

Postcards from Iraq

'Will Stay With Me For a Lifetime'

**By Navy Cmdr Michael Lang
Gulf Region South District**

I am coming to the end of my tour here and have been reflecting on what it has meant to me. The chance to work at the forefront of the Corp of Engineers mission in construction has been a once in a lifetime opportunity and working with some of the best Military and Civilian people has made this an experience I will never forget. Being able to contribute to the successful rebuilding of Iraq through infrastructure improvements will stay with me for a lifetime.

Navy Cmdr Lang after being pinned the Bronze Star by Brig. Gen. Jeffery Dorko, GRD commander.

When you discuss duty - it is every military person's responsibility to contribute when our country is at war. I have seen firsthand how this is alive and well - watching men and women - young and old - contribute their efforts to making this operation successful and make Iraq a better place for those who have endured less than ideal conditions for sometime.



Navy Cmdr Michael Lang with some Iraqi kids in a school visit. (USACE PHOTO)

Navy Cmdr Michael Lang, Adder Area Office OIC, explains the construction progress of Nassiryiah Prison to Brig. Gen. Jeffery Dorko, GRD commander and Col. Steve Hill, GRS commander with the U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers. (USACE PHOTO - John Connor)



However I also admire the civilians as they endure these same conditions, go thru the same frustrations and dangers, see friends killed and injured, and yet still come back the next day and put forth heroic efforts to make our mission successful. It has truly been my honor to serve with such people. Essays!

Right, Brig. Gen. Jeffery Dorko, commander of USACE's Gulf Region Division, pins Bronze Star on Navy Cmdr. Michael Lang, officer in charge of the Adder Area Office of the Gulf Region South District.

