

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

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Pacesetter

Serving the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division

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For more information about the ***Pacesetter***, or to make a submission, call your local Public Affairs Office.

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On the cover: Gated Community Before - One set of four pairs of gates at the Colorado River Locks in Matagorda County, Texas. Every eight to ten years, the gates are removed, steel is replaced where needed, and the gates are sandblasted and painted. Throughout the past 10 years, the first pair of lock gates accumulated nearly 60 tons of marine growth, bringing the total weight to 150 tons. After a four-month rehabilitation by Galveston District, they were reinstalled weighing 90 tons. Congress appropriated nearly \$9 million for the project which is scheduled for completion in March or April 2010. (See page 26 for "after" shot.)





Things are heating up...

*Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox
Commander, Southwestern Division*

...and I don't just mean the temperatures in Texas!!! As we approach the last 75 days of the fiscal year, all of us are working hard, long days to ensure we can stay one step ahead of the growing requirements so we can deliver superior performance at all times. This is only possible if we all work together with one common goal – to “git ‘er dun”!!!

This year is by far the largest and perhaps most rewarding in the history of the Southwestern Division. By the end of the year we will have executed more than \$6 billion in contracts and delivered some of the most important projects in all of USACE. This also sets the stage for continued growth in many of our traditional programs as well as many of the International and Interagency Services programs we now set the standard for all to emulate. Clearly none of this would be possible without the tremendous professionals we have across the region and the many teammates we work with every day. Success breeds success and the SWD Family is growing rapidly as many are now joining our team because they recognize what right looks like. For that, I thank all for setting the standard of your profession and the many, many contributions all have made for our nation and the world.

As I look back over the past two years, I am in awe of all that the SWD Family has been able to accomplish. Despite continued stress from numerous natural disasters (to include three hurricanes, continued flooding, ice storms), an ever changing program with growth at all of our major installations, supplemental programs to impact our failing infrastructure, continued requirements to volunteer and support the overseas contingency operations, and recently the additions across all programs as part of the Recovery Act, all of you continue to focus on ensuring we do all that we can to provide a much needed service for the citizens, the Soldiers and their families, and those in our government who have high expectations of our great organization. I am proud and honored to say that as a team

– as a family – you have generated results that have been truly amazing, and our nation is forever in your debt.

When I took command of Southwestern Division almost two years ago, I was new to the Corps and all that you do every day. Having spent 28 years with the Army and Soldiers, I was unaware of the qualifications and capabilities of the Corps Civilians and the many contractors who manage and execute the numerous programs and projects on a daily basis. Over the past two years I have had the chance to visit with many of you, see the extraordinary facilities you manage and operate, and despite limited budgets, unforeseen disasters, and shortage of personnel across the region, all of you have continued to excel and always with a sense of selfless service and dedication to excellence. And now after two years, I am quick to

admit and say these have been two of the most rewarding and exciting years of my blessed career, and it is simply because of all of you.

Our organization is “All About The People,” and every success and accomplishment

we have can be directly attributed to the sacrifices and supreme efforts of each member of the SWD Family. The ability for us to overcome the challenges – or better said, opportunities – presented to us each day are possible when we have worked together and ensured success across the Family. No one person can achieve nearly as much as the combined efforts of the Team, and all of you have come together to champion this belief. I ask that you continue to “share ideas willingly” and strive for excellence as you continue to deliver for our Nation and the citizens we serve.

As my time with the SWD Family comes to a close, I leave you with three thoughts. This is something I normally use when I in-brief a new leader to one of my commands, but I've found it is applicable for all.

*“We are measured on
our professionalism.”*

See “Gen. Cox’ Column” page 37

Corps delivers San Diego border security project

*By Jim Frisinger
Engineering and Construction Support Office
Fort Worth District*

Completion of a \$59 million Engineering and Construction Support Office border infrastructure project in southern San Diego County was marked July 6 by a ribbon-cutting ceremony high atop a massive earthen berm that didn't exist a year ago.

The location was Smuggler's Gulch, named during Prohibition because it was widely used by bootleggers. It remained a notorious route used by gangs to funnel people and illicit narcotics from Tijuana across the U.S. border.

"The men and women under my command conduct the critical border enforcement duties in and around the area where we are seated today," said Josh Gough, Border Patrol agent in charge, Imperial Beach Station. "Beneath our feet lie years of political capital, real capital, blood, the sweat and the combination of individual hard work and energy in pursuit of American border security."

The ceremony marked the completion of a 3.5 mile border segment the latest installment in a planned 14 mile Border Infrastructure System authorized by congress in 1996 for the western most section of the U.S.-Mexico border. That plan called for multiple layers of fencing, lighting, roadways and other support structures that expanded upon earlier border-sealing efforts.

An earlier program, completed in 1993, constructed 14 miles of primary fence, built from steel aviation landing mat left over from the Vietnam War. That fence had stopped vehicle drive-throughs but was less successful in stopping smuggling on foot. This urban corridor historically had endured more illegal smuggling activity than any other place in the country.

On June 19, 2008, construction crews began building a 700 foot culvert that would soon be buried under 1.3 million cubic yards of earth to create the berm that spans Smuggler's Gulch. It is now topped by a 15 foot secondary Sandia fence and lights. An all-weather patrol road runs on each side of the new fence replacing the perilous and time-consuming route up and down switchbacks. Travel time for Border Patrol agents between key points has been reduced from minutes to seconds.

Mike Lowe, area manager for Kiewit Pacific Construction Co., said Smuggler's Gulch was a major engineering challenge for his company.



Army Col. Janice Dombi, Commander of the South Pacific Division, tells the crowd about the completion of a \$59 million ECSO border infrastructure project in southern San Diego County during a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 6.



Former U.S. Representative Duncan Hunter and San Diego Border Patrol Sector Chief Mike Fisher cut the ribbon during a ceremony held July 6 at Smuggler's Gulch, a portion of the Border Infrastructure System historically known for more illegal smuggling activity than any other place in the country.

"We did all of that work in less than 440 calendar days. Many people doubted whether or not we could accomplish that in such a short amount of time," Lowe said. "On any type of successful program, you have to have great partners. And on this project we had great partners in the Border Patrol and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

The Border Patrol honored the many that made it possible with letters of appreciation. Col. Janice Dombi, commander of the South Pacific Division, accepted on behalf of the Corps of Engineers.

"Unless you can look around and see the terrain and see how difficult this project was from the engineering sense, it's hard to really appreciate

the work that went into the project by a number of different organizations and the great teamwork that was required in planning this project, which began in the early '90s," said Dombi.

She also thanked the contractors for completing a project of this scope all without a lost-day accident. "That alone is a tremendous accomplishment."

She specifically singled out a number of people to thank individually. From ECSO, Eric Verwers, Kevin DaVee and Jason Price; from the Los Angeles District, Eric Eldridge, John Keever, Harold Hartman and Greg Schulz; and from current and former members of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Loren Flossman, Greg Gephart, Dilip Sheth, Oscar Pena, Mike Hance and Joe Granata.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Ellsworth of the California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, thanked the Corps of Engineers for "great work and great support."

"This is really a textbook case of applying military capabilities for domestic support, and it was a great example of interagency operations and cooperation that exists between the civilian sector, government agencies and the military," said Ellsworth. "I think the bottom line is it's a great example of good government."

Former U.S. Rep. Duncan L. Hunter, a longtime supporter of the fence project, recalled the worst days of this area some time ago when there would be mass crossings of individuals and 300 drug trucks a month roaring across the sagebrush full of drugs. He said FBI statistics showed the San Diego County crime rate had fallen 54 percent since the completion of the first major fence.

"And I will predict to you that it will continue to go down to some degree as a result of this great barrier going up," he said.



Assisting the injured

During a competition held at Little Rock District's Lake Dardanelle May 22-23 evacuation procedures for the injured from a boat were demonstrated using a Coast Guard helicopter. This was the 8th U.S. Coast Guard District's Search and Rescue competition for its auxiliary divisions. Five teams from throughout the 13 state divisions competed. Arkansas' Division 15 is made up of five flotillas throughout the state and supports the U.S. Coast Guard in its missions to protect the citizens, coastlines and tributaries of the United States.



SWL team takes third

(From the left) Little Rock District's Chief of Engineering and Construction Division Tony Batey, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management Dr. Randy Hathaway, Greg Yada of Programs and Project Management and District Engineer Col. Ed Jackson placed third in the Society of American Military Engineers Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament held at the Hindman Municipal Golf Course in Little Rock April 27.



SIZZLING STRENGTH

*Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser
Commander, Tulsa District*

We are in the fourth quarter of FY09 and things are really heating up in Tulsa District. The weather in our area has been in excess of 100 degrees with intermittent rains. But inside our headquarters and project sites, things are even hotter. Everyone is working hard to execute our largest program in recent memory. The good news is we are doing well and the district has seen a lot of new personnel arrive. Let me start by welcoming our new teammates and thanking them for being part of this incredible organization. Tulsa's strength is our team's positive, "can do" attitude that has prevailed as we've faced the mass of this year's workload.

On Corps Day I was very pleased to recognize our team's efforts for the past year. We had so many great nominees, it was difficult to pick the very best. But after deliberation, the winners were recognized at our award ceremony.

They included:

- The Safety Accomplishment Award for Operations Division went to Howard Davidson of the Webbers Falls Powerplant.
- The Safety Accomplishment Award for Engineering and Construction Division went to James Ritter from our Fort Sill Area Office.
- The Project Delivery Team of the Year for Small Projects went to the Emergency Sector Gear Arm Replacement Team

led by Patrick McQueen.

- The Project Delivery Team of the Year for Large Projects went to the Fort Sill Relocatable Building Team and was accepted by Brad Carter.
- The Customer Care Employee of the Year was Sue Groover, administrative officer at Fort Gibson Powerhouse.
- The Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year Award went to Powerplant Senior Mechanic Clayton Cunningham of Webbers Falls Powerhouse.
- The Technical and Administrative Employee of the Year at the GS-8 and Below Level (or NSPS equivalent) went to Pam McCarn of Modifications and Claims Section of our Construction Branch.
- The 2009 Technical and Administrative Employee of the Year at the GS-9 and Above Level (or NSPS equivalent) went to Linda Robinson, program analyst, also from Mods and Claims Section, Construction Branch.
- Winning the Tulsa District, the Southwestern Division, and competing for the national honor of 2009 Environmental Compliance Employee of the Year was Charles Schrod of our Eastern Area Office.
- Also receiving district and SWD honors while competing at the national level is Cheri Dixon of Fort Gibson Lake, our Recreation Employee of the Year.
- Our Construction Manager of the Year Award went to John

Tichenor, project engineer at the Central Oklahoma Area Office.

- The exalted Employee of the Year Award went to Jeffrey Miller in recognition of his exemplary performance and noteworthy abilities.
- The prestigious Engineer of the Year Award for 2009 went to Russ Wyckoff.
- Finally, one of the most esteemed awards in Tulsa District is the Lt. Col. Mark Fritz Leadership Award which went to Keith Francis from our Office of Counsel.

We also took the opportunity to recognize all those who have ever deployed from the Tulsa Engineer District to Iraq or Afghanistan. We had many retirees return for this special recognition. It was very humbling to award the Secretary of Defense Medal for the Global War on Terrorism to each of them. As the group gathered for a picture, the crowd gave them a standing ovation. We all truly appreciate their service -- and to those who are still deployed, we look forward to your safe return.

Thanks again for each of your contributions, and I look forward to a strong finish to FY09. As a final note, the Tulsa District wishes to thank Col. Chris Martin for his leadership in Fort Worth District these past three years and for being a great partner with all our fellow districts.

Tulsa Teamwork!

Houston reservoirs prove worth in April rain event



Water is released at a controlled rate from two culverts at the Addicks Reservoir in Houston after record rainfall sent pool readings at the reservoir to the second highest reading in the structure's 60-year history.

*by Isidro Reyna
Pacesetter Staff*

Record rainfall in the west Houston area in April sent accumulated water levels at Addicks Reservoir to its second highest pool reading in the structure's 60-year history. The rainfall caused the closure of State Highway 6 and county-run parks in both the Addicks and Barker reservoirs.

Although the reservoirs are capable of collectively holding up to 409,853 acre-feet the April rain showers only brought the reservoirs up to 92,199 acre-feet, less than half of what the reservoirs are designed to hold.

"The rainfall we received was larger than a 100-year rain event," said Richard Long, Addicks and Barker reservoirs manager. "We're pleased the reservoirs acted as they were designed to, which is to protect the city of Houston from flooding."

Completed in the 1940s by the Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Addicks and Barker reservoirs prevent downstream flooding of Buffalo Bayou in the Houston metropolitan area.

Under normal operating procedures the Addicks and Barker dams allow the passage of low-flow water down Buffalo Bayou. However, when there is a chance for severe weather that could cause excessive flows in Buffalo Bayou downstream of the dams (such as the April rain event) the gates are closed until the threat of flooding has passed.

"We monitored the rain event, maintained communication with our community partners and

kept the district informed," said Long. "After the threat of flooding passed, the gates of the dam were opened and water was released in a controlled manner."

Personnel at both the Addicks Field Office in Houston and district headquarters in Galveston monitored facilities in and around the Addicks and Barker dams and reservoirs including the physical structures and water levels.

"It's a team effort," said Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "The Corps contributes to the safety, economic success and quality of life of local communities by reducing the risk for flooding."

See "Reservoirs" page 21



Patterson Road, located in the heart of Addicks Reservoir, was flooded after record rainfall fell in the west Houston area.

Recruiting efforts help build the SWD team

Linda Webster

Regional Workforce Development Specialist

Our employees are the catalyst that can move the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from “good to great.”

Within the Southwestern Division, efforts are under way to build our team to ensure we have competent and disciplined team members, now and into the future. Our recruitment efforts are in concert with the Corps’ Campaign Plan and SWD’s Implementation Plan, specifically Goal 4, Objective 4d: Establish tools and systems that get the right people in the right jobs, then develop and train this highly skilled workforce.

To that end, since last October team members from throughout the division have participated in



Tammy Solomon, administrative officer, Tulsa District, mans the recruitment booth during the Fort Hood Continuum of Service Job Fair.



Eric Pederson, park ranger, Fort Worth District, answers an attendee’s question while Linda Webster, SWD’s regional workforce development specialist, describes Corps employment opportunities during the Continuum of Service Job Fair at Fort Hood, Texas, May 11-12.

numerous recruitment events to raise awareness of the diverse and rewarding careers available within the Corps. While staffing SWD is a priority, our team members stress that the Corps is a worldwide organization with employment opportunities across our nation and beyond.

SWD’s recruitment team members are as diverse as our missions and represent various disciplines.

During a recent Continuum of Service Job Fair at Fort Hood, Texas, more than 1,800 attended, with some 250 visiting the SWD booth.

To date, the SWD team has attended three national recruiting events, five regional events and 54 events at colleges and universities. These efforts will continue as we build the bench now and for the future.

ECSO participates in Montana workshop

By Jim Frisinger, ESCO
Fort Worth District

Fort Worth District's Engineering and Construction Support Office joined a number of federal agencies in giving presentations at a small-business workshop hosted by U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., in Great Falls. The June 13 forum was put together by the senator's office after questions arose in the Montana business community over whether local companies would have equal access to work opportunities under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The \$787 billion in ARRA funding is designed to stimulate the national economy.

ECSO is executing a major border post modernization at 10 land ports of entry for U.S. Customs and Border Protection along the northern and southern border. One of those is the Whitetail Port of Entry in Montana.

Eight Corps districts will be part of the ECSO team executing these projects. Partnering districts are Albuquerque, Fort Worth, New England, New York, Omaha, Rock Island, St. Paul and Seattle.

On average, facilities slated for modernization were built more than 40 years ago in a different era of inspection. New post-Sept. 11 technology must now be installed.

The CBP has been allocated \$420 million from ARRA to begin a 10-year mission to modernize the 43 land ports of entry that it owns. About \$320



Bob Hardbarger, far left, appeared on a small-business workshop panel moderated by Montana Sen. Jon Tester, far right.
USACE photo Col. John Gessner

million of these funds are dedicated to full replacement of 20 to 25 of these ports; others will share \$25 million in repair and alteration funds.

Bob Hardbarger, acting chief of the ECSO Special Programs Branch that will include the ARRA, made the presentation in Great Falls on behalf of the Corps. He was supported by Col. John Gessner, military deputy for CBP projects for the Southwestern Division. Other presentations were made by CBP, the General Services Administration, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Forest Service.

More than 200 individuals representing businesses from Montana and surrounding states attended the forum. Questions and answers ranged from contracting with the federal government to small-business opportunities related to the ARRA program. Those in attendance appreciated the fact that the agencies represented were able to organize this forum in less than two weeks and took the effort to travel to Montana to address their concerns in person.

The most important message that the agencies communicated was that they were sensitive to employing local and small businesses to accomplish the ARRA work. The workshop included one-on-one meetings between agencies, contractors and other business officials.

ECSO is executing modernization projects in Antelope Wells, N.M.; Whitetail, Mont.; Pinnacle Road, Vt.; Pittsburg, N.H.; and Walhalla, Neche, Sherwood, Hansboro, Carbury and Westhope, N.D.



Antelope Wells, N.M., Port of Entry
Photo Ben Miranda, Albuquerque District

Division welcomes new chief of Operations

Angela Premo, PMP, joined the Southwestern Division as its chief of Operations, Programs Management Directorate. As such, she is responsible for the oversight of the Operations and Maintenance programs including navigation, regulatory, natural resources management, critical project security, flood control, and hydropower.

Prior to joining SWD, she was briefly the senior Operations & Maintenance program manager for all of the programs within Operations Division of the South Atlantic Division. Premo recently served as the navigation program manager for the South Atlantic

Division with responsibility for oversight of the general investigations, construction general and O&M navigation and dredging activities. Her responsibilities included management of a \$200 million navigation program encompassing all federal harbors and channels and 32 locks and dams in the southeast.

Her experience with the Corps includes more than 30 years of management in all facets of operations, engineering, construction, and programs and project management for civil works and military programs. She began her career with the Huntington District during the construc-

tion of the Stonewall Jackson Dam, and subsequently worked at the Gulf Coast Area Office in Jacksonville District and with Savannah District.

She is a native of Weston, W.Va., and a graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She is married and has two children.



Angela Premo



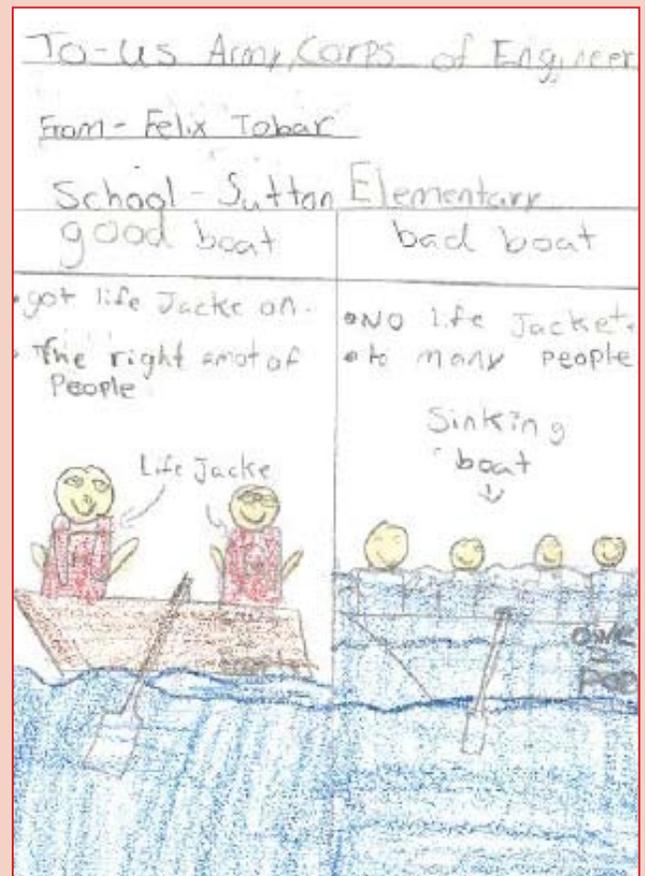
Mission complete

From left, Air Force Col. Chris Hair, 19th Maintenance Group commander; Army Col. Ed Jackson, Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District commander; Air Force Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott, 18th Air Force commander; Air Force Col. Greg Otey, 19th Air Wing commander; and Air Force Col. Jeff Hoffer, 19th Operations Group commander, cut the ribbon on one of three buildings the Little Rock District completed construction on at Little Rock Air Force Base. (Photo by Cheri Dragos-Pritchard)



Good samaritans

Little Rock District's Summer Park Rangers Winnona Davis and Preston Sirmon were recently commended in a letter to the editor of the DeQueen Bee Newspaper for being "friendly folks," said stranded motorists Dee and Richard Starr of Georgetown, Texas. Davis and Sirmon stayed with the couple, who broke down on a narrow shoulder of the road in DeQueen, Ark., directing traffic and, "just being helpful," the Starrs commented in the letter (Courtesy photo)



Student gets message

The Little Rock District Water Safety Team received this card from Felix Tobar, a 4th grade student, who attended the SWD VestFest 2009 event at Springhill Park in Fort Smith, Ark., The event was held to promote life jacket use and safe boating.

Galveston District PM garners big award

Cited for “initiative, drive and determination”

Andria Davis, a project manager in the compliance section of the Regulatory Branch, Galveston District, has been chosen Southwestern Division Regulator of the Year. Davis was cited for her leadership through selfless dedication and tireless effort in performing her duties during 2008. Additionally, her service during Hurricane Ike both supported Emergency Operations and allowed the district to meet regulatory National Performance Standards in enforcement and compliance during a time when SWG faced immense challenges from the hurricane.

Davis' service during Hurricane Ike included working away from home, assisting others although her home was damaged and her family displaced, and working weekends and overtime. She created and piloted programs implemented to establish logistic arrangements for Corps employees during hurricane events and aided SWG in accounting for 100 percent of the district staff post Hurricane Ike, as well as located housing for key SWG staff post hurricane.

Specific regulatory branch achievements include completing more than 150 jurisdictional determinations along the upper Texas coast and investigating and resolving 15 purported enforcement actions according to Kenny Jaynes, compliance section chief.

“Although she had less than 10 months of regulatory experience when Hurricane Ike hit Galveston, she completed these jurisdictional determinations in an area covering hundreds of acres in 21 counties,” he said. “Additionally, she has enhanced the efficiency of the compliance program by leading a workgroup that created an SWG Regulatory Safety Assessment/ Safety Checklist which serves as a template for SWG and has been utilized by other districts.”

Davis, a graduate of



Selfless dedication, leadership and tireless effort during hurricane relief operations led to Andria Davis, a project manager with the compliance section of the Regulatory Branch Galveston District, being named the Southwestern Division Regulator of the Year.

Texas A&M University with a degree in Marine Biology, was a Corps Cadet captain commanding 250 members of the Cadet Corps at Texas A&M.

Davis began her Galveston District career in October 2007 in the compliance section.

Davis' previous experience includes such varied duties as working on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration study vessel Gordan Gunter, directing the piloting of the vessel and conducting marine sampling as a qualified marine inspector inspecting foreign and domestic vessels for national

security purposes for the U.S. Coast Guard, and acting as Navy Defense Logistic Agency and Air Force ship operations officer. She is a lieutenant and senior reserve officer with the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit.

Davis was also lauded for volunteering her personal time for outreach projects which provided career guidance in the environmental career field.

“Her initiative, drive and determination have led to a multitude of accomplishments and help her serve as a role model for others in the regulatory field,” Jaynes said.



Historical times are here

*Col. Donald E. Jackson
Commander, Little Rock District*

Each June we celebrate the proud history of the Army, the Corps of Engineers and Little Rock District.

Since 1775 the Army has been successful in fighting our nation's wars and protecting the freedoms we hold so dear. Since 1802, the Army Corps of Engineers has served the nation proudly.

The Corps began with the construction of coastal fortifications, the mapping of our new territory and the exploration of our inland waterways for commercial navigation. Over the years the mission has grown, and commensurate with that is the importance we bring to shaping the economic prosperity of our nation.

Little Rock District was established in 1881. At that time there were no districts in the Corps of Engineers. The Corps organized civil works around projects under examination, construction or operation. In our case, this consisted of 20 projects that included snagging and dredging, examinations (studies), surveys and construction.

Our legacy is defined by three key periods in our organization's history. The three periods include the construction of our key dams and reservoirs in the 1940-'50s, the construction of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in the 1960s and the period we are in today.

Over the past 18 months we have seen our workload almost quadruple. This increase has come at a time when 40 percent of our people are eligible for retirement.

There has never been a time more important to the future of our district than now, and you have the opportunity to be a part of it.

This year we have received four separate congressional appropriations for civil works alone. From the damage caused by last year's flooding came \$42 million we are able to use to repair and modernize infrastructure.

With the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds we will be able to knock off seven of our top 25 critical backlog maintenance items, items assessed to have a greater than 50 percent chance of failure in the next five years if maintenance is neglected.

Our military construction workload is one area

of dramatic growth. From a military program that averages \$50-60 million per year, this year we are now involved in more than \$650 million in military programs and Support for Others projects. Almost all of these are regional efforts in support of Fort Worth District, Veterans Administration, Department of Energy, and Department of Homeland Security.

Over the next several months our military program will grow yet again. We are currently in negotiations with the Army and Air Force to take over the Medical Command operation and maintenance mission from Fort Worth District.

This mission is huge and will sustain our district long into the future. How huge? The initial program amounts have been discussed at \$500 million annually, and I have recently heard of potential short-term growth at more than \$1 billion annually. This may include responsibility for the execution of a program that extends beyond the borders of the United States.

The VA is also interested in our district taking over an additional region based on what we have been able to accomplish thus far. Huntsville Engineering Center has asked us to build capability into Building Information Modeling, allowing Design Branch to maintain marketability throughout the region and the nation.

Also, our involvement in regional and national dam and levee safety programs continues to expand. We currently lead Southwestern Division with our participation.

Why is this work coming our way? It is because of the quality of product you deliver and your reputation for getting the job done. See, you are better than you think you are. These are historic times, and you are the key to making it happen.

Aside from the growth of our programs, many other events have shaped our year. Since last June we have had 23 members of our team deploy to support Overseas Contingency Operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. We continue to support the fight with 12 of our team still deployed today.

The mission in Iraq has begun to ramp down but has not gone away, and the challenges in Afghanistan have only begun. I thank you for

supporting the chief's number one priority.

Furthermore, you have continued to support domestic crises spread over several presidential disaster declarations this year.

More than 80 of our people have deployed in support of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, as well as the local ice storm and a tornado that destroyed our project office at Dierks Lake near Texarkana.

Thank you for your continued passion for helping folks in need and for the many sacrifices required to get the job done.

For all who remained behind and had to pick up the slack or tend to family members of those gone forward, I thank you too. As with all good things, the best way forward is to go as a team.

Helping us keep our act together is our district Strategic Plan. This plan, developed over the past year, is fully synchronized and nested with the direction the Corps and SWD are taking now and in the years to come.

The Strategic Plan addresses every aspect of our mission set to include delivering USACE support to combat, stability and disaster operations through forward deployed and reach back capabilities. We'll deliver water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders. We will deliver innovative, resilient, sustainable engineer-

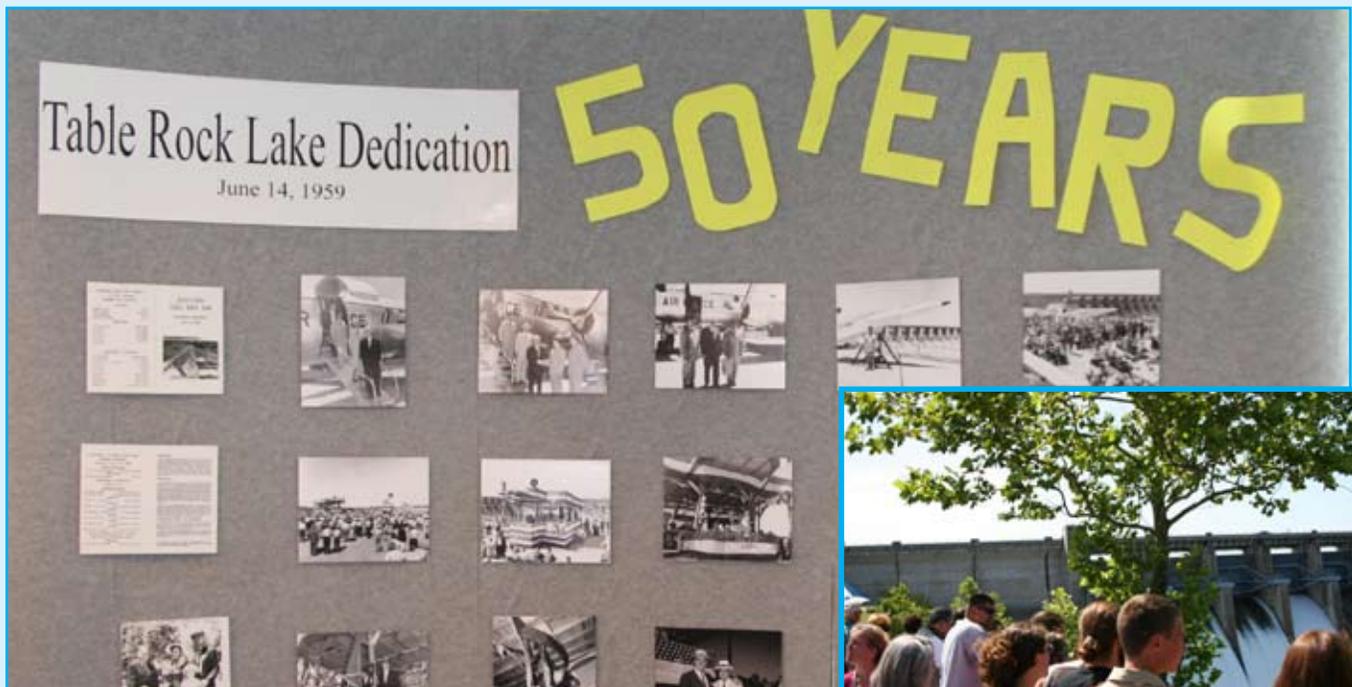
ing solutions to our Armed Forces and the nation. Finally, we will build a well-trained and competent workforce with the tools and processes necessary to deliver high quality products for our customers. Our Strategic Plan will help keep us focused, but it is up to you to ensure we deliver.

The key to our successes this year is you. Never before have I been so blessed. I am constantly amazed at what you do, and the vigor with which you do it. Being successful in the coming years will require us to communicate more and engage with customers, stakeholders and partners in ways that might break with traditions of the past.

We have to constantly ask ourselves, "What can we do?" and not focus on what we know we can't do.

One of my focus areas this next year will be the District Human Capital Plan. I need your help in finding quality people to join our team. You get them here, and I will do all I can to train them, motivate them, make them feel appreciated and reward them for a job well done.

In the Army we say our Soldiers are our credentials. I believe the same can be said about Little Rock District. I am proud of each of you, for who you are and what you do. I am honored, and humbled to serve alongside of you. Essayons.



Fifty years later

A board showing photos and programs from the original ceremony for the dedication of Table Rock Dam 50 years ago was displayed for those attending the 50th anniversary ceremony Sunday, June 13. The first ceremony was also held on a Sunday. In the inset photo, the ceremony participants gather to watch as all the gates at Table Rock Dam are ceremoniously opened commemorating its 50 years of operation.



Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, USACE commander, addresses the audience at the national Programs and Project Management Community of Practice Conference May 21 at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock. (All photos by David Virden)

USACE Chief visits Little Rock District

*By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff*



The USACE commander talks to a local CBS affiliate about the benefits of a partnership between Little Rock District and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences that created 10 dedicated campsites at Maumelle Park on the Arkansas River for patients undergoing extended medical treatments. The two partners agreed there was a need for patients who were not from the local area to have an option to use Corps campsites at Maumelle Park, without having the normal time limits for camping imposed.

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp visited Little Rock District for three event-filled days in May.

The general spoke at the national Programs and Project Management Community of Practice conference, a district town hall meeting, conducted an interview with local media, cut a ribbon and celebrated partnerships, district heroes and outstanding people.

First, Van Antwerp visited with the people of Little Rock District, touring from office to office shaking hands and talking.

The next day he spoke at the PPM conference held in the Peabody Hotel. While there, the general herded ducks with the assistance of the Peabody Duck Master.

During the conference and the town hall gathering, he talked about new opportunities, new jobs and large quantities of work thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“We’re living in historic times,” Van Antwerp said. “There were only three other times in history when congress appropriated spending for our infrastructure. This is the fourth time. On top of that, we’re bringing in an additional 3,300 people net to get the job done.”

The general talked about civil works and military construction as well as project funding.

“By the end of this year, if we add up both civil works and military programs, we’ll have \$40 billion under construction if you all deliver on the time schedules you have in P2. So I’m counting on you,” he said with a tinge of humorous challenge in his voice.

“There are a lot of things going on today that haven’t happened in the 37 years that I’ve been in this uniform. It’s a new era, and we’re in the center of it.” The general pointed out to the audiences that “this is the largest work load we’ve had in history.”

The commander also visited Maumelle Park on the Arkansas River and helped cut the ribbon on the recently completed extended-stay

camping sites. These 10 sites were constructed under a partnership with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for patients receiving extended treatment. The general agreed that this is a win-win situation and a great example of how much the Corps cares about its customers.

After the ceremony, Van Antwerp recognized several district employees for their outstanding contributions to the Corps at an informal southern-style barbeque.

Following the general’s visit, Little Rock District Commander Col. Ed Jackson noted, “General Van is a special leader for the Corps Family, and he brings a special touch of humility, wisdom and an extraordinary amount of grace to the position.”



Assisting the Duck Master, the general herds the celebrity ducks at the Peabody Hotel. The ducks swim in the fountain by day and are returned to their roof roost at night.



During a Town Hall meeting, the commanding general thanks Capt. Charles Lucas and Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Sharp who are both temporarily working in Little Rock District under the Wounded Warrior Program.



Cutting the ribbon are (from left) Ranger Donnie Lindsey, Dr. Peter Emanuel of UAMS, Richard Pierson of UAMS, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, cancer patient Beverly Preston and her husband Darryl Preston. The Prestons are staying in one of the 10 newly-constructed campsites.



The general visited each office within the Little Rock District Headquarters, meeting and greeting many people. He also stopped to take group photos.



Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp recognized several district heroes, including Chris Roark, Little Rock District’s executive assistant.

Pioneer Trail added to Trails system

Visitors experience Flint Hills ecosystem up close

Michael Lowry
Council Grove Lake

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar recently designated the Pioneer Nature Trail at Council Grove Lake as a National Recreation Trail. It was one of 22 trails nationwide newly recognized.

The natural resource staff at Council Grove held a dedication ceremony on June 13th to honor this special designation. Park Ranger Mike Lowry read a brief history of the trail and the National Trails System and then led a walk along the 1.2-mile trail. It was a beautiful day in the upper 70s with a clear sky; many prairie wildflowers were in bloom, providing a spectacular walk.

The Pioneer Nature Trail was started during the cold winter of 1978.

The newly designated National Recreation Trail offers visitors an up close experience with the ecosystem of the Kansas Flint Hills.



A map of all of the National Recreation Trails in the United States.

Park Ranger Marty Burk, Project Manager Rick Sellers, Richard Douthit of the Kansas Trails Council, and a few other volunteers laid out the original trail. It was finished in 1981 and used by the visiting public. By

the mid 1990s, the rigors of poorer budgets were affecting Council Grove's trails. At that time, the natural resource staff decided to close another trail on the lake and concentrate on the Pioneer Nature Trail. Their intent was to provide a place for the visiting public to enjoy a natural setting in the Flint Hills.

That intent has been met. In 2006, the Buffalo Wallow Loop was dedicated on National Trails Day. This second loop is located in a natural tall grass ecosystem, giving visitors the opportunity to experience a typical Flint Hills Upland Draw (many different varieties of trees) and an example of tall grass prairie, one of the

most endangered ecosystems in North America. Only three percent of the tall grass ecosystem remains, and most of it is located in the Flint Hills region of Kansas. Several buffalo wallows are located along this second loop and are interpreted by signage.

Pioneer Nature Trail, along with the other 21 trails, added 525 miles to the National Trails System.

"From coast to coast, the National Trails System helps connect American families with the wonders of the outdoors," Salazar said.

The network of trails totals more than 12,500 miles.

Perrin receives Hall of Fame honors at University of Texas at Arlington

Les Perrin, Fort Worth District, chief, Geotechnical Section, was inducted into the University of Texas at Arlington Department of Civil Engineering's Hall of Fame by the unanimous approval of the department on April 18, 2009.

Induction into the Hall of Fame is reserved for individuals who have distinguished themselves in their professional accomplishments, service to the engineering community and the Civil Engineering Department.

Perrin is a registered professional engineer in Texas and California and is the first individual outside of academia to receive this honor at UTA.

Several district employees turned out to watch Perrin's induction ceremony and hear his keynote address.

"Les is a great supervisor and mentor," said Ken McCleskey, Geotechnical Section. "He has always been very supportive and encouraged me to grow professionally and through my academics. He not only expects professional development from his employees, but leads by his own example."

Perrin has also been cited as being responsible for successful recruitment and using those recruitment skills to support the mission.

"He recruits the best and the brightest engineering college graduates," said McCleskey. "He pairs new engineers with senior professionals to enhance their skills and abilities and by doing that he creates a 'share and learn' environment."

In addition to fostering a learning environment and executing the district missions, Perrin is also seen as a master of his technical area. "Everyone who comes to Les for consultation on a technical



District team members, along with family and friends, attended the induction ceremony for Les Perrin at the University of Texas at Arlington. From left, Les Perrin, Al Branch, Anita Branch, Jose Hernandez, Ken McCleskey, and Sarwenaj Ashraf.

issue knows that he can be counted on to provide well-thought-out guidance that can be relied upon for its soundness and accuracy," said McCleskey. "That so many of Les' employees came to support him at his UTA award presentation is a testament to our great respect for and appreciation of him."

Perrin's educational credentials include: bachelor of science in civil engineering, University of Texas, 1974; master of science in civil engineering, University of Texas at Arlington, 1981; Intensive Soil Mechanics, University of California at Berkeley, 1983; and Army Management Staff College, Fort Belvoir, Va., 2002.

Perrin has been a member of the Civil Engineering Advisory Board for the University of Texas at Arlington since 2005 and has led or sponsored several research collaborations and co-authored several research publications with colleagues at UTA.



To the moon

Little Rock District's Shawn Snow (left) and Charia Halford (right) of the Technical Resource Center attended the opening reception for a Clinton Presidential Center exhibit in Little Rock, Ark. The exhibit, entitled Space: From the Moon to Mars, brought out not only Snow and Halford, but an astronaut, too. Shown here with Snow and Halford is the keynote speaker, Story Musgrave. According to literature picked up by Snow, Musgrave is a NASA astronaut and life-long student as well as a farm boy, doctor, pilot, artist, landscaper, mechanic, parachutist, scuba diver, and poet. He has earned six degrees: B.A., B.S., M.B.A., M.A., M.S. and M.D. He is the only astronaut to have flown missions on all five space shuttles. (Courtesy photo)



Farewell to Fort Worth

*Col. Christopher W. Martin
Commander, Fort Worth District*

It is time for me to say goodbye to the best district in USACE. I have enjoyed working with all of you for the last three years and have learned so much that I believe it is unfair that I have imparted so little back in return.

Throughout the last three years I have been constantly amazed at the professionalism of the great people in this district. You have all performed magnificently on construction projects at our Army and Air Force military bases, civil works projects across this great state, at our 25 lakes, and in the district headquarters. We have worked many significant issues during my tenure as your commander. Examples include the Fort Bliss Expansion program, the San Antonio BRAC program, the Mission Reach project in San Antonio, the Dallas Floodway project, the Central City project in Fort Worth, developing our Center of Standardization program, and providing support to Hurricane Ike. I have always stated that we are the best district in USACE because we have the best people.

The Fort Bliss program is the key component of the Army Campaign Plan. The Army is depending on us to continue to deliver the facilities on time to allow management of our rotation schedules for units in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan and pre-positioning of forces from Germany back to the U.S. Our Medical Education and Training Campus program at Fort Sam Houston is critical to developing the campus needed to train all military health care professionals, and the Brook Army Medical Center expansion project allows us to provide even better facilities to those Soldiers, sailors, and airmen wounded on deployment.

Our continuous work on the Dallas Floodway and Floodway Extension projects has already led to increasing the flood protection for the city of Dallas, and we are blazing new territory with the way we are handling the Periodic Inspection Report of the Dallas levees. Meanwhile, the Central City project in Fort Worth continues to steam forward, while we are rapidly progressing into the next phase of work

on the Mission Reach project in San Antonio. At our lakes we continue to lead the Corps in annual revenue and received more than \$90 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds that will allow us to address a tremendous backlog of work that has built up over the years.

We have led the Army in Centers of Standardization development. Our COS web site, designs, acquisition tools, and customer satisfaction surveys are the USACE standard now. Our COS team is constantly asked to provide input on proposals to make the program even better.

We closed out FY06 with around \$800 million in contracts. That number has grown significantly since then – in FY07 we contracted out about \$1.2 billion, then around \$2.1 billion last year. This

year, we have already contracted out \$1.6 billion, and have about \$1 billion more to do in the last three months of the FY.

Last year we established the Hurricane Ike Recovery Field Office in Pasadena following Hurricane Ike to assist our sister district in Galveston. Many of you deployed in support for the RFO and provided tremendous

support to those in need in the Galveston, Houston, and Beaumont areas. Our debris team, looked upon as one of the best in USACE, deployed personnel all over the U.S. in support of floods, ice storms, and hurricanes. Our Forward Engineering Support Team-A stood up and deployed to Iraq on relatively short notice to assist with construction of several new jails. And many of you have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan on individual assignments in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

My intent in relating all these things is to ensure you have a sense of awareness of all that we are doing in the district. I also hope you develop a sense of pride in all that we have accomplished, just as I am so proud to have been a member of this great team for the last three years. I also hope

“. . . the heartbeat of the district is the people who work here day in and day out . . . “

See “Col. Martin’s Column” next page

Canton Dam gets new spillway

To be largest fuse-gated spillway in world

In 2001, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, completed a Dam Safety Assurance Program Evaluation for Canton Lake which identified deficiencies that are now being corrected. A hydrologic deficiency identified in the report was the potential for a Probable Maximum Flood to over-

A view of the cut off wall during construction



top the dam. A fuse-gated auxiliary spillway and channel, designed to increase discharge capacity, is being constructed. The spillway will have fuse gates that tip like giant concrete buckets in a chosen sequence to slow the flow of water through the spillway. When the project is completed, the Canton Lake Dam Auxiliary Spillway will be the largest fuse-gated spillway in the world. A model was built to facilitate the project's design effort.

Before any material could be excavated to allow for the new spillway channel, a bentonite-cement slurry cut-off wall was constructed to prevent seepage of water from the lake into the excavation area. Vegetation and soil are being removed prior to construction of the spillway channel walls. Soil removed from the channel

area is being placed along the downstream toe of the dam. The resulting berm, in conjunction with a new drain system, will control foundation seepage. Construction of a new bridge over the spillway, a concrete base for the fuse gates, and other engineered features will follow.

A second deficiency identified was the presence of a weak foundation under the existing spillway. In 2006 rock anchors were installed to correct this deficiency. They were drilled into rock and tensioned to provide stability to the structure.

All phases of construction are anticipated to be complete by 2015. The project has been listed on the E&C Field Training Opportunities page of the Technical Excellence Network at <https://ten.usace.army.mil/TechExNet>.

Col. Martin's Column

continued from previous page

that you understand that a district's boundaries are defined on a map, but the heartbeat of the district is the people who work here day in and day out – whether civilian, military, contractor, rehired annuitants, or interns. It is people who make the district, not a line on a map, not an organizational chart, not a program. And the people here make our district the best in USACE.

Col. R.J. Muraski, your new commander, will rely heavily on your experience, expertise, and knowledge of all these difficult projects, challenges, and opportunities. I know that you will all impart to him the same professional advice and counsel you have given me for these last few years. The

district will be in great hands with Col. Muraski steering the ship.

So with that, I will end this column. Again I thank you for all the things you have given to me. I also apologize that I returned so little to you. Please be safe in all you do, and please continue to provide our nation and our Corps with the same professionalism you have given for so many years. God-speed to you all . . .

Fun, sun, fishing at Oologah

The 2009 Oologah Fun, Sun, and Fishing Day was a tremendous success.

The collaborative effort of agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Northwest Fire Department, Rogers County Sheriff's Office, and the town of Oologah



Young angler who caught the longest fish in his age group.



Fishing on the south side of the pond.

helped make the event an awesome fishing day for local kids.

The day started with a safety meeting, and fishing poles were provided from the district's water safety trailer.

Edwin Evers and Terry Butcher from the Bassmaster Elite Series were a main attraction.

Both men were present for the entire event helping with rod-and-reel assembly, talking with kids about fishing and announcing when a young angler caught a fish.

They were kept busy -- the more than 200 kids caught and released more than 150 fish and consumed at least 400 hotdogs.

Prizes were donated from Bassmasters and vendors from the Oologah/Claremore area.



FEA team winners

The Little Rock Public Affairs team, (from left) P.J. Spaul, public affairs officer, and Cheri Dragos-Pritchard, public affairs assistant, accept the Federal Executive Association's Federal Employee of the Year, (team category) Award from FEA President Cameron Doss for their work during the 2008 floods. The team aggressively planned, implemented and revised communication strategies during this series of natural disasters that evolved sometimes at an hourly rate. The overriding purpose was to save lives and preclude further damage whenever and wherever possible. Information dissemination was critical to minimize risk to the public and to tell the good news stories. Spaul was also recognized nationally as the Michael C. Robinson Public Affairs Practitioner of the Year and will be honored at the USACE Summer Leader Conference in August. (Courtesy photo)

Reservoirs

continued from page 7

Estimates show the Corps has saved the Houston metropolitan area more than \$4.6 billion in damages since the construction of both reservoirs.

Shortly after the rainfall the Galveston District repaired culverts for the water control structures at both dams. The work had been planned for the summer but was accelerated due to the high discharges of water that occurred from the reservoirs.

“While there was no danger to the public due to the culverts needing repair, we wanted to ensure that it remained that way,” said Weston.

The work involved injecting a urethane substance under portions of the culverts to provide them with additional support.

“The heavy rainfall helped demonstrate the Galveston District’s ability to act quickly and competently,” said Long. “The Corps will hold public information meetings in July in order to provide residents who live around the reservoirs information about the Addicks and Barker reservoirs’ operations.

For information about the Addicks and Barker reservoirs, go to the Galveston District web site at www.swg.usace.army.mil and click on the “Recreation” link.



Telling the Corps Story -- Galveston District Northern Area Engineer Don Carelock, in front of camera, explains Galveston Seawall repairs on the West End to Houston’s Fox television affiliate station during a Seawall media event May 21 on Galveston Island. Galveston and Houston-area news media reported on the repair work on damages caused by Hurricane Ike as well as public safety precautions for the summer holidays.

Education key to saving lives

SWD VestFest 2009 big success for Corps, local children

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter staff

Life jackets in boats and seat belts in cars have two things in common. First, they can both help save lives and prevent serious injuries in the event of an accident. Second, neither works unless you wear it.

That was the message at VestFest 2009, recently held in Fort Smith, Ark. Four other Corps districts joined Little Rock District and other community safety representatives to educate local school children and the community about the importance and proper use of life jackets.

The goal of the event was to inspire life jacket use and educate the public about the Army Corps of Engineers' mission in water safety.

"I'm sure the kids were inspired to wear their



Little Rock District's Lisa Owens of Nimrod-Blue Mountain Lake Project Office demonstrates the hazards of having too many people in the boat at one time to a group of 4th graders from Sutton Elementary School.



Little Rock's Donald Henson of the Clearwater Lake Project Office demonstrates how to properly wear a life jacket to a student from Sutton Elementary.

life jackets," DeGray Lake Ranger Renea Guin of Vicksburg District said. "The enthusiasm of the kids for the skits and programs we provided made this a very memorable day for me. I truly enjoyed providing several programs for the kids about the dangers of overloading a boat."

The first day of the event was designed to give personal attention to the youth of Fort Smith – the second-largest city in Arkansas. Through a partnership with the Fort Smith Public School District, five Corps districts conducted VestFest for 19 different schools with almost 1,200 students attending. The second day was open to the entire community.

"It was absolutely inspiring to watch Corps rangers and safety officers mesh together from all over Southwestern Division and Vicksburg District," Little Rock's Russellville Park Ranger Allison Smedley stated. "They gave 100 percent to the children and teachers. You would have thought our team worked together on a daily basis. However, many folks had met only one day before!"

Vest Fest

continued from previous page

Smedley went on to say it was “awesome” to be able to step back and watch the rangers teach children, to hear the laughter and see the smiles on their faces.

“That memory will never leave me,” she said.

There were many local agencies and businesses at the event along with the rangers and safety officers from the Corps.

“The teamwork and coordination efforts that took place to make this event come together were phenomenal,” Galveston District’s Wallisville Ranger Russell Malahy said. “It made me even more proud to be a part of the Corps’ team. When I think of the some 1,200 students rotating through the separate education stations in one day, it is just down right incredible!”

The weather didn’t cooperate the second day as well as it did the first day, but in the end the water safety team handed out more than 1,500 T-shirts promoting water safety and life jacket use.

“Students and teachers gave us a grade of 100,” Little Rock’s Outdoor Recreation Planner Chris Smith said. “The event was deemed extremely successful.”

Station themes or topics at the event included:

- The dangers of alcohol and boating
- Think fast or sink fast – you have to wear a life jacket for it to save your life
- Cold water dangers
- How to rescue a drowning person
- The dangers of overloading a boat

The free community VestFest Safety Fair included the following:

- U.S. Coast Guard (courtesy boat inspections)
- Fort Smith Fire Department’s HazMat Unit
- Arkansas State Police (with a patrol car)
- Sebastian County S.O. SWAT Team (with a boat)
- Barling Police Department (with a patrol car)
- Barling Volunteer Fire Department (with a fire truck)
- Products Research and Development Company (hook safety)
- Sebastian County Extension Office (ATV driver safety, food science, litter control and soil erosion)
- Boy Scout Troop 316 and
- Local ESPN radio station 95.3 broadcasted live from the event.



Little Rock District’s Lisa Owens of Nimrod-Blue Mountain Lake Project Office was the presenter for ‘Think Fast or Sink Fast’ program, demonstrating the importance of wearing a life jacket, to some very young participants.



(From the left) Little Rock District’s Lisa Owens of Nimrod-Blue Mountain Lake Project Office, Sylvester Jackson of the Pine Bluff Project Office, Galveston District’s Russell Malahy of the Wallisville Project Office and Little Rock’s Patrick Bass of the Pine Bluff office, were demonstrating the effects of alcohol with the fatal vision goggles to a participant during the public day event in Springhill Park. The man had to successfully walk through an obstacle course set up with orange traffic cones while wearing the fatal vision goggles.

Residents of Broken Bow learn the hard truth

“When it rains, it pours.”

*Ross Adkins
Pacesetter Staff*

During heavy rains in May of this year, Broken Bow Lake’s flood storage pool filled to its second highest level in history. Some gauges recorded 16 to 20 inches of rainfall in the watershed that drains into Broken Bow Lake which is managed by Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Following the floods, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Tulsa District commander, traveled to the affected area to participate in a Town Hall meeting at the Kiamichi Technology Center in Idabell, Okla. He met with residents and business owners who were concerned about the flood risk management operations at the lake. Also attending were Betty Ford, Ben Robinson and Joe Hill from Rep. Dan Boren’s office and John Massey from Sen. Jim Inhofe’s office.

Because Broken Bow is part of a flood damage reduction system, releases had been held to a minimum in an attempt to mitigate the flooding that was occurring downstream from uncontrolled run-off. However, when inflows from the recurring storms were predicted to top the tainter gates

on Broken Bow Dam and create a potentially dangerous condition, releases had to be made to protect the integrity of the structure. Attempting to keep downstream flooding to a minimum, the least possible releases were made but they did damage the fishery and some park structures immediately below the spillway.

The high river flows curtailed all activities in the area including those at Beavers Bend State Park during the Memorial Day holiday, one of the area’s busiest tourist weekends. To make matters worse, it was the third straight year of early spring and summer flooding.

Dave Smulyan, a member of the local chamber of commerce and manager of radio station KKBI, said he was very pleased to have the Corps spend the time and effort to explain the complex issues involved in operating the lake and other lakes as part of a system. He said the biggest revelation to him was the fact that there were so many factors involved. “I began to realize the huge juggling act you have to perform to protect not only us, but other cities that could be wiped out if it isn’t handled right. And, could you have handled



Participants at the Broken Bow town hall are, left to right, Jim Miller manager of Beavers Bend State Park, Paul Balkenbush South East Fisheries Supervisor, Betty Ford of Congressman Dan Boren’s Office, Col Funkhouser Tulsa District Commander and John Massey also of Congressman Dan Boren’s office.

it any other way? Could you speculate on where the rain might fall? Nope!”

Some operators of recreation-based businesses that depend on Broken Bow Lake expressed concern about the loss of business and tourism on which the area depends.

In his remarks, Col. Funkhouser reminded the attendees that the primary reason Broken Bow and other lakes in the Little River basin were constructed was for flood risk management operations.

He said, “A system like this is very complex and, at best, a compromise between varied interests. No one is a complete winner. But it is designed to give the most benefit to the most people.”

Col. Funkhouser noted that recreation traditionally has been ranked below flood risk management, hydroelec-

tric power generation and water supply. A number of participants said they believe times and economies have changed around the lake, and the ranking should be changed. Robinson explained the process for that to happen.

Following the town hall, participants toured the popular fishery located immediately below the spillway gates. It was led by Paul Balkenbush of the local Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife office who said, “In many ways the damage to the fishery is a great opportunity. Now we can make changes we wish we had made when we originally designed and built the area.”

In spite of the economic impact to the area, many attendees of the town hall praised the Corps of Engineers for keeping the damages to a minimum.



We're Ready

*Col. David C. Weston
Commander, Galveston District*

We are dead in the middle of hurricane season, executing a work load four times greater than normal, and we're ready. By now we have all updated our personal evacuation plans, rehearsed our personnel accountability procedures, prepared our emergency kits at home, so we are ready for whatever nature throws at us. We have also put in place a synchronized work plan to execute our mission to standard across all of our business lines. This all has been done with a lot of dedicated effort and tremendous team work on everyone's part across the district and the region.

We highlighted some of your great efforts at our recent Engineer Day where we celebrated the birthday of USACE, and recognized more than a third of our district employees for their great service and performance over this past year. It takes all of us pulling together to accomplish what this district has done thus far this year, and I congratulate you and thank you for your superb performance. You have truly set a new standard for excellence. I would like to highlight our Engineer of the Year, Mr. Willie Jo Honza, and our Employee of the Year, Mr. Fred Anthamatten. Both these individuals embody the work ethic, technical competency and professionalism that make the Corps of Engineers one of the greatest institutions in our nation.

We also recognized many of our folks for their years of service, ranging from five all the way to 50! These veterans of government service, many serving all their years in Galveston District, represent the core competency and capability of USACE. Their skill sets are vital to our ability to execute our mission now and into the future.

To insure the competency of USACE, we experienced folks must do our part to insure that our replacements are trained and ready to step into our shoes prior to our departure. We must build the bench now, and are doing just that. This year we have made great strides in growing our number of Student Career Experience Program employees, Student Temporary Employment Program employees, interns and new employees to both help us execute our tremendous work load and to begin training the next generation of talent. Take these new folks under your wings and train, mentor and guide them towards a career of service to our nation. They are already making a great contribution to our team.

Lastly, please be safety conscious as you enjoy all the activities that summer brings. It only takes a moment of carelessness to create lasting tragedy. Do your part to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and healthy. See you at the beach!

Engineer Day festivities, Galveston employees honored

More than 200 Galveston District employees and guests celebrated Engineer Day 2009 with an awards ceremony June 11 and fun-filled picnic June 12 at the district's headquarters building.

Highlighting this year's awards ceremony was the announcement of the district Employee of the Year, Fred Anthamatten, chief, Regulatory Branch, and district Engineer of the Year, Willie Joe Honza, architectural engineering contract coordinator with the Engineering and Construction Division.

Anthamatten has worked for the Corps of Engineers for 32 years, all of which have been with the Galveston District. He led the district's regula-

tory program to a highly successful year of significant accomplishments, providing guidance in developing processes and training for the newly-implemented regulatory management database.

See "Galveston Engineer Day" page 28



Col. Weston and Fred Anathamatten

Supplemental Team works hard to organize spending

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

Little Rock District received two supplemental appropriations to repair damage caused by the 2008 spring floods, and to execute the repairs appropriately, the district formed the Implementation Project Delivery Team.

This team was formed in the latter part of fiscal year 2008 to “orchestrate the numerous activities required to meet the targeted obligation and execution goals of the supplemental funding,” I-PDT Project Manager Shirley Boldon-Bruce said. In short, Congress set deadlines and guidelines when they appropriated the money.

Many people throughout the district have worked hard to make the district successful in obligating the \$44.3 million, “however, it’s been through the efforts and dedication of this team that the district is not only meeting its goals, but is exceeding them,” Boldon-Bruce said.

“I have the pleasure of working with some of the district’s most committed people,” Boldon-Bruce went on to say. “Each one of them brings a unique skill set to the functional aspects of the team.”

District Commander Col. Ed Jackson tasked



(From left) Project Manager Shirley Boldon-Bruce sits with fellow Little Rock District Implementation Project Delivery Team members Brenda Bishop, Donna Wilkerson and A. J. Brown. The inset photo is Billy Qualls. Not shown is Gail Jones. (Photo by Cheri Dragos-Pritchard)

Programs and Project Management Division to form a working team that could make the endeavor a success for the entire district.

The team members are: Shirley Boldon-Bruce and Brenda Bishop of Project Management Division; Billy Qualls, Donna Wilkerson and Gail Jones of Operations Division; and A. J. Brown of Contracting Division.

“The amazing thing about this team,” Boldon-Bruce explained. “Is that this isn’t their sole or primary duty. This work is in addition to all of the other normal workload they have every day.”

“This has been an awesome learning experience and a blessing,” she said. “To work with such a professional and self-initiating team, has been rewarding. I would welcome the opportunity to work with any member of this project team in the future.”

The floods of 2008, caused by heavy and frequent rains, tornadoes and two hurricanes, damaged plumbing, electrical devices, park structures and facilities within the majority of the district’s parks. It also washed out roads, eroded lake and river banks, destroyed boat ramps and courtesy docks.

“All of the money must be obligated by Sept. 30,” Little Rock’s Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis said. “Hopefully, all of the repairs will be completed by that time, too. However, due to ever-changing weather conditions and the 2009 flooding and ice storm, some repairs may not be completed until Dec. 31.”

Gated Community After -
During rehabilitation, Galveston District removed nearly 60 tons of marine growth from this set of gates at the Colorado River Locks in Matagorda County, Texas. Every eight to ten years, the gates are removed, steel is replaced where needed, and the gates are sandblasted and painted. (See cover photo for “before” shot.)



B-R-A-C brings V-I-Ps : *Dignitaries get look at new C4I facility*

A number of dignitaries visited Fort Sill in April to review the Base Realignment and Closure program execution. Joining Col. Funkhouser at Fort Sill on April 9 were Maj. Gen. Dorko, Corps deputy commander of Military and International Operations, and Brig. Gen. Cox, Southwestern Division commander.

The Stinger Avenger and the C4I (Command, Control, Computing, Communications & Intelligence) General Instruction Facilities were contracted to Harper Construction Company of San Diego, Calif., in the amount of \$42,937,265. The facilities were expected to be turned over to the installation by May 1 this year, approximately one month ahead of the originally scheduled beneficial occupancy date.

Rick West, area engineer at the Fort Sill Area Office, said, "Early completion of these facilities is of paramount importance given that the Sill construction is the lynch pin for numerous global repositioning and transformation initiatives being undertaken by the Army at the macro level."



From left, Maj. Gen. Dorko, Project Manager Forward Walt Garner, and Project Engineer Bob Owens stand inside the Instructor's Office Area in the new C4I facility and look out at other BRAC work. Photo by Tom Chapman

Shoulder to Shoulder

Fort Worth District completes second phase of Suicide Prevention Training

The reality of suicide and the impact it has on family and friends hit home with Fort Worth District employees as they moved in lock step through the second phase of the Suicide Prevention Training Program.

The training is the Army's effort to shed light on a sensitive area that claimed more than 140 Soldiers last year by having top military leaders share personal stories about suicide and how it impacts families.

"There is a fundamental change by the Army in how they handle suicide training," said Eric Pedersen, emerging leader. "We are very fortunate in the Southwestern Division to have leadership that understands the importance and the need for this training and is making it a priority."

The second phase of the training curriculum is a practical application of what participants learned in the first phase. In a video introduction, Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox spoke directly to team members across the Southwestern Division.

"Every single one of you matter," he said. "Suicide is a leading cause of death, and it is time we do something about it. For those of you potentially going through a tough time, I encourage you to ask for help."

To initiate a more practical application of the training, participants were given scenarios to discuss how they felt about them and how they would approach them. "This helps us really look at the warning signs and determine what to do next," said Pedersen.

Many groups did not waste time getting to the tough questions. "Don't just beat around the bush," said Pedersen. "Sometimes the best approach is the direct approach because the bottom line is that suicide is preventable."

While the scenarios focused on Soldiers, depression and suicide can be present in the Civilian workforce as well. "There are a lot of things that can help if people are feeling depressed," said Pedersen. "One of those is the Employee Assistance Program. If you or a co-worker need to talk with someone, all you have to do is call or go online."

The Employee Assistance Program offers many services to employees free of charge and is anonymous.

"Suicide is preventable," said Brig. Gen. Cox. "We need to make an effort to recognize the signs of depression and know what to do if or when we see them."

Galveston Engineer Day

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Anthamatten also directed the initiation of an expanded cumulative impact assessment on Galveston Island and has developed a climate of responsiveness, completing on-time responses to both internal and external requests for public information.

Honza started his career in the Galveston District as an office engineer in the Construction Branch and has 20 years of federal service. He negotiated, finalized and issued six architectural and engineering task orders for the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency contracts.

Honza's efforts enabled the district to meet an aggressive schedule to award contracts



Joe Honza

before the 2009 hurricane season. Due to his tremendous increase in workload, the district's architectural and engineering capacity was exhausted early in the fiscal year; however, Honza was able to borrow additional architectural and engineering capacity from other districts to assure the district met its required mission.

Also nominated for the Employee of the Year Award were Karl Brown, operations project manager, Navigation Branch, Operations Division; Andria Davis, project manager, Regulatory Branch, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division; Mike deMasi, supervisory project engineer, Northern Area Office, Engineering and Construction Division; Rick Medina, chief of planning, Planning and Environmental Branch, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division; Joy Smith, realty specialist, Real Estate Division; Gilbert Treviño, civil engineering technician, Engineering Branch, Engineering and Construction Division; Humberto Troche, civil engineering technician, Southern Area Office, Engineering and Construction Division; and Jill Wiggins, administrative assistant to branch chief, Regulatory Branch, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division. Also nominated for the Engineer of the Year Award was Nancy Young, civil engineer, Engineering Branch, Engineering and Construction Division.

Two retirees were selected for inclusion in the district's Gallery of Distinguished Civilians. Owen Ralston, a former chief of the Design Branch, a position he held until his retirement in 1996 after 34 years of service to the district, was selected for embodying all of the characteristics of technical competency and exceptional leadership during his tenure with the Galveston District. Richard Harrison, a former chief of the Real Estate Division, was selected for his profound and long-lasting impact on the Real Estate Division. Harrison was instrumental in finding innovative ways to reduce costs of doing business and assisted other district's real estate functions while in his position.

Fern Kirkley, civil engineer technician in the Engineering and Construction Division, received an award for 50 years of service to the Galveston District.

Arthur J. Janecka, deputy district engineer and chief of program and project management, received a 45-year service award for his dedicated years of public service, all of which have been with the Galveston District.

Forty-year service awards were presented to John Hander, a civil engineering technician in the Engineering and Construction Division, and John J. (Jack) Otis, a project manager in PPMJ.



This least tern chick was photographed by Everett Laney, Tulsa District biologist, using his cell phone. The chick was hiding from the survey crew tasked with keeping track of the endangered interior least terns and their habitat. Each year, several agencies joined with Tulsa District to protect the birds and preserve the water resource benefits of the district's civil works projects. Annually, interior least terns travel thousands of miles to breed and raise their young in this part of the country. They prefer sandy islands with no vegetation. District hydrologists and environmental specialists work with representatives of the Southwest Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, and others to manipulate water releases to protect the birds and their habitat from wildlife and human predators.

Lippe named Administrative Support Professional of the Year

By Melanie Ellis
Fort Worth District

Employees from across the Fort Worth District gathered for a luncheon at the Petroleum Club in downtown Fort Worth to recognize and celebrate contributions of all Administrative Support Professionals on April 29.

The District Awards Committee selected and recognized Tonya Lippe, Three Rivers Regional Office, as the 2008 Administrative Support Professional of the Year.

"It's a great honor to be nominated as the Administrative Support Professional of the Year, as well as selected," said Lippe.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor statistics, more than 4.1 million secretaries and administrative assistants work in the U.S. and 8.9 million people work in various supporting roles.

"The work administrative support professionals do has changed significantly," said Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District. "The things we ask of support professionals today is far greater than what was asked of their predecessors."

After recognizing each of the individual nominees, Martin highlighted

some of the things Lippe has done to support the district missions.

Lippe serves as a management service specialist and leads a team of administrative support specialists providing oversight, guidance and leadership. She plays a key role in the management of a \$15 million budget and frequently utilizes her expertise with the various electronic financial systems that enable management to facilitate the execution of the budget in accordance with district missions and strategies, said Martin.

"Tonya has done an outstanding job and is a great representative of the type of people that make up the Fort Worth District," said Martin.

Martin recited a passage from Lippe's nomination form that he felt highlighted her contributions to the district. "Ms. Lippe is often called upon for assistance throughout the district and is always willing to help others. She fills a pivotal, vital role in a large Operations' project office in the Fort Worth District. Her knowledge, ability, integrity, character and professionalism make her an ideal role model for all employees."

"I say it all the time because I know it's true. We are the best district in USACE because we have the best people," said Martin. "Today's ceremony is just a small thanks for the great contributions all of you make every day."



Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District, presents Tonya Lippe, Three Rivers Regional Office, with the Administrative Support Professional of the Year award.



Legend has it

On June 9, the American Recreation Coalition presented its 2009 Legends Awards to Acting Operations Manager Miles Johnson of Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office, shown holding the award. From left, Mike Ensich, USACE Regulatory and Readiness Division chief of operations; Johnson; Thom Dammrich, American Recreation Coalition chairman; and Derrick Crandall, ARC president. The award was presented to Johnson for his outstanding work to improve outdoor recreation experiences and opportunities for the American people. (Courtesy photo)

Engineer Day

Jackson presents top awards during ceremony



Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees: Former employee Ken Carter was honored during the June 25 ceremony for his many contributions to the district.



Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal: Jan Jones of Reservoir Control Branch received the medal for her exceptional contributions to water management.



Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal: Glen Raible of Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch was presented the medal for engineering and development of water resources.



SWL 2009 Civilian of the Year: Craig Pierce of Programs and Project Management received the award for his contributions toward military construction projects throughout Arkansas.



SWL Engineer of the Year: Kevin Sharp of the Design Branch received the award for continually demonstrating exceptional engineering and interpersonal skills.



SWL Project Manager of the Year: Al Rein of Programs and Project Management received the award for successfully executing a very large life cycle workload.



SWL PDT of the Year: AJ Brown, Dana Coburn, Dennis Carpenter and Mark Woods. Not shown: Ron Bridges, Mitch Eggburn, Jim Ellis, Raj Gandhi Trey Meyer and David Howell.



SWD/SWL Project of the Year: Russellville Project Office, Joel Epperson, Scott Fryer, Jonathon Sawrie, Allison Smedley, Barbara Stahl and Danny Stahl.



SWD/SWL Stewardship Employee of the Year: Win Hargis of the Greens Ferry Project Office received the award for his endeavors in environmental compliance.



SWL Regulator of the Year: Tim Scott of Regulatory Division received the award for managing the Wetland Management Plan for the White Oak watershed.



Federal Executive Association Federal Employee of the Year nomination: Nancy Keith of Engineering and Construction Division received an award for her SWL nomination.



Federal Executive Association Federal Employee of the Year nomination: Greg Mattson of Engineering and Construction received an award for his district nomination.

Award winners not shown:

Mark Harris - SWL Strategic Communicator of the Year; Larry Hurley - SWL Natural Resources Recreation Employee of the Year; Mark Case - Natural Resource Management Environmental Compliance Employee of the Year.

SEE "LITTLE ROCK CELEBRATES" NEXT PAGE

Little Rock celebrates

continued from previous page



(Left) Little Rock District Commander Col. Ed Jackson talks to the crowd during the district's Engineer Day picnic June 25. The event was held at Maumelle Park on the Arkansas River and included hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon, face painting, singing, games and prizes, all celebrating the district's workers and family members.

(Photos by Dana Coburn)



Great digging returns to Great Salt Plains

After being closed for two years, the selenite crystal digging field in the Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge reopened in April, and a grand re-opening, ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Memorial Weekend.

The popular north-western Oklahoma site was closed in April 2007 after a Boy Scout unearthed a World War II-era chemical vial. Tulsa District,

through the Formerly Used Defense Site program, cleaned up the site, removing and destroying 171 other chemical vials. The vials had been used to train soldiers to recognize chemical agents.

The ribbon-cutting event was hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which manages the



Above -- Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Jeri Askins cuts the ribbon to officially reopen the popular tourist attraction in northwestern Oklahoma.

Above Left -- Andrew and Megan Funkhouser, children of Tulsa's district commander, dig for crystals at the grand reopening of the selenite crystal digging field.

refuge. Speakers included Jon Brock of USFWS, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, and Oklahoma's Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, State Senator Myers, and Executive Director of Tourism Hardy Watkins.

Tulsa District's Martell is FEB Employee of the Year

Tulsa District's Jim Martell was named the Oklahoma Federal Executive Board's Technical, Professional and Administrative, GS-9 and Above, Employee of the Year at their annual banquet in early May

Martell, Levee Safety Program manager, directs the daily execution and management of the program for more than 231 miles of levees and 59 miles of channels. In his first full year as program manager, he inspected 231 miles of levees in the Corps' Inspection of Completed Works Program for 100 percent execution, the first time all annual inspections were accomplished in one year.

He executed more than \$6 million in levee repairs along with developing and publishing Tulsa District's first Levee Safety Program brochure which is presently serving as an excellent communication tool. It describes the Corps' role in work-

ing with local communities to enhance their own safety from flooding.

Martell, an excellent communicator, assists local communities and

levee owners in the proper maintenance of local flood protection systems. He has worked diligently with various owners to identify critical maintenance needs and has supported them with technical advice on achieving FEMA certification of their levee system for the 100-year base flood.



Martell inspected 231 miles of levees in his first full year on the job, the first time all annual inspections were accomplished in one year.

Boots on the ground target water safety program

*By Melanie Ellis
Fort Worth District*

While most college students head to the lake for summer fun, three college interns with the Student Conservation Association are meeting lake visitors to talk about one thing - water safety.

Working on a directive to reduce drowning at Corps lakes, the Trinity Regional Office brought in three SCA interns for water safety outreach and to target the often hard-to-reach college age boaters and swimmers.

"I first learned of the SCA through the Association of Partners for Public Lands' annual conference and meetings with SCA partnership development coordinators," said Dorie Murphy, community resources coordinator, Trinity Regional Office.

"Having dedicated team members that have water safety interests has been great," she said. "Now we are able to reach visitors in Corps operated parks, at local events, and in our leased parks."

Each of the interns has their own water safety experience and shares that when talking to visitors about being safe in and around the water. The internship is beneficial to the interns as well.

Andrea Murrell grew up around the water boating and skiing with her family and is using this internship as an opportunity to talk water safety and learn more about the Corps.

"I'm an environmental science major and have considered looking at becoming a park ranger," she said. "This is a good way for me to see a little of what they do day to day."

Lauren Kaufman also grew up around the water but attributed her water safety knowledge to her grandfather.

"My grandfather was in the Navy and always followed the rules on the water," she said. "He always made sure we wore life jackets on the boat and in the pool."

Lauren is an English major and viewed the internship as an experience to learn more on how to communicate to different audiences.

"I'm learning more about getting information out to people who are interested in it and people who aren't," she said. "If people aren't interested, I want to learn how to get their attention and give them enough information to explore it on their own."

Jennifer Floyd-Scroggins is a boater and scuba diver and attributed water safety education as one way to reduce water related fatalities. She is using this experience to promote safety in activities she enjoys as well as learn more about the Corps



Andrea Murrell, Student Conservation Association intern, teaches a Metroplex Water Safety Day participant how to throw a personal flotation device.

missions. "I graduated with a business degree in May and am getting a better understanding of the Corps' missions and role in resource management," she said.

Murrell, Kaufman, and Floyd-Scroggins have made a big difference in the few short weeks they have been with the Fort Worth District.

"They reached 10,000 visitors in May and June alone," said Murphy. "They will be out every weekend through Aug. 9, riding with rangers in patrol boats, walking beaches, assisting the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and working local events to reach as many people as possible."

The Nashville District also utilizes SCA interns for water safety outreach, and the National Water Safety Team is looking at nationwide water safety training for the interns next year.

Oil and gas exploration

Leads to cultural resource preservation

*By Ken Shingleton, Archeologist
Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch
Planning and Environmental Division
Tulsa District*

What happens when modern mineral exploration meets ancient mounds? At Wister Lake, the answer was a combination of contemporary technology and old-fashioned footwork. The result will be a report which will help Tulsa District manage its most culturally sensitive project.

In this part of the country, oil and natural gas exploration and production activities are a regular occurrence, even on Corps land. In 2007, a Houston-based oil and gas exploration company, Seismic Exchange, Inc., asked Tulsa District for permission to perform seismic exploration for natural gas at Wister Lake in southeastern Oklahoma. Portions of this region of the state comprise the relatively well-known Arkoma Basin which is rich in fossil fuels, particularly natural gas.

Seismic exploration consists of a series of activities that require immense amounts of planning and coordination in order to produce 3-D data that might reveal oil and gas deposits. First, a series of "shot points" are drilled to certain pre-determined depths that target particular rock layers. Often these shot points are 50 feet deep, 100 feet deep,

or even deeper. Explosive charges are lowered into the holes and left alone until the coordinated seismic effort begins. Once a pre-planned pattern of shot points has been established, sound receiver cables are laid on the ground generally in lines perpendicular to the shot point pattern. When the subterranean explosions are triggered, the receivers register the time it took for the sound to reach the recording equipment (sound waves are slowed in certain rock formations while in others they speed up). In this manner, the seismic exploration company would be able to create a 3-D map of the rock strata and potentially identify those portions in which oil and/or natural gas might be located.

Planning to use this general method of exploration, Seismic Exchange proposed to investigate all Corps' land at Wister Lake, beginning with the western half. The project in the western portion of the lake included more than 1,500 shot points and hundreds of miles of receiver lines. Much of the western half of Wister Lake consists of floodpool storage which



Heliportable: A helicopter drops a portable drill rig into the forest canopy at Wister Lake.

is also a wildlife management area overseen by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Exploration activities conducted on federal land must avoid or mitigate effects on cultural resources. Archaeological sites at Wister Lake are often rich in artifacts, and illegal looting of the sites is very common. In recent years, a number of archaeological

sites have required riprap protection because of looting.

At Wister Lake cultural resources present a very unique challenge. The lake is on the National Register of Historic Places as the Lake Wister Archaeological District. Prior to the seismic exploration, approximately

See Oil and gas exploration next page

Oil and gas exploration

continued from previous page

Many of those archaeological sites have been preliminarily identified as either Wister Phase or Fourche Maline Phase, which together date roughly between 3,500 – 1,000 years ago and are characterized by midden mounds of dark, organic soil containing large amounts of chipped stone debris and fire-cracked rock. Sometimes the mounds contain ceramic artifacts and often they contain human burials.

Early in planning meetings with Seismic Exchange management, Tulsa District staff identified particular cultural resources preservation challenges. Normal seismic exploration activities consist of complete clearing of wide corridors through the forest, which drilling rigs would use for travel to shot point locations. Additionally, each receiver line would require some level of forest clearing. The extensive clearing proposed in order to support seismic exploration for more than 1,500 shot points and hundreds of miles of receiver lines was considered an adverse effect on the Lake Wister Archaeological District, primarily because thick vegetation is often the only obstacle facing looters. The proposed corri-

dors through the forest – on the scale on which they were proposed – would have served as an easy “highway” in to archaeological sites and would likely have hastened their damage and destruction by looters.

So, starting in August 2008, Seismic Exchange used smaller, helicopter-portable drill rigs at each shot point. The helicopters were guided by Global Positioning

Many of these archaeological sites ... date roughly between 3,500 - 1,000 years ago ...

System units, while personnel on the ground had to fight the thick vegetation to get to each shot point and lay all the receiver lines. The only vehicular access allowed was on existing dirt roads through the wildlife management areas.

In addition to the heliportable drill rigs, archaeological surveys were required for each shot point so that cultural resources could be avoided. If a shot point was proposed in an area where an archaeological site was identified, it was moved to a new location.

During the investigations, about 120 new archaeological sites were identified. Many appear to have considerable research potential and could greatly aid in our knowledge of the prehistoric inhabitants of the river valley.

All field work has been completed, and archeologists are now doing analysis. The final report is due next year.

The mineral exploration of Wister Lake has been successful for all involved. Seismic Exchange acquired the data they needed while Tulsa District facilitated oil and gas exploration, discovered many archeologically significant sites, and helped preserve unique cultural resources at Wister Lake for the future.

A crew member records archaeological information from a test excavation unit at Wister Lake.



Newcomers learn the ropes in Tulsa

By Sara Goodeyon
Pacesetter staff

There are a lot of new faces visible around the Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, offices. There have been so many new hires that management services specialists have come up with a new way to introduce them to the Corps.

“We saw a lot of new faces coming in, and we felt the need to introduce them to our district and how each organization functions,” said management services specialist Tammy Solomon. “So in fiscal year 2009 we introduced a Newcomer Orientation for Tulsa District.”

“In the past, part of our in-processing was that we took each of the new employees around to the division chiefs to introduce them,” said Solomon, “More than 100 people have been hired in the district since the beginning of this fiscal year, and we couldn’t find the time to get everybody in front of the division



Management services specialist Tammy Solomon briefs employees on Tulsa District rules and regulations during the Newcomer’s Orientation June 25.

chiefs, so we came up with the idea to put the chiefs in front of them.”

Solomon and fellow management services specialists Nancy Crenshaw, Cheri Fowler, Becky Northern and Lori Hunninghake concluded that a quarterly orientation would be the best way to gather everyone in the same place at the same time. New employees would receive an organizational chart for the district and the chiefs from each organization would present a briefing on what exactly they do for the Corps.

Assistant district counsel Stephanie Darr, who joined the Office of Counsel on April 13, said the orientation helped her to have a better understanding of the different Corps areas and how they function and work together. “I think it offered a good understanding of what we

do and how important it is,” said the native Oklahoman who previously worked as a staff attorney for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Some of the organizations even decided to retain copies of the organizational charts to use as a reference.

“After the June 25 orientation we had quite a few requests from Engineering and Construction for the chart because they felt that it would help them to navigate around in their daily assignments,” said Solomon.

Since the orientation is new to the Tulsa District some veteran employees learn a thing or two that even they didn’t know said Solomon, including her. “I have learned something new at the orientations,” said Solomon. “A little bit of history about the Corps and some of what the Corps does.”



Newcomers compare notes during the orientation at Tulsa District.

Water Heroes: Fort Worth District recognizes father & son for water rescue

by Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

As students from Lakewood Elementary filed into the auditorium May 27 for their end-of-school year awards ceremony, little did they know the Fort Worth District was there to recognize two heroes among them.

Forest Shope and his son, Shafer, a student at the school, were both recognized during the ceremony with the Districts' Lone Star Safety Award and letter of recognition for rescuing three fishermen from the chilly waters of Belton Lake on May 2.

While fishing at Rogers Park, the father and son heard a man yell for help and then saw one man jump from the boat quickly followed by another. Knowing the water temperature was too low for swimming, the Shopes went to see what happened.

They arrived on scene



Col. Christopher W. Martin presents Forest Shope and his son Shafer with the Fort Worth District Lone Star Safety Award for rescuing three boaters at Belton Lake.

to find three men, not two, in the water. "When we got to the scene, I grabbed the hand of one of the men and he handed me another hand that was purple," said Forest Shope. The two men they saw jump into the water did so to help a friend who fell in after having a seizure.

Forest instructed Shafer to help pull all the men aboard. "You would think an 11-year-old would have been too afraid

to help but he pitched in and did exactly as I instructed him to," said Forest.

Forest told Shafer to call 9-1-1 as he maneuvered the boat to Rogers Park, Belton Lake. Morgan's Point Volunteer Fire Department was on scene and gave the unconscious man three rescue breaths and he began breathing on his own. All three men have been reported to have recovered and doing well since the

incident.

At the ceremony, members of the Fort Worth District turned out to congratulate the students on completing a successful year and to celebrate the heroic efforts of Forest and Shafer Shope.

"Lakewood Elementary is one of the schools that we have worked with for several years through the Adopt-A-School Program," said Greg Pope, site manager, Capital Regional Office. "We're so proud of Shafer and his dad to have come to the aid of someone in need."

None of the victims that went into the water had on life jackets and Pope took the opportunity to remind the students one last time before they left for summer break to wear a life jacket. "Wearing a life jacket is one of the single most important things you can do to protect yourself in and around the water. Wear it!" he said.

Gen. Cox' Column

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- We are measured on our professionalism. Be technically (and for some tactically) competent in all aspects of our business. As the chief says – "Set the standard for our profession."

- Treat ALL with dignity and respect. Many are called "Sir" or "Ma'am" because of their position. But the mark of a true leader is when they do so because they want to, for no one wants to see their leader fail. All of us may be called upon to give an order or task to a subordinate or teammate; we can only hope and pray they will do so because

they want to, not have to.

- Make sure you have balance in your life. Get your priorities straight and all of life's challenges and requirements will be easy to overcome. Never forget your God and family, and I guarantee work will be a breeze.

Anna Marie and I thank all of you for welcoming us into your family and allowing us to be a part of greatness these past two years. Even though I may be giving up command of the Southwestern Division in about 45 days, we will always consider you family and hope we have the chance to serve with and for each of you in the future. Thanks for everything and may God bless all of you.

Pacesetters – Building Strong!!!

SEAWALL SUNDAY

by Mark Lumen
SWG Assistant District Counsel

It was a warm February day, sunny, light breeze, perfect for a ride on the Galveston Seawall. The Seawall is a 17-foot granite concrete and dirt structure that was built to protect the City of Galveston after the devastating 1900 hurricane that killed more than 6,000 people, the largest disaster in terms of loss of life in U.S. history.

But on this Sunday, like most days, it was a place to recreate and enjoy the views of the Gulf of Mexico.

As I rode my bike that day in February, something unknown happened. Whether I was hit by someone or something, pushed, pulled or simply hit a pothole, no one knows. But what is known is that I left the bicycle on the top of the Seawall and flew down the wall, landing head first on a concrete ramp. And no, I was not wearing a helmet, obviously a mistake. A young couple found me and called paramedics who in turn called for a life-flight helicopter.

After a day or two at Memorial-Herman Hospital in Houston, one of the nation's best brain and spinal cord trauma centers, I found out that I had lost six pints of blood, broken my neck in two places causing spinal cord damage, and had multiple skull fractures, a broken jaw, and 15 broken ribs -- enough to make Evil Kenevil proud.

After several operations to put me back together, I spent a few weeks in the hospital and then in the Texas Institute for Research and Rehabilitation, Memorial-Herman's highly-acclaimed rehabilitation center. My siblings and kids came to see me, including my son Quinn who is in the Navy stationed in Hawaii. My partner Jenny lived in the room by me throughout the three-plus month ordeal, including every day of therapy. With her help and great doctors and therapists, I went from not being able to walk or move my right hand to being able to type and run (both slowly of course).



Galveston Seawall

I don't pretend to know why I survived but will share some of the life lessons learned.

First, it can happen to you. I never believed it before. Second, wear a helmet and avoid dangerous places. I knew the Seawall was a dangerous place to ride but rode there anyway.

Third, save your sick leave -- more than three months off and no missed paychecks, a wonderful thing! Lastly, value and appreciate your friends and family, including the Corps Family. As incredibly busy as the Galveston District and Southwestern Division are after Hurricane Ike, everyone at the Corps, especially my friends and co-workers in the Office of Counsel, have taken time to help, support and encourage me.

When you are weak and hurt, strength and inspiration can come from others. So be careful out there! It can happen to you, and the more you believe that, the more likely it is that you can prevent a similar experience.

When Deborah Davis, Fort Worth District, support services specialist, Sam Rayburn Power Plant, introduced her tracking dogs Yaqui and Forest, the boys, to the Southwestern Division family last year, they were earning tracking titles left and right.

Tracking with the boys came to a screeching halt after Davis was involved in a serious 10-speed bicycle accident that left her badly injured and in the hospital for more than six weeks.

"I broke my right wrist, left upper arm, dislocated my left shoulder, and broke my left leg above and below the knee," she said.

Leaving the hospital was a minor victory and the celebration was short lived as she went home to recover. "I was bedbound and had outside nurses coming in to care for me," she said. It took months for Davis to recover as she went from bed to wheelchair to walker to cane and now a light

knee brace.

During those months of recovery, Davis used her time to author a tracking book for beginners. "I couldn't do what I love, so I decided to write a book to help others get started in the sport," she said. "Writing was my lifeline during a time when it was really difficult not to give in to depression."



In the book, "Making Scents of Tracking", Davis reflects on her own training trials and errors. "I didn't have anyone help me learn the basics, and the book lays out what I learned so others won't have to make the same mistakes I did," she said.

With her book being published and on bookshelves soon, Davis is back on track and back to training her dogs for their next tracking trials.

"The accident was the motivator for the book but now that I'm in one piece again, we're back on the tracking fields," she said.

Tulsa District's Customer Care Employee named

By *Mary Beth Hudson*
Pacesetter Staff

Who has a quip for all occasions? Tulsa District's newest Customer Care Employee of the Quarter, Paul Bisdorf.

Case in point, when asked for a quote about being named Customer Care Employee, Bisdorf said, "I had to read the supporting narrative several times before I realized they were talking about me."

Well, they were. Bisdorf, Emergency Management Unit, was nominated for going out of his way to help a variety of customers perform difficult tasks, all while displaying great enthusiasm and positive outlooks.

Specifically, he "almost single-handedly managed a short-suspense tasker from Southwestern Division to assist in fielding a team to Afghanistan

for a bed-down mission;" took Common Access Card training in order to serve as a backup for that vital function; and set the Army-mandated suicide prevention training in motion, even serving as facilitator.

Now that he's read the nomination several times, he sincerely says, "I'm honored. I really am. I thought it was pretty cool that somebody thought to do that!"



Paul Bisdorf

Tulsa welcomes new division chief

FORMER MARINE MOTIVATED ABOUT FUTURE OF REAL ESTATE OFFICE IN TULSA – LOOKING TO SHARE WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

*By Sara Goodeyon
Pacesetter staff*

It's official. Mark W. Moore has been named chief of Real Estate Division for Tulsa District after serving as acting Chief since March. The native Arkansan and former Marine brings with him the experience and knowledge gained from more than 20 years of working in real estate.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity," said Moore.

First on the agenda is rebuilding the Real Estate office in Tulsa. "We've had a lot of retirements and there are a lot of new hires," said Moore. "We'll get them trained and work on building a team. After that we'll get a handle on the backlog of work and make a plan."

Moore is new to Tulsa but is not new to real estate. Moore has been a division, branch, section chief, and realty specialist for the Corps of Engineers and had real estate assignments while participating in the Army Internship Program.

Moore served in the Marine Corps from 1975 to 1981 and Desert Shield from September to December 1990.

Most recently Moore was the realty specialist for Southwestern Division as the Western Regional Army Base Realignment and Closer real estate coordinator.

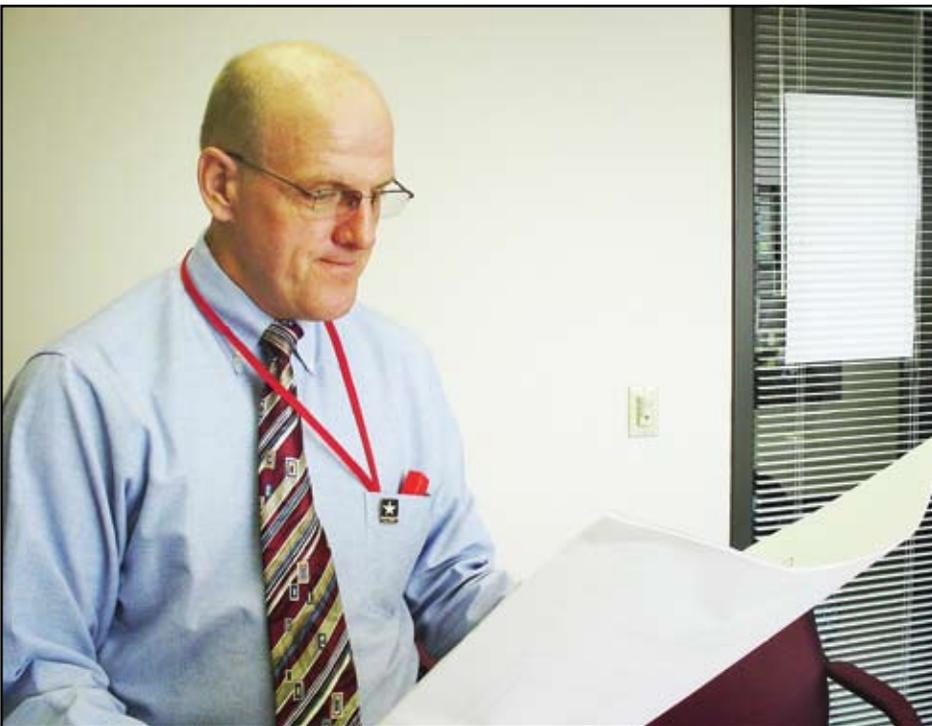
"I was the interface between the customer and the Corps on facilitating the disposal of real estate," said Moore. "It gave me a broader range of specific experience and an out-of-the-box view on disposing of real estate."

Moore said one of his goals in Tulsa will be to get more people interested in the field of real estate.

"I want to make real estate a preference of employment here in Tulsa," said Moore. "Career enhancement is available and there is a diverse and dynamic work level. There are a lot of (Government Service) 11 and 12 level positions in this field."

Moore said qualified individuals who are interested in pursuing a career with the Corps in the Real Estate Division should contact him. "I want to build a well-trained, highly motivated, and dedicated work force that is prepared serve our Army's and our ation's real estate needs and to develop people for the next step in their careers."

"I want to make real estate a preference of employment here in Tulsa."



New Real Estate Chief Mark Moore brings more than 20 years of experience to the Tulsa District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Media help spread safety message

Great attendance by broadcasters at water safety event

Water safety was the main theme of the day for a press conference held right



Amanda Peters attended the Tulsa event while Louis Holstead represented the Corps at the Oklahoma City press conference.

before Memorial Day at Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow and Oklahoma City, OK.

At Broken Arrow, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Lake Patrol, Safe Kids Tulsa, Broken Arrow Police, Broken Arrow Fire Department, American Red Cross, Tulsa Fire Department, and Life Flight (with helicopter) participated.

Media attending the press conference included KRMG radio and Tulsa television channels 2, 6, 8, and 23. Clips from the event ran throughout the holiday weekend.

All agencies spoke to the press and were available for one-on-one interviews. In addition to water

safety in and around the water, topics included traffic safety, boating safety in high water, swimming lessons, and the Water Watcher Program.

Thanks to the efforts of Oklahoma's broadcasters, citizens were provided with the necessary information to help them safely enjoy summer activities.



Representatives from Oklahoma City radio and television stations attended the press conference.

Southwest Division HQ team enjoy Engineer Day activities



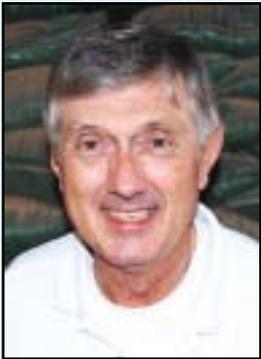
Southwestern Division team members, family and friends gathered at Park Lane Ranch in Dallas on Friday, June 12, for fun, food, and friendly competitions. After a spirited 18-hole minigolf tournament, bingo, batting cage and other activities, participants enjoyed a barbecue lunch and awards ceremony. At left, Leland Daniel, Executive Office, aims for a hole-in-one while SWD Commander Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox looks on. Below, Bruce Barrett, SWD's safety officer, and his wife, Eiko, try their luck at bingo.



Postcard from Iraq

Iraqi contractors now building smarter, safer

by Danny Wyatt, Safety Manager
Gulf Region South District



“We can leave roads, we can leave buildings, but the best thing we can leave the Iraqi people is a modern safety program.”

Those words still ring after I first heard them a couple months ago while sitting in the office of Lt. Col. John Osborn, officer in charge of the Forat Area Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

From sandals to shoes, from sunglasses to safety glasses, from no hats to hard hats, little by little, Iraqi companies are learning to apply modern safety practices. This is thanks to the efforts of numerous USACE construction representatives, project engineers, and safety personnel, who for the past several years have been showing Iraqi contractors the fundamental aspects of construction safety — new concepts to most Iraqi workers here.

I am one of those USACE safety professionals helping Iraqi engineers and contractors improve their construction safety program on projects we’re overseeing in southern Iraq. As a Seabrook sailor, a former member of Lakewood Yacht Club and past commander of Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron, I temporarily suspended the boating life many of my fellow Galveston Bay residents enjoy in exchange for a deployment to Iraq where USACE is helping build new schools, hospitals, courthouses, clinics, highways, bridges, power stations, water stations, wastewater



treatment facilities and other projects that improve the lives of the Iraqi people.

As the safety manager for the Corps of Engineers Galveston District, I typically was not involved in this type of construction. For that job, you often would find me on a dredge in the Houston Ship Channel or on a Gulf Intracoastal Waterway navigation project. One of the great aspects of deploying to Iraq is the opportunity of working with the Iraqi people. They are friendly, polite, and eager to improve their country. Once you get acquainted, they will do anything for you. I have an Iraqi deputy who I jokingly say tries to teach me Arabic, and I try to teach him “Southern.”

Apart from my deputy, our team consists of eight other Iraqi safety engineers who are responsible for 120 different construction projects from the Kuwaiti border on the south, to Iran on the east, to Saudi Arabia on the west, to the edge of Baghdad Province on the north. These nine individuals are the reason we’re making a difference. They know the culture, the language, are able to explain to the local contractors the importance of proper safety procedures and how they can save them money, time, and lives. They point out that an injured worker cannot provide for their family. They demonstrate that improper electrical wiring can cause extensive damage to workers and property.

These are courageous individuals who are totally dedicated to our mission.

In a few months, I will be returning stateside, and my life will be back to normal - working on the Houston Ship Channel, enjoying lunch on the Kemah Boardwalk, sailing on Galveston Bay. But I know I will never forget this experience — helping Iraqis as they build a brighter, safer future for their children and grandchildren.

Pacesetter Points

Congratulations

Paula Johnson-Muic was selected as chief, Real Estate Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, May 25. She has had an esteemed career in the real estate field for the Corps while working in the Pittsburgh District and in SWD. Johnson-Muic holds a bachelor's degree with a major in political science and a minor in liberal arts. She has also earned a juris doctorate degree. She brings a wealth of knowledge in acquisition, disposal and real property asset management. In addition she was the USACE Real Estate Professional of the Year for 2008.

Dyron Jolly, human resources specialist, joined the SWD headquarters staff May 24. Dyron comes to the division from the Civilian Human Resources Agency where he provided support to Corps headquarters, Human Resources Directorate.

Russell Holeman joined the SWD headquarters as its technical expert in construction July 5. He has served as a long-time team member of the Tulsa District, most recently as chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch. Holeman has a broad range of experience that spans both civil works and military construction programs, in construction and engineering.

Bob McCollum and **Adam Crisp** were recently promoted to senior military program managers, Military Programs Branch, Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters.

Matthew Davis joined the Southwestern Division headquarters as an administrative assistant June 8. Matt comes to SWD from Wiesbaden, Germany, where he served the Corps as an automation technician.

Little Rock's Real Estate Branch has selected **Becky Shortt** to serve as the new real estate specialist at Table Rock Lake. She joined the real estate team July 6.

Ron Carman of Little Rock's Planning Office was selected to head a newly-established and yet-to-be-named branch within Programs and Project Management that will focus on the district's growing medical facilities mission. **Mike Marlow** of Little Rock's Design Branch will serve as the deputy branch chief.

James McKinnie joined Little Rock District as a supervisory mechanical engineer in the Design Branch. He comes to the district from Little Rock Air Force Base where he served as the chief for Engineering and Programs Flight.

Kevin McDaniels joined Little Rock District as the deputy chief of Operations Division. He comes to the district from Mobile District where he served as the acting operation manager at Lake Sidney Lanier.

Little Rock's **Mark Brightwell** was selected as the new deputy chief of Construction Branch. He comes to the branch from Programs and Project Management.

Little Rock's **Glen Raible** was selected to serve as the chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics Section in the Hydraulics and Technical Services Branch.

Deborah P. Belobrajdic joined the Galveston District May 24 as a program analyst working as a scheduler for the Programs and Project Management Division.

Richard L. Bowles joined the Galveston District May 26 as a project manager in the Project Management Branch.

James H. (Jim) Brewer joined the Galveston District April 27 from the Korea District.

Christopher Castillo joined the Galveston District March 30 as a civil engineer in the district's Brownsville office.

Staci N. Claunch joined the Galveston District July 6 as an administrative support assistant in the Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division.

Michael L. Dragoo joined the Galveston District May 24 as a program analyst in the Programs Management Branch.

Delia M. (Dee) Dunn joined the Galveston District June 8 as an administrative support assistant to the Southern Area Office in Corpus Christi, Texas.

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Carrie F. Gilmore joined the Galveston District April 26 as a budget analyst in the Engineering and Construction Division.

Brian K. Harper joined the Galveston District June 8 as a regional economist in the Planning and Environmental Branch.

Robert Hudson joined the Galveston District June 8 as a lock operator at the Colorado River Locks.

William W. "Bill" Kiddy joined the Galveston District April 13 as the Galveston Resident Office Resident Engineer.

Michelle L. Matte joined the Galveston District June 5 as an operations project manager for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Northern Reach in the Operations Division, Navigation Branch.

Carolyn R. Milton joined the Galveston District June 8 as an office automation assistant in the Addicks Field Office in Houston.

Doyle Thorn joined the Galveston District June 22 as a lock operator at the Colorado River Locks.

James F. Worthington rejoined the Galveston District March 30 after working in private industry for more than a year.

Several Tulsa District employees passed the Federal Communications Commission licensing exam recently and are new members of the amateur radio community. If you see **Walt Kneib** from H&H, **Geza**

Horvath from Public Affairs Office, or **John Budlong** from Resource Management Office, feel free to congratulate them. And in the spirit of the Corps Family, Horvath's wife Jodi got her license and **Sandi Egan's** husband Brian upgraded from Technician to General Class.

Three Tulsa District employees passed the test and upgraded their amateur radio licenses from Technician to General Class -- **Randy Beauchamp, Lloyd Lewis, and Laura Long.** **Terry Broomhall's** friend Dennis Dancer also passed the test. They should all be proud of their achievements. They studied hard and passed a difficult examination. Their efforts will benefit us in providing a bigger pool of trained radio operators for emergency communications.

Tulsa District's new Water Safety Web Page is up and running. Congratulations to **Amanda Peters** and **Cheri Dixon** and their team for creating this important site. It is available from Tulsa's home page.

Tulsa District's Equal Employment Opportunity Office presented honors during the annual Federal Women's Program. **Ed Rossman** was named Mentor of the Year; **Diane Fortelka** was chosen Woman of the Year; and **Glenda Blakeslee** won Administrative Employee of the Year honors.



Tulsa District's Administrative Employee of the Year Glenda Blakeslee

Retirements

Kathy Ray of Little Rock District retired April 30 with 31 years of federal service.

Kay Dice of Little Rock District retired July 3 with 31 years of federal service.

Patrick Byrne of Little Rock District retired May 31 with 32 years of federal service.

Jimmy Greenwood of Little Rock District retired June 30 with 31 years of federal service.

Hoover Willard of Little Rock District retired July 3 with 34 years of federal service.

Lee Lustfeldt of Little Rock District retired June 1 with 31 years of federal service.

Births

Richard Curphey, Galveston District, welcomed granddaughter Abigail Grace June 11.

James and Dorie Murphy, Fort Worth District, Trinity

Regional Office, welcomed daughter, Olivia Marie, April 14. Olivia weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces and was 21 ½ inches long.



Russell Meier, Fort Worth District, Somerville Lake, and his wife Megan welcomed a baby boy, William Cole, on June 18, 2009. William weighed 10 pounds 9 ounces and was 21 inches long.

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Sandy Fitch, Fort Worth District, Real Estate Division, welcomed granddaughter, Olivia Nicole, June 19. Olivia weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Graduations

Roslyn Colston, daughter of Galveston District's **Fredalyn Colston**, graduated from Texas A&M Galveston May 16 with a bachelor of arts degree in maritime studies and double minor in marine archeology and Spanish.

Andrew W. Long, son of Galveston District's supervisory natural resource manager **Richard Long**, graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy May 27 with a bachelor of science degree in economics and computer science. Andrew was commissioned as a second lieutenant following the ceremony. His mother is Karen Long.

Jared Hatcher, son of **Jama Hatcher**, administrative support assistant for Little Rock's Russellville Project Office, graduated from Clarksville High School May 15 and was awarded a University Scholarship from Arkansas Tech University.

Craig Amos, son of Little Rock's **Rick Amos** of the Construction Branch, graduated from Lyon College in Batesville, Ark., with a bachelor of science degree in business administration on an academic and athletic scholarship. He received a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Champion of Character Award his senior year in basketball and a four-year letterman on the basketball team.

Rachel Thurman, daughter of Little Rock's **James Beard** of Clearwater Lake Project Office,

graduated May 9 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing from the University of Arkansas of Education and Health Professions.

Bethany Smith, step-daughter of **Delene Smith**, Office of Counsel, graduated in December from Saginaw High School and is attending TCC

Awards

Regulatory Peer Awards were presented June 16 during Galveston District's regulatory management database workshop.



Nicholas A. Laskowski

Nicholas A. Laskowski, Galveston District, was awarded the Teamwork Award for enriching the Regulatory Branch during 2008 by demonstrating cooperation with team members to accomplish a common goal and demonstrating the presentation of new ideas and methods.



John E. Wong



Elizabeth A. Shelton

John E. Wong and **Elizabeth A. Shelton** of the Galveston District received the Customer Service Award for enriching the Regulatory Branch as a whole during 2008 by demonstrating response to customers in the timeliest manner possible and demonstrating professional courtesy.

Condolences

Raye Nolen, mother-in-law of **Terri Nolen**, chief, Engineering and Construction Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, passed away May 7 in El Paso, Texas.

M.C. (Snuffy) Burditt, father of **Olen Burditt**, passed away April 18, 2009. Olen is a natural resources specialist at Georgetown Lake.

Walter Cummings, father of **Ramona Collins**, passed away April 19, 2009. Ramona works in the Fort Worth District, Resource Management Office.

John Deason, husband of **Ann Deason**, passed away April 28, 2009. Ann works at the Fort Worth District, Fort Polk Resident Office, Eastern Area Office.

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John Charles Ball, 95, passed away April 16, 2009. He was a Fort Worth District retiree.

Charles Emery Phillips, 86, passed away April 16, 2009. He is a Fort Worth District retiree.

Ruby Lee Adams, 96, mother of **Robert Adams**, passed away peacefully in her. Robert is a natural resource management business line manager for the Capital Regional Office.

Oma Lee Carver, Tulsa District retiree, passed away May 7.

Harvey Jordan, brother to Little Rock's **Pat Jordan**, passed away June 12.

John Wilson, father-in-law to Little Rock's **Tony Batey**, passed away May 27.

Walter Book, brother to Little Rock's **Gary Book**, passed away April 20.

Al Anglin, father to Little Rock's **Pam Hardy**, passed away April 28.

Edna Close, mother to Little Rock's **Iris Miller**, passed away April 22.

Lawrence Wagener, father to Little Rock's **Paul Wagener**, passed away April 22.

Condolences to **Trish Brannan** of the Galveston District. Her mother passed away May 21.

Kenneth Chambers, a former Colorado River Locks mechanic with the Galveston District, passed away July 11, 2009. He worked for the district for more than 30 years and retired in June 2005.

Roseanne Bonanno (Aguanno) Theobald, a retired programs analyst in the Galveston District's Programs Management Branch, passed away July 14 after a courageous battle with cancer. Roseanne began her career with the federal government in 1974 and became a Galveston District employee in 1988, working there until her retirement in January 2008



Roseanne Bonanno (Aguanno) Theobald



Francisco Garcia

Deployments

Francisco Garcia deployed to the Gulf Region Division - Iraq, April 26

Eagle Scout



Jake Holdman, son of **Delene Smith**, Office of Counsel Fort Worth District, recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He has been a member of

Boy Scouts of America since he was in the first grade and a Tiger Cub. He also graduated from Aledo High School and is now attending ATI Technical to receive mechanical accreditations.