

Postcards from Iraq

Gotcha Bro

*R. Bruce Mackey, Program Manager,
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Making the decision to come to work in Iraq for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and leave the safety of home behind was tough. A big part of my decision was the fact that my twin brother Matt had done two tours already and would probably be doing a third here shortly.

Before I came over here, I found a picture he had sent me during Operation Iraqi Freedom III which was taken on our birthday. The photo was pretty neat. How many times do you get a background like that?

Having dug up that photo, I made it a priority to see if I could surprise Matt with the same one as I would be over here for our 30th. After several weeks of hunting, I found the location at Prosperity Palace in Baghdad's International

Zone the day before I needed it. The next day, I attached the two photos and emailed them his way. It took about five minutes of explaining to him that they were not enhanced, and actually the real deal.

I am glad I could do something special like this and make my brother's day on our birthday. For me, this tour has a lot of those same qualities, being a great opportunity to do something worthwhile for the Iraqi people and to help many in Iraq. I realize the sooner the Corps can shore up the infrastructure and build the necessary facilities for the Iraqi people, the sooner our boys can head home. The mission is a tough one, but one we here at USACE can handle.

Bruce



Matt Mackey

R. Bruce Mackey

*The Mackey twins
celebrate their birth
date at Prosperity
Palace in Baghdad's IZ,
during their separate
tours in Iraq.*

