

In-Bound Personnel Guide

12 April 2004



Welcome to the USACE Afghanistan Engineer District!



Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Letter from the Commander	3
Introduction	4
Life at TAC House	6
Shopping	8
Communications	9
Mailing Address	10
Physical Fitness	10
Security	11
Working at AED	12
Important Items/To Do List	13
Recommended Packing List	14
Transiting to Afghanistan	15
Arrival in Afghanistan	18
TAC House Rules	19
TAC House Phone List	21
Room Assignment Policy	22
AED Overview Briefing	23
AED Support in Outlying Areas	26



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AFGHANISTAN ENGINEER DISTRICT
Kabul, Afghanistan
APO AE 09356



Subject: Letter from the Commander

1. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your interest in helping us rebuild the country of Afghanistan in our fight in the Global War on Terrorism. Our mission here is not routine. It is significant. It is challenging. And it has an immediate impact on the success or failure of the US strategy in combating terrorism. I can assure you that your stay here will be demanding yet incredibly fulfilling. It is vital that those who deploy here be able to not only work in a demanding combat zone environment, but also work as a team.
2. Duty here is not for the faint of heart. This country has been absolutely devastated and living and working conditions can be harsh. We operate in an “expeditionary” environment, usually working seven days a week with occasional time off. It is physically and mentally demanding with a constant concern for personal safety. But hard work is rewarded. You will see tangible progress daily. And as a rule, the Afghan people are profoundly grateful for our presence and our efforts to help them achieve peace and security after 25 years of war.
3. Our work here spans the full spectrum of engineering. At one time or another we have been responsible for everything from erecting tents and filling sandbags to constructing entire installations. We are directly responsible for the day-to-day quality of life for the fledgling Afghan National Army as well as building their new facilities. We are also building new facilities for US Forces and will participate in other economic development and humanitarian projects sponsored by USAID, other donor nations, and our Department of Defense. Our role is expanding to include reconstruction efforts. We anticipate playing a major role in redeveloping Afghanistan’s infrastructure. The potential role for the Corps of Engineers is absolutely boundless and will continue to grow as we make those we support successful.
4. This handbook describes life in Afghanistan as we know it today. As we expand our program and finish major work in the capital area, we will open a new chapter in the history of the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED). In just a few months, we expect to open resident offices in several other Afghan cities in outlying provinces. We will again face the challenge of operating in a new environment under austere conditions. On 1 March 2004 we officially transitioned from an area office to AED.
5. Again, I thank you for your interest and I hope to welcome you to the Afghanistan Engineer District in the near future. You will be an integral part of the history of the new Afghanistan and our fight against terrorism – *Essayons!*

Colonel Richard L. Conte
Commander

Introduction to Afghanistan

So, you've just heard that you will be deployed to Afghanistan to work at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District in support of Operation Enduring Freedom? Don't panic. It's not that bad...(really). We've decided to publish this handy little guide to help make the trip here and your time at the AED a little easier and more fulfilling. This guide is the culmination of trials and tribulations (and travel horror stories) of those who have gone before you in making this journey. Remember, those who do not remember history, are doomed to repeat it (or something like that). Pay heed.

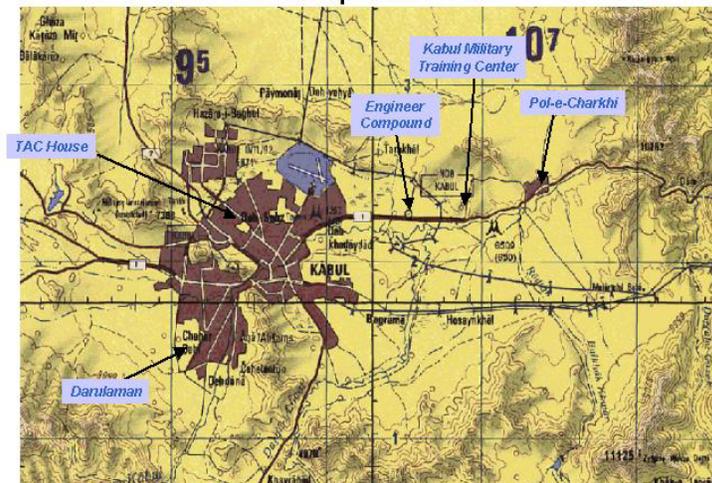
Orientation/Lay Of The Land



The Afghanistan Engineer District is located in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, but we have personnel stationed throughout the country. Situated in Southern Asia, it is a landlocked country roughly the size of Texas. Afghanistan is high desert and similar in appearance to the desert surrounding Las Vegas, but at a much higher altitude. Afghanistan's recent history is characterized by war and civil unrest. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 but was forced to withdraw 10 years later by anti-Communist Mujahadeen forces supplied and trained by the US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and others. Fighting subsequently continued among the various Mujahadeen factions, giving rise to

a state of warlord-ism that eventually spawned the Taliban. Backed by foreign sponsors, the Taliban developed as a political force and eventually seized power. The Taliban were able to capture most of the country, aside from Northern Alliance strongholds primarily in the northeast, until US and allied military action in support of the opposition following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks forced the group's downfall. In late 2001, major leaders from the Afghan opposition groups and Diaspora (or expatriate Afghanis) met in Bonn, Germany and agreed on a plan for the formulation of a new government structure that resulted in the inauguration of Hamid Karzai as Chairman of the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) on 22 December 2001. The AIA held a nationwide Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) in June 2002, and Karzai was

Map Overview



elected President by secret ballot of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan (TISA). The Transitional Authority has an 18-month mandate to hold a nationwide Loya Jirga to adopt a constitution and a 24-month mandate to hold nationwide elections. In December 2002, the TISA marked the one-year anniversary of the fall of the Taliban. In addition to occasionally violent political jockeying and ongoing military action to root out remaining terrorists and Taliban elements, the country suffers from enormous poverty, a crumbling infrastructure, and widespread land mines.¹ TAC House is located near the center of Kabul and 1.5 miles west of the US Embassy. The main US military presence, the Kabul Compound, is located less than a mile from TAC House and is where the senior US military staff in Kabul works. The Kabul Compound is also where TAC House residents can send mail home, work out in the gym, visit the health clinic, get haircuts, fuel up vehicles, use the small BX/PX, and take advantage of the free laundry service. Travel to and from Kabul Compound requires a minimum of two people, one of who must be a shooter (military person with a pistol or rifle).

Afghanistan is divided into three geographic regions. The elevation ranges from 500 feet above sea level in the Southwestern Plateau to 25,000 feet in the northeast mountains. Afghanistan has a mostly dry climate marked by seasonal, regional, and daily temperature extremes. The country also has the "Wind of 120 Days," which blows from June through September at velocities that occasionally exceed 110 mph. In the west, mean daily maximum temperatures in summer (April through September) and winter (October through March) generally are 20°F warmer than those in Kabul where extreme winter highs and lows are 100°F and -4°F, respectively. Countrywide, the extreme summer high temperature is 118°F in the west, and the extreme low temperature is -4°F in Kabul. The rainy season lasts from October through April. Although rainfall usually is scant, periodic heavy rains combined with melting snow have caused flooding. Generally, no area receives more than 15 inches of rain annually.² For more information go to: <http://www.culturalorientation.net/afghan/atoc.html>



Mark Koenig and Rod Staunton with ANA soldiers
at Pol-e-Charkhi

The mission at TAC House is primarily one of rebuilding the Afghan National Army's infrastructure, to include troop barracks, dining facilities, firing ranges, roads, classrooms, sanitation facilities, and other utilities. We also executed a road reconstruction project from Kabul to Khandahar. Our main areas of concentration at this time are the Pol-e-Charkhi Afghan National Army (ANA) installation, the Kabul Military

¹ CIA World Factbook 2002

² The Soldier's Guide to Staying Healthy in Afghanistan.

Training Center, the Darualaman ANA installation, and ANA training and firing ranges. Most job sites are no more than a thirty-minute drive from the TAC House and we have a fleet of commercially leased non-tactical SUVs. In the next several years, we are expecting our main focus to shift to other planned locations for ANA installations such as Kandahar, Herat, and Gardez.

Life at TAC House

Meals

All things considered, life in Kabul at the TAC House is pretty comfortable. Apart from the obvious challenge of being far from family and friends (and living in a third world country with a shattered infrastructure), TAC House has most of the comforts of home. We employ two full-time cooks and our groceries are trucked in weekly from Bagram Air Base to ensure quality and sanitation. It is prepared on sight in our kitchen under the supervision of military staff. Most TAC House residents agree that the food is top notch compared to your typical Army meal. Daily meals served at TAC House include a hot breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. and dinner at 5:30 p.m. with lunch consisting either of a pre-packaged MRE, light snacks, or a visit to one of the other foreign military chow halls in Kabul. The on-going favorites are the Italian, Canadian, and German Army mess halls, all of which are conveniently near our work sites. Aside from regular meals, TAC House is usually chocked full of snacks, instant noodles, coffee, tea, soft drinks, popcorn, juices, Gatorade, candy, ice cream, you name it. Eating at local restaurants is not allowed due to security, a serious shortage of potable water in country, lack of proper sanitation, and high rates of dysentery and other food borne diseases.



**MAJ Dave Barnhart and MSG Ken Cunningham
working the grill at a Friday BBQ**

Fridays in Afghanistan are holy days for Muslims, so a lot of the job sites are operating on shorter workdays with skeleton crews and staffs. TAC House residents are encouraged to take it easy on Fridays and we put on a barbeque for residents and any guests from the area. Standard fare for the barbeque has included steaks, Alaskan crab legs, lobster tails, corn on the cob, hamburgers and hot dogs. Volleyball and basketball are a favorite past time on Fridays here.

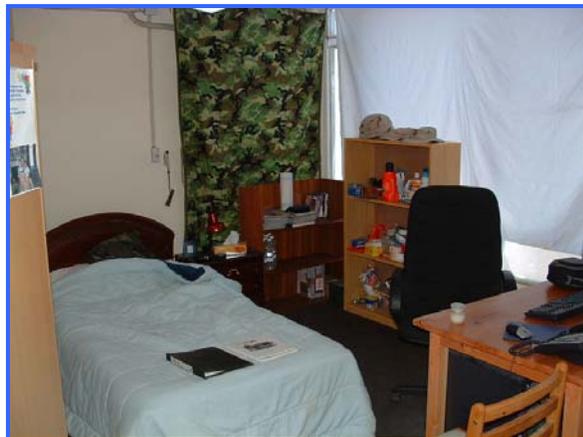
AED Quarters



TAC House now consists of two adjacent compounds in central Kabul. The original TAC House, pictured on the title page, was formerly the headquarters of CBS News in Afghanistan. We recently leased a large villa that was formerly occupied by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (left). It is adjacent to the original compound and has been refurbished for use as office space, conference areas, an on-site gymnasium room, and residences. This addition greatly increased our

footprint here and eased past overcrowding with three-to-a-room situations. Personnel can be assigned single rooms based on their arrival date and length of tour at AED, but the majority of personnel can expect to be in two-person rooms.

Some of the residential rooms contain high-speed Internet hook-ups piped through a satellite uplink. Many rooms have telephones linked with TAC in Winchester via voice over IP (VoIP). Internet speeds consistently range from 150kbps to 250 kbps, a miracle by Afghan standards. Many rooms have either a Dell Desktop computer or a laptop and most have DVD players. AED employees can enjoy watching DVDs, sending e-mails, or surfing the Internet in their spare time.



We also recently installed heating and air conditioning in all the rooms in the original house and plans are to expand eventually throughout the new compound. This was a popular upgrade considering the sweltering summers and frosty winters that can occur here.

Kabul city power is spotty at best, so we rely on two recently purchased 100-kva generators (left) to supply our power (with city power as a backup.) Most electrical connections are European 220v with the double round-prong plugs. We do have some 110v power converters, but it is a good idea to bring plug adapters for your appliances and electronics that work on both standards (110 and 220).

Both houses contain several large bathrooms with showers and waits for the bathroom are usually pretty short. You will need to supply your own toiletries and personal comfort items. Soap and shampoo are not supplied, but many care packages from home contain these types of items so they are not in short supply here. Shower shoes or flip flops are a must.

Bed sheets are supplied here but many folks either bring a blanket and pillow along or purchase one at a local bazaar or at the BX/PX at either Camp Phoenix, a short drive away from TAC House here in Kabul, or Bagram Air Base, an hour and ten minutes away (more on Bagram later). Our staff just purchased a new supply of beds to accommodate incoming personnel so no one should have to use a cot.

There are presently two washing machines located at TAC House. They are fairly complicated beasts and nothing like we are used to in the States. Most folks take their laundry to the Kabul Compound where it is washed and folded by a local contractor and returned usually one to three days later. Laundry bags with identification unique to TAC House are provided for your use. We also employ a house boy who will wash and line dry uniforms and fold them for two dollars a set, a good deal even by Afghan standards. Kabul Compound will not allow you to send your DCUs to the contracted laundry service due to security considerations.



You can expect to have a roommate when you get here. Accommodations are comfortable but may be tight. Sleeping/quiet hours are from 10:00 pm to 6:00 a.m., but some folks may work late and sleep a little later than others. There is one formation per week for accountability reasons and to disseminate important information to the group. There is also a Sunday house meeting where we discuss house related issues. And of course, there are nightly engineering and contracting meetings as well as regular VTCs with the States. Cleanliness is important here due to the dust problem. TAC House residents are expected to clean up after themselves and keep general areas clean in the vicinity of their rooms in order to keep down trash and not allow for rodent and insect problems to develop.

Shopping in Afghanistan

Bring plenty of one- and five-dollar bills when you come to Afghanistan. Depending on the security situation here, there are weekly bazaars held at local military installations where local Afghan vendors sell their wares to coalition forces at low prices. The vendors rarely have correct change and it may be tough to get small bills at the Army finance office. Favorite items



found at the local bazaars include fine woodcarvings, jewelry, DVDs, CDs, Afghan clothing, traditional wool and silk rugs, electronics, etc. Bargains abound, but prepare to haggle, haggle, and haggle. It is a time-honored ritual among the vendors and it is expected. Aside from shopping at the bazaars, we usually make a run every week to Bagram Air Base, an hour and ten minutes from TAC House. There is a BX/PX at Bagram, one at Camp Phoenix about twenty minutes away, and a small one at Kabul Compound within five minutes which contain almost any of the essentials you'll need here on a daily basis. If you are not along for the ride to Bagram, Camp Phoenix, or Kabul Compound, a fellow housemate who may be going can get what you need.

Communications

TAC House is one of the best connected places in Kabul and our satellite Internet hookup is the envy of the military community here. Internet service is reliable and nearly as fast as what you are probably used to at your district or division. Most rooms have computers

and there are several desktops available in the offices for use after business hours.



We also have satellite television in our day room and we presently get Fox News, Sky News (UK), MTV India, ESPN India, Starz movie channels, the National Geographic Channel, and a few more. We also receive the Armed Forces Network via satellite and these channels include AFN Sports, an all news channel, and several entertainment channels.

We recently installed DSN calling capability to TAC House. This important and timely upgrade allows us to make official DSN calls around the world and also allows us to make morale calls to loved ones in the States via any DSN operator near your home or with a calling card by calling the long distance carrier's 800 number in the States. You can also receive calls in your room via a commercial Virginia (540) phone number at TAC that will route through our satellite here. Keep in mind there is a substantial time difference of 9.5 hours from Eastern Standard Time (8.5 hours from Eastern Daylight Savings Time). (See phone list on page 21.) The half hour difference in Afghanistan is attributable to the fact that the country straddles two time zones (GMT +4 and GMT +5) and they probably decided to split the difference.

Go to this site for the current Kabul time:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=113>

We do have several Iridium satellite phones for use at remote job sites, when traveling, and for emergencies. Although these are primarily for work-related calling, they can be used in an emergency to contact family members in the States if the DSN lines are down and if there are no cell phones available.

Many folks here also have TAC House-issued Afghan cell phones for work use. They can be used for personal use to call loved ones in the States or receive calls from the States in an emergency. The only catch if you use the cell phones for personal use is that you must pay for the airtime by purchasing Afghan phone cards. There is no charge to receive calls on the cell phones. Cell phone reception in Afghanistan can be spotty with the local system somewhat oversubscribed, so this method of communications is not always the most dependable. With our dependable DSN and stateside calling capability though, communicating with colleagues, friends, and loved ones in the States is relatively easy.

Due to the vast distances for the satellite downlink to the States, there can occasionally be a slight time delay of up to three seconds in conversing. It can be annoying but a relatively minor distraction if you keep it in mind.

US mail arrives via Bagram Air Base and is trucked down to Kabul Compound. TAC House then makes daily runs to bring the mail to TAC House for distribution. Average times for mailing packages has been two to three weeks and letters seven to ten days. You can mail flat envelopes and letters (up to 13 ounces) free of charge. Larger packages are assessed at standard US postal rates. No package sent from here or to here can exceed 130 inches total dimension (length + circumference) and all packages are subject to inspection by postal authorities. Packages from home are big morale boosters here and many folks send items they purchase at the bazaars home.

Mailing Address (APO)

*Your Name (no rank)
US Army Corps of Engineers
Afghanistan Engineer District
Attn: TAC House
APO AE 09356*

Mailing Address (FEDEX)

*Your Name (no rank)
US Army Corps of Engineers
TAC House
Chara-e-Shirpar
Next to UNAMA Compound
Kabul, Afghanistan*

Physical Fitness



Mike Maynard setting the pace on our treadmill

TAC House has its own small work out room complete with a high quality treadmill, exercise bike, Bowflex machine, and DVD player. There are also some free weights, and more equipment will be added in the future. There is a larger gym located at the Kabul Compound, a five-minute drive from TAC House. Additionally, Camp Phoenix, about twenty minutes from here, has a nice gym and running area, although travel there is not allowed except in conjunction with other mission essential/duty activity.

Security

Afghanistan is still designated by DoD as a combat zone. US and coalition forces occasionally engage enemy Taliban and Al Qaeda remnants trying to regroup near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. This area is several hours away from Kabul. It is generally agreed that the greater Kabul area (which includes the majority of our current job sites but not necessarily future job sites) is the safest area in Afghanistan. The threat remains though, so be vigilant. With that said, TAC House remains vigilant and wary of threats to our personnel and operations, and we provide updates to personnel on the threat on an as-needed basis. We have our own Military Intelligence and Force Protection military officers who stay abreast of the situation via liaison with other coalition FP and intelligence officials, providing the residents with regular updates and security advisories.

The Afghan people are generally supportive of the mission here and often point to the fact that it is the foreign influence from radical Islamic states that causes the majority of problems in the region. A 5,000-strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from NATO patrols the greater Kabul area 24 hours a day. There are over 10,000 US forces in the country as well and an ever-increasing Afghan National Army presence.

Like any third world country (and many first world countries), terrorist incidents do occur here and AED remains vigilant. You will be briefed thoroughly on security issues when you arrive at TAC House. All steps will be taken to ensure your personal security here.



At TAC house we are enclosed in a walled, gated compound in a relatively “upscale” section of Kabul and protected 24 hours a day by a staff of armed contract guards cleared through the US Embassy. In addition, the US military personnel with AED are also armed. Our Intelligence/Force Protection team supervises the guard staff.

Traveling to and from the Kabul area job sites requires that all vehicles have at least one armed US military person. Journeys outside of the ISAF-patrolled greater Kabul area require two vehicle convoys with at least two armed military soldiers per vehicle, at least one of those being armed with a rifle.

Uniform Wear and Appearance

All military and civilian residents of TAC are required to properly wear the complete Desert Camouflage Uniform (DCU) during work hours. Civilian attire is permissible after duty hours around the house, or on Fridays during shopping trips. All personnel are required to wear their standard issue body armor when traveling in vehicles. The Kevlar helmet must also be in the vehicle. Working on some of the job sites may occasionally require wear of the body armor and Kevlar. When you arrive, you will be told where it is specifically required as situations change. For civilians, there are no regulations that govern hair length or beard wear, but respect for the local Islamic customs goes a long way to help you maintain a low profile here. For both military and civilian personnel,

proper wear and appearance of the uniform is required. You can expect to be corrected if you are out in an improper or incomplete uniform.

Working at the Afghanistan Engineer District (AED)

Working in this environment is challenging and rewarding. The Corp's primary role here is the reconstruction of the Afghan National Army's infrastructure so that Afghanistan will have a strong, professional national army as opposed to the factionalism and civil war caused by decades of warlord-ism. Your assignment may be in Kabul, Kandahar, Bagram, Gardez, other potential project sites, or one of several Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) sites located throughout the country. Outside of the Kabul office COE workers may share facilities/tents with military personnel, both US and Coalition. Conditions are more austere than Kabul, but the work is just as rewarding and important.

We work with several large U.S. primary construction contractors as well as many smaller local and regional contractors. Most of our job sites involve construction of Afghan Army compounds, training areas, ranges, billeting, dining halls, shower points, latrines, roads, sanitation facilities, wells, and support buildings. Our engineers, designers, architects, contract specialists, quality assurance inspectors, and security forces put in long hours at job sites and then return to the TAC House for several more hours of office work every night. There are no real days off except for Friday afternoons and evenings. The days are long, but the mission keeps us so busy that time seems to fly by.



**CDR AED and MOD Engr General Officer
Discuss methods to Salvage damaged buildings**



ANA Facilities are in Disrepair

Important Items/To Do List

After you get your orders and you know for sure you'll be coming here to Kabul, you should do the following as soon as possible in preparation for the trip:

1) **Get an Official U.S. Government Passport.** Your district or division should have a passport representative who can assist you in this endeavor. You will need this passport when you check in for your flight to Germany in transit to Afghanistan. You will also need it upon your arrival in Germany. Civilian employees must have this passport. Military can get by on their orders and military ID card, but an official or tourist passport is always handy as a backup. Also, ensure that TAC sends a country clearance notification of your planned arrival to the US Embassy in Afghanistan. Your command can help with this. There are no visa requirements for official travel in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The process of obtaining an official passport can take a month or more. There is only one government passport office, the Special Issuance Agency in Washington, D.C., for processing official passport applications. Do not attempt to visit your local passport office in any other major city. They cannot help you and will refer you to the D.C. office anyway. This will be a "no-fee" passport, but your commander or other appropriate official in the district may have to provide written verification when requesting the official passport. You will have to complete the application and enclose two passport photos. The costs you may incur in getting photos and mailing the application are reimbursable on your travel voucher.

More answers on official passports can be found at: <http://travel.state.gov/sia.html>.

2) **Get as many of the immunizations you will need before arriving at the CONUS Replacement Center.** Currently the following vaccinations will be given for those deploying to Afghanistan: Hepatitis A, influenza, typhoid, yellow fever, Td (tetanus-diphtheria), polio, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), and smallpox. Contrary to popular myth, rumor, and urban legend, anthrax immunizations are only required for active duty military but not for civilian employees traveling to Afghanistan. It will do you a world of good to get as many of these shots as possible before you get to the TAC CONUS Replacement Center (CRC) (or other CRC as applicable). A few people who have gotten many (and sometimes all) shots at once at the CRC have fainted or felt queasy during the injections. It can also be a little painful for some. It's much better to spread them out over a few trips to your local military clinic. Trust us on this one.

This website will provide more medical information for Afghanistan deployments:

<http://www.hooah4health.com/environment/deployment/afghanistan.htm>

Check with your local military health clinic to validate the requirements for all immunizations. Requirements always seem to be changing and the above information may change. Make sure all immunizations taken for deployment are documented properly, or you may have to do the whole process again at the CRC.

3) **Ensure that you have a proper security clearance or start the process to obtain or update a clearance if that is required.**

4) **Contact us and let us know you are coming.** If you are interested in making additional contact with someone in Afghanistan, contact the Deputy District Commander (currently LTC John Guenther, e-mail: john.v.guenther@tac01.usace.army.mil) or the Deputy District Engineer for Program Management (currently Mr. David Burford, e-mail: david.a.burford@tac01.usace.army.mil) and provide your assignment and date of arrival. We will assign you a point of contact who can answer any questions you may have and assist you in your arrival here.

Recommended Packing List

Weather in Kabul is one of extremes. Depending on the time of year you are coming, you can expect to encounter temperatures ranging from below freezing to 115 Degrees Fahrenheit. There are dust storms that can blow for days and the lack of humidity tends to dry the skin and lead to a hacking cough and sinus problems for newcomers. The rainy season is in the spring, and the summers are hot and arid. Kabul, Afghanistan, is a high desert plain with an altitude of around 5,800 feet, so it can get cold in the winter.

You should ensure that your deployment orders read “Excess Baggage Authorized.” You will need to claim extra baggage on your travel voucher.

Many people deploying here pack things in a durable plastic footlocker and either ship it ahead of time, or lug it with them on the plane. There are pros and cons to having a footlocker here. It may be convenient if it has rollers/wheels, and it provides you with a place to lock any valuables in your room (theft and room security has not been a problem here though). On the other hand you will have to haul a large footlocker from your home, through the CRC, to the airport, and around the world if you don't FedEx it. There is a lot to be said for packing light. It's up to you.

Upon arrival at TAC House you will have ample access to computers, either a laptop issued to you, a desktop in your room, or a computer in the office or computer room. There is no need to bring a personal or work laptop.

Life at TAC House is not exactly like roughing it in the wilderness. In reality, TAC House is located on two large comfortable compounds in Kabul and is considered to be premium military housing here among the deployed community in Afghanistan. The amenities you will need here are available in the area BX/PX's.

The following packing list provides you some suggestions. Keep in mind that access to the BX/PX is readily available and they are fairly well stocked with the needed amenities to include things like contact lens care items. If you need something, you can almost for sure find it there. Note: These are recommended suggestions only. None of these items can be claimed on a TDY voucher as a required expense.

- *2-3 sets of civilian attire. You'll wear Desert Camouflage Uniforms (DCUs) during duty time, but you'll need civvies if you are stuck waiting for a flight anywhere outside of a military air base. You may also want civilian attire to lounge around in during off-duty time. Bring sweaters if you will be here through Winter (December through February generally).*

- *Toiletries/personal comfort items – what you need to get you through until you can get to the BX/PX. Some bring a large supply, but that is not necessary.*
- *Shower Shoes. Athlete's Foot. Enough said.*
- *Athletic workout attire if you are so inclined.*
- *Medications. 60 day supply at least. Depending on the medication you may want to consider bringing enough for the entire period of deployment. Some pharmaceuticals may not be readily available for refill.*
- *Check book. You can normally cash checks up to \$400 a month at Kabul Compound, Phoenix Compound, and Bagram AB. Of that you can get up to \$200 in US currency. The rest will be either Afghan currency or the Eagle Cash Card which can be used at the BX/PX and its concessions and the Post Office. There are no ATMs. You might want cash to purchase items at local bazaars. Also, brings lots of one and five dollar bills for the bazaars. Most items cost only a few dollars and it is hard to get change sometimes.*
- *Blanket/small pillow if you desire to bring them. They are issued here also.*
- *Flashlight (power can go out). The little 2 x AA Maglites are handy.*
- *Leatherman/Knife.*
- *Military: A comfortable holster for the 9mm Beretta if that is your issue weapon. You do get issued one at TAC.*
- *Packing tape (it can be hard to find here). You'll want to send boxes home.*
- *A small footlocker or lockable container for valuables.*
- *Digital camera (photo processing for standard cameras is difficult). Sending e-mail pictures is a big morale booster.*
- *Laundry bag with your nametape sewn on may come in handy. Specific laundry bags for TAC laundry service will be available here.*
- *Desert Cold Weather Boots (if your tour is in the winter, these will be issued at CRC).*
- *Pepto-Bismol/Immodium AD. Your intestinal system may require it.*
- *Reading material if you are so inclined.*
- *Plastic garbage bags to line your packed duffle bags. They may sit outside in inclement weather while waiting to be palletized and loaded onto aircraft.*

Beginning Your Journey

Be sure to have six (6) copies of your travel orders with you as you begin your journey to Afghanistan. You may need to show or give a copy to airline representatives, AMC representatives, etc. and you will eventually have to file copies with travel claims. Also carry your CAC card and passport with you for identity verification.

Getting into Theater

The current transportation process when deploying from the TAC CRC is to catch the *Patriot Express* flight from Baltimore-Washington International Airport. TAC will get people manifested on this flight which departs BWI on Sundays. With several intermediate stops on the way, it ends up at Manas International Airport Aerial Point of Departure (APOD) just north of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. From there you will need to get manifested on a flight to Bagram Air Base. Be patient – it may take a couple of days

before you get to Bagram AB. You might also want to check for the occasional but infrequent flight to Kabul Airport APOD. If you are lucky enough to catch one of these, it makes your travel much easier and makes it easier for us to pick you up since we don't have to go all the way to Bagram AB. **Caution: Do not confuse flying military into Kabul APOD with flying into Kabul commercially. You are not permitted to book commercial flights into Kabul International Airport for safety and security reasons.** Once you reach Bagram AB (or Kabul APOD), give one of the contacts at TAC House a call and we will arrange for transportation to TAC House. If we know you are arriving, we can also connect you with our Resident Office personnel at Bagram AB to help with your needs and arranging for overnight accommodations if you arrive late in the day and cannot catch a ride to Kabul or be picked up immediately.

Traveling Other Than With the Patriot Express Flight

If you do not fly the Patriot Express or are departing CONUS from other than TAC CRC in Winchester, Virginia, you will probably fly through Germany. This will most likely be into Rhein Main International Airport in Frankfurt. It is also possible that you will fly into Ramstein AB and then must get to Rhein Main Airbase via shuttle bus.

Upon your arrival after your all-night commercial flight from the US, you'll be bleary-eyed and confused, but don't panic - there is help. Once you get your bags and clear customs, you'll go through sliding glass doors out into the concourse lobby corridor.

NOTE: For military, you may have to show your weapon packed away in your bag or in your rifle case to a US Military Police soldier stationed at the customs desk. They may be in plain clothes, but will be easily identifiable. **HAVE YOUR PERMIT TO CARRY A WEAPON MEMORANDUM FROM CRC WITH YOU! This is critical. It will slow you down immensely if you don't.*

Look for the USO and ask them for arrangements to catch the shuttle bus to the Rhein Main Air Base side of the airport. To get to the USO from customs, go left out of the customs area, walking a couple of hundred yards or so till you run into the USO on your right. It is not totally obvious as you are passing it, so look carefully. If you leave that particular terminal concourse into the main airport lobby area, you have gone too far.

If you miss the shuttle bus or arrive at an hour or day it is not operating, or otherwise experience a senior moment, don't panic. Take a taxi (may need Euros – some will take dollars) to Rhein Main Air Base and make your way to the AMC (Air Mobility Command) Flight Terminal. The USO can help you arrange this, and they may get cheaper group transportation. Do not attempt to process into the 64th Replacement Company at Rhein Main. That is for people PCS'ing to Germany only. They will only refer you elsewhere.

Upon arrival at the AMC flight terminal, you'll need to clear security just like at civilian airports. If you are transporting a weapon, you'll need to tell them that so they can secure it while you are in the terminal. Once inside, proceed to the counter and ask when the next flight to Bagram AB is. Depending upon the day of week, you may or may not get a flight out later that day. If you don't get out right away, relax. You may be in Germany

for a few days. If you cannot catch a Bagram AB flight after three days of trying or you are told right up that there are no flights in the foreseeable future, find out if there is a Kandahar Air Base flight and take that. There are daily rotator flights from Kandahar to Bagram, but going through Kandahar can also entail delays, so it is only worthwhile if the Bagram AB flights are really scarce.

If there aren't any flights that day, proceed with your luggage (rent a pushcart at the terminal) to building #340 (Billeting), a nice walk across the installation (there are sketch maps available at the AMC terminal). Tell them you need a room in "Transient Billeting" and they will most likely assign you to Building #350, another nice walk across another part of the compound. Don't forget to sign for your your linen and towels. There are free laundry facilities, soda and snack machines, and a TV room in Bldg #350. If you are transporting a weapon, you must check it in for storage with the Air Force Security Police Armorer located in the basement of Bldg #343. You will sign your weapon in there and get a receipt. When you do get a flight out, you simply go there (open 24 hours a day) and sign your weapon out. There is a lot of walking involved. You can rent out storage lockers at the AMC terminal for \$1.00 (quarters) so that you don't have to lug all your luggage around (do not store your weapon in the lockers).

**NOTE: The Air Base has recently been renovating some of its facilities, and transient billeting may not be available. Check at the AMC terminal for information and arrangements to get to military transient billeting at Gateway Gardens (not far but not in walking distance) or to a hotel via taxi if transient billets are not currently available.*

Rhein Main has a BX, commissary, bowling alley, movie theater, car rental counter (AMC terminal), internet café, sport's bar, and an all-ranks club called the "Zeppelin Haus" that serves a decent breakfast and has a friendly bartender in the evenings who will listen to your tales of travel woe. There is also an Army dining facility across from the air terminal. If you want to call the U.S., the cheapest method is to go to the MWR building across the street from Bldg 350. There you can buy a German prepaid calling card called "Go Bananas" (no kidding). Using one of two phones in the MWR or your room phone, you can call the U.S. for 5 cents per minute (it costs \$6.00 for a 100 minute calling card). Note: Some of the specifics of the above information can change on short notice.

You should check with the AMC terminal folks often to see when flights are available. Some people have attempted to take other flights to other areas of Afghanistan like Kandahar AB and Kabul Airport APOD (**not commercial**) when Bagram flights are in short supply, but these destinations are not advised unless your wait at Rhein Main stretches longer than three days. It is better in the long run to wait on the Bagram flight since you will need to eventually get there anyway for transportation to Kabul and since there are USACE elements at Bagram AB who can help you with arrangements. Flying into Kandahar will entail you catching a rotator flight up to Bagram AB, and you will be at the mercy of their flight schedules just like at Rhein Main. In the past some folks in the same group took a flight a day ahead of others in the group who waited on the Bagram flight and they both arrived at Bagram AB at the same time.

In summary, if your wait at Rhein Main exceeds three days, then take a flight to Kandahar if that flight is available. **Do not fly into Kabul International Airport on a commercial flight.** The air terminal staff at Kandahar will assist getting you to Bagram.

** NOTE: Bring a blanket, sleeping bag, or heavy coat in your carry-on bag from Germany to Afghanistan. If you get on a C-17 flight it can get cold and it is better to be safe than freezing. A poncho liner that is issued to you at CRC can be packed into a small area and keep you warm on the flight. Also, sometimes the crew will pass out earplugs to passengers, sometimes not. Bring a set of earplugs with you in case you are on a flight where they do not provide them.*

Arrival in Afghanistan

Once you finally arrive in Bagram AB, you will need to process in at the AMC Terminal and then let us know you've arrived. If you arrive later than 2100 hrs, it's best to wait until morning to contact us since there may not be anyone readily available in the office after that time. There will be a DSN phone line in the terminal. **You can reach TAC House by dialing 312-265-3475 (Deputy District Engineer for Program Management), 312-265-3471 (Office Engineer), or 312-265-3478 (Deputy District Commander).** Your call is automatically routed back through TAC in Winchester, Virginia, and then back to Kabul via our satellite downlink. If you arrive late in the day or in the evening, we will not be able to get you down to Kabul that day. Coordinate with the terminal personnel to get a cot in the transient billeting area directly across from the flight terminal door and get some sleep. There are separate areas for males and females. The dining facility tent is located within walking distance on Disney Road and serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Ask any soldier you see and they'll direct you there. Be patient for transportation to take you from Bagram to TAC House in Kabul. With the requirement for two vehicle convoys and two shooters per vehicle, AED may take several hours to organize a convoy or to get you connected up with another convoy run already going to Kabul Compound or Camp Phoenix. If you arrive at one of these two latter locations, we will come over and pick you up at that point. Remember you are in a Combat Zone and transportation must be coordinated and safely executed. The journey to Afghanistan is half the adventure. It's certainly not like booking a United Flight to Maui. You will be amazed at the duration and weariness of the journey. Maintain a good attitude and savor that experience. Not many Americans get to serve their country in such a meaningful way. Personnel who will be assigned to one of our field offices in others parts of Afghanistan will spend several days at AED in Kabul for orientation prior to moving to their final duty location via MILAIR or convoy. For further info, go to this web site: <http://reference.allrefer.com/country-guide-study/afghanistan/>.



The Original TAC House and Motor Pool

TAC House Rules

1. For command and control purposes everyone is assigned to a squad for assigning duties and responsibilities around TAC House. Weekly formation is conducted on Wednesday morning at 0730.
2. Remember your Consideration of Others (CO2) training. Treat people as you want to be treated. Go out of your way to be courteous and considerate – regardless of your grade or position. Learn to overlook small issues and your time here will be more enjoyable for everyone.
3. If you snore – let us know before your room is assigned. **If you don't tell us or don't know or just start snoring to the point it bothers roommates, expect to be moved in with another snorer.**
4. Cleaning-up in your squad's area is your job as well as everyone else's.
5. Wear complete DCUs/BDUs correctly and protective vest when off of a US controlled compound. Also have Kevlar helmet available when you travel.
6. Travel **in** Kabul and to Pol-e-Charkhi / Darualaman - always travel in groups of two or more **with at least one member of the party being military with a weapon.** Travel outside of TAC House to other destinations is done only for official business/mission essential reasons, although stops at other compounds done in conjunction with other authorized travel in that area is permitted. This is due to security and safety considerations.
7. Travel **outside** the Kabul / Pol-e-Charkhi / Darualaman area requires two shooters per vehicle, one with a long rifle, and at least two-vehicle convoys. Must have radio communication between vehicles, GPS, and at least one iridium phone.
8. Wear hard hats or helmets on construction sites.
9. All vehicle keys go back on hooks in the office as soon as vehicles return. Remember to clean out and wash your vehicle after completing use.
10. Pick up trash, especially your own. Use trashcans. Don't leave it for others to have to clean up after you. If its on the ground/floor and shouldn't be there – pick it up and put it where it belongs.
11. Meal hours are: Breakfast 0630 to 0730, Dinner 1730 to 1830. Friday dinner is the cookout about 1630, and Sunday evening meal is 1630 to allow for the evening construction meeting and for anybody to go to worship services if they desire. Lunch is not served. Eat what is left out or provide yourself. Do not get into kitchen food stores or the storage pantry to make a lunch.

12. If the kitchen area runs out of any item, do not simply take individual portions out of the storage pantry. Put in the effort to help out by bringing in a case/box and restock what has run out.
13. Obtain a blue chemical light stick for identification purposes in case of emergency situations where no lighting/power exists or to permit emergency access to the US Embassy.
14. Use only bottled water for drinking and brushing teeth.
15. Conserve water use. Limit showers to 10 minutes in the mornings and be considerate of those following you by limiting hot water usage.
16. Do not leave personal toiletries or used water bottles in the bathrooms.
17. Keep the doors and windows closed. Flies and dust are problems.
18. **General Order No.1 – No alcohol while in theater. Not at all under any circumstances, even when visiting homes, restaurants, or other compounds. This is a fast trip home with disciplinary action involved.**
19. Cover computer keyboards when not in use. Dust is a problem.
20. Calls back to the U.S. – use common sense – keep them short and infrequent but as needed to keep the family informed. If you are someone that often catches a hard time for your decisions, you should consult someone before making calls. DSN morale calls through military bases in your home area are available. To make your normal calls home, either get calling cards, call collect, or have the calls originate from the U.S. Calling to numbers at AED in Kabul from the U.S. is just like any normal long-distance call within the U.S. The phones here are not to be used for your personal calls without using calling cards, etc.
21. Every newly arriving person will be told to make a call home upon arriving at TAC house to make sure family knows he/she has reached the final destination safely. Also provide people back home with your mailing address.
22. Be careful about purchasing clothing, footlockers and supplies and claiming on travel voucher claims – only items authorized on your orders will be reimbursed – the rest you have to purchase with your money.
23. Instructions for the house and yard local national (LN) workers should be routed through the house manager.
24. Requests for supplies/items from Winchester should be routed through the house manager (other than normal contract/project work-related items done in the normal course of business).

25. The Noncommissioned Officer in Charge will walk through TAC House as needed to ensure occupants are maintaining their living area and that furniture is in good repair. Remember, the rats you attract will affect your neighbors.
26. No smoking in any buildings. It's a fire hazard and a common courtesy to non-smokers.
27. We are not fully staffed so be a team player and be prepared to pitch in.
28. Finally, look out for each other.

TAC House Phone List

Note: To call any cell phone number listed here from the States, the caller should dial 011-93-70-XX-XXXX. You must drop the first zero from the number as listed below and add the international prefix (011) and the country code for Afghanistan (93). For example, the Commander's number is 011-93-70-20-2965. The commander authorizes morale calls using the iridium satellite phone by exception (see TAC House Rules). **Afghanistan is 9.5 Hours ahead of EST (8.5 during EDT), 12.5 ahead of PST (11.5 PDT).** In an emergency, the best way for family members or significant others to reach anyone at TAC House is first via cell phone and next through the TAC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Winchester, Virginia. The EOC will then immediately contact AED via the most expeditious means (including satellite phone) and either patch the caller through or relay a message. The Winchester TAC EOC 24-hour/7-days-a-week phone number is: (540) 665-3950.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS	POSITION	CELL PHONE	OFFICE PHONE	E-Mail Address
COL Conte, Richard	Commander	070-20-2965	540-665-3440	richard.conte@tac01.usace.army.mil
LTC Guenther, John	Deputy Commander	070-29-6629	540-665-3478	john.v.guenther@tac01.usace.army.mil
LTC Devenney, Alan	Intel Officer	070-29-6633	540-665-3441	alan.t.devenney@tac01.usace.army.mil
MAJ Carter, Darren	Logistics Officer	070-29-4272	540-665-3458	darren.m.carter@tac01.usace.army.mil
CPT Pauling, Mike	Force Protection Officer	070-20-2967	540-665-3463	michael.pauling@tac01.usace.army.mil
MSG Nemeth, John	NCOIC	070-29-2986	No Phone	john.nemeth@tac01.usace.army.mil
Burford, David	Dep Dist Engr-Prog Mgmt	070-20-6626	540-665-3475	david.a.burford@tac01.usace.army.mil
Thomas, David	Program Manager	070-20-2985	540-665-3443	david.b.thomas@tac01.usace.army.mil
Duff-Arnold, Andrea	Office Engineer	070-20-2983	540-665-3471	andrea.duff-arnold@tac01.usace.army.mil
Corace, Robert	Office Engineer	No Cell Phone	540-665-3447	robert.corace@tac01.usace.army.mil
Barr, James	Contracting Officer	No Cell Phone	540-665-3466	jim.barr@tac01.usace.army.mil
Van Beuge, Doug	IT Systems Administrator	070-20-2966	No Phone	douglas.c.vanbeuge@tac01.usace.army.mil

TAC House Room Assignment Policy

Every effort will be made to ensure all occupants of TAC House have acceptable living conditions that meet their expectations and provide rooms of the same level of quality for all assigned personnel. Unfortunately due to resource shortages not all personnel will occupy a single room. When single rooms become available and all personnel in priority 1 and 2 have been given the opportunity to occupy a single room, the next person on the order of merit list will be offered a single room.

Priority for Single Rooms

1. *Commander, Deputy Commander, Deputy District Engr for Program Mgmt*
2. *Personnel assigned in Kabul for 12 months*
3. *Personnel by time in country*

The AED chain of command will do their best to satisfy requests for roommate changes as long as all parties affected agree to the changes. When the next person on the order of merit list has the opportunity to occupy a single room and accepts it, there will not be a shift of all personnel with regards to accommodation occupancy. The person left occupying a double room will receive another roommate at a future time. Again, if a change is desired, and all affected parties agree to the arrangement, the situation may be brought to the attention of the personnel managing room assignments and they will make a decision. Room assignments will be managed by the following people in order: (1) Deputy Commander, (2) Deputy District Engineer for Program Management, and (3) NCOIC. These rules are not all inclusive due to the reality of work here in Afghanistan. For example: (1) Female room assignments may dictate considerations outside normal rules, (2) TDY visitors and other overflow may affect the process, and (3) Personnel temporarily assigned out of the Kabul area who return are inserted in the order of priority list by original date of arrival in country.

One must remember that personnel assigned to AED have some of the best living accommodations in the theater of operations, and the chain of command will do their best to ensure all personnel are taken care of. Additionally, an action to consolidate all U.S. Forces in the Kabul area could result in the closing of TAC House in the mid- to long-term future. These plans remain fluid, but future employees need to understand that the Commander will do everything within his power to obtain the highest quality of life possible for those supporting AED.

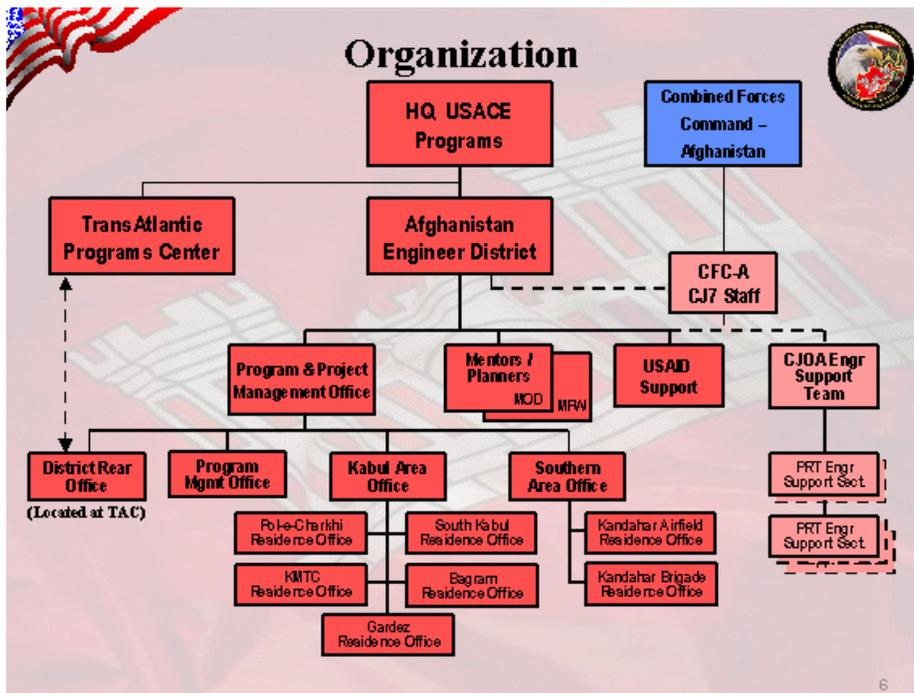
AED Overview Briefing

Afghanistan Engineer District Mission

To provide integrated USACE support, quality engineering, and construction management services to support national security, economic, and foreign policy objectives.

- ❖ Provide comprehensive engineer support to promote the objectives of the Commander, Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.
- ❖ Design and manage construction of military facilities in the theater.
- ❖ Provide design and construction management support to the Department of Defense, other Federal agencies, foreign governments, international organizations, and U.S. overseas firms in support of U.S. interests and foreign policy in Afghanistan.

3





Operational Environment



- Cultural sensitivities
- Workload
- Unskilled work force
- No contracting or banking systems
- Lack of construction capacity



- Transportation of equipment & materials
- Non-existent infrastructure
- Poverty = Corruption
- And Kabul is in “Good” shape...

9



Kabul Construction



Locations	# Bldgs Renovated	Square Meters	# New Bldgs Constructed	Square Meters	# Bldgs Under Construction	Square Meters
Palace	5	9,340	2	1,225	0	0
CGSC	1	2,300	0	0	0	0
Darualaman	3	3,141	21	11,285	47	28,387
KMTC	10	15,100	9	15,710	7	7,300
Engr Compound	2	6,858	0	0	0	0
Pol-e-Charkhi	54	26,508	101	50,423	63	48,892
Total	75	63,247	133	78,643	117	84,579



10



AED Road Ahead



- ✓ Critical Time in Afghan history
- ✓ Critical time in AED history
 - Assigned Personnel Increase
 - Expanding role
 - Transition to “*District Forward*”
 - Construction outside Kabul
- ✓ Construct a “Consolidated Kabul Compound?”
- ✓ Roads/Reconstruction Program for Afghanistan
- ✓ AED Support to PRTs/AID programs

FY04 ANA Program - \$300M+
FY04 MILCON/OMA - \$80M+

23



Commander’s Personal Philosophy



- Treat your fellow employees with respect
- Be proactive and not reactive
 - *Empowered employees have situational awareness, know their lane, and know their job*
 - *Don’t ask “what is my job” – look for “what needs to be done”*
- I’d rather see errors of commission rather than omission
- Look out for and take care of your fellow AED team members
- Mission first, troops always
- Pitch in when things need to be done
- Do your best, have fun, and above all -- *maximize the learning experience of working at AED*

24

AED support to Greater Afghanistan

With the success of construction and operational stand-up of the ANA in Kabul, AED operations are moving to areas throughout Afghanistan. Our projects will support not only DoD but also the Department of State through USAID construction projects. The complexity of these projects and challenges associated with working in remote areas will require USACE personnel to operate more on their own with limited daily guidance from Kabul and to live in more austere conditions. Future locations for deployment will include Herat, Mazar-e Sharif, and Gardez in addition to the below.

Bagram Air Field (BAF). At Bagram USACE personnel currently live in modular housing and enjoy amenities like three hot meals per day, gym, PX, and the ability to conduct physical training outdoors. A full AED field office supporting U.S. operations at BAF consists of four personnel: resident engineer, project engineer, and two QA inspectors. Current projects include a Joint Operations Center, expanded administrative space and billets, a sewage package plant, modular housing construction, and runway repair and construction.



Kandahar Air Field (KAF). Kandahar is a major city located southwest of Kabul. It is seven-hour drive or a 1.5-hour flight by C-12. Currently all personnel reside in tents, but in Sep 03 TAC awarded a \$26M project to Contrack International to upgrade billeting to modular housing. With additional funding 4,500 personnel will have a significant QOL upgrade. Like Bagram Air Base the U.S. forces stationed at KAF are stationed adjacent to the airfield and live/work in tents or facilities leftover from the Soviet occupation of the 1980's. The AED field office supporting U.S. operations at KAF consists of three personnel: resident engineer, project engineer, and a QA inspector. Additional support for the construction of an ANA Brigade installation will require six personnel: resident engineer, project engineer, two QA inspectors, a local national QA/translator, and a security specialist.

AED Support to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs). The teams have two basic functions: (1) to help strengthen the Afghan central government's influence, credibility, and ability to operate in the countryside beyond the immediate Kabul region



and (2) to assist in the removal of regional causes of instability. They attempt to promote development of a more secure environment that can better facilitate the reconstruction activities not only for U.S. government and non-government agencies but also for other international governments, agencies, and donors.

Activities through which PRT aims are to be achieved include: (a) establishing relationships with key and other leaders in order monitoring and reporting security sphere, and assistance, where government's and (c) coordinating operations – including undertaken directly by and information Afghan government



government, military, religious, to influence their conduct; (b) on critical developments in the possibly providing support and feasible, to the Afghan UNAMA's security activities; Coalition civil-military some reconstruction activities the PRTs – through engagement exchange with responsible officials, UNAMA, and the

assistance community, to better ensure that Coalition activities promote Afghan government priorities with minimal duplication of effort from the assistance community. AED is providing critical support to the PRTs in FY04 by using their locations to facilitate expansion of the ANA. AED is currently planning to base USACE personnel at several PRTs in FY04. Each team will consist of as a minimum a project engineer, QA inspector, and a local national QA/translator. These personnel will manage construction to support the new ANA footprint. USACE team members residing with the PRT will live in tents or hardened facilities the PRT has leased. Meals range from the Army T-rations and MREs, to fresh rations flown in weekly from Kandahar or Bagram AB. Availability of telephone and the Internet is limited so teams are given Iridium phones. The PRTs will provide security for USACE personnel.

Inter-Agency Support. Integral to the success of U.S. foreign policy for Afghanistan is implementation of infrastructure improvements to support the Government of Afghanistan. These projects are predominantly funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donor nations. Reconstruction for the country's principal road system is the key to Afghanistan's economic recovery. Rebuilding the transportation infrastructure will enable the movement of people, aid resources, and farm and trade goods – all essential to Afghanistan's development. USAID construction projects include roads, bridges, irrigation projects, schools, clinics, and government administrative facilities.



One of the most significant and complex projects is the construction of a bridge across the upper reach of the Amu Darya (Amu River) linking Tajikistan with Afghanistan. The scope of work consists of a two-lane Class 40 bridge with pedestrian walkway. The gap will require a bridge length of 350 to 850 meters depending on final site selection. Approaches to the bridge will be paved (approximately 6 km total). Current cost estimates put the bridge cost at \$39 million. The approximate construction time is 18 months to 2 years.

*Again, we thank you for volunteering to be part of the AED team. You will be an integral part of the history of the new Afghanistan and our fight against terrorism – **Essayons!***

Welcome to AED!

