

PACESSETTER

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“If you build it they will come”

Least terns flock to new
man-made breeding ground

Cover story, page 5



Also Inside

The Southwestern
Division welcomes a
new commander
page 4



A Corps trail
receives
national
designation
page 30



SWG
employee
marks 50 years
with federal
government
page 39





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.

Inside this issue

- Page 3 SWD Commander's column
- Page 4 Kula takes command of Southwestern Division
- Page 5 Cover Story – Island living suits endangered terns
- Page 6 Galveston District welcomes new commander
- Page 7 SWG Commander's column
- Page 8 Fort Worth District member joins team to help Haitian earthquake victims
- Page 10 Masset named Little Rock District commander
- Page 10 Corps breaks ground on new visitor center
- Page 11 SWL Commander's column
- Page 13 Second generation – summer ranger follows father's steps at Little Rock District
- Page 14 A day in the life of a ranger
- Page 15 Teague takes on Tulsa
- Page 16 SWT Commander's column
- Page 17 Corps conducts water safety patrol day
- Page 18 Deployed Fort Worth District members share their stories
- Page 20 Hometown heroes working toward recovery
- Page 21 SWL ranger awarded for taking volunteer program from good to great
- Page 22 Texas teachers visit Colorado River Locks
- Page 23 Historian visits to collect one ranger's story
- Page 23 Tulsa District and Greater Texoma Utility Authority sign water reallocation contract
- Page 24 SWF Commander's column
- Page 26 Rangers learn about self defense
- Page 27 McLain wins Castle Award
- Page 28 Student explains district mission to visitors
- Page 29 Ranger nets runner-up position at Bass Fish League All-American Championship
- Page 30 Clearwater trail receives national designation
- Page 31 Fort Worth District Corps Day
- Page 33 Galveston District celebrates Engineer Day, honors outstanding employees
- Page 35 Engineer Day celebrated at Little Rock District
- Page 38 SWD ops admins 'shine like stars' at conference
- Page 39 Galveston District employee dedicates 50 years to government service
- Page 40 Pacesetter Points



On the cover:

At the new Spaniard Creek Island, two adult interior least terns display courting behavior. If successful, this pair's fledglings will be able to fly to South America in September. See story on page 5

Photo by Mary Beth Hudson



Relationships: the true key to success

Col. Thomas W. Kula
Commander, Southwestern Division

The month of July has been a real whirlwind for all of us in the Southwestern division. We have undergone changes in leadership Division-wide, while continuing the fast pace of our projects and operations. It was a proud moment in my life, personally and professionally, when I accepted the Southwestern Division flag from the Chief of Engineers. Such events are even more meaningful when shared with family, friends and colleagues, and that was the case July 2 when I took command from Col. Tony Funkhouser. I know that all of you join me in thanking Col. Funkhouser for the great leadership and dedication he provided to this organization. He will long be remembered with respect and admiration. My family and I have been welcomed so warmly by the SWD family, as well as by sponsors, officials, and others with whom we do business. It has been truly remarkable.

My schedule has been nonstop since. After the SWD Change of Command, I traveled to the Galveston District to officiate at their Change of Command, and then held a Town Hall meeting with division employees. I also shared the information in that Town Hall with our district commanders, and they will, in turn, put it to work within their districts. The district commanders and I also had the opportunity to discuss our priorities July 14 at the Regional Commanders Conference in Fort Worth. As I did with the commanders, I'd like to take this opportunity to discuss my philosophy and priorities directly with you.

My leadership philosophy is straightforward and is composed of four elements:

1. Teamwork and positive attitude are key;
2. Discipline is vital — do the right thing;
3. Do routine things well routinely; and
4. Fight through challenges — don't give up — if you don't succeed at first, keep at it until you do! Our reputation is based on doing what we say; and we must fight through challenges to be good for our word.

Underlying this philosophy are my expectations. While I will not go through each one here, if you remember that honesty and integrity are non-negotiable, maintain a positive attitude, and live the Army Values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage, you are on the right road to meeting expectations.

Interwoven throughout are relationships — the true secret to success. All human interactions — whether personal, professional or business — are worked with people and organizations, and are not worked in a vacuum. My background is a key to my outlook on relationships. I was

born and raised in north Chicago, and I'm a huge Chicago sports fan. I have a very strong family, religious and sports foundation, and I am passionate about being a Soldier, a leader and an engineer. Throughout my career, and throughout my life, I have known how vital strong relationships are to getting the job done. So you will see a renewed interest in and emphasis on relationships — with our sponsors, key stakeholders, and the organizations so important to our success as the Army Corps of Engineers.

“All human interactions — whether personal, professional or business — are worked with people and organizations, and are not worked in a vacuum .”

A good starting point for all of us: whenever we receive information, good or bad, always think “Who else needs to know?” and then send them the info. And as always, we will continue to emphasize developing our leaders and taking care of our people and families.

This is indeed a time of change in the Southwestern Division. Three of our four district commanders have come on board this summer, so all of us have new people to meet, new missions to learn, and strong relationships to build. We welcome Col. Mike Teague and family to Tulsa; Col. Glen Masset and family to Little Rock; and Col. Chris Sallese and family to Galveston. Additionally, Mr. Jim Hannon, SES, is now our regional business director, and Col. Dave Weston took over as deputy division commander after relinquishing the Galveston District in early July. We welcome both of them to Dallas.

Each district has its major projects, programs and events during the summer months, but two issues transcend district boundaries: the hurricane season and water safety. We have already experienced Hurricane Alex in our division, with predictions of a busy season. As those of you who have been through a hurricane know, a hurricane in the Southwestern Division region is a Southwestern Division affair, not just an impacted district one. And water safety is a paramount issue all year, but especially during the summer months, with our many lakes and recreation areas. Remember: life jackets save lives. Period.

See **“Commander”** page 9

Kula takes command of Southwestern Division

Southwestern Division Public Affairs

The Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, changed hands on July 2 as Col. Thomas W. Kula assumed command from Col. Anthony Funkhouser. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp presided over the ceremony.

“I’m very pleased to be here and look forward to making a difference for the Southwestern Division,” Kula said. “The division and our districts comprise an awesome team, and I know that we will all do the very best we can each and every day to support our armed forces and our nation.”

Prior to taking command of the division, Kula served as chief of staff, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Previous assignments include platoon leader, Battalion S-1, and company commander, 78th Engineer Battalion (Corps)(Combat), Ettlingen, Germany; senior engineer observer controller, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Chaffee, Ark.; doctrine writer and tactics instructor, U.S. Army Engineer School and aide de camp to the commanding general, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; chief of G-3 Plans, 82d Airborne Division and executive officer, 307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.; Military Assistant to the Undersecretary of the Army and Program Analyst for Force Structure, Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; Commander, 307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; Engineer Plans Officer, United States Southern Command, Miami, Fla.; commander, 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps, Hanau, Germany (Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07, Iraq, September 2005-September 2006).

Col. Kula is a 1982 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and he has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He also holds a Masters Degree in Military Arts and Science. Kula’s military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms Service and Staff School (CAS3), Command



Col. Thomas W. Kula (center) accepts the Southwestern Division flag from Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp (left) as he assumes command of the division from from Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser (right) July 2 during a Change of Command ceremony in Dallas.

and General Staff College (CGSC), School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), and the U.S. Army War College Fellowship at University of Texas.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with one oak leaf cluster), the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one oak leaf cluster),

the Army Achievement Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Sapper Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, the German Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Badge.

Kula is married and is the father of three children. 

Island living suits endangered terns

**Story and photos by Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District Public Affairs**

Crafted to stimulate the economy, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 could also stimulate reproduction of the interior least terns in the McClellan Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. In this part of the country, nesting habitat has declined for this endangered species. The decline is largely attributed to water resource projects which have reduced transport of fine-grained sand essential for natural building of sandbars and islands, caused periodic flooding of active least tern nests and chicks, and altered river hydraulics. Natural, historical river flows scoured vegetation from sandbars and islands; this bareness made them more suitable as nesting habitat.

The Recovery Act is funding maintenance dredging in Webbers Falls Reservoir, and about 20,000 cubic yards of dredged material has been deposited on an existing shallow site at Spaniard Creek on the Webbers Falls Lock & Dam 16 pool to create suitable nesting habitat. This newest artificial island puts one in mind of the line, "If you build it, they will come," from *Field of Dreams*. In that movie, after the ball field

was built, baseball players began appearing out of the cornfield to take their places on the diamond. In the accelerated, real-life version taking place on the navigation system, interior least terns began showing up at their new nesting island even before the dredge left the area. They quickly set about building scrapes (nests) on the island created from sand dredged during maintenance of the system.

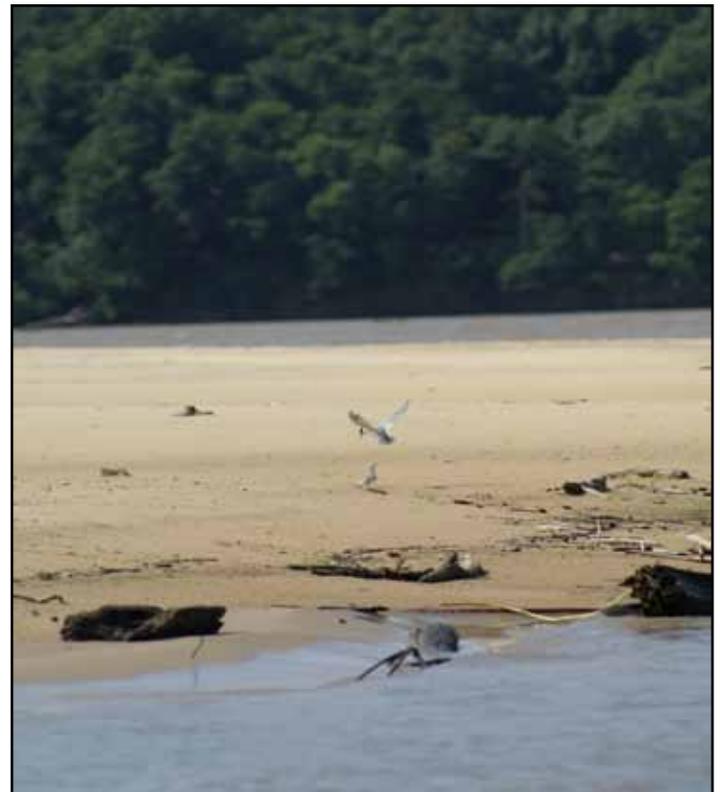
Corps employees visited the 7.5 acre island the day before the dredge departed. They counted 40 adult birds and saw several scrapes including a couple that already sported eggs. On a subsequent visit, less than three weeks later, they counted 232 adults, 138 nests, and two chicks. Everett Laney, biologist for Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch, said, "When we do the next count in two weeks, there should be chicks running everywhere." He added, "High flows on the Arkansas River this spring forced the birds to look for new nesting areas, and the new island appears to be the place." Biologists hope to continue the effort in other areas within Webbers Falls and Robert S. Kerr reservoirs. New islands are also planned for construction upstream in the Arkansas River.

A previous island created with dredged material in 2004 on the



Photo above, a least tern chick rests in a scrape (nest) on the newly created Spaniard Creek island.

Photo right, an adult least tern repeatedly swoops in over a chick, possibly in an effort to discourage the chick from getting too close to the water on the artificial island created at Spaniard Creek on the Webbers Falls Lock & Dam 16 pool.



See "Terns" page 12

Galveston District welcomes new commander

Galveston District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, held a Change of Command ceremony July 7, 2010, where Col. Christopher W. Sallese assumed command of the Galveston District from outgoing commander, Col. David C. Weston. Col. Thomas W. Kula, commander of the Corps' Southwestern Division, presided over the ceremony, which was held at the district's headquarters building.

"I am truly happy to be standing here in front of you as the new Galveston District commander," said Sallese. "My family and I are humbled by the presence of so many in attendance and are extremely happy to be back in Texas."

Sallese thanked outgoing commander Weston for his service to the district and nation. Weston in turn thanked the workforce for their professionalism and endurance during many challenges and also thanked the many sponsors for their continued partnerships throughout the history of the 130-year-old district.

"This generation of Galveston professionals – or as our motto goes – Custodians of the Coast, has truly earned a special place in the history of this district," said Weston. "I cannot thank them enough for all they have done for this command during my time here. It has been remarkable."

Prior to assuming command of the Galveston District, Sallese served as chief, Programs Integration Division, assistant chief of staff, Installation Management, Headquarters, U.S. Army, the Pentagon.

Sallese was born in Johnstown, Penn., on Nov. 21, 1964. In 1986, he graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ceramic Science and Engineering, and received his commission through Army ROTC.

Following graduation, he was assigned to the 54th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, Wildflecken, Germany, where he served as platoon leader, assistant S-3 and HHC executive officer. In November 1991, he was reassigned to the 23rd Engineer Battalion,

3rd Armored Division, Hanau, Germany, for deployment in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort.

In 1993, Sallese was assigned to the 326th Engineer Battalion (AA), 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., where he served as Battalion S4, 187th Infantry brigade engineer, and commander of Alpha Company. Following command, he was assigned to Seoul, Korea, as a protocol action officer in support of U.S. Forces Korea. In 1996, Sallese was assigned as a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, managing the remediation of EPA Superfund sites. Following this assignment, he served as an active component advisor to reserve component engineer units in Missouri.

In 2001, Sallese graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Management from Troy State University. He was then assigned to the 36th Engineer Group (Construction), Fort Benning, Ga., where he served as the Group's Operation Officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom I. Following the deployment, Sallese also served as the group's deputy commander and chief, design management.

In 2004, Sallese was assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, as the deputy district commander. In 2006, he assumed command of the 92nd Engineer Battalion (C)(H), 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga., and deployed his battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom V. Upon completion of command in 2008, he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort McNair, Washington D.C., and earned a Master's degree in Strategic Resources. Following graduation in 2008, Sallese served as chief, Programs Integration Division, assistant chief of staff, Installation Management, the Pentagon.

Sallese's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (3), Meritorious Service Medal (7), Army Commendation Medal (2), Army Achievement Medal (4), National



Col. Thomas W. Kula (right), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division commander, passes the flag of the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment to Col. Christopher W. Sallese, incoming Galveston District commander. The passing of the colors from the senior commander to the incoming commander signifies the passing of his trust and confidence in the incoming commander's ability to lead the organization, its soldiers and civilians.

Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (2), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Saudi Arabian Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwaiti Kuwait Liberation Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and Sapper Tab.

Weston became the deputy commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division. 



Safety, balance and resiliency

Col. Christopher W. Sallase
Commander, Galveston District

What an extreme pleasure it is to be back in Texas – this time as the commander of the mighty Galveston District! My family and I are thrilled to once again call this great state home.

Although I have been assigned elsewhere, the Galveston District has always been in my thoughts and prayers, especially during the very active hurricane seasons experienced on the Texas coast.

I am proud to now lead the exceptional people who make up the workforce within the district; you are the heart and soul of this organization, and I am proud to walk among you again, particularly because of the resiliency you have constantly displayed after the many hurricanes that have impacted the Texas coast.

There are three attributes I'd like to emphasize to you in my first Pacesetter column, the first being resiliency.

Resiliency is about preparing yourself mentally, physically and spiritually; if you're prepared to bounce back and avoid or circumvent a problem, you're a much stronger force. I ask the workforce to keep this in mind as we execute our many missions that are crucial to the strength of our nation. Get out there and take care of yourself. You deal with stress much better when you're physically fit and have a spiritual connection. I challenge you to become more resilient.

While executing our mission, safety must be a top priority for all of

us in the district. There is not one thing we do in this district that is worth getting someone hurt. It's about risk mitigation. Look at what you have to do, and if it doesn't feel, look or taste right, you have to reevaluate. A safe and healthy workforce is a key ingredient to successfully carrying out the work we've been asked to accomplish, and I ask that each and every one of you keep that in mind.

Finally, create a balance in your life. Balance for me is balancing my work commitments versus my commitments to my family. Family has always come first, and you are now a part of my family. I'll find that balance and want you to do the same. I am fully committed to ensuring a resilient, safe and well-balanced workforce for the betterment of the district.

I look forward to reconnecting with many of you in the coming days and meeting the new faces in the district. Let us not forget our coworkers who have volunteered to serve in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Their selfless service should not go unnoticed, and I ask that you keep them in your thoughts as they continue our mission abroad. The Corps Family has always been a strong one, and together we will continue the Corps motto of "Building Strong!"

Hooah! 

Leader in training

Col. David C. Weston, former commander of the Galveston District, met with Justin Tirpak, (son of Sharon Tirpak, a biologist and project manager with the district), June 29, 2010, in Galveston.

Weston and Tirpak discussed constitutional rights and citizen obligations and responsibilities within a community as part of a requirement for rank advancement in the Boy Scouts. (Courtesy photo)





Photos Courtesy of Jeff Qunell

Jeff Qunell directs the placement of heavy equipment and searches voids that open up during delayering efforts at Hotel Montana.

Fort Worth District member joins team to help Haitian earthquake victims

By Denisha Braxton
Fort Worth District Public Affairs

As a Corps of Engineers Structures Specialist Team prepared to respond to the devastating Haiti earthquake on January 12, one member of the team didn't realize how the mission would impact him.

Jeff Qunell, a member of one of four response teams equipped and trained to work in and around collapsed or partially collapsed structures, joined with engineers from the New England, Buffalo, N.Y., San Francisco and Philadelphia districts.

Qunell, a Flood Risk Management business line manager at Fort Worth met his team in Miami January 17, five days after the quake, to join with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Support Team at Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Even as a young boy he had a sense of adventure, which brought interest of being a



Photo Courtesy of Jeff Qunell

Jeff Qunell, Flood Risk Management business line manager, Fort Worth District, hydrates at the Base of Operation after recovery efforts at Hotel Montana.

part of a search and rescue team. He joined the StS team in 2005, after completing the FEMA Structural Specialist and Rescue Systems courses. This was Qunell's second search and rescue deployment previously responding to Hurricane Ike in 2008.

The StS team waited in Miami for a potential mission to perform heavy structural

assessment for the military. Since the initial mission was to support the FEMA IST, they mobilized with minimal equipment.

After two days of training and coordinating with the U.S. Army 20th Engineer Brigade, Qunell and his team's next stop was Port-au-Prince. The StS Team stayed in tents at the US Embassy but didn't have much time to rest on their cots because it was a ten-day 24-hour operation.

"Communication systems, land and sea transport facilities, and hospitals had been damaged by the earthquake, which complicated early relief work," said Qunell. "When we arrived, priorities were out of order, and there was much need for rapid assessment of important structures like the hospitals and bridges.

Qunell and the StS team designed mitigation measures and initiated structural monitoring of the critical infrastructures. They also protected and supported rescuers entering compromised structures.

"You have to be aware with all of that heavy

See "Qunell" next page

“Qunell” *continued from previous page*

equipment anytime a building can shift; some surfaces were slick as ice. So we made sure of safety and used military spotters,” said Qunell.

After another few days the team was fully engaged when tasked to recover the Hotel Montana. The five-story, four-star hotel was a very popular place for international visitors to stay, and as many as 200 guests were missing after its collapse.

“The recovery at Montana was very overwhelming; it was such a large facility and we tried to get as much information about the hotel structure,” said Qunell.

The mission was intense but the StS Team was able to make 66 safe recoveries.

The nature of this international response added additional vaccinations and medical concerns for Qunell and his team. It also brought challenges to construction techniques and practices because of high humidity and tropical rains during the recovery mission.

Despite the obstacles Qunell and his team remained focused on de-layering collapsed structures to recover victims.

“The people of Port-au-Prince lost at least one person, a family member, a friend, a teacher, but there still remained a sense of joy and hope in them,” said Jeff Qunell.

The USACE StS team knew if they supported one another and stayed positive, they were capable of more than they thought.

Qunell and his team successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of the StS training program, interacted with FEMA task forces, and coordinated the efforts of hundreds of



Hotel Montana in Port-Au-Prince Haiti collapsed after an earthquake January 12.

military volunteer and international rescuers on the site. Even with all of that the team was grateful to play a part in the rewarding experience.

“I’m proud to be a part of a great team. We work well together, train annually, and support each other despite the type of environment we’re in,” said Qunell. 

“Commander” *continued from page 3*

These are our initial priorities, developed with the input of Col. Funkhouser and our SESers:

1. Execution of our programs
2. Readiness for natural disasters and whenever, whatever called
3. Acquisition strategy for FY11
4. FY12 budget prep

Finally, I am proud to be a Pacesetter, and I know that each of you will be sharing that thought as we work through the issues and projects that do so much to support our Armed Forces and our our nation. This is a great team and, and we will rely on all of you to accomplish our goals! I look forward to meeting all of you at our various district, area, and field offices.

For some closing thoughts, I’ll share some of the points our Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Van, provided to new USACE commanders in late June. I never stop learning from our chief and want you to hear

some of his words of wisdom:

- This a historic time for the Corps in terms of number of programs and dollars.
- We need to build the bench and must check on how we do recruiting, interviewing, and reception once hired.
- Bring together a diverse group to help solve problems, give them a challenge, set the rules, and set high expectations.
- For response to disasters, go ugly and heavy early; get the businesses back in operation so they can do the distribution
- Let’s work as “one” the best we can. Bring the family together to work challenges.
- Must be good for our word. Tell our customers what we will do and then do it. Be aggressively realistic. Our reputation is based on doing what we say! 

Masset named Little Rock District commander

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District Public Affairs

During a June 15 ceremony at the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center in downtown Little Rock, Col. Glen Masset assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District.

He replaces Col. Ed Jackson, who has been assigned as chief of staff of the 8th U.S. Army in Korea.

Little Rock District is responsible for a \$1.17 billion program this fiscal year. This includes civil works, military construction, environmental stewardship, emergency management and work in support of other government organizations throughout Arkansas, southern Missouri and the nation.

The district has a staff of about 790 employees. It supervises the Arkansas River and other waterways, including 13 locks and dams,

12 multi-purpose dams, seven hydroelectric power plants, and more than a half million acres of public lands and water.

Masset comes to the district from Vaihingen, Germany, where he was deputy chief of the Engineer Division in the Logistics Directorate, Headquarters, United States European Command.

He first enlisted in the North Dakota Army National Guard in November 1982 as a combat engineer, where he served in both enlisted and officer positions.

In May 1989, he graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management and engineering and entered active duty with a regular Army commission.

He is also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; the Combined Arms Staff Service School also at Fort Leavenworth; the Armor Officer's Advanced Course at Fort Knox, Ky.; the Engineer Officer's Basic Course at Fort Belvoir, Va.; and the Army's Jungle Warfare and Airborne Schools.

Masset has held a number of command and staff assignments stateside and abroad in his



Photo by Robert Carr

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Dorko, deputy commander, Military and International Operations, hands the Corps flag to Col. Glen Masset at the June 15 change of command ceremony.

21 years as an officer, including participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His military awards include the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster.



Corps breaks ground on new visitor center

Story and photo by Laurie Driver
Little Rock District Public Affairs

Little Rock District held a groundbreaking ceremony July 9 for the new Dewey Short Visitor Center at Table Rock Lake near Branson.

The Corps received funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to design and build the new center. The current facility was built in 1975 and houses both the visitor center and the Table Rock Lake Project Office. It is not large enough to accommodate the large number of visitors it receives. Last year more than 135,000 visitors toured the facility.

In May, the Corps awarded a \$7.9 million contract to Applied Energy Management Inc. of Huntersville, N.C., to design and construct the building. Construction will begin in August and be completed by August 2011.

The new 15,000-square-foot facility will be about twice the size of the existing center. Once the new facility is built, the project office will absorb the square footage now devoted to the old visitor center.

The Corps is exploring partnerships with organizations to provide exhibits and displays in the new center. ARRA funds will not be used for exhibits and displays.

The new visitor center will be one of a handful of unique regional facilities in the Corps. It will highlight the history of the lake and surrounding Ozark Mountains, and tell the Corps' story through engaging exhibits. The three functional areas are the visitor area, a 90-seat theater and a gift shop; the educational area, which will include a multi-purpose room and wet lab; and an administrative office area.

An agreement was signed April 28 between the Corps and the Ozarks Rivers Heritage Foundation to manage the current visitor center until it closes. A new agreement is expected to be developed for the foundation to continue managing day-to-

See **"Center"** next page



Little Rock District—an amazing mission

Col. Glen A. Masset
Commander, Little Rock District

I would like to say thank you to all of those who have made this transition to the Little Rock District a very pleasant event—not only for me, but for my wife and our children. Coming in from an overseas assignment can be difficult, but all the warm welcomes and friendly assistance has been extremely helpful and appreciated.

One thing I immediately became aware of during my visit in March was the fact that Col. Jackson has left me some very big shoes to fill. Continuing his superb leadership is a challenge I look forward to.

I also look forward to working with and getting to know the hundreds of people he knew by name and who seemed to believe that employment with the Corps is much more than just a job, it's a way of life. I met some very impressive people during that visit, and I was equally impressed with the awe-inspiring mission of this district.

Yes, I believe the mission here is amazing, and each person working within this district plays a role in serving our nation locally, regionally and nationally. They keep people safe, they preserve economic prosperity at all levels, improve the quality of living standards for others and lead the way for others to see what right looks like.

We are charged with flood damage reduction, channel navigation, power generation, parks and recreation, military construction, civil works, dam safety and so much more. It's a very remarkable portfolio as is, but there is a possibility even more will be added in the future.

I'm sure this district has the right people who are committed both personally and professionally to take on such a challenge.

Furthermore, our mission will at times be in support of other districts throughout the region, and I welcome the opportunity to work alongside the other commanders in an effort to support our many and diverse array of customers. I am impressed by the amount of teamwork that happens across district boundaries.

With that said, this should prove to be a very interesting and rewarding tour of duty. Landing a job working for the Army Corps of Engineers has been on my radar for a long time.

As a matter of fact, when I entered active duty 22 years ago I definitely planned to work for the Corps of Engineers, so I'm finally fulfilling that plan. It may have taken me longer than I had thought it would, but I can truly say it feels like we're coming home. Not only because I'm finally working for the Corps, but because I knew when I returned to Little Rock I would meet people who are friendly, caring and committed. This is a place where making deep friendships and long lasting professional relationships will be easy.

Yes, the work will be challenging, but I'm sure it will be equally rewarding. So I believe all of this makes it easy to say the Masset family has found our home. I look forward to working with and learning from all of you in the years to come. 

"Center" *continued from previous page*



day operations upon the new opening.

The center will be a welcome addition to the major tourism industry that has developed in Branson and surrounding areas since the Corps constructed Table Rock Lake. 

Photo left, Dushan Mrdja, Bill Jackson, Kevin McDaniels, Greg Oller, Shirley Boldon-Bruce, Tracy Shaw, Lee Conley and Craig Pierce help break ground at the site of the new Dewey Short Visitor Center July 9 at Table Rock Lake near Branson, Mo. The new 15,000-square-foot facility will be about twice the size of the existing center. The new visitor center will be one of a handful of unique regional facilities in the Corps.



Photo above, A pair of least terns fly back to their nest on Spaniard Creek Island with their fresh catch.

Photo below, Dredges work to build the new Spaniard Creek Island, a nesting area for the endangered least tern. Biologists hope that fledglings that hatch here will live to fly to South America in September.



Robert S. Kerr Lock and Dam 15 Pool has definitely become a preferred nesting site for the birds, according to annual surveys.

Paul Balkenbush, Corps biologist tasked with doing the yearly surveys, said, “I really like this project because it accomplishes multiple missions with one effort. The maintenance dredging helps navigation in the Arkansas River system. Disposal of the resulting dredged material at a nearby adjacent area saves time and money. Finally, the interior least terns have new nesting habitat which could help them recover. This is a win for everyone.”

The islands are just one of the steps taken to protect the interior least terns, and efforts are paying off. The five-year average from annual surveys showed that the numbers of adult birds and chicks exceeded, by 119 and 86 respectively, the compliance goal set in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2005 Biological Opinion.

Balkenbush said, “We are excited about the success of this and other similar steps we have taken to provide nesting habitat for terns. However, we are not finished yet. We need to keep working with other agencies and stakeholders to find new opportunities for creation of nesting habitat along the Arkansas River corridor. Then, we need to maintain the sites and monitor them so we continue to learn and build on our approach.”

Editor’s Note: On a subsequent visit in mid-July, it was clear that storms had wreaked havoc, and many of the eggs had been abandoned. However, there were still about 129 adults, 68 nests, and seven chicks. Several birds were seen courting. It’s possible they’ll have time to renest and raise their chicks before heading south again. 

Photo below, a pair of sunglasses is used to demonstrate how small the least tern eggs are and how remarkably well they are camouflaged, yet unprotected — a perfect example of why this endangered species needs an isolated habitat to shield it from predators and humans alike.



Second generation

Summer ranger follows father's steps at Little Rock District

**Story and photo by
Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District Public Affairs**

Jonathan Willard, a Belleville, Ark., native is a second-generation park ranger at Little Rock District, and he hopes to make the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a career like his father, Hoover Willard, did.

Young Willard is in his fifth summer working as a park ranger. He recently graduated from Arkansas State University with a degree in broadcast journalism, and he hopes to get accepted into the Army's public affairs internship program or stay on as a park ranger.

His father, Hoover Willard, retired in July 2009 from his job as operations project manager of the Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office at Plainview, Ark. The senior Willard had 34 years of service, all of it in Little Rock District.

As a summer ranger at the Russellville Project Office, Jonathan Willard is responsible for patrolling four parks along the Arkansas River in the Russellville and Lake Dardanelle area. His duties include anything from managing visitor safety to providing water safety information or from checking traffic counters to setting gypsy moth traps.

"We patrol all of our parks pretty heavily," Willard said. "We talk to campers and try to provide assistance to them. A lot of times they ask about the local area or Corps policies. We also take every opportunity to stress the importance of life jackets and water safety. For the children, we hand out Bobber coloring books and other items that promote water safety. I like meeting and helping people."

He is quick to credit his father for steering him toward the Corps.

"I was looking for something constructive to do during my summers after high school," Willard explained. "My father suggested the summer ranger program with the Corps. He



Summer Ranger Jonathan Willard hangs a water safety promotional poster at a Lake Dardanelle park. Willard, a second-generation district employee, has been a summer ranger for the past five summers.

started out as a ranger and had good experiences, so I thought I'd try it. Here I am five summers later and I still enjoy it."

Willard said the most valuable lesson he's learned so far is how to deal with all types of people in many different situations, but he still runs across new situations that put him into unfamiliar territory.

"One night I went out to Flat Rock to check on a gate at one of our closed parks," Willard said. "I didn't see any signs of trespassing, but I decided to go into the park and check it out anyway. That's when I came across a man who was face down on the ground. He had tried to commit suicide. Thankfully, I found him in time to get him medical assistance. He wasn't in great shape when they took him to the hospital, but I was able to help him, and that's something you don't get to do, to that extent, every day."

Willard said he also takes part in the in-

terpretive program, discussing water safety, explaining the history of the Arkansas River and even sometimes discussing the Lewis and Clark expedition.

"I like the public service aspect of this job and that's what attracts me to the public affairs career, too," Willard said. "Not only that, but the quality of people I work with is outstanding. Scott Fryer has been a great mentor in explaining how to approach different situations.

Willard went on to explain that Fryer sent him to Citation School and Visitors Assistance Class, which taught him about issues rangers can face and how to deal with them."

His workgroup leader had high praises for Willard's work ethics.

"Jonathan is very dependable and highly motivated," Scotty Ashlock, summer ranger program manager, said. "He conducts himself to the highest of personal and professional standards." 

A day in the life of a ranger

**Story and photos by Nate Herring
Tulsa District Public Affairs**

Corps of Engineers park rangers are often described as the “face of the Corps” and are constantly seen by the visiting public, however, there is much more to a ranger than patrolling campsites.

Sure, patrols are a huge responsibility and a vital part of a rangers duties, but their responsibilities extend far beyond settling common quarrels between visitors and quelling raucous campsite antics.

After spending time with a few rangers, it became apparent that a ranger’s responsibilities are vast.

“No two days are the same,” said Eufaula Lake park ranger, Eric Summars. “There are many complexities to this job and they are sure to keep you on your toes.”

On any given day rangers may be involved with enforcing Title 36 law on public lands, providing visitor assistance, monitoring dam structures during high water events, administering contracts, shoreline management, being first responders to the scene of an accident, educating the public about water safety, or doing wildlife management to name a few. All of these tasks are essential to the Corps mission, Summars said.

Lake offices structure ranger duties in different ways. At Eufaula, one ranger may act as the main liaison for gate attendants and another may be responsible for wildlife management. At Fort Gibson Lake, rangers are assigned an area of responsibility and are responsible for everything in that area including the class A parks, concessions, wildlife and shoreline management.

“It keeps us in tune with everything,” said Fort Gibson park ranger Jim Montgomery, who has worked as a ranger for 25 years. “A lot of people think we just drive about parks but that is a small part of what we do. Although in the summer, we focus our attention on patrols, the other stuff just doesn’t go away. We have to manage our time.”

Since recreational users flock to the lakes



Ranger Jim Montgomery presents two youngsters with water safety coloring books during a patrol of Bluff Landing Public Use Area.

during the summer, rangers spend a considerable amount of time patrolling both on land and water. While on patrol, rangers focus on tasks such as enforcing Title 36 law and most importantly, ensure the public is safe.

“We make a tremendous impact on the public’s safety while they are visiting our lakes,” said Craig Robbins, park ranger at Eufaula Lake. “As rangers, it is our responsibility to keep the public as safe as possible.”

Educating the public about water safety is something that rangers take very seriously. The ranger community spends countless hours giving water safety presentations to schools, church groups, and library programs. However, public presentations are not enough.

“You can only imagine if just 10 percent of individuals out there did not follow posted restrictions, boating laws, or other rules and regulations, the number of lives we would lose or the amount of injuries that would occur would be staggering,” Robbins said.

Rangers patrol the waters and enforce water

safety measures; however, boats are not always stopped for breaking the rules. Sometimes, they are rewarded for using good water safety practices. The Tulsa District, has partnered with Safe Kids Tulsa, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Wendy’s Corporation for the “You’ve Been Ticketed” campaign, which gives a coupon for a free frosty to children wearing a life jacket. So whether stopped for good or bad water safety practices, rangers are out on the waters ensuring the public is safe.

“When we patrol by boat, we generally are looking to make sure all children are wearing life jackets and boaters are being cautious and courteous,” Summars said. “We believe that by making contact with boaters on the water, it shows them that we care about their safety and hopefully that contact can help to save

see “Ranger” next page

Teague takes on Tulsa

By **Mary Beth Hudson**
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Col. Michael J. Teague assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, from Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser in a ceremony in Tulsa Friday, June 11th.

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, commander of the Mississippi River Division, transferred the flag, a physical representation of command responsibility, from Funkhouser to Teague in a ceremony that dates back to at least Roman Times.

Col. Teague received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Norwich University and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1985.

Upon completion of the Officer Basic Course, he served in Bravo Company, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, in Bad Kissingen, Germany, as a line platoon leader, assault & barrier platoon leader, and executive officer. After the Officer Advanced Course, he served with the 19th Engineer Battalion, 194th Separate Armor Brigade at Fort



Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh hands over the command flag for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District to Col. Michael J. Teague in a Change of Command ceremony June 11 in Tulsa.

Knox before assuming command of the 13th Engineer Company in 1990. During this time the unit deployed to construction missions in Honduras and Saudi Arabia, as well as forest firefighting in Tennessee.

From 1992 to 1994, Col. Teague attended the Naval Postgraduate School and received a Master of Science Degree in Operations Analysis. He completed assignments as a combat analyst with the TRADOC Analysis

Center at Fort Leavenworth and as a personnel analyst with the OPMS XXI Task Force at PERSCOM. After serving as executive officer, directorate of civil works for Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers, he attended Command and General Staff College.

Staff College was followed by assignment to Fort Carson as S3 and XO of the 4th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. After assignments as the Force Engineer (South), Multinational Forces and Observers, Sinai, Egypt and the chief of Current Operations, U.S. Army Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, he returned to Fort Carson.

On July 8, 2003, Col. Teague assumed command of the 52nd Engineer Battalion in Mosul, Iraq. The Battalion conducted construction, civil-military, and combat operations in support of the 101st Airborne Division as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Battalion redeployed in February 2004. After command he served as the army engineer for NORAD and U.S. Northern Command and as the deputy executive officer to the combatant commander.

After this assignment he attended Naval War College and earned a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Presently, he is the Third Army/US Army Central Engineer responsible for all Army construction throughout the Middle East and Central Asian States. 

"Ranger" *continued from previous page*

their life or the lives of others."

Unfortunately, sometimes tragedy strikes. Rangers are often the first responders to a suspected drowning. Once notified of a possible drowning, the ranger calls the lake manager, who in turn calls the area manager, after the calls have been placed, the ranger sends out a "first notice" report to appropriate district personnel notifying them of the drowning.

"A whole day can change with just one phone call," Montgomery said. "We hate to get a call notifying us of a drowning. We take it personally because we put so much into educating people and enforcing water safety that it's just heartbreaking."

Rangers shoulder great responsibility, but they can't do it alone. Since park rangers do not have arrest authority, they leverage relationships with state and local law enforcement. Rangers may find themselves confronted with serious situations such as meth labs and drug possession as well as fighting between guests. In these situations, the partnership

with law enforcement is essential.

"We have a really great working relationship with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and our county sheriff," Robbins said. "When we're confronted with situations that go beyond our authority, we rely on them to assist."

Corps of Engineers rangers execute the Corps multi-faceted mission and in addition to performing a wide range of duties, they are the "face of the corps." When visitors come to a corps lake, rangers are always there assisting and serving the public to ensure they have an enjoyable and safe stay.

"Most people that I come in contact with are thankful for what we are able to do for them whether it is help them find that perfect campsite, or show them how they can obtain a mowing/boat dock permit, or an electric line license," Summars said. "What they most enjoy is our willingness to help. Their concerns are our concerns and I think they appreciate that." 



An incredible year and more to come

*Col. Michael J. Teague
Commander, Tulsa District*

What an honor it is to be writing this column as a member of the great Tulsa Team! Thanks to everyone for the very warm welcome, especially at the Change of Command ceremony. We could not have asked for a better introduction to the rest of the team. You just knew you were right at home when folks were swapping cake recipes in the lobby after the ceremony! The Teague clan is still in the throes of the move, but Tulsa is quickly becoming our new home. We look forward to settling in and getting out to the reaches of the district.

A special thanks to Col. Tony Funkhouser and his family as they not only welcomed us to the district, but Tony was kind enough not to include the record rains and flooding that he had when he took command in 2007. Tony has already deployed and assumed command of Afghanistan Engineer District-South in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He joins the 15 other deployed members of our team and we keep all of them and their families in our thoughts and prayers each and every day.

It has been a busy first month with lots of traveling to the District Commanders Course and attending the changes of command in Little Rock, Dallas, and Galveston. In fact, the Northern Alliance is alive and well as Col. Masset and I have seen each other more in the last month than we've seen our families! All kidding aside, the time spent on the road has already proven to be valuable as all of the commanders, new and old, had a great chance to share lessons learned and get to know one another.

What an incredible program year in Tulsa as the district set another record with \$210 million awarded already. Congrats to the team for awarding the final ARRA project by the end of June and for keeping the pressure on the BRAC projects. The focus now turns to execution of the program and award of the rest of the O&M program with the

end of the FY looming. It will continue to be busy over the next several years but it is obvious that this team is up to the task. I've been particularly impressed with the reputation of our team among our stakeholders and partners.

The Tulsa Team gathered for Corps Day on 22 July at the Tulsa Zoo. It was the opportunity to recognize the tremendous service and outstanding performance of our members. Warren Roberts led the way in the Service Awards as he received his certificate for 45 years of service. Ray Barnes, William Johnson, and Kelly Youngblood received their 40-Year certificates along with 13 employees who received their 35-year certificates and 16 who received their 30-year certificates. The Lake Texoma Reallocation Study team received the PDT of the Year Award. Our Employee of the Year Award was presented to Dan McPherson and Kalli Clark won the LTC Mark C. Fritz Leadership Award.

The big event in August is the arrival of the Mississippi River Commission and the Motor Vessel MISSISSIPPI on the Arkansas River. The MRC has never come to Tulsa before. They will arrive in Tulsa at the Port of Catoosa and then travel down the river, through Muskogee and Webbers Falls, and on into Arkansas. We will have a great chance with our stakeholders and partners to show them the importance of our system and the tremendous teamwork we share with the Little Rock District.

Finally, we all need to keep the emphasis on water safety. We had a great Memorial Day Weekend with no fatalities on any of our lakes. Since then, we have had 10 fatalities. Many of our own families are taking advantage of the great facilities to cool off in the hot weather, and we need to stay alert to keep them safe around the water. We just trained our summer rangers, but our guests deserve the protection that comes from each one of us staying vigilant. 

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Corps conducts water safety patrol day

By Laurie Driver
Little Rock District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Table Rock Project Office conducted water safety patrols June 19 on Table Rock Lake to educate boaters on boating safely.

The goal of the water safety saturation was to provide one-on-one educational opportunities with recreational boaters along with building relationships with multiple agencies promoting one common goal: water safety.

In addition to Corps park rangers from Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Beaver, Greers Ferry, Blue Mountain, Dierks lakes, Missouri Department of Conservation, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources assisted in the event.

The event involved safety equipment check-points at seven boat launch ramps and numerous swim beaches.

Boat patrols took place in three areas on the lake focusing on marinas and recreational boaters.

“This was a great event; we were able to spread the word on water safety to more than 2,500 lake visitors on the lake, at our beaches, at the marinas or at our boat launch ramps,” said Park Ranger Jeremy Rasnick, Table Rock Lake’s water safety program manager and coordinator of the weekend event. 



Top, Ranger David Moore of Greers Ferry Lake conducts an on-the-spot boat check June 19 at Table Rock Lake during a water safety patrol day.

Left, Mike Allen (green shirt) of the Missouri Department of Conservation and Ranger Caleb Young of Table Rock Lake conduct boat inspections.

Bottom, Greenfield conducts a safety check on a personal water craft prior to the owners launching it into the water at Table Rock Lake during the water safety patrol day.



Deployed Fort Worth District members share their stories

By Jim Frisinger
Fort Worth District

Three U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers, returning to the Fort Worth District and the Engineering and Construction Support Office after deployments, have a lot to share about their volunteer assignments. They were part of a civilian USACE force that now totals 548 in Afghanistan and 614 in Iraq. The stories they tell are not just about their contributions to strengthening nations by building roads, schools, barracks and utility infrastructure.

When you're far from home, the nuts and bolts of daily living can take on outsized importance. Life happens, too.

GULF REGION DISTRICT, CAMP SPEICHER, TIKRIT, IRAQ—For Engineering Construction Support Office's Mohammad "Mo" Dadkhah, deployment to Iraq couldn't have been more different.

He had already spent two years as a USACE civilian term employee engineer before joining ECSCO last year. This time he had a different assignment as liaison with the Provincial Reconstruction Teams, which operate under the State Department. He was an intermediary on projects between the State Department and Iraqi provincial officials in Salahuddin Province and Tikrit.

Stationed at Camp Speicher, just outside Tikrit, Dadkhah relished his role as an engineer liaison that brought him contact with the front lines of America's diplomatic corps in Iraq and those on the ground working with Arabic- and Kurdish-speaking officials and workers.

As an Iranian-American, he already knows about a quarter of the words in Arabic — they're the same as his native Farsi. On this deployment he had a lot of contact with Kurdish speakers for the first time; their language is far closer to Farsi. By the end of this six-month stint, Dadkhah said he could understand Kurdish fairly well.



Engineering and Construction Support Office's Mohammad Dadkhah, right, with his friend Mustafa Haji at Camp Speicher near Tikrit, Iraq.



Mohammad Dadkhah, right, enjoys a Thanksgiving feast at Camp Speicher.

As a liaison, he left Camp Speicher once or twice a week to meet with directorate generals of various Iraqi government ministries at the provincial hall in Tikrit. They'd go over progress of ongoing infrastructure projects. In working with the Directorate General of Education, Dadkhah was able to complete the last contracting for 18 new elementary schools that should all be completed by November.

"That was a good accomplishment. The Iraqi children will be very glad to have these schools," said Dadkhah.

The State Department was worried his background might worry Iraqis, who had fought a war against Iran under Saddam Hussein. To the contrary, Iraqis enjoyed working with Dadkhah as an Iranian-American engineer.

Tikrit is a mixed Sunni and Kurdish town. On the base, there were people from all over the world — Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Philippines, South Africa, Europe, Canada, the Middle East and America.

One was Kurdish-American, Mustafa Haji from Nashville. Another, Fawzia Elmtalib, a Kurdish-American from Vermont, in Iraq as a medical adviser, spoke Farsi fluently. She had been one of the first female members of the Peshmerga Kurdish military force, but was forced in the 1970s to take refuge in Iran following Saddam's attacks on the Kurds. She moved to the United States and married an Iranian Kurd.

When Dadkhah asked his friend Haji to teach him some Arabic, Haji replied; "Mo: No Arabic. Learn Kurdish! I'm not going to teach you any Arabic!"

AFGHANISTAN ENGINEER DISTRICT NORTH, QAALA HOUSE, KABUL—Kenneth Carleton and Karen Nelson, both Fort Worth District contract specialists, returned in April from deployment to Afghanistan. It was Carleton's third deployment to the Gulf region, Nelson's first.

Carleton arrived in Afghanistan in August; Nelson followed him to Kabul in October. They both lived and worked at Qaala House, a Corps of Engineers compound for about 450 personnel inside a militarized area of Kabul where they were confined nearly all of the time.

Nelson worked on MILCON projects, which included barracks for the military, services and repairs for the camp and other military bases. Carleton's work focused on infrastructure: military construction housing, and Afghan projects that included sewers, electric power,

See **"Deployed"** next page



Kenneth Carleton and fiancé Karen Nelson at the Qaala House Christmas Party when they returned from R&R to Kabul as newlyweds

“Deployed” *continued from previous page*

schools and roads. Most of it was performed by Afghan companies.

“Then there was the inherent security and transportation problems of a war zone, so it’s a pretty tough area to work all the way around,” he said. But personal security for USACE employees was not a problem. He slept well at night and while occasional car bombs would slip through the first of several cordons of security, they’d be stopped at others.

Carleton and Nelson also spent their R&R together—getting married.

They’d met in Fort Worth, of course. Colleagues knew the pair, both grandparents, had started dating.

“It was an office romance,” Nelson said. “Everybody here was excited for us – ‘Wow, they’re getting together!’” But marriage seemed maybe a year away until Carleton called from Afghanistan, before Nelson had left, suggesting they get married in Afghanistan when she arrived.

That didn’t work out. The chaplain at nearby Camp Eggers in Kabul had no authority to marry them. But he could give them the “pre-marital discussion” required for them to get married at an Army base stateside during their R&R.

They decided to get married at the Fort Belvoir Chapel in Virginia. The base’s full-time wedding coordinator would set it up. The coordinator’s dad would shoot the wedding photos. But Kenneth wanted to watch his beloved Cowboys play that day and had some worries about the timing. It was all OK because the wedding was at 3:00 p.m., was short, and they had just enough time to get home and get ready for the game. “So he watched football when we got home,” Karen said. “We were 10 hours behind so I was ready to take a nap.”

When they returned to Qalaa House in Kabul, they were now roommates. (Karen got the top bunk.)

When their deployment was over, they worked in a honeymoon in Los Cabos. Then Karen returned to work in contracting while Kenneth joined ECSO. 

Deployment odds and ends

The weather — in Kabul is little different than Fort Worth — 90s in the summer and some snow in the winter. The biggest difference was the badly polluted air. “And that’s especially true in the winter when it’s cold. Those people are so poor they’ll burn anything and everything, including tires and plastic,” Kenneth Carleton said. “There were some days in the winter when you walk out and it was like you were downwind from a burning trash dump.” Many suffer from “the Kabul Cough.” Those with existing respiratory issues should keep that in mind in their decision to volunteer — and bring a stash of high-quality throat lozenges.

Food: The exception and the norm — Kenneth Carleton said his best meal in Kabul was when an Afghan cook prepared flat bread eaten with a rice and beef stew. Food typically was repetitive. The “fresh” fruits and vegetables weren’t. Veggies were often overcooked. Karen Carleton doesn’t eat fried food — yet it was served often. She ate a lot of ice cream and yogurt instead. Kabul water shouldn’t be used even for brushing teeth: It had a lot of gunk in it. Chinese with Mexican food would be served together, and you could always expect taco soup the day after tacos were served. But despite food issues, none of the three lost or gained weight.

Clothing — Mohammad “Mo” Dadkhah wasn’t fully prepared for the apparel upgrade required of his new assignment as liaison supporting the State Department. “I brought some ties, but didn’t have shoes. So the first time my supervisor pressed me to wear dress clothes, a suit, I put on my suit and I put on my tennis shoes and went to work to make him laugh. I told him I couldn’t find any shoes.”

“And he said, ‘You know, Mo, we have a pair of shoes here that someone has given us as a gift. We’ll give it to you.’” These were not ordinary shoes, but sleek men’s shoes. They were long and narrow at the toe with a slight curl at the tip – fashionable throughout the Middle East.

Confined to base — For security reasons, Kenneth Carleton essentially left the central Kabul militarized zone only four times during this eight-month deployment. At Qaala House there was nothing to do but go to the dining facility and eat. The exception was Friday afternoon excursions to the bazaar at adjacent Camp Eggers to get a hair cut or buy carpets, dolls, scarves and trinkets from local vendors.

Tips if you go — Bring all of your prescription medications and personal items you need.

Have extra items (beyond that allowed at the start) shipped to you later. It takes three to six weeks to arrive in Kabul.

Consider bringing favorite foods along. Karen Carleton shipped herself canned tuna and chicken. “I had a feeling I’d get tired of their food.”

-- Jim Frisinger

Hometown heroes working toward recovery

Story and photo by Nate Herring
Tulsa District Public Affairs

When Cpl. Geza Horvath embarked on a routine convoy in Iraq on May 15, 2008, little did he know, that day would change his life forever.

Horvath, now a sergeant with 16 years in the Army, was deployed to Iraq with the 279th Infantry Regiment, part of the Oklahoma National Guard, when his convoy was hit with two improvised explosive devices, the second detonating a mere two meters behind his truck.

Luckily, there were no fatalities from the attack, but as a result of the IED explosion, Horvath was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury.

After returning from Iraq, he was placed in a Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Bliss, Texas. After undergoing surgery, he was reassigned to a Community Based Warrior Transition Unit at Camp Robertson, Ark., the closest unit to Horvath's hometown of Tulsa, Okla.

At a traditional WTU, soldiers remain away from their families while seeking medical treatment at the base they are assigned. A CBWTU allows injured guard and reserve soldiers to return to their families and continue medical treatment with non-military doctors in their area.

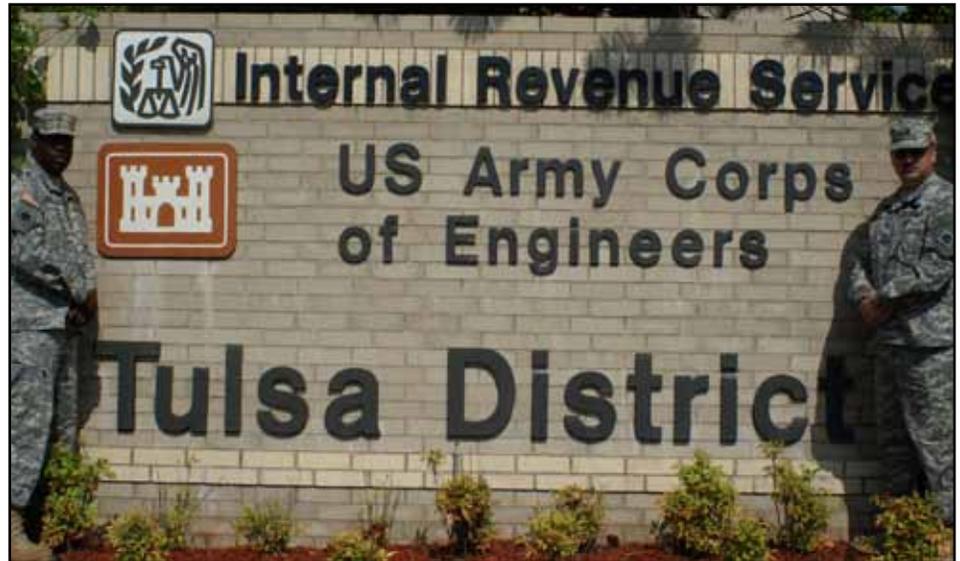
Soldiers in the CBWTU also have the option of continuing to work for their unit, or they can be placed with any federal agency for employment while undergoing treatment.

Horvath called his wife and asked her if she knew of any federal agencies in Tulsa. They were both aware of a federal building near Interstate 44 but didn't know what was in it, he said.

"Before I worked for the Corps, I didn't even know it existed," Horvath said. "After I was told about it, I called Lt. Col. Thompson, the deputy at the time, and I started with the Corps in February 2009."

Horvath works in Emergency Management at the Tulsa District office, where he helps with issuing Common Access Cards, serves as the family readiness coordinator, and helps coordinate the annual Corps Day.

Although he still has regular medical ap-



Cpl. Rayford McIntosh (left) and Sgt. Geza Horvath stand outside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District headquarters where they are assigned as part of the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit.

pointments for his injuries, he appreciates the support from the district.

"The Corps has been supportive. I don't think any other employer would put up with all the appointments I have," he said.

Horvath is not the only soldier in the CBWTU that the Tulsa District employs. He was instrumental in helping Cpl. Rayford McIntosh find out about the opportunity.

McIntosh, who also deployed with the 279th Infantry Regiment, met Horvath at a combat lifesaver training course.

Prior to the deployment, McIntosh injured his elbow and shoulder when he jumped from a vehicle during deployment training and his shirt sleeve became caught jerking his arm.

"When we were training up, I dislocated my elbow and tore the rotator cuff in my shoulder," he said. "I was told I couldn't go, but I told my commander, I was going."

Once he got to Iraq, he pushed himself hard, worsening his injuries, he said.

After returning in October 2008, he was assigned to the Fort Bliss WTU, where he underwent surgeries to repair his injuries.

During his medical treatment, doctors discovered other injuries, most likely caused by the normal strain that military members are subjected to such as wearing full gear during training and deployment, he said.

McIntosh previously served in the Air Force for six years, taking a break from military service for three years before joining the guard in

2006 — so he had years of strain on his body.

After he was assigned to the Arkansas CBWTU, he returned to his hometown, Tulsa. While attending a muster in Broken Arrow, he ran into Horvath who told him about the opportunities for wounded warriors at the Tulsa District.

McIntosh was already working at the National Guard armory in Sand Springs, but was excited for the change and new challenge.

"I'm really glad to be here," he said. "I fit in perfectly. The skills I have from being in the military blend right in, and I'm able to help out the Corps."

Like Horvath, McIntosh also works in Emergency Management where he handles the operation orders that come into the office.

Both of these Soldiers enjoy working at the Tulsa District.

"Being out here, I feel like I'm a part of the team," McIntosh said. "I'm so blessed that I really want to come to work. Being in this supportive environment is something other injured soldiers need. I have another extended family."

Horvath agrees.

"I can't even describe all the support. I noticed right away that the Corps is a family," he said. "I was taken in as one their own."

see **"Heroes"** page 37

Taking pride

SWL ranger awarded for taking volunteer program from good to great

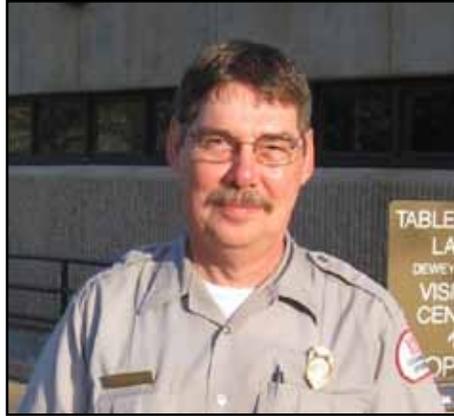
By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District Public Affairs

Little Rock District's Malcolm Fortson was honored with the Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager award for taking the Table Rock Volunteer Program from good to great during the past two years.

Fortson is a park ranger at Table Rock Lake near Branson, Mo. He manages the volunteer program and has enhanced the partnerships that increase the public's awareness about the importance of public lands and resources. Plus, he has been successful in recruiting volunteers to assist in addressing the ongoing operational and maintenance needs at Table Rock Lake.

"His efforts increased volunteer service hours significantly during 2009," Jeff Farquhar, chief park ranger at Table Rock Lake, said. "This resulted in \$300,000 in value added by volunteer services provided to the lake."

Fortson also fostered a partnership with local schools to provide "unique on-the-job training opportunities and hands-on experience to underprivileged youth, assisting the



Little Rock District Ranger Malcolm Fortson of Table Rock Lake, near Branson, Mo., received the Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager award for the work he does with the volunteer program at the lake.

staff at the project office," Farquhar said. "This opportunity not only benefitted us, it benefitted the students by providing them with valuable job skills and a better understanding of our missions in hydropower and recreation."

Fortson manages a partnership with the Master Gardner's of the Ozarks to maintain the visitor center grounds and flower beds, saving the government more than \$20,000 annually, Farquhar said.

The awards package noted that in 2008, Fortson recruited 98 volunteers, who logged

nearly 5,000 hours of service. In 2009 the number increased to 1,054 people logging 15,240 hours. That equates to a value of service worth \$97,510 in 2008 and \$308,610 in 2009, less \$3,555 in reimbursed incidental expenses over the past two years.

"Under his guidance, the program has proven to be successful not only by the dollar amounts saved, but by the number of returning volunteers," Farquhar said. "Because of Malcolm's dedication, the public image and favorable impression upon local communities, partners, stakeholders and recreating public will benefit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for many years to come. He consistently shows his value for the Corps of Engineers and he truly deserved this award."

Fortson said any ranger will agree his or her job is enjoyable, but he said he is more fortunate than most.

"I think if you interview any ranger here at Table Rock Lake, or any Corps lake for that matter," Fortson said, "you will find that each and every ranger enjoys being a ranger for the Corps. However, I am especially fortunate in that my ranger duties include working with the volunteers. The volunteers' cheerfulness and helpfulness make me feel very humbled as they graciously accept their duties without complaint. The USACE volunteers are true patriots, and I am proud of all they do." 

Clearwater update

Bencor employee, Jeff Prewitt, explains a computer image to U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson of Missouri June 2 as she toured the Clearwater Dam Major Rehabilitation Project. She was there to see the latest construction underway on a cutoff wall that will resolve chronic seepage that has threatened Clearwater Dam's stability. As of press time, about 30 panels had been excavated and back filled with concrete. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.



Photo by Laurie Driver

Texas teachers visit Colorado River Locks



Photo by Simon DeSoto, Colorado River Locks

Ships pass through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District Colorado River Locks. Teachers from Texas recently visited the Lower Colorado River Authority Matagorda Bay Nature Park for a workshop.

By Galveston District Public Affairs

More than a dozen school teachers from Texas recently visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Colorado River Locks as part of a workshop hosted by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife June 30, 2010. The teachers visited the Lower Colorado River Authority Matagorda Bay Nature Park for the TDPW's "Groundwater to the Gulf" workshop, which trains teachers in aquatic curriculum.

The visit included a briefing on the Colorado River Locks and the Inland Marine Transportation System by Simon DeSoto, lockmaster of the Colorado River Locks.

"We are extremely pleased to educate and inform the public about the importance and functions of our facilities," DeSoto said. "This involvement with the community serves as an important tool to educate the public about the importance of the waterways and its functions as well as their benefits to the environment and the nation."

Dallas Theriot of the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association also spoke

about benefits of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and gave insight into the life of an employee who works on the waterways of the U.S.

The workshop also featured a tour, where the educators learned interesting facts about the Colorado River Locks, as well as their history, purpose and opportunities for employment on the waterways. The group's interest was piqued by the discussion of the many employment opportunities on the waterways and DeSoto echoed their enthusiasm.

"This tour was an excellent opportunity to showcase the various employment opportunities with the Galveston District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to many young people who may not know about these types of positions," he said. "It's important for the district as well as the Corps to build a strong bench of hardworking individuals to carry this organization well into the future."

The teachers, most of them specializing in science, were provided a firsthand experience of lock operation and were given the opportunity to ask many questions during the three-hour tour and discussion, which left them wanting more opportunities to bring this information to their classrooms.

DeSoto believed this was a valuable experience for the group.

"Many teachers in the group discussed the need for more information to present to their students. They really appreciated the workshop and they asked if they could make a return trip and take more information back to their classrooms," he said. 

Historian visits to collect one ranger's story

By **Mary Beth Hudson**
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Spurred by an article in the December 2009 Army Engineer Magazine, Eric Reinert with the Office of History became interested in Don Dixon as a candidate for an official oral history.

The article was written by Dan Bentley upon Dixon's retirement. It looked back on a ranger career spanning more than 30 years.

Reinert said the Office of History didn't have much in its research collection about the ranger program and its history and that this looked to be an opportunity to begin to fill that gap. He said the Office of History wished to expand its visibility to areas such as the ranger community, visitor centers, etc., and that Dixon was a logical choice since he would have been working during the time that rangers were established with citation authority.

In May, Reinert traveled to Tenkiller Lake to spend a day with Dixon and conduct the interview. Dixon, a rehired annuitant, is working for Headquarters, stationed at the lake where he spent most of his park ranger career. Now he is a quality assurance inspector for work being done in the Tulsa District to upgrade camping facilities.

Dixon said, "I do believe Mr. Eric Reinert left with a favorable impression on who I am and how I enjoyed my job. Throughout my



Former U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park ranger Don Dixon, left, chats with Eric Reinert from the Office of History during an interview for an official oral history of the ranger program.

career I enjoyed getting up and coming to work; that's why it never seem like a job to me, and very few folks can say that!"

He continued, "As for being chosen for this interview, I am very honored and proud to have represented the Tulsa District and the men and women rangers that wear the gray and green uniform! I have always love working for this organization and was truly sad to see that

day come when I chose to retire, not because I had too, but it was time for me to move on and allow someone else the opportunity to make a positive impact and difference within their career and the organization. I only hope that when my interview is published in the "National Archives" that it will reflect how grateful I am to have serve the people of this state and great nation in which we live!" 

Tulsa District and Greater Texoma Utility Authority sign water reallocation contract

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District and the Greater Texoma Utility Authority signed a 50,000 acre feet water reallocation contract for Lake Texoma on June 4.

The contract was part of a larger reallocation signed earlier this year, in which 100,000 additional acre feet were authorized to the North Texas Municipal Water District bringing the total reallocated acre feet to 150,000.

"This is beneficial to both Oklahoma and the State of Texas and all the users that will reside in the area affected by this reallocation," said Col. Anthony Funkhouser, then Tulsa District

commander, who signed the contract along with Jerry Chapman, GTUA general manager.

The reallocation resulted from The Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Section 838, which authorized the assistant secretary of the army for civil works to reallocate storage to water supply in increments as needed, up to an additional 150,000 acre-feet each for Oklahoma and Texas. Though it was

See **"Texoma"** page 26



As fiscal year end approaches, Fort Worth on track for success

Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr.
Commander, Fort Worth District

As Fort Worth District and the entire Southwest Division Family welcome our new commander, Col. Thomas Kula, we are moving into the home stretch of fiscal year 2010 with full steam ahead.

It seems like only yesterday we began the year. The adage is ‘time flies when you’re having fun’. Well, time has definitely flown by at SWF and shows no sign of slowing down as we close-out one of the highest op-tempo project years in our 60-year history.

SWF is cited as one of the busiest districts in the entire Corps of Engineers, and as each of you can attest to – we are! With an astounding workload for fiscal year 2010 that to-date includes \$5,419 million in Army-specific projects; \$272 million in Air-Force projects; \$124 million in civil projects; \$35 million in environmental projects; and \$35 million in engineering construction and support projects, we have reached a peak that many organizations would find an impossible challenge to meet.

Yet SWF successfully meets every challenge that comes our way. You will often hear ‘if it’s hard to do, give it Fort Worth’. We are the go to district because of our reputation for success and the practice of including the entire SWD team to “git er-dun.” That success is possible because of the great people that make up our workforce – each and every one of you.

Throughout every quarter of this fiscal year our major military projects such as the Fort Bliss expansion; the San Antonio Joint Program/Tri-Service Medical Treatment, Training, and Research Facility Expansion, Fort Sam Houston; Fort Hood, Fort Polk and replacement of four of our major military hospitals in the state of Texas, have been on the forefront of the military construction we do and are all targeted for successful completion – because of the work you do.

We also continue to close out the fiscal year with a major push on several of our major civil works projects such as the Mission Reach project in San Antonio, Dallas Floodway and Central City Projects,

and in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to name a few.

All three of these projects when completed will provide the immediate and surrounding communities with flood risk reduction; ecosystem and environmental restoration and or preservation; recreation; and will have a significant and positive impact on their economy. These and our numerous other civil works projects will be successfully completed – because of the work you do.

As we move forward with those projects, we also in the month of June and first half of July provided support for major flood incidents in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. We continue clean-up and restoration efforts in the aftermath of those floods and simultaneously prepare to respond to what is forecast as an active hurricane season.

While we take pride in all the great things we are doing as a district, there is always room for improvement and one of the areas I need your help in is getting our water safety messages to resonate.

We have one of the most proactive, robust safety offices in the Corps, but even with great efforts internally and our outreach with the public we tragically saw in just the month of June, 11 water-related fatalities.

As members of the SWF Team, each of you is our greatest link to the public. Whether you’re out on the water with your family and friends or alone set the example – wear your life jacket, and also encourage others to put one on; and when you observe a potentially dangerous situation on the water, report it and seek help immediately – ***be a survivor, not a victim, and always put safety first!***

We’ve accomplished some amazing things as a district during the first half of this year, and we have much more to achieve in the last half of the year. Continue your great work, but do take some time out to enjoy the remaining days of summer, and always strive for a healthy work, home and life balance.

Thanks for all you do each and everyday to serve the Army and our Nation.

Building Strong! 

Susan P. Holley, Joint Program Management Office, Medical Education and Training Campus Area Engineer accepts the Project Deliver Team of the Year award from Col. Richard J. Muraski, commander, Fort Worth District June 18 during the San Antonio Area Office Engineer Day Picnic. The METC Project Delivery Team was formed to plan and execute the construction of an educational campus to consolidate training of Army, Navy, and Air Force enlisted medical personnel at Fort Sam Houston as required by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act. When completed in the fall of 2011, as scheduled, the METC will be the largest complex of its kind in the world with over 2.6 million square feet of facilities to train and educate approximately 24,000 students annually.



Rangers learn about self defense

Story and photos by Nate Herring
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Park rangers came to Tulsa District headquarters June 2-3 for training on the use of pepper spray, and Personal Protection Training to equip park them with skills needed to defend themselves if they are in danger.

"Rangers are regulation enforcers. We have no arrest authority and no other protection tools other than our verbal communications skills, our person, and pepper spray," said Traci Robb, Marion Lake park ranger and one of the course instructors.

During the training, students learned about the policies and procedures for use of pepper spray.



Assistant Texoma Lake manager, B.J. Parkey, escorts Eufaula Lake summer ranger, Bryan Palmore after he was sprayed with pepper spray during training held at Tulsa District headquarters June 2-3

After practicing with fake canisters, personnel had the opportunity to get sprayed with real pepper spray so they knew what it was like.

Though there has been no reported use of pepper spray in the Tulsa District, there are several dogs that were sprayed in the Southwestern Division. There are 45 reported incidents of use since 2004, throughout the Corps of Engineers; in 11 of the incidents, spray was discharged, but no persons were sprayed.

In addition to the pepper spray training, students were taught self defense techniques in case they are attacked.

Instructors demonstrated several techniques that can be used to get out of dangerous situations, such as being charged or grabbed by an attacker

Instructors stressed one message throughout the training, whether using self defense or pepper spray, get out and get away from the situation as quickly as possible and call law enforcement. 

"Texoma" continued from page 23

authorized, GTUA and NTMWD did not ask for the reallocation until a few years ago.

There was a need for the reallocation since the population in the area served by the GTUA and NTMWD was growing substantially.

"One in every four Texans now lives in the area between Texoma and Dallas-Fort Worth. They will certainly benefit from this reallocation," said Chapman.

Since there were no plans for additional reservoirs to be built and all the current reservoirs are being utilized to their maximum capacity, Texoma was a logical choice, he said.

Thirteen municipalities served by GTUA will benefit from the reallocation including Denison, Texas.

"It is a significant event for all the municipalities that are served by the authority," Chapman said. "This represents and secures long-term water supply for the public and water suppliers into the future."

After the reallocation was requested, the Corps of Engineers conducted a detailed study to determine feasibility and impacts. There were several challenges throughout the process, including the impact to hydropower production, but the challenges were able to be overcome.

"It's been a task, and we all knew it would take some time. Corps personnel were always diligent to move forward and thorough in their analysis," Chapman said. "They always kept us informed of any delays that were encountered. I'm very appreciative to all personnel that worked on this, and we owe a great detail of gratitude to them." 



Col. Anthony Funkhouser signs a contract reallocating 50,000 acre feet of water from Lake Texoma June 4.

iative to all personnel that worked on this, and we owe a great detail of gratitude to them." 

McLain wins Castle Award

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District announced that Kenneth McLain, a maintenance mechanic leader at the Russellville Project Office's Dardanelle Marine Terminal is USACE's Fiscal Year 2010 Operations and Maintenance Castle Award Support of Civil Works Infrastructures winner.

McLain leads a work unit that is responsible for heavy maintenance and repairs on six navigation locks and dams on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and routinely provides heavy repair and maintenance support to other Little Rock and Tulsa District civil works projects.

"Ken possesses exceptional technical knowledge, skills and expertise in the areas of crane operations and rigging, lock and dam repair procedures and safety," Aaron McGee, Navigation and Hydropower Programs manager at Russellville Project Office, said. "The rare combination of technical expertise, leadership, administrative skills and Army core values makes Ken a very effective leader and role model for his crew members on the ground."

In the award citation, it was noted that McLain was able to assume the role of his supervisor, who was absent due to an unexpected illness, during a fall 2009 lock dewatering. His



Kenneth McLain is USACE's winner for the Castle Award. He will travel to the Summer Leaders Conference in Seattle, Wash., Aug. 2 to receive the award.

actions kept the overall project on schedule and enabled the MKARNS to reopen as planned, "benefitting the economic health of the entire Oklahoma region."

"He stepped up to lead his team to successfully complete their assigned work on the dewatering project on schedule," McGee said. Dewaterings are essential to maintaining the viability of the lock facilities said McGee

McLain retired from the U.S. Coast Guard in 2000, the same year he began working for Little Rock District as a rigger on the crane barge of the Motor Vessel Shorty Baird. In 2003 he began working at the Dardanelle Marine Terminal as member of a "multi-crafted and talented" work unit performing a variety

of work associated with maintenance and repair of locks and dams and other civil works infrastructure.

In 2006 McLain earned a promotion to his current position of work leader at the Dardanelle Marine Terminal where "his presence as a leader has resulted in increased professionalism of the work unit and has taken the work unit from good to great – increasing the overall effectiveness of the district's infrastructure maintenance program," McGee said.

McLain has been "instrumental" in maintaining the reliability of the MKARNS and numerous flood control and hydropower projects in the district said McGee.

McLain has a "positive attitude, a no-nonsense approach and dedication that brings tremendous credit to all involved," said McGee.

McLain was quick to give credit to the people he works with on a daily basis.

"It is a humbling experience to be recognized at such a level," McLain said. "However, I must say this award does not solely represent my performance alone. I am very fortunate to be associated with highly motivated, professional individuals within our Corps structure who work beside me on a daily basis. Without this high performance attitude, we would not be able to accomplish the many fine works we perform every day for our customers."

McLain went on to recognize the efforts of the "many men and women in our organization who strive to perform at their highest level each and every day."

"I am proud to be a member of the Corps of Engineers team," said McLain. 



Safe boating

Jon Hiser, (holding rope) Mountain Home Project Office park manager and district motorboat license examiner, conducts training on procedures for towing another vessel during the June motorboat license training course at Lake Dardanelle. Operators (Corps personnel) must complete the 24-hour training course and be licensed before they can operate a USACE motor vessel less than 26 feet in length. The course also covers cold water survival and proper use of all boating equipment.

Student explains district mission to visitors

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District Public Affairs

She looks younger than her age, but this college student wears the park ranger uniform to work each day and explains the history of the ageless Arkansas River to hundreds of visitors who come to Dardanelle Lake, Ark., each summer.

Lydia White was hired under the Student Temporary Employment Program and works in the Russellville Project Office's Interpretive Services and Outreach Program as an interpreter relaying information, as it relates to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission.

"My favorite part about being an interpreter is conducting tours and explaining the history of the Arkansas River," White said. "It's really very interesting. I also enjoy working with the children. The Junior Ranger program is very fun and informative for the young children."

White, a Gretna, La., native moved to the Dardanelle area with her family when she was three years old. She is working her fifth summer at the Russellville Project Office as an interpretive ranger and works as a receptionist during the spring and fall. She finishes up her degree in Parks and Recreation at Arkansas Tech University in September and "walks" during a graduation ceremony in December.

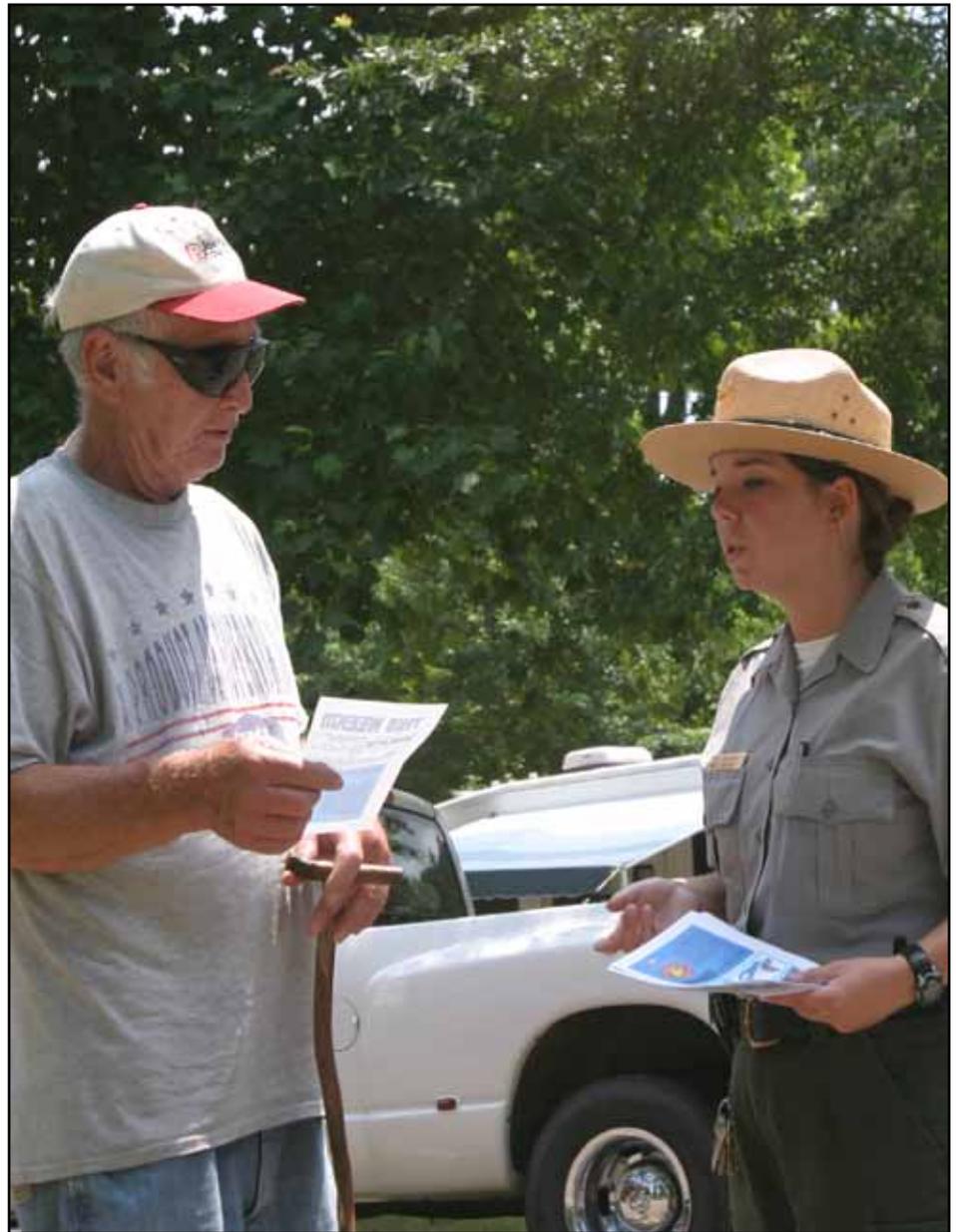
"I'll finish my internship here in September," White stated. "I hope to make this a career. I really enjoy educating the public about what we do here."

She already knows what she'd like to do, if she is able to make this a permanent career choice.

"In the future, I'd like to work more with the local media, like the radio stations and newspapers," White explained. "I'd like to get them to help us educate the public about our mission here and the importance of water safety and other programs we have. I'd also like to see the visitors' center renovated so we can add modern kiosks and other informational items for our visitors."

Her workgroup leader said White was a very important part of the ISOP each summer.

"Lydia has been an integral part of our daily face-to-face visitor contacts for the past five



Interpretive Ranger Lydia White of the Russellville Project Office hands a flyer to a park visitor explaining the upcoming tours being offered at the Dardanelle Lock and Dam.

seasons," Senior ISOP Ranger Allison Smedley said. "We've been lucky to have her."

The STEP is designed to help current students complete their education in conjunction with providing on-the-job experience. The students must meet and maintain a predetermined academic requirement to apply and while in the program. They can only be appointed for a period of one year and must re-apply if they desire continued employment.

The ISOP is viewed as an essential component of recreation and environmental steward-

ship in the Corps of Engineers.

The main objective of the program is to communicate recreation, navigation, environmental stewardship and hydropower among stakeholders, customers, communities and government officials through education relative to the mission and impact to the quality of life. It also strives to enhance visitors' experiences by explaining the mission of the USACE, the purpose of the lake and the resources available, among other things. 

Ranger nets runner-up position at All-American Championship

By P.J. Spaul
Little Rock District Public Affairs

Little Rock District Park Ranger Jeremy Rasnick finished in the money during the Bass Fishing League All-American Championship bass tournament May 27 through 29 at DeGray Lake near Hot Springs, Ark.

He took second place in the co-angler category. Co-anglers ride as passengers with the generally higher-ranking boaters. The 27-year-old finished with a three-day total of 12 bass weighing 18 pounds, 7 ounces. The catch netted him \$15,000 in prize money plus a \$2,000 ranger bonus.

"We were fishing really deep water," Rasnick said on the third and final day of the tournament. "I was fortunate enough to fish with local favorite Chris Darby. We ended up practicing together (on the official practice day), and I knew we were going to get along."

He said he caught his bass on a Carolina rig with a Brush Hog in watermelon color, mostly at depths of 25 to 35 feet. They fished an offshore structure in the mid-lake area.

Rasnick, of Point Lookout, Mo., works under the Student Career Experience Program as a park ranger at Little Rock District's Table Rock Lake near Branson.

This wasn't his first successful tournament,

Photo right, Jeremy Rasnick holding his winning fish. Rasnick is a Little Rock District Park Ranger. Rasnick took second place in the co-angler category of the Bass Fishing League All-American championship bass tournament May 27 at DeGray Lake near Hot Springs, Ark. He won \$15,000 in prize money plus a \$2,000 ranger bonus.

Photo by Patrick Baker,
FLW Outdoors



and it will not likely be his last, although he does have to balance tournament fishing with his job at the Corps.

"I started the BFL tournament circuit and qualified for the regional event where I won a new Ranger (boat) prior to being a park ranger," he explained. "The regional event then qualified me for the All-American where I just won \$17,000." Both tournaments were on DeGray Lake.

"As a recreation ranger at Table Rock, it is very hard to take weekends off during the summers, so I will more than likely pick my battles and fish only the ones that work with my schedule, specifically spring and fall," Rasnick said. "It has been a good run, and I am truly blessed with what I have won in the past

12 months, but my job and obligations at Table Rock come before these tournaments."

Though he is serious about his career as a park ranger and about tournament fishing, he has a humorous side, too.

"As far as the prize money," Rasnick said, "I would have been better off not winning; now my wife has insisted that I buy her an SUV."

The Bass Fishing League is affiliated with FLW Outdoors®. Forrest L. Wood is the namesake behind FLW Outdoors® and its fishing tournaments.

Born in 1932 in Flippin, Ark., Wood has had lifelong passions for angling, boat building, boat safety and wildlife conservation. Wood founded the Ranger® Boat Company in 1968. 

Bobber, fourth graders take a bite into water safety

The Fort Worth District Safety Office teamed up with the city of Fort Worth Water Department at the annual "Waterama" event, May 18 and 19 at the Will Rogers Coliseum. More than 2,000 fourth gradees from the Fort Worth Independent School District attended. "This is the sixth year the Corps has been involved with Waterama and we're glad they can educate our children about being safe in the water, especially during these summer months," said Hilda Zuniga, public education specialist for the city of Fort Worth. The Safety Office along with park rangers from the Trinity Regional Office distributed water safety materials, gave demonstrations on how to properly wear a life jacket, and showed a Bobber the Water Safety Dog cartoon to educate the students on the importance of water safety.

A safety intern and Bobber the Safety Dog demonstrate the importance of wearing a life jacket to fourth grade students May 19 at Will Rogers Coliseum.



Clearwater trail receives national designation

Little Rock District Public Affairs

Little Rock District's Black River Hike and Bike Trail at Clearwater Lake in southeast Missouri was one of six U.S. Army Corps of Engineers trails designated May 25 as National Recreation Trails by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

These trails will join the national network of more than 1,080 recreation trails across the country that encompass more than 12,500 miles of existing trails and trail systems.

The national recreation trail designation recognizes those trails that link communities to recreational opportunities on public lands and in local parks across the nation. The first national trails were established in the early 1970s.

Each of the new trails will receive a certificate of designation, a letter of congratulations from the Secretary of the Interior and national recreation trail markers. Corps officials credit local public and private organizations and the thousands of volunteers annually in helping make these trails and trail systems available for public use.

The Black River Hike and Bike Trail is a 3.25-mile gentle paved and gravel trail that winds through bottomland hardwoods and pines along the Black River below Clearwater Dam. The trail offers a diversity of scenery. The 10-foot wide trail is perfect for biking, jogging or taking a leisurely stroll. Five entry points provide multiple options from a short one-mile walk to a full 3.25-mile bike ride.

The other five Corps trails that received the national designation were Kaskaskia River Confluence Trail at Kaskaskia Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River in Illinois, Des Moines River Water Trail at Saylorville Lake in Iowa, Spyglass Hill Trail at Enid Lake in Mississippi, Knob Hills Trail at Grapevine Lake in Texas, and Lacy Point Nature Trail at Waco Lake in Texas. 



A family of bicyclers starts up the Black River Hike and Bike Trail at Clearwater Lake, Mo. The trail received national designation in May.



Saving lives

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District awarded the Chambers family, Michelle, David (back row, right), Grayson (holding the plaque) and Grant with a safety award during a ceremony held June 3 at the Merrisach Lake boat ramp. The family was recognized for their quick response in rescuing Robert Henderson (with cap) and his two children (not shown, ages 3 and 9) after their boat struck a stump and overturned April 11 on Merrisach Lake. All three had their life jackets on. Kevin McDaniels (back row, left), Little Rock District deputy chief of Operations Division, presented the award to the Chambers family.

Photo by Jay Woods

Fort Worth District and family enjoy a beautiful Texas day



Clockwise: Thomas B. Hayes, 13, emerges from the 100-foot slide during the Fort Worth District's annual Engineer Day Awards and Picnic June 16 at Mainstay Farms in Cleburne, Texas.

Fort Worth District family members make another left turn during the Mainstay Farms "pedal till you can't pedal no more" derby.

Wayne Lea demonstrates winning form during a horseshoe tossing match.

Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District presents Kevin DaVee from the Engineering and Construction Support Office his award for being selected as the district's Program Manager of the Year for 2009.



(Above left) Melissa Collins and son Christian, 7 call out Bingo numbers, while Robert Hill, (above right) tries to find the winning numbers on his Bingo card.



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District, presents Mary Verwers from the Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division her award for being selected as the District's 2009 Outstanding Regulator of the Year.



After a hearty barbecue lunch enjoyed by the Fort Worth District's young and not so young, the Mainstay Farms' animals got to enjoy a little grub too.



Janice Alexander (center), the Fort Worth District Administrative Professional of the Year for 2009 and her family enjoy the Engineer Day festivities.



Now that our two volleyballers are frozen in time, lets talk about water safety.

Galveston District celebrates Engineer Day, honors outstanding employees

By Isidro Reyna
Galveston District Public Affairs

Employees from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, celebrated Engineer Day 2010 with an awards ceremony June 10 at the district headquarters building, followed by a beach-themed picnic June 11 at Moody Gardens' Palm Beach.

The Army Corps of Engineers originated on June 16, 1775, when Gen. George Washington appointed the first chief of engineers of the Continental Army. In that event lies the origins of Engineer Day, observed across the Corps around the June 16 timeframe.

"We have been through so much as a district – from project partnership agreement signings to Hurricane Ike, to flood control and coastal emergencies projects and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects," said Colonel David C. Weston, former Galveston District commander. "Each year we honor outstanding contributions that allow us to accomplish our mission and to exceed expectations time after time. Those who are honored today are the best of the best, and I am proud of each of them."

Highlighting this year's award ceremony was the announcement of the district Supervisor of the Year, Beverly Martin, chief, Resource Management; district Employee of the Year, Jayson Hudson, regulatory project manager in the policy analysis section of the Regulatory Branch and district Engineer of the Year, Scott Leimer, geotechnical engineer in the geotechnical and structures section.

Martin has worked for the federal government for 34 years, 4 1/2 with the Galveston District.

She has undertaken many tasks that were above and beyond her current scope of work and is considered an advocate for the district. Her exceptional skill in organizing, recruiting and assigning workloads has been an asset to the Resource Management Office. Her work ethic and her commitment to excellence and to the Corps are reasons she was nominated for this award.

Hudson has worked in the Policy Analysis section for five years. He has also worked in the branch's Evaluation Section for one year and five years in the Compliance and Enforcement Section.

Hudson updated standard operating procedures and numerous regional general permits. His research and work on new energy projects reduced environmental impacts and advanced clean energy options that benefited the environment. Additionally, he also represented the district positively in his work with different agencies on a number of projects.

Leimer was nominated for his technical expertise and professional dedication which was essential to the district rebuilding post Hurricane Ike while maintaining normal duties and helping to execute the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program.

Leimer was a critical team member of the dam safety team and courageously executed the implementation of Interim Risk Reduction



Col. David C. Weston (left), former Galveston District commander, presents Beverly Martin (center), with a plaque commemorating her selection as Galveston District Supervisor of the Year. Also nominated for this honor were Don Carelock (right), Area Engineer, Northern Area Office, and Kevin Morgan (not pictured), chief, permit evaluation section.

Measures for Addicks and Barker dams. He also assumed the lead for the levee safety screening program.

Also nominated for the Supervisor of the Year Award were Don Carelock, Northern Area office engineer and Kevin Morgan, chief, Permit Evaluation Section in the Regulatory Branch.

Nominated for the Employee of the Year was Rachel Jolly, office automation assistant for the Wallisville Project Office, Alton H. Meyer III, project engineer in the Houston Resident Office, Alex Petty, assistant district counsel and Charles Scheffler, water control manager in the Hydraulics and Hydrology Reservoir Control Branch. Nominated for the Engineer of the Year Award was Justo Z. Peña, a civil engineer in the Hydraulics and Hydrology Reservoir Control Branch.

The Galveston District Regulator of the Year Award was awarded to Hudson. He was also named the Southwestern Division Regulator of the Year.

One retiree was selected for inclusion in the district's Gallery of Distinguished Civilians. Herbert A. Maurer, a former deputy district engineer for programs and project management, a position he held until his retirement in 2005 after 40 years of federal service, was selected for his contributions in the continued development of the Sabine-Neches Waterway, the Houston Ship Channel, the Freeport Harbor, the Brazos Island Harbor, the Texas City Channel, the Galveston Channel, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, the Texas City, Freeport and Port Arthur Hurricane Flood Protection systems, the Clear Creek/Brays Bayou Channel to Victoria and the Houston-Galveston navigation channels. He served 16 district engineers.

Receiving service awards for civilian service were Orlando Rosas,

continued on next page

chief, Real Estate Division, for 40 years of service to the Galveston District.

Other awards included certificates of appreciation presented to the Training, Rehabilitation, Development Institute for their contributions to the maintenance of the Jadwin Building:

Fayette Dorsey
Jose Saravia
Miguel Martinez
Hector Smith
Bobby Garcia

Commander's coins to outgoing recreation committee:

Dwayne Johnson
Nick Laskowski
Lisa Lathem
Isidro Reyna
Kim Roberts
Bernice Taylor
Kara Vick

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service:

Clark Colquitt
Brent Granier
Wanda Hollman
Jennifer Hymel
Debra Jones
Patricia Kershaw

Valerie Miller
Shakhar Misir
Gary Owens
Curtis Walker

Commander's Award for Civilian Service:

Richard Bowles
Karl Brown
Ryan Brown
Scott Leimer
Michelle Matte
Steve Peterson
Jon Plymale
Alicia Rea
Enrique Villagomez
Betty Voelkel
Paula Wise
Sarah Xie-DeSoto

35 years

Lile Henkel
Franklin Jordan
Patricia McDonald
Luis Saenz

Charles Scheffler
Rickey Tryal
Elois Washington

30 years of service

Casey Cutler



At left, Scott Leimer receives a plaque from Col. David C. Weston, former Galveston District commander, after being announced as the Galveston District Engineer of the Year during the 2010 Engineer Day festivities at the district's headquarters building June 10.



At left, Jayson Hudson is congratulated by Col. David C. Weston, former Galveston District commander, after being named the district's Employee of the Year. Hudson was also named the district's Regulator of the Year and Southwestern Division Regulator of the Year.

Michael Flynn
Selma Hampshire
Michael Harris
Michael Hinton
Max Malo
Sharon Tirpak
David Torrez
William Wise

25 years of service

Ronald Atkins
Thomas Blakely
Janet Botello
Rose Caballero
Tencha Deckard
Carl Giles
Charles Holder
Bill Jakeway
William Krampe
Mark Peterson
Abraham Reyes
Rick Villagomez
Paula Wise

20 years of service

Fredalyn Colston
Karyn DelRio
Brian Harper
Nelida Hidalgo

Sandra Morrison-O'Donohoe
James Oden
Norman Rondeau
Nelson Taylor
G. Dale Williams

15 years of service

Stacy Baker
Carlton Brown
Wanda Hollman
Michelle Matte
Valerie Miller
Traci Robicheaux

10 years of service

Bradley Croft
Thomas Dyckman
Ana Gordon
Pablo Hernandez

5 years of service

Martie Cencki
Andria Davis
Ryan Johnson
Robert K. Kelly
Samantha Lambert
James Nicholson
Doyle Thorn
Mark Trygstad
Sarah Xie-DeSoto



Engineer Day celebrated at Little Rock District



Col. Ed Jackson presented Engineer Day awards to SWL employees as a last official function before he handed the district over to Col. Glen Masset.



Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees:
Mack Osborn
Hydrology and Hydraulics Engineering



Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees:
Phil Risher
Deputy Chief of Operations Division



USACE Operations and Maintenance Castle Award:
Kenneth McLain
Russellville Project Office



USACE Hard Hat of the Year:
Tom Long
Clearwater Lake Construction Field Office



SWD/SWL Stewardship Employee of the Year:
Lee Kirkpatrick
Russellville Project Office



Program Manager of the Year:
Dudley Smith
Programs and Project Management Office



Project Manager of the Year:
Karyn Adams
Programs and Project Management Office



SWL 2010 Civilian of the Year:
Aaron McGee
Russellville Project Office



SWL Regulator of the Year:
Chris Davies
Regulatory Division



SWL Engineer of the Year:
Chris Reicks
Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch



SWL Emergency Responder of the Year: Charlie Tobin
Emergency Management Office



Federal Executive Association Team of the Year nomination: Sarah Chitwood, Chris Davies, Jason Gramlich, Michael Hatcher, Jeremy Thomason, Lisa Richardson, Mickey Matthews and Cynthia Blansett- not shown is Rodney Kelley



Outstanding Planning Achievement Team of the Year: Laura Cameron, Jan Jones, George Losak, William Penn, Dushan Mrdja and Bobby Van Cleave - not shown are Jon Hiser and Carroll Osburn

Award winners not shown are:

Federal Executive Association Employee of the Year: Titus Hardiman of Operations Division.
USACE Project of the Year: Clearwater Lake Project Office. Secretary of Defense Service Medal: Brent Watkins, Tuan Dang, Steve Shaw, Jennifer Hoban, Ryanthom Tan, and Jim Marple. Certificate of Appreciation and Field Force Engineering coin: FEST-A members Steve Shaw, Jim Marple, Tuan Dang, Danny Gaston, Keith Loos and Jane Smith.
SWL Project Development Team of the Year: Mike Biggs, Michael Edwards, Craig Evans, Jim Fisher,

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Mark Harris, DeAnn Lehigh, George Losak, Joe Maresh, William Penn, Glenn Proffitt, Glen Raible, Steven Barg, Dana Coburn, Jim Ellis, Tracy Fancher, Cheryl Gibbs, Jon Hiser, Brack Perser, Mike Rodgers, Larry Winters and Chris Reicks. Achievement Medals for Civilian Service: Blake Allred, Steven Barg, Romy Buen, Cathy Funkhouser, Rose Garrett, Gordon Hamblin, Mark Harris, Exa Hartman, Gary Ivy, Terri Linnell, Joe Maresh, Richard Riggs, Leslie Robinson, Jonathan Sawrie, Kevin Sharp, Christie Terry, Bobby Van Cleave, Jeremy Wells and Royce West. Commander's Award for Civilian Service: Spencer Cox, Jim Ellis, Thomas Gunther, Tarik Holmes, Nathaniel Keen, George Losak, Aaron McGee, Darrell Montgomery, Jason Presley and Bruce Watson. SWL Strategic Communicator of the Year: Chris Smith of Operations Division. SWL Planning Excellence Award: Cheryl Gibbs of Planning and Environmental Office. NRM Environmental Compliance Employee of the Year: Mark Case of Mountain Home Project Office. Superior Civilian Service Award: Mike Bagley of the Russellville Project Office.

Picnic fun



Photos by Robert Carr

Little Rock District employees and their families enjoy food, games and fun at the annual Engineer Day picnic June 9 at Sherwood Forest. The event had catfish and chicken with all the sides, a dunking booth for soaking the bosses, basketball and horseshoe games, a bouncy blowup, face painting, piñata for the children and much more. The awards ceremony and Col. Jackson's going away celebration preceded the picnic.





Photo by Cheri Dragos-Pritchard

Making progress

Freddie Wright, Dardanelle Construction Office; Mark Brightwell, Little Rock District construction representative and Mark Brinkley, contractor superintendent for Pangea Corporation, check the construction progress on one of eight warehouses being constructed to store critical spare parts for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. This new building is one of two constructed at the Russellville Project Office, and the remaining six are at the Pine Bluff Project Office. The warehouses will reduce maintenance costs on the navigation system by providing proper storage for the needed parts and equipment. Once construction on this building was complete at Russellville, the contractors moved to Pine Bluff and began construction on the remaining buildings. The final completion date for the eight buildings is Dec. 31. The contractor is Pangea Corporation of St. Louis, Mo., and the project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"Heroes" continued from page 20

The Soldiers are not the only ones who benefit from the program; the district and its employees also profit from the program.

"As citizens, we are indebted to those who sacrifice on our behalf. Given our diverse mission set in USACE, we have the privilege of repaying some of these men and women by providing meaningful and challenging opportunities during the period of their convalescence," said Lt. Col. Gene Snyman, Tulsa District deputy commander.

"Additionally, we benefit by participating in the national defense in a more particular way by interacting with and serving along side these true heroes," he said. "Many DA civilians have had the chance to serve overseas; for those who haven't, this a unique way of thanking all who are or who have been down range. The fact that they actually help us shoulder the responsibilities of our own "fight" here at home is just gravy." 



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SWD Ops admins 'shine like stars' at conference



Photo by Mike Beck

Southwestern Division, Operations Division administrative professionals attended their annual conference June 15 through June 17 at the Hilton Branson Convention Center in Branson, Mo..

By Angela Vaughan
Fort Worth District Operations Division

Every two years since 1995, the Fort Worth District Operations Division has facilitated an Administrative Personnel Conference, an event that has been highly successful in creating unity and harmony amongst the administrative staff.

In 2008, the district decided to make it a regional conference and were joined by the Southwestern Division, Tulsa, Little Rock, and Galveston Districts.

This year's conference was located at the Hilton Branson Convention Center in Branson, Mo., conveniently located on the popular tourist

attraction, Branson Landing.

Conference attendees receive essential training and returned to their organizations with new skills and knowledge.

Presentations included Travel Regulations, Visa Purchase Card Program, Contracting ATS System, Budget Tracking and Reports, Leadership Development, Administrative Training Manual, Workman's Compensation, Human Resource Automation, CPAC Issues, Corps Volunteer Program, Corps Watch Program, Water Safety and Drug Awareness.

The Operations Division administrative professionals play a significant role in their field offices. They are sometimes called upon to read gauges and report to Reservoir Control; they have to know all there is to know about Corps programs associated with our everyday business; and they do it all with a smile and ensure that others are trained properly and that the office functions smoothly.

The support they provide is important to the overall mission, and this conference ensures their role as a valuable asset to our organization.



Galveston District employee dedicates 50 years to government service

by Courtney Brodbeck
Galveston District Public Affairs

For more than 50 years, Fern Kirkley, a civil engineer technician with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, has worked for the federal government.

However, the road to success has proved to be challenging; she had to triumph over trials and tribulations to be where she is today, contributing hard work, persistence and aspirations of a better life to her achievements.

Born and raised on Galveston Island, Kirkley was brought into the world two years before Black Tuesday, also known as the day the stock market crashed, which led to the 10 year economic slump that affected all of the western industrialized countries.

When the Great Depression swept across the nation, Kirkley and her family learned how to live with minimal resources.

“My family had a meager livelihood which taught us to care for our possessions, family and friends,” said Kirkley. “Times were hard but everyone was in the same boat, so we didn’t know we were poor.”

To make ends meet at home, she quit school at age 14 and entered the workplace.

In 1956, she joined the Galveston District as a bookkeeping machine operator for the Cost Section.

“I needed money, and they needed a bookkeeper,” said Kirkley..

Two years later, she left the district for the Selective Service System, Local 49, as a clerk from 1961 to 1966.

She returned to the district in 1967 as a clerk in the Drafting Section for the Engineering Division. After 21 years, Kirkley was working her way up, but the advice from a co-worker motivated her to aim even higher.



Fern Kirkley poses for a photo with former Galveston District printer Al Harbich.

“I was told by the Women’s Program Coordinator, that if I did not get my General Education Degree, I would not have any chance for advancement,” said Kirkley.

In 1978, she took an Army correspondence course for high school equivalency and earned her GED, and went on to earn her associates degree.

During this time, women in the workplace were faced with strict, professional guidelines working in a predominately male environment.

“There was no sick leave for family. If the children got sick, you had to take leave, just long enough to find care for them because you were expected to be at your desk,” said Kirkley. “We also had white glove inspections once a month, usually at an unexpected time. Everything had to be clean, filed correctly, neat, and dust-free.”

Although the stipulations were strenuous, Kirkley continued to excel at the district.

In the early 1980s, she was reassigned from the Drafting Section to the General Engineering Section as a secretary writing specifications. Kirkley stayed in this position until late 1988 and then transferred to the Contracting Division for four months, in hopes for a chance to advance. She continued to write specifications at night and on weekends for the General Engineering Section.

In 1998, advancement came and Kirkley was promoted by the chief of the Engineering Division and took on the official title of civil engineer technician. In 2002 she was promoted to a GS-12 lead specification writer.

Along the way, Kirkley raised five daughters, and received a bachelor’s degree in 1990 in business management without any financial assistance. Today, she has 12 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great- grandchild.

“I encourage women today to pay attention to details,” Kirkley said. “Education is very important and one thing women should understand at an early age is that looks do not last forever, but brains do.”

When asked about retiring, the 83-year-old responded, “I’ll let God decide that.” 



Fern Kirkley receives a commendation from former Galveston District deputy district commander Lt. Col. Walter Cattrell.

Pacesetter Points

ARRIVALS

Brent Harkins joined the Galveston District on May 10 as program analyst in the Programs and Project Management Division, Programs Management Branch. Before joining the district, the San Marcos, Texas, native worked in the oil and gas industry as a pipeline integrity data Geographic Information Systems analyst.

Luis Lopez joined the Galveston District on July 12 as safety specialist in the Safety Office.

Gerson Reyes arrived at the Galveston District on May 24 as a civil engineering technician in Hydrographic and Topographic Surveying, Engineering and Construction Division. Before joining the district, the Brownsville, Texas, native was a platoon sergeant in Iraq.

Dale Walters joined the Galveston District on June 1 as the resident engineer at the Galveston Resident Office. Prior to joining the district, the La Marque, Texas, native managed a Corps of Engineers Area Office that was responsible for oversight and administration of military construction projects in Louisiana and east Texas.

RETIREMENT

Rhonda James, chief, Public Affairs, SWD headquarters, retired July 2 with more than 35 years of service; 27 years with the division.



Rhonda James, Chief, Public Affairs, SWD headquarters retired July 2.

Lucy Spaulding, Tulsa District, retired June 1 after 37 years of civil service.

Susan Couch, Big Hill/Elk City/Fall River/Toronto lake manager, retired July 3 with more than 36 years of service for the federal government.

Little Rock District's **James McElroy** of the Pine Bluff Project Office retired May 31 after 30 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Royce Colley** of Engineering and Construction Branch retired after 36 years of civil service.

Little Rock District's **David Bewley** of the Russellville Project Office retired June 3 after 40 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Richard Huffmaster** of Real Estate Division retired June 30 after 22 years of civil service.

Little Rock District's **Thomas DeSalvo** of the Russellville Project Office retired June 30 after 40 years of civil service.

Carl Anderson, chief of professional services for the Galveston District, is scheduled to retire on July 31 after 33 years of service with the Galveston District.

Bruce Bennett, lead physical scientist in the Regulatory Branch, is scheduled to retire on July 29 after 39 years of service with the Galveston District.

Terry Roberts retired from the Galveston District on July 2. Roberts was a wildlife biologist in the Environmental Branch. He completed 24 years of service with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Pat Salinas retired from the Galveston District on July 2. Salinas was a transportation specialist and served the district for 30 years.

DEPLOYMENT

Staci Claunch, administrative support assistant in the Galveston District's Planning and Environmental Division, deployed to Afghanistan July 3.

CONGRATULATIONS

Martie Cencki, chief of public affairs for the Galveston District, departed July 9 to assume the chief of public affairs position for the Southwestern Division.

Jesse Deshotels, Colorado River Locks maintenance mechanic, welcomed his first child into the world on June 21. Olivia Louise Deshotels weighed 7 pounds, 8.5 ounces

Elliott Carman, Appeals Program review officer, joined the Operations Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, June 1. Carman comes to the division from a previous assignment with Little Rock District.

Tyrone Arnold, accounting technician, joined the Business Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, June 6. Arnold comes to the division from a previous assignment with the USACE Finance Center.

Little Rock's Operations Division welcomed **Kay Remilliard** as part of the team. She was selected for the administrative officer position and started June 7. She comes over from the Medical Branch.

Little Rock's **Clearwater Project Office** was selected as USACE's Natural Resource Management Project of the Year.

Little Rock's Resource Management Office selected **Jeff Wilbanks** as the new budget and manpower officer. He brings to the position a broad USACE and RM background along with a diverse wealth of experience.

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Little Rock's Office of Counsel is pleased to welcome **Tacy Jensen**. She joins the staff as the paralegal. She has an impressive resume, including 13 years experience as a paralegal with Little Rock law firms, most recently Chisenhall, Nestrud and Julian, P.A.

Congratulations to **Blake McCord, Randy Hathaway, Caleb Hathaway** and **Don Balch** for winning Little Rock's annual golf tournament. They scored a nine under par to win the four-person scramble event.

FAMILY MATTERS

Niki Morrissette, daughter to **Velma Jones** of Little Rock's Contracting Office, graduated magna cum laude from the



Niki Morrissette recently graduated magna cum laude from the Conservatory at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va.

Conservatory at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Va., May 9 with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts (acting). Niki was also honored and presented with the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award by University President Tracey Fitzsimmons. She was selected among her gradmating peers by the faculty, staff and Board of Trustees based on the

criteria of being a noble character, whose fine spiritual qualities are practically applied to daily living."The award is given to those who go outside the narrow circle of self-interest" and invest themselves in the well-being of others – individuals who are constant reminders to us of those high qualities which enoble and beautify living." Morrissette will continue her studies of the arts at Berkeley College of Music in Boston, Mass., where her concentration will be in vocal training and music writing and production. She plans to seek acting opportunities in New York City while continuing her education.

Condolences

Olivia Miller, daughter of **Jeffrey Miller**, electrical engineer, Tulsa District, passed away June 4.

Andrew Paul Kneib, 23, son of Tulsa District retiree **Walt Kneib**, passed from this life on May 27, 2010, at his home in Owasso. The cause of death was related to brain cancer that Andrew had been fighting off and on for the last 14 1/2 years.

Pam McCarn's (Tulsa District) mother, Majorie Greenlee, age 84, passed away June 4, 2010.

Winifred E. Embree, mother of **Paris Embree**, Programs Director, SWD headquarters, passed away June 17 in Arkansas. Services were held at the Arkansas State Veterans' Cemetery, June 24.

Jane Cowan, retiree, Tulsa District, passed away July 4. Services were held Saturday, July 10.

Condolences to **Earnestine Brown-Roach**, civil engineer for the Galveston District, whose mother Mrs. Scottie Lee Brown passed away on June 20.

Condolences to **Carlos Tate** of the Galveston District, whose wife Michelle Tate passed away on July 10.

Little Rock District member **Jimmy Wimberly's** father, Earl Wimberly, passed away July 9.

Retired Little Rock member, **Jerry Sartin**, a marine terminal superintendent at the Pine Bluff Project Office, passed away July 7.

Retired Little Rock member, **Margaret Rohan**, Hydraulics Division, passed away May 23.

Larry Jackson, father figure to Little Rock's **Carol Jackson** of Engineering and Construction Division, passed away May 25.

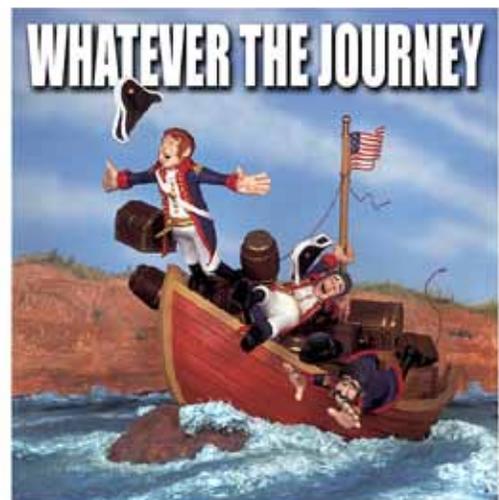
George Steely, stepfather to **Ronda Ringler** of Little Rock's Logistics Office, passed away May 25.

Frank McGiboney, father-in-law to Little Rock's **Paul Weeks** of the Russellville Project Office, passed away June 26.

Retired Little Rock member, **Foster McConnell** of Engineering and Construction Division, passed away May 12.

Lorraine Benjamin, mother to Little Rock's **Bill Benjamin** of Real Estate, passed away July 10.

Retired Little Rock member, **Ruth Kersey** of the Library Section, passed away May 29. 



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