

Postcards from Iraq

Summit Intermediate School

gives a Heart

By Priscilla E. Perry
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The school year was approaching and it would be my son's first time in middle school. I had already accepted the deployment assignment and was planning to leave. My son was nervous and so was I because I was going to be miles away and not able to participate in the many school functions. This was my second deployment, and unlike the previous, I was able to meet and talk to his teacher. Mrs. Farr is wonderful. After, meeting her, my nervous feeling went away because I knew my son would be in good hands.

Summit Middle School is located in Etiwanda, California, which is in the southern part of California between Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga. When school had started and I found out that I was appointed vice president of the PTA (Parent, Teacher and Association). I was glad and sad at the same time because I had to tell the members that I was deploying to Iraq. They received it well and wanted to know about our rebuilding efforts.

Being in Iraq gave me the opportunity to share information with the school on the reconstruct effort and how the Iraqi lives were changing with the improved infrastructure and essential services such as water, wastewater, electricity, and solid waste. The teacher received more than the bad daily news reported. I was able to send pictures of Iraq, provide Iraq history, and share our monthly news literature showing some of the rebuilding efforts of the Gulf Region South District and the involvement of the Iraqi people. I sent pictures of myself and suggested that others come and be a part of history in the making.

Mrs. Farr and I communicated often during my deployment and on Valentine's Day, I received lots of hearts from the school faculty and Mrs. Farr's six grade students. I was overjoyed and surprised. They let me know that they care about what is happening over here with the troops and civilians working in Iraq. The future of America is them and the events in Iraq are historical events and worth reporting. I am glad that I was able to shed some positive perspectives on my role here in Iraq. Our efforts in the reconstruction of Iraq are rewarding and I am glad that I was able to provide a real life history lesson on Iraq. Thank you, Summit Intermediate School, for caring to send a heart. Essayons!



Priscilla Perry with numerous hearts sent from Summit Middle School for Valentines Day.
(USACE PHOTO BY MOHAMMED ALIWI)