

Postcards from Iraq

Proudly serving in Iraq

By EMCS (SW) Timothy L. Tregoning, NCOIC Ops/Plans
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Serving in Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the highlight and a fitting conclusion to my 26-year Naval Career.

If you were to have told me when I joined the Navy back in 1982 that I would go through Army training in Ft. Jackson SC, with follow-on training at the Adari Range in Kuwait for a deployment to Iraq I would have thought you were nuts. My final assignment wearing a Naval Uniform (Desert Camie) has proved to be my most challenging and most rewarding.

Since my current journey began in April, I have done and seen things that are way beyond the realm of life aboard a ship at sea. I am part of an international team that performs success stories on a daily basis for the people of Iraq. Restoring quality of life to the people here is our mission at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). I serve as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Operations division at Gulf Region South headquarters located in Tallil Air Base, in the Dhi Qar province.

I am in charge of scheduling daily site visits for our area engineers to numerous reconstruction project sites, supervising a talented and dedicated staff of personal security teams and reconstruction liaison teams, and coordinating all movements (by air and ground) of our personnel in and out of our area of responsibility. I also interact with our local Multi National Forces to ensure the overall safety and well-being of the USACE organization. This job keeps me busy around the clock and the time is flying by. I am proud to say that there are a lot of great things happening here, true success stories that often get overshadowed by the negative events we all hear about so often. Every Iraqi national that I have met are genuine in their gratitude regarding the important projects we're overseeing that are positively impacting their lives — hospitals, schools, water treatment and distribution, courthouses, electrical, ports, road paving — things in America we often take for granted.

The USACE team has made significant strides here with much more to be accomplished. It's a tremendous mission. The military staff, the U.S. and Iraqi civilian engineers, contract representatives and the civilian multi-national security team are truly an outstanding group of professionals. I am proud to have been chosen for this assignment,

In conclusion, I'd like to thank each and every American for their support to our troops and civilian personnel stationed here and abroad.

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"We're working on projects every day providing a brighter future for Iraq's children and grandchildren. Those projects include schools, hospitals, water treatment and distribution, courthouses, and road paving." — Navy Senior Chief Tim Tregoning, GRS Ops/Plans NCOIC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (USACE photo)



Navy Senior Chief Timothy L. Tregoning (kneeling, left) with the Aegis Personal Security, RS Intel and Operations team at Gulf Region South District, Tallil Air Base, Iraq.