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Missouri State University Grad en route to Afghanistan for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

St. Louis, Mo. (April 30, 2009) – Missouri State University graduate Kale Horton is ready to depart on what he terms “an adventure of a lifetime” when he deploys half a world away this week to Afghanistan. Horton is deploying there voluntarily for six months as a project manager for work the Corps of Engineers is carrying out in Afghanistan.

As a project manager, the 33-year-old Horton says he will monitor contractor compliance and provide quality assurance oversight for construction work.

A 1994 graduate of Mark Twain High School in Center, Mo., he went into the Air Force immediately after high school. During that tour he served as a security policeman.

On return he went to Missouri State University in Springfield, earning a Bachelors Degree in Wildlife Conservation Management (2000) and a Masters Degree in Environmental Science (2004.)

He worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first in Fort Worth, Texas before moving to the Department of the Interior and a small facility in Alton, Ill., overseeing surface mining.

Kale came back to the Corps of Engineers when he joined the St. Louis Engineer District’s Regulatory office in 2007. There he works with applicants for permits to conduct activities in what are termed the “Waters of the United States,” seeking to ensure that all such activity is accomplished in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Kale says that his principle motivations for deploying to Afghanistan are a combination of the adventure of going to a far away land and working with Afghani people trying to build their country, and an opportunity to see work progress rapidly. “We recently hosted the command of the Afghanistan Engineer District and he captured my interest when he told how people can get in on the start of truly great projects and see them through to completion in only a matter of months. That’s got to be very satisfying,” he said.

Kale, who has many family members and friends in Perry, currently resides in Eureka, Mo., with his wife Adelle and one year old son Jake. While he will certainly miss his wife and young son, he says that this is for a purpose. “I will be both making a contribution to the U.S. role in Afghanistan and gaining a great deal of knowledge and experience that will serve me well when I return home next fall.”

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Captions:

Image 1804 – Missouri State University graduate Kale Horton, is en route to Afghanistan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He will serve there voluntarily for six months, overseeing construction projects and ensuring contractor compliance and quality. Horton normally serves as a regulatory specialist in the St. Louis District, monitoring compliance with Clean Water Act provisions as well as rules governing permanent mooring in navigable river waters. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Alan Dooley*

Image 1809 -- Missouri State University graduate Kale Horton, seen here in his office that overlooks I-64/US Hwy 40 in downtown St. Louis, is en route to Afghanistan for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He will serve there voluntarily for six months, overseeing construction projects and ensuring contractor compliance and quality. Horton normally serves as a regulatory specialist in the St. Louis District, monitoring compliance with Clean Water Act provisions as well as rules governing permanent mooring in navigable river waters. *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Alan Dooley*