



**US Army Corps  
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St. Louis District

# News Release

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## **Damascus, Ark. man en route to Iraq with Army Corps of Engineers Will serve on Electrical Safety Task Force**

**St. Louis, MO – April 3, 2009** – Damascus native Allen Barnes is on his way to Iraq with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There he will be part of Task Force Safe, an initiative to find and correct electrical problems that have injured and killed several service members serving in Iraq.

Barnes normally works as an electrician at the Chain of Rocks Locks 27 near Granite City, Ill., for the Corps of Engineers.

A 1995 graduate of Southside High School in nearby Bee Branch, Barnes is employed by the Corps of Engineers as an electrician at the navigation Locks that serve either as the entry point or southern terminus of the Upper Mississippi River navigation system of locks and dams.

Barnes is deploying for a six month assignment with the Task Force. He will work in a number of locations throughout the country, focusing on facilities serving and housing U.S. Army personnel. "Our mission is both to find and fix electrical problems" Barnes said.

The 31-year old has worked for the Corps of Engineers for 3 years and maintains a variety of electrical systems at the Chain of Rocks Locks 27 from 110-volt to 480-volt control systems.

Barnes reports that he has never worked overseas before. But if his work results in saving one Soldier's life it will be well worth the hardships he anticipates.

Barnes' parents Gary and Glenda Barnes reside in Damascus as do his grand parents, Roy and Elsie Barnes and Carlene Barnum-Cleaver, who lives in Scotland, Ark.

### Captions:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers electrician Allen Barnes is seen here testing circuitry at the Chain of Rocks Locks near Granite city, Ill., for proper, safe operation. Barnes is deploying with the Corps to Iraq as part of Task Force Safe, to find and correct electrical problems that have injured and killed several service members serving in Iraq. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Alan Dooley*

Damascus native Allen Barnes will deploy to Iraq for six months as part of Task Force Safe, to find and correct electrical problems that have injured and killed several service members serving in Iraq. Seen here, Barnes, and electrician at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chain of Rocks Locks near Granite City, Ill., is watching the passage of one of more than 8,000 lockages of barge tows carrying bulk commodities on the Mississippi River each year. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Alan Dooley*