Postcard from Afghanistan

Staff Sergeant Kraft – Camp Lejeune, N.C. -- Military Police

I was told by my operation officer that an individual augment position needed to be filled in Afghanistan with a Marine having the military occupational specialty of a physical security specialist. He then asked me if I wanted to go on to fulfill this mission. My reply to him was, "is it the needs of the Corps, sir?" He replied yes it is; I then replied that I would go where ever the Corps needed me. I knew this would be hard news for my wife Raquel to hear. Yet, I knew that my wife would understand. The time away from her has not been easy, but I am proud to make a difference and support the efforts of the United States military. I came over here not knowing what to expect, but this is just part of the job of any military member who deploys into combat. I have been fortunate so far and I do hope that this trend continues.

I've had the great opportunity to work with members of all branches, Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines as well as civilians. I'm attached to USACE and working for the Afghanistan Engineer District – North. It has been a pleasure working alongside the other services and the civilian counterparts who make up the heart of USACE. I have met many fine people and I am proud to be here. I know that my part in the big picture is only a small one. However, it is an honor to support and defend those trying to make a difference for this country and I would gladly put myself in harm's way to protect them. It's what we do as the military and we all do it willingly. It has also been my privilege to work with Afghan nationals, who support us in every mission, referred to as our "shooters". We could not do our job without their assistance and I am always very glad to have them with us on every mission. The job I do may only be a smaller piece of the puzzle, but I take pride in what I do and will do anything to support mission accomplishment and the ultimate goal of FREEDOM.