

Postcards from Iraq

Who Else but US?

by MSG Verna Nelson

HQ Georgia National Guard, Atlanta, GA

Hello HQ Georgia National Guard! I miss you guys & pray all is well and your Christmas has started off right. Being a sand flea among many sand fleas here, COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq has humbled this Georgia peach in many ways.

This country will test your patience and this war tests your resolve. When I am tired of working seven days a week, 14-16 hours in some of the hottest weather I have experienced, I wonder what is it all for? I'm hot, tired, and this sand makes everything difficult from eating to driving to sleeping; sand is in every activity.

But then you see the children playing in water coming from a hose that they can now drink from. You see electricity in homes where there was once none and you see clinics and schools being built in communities that, three years ago, couldn't have dreamed of having such "luxuries."

Who else but us? Who would help, who could help but the U.S.? We are fortunate to be in a position to effect change in a harsh and unforgiving environment.

I was in Baghdad a few days ago and a few of us military types were taking pictures of the crossed swords. A father and his young son came running up to us so that the little boy could have his picture taken with soldiers; this happens a lot. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve in the best assignment of my career.

God bless and Merry Christmas!

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