

Postcards from Iraq



Things I learned in the IZ ...

By Teresa Reinig
Project Manager

Environmental Remediation Branch, Omaha District

The ability to stretch is amazing. The work in Iraq will push you to stretch beyond belief. This is demonstrated over and over as each individual signs up for a tour of duty and then ends up extending the tour.

Since you are faced with so many unknowns as you embark on the journey to Iraq, many sign up for the shortest tour allowed. Once in country, the landscape is so very different in so many unexpected ways - nothing like what is presented on CNN. Instead you gain the confidence that you are in the right place doing the right thing - making a positive impact on the citizens of Iraq.

That's when you call home with the question - "Honey, I would like to extend. I really want to complete my mission. Do you mind if I stay on for a little while longer?" Granted, the family and your home district did not sign up for the longer tour — they know just how important the mission is for you to complete. So the redeployment date moves out and a new countdown begins for them. For you, there is no countdown — instead you are making each day count.

The Army Values - Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honesty, Integrity, Personal Courage - are with you every day. We demonstrate them as we stay focused on the mission. That mission may appear to be overwhelming until you identify the components. Completion of each component is one step closer to getting the job done.

Teresa Reinig
Gulf Region Division Central District
USAID Program Office
Closeout Manager/Resident Engineer



**Teresa Reinig, USAID Program Office
Closeout Manager/Resident Engineer**