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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognizes quarterly top performers

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South recognized the quarter's top performers during an award ceremony held Sept. 27.

"I congratulate the winners of our first quarterly top performer awards. Each represents all of the men and women who work for the South District. Our individual and team contributions have made us the most productive district in Afghanistan and maybe in the Corps of Engineers," said Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, district commander. "I believe each of those recognized would say that their achievement results from the great support of those who work with and for them. I am very proud of each of our quarterly award winners and thank them for being outstanding representatives of our district."

Awardees in each category were:

Company grade officer:

Army Capt. Derek Bowen, the officer in charge of the Kandahar Airfield Area Office, deployed from Las Vegas, Nev., was recognized for his outstanding leadership, which resulted in the execution of 12 airfield projects valued at \$120 million, and for his technical expertise and dedication, which facilitated significant progress on several military construction projects.

Senior noncommissioned officer:

Army Master Sgt. Darrell McAllister, the senior noncommissioned officer at the Tarin Kowt Resident Office, deployed from Charlotte, N.C., was recognized for his tenacious drive for professional and personal improvement. In addition to expertly performing his primary duties, he filled in when there were staffing gaps in quality assurance representatives, which required that he learn new skills quickly.

Junior noncommissioned officer:

Army Staff Sgt. Andrew Hansen, the air movement noncommissioned officer in charge, deployed from USACE's Detroit District, was recognized for saving \$2.7 million by prioritizing aviation requirements and expertly executing 264 missions.

Enlisted Soldier:

Army Spc. Michael J. Green, a communications specialist on one of the district's MRAP (mine-resistant, ambush protected) vehicle teams, deployed from the 302nd Military Police Company in Grand Prairie, Texas, was recognized for his technical expertise and knowledge that contributed to 12 successful missions to safely move district personnel to project sites and other locations "outside the wire."

Department of Army Civilian, GS-11-13:

Elliott Porter, a project manager in the district's water and infrastructure branch, deployed from USACE's Pittsburg District, was recognized for his expert knowledge and resourcefulness. He successfully managed complex projects requiring significant coordination with other agencies and governments, and demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of the Commander's Emergency Response Program, a key element of the district's efforts to build Afghan capacity and support the International Security Assistance Force counter-insurgency mission.

Department of Army Civilian, GS-01-10:

Lance Walker, a construction representative at the district's Tombstone Resident Office, deployed from USACE's Vicksburg District, was recognized for his superb job performance and willingness to take on project engineering responsibilities. His relentless efforts led to the completion and turnover of four Afghan National Police facilities.

"I would like to thank those supervisors and peers who took the time to recognize the hard work of their team member," said Command Sgt. Major Lorne Quebodeaux, the initiator of the district's quarterly award program. "I know there is important work going on in every office, everyday, and I appreciate that our leaders have gone through the process to tell the district about the significant accomplishments of some of our shining stars."

The South District provides design and construction services throughout southern Afghanistan to support the ISAF and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan. Our work is carried out in Regional Commands South, Southwest and West with the goal of achieving counterinsurgency effects and bolstering the Afghan Government's services to its people.

These awards and decorations are a reflection of the dedication and service of the Military members and Civilians who have deployed in support of USACE's mission in Afghanistan, and who have committed themselves to delivering projects that help improve security and governance in Afghanistan.

For photos, please contact karla.k.marshall@usace.army.mil.

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