

# Postcards from Iraq

## A Humbling and Rewarding Experience

By Maj. Timothy Smith, Officer in Charge  
Fallujah Resident Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

My year in Iraq has been one of the most humbling and rewarding experiences of my military career. Working on a Joint mission to include the Marines, Navy, Air Force, Department of Defense Civilians and Local National Iraqi Associates in a conflict zone was unique.

The people I worked shoulder to shoulder with every day made this experience great. The forward deployed Fallujah Resident Office where I'm the Officer in Charge is part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Gulf Region Central district. Our office has been responsible for the engineering and construction management of over 35 projects valued at over \$41 million.

I personally had the opportunity to work on various projects in rebuilding the infrastructure of Iraq's Al Anbar Province, the largest geographic area for the Army Corps. One of the most notable projects was the Fallujah Wastewater Treatment Plant and sewer system project. The folks in Fallujah have never had a working sewer system.

I was also able to work on other projects including the electrical distribution network, bridges, schools and health care clinics. I worked regularly with Iraqi contractors and Iraqi government officials to help rebuild their country.

I hope my efforts have made a positive impact in some small way because it has certainly made a big impact on me.

Maj. Timothy Smith, Officer in Charge  
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*Progress at Fallujah's first ever sewer system project*



*Site visit at Mujarrah Canal Bridge*



*Wastewater Pump Station foundation work*



*Fallujah's Minister of Electricity*