

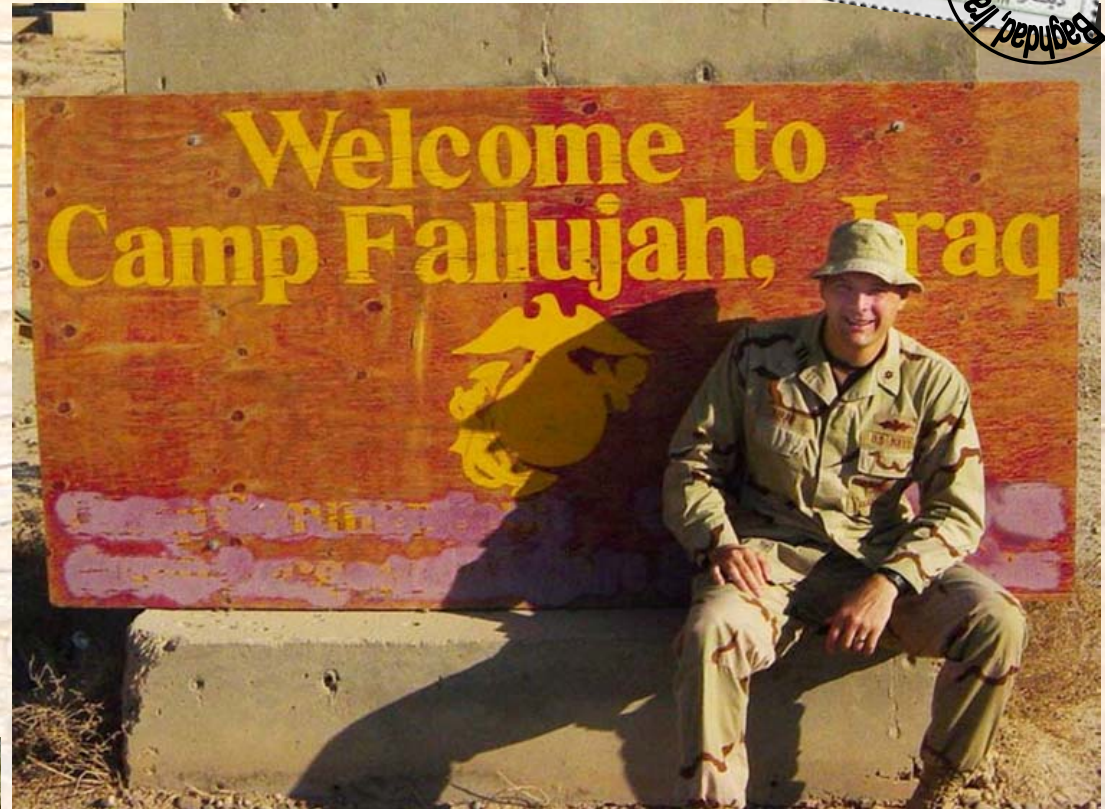
Postcards from Iraq

There's hope for Iraq...

By Navy Lt. Carl Kirar
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I help manage construction projects in Al Anbar Province that range from the installation of a city-wide sewer system in Fallujah, to construction of new schools for all age groups in Ramadi, to the repair and upgrade of power transmission lines serving the entire area. I have the utmost admiration for the troops who serve here. Every time I see young Marines and Army soldiers going outside the gate I know they voluntarily put themselves in danger and routinely risk their lives for a cause greater than their own.

US forces have been working very hard to help out the Iraqis and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has recently taken more direct steps to understand the Iraqi way of contracting by partnering with the Department of State to obtain Iraqi-American engineers who can bridge that cultural and language gap. All in all I have been humbled by this experience. Everyone here is working hard to help out the Iraqis, get them on their feet, and get us back home.



Navy Lt. Carl Kirar

While the strong dose of serving in one of this war zone's most volatile areas has moved and sometimes disheartened me, I have seen and met some very intelligent, motivated, and heroic Iraqis trying to do what they can to build a better future for their families. There is hope in this country and our efforts here are supporting it. I'm confident that somewhere down the road, the seeds of freedom we're planting now will turn into shade trees of peace in the future. On a personal note, this marks my first year in the Navy where I'll be away from home for the holidays. Wishing all back there my best.

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