

Postcards from Iraq



Leaving a better person

By Lt.Col. James Crowley,
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As my time here in Baghdad comes to a close, it gives me an opportunity to reflect back on my experiences here at GRD. I look back to the beginning, which was a time of uncertainty for me.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was a totally different type of organization. It took me a while to figure out why it has the term 'Army' in the title; there are members of every single service that make up this very unique organization. I look back at my time here and one thing in particular strikes me, it's the people that make up this team.

I use the word team, because it's the best word that I can find that defines how an organization as diverse as this functions. The members of the four services, the Dept of the Army and Dept of Defense civilians, the contractors and of course our Iraqi Associates working together for a common goal. The people come from all walks of life and from all over the globe, but all of them are here for a common purpose and that is to help Iraq stand back up on its own two feet and shine as a beacon of democracy in this region of the world.

The leadership provides a common focus for the team members and everyone brings their unique talents to bear for the betterment of the team. Because of this there has been a steady improvement in the quality of life for the average Iraqi and every day is one step closer to the day when we can turn the reigns completely back over to the Iraqis and walk away from here with a huge sense of accomplishment.

I feel proud to have been part of such a fine organization. My time here has made me a better Soldier and a better person.

Lt. Col. James Crowley
Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Despite being away from family and friends during the holidays, Crowley takes time to enjoy Halloween and Christmas with his GRD teammates.



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Crowley has the opportunity to experience local culture by trying on a traditional dishdasha and riding a camel.



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