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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 11
Veteran's Day

Nov. 17
PRB

Nov. 25
Thanksgiving

Nov. 30 - Dec. 3
Small Business Conference
Washington D.C.

Dec. 7-9
SWG Command Inspection

Dec. 10
SWG Christmas Party

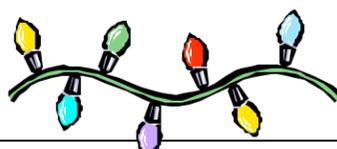
Dec. 25
Christmas



SWG Christmas Party
'An Island Christmas'

Balinese Room
Dec. 10
11:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Tickets go on sale Nov. 29
More details to come



Switch is thrown on P2 Galveston District is the first

On October 7, the Galveston District became the first district Corps-wide to throw the switch on P2-CEFMS.

"Most people don't know it even occurred," said Enrique Villagomez, project manager. "I would suspect that the first signs of the final switch being thrown was when folks tried to amend their non-P2 labor PR&Cs to add funds and CEFMS denied their request."

The initial deployment of P2 covered all non-revolving fund accounts, said Villagomez. P2

will ultimately cover the revolving fund accounts as well. Their integration into P2 is projected to occur during the 2nd or 3rd quarter of FY 05. Once this happens the creation of work items will be driven by P2.

Benefits of P2 include; project structure standardized across the district/Corps, project cost in CEFMS directly linked to project activities in P2, and resource-leveling functionality exists within projects and across projects.

The drawbacks that the district has seen include; system performance/reliability continues to be an issue, project status will need to be performed more frequently (at least once a pay period) to insure accurate reporting of project data in P2-CEFMS, overcoming the CEFMS funding worm, which evades the P2 budget hammer and funds management will require better stewardship by all.

The Galveston District has been working on activating P2 project since July 2004.

Year-end-closing tribulations forgotten in the fun of Fall Fest

The Recreation Committee is in full swing. Fundraisers are rolling and parties are being planned.

The Galveston District held its second annual Fall Fest Oct. 8 in the Jadwin Building and with the active participation of Team Galveston, it went off without a hitch!

Opening the end-of-year celebration was a townhall meeting under the leadership of Col. Steven Haustein. Awards and coins were distributed; the FY05 budget was discussed, and Col. Haustein complimented his employees for a job well done.

Highlights from Fall Fest included; the vigorous cake walk, where people were fighting for cakes, the battle of the water guns which left the room virtually empty for a few minutes while everyone hid and plotted their attacks, a silent auction and, of course, the last and most famous event – the pie-in-the-face contest. This year's victims included Col. Haustein, Lt. Col. Chris Sallese, and Fred Anthamatten.

Pro pie-in-the-face thrower, Paula Wise, planning, received the "honor" of putting a pie in Lt. Col. Sallese's face. If you remember, last year Paula won the chance of putting it in Col. See Fest continue on page 4...



Local fisherman tackles the surf while fishing. On the left is construction on the jetty walkway.

Corps gives updates on projects at Matagorda Heritage Day

On Oct. 9, Matagorda visitors were greeted with a festive parade, reenactments from history and a video presentation on projects along the Colorado River by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District during the annual Matagorda Heritage Day celebration.

Rick Stanley, president of the Matagorda Area Chamber of Commerce, was on hand to introduce the program. "I know that a lot of you have many questions about what these folks have planned for the area," he said. "Here is your chance to find out the real answers."

District Commander Col. Steven Haustein began the Corps program with introduction of Nicolle Dailey, planning lead, who presented a program on the status and outlook of ongoing SWG projects in Matagorda, TX. This included the Colorado

River Locks Modifications and the Mouth of the Colorado River General Reevaluation.

Other presenter's included Raymond Butler with the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, along with representatives of the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Other Corps members in attendance were Simon DeSoto, lockmaster of the Colorado River Locks, Marilyn Uhrich and Michele Thomas, Public Affairs Specialists.

The first Matagorda Heritage Day was in 1936, when the city celebrated the Texas Centennial, and it has been observed every decade since then.

In 1998 the city decided to hold the celebration every year in October. The celebration is sponsored and coordinated by the Matagorda Area Chamber of Commerce.

Commander's Column



Col. Steven P. Haustein



The Sand Castle

www.swg.usace.army.mil

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

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Please include an address and phone number on all letters. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity, style, and space and to use them electronically and in print.

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It's starting to make sense! That's how I feel after four months in Team Galveston. Somewhere along the race track that I've been zipping around for the last 100 days, I started to understand some of the nuances associated with Team Galveston and the USACE Civil Works program. The more that I see and learn, the more I have come to appreciate the dedication and expertise that characterizes Team Galveston. I am proud to serve with all of you.

We started FY05 so...where's the money? As you know, we're operating under a Continuing Resolution Act (CRA) until the Congress passes an FY05 Appropriation Bill. Do not spend any time worrying about that. Instead, channel your energy toward executing the dollars that we do have. Trust the District senior leaders to do what we can to get you the resources that we can, when we can. My intent is to aggressively execute our program now within CRA constraints and line up planning, project management, operations and contracting so that when we do get a FY05 budget, Team Galveston will be postured to immediately obligate all SWG FY05 funds and any other USACE funds that cannot be executed elsewhere by districts that are using the CRA timeframe to wring their hands worrying about the sky falling. Execute!

It's getting cold outside. One of my trips back in late September took me to Indiana. The week before I left, it was still hovering around 90 degrees everyday. The first night of the conference, there was a reception held outside on the hotel grounds and it was very appropriately called an Icebreaker! During the three days in Indiana, I don't think it got above 60 degrees and I ran on crunchy frost along a golf course in the morning. Hey, I remember this from living in Washington DC for three years. It's called...autumn. Get out and enjoy it. The Texas coast has all sorts of fall festivals, carnivals, fairs and great events during this time of year such as the annual thrashing that the University of Texas gives the Aggies on the football field. Additionally, in Texas, Mother Nature contributes pleasant temperatures and low humidity to make it all the more enjoyable to get outside.

The holiday season is here. Left over Halloween candy is the staple of the district headquarters now. Appropriately, we take time in November to thank and salute our Veterans – many of you now are on the receiving end of that exchange after your service in Iraq. We take a long weekend in November to recognize our many blessings at Thanksgiving. And we lace the whole month of December with the holiday spirit, football bowl games, school vacation time and culminate the whole season with the beginning of a new year. How many shopping days until Christmas? I don't know but I do know that all of these events are made more enjoyable and more memorable by spending these days with family and friends.

See Commander's Column continue on page 8...

A message from headquarters

Corps Team,

During the past several months, I've been privileged to see the great work being accomplished by our multi-talented organization. I couldn't be more proud. Recently, all of you have been especially stretched and challenged and I thank you for your extra efforts. In addition to your normal, daily missions, you worked hard to ensure the year-end close out was a success. You continue to provide outstanding support to the Global War on Terror, both at home and abroad. And you are helping fellow citizens in the Southeast after four hurricanes hit in rapid succession. I had the opportunity to see some of the great work firsthand. In August, I visited Iraq and Afghanistan and was impressed by the progress being made in both countries. In Iraq, we are rebuilding the infrastructure, improving power and oil production, and supporting military forces with construction and engineering services. In Afghanistan, we are constructing Afghan Army facilities, helping to repair bridges and roads and supporting our Armed Forces. It was especially heartening for me to hear from the commanders deployed to both countries. They all expressed their appreciation for the Corps of Engineers' contributions.

Two weeks ago, I visited the Southeast to see the hurricane response/recovery efforts. As Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne hit, Corps employees across the nation stopped what they were doing to help those in need. Right now, over 1200 employees are working with FEMA to provide temporary roofs and housing, generators, water, ice and debris removal. It has been very, very gratifying to see the Corps team come together so quickly and respond so efficiently to this crisis. It's a reflection of the Corps' culture of being responsive and caring. I was pleased to run into members of the Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation assisting us in our efforts. It's also a reflection of the quality of people across government: people who are flexible, adaptable and who possess a public service ethic.

We still have a need for volunteers to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, so I ask that you consider a deployment. We will also need volunteers standing by to assist when the next disaster strikes.

Let me add that it takes the entire Corps team to respond the way we have over the past few months. I'm proud of all volunteers who deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and to the Southeast states. I'm also proud of those who have not deployed. Thanks to everyone. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has done a great job of responding to many difficult missions, under difficult circumstances, in many locations.

I also wanted to provide a quick update on the recent Transition Conference at Ft Belvoir. Many of our senior leaders met and discussed potential refinements to our strategic direction. The dialogue at the conference was superb. We also discussed several of our processes or, how we do things. I am confident these efforts will continue to build upon the momentum of our previous Chiefs and effectively posture us for continued success in the future.

Again, I'm very proud of all of you. Keep up the great work. ESSAYONS!

Carl Strock



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock

Buried section of seawall uncovered during UTMB construction

Construction crews recently began excavating the site of the former Sealy & Smith Professional Building, along University Boulevard, for work on the University Plaza Project at UTMB.

The work uncovered a long-buried section of the original seawall that stretches from the beachfront to the bay, along what today we call University Boulevard (Sixth Street). While its discovery is not a surprise, it's the first time in recent history anyone's actually seen anything more than the tip of this concrete iceberg. If you've ever walked on the sidewalk on the east side of Sixth Street, or stood in front of the former Sealy & Smith Professional Building, you've been on top of this stretch of seawall.

At the turn of the century, this area was the eastern boundary of the city; beyond it was marsh, wetlands and spoil areas that were gradually filled in and have since served as the site for hundreds of homes and businesses.

On Sept. 7, 1901, almost a year to the date after the 1900 hurricane, the Texas legislature approved construction of a seawall in Galveston. Plans for the original seawall took it approximately from today's Eight Street and Harborside Dr., (at the base of the south jetty), not far from the rear of the



David Campbell, chief of engineering branch, and Don Sexton, project manager from UTMB look at a portion of the uncovered seawall in front of Waverly Smith Pavilion. Story provided by Pep Valdes, public affairs officer, UTMB.

original John Sealy Hospital. It followed Sixth Street to the beachfront, where it curved westward to 39th Street. This first section of the seawall was funded locally and completed in the summer of 1904; it cost about \$1.6 million.

Work on a second segment to protect Fort Crockett began in December 1904; the 5000 ft. extension elongated the seawall to 53rd Street.

In 1921, a new three-mile segment was completed which extended the seawall in the opposite direction, from Sixth Street to the east, to the San Jacinto military reservation. In

1926, another mile was added connecting the seawall to a more seaward section of the south jetty and what eventually became the east end of today's Galveston Island. These two stretches extended the island's growth eastward and eventually made the original section of seawall along Sixth Street redundant. The section was covered and built over as the city grew.

In 1927, the seawall was extended west to 61st Street, and in 1963, the final stretch was installed, with the new western boundary just beyond 99th Street. All together, there are

about 10 miles of seawall in Galveston. It stands to this day as a monument to a community's resolve and to engineering know-how.

As for the future, a "little off the top" of a short segment of the unearthed seawall will be removed as part of the University Plaza Project, which will serve as the hub of new development on the UTMB campus for the next two decades.

In this first phase, a two-level parking garage will be built and the utilities and other infrastructure to support future growth will be installed.

Update on Packery Channel



The second load of blanket stone being placed on the south jetty.

At the recent project review board meeting, Project Manager Carl Anderson announced that 43% of construction on Packery Channel is complete. The completion date for construction is August 2005. The storm damage reduction and environmental restoration project began in 1998 after the city of Corpus Christi expressed an interest in reopening Packery Channel.

District conducts wetland forum

A forum on wetlands, conducted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, took place Nov. 9, at the Central Middle School in Galveston. Local developers, city planners, and the citizens of Galveston were in attendance.

The forum, open to the public, involved topics including the importance of wetland resources, wetland delineations and Corps of Engineers regulations for obtaining permits for development in waters of the United States, which includes wetlands.

Ray Newby, Texas General Land Office, also presented a wetlands presentation.

Kahala Development, Inc. assisted the Corps with the forum as part of a wetland violation settlement. Kahala covered all expenses for the forum, including ads in the local media as part of the mitigation for a wetlands violation.

Fest continued from page 1...

Waterworth's face and felt pretty uneasy about it.

However, there was no uneasiness with Alicia Rea, regulatory, and chairwoman of the rec committee, when she got chosen to put the pie in the commander's face. "I am dedicating this to all the Aggies in the room," said Rea, before placing the Redi-whip concoction in Haustein's face. Col. Haustein, who took the pie well, just smiled and replied with 'Hook'em Horns' and the familiar Longhorn gesture.

Overall, the event was a great success and the recreation committee wants to thank everyone again for participating in the event, especially those from the regulatory office, who came down to assist in setting up the room.

"This was great and kudos goes out to the rec committee for doing such a great job," said Col. Haustein. "Who knew I could buy an Aggie mug for \$5.00 – it's the cheapest pooper scooper I have ever bought," Haustein said jokingly.

Upcoming events include the holiday party at the Balinese Room on Dec. 10; please keep an eye out for more information.



Say it isn't so....Lt. Col. Chris Sallèse said his chili was the best and that he would win first place...he was right. Pictured is Lt. Col. Sallèse with his winnings- a certificate signed by the commander and a gift certificate to the local hardware store. In the corner, is Casey Cutler, a judge and announcer of the winners of the chili cook-off. "They were all winners and if we could give out all #1's we would, but Chris's chili stood out from the rest," said Cutler.



Employees enjoy a round of cakewalk. This is the most popular game played during fall fest.



Alicia Rea prepares the 'pie'.



Col. Haustein cleans up after his pie.



Diana Laird received the chance to throw the 'pie' in Fred Anthamatten face.



Lt. Col. Sallèse recovers from his 'pie'.



Rhonda Brown catches up with 'devil' Debby Jones.



'Biker' Nikki Minnichbach smiles for the camera.



Erik Nelson looks over a set of planters at the silent auction.



Pro pie-in-your-face thrower Paula Wise smiles second before throwing the 'pie' in Lt. Col. Sallese's face



Judges Willie Joe Honza, Fredalyn Colston, and Casey Culter enjoy tasting the different chilis during the cook-off.



Frankenstein and bride of Frankenstein (Rob and Michele Thomas) make an appearance at the festival.



Glenn Weitknecht tries for a hole-in-one.

Congratulations to all the Awards recipients!

These awards were presented at the quarterly townhall meeting in the Jadwin Building Oct.8 by Col. Steven P. Haustein, commander and district engineer.

Superior Civilian Service Award - SWD

Joshua A. Adekanbi

Commander's Award for Civilian Service Medal

HQ CACS & Commander's Coin

Dennis Thomas Enrique Villagomez
James Worthington

Galveston District

Michael deMasi Patricia Hardeman
Michael Rawls Enrique Villagomez
Bill Wise James Worthington

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Steve Ireland

LDP Graduation Awards

Andrea Catanzaro Jayson Hudson
Sharon Tirpak

SWD Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Vicki Halley Valerie Miller
Selma Hampshire Charlotte Stockwell
Carol Hankamer-Freeman

Certificate of Achievement - Institute for Water Resources

Gloria Appell

Certificate of Appreciation, Hurricane Isabel, Norfolk District

Norma Garcia Kristy Morten
Gus Marinos Reggie Thomas

Service Citation, CPA Baghdad, Iraq

Terry Bautista Pat Lingo
Mike McClenan (Iraq) Shakhar Misir
Ralph Bledsoe Mike deMasi

Certificate of Achievement, COE Gulf Region Division

Steve Ireland

Omaha District, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Team, Certificate of Appreciation

Ruth Ann Millsaps Donnie Smith

Letter of Appreciation – Ms. Autumn Selman, Landowner

Jayson Hudson Kenny Jaynes



Col. Haustein with Terri Stinnett-Herczeg.

Commander's Certificate of Appreciation w/coin

James Fawcett Robert Heinly
Richard Medina Terri Stinnett-Herczeg
Sharon Tirpak Betty Voelkel
Gloria Appell Joanne Williams
Paula Wise
Jeff Waters – time off award
Nicolle Dailey – time off award
Glenn Weitknecht – On-the-spot
Jayson Hudson – On-the-spot
Andrea Catanzaro - On-the-Spot Cash Award

Team Award Commander's Castle Coin

Team Award

Bob Peel Pat Kershaw
Kathy Moore Mary-Ann Cooper
Fredalyn Colston Roseanne Theobald
Betty Voelkel Jenny Hymel
Carolyn Murphy Janelle Stokes
Arthur Janecka Mike Bragg
Diana Laird Rick Medina
Joe Hrametz Christy Sorrels
Gloria Appell Jim Fawcett
Gilbert Alvarez Mario Flores
Erika Herlugson Scott Jorda
Sharon Jorda Joseph Lucero
Kimberly Luna Leroy Martinez
Steven Patranella

Hispanic Employment Program Team Award

Tina Ybarra Tom Benero
Lucy Smith Cecil Cockburn
Angela Zahid Tencha Deckard
Ricky Villagomez Rosanne Theobald
Frank Garcia Maria Green
Pat Salinas Marianne Fullen

RMO Team Award

Vicky Cambiano Glenda Gallaway
Vicki Halley Selma Hampshire
Carol Hankamer Freeman Cindy Jones
Diane Kovacevich Valerie Riedel Miller
Trina Ruse Willie Smith
Johnnie Simmons Charlotte Stockwell

Blood Donators Coffee Cups

3 Gallons – Bruce Bennett
2 Gallons – Lynette Radcliffe
1 Gallon – Pauline Villalobos

CFC Open House (award) Jul 28, 04

Sharon Tirpak



Col. Haustein with Mike deMasi.

Galveston District participates in JWOD program

Did you know that the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program saves the federal and state governments more than \$46 million a year? JWOD provides employment opportunities to more than 42,000 people and the largest single provider of jobs for people who are blind or severely disabled in the United States.

And Galveston District does its part to provide disabled persons with employment prospects!

"We have awarded contracts that are suitable for the JWOD program; such as our lawn care and janitorial service," said Linda Fredendall, contracting officer. "We must remember that people with disabilities desire to be productive and can produce services that meet our mission need in a timely and cost effective manner."

The program uses purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from participating, community-

based nonprofit agencies nationwide dedicated to the training and employing individuals with disabilities.

JWOD began with Wagner-O'Day Act in 1938, which permitted agencies serving people who are blind to sell products like brooms and mops to the government. This was expanded in 1971 when New York Sen. Jacob Javits led an effort to permit people with disabilities other than the named few to participate.

Javits amendment also expanded the Act to include the provision of services to the federal government.

Today the program strives to reduce the high unemployment rate of 70% faced by individuals who are blind or disabilities by providing employment opportunities on federal contracts nationwide.

If you are interested in learning more about JWOD, please visit its website www.JWOD.gov.



Wellness: Call in sick or go to work?

Sometimes it's hard to tell whether you're well enough to go to work; here is a list to help

The alarm's buzzing ... but something's not right. You're sniffling, sneezy ... queasy. You have a common cold. Or is it something worse? Should you drag yourself to work? Or spend the day in front of the tube?

"Presenteeism" — going to work when you're sick — is as contagious as the flu. Millions of Americans are doing it. By one estimate, upwards of 75% head to work with the common cold or other problems.

Sure, sick employees keep the computer warm. But research shows that people sick with the common cold are not very productive.

In fact, their lost productivity accounts for up to 60% of employer health costs — more than if they'd taken a sick day.

Here's a checklist of symptoms that help you determine if you have a common cold or something else:

Sniffling

- If you are sniffling — but not achy, not feverish — it's

probably allergies. Get to work!

- Sniffling, achy, tired, fever? You're coming down with the common cold or the flu. You are contagious in those first days. You are miserable, face it. You're not going to get much done at work. Also, you will recover quicker from the common cold or flu if you get some rest.

Chills, Sweats

- If your clothes are getting drenched, you likely have a fever. (A warm forehead is a very low-grade fever or nothing at all.) When you have a fever, stay home — you're contagious! It's likely flu or, yes, the common cold. Stay away from work until you feel better.

- If you have a fever plus white patches on your tonsils (say "ah"), it may be strep throat. It's highly contagious. You may need an antibiotic.

Coughing

- If it's a tickle in the throat or it feels like postnasal drip, the cough is probably from allergies or the common cold.

Unless you've got other common cold symptoms, such as aches or fever, get to work!

- If the cough feels deep, makes you short of breath, and brings up green mucus, it's likely more than the common cold — perhaps bronchitis or pneumonia, according to Horesh. See a doctor!

Earache

- If your ear really hurts, if you can't hear well, you may have an ear infection. That's not contagious. Congestion from a common cold can also leave your ear in pain. You need to see a doctor to see which it is. You may need an antibiotic. Ear infections don't go away on their own.

Sinus Pain

- Pain around the eyes, top of the forehead, the cheekbones, even the top of your teeth are signs of a sinus infection, but it could be a common cold. Call in sick and see a doctor to see if you need an antibiotic.

Tummy Problems

- A stomach virus —

nausea, vomiting, watery diarrhea, aches, low-grade fever — can lay you low for several days. For 24-48 hours, you'll be absolutely miserable. It can take up to five days to recover. Drink lots of fluids, especially water.

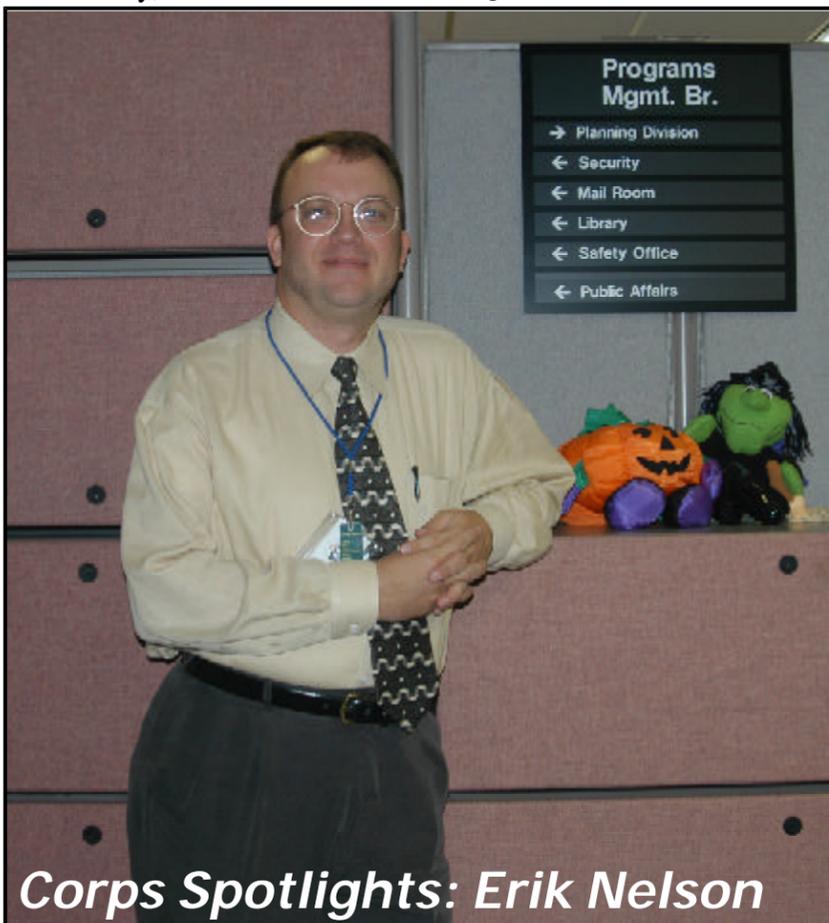
- For the first day or two, fluids and soup should be your diet. Then it's soft solids like mashed potatoes, applesauce, Jell-O, toast, and bananas. Slowly get into solid foods like meat. If you eat solid food too early, it just upsets your stomach more.

- Rule of thumb: If you can hold down food, you can go into work.

Sprains/Strains

- Go to work if you sit at a computer all day. But if you're on your feet, you will have more swelling, so wait until you can walk with little discomfort.

Anti-inflammatory pain relievers help most people, even if they're not in a lot of pain, because they reduce swelling; take it with food so your stomach isn't irritated.



Corps Spotlights: Erik Nelson

Name: Erik L. Nelson

Office: Programs Management Branch, PPM D

Years in Service: 12 years civil Service; 16 years total federal service, including military time

Hometown: Richmond, VA

Schooling: Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech, and completed an alphabet soup of Army courses since (EOBC, EOAC, CAS3, SBLM)

Family: Parents, two younger brothers (35 and 33), two nephews (5 and 1), and one niece (11 months).

Most interesting assignment: Program Manager for Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO) in Baghdad, Iraq

Secret goals: If published, they wouldn't be secret, now would it?

Rainy days are for: Indoor activities??

Favorite sport: Watching: College Football

Favorite Drink: Guinness!!! Followed closely by fresh-ground coffee and Mountain Dew

Favorite Musician: U2, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Cure, The Police, R.E.M., Red Hot Chili Peppers

Favorite meal: Anything cooked by someone else!

Biggest Gripe: People that spend more time griping and less time doing. If you don't like something, use your "Do It" card and fix it!

Guest Column



A Thanksgiving Story

By Bobbie Joe Schedlapp

I love Thanksgiving. Looking back on my childhood, I remember more Thanksgivings than any other holiday. The big meal with all my favorite dishes that didn't appear very often throughout the year. The leaves on the ground and crisp autumn air. A long weekend with no school work and a steady dose of football games – on TV and out in the backyard. Knowing that Christmas wasn't too far away. All wrapped in a warm family blanket that made the food taste better, the air sweeter and the football games more exciting.

That's my picture of an American Thanksgiving today. But not everyone is that lucky. Fortunately, we are a nation of caring, generous givers. We readily share our wealth and our fortune with the less wealthy and the less fortunate. We always weren't so lucky. In fact, Thanksgiving's historical origin is really a celebration of thanks by the less fortunate toward another group who shared their bounty when it was needed most.

Imagine this scene from the past. One group of people who is on the brink of human disaster through no fault of their own. Their future is very much

uncertain as they begin to chart a new nation without much more than faith and hope in their tool kits. The only joy in their lives is that they no longer live under an oppressive dictator where basic human rights are absent. Their quality of life is characterized by inadequate utilities, rudimentary shelter, no livestock, a terrible harvest and a diet that is lacking in both quality and quantity. Winter is coming and the outlook is focused on survival alone. Imagine the doubt that these people must have had. Did we trade our past lives, as bad as they were, for the real possibility of dying from exposure, albeit as free men?

And then, they were saved by the kindness of others until they could make their own way as a self-sufficient free nation. One group – wealthy, caring, generous – helping another group in need. Helping others when the need was greatest and the ability to help themselves non-existent. Food and livestock was provided so that a basic level of sustenance was achieved. Shelter was improved to protect them from the harsh winter elements. Utilities and sanitary conditions upgraded to acceptable health standards and

quality of life. And it was all done with little fanfare. No big headlines raced across the newspapers. No promises accepted to repay the generosity later. It was simply man helping his fellow man in need. They helped because they could and because it was the right thing to do.

I'm not discussing our nation's Pilgrims and the Native Americans that helped them make it through that first winter in Massachusetts. Instead, I'm describing the scene that took place last year in Iraq and Afghanistan and continues to take place there today.

Your Corps of Engineers is playing a central role in this effort. Many of you have volunteered for service there and made this a personal campaign. All of you have either served there or carried a heavier workload back here while chairs were empty in the cubicle next door. All of you have made a difference, by caring and giving, in the lives of the people in Iraq and Afghanistan while they build a fledgling nation based on the principles of freedom and democracy that we take for granted here. Many others will be doing the same around the world because of you.

Commander's column
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Are you doing your O&M? Team Galveston has had a number of folks that have recently been in the hospital for surgery and other health related reasons. Fortunately, these folks were practicing good O&M and their medical issues were discovered early so that their treatments were less intensive than they would have been otherwise. You know what you should do. I'm too busy is a horrible excuse. I'm young and I feel fine doesn't cut it either. Hoping that it will not happen to you is just plain dumb. Take the time to get your regular medical check ups. If you don't want to do it for yourself, do it for your family. They care.

Last and least importantly, the Division Command Inspection team is coming in December. I am not concerned whatsoever about this event. Instead, I'm looking forward to it. Use it to MAKE Southwest Division work for you, answer your questions and take away taskers from you. Have an agenda and be aggressive about using these two days to address your issues. This is not two days of being graded by SWD and getting more hep' from Dallas. Have fun...I will.

Castle Comments

Get Well Soon

Get well wishes are sent to the Public Affairs Office. It is suffering from the temporary loss of both *Marilyn Uhrich and Michele C. Thomas, public affairs specialists*. Both were forced to undergo surgery. Please note they left kicking and screaming.

A speedy recovery is sent to *Herbie Maurer, deputy district commander and chief of program and project management*, who had surgery at the end of October.

Happy Anniversary

Lisa and Darrell Johnson, Northern Area Office, celebrate their one-year anniversary on Nov. 24. The happy couple celebrated by spending two weeks in the hill country.

Speechmakers

John Machol (PE-RB) gave a presentation on Wetland Mitigation Banking to the Ecosystem Banking Workshop on September 22-24, 2004.

Gone fishin'



Paul Roberts with his catch.

Paul Roberts, son of Terry Roberts of environmental, caught a big flounder at the Corps dock Oct. 17th. The flounder was 25 inches long and weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Condolences

Edward Huff, Bay Area Office lost his father, Tuesday, October 12, 2004. Duane Huff, passed away in Mason City, Iowa at the age of 72. Please keep Ed and his family in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Retiree Update



Henry Fleming, Corps retiree, takes over the helm of M/V Sam Houston during a tour of the Houston Ship Channel.

Hello friends -

After being retired for a year and a half I have had a chance to meet a lot of other retirees and it makes me glad that I was with the Corps. However, I keep abreast of things with the district thru friends and the *Sand Castle*.

On the trip aboard the M/V Sam Houston I could reflect back to the days in '82 when I was surveying the channel and it gave me a sense of pride that I was part of the organization that made the ship channel possible. Perhaps everyone in the district should take the tour and see all the industry that was made possible by the creation of the ship channel. The tour is free thanks to Houston Port Authority. Keep up the good work!!

Take care,
Henry Fleming
Galveston District Corps Retiree