Postcard from Afghanistan

Lorrie Lloyd - Japan District

In 2005, I was stationed in Israel when I received an offer to deploy to Afghanistan. My three young adult sons weren't keen on the idea, but were supportive and encouraging – after they got over the initial shock of the idea that their mom would once again be wearing combat boots. I remained in Afghanistan for two years supporting the Afghanistan Engineer District, and growing to love the Afghan people. Shortly after my redeployment, my son Travis told me he was going to Afghanistan, he's been in country since 2008. In 2010, I returned to Afghanistan for a second tour, this time staying for 15 months. And, this summer, my youngest son, Justin told me that he too was deploying. My sons work for two different contractors (ITT and Fluor) in Sharana, and I've had the privilege of visiting them during command site visits to the area. It's a wonderful feeling to be introduced as their mom- the look of surprise on their co-worker's faces and the astonishment in the eyes of their Afghan friends is priceless. My oldest son, Robert, serving in the Air Force, will deploy in September to Kandahar. I'm very proud of my sons volunteering to come to this country to do their part for the freedom of America. They come from a military family; my father served in the Navy for 28 years. Their father retired from the Army after 20+ years, and I served in the Army for 8 years.