15 as a result of the partnership between U.S. and Iraqi government entities' working together for a common goal.

"This project is an example of the successful partnership between the Kurdistan

Ministry of Interior, the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team [CPATT] in Erbil, and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers," said Gary York, resident engineer at the USACE Erbil Resident Office. "The training provided at the new academy will help stabilize the security for not only the Kurdistan region, but all of Iraq."

The \$15 million project was funded by both the Kurdistan Regional Government and the U.S. Government; \$5 million and \$10 million, respectively. It sits on 149,000 square meters, and consists of an administration building, restaurant, dormitory and education center; a sports field; and all supporting infrastructure for the facility. The year-long project completed without contract modification, on time and within budget.

Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon, director general for the CPATT of the Multinational Security Transition Command-Iraq, said the academy will help provide the specialized training Iraq needs to uphold the Rule of Law. "The future of a stable, secure and prosperous Iraq begins when communities

and government have trust and faith in their police force," Cannon said. "A police force has to be competent and demonstrate everyday their respect for upholding the Rule of Law."

The academy will provide training for more than 650 police cadets at any given time. "We share responsibility as Iraqis to provide security for all people of Iraq--whether they be Iraqi, Kurdish or Turkoman," said Erbil's Minister of Interior Sinjari. "We must do everything to make sure our homeland does not become a haven for terrorism...we must prevail."

The early-morning events on the new campus included a pass in review of Iraqi police officers and cadets, followed by the



A bronze bust of Army 1st Lt. Ashley Henderson-Huff was dedicated during the morning's events. Henderson-Huff was a Military Police Officer assigned to the Erbil Police Transition Team in 2005. She died of injuries suffered in Mosul, Iraq in September 2006, when a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near her mounted patrol during combat operations. [USACE Photo by LuAnne Fantasia]



The \$15 million Erbil Police Academy sits on 149,000 square meters, and included an administration building, restaurant, dormitory and education center; a sports field; and all supporting infrastructure for the facility. [USACE Photo by LuAnne Fantasia]

dedication of a bronze bust of Army 1st Lt. Ashley Henderson-Huff.

With her father present and participating in the dedication, the monument of Henderson-Huff was uncovered. Henderson-Huff was a Military Police Officer assigned to the Erbil Police Transition Team in 2005. She was instrumental in the development of the Erbil Police Academy plans, working closely with Sinjari and the Provincial Director of Police—having a strategic impact on the Erbil Province. She died of injuries suffered in Mosul, Iraq in September 2006, when a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near her mounted patrol during combat operations.

“This Erbil Police Academy did not just happen,” York said during the event. “It was a dream and hope of many people...and one of them was 1st Lt. Ashley Henderson-Huff.”

Since the Iraq Reconstruction Program began in 2004, the US Army Corps of Engineers has provided project and construction management for more than 18,000 reconstruction projects in Iraq. Completed projects include health and education; electrical; security and justice; public works and water; and transportation.

**Note:** LuAnne Fantasia is the public affairs officer for the Gulf Region North district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, contact her at (540) 542-1437 or e-mail requests to [luanne.fantasia@usace.army.mil](mailto:luanne.fantasia@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).