

Postcards from Iraq

From a Small Alabama Town to Iraq

by Jenny W. Hughes

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If someone would have told me this time last year that I would be volunteering for a six month assignment in Iraq, I would have never believed him.

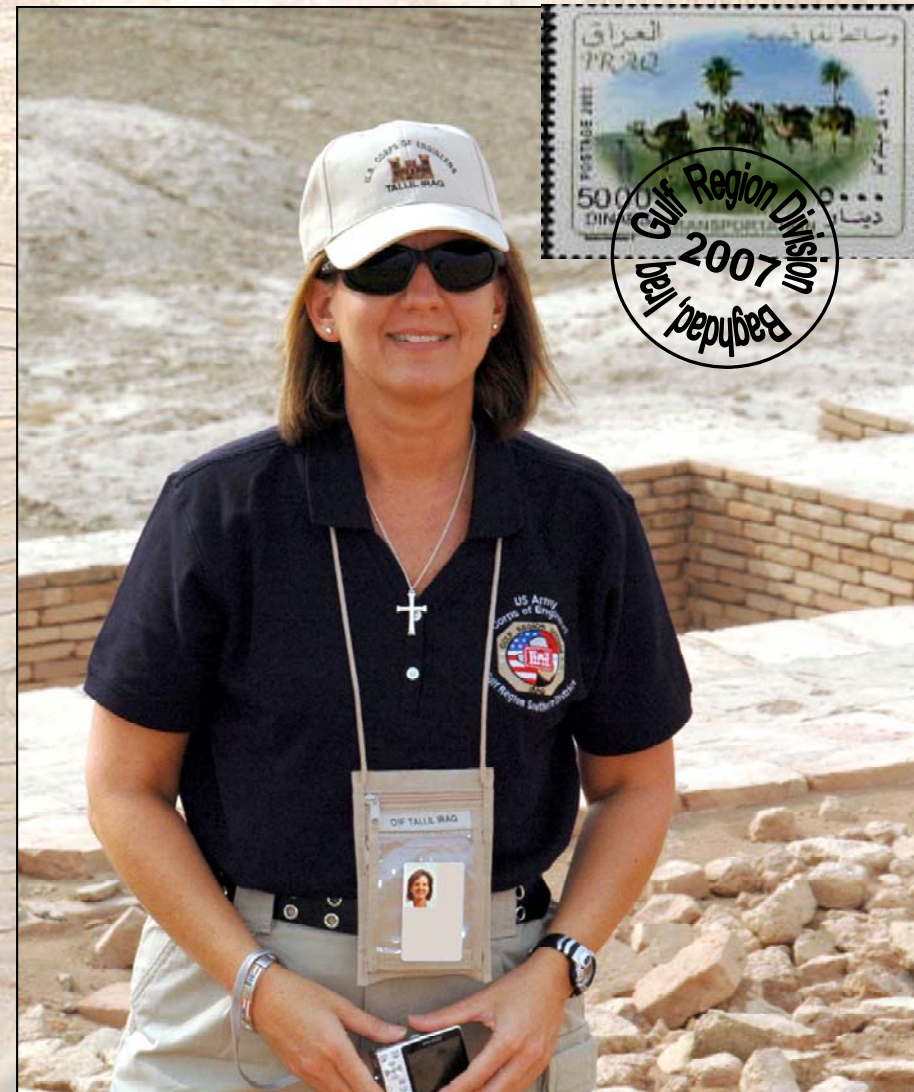
I'm from Enterprise, a small town in South Alabama with a population of 22,000, and have lived there all my life with the exception of a couple of years when I was a toddler.

Coming to Iraq wasn't something I was looking to do, but after being told about the job opportunity, I couldn't get it off my mind. After talking it over with my two children and parents, the next step was getting the approval of my command at Fort Rucker. They supported me whole heartedly and paved the way for me to come over on a six-month assignment.

I can't even describe what a rewarding experience this has been for me. I've worked with the military or been around it my whole life; however, to be living on a military base in Iraq and seeing first hand what soldiers go through on a daily basis has been an adventure I will never forget. I have worked with so many Soldiers who have served in Iraq and heard them talk of their time here, but unless you get to experience it first hand you really wouldn't understand what our Armed Forces go through.

Learning what the Corps of Engineers has done and is continuing to do for the Iraqi people has also been rewarding. I've learned so much these past three months, and I can't wait to see what the next three months has to offer. I work in the Protocol Office for an Aviation post back home, so working for the Engineer branch as an executive secretary is totally different. I love learning new things and I've definitely learned a lot since being here.

I will dread to see my time end over here, but I will never forget the experience I was given. I will always remember the friends I've met from all over the world while I was here. I feel that God has blessed me with this opportunity of a lifetime. Essayons!



Jenny Hughes is taking pictures of King Shulgi's Palace at site of the ruins of the ancient City of Ur near An Nasiriyah, Iraq.
(PHOTO BY MOHAMMED ALIWI)