

# Postcards from Iraq

## Auditor's point of view on rebuilding Iraq ...

Felix B. Guzman  
U.S. Army Audit Agency, Ft. Lewis, WA

As an auditor for the US Army Audit Agency for a long time, I knew about our ongoing efforts regarding the Global War on Terrorism and I wanted to step forward to be more involved.

Working Internal Review (IR) for the Gulf Region Division's Central District in Baghdad has provided me that opportunity. This new role has proved to be especially challenging in Iraq, where anything can happen at any time. But through it all one thing is clear — we should all be sincerely thankful for our service personnel who left the comfort of their homes to fight the global war on terrorism to help safeguard families, nations, and free men and women everywhere.

I am really excited to be a part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' team. After Operation Iraqi Freedom got underway in 2003, billions in U.S. taxpayer money has flowed here to finance a building boom of more than 4,300 projects that USACE is overseeing. I have been impressed on what the team has accomplished in Iraq despite an incredibly tough set of circumstances (i.e. ... under resourced, high personnel turnover, security concerns, etc). Here's a sample of what the Corps is working on to try to make a difference getting Iraq back on its feet.

- 139 primary healthcare centers are under construction with 24 complete. Regarding education, 962 schools have been renovated or constructed improving quality learning environment for more than 500,000 students.

- Completed 480 water treatment and and sewage projects with 163 still under construction; 434,000 cubic meters of fresh, potable water is treated daily; completed 320 kilometers of village roads; 101 railroad renovation projects; 15 aviation projects, 152 border forts, rebuilt 92 fire stations, completed 28 courthouses with construction continuing on 13 others.

As the liaison officer for external audits, I can tell you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is doing an exceptional job on quality assurance based on inspections from the Special Inspector General for Iraqi Reconstruction (SIGIR). For example, in the most recent quarter, SIGIR undertook inspections of 12 reconstruction projects. In over 90 percent of these inspections, SIGIR didn't find anything wrong with how the Corps does business. SIGIR reported that projects met contract specifications and that the Corps had effectively monitored construction, progress, and workmanship. These are some of the successes USACE has overseen, and I am truly proud to be a member of their team!

**Felix B. Guzman, Chief Internal Review**  
**Gulf Region Division Central District**



**Felix Guzman, Chief Internal Review**