

# Postcards from Iraq

## Helping Iraq move forward

By Navy Senior Chief Wydena Mosley  
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If you would have told me 17 years ago when I joined the U. S. Navy that I would deploy to Iraq I would have laughed at you.

This is my second tour in this area. My first deployment in 2004 was with HCS-4 in Balad, Iraq, working in my rate as an Aviation Machinist's Mate. During that tour, my job was getting the helicopters ready for flights and our mission was search and rescue. The aircrew was able to find and apprehend several insurgents.

During my present tour, I thought I was going to be leading troops. I was surprised to learn that I would be working with civilians, local nationals, third country nationals, and just a handful of military. My services this time was helping oversee the construction of critical infrastructure to restore essential services in Iraq – renovating schools and hospitals, installing water and sewer lines, putting up new electrical distribution networks, building courthouses and police stations.

As the NCOIC for Victory Resident Office, I provided technical assistance and supervision of third country nationals and local nationals on over 100 construction and maintenance projects that provided life support, life sustainment and force protection services for service members and civilians on the Victory Base Complex located near the Baghdad International Airport.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has put a great of effort into the restoration of Iraq. I must say that the civilians that are here put their heart and souls into these projects. It amazes me to see them at work making sure that the ongoing construction is done right, and safety is always a top priority.

These great USACE employees (civilians and military) are assisting both Iraqi contractors and third country national companies improve their construction techniques. I was blessed to be a part of this wonderful mission. I have met some tremendous people and learned a lot from them. This tour has definitely proved to be one of the most rewarding assignments of my career.

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Construction crews are involved in a variety of improvements at Victory Base Complex.



Gen. David Petraeus, MNF-I Commander, officiates at Senior Chief Mosley's re-enlistment.

