

Postcards from Iraq



Just another day for
“just another secretary”

Michelle Bannister

USACE Taji Area Office, Taji, Iraq



Michelle Bannister provides much-needed donated school supplies to the headmistress of a girls' school in Taji, Iraq.

As they say, there is always the paperwork. I know that surprises quite a few people back in the States that don't understand why “just a secretary” would need to deploy. Not only am I here to do paperwork, I am here to support U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) military personnel, engineers, construction reps and quality assurance people who are working so hard to complete so many projects across Iraq.

There is a lot of good work being done here that has nothing to do with politics. More and more families are getting power to their homes, clean water to use, proper sewage treatment plants, schools, and medical facilities. If I can help that along by making sure engineers don't have to

worry about the petty paperwork, then that is what I am here to do.

Working alongside not only U.S. Army but also Air Force and Navy personnel has been an exceptional learning opportunity for me. I am so truly and extraordinarily proud of the work that is being done here. I look forward to someday seeing all the results of the efforts of so many.

Beyond the tremendous support from my wonderful husband, John, and exceptional daughter, Mara, I would like to thank the Cost Engineering Branch back in Huntsville for their support and encouragement prior to and during my deployment. I hope they know how much even a simple email made me smile while I am here.

Thank you!!



Michelle shares a moment with a friend in the Middle East.