

POSTAL NEWS

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1. Postal authority strengthens security

Posted in: Front Page

Written By: Fares Anam

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The General Authority for Post and Postal services prepared a plan for the protection of special transport, handling and storage of cash, and the postal offices for 2011.

The plan aims at strengthening the security aspects in the protection of transport and handling of cash to protect post offices, transport, and personnel. It also aims to strengthen inspection and control over the contents of packages and items in international parcels. This came as a result of growing in the volume of money sent across the postal network, exceeding YR 460 billion. According to the plan, the most important requirements for the development of protection means for offices and funds in the postal network are to provide fortified transport for the transfer and trading of cash. In addition to installation of system of monitoring and warning to all means of transport mail, as well as the purchase and installation of high quality screening of explosives.

The plan also includes the needs of hiring new guards for all offices that do not have custody or the use of a security company, as well as installation of surveillance cameras in the main offices and the purchase of mobile tanks, and provide all offices by fire automatic powder extinguishers.

The Director General of Post and Postal Services, Abdul-latif Abo Ghanem said that the preparation of this plan has been made as a result of the emergence of crimes that send bombs parcel with the private shipping companies, as well as the development of methods of assault crimes represented by attacks on funds during the transfer from banks to post offices.

“But this requires work on developing means of transport and equipment that contribute to the protection and detection of explosives and prohibited materials, as well as equipment to enhance the protection of postal offices and the money inside,” Ghanem said.

He added, “This plan will be presented to the Council of Ministers to request exceptional funding with government assistance at a cost of 85,000,316 thousand

riyals, including analysis and explanation of the current status of the post, procedures and equipment that was provided and the precautionary measures that have been working out.”

The plan covered by the study, analysis and treatment of the problems which the Board and the Government has to face represented by the security of postal funds, offices, parcels, transportation, equipment and personnel, he noted.

“We look forward from this plan to continue that Post plays its role in the provision of post services and financial resources to all citizens across the country under an environment of change of crimes that may impede this important facility, which is witnessing significant developments,” said Ghanem.

The Post service provides for citizens in rural and urban areas and became a figure important in the field of financial transactions, and assists in providing an important tool in the financial and administrative reform through the delivery of financial benefits for active owners, and to return any amounts did not attend the owners to receive in a timely manner.

Ghanem pointed out that the post helps people to keep up with modern information technology through the services of Electronic mail, ATM and other services, noting that the number of clients with financial post services per month amounted to more than 2 million customers.

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2. Postal Service to conduct new study of mail processing operations in Utica

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UTICA, N.Y. - The Postal Service plans to conduct a new study at the Utica Processing and Distribution Facility, located at 100 Pitcher Street, for possible consolidation of some operations into the Syracuse Processing and Distribution Center, officials said Tuesday.

The study, known as an Area Mail Processing (AMP) study, involves a review of the mail processing operations to determine capacity needs at a facility in order to increase efficiency and improve productivity.

Postal officials said the need for the study comes as the Postal Service faces one of the most difficult challenges in its history. The current economic downturn and continued internet diversion has led to a drastic 20 percent decline in mail volume since 2007, resulting in historically large deficits.

Even when the economy fully recovers, the Postal Service said it does not expect mail volume to return to previous peak levels, and is projecting annual deficits for the foreseeable future.

"As a result of the volume loss, we have more facilities, equipment and people than we need to process a declining volume of mail," said the Postal Service's Albany District Manager, Edward F. Phelan, Jr. "We have to reduce the size of our network because we are no longer receiving enough revenue to sustain its cost."

"One way to do that is to consolidate operations where feasible," Phelan added. "That is why we're doing this study. Consolidating processing operations and placing our people where we need them makes logical business sense given the economic realities. We're only doing what any company would do when hit with a 20 percent decline in its business."

If the feasibility study supports the business case for changing mail processing operations, the Postal Service will hold a public meeting to allow members of the community to ask questions and provide feedback.

This input will be considered in the final proposal.

"I want to assure everyone that we will not make any changes to our operations that would cause delays in delivery to your home or business," said Phelan.

The Postal Service is soliciting the public's input as part of the study process.

Comments may be submitted by mail to:
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Posted at 10:00 AM ET, 01/ 4/2011

3. Postal union 'frustrated' by pace of negotiations

By Ed O'Keefe

The nation's largest postal union has summoned its top leaders this week to Washington as negotiations for a new multi-year contract with the U.S. Postal Service appear close to an impasse.

Cliff Guffey, president of the American Postal Workers Union, said Monday that he is "increasingly frustrated by the lack of progress" in contract negotiations with USPS.

Guffey, in a message posted on the union's Web site, said talks on a labor agreement that was set to expire Nov. 20 have continued, but "six weeks later, management negotiators seem unwilling to make the commitment necessary to reach a negotiated settlement."

APWU represents about 220,000 postal clerks, mechanics, drivers, custodians and some administrative workers. Top union officials plan to brief regional representatives on the negotiations Tuesday.

The Postal Service does not comment on labor negotiations until a settlement is reached. A third-party arbitrator would have to broker a new deal between USPS and APWU if talks end without an agreement. Similar negotiations between the Postal Service and National Rural Letter Carriers Association came to an impasse in November.

Postal negotiators are seeking greater wage and work time concessions from APWU and NRLCA to stave off billions of dollars in losses. Officials said in September that they can no longer guarantee eight-hour, full-time shifts for most workers.

By Ed O'Keefe | January 4, 2011; 10:00 AM ET

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