

**NASHVILLE DISTRICT
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
TELEPHONIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

Major Straus, District Deputy Commander welcomed the callers to our meeting. Each caller introduced themselves.

District Commander Lindstrom was on travel but joined us via the teleconference.

Joanne Mann, the Commander's Executive Assistant was in attendance.

Victoria Hooper, Deployee Support Coordinator

Status of the Deployed Employees:

Returned to District: January – 1 returned from Afghanistan
February – 1 returned from Iraq

Scheduled to return to the District: March – 1 to return from Afghanistan

Deployed: January – 1 left for Afghanistan
February – 0
March - 1 left for Iraq
1 left for Afghanistan
1 leaving for Iraq at end of March

*Families were asked for information on children's names and ages, family birthdays, anniversaries and other special days. Also for any updates to email addresses or home addresses. We would like to acknowledge the families special days. (This includes the deployee and spouse as well!) This information may be emailed to Victoria Hooper at victoria.a.hooper@usace.army.mil.

*Family members (spouses, parents of deployed employees) are encouraged to consider the possibility of obtaining a valid passport. Should the deployee experience illness or injury, the spouse or parents could quickly join them overseas. Passports applications are available at the U.S. Post Offices.

*There are Pre-deployment Fairs held at Fort Campbell, KY. I attended one in February. The information is geared toward military families, but there was so much information that applies to civilians as well. The schedule of the Pre-deployment Fairs is: 19 March 08; and 23 April 08 at the Family Resource Center, 1501 William C. Lee Road, Ft. Campbell, KY. For more information call (270) 798-2158 or (270) 956-2935.

*A Pre-Deployment Booklet and a Returning Home Booklet are now in draft form and being reviewed by the District leaders for approval. When the booklets are printed you will be provided a copy.

*Taxes are on our minds lately! Not all service in support of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) is tax free. With the many allowances, differentials, and special pay payments, most are taxable. IRS publication 516, U.S. Government Civilian Employees Stationed Abroad, can assist you in answering questions on this issue. You can find this booklet on line at www.irs.gov.

*I am sending out to you a copy of the GWOT Pay, Benefits, Entitlements and Incentives by Pay System Guide. This can assist you in understanding the breakdown of pay for your deployed family member.

*To enable our families to take advantage of the Family Support Group teleconference, we would like to know which timeframe would work best for you, 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm. Please email me or call (615) 736-7965 to share your thoughts.

*Our next Family Support Group teleconference will be held 27 March 2008. I will notify you with time and teleconference number closer to the date. We are looking forward to having you join us!

Victoria Hooper
Deployee Support Coordinator
Dept of the Army, Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
Executive Office
Telephone: (615) 736-7965
Fax: (615) 736-5497