

# Postcards from Iraq

“With compassion for others, we build,  
we fight for peace with freedom.”

I have had a personally and professionally rewarding time at the Gulf Region Division, and recommend coming to support the reconstruction of Iraq if you can. My individual augment tour went from Aug '07 to Feb '08 in the International Zone of Baghdad. During my tour, I was able to serve as the Deputy Chief of Logistics (G4) and the Deputy Director of Contracting. Being one of very few Seabees at the command made it educational and productive.

The highlight of my tour was clearly the people here: service members, U.S. civilians and Iraqi associates. They were all true professionals dedicated

to the command's mission. I also enjoyed working with our contractor partners, and was encouraged by the dialog and issue identification and resolution across the board.

I have been struck by the outpouring of support from folks back home. A couple Churches and numerous friends and family have all contributed countless boxes full of things for people here. Each item, from high-end knives to geedunk, brought smiles to those here and served to uplift and equip us. I am better for having volunteered to come here and pitch in. Whatever your station in life, I encourage you to contribute actively to this effort. From the



(Above) LCDR Dude Underwood at the breached entrance to Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard bunker beneath Believer's Palace in the Baghdad, Iraq, International Zone.



(Top) A few G4 guys at Jose Lopez's farewell.  
(Above) GRD Contracting office after presenting LCDR Underwood's end of tour award.

volunteer who leaves family for a tour here, to the caring individual who picks up a pair of nice boot socks to send over for a soldier, we can all make a tangible difference in the important work that is ongoing.

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