

Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Story by Victoria Hooper and
Photos by Diann Farmer

Diann Farmer

Just ask Diann Farmer what is going on in Afghanistan and she'll tell you, a tremendous amount of work!

Since March 2008, Diann has been stationed at the Qalaa House outside Kabul, Afghanistan and has been working very hard. She was originally hired in the GWOT

mission as a Program Analyst for Afghanistan Engineer District's (AED) Engineering and Construction (EC) Division. As our Readiness Team continues to tell us, flexibility is key. Diann had to be flexible when she was told before she arrived that she would now be working with the Resource Management System (RMS), which she had never done before. When she arrived in Afghanistan tired, and overwhelmed at the thought of being tasked with a job for which she had little proficiency, she started her work with a new EC Chief, Chief of Construction, and a Chief of Contract Administration layered above her. At this

point she learned that there is an employee there who worked with the RMS system and AED had another need in which to

place her. With Diann's "get it done" attitude she adapted and prospered. As of the last

ments, assisted the District with RMS in the absence of the resident expert, and compiled and maintained a list of the status of all the outstanding claims and REAs for the Afghanistan Engineer District.

Diann emailed early in her tour, "Everyone has made us feel very welcomed. So get the word out, if you can, that if anyone wants to be a part of history and build things that this country desperately needs – come to Afghanistan and make yourself and your country proud by doing something that can make a

difference. It's time to put the care back in the Corps of Engineers. Sounds like a commercial doesn't it? If I can do it anyone can."

Diann has been married for 41 years to Mike Farmer, retired Chief of Nashville District's Engineering-Construction Division. They



Diann Farmer at work.

week in July, Diann states she has processed over 1500 construction payment estimates, assisted in over 80 contract closeouts, maintained records for and processed over 300 Individual Contracting Officer's Representative Training Require-



Diann's daughter, Karen, and grandchildren.



The Afghanistan Engineer District Team

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have three children, oldest daughter Karen and husband Frank live in Tampa, Florida with their 2 children, Ava and Zackary. Daughter, Kelli, works at Williamson Surgery Center in Franklin, Tennessee, and son, AJ, is a junior at UTC in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Husband Mike has also experienced a GWOT deployment in Afghanistan. He states, "Diann's experience is a microcosm of what everyone goes through. The cultural shock, the fear, the endless days and nights which all blur together, the constant demands, the never ending turnover in personnel and changes in requirements either make or break you. I think Diann will return standing a little taller because she KNOWS she made a difference for a gallant people in a desolate land. She did everything that was asked of her and she did the right thing every time. I'm proud of her. God Bless America and all those, like her, who bravely serve away from home and family."

The Nashville District thanks, Diann, for her hard work, her accomplishments, and her willingness to serve.



A beautiful snow day at Qalaa House.

Larry Cole meets Van



Larry Cole, Old Hickory Power Plant, is shown here with the Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Van Antwerp. Cole is deployed to Afghanistan, and he met with the Chief at a newly constructed training building.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) POSITION

To volunteer for a position, contact the Nashville District Operations Division, Readiness/Emergency Management Branch.

To see what is available, GWOT positions are posted on several sites, such as ENGLink, (<https://englink.usace.army.mil>), CPOL (<http://cpol.army.mil>), USAJOBS (www.usajobs.gov), and the USACE homepage has a link to CPOL as well. (<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil>. Then look at GWOT Recruitment Page)

Once you find a position for which you feel you can qualify, you must build a resume in the RESUME builder to link with the position you want. Without the resume being linked with the position, there is no way to be considered for the position. There are a number of ways to find a position overseas. You can use a vacancy announcement, a placement

from division or higher, or by word of mouth.

No matter how you find a position, paperwork MUST be processed through Readiness/Emergency Management Branch for processing.

As with most Government processes, there is a large amount of paperwork to be completed. The Readiness/Emergency Management Branch has a step by step instruction to expedite the deployment paperwork.

Due to the ever changing deployment requirements, please stay flexible during your pre-deployment preparation.

-- You can reach the staff at the Readiness/Emergency Management Branch at (615) 736-7037, email Kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil, or jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil.