John Lemmond on front lines of war on terror

Dallas native 9 back from tour in Afghanistan By BONNIE ADAMS ecial to The Dallas Post

Despite the dirt, cold and danger, Navy Senior Chief John Lemmond considers his two months in Afghanistan to be the best experience of his 21 years in the service.

"Everything we did every day made a difference," said Lemmond, a heavy-equipment operator.

Lemmond, like his father, enlisted in the military right out of

high school after graduating along the runway at Camp Rhi- was in Afghanistan was the from West Side Area Vocational-Technical School in Pringle. State Sen. Charles Lemmond, 73, was 17 when he joined the Army in 1946 after graduating from the former Forty Fort High School. He served in the Army of Occupation after World War II. Lemmond and other sailors

from a Mississippi-based Naval Construction Battalion built whatever was needed in Afghanistan. Their mission was unglamorous but essential; they constructed everything from fighting positions to guard towers to detainee facilities.

"Anything asked of these guys, there was nothing impossible," he said recently from his office in Gulfport, Miss.

Lemmond remembers sitting

no in Afghanistan in early December when he heard gunfire. It was about 3 a.m. when he and other sailors headed to their fighting positions as the Marines responded to the enemy with mortar fire.

Lemmond, 39, ranked his Afghanistan service just above a previous tour of duty in scenic Greece.

Better known as the Seabees, the Navy construction specialists maintained a dirt runway at Camp Rhino, a base in southern Afghanistan. They also built facilities for captured Taliban and al-Qaida fighters and helped clear the area around the Khandahar Airport.

Sen. Charles Lemmond's greatest concern when his son

mentality of the terrorists their lack of concern for themselves and others.

"I think it was a very difficult situation," he said.

John Lemmond expressed his hope that the United States is on the right track in its fight against terrorism. "As night falls to day, there will be more," he said.

Though John Lemmond is not ready to retire from the Navy, he knows where he'll go when he does. "Home is where I'll be," he said regarding the Back Mountain.

He sees no end to the war on terrorism

"Tomorrow we'll wake up and we'll still be doing this," he said.

The issue of Middle East peace remains at the forefront of international news and impacts people around the globe as well as here in the United States. Dr. Sami Adwan, professor of education at Bethlehem University (Palestine) and co-director of the Peace Research Institute in the Middle East (PRIME), will travel to College Misericordia as part of a community discussion, "The Possibility of Peace: A Discussion of the Palestinian and Israeli Conflict" on Sunday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Professor to speak on Mideast peace

The lecture and discussion, to be held in the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library, will draw on Adwan's extensive experience as a citizen, educator, and leader in this strife-torn region. Adwan has edited two books in conjunction with Israeli Dan Bar-On, a psychologist and specialist in intergenerational trauma. The books, entitled Victimhood and Beyond: The Bethlehem Encounter, and The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Peace-Building Between Palestinians and Israelis, are important works on the subject of peace.

Born in 1954 in Sourif, a small town northwest of Hebron, he graduated form Jordan University in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. He received his master's degree and doctorate in educational administration from San Francisco State University in 1982. In 1993, Adwan joined the education faculty at Bethlehem University as an assistant professor and now conducts research on Palestinian education and the role of education in building the peace process.

Guide

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