

Postcard from Iraq

Keeping America Safe & Strong...

I deployed to Iraq and joined the Gulf Region Division in July of 2006 after commanding the 35th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for two years.

When I was a battalion commander I trained Soldiers that were brand new to the Army and since deploying have met many of them in their new units.

Seeing them in action has been a special privilege and I am proud to say that this generation of Americans is as dedicated and committed as any to keeping America safe and strong.

In the past 13 months I have worked in the G-3, Operations section, where we synchronize all aspects of the reconstruction mission. I have been incredibly blessed to work with an amazing team of professionals who work tirelessly to get the job done. We overcame incredible challenges while making a positive difference for the Iraqi people and I feel awed knowing I was allowed to be a part of it.

As I get ready to leave Iraq, several things stand out in my mind. First is the warmth and compassion of the Iraqi people. I have become friends with many of them and I admire their determination to bring democracy and a better way of life to this country. Secondly, the dedication of the American Soldier continues to amaze me. This is a tough and dangerous

Here I am in one of Saddam's many bombed out palaces in Baghdad.

environment and they continue to accomplish the mission day in and day out. Lastly, I am surprised at how difficult it is to leave. Although we have made great progress, there are many challenges that lie ahead and my only regret is to not be here to see them through.

Lt. Col. Reinhard Koenig
Gulf Region Division,
Baghdad, Iraq

— From —
Fort Leonard Wood

