



<Back | 

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## Baghdad youth appreciate America's 'giving' spirit . . .

By Norris Jones  
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*Santa and his elves help bring some Holiday cheer to youngsters in Baghdad.. [ARMY PHOTO]*

*Baghdad, Iraq—* About a dozen U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Region Division personnel recently helped Santa deliver gifts to youngsters in a poor Baghdad neighborhood. As those youngsters were getting into their vehicles,

Navy Lt. Jon Letourneau from Brunswick, ME, yelled out "I want to make a difference today."

Letourneau and Chief Warrant Officer Kevin Haymond and their families back in the United States asked what they wanted for Christmas.



Holiday season.

“We told them we didn’t need anything for ourselves, but great if they could send us items for others,” Haymond said.

Letourneau noted the response was tremendous. “It just its own and we started Operation Santa’s Workshop as soon as donated items arrived.” Those packages contained toiletries, snacks, cookies, candy, toys and stuffed animals.

The GRD logistics group have sent boxes to Marines in Al Anbar Province, Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Speicher, to orphans, the Combat Support Hospital in the Internationa and on Dec. 24 made a stop in Baghdad to deliver toys and local youngsters.

“I don’t know whether it was better for the kids or me,” Letourneau said. “We had a lot of fun. I can’t think of a better way to spend the Holidays than to put some smiles on some youngsters’ faces.”

Those participating from GRD’s reconstruction logistics group included Letourneau, Haymond, Mick Omun, Kent Aldridge, Capt. Myron Shirley, Allyson Fischer, George Mong, and Lt. Frakes. Not pictured but a key member helping organize the effort was Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rick Mosley.




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*Baghdad youngsters are all smiles as gifts are delivered. [ARMY PHOTO]*

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