

Postcards from Iraq

One Corps. One Mission.

*By Commander Jerry Gompers, USNR
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Seven months ago, I left my civilian job at Portland, Oregon, where I work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers only to don my Navy uniform to serve as Deputy Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District in Iraq.

This unique, historic assignment has been challenging and personally rewarding. We work to build hospitals, schools, police and fire stations, roads, water and wastewater treatment plants, electric networks and generation facilities. Our Iraqi contractors show tremendous courage every day getting to the job site as they face threats of kidnapping, extortion, and murder of their loved ones.

They report to work because they believe in a better Iraq and want a brighter future for their children and grandchildren. I

am very grateful for the opportunity to wear the Naval Civil Engineer Corps military uniform and honored to work

alongside our dedicated USACE civilians who make up the majority of our work force here. When they go outside the wire to visit projects, they face exactly the same dangers as our military folks.

There is only one Corps and our mission is working shoulder to shoulder with Iraq's new government to improve living conditions in neighborhoods throughout this country. I'm confident we're making a difference.

Essays!
Can do!

**Jerry Gompers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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CDR Jerry Gompers