## **Postcards from Iraq**

## Lifetime memories

By Valarie Albrecht U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District, Baghdad Resource Management

I decided to volunteer for this Iraq assignment after working the Hurricane Katrina Relief Mission. While part of that team, I served with several Corps personnel who completed assignments here. They all told me how much they enjoyed the experience and thought I would too.

I was in the Air Force during peacetime and completed my enlistment before Desert Storm so I never got to participate in any conflicts. Since hanging up my military uniform, I've worked for the Air Force, Navy and the Army. Currently, I'm assigned to the USACE Sacramento District in California and feel I've found a home. I think our organization does important work in the U.S. and throughout the world and am very proud to be part of this organization.

I have enjoyed interacting with the Military, Foreign Nationals, Contractor Civilians and of course other Army Corps of Engineers personnel. I am very impressed by the professionalism and dedication everyone exhibits while serving here.

It's not easy being away from your family, friends and your home environment. The hours are long and sometimes it's quite lonely here. But, I feel that the sacrifice has been worth it. When I return home I'll be bringing back memories I'll have for a lifetime.

Accepting this assignment was one of the best decisions I've made and I will never forget the people I've met and the entire experience of being here...

I wish peace and harmony to the people of Iraq and a safe return home to everyone that is here contributing to the mission.

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