

# VETERANS DAY

## 2010

*To all the Veterans and families of Veterans of AES,*

Thank you all for your service to our nation. We wanted to dedicate a part of our website to each of you this Veterans Day to recognize your selfless service - past and present. As a nation, we have prospered because we've always had citizens willing to stand up and answer the call to serve in times of need. Those of you who have worn the military uniform have expressed our national resolve. Today in AES, we honor our veterans for their unyielding sacrifice and dedication to our great nation.

As many of you know, Veterans Day was first observed in 1919 to commemorate the Armistice Agreement ending World War I - the supposed "war to end all wars." President Dwight D. Eisenhower expanded its meaning in June 1, 1954, when he officially renamed it Veterans Day, to recognize all those who had served our country.

This year, Veterans Day falls amid many AES construction challenges that are indeed part of our national challenge - and unlike any others in our history. Our efforts in Afghanistan are part of a long-term national struggle that has sent us here to the frontlines. Here we can make a difference in supporting our Coalition members and in being an integral part of building an Afghan National Security Force capable of sustaining its own nation. To say the least, we are making a tremendous contribution and difference each day.

Thanks for your continued service.

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ANTHONY C. FUNKHOUSER  
COL, EN  
Commander, Afghanistan Engineer District - South

# Veterans Day 2010 Tribute for Afghanistan Engineer District - South

**Tom T. Baker, III**  
*Cost Engineer Technician*

Tom Baker served in the U.S. Air Force from 1986-1988 as a Crew Chief on C-130 aircraft at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas.



**Louis Esqueda**  
*Project Engineer, Herat*

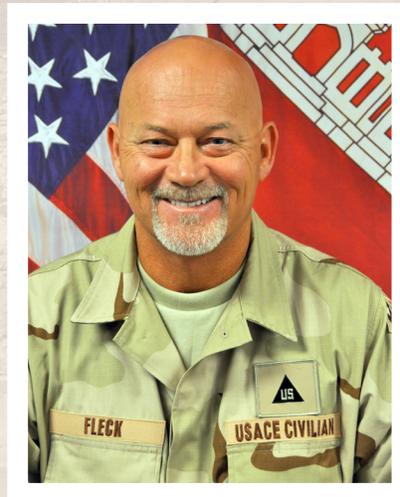
Louis Esqueda served in the U.S. Army from January 1989 to January 1993 and from October 1996 to October 1999, in Fort Polk, Louisiana; Mannheim, Germany; and Fort Hood, Texas. He served as an Armor Crewmen and held all positions on M1A1 tanks. He drove a tank during Operation Desert Storm with 1st Armor Division. His final tour was at Fort Hood with 4th ID as a tank commander.



**Mark V. Fleck, CCET, PMP**  
*Project Manager, Programs and Project Management Division  
(Afghan National Security Forces)*

Mark Fleck was a submariner in the Navy from 1977 to 1983. He joined the

Navy during his first semester of college, right after high school. He volunteered for submarines after “volunteering to serve” and was on the intercontinental ballistic missile submarines commonly referred to as “Boomers,” which have an SSBN (submersible ship ballistic nuclear) designation. The other type of sub was referred to as “fast attack” submarine with a SSN designation which surfaces many times and goes to sea ports, whereas Boomers were not as “public” and remained aloof. I was on the George Washington SSBN 598G, which was originally a fast attack sub. It was modified to become the first ballistic missile sub by cutting it half and welding in the “Boomer” section. The G stands for the Gold crew. There were two crews manning each of the boomers -- a gold and a blue crew -- so that the submarine could be on patrol/mission as much as possible. I was also on the Thomas Jefferson SSBN 618G, the Sam Houston SSBN 609G, and the Georgia SSBN 729G (an Ohio class submarine ... aka Trident and one which I help build, making me a plank owner also). Somehow I never served on a blue crew, don’t ask how or why, and whew ... all that in just 5 years and 10 months of service, with three deterrent patrols under my belt. For the patrols, we only had to endure 72 days under water, diving once and surfacing after the patrol was completed. Even with me being a quarter American Indian, sporting a “natural” tan of sorts, I was white as a ghost when we finally emerged from the sub after a patrol; and “everything” we carried onboard smelled like diesel fuel and those were nuclear powered submarines!



**Mark Foster**  
*Engineering Branch*

Mark Foster has served as a Civil Engineer Corps officer in the U.S. Navy from 1984 until now (he now serves in the Reserves). He is currently assigned to NAVFAC Contingency OICC, Washington Navy Yard.

He has participated in several NATO exercises in Virginia, England and Belgium; joint and combined amphibious exercises in South Korea and California; counter-drug operations in Colombia and Nicaragua; and supervised environmental cleanup activities in California, Missouri, Hawaii, Florida, Japan and Guam.

He was mobilized for active duty for 7 months in 2004 to serve as Construction Project Manager and Move Coordinator for expansion of NATO (Supreme Allied Command Atlantic) Headquarters Building in Norfolk, Virginia.

His last mobilization was for 12 months in 2007 in Anbar Province, assigned to the II Marine Expeditionary Force Staff as the OIC of the Reconstruction Cell in Fallujah and Ramadi.

**William P. Graney**  
*Facilities Program/Projects Manager*

Bill Graney served in the U.S. Army 13.5 active duty years (1971-1973 Active Duty, 1977-1981 Army National Guard, 1982-1992 Active Duty). He served: 1971-1973, Military Policeman at the U.S. Military Academy at West



**CDR Mark Foster with Chuck Norris - Fallujah Sept. 14, 2007.**



**CDR Mark Foster with Anbar Governor Mahmoon, September 2007.**



Point; 1977-1981, Ohio National Guard; 1982-1986, 34th Engineer Battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas; 1986-1988, Operations Officer with the Directorate of Engineering and Housing, Fort Richardson, Alaska; 1988-1989, 6th Engineer Battalion, Fort Wainwright, Alaska; 1989-1991, Director of Engineering and Housing, Fort Greely, Alaska; 1991-1992, Training with Industry assignment, with the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 in Seattle, Washington.

**LTC Douglas Hoenig**

*Kandahar Vicinity Area Office OIC*

LTC Doug Hoenig served in the U.S. Army from 1988 until now. He served in Germany, Fort Leonard Wood, Fort Irwin, Fort Hood, Rock Island Arsenal, Fort Knox, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He has served more than 22 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



**Thomas E. Howes, P.E.**

*Electrical Engineer*

Tom Howes served in the U.S. Army from 1976 to 1979 as a radar operator (rank of specialist E-4) in West Germany.



SPC Tom Howes, 1978

## **Thomas Ingram**

*Attorney*

Thomas Ingram served in the U.S. Air Force (Active Duty, AF Reserve, and Air National Guard) from June 1982 to June 2010. He served in Virginia, Ohio, Panama, Iceland, Michigan, Nebraska, Spain, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was a civil engineer, a judge advocate, and retired in June 2010 as a lieutenant colonel.



## **SSGT Joseph McManus**

*J2/J3 Force Protection*

SSgt McManus enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on November 17, 1998, where he attended Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC. Upon graduation, he reported to the School of Infantry, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In April 1999, SSgt McManus reported to Military Police School, Fort Mclellan, Alabama. In June 1999, SSgt McManus reported to Security Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton where he served as a Military Policeman until February 2003. In February 2003 he reported to the Criminal Investigation Division, Camp Pendleton, California, where he served until May 2005. In May 2005, SSgt McManus reported to the Criminal Investigation Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan where he served as a Criminal Investigator until May 2006. In July 2006 SSgt McManus reported to Drill Instructor School, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. In October 2006, SSgt



McManus reported to Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, where he served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor and Series Gunnery Sergeant until October 2009. In November 2009, SSgt McManus reported to Military Police Company, Security Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, where he serves as a Platoon Sergeant. In October 2010, SSgt McManus reported to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan Engineer District South, where he is currently serving.

**James Kemp Myers**

*Lead Quality Assurance Representative  
Tarin Kowt Resident Office*

James Myers served in the U.S. Marine Corps from June 1960 to July 1968. His service included these campaigns: the civil unrest in Lagos, Nigeria; the Bay of Pigs, Gitmo (Guantanamo) Bay, Cuba, where the Cuban invasion lasted 18 months; and the Vietnam War from 1965-1967. He was attached to Battalion Landing Team 2-6, Fox Company 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines Fleet Marine Force, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C. This unit was known along the East Coast as the unit that didn't return home because of the outbreak of the Vietnam War.

While in the Marine Corps, he served as a fire team leader, a squad leader, and a platoon sergeant, and participated in three NATO exercise. His military occupation specialty was a



sniper (expert in firearms). His highest rank was gunnery sergeant, and he had the nickname of Gunny. In his first six years, he was stationed aboard the USS Walworth County (LST, Landing Ship, Tank); USS York County, LST; USS Cambria (Troop Carrier); USS Oglethorpe (Troop Carrier); USS Donner (LSD, Landing Ship Dock); USS Shadwell LSD; USS Forest Sherman; USS Meredith (Destroyer Class); and USS Forrestal (Carrier).

**MAJ Andrew Olson**  
*OIC, Kandahar Vicinity Area Office*

MAJ Andrew Olson has been serving in the Army since January 2000. He served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, and battalion logistics officer with the 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. He served as brigade engineer in the 43d Sustainment Brigade and commanded HHC/43d Sustainment Brigade and 576th Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado. He has been assigned to USACE Europe District since August 2009 and deployed to AES since March 2010.



## **Richard Powers**

*Structural Engineer, Engineering Branch*

Richard Powers served in the U.S. Navy from January 1968 to January 1972 in the Mediterranean area, the Atlantic and East Coast of U.S. He was an HM2 (Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class) and operating room technician at the time of his discharge.



## **Greg Reiff**

*Chief, Construction Branch*

Greg Reiff served in the U.S. Air Force from 1983 to 1992 and the Air Force Reserves from 1993 to present with plans to retire in June 2011. He has served in Griffiss AFB, New York; Kunsan AB, Korea, RAF Alconbury and RAF Mildenhall, UK; Barksdale AFB, Louisiana Osan AB, Korea. (While in Reserves: Hickam AFB, HI; Misawa AB, Japan; Osan AB, Korea)



## **Fortunato N. "Sonny" Sapida, Jr.**

*Deputy Chief, Contracting Division*

Sonny Sapida served in the Air Force as a Logistics Specialist from 1982 to 2002. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant. He served in United Kingdom X 2, California, Turkey, South Korea, Florida, Italy, Kenya, Somalia, Egypt, and Texas.



## **James Stephens**

*Attorney*

James Stephens has served in the Army JAG Corps since 2005. He has served in Iraq and at

Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. He is currently a Captain.



## **SPC Erika Stormont**

*J2/J3 Air Movement NCOIC*

SPC Erika Stormont served in the Oklahoma Army National Guard from 2007-2010. She served as a transportation operator at her home unit located in Mustang, Oklahoma, where she was promoted to Specialist in summer 2009. For two-and-a-half years of her service, she served on active duty as a Recruiter's Assistant and enlisted over 30 applicants into the Oklahoma Army National Guard.



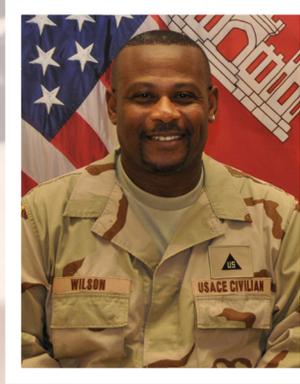
## **Scott Swanson**

Scott Swanson served in the U.S. Army on active duty from June 1981 to May 1983 in Fort Carson, Colorado, and from May 1983 to May 1987 in Wiesbaden, Germany. He is currently serving as Master Sergeant in the Army Reserves with the 102nd Engineers at Knoxville, Tennessee.



**Steven Wilson**  
*Transportation Specialist*

Steven Wilson served in the U.S. Army from 1976 to 1979 as 72E Telecommunication Center Specialist (Teletypist) and 327th Signal Company, Zweibrucken, Germany. He served as a sergeant from 2007 through 2008 as 349th Quartermaster Company, Operations NCOIC. He also served from 2008 through 2010 as the USACE AES Movement NCO.



**Larry Wooters**  
*Construction Control Representative*

Larry Wooters was in the U.S. Navy from December 1965 to December 1971. He served as a storekeeper (supply) at numerous Navy bases in California, at U.S. Naval Support Activity, Naval Supply Depot, Da Nang, Vietnam.

He is U.S. Army retired. He served in the Illinois Army National Guard where from November 1984 through February 1988 with the 3/130 Infantry Division. He served as Army team leader and squad leader.

He served in the Florida Army National Guard from 1988 - 2006. In Florida he served from 1988-1994 as a Squad Leader, Section NCO, and Platoon Sergeant with the 927th Medical Company (Clearing) at Camp Blanding. From 1994-2000 he served as a Platoon sergeant with Company A, 161st Area Support Medical Battalion at Camp Blanding. From 2000-2006 he served as the NCOIC (Non commissioned Officer In charge)



**Wooters, Marble Mt. Da Nang, Vietnam, 1968.**

of Camp Blanding Physical Exam Station and Senior Medical NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) of Operations for Camp Blanding Troop Medical clinic while assigned to the Florida Medical Detachment.

**MAJ Frederick W. Hess, Jr.**  
*Father of Christine Hess, PPMD*

MAJ Frederick W. Hess, Jr., was a 1966 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Following graduation from the Academy, he received an MBA from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and subsequently trained in the F-4 Phantom, receiving orders to the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Da Nang AB, RVN.

The C-123 Provider aircraft that were used at the time in defoliant spraying were increasingly vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. As a result, the Air Force decided to test using “fast mover” aircraft in the spray mission role. The 390th TFS at DaNang AB was selected as the test squadron, and several F-4D aircraft were fitted with modified underwing tanks to carry and spray the defoliant. Tactics involved three F-4Ds flying in a “V” formation at 500 knots and 100 to 200 feet above ground, allowing a swath ten miles in length and 300 feet in width to be sprayed in little over a minute’s time. After test trials, combat spray missions began on 25 January 1969. The seventh mission was flown on March, 29, 1969.

Capt. W.J. Popendorf, pilot, and 1LT Hess, copilot, flying F-4D tail number 66-8809, were on that mission, targeting an area of Highway 915 near Ban Topen about 15 miles south of the Ban Karai Pass. The three aircraft made their first pass



successfully, but as they came around for a second pass, Pependorf's aircraft was hit by enemy fire. As he pulled up the F-4D began an uncontrollable roll and both Pependorf and Hess made a high-speed, low-altitude ejection. Although injured in the ejection, Pependorf was picked up by a SAR helicopter about three hours later. Despite a 10-hour SAR effort, no trace of Hess was found. He was classed as Missing in Action at termination of the formal SAR effort.

The combination of frequent spray tank failures and this loss terminated the "fast mover" spray mission tests.

On May 22, 1979, the Secretary of the Air Force approved a Presumptive Finding of Death for now-MAJ Frederick Hess. As of today, his remains have not been repatriated.



World War II to Desert Storm  
**VETERANS' REFLECTIONS**

Veterans' Reflections is a collection of articles about the heroic men and women who have served their country in wars past: World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and Desert Storm. Their stories of service and courage are an inspiration to all Americans and will be posted throughout November in honor of Veterans Day.

World War II Korean War Vietnam War Desert Storm

Nov. 1, 2010

[http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/1010\\_reflections/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2010/1010_reflections/)