

Postcards from Iraq

Doing my part to help in Iraq

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The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.

This is what I repeated to myself when I decided to deploy to Iraq. I heard all the concerns of friends and loved ones. But I knew what I was about to do was right for me. When I finally arrived at the Kuwait airport, there was a young man with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) castle sign that was a wonderful sight at the end of a long journey. But I still had to travel to Baghdad where I am stationed with the Central District (GRC).

After I got settled in, I was able to really see where I would be at for the next six months. Victory Base Complex is amazing. For the first time, here I see thousands of young men and women, no older than my children, serving their country. I could not fight back the tears the first time I realized that fact. I was so proud of them all. And I am so proud of the Corps of Engineers for what they were doing for the nation of Iraq, building schools, hospitals, and putting in water and electrical systems. They are truly rebuilding a nation and making life better for the people of Iraq.

It is going to take me some time to get used to the bats, and the - I think they call them geckos, anyway they are lizard-like creatures that come out at night, and there's the orange sky, which is quite beautiful, even if it is a dust storm brewing up. Then riding in the truck with my friend, Fanny, is really an experience in its own. It reminds me of riding in the C-130 to get from Kuwait to Baghdad.

All in all, this is an experience that I will never forget. I am just so proud to work for USACE, and I am so glad that I could do my small part to help.



**Cathy Anders checks a bunker on
Victory Base Complex in Baghdad, Iraq.**



**Cathy stands on the entrance step of a South African
REVA, an armored vehicle used for passenger transport.**