

## So you're thinking about a tour in Afghanistan...



By LTC Kurt Floyd

Is your cubicle closing in on you? Do you do the same thing every day with no change in sight? Are you looking for a greater challenge than the every day grind of 7:30 to 4:15 life?

I may have the answers you are looking for! Let me take a few moments to dispel some of the myths and rumors about working overseas for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED).

Contrary to what you many have heard you don't have to spend a full year on tour. Many team members come over on a six month tour as a "trial" to see if they like it. Some decide that six months is enough, but surprisingly, many have decided to extend their tours here to a full year. The choice is up to you on how long you want to stay. Of course the benefits of staying for a full year are greater, but there are many benefits and hefty incentives for even a six month tour.

AED has numerous positions available throughout the county and the year. If you're interested in a tour, have the qualifications, the staff will make every effort to find you a slot. These positions range from Division Chiefs to Administrative Assistants to positions for guard and reserve military. AED relies on volunteers from the Corps, other government agencies, and non-government civilians to staff all of their positions.

Many of the team members here are on their second or third tours. One of the things that I've noticed when talking with civilian team members is their satisfaction in seeing their efforts make a difference. Back home, it's sometimes

hard to see the “big picture” and how your job fits into the success of your section, office or District. Over here, you will see very quickly that even the smallest task you do will have a lasting impact on the mission. The pace is fast, the hours long, the rewards, personally and professionally – even greater. If you are looking for a challenge and want to see first hand how important your job skills are to the USACE mission, then AED is the perfect place for you.

Regardless of where you work for AED, be it at the Headquarters, an Area or Resident Office, or Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) throughout the country, you will find that working in Afghanistan will be rewarding both personally and professionally. You will see first hand how your effort in working with USACE is helping the people of Afghanistan rebuild their country. You can take pride in the fact that you personally helped establish a safe, secure future for millions of Afghan citizens.

If you'd like to learn more about the civilian or military opportunities with AED, please visit these web sites.

[USACE - Afghanistan Engineer District](#)

[http://pfi.dod.mil/PFI\\_Online.html#Reservists](http://pfi.dod.mil/PFI_Online.html#Reservists)

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/Reserve/soldierservices/tours/tourslist.htm>

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