



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Weekly award highlights remarkable service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Long hours and tough, but fair deadlines help make sure U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees deployed with the Afghanistan Engineer District-South work hard; still some employees go the extra mile and effectively and efficiently deliver remarkable service.

Each week, South District employees throughout the district nominate peers who have gone above and beyond what was asked of them in the normal course of their duties for the Commander's Weekly Award. Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre, the USACE Transatlantic Division commander supports this award initiative and his coin is given to each award recipient.

"We face many complex challenges here in Afghanistan, but highly engaged employees like the ones who have earned the Commander's Weekly Award possess the energy and enthusiasm to meet those challenges and deliver great results," said Col. Vincent Quarles, Afghanistan Engineer District-South commander. "One of the best parts of leading this district family is giving praise where it is truly deserved, to the exceptional members who use all of their knowledge and skill to accomplish our district's goals and improve conditions for everyone around them." Recent awardees, in alphabetical order, include: Wanda Coates-Flowers, Rick Eberts, Alana Hoyer, Bernadette Killebrew, Lorenzo Lora, Trudy Templeton and John Whittier.

Get to know the award recipients



Wanda Coates-Flowers

Coates-Flowers is a project manager in the South District's Program & Project Management Division. She is relentless in her pre-awards functions for the Afghan National Army program. Six of her projects are 'reachback,' meaning much of the design work is conducted at engineer districts in the United States requiring extra coordination between the stateside districts and South District's Contracting Division. She had many challenges to overcome and worked to de-conflict scope requirements between Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and the battle space owners. Out of 16 Afghan National Army pre-awards, Coates-Flowers is the program manager on seven of them. Coates-Flowers deployed to Afghanistan from the Baltimore District.

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Rick Eberts

Every map tells a story and Eberts and Hoye labor to make sure the story is accurate. Eberts is a geographic specialist while Hoye is a geographer; both in the district's Geographic Information System shop. Together they have gone above and beyond to produce time-critical, sensitive mapping to support high visibility meetings and projects. They both have a 'can do' attitude and fully grasp the importance of creating highly accurate products as fast as possible. Eberts deployed to Afghanistan from the Rock Island District; Hoye deployed from Norfolk, Va.



Alana Hoye



Bernadette Killebrew

Killebrew is a contract specialist in the South District's Contracting Division. As the contracting specialist for the Kandahar Air Wing Phase V project, several complex issues were identified by Killebrew and she did an outstanding job to resolve them. With her teammates from Engineering & Construction and Program & Project Management Division, Killebrew resolved several unanticipated concerns. Their effective communication and dedication to the project resulted in virtually no time lost. Killebrew deployed to Afghanistan from Los Angeles.



Lorenzo Lora

Lora is a construction representative for the South District's Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office. Lora served as the primary government representative providing information to customers during specific site visits. Lora was prepared with project handouts depicting exact progress to date on the various features of construction to include arch-span erection, utility installation and interior works. During the site visit to the *Kandak* (battalion) East and Kandak West project sites, his briefings were insightful and demonstrated in-depth, fluent knowledge of the site as well as the contractor's progress. Lora deployed to Afghanistan from Louisville District.

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Trudy Templeton

Templeton is a contracting officer representative at the Helmand Area Office within Operations & Maintenance. When a contractor performing generator maintenance on the 215th Corps Power Plant caused a failure resulting in much of the garrison to lose power for eight days, Templeton stepped up to help resolve the issue. During the repair period, multiple subject matter expert teams were dispatched from several sources. Coordination was required among the South District, Afghan National Security Forces commanders and RC-Southwest. Templeton provided all the ground coordination for teams, status updates to district leaders and the center-point for all actions on site. Her efforts during this period exemplified character and diligence, a reflection of her relentless professionalism. Templeton deployed to Afghanistan from Japan District.



John Whittier

Whittier is a project engineer at the Tombstone Resident Office, part of the Helmand Area Office. He is the project engineer for three of the district's most challenging contracts being constructed by the same Afghan construction company. Whittier demonstrated extraordinary diligence and courtesy when working with his Afghan counterparts and demanded high levels of performance from them. As a direct result of his efforts, the district has been able to achieve beneficial occupancy for the \$6.9 million '20 Bunkers' ammunition storage facility and the \$2.5 million entry control point projects at Camp Shorabak. Whittier has applied the tools available in the aggressive schedule management toolbox and has invented some to overcome numerous technical and management challenges. Whittier deployed to Afghanistan from Fort Worth District.

-30-

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