

Postcards from Iraq

Respecting One Another

I am from Lavaca, Arkansas and was assigned to the 341st Engineer Company until I was cross-leveled to Detachment 4, 420th Engineer Brigade.

We mobilized at Fort Hood and were deployed on 23 August 2006 to Iraq for a year long tour.

I serve as a liaison between the Multi-National Corps-Iraq and the Gulf Region Division as a database manager.

I spend my free time reading, watching television, and preparing for movie night in the Gulf Region Division compound. We sit out and watch movies on Thursday and Friday nights to relax after a long hard week of work.

Nothing really shocks me here as far as culture. I see a people who just want to be left alone and let them raise their families in peace. They want to get by.

But the most lasting thing I remember about our Iraqi friends is the respect everyone pays to each other here. For example, if an Iraqi and I reach a doorway at the same time, it is almost a fight as to who will go second. I was raised to yield to others, and so are they. They'll just hold the door open and insist that you go.

I look forward to returning to Arkansas and my Friends.

MSG Terry New
Gulf Region Division,
Baghdad, Iraq



(Above) Here I am accepting a certificate of appreciation from Brig. Gen. Walsh, commander of the Gulf Region Division, during an awards ceremony in the International Zone in Baghdad, Iraq.

