

Postcards from Iraq

Helping rebuild a torn war country

by Georgia Lewis
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I have to say from the start that I'm amazed that I'm actually working in Iraq. I am here working to help build up a war torn country; that is still war torn.

I work with Construction Engineers who put in a lot of hours and paperwork (you can't do anything without that paperwork) to build hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, electrical substations, roads, etc.

I can't even begin to say how different it is in working on a project in Iraq than working in the U.S. Not to mention the language barrier but the cultural differences you must deal with. But our Corps employees here deal with



Georgia Lewis shoots photos while on a project inspection mission in Dhi Qar Province.



each problem as they come and there are many. Helping us are Iraqi Engineers who each day drive to one or more construction projects to check on the progress and report back to our Engineers. Our Corps Engineers try and visit all the projects that they were able to. Both the Iraqi and Corps Engineers risk their lives to visit these construction sites.

My job is to assist in any way I can with the usual admin duties and some not so usual. Making appointments, running reports, escorting Iraqis and contractors to meetings, etc.; sounds usual but in Iraqi it can change to the unusual easily.

I am glad and proud that I was blessed to serve and try to make a difference in Iraq.

Essays!

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