

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

# **PACESETTER**

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*Galveston District dives into history*

*see page 5 for story*



## ***Pacesetter***

Serving the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division

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For more information about the ***Pacesetter***, or to make a submission, call your local Public Affairs Office.

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**Diving Deep: Galveston District pulls piece of history from Texas City Channel**



For the complete story about recovering civil war-era artifacts, see page 5 of this issue.





# Maintain the momentum

*Col. Anthony Funkhouser  
Commander, Southwestern Division*

Happy 2010, Pacesetters!

Let me start by welcoming everyone back from a well deserved holiday break. I hope it was good for you and your families. I know many of you worked during the holiday season to meet our American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and program commitments. For that, let me personally thank you all.

Last September, we successfully executed our program, but we were challenged to meet the demands of the ARRA schedules. Since then, the Southwestern Division has really stepped up to the plate and I am proud to report that we were actually slightly ahead of our milestones and Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp recognized us for the effort at our last Guidons call. I am told that Southwestern Division has executed more than \$530 million so far in our total program effort.

We need to maintain our momentum now through March and ensure we meet our commitments. Recognizing each award is an individual challenge. I just ask you to do your best, keep your schedules and P2 updated, and in the end we'll "get 'er done!"

We have been very fortunate so far this year with regard to weather in our area, but most of you are aware of the disaster that struck Haiti. The Corps has responded and we will do whatever we can to assist. Let's continue to ensure our teams are prepared and responsive for when we get the next call for support.

I recently had the opportunity to recognize some outstanding Pacesetter professionals at a ceremony for those that exemplify our Army's values. This was a solemn event that captured the importance of the Army values and gave us an opportunity to reflect on our employees that epitomize the spirit of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Congratulations to the winners: Linda Webster, Ted Kerr, Chris Trego, Jackie Jernigan, Gary Dye, Karli Wise, and Leland Daniel. Well deserved!

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*"We need to maintain our momentum now through March, and ensure we meet our commitments."*

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We just completed a very successful year in overall safety, so I challenge you all to continue the effort and strive for zero as our goal every year. You are all safety deputies so watch for where you can prevent an accident!

Finally, let me say thanks to all our deployed Pacesetters and wish them a successful tour. We know you are all contributing and making a difference. We look forward to your safe return!

Pacesetters!



## Proudly serving the nation

Pete Perez, chief of the Galveston District's Engineering and Construction Division, who has been deployed to Afghanistan since November 2009, takes a moment to pose for a picture with Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp visited Corps employees in that region to get a first-hand look at the the work being done in that country.

(USACE photo)

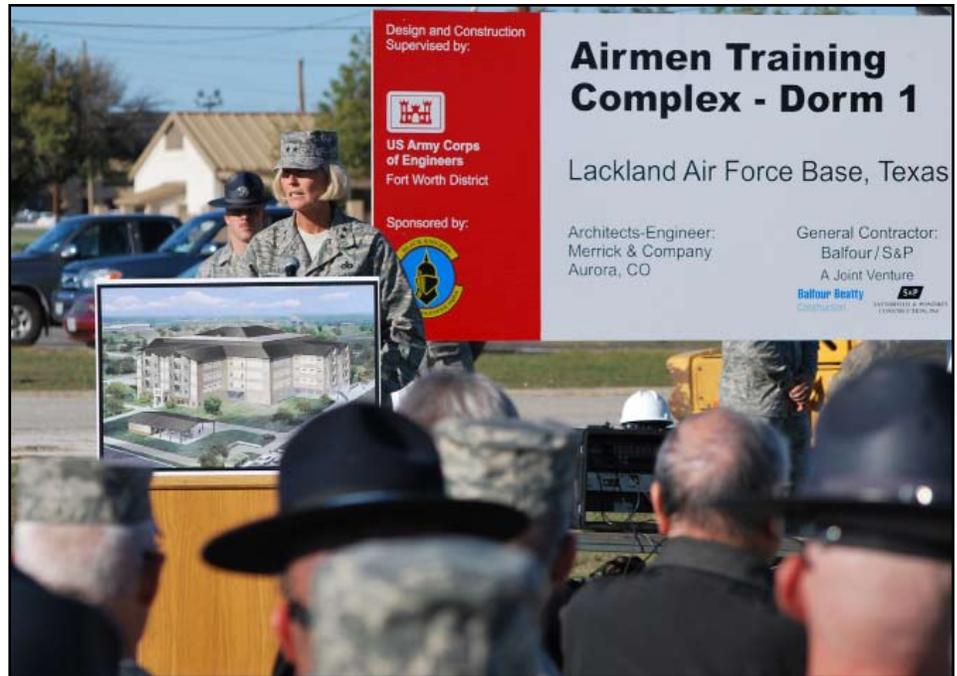
# Lackland breaks ground on first Airman Training Complex

Story and photo by Edward Rivera  
Fort Worth District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Air Force officially began one of the largest joint military construction programs Nov. 17 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Marked by a groundbreaking ceremony attended by Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander, Corps representatives, contractors and other dignitaries, the symbolic first turning of dirt signaled the start of construction on the first of eight Airmen Training Complexes and four associated dining-classroom facilities for basic military training.

At a cost of about \$900 million the new complexes will replace the existing Recruit Housing and Training facilities built in the late 1960s and early 1970s to house and train 1,000 trainees. Each ATC is projected to cost \$75 million and accommodate 1,200 basic trainees. The dining-classroom facilities are



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, 2nd Air Force commander, addresses dignitaries, contractors and military training instructors during the recent groundbreaking ceremony signaling start of construction on the first of eight Airmen Training Complexes and four associated dining-classroom facilities for basic military training.

estimated to cost \$32 million each. Each ATC will have its own running track, drill pad, a war skills area and utility infrastructure.

The adjacent dining-classroom

facility will serve two ATCs; work is slated to start in February 2010 and should be completed at the same time as the first ATC.

Work on the first ATC began in November with a projected October-November 2011 completion date.

The construction of the complexes will be staggered allowing for a new ATC building to begin every 12 months said, Lynn Ray, Fort Worth District Air Force program manager.

Ray estimates by the 18-month mark, 500 to 700 construction workers will be working on the training complexes.

(Illustration left) Each ATC is projected to cost \$75 million and accommodate 1,200 basic trainees with dining-classroom facilities estimated to cost \$32 million each. The new complexes will replace the existing Recruit Housing and Training facilities built in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Each ATC will have its own running track, drill pad, a war skills area and utility infrastructure.



# Diving Deep: *Galveston District pulls piece of history from Texas City Channel*

By Courtney Brodbeck  
Pacesetter Staff

Beneath the murky surface of the waters in the Texas City Channel, where sunlight can no longer permeate, lie the remains of the USS Westfield. The Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, orchestrated an archaeological recovery of the artifacts from the Civil War-era shipwreck, which included the removal of a Dahlgren cannon Nov. 22.

This recovery is part of a larger effort to deepen the Texas City Ship Channel. The \$71 million project will deepen nearly seven miles of the channel from 40 feet to 45 feet. By adding 5 feet, it will allow larger vessels to navigate the channel to provide products to the various industries, Sharon Tirpak, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer project manager for the Texas City Channel, said.

“The deepening will help the industries be more efficient with bringing in more crude to refine into gasoline and other petrochemical products,” she said.

The scattered remnants of the USS Westfield were rediscovered in 2005 by archaeologists from PBS&J, a company with expertise in engineering, environmental science, architecture, planning, and construction, who is working for the Army Corps of Engineers. The process of recovering the rusted remains began on Nov. 18, according to Janelle Stokes, District regional environmental specialist.

The USS Westfield, an 822-ton side-wheel inshore gunboat, was built in 1861 in New York City as a civilian ferryboat. The boat was purchased by the Navy in November 1861 and placed in commission in January 1862. Sent to the Gulf of Mexico in February, Westfield took an active part in the April campaign to open the lower Mississippi River and capture New Orleans. During the following three months, the gunboat supported the mortar schooner flotilla in operations up the river toward Vicksburg.

Sent to join the blockading force off Texas later in the summer of 1862, Westfield participated in the capture of Galveston in early October. The Westfield thereafter operated in that area. On Jan. 1, 1863, while serving as flagship of the Union naval forces off Galveston, the USS Westfield ran aground and was threatened by a Confederate attack. To prevent capture, the ship’s captain, William Renshaw, ordered the powerfully armed ship destroyed. Renshaw poured turpentine over

the deck and laid a fuse trail from the powder magazine, but when he lit the fuse, he and 13 of his crew were killed by a premature explosion. It would not be until 146 years later that the hidden treasures of the past would be discovered.

All of the artifacts from the site are the property of the Navy, which retains permanent ownership of all sunken naval ships and aircraft. The Army Corps of Engineers is working with the Naval History and Heritage Command and the Texas Historical Commission to ensure that the recovery efforts meet all relevant archaeological regulations and standards.

The Army Corps of Engineers funded heavy lifting required for the project through an inter-agency agreement with the Navy Supervisor of Salvage. A civilian Navy subcontractor, Donjon Marine, provided the equipment and personnel required to recover the artifacts from the seafloor.

All artifacts were transported to the Center for Maritime Archaeology and Conservation at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, for stabilization, assessment and conservation. The primary goals of the conservation project are to preserve the artifacts to the greatest degree possible. Concretions will be removed through electrolysis and manual cleaning. Metal and organic artifacts will go through a variety of chemical and electrolytic processes to stabilize and preserve the artifacts.

Conservation is expected to take 2-3 years. After conservation is complete these pieces of history will be shared with the public and be placed in museums under long-term loan agreements with the Navy.



Photo by PBS&J

A crew lifts a Civil War-era Dahlgren canon out of the waters of the Texas City Ship Channel Nov. 22. The effort is part of a larger project to deepen nearly seven miles of the channel.



Levee Safety Program Manager Elmo Webb on the left and Civil Engineering Technician Chris Howard, both of Little Rock District, inspect the Batesville levee and floodwall in September 2009. The levee inspection system is a part of the district's Infrastructure Safety Office. (Courtesy photo)

# Dam safety program gets scorecard

## *SWL earns 'A' with highest district score in USACE*

*By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard  
Little Rock District*

Little Rock District's dam safety program was recognized by Headquarters USACE as a "Best Practice" after the district earned the highest score in the Corps with a 93 average for its 25 dams.

USACE developed, and all districts now use, a management measure called the "Scorecard for Routine Dam Safety Activities" to track progress of routine dam safety inspections, emergency action plans and interim risk reduction measure plans.

"SWL currently has the highest dam safety program scorecard rating of any district in the Corps of Engineers," said Bob Oberle, Little Rock's Dam Safety Program manager. "Tony Batey insists that we keep it that way, but some other districts are catching up."

The District hasn't allowed its focus to shift from the dam safety program to other areas, Tony Batey, Engineering and Construction chief, said.

The district reorganized to stand up an Infrastructure Safety Office with a sole mission to inspect dams, bridges and levees.

Larry Winters is chief of the section, Oberle is the program manager and Elmo Webb is the levee safety program manager.

"The staff has done a great job and deserves all the credit," Batey said. "This score is a direct reflection of their abilities and diligence. They are very good at what they do."

The dam safety program has people who specialize in structural, geotechnical, mechanical, electrical and hydraulic disciplines, as well as operational and technical support people of various disciplines, Oberle said.

There isn't a direct tie between a dam's classification and this score, Batey said. The score is based on the performance of routine inspections and maintenance. Each area of the scorecard system has a points value. It essentially takes the governing regulations and puts them into a scorecard format.

"This (system) almost allows us to use the categories as a template or checklist," Batey said. "As long as we accomplish the required inspections and maintenance in the timeframe allotted, we should continue to score high."

# Camping facilities refurbished

By Mary Beth Hudson  
Pacesetter staff

Returning visitors to Hugo Lake are in for some pleasant surprises thanks to supplemental funding provided in the wake of flooding and ice storms.

Kiamichi Park is home to several completely refurbished campsites and a new handicap-accessible shower and toilet facility. The attractive camping areas have concrete pads, approaches, and picnic areas with new tables and utility shelves.

Most importantly, there's water at each site and 50-amp electrical capacity, to better serve today's recreational vehicles.

About 42 campsites were upgraded, 21 each in Juniper Loop and Virgil Park. Several of the new units have already been under water. That's a fate that the restroom facility won't suffer. It's been placed up the road not far from the camp sites but out of the flood flowage easement.

The concrete, pre-fabricated shower and toilet facility arrived on two trucks. Precise plumbing hook-ups were in place before arrival and the entire building is fitted together. A seam is welded to attach the two halves.

The work at Kiamichi Park is being done through Engineering and Construction Division under the district's Major Task Order Contract. Tom Hammons, a rehired annuitant, is the project manager. Daryl Coble of E&C and Dennis Johnson, another rehired annuitant, are quality assurance representatives. The prime contractor is DAB.

Chris Lynch, Hugo project manager, is very pleased with the upgrades and has plans for one or two more of the restroom facilities at Hugo and one each for Pine Creek and Pat Mayse Lakes in this

year's budget.

Bad weather caused the need for the repairs and it has played a major role in the repair schedule.

"The weather has certainly delayed the progress of the project; workers and equipment were unable to enter the area because of the high water in the work site for several weeks. The prime contractor, DAB, has done an excellent job and worked with the Hugo lake office, Project Manager Tom Hammons, and Lead QA Dennis Johnson very well," said Lynch.

"The project personnel are very happy with the product we are getting with this contract at Pat Mayse, Hugo, and Pine Creek and the consideration being given to our local interests by both the E&C team and the contractor," Lynch said.

Camping facilities at Hugo Lake are being repaired thanks to supplemental funding.



At left, a "before" picture shows the flood damage at one of the campsites at the Belle Starr Public Use Area at Eufaula Lake in the Tulsa District.

Pictured right is one of the new campsites. Supplemental flood damage funds made the work possible. Other work at Eufaula includes courtesy dock replacement and shoreline protection that is being completed with the same type of funding.

Photos by Rick Smither



# Galveston District Program and Project Management Chief receives honor

By Courtney Brodbeck  
Pacesetter Staff

Arthur J. Janecka, the Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Program and Project Management for the Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers, was recognized by his alma mater Lamar University on Dec. 3 with a Chapter Honor Membership in the Chi Epsilon national civil engineering honor society. The honor award was for his outstanding professional achievements in the field of civil engineering.

“Chapter Honor Membership may be granted to anyone who, by virtue of professional accomplishments in the field of civil engineering, has attained a degree of eminence in the profession, and who exhibited experience and ability worthy of emulation by young civil engineers,” said Chi Epsilon President Mariantonieta Gutierrez. “Mr. Janecka is an inspiration to all of us at Lamar University. He has helped the community since day



Arthur Janecka

one and should be recognized for his efforts.”

Chi Epsilon recognized Janecka for upholding the four pillars that are the foundation for the honor society: scholarship, character, practicality, and sociability.

“He is an example for future generations as an incentive to greater achievements in the civil engineering profession,” Gutierrez added.

Janecka, who began his career as an intern in the Galveston District in 1964 following graduation from Lamar University,

offered advice to all rising through the ranks: “Always strive to learn more, the more education the better. The times are constantly changing so you must be relevant, flexible and understanding of human needs.”

“Be a person of your word,” he added, “and know that when you make a commitment, you must live with that decision.”

Through the years Janecka has been dedicated to many Corps projects. Some of his proudest efforts involved Freeport Harbor, Brazos Island Harbor, the Houston-Galveston Ship Channel, and the relationship created with local sponsors.

“He is one of the most experienced people that I’ve had the pleasure to serve with in my military career,” said Lt. Col. Edward P. Feigenbaum, Galveston District deputy commander. “Due to the number of years of his service he is a wealth of information and an outstanding friend and mentor to all those who serve around him.”

## Extreme Makeover: Home Edition

Lisa Johnson, a project assistant in the Galveston District’s Engineering and Construction Division, holds a t-shirt autographed by Ty Pennington and Michael Moloney of the ABC television show *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*.

Johnson was one of many volunteers who helped build an 8 bedroom, 6,300 square foot home for the Beach family in Kemah, Texas, Jan. 14.

The Beach family home was flooded by Hurricane Ike’s storm surge in Sept. 2008.

“I was on the landscaping and playground crew,” said Johnson. “Unless cut, I will be on the show, which airs March 14. I am standing with Jessica Alba and Ty Pennington.”

The Beach family has four biological children and nine adopted special needs children.





# 2010 begins with recognition, renewed dedication for the Fort Worth District

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

Let me begin this column by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and welcoming you back from the holiday season. I am sure you all had a great time as you celebrated the holiday season with family and friends. Fiscal Year 2009 was a phenomenal year for the Fort Worth District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I recognize the sacrifices many of you made while contributing to these successes in the way of postponed leave, over time and time spent away from family. Your sacrifices and accomplishments did not go unnoticed.

It is always nice to be recognized by the District leadership but your accomplishments are also noticed by the Division, USACE, the engineering community and the American public. Many of these accomplishments were noted by Southwestern Division during our Quarterly Awards Ceremony on Jan. 6. Highlighted among these accomplishments were the Fort Bliss Expansion Program, the PF 225 and VF 300 Border Fence Projects, and Bill Workman's selection as Program Manager of the Year. I also want to commend the District as a whole for our selection as "Owner of the Year" by Texas Construction Magazine.

As we progress through the new year the pace will not let up for the District. We have our work cut out for us as we tackle major challenges to set ourselves up for even a greater year than FY09. Overall, the District program is budgeted for approximately \$3.3 billion. Here is just a sample of the District highlights for the year.

In military construction, we anticipate placing over \$1 billion in construction this FY for the Fort



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., holds the "Owner of the Year" plaque awarded to the Fort Worth District by Texas Construction Magazine.

Bliss Expansion Program. This includes completion of the following major projects: four child development/youth services centers, a physical fitness center, a Combat Aviation Brigade complex, town center infrastructure, Fires Brigade Phase I, a dental clinic, a consolidated troop/family health clinic and multiple range complexes. If that is not enough, the team will also face the challenge of initiating the planning, design and staffing actions needed to build a \$1.5 billion medical center.

On the civil works side of the house, we continue to work to maintain area infrastructure. The key to success for this year will be to maintain the pace for regularly scheduled projects while implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contracts. Our performance with ARRA should show that when fully funded, we deliver on time with quality results.

The San Antonio Base Realignment and Closure and Military Construction program is passing through the period of its peak construction activity. As many as 3,000 construction employees are spread across the various project sites. The rapid workload execution of the past two years has put the program on track to complete several major facilities in 2010, including key components of the Medical Education and Training Campus on Fort Sam Houston. More than 20 BRAC-related facilities will have been completed and turned over for use at installations in San Antonio by the end of September. Also this year, 26 BRAC and other military construction contracts worth more than \$380 million are scheduled to be awarded. In all, the San Antonio BRAC and MILCON program will construct or renovate 177 facilities with a gross area of approximately 10.7 million square feet.

When executing the many tasks before us, we must also be smart about hiring new personnel to handle increasing work loads. Throughout the Corps, we are losing a lot of experienced personnel. USACE hired over 8,000 last year, but we lost approximately 4,000 employees with a wealth of knowledge. I challenge each of our seasoned leaders to pass on their knowledge and experiences to our emerging leaders. Turn over is a constant; therefore, we must take every opportunity to "grow the bench" and develop our emerging leaders so they can be postured to take over the helm of our various programs.

We have a diverse, challenging and incredible program and if we

*SEE "MURASKI" NEXT PAGE*

# Recovery Act funds District warrior in transition complexes

Story and photo by Edward Rivera  
Fort Worth District

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Fort Bliss, Texas recently to commemorate the start of a construction project to support some of the Post's Soldiers.

The \$56 million complex is not meant to help Soldiers in combat, but to provide support in their battle to recover from their wounds.

The new Warrior Transition Battalion Complex, funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will ensure military members get the medical treatment and rehabilitation they deserve for their duty.

"This was the first ARRA project awarded for both the Fort Worth District and the Army's military construction program," said Valerie Shippers, Fort Worth District chief, Military Branch.

The Fort Worth District is not only a proud member of the Fort Bliss team helping wounded Soldiers; the district plays an integral part within other installation teams building facilities for warriors in transition.

"From 2008 to the present we have awarded contracts for complexes on two additional Army posts in Texas and one in Louisiana," said Shippers.

Warrior transition facilities awarded include a \$4.9 million Soldier Family Assistance Center on Fort Polk, a \$78 million Warrior in Transition Complex on Fort Sam Houston, a \$40 million Warrior in Transition Barracks



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr. (far left), Col. Edward Manning (second from left) and Maj. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg (center), and other dignitaries break ground to prepare for construction on the Warrior Transition Battalion Complex. This is a \$56 million project, funded by American Recovery and the Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Complex and a \$9.1 million Unit Operations Facility on Fort Hood.

Warrior Transition Units are for Soldiers whose injuries or illnesses require complex medical care. These units provide leadership and hands-on care management to Soldiers.

At WTUs Soldiers are assigned a primary care provider, squad leader and case manager who work in concert with the chain of command to provide needed counseling and support, aiding Soldiers in meeting their recovery goals.

From the Corps of Engineers point of view, these complexes are in keeping with the advances in medical treatment for our soldiers.

"In many cases these facilities allow a Soldier to recover and rehabilitate to the point where they can decide to remain in the service or transition out of the armed forces and continue to service as a civilian," said Col. Richard J. Muraski Jr., commander, Fort Worth District.

These projects will transition the WTU Soldiers from temporary buildings to permanent, state of the art facilities. Some of the barracks facilities can accommodate from 200 up to 320 Soldiers.

Complexes include provisions for Soldier and Family Assistance and Activity Centers. Amenities include central air, elevators, wider halls and doors and other handicap accessibilities.

"I am unbelievably proud of the Army's commitment to taking care of our Wounded Warriors," said Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers. "As the father of a Wounded Warrior, and a friend to many more, I know it's critical that we always remember, support and encourage these brave men and women, and honor their sacrifice."

## Muraski

*continued from previous page*

use these opportunities as laboratories to expose and teach the workforce, we will be successful with building and maintaining competencies across all our disciplines. These are opportunities that can set the stage for a successful and enduring career. What a tremendous way to retain our talented work force.

You should be proud of what the Fort Worth District does for the Southwestern Division, USACE and the American public. When you look at our program, it is amazing, but what is really amazing to me, is you, the members of the Fort Worth family. Each and every member of the Fort Worth team continually rises to meet the challenges on a daily basis and consistently turn these challenges into opportunities to excel and take us from Good to Great. But as we continue this marathon race let's not forget to keep some balance in our lives – that is mental, physical, and spiritual balance. Thanks for what you continue to do on a daily basis. I look forward to another amazing year for Fort Worth.

# Family Readiness Update

The Southwestern Division's Family Readiness Program had a busy year in 2009, and 2010 will be even busier as a formal Family Readiness Program is implemented by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Sherrill Munn and Karla Langland now serve as Family Readiness Specialists at Corps headquarters. Within SWD, the Family Readiness Coordinator is Julie Bentley and the SWD Regional Community Support Coordinator is Nila Gillespie. They are responsible for providing a Family Readiness Program that supports employees and their families, before, during, and after deployments, and on a daily basis.

Family Readiness points of contact for SWD districts are: *Fort Worth*, Richard Kaiser; *Galveston*, Ed Mason; *Little Rock*, Charlie Tobin; and, *Tulsa*, Bill Smiley. They can answer questions you may have about the program.

Additional information can be found on the vFRG website at [www.armyfrg.org](http://www.armyfrg.org)

The FRG is important as the Overseas Contingency Operations support requirements continue. SWD currently has 46 employees deployed in



Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, Southwestern Division commander, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Deborah Payne during a Welcome Home ceremony honoring her husband, Erik Nelson, program manager, Programs Directorate. The ceremonies are a "thank you" to employees who deploy and the family members who support them.

support of the OCO mission. These employees are volunteers and serve on tours ranging from 6 to 12 months. Although they are deployed, they are valued members of the SWD "family" and this program is designed to improve communication and support for deployed employees and their families.

The following is a list of some of the programs available:

## **The HooahMail service**

The HooahMail service is now available to deployed individuals and their families and friends, providing a way to send fast photos and correspondence discreetly and securely via the

internet. The messages are then printed and hand-delivered to the deployed individual by the Army Post Office – usually within 24 hours.

## **Army Family Action Plan**

The Army Family Action Plan is a process to identify and resolve quality of life, work environment and family support issues that affect SWD civilians, soldiers, retirees and family members. Submit any issues that need to be addressed to your Family Readiness POC. More information will be available over the next several weeks providing both successes with the AFAP program, and current events involving AFAP.

## **Deployment Stories Wanted**

There have been many individuals from SWD who have deployed (stateside and overseas). If you have deployed, share your stories and photos with SWD. These stories will be compiled and used to document how SWD supports regional and overseas contingencies. Contact Julie Bentley for more information.

## **Family Readiness Projects**

An SWD regional project delivery team has been established to create standardized Deployment, Re-deployment, Family Readiness, Casualty Assistance and Supervisor's Deployment Information guides for employees and a separate edition for their families. The team is also working on identifying "Best Practices" throughout the division, updating the vFRG website and conducting regional needs assessments. Volunteers to work on the PDT are always welcome.

Contact Julie Bentley at (469) 487-7024 for more information.

# Learning through immersion

*Course introduces students to the world of Native American Culture*

**By Terry Lyons  
Kansas Area  
Environmental  
Specialist**

Sleep in a tepee? You are kidding, right? Nope!

That's just what 18 Corps employees from all over the United States did during a training course Oct. 13-16 with the Osage Nation, held on the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve near Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

The Native American Cultural [and] Environmental Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training immersion course is structured to go beyond the flash and excitement of a pow-wow, and bring students into the world of Native Americans.

Among the students were Tulsa District employees Steve Nolen, Robin Mills, Travis Miller, Amanda Peters, Shawneen O'Neill, Mike Wingfield,

Kyle Manwaring, Abby Gaydusek, Ed Parisotto, Dale Davidson, Jim Harris, Shane Charlson, and Jamie Hyslop.

"Understanding the history and perspective of native peoples is vital to your ability to empathize with them on interactions with the federal government. We must never forget that native governments are sovereign, and our processes and timelines should not be

forced upon them," said Mills, Oologah Lake park ranger

The students built and slept in their own tepees, ate traditional Osage food, learned how to make moccasins and clothing, played Native American games, and watched a dancing and drumming demonstration.

Students met with, and listened to tribal leaders, including John Red Eagle, assistant principal chief, several congressio-

nal representatives from the Osage tribal government, and other tribal elders.

Van Big Horse, cultural director for the Osage Nation, provided a history of the Osage Nation along with stories handed down from the elders.

"The class was unique. The Osage community and government were very involved in giving the class insight to their culture," said O'Neill, plan-

ning branch study manager.

The training concluded with a discussion of the main issues the students had learned and would go on to share with family, friends, and co-workers.

At the end, hugs and handshakes were exchanged, tepees disassembled, and students packed for the road home with a greater comprehension of the nuance and truth of the phrase "walking in another's moccasins."



Courtesy photo

Corps of Engineers employees listen to a presentation from a member of the Osage Nation during a training session at the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve near Pawhuska, Oklahoma Oct. 13 - 16. The students were participating in the Native American Cultural [and] Environmental Proponent Sponsored Engineers Training course to gain a better understanding of native people and native governments.



*Everything we need to know...*

# We learned in kindergarten

*Col. Donald E. Jackson  
Commander, Little Rock District*

Last week I had the opportunity to hold a town hall meeting with the Little Rock District. Now I haven't done many of these during my time in command, in fact, I had yet to officially do one at all, until then. Sure I have met with individual staffs and presided over Engineer Day events, etc., where I have been able to address the entire team.

It was hard to decide what to say. I thought long and hard about it, conferring with various members of the senior leadership team and my wife, Lynne.

During this time, I had been cleaning out my garage in preparation for our upcoming move and came upon a book I had read many years ago. The book is entitled, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," by Robert Fulghum.

What could I learn from skimming through this book, I asked myself? I remember reading it many years ago, sharing a few laughs with my wife over the wit and wise maxims contained therein. The overall theme of the book is simple...the basic behaviors we are taught to get along with others as young children still apply today.

Lost in thought and alone in my garage, I decided it contained a few good points of reference I should share with the District during the upcoming town hall meeting. It certainly reinforced many of the things we have discussed over the past few years...but from the perspective of a child. Let me share with you my personal favorite.

***"When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."***

This observation implies we must build lasting relationships of trust and confidence with other members of our collective teams in order to succeed. When the going gets tough we have to communicate, rely on each other and support the team.

All too often we strive to "git er done" completely focused on short to medium range objectives with no care as to how they are achieved. Our society is great about building metrics we can use to measure success, slaying one dragon then moving on to the next as fast as possible. In fact, we are often rewarded for the number of "dragons" slain. But what is the cost? Now I am not saying we should set aside mission execution to stand around the campfire and sing kum ba ya. I am just convinced if we take the time to build the relationship, the work will get done much more efficiently and effectively.

**"Watch for traffic."** In our district, our overall

program since fiscal year 2007 has grown from \$178 million to about \$700 million so far in FY10. In fact, our new medical support mission to the Air Force is building a multi-award task order contract capacity of about \$1.5 million this year. We are on the national stage in dam and levee safety, responding to disasters at home and abroad, watching a record number of construction projects come out of the ground. I could go on and on.

To succeed in this monumental effort we need full synchronization and coordination with members of our own district, our regional partners and vertical teammates. To keep this coalition together it is essential we communicate – the right way – and often.

**"Hold hands and stick together."** Nothing of lasting value is accomplished alone. Not even the Olympic figure skater has risen to that level without a supporting cast. It took a dedicated parent to sit for hours in a cold ice rink, a talented staff of coaches and trainers to ready them and other skaters to challenge them to rise to glory.

The same can be said for the work we accomplish. For example, we have partnered with our sister districts successfully on the Ozark Powerhouse Major Rehabilitation. We have also partnered with contractors, Yates Construction, at Little Rock Air Force Base on the education center. In these partnerships it is important to recognize the value of the team and do all we can to foster the relationships necessary to achieve great things for our customers.

When the going gets tough we need to find ways to work more closely, engaging our partners to find creative solutions to the sometimes most arduous challenges. The Bible offers additional wisdom in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

I submit to you there are many things we could learn if we sat around a sandbox to play as children. Despite the complexity of life, the basic fundamentals and importance of human relationships have not changed. Take the opportunity to communicate with your team and build relationships of trust and confidence that will last.

In these busy times, with ever-increasing demands placed on each of us, never has there been a time where we needed each other more.

Keep up the great work in 2010, and don't forget the lessons you learned in kindergarten still apply today.

# SWL Leadership class of 2010

*By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard  
Little Rock District*

Little Rock District selected 10 participants for the 2010 Leadership Development Course, and awarded a contract with a consulting firm for the first time to manage the program curriculum.

DRI Consulting Firm will help lead the program, which is a one-year course geared toward self-improvement, teamwork and leadership.

"We believe they (DRI Consulting) are the best in the business," Program Champion Randy Hathaway, Little Rock's deputy district engineer said. "They will help lead this program."

Kyle Clark of Regulatory Division and Karen Adams of Programs and Project Management are the district's co-program managers for the course.

The participants are Laura Cameron of Planning and Environmental Division, Elliott Carman of Regulatory Division, Bobby Van Cleave of Engineering and Construction Division's Design Branch, Tony Hill of Emergency Operations Office, Jesse Palmer of Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office, Rhonda Pledger of Programs and Project Management Division, Stacey Snead of Greers Ferry Project Office, Jared Trammell of Beaver Lake Project Office, Jeremy Wells of Russellville Project Office and Jean Williams of Resource Management Office.

"Karyn Adams and I gathered the applications," Clark said. "Twenty-five people applied for the course and 10 were selected by the senior leaders of the district. So far we've received good feedback from the participants."



Laura Cameron of Little Rock's Planning and Environmental Office waits as Toni Hill of Emergency Management Office crosses to other class members during an orientation and retreat team-building exercise. (Courtesy photo)

Clark said as co-program managers, he and Adams facilitate between the district and the contractors.

The 10 members can expect to participate in one meeting a month, team projects and personality tests, as well as to read and report on selected books and take an online leadership course, Clark said. "The personality tests help them to identify their strengths and weakness, so they make self-improvements and hone their skills."

The course helps the participants build on the principles and ideas of leadership throughout the year, Clark explained.

Upon successful completion, they will be eligible to apply for the USACE Emerging Leaders Program.



## Saving Jina

On Oct. 31, Karla Brogen (center), a teacher's assistant at the England Elementary School at England, Ark., received a Little Rock District Safety Award from District Deputy Engineer Lt.Col. Marvin Griffin. Brogen received the award for saving the life of two-year-old Jina Stevens of Romance, Ark. Brogen performed CPR on Jina after she stopped breathing while swimming at Greers Ferry Lake. Also shown with Brogen and Griffin is Benny Rorie, Greers Ferry Lake manager; Joe Harper, Greers Ferry chief ranger, and Jina Stevens with her parents Alicia and Joey Stevens. (Photo by Jay Woods)

# Chief of Engineers views transformation taking place in San Antonio under MILCON and Civil Works programs

*Story and photo by Brian Dwyer  
Joint Program Management Office*

One can begin to comprehend the magnitude and diversity of the projects being executed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in San Antonio by reviewing the numbers: more than \$3 billion of construction and renovation; 10 million square feet of facilities; and 8 miles of ecosystem restoration along a river, including the introduction of 20,000 young trees and shrubs.

Gaining a full appreciation of the impact of the work within the city can only be accomplished by visiting the job sites themselves. Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers and USACE commander has done both.

The General toured Fort Sam Houston Jan. 8 to get a first-hand look at the largest projects in the \$3 billion San Antonio Base Realignment and Closure and military construction program. Later that same day, he visited the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. The General was accompanied at both stops by Col. Richard



Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp and David Thomas, Director of the Joint Program Management Office, listen as Tim Wheeler a lead construction representative describes cooking equipment in the kitchen of the new dining facility that is part of the Medical Education and Training Campus on Fort Sam Houston. (Courtesy photo)

J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District and David Thomas, director of the Joint Program Management Office, which oversees the design and construction efforts of the San Antonio BRAC and MILCON program.

At Fort Sam Houston, the

General saw key components of the BRAC program, including the project to add roughly 760,000 square feet of space to Brooke Army Medical Center. He also walked through the 80,000 square

*SEE "CHIEF" ON NEXT PAGE*

## **USACE, CBP meet in San Diego**

A joint conference in San Diego Dec. 1-2 was the largest gathering ever of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Customs and Border Protection members since their working relationship was sealed in an interagency agreement with a predecessor agency, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, in 1997. The All-Hands Meeting brought together staff from both sides of the Engineering and Construction Support Office, along with units within CBP such as Facilities Management & Engineering and the U.S. Border Patrol. Pictured at right are Michael Fallon (far right), director of the programs directorate, Southwestern Division; Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander, Southwestern Division; and Capt. Jared Ulekowski (left), Funkhouser's aide-de-camp.



Photo by Jim Frisinger

## Chief

*continued from previous page*

foot dining facility that is part of the new Medical Education and Training Campus. The campus is being built to train combat medics and other medical specialists. The dining facility is one of the largest of its kind in the Department of Defense with the capacity to serve 4,800 people in a single, 90 minute meal period. The BRAC program is scheduled to continue until September 2011, which is the legislative deadline for completion of all BRAC projects.

Before traveling to the Mission Reach section of the San Antonio River, Van Antwerp addressed the leadership and staff of the Joint Program Management Office. The general emphasized the concept of “going from good to great” by highlighting three features of successful organizations: disciplined people, disciplined thought, and disciplined action. He urged individual USACE employees to practice discipline by focusing on doing their individual jobs well and being mindful that each person’s efforts contribute to the ultimate level of success achieved by the organization, just like the pieces of a puzzle fitting together. Van Antwerp concluded his remarks by addressing the outlook for USACE in the immediate future. He indicated that the civil works portion of USACE’s workload is expected to remain vibrant, in light of assessments by the American Society of Civil Engineers of the ongoing infrastructure needs across the country.

After he left Fort Sam Houston, Van Antwerp was greeted by representatives of the San Antonio River Authority and Bexar County Commissioners Court near the beginning of the 8-mile-long Mission Reach section of the river. The River Authority and Bexar County are partnering with the Corps of Engineers to fund and direct the completion of the \$272 million

Mission Reach project. The area of the river included in this project lies south of downtown and was straightened and channelized several decades ago by the Corps of Engineers to reduce the potential impact of flooding. The current project is aimed at reintroducing native grasses, plants, and other ecosystem features, as well as restoring the river’s natural, meandering course, to enhance the river’s aesthetic appeal and provide recreational opportunities to local residents.

On a small bluff that overlooks a bend in the river, Suzanne Scott, General Manager of the San Antonio River Authority, and

Nelson Wolff, Bexar County Judge, provided Van Antwerp with a summary of the planned enhancements. Native trees and shrubs will be planted; stones will be deposited in certain segments of the river to create riffle structures; and hike and bike trails and pedestrian footbridges will be built, along with shade structures, picnic tables, overlooks, landings, and canoe access points.

The project also will include construction of pathways and visual linkages to the four 18th century Spanish missions that are located along the river. The entire Mission Reach project is scheduled to be finished in 2013.



Photo by Brian Dwyer

### *Assistant Secretary tours Fort Worth projects*

Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., and Jo-Ellen Darcy (second from left), Assistant Secretary of the Army-Civil Works, listen to James Oliver of the National Park Service describe historic structures along the San Antonio River that date back to the Spanish missionary period during a tour of the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River Improvements Project. Darcy also observed work underway to restore natural features and habitat along the San Antonio River scheduled to be modified through habitat restoration. After her day in San Antonio, Darcy spent the next two days visiting the District’s Dallas Floodway and Central City projects. In Dallas, Mayor Tom Leppert, City Manager Mary Suhm, and Councilman Dave Neumann welcomed her at the Trinity Trust Office. A briefing on the Dallas project was given followed by a tour of the project area. Following the tour, the group met with the Dallas City Council before heading to Fort Worth. In Fort Worth, Darcy met with District senior staff to discuss upcoming projects and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects. Darcy then met with the Trinity River Vision Authority team where she was briefed on the Central City project and given a tour of the area. Darcy finished her Texas visit as the guest speaker for the USACE Small Business Conference held at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas.



# SWT Readiness planning

*LT. COL. GENE SNYMAN  
DEPUTY COMMANDER, TULSA DISTRICT*

Essayons! "Let us try" is the Engineer motto. We pride ourselves in our determination to ensure the mission is accomplished regardless of the obstacles we face. Emergency conditions in recent years have created significant problems for the Tulsa District but due to thoughtful advanced planning we have been able to ensure we can continue operations regardless of the conditions. Properly executed planning and Continuity of Operations exercises will ensure Southwestern Tulsa keeps moving forward in the event of an emergency.

ties must drive our plans for the allocation of these important but costly tools. For this quarter, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act work is critical and time sensitive as we strive to obligate funds by March. Through the second quarter, those directly supporting ARRA pre-award and award processes must be able to maintain momentum in the event of an emergency. Additionally, we are in the process of validating our key personnel roster to determine other critical positions and functions with associated resource requirements.

internet access through a local Internet Service Provider (cable, DSL) can also be used to access the VPN servers and SWT servers. VPN access to the SWT servers allows the user all normal links to shared drives, P2, and CEFMS.

Once our resources are in place, a series of exercises will be conducted to validate our readiness. With the Safety and Emergency Management offices in the lead, the District HQ will work through a number of communication and readiness exercises in the coming weeks that will culminate in a full COOP exercise. COOP planning and preparation dovetails with other emergency planning. Our Life Safety Plan for building evacuation and fire warden requirements could potentially be the precursor to a COOP event. Further, other Federal agencies who are building tenants must be fully incorporated into the planning of these events.

So, while some may wonder about the actual productivity of the discussions about identification of key leaders, communication capability, and off-site exercises, the issue is essentially one of risk management.

One hour of corporate District time is significant to our budget and execution, and our customers and stakeholders are counting on us to meet the terms of our agreements. The next emergency is looming...let's be prepared!

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***"WITH THE SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICES IN THE LEAD, THE DISTRICT HQ WILL WORK THROUGH A NUMBER OF COMMUNICATION AND READINESS EXERCISES IN THE COMING WEEKS ..."***

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There are a number of scenarios that could potentially prevent full or key staff from being able to operate out of the District offices. Mobility crippling ice storms, unexpected facility water supply or power issues, social distancing associated with H1N1 threat, as well as security or anti-terrorism can all effect building access.

As the nature of our work is communication, our focus for COOP planning has to be on assured communications. With limited redundant communication resources, district priori-

Assuring our communications essentially means personnel must have internet access to reach the Virtual Private Network remote servers. This can be accomplished through a number of channels. If a government laptop computer cannot be directly connected to the secure government network, internet and secure VPN access must be gained by using either air cards or Blackberry tethering. This technology allows wireless access to the internet in any location normally accessible by cell-phone. A home computer with



Photo left: A taxidermy mount of a Great Horned Owl on display for the annual Owl Prowl at Cottonwood Point Campground October 24 presented by the Marion Reservoir project office park rangers with cooperation from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Photo top: A group of fourth graders from Marion Elementary listen to a demonstration during the annual Owl Prowl. Photo right: An Eastern Screech Owl under the spotlight of a ranger sits "frozen" on its perch, ready for its close-up as the children were able to get within 10 to 15 feet of the creature during the Owl Prowl event.



Courtesy photos

# Students get a "hoot" out of Owl Prowl

*Neal Whitaker  
Park Ranger  
Marion Lake*

October was a "hoot" for fourth graders from Marion Elementary School in Marion, Kansas when a science course of study on owls culminated with a night trip to Marion Reservoir to view the creatures in the wild.

The annual "Owl Prowl," hosted by Marion Reservoir proj-

ect office park rangers, was October 24 at the Cottonwood Point Campground, and featured a presentation by a Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks natural resource officer.

More than 100 pupils and adults were briefed by Rangers about the types of owls native to the area, the adaptations of owls and the calls that owls make. They were also cautioned that federal law prohibits possession

of owls, or any parts thereof, without proper permits.

Resource officer Marvin Peterson, KDWP, demonstrated mouth calling of Great Horned and Barred Owls and the children got to see taxidermy mounts of those species.

Once the sun went down, Rangers used the taped call of an Eastern Screech Owl to summon a resident Screech Owl to investigate the intruder. Rangers spotlighted

the owl to temporarily blind and "freeze" it on its perch, allowing the pupils to get a close-up look - often within 10 to 15 feet of the bird.

The children have shown their gratitude to the owls by building a half-dozen nesting boxes which have been placed around Cottonwood Point.

In recent years, an abbreviated Owl Prowl has also been given to the Marion pre-school group.

# Corps employees, volunteers help disabled hunters



Photo by Edward Rivera

(Above) Jason Smith from Weatherford, Texas helps Kirsten Strand, 13 with target practice during a break from hunting at Canyon Lake during a disabled sportsman and wounded warrior hunt. (Below, left) Darrel Schacht takes aim from his camouflaged position.



Photo by Garland Ireland



Photo by Garland Ireland



Photo by Edward Rivera

(Above) Texas Parks and Wildlife, Game Warden Michael McCall and volunteer Donnie Hentphel prepare to dress out a deer harvested in the early morning hours. (Left) Sgt. Josh Primm and Spec. Jerry Morris, two warriors from Brook Army Medical Center, who participated in the weekend hunt, display their hunting success.

## Disabled wounded warriors enjoy hunt on Canyon Lake

*Story by Edward Rivera  
Fort Worth District*

Two weekends before Thanksgiving a group of sportsmen took to the hunting areas of Canyon Lake, Texas for their annual hunt. But for these hunters, rifles and bows were not the only needs required for a great hunt. With the help from family, friends and volunteers their annual Deer Hunt for Disabled Sportsmen and Wounded Warriors was a success.

"This was the first time that Wounded Warriors from Brooke Army Medical Center joined in on the action," said Garland Ireland, Canyon Lake park ranger.

Traveling from as far as 300 miles away, 12 disabled sportsmen were joined by four wounded warriors from Brook Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas to help manage the deer population on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' lake.

Jason Smith from Weatherford, Texas joins several friends for the weekend hunt when ever possible. "It's great to have the chance to get out and hunt and have the support to make it not only possible but successful," said Smith.

Canyon Lake Park Rangers, Serve Outdoors, Inc. non-profit organization, and the Fraternal Order of Canyon Lake Men joined together to coordinate the

event.

Two of the four warriors from Brook Army Medical Center Sgt. Josh Primm and Spec. Jerry Morris collected some "firsts" during the weekend. Primm and Morris both took an 8-point buck, it was Primm's first deer ever and Morris' first buck.

"In all 24 deer were taken, mostly management spikes and bucks," said James Chambers, manager, Canyon Lake. "The hunt was a great way to manage the large population of white-tailed deer in the area and provided an opportunity for the Corps and the local community to give back to all the hunters involved."

# Marion hosts 'muzzleloader' hunt

*Story and photos by  
Neal Whitaker  
Park Ranger  
Marion Lake*

For 12 years, physically challenged sportsmen have participated in a deer hunt in September at Marion Reservoir in Kansas thanks to volunteers, and the donation of specialized equipment, that make it all possible.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Marion Lake Association, the 2002 Vocational Agriculture class at Hillsboro High School, the Paralyzed Veterans of America organization, local businesses, and volunteers contributed resources and time to the hunt.

The MLA, a chartered, non-profit organization, whose purpose is to advance Marion Reservoir, has been a partner since the hunt began, and directs the financial matters of the hunt.

The Marion hunt is different from other deer hunts for disabled hunters in that it is a multi-day event with morning and evening hunts, and is held

in September when the Kansas muzzleloader deer season begins.

Muzzleloader weapons are used because it is held at a waterfowl refuge, and a firearms deer hunt would interfere with the purpose of the area. The Kansas muzzleloader deer season begins prior to the arrival of any ducks except teal.

Hunters are transported to the blinds by volunteers in vehicles donated by area businesses.

Hunters who could not be transferred from their wheelchairs were transported on a special trailer designed by the hunters and built with donated materials in 2002 by the Vocational Agriculture Class at Hillsboro High School.

The idea for a deer hunt for physically challenged hunters at Marion Reservoir took shape in 1997 following the lead of Tulsa District lakes in Oklahoma.

Eleven hunters participated in the hunt.

During the season, 114 deer were seen, 12 shots were taken, and four deer were harvested.



In November, the Pease Rivers Partners, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Wichita Falls Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans had a "special" deer hunt on the Crowell Wildlife Management Area.

The DAV found disabled veterans with special needs, and all involved arranged for them to enjoy a "dream" weekend on Corps property.

"These vets were indeed special," said Dennis Duke, Chloride Control Area Office, project manager. "I cannot begin to tell you how they responded. They had a great hunt. All the work to support them was strictly volunteer. People donated time, money, supplies and food. I was not prepared for the reaction. I was also not prepared for the young age of these vets."

Each veteran commented about how much this meant to them — not just the hunt, but the time, camaraderie and the fellowships that were built.

"They could not express how much they appreciated the use of this land, this resource, to help them in their healing process. One lady, suffering from cancer, could only shoot with a specially prepared 'lead sled' the guys built for her since recoil would shatter her bones. She said this was a lifetime dream come true and compared the excitement to the birth of her first-born. There wasn't a dry eye in the house," Duke said.



Some of the hunters are given a ride to a hunting blind in a specially designed trailer during the Muzzleloader hunt at Marion Lake in September.

# Galveston District budget analyst accepted into Syracuse University Master's program

By Courtney Brodbeck  
Pacesetter Staff

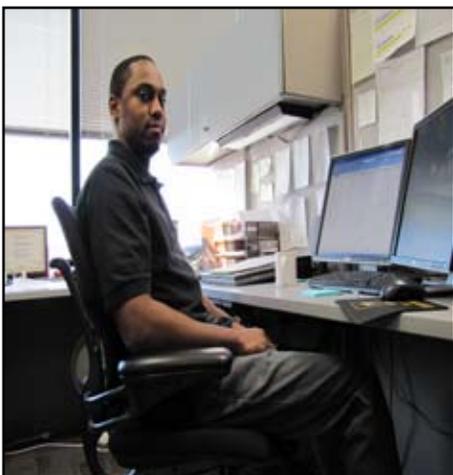
Attitude, dedication, imagination and a strong work ethic are vital qualities a Defense Comptroller Program participant must possess.

Those qualities are the skills that Mark Williams excels in as a Galveston District employee and former Department of the Army intern.

Williams, a budget analyst in Resource Management at the Galveston District, is one of 32 military and civilian employees nationwide, who has, been accepted into the program at the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University in New York.

The DCP allows Williams to earn both a Master of Business Administration degree and Executive Master of Public Administration degree as well as a position at the Pentagon as a financial management analyst.

"Taking 60 graduate credits in 14 months is very hard work and these qualities are essential for success," said David B. Berg, director, Executive Education



Mark Williams

and Defense Programs.

The ambitions of the program are to provide students with essential tools of private and public sector business practices, and the ability to analyze and develop public policy. This represents a unique collaborative venture between Syracuse University and the Department of Defense, Berg said.

Williams, who joined the Corps June 1, 2006, is one of several DA interns around the Galveston District. He applied for the program after receiving his bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University, with a major in mathematics and a minor in business administration. Williams was given the opportunity not only to work for the Galveston District but do rotational assignments at the Corps' Southwestern Division in Dallas and headquarters in Washington.

"I wanted to do the DA intern program because it provided hands-on training opportunities and helped lay down the groundwork for future development and advancement," Williams said. "My supervisors in Resource Management, Beverly Martin and Selma Hampshire, were instrumental in my professional growth and fully supported me in what I wanted to do."

The DA intern program is an essential source for recruiting, training and educating new talent at the Corps, said Beverly Martin, Chief of Resource Management at Galveston District.

The program takes individuals from entry level positions to positions of mid-level management and gives on-the-job training and formal classroom instruction,

typically lasting from 18 to 24 months.

Many of the Army's senior-level civilian leaders are the product of the intern program such as Martin, who worked at Fort Polk, La., as a budget analyst.

"It was the best decision I ever made; the DA intern program is a win-win situation for both the employee and the employer," Martin said. "It gives the employee the opportunity to see if they like working for the federal government and it allows the employer to observe the employee and see if they have the attributes we need as our future leaders."

Williams will leave the District in May 2010 and begin the DCP the first week of June.

"Interns are like any group you get, you have some who are self-motivated and you have some that are good workers, but don't look for growth in their job," Martin said. "I can honestly say that Mr. Williams is one of the few interns I've had who has looked for growth. He loves a challenge and wants to be a contributing member of the team and he has been. We will miss him a great deal, but are thankful for the contributions he has made to the Corps."

Martin encourages individuals seeking an internship to be flexible enough to take advantage of all opportunities because the knowledge gained from both students and employers is beneficial to the growth of the Corps.

"These are bright young people we're getting out of college and they have some good ideas. We need to take advantage of that, and as an older work force we need to pass on everything we know," Martin said.

# Injured pelican gets new home

By Isidro Reyna  
Pacesetter Staff

It's not everyday a 15-pound pelican with a six-foot wing-span approaches a fisher at the Galveston District's Jadwin fishing pier.

It's also not everyday that the same pelican would steal bait from someone's fishing line.

"That's exactly what happened," said Steve Walls, a regulatory project manager with the Galveston District. "The pelican had a broken wing and would come into the docks and steal fish off of people's hooks. He became so notorious, people named him Buddy."

The pier unofficially became home to Buddy in early November, said Walls.

Buddy would sleep atop the pilings beneath the pier.

"He was probably injured on a shrimp trawler," said Walls. "The hungrier he got, the more he learned that if he came in and scavenged, he could get people to feed him."

"We noticed the pelican getting bolder and bolder and more desperate," said Walls. "Buddy became a little bit of a fish thief. I think that was his downfall, and his saving at the same time."

"We called the Fish and Wildlife Service and they told us, 'if you guys can catch him and take it to the rehab center, we'll support you doing it' and if things got worse, to call them back," said Walls. "We were thinking we don't have the expertise to capture a bird with a beak like that. They're big birds."

"We were out flounder fishing one day and Buddy tried to grab someone's bait when he got hooked," said Walls. "He was



Photo courtesy of wrande.org

Buddy, a rescued pelican, opens wide as a fishing hook is removed from his beak at a wildlife rehabilitation facility in Clear Lake, Texas. The pelican was rescued by Steve Walls of the district's Regulatory Branch.

trying to expel it and he couldn't. He had broken the line and still had the hook, a sinker and a steel line attached to him. I was worried it was going to wrap around his beak and he wouldn't be able to eat."

"I got him loose and noticed that he continued to hang around so we called the Fish and Wildlife Service back," said Walls. "One of the Fish and Wildlife Service employees, Donna Anderson, works at the Jadwin Building a few days a week from the Clear Lake office."

Walls and Anderson went out to the pier looking for Buddy.

One of the fishers noticed the two looking for the pelican and said, "Buddy sleeps over there."

"One of the fishermen had a bucket of small fish and I asked if I could have some for Buddy," said Walls.

"We threw a fish by the bulkhead and when Buddy got closer, we put a net over him but he got out. He was so hungry, he hung

around. I threw another fish by the bulkhead and he came up and grabbed the fish. This time, Donna from the Fish and Wildlife Service, put him in a headlock," said Walls

"She grabbed him by the beak and I got a box," said Walls.

"She literally got him in a headlock. We drove him down to a wildlife rehabilitator in the Clear Lake area," said Walls

"The bird had mites and lice. While I was driving, Donna wanted to stop because mites were crawling on her, but I suggested she hold on to him," said Walls. "I could see us heading down IH-45 with a pelican loose in the vehicle."

"The pelican was emaciated and dehydrated," said Walls.

"Fluids were given to him, along with antibiotics, a bath, lice and pain medicine," said Walls

*See "Pelican" page 25*

# At Canton: *Preserving an historic tribal cemetery*

*Story by Debbie Chaloupek  
Park Ranger,  
Canton Lake*

National Public Lands Day was observed by the staff of Canton Lake with a project to locate and uncover or reset the original gravesite markers of a Tribal cemetery.

Many of the

and repositioned at the surface level.

Some markers were at ground level, but had so much dirt and vegetation nearly covering them that the volunteers had to cut away grass and remove the dirt so the markers could be seen more easily.

It took the 15 volunteers about three hours to

moved to higher ground in an attempt to preserve its integrity. Notes were made about which of the known gravesites were moved, along with any information concerning the history of the deceased.

The new location for the cemetery was still located on Corps of Engineers land and would be protected and maintained for years to come.

Most original gravesites did not have markers, so new ones were made and the name of the deceased was engraved onto an aluminum plate attached to a cement marker. Some markers only had the words

“unknown” on them.

Markers were placed at ground level to allow for easy mowing and maintenance.

The documentation and maintenance of this cemetery is important for historical and cultural reasons, and also because, even today,

deceased Tribal members are sometimes buried in the cemetery.

The Canton staff chose this project for the National Public Lands observance because it is a hands-on volunteer event that focuses on improving and enhancing public lands.

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*“The documentation and maintenance of this cemetery is important for historical and cultural reasons ...”*

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markers were covered by a 50-year accumulation of soil and vegetation, and were no longer visible when walking through the cemetery.

Canton Lake staff members and volunteers used a map showing the plotted cemetery, and sometimes a metal detector, to locate the ground-level markers that were covered.

Once an underground marker was found, volunteers dug down, sometimes 12 to 18 inches, until the marker could be lifted

find, reset or clean 136 of the original markers.

Prior to Canton Lake impoundment in the late 1940's, the cemetery was



Courtesy photo  
(Photo left) Volunteers dig to unearth a cemetery marker buried under accumulated soil and vegetation.  
(Above) Volunteers use garden hoes to uncover markers at a Tribal cemetery at Canton Lake as part of a project for National Public Lands Day.

# Winter months, volunteers help park rangers maintain lake projects

*Story and photos by Darlene Moore  
Benbrook Lake Project Office*

During the summer recreation season when most people vacation, park rangers are working their hardest.

They manage campgrounds, enforce regulations, promote water safety and aid local agencies in search and rescues.

During winter, rangers get to take a breath and work at wildlife management, hunting programs, facility maintenance, working on trails, and scouting boundary areas for signs of encroachment.

Richard Bingham, park ranger and volunteer program manager at Benbrook Lake, oversees a maintenance crew of six trained volunteers who support the Lake's civil engineer technician.

The team has replaced boards on boat and fishing docks and worked on minor electrical repairs at West Creek Circle Park.

"Winter is the best time of year to do these repairs because the parks have less traffic and activity going on," said Bingham.

Bingham also put together a team of volunteers to make an extra storage trailer into a small laundry and meeting facility for the volunteer village.

"It gives the volunteers a sense of belonging and they feel like they're at home," said Bingham.

"This year is the first time the lake has been able to retain the mitigation funds for clearing boundary lines," said Jeff Veselka, Benbrook Lake park ranger.

The lakes boundary lines are overgrown with vegetation that is difficult to cut through manually. So when the opportunity surfaced to use a bulldozer the park ranger ran with it.

"Now we will be able to patrol our boundary lines with ease and we can spot invasive species like Scott Thistle, and Winter Vetch," said



Jeff Veselka (left), park ranger, Benbrook Lake discusses areas to be cleared with a contractor.



Two of six skilled volunteers support Benbrook Lake's civil engineer technician with their experience. The team of volunteers has been replacing boards on boat and fishing docks.



Benbrook Lake volunteers use their expertise to do minor electrical maintenance.

Veselka.

At Lavon Lake Park Ranger Curry Murphy is also clearing and removing invasive species to plant native vegetation.

Additionally, watching for the Zebra mussels has become a priority at Lavon Lake. Zebra mussels are a very invasive species and can deplete the food source of native aquatic species, foul boat bottoms and clog intake pipes. So far there have been no positive tests for Zebra mussels.

At Joe Pool Lake, Park Ranger Marcus Holloway has been checking boundary lines and repairing fences that some adjacent landowners'

cattle have broken through.

Both Veselka and Holloway will be surveying the conditions of buoys and replacing them as necessary at both lakes.

Buoys serve as traffic signs for boats and sometimes move with drought or flood pools. To keep the boating traffic safe rangers must ensure they are correctly in place before the next recreation season.

"Most of the buoys have messages or warnings on them that are important for people to see," said Veselka. "It's difficult to maintain these in the summer because of all the boat activity on the lake."



# Setting the standard

Col. David C. Weston  
Commander, Galveston District

Those of us in the Federal sector tend to work in two different time frames, the fiscal year and the calendar year. We are well into our 2010 fiscal year, with program execution well underway. We've also now entered into the new calendar year, with the renewed sense of purpose that seems to come every January 1st. Like all ways of counting time, these are ongoing. Even as we work diligently to execute our projects and programs for FY 10, we are planning our Congressional visits for future projects and programs. This long term planning approach helps us execute our mission.

The calendar year has its own parameters for planning purposes, as we mark special observances, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday or the upcoming District 130th Anniversary Town Hall. We live part of our lives with time markers like holidays and family vacations, far removed from project execution, but just as important to us as individuals.

The Galveston District will have a multitude of challenges in what remains of the fiscal year and in the calendar year that lies ahead of us. ARRA projects, our normal project workload—even some Hurricane Ike work still to be completed—all beckon.

Large undertakings like the Sabine-Neches Waterway Channel Improvement Project NEPA activities and the Addicks and Barker Dam Safety Modification Study are at the starting gate, ready

to go.

To help guide us on these projects, it's important that all District employees are aware of the key goals and metrics of the Corps' Strategic Plan and, equally important, the District's Implementation Plan.

Hopefully you are all engaged in portions of the plan, in actions and activities that contribute to achieving our and the Corps' goals—by achieving our goals, we move from Good to Great!

Some of the underlying metrics that can help us envision what Great looks like are these: delivering superior performance every time; setting the standard for our profession; making a positive impact on the nation and other nations; and build to last.

Think of these metrics as you carry out your projects. Compare your efforts to the metric descriptions. Make the connection between the wording of a metric and the actual project that you work on.

Are you delivering superior performance, are you setting a standard that upholds the great professional image of the Corps, how will this benefit our nation, and are you building strong to make it last?

If you follow these metrics in all your projects, you will find yourself — and our organization — well on the road from Good to Great.

Though in many ways we are already a GREAT District, if we use these metrics as one of our guiding lights, we will be Great in every sense of the word.

## Pelican

*continued from page 22*

"I called the rehabilitation center the next morning and asked about Buddy. I was told 'the pelican bit someone twice this morning, so he's doing well,'" said Walls.

"He ate 150 fish that morning and has been eating several hundred fish a day since then. Although he has 'sauerkraut' breath, he is now out in the open.



Buddy sits in his crate awaiting the trip south to his new home

He seems to be doing well," said Walls.

Permits have been obtained for Buddy to head south to a zoo in Brownsville, Texas, with two other birds.

"We are taking contributions to the wildlife fund for Buddy's rehab since he lost his fishing privileges for 'fowling' up and getting caught," said Walls.



Photo by Jay Woods

## An educating partnership

Little Rock District, the city of Jacksonville and Little Rock Air Force Base joined together to construct an education facility that will provide more classrooms and will be easily accessible to the base and the community. The cost of the facility is \$14.4 million and is set to be completed by November 2010. The ground-breaking ceremony was held Nov. 9. From the left are Melody Toney of the base's education office, John Watkins of Garver Engineers design team; Col. Ed Jackson, Little Rock District commander; Air Force Col. Charles Hyde, 314th Air Wing commander; former Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim; Rep. Vic Snyder; Jacksonville Mayor Gary Fletcher; Col. Greg Otey, 19th Air Wing commander; Col. Dave Summers, 189th Air Wing commander; Mike Wilson of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce; David Walker of Yates & Sons Construction Team; and Bill Threet of Air Force Center for Engineering and Environment.



Courtesy photo

## Drillin' holes, pourin' concrete

On Oct. 15 concrete placement began on the first panel of the cut-off wall on Little Rock's Clearwater Dam. Phase I grouting is on-going and is expected to be completed early in calendar year 2010. The Phase II work (cutoff wall) will overlap and continue over the next five years. The Phase II Cutoff Wall contract was awarded in September 2008. A sinkhole developed in 2003 on the upstream face of the dam and a Major Rehabilitation Study concluded that a new seepage cutoff wall was necessary to solve the problem. More detailed seismic analyses are ongoing because of the proximity to the New Madrid fault. Seismic studies could result in future additional remediation measures. The project cost has increased since inception of the project because of previously-unknown subsurface conditions.



Courtesy photo

## Interpreter of the year

Stephen Austin, USACE Natural Resources manager, presented Little Rock's Allison Smedley with the Interpreter of the Year award during the National Association for Interpretation Conference in November. Smedley works at the Russellville Project Office as a ranger. She was recognized for her work in the Interpretive Services and Outreach Program and for promoting water safety.

# Tactical infrastructure forces smugglers to use pack animals in remote areas

*Story and photo  
by U.S. Border Patrol*

U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Sonoita Station, east of Nogales, Arizona made an interesting seizure Oct. 12: a pack train of horses laden with marijuana.

The Border Patrol reports that this is another sign of its increased presence in remote border areas.

The construction of hundreds of miles of new fence is credited with pushing smugglers to remote crossings that are difficult to traverse.

The \$2.4 billion Pedestrian Fence 225, and Vehicle Fence 300 projects from 2007 to 2009, are a major national security project spearheaded by the Engineering and Construction Support Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in support

of the Department of Homeland Security.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection reports that border patrol agents from the Sonoita Station, assisted by a CBP Office of Air and Marine helicopter, searched nearby mountains for illegal border crossing and discovered several horses carrying bundles of marijuana, totaling about 971 pounds, and with an estimated street value of \$776,800.

The horses and marijuana were held for further processing.

Smugglers associated with the horses fled the scene.

"The continued efforts of Border Patrol agents and our CBP partners continues to be effective in stopping these drugs from reaching our communities," said Chief Robert Gilbert.

As agents become more vigilant in remote areas, the expectation is that the smugglers



New border fences have pushed smugglers from the usual crossings into remote, rugged terrain that requires the use of horses to transport the illegal drugs.

will become desperate in their attempt to smuggle marijuana into the United States, the CBP said.



Courtesy photos

## The usual suspects busted at Holiday Luncheon

(Left) Fort Worth District team members load up on scrumptious food served up by the Morale Welfare and Recreation Association during the December 8, District Holiday Luncheon.

(Above) Federal Officer Jim Page corrals the "Muraski Gang" for attempting to steal the holiday spirit. The scoundrels were held in custody during the 2009 Holiday Luncheon until Fort Worth District team members raised enough bail donations to spring Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District and his clan of Scrooges. Bail money raised will be applied to support the annual Engineer Day picnic.

# Quality volunteers set Belton Lake apart from other Texas parks

Story and photos by Randy Cephus  
Fort Worth District

One of the top 100 family campgrounds in the nation is nestled in a secluded area near Belton and Temple, Texas, at Cedar Ridge Park, and is managed by the Fort Worth District Capital Regional Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Belton Lake recently earned this selection based on criteria family campers rated as desirable park features.

The criteria included hot shower facilities, laundry facilities, hiking trails, family beaches, 'radio free' zones, visitor centers, educational programs, children's events, and proximity to a metropolitan area.

Volunteer gate attendants and park hosts reside within the park to serve visitors' needs.

According to Park Rangers Scott Blank and Todd Spivey, the customer service from gate attendants and park volunteers played a key role in the selection.

"We have the best group of volunteers and it's the volunteers who make this park great," said Blank. "We have calculated a \$230,000 value of volunteer hours over the past year, with volunteers averaging about 20 hours of volunteer time per week."

The park was rated among the Nation's top 100 parks by the National Recreation Reservation Service in 2009. With more than 60,000 reservable facilities at over 2,500 locations, the NRRS is the largest outdoor recreation reservation service in the country.

"We submitted our nomination last December and were waiting to hear back from the NRRS and the next thing we knew – we were selected," said Blank. "We were the only park in the State of Texas selected for this honor."

Cedar Ridge Park is part of Belton Lake, a 2,300 acre facil-



Approximately 87,000 guests visited Cedar Ridge Park in 2009. Guests here are renting one of the eight screened shelters that overlook Lake Belton.



Deer along with many other fauna and flora can be enjoyed at Cedar Ridge Park.

ity which contains 68 recreational vehicle and tent camp sites.

Park facilities include restrooms with hot showers, a camper service center for group parties and meetings, washer [and] dryer units, two multilane boat ramps with courtesy loading docks, a lighted fishing dock, designated family swimming beach, playground, basketball court, hiking trails and two trailer dump stations.

In addition to the campsites, eight screened shelters are located within the park for people who do

not own RVs or tents," said Blank.

The first person Cedar Ridge Park guests see as they enter the facility is Jeanne Bean. As the gate attendant, Bean allows access to the facility, collects fees, monitors reservations, enforces park policies and ensures park visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience.

Bean has been a gate attendant with the Corps for the past 11 years, and says customer service is her first priority.

"A big part of the job is knowing what people want and being able to provide them what they need," said Bean. "We have to resolve problems from time to time, but the vast majority of our visitors are wonderful people."

Another key reason for the park's success is park volunteer Carlene Fritz, from Watertown, S.D., who is a retired registered nurse. Fritz ensures the adherence of park rules, provides visitors with information on park amenities as well as information on local

SEE "TOP 100" NEXT PAGE

# Top 100

*continued from previous page*

area attractions and eating establishments.

“Our overall goal is to ensure the park is well maintained and park rules are obeyed so that everyone can enjoy their visit at our facility,” said Fritz. “This job requires people skills and I enjoy working with and helping people.”

A concession marina with a seasonal restaurant is located in

the park, and it offers fuel and basic convenience store items for purchase.

Two group picnic areas with electricity and water overlook Cedar Creek, with its scenic white limestone bluffs, which accommodate up to 100 people with horseshoe and volleyball courts and a large cooker.

A group camping area is also available with the same amenities plus 10 sites for recreational vehicle [and] tent camping with electric [and] water for large family [and] group gatherings.

To assist visitors and to ensure the facilities remain in good working order, Fritz patrols the area in a golf cart.

“We see most of our activity during the spring through fall, but our park remains open during the winter months as well,” Blank said. “From Dec.1 to the end of February, campers can extend their stay for 14 days at a time.”

Helen Black and Lynn Houghton, originally from Duluth, Minn., have been visiting the park for the past five years. The couple enjoys the warmer Texas climate and the privacy of the park.

“The secluded location and the distance between each camp site affords to great privacy. The on-site laundry facility and the courtesy of the staff is also a big plus,” said Black.

Last year approximately 1.5 million people visited Belton Lake, with 87,000 of those visitors choosing to vacation at Cedar Ridge Park.

For further information and to make reservations at Cedar Ridge, or any of the other Corps-managed parks, visit the reservations website at: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov), or call (877) 444-6777.



Above, Lake Belton Park Rangers Scott Blank (left) and Todd Spivey inspect a park pavilion to ensure the area is clean and in working order. This attention to detail is a contributing factor to the park being named one of the top family campgrounds in the nation. The park was rated among the Nation's top 100 parks by the National Recreation Reservation Service in 2009. With over 60,000 reservable facilities at over 2,500 locations, the NRRS is the largest outdoor recreation reservation service in the country.

Photo right, Cedar Ridge Park Volunteer Carlene Fritz uses a golf cart to service the 2,300 acre facility, which offers 68 recreational vehicle and tent camp sites. “Our overall goal is to ensure the park is well maintained and park rules are obeyed so that everyone can enjoy their visit at our facility,” said Fritz. “This job requires people skills and I enjoy working with, and helping people.” Fritz is a retired registered nurse from Watertown, S.D.



# Racing fun

## Special children have an Olympic day

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard  
Little Rock District

Helmets were donned, feet were in motion, some hands and knees were skinned and, ultimately, medals were awarded during the Special Olympics 5 kilometer cross-country bike and foot race events hosted by Little Rock District's Greers Ferry Project Office.

Rangers and other volunteers from Greers Ferry Lake, located in Heber Springs, Ark., gathered at Dam Site Park Oct. 19 to help organize more than 40 young athletes, ensuring the route was safe and the winners were rewarded for their efforts.

Time trials for younger athletes were held first, to be followed by the 5K bike ride for the rest of the participants, Ranger Gary Ivy said.

Rangers Bruce Moyer, John Bridgeman, Ivy and volunteer Ron Gillespie (a retired Corps member) were at various locations throughout the park. They provided traffic control, made sure the cyclists stayed on the trail and furnished some minor first aid to those who had a tumble.

"Safety was our first priority, Ivy said. "We had to grab one young man, and his bicycle, to keep him from crashing into boulders along the path. I guess he was too excited, or panicked and forgot to use his brakes to slow down enough to make his turn around the traffic cones. Once we got him back on course, everyone cheered for him until he reached the finish line."

Moyer recalled one little girl during the bike race, saying, "I wish I had taken photos of one girl in particular."

The girl had a helmet that was too big for her, and the straps weren't properly tightened. So every time she hit a bump the helmet ended up in front of her eyes, Moyer explained. She would have to stop and adjust it or try to look through the vent slots.

"I called her over and asked if I could help her out," Moyer said. "She let me, and seemed very grateful. She was the smallest participant with the biggest helmet. She had a huge smile when I sent her on her way."

Moyer also said he had to provide some minor first aid to one of the athletes. A boy had wrecked his bike and was pushing it back to the starting line when Moyer came upon him.



Courtesy photo

Special Olympic athletes race down a hill during an event held at Little Rock District's Greers Ferry Lake recently. Park rangers helped organize the event for 40-50 participants. The athletes competed in foot and bike races and had lunch after.

"I had to convince him to let me help him," Moyer said. "I calmly told him I could make it feel better, if he'd let me. The boy said, 'it bleeding, you give me band aid?' I told him yes, I'd clean it up and give him a good ole band aid. I cleaned it and had to get creative to keep the bandage on – I put a rubber glove over his hand. He was my best friend from that point on, and he thought the glove was the coolest thing."

All of the rangers agreed that the award ceremony was their favorite part of the event. Everyone was so supportive of their fellow competitors' accomplishments, Bridgeman said. Nobody was disappointed if they didn't win first place. They just seemed genuinely pleased they had competed.

Moyer presented the awards to the athletes, but Ivy said each of them had a big smile as their name was called.

"I hope that this is the beginning of an annual event at Greers Ferry," Ivy said.

Greers Ferry Maintenance worker Dannie Travis and volunteer Bill Fulford made sure the Josh

SEE "OLYMPICS" NEXT PAGE

# Regulatory issues

*Arkansas, Missouri agencies meet to discuss programs*

*By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard  
Little Rock District*

Little Rock District Regulatory Division hosted two annual interagency meetings recently to promote consistency in the regulatory programs across Arkansas and Missouri.

Discussions during the Arkansas meeting included updates on the Fayetteville Shale Task Force, including the new proposed Regional General Permit and Regional Condition 5 permits, Cynthia Blansett, an environmental protection specialist with Little Rock District's Regulatory Division said.

"We also talked about the recent linear gas projects and gas company 'frac' pond activi-

ties within the Fayetteville Shale area," she said.

A frac pond holds water and sand that is used when drilling hundreds of feet into the ground. The forced fluids expand the rock fractures where the gas is found, Blansett explained.

Dr. Gary Tucker, of FTN Associates, a gas company consultant in the region, made a presentation about mitigation for the frac ponds, Blansett said.

There was also an update on the new regional wetland supplements.

Also in attendance were Memphis and Vicksburg districts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Highway and

Transportation Department, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and Arkansas Historic Properties Program.

Little Rock also hosted the annual meeting of the Missouri Board of Directors Jan. 12. The meeting included board members and representatives from the Corps' divisions and districts within the state of Missouri.

The meeting highlighted topics of environmental concern among federal and state agencies within Missouri, Blansett said. Topics included items such as transportation issues, mitigation and mitigation assessment methods and policy procedures.

"These meetings keep the Regulatory Division and federal and state agencies up to date with the most current regulations and policies," Blansett said.

## Olympics

*continued from previous page*

Park Memorial Trail was in top condition for the 5K cross-country race, Chief Ranger Joe Harper said.

Diane Wentz and Jessica Fagan of the Area 16 Special Olympics committee organized the event and arranged the lunch for all the participants.

"We really appreciated the help," Wentz said in an e-mail. "We plan to have the cycling and cross country events at Dam Site Park again next year."

Fagan wrote a letter to Harper and said, "the event was a huge success. Our athletes had a blast, and your rangers were awesome. We could not have pulled it off without their help. They went above and beyond – the athletes loved them."



COURTESY PHOTO

Ranger Bruce Moyer gives a Special Olympics athlete a medal during the awards ceremony Oct. 19. Greers Ferry park rangers helped organize the races for more than 40 competitors.

# *My time in Afghanistan*

*By Paris Embree  
Programs Directorate  
Southwestern Division*



After returning from a 13 month assignment in Kabul, Afghanistan, I would like to share a few words about my deployment. There are many reasons for people to deploy: the money; the experience of a new job; and, adventure. I went for adventure and I got it.

Living and working at Qalaa House in Kabul was nothing like I expected. What I did expect was to be “camping.” So, I packed only essentials and prepared for the rough life.

In reality, the Afghanistan Engineer District is located within the “Green Zone” in Kabul, close to the Embassies and the International Security Assistance Force. The living conditions at Qalaa House are good, though most share a room for at least three months before receiving a private room.

The majority of my time was spent working seven days a week, traveling to job sites, field offices, and visiting with the customer, the Combined Security Command – Afghanistan, which is now the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission

– Afghanistan.

The rest of my time was spent dining in the best dining facility in the country, exercising in the gym, or participating in other morale, welfare and recreational activities.

If asked if I’d go back or recommend deployment to others, the answer is a resounding “Yes!”

AED celebrated its five year anniversary last summer, and the new AED South District stood up last year. Both districts are providing challenging work for all career fields. There are at least six major programs: Military Construction, Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army, Roads and Support for Others, Operations and Maintenance and Minor Construction, and Water and Infrastructure. Each program has its own customers, budgets, and funding streams.

Construction of facilities in Afghanistan is difficult because of the rugged terrain, ranging from high mountain ranges to desert flatlands, and materials had to be transported at times by air or carried in by donkeys.

Security issues were challenging, safeguarding workers and materials going to, or at, the sites.

And finally, the weather, either flooding of rivers causing bridges to be washed out, or snow, which at times made it almost impossible to travel to construction sites.

The volume of work was incredible. In the ANP program there were approximately 40 sites completed, more than 300 ongoing construction sites and 150 plus to be awarded in 2010.

The ANP program is responsible for construction of ANP District and Provincial Headquarters buildings, National Training Centers, National Fire Training Centers, and Medical Facilities. The program total was more than \$1 billion, and in at least one year the awards were \$600 million. Standard building design packages were developed and improved every year for consistency, cost savings, constructability, and bid-ability. Many initiatives had to be developed due to the volume and nature of the work by AED and continue now to tap the creative nature of the AED staff.

One of the most exciting things was being able to travel around the country. I went east toward Pakistan, to Marshal Kamal, along deep canyon roads that skirted rippled, layered bands of different colored soils. I traveled north toward Uzbekistan to the Mazar Sharif area, which looked like the foothills of the Alps with green pastures dotted with herds of sheep. From there I traveled south to Kandahar and Terin Kowt, a desert with ribbons of green farmlands, to the west close to Iran to Herat, a metropolitan city with streetlights and trees that was not ravaged by the last 50 years of fighting. The country was beautiful, harsh, and alien to me.

Working at AED was one of the best jobs I have had. The challenge, the adventure, the innovative and professional staffs, and the dynamic working environment were energizing and rewarding. If given the chance to work in AED, take it.

# Partnering program helps keep Corps dollars at area lakes



Courtesy photo

Audrey Nowel a West Lake Park gate attendant at Lewisville Lake awaits park visitors to arrive so she can assist them with passes and park information.

*Story and photo by Darlene Moore  
Fort Worth District*

The gate attendants at Hickory Creek Campground at Lewisville Lake are seeing new benefits that stem from the recently created partnership between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Our Lands and Waters Foundation.

The Corps entered into a joint cooperative agreement with OLWF, a non-profit organization created to upgrade and enhance parks owned by the Corps.

An initial benefit the gate attendants noticed was that they get paid in three days instead of ten days, said Brenda and Eddy Freeman, Hickory Creek Campground gate attendants.

Tom Burrell, director of OLWF, an avid outdoorsman, and frequent camper at Corps parks, recognized the need for additional funding for the facilities.

"I did extensive research through a feasibility study and mock foundation study to arrive at a workable solution to succeed where others did not" said Burrell.

His goal was to bring funds into the parks to update the facilities.

Before the agreement appropriations were designated for the operations and maintenance costs, but were insufficient for the

requirements of the plan.

Each park has a limited operations and maintenance plan funded by regular appropriations. This partnership funding enables the parks to meet their OMP's.

One specific goal of the OLWF is to work closely with the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area at the lake to build interpretive centers in various parks.

LLELA is a consortium of local, state, national governments, and educational institutions for the preservation and restoration of native habitat and biodiversity; environmental education and environmental research.

Another plan is to work with the Boy Scouts of America and area YMCA's to participate in park cleanup and beautification efforts.

"The parks are looking so much better already since the Corps teamed up with OLWF and it looks like it will continue to get better and better" said Audrey Nowel, gate attendant at West Lake Park.

"This is a team effort working closely with the Corps, gate attendants, contractors, volunteers, and the businesses that lease from the Corps, said Burrell. "We are all working towards the same goal, to update and modernize these dated facilities".

## Tulsa District Rangers earn award for outstanding customer care

*By Stephanie Cowan  
Pacesetter Staff*

Park rangers Grady Dobbs and Isaac Martin were the fourth quarter Customer Care Award winners for Tulsa District, for professionalism while accommodating representatives from the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

The rangers responded to a call that human skeletal remains had been discovered in a cutbank at a Lake Texoma recreation area last August.

They first met officers from the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation who determined that the remains were not recent in origin but instead were historic

Native American.

The nomination praised the rangers for their professionalism and for cultural sensitivity which demonstrated their "extraordinary respect for the cultural heritage of the people served by Tulsa District."

They were praised for going "well beyond the scope of their duties.



Grady Dobbs is one of the fourth quarter Customer Care Award winners for Tulsa District

# Childhood hobby rekindled by daughter's project leads to new business

Story by Denisha Braxton  
Fort Worth District

At the age of 10 he discovered a passion for woodworking.

He learned the fundamentals and techniques from his father, but preferred to work on his own, so he played around with tools and different odds and ends from the garage.

Alain Bernier continued his hobby throughout the years and even sold a piece here and there.

Then, Bernier's woodworking took a different direction when his 13 year old daughter needed help making stage props for a school project.

"It was a father-daughter project, a way for us to stay tight," said Bernier the Engineering and Construction Support Office Facility Branch program manager.

Short on materials for the project, he began gathering discarded wood, and going to local cabinet shops, and before he knew it he had filled a two-car garage with wood.

Bernier's first woodworking projects began with making basic chop blocks, cutting boards and lazy susans.

Bernier also explored another



Photo by Jim Frisinger

Alain Bernier, Engineering and Construction Support Office Facility Branch program manager shows a sample of his woodworking.

aspect of woodwork called woodturning, a form of woodworking used to create wooden objects, while a stationary tool is used to cut and shape it.

Once he made these items, Bernier began to consider ways in which the pieces could be sold, thus was born Idle Time, his business for ten years.

The first year he operated the business, Bernier learned all

about craft shows, and how to market his wares.

Bernier created over 300 items to place in his inventory, and he attended 26 shows that inaugural year.

Bernier began searching for events with big volumes of people such as Grapefest in Grapevine, Texas, and Mayfest at Trinity Park in Fort Worth, Texas and Heritage Weekend at Six Flags over Texas, which usually attracted about 300,000 people.

"I recommend to anyone that starts their own business is to have discipline", said Bernier.

He put in a lot of hard work into his wood working, but found it to be a stress reliever.

Bernier pushed his wood working to the side for the past three years to support his wife and her battle with cancer.

"Although the past years have been challenging, she is a survivor", said Bernier.

His wife is doing well and continues to fight the disease.

Bernier hopes to resume his wood working this year at a gradual pace.

"I encourage everyone to find something as an outlet, said Bernier. "It did my family some good."

## Elk River Hiking Trail finalist in contest

The Elk River Hiking Trail at Elk City Lake has been nominated and is one of 24 finalists in the "8 Wonders of Kansas Geography" contest sponsored by the Kansas Sampler Foundation.

The Elk River Hiking Trail is a Corps of Engineers trail at Elk City Lake and is administered by Corps of Engineers personnel from the Big Hill Lake Office.

It is a National Recreation Trail that is maintained by the Corps of Engineers and many volunteers from the Kansas Trails Council, Friends of FlatRock Foundation, Boy Scouts, and others who have taken a special interest in the trail.

In addition, Cross Timbers State Park on Toronto Lake has also gained status as one of the

24 finalists.

Public votes are being accepted until midnight, Feb. 17.

To place a vote for 8 of the 24 finalists in the contest, go to: [www.kansassampler.org/8wonders](http://www.kansassampler.org/8wonders), then click on the box for the "8 wonders of Kansas Geography" contest.

There will be information about each of the 24 finalists that have been nominated in the competition.

Competition is stiff among the finalists, so take the time to vote for these two Tulsa District projects, or simply go to the website to see and read more about the great recreational places the state of Kansas has to offer.

# St. Nick enlists Fort Worth District

Story and photo by Melanie Ellis  
Fort Worth District

Children and adults around North Texas celebrated the 2009 Holiday season with some extra helpers enlisted by St. Nick – the Fort Worth District.

The Fort Worth District Leadership Development Program wrapped up the annual Corps Cares at Christmas Angel Tree Project Dec. 8 and 9 and provided Christmas to nearly 100 people in Tarrant County.

“The Angel Tree was a great success this year,” said Joyce Johns, contract specialist, Contracting Division. “The Fort Worth District team was extremely generous.”

The District supported four Cornerstone Families, 25 Willoughby House girls, the general wish list for Willoughby House and 48 children from Child Protective Services, said Justin Gardner, park ranger, Lewisville Lake.

“In all the Fort Worth District helped 93 individuals through donations of toys, gifts and food,” he said.

The LDP is responsible for hosting the Angel Tree project and tried a different approach to market the project to the District.

“This year we used a Share Point site that was set up by John Davis, process improvement specialist, Southwestern Division, to distribute the list of Angels across the entire District,” said Gardner.

The response was immediate and within three days all of the Angels were adopted. Requests from District team members for additional Angels continued.

The original adoption list had about 50 Angels but by incorporating a Share Point site and broadening the distribution and the generosity of the District, the contributions nearly doubled, said Gardner.

The LDP team was recognized and congratulated by Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District, for their project organization and team work.

“Thank you so much for your generous time, energy and dedication in support of those in need,” he said. “Thank you for your leadership and work ethic. Those who



Courtesy photo

Left to right, Sue Jones, Joyce Johns, and Sharon Roberson, all from the Contracting Division, show some of the gifts collected for the Corps Cares at Christmas Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree Program is sponsored by the Leadership Development Program. This year the Fort Worth District was able to provide Christmas for 93 people in the Fort Worth area.

benefitted from your efforts will be thankful in more ways than you can ever imagine.”



## Holiday fun with Bobber the Water Safety Dog

The Kansas Area Office celebrated the holidays by decorating the park ranger truck and boat with Christmas lights and participating in the Burlington, Kansas Christmas Night Parade.

The mascot Bobber, the Water Safety Dog, (actually ranger Kyle Manwaring) and park ranger Gary Simmons walked alongside the boat and gave away water safety promotional items to the crowd, while two volunteers, wearing their life jackets, rode inside boat during the parade.

Photo left, Bobber hands out goodies to parade-watchers.

Photo right, the ranger boat makes it way along the parade route.



# Galveston District Planning and Environmental Chief retires

By Isidro Reyna  
Pacesetter Staff

There's much to be said about a Galveston District employee who can describe both a highlight and lowlight of his career in one event – kissing a pig named Miss Priss.

For Richard “Rick” Medina, Planning and Environmental Branch chief, that's one of the many memories he'll leave behind as he embarks on a new chapter of his life following his retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, Jan. 3, 2010, after more than 36 years of dedicated service to the nation.

When asked if he remembered his first day at the Corps, he jokingly replied that he had trouble remembering last week.

“My first recollection of that time is of being an environmental person in an office that was very skeptical of an environmental person,” said Medina. “I was the first environmental person in what was called the Operations and Maintenance Branch, the equivalent of today's Operations Division. It was a branch with senior civil engineers and here was this young environmental person who they knew they had to start working with.”

“The reason I was hired was because of the passage of the National



Richard Medina

Environmental Policy Act or NEPA in 1969,” said Medina. “The Corps was required to start complying with that Act and several biologists had been hired in the environmental section, but on the operations side, there were none. They were looking for someone to coordinate those requirements with the environmental group.”

“To their credit, the engineers recognized they had to have someone who could understand the environmental requirements and still represent the operations issues,” said Medina. “The Corps was used to doing things a certain way and NEPA forced everyone to change the way things had been done in the past. I think it was very enlightening for both of us.”

“The first part of my career, the first 17 years, I spent in the Operations and Maintenance Branch or the dredging world,” said Medina.

“The major accomplishment in the first half of my career was making sure that all of our operations and maintenance dredging projects were in compliance with NEPA.”

According to Medina, NEPA was just the beginning of a multitude of requirements that all federal agencies had to meet.

“Ensuring that the maintenance dredging program continued in the face of this new environmental legislation was a challenge,” said Medina. “Helping to improve the dredging program while minimizing its impact on the environment was where I believe I contributed the most.”

Implementing beneficial uses of dredged material and initiating a water and sediment sampling program that's still in place today are other accomplishments, according to Medina.

“I initiated the dredging conferences that are still held today,” said Medina. “At the time it was environmental agencies and dredging contractors coming together to hear each other's concerns.”

“The second half of my career has been in the planning and environmental area,” said Medina. “My most significant accomplishment is related to the Houston Galveston Navigation Channels project -- the

limited reevaluation report and the environmental impact study that was produced in 1996.”

“At the time, it was the largest construction and environmental restoration project in the Galveston District,” said Medina. “The environmental and planning issues involved in that project led to the formation of interagency coordination teams and it's a process that continues to this day. It's been praised and lauded by agencies and used as a model on how the Corps should be operating – being inclusive and collaborating on projects.”

In his current position, Medina has been responsible for all planning and environmental activities associated with the district's multi-billion dollar navigation, flood risk management and environmental restoration projects.

According to Medina, there is more recognition about environmental constraints and environmental needs.

“In the earlier part of my career, it was always kind of a battle,” said Medina. “Trying to satisfy the engineering requirements and the environmental requirements would always lead to some compromise.”

“Today there is a much greater understanding of the environmental requirements

See “Medina” next page

# Medina

continued from previous page



Richard (Rick) Medina in earlier years at the Galveston District.

and a willingness to find a solution that benefits the environment,” said Medina.

“The recognition that environmental concerns are an integral part project design, planning and construction is a great reflection on the Corps’ commitment to the environment.”

“The Galveston District and the Corps is

an exceptionally talented agency,” said Medina. “The employees are caring, dedicated, devoted and often passionate about making sure that the job is done right with quality and care.

“It’s been a great career and I couldn’t have done it without a lot of help from a lot of people both past and present,” said Medina. “I’ve progressed further than I’ve ever imagined and it’s a credit to a great organization like the Corps that gives you the opportunity to excel, achieve and succeed.

Co-worker Diana Laird, chief of the district’s planning section, is thankful for Medina’s support throughout the years.

“Rick is really exceptional in the role that

he’s in because he’s been the chief for both of the sections he manages,” said Laird. “He’s immensely qualified, he’s a very good mentor, an excellent boss, very tolerant and one of the things that I’ll miss is his humor.

“He’s very witty, very funny and extraordinarily smart,” said Laird. “He’s going to leave a big hole in Galveston District because he’s so knowledgeable and so well-qualified for the job he has.”

“My hope is that he pays as much attention to having fun with his family and his retirement as with the attention and dedication he gave to his job while he worked at the Galveston District.”

Laird says she’ll also

miss Medina’s personality.”

“I remember one year the district was raising funds for the recreation committee and I was Rick’s campaign manager during the kiss a pig contest,” said Laird.

“Thanks to successful campaigning, we got him to kiss a pig. He was good about that,” said Laird.

As for kissing a pig, that’s not something Medina plans to pick up as a hobby.

Besides building a house in Bastrop, Texas, Medina plans to travel, do some part-time consulting, and learn to play golf.

“As a retiree, I feel obliged to take up golf,” said Medina. “I think it’s a prerequisite and I’m going to give that a try.”

## Park Ranger awarded for ‘selfless service’

John Redmond Lake Park Ranger Martin Ramirez is the third quarter Customer Care Award winner for Tulsa District.

Ramirez was recognized for exemplary actions during the prolonged flood events that occurred earlier this year at the lake.

Ramirez was instrumental throughout the restoration process and, after the water levels receded, demonstrated selfless service by removing drift and debris from Corps structures.

Ramirez also spent considerable time repairing lake facilities to ensure safe public access and customer satisfaction.

“Mr. Ramirez is a very versatile and extremely proficient employee who is always willing to help with anything necessary to accomplish the Corps’ mission. He is a widely respected employee, greatly valued by his co-workers, the general public, and our various partners around the lake,” said Allen Ryan, acting Operations Project Manager of the Kansas Area.



Park Ranger Martin Ramirez is the third quarter Customer Care Award winner for Tulsa District

# The Greatest gift of all: Giving

By Ron Elliott  
Gulf Region District

BAGHDAD – The old saying of “It is better to give than to receive” rings true for members of the Gulf Region District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq.

Because of the generosity of individuals and groups in the U.S., GRD is doing more than just brick and mortar reconstruction projects—they are touching lives and bringing smiles to Iraqi children.

A GRD team, headed up by the commander, Col. Dan Anninos, made holiday visits to schools, hospitals and neighborhoods to hand-out school supplies, soccer balls, blankets and toys to children around Baghdad.

“The primary purpose of the visit was to see how well these facilities were being maintained and operated,” said Anninos.

Several of the locations were the sites of initial reconstruction projects GRD, either built or renovated, and turned over to the Iraqis.

Lindsey Beck, a Department of the Army civilian and a facilities manager from Raleigh,

North Carolina who is currently serving her second tour in Iraq, said that going out into the community to distribute school supplies and toys to the Iraqi children was the best gift she could receive during the holiday season.

“It touches your heart to see their smiles and how much they appreciated something as small as a stuffed animal or pencils,” said Beck.

“I am so proud to be a part of the district team and all the tremendous reconstruction efforts [we] are doing, but to visit the children is truly a memorable event. The future is for the children,” added Beck.

Earlier this year, GRD received more than 40,000 pencils from the Arlington Independent School District in Texas.

The school district wanted to do something for the children of Iraq and decided to participate in the “Marking History” pencil drive, said Veronica Sopher, director of public information for AISD.

“The response was tremendous,” said Sopher in an e-mail. “In two weeks time, students,

teachers, administrators and principals came together and donated over 40,000 pencils.”

“Additionally, the shipping costs were covered by several local companies and by a local law firm—Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins and Mott, LLP,” said Sopher.

The Corps of Engineers has put the hard work and generosity of the Texas school district, and other organizations throughout the United States, to good use by making an impact on the hearts and minds of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children in schools, hospitals, orphanages and neighborhoods throughout Iraq.

There are 38 school projects ongoing countrywide, and since the reconstruction effort began in 2003, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed more than 1,130 school projects.

“These relatively inexpensive projects represent an absolute investment in the future of Iraq,” added Anninos.

In addition to the schools, USACE has completed more than 4,500 projects focused on rebuilding vital infrastructure such as water supply systems, sewage treatment centers, electrical power plants, hospitals and health clinics, and housing and transportation networks.

All this while simultaneously working to develop the capacity of the Iraqi people to be able to operate and maintain these facilities long after U.S. forces leave Iraq.

As the members of GRD continue to make progress and make a difference in the lives of the people of Iraq, they are living out what Winston Churchill so aptly stated: “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”



Lindsey Beck, (left) a Department of the Army civilian and USACE employee hands out pencils during a stop outside a neighborhood school west of Baghdad. More than 40,000 pencils were sent from AISD to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for distribution throughout Iraq. (GRD Photo by Ron Elliott).

# Pacesetter Points

## Congratulations

**Juston Johnson**, cartographer, joined SWD's 273rd Forward Engineering Support Team, Readiness and Operations Division, Oct. 13.

**Rustom Contractor**, mechanical engineer, joined the SWD 273rd FEST, Readiness and Operations Division, Oct. 25 with a duty station at Tinker Air Force Base, OK.

**Andrew Montez**, program analyst, Business Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, joined SWD headquarters Oct. 25. Montez last served in the Chicago District.

**Tim Foster**, electrical engineer, joined the SWD 273rd FEST, Readiness and Operations Division, Nov. 8 with a duty station at Little Rock Air Force Base. Foster comes to the division from private industry.

**Kandy Frye**, program analyst, joined the Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, Jan. 3. Frye served as SWD's acting budget officer from October through December, 2009. Prior to that position, Frye served as a management analyst, Resource Management Division, Regional Business

Directorate, since 2007.

**Charles Peterson**, contracting specialist, recently joined the SWD 273rd FEST, Readiness and Operations Division. Peterson is working in the Military Contingency Contracting Team office at Fort Worth District.

**Nick Bordlemay** joined the SWD headquarters as finance and accounting officer, Resource Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, Jan. 3. Bordlemay comes to the division from Fort Worth District's Finance and Accounting Office.

**James Meyer, Jr.**, appraiser, joined Real Estate Division, Programs Management Directorate, SWD headquarters, Jan. 3. Meyer comes to the Corps from the Department of the Interior. He also worked for the U.S. Navy and the private sector, with a total of 25 years of real estate experience.

**Ron Bell** was recently selected as SWD headquarters' new chief, Water Management and Infrastructure Safety Branch, Business Technical Division, Regional Business Directorate.

**Diana Laird** was selected as chief, Planning and Environmental Branch for the Galveston

District. Laird brings a variety of experience to the position, most recently as chief of the Planning Section.

Little Rock's **Mike Hurley** was selected as a supervisory natural resource specialist at Beaver Lake Project Office.

Little Rock welcomed **Jim Hill** to the Operations Division as a natural resources specialist at Table Rock Lake Project Office. Hill came from St. Louis District.

Little Rock selected **Mike Lee** as the new Resource Management Division officer. He replaced Marci Sablan who went to the South Pacific Division.

Little Rock selected **Mike Biggs** as the Reservoir Control Section chief. Biggs comes over from the Planning and Environmental Office.

Little Rock selected **Nick Mitchell** to become the deputy operations manager at Pine Bluff Project Office. Mitchell comes over to Pine Bluff from the Navigation and Maintenance Section.

**Larry Leahy**, program manager, transferred from Military Programs (duty station with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) to Civil Works Integration

Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, 3 Jan.

## Retirement

**Linda Noland**, security specialist, SWD headquarters, retired Jan. 2 with more than 32 years of service to the Corps, all with SWD.

**Abel Contreras** from the Galveston District retired Dec. 31.

**Bill Hopkins** from the Galveston District retired Jan. 2.

**Rick Medina**, Galveston District's Planning and Environmental Branch Chief, retired Jan. 3, 2010 after more than 36 years of Federal service.

Little Rock's **Bob Wenger**, facility maintenance inspector, retired in November after 38 years of service.

Little Rock's **Bob Sparks**, civil engineer technician, retired Jan. 3 after 30 years of service.

Little Rock's **Clarence Johnson**, engineer technician, retired in December after 20 years of service.

Little Rock's **Sheila Ellis**, statistical assistant, retired Jan. 2 after 30 years of service.

Little Rock's **Rick Amos**, engineer technician, retired Jan. 2 after 32 years of service.

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Little Rock's **Benny Haney**, engineer technician, retires Jan. 29 after 30 years of service.

Little Rock's **Anita Harris**, logistics technician, retired in December after 30 years of service.

**Paul Shockley**, Conservation Specialist, Northern Area Office is retiring effective March 1, 2010. Paul has served Tulsa District for more than 30 years, working at Wister, Tenkiller, John Redmond, Oologah, and the Northern Area Office.

Little Rock's **Dean Erickson** of the Logistics Branch retired from the Army Reserve Dec. 31 after serving 29 years.



Little Rock's Dean Erickson

## ARRIVALS

**Elois Washington** arrived at Galveston District Nov. 2 as a contract specialist.

Before joining the district, the Marshall, Texas native was a senior contract specialist and lead negotiator for the U.S. Army Tank

Automotive, Life Cycle Management Command and Tactical Vehicles System Contracting Group in Warren, Mich.

Washington is the seventh child of 13 and has one son, Jamar, who attends Tuskegee University in Alabama.

She enjoys dancing, going on cruises, and reading suspense novels.

She is glad to be back in Texas and at the Galveston District.

**Eric Wood** joined the Galveston District Nov. 23 as a civil engineer in the Hydraulics Branch.

Wood was born in East Lansing, Mich., but grew up in Houston and graduated from the University of Texas in Austin.

Before joining the district, he was a senior engineer in Houston for PBS&J. Wood is a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas and Florida and a certified floodplain manager.

His interests include sports and music.

**Thomas Schmidt** arrived at Galveston District Oct. 11 as an administrative support assistant in the Regulatory Branch.

Before joining the district, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin native worked as a human resource assistant with the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion.

His hobbies include disc golf and bicycling.

**Aldrich Nichols**

joined Galveston District Oct. 26 as a contract specialist.

Before joining the district, the Cleveland, Mississippi native was a contract specialist for the Army Material Command in the FELLOWS program.

Nichols is married with two daughters.

He enjoys deep sea fishing, reading, SEC football and weight lifting.

## DEPARTURES

**Stephen Rodgers** departed the district Nov. 9 to join the Omaha District Real Estate Division.

**Thomas Benero** took a position as the Chief of Contracting for the Fort Worth District San Antonio Office at Fort Sam Houston.

## FAMILY MATTERS

Little Rock's **Sylvester Jackson** of the Pine Bluff Project Office and wife, Aisha, welcomed daughter, Mia Camille, Jan. 5,



Newborn Mia Camille Jackson, daughter of Sylvester and Aisha Jackson, weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces at birth.

weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

**Andrea Lewis**, Little Rock's Operations chief married David McDaniel Dec. 1. She is now Andrea Murdock-McDaniel.

**Humberto Troche**, civil engineering technician for the Galveston District, Southern Area Office, and his wife welcomed Christopher Matthew Troche, Nov. 20, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

**Mike Sells**, civil engineering technician at the Galveston District, and his wife welcomed Emery Grace Nov. 18, weighing 6 pounds, 11 ounces.

**Veronica Benavides** welcomed two grandchildren recently.

Peyton Marie Reynolds was born to daughter Kimberley and Steven Reynolds Oct. 29, weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Kim is an SCEP employee in the Northern Area Office.

Nathan Gregory Benavides was born to son Jerry Benavides Jr and his wife Katie, Dec. 2, weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

Christopher Ty Keeler, 7 lbs, 2 oz, was born Feb 2, to Fort Gibson Master Plant Superintendent **Chris Keeler** and his wife.

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# Fort Worth District welcomes newest employees

|                      |                             |  |             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| Gregory Scheurich    | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | October 1   |
| Kolawole Dunning     | Realty Specialist           | Real Estate                            | October 11  |
| William Key          | Realty Specialist           | Real Estate                            | October 11  |
| Diane Vinson         | Program Analyst             | Operations                             | October 11  |
| Gary White           | Architect Intern            | Joint Program Management Office        | October 12  |
| Andrew Bury          | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | October 13  |
| Robert Johnson       | Project Coordinator         | Engineering and Construction           | October 13  |
| Clifton Peters       | Project Coordinator         | Engineering and Construction           | October 13  |
| Landra Robinson      | Program Analyst             | Project Management                     | October 13  |
| Clayton Waller       | Construction Inspector      | Engineering and Construction           | October 13  |
| Roberta Cromeens     | Cost Price Analyst          | Contracting                            | October 25  |
| Timothy Batson       | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| David Dawson         | Mechanical Engineer Tech.   | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| Carols Denson        | Project Coordinator         | Project Management                     | October 26  |
| Glenn Druzba         | Landscape Architect         | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| Jackie Etheridge     | Term Maintenance Worker     | Operations                             | October 26  |
| Chris Graber         | OESS                        | Planning, Environmental and Regulatory | October 26  |
| Michael Hornbeck     | Construction Inspector      | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| Brant Jensen         | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| Thaddeus Jones       | SES Maintenance Worker      | Operations                             | October 26  |
| Maximilian Maule     | Mech. Engineer Tech.        | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| Frederick McGee      | Mech. Engineer Intern       | Engineering and Construction           | October 26  |
| Larry Rives          | Program Specialist          | Project Management                     | October 26  |
| David Baker          | Realty Specialist           | Real Estate                            | November 8  |
| Curtis Delille       | Realty Specialist           | Real Estate                            | November 8  |
| David Brown          | Supervisory Civil Engineer  | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Roger Davis          | Construction Inspector      | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Raymond Hernandez    | Engineering Tech. (student) | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Samuel Howarth       | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Michael Kingston     | Program Manager             | Project Management                     | November 9  |
| Wilfredo Lugo-Medina | Construction Inspector      | Fort Bliss Program Office              | November 9  |
| Jacob Matthews III   | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Justin Mauney        | Engineering Tech. (student) | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Gary Mezger          | Supervisory Civil Engineer  | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Ray Proske           | Project Coordinator         | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Jacob Whiteker       | Mechanical Engineer         | Engineering and Construction           | November 9  |
| Louise Brubaker      | Program Analyst             | Real Estate                            | November 22 |
| Carl Hawkins         | Program Manager             | Project Management                     | November 22 |
| James Richardson     | Program Manager             | Project Management                     | November 22 |
| Nathaniel Zabel      | Program Manager             | Project Management                     | November 22 |
| Eduardo Cabrea       | Construction Inspector      | Engineering and Construction           | November 23 |
| Neal Current         | Construction Inspector      | Fort Bliss Program Office              | November 23 |
| James Gilbert        | Construction Inspector      | Fort Bliss Program Office              | November 23 |
| Cary Gollnick        | Construction Inspector      | Engineering and Construction           | November 23 |
| Larry Holloway       | Mechanical Engineer Intern  | Joint Program Management Office        | November 23 |
| Jimmy Rawlings       | Civil Engineer              | Engineering and Construction           | November 23 |
| Jeffrey Allen        | General Engineer            | Engineering and Construction           | December 6  |
| Tamoria Blond        | Program Analyst             | Engineering and Construction           | December 6  |
| Boris Haase          | Architect                   | Project Management                     | December 6  |
| Viet Nguyen          | Civil Engineer              | Project Management                     | December 6  |
| Cole Furqueron       | Civil Engineer Intern       | Joint Program Management Office        | December 7  |
| Jose Lujan           | Program Analyst             | Project Management                     | December 20 |
| Derek Maxwell        | Administrative Support Tech | Real Estate                            | December 20 |
| David Mindieta       | Realty Specialist           | Real Estate                            | December 20 |

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## Condolences



Leonila C. DeLeon, mother of **Abel DeLeon**, passed away Sept. 2, 2009.

Abel works in the Galveston District as a Resident Engineer.

Earl Lee Stephens, father of **Rose Caballero**, Equal Employment Opportunity Manager for the Galveston District, passed away Dec. 26, 2009.

Nikki Shaw, wife of Pine Bluff Park Ranger **Steve Shaw** of Little Rock District, passed away Jan 16.

Bobby Howard Jones, father to Little Rock's **Jan Jones** of Reservoir Control Office, passed away Dec. 23.

Betty Haynes Turner, mother-in-law to Little Rock's **Billy Wright** of the Mailroom, passed away Nov. 15.

**James Long**, a Little Rock retiree, passed away Jan. 9.

**Regina (Gene) Long**, 83, passed away Jan. 20 in Lancaster,

Texas. Gene, who retired in

1992, served the Southwestern Division as a secretary in the Personnel office.

**Keith Landreth**, Environmental Division Chief, Fort Bliss Directorate of Public Works passed away Jan. 7, 2010.

"All of us knew Keith as a dedicated, loyal, talented leader," said Jason Hauk, director Fort Bliss Program Office.

**Henry D. Kasten** passed away Nov. 12, 2009, fighting a long battle with juvenile diabetes.

Henry was an engineer



Henry D. Kasten

for the Corps of Engineers for 21 years.

He would work even when in ICU.

He was dedicated to his clients and profession. He was an advocate for persons with disabilities. Even with his own disability he never asked for any favors.

Being blind and with all his complications of diabetes he never gave up.

In 2009 the Fort Worth District lost two inductees of the Gallery

of Distinguished Civilian Employees, **Arthur M. Hull** and **Francis H. "Frank" Ivers, Jr.**

Hull, a retired engineering geologist, died Nov. 11.

He was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Rock



Arthur M. Hull, Gallery of distinguished Civilian Employees member.

Island, Ill., district and in Galveston and Fort Worth districts for a period of 38 years.

He retired in 1975 as chief of the Foundations and Materials Branch of the Fort Worth District.

His career covered work on 32 dams and many waterways constructed by the Corps of Engineers as well as the foundation work for military structures and airfield facilities during World War II in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Upon his retirement, he was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees.

Ivers, a retired U.S. Navy Captain, passed away Oct. 18.

After leaving active Navy service, he flew for Mercury Airlines and taught math at Texas

Christian University before joining the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1949.

He retired from the Corps in 1979 as chief of the Coordination Section, Planning Division.

Ivers was an active member and officer



Francis H. "Frank" Ivers, Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees plaque etching.

of National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Chapter 30 in Fort Worth.

He was inducted into the Corps of Engineers Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees in 1997.

