

# Postcards from Iraq

## Seabee Engineering in the Iraqi Desert

Hello from Ramadi, Al Anbar, Iraq!

Being a Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer/Seabee, I would never have imagined when I deployed to Iraq as an Individual Augmentee that I would be attached to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), assigned to work with the State Department supporting the Al Anbar Provincial Government in the Marine Corps battlespace, . . . but that is exactly where I landed.

As the Al Anbar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Engineer, my job is to work with the Provincial Government to develop Economic Support Fund (ESF) Provincial Reconstruction Development Committee (PRDC) projects. The purpose of State Department funded PRDC program is to continue progress toward increasing economic development at the provincial level and strengthen the ability of the Provincial Government to become more capable of planning, prioritizing and managing development efforts to enhance the quality of life, improve delivery of public services, and provide economic benefits to the Iraqi people.

I have been seeking to achieve this goal by working with Provincial Government officials responsible for managing and maintaining the infrastructure in Al Anbar. My contribution has been to develop small-scale construction projects for schools, water treatment plants, electricity, health care and roads.

*The Marine MRAP is a common mode of transportation for Seabee Lt. Cdr. Michael Comstock in Al Anbar Province, Iraq.*



*Lt. Cdr. Michael Comstock works in the PRT office of Ramadi, Iraq.*

Despite the enormous amount of challenges, obstacles and frustrations that are inherent in this dynamic environment, I believe that I have played a role in moving Al Anbar Province forward.

**CAN DO!**

*Michael A. Comstock*  
USACE PRT Engineer, Al Anbar Province, Iraq