

# Postcards from Iraq

## Another Day in Paradise

By Margaret Williams  
Detroit District

With the Detroit District going through a reduction of force in 2005, I decided to apply for an engineering technician position in Iraq. Against the wishes of family and friends, I accepted a six month assignment.

Not knowing what to expect, I was terrified and excited at the same time. After serving more than 20 consecutive months in Iraq, this has been the most challenging and rewarding experience in my entire 20 years with the Army Corps of Engineers.

I have had an opportunity to work with civilians and military personnel from all over the world. I have also had an opportunity to oversee the construction of various railroad stations, bridges, water, electrical and road projects as well as an Iraqi National Guard Battalion.

All of these projects provide critical infrastructure and facilities to the Iraqi people. Teaching Iraqi associates and Iraqi contractors the importance of safe work practices and construction quality management has paid off. We have been successful in turning over quality projects to our customer, the Iraqi people. Essays!



**Margaret Williams, a construction representative with the Gulf Region South District. (USACE PHOTO BY MOHAMMED ALIWI).**