

BUILDING STRONG

Corps employee manages projects in Afghanistan

Project sites that Louisville District employee Lynn Jarrett worked on were located in remote areas of Afghanistan, requiring him to be flown in by Black Hawk helicopter.

Lynn Jarrett

By Jenn Domashevich, public affairs

Louisville District employee Lynn Jarrett went from managing environmental cleanup projects at formerly used defense sites to managing approximately \$309 million worth of construction projects in Afghanistan. While stationed at Kandahar Airfield (KAF) during his six-month deployment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jarrett managed construction projects for the Afghan National Police (ANP), a section within the Afghan National Security Force.

“I managed projects, both pre-award and post-award, that built district headquarters for police and border patrol facilities,” said Jarrett. “We were building these facilities to house anywhere from 60 to 500 personnel in the ANP program.”

The projects were done in two phases. The first phase was the pre-award phase, which involved getting contracts awarded to build these structures. After contracts were awarded and contractors had been hired, the post-award phase would begin.



Construction projects are being managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Daykundi and Zabul.

Lynn Jarrett

“What I found the most interesting was putting together all of the pieces that were necessary to get these facilities both contracted and then constructed afterwards,” said Jarrett. “I had to work with real estate, office of counsel, contracting, engineering, construction and the contractors. I also addressed the needs of the stakeholders, who, in this case were the Afghan National Police and their mentors.”

Jarrett worked on approximately 25 pre-award projects and 20 post-award projects, all of which were in different stages of completion. The projects he managed ranged from \$5 million to \$20 million and had to be completed at an accelerated rate.

“We worked 128 hours a pay period, 64 hours a week, and a lot of times even more than that in order to get things done,” said Jarrett. “It was a very expedited process.”

Jarrett managed projects in Kandahar, Uruzgan, Daykundi and Zabul provinces. A lot of the areas where projects were being built were extremely remote and required materials to be transported down dirt roads. All of the roads that Jarrett traveled on had to be cleared of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) by a route clearance team, some of them also had to be physically cleared since they were unused.

“We went out a few times with the route clearance team,” said Jarrett. “We had to push up some dirt roads to access the facilities with MRAPs (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle). It was a long and bumpy ride.”



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Carpenter

Lynn Jarrett went from managing environmental cleanup projects for the Louisville District to managing approximately \$309 million worth of construction projects for the Afghan National Police during his recent deployment with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to having to clear the roads of IEDs, the property where these facilities were being constructed also had to be cleared of explosive devices.

“There always had to be mine clearance as a component of each of these contracts,” said Jarrett. “We had a mine clearance project manager and people oversaw mine clearances to make sure it was done correctly and met USACE criteria.”

Prior to his deployment, Jarrett worked as a project manager in the Louisville District’s environmental branch, managing all Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) projects in the state of Ohio. During his deployment he was promoted and returned back to the district to serve as the program manager for the district’s Defense Logistics Agency Strategic Materials Program (Continues on Page 6)

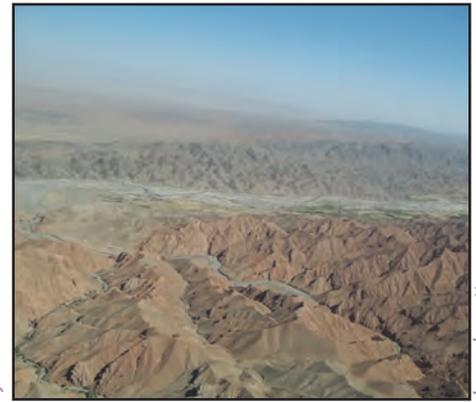
and project manager for the Inventory Project Reports (INPRs) for the FUDS program.

“My experience in Afghanistan was both interesting and challenging,” said Jarrett. “The construction we did is benefiting the Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF) and the Afghan people and will for the foreseeable future. It was a privilege to contribute to the rebuilding and fortification of this war-ravaged country. In addition, I personally acquired new skills and knowledge that I can use in my current position. It is gratifying what a dedicated group of competent people can do in a short time when they stay focused.”



Lynn Jarrett

Old border patrol facilities in Afghanistan, like the one pictured above, are being replaced with newly-constructed facilities that will house anywhere from 60 to 500 personnel in the Afghan National Police program. The construction of these facilities is being managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Lynn Jarrett

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects are being constructed in remote areas in Afghanistan, requiring materials to be transported down dirt roads that have to be cleared of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Wetland restoration creates haven for wildlife

By Jim O'Boyle, William H. Harsha Lake

Restored in 1995, the 15-acre wetland complex in the East Fork Wildlife Area was a joint effort among the Ohio Division of Wildlife, the Clermont County Soil and Water District, USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

An earthen dam with a control structure was built, and seasonally the area would fill with water to attract a variety of wildlife. The shallow basin covered 9 acres and was full of wetland plants which in turn attracted muskrats, deer, turkey, turtles, frogs and ducks. This was a great success for wildlife with one little problem: a small, water-loving rodent named the muskrat. Muskrats are native, aquatic rodents that feed on wetland plants. The

muskrat has a tendency to construct burrows in earthen dams creating weak spots where water can flow and eventually undermine the entire dam.

This is exactly what happened, and by 2005 the dam was breached and the wetland complex did not function as intended. With shrinking state budgets, Park Manager Jim O'Boyle and Caesar Creek Lake Park Ranger Matthew Palmer knew they would have to think ‘outside the box’ when it came to forging local partnerships. They found a partner in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Between road projects, the ODOT crew does ‘volunteer work’ to assist state, local and federal agencies. With the Ohio Division of Wildlife stepping in with design plans

and given a little time for the area to dry out after a very wet spring, the project was ready to move forward. The bulldozer and backhoe plus two heavy equipment operators had the old dam torn out at the point of failure, repacked, regraded and completed in less than two days.

The American Heritage Girls helped replant the area with dozens of water loving plants collected from other locations at the project. It was a great win for wildlife and the girls had a muddy good time in the process. With an aggressive muskrat control program in place, the East Fork Wetland Area should be a haven for wildlife for many years to come.



The finished dam and wetland immediately started to attract wildlife including a white-tailed deer.



Carol Labashosky

Summer Rangers Chris Bass and Kaitlin Ruby work to dig up wetland plants from an existing wetland and place them in the newly restored site.