

RIP RAP

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District

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Bring Your Child to Work Day allowed District employees to educate our sons and daughters about the work we do. See the story and photos on page 8.

Photo by Lisa Lockyear



US Army Corps of Engineers®
Albuquerque District

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District Engineer,
Lt. Col. Jason Williams

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Guard Soldiers Return to New Army Aviation Support Facility

By Kristen Skopec, Public Affairs

District personnel joined members of the New Mexico National Guard in honoring the Soldiers of Company C, 1-171st Aviation Regiment, who returned home from a year-long deployment in Afghanistan, April 27. The ceremony also served as a ribbon cutting for a new Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF), which was constructed under the Corps' oversight and will provide a location for aviation support and maintenance and a temporary home for the unit, while the old AASF is transformed into a readiness center.

The facility was constructed with environmental efficiency as a priority. The Project Delivery Team has submitted documentation to the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for review and determination of the project's certification level, and the team is confident the facility will achieve gold certification. This would be the District and the Guard's first Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) gold certified facility.

LEED is a system that defines and measures "green buildings." It was developed as a pilot program by the USGBC under a grant from the Department of Energy and launched in August 1998. The LEED rating system is organized into five environmental categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality, plus an additional category for Innovation and Design. Points are earned for satisfying performance criteria in each of these categories. Four different levels of green building certification are awarded by USGBC based on the total points earned. These levels are "Certified" at 26-32 points, "Silver" at 33-38 points, "Gold" at 39-51 points and "Platinum" at 52-69 Points.

The AASF was initially slated for LEED Silver



USACE photo

The new Army Aviation Support Facility was built with environmental efficiency at the forefront.

certification, but through a collaborative effort by the Project Delivery Team and the Guard, and a commitment to sustainability, the project is on track for gold with no additional associated costs.

"Company C Soldiers deserve the best and most environmentally efficient facility we are able to provide," said District Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams. "This medical evacuation unit who flies UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to transport injured personnel from the site of injury to higher levels of medical care is under continuous strain."

The unit transported fellow Soldiers, Marines, allied forces and injured civilians in need of attention in Afghanistan. They have participated in 1,452 missions, transported 1,825 patients, logged more than 4,000 flight hours and maintained 17 Blackhawks during their tenure.

In recent years, the New Mexico National Guard has deployed to Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and Cuba, and there are more than 400 Soldiers serving in an Observer mission in Sinai, Egypt.

Birthday Gives Chance to Recognize Soldiers/Civilians

Courtesy of Headquarters

On June 14, 1775, the nation's leaders established the Continental Army. Still today, America's Army is meeting the needs of the nation and its citizens and is engaged in nearly 150 countries around the world, with more than 93,000 Soldiers deployed and 95,000 Soldiers stationed at forward operating locations.

Included in this best equipped, best trained and best led Army in history are 1.1 million professional Soldiers serving in the Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard who still carry the same patriotism of the Soldiers of the Continental Army. They are true professionals, and each American Soldier is an expert and a volunteer certified in the Profession of Arms.

America depends on its Army to help with recovery efforts in the wake of a natural disaster, to defeat enemy forces abroad and

to defend the shores at home. It is the Soldiers' moral character and resolute commitment that defines them as professionals and guarantees a sacred trust with the American people.

But, the Army is made up of more than the men and women in uniform. In many cases, it is supported by civilians, equipped by civilians, transported by civilians and led by civilians.

More than 278,000 Army Civilians are committed to serving the nation. They take the same oath as Army officers and members of Congress, solemnly swearing that they will support and defend the Constitution. Like their uniformed counterparts, Army Civilians are expected to live the Army Values and exercise agility, adaptability and flexibility in



support of current conflicts.

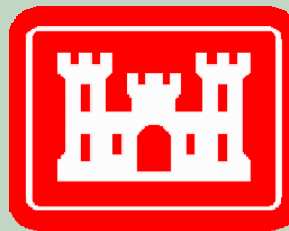
Since the Army transitioned to an All-Volunteer force, Army Civilians have assumed increased levels of responsibility and greater authority. Army Civilians serve in more than 500 occupational fields spanning 31 career programs, providing the complementary skills, expertise and competence required to support and sustain the uniformed Army.

The 237th birthday is a chance to celebrate the dedication of Soldiers and Civilians. Happy Birthday to all of you!

MYTH: You have to join the Army to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!

FACT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is primarily a civilian organization with 37,000 dedicated civilians and about 550 Soldiers. Civilian occupations include: civil engineers, chemical engineers, mechanical engineers, environmental engineers, biologists, engineering technicians, architects, realty specialists, lock and dam operators, survey technicians, project engineers, geologists, hydrologists and others.

Sound interesting? Find more information at:
<http://www.usace.army.mil/Careers.aspx>



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Photo and information courtesy of Supervisory Park Ranger Mark Rosacker.



On March 27, Cochiti Project employees hosted seven professional water managers representing five counties in the Sahel Region of Africa. Specifically, the water managers represented Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The visitors and their interpreter are shown with Supervisory Park Ranger Mark Rosacker (second from right).

Cochiti Lake Project Welcomes International Visitors

For the third year, employees in the Corps' Cochiti Lake project welcomed visitors with the Council on International Relations (CIR) and discussed Cochiti Dam history and operations. This year, the group also learned about the aftermath of the Las Conchas Fire and the Corps' tribal relations and partnerships.

"They were provided a program by Jacob Pecos at Cochiti Pueblo in the morning then toured Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument and visited the Cochiti Project in the afternoon," Supervisor Park Ranger Mark Rosacker said. Additionally, he said they obtained permission to bring the group to Cochiti Canyon to see Dixon's Apple Farm, which sustained severe fire and flood damage.

The group's coordinator said it is rare to get detailed feedback from the international visitors, but not this time.

One visitor said, "Santa Fe was like home – very few trees, very dry. We met with scientists who work on hydrology as well as greenhouse agriculture. I realized that here in the United States scientists share information. We

saw a revolutionary new method for measuring stream flow. It was a very beneficial visit to Santa Fe and helped me understand that Americans are open to the outside world."

Another visitor said, "Santa Fe reminded me of a village back home. What most impressed me is what is being done to fight drought as well as climate change, as well as the work being done by the Corps of Engineers to manage water and dams."

Yet another said, "I was very moved by the discussion with the Pueblo leaders – their history, how they survived. They were very brave to come before us and talk about their problems. I didn't think that in America you would have situations where the government does things without consulting the people. The home hospitality reminded me of being at home! I didn't think you could have those types of gatherings in America, because everyone told us that Americans are only interested in themselves, not in groups. People were so kind and humble and treated us as equals. This erased another idea that I had about Americans."

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 5 (Develop collaborative approaches to address watershed-based, multi-stakeholder and multi-benefit water resource challenges).

District Happenings

Web Map Viewers Help See the Big Picture

By Kristen Skopec, Public Affairs

The concept of a web map viewer is to make spatially oriented data and related information available to a wide viewing audience for general education, planning and decision making. Most everything under the Corps' myriad missions has spatial association, such as levees, lakes, real estate, regulatory permitting, tribal partnering, planning, environmental restoration and cultural work activities.

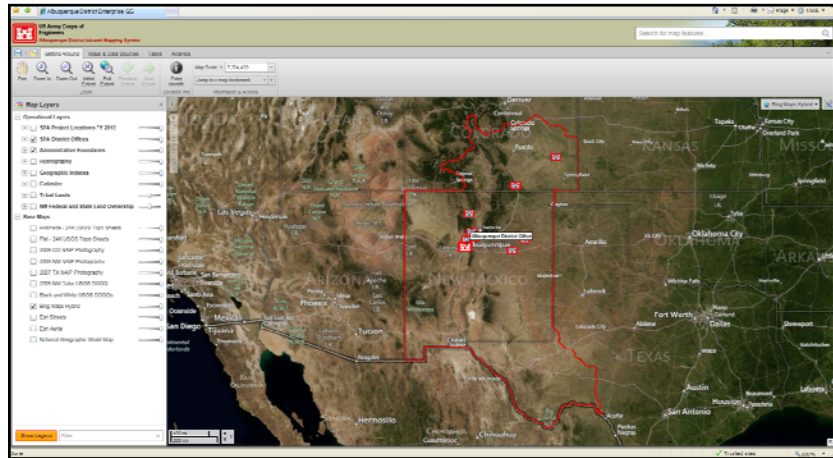
"The content of map viewers can be very general or project specific," said Geospatial Unit Leader John Peterson. "We have built both types. There is actually an Army directive that all districts will have an Enterprise type viewer that can be accessed from the centralized National CorpsMap System."

The District's viewers are used for district, regional and national information sharing.

"The web-based mapping system can coalesce the ever increasing volumes of spatially oriented data used by the district into an easy to navigate interface," Peterson said. "It adds value to the collective body of information that resides in the system, facilitating the viewing and analysis of multi-themed and multi-temporal mapping at every desktop in the District and out to the wider Corps network."

Current viewers available through the "one-stop" Geospatial Web Page located at <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/spd/spa/Pages/GDS.aspx> include enterprise viewers, most recent of which is the Albuquerque District Intranet Mapping System II. This viewer includes a district-wide picture of project and field office locations and relevant linked information and multiple other spatially oriented themes.

Viewers are built by Geospatial Unit employees in cooperation with project managers and



project delivery team members. To date, the available viewers have been put together by Doug Walther, District cartographer. Hydraulic Civil Engineer Roberta Ball has also provided critical technical assistance.

"This District has followed the same course that most of the Corps' districts have followed regarding the use of advancements in the Geographic Information System (GIS) technology realm," Peterson said. "Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) GIS mapping software has been in use here for more than 25 years and is considered the standard throughout the Corps and the world."

Peterson believes, through advancements in software and hardware technology that have simplified the use of GIS, increasing numbers of professionals in many disciplines operating throughout the Corps are now using GIS on a daily basis.

"With the expansion of available web services and the natural progression of GIS' direction to simplify delivery of geographic information to the masses, in the last two to four years, web mapping applications have exploded onto the scene," he said. "Now, cloud-based imagery sets from ESRI and Bing and other focused map services maintained by local, state and national agencies, are readily available and in use in developing such things

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GeoSpatial Data & Services

From previous page—

as tax assessor parcels, USGS stream gages and national weather service applications, to name a few.”

The District’s Geospatial Unit employees have tracked these advancements and are now ready to share the many uses that web map viewers facilitate. For the future, they are working toward having the District’s system serve as an interface, or dashboard, for use by

executive users that will allow for access to project metrics and P2 reporting.

“We continue to augment our dam projects’ accessible information sets, such as on-site Geodetic Control and REMIS based Real Estate and Asset holdings,” Peterson said. “We will continue to tie associated geographies i.e., levees and restoration areas, with their related scanned documents, such as project plans, studies and reports for more efficient retrieval through a viewer interface.”

According to Peterson, expect to hear about short training workshops to expose District personnel to the viewers’ functionality.

For more information to or arrange for a training session, call John at 505-342-3664.

Viewers Available Within the One-Stop Geospatial Webpage Include: SPA Tribal Viewer, San Acacia Levee Viewer, Bernalillo to Belen Levee Viewer, Inspection of Completed Works (ICW) Viewer, Middle Rio Grande Bosque Restoration Viewer, Española Valley General Investigation Viewer Las Conchas Fire Viewer, and John Martin Natural Resource Viewer.

USACE Awarded Highest Honor for Small Business



The Honorable Dr. Joseph Westphal, Under Secretary of the Army, presents Maj. Gen. Merdith “Bo” Temple, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acting commander and chief of engineers, the highest award for Small Business Excellence from the Secretary of the Army during a ceremony at the Pentagon, Apr. 23. Also photographed are Thomas L. Lamont, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (right of Temple), and Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli, USACE Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations.

FEST-A Team Focuses on Culture and Engineering

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

The 59th FEST-A Team continues to provide support to the Albuquerque District and Santa Clara Pueblo. As promised, the team returned in early May to provide recommendations for low-cost and efficient delivery of potable water to the Pueblo community.

Collaboration between the FEST-A Team and area pueblos has been helpful for all. For Santa Clara Pueblo, they now have professional recommendations they can use as a basis for contracting and construction of a water system. And, the FEST-A team will incorporate cultural lessons learned when on a deployment to Afghanistan later this year.

The types of conditions and the environment of the pueblos are comparable to the type of villages in need of help in

Afghanistan. Coordinating with the pueblos has taught the team members that their mission is much larger than providing engineering solutions, as it will be imperative for the team to understand the culture of the native people.

“We can provide an efficient, low-cost solution to our Native American customers, but if these recommendations challenge their values or priorities, the solutions may never be implemented,” said Maj. Seth Wacker, FEST-A team lead. “As a result of working with these communities, we have found that even the manner in which our report is presented can be critical to its acceptance as a valid solution.”

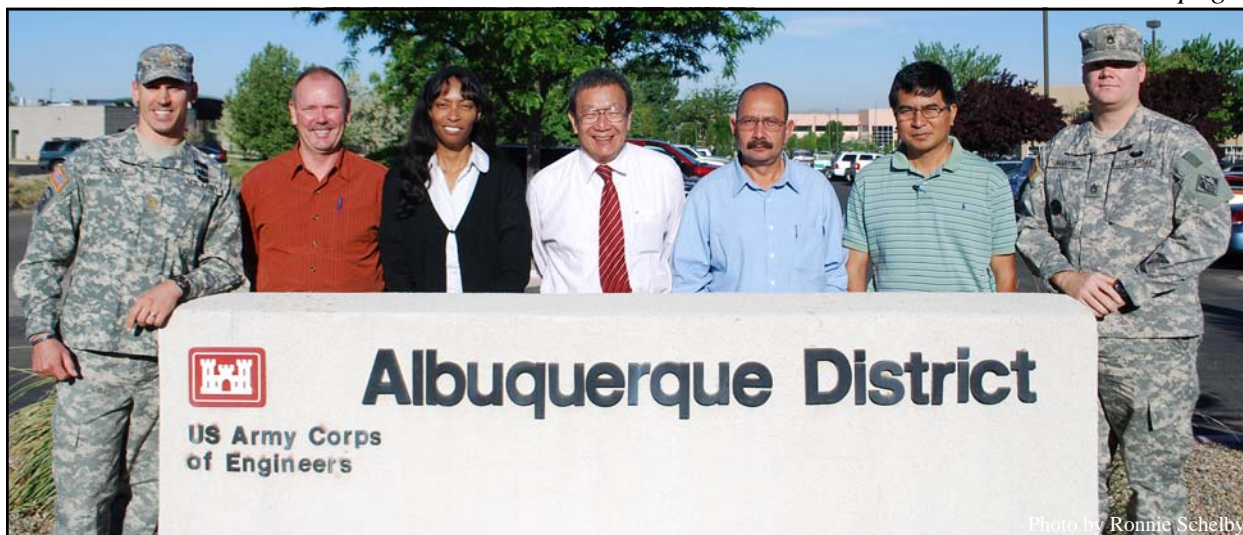
Therefore, the lessons learned by the FEST-A Team are two-fold. “Our team members, already experts in their fields,

must also become experts in understanding cultural differences, while not losing sight of the team’s main mission and goal,” Wacker said.

Delivery of clean, potable water and other utilities, which are common issues for native tribes, are also common scenarios the team encounters when operating abroad in support of Corps and Army tactical missions. Because of the lessons learned in New Mexico regarding engineering and cultural awareness, the team will be prepared for similar situations half a world away and, thereby, cultivate amicable working relationships with the Afghan people.

The FEST-A Team will continue to provide assistance to Santa Clara Pueblo. The next project for the team is to

—Continued on next page



The 59th FEST-A Team includes (L to R) Maj. Seth Wacker, Officer in Charge; Steven Niemi, Civil Engineer; Dr. Sonya Olbrantz, Environmental Engineer; Bill Yang, Electrical Engineer; Essam Mostafa, Civil Engineer; Tin Kyaw, Mechanical Engineer; and Sgt. 1st Class Steven Martin, NCOIC and Construction Supervisor.

This activity supports our Operations Plan: Action 5 (Develop collaborative approaches to address watershed-based, multi-stakeholder and multi-benefit water resource challenges).

District Happenings

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assist with designing a nursery facility that will allow the Pueblo to reforest their sacred lands that were devastated during the Las Conchas fires last year.

“This is not only a very important initiative for the Pueblo, but yet another great

training opportunity for our team, as it incorporates aspects of civil, mechanical, electrical, and environmental engineering, plus cartography,” Wacker said. “And, we will be able to use the skills of the entire FEST-A Team.”

Unlike many engineering organizations, the FEST-A

Team develops solutions using input from all major disciplines of engineering, which ultimately ensures more comprehensive, sustainable solutions.

“The team looks forward to returning to the Albuquerque District to tackle this important project for Santa Clara Pueblo,” Wacker said.

Buying Green Means Taking Reasonable Steps

By Don Doran, Hazardous Waste Manager, Kirtland AFB and husband of Karen Doran, EEO Manager

Most of us have heard that U.S. government agencies, including the Department of Defense, down to every individual work center and administrative support office, are required to buy “green” products. But let’s take a step back for a minute to review what that means.

Presidential Executive Order 13423, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy and Transportation Management,” put into effect many new goals and milestones for federal agencies to advance the nation’s energy security and environmental performance. It also required purchasing environmentally sound goods and services, including bio-based products.

Accordingly, every time we buy supplies or equipment, we must consider green products that have the following environmental benefits: Made with recycled content, Made with bio-based products, Energy and water efficient, Alternative fuels or vehicles, Renewable energy sources, Sustainable building materials, Lacking in ozone-depleting substances or priority-listed toxic chemicals, Electronic product environmental assessment tool-registered electronic equipment, and Environmentally preferable.

Look for the green tree symbol to identify

and locate green products. Even buyers of goods and services for the Army and tenant agencies must consider the characteristics listed above for all purchases and contract activities.

Exceptions to buying green are only authorized when environmentally preferred items are unreasonably expensive; not available within reasonable time frames; or have proven not to be of serviceable quality for the intended purpose.

Another exception might occur for alternative fuel-capable vehicles. We are not required to drive several miles out of the way to find an alternative fuel filling station, which would defeat all the benefits of using alternative fuel. But in cases where environmentally preferred products are not used, a record should be maintained documenting why not; otherwise, this could result in a negative finding during an environmental audit. So, let’s make a mental note to “buy green,” and not only for work. Be sure to consider green alternatives for home and personal items too.





Albuquerque District Employees Bring Children to Work

By Celina Griego, Budget Analyst



District employees brought their children to work April 26, and the day was filled with energetic and enthusiastic children learning about the Corps' missions. The kids were kept busy with presentations and hands-on activities, such as a cloud machine, a rolling river and water safety activities, while accompanied by parents and "Bobber" the water safety dog. Leadership Development Program participants Danielle Galloway, Robert Grimes, Amanda Tapia-Pittman and Karen Sill gave an informative presentation on different career fields, followed by a field trip and nature walk. And, the children were amazed with a Google Earth presentation by Doug Walther. They also took part in an ice relay and learned about emergency operations.



Technicians Undergo Crane and Rigging Certification

By Ronnie Schelby, Public Affairs

Can you afford to make LUCK a part of lifting communications?

This attention-grabbing safety question was the opener for the Class II Crane and Hoist Operator Certification training held at Cochiti Lake April 25 and 26.

Eighteen technicians from the District's managed lakes and reservoirs were in attendance.

Structural Crew Supervisor Arthur Kunigel of the Corps' Portland District taught the two-day training course, which involved classroom and hands-on training. He adamantly said the answer to the question is "NO!" There is no way to stop a bad incident once it starts to

go bad. "Mishandling and miscommunication will allow the crane to kill you in a New York minute," Kunigel said.

He brought awareness of the fact that working with and around cranes creates a hazardous work environment.

According to Kunigel, OSHA is changing the laws regarding crane and rigging training because, just within the Corps, there is a crane accident nearly every week. He said the training is necessary to mitigate and alleviate the crane accidents.

Kunigel stressed that communication is the key to reducing or preventing accidents. Oftentimes, it is

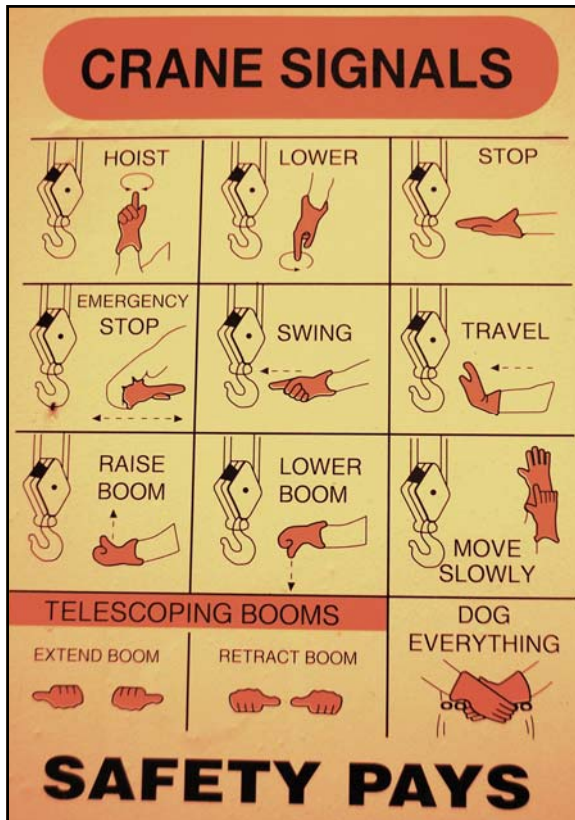
extremely loud around cranes, so verbal communication is just one of three types of communication normally practiced. The other two are radio use and hand signals. And, hand signals must be posted on the crane

To see this story in video go to: <http://youtu.be/FppAv44d8H0>

or in a conspicuous place.

Some of the numerous tips Kunigel delivered were the following: 1) Never anticipate a person's needs, no matter which type of communications are being used; just do what the person asks. 2) If using hand signals, the most important step is pre-planning. 3) Understand the purpose of each job and what each person will do. 4) If you do not understand anything - ASK! 5) Anyone within the vicinity of the crane can call a halt to an operation, if they perceive a danger.

Kunigel has been working in the crane and rigging field for approximately 42 years. To date, he has taught 25 certification classes for the Corps and has certified close to 400 employees. He said he was pleased with the performance of the Albuquerque District employees and was able to certify everyone.



Photos by Ronnie Schelby

Arthur Kunigel shows a student how to use correct hand signals for safe crane operations.

Army Aviation Runs Full Circle for Employee

By Elizabeth Lockyear, Public Affairs

From the beginnings of Army aviation in the early 20th Century, Eric Procter's family was involved. His grandfather served in France as an army aircraft mechanic in World War I, and his service inspired his grandson.

Procter joined the Army in 1976 at age 17 as an aircraft powertrain mechanic, and two years later (at the ripe old age of 19) he was selected for flight school at Fort Rucker, Ala. After graduation, he was appointed as a warrant officer and served three years with the Air Cavalry at Fort Ord, Calif. In 1982, he returned to Fort Rucker to attend the warrant officer advanced course and the UH-1H "Huey" Helicopter instructor pilot course.

After a tour as a pilot in Korea and at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was honorably discharged in 1986. It was in Korea where he performed his most dangerous assignments, flying re-supply missions along the Korean DMZ.

In 2001, after working as a plant maintenance manager in El Paso, Texas, the Corps' Galveston District hired him as a facility manager. In this position, Procter served as the Contracting Officers Representative for 12 service contracts and multiple operations and maintenance projects, and he often stepped forward as the acting logistics chief. He came to work for the Albuquerque District in 2009.

As one of the District's construction control inspectors, Procter spends his time reviewing reports, checking submittals, observing contractor activities, monitoring safety compliance, researching codes and consulting with the project engineer.

In a touch of irony, Procter was assigned to a project to build a new Army Aviation Support



Facility for the New Mexico National Guard.

"I am especially proud of being part of the District team that delivered the Army Aviation Support Facility, which will serve the needs of many future generations of Army Aviators," he said. "I feel as if I have come full circle in my association with Army Aviation and that I have personally benefited yet have also had the opportunity to give something back."

Procter said his military service has positively contributed to all of his civilian jobs, and he has recently reached a personal milestone by completing 20 years of federal service.

Employee Picked as Emergency Local Government Liaison

By Kristen Skopeck, Public Affairs

The Corps of Engineers has selected 36 people for the 2012 and 2013 Emergency Local Government Liaison cadre, and the District's Trent Simpler, environmental project manager, is among the selectees.

The cadre formed as a result of a week-long annual training held at the Corps' Readiness Support Center in Mobile, Ala., where perspective members were evaluated based on their grasp of emergency concepts, course material, homework assignments, attitude, initiative, teamwork and public speaking skills.

The members are expected to be available for deployment at any moment and will fill key coordination roles at local government levels, facilitating successful mission execution by serving as a communication conduit between the local government, the supported district or recovery field office, and the Joint Field Office. In doing so, the members will coordinate not only with the Corps' and local representatives but also with state and federal emergency management representatives.

"I feel that working for the Corps is more than just a job," Simpler said. "Part of the reason I took this job is that the Corps helps the country when disasters happen, and I want to be part of that team."

When Simpler was in the



Photo Courtesy of Trent Simpler

Trent Simpler stands in front of one of the Corps' emergency operations response vehicles kept ready for deployment.

Army, he was part of a team who helped people after an earth quake in Guatemala. He gained experience working in remote locations, with little or no support, and he proved he is able to handle the stress of a disaster situation and still perform assigned duties.

According to Simpler, the training process for the cadre was like drinking from a fire hose, a lot of very valuable information in a very short amount of time. And, the stand-out message was that the Corps has a difficult emergency response mission and needs more quality people.

"Depending on the mission, I could be living out of a truck for days or weeks," he said.

"Being selected for the cadre means that Trent Simpler is level-headed and highly trained to respond in an emergency," said District

Commander Lt. Col. Jason Williams. "It is an important professional achievement and an honor to be chosen."

For now, Simpler will be on call to leave in a six-hour window every third month and will have a backup for all his projects. Otherwise, he said, his work will not be affected, except when he needs to report for the cadre's training requirements.

The importance of the cadre was evidenced during last year's response to the Alabama tornados. The team's professionalism was noted and appreciation for their capabilities was voiced during the December 2011 Corps of Engineers Remedial Action Program conference and at the National Hurricane Conference.

Employee Reflects on RLDP trip to Washington

By Curtis McFadden, civil engineer and RLDP member

Recently, I had the opportunity, as part of the Regional Leadership Development Program (RLDP), to attend a Government Affairs Institute (GAI) program week in D.C.

The week focused on each participant's interests and understanding how Congress works. My interests were simple: network with other future leaders within the Corps and the employees at Headquarters. I did not expect an increase in pride for my country, learning how Washington policy could affect my career while working for the federal government and seeing so many different styles of leadership.

Touring Arlington Cemetery gave me a certain pride of just what our country has gone through. Every soul that was laid to rest was treated with the same respect - it did not matter who they were. It reminded me that we all serve with a common goal: making this country a great place to live.

I am a novice on congressional issues. Yes, I vote, but without knowing or caring too strongly about those representing me, and I was fine with that. However, this trip broadened my view. I followed Stephen Cary, deputy director in the Directorate of Research and Development. He stressed that I should know my congressional representatives and about their special interests and committees.

I was also able to see Mr. Cary's form of leadership. He was very straight forward, treating others with appreciation and respect. He advised using the golden rule: treat your employees with respect and award them on your dollar. It makes a huge difference in showing you appreciate them. The supervisors in the Operations Division in Albuquerque practice this habit. It was nice to see it at headquarters.

Mr. Cary also mentioned flexibility, seeking opportunities for advancement and to always be willing to try something new. His advice was to keep my options open for opportunities for a possible detail in Washington.



Photo Courtesy of Curtis McFadden

RLDP: Back (L to R) Curtis McFadden-SPA, John Kuckarski-SPL, Mostafa Mostafa-SPK; Front George Catone-SPK, Robin Liffmann-SPN, Linda McCart-SPL, and Angela Bradley-SPK.


This experience has given me a new understanding of how Congress operates. And, reading *Congress for Dummies* and combining it with this GAI has helped me understand how Congress affects the funding for the Corps.

The appropriation committee is highly sought by members in Congress because it sets the budgets for all federal agencies. Presenters said that most congressmen had a favorable view of the Corps' budget. A majority of congressmen know the Corps' civil works activities are visible to the public, so approving our appropriations used to be easy. But, things have changed in recent years, because of the negative public view of earmarks. Before this week, my understanding was that all earmarks were bad and that they increased our national debt. However, I learned this isn't the case and that earmarks helped the Corps budget in the Civil Works program.

Overall, I learned a lot about how our country functions. I gained pride in the USA, insight about Congress and different points of view on leadership.

UXO
Unexploded
Ordnance

Don't touch!



If you find any object that resembles this, do not touch or move it. It's UXO and still could explode. **Even fragments are dangerous.** Note the location and **call 911.** Remember, if you **did not** drop it, **do not** pick it up!

Recognize
Retreat
Report

<https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>

FRN Provides Deployment Support

The District's Family Readiness Network (FRN) is a team of employees and family members joined together to support the needs within the Corps Family when an employee deploys overseas. They strive to inform, prepare and support the one deploying and act as a resource for their family members.

You can join the team! There are many volunteer positions available. Call 342-3316 to learn more.

Also, all FRN activities, including packages and holiday cards sent to employees and family members, shipping costs and employee recognition, depend on donations.

If you would like to help out with a monetary donation or with package materials please call.



Schelby

In a slight twist, Fred Schelby is a deployed spouse of a District civilian. His wife, Ronnie Schelby, can mail Fred a package each month as part of the benefits provided by the FRN program.

District Employee's Article Published

District Archeologist Greg Everhart and Bruce Huckell, Ph.D., professor at the University of New Mexico's Department of Anthropology, have had an article published in "Current Research in the Pleistocene," Journal Vol. 28.

The article, titled "The Cochiti Clovis Point Base, Sandoval County, New Mexico," discusses a Clovis Period projectile point base which Everhart found in January 2010 while performing a Cochiti archeological survey.

Dr. Huckell, the leading Paleoindian researcher in New Mexico, was brought to the area to examine the artifact and confirm it was a Clovis Point

projectile base.

The finding was important because it was the first positively identified Clovis point found in Sandoval County.

The journal is produced by the Department of Anthropology, Texas A&M University, and the article is the first time Everhart and Huckell have collaborated for a publication.



Everhart

Summer Safety

In preparation for warm weather months, the U.S. Army has extended its “Take 5 for Safety” program to the 2012 Spring and Summer Safety Campaign. Take 5 for Safety encourages Soldiers, Civilians and family members to take just a little time—five seconds, five minutes—to think things through in order to help protect themselves, their family and co-workers against mishaps. For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, safety is everyone’s business, whether at home or work.

Please take a few moments to make safe choices: Don’t cut corners on safety.

Conservation

While visiting Albuquerque on January 5, 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced a “Middle Rio Grande Conservation Initiative.” Secretary Salazar appointed a Committee of citizens and agency representatives to prepare a plan by July 2012 to enhance conservation, education and recreation efforts in the Middle Rio Grande. This plan will be shaped by public input.

For more information about the Conservation Initiative: www.middleriogrande.com
Public comments can be sent: middleriogrande-plan@gmail.com, or sent to dsimon@ecothink.org, or call 505-280-2319

Quality Management System TRIVIA

It is time again for QMS Trivia, but first I would like to recognize April’s winners for answering all five QMS questions correctly. The winners were Doug Bailey, Bernadette Armijo and Carolyn Abreu. Remember, the first three personnel who write to gregory.s.allen@usace.army.mil with the correct answers will receive Level 1 Corps Bucks to our Corps’ Store.

Here are this month’s questions:

- 1) What are the three levels of QMS processes?
- 2) What number series do Legal Services QMS processes fall within?
- 3) Which QMS process number is the standard process template for developing process?
- 4) What does ELL stand for?
- 5) What is the QMS Vision?

Finance Corner



Are you aware of the Antideficiency Act? Let’s look at two recent violations. The first violation occurred as the result of an improper food purchase for a ground-breaking ceremony. This is a good time to remind people that whenever food is purchased with appropriated funds it must be approved by Resource Management and Counsel.

The second violation involved inappropriate labor costing where employees were charging to projects that they were not working on, because they were waiting on additional funding. They planned to do cost transfers when funding was received.

According to ER 37-1-30, labor hours actually worked on a specific project or customer order are charged to that project or customer, and upon exhaustion of project funds the project team is notified to stop work. It is never appropriate to charge or transfer labor costs to accomplish any of the following:

1. Compensate for funding shortfalls.
2. Liquidate or reduce balances in accounts with funds that are expiring.
3. Eliminate or avoid credit balances in accounts resulting from posting of labor actually worked.
4. Mask potential anti-deficiency act violations.
5. Mask cost overruns.
6. Facilitate performance of work in advance of receipt of funds.
7. Avoid reprogramming actions.

LDP II Team Develops New INTRANET Page for Employees

A team from the Leadership Development Program II (LDP II) Class was recently given a challenge to consolidate information from several Albuquerque District activity and special interest groups in one spot.

The team felt employee morale, recruitment and retention are improved when the workforce is actively engaged in programs that provide opportunities to enhance quality of life, so they set out to notify employees about the various Corps Life Programs.

Team Lead Amy Louise and members Richard Buttz, Hildreth Cooper, Chris Parrish, Grace Procter and Denice Quinn rolled up their

sleeves and created “The Corps Life Programs” page.

It is basically an employee-access webpage where special events, meetings, ideas and important information can be exchanged. And, as a repository for information from the Recreation Committee, Fitness/Wellness Program, Family Readiness Network, Employee Resource Group and Special Emphasis Groups, the page is a one-stop shop for information gathering.

The page contains a self-sustaining upcoming events calendar to remind employees of current and future events. It also has links with information about travel, military installations and fitness and

recreation opportunities.

Furthermore, the Corps Life Programs page highlights day trips and weekend scenic drives throughout the District’s area of operations, including New Mexico, southern Colorado, and west Texas. A “suggestion and comments” box is also there.

Once the District’s executive board members review and approve the proposed project, employees will be able to access the page on the intranet at: <https://team.usace.army.mil/sites/SPA/mwrap/default.aspx>

The page is expected to be live by mid June. For questions or comments, please contact: 505-342-3186.

Corps Will Honor America the Beautiful Pass for Military

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced May 15 it will begin accepting the America the Beautiful Federal Recreation Pass Program’s new Interagency Annual Pass for Military (Military Pass) at its more than 2,500 USACE-managed recreation areas nationwide.

Beginning on Armed Forces Day on May 19, service men and women - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and activated National Guard and Reserves, and their dependents who present the new Military Pass will receive a fee waiver to USACE-managed day-use areas (boat launches and swimming areas). The Military Pass, which is free, may be obtained in person at U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service facilities.

Additional information on the Federal Recreation Pass Program is available at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/annual.html>.

Military members and their dependents may also present a Department of Defense Identification Card or Common Access Card (CAC) to receive the day-use fee waiver.

USACE is the nation’s largest federal provider of outdoor recreation, managing more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states and hosting more than 370 million visits per year. With 90 percent of these recreation areas within 50 miles of metropolitan areas, they provide a diverse range of outdoor activities close to home and to people of all ages.

For more information on USACE recreation sites and activities, visit www.CorpsLakes.us.