

Postcard from Iraq

Pretty much fun-loving people...

I am James (Jim) McCoy. I normally work as a Power Plant Senior Controller, in the Tulsa District, Robert S. Kerr Power Plant. I have almost 34 years of credible government service and I've been fortunate to have been overseas twice before, once at Camp Humphries, South Korea and once at Wildflecken, West Germany.

I am presently assigned as a Construction Representative in the Gulf Region Division, North District, Kirkuk Area Office, Forward Operating Base Warrior, Iraq and the Officer in Charge is Lt. Col. Robert Ruud.

My deployment to Iraq has made me more appreciative for what I have as an American citizen. The types of projects that I am now working on are security and justice, public water treatment and distribution, agriculture development and health clinics.

The Iraqi infrastructure suffers from over 35 years of neglect

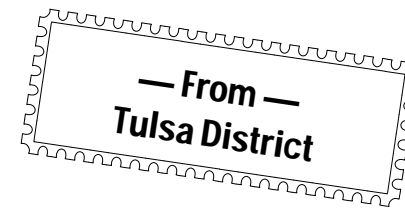
and damage from conflict. Gulf Region North covers a 66,000 square mile area of Northern Iraq. Since 2004 GRN has completed over 1,152 of its 1,477 planned construction projects.

There are three districts in Iraq. Brigadier General Michael Walsh is our commanding general of the Gulf Region Division.

My headquarters for the Kirkuk Area Office is in Tikrit, Iraq and Col. Mike Pfenning is the district commander.

My impression of the people of Iraq that I have seen and met is...they are pretty much life-loving people just like the Americans I know. They just want to live their lives in peace, enjoying their families and cultural traditions.

Unfortunately, many of them are just barely getting-by



compared to the life I have back in the Tulsa District. Perhaps with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the Iraqi people will one day be a people with a grand infrastructure.

James McCoy
Gulf Region North,
Baghdad, Iraq



Here is an inspection of a water supply project of ours. The workers will connect the pumps shown to a large header. This photo on the right is of me during my duty of escorting local nationals to our USACE, Kirkuk Area Office for business.