



U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers
Gulf Region Division (Prov)

GRD Update

A publication of the Gulf Region Division, Iraq

Edition II, 9 February 2004



Matthew Burg, safety officer for the Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, models the first of the division's new desert brown Corps of Engineers hardhats, designed to be worn with the Desert Camouflage Uniform. A total of 390 hats are on order for GRD members, to complement the DCU pattern uniform worn by Corps employees deployed to Iraq.

Service in Iraq Can Be Family Affair; Husband, Wife, Dads, Sons on Team

Members of the Gulf Region Division often say they're proud to be serving their country, but they miss their families back in the States. But, in a few cases, deployed Corps workers have found that they're not the only ones in their families to answer the call.

For Randy and Judy Walters, a husband and wife team from Rock Island District, the chance to deploy together was an opportunity they said they didn't want to pass up.

"We thought it would be a great experience for both of us," said Judy Walters, a program analyst in the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, who is filling a similar role at the Gulf Region Division's Central District. "We hope to see a culture that we never dreamed of seeing."

Randy Walters is an electrician working on Corps barges, boats and equipment on the Mississippi River, but in Iraq he is doing quality control on 400 kv electric transmission line

construction outside of Baghdad.

Their grown children, he said, "were a little concerned at first, but we explained to them why we wanted to do it and that we were excited about it, and they seem to accept it." As for the couple's friends, "they think we're nuts."

Judy Walter's father, a veteran of World War II, was proud to encourage her and "he said he wished he could go with us too, but he's too old to re-enlist."

Other GRD members understand the sentiment, as proud fathers of sons who are serving as part of the Global War on Terror.

Dan Holmes, also from Rock Island District, where he is chief of the construction division, has met up with his son First Lt. Seth Holmes who is serving in Baghdad with the First Armored Division.

He said neither he nor his son
Continued on back page



Brig. Gen. (P) Steven R. Hawkins, left, commander of the Great Lakes - Ohio River Division, and for the past five months the leader of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity, listens as Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson talks of the accomplishments of the Task Force. Hawkins was recognized at the weekly GRD hail and farewell, along with his aide, Capt. Kyle Bayless, right. Hawkins will return to the LRD headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio, and Bayless' next assignment will be as PMO at USACE headquarters.



Families

Continued from Front Page

planned for this, but "it was a matter of fate and faith" that gave them both roles in bringing peace, freedom and a measure of prosperity to Iraq.

"When I put my name in the hat, I told them I'd go wherever I was needed the most," Holmes said.

He was deployed to GRD to become the deputy for program management for the Central District. Meanwhile, he said, "Seth's unit was in Germany and it deployed here to do security patrols, keeping us all safe. We never expected to meet here, but I'm glad we did."

Mrs. Holmes has been supportive of both her husband and son. "She's really proud, and behind me. She's the one carrying the home front," he said.

In a similar situation was Darryl Carattini, who is with the Corps of Engineers' Project Management Office. He met up with his son, First Lt. Andy Carattini, a West Virginia Air National Guard pilot, who flies C-130 cargo planes in and out of Baghdad. Carattini is a West Point graduate and retired Air Force Reservist who has also done nation building work in Panama.

"I knew what I was getting into," he said, "I knew I had the skills that would be needed here." Mrs. Carratini is also supportive. "She's proud of both of us," he added. Carattini is project management chief at Rock Island District.



Three families, three get-togethers in Iraq. In the top photo, Dan Holmes meets up with his son, 1st Lt. Seth Holmes of the Army's First Armored Division. In the middle photo, Mr. and Mrs. Randy (Judy) Walters, are introduced at the GRD hail and farewell by Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson. In the photo at left, Darryl Carratini greets his son, 1st Lt. Andy Carattini, a C-130 pilot with the West Virginia Air National Guard, at Baghdad Airport.