

Employee Highlights

Thousands of miles from home... Spotlight on Basin Electric's heroes

Thousands of soldiers are deployed overseas with missions to build a bright future, and Basin Electric appreciates them and the difference they're making in the world. Two Basin Electric employees, Kim Miller and Kelby Hovey, who are also members of the North Dakota Army National Guard, took time out of their busy schedules to answer a few questions about their first deployments. Basin Electric also recognizes Jill Thomas, Dakota Gasification Company warehouse supervisor, who deployed in September 2009 to Kosovo.



North Dakota National Guard Major General David Sprynczynatyk (left) and Command Sergeant Major and Basin Electric employee Dan Job (right) visit Basin Electric employee Kim Miller in Kosovo.

Kimberly Miller is a business analyst at Headquarters and a first lieutenant serving in Kosovo.

When did you learn you'd be deployed to Kosovo? How long will you be there?

Approximately one year prior to deploying. I'll spend a little over nine months in Kosovo, but one year away from home.

Describe your unit.

There are more than 300 soldiers in my unit, 231 Maneuver Task Force out of Valley City.

What are your duties in Kosovo?

Battalion intelligence officer.

What was the reaction from your supervisor and co-workers?

My supervisor, Dave Bangen, approved additional time off when needed and assisted in preparing work responsibilities as well as benefit information for my departure. Co-workers were also very supportive. Many people stopped by to offer well wishes of a genuine concern and for a safe return.

You say the level of support you've gotten from Basin Electric is amazing. How so?

Basin Electric has been beyond supportive from every level. I am astonished at how well the organization takes care of its military employees, from allowing additional days off to train for the deployment, to preparing for the transition of duties while I am away, to the continuation of benefits and reassurance of seamless re-employment upon my return. It is humbling to see the level of patriotism shown throughout the organization.

What worries you about your time away?

I worry about all of the time missed with family and friends.



Basin Electric employee Kelby Hovey (back row, center) is serving in Djibouti, Africa. This picture was taken when North Dakota National Guard Major General David Sprynczynatyk and Command Sergeant Major and Basin Electric employee Dan Job visited the troops there.

Kelby Hovey is an assistant pilot for the cooperative and a chief warrant officer serving in Djibouti, Africa.

When did you learn you'd be deployed to Djibouti? How long will you be there?

We were notified of our deployment in August 2008. We were mobilized on April 8, 2009. We arrived at Fort Benning, GA, on April 11, 2009, and arrived in Djibouti on April 23. Our deployment length is ten months. We hope to be back in Bismarck by mid-February.

Describe your unit.

Our unit name is Detachment 42 and there are eight soldiers in the unit.

What are your duties in Djibouti?

I provide air transportation to soldiers, airmen, marines and seamen throughout our area of operations (AOR). The AOR includes the countries of Djibouti,

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