



For Immediate Release
November 27, 2007
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Comrades say goodbye to fallen mate at ceremony

By John Connor
Gulf Region South District

TALLIL, Iraq – Personnel from Aegis, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other organizations gathered Monday afternoon to bid farewell to Stephen Dixon, who lost his life Saturday when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb while escorting Corps employees on project site visits.

Dixon was a veteran of the British Army and an employee of Aegis, a London-based private security company that provides security services to USACE in Iraq. He was stationed in Basrah.

"This afternoon, with a light breeze in the air and the sun setting to the west, it is important that we stop for a moment and recognize the service, the character and the ultimate of selfless sacrifices – as we pay tribute to Stephen Dixon," said Col. Steve Hill, commanding officer of the Corps' Gulf Region south District.

The strains of bagpipe music--including "Amazing Grace"--wafted through USACE compound here in southern Iraq on a chilly late afternoon as nearly 100 persons from Aegis, the Corps of Engineers, other Army units, other government organizations, and other private security firms, gathered to honor Dixon, who was struck down Nov. 24.



Col. Steve Hill, GRS commander, speaks at a memorial service for Stephen Dixon of Aegis. (USACE photo by Betsy Weiner)



A bagpiper stands with attendees at a memorial service for Stephen Dixon of Aegis. (USACE photo by Betsy Weiner)

Dixon, 29, joined Aegis this June. He previously worked for another security firm, Control Risk Group, and before that served over nine years with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Green Jackets, a famous infantry regiment. He is survived by his wife Sarah, and two children, Caitlin, 7, and Niall, 5.

Timothy Mundell, the Aegis regional director, read from a work by a World War I British poet who spoke of the passing of comrades and mates and the opening of heaven's gates.

"Stephen made it possible for GRS to sustain a reconstruction mission – to diligently work to help the people of Iraq and to make life better for others," Col. Hill said. "He protected us – he protected us on missions here and most frequently on missions in Basrah.

"Our organization's mission – is to lead the reconstruction effort by providing engineering and construction management services in Iraq while assisting the Government of Iraq to assume all infrastructure responsibilities – this mission simply could not occur without Steven's dedicated daily efforts and the efforts of those who live, train and protect along with him," the colonel said.



Aegis employees and members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attend a memorial service for Stephen Dixon. (USACE photo by Betsy Weiner)

"Here today we remain unified in our purpose – to simply pay tribute to a professional, a great teammate and a colleague who put the safety of others before his own," Hill continued. "In closing, those who venture 'outside the wire' to complete our missions continue to place our unqualified trust, confidence, and our very lives in the hands of the qualified, courageous, and dedicated security professionals from Aegis. These professionals, like Steven, routinely put their lives in 'harm's way' for us every day."

Note: John Connor is a Public Affairs Officer with the Gulf Region South district, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq. For more information, call 540-665-2656 or email requests to CEGRD.PAO@tac01.usace.army.mil. For more information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq, visit www.grd.usace.army.mil/ > .