



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Corps of Engineers celebrates completion of ANP Headquarters in Lal Por**

**LAL POR, Afghanistan** –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrated the completion of the Afghanistan National Police Uniformed Police District Headquarters-Lal Por, located in the Nangarhar Province of northern Afghanistan with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Tuesday, Jan. 18.



Community and police officials assist Lt. Col. Jon Chytka, AED-N deputy commander, cut the ribbon during the ceremony that signified the official opening of the police headquarters. (Corps of Engineers photo by LaDonna Davis)

The police headquarters will serve as the primary security posts for the people in the Lal Por District.

The facility contains four guard towers, a guard house and guard shack, a prisoners' room, dining room and booster house to help regulate water pressure going into the building. The station will be occupied with 40 workers and will be headquarters to more than 100 Afghan National Police Officers.

“We are thankful to the Corps of Engineers for rebuilding our country and the work they’ve done here,” said Ejaz Mohmamb, Lal Por community chief during the ceremony. “You did a great job building this facility and in the future we hope you do more work for us. Thank you, we appreciate it.”

The Afghanistan Engineer District-North deputy commander, the Lal Por police commissioner along with other Lal Por leadership and community members attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“Today is a true celebration of a moment in time that will be captured in eternity,” said Jon Chytka, the AED-N deputy commander. “This police headquarters was built out of necessity for security, but I think it’s quite remarkable that it was built next to a bridge, perhaps foreshadowing the prosperity of the future.”

Though construction of the headquarters is now complete, a surprise from Mother Nature challenged the building progress, extending the construction time by six months and nearly leaving the police headquarters in ruins.

On July 28, 2010, torrential rains left the police headquarters flooded with more than 2 ½ feet of water and mud. The damage was devastating and cleanup took nearly two months to complete.

“The whole facility was flooded and in bad shape,” said Sardar Hussain, the task order manager for Lal Por police headquarters. “Cleanup was a tough task, everything from the man holes to the bathrooms were damaged. But, what made it worse was that the facility was already finished and the final inspection was done, then the flood came and damaged the whole facility. It took weeks to clean.”

Hussain said that though cleanup and rebuilding was challenging, the end result made it worth it.

“The headquarters will play an important role because security is a main factor in the area and when the area is secure the whole community benefits,” he said.

Chytka echoed those sentiments, praising the contractor, construction workers and representatives from the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, for their hard work and perseverance through the flooding of the building.

“The construction of this facility was met with some challenges.” Chytka said. “You all faced a 100-year flood and had still water up to your boots, but you overcame all of that and built this wonderful facility.”

The contracted construction company was Zurmat Construction Co. During construction, Zurmat employed more than 80 Afghan construction workers, all from the local area.

The police headquarters cost approximately \$586,000.

The Corps of Engineers is the primary organization building army bases, police stations, roads, airstrips and other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to increase the country’s stability and economy. The Corps of Engineers has two districts in the country-Afghanistan Engineer District-North, which is based in Kabul; and Afghanistan Engineer District-South, which is based in Kandahar.



The UP District headquarters is within its own compound and will accommodate more than 100 police officers. (Corps of Engineers photo by LaDonna Davis)

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