

# Postcards from Iraq

Making a difference  
with logistical support

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As an AGR for California Army National Guard for 24 years, I never imagined I'd be among those deployed to Iraq. But the experience has definitely proved to be a highlight of my career. I have learned about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and the incredible projects we're overseeing to ensure a better Iraq.

Working as a Logistic Specialist for the USACE was quite an experience. We provided support to 9 different Forward Operating Bases within the USACE organization ensuring the different Resident Offices had what they needed to accomplish their missions.

What is especially noteworthy is the way this staff worked together and supported each other, the camaraderie and teamwork was just remarkable.

Everyday we are making a difference for the Iraqi people – improving things like water and sewer lines, bringing those essential services to their homes in many cases for the first time ever. These are the kinds of efforts that energized us through the long hours this job required.

There's no question, this assignment has been an opportunity of a lifetime. Working alongside military personnel from all services, our civilians and mostly our Iraqi associates has allowed me to share stories and gain friendship with a variety of terrific people. I couldn't have asked for a better tour. In May I'll conclude my one year deployment and I'm definitely looking forward to seeing my family. I will be taking home some tremendous memories that will be with me forever.

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SFC "T" Leai Toele at Camp Victory, Baghdad

