



Postcard from Afghanistan

Sandra Eudy- South Pacific Division



How has your experience in Afghanistan working for the Corps affected you?

Deploying in support of an overseas contingency operation has been on my mind for quite some time. When I accepted the job as deployment coordinator for the South Pacific Division (SPD), I said to myself, how can I possibly recruit the people to deploy if I had not done it myself? It was a credibility issue with me. I pondered this for almost two years before actually raising my hand and saying 'yes I want to deploy.' I discussed this with my sons and we made the decision that it was the right time in my life to deploy. It just happened that Transatlantic Division (TAD) was in the process of forming a TAD-Afghanistan and I said yes to an offer they made me. Although I was apprehensive, I know I made the right decision for me to grow from GOOD to GREAT, the experience so far has been

amazing. I know that I will take all the knowledge and experience back to SPD and be a much more rounded Corps employee.

What have you learned?

As the G-1 for TAD-A this was a challenging job-one I had never done before, I've had the opportunity to meet and work with so many great people both military and civilian. I've made friends that I will stay in touch with after this experience. I am enjoying the responsibilities and experience that comes from being in the beginning phase of developing organization. The work has proven to be both interesting and challenging at the same time.

What were your expectations and what is the reality of being in Afghanistan?

This being my first deployment I had no expectations. I know I was very excited and although my family and friends were frightened for me, I was not afraid at all. I was convinced that this would be an adventure of a lifetime for me, and up to now, this has proven to be the case for me. I will forever be grateful for this experience and I thank USACE for the opportunity to serve alongside our brave military members.