

Postcards from Iraq

My final venture

By David Newman
Vicksburg District

This is a great way to close out a career. I've got over 30 years government service, the last six years with the Vicksburg District working as a power plant electronic mechanic at the Blakely Mountain Power Plant near Hot Springs, AR.

This is my final venture. When I leave Iraq, I'll be going home to Arkansas to drive "Miss Daisy" – that's my beautiful wife Vloye of 32 years who works as a nurse.

Here in Iraq, I'm a Construction Representative with Victory Resident Office overseeing a variety of projects from the Joint Robotic Repair Facility to a military working dog kennel. It's very satisfying helping our soldiers who have a tough job but are getting it done.

I like the variety of projects we're managing, the way the Victory Area office staff all pitches in to assist each other, the teamwork and camaraderie that attitude instills.

We're housed in very comfortable accommodations -- single rooms with a TV, refrigerator, and computer hook-up. The food is great.

The Iraqis who are helping us with construction go through pure hell just to get to work every day. They are threatened at gun point, intimidated, some are kidnapped. I admire their courage and that's one thing that keeps me here doing what I do. They just keep reporting to work no matter what ... I admire who they are what they're trying to achieve.

When I get back stateside, I plan to return to my favorite pastimes of hunting whitetail deer and turkeys, fishing for crappie and catfish. But my top priority will be spending quality time with my wife and family who have been so supportive.

In the meantime, here I am in Iraq ... glad to be part of this team.

David Newman
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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**Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock (Chief of Engineers)
visits the Joint Robotic Repair Facility with
Construction Rep David Newman.**