

# Postcards from Iraq

## Both Sides of the Iraq Coin

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Chief Jaictin inspects an electrical cable in Baghdad.

As the USACE Loyalty Resident Office NCOIC, I find this a very unique experience from my 20-year Navy duty. While being in charge of the day-to-day business of the office, I've learned a lot of new skills as well as the Army Engineer terminology. Working to bring projects to completion is a challenge every minute in Iraq. From movement plans to logistical support, there are obstacles we overcome each day to bring important water treatment facilities, sewer projects, schools and other buildings to their finish. The project site visits are always a little scary and very exciting, but I am very happy to be able to help carry out the mission to help rebuild in Baghdad.

### It feels like being on both sides of the coin!

I was stationed onboard the "BIG MO" USS Missouri BB-63 during the Desert Shield Campaign that turned to Desert Storm where the BIG MO was the first one to fire the Tomahawk missiles. Now I am helping Iraq in my own way to get them back on their feet. This is one of the many reasons why I volunteered for the job.

In addition to the long hours on the job, while here in East Baghdad on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Loyalty, I've mentored five junior Navy personnel by enhancing their skill and performance level. To assist the medical personnel, I volunteered to be a Troop Medical Clinic stretcher bearer.

As a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) volunteer, I helped coordinate events in planning and scheduling tournaments and leagues. These activities greatly boost the moral and camaraderie between the Coalition forces, civilians and fellow U.S. Service members.

Last but not least, I'm very proud of being FOB Loyalty's MWR 11-time pingpong champion. It's been a great run and I've made a lot of good friends along the way.

My heartfelt thanks to all the support from my family back home and my command, Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard, for giving me the opportunity to be here.



Ten  
plus 1  
more!

The pingpong Champ is proud of his 11 championships.



Chief Solomon Jaictin greets children near a project site in East Baghdad.