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Anbar Justice Center - the province model for justice

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Baghdad, Iraq - "The Anbar Justice Center will be the province model for justice and we want to ensure the building reflects work done with care and precision," said Al Anbar Province Chief Justice Mohammed Al-Kubaisie.

The \$21.5 million renovation and new construction at the Anbar Judicial Complex in the provincial capital of Ramadi is designed to do just that. The project is 14 percent complete and making good progress toward the completion date of June 2009. The Complex is a part of the Al Anbar Province project workload for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

"We're well on our way to meeting the customer's needs for the Judicial Complex," said Construction Representative Paul Ijames, who is part of the project management team working in the Ramadi Resident office. "It is important to us and to Anbar Province to do this well, as a model justice forum facility, especially knowing the history of this compound."

The first phase of the AJC renovation will transform two former palaces of Saddam's sons to individual 1,000 square meter courthouses by the end of December 2008. Design delays have created a construction shift from an earlier expected renovation finish date. Each palace



Right: Work progresses in laying foundations for the judicial housing areas. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]



A worker welds staircase steel railing to a judicial complex guard tower. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]

turned courthouse will contain a central courtroom, investigation offices, bathrooms and judges' chambers. A smaller 500-square-meter courthouse will be used as a juvenile courtroom facility. Included in the renovation are: a pre-trial detention building; two 440-square-meter buildings for offices and training; and a cafeteria.

Phase 2 is new construction to add to the complex's security, capabilities and suitability as a judicial center to be completed by the end of June 2009. Housing for the justices, as well as barracks for the junior and senior security guards, will enable them to live in a secure environment. Also in this phase are plans for student billeting and classrooms to incorporate training for court reporting and paralegal workers. Training units for the guards and housing for the detainees will provide additional support structures.

Essential services are included in this project, including an electrical generator facility, a water treatment plant, a sewer treatment plant, plus facilities for refrigeration, laundry, a supply warehouse and equipment storage.

In related security and judicial construction, USACE recently completed the \$11.3 million Rusafa Justice Palace serving over 1.2 million Iraqis in the Baghdad area and more than 150 border posts, nearly 100 fire stations, and 48 court-houses. There is also ongoing construction and rehabilitation projects on six correctional facilities.



Grinding down the welds on an Anbar Judicial Complex steel fence post produces sparks. [USACE Photo by Kendal Smith]

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