



Postcard from Afghanistan

Bill Hollingsworth - Aiea, Hawaii



Working for the Corps in Afghanistan has given me what is probably my last opportunity to deploy in support of U.S. Forces. It's reinforced by working on the inside what I already knew from working with USACE on the outside: that the Corps is a marvelous source of talent and technical expertise; and that it maneuvers like an aircraft carrier, capable of rapid speed when required, but requiring lots of open ocean in order to change course. In AED North's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) program, I've been able to make a huge difference through CERP (the Commander's Emergency Reconstruction Program), uplifting the lives of

ordinary Afghans and directly supporting the Warfighter. We make roads, bridges, schools, clinics, flood control structures and other projects happen, from concept to ribbon-cutting. We build capacity by teaching Afghan contractors one-on-one how to do modern construction in a competitive market, without resorting to bribery and falsehood. We support military units ranging from Combat Service Support Brigades on huge FOBs to Special Forces Detachments living in tiny compounds among the Afghan people. We think and operate outside the box to find expedient solutions to incredible problems, and are proud to call ourselves members of the Corps Team; perhaps not the main effort, but an integral part of USFOR-A's Counterinsurgency fight.

