



# Postcard from Afghanistan

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

I have not been in Afghanistan long enough to honestly answer that question, but I think the real question is "How has my USACE experience affected my assignment to Afghanistan?" My job with USACE was a result of 9/11, supporting more than 20 reservists that were mobilized soon thereafter, and even deployed to Iraq in 2003. Since then, I've been involved in preparation for contingency operations; primarily military contingencies, even though I work closely with others on civil responses. For the past five years, 100 percent of my efforts have been the preparation and deployment of our Field Force Engineering (FFE) teams, both the Modified Table of Equipment (MTOE) teams and the volunteer teams. I firmly believe that God had a role for me, because not long after getting the 273rd Forward Engineering Support Team deployed to Iraq, I received a call asking if I would deploy as the Transatlantic Division- Afghanistan G3.

## What have you learned?

Well, I've learned that all the hard work and dedication to both USACE and SWD has paid off in dividends. At first I had butterflies. Am I up to this task? Can I meet the expectations of those that asked me to take this mission? I found out quickly that all those lessons learned from my active duty days and the past nine years with USACE has provided me the confidence to do just that. Even better, I've got a great team to work with here.

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

Of course my expectations are simple; meet the commander's intent, improve business practices, and provide the (expected) leadership to the great staff here. The reality is...our success here will forever be written in the history books. I'm not only proud to be part of this history, I'm humbly blessed. Last but not least is the support from my family that has made my deployment here easy and worthwhile.

