

Postcards from Iraq

Iraq mission worth the effort

By Maj. Ron Ford

Victory Resident Office

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My office is overseeing over 65 projects on or around Camp Victory, Baghdad. Most of those projects deal with Force Protection for the troops or health and welfare for the Iraqi people. Some days are tougher than others but when we see the end results, it's a wonderful sight.

We work daily alongside Iraqis helping them provide a brighter future for their children and grandchildren. My staff has five Iraqis and we've developed a close relationship. Although we're different in some ways, overall we have pretty much the same needs and goals.

I guess if I had to pinpoint one thing that the Iraqis must hang onto is "hope". There are definitely some destructive elements who want to see it extinguished. I believe we are doing the right thing working shoulder to shoulder with the Iraqis as they continue to take positive steps forward. Iraq deserves a chance to succeed and I believe we should be giving them that opportunity.

Great to see the other countries involved here alongside the United States helping the Iraqis.

I have also learned a lot working with our other Services ... the Marines, Navy and Air Force. I have seen soldiers putting in long hours to get the mission accomplished. These soldiers do this with a smile and a tremendous determined attitude. I'm proud to serve in Iraq and believe that my time away from my family, although very difficult, is worth it. That conviction becomes even more clear when you see the children waving hello along the streets in Baghdad.

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Maj Ron Ford during site visit in Baghdad.