

Postcards from Iraq

A Time for Change

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tour: 8/12/07—10/11/08

I wanted to say one last “good bye” and to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their efforts helping rebuild Iraq.

This has been my 4th deployment since 2004; GRD RM, AED IR, State Department IRMO Budget and GRS RM. Working for the State Department was supposed to be my final tour in Iraq. After my Mothers unexpected fatal accident In May 2007, I needed to refocus my life which I did. I received a call from Norma Dean, asking if I'd come to GRS and be the Resource Management Officer since they hadn't had one in a few months. This request came at a good time.

As soon as I arrived I had to hit the ground running with the FY08 Budget preparation, year-end closeout, and hiring my team of Resource Management professionals. The first employees to arrive were Frank Deboer from Memphis District, Nelson Reyes from SIGIR and Mitch Peterson from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. I couldn't have asked or hired a better team for the year-end crunch. In March 2008 Frank Deboer and Mitch Peterson moved on to bigger and better things. I hired Dee Edwards (Mobile District) and Richard Rupert (Rock Island District) to take their places. Because of their exceptional work GRS RM never skipped a beat. In July Avril Jones from Seattle District joined the team. I've known her for over 18 years, a highly motivated and dedicated worker.

In July I accepted another challenge to go to Europe District to help out. One last thing I wanted to do before leaving GRS was to put together and complete the FY09 budget and help out for fiscal year end (never leave anything incomplete). I have no doubt the Iraqis we have worked with are committed to providing a brighter future for their children and grandchildren. Their efforts, courage, drive and desire demonstrate every day how much they are dedicated to our mission.

I thank all our dedicated GRS team of Military, Civilians and Iraqis who I've had the privilege to work alongside. I would also like to recognize my beautiful daughter for supporting me at one of the hardest times in our lives (Love you Shayna).

God speed!



GRS Resource Management Team includes Nelson Reyes (left), Dee Edwards, Karen Renee Robinson, Richard Rupert, Emily Mullet, and Norma Dean (kneeling).



Nelson Reyes and Karen Renee.



Norma Dean with Karen Renee.



Avril Jones



My daughter Shayna.