

Postcards from Iraq

There are no easy answers

It has been an honor to assist the Army Corps of Engineers in the reconstruction effort in Baghdad, Iraq. The work days are long and the challenges are many but it is rewarding to know that as a team we are seeing projects completed and put to use. Some of the projects completed during my stay in Iraq include: bridges, roads, gas stations, schools, health clinics, fire stations, hospitals and training facilities, just to mention a few. All these projects are well worth the effort and risk to know that we are truly making a difference.

I arrived in the Gulf Region Central district on Victory base of western Baghdad in May of last year. From January to June 2007, my husband Gene served in the International Zone for the Gulf Region Division Headquarters before joining me at Victory base complex. Gene serves as GRC's Financial Resource Manager and I am the Administrative Assistant for the Baghdad Area Office. Gene's Division Office back in Dallas asked him to return to fill another position by the end of January. Although our assignment was cut short by a few months, it was no less rewarding for either one of us.

General David Petraeus greets Janet.



After retiring from the military and not being called back to active duty, it was hard to imagine that as a civilian that both my husband and myself could end up in Iraq together. It has been a real blessing to work, worship, and live in such a unique place. The best part of my time here has been the wonderful friendship that I have developed with a female Iraqi coworker. She has left me with a good impression of her, her fellow country men, and her family. She has taught me about sweet lemons and men-al-sama which are unique to Iraq. We agreed that it is our desire that Iraq will one day live in peace.

*Janet Embry, Administrative Assistant,
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*Janet and Gene Embry at
Gene's birthday celebration.*

