

**NASHVILLE DISTRICT  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP  
MAY 20, 2008**



**1730 DIAL-IN INFORMAL WELCOME**

**OPENING REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

**Staff and Families**

**STATUS OF DEPLOYED EMPLOYEES**

**MAY - 1 Employee to Afghanistan**

Upcoming Events:

Nashville District will be presenting a "GWOT Brown Bag Lunch on 6 June 08 in Room A-640 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Employees and guests may bring their lunch and join us for information on Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) positions available. How to find the GWOT jobs. How to apply for the positions. Pre-deployment Processing. Deployee and Family Support while employee is overseas. Work performed by our deployed employees.

We are fortunate to have on our panel, Human Resources Representative, Wanda Coleman, Readiness Branch Representative, Jerry Breznican, guest panel member, Mr. Jabbar Ali, an Iraq engineer who served USACE as Deputy Resident Engineer at the Wassit Resident Office in the Gulf Region, South District (GRS), in Iraq, and who has recently immigrated to this country with his family. Another guest panel member and recently returned deployee, Charles Ogle. Mr. Ogle has served on three GWOT tours. You all are welcome to attend!

### **Recent Events - Lessons Learned**

**\*The Nashville District Engineer Day Picnic  
We would love to see you and your family there!**

### **Schedule of Festivities at the Corps' Engineer Day Picnic**

12 June 2008 -120<sup>th</sup> Nashville District Birthday Celebration at Rockland Recreation Area at Old Hickory Lake (Hendersonville side)

Remember your blanket/folding chairs and Government ID!!!!

7:30am - Fun Run/Walk Registration Begins  
(Location: Upper Parking Lot)

7:45 am - Commander gives Welcome and Safety Remarks

8:00 am - Volleyball Competition Begins  
8:00 am - 2.4 Mile Fun Run/Walk

8:30 am - Kids Fun Run - .8 mile

8:30-11:00am Kids Games (POC: Marla Klinger) (

9:00 am - Horseshoe Competition Begins  
(POC: Phyllis Kohl)

9:00 am - Tug of War Begins (POC: Chester Lowery)

**9:00-10:00 am - Square Dancing (upper level parking lot)**

9:00-9:15 am - Retiree's Briefing (in Shelter #3)

9:30 am - Arrival of Distinguished Civilians  
(met by escort, Carol Warren)

**BREAK FROM VOLLEYBALL -**

10:00-10:05 am - Presentation of Global War  
on Terrorism (GWOT) Awards (LTC Lindstrom)

10:05-10:30 am - Distinguished Civilian Awards  
(Awardees/Families) presented by LTC  
Lindstrom/MAJ Straus

10:30-11:00 am - Trivia Contest (POC: Jim  
Siburt) (Location - Stage)

11:00-1:00 pm - Lunch (Location - Shelter #2)

11:30-12:00 pm - Story Telling (POC: Yvonne  
Hamilton) (Location - Stage)

12:00-1:00 pm - Kid's Games (POC: Marla  
Klinger) (Upper Parking/Grassy Area)

12:00 pm - Cutting of District's Birthday Cake  
(POC: Yvonne Hamilton)

12:15 am - 12:45 - Bingo (POC: Cliff Reinert)  
(Location - Stage)

**BREAK FROM VOLLEYBALL -**

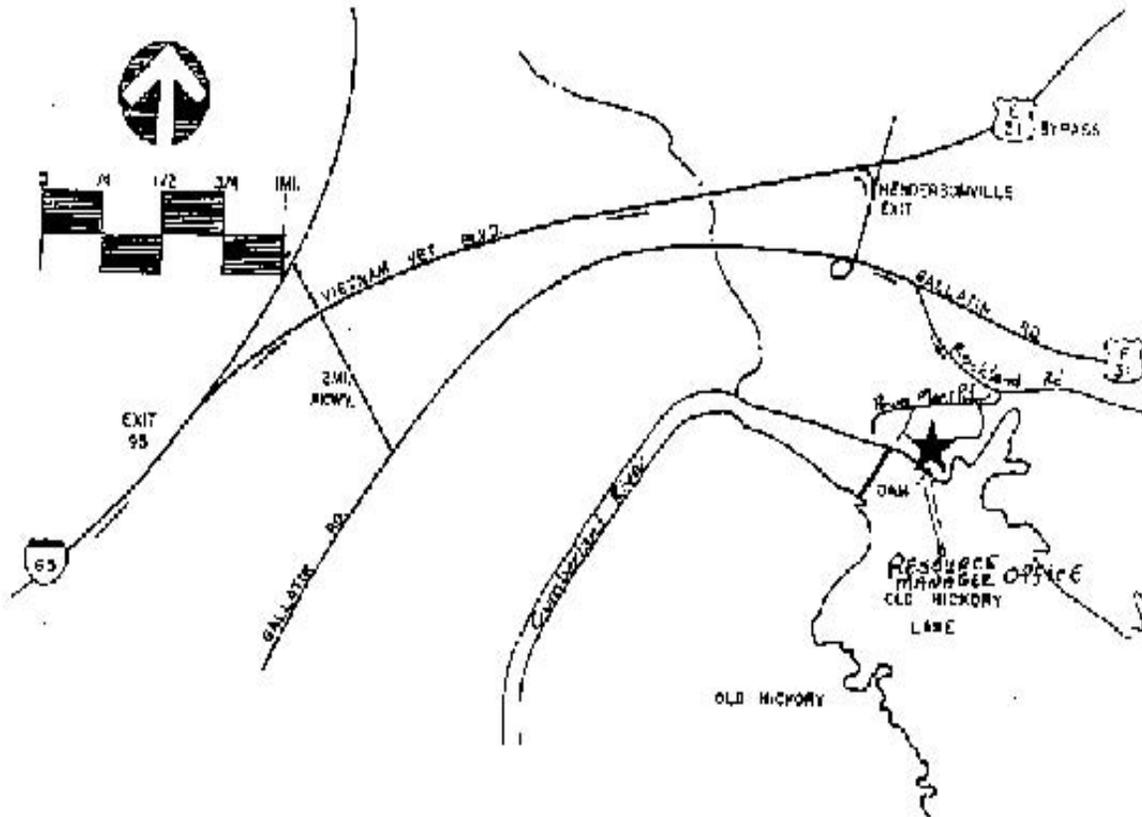
1:00 pm-1:30 pm - Awards (approx ½ hour) at  
Stage

- Length of Service Awards (Commander and  
employees) (POC: Wanda Coleman)
- Acknowledgement of Contributors to  
Picnic/Games Awards/Door Prize Drawing

1:30 - 2:30 pm - VIP Pie-in-the-Face FUNDRAISER  
(Location - near Volleyball court)

1:30 pm (after Awards Ceremony) - Volleyball  
Championship Match

2:00 pm - CLEAN-UP Begins



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**\*The Nashville District newsletter, "The District Digest"** has been revived! The new issue is now out on email. It will be featuring articles on Nashville District's deployed employees. The first article is on Ms. Qiana Davis, and Attorney in Office of Counsel.

You can review the "District Digest" at  
<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/pdf/digest.pdf>

Please take time to view it, I think you'll enjoy the district news!

\*Iraq Facts:

## Cuisine



Stuffed [Masgouf](#) ready for roasting in the oven

*Main article [Cuisine of Iraq](#)*

The Iraqi cuisine is generally a heavy cuisine with more spices than most Arab cuisines. Iraq's main food crops include wheat, barley, rice, vegetables, and dates. Vegetables include eggplant, okra, potatoes, and tomatoes. Beans such as chickpeas and lentils are also quite common. Common meats in Iraqi cooking are lamb and beef; fish and poultry are also used. Soups and stews are often prepared and served with rice and vegetables. Although Iraq is not a coastal area, the population is used to consuming fish, however, freshwater fish is more common than saltwater fish. [Masgouf](#) is one of the most popular dishes. (A traditional Iraqi dish. It is a open cut fish gilled and spiced with salt, pepper, and terarind. The fish skin is brushed with olive oil. Garnishes include chopped onions, tomatoes, and flatbread. Iraqi dishes are usually served with rice, along with salad and pickles.) [Biryani](#) although influenced by the [Indian](#) cuisine, is much milder with a different mixture of spices and a wider variety of vegetables including potatoes, peas, carrots and onions among others.(Meat such as beef, chicken, goat, lamb, or shrimp is added to spices and condiments colves, cardamom, cinnamon, wasabi, bay leaves, coriander, and mint leaves. Sometimes ginger, onions, garlic and yogurt are added. This dish is served with chutney, curry, or a sour dish of eggplant.) [Dolma](#) is also one of the popular dishes. (Dolma is a family of stuffed vegetable dishes in the cuisines of the former Ottoman Empire

and surrounding regions, including Turkey, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Balkans, Greece, Iraq, Iran, and Central Asia. One of the best know is the grape leaf dolma. Common vegetables to stuff include zucchini, eggplant, tomato and pepper. Stuffing may include meat or not. This is commonly eaten along with yogurt.) The Iraqi [cuisine](#) is famous for its extremely tender [kabab](#) as well as its [tikka](#). A wide verity of spices pickles and [Amba](#) are also extensively used.

\*Afghanistan Facts:

## Education

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*Main article: [Education in Afghanistan](#)*



Female students at [Kabul University](#).

As of 2006 more than four million male and female students were enrolled in schools throughout the country. However, there are still significant obstacles to education in Afghanistan, stemming from lack of funding, unsafe school buildings and cultural norms. A lack of women teachers is an issue that concerns some Afghan parents, especially in more conservative areas. Some parents will not allow their daughters to be taught by men.<sup>[84]</sup>

Literacy of the entire population is estimated (as of 1999) at 36%, the male literacy rate is 51% and female literacy is 21%. Up to now there are 9,500 schools in the country.

Another aspect of education that is rapidly changing in Afghanistan is the face of [higher education](#). Following the fall of the Taliban, [Kabul](#)

University was reopened to both male and female students. In 2006, the American University of Afghanistan also opened its doors, with the aim of providing a world-class, English-language, co-educational learning environment in Afghanistan. The university accepts students from Afghanistan and the neighboring countries. Construction work will soon start at the new site selected for University of Balkh in Mazari Sharif. The new building for the university, including the building for the Engineering Department, would be constructed at 600 acres (2.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of land at the cost of 250 million US dollars.<sup>[85]</sup>

**\*Things to help lighten your family's deployment:**

- (1) Create A Legacy Letter. Keep a pad or a piece of paper near you at all times. Every time you have a thought about the deployed person, write it down. Do this for up to a week and then mail it. The person will feel like they are with you all day long.
- (2) Set aside a private moment. Next time you email or speak with your family member, choose a specific time, every day that the deployed person and family will stop and think about one another for a few seconds. It may sound cheesy, but knowing that each of you is thinking about the other at the same time can be amazingly comforting.
- (3) Take lots and lots of pictures. This is particularly important when you have children. Pictures are priceless. Even if you don't have the ability to mail them, they will be a great gift upon returning home.

**\*NEXT FAMILY SUPPORT TELECONFERENCE**

Our next Family teleconference will be held 24 June 08, at 5:30 pm. I will notify you of the call in number. Look forward to having you join us!

Victoria Hooper  
Nashville District  
Deployee Support Coordinator

