



The Sand Castle

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Galveston District

"A newsletter by and for the employees of the Galveston District"

Volume 18 Number 1 January 2001

*Slurry Wall Construction
at BRIO site*

On the Cover: Slurry wall construction at the BRIO site. Special thanks goes out to following for all their hard work: Jack Otis, Kristy Morten, Carl Mertz, & Tulsa District's Rick Smith, and our contractor, Weston.

On the Right: Dolan Dunn (PE-R) with new retiree, Marcel Duronslet and the infamous shrimp plaque. More pictures on page 8.



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A newsletter by and for the employees of the Galveston District

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C O M M A N D E R ' S C O L U M N

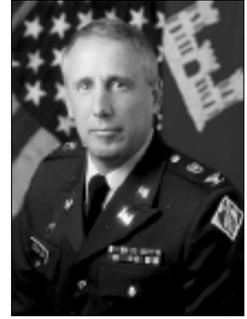
What a holiday season! We experienced many things to be very thankful for and unfortunately several events that brought us great sorrow. We all mourn with Clea the loss of her husband, Randy Powers. We all wish we could somehow replace the treasured personal belongings that Valerie Riedel and her family lost in the fire that took their home.

Thankfully, they all got out safe. Finally we all stand in the shadow of disbelief and shock from the tragic circumstance of an aneurysm in Tony Temple's head. Our thoughts and prayers continue for each of them and their families. Take comfort in knowing that God has plans for each of them and for each of us. As your commander I continue to be very proud of the boundless care expressed by Team Galveston to those who need it.

We were very pleased to have Guy Williams return to work the beginning of January. After undergoing surgery, he looks great and feels it too, though he has expressed to me that he doesn't have all his strength back yet. I told him that I would like to trim down just as he has, but that I wasn't prepared to use his approach.

The District holiday party was a definite success. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who made it so. Our recreation committee chair, Phyllis Bledsoe, deserves our special thanks. A lot of hard work, never an easy path was taken, but a huge success. Well done, Phyllis.

The District has also been working hard on initiatives that will take us to the next level. The renewed emphasis on communication between supervisors and employees to hold each other accountable, development of a leadership development program, and the team building offsite preparation are a few examples. We are committed to acting on the issues that were shared in the employee survey. I am very excited about where we are going and committed to involving everyone in our efforts to reach our objective. It will take 100% from everyone to get there. Remember the excerpt that I pulled from Covey's book — *"If you want to have more freedom, more latitude in your job, be a more responsible, a more helpful, a more contributing employee. If you want to be trusted, be trustworthy."* ESSAYONS.



COL Nicholas J. Buechler

White Paper 2001



Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers

As the new leader of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, I have written this white paper to report on the state of the Corps and my direction. It is addressed to everyone with an interest in the Corps.

The state of the Army Corps of Engineers is sound. For 225 years the Army Corps of Engineers has honorably served the Army and the Nation. During the 20th Century the Army Corps of Engineers experienced both resounding success and bitter controversy. Today, at the dawn of the 21st century, we are again under the microscope of public examination.

As I survey our horizon I see the Army Corps of Engineers performing vital functions. We are developed around the globe as part of the Army's contribution to our national security

strategy. Across America I see both our Military Program and Civil Works Program addressing local, regional, and national challenges. I see that our Corps is critical to the success of this transformation. Additionally, I see the value that the public places on our Nation's environment remains a powerful and growing force for change in public policy and fiscal priorities. Imperatives and directions are shifting. As a result, the Army Corps of Engineers often finds itself dealing with issues involving significant and divergent interests.

The Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program is responsible for the development, management, protection, and enhancement of our nation's water and related land resources for commercial navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation,

and environmental restoration. The program provides stewardship of America's water resources infrastructure and associated natural resources, and also provides emergency services for disaster relief. The Civil Works Program supports the Army in peacetime pursuits, during national emergencies, and in times of war. It is my job, in concert with the Assistant Secretary of the Army, to act as a strong voice to the administration and the Congress for the management of our water resources. We must create environmentally sustainable systems that protect people, property, and economic growth across the United States. The goal of our study process is to

produce the best economic and scientific analysis available. When studies are complete, I will report results to the public, the administration, and the Congress in order to facilitate their decision.

We will strive to improve the quality of our studies, projects, and operations, while reducing time and cost. We will seek to develop technologies to protect or restore the environment; and to create environmental benefits. We will continue to rely upon the private sector to execute the majority of our work. We know we are not and will never be perfect – we must become more agile as a learning organization filled with people willing to evolve and enable change. We rededicate ourselves to continuous improvement. I reaffirm our strong commitment to produce unbiased recommendations consistent with the law, regulations, and science.

The Army Corps of Engineers will continue to provide excellent service to the

Army and the Nation with integrity and credibility. We are a team of dedicated military and civilian professionals with a strong ethos for service to the Nation. We do not, can not, and will not favor any special interest, nor allow any special privilege, in the execution of our studies and

“The Army of Corps of Engineers will continue to provide excellent service to the Army and the Nation with integrity and credibility. We are a team of dedicated military and civilian professionals with a strong ethos for service to the Nation.”

projects. The public must have trust and confidence in our process as well as in those entrusted with implementing that process. Our integrity must remain beyond reproach. We will be open and responsive in working with all interested parties in the execution of our studies, projects, and in our regulatory responsibility. We will

reach out to stakeholders early and actively listen to the concerns on all sides of issues. We will promote dialogue. We will seek to build consensus and always strive to do what is right. The Army Corps of Engineers is vitally important to the Nation and to the livelihood of most Americans – this has not changed in 225 years. I believe the corps is a national resource that plays an indispensable role in serving the public.

The Army Corps of Engineers is also an essential part of the greatest Army in the world. We will work hard to be a vital link between the American public and its Army.

We are dedicated to operating in the interest of the American public and always in accordance with laws and regulations. Our team works with many different entities, but only for one purpose, to do what is right to enhance and protect the well being of the Army and the public. We seek to partner with

ERIC'S STORY

Galveston's Own "Little, Big Man"



Eric at age 5.



Eric's fifth grade school picture.

Eleven years ago, Eric Robicheaux was born to two proud parents, Traci Robicheaux, who worked at Galveston District's Administrative Services (which is now Logistics) and Warren Robicheaux, who worked in the Corps personnel office. Eric, is also the grandson of Joy Smith, Real Estate. When Eric was born he was severely premature, many Galveston District employees donated blood to help keep this young man alive. Since then, Eric, now a fifth grader at Galveston Catholic School, is living a very productive life. Here is his story.

Written by Joseph Kislingbury and Mark Wilson of *The Galveston Catholic News*

Some people believe that Eric Robicheaux is a miracle in the making.

Others say he is a miracle, period!

Eric, a fifth grader at Galveston Catholic School, came into this world at 12:45 on the morning of Nov. 13, 1989 at Women's Hospital of Texas, 17 weeks earlier than a normal birth.

When he was born, Eric weighed only 21 ounces, had a heart valve that wouldn't close, was severely premature, and his eyes were fused shut. As a result of all these serious obstacles, doctors had to perform numerous surgeries and other medical procedures in order to save his life.

Sadly, Eric's twin brother, Alex, did not survive to be born.

"We didn't find out that one of our sons had died until the doctors performed an ultrasound prior to his birth," said Traci Robicheaux, Eric's mother, with tears in her eyes. "But the fact that Eric survived was truly a gift from God."

Eric was hospitalized for five months, and during that time was placed on various machines and

numerous drugs. Examples of lifesaving instruments that were used with great success were an infant warmer, an incubator, and a nutrition line.

Despite all of this, the 4-foot, 5-inch, 91-pound fifth grader has handled his situation well.

“The way I see it everyone has a cross to bear, and after going through a premature birth, you can overcome anything,” Eric said.

As a result of his trials, the March of Dimes, asked the Robicheauxs if they would consider being a part of its program.

“We were asked to become an ambassador family and to make speeches to companies and share’s Eric’s story,” said Mrs. Robicheaux. “As it turned out, our job was to help raise funds for the March of Dimes so that they could continue their wonderful work.”

Eric’s speaking career began when he was about four years of age, and he has made speeches at the rate of 12 per year, mainly during the summer months.

With his record, it is obvious that when Eric speaks, people listen, especially executives of big

companies.

The GCS fifth grader has traveled around the Galveston-Houston area telling his story, and he has raised over \$1,000,000 for the March of Dimes, which is quite an accomplishment, considering that he is just 11 years old.

“People say that this is my most advanced talent,” he said. “I feel obligated to do this because the March of Dimes helped provide the machines that saved my life.”

While Eric has been a big success at the podium, he also does very well in the classroom and the Galveston Catholic School’s physical education program.

“From what I have seen, Eric strives for the best,” said Mrs. Dee Shelton, a GCS English and science teacher, and Eric’s homeroom moderator. “He is highly motivated, tries very hard, and has a dynamic personality.”

Eric’s determined attitude and self-confidence also carries over into his PE classes.

“He gives 100 percent in all that he does,” said PE coach George Osborne. “That’s all anyone can ask for.”

But there is more to Eric than just schoolwork and making speeches. He is also very in-

involved in other activities.

While Eric and his family lived in Houston, he was a star on the Trotters Youth Basketball team, a squad that reached the finals of a tournament for kids in his age group.

Interestingly, 60 Minutes, a CBS-TV newsmagazine that airs on Sundays, had originally planned to run a feature on Eric and another individual who had been prematurely born, but upon seeing Eric’s progress, officials didn’t feel he fit their theme.

The reason? “He was too healthy,” Mrs. Robicheaux said.

Eric has also been involved in scuba programs such as the Houston-based Scuba Rangers in which he was the first 10-year-old boy in the entire state of Texas to complete the certification process.

“We are very pleased and proud of this accomplishment,” said Warren Robicheaux, Eric’s dad, who is also a scuba diver.

Despite all of the adversity in his life, Eric remains an example for all, and his attitude and friendly personality puts a smile on everyone’s face, who is fortunate enough to meet him.

As his mom says, “You can definitely see his love shine through.”

Farewell to One of the Greats: Marcel Duronslet

Sharon Tirpak (PE-RB) gives Marcel a picture with his co-workers. Middle Right: Marcel shares a special moment with one of his daughters.



Col. Buechler presents Marcel with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his hard work throughout the years.



A number of employees turned out for the retirement party.



Dolan Dunn (PE-R), Lloyd Saunders (PE), and Don Nanninga (PE-RE).



Marcel and Robert Heinly (PE-RE) share a laugh and a handshake as he receives retirement gifts.



Corps employees and Marcel's co-workers in Regulatory smile for the camera.



*Nicholas Williams,
son of Andy
Williams (PE-RC).*



Shannon Mills, daughter of Lynette Mills (AO-N).



*Alana Spears, daughter of Maj.
Benjamin Spears (DD).*

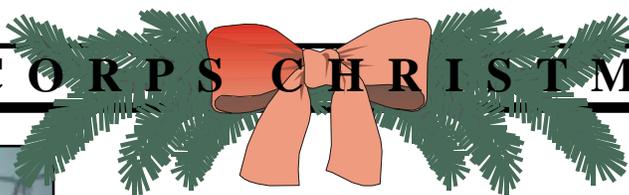
Dear Santa,

Thanks for all the presents that you sent us this year. We would also like to thank all of Santa's helpers for making our Christmas parties such a success: Moody Gardens, Gaido's, Pizza Hut, Bayview Cafe', Coastguard BX, Office Depot, and Hastings Entertainment. Also, thanks to the Corps' elves: Carl Anderson for the stuffed Santa and pumpkins, Geva Roberts for the Christmas wreath, and Naime Foster for the Christmas tree skirt.

If we can start our next year's list early, we would wish for a truly better CEFMS and an even bigger raise. But, we don't mean to be greedy, so the raise will do.

P.S. Thanks for making a special appearance at our Christmas parties, the adults enjoyed you as much as the kids.

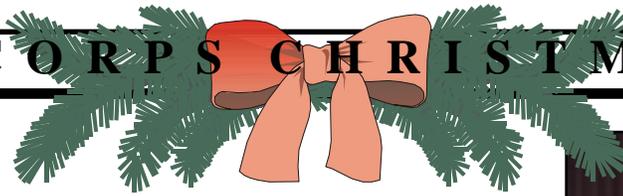
A CORPS CHRISTMAS



From Left to Right: Rick Medina (PE-P) walks with a smile after winning a stuffed pig, "Kiss the Pig" only comes once a year, guess someone forgot to tell Rick; Helene Kieslich (RE) and Catherine Gutierrez (RM); Norma Sendejas (IMO) poses for the camera with her precious grandbaby; new Corps retiree George Rothen smiles for the camera, looks like retirement suits him well; Roseanne Theobald (PM-G) and Sandra Morrison (OD-O) carry gifts out; Corps kids participating in activities.



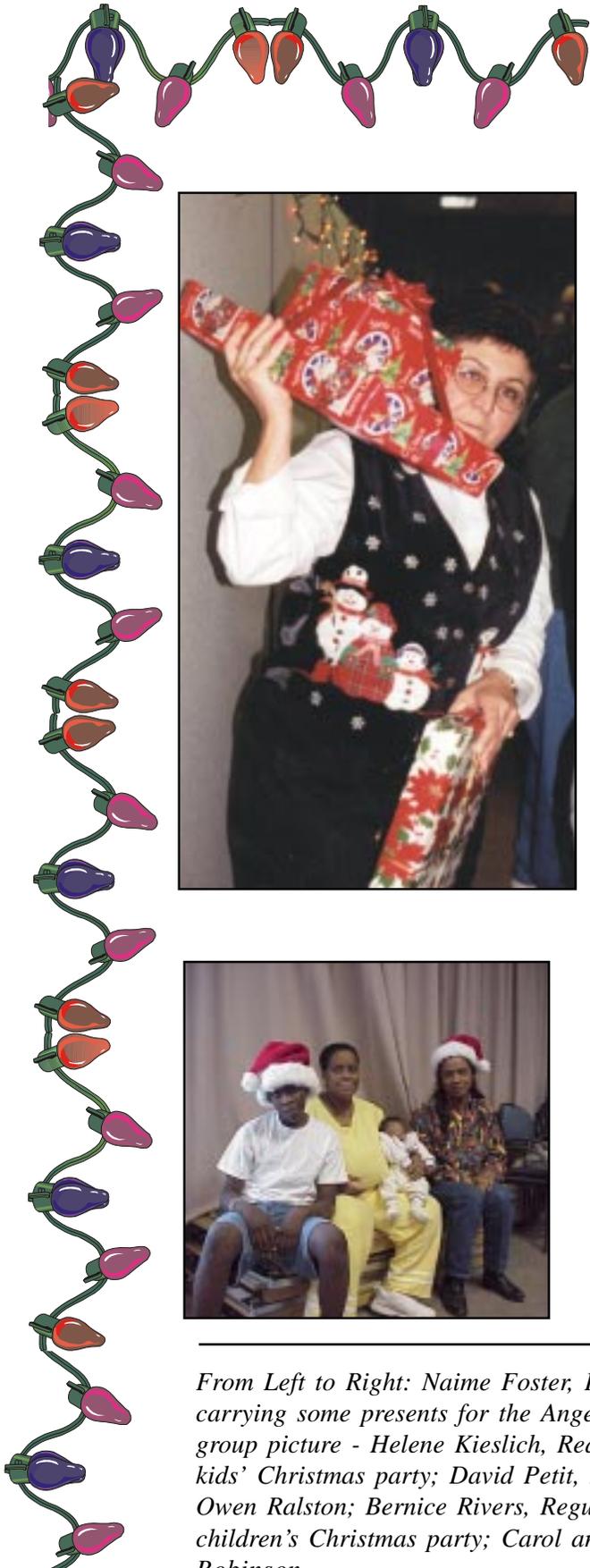
A CORPS CHRISTMAS



From Left to Right: Corps' Santa's Elves help out Corps Santa, Carl Anderson (PM-J); a picture of the Corp's Kids Christmas Tree; Santa Anderson asks Josh (son of Eric Russek, Bay Area Office) if he has been naughty or nice; Corps retiree, Ken Bonham (Chief of Public Affairs) and wife, Carolyn "the Bear" enjoy their meal and company; Shannon and Katie (daughters of Lynette Mills and Helene Kieslich) pose for the camera to show off their arts and craft; MAJ Benjamin Spears, wife, Lita, and baby, Alana.



A C O R P S C H R I S T M A S



From Left to Right: Naime Foster, Planning/Environmental/Regulatory Division, carrying some presents for the Angel's Tree; Corps kids' gather together for a group picture - Helene Kieslich, Real Estate, was the Santa helper in charge of the kids' Christmas party; David Petit, Environmental Branch chats with Corps retiree, Owen Ralston; Bernice Rivers, Regulatory, sits down to rest with family at children's Christmas party; Carol and Roger Freeman pose with Corps retiree Cliff Robinson.

Fort Hood Pays a Visit to the Galveston District

By MAJ Benjamin Spears

The Officers of the 62nd Engineer Battalion from Fort Hood, Texas visited the Galveston District on 8 and 9 January 2001. The 62nd's Battalion Commander, LTC Fred Cunningham, wanted to show his officers the Civil Works side of the Corps of Engineers. LTC Cunningham had been a young Captain assigned to the Galveston District in the mid-1980's. He wanted to make sure his junior officers had some exposure to more than just the muddy boots side of the Corps.

Personnel from SWG oriented the officers on the District's flood control and navigation mission. The group from Fort Hood stopped at the Addicks and Barker reservoir where Richard Long gave them a presentation on the federal flood control project. He also gave them a walking tour of the dam and flood gate. The group was impressed with the role of the dams in helping prevent the city of Houston from major flooding.

Once in Galveston, the group was welcomed by Col. Buechler, District Commander, who gave them an overview of the District's mission. Dalton Krueger made a presentation on the District's navigation mission by giving them an overview of the Houston - Galveston ship channel project. Louis Saenz showed the group an overview of the equipment used in the District's dredging jobs. They were familiar with earthmoving projects using scapers and dozers, but could not believe the massive volumes of earth moved by the



David Campbell, Engineering Division, poses with two of the officers from Ft. Hood.



MAJ Spears talks to the officers, who arrived from Addicks and Barker Reservoir.

dredges. The final presentation was given by David Campbell covering the Galveston Seawall and jetties. The officers were given a brief history of Galveston and the 1900 hurricane event which prompted the seawall project. Afterwards, he took the group on a tour of the project as it stands today, almost a century after construction. The officers were especially interested in this project once they learned the details of its construction and how well it has stood against time and nature.

Having A Voice

Corps Honors Martin Luther King's Birthday

The Galveston District paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 8 with guest singer, Mrs. Lenora Jones and guest speaker, Rev. Charles Wheat

Jones opened the ceremony by singing the soulful song, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Jones, a LaMarque native, is the minister of music for the Greater Hope Baptist Church in Dickinson, Texas.

Wheat, a retired government employee now a proud pastor, has spent 32 years working for the federal government.

"Martin Luther King was not just another man, he was special to us," Wheat said. "He wasn't perfect, but my respect comes from what he gave this country."

According to Wheat, King gave black Americans three key items.

"He gave us a voice, where we would no longer be forbidden to say what's on our mind; he gave us a place by bringing us out of the shadows. And lastly, he gave us a national direction," Wheat said.

Jones then invited everyone to join in singing "We Shall Over Come."

After the program, Ms. Jones and Rev. Wheat were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Maj. Spears for their contribution.



Rev. Charles Wheat



Mrs. Lenora Jones



Darrell Davis (RMO) and Rose Caballero (EEO) with Rev. Wheat after presenting him with the Certificate of Appreciation.



Corps employees sing "We Shall Overcome."



Kristy Morten

Retirement goal: retirement is a goal

Rainy Days are for: movies and “rainy day chores”

If I won the Lottery, I’d: Need I say.....

On My CD/Record Player Right Now: Asleep at the Wheel -Tribute to the Beach Boys

My Car Radio is Tuned To: 95.7

Favorite Drink: Margarita (with salt)

Favorite Sport: Fishing, golf

Favorite Food: big ‘ol grilled T-bone steak

For Breakfast Today, I had: coffee and a cookie

My Dream Vacation is: Tour Alaska’s interior by train, or visit the museums and view historic architecture of old Europe.

Favorite Quote: Hint - a new general just took it!

Biggest Gripe at Work: Stagnate projects - move them or move on to something else!

Office/Job: PE-R Division, Environmental Section, Biologist (HTRW/WQ)

First Government Job: Angelina and Neches River Authority, Field Manager

CE Years Service: 10

Hometown: Wichita Falls. Yes, I’m a native Texan.

Education: B.S. Biology

Family: yes

One of the Most Interesting Assignments: Environmental clearance for DERP/FUDs sites were different and interesting.

Get Well Soon



Tony Temple, the Northern Area Office’s land survey chief, was taken to the emergency room on the morning of January 3rd for an aneurysm.

Since then, the Northern Area Office has started a collection for Tony’s family to assist them in their time of need. His family has some immediate financial needs as well as the long term medical financial needs that will arise. If you would like to contribute to the Temple family, please see Lisa Arneson at cubicle 248K or give her a call at x-6330.

Tony also has been approved as a leave sharing recipient and has exhausted all his sick and annual leave and is in immediate need of donated leave. Donor forms (Optional Form 630-A) are available on the bulletin board by the Jadwin Building cafeteria, in Formsflow, and in RMO.

Please give your completed forms to Ms. Vicky Crisp, CESWG-RM.

Increase Your Energy in 2001

The answer might be as easy as changing 12 simple day-to-day habits.

by Tracy Orr



Do you often feel like pulling the covers over your head and staying in bed? Do you often times doze off during a meeting? Well, there are some surprising hidden culprits that could be getting you down. So, what is the bottom line? Does your entire life need to be overhauled to give you more pep? The answer might be as easy as changing 12 simple day-to-day habits. Changing these habits can help you to revitalize your mind, body and spirit!

1. Drink Plenty of Water. When you become dehydrated, you feel tired, light-headed, and less perceptive. Also, if you become dehydrated as a result of exercise, your heart has to work harder to pump blood.

To stay well hydrated, drink at least 8, 8-ounce glasses of water each day, and drink several more before, during, and after a workout. You should also drink additional water following the consumption of caffeinated and alcoholic beverages. Signs that your water intake is adequate include your not being thirsty (your body's signal that you are already

dehydrated) and your urine is relatively clear.

2. Get Excited. If you lack enthusiasm about what you are doing, whether it is your job or other activity, you'll drag through the day. When a feeling of boredom or despair strikes, try to verbalize its source out loud.

Are you afraid to quit your job and follow your dream career? Do you desire an adventurous vacation? You will know you have found the cause when you feel immediate relief simply by pinpointing it. Follow up by taking a small step to regain your edge. This may be as simple as planning a weekend trip or outing.

3. Take a Test. Those who exercise regularly, especially women are more likely to suffer from a low level of serum ferritin. When stores of this protein are low, your body can't utilize iron effectively. This leads to lethargy.

If you are suddenly struggling to your usual run or workout, consult your doctor and have a blood test performed to check your serum ferritin level. If yours is low, an over-the-counter iron supplement should restore your energy in a few weeks.

4. Eat Carbohydrates. Your body depends primarily on carbohydrates to supply energy for your workouts, as well as for your brain's activity. A diet composed of approximately 40 percent carbohydrates, 30 percent protein, and 30 percent fat is thought by experts to provide enough energy for most sedentary to moderately active individuals (those who work out 3 times a week or less).

More active exercisers may need a mix closer to that recommended by the food pyramid (a diet consisting of approximately 15 percent protein, 55-60 percent carbohydrates, and 30 percent or less fat) to feel fully energized.

Find your optimal fitness level. Keep a log of the duration and intensity of your workouts, and track how you feel during the activity, your energy level throughout the day, and your sleep patterns. This will help you to design a fitness routine to hit your peak.

5. Finesse Your Fitness Routine. Lack of energy is one consequence of letting your exercise routine slide. However, to the contrary, you can wear yourself out if you overdo it. Furthermore, you may not realize it, because some over exercisers don't feel the "crash" until several hours after their workout.

Find your optimal fitness level. Keep a log of the duration and intensity of your workouts, and track how you feel during the activity, your energy level throughout the day, and your sleep patterns. This will help you to design a fitness routine to hit your peak.

6. Practice Saying "NO". Does this sound familiar? You agree to perform a particular task despite an inner feeling telling you to save your efforts for that huge project that you have to do at work or home. Taking on too many responsibilities not only wears you out, but also wastes emotional energy when you end up resenting it.

Be true to yourself. The next time you are asked to do something that you have no time for (or genuine interest in), politely decline. Others will respect your honesty and your ability to prioritize your life according to your values.

7. Steal the Sun's Energy. Millions of Americans suffer from mild to severe "winter blues," clinically termed Seasonal Affective Disorder.

Lack of sunlight can result in changes in brain chemicals that help regulate your mood and sleep cycle, which leaves you feeling sad and lethargic.

For mild cases of this malady, a brisk 20-minute walk soon after you wake up (when light stimulation provides the greatest benefits) may supply just enough sunlight to jump start your day. However, if symptoms persist, consult your doctor. Ask about stronger treatments, such as light therapy.

8. Think Before You Drink. Of the individuals participating in studies dealing with alcohol consumption (conducted at the Public Health Institute in Berkeley, California). Sixteen percent of those who drank alcohol stated that it affected their energy level. Among those who said that drinking had harmed their health; more than 65 percent reported a loss of energy. Alcohol-induced fatigue may last more than 12 hours after drinking.

Drink in moderation or not at all. If you do consume alcohol, drink two glasses of water for every glass of alcoholic beverage to prevent the alcohol's dehydrating effects. Also, avoid drinking prior to bedtime, because alcohol will most likely deprive you of a good night's rest.

9. Escape Your Food Rut. Do you tend to eat the same foods day in and day out? This can contribute to your energy crisis. You are probably lacking some essential vitamins and minerals that provide energy.

Break out. At the very least, eat five servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Other top energy sources include omega-3 fatty acids, found in fish and nuts; iron and chromium, found in fortified cereals; and B vitamins, found in grains and meats. Also, consider taking a multi-vitamin. However, remember, a pill cannot replace a healthy diet.

10. Turn Off the Tube. Who hasn't gone home after a long day at work and spent 3 hours

Continued on next page. . .

Submitted by Dan Wyatt

Winter Safety Tips



Check your vehicle's

- battery and terminal's condition
- anti freeze
- hoses
- tires
- brakes
- windshield wipers and wiper fluid
- heater and defroster
-

Traveling Reminders

- Turn on headlights
- Check the road and weather conditions for the area you plan to travel
- Adjust your speed for road conditions, also increase your distance between vehicles
- Never leave your vehicle if you are stopped or stranded
- Heat your car for only short periods of time to keep carbon monoxide build up to a minimum
-

Walking/Working Outside

- Check the surface for ice
- Bend your knees a little and take slower shorter steps
- Don't overload yourself with hand carried items
- Dress for the forecasted conditions, wear bright colors
- Never touch a frozen surface with your bare hands
-

Space Heaters

- Use only space heaters with a thermostat or an automatic shut off
- Keep all combustible materials at least 3-4 feet away
- Never leave any space heater unattended or in use while sleeping
- Make sure your home has a smoke detector with fresh batteries

Wellness Continued . . .

watching television? Not only can watching television sap your motivation, it has also been linked to sleepiness more than any other activity.

When you catch yourself aimlessly channel surfing, find more engaging ways to unwind, like reading, mediating, listening to a relaxation tape, turning on some music.

11. Take A Walk. Do you eat at your desk instead of taking a midday break? Do you take short morning and afternoon breaks? Remaining sedentary too long is a surefire way to fall victim to fatigue.

When that all-too-common afternoon slump hits, take a short walk. This will get your blood

pumping again, and the change of scenery has a way of opening your mind and lifting your spirits.

12. Try a Different Approach to Sex. Sex can actually relieve stress and revitalize you. However, the act of sex has become a common problem because many busy couples let having sex slide. This is because sex begins to feel like one more job to do, and that makes it draining.

Change your approach. Don't treat sex as a job or a duty. Relax, and let it be a pleasurable and romantic experience.



January

Corps Kids



Congratulations to **Ryan Orr** and the Texas City “Stings” varsity soccer team. The Stings took first place in the “Texas City Winter Classic” soccer tournament held on January 12 and 13, with wins over Baytown Sterling, Galveston Ball High, and Lamar Consolidated. Ryan is co-captain of the team and first string fullback. He is the son of **Tracy Orr of the Regulatory Branch**.

Chief’s Message



Happy New Year to each of you! I hope you all of you had a safe and joyous holiday season that you were able to celebrate with family and friends.

As we enter 2001, I take great pride in serving as your 50th Chief of Engineers. The United States Army Corps of Engineers is vital to the Army and the nation; I am privileged to be a part of it. Our organization is world class because of you, the outstanding men and women who make up the Corps. Remember that the Army Corps of Engineers is about people. It’s about you. The Corps is 35,000 plus proud Americans who bring unique and diverse skills and talents together to do great things for this country. Hold your heads high – you have every reason to be proud of your contributions.

This year will present many challenges and opportunities for us – some known, some yet unknown. As we have for 225 years, we will meet those challenges as dedicated professionals and concerned citizens doing an outstanding job in meeting the needs of the nation today and in the future.

I look forward to the upcoming year, to working with you, and to serving as your Chief. I’m wishing each of you, and those you care for, a safe, prosperous, and enriching year.

Essayons!

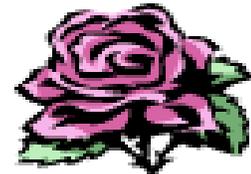
Bob Flowers

Condolences

Deepest sympathies are extended to the family of **Charles Ewell McQuain, a Corps retiree**, whose services were held on January 18 at Lakeview Cemetery.

Please extend sympathies to **Tom Hunt, Bay Area Office**, whose mother passed away this past month.

Please keep the family of **Bill Greenough, Engineering Division**, in your thoughts and prayers. His mother passed away January 11.



Deepest sympathies are extended to **Simon DeSoto, Colorado River Locks**, whose mother, Rose DeSoto passed away January 21. Services were held at Matagorda.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to **Cleta Powers, Resource Management Office**, for the loss of her husband, Randy Powers, who passed away December 24.

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees



1. The purpose of this message is to solicit nominations for the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees for the Galveston District for the current year. Selection for this prestigious honor will be made from these nominations. Nominations must be submitted no later than 23 February 2001.
2. The following general rules will be observed in selecting employees:
 - a. Candidates must have:
 - (1) Achieved 30 or more years of creditable service, at least 20 years of which were served as a civilian employee of the Corps of Engineers, and must have retired on or before January 1, 1999.
 - (2) At least 15 years of creditable service with the Corps of Engineers if death preceded the retirement of an employee. The nominee must have been deceased on or before January 1, 1999.
 - b. The following criteria will be observed in nomination and consideration of candidates:
 - (1) Accomplished assigned duties in such manner as to have been clearly exceptional and pre-eminent among all who have performed like or similar duties.
 - (2) Developed and/or improved methods and procedures which produced extraordinary benefits for the Corps of Engineers.
 - (3) Contributed substantially to the reputation and honor of the Corps of Engineers.
 - (4) Performed loyally and faithfully throughout the period of service.
3. To nominate an individual for this distinct honor, prepare a narrative and factual justification (not to exceed two pages). Nominations should be submitted by either hard copy or e-mail to Herbie Maurer, Chairman of the Gallery of Distinguished Employees Selection Committee.
4. Galveston District's Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees Selection Committee will review the nominations and a recommendation will be made to the District Commander. For this reason, your information should be factual and sufficient to reflect actual performance upon which the nomination is based.
5. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at X 3910.

Herbie A. Maurer
Chairman, Gallery of Distinguished
Employees Selection Committee