

US Army Transatlantic Division

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USACE Transatlantic Division



TAD supports the USCENTCOM AOR which includes - Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, U.A.E., Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Commanded by Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Transatlantic Division (TAD), located in Winchester, Va., stood up for the second time on September 29, 2009. TAD was originally established in 1991 to support the increase reconstruction activities following the Gulf War of 1990-1991. In 1994, it was redesignated as a Center.

Within USACE, TAD is now the ninth Major Subordinate Command. TAD is providing engineering services to the Nation in support of U.S. Central Command's area of operations in 20 countries from Egypt through the Arabian Gulf to Central Asia.

Overseeing thousands of projects overseas, TAD also supports the full spectrum of regional support, including the Afghan National Security Forces, United States and Coalition Forces, Counter Narcotics and Border Management, Strategic Reconstruction support to U. S. Agency for International Development, and the Commander's Emergency Response Program.

The Division's AOR is also now the second largest battle space and the number one priority for the United States.

In order to keep the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan steady building and the traditional engineering support to CENTCOM, Coalition forces deployed and other governmental agencies enduring, USACE requires two overseas contingency districts – Afghanistan Engineer Districts – North in Kabul and South in Kandahar.

To reduce the risk to Corps personnel deployed, the Middle East District, the former Transatlantic Programs Center, in Winchester, Va., has been restructured to be a Support District for the Transatlantic Division to provide maximum reach-back support to USACE contingency operations forward. Most recently, the Middle East District has been designated as the world-wide Center of Standardization (COS) for scalable designs in support of CENTCOM and Army Forces Central Command's centric needs.

The Division and its three districts provide high-intensity engineer capabilities for all current USACE Overseas Contingency Operations.

Division welcomes new Commander



By LaShawn Sykes, USACE Transatlantic Division

WINCHESTER, Va. – In an April 26, formal change of command ceremony, Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox transferred command of the Transatlantic Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to Maj. Gen. Michael R. Eyre.

The ceremony was officiated by the Army Corps' Acting Chief of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple. The ceremony took place at 10 a.m. in the Old Court House, located in downtown Winchester. Maj. Gen. Cox, TAD's first commander since September 2009, has been assigned as the deputy commanding general for Military and International Operations, USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Winchester resident, Maj. Gen. Eyre comes to the Transatlantic Division from Washington, D.C., where he was responsible for policy, programming and technical support in the execution of more than \$28 billion of design, construction, and environmental programs for the Army, the Air Force, other Department of Defense and Federal agencies and foreign countries.

As the Transatlantic Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Eyre will be responsible for the Army Corps' vision; headquartered in Winchester, Va. TAD is responsible for USACE missions in the U.S. Central

Command's area of operations consisting of 20 Middle Eastern countries spanning from Egypt through the Arabian Gulf to Central Asia. The Division currently oversees programs exceeding \$4 billion annually through its three District offices – two located in Afghanistan (Kabul and Kandahar) and one co-located with TAD, in Winchester.

Maj. Gen. Eyre oversees the execution of the Division's Military Construction, International and Interagency Support and Foreign Military Sales programs. The general is also responsible for the strategic direction, business processes, program analysis and evaluation, technical engineering and financial operations of the Division.

Donn Booker Selected for Senior Executive Service Position



By LaShawn Sykes, USACE Transatlantic Division

WINCHESTER, Va.– Donn Booker has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' newest member for the Senior Executive Service. The Federal Executive Service is comprised of the men and women charged with leading the continuing transformation of government.

As a result of his SES appointment, Booker will serve as the Contingency Business Director for the Transatlantic Division.

In this position, he serves as the principal advisor to the Commander and TAD on leading and managing the strategic direction and financial operations as well as regional support to the Division's Regional Business Center. He provides the resources to execute the program through chairmanship of a variety of corporate boards to include the Acquisition Strategy, Program Budget Advisory, Regional Command Council, and Regional Management Boards. He also serves as the division representative to the National Management Board responsible for establishing world-wide policy and guidance.

Prior to this appointment, Booker served as the chief of TAD's Business Management Division, where he is was responsible for establishing and implementing the Regional Business Center's business processes throughout the Transatlantic Division. He managed and supervised TAD's relationship programs, as well

as implemented developmental programs for program managers, leading the activities of various division planning, steering boards and strategic planning activities.

SES leaders share a broad perspective of government and a public service commitment, which is grounded in the Constitution. The keystone of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, the SES was designed to be a corps of executives selected for their leadership qualifications. The SES includes most managerial, supervisory and policy positions classified above General Schedule grade 15 or equivalent positions in the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. Members of the SES serve in key positions just below the top Presidential appointees and are a link between these appointees and the rest of the federal work force.

Booker holds a bachelor's degree in Architectural Engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, N.C., and a master's degree in Civil Engineering-Construction Management from Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

Booker's awards are many. He received several Superior Civilian Service awards for exceptional work in the master planning of base camps for U.S. military forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom. For his 15 years of engineering contributions to Army engineers, he earned the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal. Booker has also received an Unsung Hero Award for his support to career day programs at local school districts in Winchester, Va.

Emerging Leaders Complete Leadership Development Program



Middle East District Leadership Development Program Tier I graduates are (front row) Kimberly Alcorn, George Afram, Laura Anderson, Christine Sawalha, Amani Al-Najjar, Gail Wiatr, Sarah Field-Jablecki, Kimberly Sanders (facilitator); (back row): John Philpott (facilitator), Tino Philip, MK Mehta (transferred to another district before graduating), Danny Banks, Jason Zorger, Stephen Markland.(USACE photo – Ashley Shoemaker)

By Julie Shoemaker, USACE Middle East District

Eleven Middle East District team members completed the Leadership Development Program's Tier I in April: Kimberly Alcorn, Amani Al-Najjar, Laura Anderson, Danny Banks, Sarah Field-Jablecki, Steve Markland, Tino Philip, Christine Sawalha, Gail Wiatr, and Jason Zorger.

District Commander Col. Jon Christensen commended the graduates for their journey, and presented each with a certificate.

"Thank you for stepping up to volunteer for the leadership development program," he said. "You have proven that you are emerging leaders, and we look forward to you joining the mainstream of leadership within the district as we move forward."

Team members selected for LDP complete specific required assignments and experiences for individual and team accomplishment using both official and personal time. LDP has distinct stages, or tiers, each building on the previous. The last phase of the program is a mandatory operational assignment.

"We are a (project delivery team) PDT-driven organization," said Lt. Col. Russell Sears, deputy commander. "Most everything we do involves teamwork. The LDP program, aside from being required by USACE, is a great means for us to start training the next generation of leaders."

"The goal of Tier I is essentially for participants to become better employees," he said. "The Tier II goal is to become better leaders for our PDTs, committees and working groups. Both tiers provide opportunities, training and experiences to help people improve individual skills. By developing leaders at all levels of the district, organizational performance is improved."

Tier I – Geared toward self-reflection and teambuilding, it provides opportunities to explore the potential of leadership. The goal is to develop an understanding of Army and Corps of Engineers leadership fundamentals and expanded self-awareness. This phase typically lasts six months.

Tier II – Aimed at second level LDP participants to help them better understand and take command of their personal strengths. This stage encourages participants to reach out and assume leadership roles within their teams and workgroups. This tier lasts about a year.

USACE offers two additional tiers to the program's Tier I and II graduates to expand and hone leadership skills.

"LDP was a great experience for my team and me here in Jordan," said Sawalha, one of two field office employees in this year's Tier I group. "It helped me build my skills and increase my confidence, commit to goals and translate my working policy into effective action. This program helped me to better understand the chain of succession and feel more connected to my organization. It's now easier to transfer good ideas from one section or department here in Jordan to the whole organization in Winchester."

The required curriculum for LDP includes sessions presented by district staff members and subject matter experts. This session, David Worthington, LDP graduate and facilitator, discussed and assessed conflict management through the Thomas-Kilmann Conflict Mode Instrument, a five-category scheme for classifying interpersonal conflict-handling modes: competing, collaborating, compromising, avoiding, and accommodating. It has been used for more than 35 years and is the leading measure of conflict-handling behavior.

"I especially learned a great deal about myself from the TKI assessment session," said Alcorn, equal employment opportunity specialist. "It is good for LDP participants to identify their methods for resolving

conflict. My results were eye-opening since I learned that I handle conflict a bit differently than I thought. It has given me a new perspective as a result."

For some, the interaction among LDP participants is an important key to the program.

"I most appreciate being able to interact with fellow Middle East District employees in a learning atmosphere, away from the daily stress of our jobs," said Worthington. "The LDP process allows one to openly learn about oneself and others in a non-threatening manner so that we can become not only better employees, but better people as well. In the end, all parties win with LDP -- the organization, management and the employee. It has been a joy to be associated with this program."

Other aspects of the LDP experience involve teamwork and physical effort.

"I also thoroughly enjoyed the outdoor Discovery Challenge," Alcorn said. "Even though I was disappointed that I didn't make it to the top (of the 40-foot tripod tower), the experience was great. It provided the team an opportunity to work effectively with each member using his or her skills and abilities. When combined with other members' skills, the results were a more effective team."

Once the formal training sessions are completed, graduates are given mandatory leadership assignments. "These assignments are designed to refine the skills and knowledge gained from the program," said Sears. "Assignments are determined by taking both the individual's desires and organizational needs into consideration. Assigning graduates to positions that may take them beyond their comfort levels could strengthen their own perceived weaknesses. For instance, assigning shy folks to tasks requiring more outgoing attitudes could help bring them out of their shells."

Examples of the follow-on assignments include chairing committees and coordinating district activities including Leaders Forum, Employees Activities Association, Family Readiness Group, Deployee Support Group, incentive awards committee, wellness program, outreach efforts, and facilitating the next session of LDP Tier I. The Middle East District has conducted a leadership development program since 2008, from which more than 100 emerging leaders have graduated.

The Middle East District provides engineering, construction and related services in the Middle East, Central Asia and other areas. Its work includes designing and constructing facilities for use by U.S. forces, performing engineering activities for other U.S. government and foreign agencies, and providing operations and maintenance services for various customers. In addition, the District provides project management, engineering, contracting and support services to USACE districts in Afghanistan.

Building Afghanistan



Afghan Uniform Police stations, like this one recently completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kohsan, will be constructed with more austere features as a result of the new plan agreed to by the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in early May. (Photo by Karla Marshall, USACE AED – South)

By Karla Marshall, USACE Afghanistan Engineer District - South

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Learning from the past and doing the right things in the right way for Afghanistan are the center of a joint NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision to implement more austere construction standards in Afghanistan.

After several months of evaluation and planning, CSTC-A and the Corps of Engineers formally agreed to change the construction standards for two upcoming Afghan Uniform Police headquarters projects.

The Afghanistan Engineer District-South's contracting branch anticipates awarding contracts for the upcoming construction in August.

The engineering branch is developing requests for proposals for the two projects with the austere standards incorporated.

“The Letters of Direction USACE received from CSTC-A allow us to move ahead with changes that address three components: energy management, water and wastewater management, and miscellaneous cost-saving measures.” said Steve Osborn, the district’s facilities engineering section chief.

The changes were the result of feedback from Afghans and observations by Corps of Engineers project managers, engineers and field offices personnel.

“The new austere construction standards are more appropriate for current conditions in certain provincial territories in Afghanistan,” said Fred Schelby, the South District’s Afghan National Police program manager and austere standards team lead. “The new standards not only provide a quality build, but increase the ability for the Afghans to maintain their facility without assistance from the coalition or

international organizations,” said Schelby who deployed from Albuquerque, N.M.

Eight Afghan National Police projects with similar requirements are under review by CSTC-A for austere standard construction said D’Lorah Small, the district’s Afghan National Police project manager for several of the projects.

Other potential projects identified for austere construction are an Afghan Ministry of Interior supply point, border police facilities and district police headquarters in Daykundi, Helmand, Zabul and Farah provinces, she said.

“The standards will maximize the use of locally available materials, simplify construction, and result in buildings that will be easier to maintain,” said Small who deployed from the USACE Savannah District, Fort Bragg, N.C., office.

“Although each project is independently analyzed, austere changes include such mandates as reducing power generation by 20 percent, reducing required lighting in occupied spaces by 50 percent, providing alternatives to interior plumbing, and reducing the space between buildings,” said Small. “By reducing the energy requirement, the facilities remain efficient, the purpose for the facility is met, and maintenance becomes less cumbersome for Afghans, which improves sustainability.”

Water treatment is simplified because the new standard reduces the number of buildings with indoor plumbing and changes traditional bathroom toilets to composting outhouses that produce no ‘black water,’ Schelby said. Black water is raw sewage that requires treatment before it can be re-introduced into the environment. With composting outhouses and exterior-only water outlets, less water is needed. The simple composting system with no interior plumbing is also easier to maintain and more economical, he said.

“Again, we save money and time because of the new water management plan,” said Schelby. “Outdoor spigots and dining facility sinks that drain to composting pits eliminate the need for costly indoor plumbing and reduce future operations and maintenance requirements.”

The final austere plan components include replacing interior door hardware with simple hinges and latches and other easy to alter plans, said Small. “For one project, we won’t be adding gutters and downspouts, except over entrances, and we’ll use french drains which divert water away from buildings instead of underground sewer systems.”

The austere standard designs are based on four criteria – location, accessibility, security, and affordability, said Schelby. “The entire team has worked diligently to bring innovative ideas to fruition throughout all of Afghanistan.”

“Our engineers, project managers and partners at CSTC-A have really been committed to implementing the new standards across the board,” said Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham, the district commander. “Our intent all along has been to provide more feasibility for contractors, speed construction of easily sustainable facilities and realize considerable cost-savings throughout the buildings’ life cycle.”

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/87942/building-afghanistan#ixzz1vnS0eHwA>

USACE employee wins Emergency Preparedness and Employee Safety Award



Jeffrey Ice, an Afghanistan Engineer District - South safety specialist, reviews the safety board at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer construction site in Helmand province May 8. (Photo by Karla Marshall, USACE AED – South)

By Karla Marshall, USACE Afghanistan Engineer District - South

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Keeping people safe is Afghanistan Engineer District-South commander Air Force Col. Benjamin Wham's number one priority. So when new employee, Jeffrey Ice won the New York Federal Executive Board Emergency Preparedness and Employee Safety Award, May 11, it was cause for celebration.

"Every time my safety specialists visit project sites, they teach USACE safety standards to contractors," said Wham. "Jeff is one of those guys who inspects construction sites, meets with the site safety managers and reinforces those precautions that make construction safer."

One of four safety specialists, Ice, who deployed from USACE New York District in April, won the Federal Executive Board award for his work while assigned to his home district.

"Last year, the New York district was tasked to build critical public facilities in Joplin, Mo., following the tornado devastation there," he said. "I spent 63 days in Joplin helping with the construction of two

temporary fire houses and eight temporary schools. Because of the work we did, school opened on time which helped the children return to a somewhat normal schedule.”

Ice was the only New York Federal Executive Board award recipient for the 2011 Emergency Preparedness and Employee Safety Award.

“He also won the New York District’s Safety Employee of the Year award for 2011,” said Bruce Barrett, his supervisor in Afghanistan.

“I worked with Jeff during the Joplin [Mo.] recovery effort and was extremely impressed with his performance, so I encouraged him to volunteer for work in Afghanistan,” said Barrett. “He’s the first employee I’ve ever had in a safety office who won a Federal Executive Board award. It reflects his knowledge and performance each day as a safety professional.”

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/88377/usace-employee-wins-emergency-preparedness-and-employee-safety-award#ixzz1vnS9y4fs>

Turnover Corps of Engineers transfers maintenance to Afghans



Air Force Maj. Mike Brannon helped write the curriculum for training in operations and maintenance so that Afghan forces can manage newly constructed buildings. (Photo by Joe Marek)

By Paul Giblin, USACE Afghanistan Engineer District - North

KABUL – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers marked two significant milestones during March in the difficult task of transferring ownership of newly constructed buildings to the Afghan government.

The events:

Kabul's Vocational Technical Training School graduated its second class of Afghan trainees in construction and property management on March 18. Corps of Engineers officials worked closely with the school's faculty members to design and run the six-month course, which produced 58 new graduates.

Corps of Engineers officials handed over nearly all operations and maintenance duties to Afghan forces at Darulaman Garrison, an Afghan army training base on the south side of Kabul, on March 1. The turnover marked the largest transition of its type to date.

"Actually, I would say it's the culmination of several really good months," said Cheryle Hess, who serves as chief of the Operations and Maintenance Division for the Corps of Engineers in northern Afghanistan.

The primary difficulty in transferring operations and maintenance duties of newly constructed buildings to Afghans is that after three decades of war and economic stagnation, the country simply does not have enough qualified property management professionals to do the job.

Meanwhile, there's an acute – and growing – need for skilled operations and maintenance workers.

The Corps of Engineers is producing hundreds of police stations, military bases and other infrastructure projects for Afghan forces across the country. The inventory includes barracks, dining facilities, office buildings, gyms, storage facilities and more. Someone has to maintain those buildings after the Americans hand over the keys.

As a result, the Corps of Engineers has taken on the responsibility of teaching operations and maintenance skills to hundreds of workers.

The agency's military personnel and civilian employees teach those skills themselves, and they've partnered with Afghan colleges and vocational schools and outside contractors to train even more workers.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Mike Brannon worked closely with the Vocational Technical Training School's administrators to write the curriculum and to run it properly. The program was designed specifically so that graduates would be qualified to maintain the inventory of buildings that the Corps of Engineers is building.

Brannon, who serves as the Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance deputy chief of training and transition, based the curriculum on the Air Force's operations and maintenance program, which he previously taught in the United States. The program features six trades: plumber, electrician, carpenter, painter, mason, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians.

"There are several hundred tasks per trade, and they're adapted for Afghanistan," said Brannon, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, who's on a yearlong assignment in Afghanistan, and whose home station is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

The list of tasks range from simple jobs to complex jobs. For example, the coursework for plumbers ranges from cleaning out a drain to installing a toilet. "It gets specific, because you want them to truly show proficiency at each task," Brannon said.

Special considerations had to be made for the trainees, who were recruited by the Afghan ministries of defense and the interior. An essential first step was providing basic instruction in literacy and numerology. Just 28.1 percent of Afghan adults can read and write, according to figures compiled by the Central Intelligence Agency.

"We got the students in and started to teach them. I had carpenters who had never seen numbers – period. They had never used a tape measure, never seen words. I mean, they're from the hills of Afghanistan," Brannon said.

Before the instruction, many trainees had compensated for their lack of formal education by using pieces of string to gage comparative measurements. They used that method to determine the length of lumber, bricks and other building materials.

"They made their own bricks. They piled their bricks the way their father and grandfather piled bricks before them. Now we're trying to teach them the ability to maintain the structures that we've built, which are a little bit more complicated than that," Brannon said.

The U.S.-funded structures are outfitted with features such as concrete floors, door knobs, indoor plumbing and electric power, which are completely new and unfamiliar amenities for many Afghans. Before teaching trainees how to fix leaky water faucets, instructors had to teach them how faucets function.

Likewise, many of the recruits had no prior experience with electric power tools, Brannon said. "Obviously, there's a lot of safety training that goes with that. Having a saw that spins by itself and that can cut your fingers off? That was an issue," he said. The instruction went mostly well. A few of the trainees accidentally severed the cords of their own tools, but not their fingers.

Overall, 58 members of the 60-member second class graduated, which marked a significant increase in the success rate compared to the first class, Brannon said. The Afghan government's recruiting techniques for the first class of 60 was somewhat suspect.

"They waited until the last minute," said Brannon, who speaks Dari, which is Afghanistan's primary language. "They pulled the troops literally off the street. We had two guys who said they were standing at a bus station and people in uniform came up and said, 'Hey, would you like a job?' They put them on a bus and brought them to Kabul. They were recruited at a bus station," Brannon said.

Others had similarly lacking qualifications.

In contrast, the second class of recruits was more targeted. That group was comprised largely of men who already had low-level civilian jobs at Afghan military bases. Generally, they worked as janitors or errand runners. Others were tradesmen from rural areas.

Personnel to date have been Afghan civilians, though there is discussion within the Afghan government about retraining some Afghan soldiers to take on those duties, Brannon said. That decision rests entirely with Afghan government officials. Brannon also played a key role in developing the Corps of Engineers' on-the-job training program for Afghan employees.

The program is similar to the vocational school's program and features four levels of achievement for each trade: laborer, apprentice, journeyman and craftsman. The full program takes about four or five years to complete.

To date, 230 Afghans have been certified as craftsmen, while 501 others are enrolled in the program at 15 facilities across the northern portion of the country, he said.

Furthermore, Brannon has shared the program with other U.S. and coalition agencies in Afghanistan to ensure a uniform approach.

"The ultimate goal is transition," Brannon said. "We want the Afghans to be able to maintain and sustain all the things that we've built."

The focus on operations and maintenance also could help steady the Afghan workforce as U.S. and coalition forces prepare to withdraw from the Afghanistan during the next few years.

The United States and other NATO countries have created thousands of construction jobs for Afghans during a nearly 10-year construction blitz, but that building boom is all but certain to end, or at least shrink dramatically, when U.S. and coalition forces pull out. A portion of those construction workers, however, could transfer to operations and maintenance jobs, Brannon said.

In the meantime, the Corps of Engineers has been successful in turning over buildings to Afghan forces.

Previously, nearly all of the operations and maintenance functions had been contracted to a U.S. company that was required to hire, train and eventually transition the work to Afghans. Corps of Engineers officials have been pushing the pace of transition.

Rather than adding new buildings to the list for the U.S. contractor to maintain, the Corps of Engineers has started to sign over buildings directly to the Afghan government, with the expectation that the newly trained property managers can assume responsibility for their upkeep immediately, Brannon said.

The process is working well, he said.

“It turns out that the guys were paying attention. They understand how to operate and maintain these bases. They just hadn’t had to do it,” Brannon said.

“What we’re finding is that as we’re removing buildings from the contract, giving them to the Afghans, they like being able to control their own destiny,” he said.

The changeover at Darulaman Garrison was an important step in the overall transition process. Afghan forces have taken responsibility for nearly every building on the complex. To ensure that the mission didn’t suffer, coalition forces retained oversight of the power plant, the water plant and the waste water plant to allow for more training on those complex systems.

“The lines that go to the buildings, the lines that go in the buildings, that’s all in the Afghans’ hands. Our contractors don’t go inside the buildings anymore,” Brannon said.

There are 167 buildings at Darulaman. The U.S. maintains just 10. Based on that success, the Corps of Engineers has been increasing the pace of turning over other projects to the Afghans across the country, said Hess, who’s also on a temporary assignment in Afghanistan, and otherwise serves as the chief of Installation Logistics for the Army at the Pentagon.

Overall, Afghan forces have taken the operations and maintenance at 1,061 buildings since November 2011. “It’s been breathtaking to see how fast and how well the Afghans have been able to take over O&M responsibilities at a lot of places,” she said.

<http://www.aed.usace.army.mil/AEN-Index.asp>

Briefs ---

Afghan National Police district headquarters



Pictured is an example of a uniformed police district headquarters project. Afghanistan Engineer District-North contracting officials recently awarded \$43.77 million in contracts. The Corps of Engineers is the primary organization building military bases, police stations, roads, air strips and other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to increase the country's stability, security and economy. (Photo by Joe Marek)

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/image/586007/afghan-national-police-district-headquarters#ixzz1vnPITAqu>

Two USACE civilians receive the Defense of Freedom Medal in Afghanistan



U.S. Army Col. Christopher Martin, commander of the Afghanistan Engineer District North congratulates John Keys, 52, from Fairbanks, Alaska and Jacob West, 30, from Fayetteville, N.C., U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, commander of the Transatlantic Division presented the with the Defense of Freedom Medal, March 31 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Both men were injured when an improvised explosive device detonated while conducting a combined mounted and dismounted road improvement survey near Paktika province, injuring both and killing two U.S. service members, Navy Chief Petty Officer Raymond J. Border, 31, of West Lafayette, Ohio, and Army Staff Sgt. Jorge M. Oliveria, 33, of Newark, N.J, while serving on a Providential Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan. The medal is equivalent to the Purple Heart for who are killed or wounded in the line of duty. The medal symbolizes the extraordinary fidelity and essential service of the department's civilian workforce who are an integral part of Department of Defense and who contribute to the preservation of national security.

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/image/553357/two-usace-civilians-receive-defense-freedom-medal-afghanistan#ixzz1vnQHGOkz>

District Completes Humanitarian Assistance Projects in Middle East

By Middle East District

The recent completion of several school renovations in Lebanon and the construction of two medical clinics in Jordan are only the latest examples of work the Middle East District has performed in support of U.S. Central Command's humanitarian efforts.



Two medical clinics were recently completed in Jordan to provide humanitarian health assistance for some of the country's residents in rural areas. USACE photo.



A plaque at the Haret Sakher School reads: "This center is dedicated to the people of Lebanon and reflects a strong partnership between the Lebanese and American People."