



# COMMANDING GENERAL'S *message*

**THANK YOU!** - I believe these two words are the most important words I can say to capture my final message to all of you ... Soldiers, leaders, civilians, family members, friends.

**THANK YOU** for:

- making a difference in my life, personally and professionally.
- making a difference in the lives of others ... your own family, your unit, your battle buddy, the Iraqis, your community, your family readiness group, our military – present and future, and most importantly, our Nation!
- serving ... selflessly serving and sacrificing personal pleasures and comfort for something much bigger than yourself.
- your positive attitudes, endless energy and focus until the mission's complete.
- and, **THANK YOU** for being an integral part of the team ... part of the solution ... critical to our mission success and completion.

Being your commander for the past year has been an extraordinary experience for me. There have been life-changing moments and events, new relationships and friendships, and a scrapbook of memories that will never be surpassed in my lifetime.

**THANK YOU** for being the ones who filled those pages of memories – the words, the photos, the emotions, the smiles, the touches, the tears, the ribbons, the awards, the honors, and the final seal of duty, honor and country that will be forever pressed on my heart and mind.

God bless, keep and strengthen each of you as you journey back home to new babies, new assignments, new adventures... my life is better for having had you in it ... our TEAM and our world is better because of YOU.

**Rebecca S. Halstead**  
BG, USA  
Commanding