

Postcards from Iraq

Helping Iraqis achieve a brighter future

by Mamie R. Anderson
Savannah District/Wilmington, N.C. Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

I've been deployed overseas (Germany, Afghanistan, Baghdad and now Tallil, Iraq for the past 33 months to support the Global War on Terrorism. This is a critical mission and it has been both rewarding and challenging for me as a Contract Specialist /Contracting Officer. I'm part of a great team, a family of professionals who are all working hard to get the job done.

We're awarding contracts to build hospitals, universities, courthouses, police stations, schools, pave roads, rebuild electric substations, upgrade sewer pump stations, and install new water compact units.

The days are long but the tasks are rewarding to know that as a team we are seeing projects completed and put to use by the local community. Despite the dangers, Iraqi contractors continue to step forward eager to help improve their communities. Their courage is remarkable. March 2008, I was fortunate to get an opportunity to help organize and conduct a Contractor's Open House which gave me

a chance to meet Iraqi Contractors and Sheiks from all over Iraq. As a USACE employee for the past 8 years, I'm proud to serve with an organization that contributes so much to the quality of life for people worldwide.

We're making a difference here and I'm grateful to be able to say I was part of this important moment in Iraq's history. It is the most challenging assignment of my 23 years with the Federal Government.

It has been a real honor to assist in the reconstruction efforts and I feel blessed to have had this opportunity.

Mamie R. Anderson
Contracting Specialist
Gulf Region Division
South District, Tallil, Iraq



Mamie Anderson (right) and her sister Trish Lesane-Harvey are both deployed to Tallil, Iraq. Trish works for AAFES (Army and Air Force Exchange Service) and has been there four years.



Mamie Anderson discusses bid procedures with Iraqi contractors interested in helping rebuild their country during a conference in March.