



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:
July 10, 2012

Contact:
Karla Marshall
karla.k.marshall@usace.army.mil

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 quarterly top performers for the second quarter 2012 at an awards ceremony held here July 9.

“I congratulate our quarterly top performers,” said Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, district commander. “Their supervisors nominated them which is a testament to their contributions to the South District. I am very proud of their hard work and thank them for being outstanding representatives of our district.”

Awardees in the following categories were:

Junior Noncommissioned Officer:

Army Sgt. Derek W. Straubie, assigned to Task Force Breshna Barq and deployed to the South District from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, went above and beyond the call of duty. He re-wired the conference room, the arms storage room, and installed an HVAC system at Forward Operating Base Lindsey. He was instrumental in connecting the district compound to Prime Power. As an instructor for Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherak (the Afghan utility company) bucket and line training, Straubie successfully qualified 13 Afghans in both skills.



Sgt. Derek W. Straubie



Darla Pack

Department of Army Civilian, GS-11-13:

Darla Pack, an engineer technician in the district’s Quality Assurance Branch, was responsible for the South District’s bidding, construction, and environmental reviews as well as providing monthly instruction to contractors on various Resident Management System topics. Her superior technical knowledge, ability to teach and mentor and her presentations made a noteworthy impact on a daily basis. Pack deployed to the South District from the USACE Huntington District in West Virginia.

Department of Army Civilian, GS-01-10:

Dave Melancon, a public affairs specialist in the district’s public affairs office, was a consummate professional in every task he undertook. He went on many “outside the wire” and other missions that resulted in more than 30 news stories

and 40 photo events. Melancon's dedication to the district's mission and his selfless contributions are a testament to his positive attitude and sense of duty. Melancon is a U.S. Forest Service employee who deployed to the district from Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Rhinelander, Wis.

The South District provides design and construction services throughout southern Afghanistan to support 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.

-30-



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](#).