

U.S. Military Police Soldier Honored at Iraqi Police Academy

By Lieutenant Colonel Michael Indovina

First Lieutenant Henderson-Huff was instrumental in the development of plans for the Erbil Police Academy. She worked closely with the Kurdish Minister of Interior, Mr. Karim Sinjari, and the provincial Director of Police; their work had a strategic impact on the Erbil province.

During the October 2008 dedication ceremony, keynote speaker Mr. Gary York said, "This Erbil Police Academy did not just happen. It was a dream and hope of many people, and one of them was First Lieutenant Ashley Henderson-Huff."

"This is truly a tremendous moment for the Military Police Corps. She was a tremendous officer. She moved people," said Colonel Mark Spindler, commander of the 18th Military Police Brigade.

"What a profound thing that has happened here—when the Iraqis dedicate a monument to a U.S. Soldier on Iraqi soil. This demonstrates the partnership between Iraqi police and U.S. military police . . . during this time of development of the [Iraqi police]," Spindler said. "It also shows change is happening in Iraq—positive change."

"You know, [the Iraqi police] did not have to do this," added Spindler. "The Iraqi Police did this totally on their own; a great day for our [military police] and the U.S. Army."

At the time of her death, First Lieutenant Henderson-Huff was assigned to the 549th Military Police Company, Fort Stewart, Georgia. She was under the command and control of the 709th Military Police Battalion in the Multinational Division–North area of operation. Henderson-Huff was one of three military police lieutenants tasked to partner with a Kurdish provincial director of police to help build a legitimate police force.

Today, military police transition teams continue to help expand, develop, and partner with Iraqi police—just as they did in 2006.

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