

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

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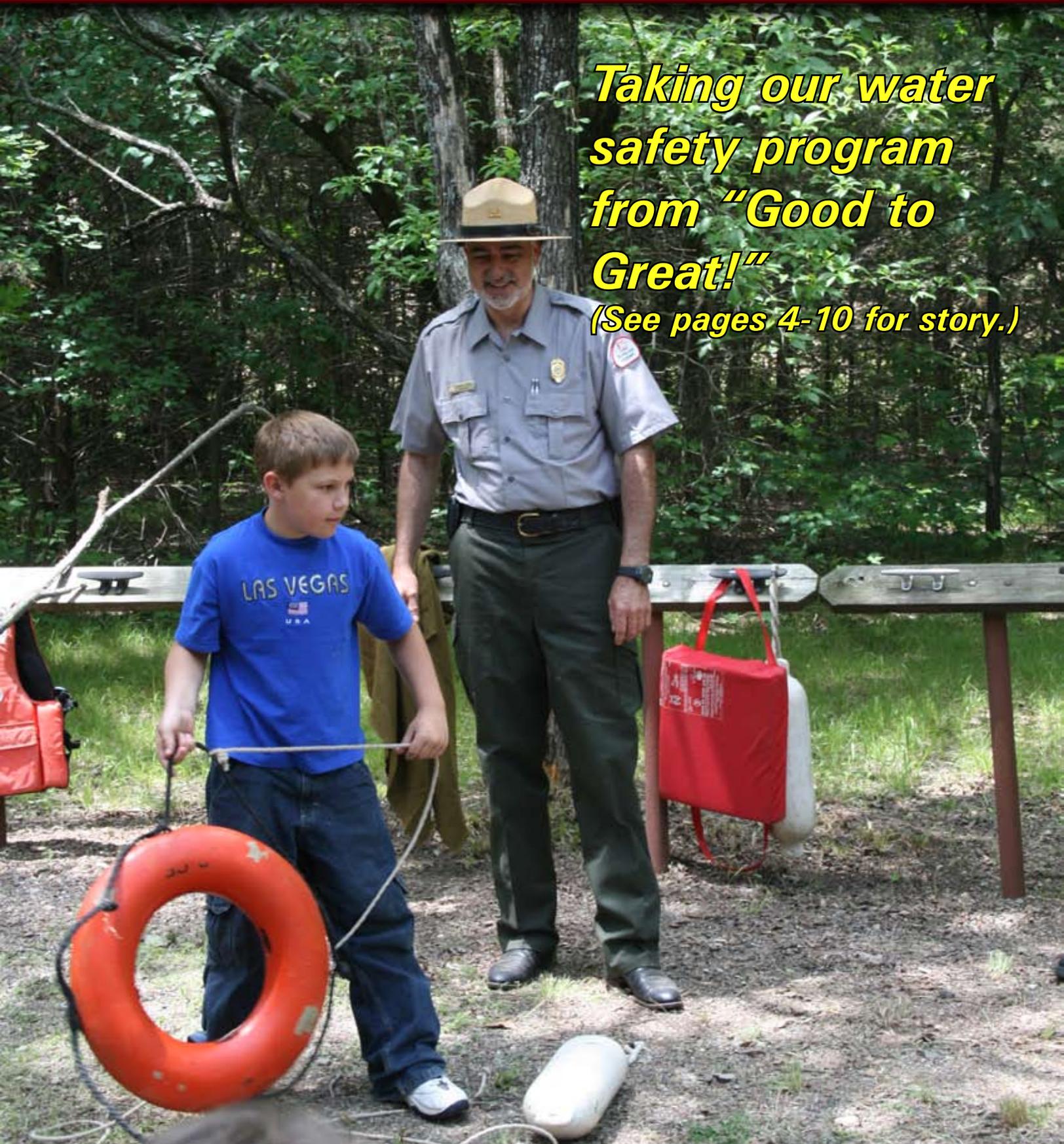
PACSEATTER

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***Taking our water
safety program
from "Good to
Great!"***

(See pages 4-10 for story.)





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: Tulsa District Park Ranger Grady Dobbs teaches a child how to throw a life ring during a water safety blitz at Texoma Lake's Hal Malone Water Safety Complex. (Photo by Mary Beth Hudson, Public Affairs Office, Tulsa District.)



FY09 shaping up to be truly remarkable

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

This year is off to a fast and furious, but also wonderful, start, and I sincerely hope all of you had the chance to spend a special Valentine's Day with loved ones, friends and family.

I recently had the chance to meet with the senior leadership across the region, and I am very excited about the many, many opportunities that are available for our execution. Our government has tremendous confidence in our abilities to continue our efforts to provide for the American people, and I am confident the SWD Team is ready to execute all of our programs to our standard of excellence.

These opportunities include our usual FY09 President's Budget, the two supplementals (FY08 and FY09), and the pending stimulus package that may provide much needed funding for our aging infrastructure and many items on our maintenance backlog that we just haven't been able to get funding for over the past decade.

It will not be easy and will require all of us to work together as a regional team, much like we did to make FY08 a total success. All in all FY09 is shaping up to be a truly remarkable year with the potential for execution to be well above \$7B across all of our programs, and I am excited to be a part of this historical year.

The next few months will also be filled with many challenges. We have already experienced our first ice storm in the Oklahoma and Arkansas regions and Dallas was even shut down for a day. But as usual our superb emergency management teams and PRTs from across the Corps have yet again risen to the task, and superior support has been provided to the many families and businesses, mostly in Arkansas, that suffered without power for several days.

I thank all who participated in this latest response effort, and I know should we experience additional disasters throughout the winter our EM teams will be ready and able to rise to the occasion and provide continued great support.

Finally, I would like to ensure that all have had the chance to read the USACE Campaign Plan and the associated SWD Implementation Plan. These two documents set the stage for how the SWD Team will execute our missions across the full spec-

trum of engineer operations as it pertains to emergency operations, civil, military and International and Interagency Services programs, and all the associated human capital, work force development and family readiness programs. Each of us within the SWD Family is an integral part in the success of the Team and it is critical that you understand your role in this effort as we lay the foundation for success across the region for the next three-to-five years.

I thank all of you for all that you do to make this region a better place to live and work, and I continue to be in awe of all that you accomplish. I am your biggest fan and look forward to seeing and meeting each of you when I get the wonderful opportunity to visit you and your team as you represent the true "Face of the Corps." Please stay safe and God Bless!

Pacesetters – Building Strong!

Make our water safety logo great

We all know Safety is the Corps' number one priority in all mission areas, for our teammates' and that of the public.

Recently the SWD Regional Water Safety team met with Deputy Commander Col. Billy G. Tollison and me to seek ideas to move our good water safety program to a great program.

During this meeting, I challenged our team, and all of SWD, to create a water safety logo, with or without a catchy slogan, that captures the uniqueness of SWD and our water safety goals.

We have a good design now, but we need a "great" design. We ask that you accept the challenge and submit a design(s), that will immediately remind the recreating public to think first of safe practices on and around the water, and second, that SWD does indeed care about their safety. A particular target audience to consider as you create your design is 17-35-year-old males.

Please forward your entry to SWD Public Affairs Officer Rhonda James no later than March 6, when the regional team will start to review the designs and select the winner. Thank you.

Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox



SWD works to take water safety from good to great

*By Tammy Moody
Pacesetter Staff*

For the past 10 years the Southwestern Division has experienced an average of 60 water-related fatalities per year, in 2008 the division experienced 66. SWD Commander Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox recently challenged participants at a Regional Water Safety Conference at division headquarters to find ways to bring those numbers down.

"Zero fatalities is a level of greatness we hope to achieve but the reality is we can't control people's behavior," Cox said during the opening of the Jan. 21-22 conference.

"I'm not challenging you to get to zero, I am challenging you to reduce the numbers," he said. "Public safety is our top priority and we must find more ways to get visitors' attention to help ensure they have a safe experience while on or near our lakes.

He stressed to the division and district water safety team members present that they were there to identify what would take SWD from a good water safety program to a great water safety program.

Thinking out loud he said maybe one way to get to great would be in timely Commander's Critical Incident Reports. He explained that CCIRs let regional leadership know when a fatality or other serious incident has occurred, and all are charged with the responsibility to get the message into the system and through command channels in a timely manner.

"After the CCIR comes in, an acknowledgement is made and information is used for lessons

learned, then mitigation occurs and information is shared," he added.

"When we get more and more people thinking about safety, the more they stop doing unsafe things," Cox said. "People are our greatest resource, whether our employees or our visitors, it's our responsibility to keep them safe. We are all safety officers."

After the commander wrapped up his opening remarks by handing out awards, Division Safety Officer Bruce Barrett stepped up to the lectern to talk about the Corps' Command Management Review's Goals and Outcome.

He explained that public accidents are a measurement area during CMRs each quarter, and public safety is a high priority for quality recreation. He said the CMR levels are green, amber or red. In fiscal year 2008, there were 52 million visitors throughout the division and 66 public fatal accidents, which resulted in a red frequency of 1.25.

"A new CMR frequency has been established for public accidents during FY 2009," Barrett added. "The CMR green frequency for 2009 is 0.77 or less, equating to a maximum number of 41 SWD public fatalities to meet the green level on the CMR. We are looking for ways to keep the public safe and get us in the green."

National Water Safety Program Leader Lynda Nutt was next on the agenda after Barrett. She used her time to show how the National Water Safety Program helps divisions and districts have a better water safety program and where

See "Making it great" next page

Fort Worth Highlights

We have learned at Fort Worth that "We" are smarter than "Me," and my intent at this conference is to "Rip off and Benefit" (ROB) from all other team members here.

- FY 2008 - 37 Recreational Fatalities - Swim, wade or fall fatalities went up last year, as did Hispanic surname fatalities. Look at trends and analyze them. Swim, wade or fall activity and ethnicity gives us a two-prong attack on our audience and the information we need to give out.

- Worked with National Water Safety Program a lot. Have schools, colleges and other agencies coming to us for water safety material. Rangers go out anytime and anywhere to promote water safety. Can not do as much as other districts because do not have the "boots on the ground" that they do, but are working on increasing our numbers with summer hires and interns.

- Are working to cut the time rangers spend in the office doing admin or programmatic things, as opposed to being out in the field being the "face of the Corps."

- Have created a new award to recognize people for saving a life - Castle Hero.

- Are getting water safety messages out - stenciled onsite, out in news releases, with partners at events, through training Soldier safety officers to train water safety to Soldiers at Fort Hood.

- See our life jacket loaner stations used by children more than adults - will start to target the adults more now.

- Will be using peer training for teenagers during pep rallies as well as improving Spanish communications.

- Using Geospatial Information System to collect data for analysis to help identify the need and figure out how to address it.

- Proposing national water safety campaign.

Tulsa District Highlights

We have been working to streamline and catch our target folks with such things as water patrols and media blitzes on weekends before major holidays.

- Bluff Jumping Policy
- Partnering with Safe kids for loaner boards and designated child watcher program. Safe Kids helps draw media to events. Partnering with Oklahoma Lake Patrol also.
- Having lots of success with water safety quizzes at events, and shocker banners at parks – i.e., Over 70 water-related fatalities have occurred on Tulsa District Lakes – Don't be next.
- Celebrity media launch – can use national celebrities or use your own people (staff) for posters that can cost approximately \$15 for about 10 - Pistol Pete, Bob Stoops, etc.
- Will continue to work with children as having lots of success with children, but are also looking at promo items for 18- to 35-year-old-males such as fisherman's wallets and handkerchiefs.
- Plan to wrap or paint new water safety trailers and purchase two Bobber dog suits
- Purchase additional banners
- Revamp Water Safety Web site
- Complete GIS water fatality database

Galveston District Highlights

Historical trends in Galveston reveal consistently low or no public visitor fatalities, including water-related recreation fatalities as the district has mainly navigation projects.

- "We seek out, engage, and expand 'power' partners, who share the Corps vision to prevent drowning. We work together through media, education, and public policy efforts, reaching out to thousands of individuals, especially children and families, with a multitude of lifesaving interventions."
- 15 years of doing water safety.
- Team work, team work, team work with partnering emphasized – Partners such as Texas Parks and Wildlife, Greater Houston Pool Management, Houston Police Department and life jacket loaner stations with Safe Kids Greater Houston.
- Focus on children and families, as do not have adult male stats that others have.
- Have annual scheduled events with various partners, but also take calls for additional events throughout the year. Annual events like April Pools Day and Wade - Water Activity Day Events.
- In process of signing Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Kids for "Kids Don't Float" program.

Making it great

continued from previous page

USACE should be going in its efforts.

She said that everyone in the room was a risk manager who wanted to reduce the number of water-related fatalities on Corps lakes and were looking for the ways to do that.

"The National Water Safety Program office has the resources for you," she said. "We serve as the expert on this, and we've actually conducted studies to come up with answers for you. We don't tell you how to do it, as one size doesn't fit all, but we do provide the materials you will need to do it the way you need to.

"For example, we were able to convince the Corps that auto-inflatable life jackets do work and would be good for our rangers."

Nutt added the most important lesson the program office learned last year was that children were getting our water safety messages, but, adult males, not so much.

"Our kids get it, as our rangers have been teaching the kids for years. In 2008 recreating males were our biggest concern as 57 percent of SWD's water-related deaths were 17- to 35-year-old males," she said. "We need to focus our efforts on

that age group now."

She went on to say that we "know" alcohol is more than likely involved, but we do not have the numbers to support our knowledge.

"We suspect this is often the case, but we just don't know this officially as we don't get the autopsy reports."

Little Rock District's Chris Smith asked a question that seemed to be on everyone's mind, "have projects that banned alcohol at their parks had success with that policy?"

Nutt answered that projects had some success with the ban as they had no fatalities within the short time it had been in effect.

"But they also had a drop in visitation because their visitors went elsewhere to drink and party." She added, "Unfortunately, they probably went to an area that was unmonitored."

Returning to her presentation on the newest trends, Nutt said language is also an issue here in SWD as there is much diversity. Her slide showed that FY 2008 reports included 52 responses to the question on primary language with 26 victims speaking no English only Spanish or Hmong (from Southeast Asia).

"You have to use signage to speak to the culture you are trying to address to get your message across. Knowing who your audience is and what

See "SWD Water Safety" next page

SWD Water Safety

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their primary language is will help your water safety program immensely.”

Nutt’s next topic covered life jackets and people not wearing them.

“Getting people to wear life jackets would be a measurable goal,” she said. “Again, our trends show that 17- to 35-year-old males are not wearing life jackets. We need to get to the hard-to-reach, smart-alecky, know-it-all teenager and the won’t-change adult.”

“At the request of Maj. Gen. Don Riley, deputy chief of engineers, we did internal and external studies on mandatory wear of life jackets on Corps waters. We recommended that we don’t change the policy, but initiate other program changes.”

She then explained that Riley reviewed the recommendation, but determined requiring a life jacket was the right thing to do and directed a three-to-five year policy demo.

“We asked for districts to volunteer and Vicksburg offered its Mississippi lakes. The district will conduct the demo for three years starting in May. Pittsburgh District has had policy in effect since 1991, but had not tracked the results. They are doing so now as part of the demo.”

She added that the U.S. Coast Guard will be working with the Corps to do a wear rate study at Pittsburgh and Vicksburg during the demo to measure the effects of the policy.

“We greatly appreciate their efforts on this, as we really want to show wearing life jackets improves our numbers and how well,” Nutt said. “We believe if we get people to wear life jackets our fatalities will go down. If we stop focusing on fatalities and instead focus on wear rates, we’ll start bringing our deaths down.”

To improve our wear rates, she recommended that SWD and USACE Water Safety Campaigns shift their target audience to the adult male and educate them about new life jacket

Little Rock District Highlights

The Little Rock District Water Safety Team strives to reduce water-related accidents and fatalities by proactively addressing safety issues of concern to all project visitors who use district lakes and rivers.

- Have a water safety team that is interdisciplinary – across business lines with office of counsel, public affairs, operations, etc.
- Our fatalities are directly tied to visitation.
- Are recognizing water safety greatness in our employees through the Belinda Burns award and through National Water Safety Awards.
- Developing criteria and design for SWL Command Water Safety Coin.
- Keep teaching children water safety as well, as they grow up with it, and they shame their parents into wearing life jackets.
- Are looking at water safety advertisements in Arkansas boating and duck hunting regulation guide books May 09 - Partner with MVK to reduce cost.
- Will conduct inter-district on-site review of recreation water fatalities.
- Working to develop district policy on cliff jumping – Mt. Home “pilot project” and planning a saturation effort at Bull Shoals and Norfolk Lakes with focus on bluff jumping policy.
- Will host the SWD Water Safety Event.
- Continue to pursue life jacket loaner programs at all district projects and continue water safety outreach to public school, college and university students.

options.

“Don’t give up on the kids, but focus more attention on getting 17- to 35-old-males to wear life vests. Stop using the old horse-shoe life jacket on your graphics, go with newer versions such as the auto inflatables or the belt types.”

Nutt ended her presentation by describing some of the great campaigns and products she has seen used throughout SWD and the Corps. One she’s the most impressed with is “Bobber, the Water Safety Dog” and all of the cartoons, coloring books, posters and other items that are part of the campaign. “You have some incredible programs coming out of SWD.”

Other great ideas she has seen included water safety banners for the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division and water safety messages shrink wrapped to vehicle tailgates – with GSA permission of course.

“We have some great ideas out there and we need to be sharing them or stealing shamelessly from each other,” she concluded.

SWD district representatives followed Nutt with presentations highlighting their own district’s current water safety program and where they want to take their programs in the upcoming year. During their presentations the floor was open for questions and ideas on how to move the division’s water safety program from good to great.

At the end of the conference, Little Rock’s Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis shared the lectern with Fort Worth’s Chief Charlie Burger as they briefed Cox and Deputy Commander Col. Billy G. Tollison on their progress toward that goal.

See “Water safety conference results” next page

Division commander awards employees for greatness

By Tammy Moody
Pacesetter Staff

During a recent Southwestern Division water safety conference, SWD Commander Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox honored three district employees - two for saving lives and a third for her hard work guiding the division's water safety program.

"I personally believe you have achieved greatness when you save another person's life," Cox said, "and Marcus and Rob did just that. The families of the people they saved should send them Christmas cards for the rest of their lives to thank them for saving their loved ones."

On July 16, 2008, Site Manager Marcus Schimank, from Fort Worth's Granger Lake, saved a 23-month-old child who was in respiratory arrest when a family member brought him to the manager as he worked near by. Schimank evaluated the child's condition and performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation to help him regain consciousness and breathe on his own, saving his life.

"Marcus did what he was trained to do without thinking and he saved that child's life," Cox said.

The general handed Schimank an award, his commander's coin, a SWD safety incentive coaster and a Chief of Engineers coin engraved with his name.

"The coin is just a small token of the chief's appreciation for what you did, but I want you to look at it every now and then and remember what it is you did for another person's life and that you did a job very well done."

The general honored Park Ranger Rob Mills from Tulsa's Oologah Lake next.

On July 18, 2008, Mills was in his vehicle when he saw a 14-year-old male struggling while swimming in a designated area. He observed the teen go under the water after attempting to grab hold of another swimmer approximately 20 feet from the shoreline. Mills dived into the murky water, located the victim underwater and brought him ashore to save his life.



Water safety conference results

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The following are the results of the conference:

- Approve Water Safety Program - develop regional Water Safety Program
- Identify shortfalls and report to division
- Develop SWD White Paper on ranger duties and staffing
- Implement regionally loaner life jacket boards (one board per project, minimum)
- Investigate the Tulsa policy on bluff jumping
- Develop regional life saving award policy
- Develop marketing strategies to target 17-35 year olds
- Develop marketing strategies to target the different ethnic groups
- Develop GIS program standardization for district and division use
- Develop FY10-11 budget requirements by April
- Use wear rates study as measurable metric toward great

"This is one of those things you can't teach, it's got to be immediate, you have to just do it," Cox said after handing Mills his award, coaster and coins. "And Rob did it."

The general ended his award ceremony by thanking Tulsa's Aimee Jordan with a Commander's Coin for her work with the National Water Safety Program where she became a "train-the-trainer" expert on water safety.

"I know she's recently become a water supply specialist, but once a ranger, always a ranger. She is the division expert on water safety, and we appreciate the hard work she's put into the program."



Skiatook Lake restricts bluff jumping

By Lindsey Tatum
Park Ranger
Skiatook Lake, Tulsa District

Every summer, people flock to the local lakes. They like to swim, boat, fish and some even risk life and limb to jump from bluffs into the water. Starting this year that could result in a \$115 fine.

The Corps of Engineers' Tulsa District has now restricted jumping and diving from bluffs in Osage Park and on Armadillo Island, the two most popular places on Skiatook Lake for those activities. Officials say that public safety is of great concern, and park rangers will be able to cite anyone caught jumping from bluffs in these areas.

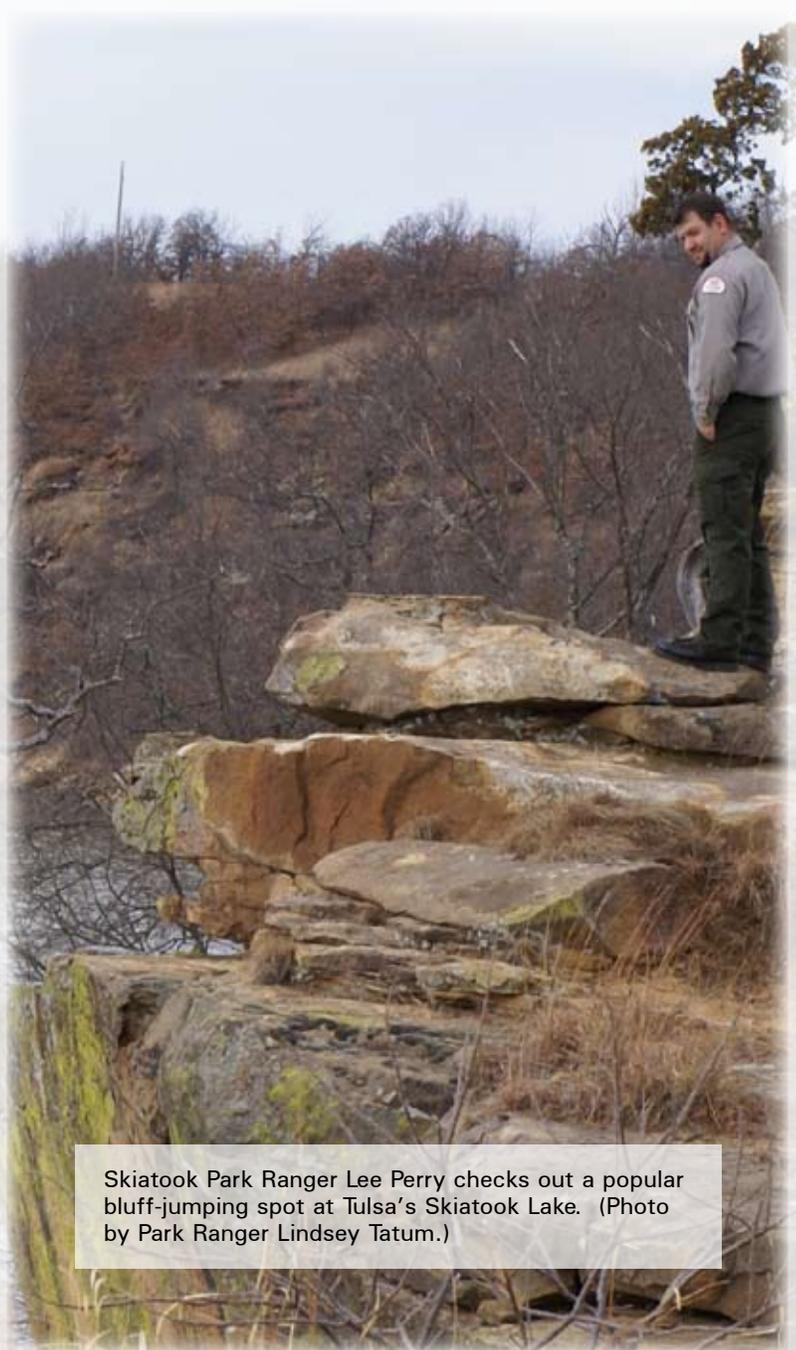
Before the 2009 recreation season begins, the public will be informed through the news media and signs will be installed on the road going into Osage Park and on the face of the bluffs. Tulsa's park rangers will enforce this new policy under the posted restrictions of Title 36.

Since its impoundment in 1984, the rock bluffs originating along Skiatook Lake's shoreline have attracted many people. To date, six public fatalities have been associated with bluff jumping at the lake.

Park rangers have routinely patrolled Osage Park and educated people on the hazards of jumping from the bluffs (water depth, height of bluff, unseen objects, incorrect landing, etc.), but were not authorized to write citations for the act of bluff jumping. Recent changes in our restrictions now allow the writing of citations.

"We want people to enjoy their experience on the lake. I have spent years educating the public on the dangers of bluff jumping as well as promoting water safety. This new restriction will probably not stop everyone from jumping off bluffs, but if lives are saved, it will be a small price to pay," said Park Ranger Greg Bersche.

"As a parent of a teenager I know how hard it is to convince children to listen to advice. Parents, please help us by reinforcing our safety message to your children and asking them for their cooperation. Our kids are far too important to risk their injury or death," said Ranger Tim Crossman.



Skiatook Park Ranger Lee Perry checks out a popular bluff-jumping spot at Tulsa's Skiatook Lake. (Photo by Park Ranger Lindsey Tatum.)

The most recent death from bluff jumping at Skiatook Lake was Aug. 3, 2008, when an 18-year-old male did a back flip off a rock bluff and landed on his back and neck. That same day at the same place, a teenage girl ruptured two discs in her back when she jumped from the cliffs.

A news segment, "Lake Stunt Proven Deadly," on KOTV's website drew hundreds of comments, many of which called for the Corps to take action and the sites to be blocked off. One read, "People always have and always will take risks, it is a source of excitement, not everyone wants to fish when they go to the lake. I hope that people will learn from these tragedies."

Get Outdoors, It's Yours! event a success

By Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

More than 4,000 visitors turned out on a cold, windy morning for the *Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* kickoff event at San Antonio Missions National Historic Park, Mission San Jose` Jan. 10.

The event was held to highlight outdoor recreation activities in the area and to educate visitors about the eight-mile restoration project known as the San Antonio River Improvements – Mission Reach Project.

“It was a wonderful event, well organized with an unbelievable turnout,” said Project Manager Charissa Kelly.

“It was very windy and cold that morning, but that did not stop thousands from showing up.”

The Fort Worth District and the San Antonio River Authority partnered together to educate the locals about the ongoing Mission Reach Project.



Park Rangers from the Canyon Lake Office hand out water safety material to more than 4,000 visitors at the *Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* event in San Antonio, Texas. (Photos by: Park Ranger Murray McCarley, Belton Lake Office.)



Bobber the Water Safety Dog poses for pictures, emphasizing the importance of water safety at the *Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* event in San Antonio, Texas.

“Since the event was held at one of the four missions that occur along the eight miles of river that is the Mission Reach, many of the people from the area came to the event and were excited to see information about what was going on and asked lots of questions,” said Kelly.

Other high traffic booths at the event were the nature activities on the “Showmobile stage” and the Fort Worth District Water Safety Booth.

Park rangers from the Capital Regional Office staffed the booth to teach visitors about the importance of water safety and recreation opportunities at Corps lakes and campsites.

“*The Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* program is a great match to our efforts to educate kids and families visiting our recreation sites,” said Canyon Lake Manager Judy Scott.

Bobber the Water Safety Dog, the Corps’ water safety mascot, also made an appearance and posed for pictures

with many of the kids and adults.

“This event, coordinated at the federal, state and local level makes it possible for children and their families to spend more time participating in outdoor activities through education programs and simple recreation and stewardship activities as they learn more about Texas’ natural and historic treasures,” said Lyle Laverty, U.S. Department of the Interior, assistant secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, in a written statement.

“Today’s children want to get outdoors and explore nature as their parents did and through the efforts of these participating groups, parents and caregivers can feel comfortable letting them have this experience in a safe and welcoming environment,” said Laverty.

National *Get Outdoors, It's Yours!* day is June 13. Details about events being held can be found at www.getoutdoors.org.

Partnerships key to Galveston's water safety program

*By Isidro Reyna
Pacesetter Staff*

With nearly 12 million acres of land and water to manage, there is no doubt water safety is a top priority for the divisions and districts making up the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

And with the Galveston District serving the needs of the Texas coastal region, there is a special emphasis on educating the public on both commercial and recreational water safety issues.

"The Galveston District is probably the most unusual district in the Corps of Engineers because of our extensive involvement in the commercial industry, combined with the large number of recreational vessels that use the commercial channels," said Dan Wyatt, chief of safety and occupational health for the Galveston District. "The Houston Ship Channel is one of the world's busiest waterways, with the nation's second largest recreational boater population all trying to use the water on Galveston Bay."

Since the Galveston District encompasses more than 50,000 square miles with 300 or more employees, partnerships with area organizations that have similar goals and objectives are important when executing a successful water safety program, said Kristine Brown, a park ranger and water safety program manager with the Galveston District.

"A partnership is the most efficient and economical way to execute our water safety initiatives that come down from headquarters and division levels," said Brown.

She said drowning is the number two fatality in the U.S. for children 13 and younger with vehicle accidents being number 1.

One of the programs created by the Galveston District eight years ago is the Life Jacket Loaner Program, an initiative which provides the public with free life jackets for use while boating in and around the Houston and Galveston areas.

The Life Jacket Loaner program is done in a partnership with the Safe Kids Greater Houston Water Safety Coalition, a group of volunteers representing non-profit and private business organizations, including federal, state and local government agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, said Brown.

"It's a federal law that children 13 and younger are to wear life jackets when boating," she said. "I work with Safe Kids to get grants to supply our life jackets."

"We had approximately five life jacket loaner stations prior to Hurricane Ike. When Hurricane Ike hit, we were wiped out--literally. Three of our main stations were destroyed by the hurricane."

In order to rebound from the devastation of Ike, Brown has enlisted the help of local volunteers to rebuild informative bulletin boards that accompany the life jacket loaner stations.

"I have the Boy Scouts with the Sam Houston Area and Galveston councils that do Eagle projects," said Brown. "In the past, I had Eagle Scouts build bulletin boards. Those boards run as much as \$1,000 in materials. I actually had an Eagle Scout who assembled an entire bulletin board."

"If we didn't have these partners, it would be extremely difficult to do all of this on our own. We didn't have a program until we teamed up with partners."

"Not only do you partner externally, you have to partner internally," she added. "We can partner with our closest sister district and help them in getting some of this information out and solidifying some of these partnerships. Among all of us, we have different resources that are available. When you pull all that stuff together, it's unreal what you can come up with."

Mullican earns Commander's Award

The Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, has awarded the Commander's Award for Public Service to William F. Mullican III, Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Water Development Board.



Maj. Gen. Bo Temple, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, presented the award at the Texas Water Day Reception, Feb. 5, in Washington, D.C. Mullican was cited for leading a forward-looking state water plan that not only positions the state of Texas to meet its future water needs but also serves as a model for other states to follow. Concurrently, he inspired the enactment of nationally significant water resources laws and forged a new approach to state and federal partnerships in water resources exemplified in a vibrant working relationship between the state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Tulsa District's SAFE projects honored

This was the fourth successful year of Tulsa District's Safety Award for Excellence program for Operations Division. The highest score that can be achieved during an inspection is 250 points.

The Chloride Control Project Office won the Lake and Project Office category with 232 points and Broken Bow Remote Power Plant took the Navigation and Hydropower category with 245.

"The diverse work this crew does always presents challenges. The first thing discussed is how to do the job safely," said Dennis Duke, the project manager of the Chloride Control Project Office.

"In today's fast paced world it is easy to concentrate on the job and let safety take a backseat. But I am proud this crew always has a take safety first approach. We are also fortunate to have a professional group in the safety office who offers all



Chloride Control SAFE team members shown are, from left, front row, Peat Robinson, Tracy Cartwright, and Kent Smith. Back row, Richard McCanlies, Chad Rainwater, Brent Vanderpol and Dennis Duke. (Photos provided by Tulsa District.)



Broken Bow SAFE team members shown are, from left, Hank Farly, Kris Hoss, Wesley Tyler, Steve Timmons, Westley Basson and George Worsham.

the support we need."

District Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser, in written congratulations, stated, "Congratulations on your SAFE programs. Please extend to your employees we are proud of them for scoring so high, but more importantly for doing the right things and executing a conscientious program that keeps them safe. I look forward to making my way to your sites and recognizing you all for your efforts! Hooah!"

Bob Vandegriff, chief of Safety Office, expressed "Congratulations to the winning offices and high hopes for continued participation and improvement during the next round of inspections. Thanks for all the support, hard work and interest shown in the program. Our goal is zero accidents."

Fort Sill work and resident office wins Eagle Eye

The Fort Sill project honored with the 2008 Tulsa District Eagle Eye Construction Program Contractor of the Year Award consisted of the interior renovation of three Air Defense Academy School buildings. The Fort Sill Resident Office was named Eagle Eye Construction Office of the Year.

G.W. Hastings Construction Company, a Lawton based company with a long work history with Fort Sill and the surrounding communities, complied with the contract stipulations for completion of Building 3162 within 180 days due to mission requirements. They successfully completed all phases of the \$6-million-plus project within the 450-day contract, with no lost time accidents.

G.W. Hastings corporate practices, in conjunction with an excellent onsite manage-



Winona Simmons, Construction Representative of the Year, is shown with Maj. Lora Carroll, project engineer. (Photo provided by Tulsa District.)

ment team, were integral to the success of the safety and construction aspects of this project. "Working with a conscientious contractor, as well a team-oriented Corps of Engineers office, leads to successful projects such as this one," stated Winona Simmons, quality assurance representative for the project.

Little Rock father, son oversee projects benefiting Iraqis

*By Norris Jones
Gulf Region Division
South District*

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq – A Little Rock District father and son are part of the Corps of Engineers' team helping rebuild Iraq.

Denver and Eric Gillespie, who will soon complete their six-month tours with the Gulf Region Division, South District, say what made the deployment so special was the opportunity to meet, work with and get to know the Iraqi people.

Shortly after returning stateside, Denver will be retiring. He's the Senior Electrician at the Greers Ferry hydroelectric power station, the same facility where his father Gill worked and also retired. Denver says the Iraq deployment was a great way to finish his 34-year career with USACE.

Eric has been with USACE nine years and currently is an operator and diver at Murray Lock and Dam near Little Rock. He says he is hopeful that, at some point, he'll get an opportunity to relocate to Greers Ferry to become the third-generation Gillespie to work there.

In Iraq, the Gillespies are construction representatives with the Adder Area Office at Tallil Air Base. Eric is helping ensure quality work at seven projects worth more than \$50 million including the new 80-bed Maysan Surgical Hospital, the Iraqi Army's new Maymona Location Command, expansion of two roads and the upgrade of the Amarah Landfill with a new incinerator, all in Maysan Province.

Denver oversees \$150 million in projects including the expan-

sion of the Tallil airfield, the new Ur Location Command for the Iraqi Army and upgrading two electrical substations in Dhi Qar Province. One of the highlights of their tour was visiting Al Haboosh Primary School in December to hand out toys, soccer balls and school supplies to the 225 students there. That school is located next to a new \$650,000 water treatment plant that will provide access to clean water to that community for the first time ever. The Adder Area Office is managing that contract.



Denver Gillespie, from Greers Ferry Lake, enjoys visiting with students at Al Haboosh primary school in Dhi Qar Province near Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq. (USACE photos by Norris Jones.)



Eric Gillespie, of Murray Lock and Dam, hands out toys to youngsters at the Al Haboosh primary school located near Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq.

The local tribal leader, Sheik Abdul Razak, said residents there had historically just pumped raw water out of the local canal for household use. "It is very bad water. This project is important for the health of everyone who

lives here. It's a great sign of progress," Sheik Razak added.

Eric noted many of the students at that school were the same age as his two sons, Drake, seven and Caleb, six. "It was great to see their smiles. They were so appreciative of what we're trying to do."

Denver says he is grateful to get an opportunity to see this part of the world and geographical landmarks mentioned in the Bible such as the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and the ancient city of Ur where Abraham was raised.

Denver has been a volunteer minister for the past 15 years and when he retires April 1, he will become the full-time pastor at the McJester Baptist Church in Pangburn, Ark.

"In Iraq, family is everything," Denver said. "Whether the father is a truck driver or a camel herder, you see his sons close by – learning the trade, being mentored, getting schooled about life. It's a bond that I admire."

See "Father and son" next page



USACE Construction Representatives Eric and Denver Gillespie, from Little Rock District, take a break at Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq.

Father and son

continued from previous page

The Gillespies have a close-knit family as well. In Arkansas, they both live near each other in Tumbling Shoals, and they enjoy camping and going to church together. In Iraq, in their off time, they lift weights together, go to aerobics and are members of the GRS softball team.

“It’s been a blast,” Denver commented.

They both also helped barbecue steaks and hamburgers to recognize Adder Area Office’s Iraqi engineers who visit those construction sites daily.

“They are on our staff and do a tremendous job. These individuals all have college degrees, are very knowledgeable about our procedures, and they are willing to risk their lives every day to try to make their community a better place for their children and grandchildren,” Eric said. “They’ve earned our utmost respect.”

Denver and Eric are also both Navy veterans. Denver was a boiler technician on the aircraft carrier USS Midway (CVA-41) during Vietnam, and Eric was a machinist mate on the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV-64). Denver also spent time with Navy P3 aircraft as an anti-submarine warfare operator.

They both appreciate the tremendous support their family, friends and church have provided during their Iraq deployment. They give special recognition to their wives who are taking care of the home front while they are away — Denver’s wife is Pam, Eric’s wife is Misti.

“It’s been awesome getting this chance to serve with Dad – being part of his last hurrah before he closes this chapter on his life. We’re both very proud to be members of the USACE team here – seeing how appreciative the Iraqi people are of our efforts. We’re making a difference,” Eric concluded.

(Note: Norris Jones is a public affairs specialist with the Gulf Region Division South District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq.)

Southwestern Division is seeking more volunteers for deployment to the Gulf Region Division’s South District, where you can earn great benefits and a sense of contributing to a greater cause. There is a critical need in Iraq for project engineers and a variety of specialties will be required in the future.

For more information, contact your district’s Emergency Management Office, or Mary Thomas, Deployment Coordination Administrator, 469-487-7115, or (Mary.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil)

USACE warns cell phones and driving don’t mix

Cell phone use is one of the most common driver distractions, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says driver inattention is the leading factor in 80 percent of vehicle crashes.

Studies have shown that motorists who talk on hand-held or hands-free cellular phones are as impaired as drunk drivers.

The USACE Safety Manual and Army Regulations prohibit hand-held cell phone or digital device use while driving on duty and also while driving personal vehicles on a USACE facility or Army installation.

Operators of government and contractor motor vehicles being used on USACE projects may only use hands-free cellular devices while the vehicle is in motion. Prior to using a hand-held cellular phone or digital device, drivers need to find a safe place to bring their vehicle to a stop. Text messaging is strictly prohibited while operat-



ing motor vehicles. This requirement does not preclude passengers from using cell phones/digital devices while the vehicle is in motion.

Many states have prohibitions on cell phone use, for a listing of such prohibitions please visit the Governor’s Highway Safety Administration web page at: http://www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/cellphone_laws.html.

Let’s make 2009 our safest year yet!

Maj. Gen. Don Riley
BUILDING STRONG



District continues to answer nation's call

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

As President Barack Obama prepares to receive the upcoming stimulus package aimed at reviving the economy, we also prepare to play our part in the nation's recovery.

In anticipation of significant increases in both civil works and military construction funding we must be prepared to execute all of our fiscal year 2009 "normal" workload along with any additional work that may be required by the stimulus bill.

We expect about \$500 million in Operation and Maintenance for our Army posts and an unknown amount for our Air Force installations. Additionally this all comes at a time where our Contracting Division is understaffed by 10 individuals.

Currently there are five Army hospitals under consideration for stimulus funding, two of which fall under the Fort Worth District. We have been asked to

provide contract award schedules for hospitals that will be on Fort Bliss, a \$1.1 billion project, and one \$813 million project at Fort Hood. Awards could come as early as nine months from now.

Some of the key tasks in our immediate future have to do with manpower and growth. We must complete the space utilization study, determine manpower requirements and complete office reorganization in order to be successful and bring in new people.

Our needs are twofold; fill the current positions on the integrated manning document and revise the IMD to account for expected growth in many of our divisions.

In order to accomplish this, we must determine what changes, if any, are required and develop and maintain the right mix of permanent, temporary, contract and rehired annuitant employees to best accomplish our mission.

There also may be a need for additional space outside of the GSA Building

as well as the need to create additional organizations to support new projects.

The end goal is to execute every project possible by the end of the fiscal year and obligate all OMA funds. We must execute what we can now and ensure that we prioritize projects, so that those with higher priority are executed as soon as possible.

The contracting of these projects will not only support the Soldiers and citizens, but will also provide opportunities for employment not just with the Corps, but with the contractors that take on the projects.

Our team will grow and see changes both subtle and grand, but as always, it is our people who will make the difference.

Our standards of quality and "can do" spirit permeates throughout our region and all of USACE. We have been asked to do more and we will. That is why we continue to be one of the best districts in the Corps.

Project Delivery Team looking for new ways to recruit

***By Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff***

Several Fort Worth District Operations Division team members met Jan. 14 to form a Project Delivery Team to discuss ways to hire and retain new employees.

The Operations Division reported about 35 percent of their current employees are eligible for retirement and a PDT for recruitment is just the beginning of their efforts.

"A team looking into this is long overdue," said Chief of Operations Charlie Burger. "In the past we made good efforts to recruit people, but we need a new program to take park rangers from entry to journeyman. Then we need to formalize other training programs for our support staff."

This recruitment effort is an initiative Operations Division hopes to benefit from by recruiting people with overlapping skill sets. With so much to learn and little time to learn it, Burger emphasized the benefit of hiring overlapping skill sets.

"We want to maintain the quality of the workforce in the next few years of transition," he said. "We have a great team in place that has a lot of experience and knowledge to share with new employees."

The team discussed current recruitment practices and ways to adjust them to today's college students and job seekers. The team is looking at new methods and identified new locations for recruitment activities.

"We've got a good start on what we're doing," said Burger. "Now we need to expand on it."

USACE holds Family Readiness Group workshop

*By Mike Kerr
Tulsa District Safety Office*

The Family Readiness Workshop was held in conjunction with the 2009 Winter Leaders Conference on Feb. 5-6, at USACE headquarters.

Attendees included the Executive Steering Committee, Human Resources representatives, district employees and representatives from other government agencies.

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp addressed the group and expressed the necessity for the Corps to develop and implement a family readiness program for our deploying personnel and their families.

More than 1,000 Corps employees are currently deployed, and this number continues to grow. Over half of those deployed are non-Corps hires or Schedule A employees. Home locations of Schedule A employees are geographically scattered throughout the nation and overseas.

Van Antwerp asked the workgroup to provide recommendations to include Schedule A employees and their families into local district or division Family Readiness Programs.

Retired Col. Sherrill Munn has been selected as the Family Readiness Network Manager at headquarters, USACE. Munn is no stranger to the Army or the Corps. He served 29 years as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and retired in 2008 as the Corps Chaplain.

Community Support Coordinators will soon be hired to implement the family readiness program. The majority of the CSCs will be staffed at division offices, and positions are expected

to be filled by June.

The three major responsibilities of the CSCs are to integrate family program services and community resources to provide direct support to families; serve as primary liaison among deployees, families, the Corps and communities; and to personally engage to evaluate gaps in services and advise commanders of program requirements.

Another topic discussed at the Family Readiness Workshop was the Army Family Action Plan process. The Army Family Action Plan is a process that lets Soldiers, Civilians and Families say what is working and what is not.

This process alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and gives them the opportunity to quickly resolve or elevate issues.

For the first time in 10 years, delegates from the Corps attended the annual Department of the Army AFAP conference. The delegates were advocates championing issues raised during AFAP solicitations.

The delegates presented five issues from the Corps to the AFAP committee, and one issue was selected to be sent forward to Department of the Army seeking policy or legislative change.

The issue selected was a request to change civilian death gratuity benefits. The current policy provides 100 percent death benefits to immediate family members. However, when a beneficiary is not an immediate family member (foster child, fiancée, grandparent, uncle, girl/boy friend, partner, etc.) only 50 percent of the death gratuity is paid. During this year, AFAP will petition for policy or legisla-

tive change allowing 100 percent death gratuities to be paid to the beneficiaries selected by deployed civilians.

Later in the year each civilian employee/family member will be given the opportunity to send forth issues (and accompanying recommendations) in the AFAP format for resolution. Each issue will be solved at the district or division level if at all possible. If not solved at division, it will be forwarded to HQUSACE. At this point, all issues from all activities/divisions within USACE will go before a panel and the top five or six issues will go to the National AFAP conference.

If an issue is deemed one of the top 16 it will be forwarded to the Department of the Army for resolution. This process may lead to policy changes or even new legislation. The process is good and it works - but it all begins with, and depends on, you!



SWL's Engineer of the Year

Kevin Sharp earned the distinction of being Little Rock's Engineer of the year for 2009. As a structural engineer in the Infrastructure Safety Section of Engineering and Construction Division, he has been involved in a wide variety of projects. His most recognizable accomplishment has been his work as a team leader with the national dam safety risk assessment cadre. (Photo by Tammy Moody.)

AEA casts new statuette honoring park rangers

Tulsa District ranger is model

*By Col. Anthony Funkhouser
Commander, Tulsa District*

The Army Engineer Association, at the request of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, has developed a statuette of a park ranger to recognize the talented men and women who have worn the uniform and served our country at project sites across the nation.

The Army Engineer Association has a number of statuettes that symbolize engineer Soldiers from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Viet Nam and current era. These Sapper statuettes make great gifts and collectables for our engineer community.

Since the Corps of Engineers is a major command in the U.S. Army and park rangers are the Corps most recognizable employees, Tulsa District command felt a park ranger statue would be an appropriate addition to the AEA collection.

In October 2007, Tulsa contacted the Army Engineer Association and proposed a statuette symbolizing park rangers and their values.

The district then chose Steve Armstrong, a veteran park ranger at Hulah and Copan lakes, to represent the Corps posing in his class A uniform. The photos were submitted to



AEA, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Julius Nutter graciously took the idea and brought it to fruition. After almost a year, the statuette was completed.

The small pewter statuette symbolizes the professionalism and selfless service of our park rangers who accept the public's and the federal government's trust to serve as stewards of much of the nation's natural resources. They cultivate productive and cooperative relationships with other local, state and federal agencies to enhance the quality of the recreational experience for the visiting public. One of their major contributions is the Corps Water Safety Program. Their daily interaction with the public, the media and other agencies reveals the importance of this critical position.

Corps of Engineers park rangers seek opportunities to educate the visiting public in all aspects of natural resource management.

They foster the proper use and protection of our valuable natural resources, thus helping ensure their existence for future generations.

This new statuette is a small tribute to all the park rangers -- past, present and future -- for their professional and selfless service to the Corps and our nation.



Tulsa's Montgomery earns first ranger peer award

*By Dan Bentley
Tulsa District*

The Tulsa District ranger community was recently privileged to present the Army Engineer Association's newly minted park ranger statuette as a peer award to one of their own, Jim Montgomery from the Fort Gibson Lake Office.

The district's 2009 Park Ranger In-Service Training was three days filled with speakers, guests and presentations. The highlight of the conference was Feb. 12 when Tulsa District Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Julius Nutter, director of operations for the AEA at Fort Leonard Wood, presented the inaugural peer award.

The statuette was developed over the course of about a year, and it was a cooperative effort between Tulsa and the AEA.

Weeks before the conference, the Tulsa District ranger community was asked to submit nominations for a Park Ranger Peer Award. A panel of rangers selected Montgomery as the first peer award recipient.

The nomination, made by one of Montgomery's co-workers, read, "I have worked with Jim for over 10 years, and he has always been willing to help out anyone with their various projects. He is a man of few words, but he has a big heart. I respect his opinion, and he is definitely the first person I would want to have around during a time of crisis.

One event stands out in my mind where Jim stepped forward for a task that very few people would be willing to perform.

"Several years ago, our office was contacted concerning a young man who was missing in some caves near Wildwood campground on the east side of Fort Gibson Lake. The young man's brother

had been exploring the caves with him, but he was unable to follow his brother up a small tunnel. He waited for his brother to return, but he never came back out of the tunnel. Rangers from our office responded, as well as rescue personnel from the Fort Gibson Fire Department and Cherokee County. Equipment was brought in to pump air down into the caves, and many responders tried to locate the young man.

"Jim Montgomery was one of the individuals who unselfishly crawled and squeezed through tunnels to locate the man's body. The young man took a wrong turn trying to squeeze into a crack that was blocked and suffocated. Jim Montgomery and another man were the only ones who were able to get into the confined space to bring the young man back to the surface. Light was limited to a few flashlights and head lamps. Jim carried only his standard issue black mag light.

"One of the tunnels was so restricted that the men said they had to literally squeeze themselves through the space. We all waited at the top of a hole that was over six feet deep praying for any sign of their lights as they worked their way out. All of the men came out covered in mud.

Jim's white t-shirt and green pants were caked with mud, and his ears

were even packed with red clay. In his quiet, unassuming manner, he diligently worked to bring the young man's body home to his family.

"Jim is a very humble man and does not strive to receive accolades. In his mind, he is just doing his job. Watching his actions both personally and professionally, he has influenced my life. I have the utmost respect for Jim and feel honored to call him my co-worker."

When Montgomery's name was called, the response was spontaneous and enthusiastic as everyone in the room rose to their feet to honor him with a standing ovation.



Retired Command Sgt. Major Julius Nutter, director of operations for the AEA at Fort Leonard Wood, and Tulsa District Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser pose with Park Ranger Jim Montgomery after he received the first Park Ranger Peer Award. (Photo provided by Tulsa District.)



Everything we do should be tied to plan

Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser
Commander, Tulsa District

Welcome back to the Pacesetter magazine. It is always a privilege for me to talk with all of you and recognize our team and all you are accomplishing. This issue, I want to discuss a very important subject, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Campaign Plan. For the past year, headquarters and the entire Corps have worked to consolidate all the guidance into one coherent plan that everyone can see and more importantly, can recognize how their efforts tie into our overall mission. All of us play a role in USACE's many responsibilities.

The plan is published and if you have not seen it, please ask your supervisor for a copy. It is important because in the future, our evaluations will be

tied to how well we accomplish our own objectives/metrics that are linked to the higher mission. I will discuss this with you as I conduct my mini town halls throughout the year.

It is all coupled to the chief's vision of taking USACE from "good to great." The USACE mission is newly defined as "Provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters." The chief has designated four goals with four objectives each. Everything we do should be tied to those objectives with actions that we will do to support and metrics to measure ourselves. I am asking everyone to review the campaign plan.

See "Going good to great" next page



Goal 1: Deliver USACE support to combat, stability and disaster operations through forward deployed and reach back capabilities.

Goal 2: Deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

Goal 3: Deliver innovative, resilient, sustainable solutions to the Armed Forces and the Nation.

Goal 4: Build and cultivate a competent, disciplined, and resilient team equipped to deliver high quality solutions.

Objective 1a: USACE is ready, responsive and reliable in delivering high performance, all-hazard, contingency mission execution in a world-wide theater of operations.

Objective 2a: Deliver integrated, sustainable, water resources solutions.

Objective 3a: Deliver sustainable infrastructure via consistent and effective military construction & real estate support to customers.

Objective 4a: Identify, develop, maintain, and strengthen technical competencies in selected Communities of Practice.

Objective 1b: Prepare Theater Engineer Commands (TEC) to support Combatant Cdr's throughout the spectrum of operations.

Objective 2b: Implement collaborative approaches to effectively solve water resource problems

Objective 3b: Improve resilience and lifecycle investment in critical infrastructure.

Objective 4b: Communicate strategically and transparently.

Objective 1c: Establish human resources and family support programs that promote readiness and quality of life.

Objective 2c: Implement Streamlined and Transparent Regulatory Processes to Sustain Aquatic Resources

Objective 3c: Deliver reliable infrastructure using a risk-informed asset management strategy.

Objective 4c: Standardize business processes.

Objective 1d: Institutionalize USACE capabilities in interagency policy and doctrine.

Objective 2d: Enable Gulf Coast Recovery.

Objective 3d: Develop and apply innovative approaches to delivering quality infrastructure.

Objective 4d: Establish tools and systems to get the right people in the right jobs, then develop and retain this highly skilled workforce.

Going good to great

continued from previous page

I am also asking our leaders and you, as well, to think of what you will do to execute the actions of these objectives, what assistance will you need, and how will you measure your success. These metrics will keep us focused and help us meet the challenges of this year with a record-setting workload.

First of all, let me thank everyone who has worked to help put together our acquisition strategy plan to handle our programmed efforts, the fiscal year 2009 supplemental and the economic stimulus. It has been a lot of work but it will be a great base plan to synchronize from for the remainder of the year.

There have been many significant contributions these last couple of months to include our Canton Dam Safety Project. The construction continues, but I would like to highlight the success of the physical model and its running of the new and existing spillways. The modeling identified minor changes required to accommodate the flows. Once constructed, the new spillway will have the world's tallest fuse gates.

Special thanks to our Public Affairs Office and Engineering and Construction for developing a Levee Safety Information Brochure to educate the public and our team. We have shared this with our division and fellow districts and received many positive comments. The tri-fold document can be acquired through PAO. Great job!

Congrats to our latest professional engineers. We had four apply and four pass the test. Kudos to Russell Wyckoff, Dawn Rice, Jeremy Mulvaney and Beau Biffle who passed the October professional engineer exam.

A personal thanks to our Tulsa District Recruiting Plan Project Delivery Team who recently completed a district-wide recruiting plan that is our roadmap for recruiting talent into several key positions. The plan was recognized and shared throughout USACE. It is being executed and has really helped with our recruitment of new personnel.

On our military programs area, we hosted the annual Base Civil Engineer/Directorate of Public Works Conference held at Fort Sill. At the conference, we had representatives from our various military installations to conduct an after action review of our USACE surveys, discuss lessons learned and share in activities at the various bases/posts for the upcoming years.

We are also proud to claim a success with our

Fort Sill Flyover Video that has become the model for USACE and IMCOM. We had a district/contractor team recently complete a video simulation of a flyover of Fort Sill that shows the entire Aerial Defense Artillery School and other facilities. It has been a tremendous tool to show families, civilian communities, and guests the major progress occurring at Fort Sill. It is very impressive, and Fort Sill is very happy with it.

This is the 13th year that the "Eagle Eye" trophies have been awarded. G. W. Hastings Construction Company, Inc., is the winner of the "Eagle Eye" Construction Safety Award for FY08. The firm won for its outstanding work on the interior renovation of three Air Defense Artillery School Buildings 3162, 3164 and 3166 at Fort Sill, Okla. Their personnel completed work without a single lost-time injury and had consistently high inspection scores. The Fort Sill Resident Office is Tulsa District's "Eagle Eye" Construction Office of the Year. Their active management of this contract facilitated its successful completion and set the tone for the safe manner in which work was conducted. Winona Simmons served as the quality assurance representative on the project and won the award for the "Eagle Eye" Construction Representative of the Year.

Finally, I always want to keep our Tulsa team who are deployed in our thoughts, and we wish them a safe tour and return to their families. Our website continues to have great stories of their adventures.

As usual, I probably went too long but I could not be prouder to be part of this district and division during this historic period. You can always count on Tulsa Teamwork!

AKO offers language training

Do you want to become multilingual? You can get a great start toward your goal through your Army Knowledge Online account and the Rosetta Stone foreign language courses.

AKO offers access to the Army's e-Learning Program and Rosetta Stone courses, which provide on-line instruction to 21 languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Japanese and French. Ten more languages will be added soon.

To get access to all the courses available, log on to AKO, select Self Service from the top bar, then My Education. You will arrive at Army e-Learning, a free site with more than 2,600 courses, including the Rosetta Stone.

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>

Little Rock repairs nature's damage

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

Mother Nature is a force to be reckoned with, and 2008 was a year of reckoning for the Little Rock District when it came to damage left behind at its many lakes, rivers and parks in the wake of flooding rainstorms, tornadoes and even two hurricanes.

The district, so far, has received \$44.32 million in supplemental appropriations from congress for repairs, which have begun in earnest. Now, a very harsh ice storm has added more destruction to the damaged parks. So 2009 will be a year of repairs, Mother Nature allowing, in addition to normal appropriations, a growing military workload and potential stimulus projects.

"We've received two rounds of emergency supplemental funds, \$16.1 and \$28.22 million," Little Rock's Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis said. "We're hoping Mother Nature will be less damaging this year, and we won't need so much money for any future repairs due to floods and tornadoes."

The money is being used to repair such things as navigation channel, bank stabilization, roads, courtesy docks, training walls, boat ramps, plumbing, electrical damage, restroom and shower repairs or replacement, tree maintenance and dredging.

"All of the money must be obligated by Sept. 30," Lewis said. "Hopefully, all of the repairs will be completed by that time, too. However, due to weather conditions, some repairs may not be completed until Dec. 31. We should not have to ask for any more money to repair the damage from last year."

The biggest dollar amount is going toward the repairs on the 1,000 mile McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

"The extremely fast flows in the Arkansas River caused some different types of damage than those seen at the lakes," Lewis noted. "Gages need to be replaced, banks need to be stabilized and the channel needs to be dredged. The river also has parks along the way that were flooded, too. So like the lakes, we'll have to repair damage done to the restrooms, showers, roads and ramps, among other things."

Bull Shoals comes in second for the amount of money being spent on repairs.

"Bull Shoals, like most of our lakes received a record amount of rainfall during the 2008 floods," said Mountain Home Project Office Operations



A restroom at Beaver Lake's Dam Site Park, lying in pieces after last spring's flood, was beyond repair and had to be removed. (Photo provided by Little Rock District.)

Manager Tracy Fancher. "Like all of the lakes with damage, we will repave the roads, fix the plumbing and electrical problems as well as repair the swimming and play areas, just to name a few things.

"Not only did the flooding cause damage to the parks, but it created a ring of dead trees and vegetation around the lake," Fancher explained. "We will need to take down the trees that did not survive. We plan to restore damaged wildlife habitat, too. Some repairs will be obvious, where other repairs will not. Regardless, we plan to have our parks and lake fully functional by Sept. 30."

All parks damaged by the floods are scheduled to be repaired and reopened by the end of the fiscal year.

"None of our parks will be permanently closed," Lewis said. "Some may not be opened at the beginning of the camping season, but pending the completion of the repairs, they will all be reopened at some point this year."

A factor that drove up the Bull Shoals dollar amount was the total includes repairs and surveys for the rest of the White River. The White River continues southeastward after Bull Shoals Lake and connects to the Mississippi River.

See "SWL repairs damage" next page

Back to school ...

Fort Worth Pen Pals celebrate Valentine's Day, school success

By Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

Fourth grade students at H.V. Helbing Elementary School in Fort Worth anxiously walked single file down the hall, rounded the corner into the cafeteria and broke into smiles, skips and waves as they greeted their Corps pen pals face-to-face for the first time at the Pen Pal Valentine Party Feb. 13.

The party celebrated the program's 19th year, Valentine's Day, and the school's recent National Center for Educational Accountability recognition.

"Many of you may have noticed when you were driving up that we are not only a Texas recognized school," said Principal Betty Sandley, "we are a nationally recognized school."

Recently, the NCEA released its 2008 Just for the Kids High Performing Schools list featuring H.V. Helbing and other area schools. The NCEA recognizes schools and students who perform in the top five percent



in the state as measured by the center's College and Career Readiness Benchmarks in math, reading and science, or the Texas Education Agency's Commended Standard in social studies and writing.

The pen pal program started 19 years ago when the school approached the Corps to help prepare students to take the writing portion of the state standardized tests.

"The Corps pen pals really mean a lot to the students and their success," said Sandley. "They are really excited to have pen pals and to learn about you

and your family."

During the party, the pen pals played card games, dined on pizza, cake and punch, exchanged Valentine gifts and, more importantly, got to talk face-to-face with each other. When the party ended, many Corps pen pals walked back to the classrooms with the students to see art work and other projects the students were working on.

"We are so happy to have all of you here and we look forward to continuing this partnership and program," said Sandley. "We are so very excited to share this with all of you."

SWL repairs damage

continued from previous page

There was substantial flooding and damage along the White River, therefore, the district will conduct aerial Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) surveys of the terrain. This will help not only in determining needed repairs, but ultimately it could be used to evaluate potential future adjustments to the water control plans for Bull Shoals and Norfork lakes.

"The LiDAR data will provide us with new elevation figures that are more accurate and detailed than what is currently available," said William Penn of Little Rock's Planning and Environmental Office.

"When this data is combined with recent photography, we can evaluate changes in the river system, and the data can be used as a new baseline for any future events that may occur," Penn said.

"The (combined) data can also be used to identify and evaluate structures, facilities and infrastructure that may be impacted by future events or releases. It can also help us in modeling floodplain boundaries."

Meanwhile, Lewis noted the district continues to repair all damaged parks and strives to provide the public with the safest and best facilities possible.

"This will be a very busy year for our staff," she said. "But I know we have a wonderful team of professionals out there who will do the best job possible to make these facilities go from good to great."

Meet some of Tulsa's newest PEs



Dawn Rice

1. Job Title, Office, and Years with the Corps: Canton Technical Manager, Civil Design, 10 years
2. Why did you choose engineering

as your field of study? I loved math all during school and my high school math teacher introduced me to engineering as a possible career choice.

3. What about you is typical of a stereotypical engineer? Nothing!

4. What about you is atypical of stereotypical engineer? I work in chaos very comfortably, roll with the changing environment with little or no resistance, and I maintain a "Get the job done" attitude without respect to my environment.

5. What is the most interesting work you have done at Tulsa District?

Reese BRAC was a great job for an environmental engineer, as I was able to see several pilot studies of new technologies for environmental clean up. Currently, Canton Project is a fantastic opportunity as well.

6. What motivated you to pursue your license and why do you think it's important?

Personal goal. My husband and I both set goals six years ago of working abroad, getting our Master of Science degrees, getting our Professional Engineering License and then becoming parents.

7. What was your key to success in passing the professional engineer exam? Personal commitment, a supportive husband and a preparatory course!

8. Tell a little about your current project and its impact on the public. Canton Auxiliary Spillway is my current project. The Corps is building an auxiliary spillway, constructing a bridge and fusegates and broadening the earthen dam. Ultimately this project will mitigate the potential impacts of a huge flood in western Oklahoma.



Jeremy Mulvaney

1. Job Title, Office, and Years with the Corps: Civil Engineer, Construction Management

Section/Construction Branch, about 6 years

2. Why did you choose engineering as your field of study? Initially, I didn't. I earned my bachelor's degree in construction management and earned my master's degree in civil engineering to increase my potential to work on either side of the construction industry.

3. What is the most interesting work you have done at Tulsa District? One interesting experience I had was my involvement with resolution of a potentially very large construction claim. While dispute resolution is not always a pleasant process, I'm glad I participated in this experience and helped out the Corps and our customer.

4. What motivated you to pursue your license and why do you think it's important? Obtaining licensure demonstrates a level of commitment for an engineer to his profession.

5. What was your key to success in passing the professional engineer exam? Many hours of preparation and study, as well as receiving all the support I needed from my family.

6. Tell a little about your current project and its impact on the public. My current primary responsibility is the projection and tracking of all construction contract placements for the Tulsa District. This data is used as a metric to assess how well the District is meeting construction budget/schedule targets.



Beau Biffle

1. Job Title, Office, and Years with the Corps: Electrical Engineer, Permanent Position: Civil Design Section,

Design Branch, Engineering and Construction Division.

2. Why did you choose engineering as your field of study? My father is in the technical electronics field, and I enjoy making things work.

3. What about you is typical, or atypical, of a stereotypical engineer? Don't know any stereotypes other than Sony and RCA.

4. What is the most interesting work you have done at Tulsa District?

Assisting in the project engineering aspect of the Denison Generator Rewind.

5. What motivated you to pursue your license and why do you think it's important? It was personal motivation for me. I knew I could do it so I did.

6. What was your key to success in passing the professional engineer exam? Studying a lot.

7. Tell a little about your current project and its impact on the public. I am working on the design for the upgrade for the Motor Control Centers at Webbers Falls Hydroelectric Power plant.

The completion of this project will increase the reliability of the equipment required to keep the power plant in operation.



The pace is fast and will increase

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

About a year ago I wrote a column for the Pacesetter entitled “Milestones—Milestones—Milestones!” Milestones were and continue to be paramount in achieving our district mission, as does milestones’ partner “Execution—Execution—Execution!”

Several hurricanes and a stimulus package later, the pace is fast and will increase as we go through the remainder of this fiscal year and into the next. We are in the middle of the “perfect storm” from a workload perspective.

This perfect storm is great news because it is bringing critical recovery and repairs to our projects as a result of storm impacts, fulfilling our normal obligations to the coastal Texas region, and assisting in the nation’s economic recovery. However, this opportunity brings multiple challenges to executing our mission.

While we execute our typical annual program, we are also executing an additional \$175 million of Operations and Maintenance and \$20 million of Construction General supplemental funds to repair the damage to our projects caused by the multiple storms last summer. On top of that we are nearing award of construction contracts for \$40-50 million of Flood Risk Management and Coastal Erosion project repairs for storm damage to the hurricane protections structures that were damaged by Hurricane Ike in September. So we are busy, trying to do two years worth of effort in one, and there is more to come.

The Corps is receiving \$4.5 billion for civil works projects as part of the recent economic stimulus bill that was signed by the president on Feb. 16. Our district stands to receive somewhere in the neighborhood of \$200-250 million more for projects within our district that must be awarded prior to end of this fiscal year. We are all working hard to ensure that happens, because this will be our contribution in assisting the nation re-energize the economy.

We have been working very hard to package the work to minimize the overall administrative burden required to award construction contracts. We are tapping into existing contract capacity in Multiple Award Task Order Contracts and Architect-

Engineering service contracts across the region. We are also developing new MATOCs internal to the district that will allow us to rapidly award multiple task orders in the mid-to-late-summer time frame, and enable us to meet our commitment to the nation for executing the economic stimulus projects. We held a great Industry Day to inform our industry partners of the coming workload.

We are hiring additional manpower through contracting, overhires and rehired annuitants to help meet our requirements. We have a good plan and we are moving forward to execution, but no plan is perfect and changes or challenges will surely come. We will have to be flexible and adaptable, and communicate clearly across the entire organization to be able to quickly develop and implement solutions to those challenges.

We need everyone on the team aggressively pulling in the same direction and taking proactive actions to move this train along, even in the absence of perfect information. We have to keep moving forward every day to get this important mission done, which will take all of us. Thus far, each of you has done a marvelous job in carrying the district through the first half of a challenging year, and I thank you for your great efforts and accomplishments already achieved - and those to come.

We are all going to be extremely busy for the remainder of this year. It will take a team effort from each of us to pull it off. Look around for your co-workers that are struggling with the load and offer to help them out if you can.

Lastly, we are officially 129 years old as of Feb. 25, which speaks to the enduring value that we and our predecessors have delivered to this region and the nation. Our predecessors faced similar challenges to the ones we encounter today, and they pulled together and delivered excellence. Our charge is to do no less.



**Happy Birthday
Galveston District!**

Canton Dam safety assurance: A model project

By Dawn Rice

Canton Technical Manager, Tulsa

Canton Auxiliary Spillway is a dam safety project being constructed to correct a hydraulic deficiency, reduce the chance of loss of life and prevent overtopping of the existing structure in the event of a Probable Maximum Flood.

The effort being undertaken by Tulsa District includes full design of channel excavation, seepage berm, state highway bridge, broad-crested weir and ancillary features associated with the automatic tipping of the fuse gates.

Design engineers selected a fuse-gated hydraulic system developed by Hydroplus, Inc., after extensive evaluation. This system requires less long-term maintenance than other alternatives while providing the increased discharge capacity needed. The semi-labyrinth crested type fuse gates will be 32 feet tall and 53.3 feet wide making them the largest in the world.

Tulsa District engineers determined that a physical model of the Canton spillway system

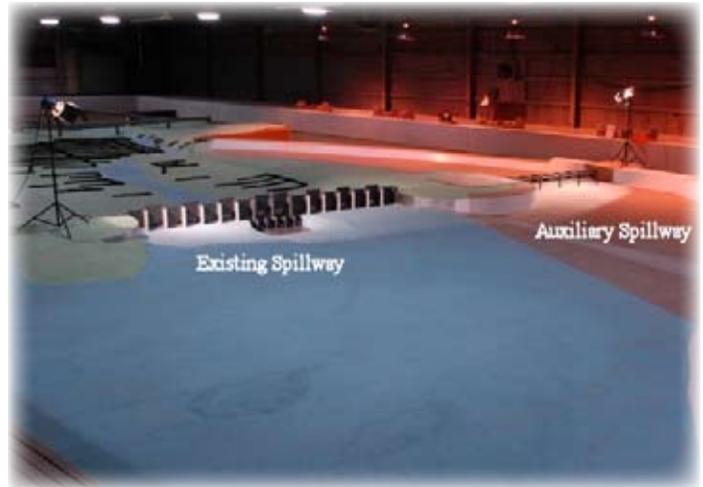
would be the best way to determine the optimal configuration for passing the PMF discharge.

Several items that needed to be confirmed through the physical modeling included rating curves for the existing and auxiliary spillways, flow in the approach channel, size of the approach channel, operation of the fuse gate system and evacuation of the fuse gates.

Initial modeling with Alden Laboratories incorporated the Computational Fluid Dynamics or CFD modeling performed via computer. The team decided to incorporate CFD modeling to refine the design configuration since the CFD runs were significantly cheaper than building several iterations using the physical model.

Key items taken from the CFD modeling include 1) the inefficiencies of the existing spillway are real and heightened and 2) the auxiliary spillway tends to draw flow away from the existing spillway.

The team decided to initiate the physical model to determine if the CFD is

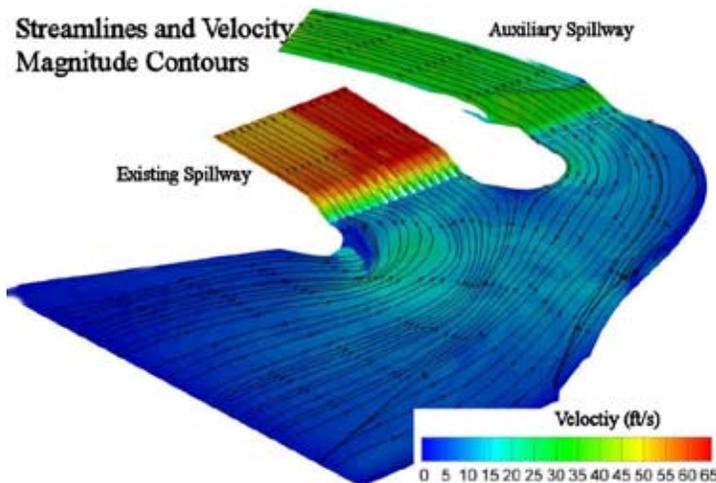


This is an overview of model with the existing and auxiliary spillways. (Photos provided by Alden.)

providing reasonable values. The scale of the physical model was set at 1:54 such that the necessary velocity and water surface measurements could be obtained. At a 1:54 scale, this model takes up half a large warehouse (108 ft x 70 ft). Testing showed that the CFD and physical models do in fact have very similar results which verified the computed values of both models.

The physical model provided more detailed information concerning the full depth velocity of flow and rating curves for both spillways. The final model run and ultimately the final design was proposed based on the results of the CFD runs and the initial physical model run to successfully route the PMF.

Excavation for the Canton Auxiliary Spillway is currently under way and will take about two years. Bridge design is wrapping up, and the weir design is under way. The concrete works, which include a new highway bridge, the broad-crested weir and fuse gates, will start upon completion of the excavation. The overall completion of the project is planned for early 2014.



This is an example of Computational Fluid Dynamics modeling output supplied by Hydroplus/Alden Laboratories.

Galveston restores mouth of San Bernard River

By Isidro Reyna
Pacesetter Staff

After nearly a month of dredging approximately 1.6 miles of the San Bernard River, Galveston District successfully broke through the surf of the Gulf of Mexico Feb. 22, restoring the mouth of the river to its original location.

Blockage due to sand accretion at the mouth of the San Bernard diverted the river's water flow into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway eastward, exiting through the Brazos River Flood Gates. The increased velocity of the current there created problems for commercial navigation.

"The opening of the mouth of the San Bernard River signifies our commitment to contributing to the well-being, economic success and quality of life of the local Texas coastal communities by maintaining safe waterways for commercial navigation,"

said District Commander Col. David C. Weston. "We appreciate the opportunity to work side by side with both the local community and other government agencies that helped make the opening of the mouth of the San Bernard River a success."



A bulldozer cuts through the remaining area separating the mouth of the San Bernard River from the Gulf of Mexico. On Feb. 22 the waters of the Gulf came rushing in to the San Bernard, the first mixing of the waters in many years. (Photo provided by Galveston.)

The dredge, which is under contract to Mike Hooks, Inc., will continue to operate until it reaches the 10-foot contour below the water surface, according to Johnny Rozsypal, the chief of Operations Division for the Galveston District.

"Ultimately 337,000 cubic yards of dredge material will have been moved as a result of the project," he said. "That's the equivalent of 33,700 tandem-axel dump trucks.

"The dredged material is pumped south of the new opening into the surf zone, which feeds the natural drift down the coast of Texas," added Rozsypal. "Because it's sand, it doesn't go a long

way, but it will feed the beach.

"The threatening current to barge traffic at the Brazos River Flood Gates made it difficult for barges to go through the waterway. What was occurring was an increased delay with barges moving; when a barge collides with the flood gates, it's called an allision. Our allision rate was one of the highest in the nation, largely because of the current coming from the San Bernard."

Commercial barges and residents of the San Bernard River communities will now be able to use the waterway thanks to Galveston. To celebrate the opening of the mouth of the river, more than 60 residents of Brazoria County, Texas, gathered at the San Bernard River's end to celebrate the milestone.

"As we were heading to the dredge, we were floating on what was land a week ago and it hit me like a ton of bricks. We just started crying. It's like a miracle," said Jan Edwards, spokeswoman for Friends of the River San Bernard, a community organization dedicated to restoring, protecting and promoting a clean and healthy San Bernard River. "Not only are we happy about it, but people all around us are happy about it. You can't find anybody that's sad."

Although it took nearly a year-and-a-half of planning prior to the project's completion, the project only encountered two delays: environmental issues and Hurricane Ike.

In August 2008, the Galveston District announced a delay due to a request for formal consultation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because of possible impact to 1.1 acres of piping plover critical habitat, which is protected under the Endangered Species Act, as well as potential impact to nesting sea turtles.

Another requirement was to obtain a water quality certification from the Texas Commission on environmental quality.

The other delay was due to Hurricane Ike, which struck the Texas coast on Sept. 13. Galveston District was responsible for emergency response to the storm, and is still carrying out emergency dredging of waterways impacted by the hurricane.

The Texas Department of Transportation was consulted as the non-federal sponsor on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. They will continue to be involved after the project's completion to assist in monitoring activities measuring the successful performance of the project.

Tulsa's Kansas bank repair goes green

By Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

A recent bank erosion project in Kansas could be a model for working within Tulsa's Operations and Engineering and Construction Divisions for future bank stabilization projects. The greener approach to bank stabilization had many players.

When Tim Rasmussen, Big Hill/Elk City Lake Project's lead park ranger and Terry Lyons, an environmental specialist in the Kansas area, noted places on Racket Creek at Elk City Lake where erosion was cutting into campgrounds, a novel approach was taken.

Kansas area operations project manager Eugene Goff suggested that Dr. David Derrick of the Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg Miss., be called in.

Derrick is a subject matter expert on addressing bank erosion with stone and greenery, and special funding made him and his expertise available at no cost.



Workers place longitudinal stones, stone keys, stone bendway weirs and willow sticks to protect Racket Creek slope from further erosion. (Photo provided by Tulsa District.)

Where the usual solution would be to just place rock, Derrick's approach called for woody and non-woody plants as well as rip rap.

"This meets the goals and objectives of our Environmental Operating Principles," Goff said. "We saved money using greenery, and it's a living ecosystem."

Employees from throughout the district were involved in various parts of this project from serving on a Project Delivery Team to planting some of the 2,500 willow sticks on the bank. In addition to those already mentioned, they includ-

ed Mike Nance, Susan Couch, Ken Reznicek, Diane Cianci, Eric Smith, Chuck Miles, Bob Goranson, Marty Ramirez, Tom Hammons and others. T. L. Enterprises was the contractor doing dirt work and placing rock. Volunteers from Kansas Works planted many of the trees.

Other trees and plants will be planted in mid-March to complete the project. Derrick was on site Dec. 7-9 and led the erosion repair work.

"This was a pretty significant thing that we got done in a very short timeframe," Goff said.

Galveston District hosts Industry Day

Nearly 90 members of the dredging industry, including local sponsors and construction contractors participated in Galveston District's Industry Day Conference Feb. 12 at the district's headquarters building.

After a welcome and introduction from District Commander Col. David C. Weston, participants were briefed by the district's operations managers regarding operation and maintenance program schedules for the current and upcoming fiscal years.

A discussion was held concerning projects Galveston plans to advertise and award during the next two fiscal years. Following the project discussion, members of the district contracting team

discussed tools they plan to use to award the anticipated heavy workload.

Multiple Award Task Order Contracts for emergency dredging and construction work were also discussed during the daylong conference. Four MATOCS will be awarded, three each with a \$50 million capacity that will be used primarily by the Galveston District. The fourth will be awarded with a \$950 million capacity and can be used by any of the four districts in the Southwestern Division primarily for construction work.

A panel of operation and maintenance managers and contracting personnel answered questions from attendees to conclude the day's events.

Janecka honored by Texas Ports Association

Arthur J. Janecka, the Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Program and Project Management for the Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers, was recently honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Ports Association.

Janecka, who has been with the Corps of Engineers for more than 45 years, was presented the award by Wade Battles, the Acting Executive Director of the Port of Houston and the President of the TPA, during a meeting attended by port directors from most of the major ports in Texas.

"It was a real honor to present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Art Janecka," Battles said. "Art has been a real champion for Texas ports. We couldn't ask for any better partner."

Most of the directors also made remarks, which Janecka found especially meaningful.

"I admire these port directors so much for what they do for this country. Their dedication and efforts have a great impact on the economy and security of our nation."



Janecka began his career as an intern in the Galveston District in 1964 following graduation from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. In 1966, he was assigned to the Texas Coast Hurricane Study in the Planning Branch of the Engineering Division. He became a part of the Programs Management Branch staff in 1973, and became Chief of the Branch in 1987. For two months in 1987 he served as acting chief of Resource Management Office. In 2000, he moved to the Project Management Branch of PPMD to serve as chief. In 2005, he was assigned to his current position.

Throughout the years Janecka has been involved in a wide variety of projects. He lists as most memorable the Houston-Galveston Ship Channel, Freeport Harbor, Brazos Inner Harbor and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel.

"Art has been a true public servant for almost half a century," said Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "His list of most memorable projects defines the history of the Galveston District Corps of Engineers, and his imprint covers the entire district. The TPA could not have chosen a more deserving recipient than Art for their Lifetime Achievement Award."

Fort Worth holds Commander's Field Conference

*By Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff*

Fort Worth District and Operations Division leadership gathered in Killeen, Texas, Feb. 10-12 for the annual Commander's Field Conference.

Each regional office provided an update, identified challenges, lessons learned and the way ahead on the lakes, infrastructure and activities specific to its region during the conference.

Following the briefings, District Commander Col. Christopher W. Martin addressed the team and challenged them to continue working hard and to look at long-term strategies for maintaining the level of service currently provided and elevating that service as needed.

He said looking at the current and projected demands on the projects is essential to maintaining our level of service.

"All of you do great things every day and I thank you for that," said Martin. "We need to look realisti-

cally at our projects and the communities around them as we make decisions that will impact the community down the road.

"We need to look ten years down the road and based on the predicted population, water requirements and other factors determine how we are going to meet those challenges," he said. "Identify the end state and make decisions based on that."

Wrapping up the conference, Martin again thanked the team for their hard work.

"For a lot of people, all of you are the face of the Corps," he said. "You do great things and I thank you for that. I appreciate you for that. It really is our people that make us the best district in USACE."

SWL hard at work for anglers



World record hybrid striped bass caught at Greers Ferry.

Waters managed by the Army Corps of Engineers' Little Rock District are among the top fishing attractions in Arkansas, Missouri and perhaps the nation. These waters generate ample fishing records to prove it. But Corps officials are quick to point out the accomplish-

ments result only with the help of partners in other agencies and anglers themselves.

The district's 25 dams, seven hydroelectric power plants and other infrastructure provide billions of dollars in benefits each year to the nation's taxpayers in the form of commercial navigation, flood damage reduction, renewable energy, water supply and recreation. At the same time, district officials keep an eye on natural resources. Nowhere is that more evident than in support to fishing.

"Though the district's dams were built primarily to provide flood damage reduction, hydropower or navigation, the very nature of those water resources projects has enabled world class fishing," district Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis said.

Anglers fishing district-managed honey holes have set three world records and 36 state records, 23 in Arkansas and 13 in Missouri. These catches reflect the diversity of species that thrive in those waters. Just to name a couple are the state record 64-pound, 8-ounce striped bass at Beaver Lake and the world record 40-pound, 4-ounce brown trout from the tailwaters of Greers Ferry Dam.

District waters have not only been a bonanza for local anglers, they energize regional tourism with visitors and tournaments from around the country. The central location and the region's natural beauty draw anglers from Chicago, St. Louis, Memphis, Dallas, Tulsa and more.

The district manages about 260,000 acres of surface water. Its employees have worked hard during the years to provide public access and improve fishing. The district operates 399 boat ramp lanes, 46 fishing piers available for people with physical disabilities, and three tournament facilities.

Meanwhile, partnerships with Arkansas Game and Fish, Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have

produced four hatcheries and fish nurseries throughout the years that help stock the region's waters. Among the 20 or so partnerships currently under way is the annual sinking of Christmas trees in the lakes to create fish habitat.

"We are committed to working with our state partners to regulate the district's water resources to ensure that all the various user groups, both recreational and commercial, continue to enjoy the many benefits the waters provide," Lewis said.

At Nimrod Lake, a partnership enabled construction in 2006 of a tournament facility at Anderson Branch that is now used heavily throughout the year by individuals and groups. The facility cost \$180,500, and the work was possible through partnerships with AGFC, Yell County and local fish-



Two young men enjoy the fishing at Little Rock's Clearwater Lake. Bass, crappie, bream and catfish lurk beneath Clearwater's surface, and anglers are blessed with a variety of places around the lake to let their hooks fly. (Photo provided by Clearwater Project Office.)

ing organizations. The facilities include two boat launching ramps, paved parking, a paved access road and a weigh-in shelter, all with lighting.

Greers Ferry Lake also has a tournament facility called the Devils Fork Fish Life Tournament Facility. The district partnered with AGFC, the

See "SWL's Fishing heaven" next page

SWL's fishing heaven

continued from previous page

Greers Ferry Lake Bass Masters, the City of Greers Ferry, Community Water System and First Electric to erect and establish the facility and provide a centralized location for organizations to host large scale tournaments.

One of the country's largest amateur fishing tournaments is held annually on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation system where the 13 navigation locks and dams form stable pools for fish. During this year's Arkansas Big Bass Bonanza tournament, 2,175 anglers fished five pools covering 300 miles of river. They caught 701 fish with the largest bass weighing in at just over 8 pounds.

As part of the Arkansas River Navigation Study, the district's Pine Bluff Project Office worked with AGFC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and local anglers to identify areas along the river for dike notching and

backwater restoration projects geared to creating better fish habitat.

Corps personnel also have historically cooperated with individual anglers who have placed fish habitat structures in the Arkansas River and Lake Dardanelle.

In the shadows of five of the six high-rise dams in the White River Basin, Little Rock District has helped create a world-class trout fishery as a byproduct of hydropower generation.

Before the dams were built, these were warm water rivers. Once power generation began, which releases cold water from deep within the lakes, the tailwaters became year-round cold water streams. Therefore, trout were introduced to the tailwaters in the White, North Fork and Little Red rivers, thus expanding anglers' opportunities. The water upstream of the dams remains warm, and it becomes warm again further downstream, so warm water fisheries still abound.

Little Rock and its partners have completed a number of projects, and more are scheduled to help make fishing even better.

Youthful determination pays off for water safety

Seven-year-old Victoria Underwood likes to enter contests. Her father said that whenever she comes across a contest – coloring or poster – she's determined to enter it. So, when the family picked up a *Bobber the Water Safety Dog* coloring book, she colored the poster inside.

Victoria Underwood raises her hand when her class is asked if they wear life jackets. During that class Bob Vandegriff, chief of Tulsa's Safety Office, rewarded her with a plaque for her effort and her determination in producing a water safety poster. (Photo provided by Tulsa District.)



The instructions said to "Mail to your local Corps of Engineers office," but did not give an address (because the books are distributed nationwide). Not to be deterred, Underwood convinced her father to look on the internet to find her local Corps office.

He did, and they sent her poster in to one of the Tulsa District lake projects, where it eventually made its way to the desk of Bob Vandegriff, chief of Tulsa's Safety Office. That was the right destination for it because Vandegriff rewarded the little girl for her effort and her determination on behalf of water safety.

He had a plaque created and signed by District Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser, then he organized a presentation at Underwood's school, Mustang Valley Elementary, in Mustang, Okla. Vandegriff even arranged for her family to be at the presentation. Water safety bags were provided to all students in the class, and Underwood received the plaque, a district coin and a water safety hat.

Underwood's parents said the family spends lots of time at the lake and the children know they are to ALWAYS wear their life jackets, even if they're not planning to get into the water.



A chance to build on SWL's legacy

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

Change. This seems to be the buzzword of 2009. An overarching theme of President Barack Obama's recent campaign, this word has personified a new era across our nation, mobilizing and motivating hundreds of thousands of Americans with hopes for a new and bright tomorrow.

Despite record unemployment and a flat economy, this word has captivated our hearts and given us cause to believe in ourselves and our nation.

Not only has the election shown the world anything is possible in America, but it has also shown us as Americans we can rise above the historical prejudices of this land and do what is right for our country.

With the new administration comes talk of finally addressing a multitude of domestic issues, long under-appreciated and inadequately funded. These issues are key and essential to maintaining our way of life and paving the way for future prosperity and the economic security of our nation.

One issue that affects the Corps of Engineers as a whole is our crumbling infrastructure, especially since it was recently given a grade of "D" by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

As you know, our district was devastated by epic flooding last spring, causing more than \$52 million in damage to our projects across Arkansas and Southern Missouri. In response to this, Congress stepped up and passed legislation giving us over \$42 million in supplemental appropriations that we are in the midst of spending today.

This money is predominantly aimed at repairing high water damage such as bank stabilization, dredging, limited infrastructure repair and widespread recreational area repairs. Many of these parks were already in serious need not only of repair, but also of upgrade to support the modern needs of the recreating public.

Supplemental spending has been a tremendous blessing for our district. It is helping to erase decades of flat-lined operations and maintenance budgets, all but eliminating our capacity for providing the quality and reliable services for which we have long prided ourselves.

This \$42 million comes on top of our 2009 base Civil Works program, which is expected to be one of the largest in years. Overall, 2009 will prove to be the largest year ever in the history of our Civil Works program.

Add to this tremendous workload an increasingly robust portfolio of military construction work across the region and you will have a good picture of the road ahead.

Oh, and have I mentioned the pending Economic Stimulus appropriation? It is expected we will receive a fair-sized chunk of these dollars provided we can execute them in accordance within the time constraints allotted. Challenging? You bet.

We need your help. This incredible workload is a blessing for the long-term health of our district, but it comes at a cost to our team in the field.

Already overloaded teams within the district are struggling to accomplish the mission with an operational tempo normally reserved for the last few months of the fiscal year.

Senior leaders are scrambling to hire the additional folks required to lessen the burden, but in many instances we are losing folks faster than we can hire new ones.

We have no one to blame but ourselves. Over the past few years, we have trimmed down in the interest of efficiency well below what we should have, and it is hurting us today.

District and Regional leaders are working together in establishing tools and other instruments to lessen the pressure but, nonetheless, the critical path goes through our greatest resource... our people.

I encourage each of you to hang in there; help is coming. I know times are tough and you are already working long hours. It is making a huge difference though.

We have an opportunity this year and next to make the biggest impact to Little Rock District since the rise of our capstone infrastructure in the 40s and 50s.

See "Make a difference" next page

Interactive video introduces virtual visitors to Fort Sill

By Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

A new interactive video allows viewers to virtually tour more than 40 areas within Fort Sill and view high definition videos with commentary. The state-of-the-art video lets viewers pick routes through Fort Sill.

While on the virtual tour, graphics, animation and voice-overs provide information about the post, show coming changes and outline improvements being made to the post. Tulsa District produced the video working with Burns and McDonnell and their subcontractor Arnold Imaging.

In January of 2008, the Fort Sill Garrison Office requested assistance in preparing a video that could be used to convey to Soldiers and community leaders the future state of Fort Sill after many of the Base Realignment and Closure, and other projects were complete.

"In many design projects, it is typical to provide a hard copy artist rendering of the completed facility. In this case, the installation requested that the renderings of multiple projects in planning, design or construction be combined in a flyover video to show the planned future state of Fort Sill," said Ramona Willig, the deputy chief of Engineering and Construction Division.

Col. Doug Bentley, the deputy garrison

commander for transformation, said he had done something similar to this at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium in 2004 (2001-2004 to develop and deploy) for enhancing master planning on the installation.

"With the advances in affordable graphics, we've taken the next appropriate steps in articulating projects here at Fort Sill," he said.

Sandi Egan was technical manager on the interactive video project.

"There are three voice-overed, eight-minute routes; there are i-pod, i-phone compatible files; there are single files; there are looped files; there's everything you can imagine," she said. "And you can make your own route. You can loop numbers together on your hard drive and make your own file with just whatever route you're interested in, so there's really no limit."

She said the firm that created the video, Arnold Imaging, is making a movie, "We the People," to be shown starting next month at I-Max cinemas. For the Fort Sill project, they took photographs of existing buildings, built models, imposed them and then did fly-arounds. "Everything that the customer would ask for that sounded almost impossible, they just did," she added.

A demo of the Fort Sill DVD is available here: www.swt.usace.army.mil/GoodNews/2009/2009-02-18/FortSill_Demo.wmv.

Make a difference

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Another rallying cry of the Obama campaign was "Yes We Can." This can-do spirit propelled a campaign few thought would amount to much into the White House. Capturing this spirit will also help our district achieve success.

I appeal to leaders across the district to discuss with their respective teams the importance of this moment in history. Build consensus and commitment. Understand the pressures and resource requirements. Lead from the front and inspire your

teams to victory. We are committed as a district to do all we can to take advantage of this opportunity for we know it comes too infrequently in time.

Added to the increasing pressure is unknown damage from a horrendous ice storm that one week later still had more 100,000 Arkansans out of power, with the last customers only being reconnected in recent days.

These are the best of times, and the worst of times. Together we can make a difference but we must remain strong as a team in order to succeed.

Personally, I want to thank the countless numbers of you who are already pulling late nights

and weekend duty to accomplish your mission. This district has long prided itself on dedication to duty and a winning spirit.

Despite the many challenges that lay before us, I want to encourage each of you that "we can" do this.

You are making a positive difference and an impact that will be felt long after our duties have ended here.

This year we have a chance to build on the legacy established by those who built the dams and navigation system so many years ago.

Carpe Diem...seize the day!

Galveston District gives back with a byte

*By Isidro Reyna
Pacesetter Staff*

It was an exciting day for two preparatory schools on Galveston Island thanks to a large donation by the Galveston District.

After losing all their computer equipment Sept. 13, 2008, to Hurricane Ike, O'Connell College Preparatory and Odyssey Academy collectively received more than 200 computers, monitors, keyboards and mice for use by the students and teachers at each school.

"It's a big plus to these schools to receive these computers with wiped hard drives," said Marianne Fullen, computer donation coordinator with the Galveston District Logistics Activity. "Instead of computers being destroyed, they're sent to schools."

Romano Caturegli of the USACE Logistics Activity traveled from the Los Angeles District to assist Galveston with preparation and delivery of the computers. For two weeks, Caturegli worked and coordinated with Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology to have the computer hard drives wiped for delivery.

In addition to the schools, the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas National Guard also received nearly 40 computers from the Galveston District. The 36th ID provided support to the district during the hurricane's aftermath by providing water, supplies and food.

"We're extremely pleased to assist schools and non-profit organizations in our community with educational equipment to help them succeed," said District Commander Col. David C. Weston. "Our neighbors and community partners have withstood so much since Hurricane Ike and together we can continue to build strong partnerships for the future."

Galveston District has transferred excess computer equipment to local schools since 1996 under Executive Order 12999, Educational Technology: Ensuring Opportunity for All Children in the Next Century. The Executive Order streamlines the transfer of excess and surplus federal computer equipment to classrooms across America.

Schools receiving computer donations from the Galveston District have included O'Connell College Preparatory, Odyssey Academy, Galveston Catholic School and Westbury Christian in Katy, Texas.

Schools interested in receiving excess computer equipment from the federal government register online with the General Services Administration's Computers for Learning Web site, www.computersforlearning.gov.



Marianne Fullen, computer donation program coordinator with the Galveston District, and Chief Warrant Officer Mark Bartlett and Sgt. Paul Rivera of the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas National Guard, complete a checklist of excess computer equipment donated to the 36th ID. (Photos provided by Galveston.)



From left - Romano Caturegli of USACE Logistics Activity, Paco Sieglas, O'Connell principal Patrick Danesi and Marianne Fullen look over excess computer equipment Galveston recently donated to O'Connell College Preparatory.

For more information regarding the Galveston District's computer donation efforts, call the district's logistics activity, Marianne Fullen, at 409-766-3840.

SWL, SWT present water safety at Boat Show

Natural resource specialists from Tulsa District's Lake Eufaula and Little Rock's Ozark and Dardanelle lakes worked together to present water and boating safety information to the public at the 2009 Boat Show in Fort Smith, Ark., January 16-18.

Little Rock's Rick Bradford identified a need to partner with Tulsa personnel after realizing he could expect questions about Oklahoma lakes during the show in the border town of Fort Smith.

Not being familiar with Tulsa's programs, he asked Natural Resource Specialist Rick Smithers from Lake Eufaula to work with Russellville Project Office personnel for the event.

Smithers agreed and also recruited Craig Robbins and Eric Summars from the Eufaula office. Natural Resource Specialists Donnie Lindsay and Jeremy Wells represented the Russellville Project Office. The teams provided information about the Corps' four business lines, which are navigation, hydropower, environmental stewardship and recreation.



Natural Resource Specialist Jeremy Wells, of Little Rock's Russellville Project Office, shares water safety information with a child and her parents. (Photo provided by Russellville Project Office.)

Galveston District regulatory chief receives honor

Galveston District regulatory chief, Fred Anthamatten, was named Regulator of the Year by the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals Feb. 16 at the Crowne Plaza-Reliant Park Hotel in Houston.

Anthamatten, a biologist and Lamar University graduate, has dedicated 32 years of government service to the Corps of Engineers. Under his direction, the regulatory branch has been responsible for approving work in jurisdictional waters and wetlands under the Clean Water Act and the Rivers and Harbors Act in the Galveston District.

He currently manages and protects the Texas coastal region's aquatic resources in an active regulatory climate, balancing regulation with the ecologic

and economic needs along the Texas coast. Additionally, Anthamatten and his staff are responsible for emergency response during hurricanes and other disasters.

During his tenure, Anthamatten has received numerous awards for his service, including the 1999 Coastal America Partnership Award along with various letters of commendation. He is the co-author of "Successful Restoration of Filled Wetlands at Four Locations along the Texas Coast" and "Wetland Delineating by Means of Tide Gauge, South Padre Island, Texas."

The Texas Association of Environmental Professionals was incorporated as a non-profit organization and chartered as



the Texas chapter of the National Association of Environmental Professionals in 1988. TAEF and its members strive to achieve the highest standards of ethics and competence within environmental professions.

Ice storm impacts Little Rock District

By Tammy Moody
Pacesetter Staff

A major ice storm passed through the northern half of Arkansas Jan. 27 and 28, causing at least 19 deaths and initially leaving more than 350,000 residents without power, some for weeks afterward. Little Rock District's northern project offices closed because of the severe weather, and the district Emergency Operations Center activated the first day.

The next day the president signed an Emergency Declaration for Direct Federal Assistance, and 10 days later 23 counties in northern Arkansas were declared a major disaster.

In response to the storm, the district received three missions from FEMA equaling more than \$5 million. To help manage these missions, some 50 Corps personnel from Little Rock, Tulsa, Fort Worth and Walla Walla districts, as well as the Mississippi Valley Division, worked from the state's EOC and two emergency staging areas.

"Our first mission was emergency power," Emergency Management's Tony Hill said. "FEMA and the State of Arkansas set up two staging areas in Jonesboro and Fayetteville, Ark., to help install more than 150 FEMA supplied generators."

Walla Walla District's Power Planning and Response Team; an emergency power contractor; and Alpha Company of the 249th Engineer Battalion, Prime Power, from Hawaii arrived in Fayetteville to head up the West Mission.

Tulsa District, a second contractor team, and Charlie



George Peck, Walla Walla District Power PRT Quality Assurance representative inspects one of the more than 150 FEMA generators installed across northern Arkansas after the ice storm. (Photo provided by Little Rock District.)

Company of the 249th managed the East Mission in Jonesboro. Little Rock's liaison officer, along with Walla Walla and Tulsa's power action officers, worked from the state EOC.

Rapid Response Vehicles from Fort Worth and St. Louis districts mobilized Jan. 29 to Fayetteville and Jonesboro respectively to provide communications for the power teams.

West Mission Manager Chad Rhynard coordinated the distribution and installation of generators from the staging area.

"We're installing generators at facilities such as sewer treatment plants, 911 towers, shelters and hospitals all across northern Arkansas," he said.

Little Rock's second mission is Debris Technical Assistance where the district is assisting the state in assessing the type and quantity of debris left from the ice storm.

"We're touring the affected

areas to help the state develop a reasonable estimate for debris removal," Hill said. "We have a total of 12 estimators, and they are using a GPS (Global Positioning System) based Debris Estimating Tool to provide quantity estimates and maps of the debris generated by the storm. We are also drafting a Multi-Agency Debris Management Plan for the debris task force."

Hill said the district's third mission involves verifying individual county requests versus amounts delivered for commodities such as water and meals-ready-to-eat.

Little Rock's work on its own storm-related projects started some time early Jan. 28 when the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System communications link between Bull Shoals and Greers Ferry went offline. Ice buildup caused the primary fiber/microwave communications link to fail, as well as the backup communications link via hard-wired telephone lines. Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology personnel worked to restore the phone link as an emergency repair to this communication circuit.

"As a result of this event, the district staffed the plant 24/7 in order to deliver power to Southwestern Power Administration," said Little Rock's Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis.

Project office damage assessments began once areas were accessible and were completed Feb. 4. They have estimated \$1million in damage and costs for

See "Trees down" next page

Trees down

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debris removal as parks were hit with falling trees and limbs damaging structures, utility lines and trails.

Mountain Home Project Office was the hardest hit with \$600,000 in estimated damage to a lot of trees, some minor structure damage -- toilets, canopies, skylights, etc. and some roadways blocked in parks.

"We've been authorized \$25,000 to start preliminary cleanup, which means getting roads open and working on trees," Natural Resource Specialist Mark Case said. "The ice storm went everywhere and didn't stick to the shoreline like the flood did. It caused more timber damage, and in the end we'll end up with scars throughout the parks when we

clean up the trees. But it will be safe again."

Beaver Lake assessed all parks and found minor damage to facilities -- roof damage to a gatehouse, a concrete table broken and an electrical load center damaged. Unfortunately there was heavy damage to trees on the south end of the project with trees down or broken in all of the parks. The total estimated damage was \$310,000.

There was minor damage at Table Rock and Clearwater lakes of about \$80,000, and the Russellville Project Office suffered about \$5,000 in damage at two of its lakes.

The district has advised visitors to not hike the trails because of downed and dangling tree limbs, and camping has suspended in some parks until the hazards are assessed and cleared. Areas considered hazardous were barricaded until the dangers are removed and the areas declared safe.

"Little Rock employees are working hard to ensure most are open in time for spring, though some facilities in the more heavily damaged parks may be temporarily unavailable," Lewis said.

Pacesetter Points

Congratulations

Little Rock's Russellville Project Office welcomed **Lee Kirkpatrick** as the new environmental stewardship ranger at Ozark Lake.



Kent Dunlap, project manager of Tulsa's Keystone Lake, was named Citizen of the Year for the town of Mannford, Okla.

Little Rock's **Marty Hammer** was selected as the district's newest chief of the Design Branch in Engineering and Construction Division.

Galveston's **Cindy Jones** has been selected for a temporary promotional assignment in Programs Management.

Little Rock's Operation Division hired Civil Engineer **Ashly Pervis**.

John Davis recently joined the Regional Business Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, as a process improvement/quality management Program Manager.

Little Rock's Russellville Project Office Park Manager **Miles Johnson** is temporarily reassigned as the Operations Project Manager for Russellville.

Vincenzo Crifasi recently joined the Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, as deputy FUDS Program Manager.

Little Rock's **Steve Spicer**, formerly the lake manager, is now serving as Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office's operations manager.

Little Rock's recently retired **Mobie Price** is now the acting deputy chief of Operations Division under the rehired annuitant workforce. He comes from the Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office where he served as the operations manager.

Katherine Macalpine joined the Galveston District Nov. 9 as admin support in the Northern Area Office.

Little Rock's **Elizabeth Whitmore** was selected as the district's new workforce management specialist in January.

Continued on next page

Kevin Hall joined the Galveston District Jan. 2 as a lock and dam Operator for the Brazos River Floodgates.

Ron Atkins joined the Galveston District Jan. 4 as an accountant in Resource Management.

Two Galveston District personnel have deployed to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terror.



Bob Peel, a senior program analyst in the Program Management Branch, and



Danny Wyatt, chief of Safety, volunteered for 6-month assignments with Gulf Region Division's South District in Iraq.

Mark Lumen joined the Galveston District Jan. 4 as an attorney-advisor in the Office of Counsel.

Ted Kerr, appropriations account manager, Civil Works Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, was selected for a 119-day developmental assignment beginning Jan. 18 as Civil Works program manager in Tulsa District.

Elia Murphy joined the Galveston District Jan. 18 as an accountant in Resource Management.

Ruth Anderson joined the Galveston District Jan. 18 as a construction representative in the Northern Area Office.

Little Rock's **Mike Richards** was selected as the new deputy operations manager for the Beaver Project Office in February.

Isidro Reyna joined the Galveston District Feb. 1 as a public affairs specialist in Public Affairs.

Norma Garza joined the Galveston District Feb. 1 as a project assistant for the Brownsville Resident Office in the Southern Area.

Larry Grey joined the Galveston District Feb. 2 as a hydraulic engineer working in Hydrology & Hydraulics section.

Lethal Coe joined the Galveston District Feb. 15 as the finance and accounting officer in Resource Management.

Retirements



Steven C. Hall, regional internal review evaluator for both the Southwestern and South Pacific Divisions, retired Dec. 19 after 25 years of service.

Galveston's **Nettie Irvine** retired Dec. 31 after 22 years of service.

James Daugherty, assistant district counsel at Little Rock's District Office, retired Jan. 2 after 35 years of service.

Galveston's **Donald Hester** retired Jan. 2 after 34 years of service.

Galveston's **Randolph Richardson** retired Jan. 2.



Elisa Pellicciotto, chief, Operations Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, retired Jan. 3 with more than 30 years of service.

Little Rock's **Rick Reynolds**, lock and dam equipment mechanic leader, retired Jan. 3 after 36 years of service.

Galveston's **Jerald Hood** retired Jan. 3 after 42 years of service.

Galveston's **Thomas NiNi III** retired Jan. 3 after 36 years of service.

Galveston's **Gray Johnson** retired Jan. 3 after 22 years of service.

Galveston's **Larry Dunaway** retired Feb. 9 after 38 years of service.

Condolences



Retiree **Loren Wayne Pope**, 68, passed away Dec. 9 in Oklahoma City. He had worked in both Tulsa and Little Rock Districts before becoming the director of engineering in the Water Management Division in Dallas, Texas where he retired in 1995 after 33 years with the Corps.



Little Rock's **Mike Hendricks** passed away Dec. 15. He was the operations project manager at the Pine Bluff Project Office.

Continued on next page

Gordon Smethurst, father to Little Rock's **Julia Smethurst** of the Planning and Environmental Office, passed away Jan. 10.



Michael C. Zook, 60, chief, Real Estate Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, passed away Jan. 11 at McKinney Medical Center, McKinney, Texas, following a brief illness.

Roy Tompkins, father to **Bill Tompkins** at Tulsa District's Kansas Area Office, passed away Jan. 15.

Stella Melonson, mother-in-law of **Don Walker**, Regional Information Officer, SWD headquarters, passed away Jan. 16 after a lengthy illness.

Galveston's **Salvatore Arcidiacono's** father Alfio Arcidiacono passed away Jan. 19.

Curtesteen Lewis, mother of **Pamela Ingram**, Program Analyst, Business Resources Directorate, SWD headquarters, passed away Jan. 21.

Tulsa District retiree, **Lou Ann Mayo**, lost her husband Jan. 26.

Tenkiller Lake Park Ranger **Dorinda Young's** mother, Virginia Chaney, passed away Jan. 26.

Galveston's **Patricia Guidry** lost her father, Ralph H. James Sr., Jan. 28.



Little Rock's **Tom Gindler** passed away Feb. 1. He was the diesel engineer on the Motor Vessel Shorty Baird operated out of the Russellville Project Office.

Veda Moore Jr., father-in-law to Little Rock's **Kevin Sharp** of Engineering and Construction Division, passed away Feb. 4.

Lois Corley, mother of **Steve Corley**, Little Rock's chief of Surveys Section, passed away Feb. 5.

John Yacio, 72, an SWD headquarters retiree, passed away Feb. 6.

Galveston's **Oscar Diaz's** father-in-law Avilio H. Pena passed away on Feb. 7.

Family Matters

Little Rock's **Mark Eddings** at the Mountain Home Project Office and his wife, Tally, were

blessed with their third daughter, Kristen Janae, Dec. 4. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20 inches. Kristen's big sisters Alyssa and Megan welcomed her into the family, too.

Randy Beauchamp, a civil engineer in Tulsa District's Engineering and Construction Division, is the proud grandfather of Selah Noelle, born Dec. 12 to Shelly and Chris Blake.

Little Rock's **Greg Mattson** of the Engineering and Construction Division, wife Melody and siblings, Micah and Natalie, welcomed Simeon Dec. 28, who weighed in at 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

Joshua Jones, son of Little Rock's **Tammy Jones** of Programs and Project Management Division, earned the rank of Eagle Scout Nov. 24 and the 2008 Arrowman of the Year for the Quapaw Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society. He also played defensive end for the 2008-2009 Pulaski Academy Bruin Football Team, winner of the Arkansas State High School 5A Championship, and he plays the tenor sax for his high school band. Finally, Joshua participated/performed in the pre-game and half-time festivities at the Jan. 2 Cotton Bowl with the Pulaski Academy Band and seven other bands.

Ruth Norris, executive assistant in Tulsa's Executive Office, and husband Leonard, are the proud grandparents of Daniel Cole born Jan. 6 in Tulsa to her son Scott and Misti Norris.

Eirin J. Lewis, daughter of Little Rock's **Chris Smith** of Operations Division, graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a degree in Sociology and minor in Psychology.

New 2008 Safety and Health Requirements Manual Available

The long-awaited, long-anticipated USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual, EM 385-1-1, 2008 is now available on-line at this link: <http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/EM385-1-1,2008NEW!.aspx>.

Please ensure the widest distribution throughout your stovepipe, district or division that this website and the 2008 version is now available. It is currently being printed by GPO and will be available after February to those who placed orders.

Our new HQ internet websites have been posted. This is the link to our CESO site: <http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/Home.aspx>. On this site there are numerous tools to help fill out your safety and health program.