

## 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](http://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 place-

ment 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-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](mailto:kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil), or [jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil](mailto:jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil).



**Sammy Alley**

Sammy Alley, Wolf Creek Power Plant, recently deployed. He is stationed in Mazar-e-Sharif, in North Central Afghanistan, working on several construction projects including Afghan police training compounds and a logistics center. His tour is May 11 to November 6, 2008. His wife, Vicky Alley, is employed at Dale Hollow as a Civil Engineering Tech.

## June's Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Introduction by: **Victoria Hooper**

**M**ark Gibson is a determined man. He sees a task and makes it work. Mark has been supporting the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) for two tours (with an extension on each tour). His work has all been in Iraq's Gulf Region Division (GRD) Central as the Resident Engineer of the Victory South Resident Office. Mark left Louisville District to join the Nashville team in December 2001 as a Civil Engineering Technician at Engineering-Construction's Kentucky Lock Project Resident Office in Grand Rivers, Kentucky.

His wife, Paula, and two daughters, Laura and Ashley, have been a great support team for

Mark and his work. Laura has just graduated cum laude from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, IL, with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. While in school, she worked as a teacher's assistant and conducted undergraduate research. She will be continuing her education at Southern where she has been accepted into the PhD program in Chemistry. She will be continuing as a graduate assistant in chemistry and conducting graduate research. Laura also received her MRS when she married Steven Walkup after her college graduation! Daughter Ashley has also just graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, IL, summa cum laude, with a bachelor's de-

gree in Accounting. She also was recognized as SIU Alumni Association's Top 25 Most Distinguished Senior Award, College of Business Outstanding Senior, and School of Accountancy Outstanding Senior. Ashley will be continuing her education at Southern, where she has been accepted into the Master of Accountancy Program. How proud can parents be!

Mark has shared his personal insight into the important work being accomplished through the GWOT mission. We are so proud of the changes that are being made everyday to improve the lives of the Iraqi people. Thank you, Mark. Here are Mark's words...

# Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Mark Gibson



"I get a lot of funny looks when I tell people how many times I have been to Baghdad. Occasionally I receive a negative comment, but for the most part all the comments have been positive. I have been asked to share some of my rewarding stories from my deployment and reflect on some of the high marks and the low marks covering those deployments.

Before I begin, I want to thank the people within the Nashville District for allowing me the opportunity to do what I really love to do. I know I have the greatest job working with the greatest people in the world. These are the people both military and civilians who make up the US Army Corps of Engineers. We are the premier engineering organization around the world. I also want to especially thank my wife Paula and our daughters, Laura Lee and Ashley Brooke for allowing me to continue to work in Baghdad more times than most.

I am starting my 5th tour here at, Gulf Region Central, Baghdad Iraq. All of my previous tours have been at GRC. I started out in September 2005 as a Project Engineer assigned to the 1-10 Mountain BEST Resident Office. As for second and third tours I was a Project Engineer assigned to the Victory Area Office. Some of you may know that near the end of my third tour my wife had to have open-heart surgery. In September 2007 I was contacted by then Area Engineer Terry Stuart if I would be interested in being the Resident Engineer over the Victory South Resident Office. After consulting with people at the Kentucky Lock Resident Office, District Office, my friends and family, I accepted the position. So my fourth tour started in November 2007 and ran to May 2008 and my fifth tour started in May and is scheduled to run through December 2008. I look at tours as being not continuous but with breaks every 6 months or so,

whatever works out.

Once your training is completed at TAC you are shipped out to what is referred to as down range. In the beginning everyone went through Germany. When I arrived in Germany all I wanted to do was sleep. One thing you will find out over here is that you can eat just about anytime you wish, but sleeping is in short order, good sleeping that is. Today you have direct flights from Washington to Kuwait... Once you have arrived in Kuwait there are people there assigned (RSOI) to assist you in your travels onto Baghdad. Roughly 30 minutes north of Kuwait City is Ali Al Salem



The Gibson Family

Air Base. This is where you will switch from civil aircraft to military aircraft. I refer to the Ali Al Salem as the place that never sleeps. Your wait here could be anywhere from a few hours to days. If your stay is longer than a few hours you are offered a tent for sleeping and there are facilities there for showering. Once you have been processed you are given your mil air flight time...

As a Project Engineer you are responsible for monitoring projects. Each Project Engineer has as many projects that he or she as can successfully monitor. There are a number of variables here, the individual, the magnitude of the project, and how complicated each project can be. All of the projects that our office, Victory South Resident Office, monitors are outside of Victory Base. The term used here is outside the wire. Presently this office monitors 29 projects with an aggregate amount of \$55 million dollars. The team is made up of an Officer in Charge, Resident Engineer, 3 Project Engineers and importantly 5 Iraqi Construction Representatives. These people put their very lives on the line daily rebuilding Iraq. I can say that because during my tours a number of

them did not make it. If you are monitoring a project and the wrong people find out that you are working with the US, you will not be around long. One of our projects, a school, was being monitored by one of the Iraqi Con Reps and he was kidnapped. A few days later an Army patrol found him in the river...

Our projects range from drinking water, sewer, electrical, and security. This office is also responsible for work being performed at BIAP, Baghdad International Airport. The airport is divided into two separate areas. One is totally civil and the other totally military. At one time BIAP was the premier airport in the Middle East. Someday in the near future it will return to that status due to the Corps of Engineers...

There are most definitely rewards. I can remember sitting on top of Building 1, that's a dormitory, one night and watching the lights get turned on at BIAP for the first time in years. Up until that time no aircraft could land at night at BIAP. The runway lights did not work. The Corps of Engineers made it happen. Drinking water is something we all take for granted. The Corps of Engineers has put on line a number of safe drinking water facilities and helped children get a chance at an education. How many kids in the US would attend school in buildings with hays roofs and dirt floors? Go to something that is nothing more than a barn in a village, then plan, construct, complete, and then go to a new completed school with kids laughing and learning. When a tribal member comes up to you and says to you it would not have happened if it wasn't for you, your reply is if not for the Corps of Engineers...



Have there been failures? Not failures, maybe shortcomings. Working with people to get them to understand how to build something that is going to last. Equality for all not just a chosen few."