

# Postcards from Iraq

## Answering The Call To Donate Platelets...



It is a blistering Baghdad summer day, with the troop surge in full force, and the need for blood products at the 28th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) at Iraq's Ibn Sina Hospital can come at any time.

I regularly answer the call to donate platelets with my comrades in arms. Whenever the call for donations comes, our Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and Civilians answer that call and roll up their sleeves. It's the least I can do.

I have deployed to Iraq with the Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, in Iraq where I am assigned as the Chief Financial Officer. I oversee finance and contracting for a reconstruction projects exceeding \$30 billion.

I am the former commander of the 297th Support Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, in Wasilla, Alaska. When not deployed, I live in Anchorage and am assigned to the 9th Regional Readiness Command, U.S. Army Reserve, headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii.

It's exciting being part of this historic chapter in the story of Iraq. Though very challenging and at times dangerous, performing reconstruction with the Corps of Engineers directly helps the country by providing clean water, electricity, medical facilities, and much more to the people of Iraq. One interesting side note is that our blood donations go to the next patient, whether U.S. or Coalition forces, Iraqi forces or civilians, even the wounded insurgents. It's one fact that makes me proud to be an American and to be here.

*Col. Doug Gorgoni*  
*Gulf Region Division*  
*Baghdad, Iraq*



Here is a photo with Staff Sgt. George Anderson from the 28th Combat Support Hospital taking my blood platelets who will store them for wounded Soldiers, civilians, and even enemy combatants who need them. I like to volunteer to do this whenever I can.