

Musseling in ...



***Zebra mussels are threatening Corps projects
see page 5***



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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SWD: 'I am personally in awe of each of you'

Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser
Commander, Southwestern Division

Let me begin my final Pacesetter column with a big "Thanks" to the entire Southwestern Division Team. After three incredibly rewarding years of commanding the Tulsa District and the last year dual-hatted as the Southwestern Division Commander, I have had the opportunity for an unbelievable perspective on the last few unprecedented years.

For the second year in a row, our program execution has been near the \$5 billion mark—nearly double the previous norm. This has been due to a number of converging factors that expanded from our base programs to include Base Realignment and Closure, Supplementals, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. All with short suspenses for execution in FY10.

Last September, we knew it was going to be a challenge but we all rolled up our sleeves and laid out the plan of attack. Each district surged through the first quarter gaining momentum and awarding contracts at an incredible pace. By the end of the second quarter, we were well on pace and should complete ARRA awards ahead of the other divisions this summer.

Now I am proud to see construction going on throughout the region. Our critical dams and levees are being repaired, major ports being dredged, our recreation areas are being upgraded as we repair them, and we have new military construction going on nearly every installation to improve the life of our selfless service members and their families. We are partnering with the Veterans Administration, building three new military hospitals and entire military school campuses and unit facilities from the ground up. I recently spoke to Col. Turner at BRAC-D at the Pentagon who visited our projects to see "what right looked like" as we consistently deliver quality projects on time or early. We also have a robust program of national projects in support of the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Patrol that have boosted our reputation nationally.

All of the above is impressive to say the least, but we also did this with tremendous personnel turnover. Many in our key positions retired and we had to recruit hundreds of new teammates and train them as we accomplished our record workload. Now throw in the mix, record

rains, flooding, ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and support for Iraq and Afghanistan. I am personally in awe of each of you.

Let me personally thank the SWD headquarters team, the District Commanders and their key leaders for their leadership and drive to establish priorities, balance requirements and resources, and main-

tain a positive "can do" attitude the entire time. The crosstalk has been outstanding and it was appreciated!

I also need to thank the great team of selfless Corps employees who have stepped up to the challenges and embraced the changes, deadlines, data calls and long days. I know it has been stressful but what we have accomplished is significant and is your legacy. Many years from now we can look back proudly and say we were part of the great surge. We can look at our projects and know we have improved operations and safety and we should be proud to stand and tell any visitor this is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project.

I know the comments I receive

from the public, our partners and our Congressional leaders have all been extremely positive.

It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as your Commander. There have been good days and tough days. But every day I have been inspired by the greatness of our country and uplifted by the goodness of our Corps employees. I have been blessed to represent each of you. And I will always be honored to carry a title that means more to me than any other: team member of the mighty Tulsa District, Southwestern Division, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

And so, for the final time: Thanks! May God bless this division and our next Command team. I will definitely miss being part of this team but I will take with me many friendships and pride in being part of something historic. I know you all will continue to set the standard and take care of your new Southwestern Division Commander. Pacesetters!

"... I will always be honored to carry a title that means more to me than any other: team member of the mighty Tulsa District, Southwestern Division, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

***-Colonel Anthony C. Funkhouser,
Southwestern Division commander***

ANTHONY C. FUNKHOUSER

COL, EN

Commander, Southwestern Division



Commentary: Little Rock website 'new and improved'

By Jay Woods
Little Rock District

If you haven't seen Little Rock District's website in a while, you haven't seen Little Rock District's website. Thanks to a great team of folks from around the district, the Web pages have been updated and have a modern new look.

The 1,500 pages are current and relevant, and chock full of information employees or the general public can reference to become more aware of the district's activities and offerings. Meantime, the district Intranet site is undergoing a major update and upgrade as well to make it more useful and relevant for employees. Look for this late this summer.

When I arrived in the district in September from Japan District, one of the first tasks I was assigned was to update the district's Internet website, and I was actually looking forward to this task. I knew there was a good deal of outdated information on it because when I was competing for this position in Public Affairs, I visited the site to learn more about the district and found many of the "Key Projects and Issues" were in fact years old.

Little Rock wasn't alone in this; many Army Corps of Engineers websites were long neglected. That is why Corps Headquarters included updating websites across the Corps and migrating them to the new corporate "branding" look as part of Goal 4b in the USACE Strategic Plan.

So my journey began, and we began pulling together our project development team.

Our PDT consisted of representatives from each staff section and project site that had a presence on the website. We held our first meeting in October to determine what information needed to be updated.

One of the most difficult things for us seemed to be forcing ourselves to look outward rather than inward. Much of the information was presented in such a way that it was more appropriate for employees rather than external stakeholders or members of the general public, who the website is really designed to reach. Some of the information was really more appropriate for the (internal) Intranet instead of the (public) Internet.

The PDT members had to make sure they were not looking at the site as a member of the Corps of Engineers, but as if they were stakeholders or public customers. The team began meeting weekly to ensure everyone was on track and to talk about any problems.

I really enjoyed working with this PDT. Right from the start the members took ownership of their pages and went to work. The updates ranged from new phone numbers to updated campground information, to deleting projects that were completed years ago. The team members made sure this project was completed in a timely fashion, and their good work made my job easier than I thought it would be.

I want to personally thank Tom Miller, our webmaster. He worked on about 70 work requests during this update, and he did an excellent job.

But the team isn't finished. Now that the website has been updated, it has to be maintained, lest it fall out of date once again. Team members will review it quarterly, but we can also use your help. If you see anything on the site that should be updated, or discover something that should be added or altered, please let me know. We want to continue the journey from good to great.

So if you haven't seen Little Rock District's website in a while, go check it out. You will find a great deal of current news and information guaranteed to give you a more well-rounded view of today's Little Rock District. 



The Little Rock District's website has an updated modern appearance.

Website PDT members

Team Leader - Jay Woods
Don Balch
Mike Black
Caleb Brunson
Mike Cannon
Scott Corbitt
Dylan Edwards
Sheila Ellis
Jason Gramlich
Mark Green
Joe Harper
Ron Helton
Don Henson
Rick Hightower
Elizabeth Hoefler
Barbara Holmes
Lola Holt
Sylvester Jackson
Brooke Kerwin
TJ Lee
Tom Miller
Dushan Mrdja
Lisa Owens
Chris Page
Cyndi Riley
Allison Smedley
Chris Smith
Tiffany Smith
Gwen Stokes
Tricia Tannehill
Charlie Tobin

Fighting a tiny invader

By Nate Herring
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Zebra mussels may be small, but they create a big problem for the Corps of Engineers and boaters throughout the Tulsa District and the country.

These pesky creatures attach themselves to any hard surface and can clog pipes necessary for dam and lake operation.

“They have, and will continue to get inside dams, locks, and powerhouses,” said Everett Laney, Tulsa District biologist. “The biggest problem is when they get into piping of the generator cooling system and restrict water flow that keeps the unit from overheating. They have to be cleaned out, which takes time and costs additional labor expenses.”

After accidentally being transported to the U.S. from Europe in the 1980’s, they were first found in St. Clair Lake in Michigan in 1986. Since they are transported by natural water flow, boat trailers, and boats, they quickly spread to other water bodies throughout the country.

They were first discovered in Oklahoma in 1993 in the Arkansas River along the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System and quickly spread throughout the navigation system. The mussels would not spread to an inland lake in Oklahoma until 2003, when they were found in Oologah Lake. Later that year, they were discovered in El Dorado Lake in Kansas.

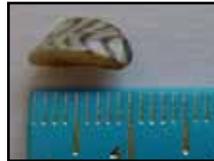
Due to downstream flow, zebra mussel larvae were transported down the Arkansas River and into Kaw Lake in 2004 and Keystone Lake in 2005. In addition, several water supply lakes were infested as well including Lynn Lane, A.B. Jewell, Chouteau, and Sooner Lakes.

In 2006, they were discovered at Skiatook Dam and in 2010 they were confirmed to have spread to the lake.

Within the past year, three more lakes were confirmed to have zebra mussels, Texoma Lake, Eufaula Lake, and Fort Gibson Lake. This brings the total to 13 district lakes infested by zebra mussels, including the navigation



Courtesy photos



Zebra mussels will attach themselves to just about anything, including toys, boat motors and even other organisms.



poools along the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System.

These invasive mussels are creating a major problem for recreational boaters and fishermen.

“They will clog up personal watercraft and water supply intakes,” said Laney. “They will also attach to boat hulls, docks, and everything else in the water. On a larger scale, they can disrupt a lake’s ecosystem and change the fishery.”

Zebra mussels are extremely difficult to control and cannot be eradicated.

“Once zebra mussels get established in a large lake, like the lakes in Oklahoma, they can not be eradicated without killing everything else and with great expense,” Laney said. “They are being spread by recreational boats and the only way to prevent the spread is to clean the boats before taking them to different, uninfested, lakes.”

Lake offices are educating boaters about zebra mussels by posting infested waters signs at boat ramps and handing out cards detailing the precautions boaters can take. They also sent a letter to marina operators and Corps of Engineers lease holders informing them of the infestation, said Catherine Carr, natural resource specialist at Eufaula Lake.

Though this invasive species is nearly impossible to eradicate once it becomes established in a lake, and can cause serious problems for the Corps of Engineers and the public, education is key to preventing the spread of zebra mussels.

“Education is critical,” said Laney. “It is very important for the public to realize that the primary way zebra mussels and other invasive species are spread is by them.” 

Boaters can take some simple precautions to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels to other lakes

- When pulling the boat from the water, drain the bilge water, live wells, and bait buckets. Don’t dump unused bait into the water if it did not come from that body of water.
- Inspect the boat and trailer. Zebra mussels may feel like grit on the surface – scrape them off, but do not return them to the water.
- If practical, store the boat and trailer out of the water for at least a week before entering another waterway.
- If the boat will be put into another body of water within a week, wash boat parts, accessories, the bilge, live well, pumping system, and bait buckets with a high-pressure sprayer.
- A 10 percent solution of household chlorine bleach and water, or a hot saltwater solution can be used to wash the boat. Do not wash your boat at ramps where the solutions could drain into the lake.

Support to control invasive species

By Everett Laney
Tulsa District
Invasive Species Leadership Team

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers now has a policy specifically for management of invasive species that gives managers additional support to accomplish their mission and provides guidance in dealing with a growing problem at projects across the nation.

The policy establishes consistent, nationwide guidance that will be applied to all Corps Civil Works projects and programs and complements the National Invasive Species Act and Executive Order 13112.

Measures to either prevent or reduce establishment of invasive and non-native species are to be a component of all Corps Operations and Maintenance at project sites as well as a part of implementation of a Civil Works project.

As invasive species become more of an issue, the management of Corps facilities and resources has become more of a challenge. Previously, the Corps didn't have a nationwide policy specifically dealing with invasive species. The lack of policy has created inconsistencies in the actions taken and did not provide direct support for all invasive species problems. There are some more focused programs for aquatic plants and the use of pesticides but nothing that encompassed invasives in general.

To respond to the growing impacts of invasives and to address the intent of the law, the Invasive Species Leadership Team was formed. Representatives from each division worked with headquarters and Engineering Research and Development Center to develop the policy. The policy supports the Corps Environmental Operating Principles and is applicable to all Civil Works programs.

Programs specifically included in the policy are:

Operations

Operating projects will include strategies for invasive species in coordination with other federal, state, and local agencies. Examples include operational management plans, Navigation, locks & dams, powerhouses, real estate out-grants, and contracting.

Civil Works Planning Activities

Civil Works planning documents will address invasive species concerns in their analysis of project impacts. Collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies will be maintained in developing those analyses.

Regulatory Actions

A Department of the Army

permit may include special conditions to require the permittee to control the introduction or spread of invasive species.

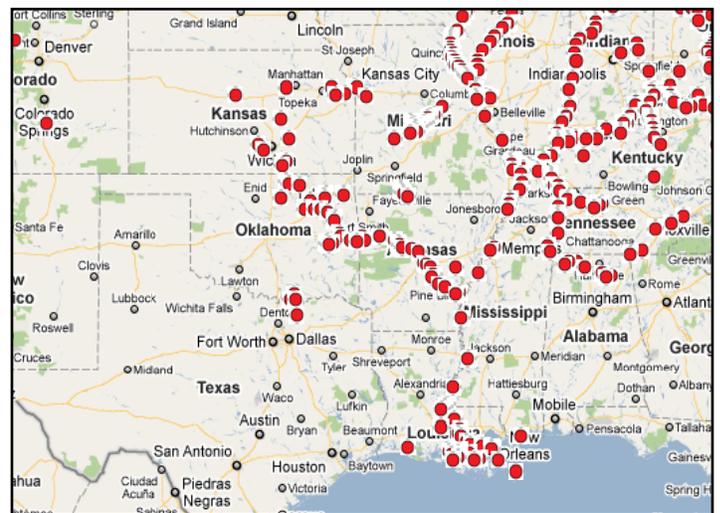
Engineering Research and Development Center

The ERDC will serve as the research lead for the Invasive Species Program, share information concerning their activities, and solicit input for future research and development work units.

The ISLT is now working to provide direction to implement the plan. Potential changes to applicable regulations and authorities are being developed and coordinated with headquarters. The ISLT will continue to provide oversight of the invasive species program and provide recommendations to ERDC. The Gateway is already being used to provide support for the exchange and sharing of information. Visit the site at <http://corplakes.usace.army.mil/employees/islt/islt.html>

The Texoma Zebra Mussel Task Force has established a media and informational website for members to post brochures, fact sheets, pictures, etc.

Here is the link: <http://129.15.97.19/texomazebramussell/>



Above illustration by Benson, A. J. 2010. Zebra mussel sightings distribution. Retrieved May 14, 2010 from <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/zebramusseldistribution.asp>. The map indicates the verified sightings of zebra mussels in the Southwestern Division. Photo left, USACE file, is a close up of the very small zebra mussels. Even though the mussel is tiny, it does a lot of damage in areas where it shows up. The species is expected to continue spreading throughout the Southwestern Division.

Galveston District, Harris County sign PPA for Project Brays

By **Isidro Reyna**
Galveston District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, in partnership with the Harris County Flood Control District, has undertaken a project with a goal of reducing flood risks in the Brays Bayou watershed. The \$489-million Brays Bayou Flood Damage Reduction Project, also known as Project Brays, will reduce flooding risks for approximately 30,000 homes, including the Texas Medical Center.

On March 31, 2010, a Project Partnership Agreement was signed by Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, and Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, at Hermann Park's Bayou Parkland Pavilion in Houston, which will allow the federal government to begin reimbursing HCFCD for local dollars already spent on the project and for reimbursements on future work on Brays Bayou.

"We are committed to contributing to the safety, economic success and quality of life of the citizens of Houston and its neighboring communities," said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "The Corps has partnered with Harris County Flood Control District in order to carry out a project that will bring lasting benefits to those who live and work in the Brays Bayou Watershed."

Project Brays was studied and constructed under the auspices of the Water Resources Development Act section 211 (f) program, according to Shakh D. Misir, a project manager with the Galveston District. This program is a progressive venture initiated by Congress and supported by the Corps.

"The benefit of the section 211 (f) program affords an early project delivery because of the sponsor's role to physically construct the project while concurrently compiling the feasibility report," said Misir. "An approved feasibility report is the key to justify federal participation."

"The Corps has provided support to HCFCD at every watershed juncture culminating in the signing of the PPA," said Misir. "This PPA being signed formally acknowledges



Courtesy photo

Mike Talbott (left), director of the Harris County Flood Control District, addresses a group at the Project Partnership Agreement signing for Project Brays in Houston. Also pictured (left to right), Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Galveston District commander Colonel David C. Weston and Art Storey, former director of HCFCD.

the Brays Bayou project for cost share between the federal government and the local sponsor, HCFCD."

The project includes earthen channel modifications, which consist of 17.7 stream miles of channel widening from the mouth of Brays Bayou to Fondren Road, according to Misir. This widening will increase the amount of stormwater the bayou is able to hold.

"Due to the channel widening, replacement of 12 bridges and the lengthening of 18 other bridges that cross Brays Bayou from the mouth to Fondren Road will be completed," said Misir. "Approximately 1,900 acre-feet of stormwater detention on Willow Waterhole Bayou will be implemented, which will reduce flood potential for thousands along the bayou."

Project Brays is an example of a federal project in which a non-federal agency takes the lead to manage the project using local funds. Harris County Flood Control District and the Corps share the cost of the project.

"In June 2001, Tropical Storm Allison dumped more than 14 inches of rain over portions of Brays Bayou in a 12-hour span," said Weston. "The resulting floods caused up to \$2 billion in damages at Texas Medical Center and huge intangible costs attributed to lost research products. Events like these

made the Brays project a viable candidate of the 211 (f) program supported by both the Corps and HCFCD."

In the 1990s, the project was expedited by separating two elements, construction both upstream and downstream of Beltway 8, according to Misir. HCFCD has received federal reimbursements for construction upstream and the PPA will officially combine the two elements and allow for reimbursements to begin for the downstream construction.

Portions of the project that have been completed include the Arthur Storey and Old Westheimer stormwater detention basins, according to HCFCD. Additionally, the Eldridge basin is 66 percent complete and the Willow Waterhole basin is 43 percent complete.

The flood control district has completed widening segments of the bayou and has made two bridge modifications or replacements, according to HCFCD. The flood control district estimates the entire project will be finished in 2017, funding permitting.

The project is identified as the Locally Preferred Plan and is supported by the Brays Bayou Citizens Advisory Committee and the local community in general as determined by public meetings held throughout the planning process. 

Russo joins ranks of Fort Worth's distinguished civilians

Story and photos by Edward Rivera
Fort Worth District Public Affairs

Today, we are reminded about being great, core values and professionalism in everything we read or do. Prior to Campaign Plans there were a hand full of people who exuded those values before they became posters and slogans. These were district employees who by character and results distinguished themselves.

On April 5, a new addition to the Fort Worth District Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees was unveiled. Samuel Russo who retired in 1989 as the chief, Project Management Branch was inducted into the Gallery during the annual Retiree Luncheon held at the Hilton, Fort Worth.

Russo's plaque will join individuals whose legacy of contributions led to the significant success of the District. The first ten employees were inducted in 1978.

"I feel humble and greatly honored to have been selected to join a distinguished group of employees," said Russo, who began his federal service in 1958 with the Albuquerque District.

During his tenure with the Albuquerque District he worked in the Hydraulics Section, the Structural Design Section, and as a project supervisor in the Military Branch. Russo also attended the University of New Mexico and earned his bachelors degree in Civil Engineering in 1962. He would not get to the Fort Worth District until 1970 when the Albuquerque District Military Branch was restructured under Fort Worth.

During the 1970s Russo was one of the senior project managers in the Army Section of the branch responsible for getting military projects designed and contracts awarded for construction. During this period he assisted in the formal military project management training and mentorship of a section staffed with 10 project managers and two interns.

"As an engineer I considered myself a professional and I was dedicated to the performance of my duties," said Russo. "I was a serious and hard worker."

In 1974 he was named a team leader on half of the military construction program because



Samuel Russo and Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., unveil a plaque of Russo that will go on the Fort Worth District Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees as Russo's wife Patricia looks on. The gallery is displayed on the third floor of the Federal Building near the Executive Office.

of his command of the Project Management Process. And during the mid-seventies the workload and size of the Army construction projects greatly increased. Russo, on his own volition performed at an extraordinary level that was unparalleled; he worked on numerous projects that included state-of-the-art \$3 million Photo Processing Facility, White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; at Fort Bliss, Texas, a \$3 million Safeguard Central Training Facility, to train military personnel at operating missile sites; and Modular Barracks complexes at Fort Polk, La.

He was a teacher and leader by example and those who worked with Russo like Wayne McDonald, Professional Services Branch, marveled at his dedication, work ethic and his knack teaching project management.

Russo said he took his position as a civil servant seriously not only to his co workers but to the taxpayers as well. He not only served his country as a Corps employee, he was a in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955 attaining the rank of Staff Sgt.

"Sam Russo served his country both in the military and as a civilian," said Troy Collins, former Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management. "I can sum up the key ingredient that Sam brought to the table, patriotism. To paraphrase President Calvin Coolidge: Patriotism is easy to understand in America. It means looking out for not just for

yourself by looking out for your country. Sam's career and affect on individuals with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers speaks for itself."

Russo also worked on a \$20 million expansion to the William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Fort Bliss, a \$30 million Army Medical Center at Fort Polk, and a \$33 million tri-service (Army, Air Force and Navy) state-of-the-art full scale, High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility at White Sands Missile Range.

All the projects were successfully designed and constructed on schedule, completed, occupied and used by our armed forces within the programmed amount. To manage one of these projects would be considered the pinnacle of a project manager's or engineer's career let alone several at the same time.

In 1978 Russo, was promoted to the Southwestern Division where he helped multiple Districts in executing their respective military construction program. He returned to the Fort Worth District in 1982 as a Military Branch section chief and became the chief of the Military Branch in 1984. He also held the position of chief, Special Projects Section and chief, Project Management Branch, the precursor of the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management.

"It is great to be recognized for my work," said Russo. "I am thankful for the career I had which was productive and fulfilling." 



Recreation and risk assessment

LT. COL. GENE SNYMAN
DEPUTY COMMANDER, TULSA DISTRICT

At least in Tulsa, today is the first clear sunny day in what seems like weeks of rain and storms, which of course came on the heels of a long, cold, wet winter. Of course one of the first things we think about is the warm weather related activities of summer. Before we start imagining the smell of sizzling grease burgers and fresh outboard motor exhaust, let us take a moment to think of a few of the hazards that potentially await us.

The swimsuit awaits us. Wow, it's been a long winter and we painstakingly tucked away precious resources to ensure we didn't face starvation. While that extra pork steak seemed like a good idea then, now as we stand in front of the mirror, perhaps we could have gotten by with less. The desire to go out on Saturday morning and run it all off at once may not be the wisest idea either. Reestablishing the fitness routine is laudable, but it will have to be ramped up gradually. Depending on your situation, a visit with a doctor may be in order. Bottom line, you have to find that balance between challenging yourself and listening to the obvious message coming from your body.

The lake awaits us. Of course our Safety Office and Operations staff are fully engaged now in education campaigns targeting the summer recreation crowd and thankfully public fatalities have been very low this last year. Clearly, basic responsible behavior that identifies the risks of excess exposure and alcohol combined with ensuring those using recreational equipment are trained and experienced will set the conditions for a safe and enjoyable recreational season.

The lawn awaits us. A huge factor associated with equipment accidents is a lack of maintenance. A well tuned machine means that it will generally do what you ask of it with generally the expected level of physical exertion. As they say, a dull knife is the most dangerous one.

The fast machine awaits us. Whether it's the Harley or Mustang, or in my case the '04 Civic, the summer seems to make people feel invincible when they are behind the wheel. Wear the Personal Protective Equipment and watch out for the other guy. We have had our share of

" ... when I watch my family and friends, I am often astonished at how narrowly accidents are avoided, and typically, just from luck."

government vehicle and POV accidents recently, and thankfully they were not worse. Pay attention, observe the speed limits, get plenty of rest before and during long trips, inspect your vehicles; all blinding flashes of the obvious, but points of failure as well.

Now I know many of us are "seasoned," and associated with that level of experience is often a bit of complacency or denial when someone starts talking about personal safety. One way to approach the subject is to think in terms of passing it on. In troop units we always say, "everyone is a safety officer." At least for me, when I watch my family and friends I am often astonished at how narrowly accidents are avoided, and typically, just from luck. We have to be willing to interject ourselves and our experience into situations that are not safe. From our experience with operational and industrial safety programs, we know how just a little bit of forethought and training goes a long way towards widening that margin of error. I find myself instinctively discussing with my own children the concept of risk assessment. The simple risk assessment is a two part question — first, what is the worst thing that could happen if I do this, and second, what is the likelihood of that worse case happening? If we thoughtfully get through these questions, chances are we are well prepared to prevent the unthinkable from happening.

Safety is our business. We know that some accidents would have occurred anyway, regardless of the precautions we might have taken. It's all the ones that can easily be avoided that I'm concerned about. As we always say, people are the most precious resource, and well worth the extra time to do things thoughtfully and safely. 

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<http://twitter.com/usacetulsa>

Bottom line: Life jackets save lives

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District

When spring arrived, people across Little Rock District set out to boat, fish and enjoy the nice weather. The smartest thing some of them did was to put on their life jackets.

During a four week span, there were four boating mishaps that spilled the occupants into chilly waters. The good news is all of them survived. The thread they all had in common besides getting unexpectedly dumped into chilly water was they all used their life jackets.

Porter and Lawanda Storment, who are gate attendants at Piney Bay Park on Lake Dardanelle, considered themselves fishing veterans when they took a spill on Spadra Creek.

“We’ve been fishing for close to 50 years, and this has never happened,” Mrs. Storment said. “If we hadn’t had our life jackets on, I don’t think we would be here today. I really believe they saved our lives.”

The couple went out in a small boat to fish one chilly March morning, and while casting a net, Mr. Storment stumbled. This sent both of them over the side and into the cold water. Mrs. Storment’s foot got tangled in the anchor line temporarily, but she said because the life jacket pulled her back up to the surface, she was able to free herself and swim to the shore with her husband’s help.

“I see people go out without life jackets all the time,” Mrs. Storment said. “I even see them take their children out in a boat without a life jacket. If I could send out one message to all of these people, it would certainly be to put that life jacket on. every time you go out”

During another March day on the Little Red River downstream from Greers Ferry Dam, Victor Davis, Jr., anchored his boat to fish. The hydroelectric plant was generating, and the water was running fast. Chief Ranger Joe Harper reported the anchor caught on something, and the boat started taking on water. Davis was not wearing his life jacket.

Lucky for him, his accident happened slowly enough that he was able to grab the life jacket



Photo by Scotty Ashlock

Porter and Lawanda Storment are gate attendants at Piney Bay Park on Lake Dardanelle, Ark. The couple took a spill into Spadra Creek, but attribute their survival to having their life jackets on.

lying at his feet before he went in the water and began floating down stream. Campers on the bank reacted quickly, threw him a rope and pulled him to shore. They also provided him with dry clothes and a warm fire. Medics checked him out for hypothermia.

Again in March, this time at Lake Merrisach on the north bank of the Arkansas Post Canal, Robert Henderson was in a small boat with his nine-year-old daughter and three-year-old son. They hit a submerged stump and overturned, spilling all three into the water. All three were wearing life jackets.

A nearby boater heard the children screaming and responded, pulling all three out of the chilly water to safety. At the time, the water temperature was 60 degrees. When the boat overturned, they were about 1,000 feet from the closest shore.

“I believe the life jackets definitely played a role in saving one, if not all three lives in this accident,” Ranger Russell Malahy said. “Even if all of them could swim, these people could have easily succumbed to hypothermia before reaching the shore.”

The last story comes from the Little Red River below Greers Ferry Dam again on a cool

April morning when two young men were fishing from their anchored boat while the generators were running. The boat took on water very quickly, overturned and spilled its life-jacketed occupants into the chilly water.

Occupant Bobby Smith was able to swim to shore, and Kody Evans climbed atop the overturned boat, safe and unharmed. The owner of a local resort helped retrieve Evans and the boat from the water.

Each of these stories makes it plain. The smartest thing you can do when boating is put on your life jacket. Besides, Mrs. Storment wants you to. She knows first hand.

“Hopefully nothing will go wrong, like with Porter and me for 50 years, but that one time it does, it could save your life or your child’s life,” Mrs. Storment warned. “And that makes it worth wearing every time.”

Statistics from the Safe Boating Campaign show that drowning remains the number one cause of death in recreational boating accidents. In 2008, more than two-thirds of all fatal boating accident victims drowned, and of those, 90% were not wearing a life jacket. Many lives can be saved each year if boaters remember to wear their life jackets. 

Convenience key to great experience at Keystone

Story and photos by Sara Goodeyon
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Recreation. The dictionary defines it as “a pastime, diversion, exercise, or other resource affording relaxation and enjoyment.”

A day spent boating on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Keystone Lake, or playing along the shore, certainly fits the definition of recreation, and will be more relaxing and enjoyable because of improvements that make it more convenient to use the facilities.

Convenience is a not a word that readily comes to mind in relation to getting the boat into the water and getting the passengers into the boat. Someone’s going to get wet, and it is not always easy (or pretty) helping Aunt Lucy climb from the water into the boat.

A courtesy dock, like the new ones at Keystone, make the boating experience a lot more convenient.

“People will no longer have to traipse through the water. You can pull the boat over to the new courtesy dock, tie-off the boat and everyone can just step down into the boat. They don’t have to get wet,” said Catherine Williams, a civil engineer tech at the Keystone Project.

The docks, which were installed by a Broken Arrow-based distributor of Wahoo Docks, and paid for with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, are located at the Salt Creek, Appalachia Bay and Washington Irving recreation areas.

It will also be easier to play along the shore at Washington Irving this year because the beach is bigger and more convenient to access.

Years of flooding had taken a toll on the swimming beach because the Corps had repeatedly placed rip rap there to protect the parking lot from high water. The result was that the beach got smaller and the public had to climb over the rocks to get to the water.

Another inconvenience was the placement of the playground and restrooms on the other side of the parking lot, requiring children to walk through the parking lot to get to or from the playground to the beach.

“We took out the parking lot at the swim-



Photo top left, a new boat ramp at Washington Irving Recreation area was made possible through supplemental funding. Photo top right, one of the new floating courtesy docks at Keystone that were paid for with ARRA funding. The docks are made of a non-splinter material. Photo bottom left, the new wider beach at Washington Irving, paid for with supplemental funds. A parking lot was moved to allow for the wider beach and direct access from the playground and restrooms to the beach area.

ming beach, re-milled the asphalt and moved the parking lot up the hill,” said Williams. “Now it is possible to go from the restroom to the playground to the beach without going through the parking lot.”

Add to that a new boat ramp at Washington Irving and it’s easy to understand why Williams thinks the area is going to be popular.

“I think the place is going to go crazy this year. We have this new boat ramp and this new courtesy dock, which has never been there, and this huge beach,” said Williams, “I had this lady call me about Washington Irving. She had been out there driving around and she wanted to tell me how wonderful the whole thing was. She said ‘I want to go camping right now.’”

While stimulus money paid for the new courtesy docks, supplemental funding to repair damage from the 2007 floods paid for the other repairs at Keystone, including a new four pack toilet/shower building and work at the fishing area below the dam on the north side of the river.

There is now rock by the dam, the steps leading down to the river are new and there is new railing. The flooding from previous years had caused significant damage to the sidewalk and the parking area. The parking

lot was redone and now there is also a ramp that is wheelchair (or stroller) accessible that goes to the fishing area.

“They can fish along the river right below the dam. There is a little bit of a retaining wall down there, they grouted it, and it has a lot better access,” said Williams. “I’ve gotten a lot of great comments from visitors about the work that has been done.”

It has been about a decade since there was money available to do this level of work, but there had been about three years in a row of flood events at Keystone and recreational areas were beginning to show the wear and tear.

Williams, who works at the project office beside Keystone Dam, is thrilled that the repair work has been made possible because it is a service to the public.

“The people in the area are not thinking about hydropower. They are thinking we’ve got this huge lake and we want to take our boat and go out there,” said Williams. “It’s important to keep things looking good for the American public. I take a lot of pride in the projects. I’ve had a lot of people tell me ‘I love what you’ve done with it.’”



Jolly named Galveston District Admin Professional of the Year

By Galveston District Public Affairs

Rachel Jolly, an automation assistant at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District's Wallisville Project Office, was named Administrative Professional of the Year during a ceremony held April 28 at the district's headquarters building.

"Rachel has served the Wallisville Project Office for well over eight years; exhibiting determination, dedication, and a 'can-do' attitude to all whose lives she has touched," said Richard Long, supervisory natural resources manager for the Houston and Wallisville Project offices. "Her demeanor, work ethic, and consistent results epitomize the word 'professional' in the role of an office administrative assistant."

Jolly began her career at the District as a co-op in 2001. In May 2003, after receiving her Associate of Applied Science degree in professional office technology from Lee College in Baytown, Texas, she was hired permanently



USACE photo

Rachel Jolly is congratulated by Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, after being named the Galveston District Administrative Professional of the Year April 28.

by the Corps of Engineers.

As an office automation assistant, she maintains attendance records, pay roll, generates countless memos and letters, and assists in annual events and initiatives such as the duck

blind drawing, Public Lands Day and the water safety life jacket loaner program.

Jolly also readily took on several additional project assignments in order to accomplish and execute day-to-day business tasks for the entire Houston Project Office.

She played a vital role as a team member for the hiring committee in developing the necessary criteria to interview and select a new associate for the Houston Project Office. Her responsibilities included reviewing applications, composing interview questions and assisting with the interviewing of potential candidates.

"Not only has Rachel dedicated herself to the Wallisville Project Office, but her attention to detail, excellent performance abilities and consideration for others has made her an asset to the office," Long said.

In October 2009, Jolly delivered her first child and simultaneously worked part-time from her home while on maternity leave.

"I am extremely honored to have received the Administrative Professional of the Year award," Jolly said. "It's a special feeling knowing that my supervisors and co-workers believe in me. I will continue to work hard for the Corps and for my team members." 

Caught by the tail

Richard Long, natural resources manager for the Galveston District's Addicks and Barker Reservoirs, holds on to an alligator inside one of five conduits at the Barker Reservoir April 20, 2010.

The 5 1/2-foot gator was relocated from inside the conduit to the Barker Reservoir to ensure the safety of contractors performing repair work at the structure.

A contract was awarded Feb. 5, 2010, to Omak, Washington-based Cates and Erb Inc. in the amount of \$723,124 for the evaluation and completion of repair work initiated to the water control structures at Addicks and Barker dams in west Houston.

In the first phase of the repair work completed in May 2009, a urethane grout was pumped under the conduits, or tunnels that allow for the passage of flood waters through the dams, to fill detected voids and to ensure the stability of the conduits. This second-phase contract assessed the success of the first contract, filled additional voids encountered with a concrete grout, repaired existing relief wells and installed inspection ports in the conduits to monitor the status of the soils under the conduits.

Visit www.addicksandbarker.info for more information about the Addicks and Barker reservoirs. (Courtesy photo)





Col. Richard J. Muraski Jr., commander, Fort Worth District talks about Janice Alexander's accomplishments as the Management Services Specialist, Programs and Project Management Division, which lead to her receiving the 2009 Administrative Professional Award.



Photos by Edward Rivera
Kim Hankins talks to the District about the Power of Commitment at the Administrative Professional Day luncheon, Apr. 21.

Alexander voted best administrative professional in the Fort Worth District for 2009 during annual luncheon

By **Denisha L. Braxton**
Fort Worth District

Eight District administrative professionals eagerly waited to see which of them would be selected as the best of 2009 during a luncheon held April 21 at the Petroleum Club in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Fort Worth District held its annual luncheon to honor administrative professionals and select the 2009 Administrative Professional of the Year.

"This is a great day to acknowledge all of our administrative professionals for their hard work and dedication to the District", said Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth district.

While enjoying their lunch the nominees listened as Kim Hankins, master trainer and presenter for business leaders presented on the Administrative Professionals' national observance theme, "Power of Commitment." Hankins' presentation included three team building exercises to motivate and inform the

District team on making and keeping commitments in their professional and personal lives.

As the luncheon progressed Muraski made remarks expressing the importance of the day to recognize the administrative professional staff and show appreciation for all of the hard work they have done throughout the year. The tension continued to mount as he recognized each nominee for their contributions to the SWF team.

"I was proud that I was nominated for the award and that I was thought so highly of, my supervisor and peers inspire me everyday", said Linda Brzuszkiewicz, Administrative Assistant, Public Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Safety Office, and Internal Review

When it was finally time to announce the Administrative Professional of the Year, cameras were ready and the room was silenced. Adding a twist to the ceremony, Muraski read the award write up giving everyone in the room an opportunity to guess who would be the 2009 Administrative Professional of the Year. After a few added moments of silence built up the excitement, Muraski announced Janice Alexander, Management Services Specialist, Programs and Project Management Division as the 2009 award winner.

"I am so grateful that God has blessed me

with such a great job. I love and enjoy serving the team members in the Fort Worth District, receiving the award was a great accomplishment and the highlight of my career", said Alexander. 

2009 Administrative Professional of the Year Nominees

- Janice Alexander**
Program and Project Management Division
- Shirley Bayless**
Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division
- Linda Brzuszkiewicz**
Public Affairs Office
- Lynne Chapman**
Executive Office
- Christine Davis**
Bardwell Lake
- Cruz Flores**
Joint Program Management Office, San Antonio
- Sharon Roberts**
Contracting Division
- Annette Young**
Engineering and Construction



'Thanks for the memories'

Col. David C. Weston
Commander, Galveston District

Well, the last three and a half years have certainly flown by! It has been a tremendous opportunity to serve this community and the Nation as your Commander and District Engineer; and it was a great honor to share the experience with all of you. I went back and reread my first article for the Pacesetter where I noted that this was going to be one of the most interesting and exciting assignments of my career—what an understatement! I also noted that I had learned that it's the people who make up our ranks that make this organization special, not only in my eyes, but in the eyes of our sponsors and customers. That observation remains the same today as I depart this great organization.

Galveston District has earned its moniker as Custodians of the Coast throughout its history, and during my time here, you definitely continued that great reputation. The district has faced many challenges over the past 130 years, but never more than it has in the past few. We have been through tropical storms and record hurricanes, historical supplemental and stimulus appropriations, unprecedented border fences and Ft. Bliss MILCON – to name a few. It was amazing and humbling to watch you work through personal and community devastation after Hurricanes Dolly and Ike, while at the same time executing the two largest Civil Works appropriations years for the District. Whether it was FEMA response missions, navigation and flood control emergency operations, expedited regulatory permit actions, or repair work to FCCE and navigation projects, you all pulled together as a family and a team to accomplish what many (including ourselves) thought impossible. At a time when our families, communities and the Nation

"The district has faced many challenges over the past 130 years, but never more than it has in the past few."

were counting on us to deliver, you did just that. Throughout this period, you all exhibited the qualities that have earned the Corps of Engineers' worldwide reputation for excellence, and I am extremely proud of what you accomplished.

As I depart the district, I ask you to remember that your work – be it navigation, flood risk management, environmental stewardship, or regulatory—directly touches local, regional and national interests. What you do every day matters! The District has always had a culture that gets the job done, and I know you will continue to maintain that legacy in the District of the future. I also ask that you provide Col. Chris Salles and his family the same welcome and support as you gave me. His previous service here as the Deputy Commander makes him an excellent choice to lead Galveston District into the future.

It has been a pleasure serving alongside of you in these great endeavors. I wish each of you safe travels as you venture into your own futures. As Bob Hope said it best, "Thanks for the memories!" 🇺🇸

Fort Worth District celebrates 60 years of service



Commemorating the district's 60th anniversary Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District, Jimmy Baggett, assistant chief, Engineering and Construction Division, the longest tenured employee and Jennifer Scroggins, contracting specialist, Contracting Division, the shortest tenured employee cut a ceremonial cake April 23 in the Federal Office Building.



Fort Worth Mayor Pro-tem Danny Scarth joined the district team in celebrating 60 years of partnership to the City of Fort Worth, Texas and the nation.



J. B. West, retiree and Fort Worth District Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees inductee in 2001, shared his experiences during the years he worked for the district.

Beach dedicated to former ranger

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District dedicated a monument April 16 in memory of the late Summer Park Ranger David Small at Waveland Park Swim Beach on Blue Mountain Lake in west Arkansas.

Small was a summer ranger from May 1975 until September 2008. He was also a math teacher who taught for 38 years in five local public schools until he retired in 2008. He died in March 2009.

In 1977, Small and fellow Park Ranger Opal James, while on park patrol at Ashley Creek Park, encountered two escaped convicts from Oklahoma. Small was shot and left for dead in the trunk of Magazine Marshall Marvin Ritchie's police car. Ritchie and James were killed. Small survived and testified three times against the two killers who were executed for their crimes.

"This incident brought about many changes to visitor assistance within the Corps, and Small helped implement those changes," Blue Mountain Lake Ranger Mark Green said.



Courtesy photo

From left: Blue Mountain Lake Park Ranger Mark Green with David Small's daughters, Kimberly Allison, Tiffany Small, Alicia Elmore and his widow, Patsy Small, and Little Rock District Commander Col. Ed Jackson.

"Tiffany, the youngest daughter, expressed her gratitude for the family," Nimrod-Blue Mountain Lake Project Manager Joel Epperson said. "She said their summers growing up were spent camping and swimming at Waveland Park while their father worked. She said in a sense, the Corps helped raise her and her sisters, and they consider us as part of their family." 

Little Rock has four in leadership development

During the Southwestern Division Regional Leadership Conference in Oklahoma City, SWD Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser inducted two of Little Rock District's team members into level three of the program - Jennifer Dalton of Office of Counsel and Sean Harper of Beaver Lake Project Office. Two more SWL people graduated from the program - Karyn Adams of Programs and Project Management and Mark Green of Nimrod-BlueMountain Project Office. The goal of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Leadership Development Program is to develop leadership competencies -- knowledge, skills and abilities -- of participants within each of the following four leadership domains: Individual leadership, leading groups and teams, leading the organization and leading the community.



Col. Anthony Funkhouser and Karyn Adams



Sean Harper and Col. Funkhouser



Col. Funkhouser and Mark Green



Jennifer Dalton and Col. Funkhouser

USACE Quality Management System

Status and Improvements

By John Davis
CESWD Process Improvement Specialist

In the last article published on the Quality Management System, I explained where the idea to implement the system came from and the benefits it will provide our organization. In this article, I want to provide you an update of our implementation status.

Both the National and Regional Project Delivery Teams have been very busy working to improve system performance and make it user friendly. We are ensuring International Organization of Standardization standards are being interpreted, defined and implemented.

The National PDT has led implementation efforts for the enterprise system and is transforming to a more operational role. The National PDT is being reorganized into a QMS Steering Committee. The committee will focus their efforts on Continuous Process Improvement and Enterprise Lessons Learned with the QMS.

Activity

In November 2009, we launched an internal survey within Southwestern Division to see how well our communication efforts have been working. The survey was well received with 30 percent of the organization participating.

According to the feedback from the survey, 64 percent are receiving information about QMS with 53 percent of the information coming from the Management of Every Activity Learned e-mails. Thirty-five percent of respondents opened the QMS site and looked at the Business Processes published in the system. Correspondingly, 31 percent found processes they use in their day-to-day job duties in the QMS.

The correlating information between these two responses indicate that of those who actually opened the library of processes in QMS, 88 percent found processes they actually use. This is a very good result for a baseline survey!

Other information from the survey revealed opportunities to improve the survey

SharePoint System and QMS

The look and feel of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers QMS site is undergoing changes to adopt a more professional appearance, which will allow effective navigation of the system from one location to regional and district processes.

We are working to address District naming conventions at the office branch level to allow users the ability to filter processes associated with those branch offices.

Another new feature on the main page of the new site is that users will have the ability to view Regional, District, and Enterprise Processes in the same view by checking a box next to the filter option. Currently the two separate document library systems are linked electronically and require navigating from site to site. The new system brings all document libraries into one library. What this means is users will be able to access the standard business processes in QMS from the same page.

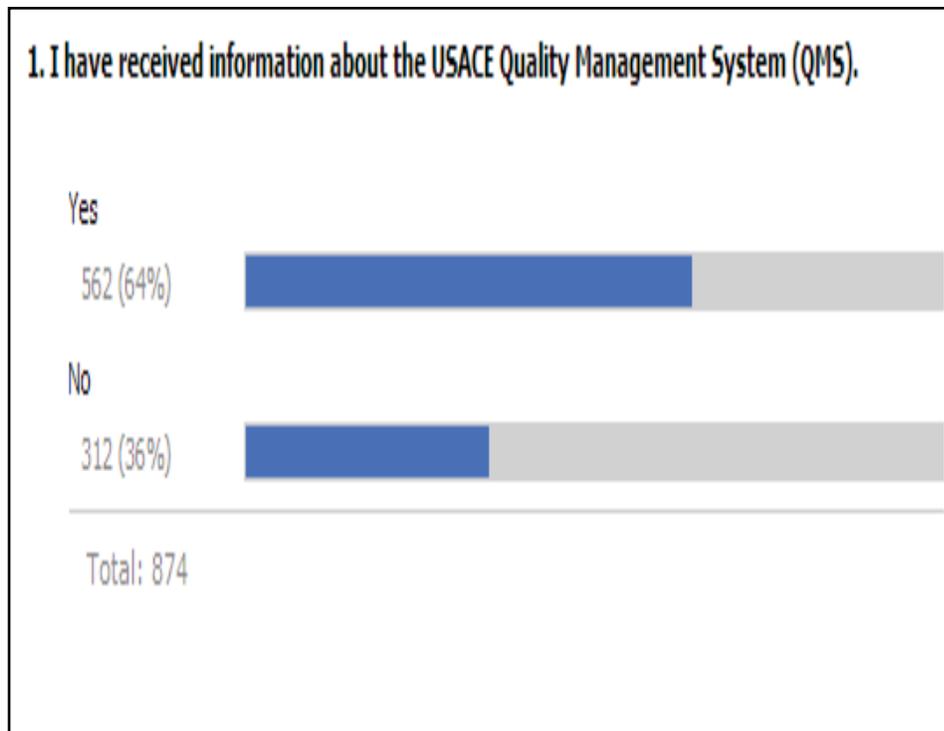
Organizational Maturity

There are several efforts underway to move the organization to the next level. We are work-

ing with a national team made up of people from SWD, Engineering Research and Development Center, North Atlantic and Northwestern Divisions, and Corps headquarters to take SWD's recently developed survey and create enterprise standard surveys. To support this effort the Southwestern Division Quality Management System Project Delivery Team is working with USACE Headquarters to define a Maturity Model for the Corps' QMS.

Milestones the PDT developed for QMS have been integrated with an already developed Lean Six Sigma Maturity Model. We then took each maturity milestone and put together with measureable objectives to the defined levels of maturity. Once approved, we will be able to develop enterprise surveys and internal assessment questions that match the organizational maturity. The gap analyses developed during assessments will better identify opportunities to move the organization to the next maturity level. 

*Note: To learn more about ISO go to: <http://www.iso.org/iso/about.html>



Above, one of the questions included in the internal survey within Southwestern Division that sought to determine how well communication efforts about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Quality Management System have been working. The survey was well received with 30 percent of the organization participating.

Galveston District regulatory PM wins top honor

Cited for 'initiative, skill and superior service'

By Galveston District Public Affairs

A regulatory project manager in the policy analysis section of the Regulatory Branch, Galveston District, has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division Regulator of the Year.

Jayson Hudson was cited for initiative, skill and superior service in performing his duties during 2009.

Additionally, his researching and working with applicants on authorizing new and innovative energy projects, which included numerous wind farm proposals, two nuclear plant proposals and a hydropower desalination demonstration project, have significantly reduced impacts to the nation's aquatic environment, while simultaneously advancing clean energy options.

"Mr. Hudson's efforts this year were exemplary, which have benefited both Corps employees and customers alike," said Fred Anthamatten, chief of the Regulatory Branch for the Galveston District.

Specific Regulatory Branch achievements include drafting up the budget standard operating procedure that has set the framework for consistent reproducible budget assessments, adding to fiscal operational efficiency within the branch, according to Casey Cutler, chief of the policy analysis section for the Galveston District. Hudson also acted as the team lead on a multiagency effort to create a stream mitigation model process to ensure no net loss

of this resource, which does not have many tested assessment models nationwide.

"Mr. Hudson researched and helped design the Galveston District's first Geographic Information System-based Cumulative Effects Assessment concept for both Galveston Island and Corpus Christi Bay," said Cutler. "These efforts required hundreds of hours of research, which culminated into a cutting-edge system that has advanced the district



USACE photo

Jayson Hudson, a regulatory project manager in the Galveston District's Regulatory Branch, was selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division Regulator of the Year.

into 21st-century technology."

Hudson coordinated with the Harris County Flood Control District to create a Regional General Permit for maintenance activities, according to Cutler. This coordination advanced

the efficiency for a multi-repeat client and created a heavily-used and predictable permit application process for routine maintenance.

"Mr. Hudson also revised the Cooperative Agreement between the Corps and the Texas General Land Office to transfer administration of eight Regional General Permits for oil field development," said Cutler. "This added significantly to the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire Regulatory Branch and benefitted the stakeholders in efficient authorization of their projects."

Hudson was involved in coordinating two funding agreements, pursuant to Section 214 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2000, which benefitted the permit process efficiency of two stakeholders and an efficient use of the Regulatory Branch's budget.

His efforts in updating seven Regional General Permits for offshore and state-owned submerged lands and three Regional General Permits for directional drilling, aerial transmission lines and Corpus Christi inner harbor basin also helped to ensure fair and reasonable decisions on authorizations.

"Mr. Hudson has exceeded the objectives to improve technical skills and abilities in the Regulatory Branch," said Anthamatten. "We are proud of his efforts, as he is most-deserving of this prestigious award."

Hudson received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Texas A&M University in 1996 and Master of Science in Wildlife Biology from Texas State University-San Marcos in 1999.

He has also worked in other areas of the Galveston District's Regulatory Branch, including one year in the evaluation section and five years in the compliance and enforcement section. He has worked in the policy analysis section for five years.

This is the second consecutive year a Galveston District employee has taken home division honors. 



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These cameras do more than just take pictures

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District

Selecting the right tool for the job is important, and Little Rock District's Real Estate staff recently acquired some new tools that have improved efficiency; they purchased six new cameras that take great pictures and a whole lot more.

Using GPS technology, these cameras provide coordinates where a photo is taken. They also purchased a software package that works with the photos that creates spreadsheets, data reports and shape files for real property inventories or documenting encroachments, and more uses are still being explored.

This is the first office in Southwestern Division to use the Photo-Link Software along with the high-tech Ricoh cameras.

"As soon as I heard we were going to purchase the cameras, I was excited," Little Rock District Real Estate Cartographer Barbara Holmes said. "We can take photos of encroachments or any number of things. Once we have the photo, we can run the Photo-Link software and create geographic information system shape files that help to determine where the area is located on the ground in reference to the government project."

Before getting the cameras, real estate specialists had to create data and spreadsheet information themselves, which took more time. Now, based on the coordinates provided when the photo was taken, the software generates all the required information in various formats and enables the user to simply click and retrieve or print.

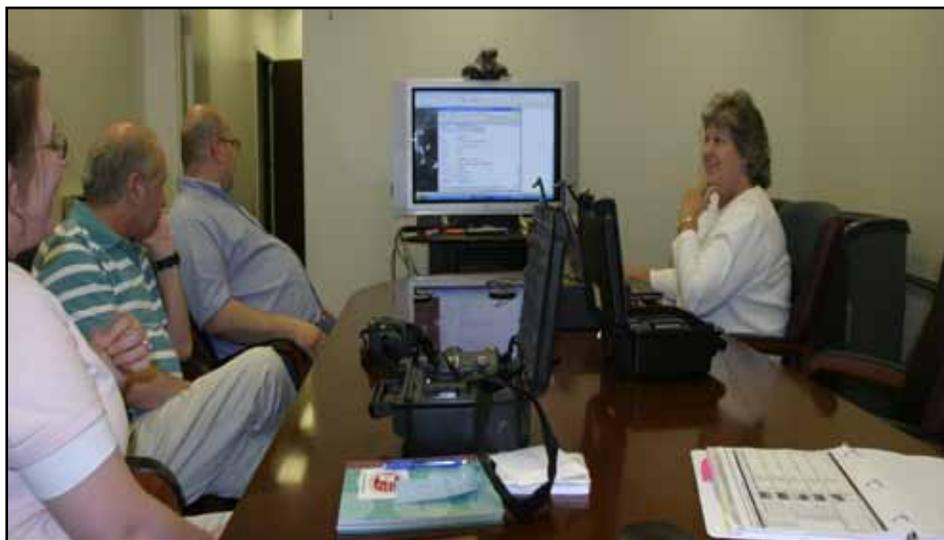
Holmes said future uses may include photos of levee inspections and flood damage.

Of course, good news travels fast.

The National Weather Service in North Little Rock heard the Corps had these cameras, so Holmes met with them to demonstrate how they work, how much they cost and uses for the camera.

"They could take photos of storm damage and gather GPS coordinates to map the path of a tornado or storm," Holmes said.

Holmes noted the camera is not cheap, but will save work hours in the long run.



Little Rock Real Estate Cartographer Barbara Holmes (right) explains the options and uses of the new Ricoh GPS cameras to National Weather Service employees Don Koch, John Robinson and Tabitha Clarke.

"It's water proof, drop proof and is pretty easy to use," Holmes said. "It is already helping us accomplish more in less time. I'm really happy we invested in them. The camera and software do it all – the numbers, dates, times and GPS coordinates. We just point and click."

One of Holmes's co-workers, Real Property Accountability Officer Sharron Montgomery, agrees the new cameras are the right tool for

the job.

"I went out to the Red River Army Depot to do real property inventory validations for the Army," Montgomery explained. "I used the camera for validating the inventory to include providing GPS coordinates with the buildings. It has some wonderful features, like overlaying photos on a GIS map. It's been so much easier. What a great investment." 

Hydropower is huge

As part of her research for a Hydropower Mission Interpretive Program she is developing, Russellville Park Ranger Allison Smedley toured the Ozark Powerhouse Rehabilitation Project. She is standing beside the new bull gear that will be installed in Unit 1. "Hydropower is a huge mission with huge equipment," Smedley said.





An assignment to remember

Col. Donald E. Jackson
Commander, Little Rock District

The true foundation of leadership is not power, but authority, which is built upon relationships, love, service, and sacrifice.

“The Servant”

James C. Hunter

The past three years have been the most personally and professionally rewarding of my entire career. Yes...I said it. Never would have thought that three years ago when coming over to the Corps from the Army I grew up in. When selected to command a Corps District, then one in Little Rock Arkansas, I did a double take. It would be just like the Army to send me to a job for which I had no experience and to a place devoid of friends and family. At least the Army is consistent! Let me tell you, it is a good thing the Lord is in control...for the Jackson family has truly been blessed.

I am sadly reminded this is my last opportunity to write in the Pacesetter and so now come to grips with the fact we are outbound in a few weeks. I wanted to use this forum to thank everyone who has made this an assignment to remember. I would do an inadequate job of naming folks, and would certainly cause more harm than good with those accidentally missed, so let me just make this a general reflection.

First of all, I am thankful to God who sent us here against all conventional wisdom, then armed the district with a team of super stars to help me learn and grow. Second, I want to thank my wife Lynne and our kids forever uprooted just when the roots begin to take hold. Lynne continues to be a steady hand and great listener. “*I am not worthy...*” I could go on and on.

We are blessed to serve these past few years under the best command climate I have experienced in 24 years of service. The atmosphere created and maintained by Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, Brig. Gen. Cox, and recently, Col. Funkhouser enabled our team to grow and prosper despite an epic workload, pressures to execute and a mountain of challenges. Creating the conditions for success begins at the top and our leadership continues to succeed in this and inspire us to reach higher through personal example.

The level of staff support we receive from our vertical team at both Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Southwestern Division continues to bear fruit. I am confident there are no issues we cannot collectively resolve. The Northern Alliance continues to thrive and do amazing things, demonstrating that greater accomplishments are possible by leveraging the talents of the regional team. To my brothers in Memphis and Vicksburg, thanks for providing depth to the SWD team.

I want to thank our congressional and state government staffers, and principals, for their support and teamwork in gang tackling numerous challenges for our region. I thank our stakeholders, customers and

industry partners for continuing to trust and work closely with our team, despite the red tape that often exists. I also want to say thanks to the people of our region who genuinely appreciate all the Corps does, even if they are often reluctant to say so, especially in public!

Most of all I want to thank the wonderful team in Little Rock District. From day one you welcomed me with open arms, were patient with me and taught me many things I will never forget. You continue to invest in our team, your team and the sacrifices are paying off. You continue to push the envelope and think outside the box. You challenge others, and each other, to grow and do better. I will forever remember your kindness, passion and love for this region. It truly makes a difference in the service we provide. Thanks for all you do.

As the baton is passed to Col. Glen Masset on June 15 there are a few thoughts I would like to impart. As leaders we must be servants. Our job is to ensure we equip and encourage every member of our team. We accomplish this through relationships, love (passion), service and sacrifice.

Relationships. The wisest man in the world once wrote, “*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up...though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves...a cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*” (Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12) Relationships are built on trust and confidence but maintained through effective communication. I encourage each of you to focus on building and sustaining the relationships essential to your work and the work of our team. Effective communication is defined by knowing what to say and when to say it. All too often we remain focused on holding a position on an issue, listening to only part of what is said or failing to adequately articulate our point. We are warned “*If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*” (Galatians 5:15) Focus on the relationship and the work will be much easier to accomplish.

Love (Passion). Col. Muraski shared a good thought with me recently that really resonated...“*I don't care how much you know until I know how much you care*”. Real passion is not about what you say, but about what you do. As a leader, supervisor or fellow employee you must take the time to really know and understand the work and the people who help to get it accomplished. It is imperative you bring a passion for both to each and every issue, effectively turning challenges into accomplishment. Enthusiasm is contagious! Be positive, always! Demonstrate this passion and the work will be more enjoyable to accomplish together.

Service. Winston Churchill wrote, “*What you do for yourself is called making a living...and what you do for others is called making a life.*” Those of us in leadership positions have authority to do great things. The magnitude of our effort can be more effectively measured by what we do to help others and our organization to succeed. Good leaders

see “Remember” page 26

Tulsa District's SAFE projects honored

*Story and photos by Greg Snider
Tulsa District Safety Office*

This was the fifth successful year of the Tulsa District's Safety Award for Excellence program for Operations Division. The highest score that can be achieved during an inspection is 250 points.

The Texoma Lake Office won the Lake and Project Office category with 233 points. Mike Wingfield serves as the collateral duty safety officer and Joe Custer is the manager.

The Major Maintenance Unit (Marine Terminal) won the Navigation and Hydropower category with 245 points. David Key serves as the collateral duty safety officer and Rodney Beard is the manager.

Both of these offices completed their diverse Fiscal Year 2009 missions without a single lost time accident and exhibited a "Safety First" approach in their work.

In recognition for their commitment to safety excellence and safety leadership, the manager and collateral duty safety officers at the winning offices were presented \$500 cash awards. Both offices were presented with the SAFE program bison silhouette trophy and each project employee received a custom SAFE award jacket.

District Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser, in written congratulations, stated, "Congratulations on your SAFE programs. Please extend to your employees we are proud of them for scoring so high, but more importantly for the doing the right things and executing a conscientious program that keeps them safe.

Bob Vandegriff, chief of Safety Office, expressed "Congratulations to the winning offices and high hopes for continued participation and improvement during the next round of inspections. Thanks for all the support, hard work and interest shown in the program. Our goal is zero accidents." 



Photo above, Tulsa District's Major Maintenance Unit (Marine Terminal,) winners of the Safety Award for Excellence program in the Navigation and Hydropower category. Team members are pictured in their custom SAFE award jackets.

Photo below, the staff of the Texoma Lake Office, also wearing their custom SAFE award jackets, the winners of the Lake and Project Office category of the Safety Award for Excellence program.



Riding with visibility, awareness and tenacity to survive

By Clay Church
Fort Worth District

“Ah, the wind rushing through my scales,” is said by the official spokes animal for a large insurance company as he reminisces the feeling of motorcycle riding. And even this author has paused to remember the feeling of freedom years ago riding a motorcycle. All these thoughts are great in May as the weather warms up, the wild flowers are thick on the highways and spring rains will soon leave us for the heat of summer. May is also Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration developed the national initiative for May to get motorists and other road users and motorcyclists to “share the road” with each other.

See and be seen. No truer words can be the motor cyclist motto. “The best safety feature you have is the proper mental attitude and wearing personal protective equipment,” said Keith Bond, safety specialist with the Fort Worth District Safety and Occupational

Health Office. Bond said that the best thing to put on your bike is you. Be in the correct mental attitude and awareness by taking a motorcycle safety course, be aware and ride defensively at all times.

Even though May is Motorcycle Safety Month, anytime one is on a bike, safety needs

to be paramount. Even this author has learned many rules of the road while riding that are still used today.

Below is a list of tips from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation www.msf-usa.org that will help all motorists be aware of how to “share the road”:

Quick Tips: For Riding A Motorcycle Safely

Remember to give yourself space, people driving cars often just don't see motorcycles. Even when drivers do see you, chances are they've never been on a motorcycle and can't properly judge your speed. Source: www.msf-usa.org

Dress for safety:

- Wear a quality helmet and eye protection.
- Wear bright clothing and light-colored helmet.
- Wear leather or other thick, protective clothing.
- Choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots and gloves.

Be visible:

- Make sure your headlight works and is on day and night.
- Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle
- Be aware of the blind spots cars and truck have.
- Flash your brake light when you are slowing down and before stopping.
- If a motorist doesn't see you, don't be afraid to use your horn.

Apply effective mental strategies:

- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Signal your next move in advance.
- Avoid weaving between lanes.
- Don't ride when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Know and follow the rules of the road, and stick to speed limit.



(Above) Winners of the 2010 Commander's Golf Scramble receive their first place plaques during the awards banquet at the completion of the annual tournament. Pictured are (l to r) Jimmy Baggett, David Campbell, Becky Hill Mattice and Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr. (Left) Dwain Scott, engineering and construction branch, takes a few practice strokes before taking his tee shot during the April 28 tournament at Tour 18 in Flower Mound, Texas. Photos by Randy Cephus.

Tulsa District enters Corps Watch program

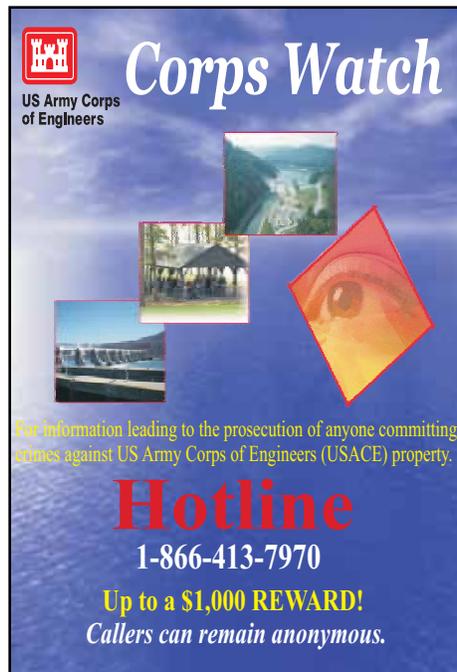
By Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District Public Affairs

The Corps of Engineers is the largest outdoor recreation provider in the federal government. Nationally, the agency operates more than 4,300 recreation areas at 462 lakes and waterways in 43 states. This includes more than 12 million acres of land and water. Each year, millions of dollars in property are lost due to vandalism, larceny, arson, and environmental and cultural degradation. To help protect public resources and reduce operating costs, the Tulsa District has joined a nationwide crime-deterrence program, Corps Watch.

The Corps Watch program is designed to heighten public awareness of the seriousness of the impacts of crime within or around dams, lakes, navigation locks, recreation areas, and other Corps facilities and property. Through Corps Watch, rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 will be issued to individuals for information leading to the arrest and acceptance of prosecution of offenders.

Corps Watch features a toll-free hotline number, **1-866-413-7970**, for anyone to call who observes or has knowledge of theft, vandalism, or any other threat or suspicious activity. Callers can remain anonymous.

Eugene Goff, Operations Program Manager for Kansas Area, is spearheading Tulsa District's entrance into Corps Watch. He said, "Corps



The poster features the Corps of Engineers logo at the top left. The title "Corps Watch" is prominently displayed in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, there are four small inset images: a scenic view of a lake, a picnic shelter, a boat on a lake, and a close-up of a human eye. The text on the poster reads: "For information leading to the prosecution of anyone committing crimes against US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) property. Hotline 1-866-413-7970 Up to a \$1,000 REWARD! Callers can remain anonymous."

Posters like the one above will be placed at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects to inform the public of the opportunity to call a toll-free number to help stop damages to public lands and property. The posters are also intended to act as a deterrent

Watch has been a very successful program across the United States to curb costly damages to public property which we all have to pay for in the end. The program gives the public the opportunity to call a toll-free number to help stop damages to public lands and property. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local communities value the extra sets of eyes

looking out to protect public resources and assets. I appreciate everyone being a part of the team and reporting information through this program and becoming a part of the public protection net."

Corps Watch is a national initiative, and Headquarters' funding has covered the costs of developing a marketing plan and coordinating nationwide procurement and distribution of posters, flyers, brochures and other marketing techniques, including billboards.

Earl Groves, Tulsa District's chief of Operations Division, said, "Corps Watch is an excellent program that will allow our lake visitors to become involved in the protection of their tax dollar supported lake project features. Sometimes, these lake visitors observe behavior that damages or destroys lake facilities. With this program, they can have a positive impact by doing their part to report what they saw. I believe most of our lake users will welcome this program quite readily."

Stephen Davidson, Corps Watch program manager, said local costs to districts are hard to capture. "The actual costs are hard to put into figures because this is a crime prevention program. We believe the posters are acting as a deterrent; thus, we don't know how many criminal acts we have prevented."

The Corps Watch initiative was modeled after successful programs developed by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, and neighborhood crime watch programs.

Nationwide, the toll-free hotline number is **1-866-413-7970**. Callers can remain anonymous, and rewards can range from \$100 to \$1,000. 



Each year, millions of dollars in property are lost to vandalism, larceny, arson and environmental and cultural degradation at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects. Photos left and right depict damage done to the Blue Gill Public Use Area, east of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Illegal shooting and dumping are a nuisance and are dangerous.



Texas Silver Jackets sign charter



Photo by Isidro Reyna

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Southwestern Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 6, Texas Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management and the Texas Water Development Board, joined together May 10, 2010, in Austin, Texas, to formally sign a charter establishing the Texas Silver Jackets, a natural hazard mitigation team.

The group will work to increase the efficiency and coordination between the State and Federal governments in developing comprehensive and sustainable solutions to flood risk management in the state of Texas. The group gets its name, the Silver Jackets, from the different colored jackets which various agencies wear when responding to disasters, such as the Corps' signature red and FEMA's blue. The silver represents a unified interagency team.

In the photo, (left to right), Russ Lecklider signing for the Texas Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management, Frank Pagano signing for FEMA's Region 6, J. Kevin Ward, executive administrator, signing for the Texas Water Development Board and Michael P. Fallon, Southwestern Division Program Director, signing for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Tulsa District, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and Bass Pro shop teamed up to give away 100 life jackets to youngsters at a Safety Day event April 17 at the Bass Pro Shop in Broken Arrow, Okla. The jackets were custom-fitted on the children by park rangers. Bobber the Water Safety Dog helped hand out goodies, and children enjoyed free popcorn and cotton candy. Photos by Kent Dunlap.



Warehouse completed, more to come

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District

The first of eight warehouses being constructed to store critical spare parts for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System has been completed. Little Rock District started putting the structure to use the first week of May.

The new building is one of two planned at the Russellville Project Office, and the remaining six will be at the Pine Bluff Project Office.

The warehouses will reduce maintenance costs on the navigation system by providing proper storage for the needed parts and equipment.

The first warehouse is 50 feet by 100 feet and is temperature-controlled.

"We will store environmentally sensitive, critical spare parts such as rubber seals and electrical items," Larry Tate of the Russellville Project Office said.

Once construction of the second building



Courtesy photo

Construction is complete on the first of eight critical spare parts storage warehouses planned at Little Rock's Russellville and Pine Bluff Project Offices. Environmentally sensitive critical spare parts will be stored in this temperature-controlled building.

is complete at Russellville, the contractors will move to Pine Bluff and begin construction on the remaining buildings.

"The final completion date for the eight buildings is Dec. 31," Little Rock District Project Manager Glenn Proffitt said. "The cost for the Dardanelle buildings is \$880,000,

and the Pine Bluff buildings are \$1.5 million. It shouldn't take them long to finish up this second one and mobilize to Pine Bluff."

The contractor for the project is Pangea out of St. Louis, Mo., and the project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. 



Progressive education

Little Rock District continues work on the new Little Rock Air Force Base Education Center. The \$14.4 million facility is a joint venture using military construction funds and funds provided by the city of Jacksonville, Ark. The contract was awarded in June 2009 and is scheduled for completion by November. The new center is located in an easily accessible location for both the military and local civilian community. It will also allow for more daytime classes.



District prepares to celebrate 60 years supporting Texas and the Nation

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

Our tradition of excellence continues as we approach the summer months. Last month we celebrated the District's 60th Anniversary and this significant milestone was celebrated with representatives from the City of Fort Worth, former commanders, employees and team mates of the District. We all enjoyed hearing the colorful stories from our most seasoned employee, Jimmy Baggett and a veteran employee, J.B. West. Since our inception, the District has grown in its mission, scope, as well as its service to other cities within the State of Texas such as Dallas, Austin and San Antonio. We continue to make great strides in both our civil and military projects and receive accolades for contributions we make in the State of Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana and to our partners.

Our environmental partnership efforts involving the Waco Lake office, the City of Waco and Baylor University recently received the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's Environmental Excellence Award. The partnership received the award in the education category for the Lake Waco Wetlands, by providing on-site research support for wetland and other environmental studies. Additionally, Waco Lake's Lacy Point Interpretive Trail received designation as a National Recreation Trail by Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. Well done team, you all should be proud, we are proud of you and your efforts.

On May 5, Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army-Civil Works, toured the Onion Creek project in the Austin area. The event began with the Mayor of Austin and the Travis County judge participating in an informative briefing, continued with the site visit, and concluded with an out-brief. We received favorable comments on the project status and our partnering and collaboration with our key stakeholders. This is a living testament to our commitment to an open and transparent communication.

We reached a significant milestone with the Ambulatory Care Center project in San Antonio by completing the transfer of author-



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District recognizes Col. (Ret.) Jim Weller, former Fort Worth District commander from 1997 to 2000 during the District's 60th Anniversary celebration April 23.

ity from the Omaha District. The new center will replace Wilford Hall Medical Center on Lackland AFB which currently provides inpatient, trauma, emergency and outpatient care. With the BRAC mandate calling for consolidating Wilford Hall's inpatient and trauma care functions to Brooke Army Medical Center, the new Ambulatory Care Center will focus exclusively on outpatient care.

Safety continues to be at the forefront of all we do in the Corps of Engineers, especially here in the Southwestern Division and Fort Worth District. From the construction site to our lakes and parks, and even in our office environment, safety is the key to every successful project. As District Commander, I designate every SWF staff member to be a safety officer. As a SWF safety officer, I charge each of you to take the initiative and question anything that doesn't look right or safe. You have the authority and responsibility to stop an unsafe act. I've had the privilege to visit eleven of our lakes in the past few months to see the tremendous missions you perform and

the challenges we face. One thing that is clearly evident is the emphasis on safety, especially water safety. The public depends on and expects the Corps of Engineers to do everything we can to help educate and encourage, often enforcing, safe enjoyment of the lakes. This includes everything from outreach programs, Personal Flotation Device loaner program to the simple but critical signs reminding the public of hazards in the water, to wear PFDs and use the buddy system when swimming.

As we approach the summer months, when our children are out of school and families plan outings to our area lakes, the District has planned several water and boating safety events. For example, we will participate in the Fort Worth Water-Rama on May 18 & 19, held at Will Rogers Hall. The Corps will have a booth set up at the event to introduce school kids to several aspects of water use, water conservation, and water safety. The Fort Worth District office will also participate in the "Great Inflate Event" on May 20 at Fritz Latham Federal Building to set our goal of being part of a world record for life jackets inflated at one time. Throughout North America, event participants will simultaneously inflate their life jackets to establish the world record. All SWF staff members with inflatable Personal Flotation Devices will gather for a photo after the event so we can submit our numbers on the event website at <http://www.readysetinflate.com/usa/>. Everyone who has an inflatable life jacket is invited to bring it and participate in the event. Finally, we will kick-off the National Safe Boating Week on May 22 at several of our lakes.

But let's not just focus on water safety. Through the results of our recent safety survey, (special thanks to the almost 800 employees who participated) the most dangerous thing we do each day is commute back and forth to work in our personally owned vehicle.

see **"Excellence"** page 28

Little Rock District's Engineer of the Year announced

By Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Little Rock District

Chris Reicks of the Hydrology and Technical Services Branch was recently named Little Rock District's Engineer of the Year.

Reicks, described as a "one-of-a-kind engineer" by Henry Himstedt, Hydraulics and Technical Services Branch chief, has been with the district for almost 20 years, all of it in hydrology and hydraulics.

Reicks has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Arkansas. He serves as a member of the Corps User Group, an advisory council charged with developing and implementing the next generation of Corps water management software and hardware.

"Chris is recognized as a technical expert in water control data system administration within this group, the region and the national water management community," Himstedt said. "All of his skills, combined with his ability, teamwork and positive attitude, contributed to the branch's capability to perform its mission and enhanced the H&H community of practice in real-time water management."

The awards package noted many accomplishments and contributions to the mission during 2009. For instance, Reicks identified and implemented a method to download stream gage data onto the system engineers' laptop computers without requiring direct connection to the Local Receiving Ground Station. This advancement provided a method to locally collect real time stream gage data from



Little Rock's Engineer of the Year Chris Reicks (left) of Hydrology and Technical Services Branch accepts his award from Tony Batey, Engineering and Construction Division chief.

any location. Previously the system engineer had to be in the office or at a warehouse site.

He developed the backbone hardware that serves as the district's offsite water control data system.

He built the UNIX server system and installed the water control software and scripts. He operated the system for several months to test its functionality, and he developed and installed enhancements to improve operations.

His effort provided the first functional Continuity of Operations site for the district's water control mission.

Also, to improve efficiency in maintaining water control computer systems, he identified a rarely used utility program that allows Win-

dows and Linux systems to function on one laptop computer from which he can administer the water control data system and download, process and archive stream gage data.

Himstedt noted that Reicks, when not maintaining the complicated water control data system, is also a "top shelf technical water manager," who regulates the White River system of reservoirs, the district's flagship flood risk management system.

"He steadfastly applied the rules of the water control plan to ensure consistent operations during the flood situations in 2009," Himstedt explained. "He knows the water control plan and implements it with absolute authority and the confidence of his supervisors." 

"Remember" continued from page 19

encourage and equip their subordinates, then revel in their success. A personal investment in your team will return in orders of magnitude. Serve the members of your team and they will enjoy accomplishing the work, surprising you with their enthusiasm and desire to succeed.

Sacrifice. We have all been asked to sacrifice our time or resources at some point. The higher up the organizational ladder you go, the more this is required. Your time becomes "our" time. Are you willing? Good leaders do more listening and less talking. Just because your position gives you the floor, doesn't mean you always take it? What are

you personally giving to make a difference in your fellow employee, our district or our region? Your personal sacrifice or example to any effort will make the results more meaningful and lasting for both you and your team.

Thanks again for the honor of serving as your commander the past three years. Lynne and I will always remain fond of our friends here and the beauty of the region served by Little Rock District. We will think of you often and pray for you all. Come see us in Korea—we'll keep the light on for ya! 

ARRA funds a boost to Lake O' the Pines

Story by Jim Frisinger
Fort Worth District

Last year when Congress, reacting to the deepening national recession, passed a major job stimulus law, a number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes were shovel ready. Lake O' the Pines in East Texas was one.

"We were ready to go," said lake manager Bobby Hamrick. A lot of the planned work was already in the lake's five-year Operations Management Program when the law took effect. Construction plans were already written down, ready to be inserted into contracts, he said.

The Corps of Engineers was able to launch a major park modernization program at Lake O' the Pines, which also improved safety at its Ferrells Bridge Dam. That meant \$5.6 million in contracts for several different construction crews starting this January for the Fort Worth District lake, which provides flood control and water supply for area communities.

The new law, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, was passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in February 2009. The program had three goals: create/save jobs, spur economic activity/invest in long term-growth, and do it using a high level of account-



Photo by Shane Braley

Ferrells Bridge Dam toe ditch dawn pour at Lake O' the Pines.

ability and transparency in government spending.

ARRA funds are helping replace some facilities that date back to the lake's original impoundment in the late 1950s. The untreated timbers of one structure, an old storage building behind lake headquarters, had deteriorated badly. It's being replaced by a larger, 5,000-square-foot metal prefabricated building, capable of storing boats, heavy equipment, office files as well as providing a secure site for supplies.

ARRA-funded construction is also boosting dam safety at the park by replacing the last 200 feet of the toe ditch liner, completing an effort begun a half dozen years ago. Concrete in the ditch liner

had deteriorated over the years, and saturated soil on the lower end of the dam embankment during maximum release periods created erosion issues at the toe.

Fifty-three campsites at Alley Creek Park, Johnson Creek Park and Buckhorn Creek Park are being modernized. They received electrical hookup upgrades, paved roads and many are getting concrete recreational vehicle pads.

A total of 12 rest rooms will replace deteriorated day use and campground facilities that were out of code for handicap access. The new facilities, some of which have showers, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The prefabricated

concrete structures are manufactured in Hillsboro, Texas.

All of the contracts went to small businesses, which employed crews of up to 20 workers at different sites simultaneously. Site work, which began in January, is expected to be completed this summer. Hamrick said many workers rented local lodging and bought food and fuel, which helped the area.

"It's been great for Lake O' the Pines," Hamrick said. "We are getting facility upgrades that we have been planning on for years and didn't have the funding for."

"Excellence" continued from page 26

Each of you is a valuable member of the District team and as we travel in work or at play, we must remain vigilant in safety consciousness as we navigate our Nation's roads and highways. We routinely talk about automobile safety measures, so for this issue I want to mention a few words about motorcycle and off-road vehicle safety. If you ride a motorcycle, I encourage you to wear a quality helmet and eye protection. Be visible to other drivers by wearing bright clothing that is leather or consists of some thick, protective type clothing. Choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves. Take additional measures to make yourself visible such as ensuring your headlight works and is on day and night. Use reflective strips or decals on your clothing and on your motorcycle. Also, avoid riding in car and truck blind spots. Watch for turning vehicles. And please avoid the dangerous act of weaving between lanes. Ensure you receive proper training

on the safe operation of your off-road vehicle. All terrain, utility and specialty vehicles require driver's full attention during operation. Prepare for turns in advance and maintain a proper speed while travelling on uneven and unfamiliar surfaces.

You continue to amaze me and the rest of the Corps' leadership in your unwavering strives to achieve greatness. It's through your disciplined thought and disciplined actions that we continue to accomplish so much with so little. Remember to balance your efforts with mental, spiritual and physical fitness. We need to care for our most precious resource, which is you. It is important for you to keep that balance in your life as we continue this marathon race.

Thanks for what you do each and every day!!

Building Strong

Dark Success: Bulkhead rescued from the depths

By Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Note: *There are terms that you hear when you cover an unusual project such as the one featured in this article: pad eye, traveling line, dump bag, etc. There are also terms that you hear but can't repeat when problems arise, lines are fouled, leaks appear, and silt sucks. What follows is a G-rated summary of the recent bulkhead recovery at Hugo Lake.*

A dedicated, determined team of Navy divers and salvage specialists recently worked with Army engineers and other Corps personnel to put the word floating back into Hugo Lake's floating bulkhead. For the past couple of years, the bulkhead has done anything but float. It has lain on the bottom of the lake, sinking further into the mud and silt, growing heavier, and heavier, and even heavier. It is estimated that the sunken bulkhead weighed more than a million pounds.

To raise it was no easy task. An attempt by divers from Little Rock District in November 2009 ended with disappointment, but lessons learned from that series of dives were invaluable in the March 2010 endeavor. And the March venture went late into a second week, very late. Enough so that pictures of the actual resurrection don't exist because it took place at 10:00 p.m. on a Friday night.

The bulkhead, which is used during inspections and repairs at Hugo Dam, was normally stored in a cove and attached to the shore by cables. It was buffeted by winds and waves, so the decision was made to set it on the lake's bottom to protect it from possible damage. Although the underside of the bulkhead would be on the bottom of the lake, the top



Photo by Dan Baumann

Water is pumped from the interior of the sunken bulkhead.

part of it would still extend 10 feet out of the water. That was the plan. Unfortunately, while being placed in its future resting site, the bulkhead got caught in the current and ended up seating itself, horizontally, 40 feet below the surface of the lake in an old river channel. And there it stayed confounding all attempts to get it back to the surface.

It was a challenging situation to say the least. Briefing his team of Navy divers from Bangor and Keyport, Wash., Master Diver Jason Brustad said, "There is no viz, so don't expect to see anything."

After his initial dive, Navy Diver II Josh Corriell said, "It's like chocolate milk – dark chocolate milk." Add the number of lines that were in play, the amount of silt and mud, the complexity of the operation, plus the dimensions of the massive bulkhead, and the result is daunting.

The 320,500-pound bulkhead is 50 feet wide, 38 feet tall, and 6 feet across with handrails on its deck. It has two chambers, concrete ballast, and works on the same principle as a submarine. Water is allowed into the bottom chamber to lower it; when the water is replaced with air, the bulkhead rises. It must be in at least 12 feet of water to float.

The project involved many dives over several days with numerous challenges. For example, divers arrived on scene Thursday, March 18, to find the air hose they had attached the night before had worked loose from its buoy. The buoy was on the beach, and the hose was at the bottom of the lake. Brustad's summation was, "Murphy's up one."

The next day, when attempts were once again foiled, Warren Roberts, Red River Area field engineer, said, "It's time for Plan C. We're dead in the water today."

The folders created by Dan Baumann, Eastern Area field engineer and diving inspector, to file his photos help tell the story: Day 1–SCUBA Recon Dive; Day 2–Installing Hatch Cover; Day 3–Attaching Lift Bags; Day 4–Pumping Air Upper Chamber; Day 5–Assessing Leaks, Remove Hatch Cover; Day 6–Hatch Cover Modification and Re-installation; Day 7–Pumping of Lower Chamber Begins; Day 8–Pumping Both Chambers; Day 9 – High Winds Postpone Work; Day 10–Pump, Pump, Pump, Dark Success; and Day 11–The Risen Bulkhead.

After many trials and several trips back to the drawing board, the fabricated hatch was sealed, four 22,000-pound lift bags were attached, and an air hose was attached to the hatch cover. Air was then pumped



Photo by Dan Baumann

Divers prepare to enter the water, assess leaks, and remove hatch cover

See **"Bulkhead"** page 33

Corps kids learn about life after school

Story and photos by Nate Herring

Tulsa District Public Affairs

and Winona Simmons

Quality Assurance Representative, Fort Sill Resident Office

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Fort Sill Area Office, and employees at the Tulsa District headquarters participated in the National “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” Thursday, April 22.

This year’s theme was “1 Youth, 1 Dream, 2Morrow’s Leader,” and eight students in Fort Sill and more than 20 in Tulsa, took advantage of the opportunity to see working adults in a variety of occupations. Special emphasis was placed on exposing the participants to the many diverse and exciting engineering and construction career opportunities.

Fort Sill participants included Cache Middle School student, Kade Willcox, 14; Edmond Middle School student, Sophia Braghini, 12; Lawton Christian School student, Ashley Carr, 11; Sky ranch Elementary student, Reilly Bussey, 11; Brockland Middle School students, Mitchell Spaulding, 10, and Daniel Spaulding, 8; Blanchard Elementary School student, Peyton Howe, 9; and Chickasha homeschooler, Stephen Evans, 9. These students’ connection to Fort Sill is through their parents or grandparents.

In Tulsa, children, ages eight to 15, attended the event, which started at the district headquarters with a morning program and included a tour of the Keystone Lake project office and Power House in the afternoon.

During the morning session, Lt. Col. Gene Snyman, the district’s deputy commander, welcomed the children to the event and stressed the importance of their family member’s work.

“Your family members get to do some great things; they don’t only do it for themselves, but they impact the whole state of Oklahoma with the work that they complete,” he said.

After Snyman’s welcome, a few employees spoke about what impact their job duties have on the district, and they encouraged the children to consider their field as a career choice. Speakers included Nate Herring from Public Affairs Office, Maggie Fletcher from the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Bob Vandegriff from the Safety Office, and



Children at Tulsa District attended a program at the District headquarters building and then visited the Keystone Dam Power House, left, and checked out an airboat, right, with the help of a Keystone Lake park ranger

Students shown right to left, Reilly Bussey, Daniel Spaulding, Ashley Carr, Sophia Braghini, and Stephen Evans. They are on the fourth flight of stairs [about 36 feet up] on the new Hand Grenade Tower being built on the East Range of Fort Sill. The Hand Grenade Tower project is contracted to the Texas-based Marvin Groves Electric Company.



John Daylor who spoke about hydrology.

After the morning program, the children had an opportunity to visit some of the offices within the district headquarters and view a Riverine Flood Plain Model which was a hit with the group.

In the afternoon, the children joined a local Boy Scout troop at the Keystone Lake project office for a tour. Rangers explained their duties and showed the kids and their family members fire fighting and seed planting equipment, maintenance vehicles, and patrol boats and trucks.

After the project office visit, the group toured the Keystone powerhouse. During the tour, they saw the control room and generators, and they ventured 105 feet below the lake. The group also had the chance to walk across the catwalk on the dam.

“Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” is a national program started in 1993 designed to expose children to what their parents do during the work day and encourage them to value their education.

The Tulsa District has participated in the program annually for several years. 



Professional registration recognition

By Ramona Willig, P.E.
Deputy Chief
Engineering and Construction Division
Tulsa District

Tulsa District has a new policy for recognition of professional registration. The official District Policy Memorandum 108 regarding Recognition and Reward for Achievement of Professional Registration or Certification was issued April 9, 2010, by Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, commander, Tulsa District.

Currently, the policy addresses only profes-

sional engineers, professional geologists and registered architects, but will be expanded to add recognition for project managers, real estate specialists and appraisers by June 30, 2010.

Recognition for an individual's achievement of professional registration will consist of three components; a congratulatory letter from the commander, an Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, and a personalized memento, such as a business card holder, with the individual's name and registration engraved on a cover plate.

In addition to the professional registrations, there are many nationally recognized certifications which add further credibility to the Corps of Engineers, such as certified flood plain manager, certified cost consultant, and Leadership in Engineering and Environmen-



tal Design, Accredited Professional. Those types of certifications will be recognized with a congratulatory letter from the Commander.

The policy is in support of Campaign Plan Goal 4.a, to identify, develop, maintain, and strengthen technical competencies. 

Fishing fling welcomes spring

By Nate Herring
Tulsa District Public Affairs

Tulsa District's Lake Eufaula project office hosted its annual "Spring Fishing Fling" May 4 at the Gentry Creek Public Use Area.

The event is intended to educate students from local elementary schools on water safety and natural resources.

More than 200 third and fourth graders from Checotah, Midway, and Eufaula schools attended the event, which featured rotating programs in the morning and a fishing derby in the afternoon.

Corps park rangers from the Lake Eufaula project office emphasized the importance of water safety during one of the morning programs. The rangers, assisted by an officer from the Oklahoma Department of Highway Patrol, told kids about the importance of water safety and wearing a coast guard approved life vest.

"Today's event is excellent to get our water safety message out," said Jeff Knack, lake manager at Eufaula. "In addition to water safety, we also want to do some natural resource education."

Students learned about fish identification from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and they participated in a casting demonstration.



Photo by Nate Herring

Eufaula Lake park ranger Stacy Dunkin helps a young angler get his catch off the hook during the annual Spring Fishing Fling May 4 at the Gentry Creek Public Use Area that hosted more than 200 youngsters.

"Part of teaching kids about natural resources is learning how to enjoy it," Knack said. "So after lunch, we offer a fishing derby."

The students gathered around the Gentry Creek pond and spent an hour fishing while Corps employees and volunteers assisted the kids with baiting hooks and untangling snagged fishing lines.

"Our volunteers are an integral part of this event, and helping over 200 students to fish is no easy task, so they are a big part in the fishing derby's success," Knack said.

The project office hosts two fishing flings each year. The first, held a week before the Gentry Creek event, is located near McAlester, Okla. This is the 11th year the Corps has hosted the Spring Fishing Fling. 

Fort Worth District team members hit the road competing in the 2010 Cowtown Marathon

By Jim Frisinger
Fort Worth District

For the Fort Worth District, participating in the annual Cowtown Marathon has become a long and valued tradition.

The race drew a record field of 21,000 on Feb. 27 including a hefty contingent from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers runners who have been loyal supporters of the contest for nearly three decades.

"I am so encouraged to see so many employees out and about running for their health," said Col. Richard J. Muraski Jr., Commander, Fort Worth District, who ran the Cowtown half marathon this year.

More than two dozen district runners participated in this year's Cowtown, many of them encouraged by running enthusiast Randy Roberts, who was the Fort Worth District Chief of Realty Services until joining the Southwestern Division this year. Roberts has helped put a

Jonathan Celone, Engineering and Construction Support Office, in stride during the 2010 Cowtown 5K.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Fort Worth District runners were all smiles sporting their Cowtown Marathon regalia celebrating another big race in 2010. The district has been running in the annual contest for most its 32-year history. Teams from the district this year entered the 5K and half marathon races, while still others legged out the full marathon.

USACE face on the Cowtown for 28 of the 32 races, starting in 1983.

Roberts ran in the first Cowtown in 1979 when it was 20 degrees with frozen streets. He ran that race with his high school friend Mike Bell – who was also his running buddy in this year's half marathon.

The Fort Worth District's long association with the race goes back to at least the fourth Cowtown race in 1982, when the district entered a team in the 10K event, he said. Roberts keeps updating a spreadsheet of all-time USACE participants and their race times.

Roberts said participation has been sporadic over the years, with a few core folks always participating. Dave Madden from the Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division has run the marathon more than anybody from the district and he ran it again this year. He was joined in the long-distance race by Dennis Karns of the Engineering and Construction Support Office, who ran the marathon in the Cowtown the prior year as well.

Don Weise was the lead finisher in district's six-member half marathon team this year with a time of 1:40:51. Another half-marathoner was the Deputy District Commander, Lt. Col.

Matthew S. Orenstein, who ran it in 2:07:41. But his boss outran him, turning in a 1:55:32 time.

David Clarke led the district 5K team with a 22:28.

Longtime participant Bill Collins, who recently retired, often walked the race, "but he walked pretty fast," Roberts said. "The race is not just for runners. It's for people who want to come out for the sunshine and fresh air."

A few of those walkers were included in a new contingent organized by Susan Ford-Ahern from within Karns' ECSO Facilities Branch. The 10-person team entered a different 5K category, the Military Division, and it carried home the winner's trophy.

"It was freezing but we had a lot of fun," said Ford-Ahern, who was team captain.

"It's great to see members of the Fort Worth Team support local events, especially one which not only benefits others but themselves as well," said Muraski. "Balance in our lives is so important especially as we execute the largest program in our history. Fitness, especially running is a great way to relieve stress and achieve some balance in your life." 

Outstanding career comes to an end

By Jim Frisinger
Fort Worth Districts

Col. John A.P. Gessner, who served with the Engineering and Construction Support Office as the military deputy from January 2007 to September 2009, has retired. ECSO is a Southwestern Division program based in Fort Worth; Gessner was based in Washington, D.C. His last post was as program manager for the Iraq Engineer Mission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington.

The Rockford, Ill., native served combat tours in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He also served in Saudi Arabia following the bombing of the Khobar Towers, Honduras in the wake of Hurricane Mitch and in Egypt in support of Bright Star.

Gessner was given a USACE retirement ceremony, attended by Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko. His Army retirement review was held on April 29 at Fort Myer, Va. He and his wife, Dawn, will be residing in Rockford.



Courtesy photo

Dawn Gessner watches her husband, Col. John A.P. Gessner, congratulated by ECSO Director Eric Verwers at the USACE retirement ceremony in April.

UA Fort Smith students: Powering the future

Before the Arkansas River reaches Fort Smith, one of the many destinations it visits is the Robert S. Kerr Reservoir, south of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Controlling the reservoir is a lock-and-dam unit that assists barges through the Arkansas River Navigation System. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed work on the lock and dam in 1970, and the Corps continues to maintain the reservoir to this day. But what's the connection between the power plant and the students of UA Fort Smith?

Turns out, it's all about "green" energy.

The moving water of the reservoir is transformed into electricity by the Robert S. Kerr Hydroelectric Power Plant. The talented technicians and mechanics servicing the power plant include several current UA Fort Smith students. John Martini, assistant professor of electronics technology, encourages his students to consider applying for the challenging work-training experience available at Kerr. "The internship program has allowed our students to receive first-class, on-the-job training while working on



Students Matthew Phelan, Nicholas Hicks, Terry Sampley, Kevin Bell, Eric Quemado, and Bryan Davis.

their degree. Our relationship with the Kerr plant is mutually beneficial and gives any accepted student in the internship additional education and great pay, not to mention an outstanding career opportunity."

Though most of the students working at Kerr are enrolled in the University's electronics technology program, they soon acquire a variety of technical skills. Steve Mills, master plant superintendent, emphasizes the importance of cross-training. "We

give them more training than they probably expect," Mills says. "The students learn about all the positions we have here—the controllers, the mechanics, and the electricians. We create a very well-rounded, solid journeyman."

Though they enjoy excellent wages, the students earn every penny. Their apprenticeship at Kerr can last as long as four years and demands a combination of mental and physical abilities. "It's almost like going through school all over again," Mills says. Training at the plant emphasizes safety, as the students and other Kerr employees are working with tremendous amounts of electrical power. But this is a power they learn to master so that the residents of the plant's service area can have electricity in their homes and places of business.

"What we have here with the University is a win-win situation," Mills says. "The students are very professional." 

Reprinted with permission from the University of Arkansas Fort Smith "Education Works"



Some of the members of the dive team stand atop the recovered bulkhead. The team included eight Navy divers, four representatives from the Navy’s Supervisor of Salvage office, two field engineers, a project manager, the staff at Hugo Lake, and rangers from Pat Mayse and Pine Creek Lakes. Equipment was loaned by Operations Division offices across the district, and the diving and salvage equipment came from both coasts.

to all the air bags and into the upper chamber. The bulkhead was uprighted to vertical position but remained 10 feet below the surface. A temporary cofferdam was attached to the deck of the bulkhead to provide access to the manhole for the lower chamber. A hydraulic driven pump able to displace 800 gallons of water per minute was lowered into the lower chamber and employed to pump that chamber mostly dry. At this time, the bulkhead was stuck five feet deep in the mud. With the bulkhead weighing 320,000 pounds and applied lift of 540,000 pounds, it didn’t move until seven hours later.

Eventually, though, according to Roberts, it “reared its ugly head.” Victory was claimed from the jaws of a black lake on a dark night by a tired but tenacious team. How did they finally manage it? Through “persistence, ingenuity, and a lot of pumping – both air and water,” said Baumann. He was on scene when the bulkhead cleared the surface and said, “It was fairly spectacular.”

Roberts, who shrugged off congratulations, said he was “relieved that

the damn thing’s on the surface” — as is everyone who was involved. The team included eight Navy divers, four representatives from the Navy’s Supervisor of Salvage office, two field engineers, a project manager, the staff at Hugo Lake, and rangers from Pat Mayse and Pine Creek Lakes. Equipment was loaned by Operations Division offices across the district, and the diving and salvage equipment came from both coasts.

It was quite a venture. Johnny Bell, chief, Technical Support Branch, explained, “The effort just to get the Navy team onsite just about paralleled the effort to raise the bulkhead. It required numerous e-mails, phone calls, and cutting through bureaucratic red tape over a period of several months to execute this joint agency adventure. The tenacity and determination of those involved on both sides to come together to accomplish this mission further proves the commitment and dedication of both the Navy and Army to do the right thing.”

He summed it up and spoke for everyone when he said, “The team was not about to let this bulkhead become fish habitat!”

“The team was not about to let this bulkhead become a fish habitat.”

Pacesetter Points

ARRIVALS

Capt. Scotty Autin arrived at the Galveston District April 21 as an operations officer. Prior to joining the District, the Houma, La., native was a company commander and brigade engineer at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii.

Billy Barham joined the Galveston District March 14 as a construction control representative. Prior to joining the District, the Blooming Grove, Texas, native worked as a quality assurance construction representative for the U.S. Army Reserve Command at Fort Bragg.

David Boothby joined the Galveston District March 14 as a geotechnical engineer. Prior to joining the District, the Houston native worked as a senior project manager for Tolunay-Wong Engineers in Houston.

Rhonda Brown returned to the Galveston District March 15 as a project manager. In this position, Brown works on border control projects. Prior to joining the District, the Dallas, Texas, native worked for the Europe District as chief for the Central Europe Projects Section. Brown is glad to be back at the Galveston District after being away for five years.

Robert Howell joined the Galveston District May 3 as the deputy chief of the Engineering and Construction Division. Prior to joining the District, the Albuquerque, N.M., native worked in Kabul, Afghanistan, as an engineering and construction program manager.

David Thorn arrived at the Galveston District April 12 as

a lock and dam operator for the Brazos River flood gates. Prior to joining the District, the Angleton, Texas, native worked as a special investigator for the United States Investigative Service.

DEPARTURES

Capt. Christopher Collins, operations manager for the Galveston District, departed April 23 to join the recruiting command in Boise, Idaho.

Johnny Rozsypal, chief of the Operations Division for the Galveston District is scheduled to retire June 1 after more than 36 years of Federal service.

Lynwood Weiss retired from the Galveston District April 25. Weiss was a supervisory civil engineer for the district.

Little Rock District's **Floyd Snyder** of the Pine Bluff Project Office retired March 3 after 32 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Samuel Bailey** of the Pine Bluff Project Office retired April 30 after 25 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **George Ann Tabor** of the Beaver Lake Project Office retired April 30 after 32 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Eric Stain** of the Russellville Project Office retired April 30 after 26 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Helen Herr** of the Office of Counsel retired May 1 after 18 years of civil service.

Little Rock's **Kathy Flannery** of the Table Rock Project Office retires June 9 after 30 years of civil service.

Eugene Kastanek, attor-

ney, Office of Counsel, SWD headquarters, retired April 1 with more than 39 years service.

Debbie Perrin, chief, Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters retired April 2 with 32 years of service.



Debbie Perrin

Carlton Bailey, Tenkiller Natural Resource Specialist, retired after 36+ years of service for the federal government.

Sam Patterson, Keystone Powerhouse Specialist, retired after 27+ years of service for the federal government. Sam has contributed greatly to the Tulsa District and we will miss him.

CONGRATULATIONS

Martie Cenkcı, Galveston District's chief of Public Affairs, welcomed her first grandchild April 13. Granddaughter Olivia Grace Thomas was born to son Matthew and Cherish Thomas in Pittsburgh,



Olivia Grace Thomas

Pa., weighing 5 pounds, 9 ounces.

Bob Heinly was selected as chief of the Galveston District's Planning Section. Heinly brings a wealth of talent and experience to the position, most recently as a planning lead and water resources plan formulation technical specialist.

Molly Morrison, daughter of **Marcus O'Donohoe** of the Galveston District's Bay Area Office, and **Sandra Morrison O'Donohoe**, General Engineering, married Michael Filidei on March 13, 2010, at the Haak Winery in Santa Fe, Texas. The couple honeymooned in New Orleans and will reside in Texas City, Texas.

Harrison Sutcliffe, chief of the Engineering and Construction Division for the Galveston District, recently celebrated the birth of his grandson. Kaleb River Ellis

was born to daughter Erica and Zach Ellis April 5, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces.

Little Rock's Beaver Lake Project Office announced the selection of **Jared Trammell** as supervisory natural resources specialist. He has a strong background in shoreline management and has demonstrated consistent excellent performance in his previous assignments. We are confident he will excel as a leader and provide the guidance and direction necessary to meet and exceed the project's natural resource management goals.

Little Rock's Operations Division selected **Brad Shoemaker** for the position of chief, Navigation and Maintenance Section, Operations Technical Support Branch. Shoemaker comes from the private sector where he worked as a mechanical engineer, and he is a licensed professional engineer.

Little Rock's Operations Division welcomed **John Carpenter** as an engineer technician in the Hydropower Section. He comes from the Table Rock Project Office.

Little Rock welcomes **Sam Haney** as the electronics mechanic at Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Greers Ferry power plants. He comes from private industry where he worked as an electrical engineer. Prior to graduating from the University of Arkansas, he served six years in the U.S. Navy as an electronics technician.

Little Rock's Pine Bluff Project Office welcomed **Sissy Aldridge** as the budget analyst. She began her career with the Corps of Engineers in 1999 as an administrative support assistant. Her

past experience in both the private and government sectors enables her to bring an abundance of knowledge to this position.

Little Rock's Real Estate is happy to have **Sherri Braning** join the team as the administrative support assistant. She is responsible for time and attendance, travel arrangements, maintenance of files and records, and the training program. She is bringing a wealth of experience from Little Rock's Operations Division, New Orleans District and the Naval Reserve Personnel Center in New Orleans.

Little Rock's Real Estate selected **Lola Holt** as the new voucher examiner. She is responsible for processing a variety of commercial vouchers in support of the Armed Forces Recruiting Program and the Lease Government Housing Program.

Little Rock's Real Estate selected **Linda "Diane" McKay** as Rick Huffmaster's replacement. When Huffmaster retires June 30, McKay will take over the Armed Forces Recruiting Program and manage leases for the 32 recruiting stations in Arkansas. McKay comes from Jacksonville, Fla., where she worked for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command. She brings more than 25 years experience with the federal government in acquisition, relocation and real property leasing. She has six years experience in the Armed Forces Recruiting Program.

Little Rock's **Charia A. Halford**, a student aide in the Technical Resource Center graduated May 15 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Audiology and Speech

Pathology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She will begin work on her doctorate in audiology next fall at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and plans to continue to work at the district, too.

Sarah Prestien, engineering technician (Civil), joined the Business Technical Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, March 14. Prestien's duty station is in Tulsa, Okla. She formerly served with Tulsa District.

Russell Holeman was selected chief, Engineering and Construction Branch, Business Technical Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, March 14.

Saleem Mithwani, Military Construction Program Manager, Programs Directorate, joined Southwestern Division headquarters March 29. Mithwani last served in Fort Worth District as Program Manager-Infrastructure, for the Fort Bliss Expansion Program.

Brian Brobson has been selected for the Tulsa District Contracting Chief position. Mr. Brobson has extensive experience as a contracting professional performing multiple roles within Contracting offices as a contract specialist, team leader/Contracting Officer, Branch Chief, and Deputy, Director of Contracting. He has worked for various commands from USAISC, CECOM, USACE and most recently the US Department of Energy. The Southwestern Division is very pleased to have Mr. Brobson as part of our team.

Congratulations to **Lee Wall** on his selection as the Power Plant Specialist at the Tenkiller Power Plant. Previous positions that Lee has

held include Power Plant Senior Electronics Mechanic at Robert S. Kerr, a deployment as Project Engineer/Construction Representative at USACE Iraqi National Depot Operations, and a detail as Power Plant Specialist at Tenkiller.

Congratulations to **Connie White**, customer care employee of the quarter for second quarter for FY10. \$500 On-The-Spot cash award from the Operations Division. She was congratulated for hard work, extra effort and teamwork in keeping customer care a top priority in Tulsa District. She works in Emergency Management Unit as Emergency Amnagement Assistant.

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to **Jason Foltyn**, a project manager for the Galveston District, whose sister passed away. Janet McAfee was laid to rest May 15.

Condolences to **Marianne Fullen**, of the Galveston District's Logistics Office, whose mother Dorothy Perez passed



Vicki Moe

away May 13.

Little Rock's long-time administrative officer at Russellville Project Office, **Vicki Moe**, passed away March 18 at her home with her loving family. This quiet woman was dedicated to her family, her

spiritual life and her work. She loved life and fought her long illness with strength, grace and dignity that serves as an inspiration. Transferring as a clerk from the Pine Bluff Arsenal to the Russellville Project Office in June 1984, Vicki was a long valued member of the project office. She was repeatedly recognized for her knowledge, competence, diligence and dedication to the Corps of Engineers. Her career progressed through each higher level position, and she ended her career as the administrative officer and team leader for the administrative section.

Benny Jon Sandberg, father to Little Rock's Table Rock Lake Operations Manager **Jim Sandberg**, passed away April 19 at the St. Cloud Hospital.

Little Rock's retired park ranger at Mountain Home Project Office, **Gary Whisnant**, passed away April 6.

Carol (Roberts) Lovell, program analyst with the Tulsa District Real Estate Division, passed away April 7.

Martha Louise Owens, mother of **James Owens**, Lock and Dam Operator at Chouteau Lock and Dam 17, passed away April 22.

FAMILY MATTERS

Little Rock's **Nick Barner** of the Design Branch and his wife, Jackie, are the proud



Addie Nichole Barner

parents of daughter, Addie Nichole Barner. She was born April 21, weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces and 20 inches long.

Little Rock's **Clint Moore** of Table Rock Lake Project Office and his wife, Nicole, are the proud parents of daughter, Avery Michelle Moore. She was born April 9, weighing five pounds, 14 ounces and 21 inches long.

Little Rock's **Carla Cash** of Engineering and Construc-

tion Division is proud to announce that her eight-year old daughter, Jasmine Ware, received all As on her report



Jasmine Ware

card for the third quarter. She attends the Martin Luther King Elementary School and is in the third grade

Alyssa Pritchard-Farren, daughter to Little Rock's **Cheri Dragos-Pritchard** of the Public Affairs Office, graduated from 1st grade at Jacksonville Christian Academy May 11 with all As for all four quarters, 3rd highest grade point average, perfect attendance for the entire year and she received the

Good Citizenship Award for Alyssa Pritchard-Farren



her good behavior, caring attitude and helping others throughout the year.

Dexter Cade VanDusen was born March 18, 2010, in Port Townsend, Wash. He is the son of Amber Hudson and Tommy VanDusen, the brother of Chandler Robles and Mearra Gilbert, and the grandson of **Mary Beth Hudson**, Public Affairs Office. His families — both biological and adopted — are all celebrating his arrival. The picture is of Dex at 2 months old.



Dexter Cade VanDusen

