

Postcards from Iraq

Telling the story,
one project at a time

Norris Jones, Public Affairs Specialist, Virden, IL

For the past 2 ½ years, I've been privileged to chronicle the work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' rebuilding efforts in Baghdad and Al Anbar Provinces. It's the best assignment I've had in three decades of military service. Renovating hospitals and schools, installing new water and sewer lines, constructing new primary healthcare centers, repaving roads, building new fire stations and courthouses – I'm very proud to be a member of this team helping an ancient nation move forward. I'm including three of my favorite photos – one of a young girl at a newly completed compact water treatment unit in Sadr City taken in 2005 -- one at a school we renovated taken in 2006 — the other of a mother and her newborn taken in December 2007 at one of five major hospitals we're upgrading in Baghdad.

A highlight of my tour has been the opportunity to meet and interview a number of courageous Iraqis who report to work every day, despite the dangers, as they strive to provide a brighter future for their children and grandchildren. These are real heroes. They're making a difference and their positive, upbeat spirit is inspiring others. Viewing their unwavering, steadfast commitment to better the lives of others – it's these moments that confirms USACE is involved in a noble and historic mission.

Appreciate everyone's support in getting the word out. I'm especially pleased that over 90 of my co-workers took the time to write a "Postcard from Iraq," letting their friends, neighbors and fellow staffers back home know what's happening here. Those "postcards" have appeared on the front pages of hometown weekly and daily newspapers, USACE District newsletters, and military home command publications.

As I head home, I wish the USACE staff my best. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I thank them for welcoming me into their lives, their friendship, and the awesome memories.



New compact water treatment units welcomed by Sadr City residents.



Over 100 Baghdad schools have been renovated.



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Five hospitals upgraded, 30 primary healthcare centers constructed in Baghdad.