

Postcards from Iraq

The most rewarding experience ever

By Tosca Patchus
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Honestly, I was apprehensive and nervous to come to Iraq, because I did not know what to expect when arriving here, especially when I was told that I would travel to Tallil Air base from Kuwait via ground movement.

However, shortly after arriving here the nervousness disappeared as I quickly jumped into my role in the contracting division.

The experience has been challenging but very rewarding. The people here as a whole are a great group of people to work with.

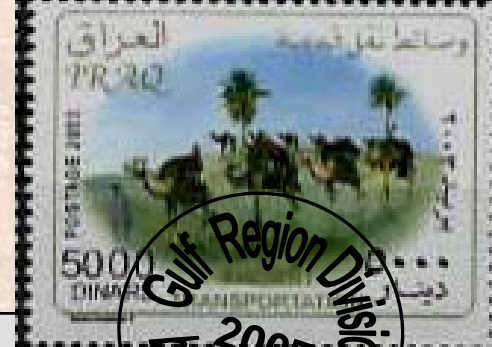
I volunteered to come to Iraq to assist and support the Iraqi people by participating in the Corps reconstruction mission. This is my first deployment and has been an experience that I will never forget. I have met some very interesting people from all over the world.

Back in the States, I work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers out of Ga., as an administrative assistant for the project management team. In Savannah, I have a great supervisor, Glynn Richards, who afforded me the opportunity to be in Iraq.

Here, I am responsible for the contracting administrative duties and working for the Gulf Region South District. The most difficult part of my deployment is being away from my family and two year old son, Devon, for six months.

We are doing what we can to rebuild the lives of the Iraqi people, as well as their country. As Americans, we are blessed with the best of the amenities that life has to offer.

We are rebuilding this country and offer the Iraqi people some of the amenities that we are afforded as U.S. citizens. I would encourage anyone to consider a tour in Iraq as it is one of the most rewarding experiences one could imagine. I'm definitely glad I came to be a part of the rebuilding efforts. Essays!



A picture of Tosca Patchus holding baby blankets sent as donations for Iraqi orphanages. (Army Photo by Mohammed Aliwi)