OCO Deployment FAQ’s – USACE and CEW Deployments

Question: Where can USACE employees deploy to in support of Overseas Contingency Operations?

Answer: The countries we deploy to vary, but currently we are supporting operations in the following nations: Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Question: What’s the difference between a CEW deployment and a USACE deployment?

Answer: A CEW deployment is in support of a number of differing US missions in Iraq, Kuwait or Afghanistan. If you deploy in support of a CEW mission, you will remain on USACE rolls, but you will be working with individuals from other commands and agencies.

A USACE deployment is in direct support of the assigned USACE mission in Iraq, Kuwait or Afghanistan. You will remain on USACE rolls and work for a USACE Command. Some CEW assignments are now being directly staffed by USACE. The above information regarding CEW deployments still applies.

Question: Are the benefits and entitlements different between CEW and USACE deployments?

Answer: Yes. See your Deployment POC or contact below for more information.

Question: What do all the different acronyms for USACE OCO missions mean?

Answer: TAA – Transatlantic District, Afghanistan
CED – Contingency Engineer District
TAD - Transatlantic Division
TAD-OCP - Operational Command Post - Kuwait

Question: How come it takes so long to receive feedback or find out if I can deploy?

Answer: The mission is constantly evolving, and the needs do as well. The UCRC and CEW work to fill positions as quickly as possible. Never hesitate to ask the status of your request to deploy.

Question: How can I make sure I get selected for deployment?

Answer: You can’t, but if your resume is complete and there is a NEED FOR YOUR SKILLSET, it is likely you will be considered for a deployment with either USACE or CEW.

Question: Where can I find out more information about an OCO deployment?

Answer: Every District and Division has deployment POC’s who can provide information. You may also contact Kirsten Smyth, the USACE Deployment Coordination Administrator for further information. The Transatlantic Division Deployment Website also has useful information:


Question: How can I apply to deploy?

Answer: Fill out the attached Request for Deployment form and submit it, along with your resume to your District Deployment POC. If you are unsure of who that is, please contact Kirsten Smyth, Kirsten.r.smyth@usace.army.mil or (540)-665-5389. If you are interested in applying for a CEW deployment, please also include your SF-50 and use the attached CEW application form (NOTE: The
USACE RFD and the CEW Application are two different forms, both are included below). Your Deployment POC will forward your information to the USACE Contingency Recruitment Cell for OCO deployment consideration. This is the process for BOTH CEW and USACE deployments. You will be notified if and when your package has been sent to the CEW for consideration, if that is how you would like to deploy. For a USACE deployment, your Deployment POC will be able to give you status updates on your application at your request.

**OCO Deployment POC:**

Kirsten Smyth, TAD

USACE Deployment Coordination Administrator

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540-665-5389