

Postcards from Iraq



Bubba Hugs, 'cause everyone needs a hug in Iraq

Harry Van Doren
Engineer Tech, Victory South Resident Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baghdad, Iraq

To All:

I am leaving the USACE Gulf Region Central District here very soon and just wanted to thank all the people I've worked with. It has been an experience for me I will never forget. I have learned a lot about construction and about all the hard work happening to help this country get going again. And I have met a lot of people who meant a lot to me. This goes for the ones that have come and the ones that have gone.

As far as the Bubba Hug tradition, it was started long before I got here, and has been handed down from Bubba to Bubba. I hope it will be passed along again . . . and will continue on. Origin? Beats me. It's just a great going-away expression and friendly gesture for everybody to get a good squeeze before departing. Doesn't everybody feel good getting a going-away hug?? What else can I say?

It was a long year, at least for me, and I can't wait to get back home. And if by chance any of you are in the Ft Bragg area of North Carolina, please feel free to stop by and say, "Hey".

Iraq, see ya !!! Thank you all for my experiences.



Bubba Hugger Harry Van Doren (left) passes the tradition to Len Fairbanks.



Harry Van Doren gives a farewell Bubba Hug to Gulf Region Central District team members before they depart.