

Postcards from Iraq

Supporting the USACE Mission

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My first USACE deployment was in support of Task Force Hope-Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Miss., and I made three deployments to support that mission. I am now supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom with the Gulf Region Division Central District's Iraq mission. I was not certain what I was getting myself into, but I knew in my heart that this is something I wanted to do. It's been six months into my 12-month tour and I am happy to say that it is well worth the sacrifice.

I have had the opportunity to visit the Fallujah and Taji Area Offices and I have tremendous respect for all that are involved to help rebuild this war-torn country so that the people in Iraq can experience the freedoms we have and to be able to live in peace.

Working with many diverse and motivated people as well as meeting up with co-workers from the past, I am proud to be here to support the mission in which I believe. Yes, we are accomplishing great things.

I would like to thank my wonderful husband Steve for his tremendous support as well as my children, Audrey, Steven, Stephanie and Grace. I would like to extend many thanks to the Resource Management Branch in Mobile for their support and the opportunity to serve in Iraq.

I invite you all to join us in the support of the mission. It is a lifelong experience that you can share with your family and friends.

HOOAH



MNF-I Commander, Gen. David Petraeus, greets Vivian Wippler in Baghdad.



Vivian Wippler says goodbye to her family in Gulf Breeze, Fla., before departing for Iraq.



Vivian Wippler (right) prepares to travel with Clair McDonald and an AEGIS security team in Iraq.