

Postcards from Iraq

Curiosity ...

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Curiosity ... that's the one word that would describe my interest in working downrange in Iraq. Having performed a similar but shorter tour in Kuwait during Desert Storm almost 16 years ago I was definitely curious to see what the Iraqi society was like, even in a post war state, as I had only been exposed to what they were as an occupying force in Kuwait.

I enjoy traveling and seeing different pieces of the world and especially those that I have had a personal tie and I can say that I will have left Iraq scratching that itch. Travel - that's one of the unheralded aspects of USACE.

My experiences here have been quite interesting and unusual and they have definitely been unique. The work is daunting, never ending, and always dynamic which pushes one to reach down deep to excel. For a part of the world that has been in conflict for millennia, my personal logic sounds off the caution in regards to if things will ever change... but for me personally it is the ability to help plant a few seeds that may bear fruit generations from now, much like the individual who plants the acorn knowing that their grandchildren and great-grandchildren will enjoy the shade of the oak, that gives me satisfaction of the worth.

I will always be amazed at the efforts, skills, and teamwork that all (soldier and civilian) have shared each day, especially with many having to work outside their comfort zone and finally my endearing respect is paid to the daughters and sons who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in blood, flesh, and breath in a land far away from home to protect humanity around the world.



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