

Postcards from Iraq

What will I miss about Iraq?

By U.S. Air Force Maj. Daniel Guinan, Programs Division Sector Lead
Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Traveling in a Blackhawk

As my time in Iraq comes to a close people ask me what I look forward to when I get back in the states. The answer to that is quick and simple; my wonderful wife and three children. Without their love and support along the way my time here would have been much more difficult. They, like all other military children and spouses, deserve the accolades for all the extra things they are asked to do during deployments. I have been counting the days until I see them again since the moment I left them.

What people fail to ask is "What will you miss about Iraq?" Again, the answer is simple...the people. My work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division has been fulfilling because our team has achieved great things. It is the people who have made it happen. Our Iraqi associates are the bravest people I have ever worked with. Their association with Americans makes them a target, yet every day they brave the checkpoints and the 115 degree temperatures to serve beside Army, Navy, Air Force, U.S. Government Civilians and American Contractors to rebuild Iraq. What they are doing goes beyond traditional "bricks and mortar" construction, they also create training programs and develop initiatives for women-owned businesses. Their efforts have built hope and optimism in me for a strong Iraq.



In the Baghdad Operations Center

I was fortunate enough to see the relationship and cooperation between our government and that

of Iraq continue to grow. Every day has been an adventure. From personal meetings with Iraqi ministers, to sitting in a tent with local sheiks while an Iraqi Vice-President conducts a ribbon-cutting ceremony, to watching an Iraqi women celebrate the opening of her new printing company, one into which she invested her life-savings. These small moments are the foundation that Iraq is being rebuilt upon. The strength and determination of the Iraqi people, in partnership with the coalition, are more than up to the task ahead of them. As I prepare to leave, I am honored to have served along so many great people and am proud of our accomplishments. I have found a second family here and will always cherish my time with them.



Pan-Arab Press Conference