



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## USACE, COMKAF celebrate women's contributions to Afghanistan mission

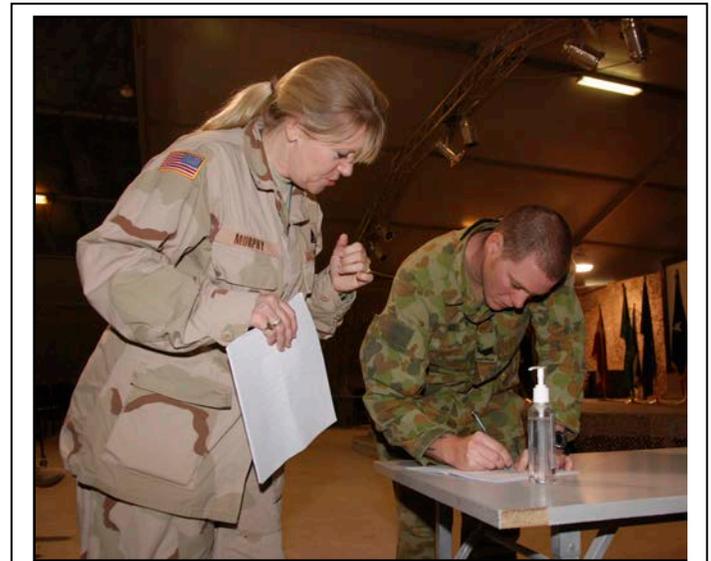
KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Linda Murphy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South, says she is proud to have traded in her high-heeled work shoes for a pair of “Beverly Hillbillies” styled steel-toed boots.

Murphy, Water and Infrastructure Project Management Branch chief, was one of four keynote speakers taking part in the Kandahar Airfield International Women's Day commemoration March 9. The ceremony recognized women service members from coalition forces and USACE employees serving on the airfield.

“Now that I have gotten my daughters off to college as fairly self-sufficient women, I decided to deploy to hopefully provide assistance to the women and men of the coalition forces and particularly to the women and men of Afghanistan,” she explained. “I forfeited my designer suits and 3-inch stiletto heels for these lovely sand-colored uniforms and these Beverly Hillbilly type of steel-toed boots.”

Murphy said that about the Southern District has 67 women serving in Afghanistan out of a work force of about 300 employees. Their duties include engineering, contracting, construction oversight, human resource specialists, intelligence, operations, logistics and supply, information technology, legal counsel, internal review, public affairs, resource management, safety and project management.

“We are all here for a common purpose, a common goal which emulates the Corps of Engineers motto – *Essayons*, which means Let Us Try,” she told the audience of about 100. “We have an incredibly exciting mission here, and we are proud of the work we are doing for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Every woman contributes to the mission here just like every man.”



Linda Murphy, Water and Infrastructure Project Management Branch chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South goes over some program notes with Australian Air Force Sgt. Geoffrey Bell shortly before the Kandahar Airfield International Women's Day commemoration March 8. (USACE Photo by Dave Melancon)

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## International Women's Day 2-2-2

The South District team strives to ensure that coalition forces have the Corps of Engineers technical support which enables them to perform their duties and to make Afghanistan safer, healthier and more sustainable place for the Afghan people, she said.

“We are daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, mothers, and even grandmothers – coming together here for one cause – to make a contribution for a better future for not only the women of Afghanistan but for everyone here,” Murphy said. “And like our Corps motto states – We will try. We will try our hardest.”

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You can find more news and features about the district on our homepage. You can also follow us on Facebook and find interesting photos about the district on our Flickr page



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Dennis, 451st Air Wing and Kandahar Airfield commanding general, presents commander's challenge coins to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-South employees (from left) Deborah Lamb, Linda Murphy and Diedrienne Fauser during the Kandahar Airfield International Women's Day commemoration March 8. Ulrike Krueger, a South District civil engineer working in the Helmand province area office, was also recognized for her service but was unable to attend the event. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE photo by Dave Melancon)