

Postcards from Iraq

A commitment ...
projects benefitting Iraq

By Barb Windham

Baghdad Area Office Administrative Support Assistant
Gulf Region Division Central District

My New Orleans co-workers ask when I am coming home, and I respond, "Not soon; I plan to turn out the light." This was not my plan when I left the Big Easy in June 2004. I had opted for a 6-month tour because I wasn't sure that I could commit for a longer duration. Little did I know that the Army Corps of Engineers' mission in the Gulf Region would become more than a tour.

I serve in an administrative support role in the Baghdad Area Office (BAO). We are one of three Area Offices in Gulf Region Division's Central District and are headquartered at Camp Victory, Iraq. Our four resident and two FOB offices combine to make a team of 33 Americans and 67 Iraqis. Together we administer contracts that renovate and build schools, hospitals, public health clinics, fire stations, gas stations, training academies; sewer, water, and potable water projects; public roads and bridges; electrical transmission and distribution projects in the Baghdad area.

We work long hours and typically confront monumental obstacles in the course of a project. In meeting the challenges, we find we can commit. We dedicate our talents, our knowledge, our time — for as long as it takes — in the hope that the people of Iraq will benefit from our having been here.



Barb Windham
Operations Division
Office Assistant
New Orleans District



Barb Windham at Camp Victory, Iraq