



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supplies power to Afghanistan MOI

**KABUL** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrated the completion of an electrical upgrade to the Afghanistan Ministry of Interior compound with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Monday, January 24.

The new power supply system will provide the MOI with a 2,500 watt secondary and primary power generator system capable of supplying the entire compound with power. The new power supply system has the capacity for expansion and includes fuel storage and all the accessories needed to keep the generator going.

“Power is one of the most important things needed to run this compound,” said Lt. Gen. Wahdat, the deputy minister of administration support for the MOI. “Today, everything works by computer and for that we need electricity.”



Lt. Gen. Wahdat and Lt. Col. Danner flip the ceremonial switch, marking the official commissioning of the electrical upgrades. (Corps of Engineers photo by LaDonna Davis)



Lt. Gen. Wahdat and Lt. Col. Danner take a tour of the power generator system on the Ministry of Interior's compound in Kabul. (Corps of Engineers photo by LaDonna Davis)

In Afghanistan, electricity is unpredictable and supplied intermittently throughout the day. The power supply and generator system that the Afghanistan Engineer District-North provided will provide backup power to the MOI compound during times of black outs.

“I just want to thank our national and international friends, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan for providing this power,” said Wahdat. “Any development in this country makes every single Afghan happy and proud.”

Having to deal with an antiquated power unit on the MOI compound proved to be a challenge for AED-N when it came to hooking up the new system up to the local

grid and replacing the old system with a continuous and complete new power system. But, the district overcame the challenges, completing the project on time.

“This may be considered a small project to some, but the amount of money spent on this project would be the same amount to build an Afghanistan National Police headquarters,” said Lt. Col. Steve Danner, the Kabul area office officer in charge. “Over 5,000 meters (196,850 inches) of trenchers were dug at this compound to upgrade the utilities and everyone did a great job to get this project completed on time.”

Technologist Inc., based in Rosselyn, Va., was the contracted construction company. During the height of construction, Technologist Inc. employed 200 Afghan workers.

The electrical upgrade cost \$3.8 million and took approximately two years to complete.