

Postcards from Iraq

Try it, you may like it

By Joanne D. Gibbs

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I must say I am thrilled with my deployment in Iraq. The opportunity to be part of this team as we help rebuild Iraq and serve the Iraqi people is awesome. It's an historic endeavor and a very personally rewarding experience..

It's just such an honor to be here. We're impacting the lives of others. I have not only had the chance to meet dozens of Iraqis, I have built relationships with many. They're very special individuals coping with unimaginable challenges and getting the job done. Their friendships and relationships will be with me forever.

Each day I am in awe of their courage. I now know and understand the true meaning of selfless service. I am surprised to be working with people from all over the world at the USAID office — individuals from Africa, El Salvador, Haiti, Peru, and the list goes on and on.

Regarding my family, they've been great. My son Darrin, who has been to Iraq, gave me the courage to take on this venue. My daughter, Dorrian, has been equally supportive. I love you both!

I truly miss everyone back stateside but I would not trade this mission for anything. There's an old cliché that seems appropriate to conclude this note. Not sure where or when I heard it but I challenge each of you at Vicksburg District, Waterways Experiment Station, and Mississippi Valley Division to "try it you might like it."



*My best wishes
to each of you!*

Joanne Gibbs
Vicksburg District
EEO Specialist



While being interviewed on Christmas Day by CNN's Soledad O'Brien, I had quite a surprise when into the studio walked my son, Sgt. Darrin Gibbs. He had been flown to Baghdad from his base in Kuwait for a special hello. What a present!



My co-workers, from all over the world, are here to help the Iraqis build a better life.



I really do enjoy this job.