

Postcard from Iraq

Hello! My name is Master Sgt. Michael Anthony Crawford; a resident of Converse, Texas. I'm stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with the 416th Facility Engineer Center-Southwest as the Training NCOIC for the Southwest Region. I've been in the service for 24 years with four years active duty. The rest of my time in the military has been in the Army Reserve.

I have had the pleasure to serve with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division in Northern Iraq as the 416th Engineer Command detachment Soldier. It's been a different work assignment for the past year. I deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 2004-2005 at LSA Anaconda with the 277th Engineer Company as a Platoon Sergeant. Since April 2007, I've worked with the Corps at the Kirkuk Area Office, FOB Warrior as the Area Engineer NCOIC.

My duties were many; I worked closely with members of the Corps and the local nationals here; with active duty military, Reserve Soldiers, Army Civilians, and contractors here at FOB Warrior. I'm the military liaison for the Corps in interacting with our military and civilians for their personal protection; their quality of life and living conditions; security, mail, security, uniform compliance and emergency actions plans. I've also been responsible for personnel training within our compound, as well as the staff at our remote resident office.

I feel blessed to learn how the Corps infrastructure works and why we are here—building working and personal relationships with the Iraqi people. In my many years as a Soldier, I feel the job we do here in Iraq is not only a blessing to us as Americans but a blessing for the Iraqi people as well—for them to know and see we are here to help. We're making a difference in all that we do for the Iraqi people.

And now, I'm on my way home. See you soon!

*Master Sgt. Michael A. Crawford, Sr.
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