

Postal Regulatory Commission

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Commissioner Blair Supports Civil Service Reform and Postal Development in Iraq

Washington, DC – Commissioner Dan G. Blair last week counseled Iraqi government leaders on ways to strengthen the civil service in Iraq to enhance government operations, support economic development and promote a strong democracy.

Blair, who is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), presented his paper, “Civil Service Reform – International Successful Practices,” in Baghdad, during a three-day Civil Service Reform Conference jointly sponsored by the Government of Iraq and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

“Iraq’s draft ‘Law of the Federal Civil Service’ sets the foundation for a system built on the basis of professionalism, competence and political neutrality,” Blair said, while advising Iraqi leaders that “only through your continued commitment and work can these changes become systemic and part of the essential fabric of Iraqi government.”

Drawing on his five-years of experience as Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in which he helped modernize the U.S. Civil Service, Blair stressed that civil service is a privilege that must be earned through effective performance and fidelity to high standards of transparency, professionalism, public trust and devotion to duty. Blair also presented numerous international examples of effective civil service practices and mistakes to be avoided.

“As your government enters this next phase in strengthening your democracy, it must take affirmative steps to ensure that a strong, responsive and accountable workforce takes root. A strong public service is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy. An effective and efficient civil service strengthens your efforts to build and maintain the peoples’ trust in their government,” Blair advised.

In addition to presenting on civil service reforms, Blair met with Dr. Safauldeen Badr Hamzah, Postmaster General of Iraqi Post, to discuss the state of postal services in Iraq. Blair shared with Badr the Commission’s work on examining the universal service obligation in the United States and heard from Badr regarding the challenges facing the Iraqi Post.

A full text of Commissioner Blair’s presentation is available [here](#).

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The Postal Regulatory Commission is an independent federal agency comprised of five Presidentially-appointed and Senate-confirmed Commissioners, each serving terms of six years. The Chairman is designated by the President. In addition to Chairman Goldway, the other Commissioners are Vice Chairman Tony Hammond, Dan Blair, Nanci Langley, and Mark Acton.
