

Postcards from Iraq

Being a part of this historic mission

By Lt. Col. Mitchell Waite, 416th Engineer Command
Gulf Region Division Liaison Officer to the Multi-National Forces-Iraq

While I have only been in Iraq for a little over two weeks, it has become increasingly transparent how many good things are being accomplished throughout this country. There is good news story after good news story here, yet few of these stories seem to reach back to the good citizens of the United States. Because of this little inequity, I feel it incumbent upon me to try and enlighten and educate as many people as are willing to read about this historic transition in Iraq.

To begin with, the Gulf Region Division (GRD), located in the International Zone in Baghdad, is the hub of reconstruction activity throughout Iraq. The GRD is connected to area offices in the north, central, and southern districts, as well as several other area and field offices scattered across the country. All of these offices are filled with many outstanding people, both military and civilian, that truly desire to assist the Iraqi people to lead a better quality of life. And even more noteworthy, are the many Iraqi citizens that are taking the lead in this noble effort.

Right now, the emphasis has shifted from combat operations to that of nation building. And the Gulf Region Division's primary focus is construction/reconstruction, i.e. nation building. Working with the Iraqi people to provide essential services such as electricity, fuel, water, and sewer will ultimately lead to a better quality of life for millions. As coalition forces in Iraq are moving to an over watch position and assisting the Iraqi people to take control of their country, the Gulf Region Division will be there to advise and assist in whatever manner necessary to enable the Iraqi people to realize a better quality of life. I am just proud to be a small part of this worthy and historic mission.

**Lt. Col. Mitchell Waite, 416th Engineer Command
Gulf Region Division Liaison Officer to the Multi-National Forces-Iraq**

