

# Postcards from Iraq

## No Time for a Bad Day

by Marcia Washington  
New Orleans District

**W**e here in Iraq are like pieces to a very important puzzle with 1,000 pieces. Even when you have put together a real puzzle and all nine hundred ninety nine pieces are in place, you still need the last piece to complete the puzzle.

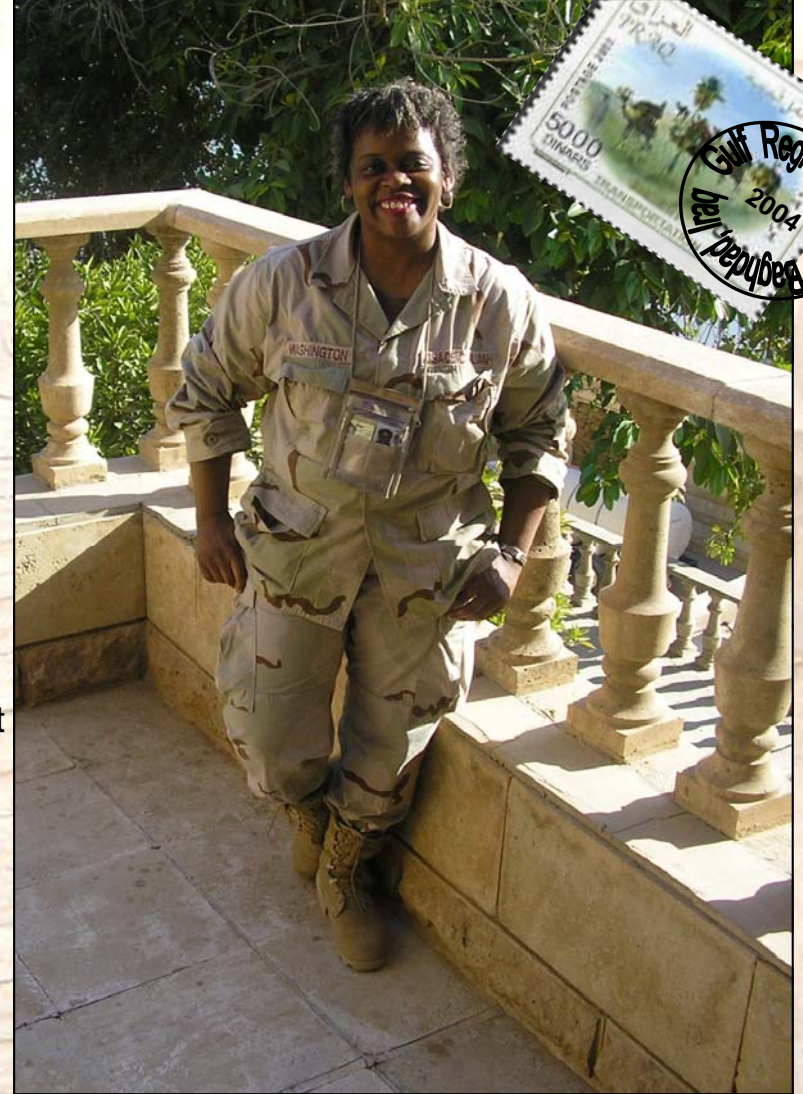
I am not sure how many pieces there are in the puzzle in Iraq, I just know I am one of them. All our contributions are important.

The Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force and counterparts from other Multi-National Armed Forces, Civilians, contractors and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are helping the Iraqi people as they develop their system of government.

We in the Corps are helping with essential services--electricity, water, hospitals, schools and other new facilities. Most importantly, we are putting people to work. The Corps has many talented people to include engineers, environmentalists and other technical people assisting this effort both within GRD and with other organizations.

I am here because people working have to be paid in order for their families to continue to receive paychecks. It is not an easy job, but it is not too hard either...pay issues exist just like back at home.

As the Customer Service Representative for the Gulf Region Division, along with the assistance of the hard working employees at the Transatlantic Programs Center in Winchester, VA, I assist our employees with their timesheets, travel vouchers, and pay issues transmissions. Maintaining a healthy, helpful attitude is important. When I find myself getting too stressed, I listen to music and sometimes I pray. It allows my friendly smile and productivity to continue...



**Marcia Washington, customer service representative from New Orleans District, takes a moment to appreciate the surroundings at the GRD headquarters in Baghdad.**

*(Photo by Steven Wright)*