

A special assignment

What a Boeing communicator saw as an embedded journalist in Iraq

In May, Boeing Global Services & Support communicator Randy Jackson journeyed to Iraq to document the programs and people of Boeing in this theater of war. Jackson entered Iraq as an embedded journalist deploying with the U.S. Marines and U.S. Army. His objective: Find the stories of Boeing Field Service Representatives and many of Boeing's military products, and tell them to Boeing employees worldwide through the company's intranet.

Jackson detailed his visit through a blog accessible through Boeing News Now, the company's news site on the Boeing intranet, as well as videos he shot during this trip. The blog, titled "Dispatches from Iraq," was an up-close and personal voyage into the dangerous world where coalition forces are fighting the war on terror. Not only was the blog well-visited, but many readers commented that they felt as though they were there along with Jackson in his travels through the war zone. To read the blog, visit <http://dispatchesfromiraq.blog.boeing.com> on the Boeing intranet; links to the videos are at http://video.whq.boeing.com/videos_ids.html, also on the Boeing intranet.

Shown here are some of the photos Jackson shot to further document the dedication of hundreds of Boeing employees and customers who are on station in Iraq. ■





PHOTOS (Clockwise from top right): U.S. Marine MV-22 Pilot Capt. David Bennett goes through his preflight check list before a night mission; a Marine MV-22 tail gunner mans his station while on patrol above Iraq (gunners always are secured with a safety harness); crewmembers of a Marine squadron refuel their MV-22 tiltrotor aircraft; an AH-64 Apache returns from a mission over Sadr City to its base; U.S. soldiers walk to a waiting Boeing C-17 Globemaster III that will fly them out of Iraq and to an airbase in Kuwait; U.S. Army AH-64D Apache Pilot Capt. John James refers to technical data from his aircraft displayed on his laptop after a mission; a U.S. Air Force maintenance crewman in Kuwait inspects one of the C-17 Globemaster III's four Pratt & Whitney F-117 engines after its return from Iraq.

ALL PHOTOS: RANDY JACKSON/BOEING