



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Galveston District

The Sand Castle

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





*On the Cover:
Rick Netherland cleaning one of the relief wells at Sims Bayou; story on page 10.
Left: Leroy Hilton poses for the camera as he cuts the first piece of his retirement cake; more photos on page 12.*

Volume 19 Number 1 and 2

The Sand Castle

Cover Story:

Galveston teams up with Fort Worth to clean relief wells at Sims Bayou 10

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The Sand Castle

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

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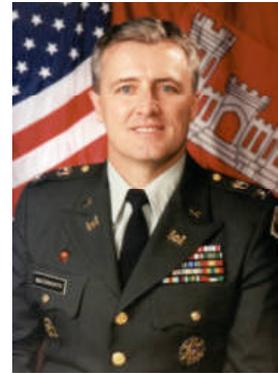
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COMMANDER'S COLUMN

In today's world we have almost instant communication. Your actions and your comments can potentially transcend your organization, your community, your nation in a very short period of time. The comments of others can reverberate through the public and elected officials and have direct impact on the Corps. We have all seen it - news paper articles and television reports that don't tell the entire story or take on only one point of view; the public sending e-mails with misconceptions of where we are in a process for a permit - you have all seen the problems of miscommunications. Well, in Galveston we have had recent success in communicating with the public. As you have seen on our web site, we have television reports that show the positive environmental impacts we have had with dredge material. We have newspaper articles that described the process we are following to deal with archeological artifacts and we have used the Internet to inform the public on the Bay Port application.



Col. Leonard D. Waterworth

With rapid communication comes danger. Rumor, half truths and incomplete information can travel as quickly as the facts, the truth or complete information. When information is received regardless of the accuracy, opinions are formed, good bad or indifferent.

Here is where you can help get the word out. Each and everyone of us has contact with people that are forming opinions on about the United States Army Corps of Engineers, so you are a direct representative. The public's opinions will be shaped by you, so make sure that people understand the SWG runs an open and unbiased process. Ask people to visit our web page. Don't let people get only half the story, go out of your way to get them all the information so they can make an informed decision. It is important that you make a good impression and you talk about what is important to the Corps and the Galveston District. When you talk to anyone, in person, on the phone, in a teleconference or by e-mail, remember you represent more than yourself - you're representing the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Galveston Engineer District, so talk with pride in what we do. To assist, here is the Corps message that gives you critical talking point in your communications.

CORPS MESSAGES

- The US Army Corps of Engineers is the best public engineering agency in the world; there is no mission we can't accomplish.
- The Corps takes seriously its role as the public's steward of much of the Nation's infrastructure; working together with our stakeholders we can find a synergy that supports environmental and commercial interests.
- We accomplish our work through partnering with industry in areas of engineer and construction management; research and development; hazardous, toxic and radiological waste cleanup; and the development, operation, and protection of critical infrastructure.
- The Corps is an important strategic partner in the Army and Nation's fight against terrorism at home and abroad. USACE is conducting risk assessments to improve our critical infrastructure protection in support of homeland security.
- The Corps continues to play a critical role in emergency response and consequence management operations, rapidly mobilizing to support FEMA's response to the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks of 11 September.
- The Corps is engaged at home and globally across the entire spectrum of operations—from peacetime engagement to war.
- The Corps is an integral participant in the Army's transformation.
- Our seven laboratories are deeply engaged in supporting the warfighter, providing technological solutions in the areas of terrain visualization, force protection, and military trafficability.
- The backlog of critical O & M projects in Civil Works affects our national economy and security, while deferred maintenance on our military installations affects our readiness as well as the quality of life for our servicemen and women.

Shoal Point Hearing and Public Meeting brings forward public's concerns on truck traffic

Concerns on traffic noise and volume associated with the proposed container terminal on Shoal Point near Texas City dominated comments from the public at the workshop and public hearing held Jan. 29 in Texas City, TX.

Approximately 250 persons, including a large contingent from the Omega Bay subdivision, attended the workshop and hearing to make comments on the draft environmental impact statement.

Residents from Omega Bay said the proposed route could create traffic problems, air and noise pollution and dangerous driving condition. Texas City Mayor Carlos Garza and County Judge James Yarbrough signified that Texas Department of Transportation was working to determine a better route.

State Senator Mike Jackson supported the proposed project in his statement and said his office would assist in dealing with TxDOT on the traffic matter.

Other comments from the public concerned the environmental data used in the draft EIS. All of the public's comments are taken into account before the final environmental impact statement is published.

Col. Leonard Waterworth, commander and district engineer, presided over the hearing.



Above: Concerned residents of Omega Bay listen to a city employee explain the proposed EIS statement at the public workshop. More than 200 citizens, along with city officials attended.

Bottom: Mayor of Texas City, Carlos Garza gives his opening remarks and states his support at the public hearing for the project.

Col. Schultz visits Galveston District



Karl Brown discusses Wallisville with Col. Schultz, Donny Smith, and Dalton Krueger.



Floyd Wright (third to the left) talks with Col. Schultz about the saltwater barrier at Neches river.

PROJECT UPDATE: Channel to Victoria

Ancient remains found during widening of Victoria barge canal

The U.S. Army Corps has discovered an archeological site containing one of the largest known Early Archaic cemeteries in North America dating to between 6000 and 7000 years old. Remains of approximately 80 individuals were found in the small portion of the site that was investigated.

While working on a federal project to enlarge the Channel to Victoria, located in Victoria, County, Tx., the Corps made the discovery on an easement granted by DuPont Corp. DuPont owns the land where the site was discovered.

In addition to the large Early Archaic cemetery, the site has produced artifacts dating from an earlier occupation that may be as much as 12,000 years old. The large number of remains and artifacts make the site truly exceptional according to Corps archeologists.

The Corps, in conjunction with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer and DuPont, is following the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act in making any decision as to the disposition and analysis of the remains and artifacts.

“We want to ensure that everyone’s concerns are taken into consideration,” stated Col. Leonard D. Waterworth, Commander and District Engineer, Galveston District.

A first step in this process is consulting with federally recognized Native American Indian tribes to solicit input based upon their religion and culture. This meeting was held in Victoria. A briefing for area elected officials followed. A workshop is being planned in Victoria Feb. 26 at Victoria College. The workshop starts at 5:30 p.m. A question and answer

session begins at 7:00 p.m. to give the general public the opportunity for input. Comments are also being gathered from archaeologists and scientists.

As the land owner and owner of the collection, DuPont is working with the Corps to insure that all voices are heard and sound decisions are made that reflect both the scientific significance and cultural values that the site represents.

“DuPont is a science company,” said DuPont Plant Manager Bruce Chinn. “We also have a strong commitment to our core value to be respectful of people and all cultures. We fully support the Corp’s process to get input and create dialogue from a broad spectrum of interested groups and individuals before a decision can be made on the next step forward with this exciting discovery.”

Better safe than sorry...



The Weeks Marine dredge, Venture. Story written by Danny Wyatt and will appear in the February issue of Telltales.

After several quiet months of having no dredges to dodge, Galveston Bay pleasure boaters are again faced with the necessity of being extra vigilant as the long-awaited Mid Bay dredging project has now begun in earnest. By the end of this month, there could be as many as four Corps of Engineers contract dredges on the Houston Ship Channel, consisting of the following:

The twin turbo V-16, 6100 horsepower Weeks Marine dredge *Tom James* arrived in mid December to begin work on the south side of the Bayport Channel. A barge-mounted dragline, known as a bucket dredge, began work loading sea-going barges, called scows, on January 1 near Light 52. The Weeks Marine dredge *Venture*, is enroute to Light 71 to begin installing one of two boater cuts (It will install the second cut near Light 61). The Bean-Stuyvesant dredge *Meridian*, which should have returned from its year-long diversion to the East Coast, will resume dredging between the

Bayport Channel and the north end of Alexander Island.

In addition, the Weeks Marine dredge *George D. Williams* is located on the east side of the ship channel between Lights 76 and 78. Not dredging, it is using its twin 4000 horsepower V-20 engines to assist the *Venture* in pumping dredge material through a 24-inch line to a placement area on Atkinson Island.

The Weeks Marine bucket dredge will use the tug *M/V Thomas* to tow the 285-foot scow filled with material to a marine placement area off-shore of the Galveston Jetty entrance

channel. This operation will take place on both sides of the channel from about Light 52 to Light 53 over the next nine months or so. Recreational boaters operating in this area should exercise caution and never pass between the tug and scow.

The advertisement of the Redfish Reconstruction contract, another project that area boaters have long been eagerly anticipating, remains on schedule for advertisement later this month, according to Dalton Krueger, Corps of Engineers Project Manager for the Houston Ship Channel deepening and widening project. Work on Redfish could

begin as early as March and should be completed no later than September.

It has now been just over a year since the hazards associated with vessel operations on the Houston Ship Channel were vividly demonstrated in the early hours of a cold, windy morning when a dredge worker drowned after the work boat on which he was a passenger collided with an inbound tow. During the investigation of this incident, we learned at least three lessons: the difficulty of locating an overboard person in the dark; the difficulty of rescuing a disabled overboard crewmember; and the importance of proper equipment, procedures, and training for every worker.

To address these findings, the Galveston District began holding quarterly safety meetings with its contractors and the marine industry last March. To facilitate locating workers, who might fall overboard, Weeks Marine has issued each worker a water-activated light, which is attached to their PFD. To assist in rescuing immobile victims, each Galveston District crew boat is equipped with a recovery sling. Different types of recovery devices are being evaluated for optimum applicability on dredges.

To improve proper equipment and procedures, we are working with PFD manufacturers to improve the

design of life vests and with the Coast Guard to reduce confusion in PFD labeling. Inflatable PFD's are now being modified to satisfy Corps of Engineers requirements of greater dependability and are in the process of being made available to pleasure boaters. Loss of night vision in dredging operations and the feasibility of improving navigation lights on ships, tows and barges are being evaluated. Overboard procedures are also being reviewed to improve response times.

New training requirements for non-licensed boat operators are also being considered. Many of the recommendations and improvements should have application for recreational boaters. For further information on water safety efforts, you can review the minutes of these meetings on the Galveston District Safety Office web site at www.swg.usace.army.mil/so.

Speaking of training, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) have just released a new, jointly developed boating course called America's Boating Course. According to information supplied by Commander Kim Pickens, US Coast Guard Project Officer for Operation BoatSmart, the course is available through local Auxiliary flotillas and USPS squadrons, marine stores, or sold directly to students over the Internet (see

www.AmericasBoatingCourse.com). This course is a new addition to existing Auxiliary and USPS seamanship classes. For additional information, use the links to these organizations provided on the District safety web site.

Boating education offers a high return by increasing boater's enjoyment and enhancing the safety of themselves, their passengers, and fellow boaters. Studies show that boaters who have at least some formal boater education are five times less likely to be involved in a boating fatality than boaters who have never taken a course, according to information supplied by Cmdr. Pickens.

Operation BoatSmart is a joint boating safety effort among various agencies and organizations such as the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, USPS, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, the National Safe Boating Council, the National Water Safety Congress, and other industry and recreational groups.

We hope our experiences at the Corps of Engineers, as we continually seek ways to improve navigation safety around dredging operations, will increase your boating pleasure. Meanwhile, have a great time!

New employees learn about Galveston District

The Galveston District held a new employee orientation for its new employees in the Jadwin building on January 22 and 23.

After a brief welcome from Col. Leonard Waterworth and a 10-minute video on the history of the district, the 28 new employees that attended, were given brief presentations by office chiefs, committee heads, civilian personnel office, and the union. Anyone who came to the Galveston District since the last orientation, Jan. 2001, was invited to attend; forty-four invitations went out.

“Our new employees need to feel comfortable where they work and this is a wonderful way to start the interaction process,” said Col. Waterworth, district engineer.

The employees were also given a tour and taken for airboat rides at the Wallisville Lake Project, under Richard Long, park manager for the Houston Project Office.

Right: Richard Long, park manager of the Houston Project Office gives airboat rides to the new employees at the Wallisville Lake project. Bottom: Tom Benero, Chief of Contracting and Curtis Cole explain the ins and outs of contracting.



Corps Welcomes

Kim Crawford

Kim Crawford, hired as a cost engineer to work for David Campbell, chief of engineering branch, has a degree in civil engineering from Southern University. She earned her master's degree from the University of Illinois in engineering management. Before coming to the Galveston District, Kim worked at the New Orleans district for two years. Her husband, Michael, a Marine recruiter is stationed in Houston. The couple have a two-year old daughter.

Brent Granier

Brent Granier, hired as an construction inspector for the Sims Bayou project, came to the Galveston District from the New Orleans district, where he also worked as an inspector. He has one daughter.

District Celebrates Black History Month with a little *JAZZ*

During the Black History Month of February, the Black Employment Program committee had the Ball High Jazz Band come perform Feb. 7 during lunch for district employees.

“Black History is such a general term when planning events relative to different eras, persons, events, etc...History is a lifetime of reality and years of memories and this is a great way to kickoff the celebration,” said Byron Williams, BEP member.

The band was later presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Ball High Jazz band performs for district.



A Brief History of *Jazz*

The music called *Jazz* was born sometime around 1895 in New Orleans. It combined elements of Ragtime, marching band music, and Blues. What differentiated *Jazz* from these earlier styles was the widespread use of improvisation, often by more than one player at a time.

Jazz represented a break from Western musical traditions, where the composer wrote a piece of music on paper and the musicians then tried their best to play exactly what was in the score. In a *Jazz* piece, the song is often just a starting point or frame of reference for the musicians to improvise around. The song might have been a popular ditty or blues that they didn't compose, but by the time they were finished with it they had composed a new piece that often bore little resemblance to the original song.

Many of these virtuoso musicians were not good sight readers and some could not read music at all, never the less their playing thrilled audiences and the spontaneous music they created captured a joy and sense of adventure that was an exciting and radical departure from the music of that time. The first *Jazz* was played by African Americans and Creole musicians in New Orleans. The cornet

player, Buddy Bolden is generally considered to be the first real *Jazz* musician.

Other early players included Freddie Keppard, Bunk Johnson, and Clarence Williams. Although these musicians names are unknown to most people, then and now, their ideas are still being elaborated on to this day. Most of these men could not make a living with their music and were forced to work menial jobs to get by.

The second wave of New Orleans *Jazz* musicians like Joe “King” Oliver, Kid Ory, and Jelly Roll Morton formed small bands, that took the music of these older men and increased the complexity and dynamic of their music, as well as gaining greater commercial success. This music became know as “Hot *Jazz*”.

A young virtuoso cornet player named Louis Armstrong was discovered in New Orleans by King Oliver. Armstrong soon grew to become the greatest *Jazz* musician of his era and eventually one of the biggest stars in the world.

The impact of Armstrong and other *Jazz* musicians altered the course of both popular and Classical music. African American musical styles became the dominant force in 20th century music.

Galveston *TEAMS UP* with Fort Worth

District uses Corps resources to clean wells at Sims Bayou

A Core Drill Unit from Fort Worth District is working on cleaning and inspecting 69 relief wells on the Sims Bayou Project, preparing for Galveston District's eventual turnover of the project to Harris County Flood Control District.

They arrived in the district January 11 and will complete the job around mid-February.

"Before beginning this effort, we sought guidance from Jim Granwehr and Jim Rogers in SWT and Ken McCleskey and Doug Massoth in SWF on the best approach to cleaning the wells," said Willis Walker, technical lead in the SWG Geotechnical Section.

The crew uncovers the well, climbs down to determine water color, type, and materials found at the bottom of the well and performs simple repairs if needed. The cleaning process then begins.

"It's a muddy, smelly and dirty job," said Rick Netherland, member of the crew as he climbed from the depths of the well.

They are also performing pump tests on each well and will provide a report which include information that will be useful in the development of the project



Operation & Maintenance manual.

"One of the Corps strategic goals - process speaks to having a Regional Focus and this partnering effort with Fort Worth is an excellent example," said Lizette Richardson, design project engineer in the SWG Project Engineering Section.

continue on next page...





By January 23, the three-man crew, who had been held back by wet weather, had completed cleaning 16 relief wells.

The Core Drill crew consists of Rick Netherland, James Salik, Greg Armstrong and Bob McVay, the geologist who is evaluating subsurface conditions and conducting the pump tests.



On page 10: James Salik watches from above while Rick Netherland inspects the surface.

Bottom of page 10: The three-man crew, after inspecting another relief well, Rick Netherland climbs out of the well.

Above: Willis Walker and the Fort Worth crew discuss the procedure of cleaning two relief wells at the same time.

Above, right: Crew cleaning reach3A. Right top: Drill truck stationed at the intersection of Broadway and Sims Bayou.



Leroy Hilton says farewell to Real Estate



“As I close the place down, it’s time to say that it has been a pleasure working with all of you over the past twenty three plus years here in Galveston. You are a group of true professionals and I am proud to have been associated with you on the many projects where we have worked together. I am also proud of the many accomplishments we have achieved over the years.”

“While I am sad for our association to come to an end, I am not sad to say so long to CEFMS and other kindred systems. I was not really unhappy to give up my “smart card”, although most times I did not feel “smart” when trying to use it.”

“Keep up the good work and keep making all the other retirees and me proud!”

Farewell and Godspeed!”

Leroy Hilton



Above left: Leroy Hilton. Left: Col. Waterworth presents Leroy with the Galveston District pin. Right: part of the Real Estate office, Back row, left to right, Rick Harrison, Leroy Hilton, Don Hester. Front row, left to right, Ana Gordon, Sandra Blackwell, Joy Smith and Lillian Terry. Bottom: Leroy and his family share a laugh with Vicky Crisp.

First Woman Lock Operator Retires from Colorado River Locks



Above left: Chief of Operations and Maintenance, Bill Hopkins and Simon DeSoto, lockmaster, present Betty with a Corps plaque thanking her for her many years of service. Above, right: Genevieve Trdla and Betty pose for the camera. Bottom: Simon DeSoto with Betty and her husband, Charles.

Charles Matthews passed away two weeks after this photo was taken, please keep Betty and her family in your prayers.

Betty Matthews, who earned her place in history by being the first woman lock operator for the Colorado River Locks, retired January 31. Matthews job was to assist marine traffic as they traversed the locks at the junction of the Colorado River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

“She has been very dedicated and a loyal employee, taking on what had been considered a man’s job back when she first accepted the job,” said Simon DeSoto, lockmaster. “Since she started, other women have joined the staff at the locks, but she was the first.”

Matthews, who with her husband, Charles, lives in Bay City, began working for Galveston District, at the locks May 11, 1981. Prior to her employment with the Corps, she worked for Celanese Chemical Co., Bay City.

A retirement celebration was held in Mrs. Matthews honor January 30.

Water Skiing Dragon Joins U.S. Army

“Seamoor, the dragon, has joined the U.S. Army to increase boating safety awareness.”

Through a generous donation by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ National Water Safety program has gained a unique tool, a robot called “Seamoor.”

The robot is designed as a Kawasaki Jet Ski (R) personal watercraft (PWC) operated by a friendly dragon. It was first demonstrated at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in Nashville, Tenn.

The Corps’ National Water Safety Committee plans to make Seamoor available to Corps locations for special events through a website calendar for scheduling. The water safety committee is also working up a preventative maintenance schedule for Seamoor and training plan for those wishing to “invite him over.”

Accepting the donation on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was Lynda Nutt, chairperson of the USACE National Water Safety Committee.

“We are so excited to be the new home for Seamoor,” said Nutt. “He is the first Jet Ski watercraft tool like this to be produced. The Corps is very proud to be chosen to receive the very first model.” Designed and built by Robotronics, Inc., of Sandy, Utah, the robot uses an

electrically powered, wheeled platform as the basis for Seamoor’s movements. Some other well-known models include “Smokey Bear,” licensed by the U.S. Forest Service, and “McGruff”, the crime-stopping



Lynda Nutt, National Operation Center Manager accepts a unique tool, a robot named Seamoor from Roger Hagie, Director of Public Affairs at Kawasaki.

police dog. For a boating safety theme, Robotronics has built approximately 60 “Bobby the Boat” models in the past. Kawasaki commissioned Robotronics to build the first example of this PWC-themed robot with the intention of donating it to a boating safety and

education campaign that would make the best use of Seamoor’s education and outreach potential.

The Corps of Engineers submitted a proposal to adopt Seamoor for its national boating safety outreach efforts. “The Corps’ plan to utilize Seamoor across America in a visible and effective manner in public boating safety education programs was a compelling idea,” said Roger Hagie, director of public affairs at Kawasaki.

“Their boating safety and education program will add a new and slightly unusual dimension by using Seamoor,” adds Hagie.

“Kawasaki is fortunate to be able to provide this type of innovative communication tool to the program selected to receive the donation.”

Committee chairperson Nutt indicated Seamoor will soon begin promoting awareness of boating and water safety education throughout the Corps.

“Information about boating classes is a key factor in

getting people interesting in taking a boating class,” she said.

“Seamoor’s appeal to children helps provide a way to raise this awareness of boating and water safety for both the children and their families.”

By Ed Evans, HQ National Water Safety Product Advisory Committee



Play it safe by the water



In some of the nation's sunbelt, drowning has been the leading cause of accidental death in the home of children under 5 years old.



The information below can help parents and caregivers provide young children with the protection they deserve.



Each year, nationwide, more than 300 children under 5 years old drown in residential swimming pools, usually a pool owned by their family.



In addition, more than 2,000 children in that age group are treated in hospital emergency rooms for submersion injuries.



FACTS AND FIGURES

Following are just a few facts uncovered by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in a comprehensive study of drowning and submersion incidents involving children under 5 years old in Arizona, California, and Florida.



* Seventy-five percent of the submersion victims studied by CPSC were between 1 and 3 years old; 65 percent of this group were boys.



* At the time of the incidents, most victims were being supervised by one or both parents. Forty-six percent of the victims were last seen in the house; 23 percent were last seen in the yard or on the porch or patio; and 31 percent were in or around the pool before the accident. In all, 69 percent of the children were not expected to be at or in the pool, yet they were found in the water.

* Sixty-five percent of the incidents happened in a pool owned by the child's family and 33 percent of the incidents happened in a pool owned by friends or relatives.

* Pool submersions involving children happen quickly. Seventy-seven percent of the victims had been missing from sight for 5 minutes or less.

* Survival depends on rescuing the child quickly and restarting the breathing process, even while the child is still in the water. Seconds count in preventing death or brain damage.

* Child drowning is a silent death. There's no splashing to alert anyone that the child is in trouble.

RULES FOR POOLS

* Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards to young children and about the use of protective devices, such as door alarms and latches. Emphasize

the need for constant supervision.

* Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. During social gatherings at or near a pool, appoint a "designated watcher" to protect young children from pool accidents.

Adults may take turns being the "watcher." When adults become preoccupied, children are at risk.

* If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom and surface, as well as the pool area.

* Do not allow a young child in the pool without an adult.

* Do not consider young children to be drown proof because they have had swimming lessons. Children must be watched closely while swimming.

* Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.

* Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Babysitters and other caretakers, such as grandparents and older siblings, should also know CPR.

* Keep rescue equipment by the pool. Be sure a telephone is poolside with emergency numbers posted nearby.

* Remove toys from in and around the pool when it is not in use. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

* Never prop open the gate to a pool barrier.

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employee Award Nomination Rules



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 15 March 2002.
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, 2000.
 - (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, 2000.
 - 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 (herbie.maurer@swg02.usace.army.mil), 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

Resolve to improve your total “well-being” in “2002”

by Tracy Orr



How many of you have made or are planning to make a New Year’s resolution or resolutions? I would like to encourage you to make resolutions to enhance your personal “well-being,” physical and mental. I hope it is obvious to all of you that anything you can do to enhance your own well-being will, in turn, help to improve the quality of your life. None of us can live forever, but our goal should be to live our lives to the fullest and make the time we have of a high quality.

Let me tell you what resolutions I have made. First, I have resolved to run more often and enter more races throughout the year. I have also resolved to do more weight training and cycling. Lastly, but definitely not least, I have made a resolution to further refine my sense of humor to enhance my ability to overcome the daily stresses of life that come my way in “2002.” I will definitely do my best to keep these resolutions.

So, what kind of resolutions should you make? Maybe you want to quit smoking and/or decrease your consumption of alcoholic beverages. You may want to lose weight and/or lower your blood pressure or cholesterol level. Perhaps you want to increase your aerobic fitness by starting a walking, jogging, swimming, or bicycling program. Quite possibly you might want to learn and practice stress management techniques to help you deal with the mental and physical stresses that confront you every day of your life! Keep in mind, however, that regardless what resolutions you make, it is of utmost importance that they are practicable and doable. Most importantly, you must be truly committed in order to make your resolutions a reality.

The bottom-line is that we should all do everything in our power to improve our overall state of well-being, both physical and mental. Of course, there are many way to accomplish this. First and

foremost, however, you must sincerely want to improve your overall well-being. Undoubtedly, each of us has our own reasons for wanting to do so.

I have two primary reasons for wanting to keep my state of well-being at as high a level as possible. First, having spent approximately seven years as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) on the community ambulance service in my hometown of Gibson City, Illinois, I definitely learned the importance of physical well-being. While working on the service, I witnessed many individuals, both male and female, in varying stages of deteriorating mental and physical health. Unfortunately, a considerable number of these individuals could have had a much higher quality of life if they had only recognized and practiced good physical and mental well-being. Needless to say, I vowed to do all that I could to maintain a high level of total well-being.

My second reason, and probably the most important, for wanting to maintain a high level of total well-being, was my father. For years I watched my dad battle with his weight by practicing one form of diet or another. In his mid to late 50’s he developed diabetes (definitely weight-related), and later on associated medical problems. At any rate, seeing my father go through this ordeal, gave me great incentive to keep my weight under control and to stay in the best physical shape possible.

Please be aware, however, that regardless what your reasons are, it only makes good sense to keep your physical and mental state of well-being at an optimal level. Therefore, use your New Year’s resolutions wisely and devote them to improving your overall well-being. Remember, the important thing is not necessarily how long you live, but the quality of life you have while you are alive. “Happy New Year!”



January's Birthdays

Suhail Idriss	Jan. 1
Gary Stangeland	Jan. 1
Mark Patillo	Jan. 3
Richard Washburn	Jan. 4
Henry McIntock	Jan. 6
Jerry Fritzching	Jan. 6
Fred Anthamatten	Jan. 7
Art Martin	Jan. 8
Rhonda Brown	Jan. 9
Danny Cruz	Jan. 10
Max Malo	Jan. 11
Valerie Miller	Jan. 13
Judie Lester	Jan. 14
Guy Williams	Jan. 16
Roseanne Theobald	Jan. 17
Michelle Clark	Jan. 17
Betty Matthews	Jan. 17
Richard Long	Jan. 18
Jeff Hill	Jan. 18
Tina Ybarra	Jan. 21
Gloria Brunt	Jan. 23
Jeff Storm	Jan. 25
Helene Kieslich	Jan. 26
Sharon Tirpak	Jan. 27
Cleo Dow	Jan. 27
Jaqueline Lockhart	Jan. 27
Edmund Ching	Jan. 27
Bruce Bennett	Jan. 28
James Worthington	Jan. 28
Bill Krampe	Jan. 28
Betty Voelkel	Jan. 31
Robert VanHook	Jan. 31
Kathy Moore	Jan. 31

Wedding Anniversary

Happy wedding anniversary to Tencha Deckard (Contracting) and her husband, Buddy, who celebrated 28 years of marriage on January 18.



Babies On Board



Mason Lee Wiggins

Congratulations to Arthur Janecka, Chief of Project Management, he is a grandpa again! Jill Wiggins, Art's daughter gave birth to Mason Lee Wiggins at 9:34 PM on January 17, 2002 at Clear Lake Hospital. This beautiful little boy entered this world at 7 lbs 14 oz, 20 1/2 inches long.

Congratulations to Sharon and Scott Jorda (Corps contractors)! Alyssa Taylor



Jorda was born Dec. 26 at 7:16 p.m.; she's 20 inches long and weighs in at 7 lbs. 8 oz.

Lorraine Louie, Planning, delivered a baby boy on January 25 at 3:43pm. She and the baby are fine. She says the baby weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces and he was 18 1/2 inches long. She will be at home at least 6 weeks.



Congratulations to Lorraine!

Speechmakers

Danny Wyatt, safety chief, information recently presented regarding the Corps of Engineers water safety program to the Island Packet Owners Assocation.

One of our District employees, Lloyd Saunders, Chief of the Regulatory and Planning Division, volunteered his 36-foot power boat to carry four cadets in the Fall Class Seaborne CHALLENGE Cruise, the sixth cruise for the Seaborne program, which is co-located on Galveston District property. The six cruises have now introduced about 550 Seaborne Corps members, ages 16 to 19, to boating.

Danny Wyatt participated in the first meeting of the recently created small craft safety subcommittee of the Houston-Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee, a congresssionally controlled advisory group to the Captain of the Port, Houston-Galveston.

Kris Brown, a park ranger at Barker-Addicks reservoir, continues to assist the Safe Kids Coalition in promoting water safety and sponsoring life vest loaner programs at local boating and swimming areas.

Danny Wyatt, participated in the first meeting of the recently created small craft safety subcommittee of the Houston-Galveston Navigation Safety

Advisory Committee, a congressionally controlled advisory group to the Captain of the Port, Houston-Galveston.

The safety office continues our dredging safety articles in Telltales Magazine. The January 2002 edition contains the sixth article in the series to bring information about Corps of Engineers dredging activities on the Houston Ship Channel and to provide recreational boaters with knowledge to conduct safer transits around dredging activities.

News

Texas Waterway Operators and Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association announced in the Waterways Journal, a towing industry trade publication, that they will now participate in the Galveston District's quarterly dredging safety meetings to discuss with our dredging contractors marine safety issues of mutual concern. Many of our recommendations and study results are of direct benefit to recreational boaters, such as improved PFD design, better overboard recovery procedures, and improved boat operator training. Gene Schwantes of Windward SeaVenture Enterprises/Bay Smart, has been representing recreational boaters at these meetings. Summaries of our discussions are available on the Safety Office web page at: www.swg.usace.army.mil. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2002 at the District headquarters in Galveston.

Job Change:

Loretta Carnes has moved over to IMO to take the role of Records Manager.

In addition to the records management function she will be the POC for the copying equipment, Micro-graphics Management Officer, the Official Mail Manager (OMM) for the district, Publications Control Manager and Forms Control Manager(FormsFlow).

She will oversee the current Vital Records scanning effort in district and in the future, implement and manage the conversion to a Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) which will incorporate the current Vital Records database, the Real Estate Document Retrieval System (REDRS) and the Corps of Engineers Electronic Record keeping System (CEERIS) initiative in the Regulatory Branch.



February Birthdays

Lynette Mills	Feb. 1
Ramon Barrios	Feb. 2
Nettie Irvine	Feb. 3
Mike Sells	Feb. 6
Gary Owens	Feb. 6
Mike Demasi	Feb. 7
Shakhar Misir	Feb. 7
Lisa Arneson	Feb. 8
Lucy Smith	Feb. 18
Cleta Powers	Feb. 22
Willie Honza	Feb. 22
Ken McDonald	Feb. 23



Notice:

The Sand Castle

Due to budget restraints and the availability of more information on the District's webpage, this January/ February publication of the *Sandcastle* is the last issue that will be mailed.

The *Sandcastle* is available on <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/pao/SandCastle>.

We hope that you will go to our webpage and not only view the *Sandcastle*, but all of the other information published about the Galveston District.

Thank You.
Phyllis Bledsoe,
Chief of Public Affairs

COMMANDERS' COLUMN



Recreation Committee Calender

FEBRUARY 12 - BAKE SALE this is also the date for PRB and the Blood Drive - We will have a little Sugar energy to get you through the meeting or help replace the blood donated (By the way, if you haven't signed up for that and are able to give Blood, please think about it - you could save a life and get a double benefit - you have performed a good deed and it actually helps your blood supply.

MARCH 14 - Spaghetti Lunch - a choice of three types of pasta and three sauces- YUMMY

APRIL - dates to be determined, a Silent Auction. and either a Sandwich sale or Breakfast Burrito Sale - Something to help you with your Spring cleaning and to fill your tummy

MAY - dates to be determined - Bake Sale or Sandwich Sale

JUNE is Engineer's Day Picnic. The Date to be June 7 or 21st, both Fridays. The food per the overwhelming response to survey is to be traditional - BBQ/Hamburgers/Hot Dogs. The site was a fifty-fifty split Jadwyn or offsite - Some of the sites under put forward at our last meeting were :

- *Jadwin Building, which means no liquor
- *Palm Beach at Moody Gardens, a little pricey for site and liquor service
- *Park at the Garden Verinne - no cost for the grounds and no liquor
- *In the Park - am checking on the possibility of getting beer allowed
- *East Beach like last year



NOW HERE IS WHERE YOU GUYS CAN HELP - NO SURVEY
We would like suggestions for places and themes and contests. Some of the idea which have been offered:

- *An Old Fashion Family Picnic Day - with blankets spread out on the ground, games such as tug of war, badminton, croquet, horse shoes, with lemonade and ice cream.
- *Traditional - with Bingo, tug of way, volleyball
- *Other activities suggested were to have a picnic basket auction - like in the musical "Oklahoma" when they were raising money for the school - a talent contest - we have been told there is a lot of talent in the District.
- *T-Shirt design contest, with T-Shirts being offered for sale.

SO, Galveston, let us hear from you! *It's Your Party.*

Thank you,
The Galveston Recreation Committee - Ana Gordon, Chairperson

Upcoming Events

March 3-5
Harbor Safety Conference

March 4
Signing Ceremony
11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

March 5
EL's and LDP's
Brown-bag lunch with
Col. Waterworth
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

March 11-14
Emerging Leaders
Conference (Dallas)

March 13
PRB
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 31
Easter