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## Do you know...

Thaddeus "Moe" Williams, lead project engineer at the South District's Qalat Project Office, is a published author who earned a Ph.D. in theology while working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Pensacola, Fla.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Ala., Williams graduated from high school in 1979 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in architectural engineering from Tennessee State University in 1986.

"After I received my degree in 1986, I married my sweetheart and began my USACE engineering career in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.," said Williams.

He decided he wanted to be an architectural engineer while in middle school. "The catalyst that sparked my interest in becoming an engineer was the TV show 'The Brady Bunch.' The character Mike Brady (the father) was an architect engineer. To me that was the coolest job."

Williams recalled that he made the decision while on vacation with his family in Pensacola, Fla. "I announced to my mother on the

beach that when I grew up I was going to be an architect and live in Pensacola."

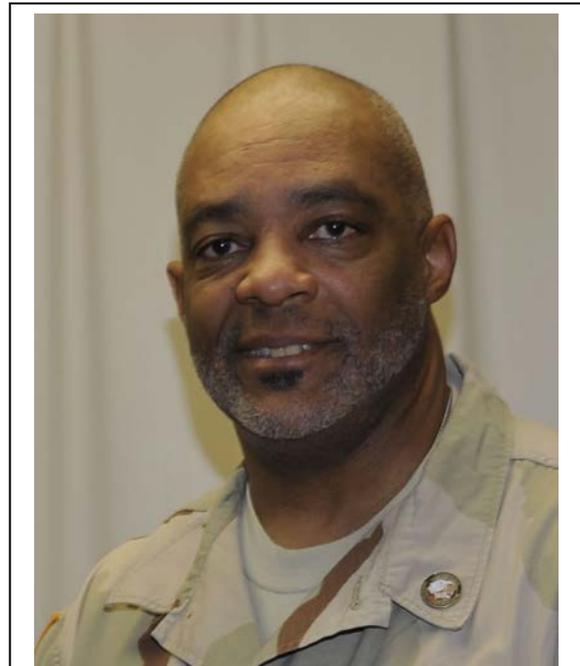
### Mentors:

*"My family is full of mentors. My parents, grandparents and uncles taught me by example. My mother and grandmother taught me the importance of God, my father, grandfather and uncles taught me that working hard, being the best friend and husband to my wife and best father to my children was the meaning of success."*

His prediction came to pass as he and his wife moved to Pensacola in 1994. There, Williams worked for the Corps of Engineers, earned his Ph.D in theology and worked as an assistant pastor at his church until he deployed with USACE to Iraq in 2008. "I had the honor to serve in two capacities," he said. "I worked as an engineer during the day and a minister at night."

Serving is a large part of who Williams is. "Helping others has always been a desire of mine; so to me, making a difference means helping others succeed at being the best they can be."

Growing up Williams knew his family was not perfect, but seeing them face adversity together encouraged him to do the same for others and his family.



*Thaddeus "Moe" Williams is deployed to Qalat, Afghanistan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

“Sharing life’s ups and downs helps others realize they aren’t alone,” he said. “When people see that I’m transparent, it gives them hope. I’m not afraid to share my failures and how much of my success was born from those failures.”

Like many authors of non-fiction books, Williams has words of wisdom for others. Aspiring engineers or anyone still trying to figure out their future career goals should use the resistance and friction of success and failure to their advantage. “Nothing comes easy in this world but hold onto your dreams and vision while staying true to yourself.” The key, he said is F.O.C.U.S.

- (F)aitiful to yourself and others;
- (O)pen to new ways of doing things;
- (C)ouragious in your quest to be the best;
- (U)nderstand others want to assist you in being the best;
- (S)tand on the foundation of honesty and integrity.

Never one to relax or rest on his accomplishments, Williams continues to do the best he can as an engineer and mentor.

“When Moe has a task, he will get it done and done well,” said Clif Warren, the South District’s chief of engineering. “He knows our projects, he motivates the rest of the Qalat team and he strives for perfection. Guys like him are crucial to the mission.”

Williams has been deployed for about three years, first in Iraq and now in Afghanistan. “Helping the government of Afghanistan create a more stable and secure country means a lot to me,” he said. “We all have a role to play in this world and what I do as an engineer and minister here is very satisfying.”