

Postcards from Iraq

Being Part of Something Special

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In November of 2007, one of my co-workers at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hartwell Power Plant, Savannah District, was planning to depart for Iraq. I started thinking of volunteering myself. After discussing the possibilities with my wife and family, and having her support, I decided to volunteer.

While in Iraq, I have been stationed at Camp Ramadi in the Al Anbar Province. During this time, I have served as a Quality Assurance (QA) Manager on an \$82 million high-visibility Ramadi Theater Internment Facility and Rehabilitation Center (TIFRC) project and a \$3 million business center. On a daily basis, I observed the contractor's operations and documented activities. I develop daily progress reports for submittal to Project and Resident Engineers, and provided guidance to eight Iraqi associate engineers on QA duties.



USACE Quality Assurance manager, Danny Brock (right), confers with fellow workers at the Ramadi TIFRC job site in western Iraq.

It has been an honor to come to Iraq and serve my country yet again. Being a Veteran of the first Gulf War, I served aboard the USS Forrester. This time being on land instead of water and being part of the rebuilding of this country, I have made many friends and new “family” members.

This has been a real life changing experience, learning to work with many different cultures from around the world. I really never understood how great we have it living in a free country until now. I have heard many horror stories, but found that not all Iraqis want to kill Americans. They are a very compassionate and giving people that just want to live, protect, and provide for their families.

God has really blessed me in life with so many things. I am glad I've been able to share a little bit of what I have with those less fortunate.

Thanks, USACE, for allowing me to be a part of something really special!

