



**US Army Corps  
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St. Louis District

# News Release

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Public Affairs Officer, Alan Dooley: 314-331-8002 (O)  
618-939-5985 (H)  
618-719-9039 (C)

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1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 / [www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)

## **Missouri University of Science and Technology grad Rob Schiffer deploys to Iraq**

**St. Louis, Mo. – May 14, 2009** – Robert “Rob” Schiffer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District’s Engineering and Construction Division has deployed to Iraq for six months. Schiffer, who has volunteered for the arduous tour, will serve as the resident engineer in the Balad Area Office northwest of Baghdad. There he will administer and oversee numerous contracts for construction projects in the region.

“I have several motivations,” Schiffer said. “A lot of my friends are asking me, “Why?” he said.

“I have wanted to do this for a long time,” the 33-year-old St. Louisan said. “When I tell people that it’s for duty and country, more than a few don’t understand,” he added. “Maybe I also feel like I have missed something by not joining the military. To me this is an opportunity,” he affirmed.

A 1993 graduate of St. Charles, Mo. West High School, Schiffer went on to what is today known as the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Mo. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from there in 1998.

“After graduating, I worked in commercial construction management in Oklahoma City,” he said. “I worked on a new hospital there. I also worked on a variety of construction projects in the St. Louis area.”

From that work he returned to St. Louis where he was able to secure a contract working for the Corps FUSRAP – Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program – cleaning up low-level radiation contamination from cold war weapons manufacturing sites in the St. Louis Region. “That was both an opportunity for me to see extraordinarily conscientious contracting work and served as a door to the Corps for me,” Schiffer said. Schiffer came to work as a fulltime Corps employee early in 2008.

He hasn’t been tied to a desk, he reported. “I spent three months in Iowa in 2008 helping with FUSRAP work at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant there. He also took part in last summer’s flood fights in both Winfield and Cape Girardeau areas last summer.

Schiffer and his wife Sarah both hail from the St. Louis region, with both having a lot of family support to help with the upcoming deployment. “We bought Sarah’s grandfather’s house after he passed away. We’re only two or three blocks – a short walk – from her parents and mine are close by too,” he said.

Rob will also have family close by when he deploys. “I have a nephew in the Army and he’s on a second tour in Iraq, serving in Baghdad. It’s a big Army, but maybe I’ll see him there,” he noted.

Schiffer and his wife have two children, Isabella, 6 and Olivia, 4. "Isabella understands a little about my deployment," he said. "She wants to know why I have to go, and that's hard, but she will understand better some day. Sarah has heard me talk about this for sometime and she's very supportive," he added.

Schiffer, who played softball and soccer until recently said his focus is largely on his family now. "The kids are involved in a mix of soccer, dance and gymnastics. Those are very large parts of our lives," he said.

"I'm mentally prepared," Rob said. "Physically though I'm not ready – I'm just not packed yet," he said with a laugh. "But I will be," he said.

He's going to have to take a break from a current endeavor as a graduate student at Rolla he said. "I'm taking distance-learning business courses from there to meet qualifications to be able to sign contract modifications for construction projects," he said. "I earned my P.E. (Professional Engineer License) last year and this is the next logical step in my professional field," he said. "But it will have to wait until I get back," he concluded.

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Caption:

Image 1825: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contract Administration specialist Robert "Rob" Schiffer has volunteered for a six month deployment to Iraq. There he will serve as the Resident Engineer of the Balad Area Office, northwest of Baghdad, overseeing contract administration for a large number of projects being completed by the Corps of Engineers in Iraq.