

Postcards from Iraq

Are the right people on the bus?

This tour has been unbelievable. The mere gratitude of the people for even the smallest things definitely makes it worthwhile. I could not have imagined the amount of support and unit camaraderie from the people and the command of Gulf Region Division Central District, Iraq.

Although most of my work has been completed inside the Victory, Striker and Slayer complexes, I can still feel the impact and the appreciation from my fellow comrades serving as War fighters. From the small money projects such as repaving roads to improving the water here on base, I know our efforts have been felt.

It is unique how a little gesture can impact someone else's life. The things we take for granted as American citizens holds a large place in the lives of people who serve here in Iraq — individuals who are relocated from their loved ones for extended periods of time.

Just months ago I watched a very motivated Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, pose the question to the Corps senior leadership — “Do we have the right people on the bus?” Well, Chief,

from what I see working here and abroad on the many diverse missions that the Corps participates in, we have the right people on the bus and the bus is moving in a direction that I want to continue to support. It takes a very special type of individual to accept the challenge of deploying to a foreign country or different state to help people who they don't know, but feel that they have some sense of humanitarian connection.

It is these types of people who make up the heart and soul of our country and the Corps of Engineers — the very people who I stand proudly next to every day from every division, district and center of our great country. There is no finer unit I have served with in my career.

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