

# Postcard from Iraq

## Celebrating the Holidays GRN Camp Speicher style

There's no disputing the fact that serving in Iraq is tough duty. The days are long here and the workload seems endless. All the creature comforts that are normally taken for granted back home are cherished while serving in a combat zone. However, nothing can be more difficult emotionally for the troops then being away from family and friends during the holidays.

The soldiers and civilian employees attached to the Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division—North District put the spirit in holiday spirit with a host of activities during the Christmas season. The GRD family festivities include parties, the traditional Secret Santa gift exchange and culminated in Christmas caroling around Camp Speicher. The group also shared the traditional Christmas dinner at the dining facility together.

A common idiom says that, "Home is where the heart is." And while nothing can top being home for the holidays, the GRN family was able to bring a little bit of home to a far away place.



CPT Tiffany Maraccini, (Operations) poses with her Secret Santa gift of a Nicholas Cage film pack.



GRN Commander, COL Margaret Burcham performs a drum solo during heated Guitar Hero competition at the Holiday Party.



Bryton Johnson and Tiffany Ferguson don holiday headgear for the GRN Holiday party.



Four Engineers a Caroling



GRN Human Resource Chief Julie Melow examines her Secret Santa gift.