

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

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At loggerheads:

sea turtles versus the cold

see page 11





Pacesetter

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

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On the cover

A loggerhead sea turtle. The turtles' well-being was of concern during a winter cold snap in Galveston.



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A bright side to the budget

*Col. Thomas W. Kula
Commander, Southwestern Division*

This month I spent about a week in our Nation's capitol, attending Congressional hearings, meeting with senior Corps of Engineers leadership, and huddling with the leadership from all our Districts as they began their Congressional visits.

It is always a great civics lesson to me to be in Washington D.C. You can really feel the heartbeat of our Nation. Seeing our elected leaders up front and close, observing the very workings of our democracy—it all makes me appreciate our country's way of life and the many sacrifices made by Americans, in and out of uniform, to defend and preserve our government and our people.

It also brings to mind the special relationship between the national leadership and the Army Corps of Engineers, a relationship that has flourished over the years because of the very way our projects are chosen by the Administration and funded by Congress. Everything we do leads back to the national priorities which drive the work we do and build the foundations of the communities that we all serve. We talk about our Army being composed of citizen soldiers. Likewise, our Corps and our projects tie directly back to the communities we serve.

The FY 12 budget proposals all relate back to our Nation and our communities too. First, they are intended to strengthen our Nation's economy by increasing jobs and exports. The 30 ports that handle more than 500 million tons of commerce annually generate many jobs along our Texas coastline. In the area of recreation, we will continue to provide jobs as well as impact to local economies by the visitors that use the recreational facilities.

Secondly, the projects covered in the budget proposals will help to maintain and improve our infrastructure by continuing to operate and maintain our reservoirs and lakes, invest in our Dam Safety program as well as other flood risk mitigation programs, and continue to invest

operations and maintenance efforts to ensure the critical maintenance in deep and shallow draft channels.

In the long run, FY 12 budget will continue to allow us to prove our value to the Nation through continued regulatory work, emergency management initiatives that assist state and local sponsors, the operation of hydropower plants, and environmental stewardship missions—to name just a few.

In other words, the proposals in the Corps' FY 12 budget will allow us to continue to provide critical support to our local communities and our Nation. Will there be other impacts? Probably. Fewer dollars mean possible impacts on the recreation and navigation missions in particular. But I know that each of us will do everything we can to keep those impacts to an absolute minimum.

The debate about and final outcome of the FY 12 budget is in the hands of our elected leaders in Washington. Our job will be to execute that budget once it is approved. And execution depends on smart scheduling. We have talked much about scheduling, so a few key points for all to remember: set realistic expectations with our customers; improve P2 data quality; utilize that data to forecast future workload, shape our workforce, and maintain an effective system.

Finally, spending time in Washington always brings to mind the great Americans who have come before us and provided leadership and inspiration. One such American is our Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, who will be retiring in May. General Van, who is a 1972 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, brought strong leadership and fresh perspective to the Army Corps of Engineers when he took command in May of 2007. I know that the Pacesetter family will miss him, and all the great leadership he provided us. We all wish him the very best! 



Thumbs up! SWD Commander Col. Thomas Kula talks with members of the Fayetteville Shale Rapid Response Team at Maumelle Park near Little Rock, Ark., during a recent visit. Kula presented team members with division coins for their outstanding efforts.

Spotlight on:

Galveston District's Pablo Hernandez

By *Isidro Reyna, Galveston District*

As a project engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, Pablo Hernandez knows what it means to build strong. In fact, he knows what it means to build strong and safely, having earned a certificate of achievement in safety from Southwestern Division commander Col. Thomas W. Kula on Jan. 12, 2011, for supervising more than 225,000 contract work hours in fiscal year 2010 without any lost time accidents.

In his current position, which he has held for 11 years, Hernandez oversees and administers construction contracts, emphasizing quality, safety and customer satisfaction. He previously served as a project engineer for a private construction contractor for 13 years.

"We are extremely proud of Pablo's achievements in the Rio Grande Valley," said Kenneth (Chip) Worley, Brownsville Resident Office

Engineer with the Galveston District. "His commitment to providing vital public engineering services to the region has left a lasting impact on the nation."

Current projects Hernandez has undertaken include the border fence project for the Department of Homeland Security, as well as a land port of entry project for U.S. Customs at Falcon Dam in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas.

"All projects have their respective challenges, but when those challenges are surpassed, it's a great feeling to know that the particular project is complete as a result of your efforts," said Hernandez.

Hernandez says he likes the sense of accomplishment he receives while working in the Galveston District.

"I have had the pleasure of working with many interesting people both within and outside the Galveston District," said Hernandez.

"What they have in common is that they make safety a priority in all they do."

Hernandez acknowledged it was a surprise to have Col. Kula visit the office and present him personally with an award in safety.

"I would like to share the safety award I was honored to receive with all of my team members who were instrumental in allowing me to earn this achievement," said Hernandez. "It has been a privilege to work with each of them."

Hernandez earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the former Texas A&I University, now Texas A&M Kingsville.

In his spare time, Hernandez enjoys fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, boating, skiing and snorkeling. He is married and has six children, including five girls and one boy who happens to be an excellent pianist, according to Hernandez. 



Above left, Pablo Hernandez, a project engineer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Brownsville office, explains the progression of a 604-foot segment of fence in Brownsville to Galveston District Commander Col. Christopher Salles (center) and USACE Southwestern Division Commander Col. Thomas W. Kula (far right) during a brief stop at Hope Park Jan. 12. USACE provided real estate, engineering and construction services in support of the Department of Homeland Security's Border Fence Project. This portion of the fence is scheduled to be completed in February. Above right Col. Kula awards Hernandez with a certificate of achievement in safety for exceptional achievement in support of the commander's Safety and Occupational Health Program. Hernandez oversaw 225,000 contractor work hours in fiscal year 2010 without any lost time accidents.



Workers secure a large red pipe running from the stilling basin conduit to the Leon River in order to maintain water flow to the citizens of Temple, Texas.

Creative scheduling and communication are keys to success during repairs at Belton Lake

By Randy Cephus, Fort Worth District

The Operations Project Manager at the Capitol Regional Office met with Temple city officials in February to provide a tour of ongoing maintenance and repairs at Belton Dam. This engagement is an example of the constant and open communication that has taken place long before the dam repairs began.

Belton Lake is the primary source of water for approximately 60,000 Temple residents and the repairs could have adversely impacted the city's main source of water if it were not for the scheduling creativity and constant communication between members of the Capitol Regional Office and the city.

Johnnie Reisner, City of Temple Superintendent of Water Production Services credits close communications with the Corps of Engineers as the reason for a great working relationship. According to Reisner, there has been ongoing collaboration for over a year to sequence work schedules and resolve issues with reduced flow rates and water quality resulting from dam maintenance.

Repairs at Belton Dam consist of replacing the flood gates, conduit line, and de-watering and inspecting the stilling basin. The project is both American Recovery Reinvestment Act and Supplemental funded.

The conduit and stilling basin are paid for with Supplemental funds while the gate is ARRA funded, according to Fort Worth District Operations Project Manager, Ron Miller. Miller is in

charge of the Capitol Regional Office which has oversight for Belton, Stillhouse Hollow, Canyon, Granger, Georgetown and Somerville lakes.

Kiewit, Texas Construction, LP was awarded the contract in the amount of \$6.7 million through a Firm Fixed Price contract on June 4, with the notice to proceed being issued on June 14. The Fort Worth District anticipates project completion by the end of June 2011.

"The floodgates and the rest of the system are over 50 years old and are nearing the end of their life expectancy," stated Miller. "We also had to de-water the stilling basin to check its condition because it was in 1993 since we last de-watered."

Scheduling an intermittent flow period was the key to the success of the project. This called for water being cut off during the work day which totaled 10 hours. Water would then flow to the local citizens during the 14 evening and early morning hours.

During the de-watering process crews constructed a coffer dam between the stilling basin and the outlet that feeds into the Leon River. Water was then siphoned out of the basin so the crews could inspect the condition of baffle block and splitter

See "**Belton**" page 19

On schedule and within budget:

Airmen, area residents to use new University Center

By Jay Woods, Little Rock District



The lobby area of the Jacksonville-Little Rock Air Force Base University Center. The Center opened in February as a joint use facility for the city of Jacksonville, Ark. and the Little Rock Air Force Base.

A new University Center was dedicated in February at Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Ark. It wasn't just any ribbon cutting. Gov. Mike Beebe took part, as did Jacksonville dignitaries because this facility, through partnerships and cost sharing, was built outside the gates to help educate not only base personnel, but also Jacksonville residents.

Dubbed the Jacksonville-Little Rock Air Force Base University Center, the Corp's Little Rock District completed work on this modern \$14.8 million facility on schedule and within budget. Col. Glen Masset, Little Rock District commander, and Col. Mike Minihan, 19th Airlift Wing commander, helped the civilian dignitaries formally dedicate the new structure.

Under the agreement, \$9.8 million was provided from military construction funds, and \$5 million was provided by the city of Jacksonville.

Little Rock District managed design, engineering and construction of this 43,127-square-foot facility as part of its mission to provide facility support to America's Armed Forces. The University Center contains 27 state-of-the-art classrooms, two laboratories and offices for several colleges and universities offering classes in a variety of degree programs.

Universities offering classes at the center include: Arkansas State University at Beebe, Park University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, University of Arkansas, and Webster University.

Advantages of the new facility over the old facility include providing more room for staff, study areas for students, handicap accessibility, and a better overall learning environment. The previous center was spread out in two buildings that were converted dormitories.

The location outside the base's main gate provides easy access for not only the Airmen stationed at the base but also for civilian students attending classes. The facility demonstrates that the Air Force and the Corps are working to improve the quality of life not only for Airmen but for the Jacksonville community as well.

The district routinely supports Army, Air Force, Army Reserve and other military installations in Arkansas, nationwide and overseas. 



Dignitaries cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the Jacksonville-Little Rock Air Force Base University Center. Little Rock District joined the effort between the Air Force and the city of Jacksonville to design and construct the facility. From left: former Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim; Gov. Mike Beebe; current Jacksonville Mayor Gary Fletcher; Col. Mike Minihan, 19th Airlift Wing commander; Col. Glen Masset, Little Rock District commander; and Melody Toney, 19th Force Support Squadron base education officer. (Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Jim Araos)



The word of the day is 'innovation'

*Col. Michael J. Teague
Commander, Tulsa District*

The word of the day is "Innovation". We briefed the Oklahoma Congressional delegations last week on the FY12 Civil Works budget. I think every single briefer used the word "innovation" about their particular study or project. Of course most used it in terms of a changing Federal budget climate but there are certainly examples across the District and the Region.

In January SWD hosted the Tri-State Water Summit in Norman, Okla.. It brought together the state water offices from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas along with our SWD districts plus the Kansas City District. Having a dependable quantity and quality of water is critical to our region and the summit was a great opportunity to share best practices and to explore "innovative" ways to work together towards that common goal.

We certainly have been "innovative" in working around the Blizzard of 2011. Not only did we lose a week of workdays but we had to reschedule several major events. Nothing says "innovation", and diversity, like celebrating February's African American History Month ... in March ... on St Patrick's Day! Our speakers highlighted two very "innovative" programs. Dr. Kendall T. Harris, the Dean of the Roy G. Perry College of Engineering at Prairie View A&M University talked about the "innovative" ways that they are working to increase the quality and number of engineers in the United States. Prairie View's Student Success Center ensures the right environment for students as they gain fundamental engineering skills through core courses. Dr. Rose Caballero, the SWG EEO Chief, explained their Advancing Minorities' Interest in Engineering (AMIE) partnership program with Prairie View A&M. Both great approaches to maintaining and growing the technical competencies of our engineers.

The other event rescheduled due to that slight dusting of snow was the BCE/DPW Conference held at Altus AFB. A great forum to bring together all of the military installation base civil engineers and director of public works that has been going on for over ten years. One of the main topics this year was "innovative" sustainable energy projects. We had great briefings from AFCEE and SWD on the future direction. We also pulled information from Fort Carson on their energy project. Fort Carson has the largest solar array at a U.S. Army facility with a 2MW photovoltaic array of 27,600 flat-plate, thin-film modules

covering almost 12 acres.

Our Water Safety Team continues to search for "innovative" ways to keep our lakes safe for all of our visitors. Working booths at the area boat shows and tackle shows alongside the Oklahoma Highway Patrol's Lake Patrol Section helps to get the word out to everyone. I can't tell you how many Frisbees and coloring books our Rangers have handed out. The staff at the Fall River Lake Project was recognized at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, March 6-9 in Savannah, Ga. for their "innovative" approach to spreading the Water Safety message. Tallie Pope, Gary Simmons and Doug Wheeler received a Letter of Commendation and the 1st Place Media Contest Award for 2011. One of their ideas included the "Pop into your PFD" message printed on popcorn bags that were distributed to area schools to use them to hand out popcorn to fans. The staff also took on the "big ticket challenge of setting up and manning a Water Safety booth at the McConnell Air Force Base Air Show in September. They worked with the Kansas City District Water Safety team to plan and execute an event that attracted more than 4,000 visitors. Adding social media to our messages has also been "innovative."

Nathan Herring was recognized as Honorable Mention in the Corps' Annual Journalism contest for the Social Media category. He has made our Facebook page incredibly popular. Starting with posts about the M/V Mississippi as we floated down the Arkansas River last summer and extending now to collect photos and post safety information, he and the rest of the PAO crew have done a remarkable job of getting our messages out. He was "innovative" as he posted the office closures during the Big Snow (although it didn't help get his car out of the snow bank).

"Innovation" may be the word of the day but it is part of our history and part of our culture. Eight years ago when the first USACE team arrived in Mosul, Iraq most of us were a little shocked. Since then we have had 109 of our teammates volunteer and deploy in support of the OCO missions. Right now there are thirteen from the Tulsa District with two more preparing to deploy and our PRTs and FEST are on standby watching the news from Japan. Whether it is supporting overseas contingency missions or taking care of our projects every day, the word is always "innovation". 

Tell us what you think about the Pacesetter

The Pacesetter is conducting a readership survey and welcomes your input. The purpose of the survey is to determine the best way to provide news and information to the Southwestern Division.

To take the survey, go to:

<https://kme.usace.army.mil/SWD/CoP/pao/Lists/Pacesetter%20Readership%20Survey/overview.aspx>

Cannonballs dredged up in Ship Channel

By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District

Contractors working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, discovered four cannonballs in the Texas City Ship Channel while performing dredging operations, Jan. 17.

The cannonballs were removed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be turned over to the U.S. Navy. Members of the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Unit Texas City assisted in the investigation.

On Nov. 22, 2009, a 10,000-pound Dahlgren cannon was brought to the surface from the Texas City Channel by the Corps. The cannon was part of the USS Westfield, a Civil War-era gunboat blown up by its crew during the Battle of Galveston in 1863.

Dredging efforts are part of a \$71 million deepening project that will deepen nearly seven miles of the Texas City Ship channel from 40 feet to 45 feet. Larger vessels will be able to navigate the channel to provide products to the various industries as a result of this project.



Large photo, an ordnance specialist with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Houston Field Office inspects a cannonball found in the Texas City Ship Channel as Galveston District construction control representative Billy Barham looks on. Inset photo, an ordnance specialist with the Federal Bureau of Investigation inspects a cannonball found in the Texas City Ship Channel, Jan. 17.

Truscott

The project, the team

By Mary Beth Hudson, Tulsa District

Many, many, many years ago – more than 25 million — the area that is now northwestern Texas, western Oklahoma, and southwestern Kansas was a large inland sea. The ocean is gone now, but the salt remains, and springs pump thousands of gallons of saltwater into the area's rivers and streams. This natural brine pollution renders the Red River generally unsuitable as a dependable source of agricultural, municipal and industrial water supply.

The challenge of the Red River Chloride Control Project is to significantly reduce the salinity to make the area's water usable. Tulsa District's Truscott Project does just that for south fork of Wichita River. "Most people think we remove the salt from the water, but we don't," said Peat Robinson, natural resource conservation specialist. "We divert it." That diversion is a fascinating process that begins more than 20 miles above Truscott Brine Lake at the Area VIII dam site and pump station.

There, an inflatable dam – basically a big rubber bladder – sits on a concrete weir that crosses the river. During dry times (and there are lots of those) when the river isn't running, the dam is inflated to capture saltwater from the springs that flow into the river. The water will travel through a 21-mile pipeline that traverses the rugged and rocky west Texas terrain. The contained saltwater is first pumped at the rate of 3,000 gallons per minutes seven miles to the highest elevation on the pipeline, peak surge.

From peak surge, gravity carries the water through two more seven-mile segments to an evaporation spray field. There, the water is released from the pipeline through 40 spray nozzles. This spray process provides a higher evaporation rate than that which would occur if the water were just allowed to flow out of the pipeline. The evaporation field is often a field of rainbows; it's an unusual, quite alluring sight with haunting sounds.

All the saltwater that doesn't evaporate then makes its way into Truscott Brine Lake. The deep blue water of the lake has approximately the same salt content as an ocean. It's even home

Dennis Duke and Col. Michael Teague stand on the concrete weir next to the inflatable dam at the Area VIII dam site and pump station.

to some saltwater fish.

Back up at the dam site and pump station, when it has rained and the river is running, the dam is deflated; this allows the water with its greatly reduced salt content to flow over the dam and continue downstream. "Ranchers have told me they've seen cattle drinking out of it. That never used to happen," said Robinson.

Truscott Project

The entire project is an impressive engineering feat. It's operated and maintained by the Truscott team, a staff of highly specialized yet highly compatible men who have formed a hands-on maintenance work group that stands alone in Tulsa District.

Col. Michael Teague, Tulsa District commander, likens them to a Special Forces Ops team, and John Roberts, deputy commander for project management, said they've always reminded him of "The A Team" from the popular television show of the same name that aired several years ago. Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Eugene Snyman summed it up when he said, "Job titles don't have a lot of meaning out here. The best job title for the guys out here is Jack of All Trades."

Because the team is so talented and because it has the equipment needed, the Truscott crew is often called upon to tackle jobs throughout the district and even elsewhere in Southwestern Division. They are used when contractors are unavailable because the work is too specialized or when all bids received are exorbitant.

They're a resource that Tulsa District leaders are looking to

See "Truscott" next page

"Truscott" continued from previous page

replicate. "Our maintenance backlog continues to grow, and the cost of contracts to do the work continues to rise. We have to find other solutions," Col. Teague said.

Some of the places and projects the Truscott team has worked include:

- Webbers Falls: build tainter gate control panels
- Lock and Dam: support dewatering
- Little Rock District: construct road, parking area, and boat ramp
- Oologah: remove and replace emergency generator; repair low-flow valve
- Eufaula: support storm damage recovery
- Webbers Falls: rehab power house
- Keystone: support storm damage recovery
- Waurika: repair emergency toe drain and shoreline
- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: support recovery
- Big Hill: repair protective berm, outfall piping, and sewage lagoon earthwork
- Fort Gibson: build protective jetty for shoreline erosion protection
- Elk City: replace outlet channel guardrail, concrete lined ditches
- Hugo: repair embankment road
- Birch: repair gate stem
- Texoma: repair embankment
- Canton: upgrade electrical pedestals

Truscott Team members are Dennis Duke, project manager; Peat Robinson, natural resources specialist; Tracy Cartwright,

facilities specialist; and Richard McCanlies, Kent Smith, Chad Rainwater, and Brent Vanderpol, civil engineering technicians. Tony Burson, mechanical engineer Department of Army intern, has also joined the group. He is currently away from the project and will be on rotation off and on for another year but is a valued member. "He brings yet another strength to the team and is willing to work with his back as well as his brain," said Duke.

The Truscott Team can tackle diverse challenges, work in difficult environments, and be innovative and thorough, Roberts said. "When we came out here to teach the Project Management Business Process that the Corps was adopting, these guys taught me what true PMBP is. They are a real team. Every person has a role, but everyone on the team can and will perform any role," he said.

As the only project of its kind in the Corps, Truscott is a fascinating, challenging place to work. Its remote location and landscape put one in mind of an old western. Duke reinforces that image when he says, "There is an old saying in this part of the world that pertains to an old cowhand. When you find a guy that is loyal to a ranch and cannot be hired away because of that loyalty, it is said, 'He rides for the brand.' When you have an entire team that exhibits that kind of loyalty, dedication, and ownership in their work, it is a great thing to be a part of. These guys are truly team players who show more concern about each other and the project than they do about themselves. It is pretty clear to all who know them, these guys, 'Ride for the brand.'"

And the brand is shaped like a castle. 



Members of the Truscott Team are, from left, Dennis Duke, Peat Robinson, Richard McCanlies, Kent Smith, Chad Rainwater, Brent Vanderpol, and Tracy Cartwright. Not pictured: Tony Burson.

Galveston monitors Gulf District looks for signs of cold-stunning among sea turtles during cold snap

By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Operations Division and Environmental Branch closely monitored the Gulf of Mexico water temperatures during a cold front in early February 2011 for signs of sea turtle "cold-stunning."

"Cold-stunning refers to sea turtles becoming immobile due to a dramatic decrease in water and air temperatures," said Alicia Rea, a project operations manager with the Galveston District. "With Gulf temperatures dipping into the 30s locally, marine life including sea turtles were affected by the 'wintry threat.'"

According to Rea, monitoring the Gulf of Mexico for signs of cold-stunning was imperative, as the Galveston District was scheduled to perform dredge work on the Brownsville ship and jetty channels. Due to a delay in the arrival of the dredge and weather conditions, work did not begin until Feb. 8; however, monitoring continued in anticipation of the start of work and continued when the work began.

"We implemented a variety of precautionary measures to monitor our sea turtle population," said Lisa Finn, a physical scientist with the Galveston District's Environmental Branch. "Specifically, we monitored the weather forecast and water temperatures at observation stations, alerted the dredge

contractor to the potential for occurrence of cold-stunned turtles after a cold front and coordinated with the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network and National Marine Fisheries Service."

According to Finn, unofficial counts from the STSSN indicated an unprecedented 1,200 sea turtles were cold-stunned in the Laguna Madre area.

"The Corps keeps environmental considerations at the forefront when it undertakes the design, construction and execution of projects that are crucial to keeping the nation's waterways safe for navigation," said Rea.

According to Rea, dredged material from the Brownsville ship and jetty channels will be placed on Padre Island as part of a beneficial use beach renourishment project. Following completion of the dredging and beach renourishment, the dredge will

move to Port Mansfield to complete dredge work there.

The Corps awarded a contract Dec. 8 to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company to dredge the Brownsville Ship Channel in Cameron County, Texas. Work is scheduled to be completed by March 1 in order to avoid both the turtle nesting season and spring break.

The Texas General Land Office and City of South Padre Island partnered to contribute \$2,769,600 in a non-federal cost share initiative to renourish approximately one mile of beach using beach-quality sand harvested from the dredging process.

The \$6 million contract is being administered by the Galveston District's Brownsville Resident Office. 

Courtesy photo. Photo illustration by Sara Goodeyon

Introducing students to career opportunities with the Corps



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, participated in the 18th Annual Career Day hosted at Aldine Independent School District's Reed Academy for Engineering Jan. 28, in Houston. Paul Cox, a civil engineering technician in the Galveston District's Operations Division, spoke to students about the engineering career field. The Galveston District has participated in previous career days hosted by Reed Academy.

Checking on the status of beach renourishment



U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold, representing the 27th district of Texas, visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's beach renourishment project on South Padre Island, Texas, Feb. 2. The beach renourishment project, called beneficial use, seeks to employ environmentally and economically responsible ways to utilize dredged materials to benefit local communities. Through beach renourishment, the Corps is able to improve eroded coastlines through the placement of dredged material, while maintaining navigable waterways. Pictured with Farenthold (center) are Sam Listi (left) and Alita Bagley (right), council members with the city of South Padre Island.

Ain't no mountain high enough to stop him

Childhood disease stole his mobility, but not his spirit

By Nate Herring, Tulsa District

It was a cold December day in Winter Park, Colo. and Torey Hett, office automation clerk at Marion Lake, Kan., ascended up a ski lift with two instructors by his side. His heart pounded as frigid air swept over his face. After what seemed like an eternity, Hett finally reached the summit. He took a deep breath. He could feel his body tense as he prepared to plummet down the mountain. After all, this was his first time skiing so a little nervousness was to be expected. However, unlike other first-timers, Hett is paralyzed from the waist down and must use a wheelchair.

Hett was born with spina bifida, a birth defect in which the backbone and spinal canal do not close before birth, but this disability has not prevented him from living an active lifestyle.

"I don't let the wheelchair slow me down. I want to be active," he said.

Hett's active lifestyle started at an early age. While in elementary school, He began by participating in wheelchair racing. Once he reached middle school in Marion, Kan., he asked to join the school's track team but was met with some resistance. The school's athletic director was unsure of whether or not to allow Hett to participate, but the support he received from others, even outside his own district, was overwhelming. The seventh grade track

team at Council Grove School District refused to participate in the league track meet unless Hett was allowed to participate. He continued to compete in track and wheelchair racing throughout high school.

Hett also loves to hunt and fish, which made the Corps of Engineers a perfect fit.

Hett's began with the Corps in 2006 as a part-time employee at Marion Lake while he attended Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kan. After graduation, Hett was hired full-time.

"I've enjoyed being with the Corps," he said. "I've enjoyed the outdoor aspect and learning new things. Everyone has been very supportive."

While Hett was a part-time employee, Neal Whitaker, former park ranger at the lake and now a ranger at Council Grove Lake, invited him to participate in the annual disabled hunt. Hett now helps to set-up and coordinate the hunt.

"It's great having been on both sides of these hunts," he said. "It allows you to broaden your horizon and see the benefit these types of hunts can have on others. I enjoy helping others hunt, the way the staff has helped me."

During his trip to Colorado, he said it took him awhile to get accustomed to the modified ski, which resembles a reclined chair with ski blades on the bottom.

"Just as I was getting the hang of it, it was time to go," he said. "I'm already planning my next ski trip."

That trip was just his latest adventure. Hett also went water skiing for six summers at El Dorado Lake, Kan. The water ski looks similar to a giant snowboard with a metal frame chair on it. The skier sits in the chair and someone holds onto the ski until the boat picks up speed, then it's just like regular water skiing, he said.

"The way I see it, it's as much of a setback as you let it," he said. "I'm not one to just sit around and watch. I want to get involved too."

Hett plans to continue his active lifestyle. When asked if he had any plans to slow down, he simply replied, "no." 

Torey Hett takes a quick breather while skiing in Winter Park, Colo. It was the first time Hett, who was born with spina bifida and is paralyzed from the waist down, attempted the sport of down hill skiing. Hett says he has already made plans for his next ski trip. Hett works at the Marion Lake, Kansas lake office as an office automation clerk.





Safety first!!!

Col. Glen A. Masset
Commander, Little Rock District

When I assumed command of Little Rock District, I made a pledge to travel to all project offices and construction sites in the district within my first six months. I fulfilled that pledge in five months — one month ahead of schedule. And during those travels, I was always impressed by the dedication of our TEAM members and their commitment to safety.

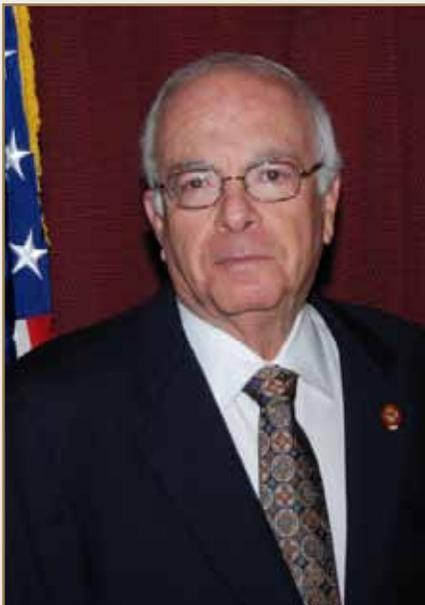
We recently completed the Army Readiness Assessment Program Survey. By reading the responses I gained valuable insight into the challenges we face each day. The comments provided me with a snapshot in time of our organizational climate and culture. Of all the survey questions, the highest scored question was that we in the Little Rock District believe safety is an important part of all operations.

We are continually working to improve the safety of the public who are our guests at our recreation facilities. Through the dedicated efforts of our SWL Water Safety Team and a bit of good luck, we were able to reduce our public recreation fatal accidents by 50 percent last year. Our goal is to continue to reduce these accidents by another 50 percent this year. We are putting significant effort into campground safety by upgrading roads, trails, campsites and electrical services for use by our public visitors. We continually assess the safety of our organized hunts for youth and handicapped visitors to keep this great program enjoyable and free of accidents and injuries.

Our safety program also works with the TEAM that does not sit in front of a computer all day and goes home at the end of the day with grease/grime underneath their finger nails — they work in some of our most hazardous environments. These are folks who turn safety regulations into action. We have a dedicated group of professionals in the field who are updating their processes to mitigate the risk of exposure to hexavalent chromium during stainless steel welding operations. This involves reviewing and improving the medical surveillance, hazard communication, respiratory protection, lock-out/tag-out, permit required confined space, personal protective equipment and industrial hygiene monitoring program.

Another great example is the annual dewatering operation of our locks. With the help of a team from the Tulsa District, during a 26-day period, we worked over 17,000 labor hours without a single lost time accident, and we had only one recordable accident involving treatment beyond first aid. I am so proud of the teamwork and discipline of the group that safely maintains our locks every year.

There is no doubt Little Rock District is a unique and fantastic organization. It's all because of its wonderful people. The people of SWL are the district's most precious resource. It is my obligation, commitment and duty to protect this resource... and our Safety Program is one of the tools on the tool belt to do this. 



Arkansan reappointed to Mississippi River Commission

Sam E. Angel of Lake Village, Ark., has been reappointed to the Mississippi River Commission by President Barack H. Obama. Angel has served on the MRC since September 1979. With the new appointment, he will become the longest serving member in MRC history. Angel is president of the Epstein Land Company and Epstein Gin Company.

'Dark' days done for Kabul

Thanks to USACE Afghanistan Engineer District-North, lights now on 24/7 in the country's capital

By Jim Frisinger, ECSO, Fort Worth District



This substation and power lines already built in Afghanistan are similar to those coming in the second phase of construction.

Decades of civil war left Afghanistan's electrical delivery system in tatters. Now, a decade after toppling the Taliban from Kabul, the country is rebuilding even as the insurgency continues.

Helping the country stand up is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Engineer District-North, which has reached back to USACE in Fort Worth to help bring electricity to more of the population and build on lessons learned.

Developing the Northern Electric Power System is integral to both our counter-insurgency strategy and long-term development, said Dr. James J. Hearn, director of the Joint Program Integration Office US Forces-Afghanistan, which oversees major power and water projects. The government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan wants NEPS completed and integrated with the Southern Electric Power System to provide affordable electricity to over half of Afghanistan's families.

"In a recent study on what is important to Afghans, the first two answers were jobs and electricity," Hearn said. "Electricity is the juice that will power job creation and ultimate prosperity for all Afghans."

Afghanistan has already come a long way. Its installed energy capacity had fallen to 430 megawatts in 2001. By 2009 a major effort by international donors boosted capacity to 1,029 MW, according to the Office of the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction in a 2010 report. Most people in Kabul now enjoy electricity 24 hours a day.

"People used to joke that Kabul was 'the Only Dark Capital in the World,'" said Wahidullah Shahrani, Afghan Minister of Commerce and Industry, quoted in an Asian Development Bank publication.

An early building block was an effort by the United States, India, Germany, Afghanistan, the World Bank and the Afghan Reconstruction Trust Fund to set up the NEPS. Over a four-year span, it erected a transmission line through a 420-kilometer corridor. The new line allowed Afghanistan to deliver surplus hydropower it could buy from the north – Uzbekistan – to supply Kabul's mushrooming population. The capital city has grown from 1 million in 1980 to some 3 million today.

Prior to the new line, Kabul only had limited access to power from hydroelectric dams east of the city supplemented by local diesel-powered generation.

The next phase of construction will geographically expand the grid by building 850 kilometers of 220-kilovolt transmission lines.

How Fort Worth came on board

A Fort Worth District employee on temporary duty in Kabul had suggested Afghanistan Engineer District-North utilize the Engineering and Construction Support Office as a possible source for project support. The ECSO is a Southwestern Division program office co-located in the Fort Worth District.

A USACE conference call across several districts in summer 2010 asked for help for the Afghan project. An accelerated schedule was part of the challenge with the end of the fiscal year then looming.

The ECSO's Facilities Branch Chief Dennis Karns and contractor Keith Flossman had both worked in Baghdad's Green Zone

See "Dark" page 21

Pacesetters

By Lt. Col. David Wong, Deputy Chief, Readiness and Operations Division, Southwestern Division

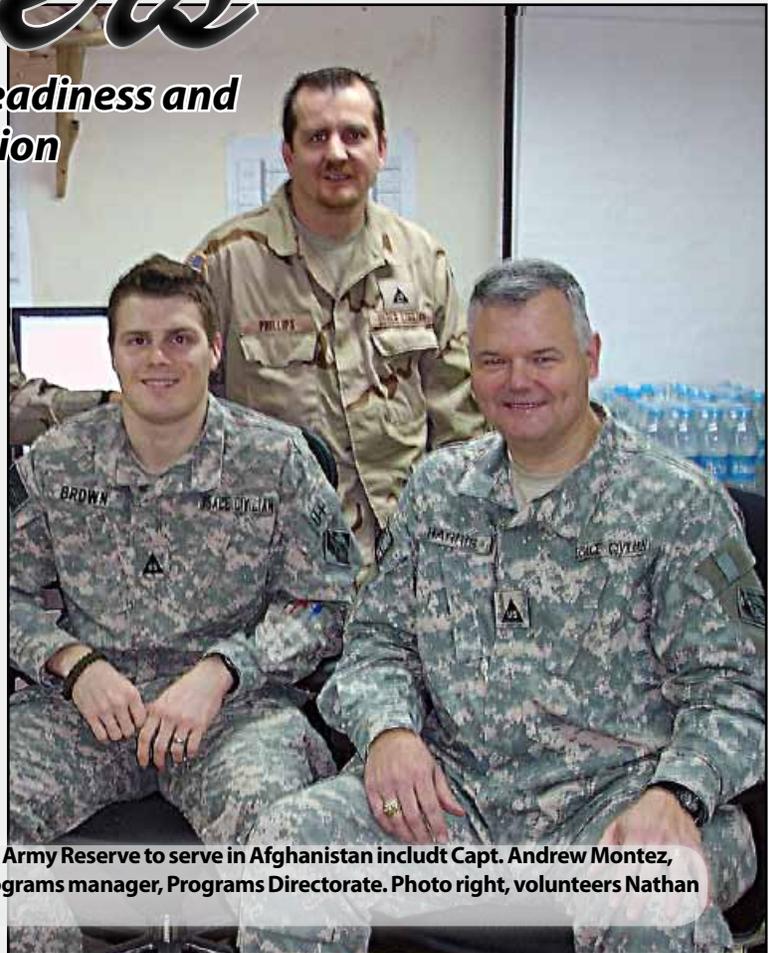


Photo left, SWD civilian employees who have been mobilized with the Army Reserve to serve in Afghanistan include Capt. Andrew Montez, program analyst, Regional Business Directorate, and Maj. Alan Taylor, programs manager, Programs Directorate. Photo right, volunteers Nathan Long and Carrol Harris.

Supporting Overseas Contingency Operations

The Southwestern Division is very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who have deployed, often multiple times, to support both domestic and international response missions. Our civil emergency teams are at a constant state of readiness through the continued recruitment and positive feedback they have received while responding to natural disasters.

SWD has provided a consistent amount of volunteers to both Iraq and Afghanistan reconstruction efforts. In 2011, there is an increased focus on Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) facilities construction. All of USACE will be expected to provide a greater number of volunteers to meet this expanding support role.

In building the ANSF facilities and mentoring the Afghan construction business groups to international standards, USACE has a direct role in our Nation's transfer of responsibility and providing stability to the Afghan people. This will allow our troops and civilians to return home safely.

The recruitment efforts in the Afghanistan Districts, (North AEN and South AES), continues to be a high priority of the Corps. Current vacancies include Area Engineer, Resident Engineer, Project Engineer, Construction Representative and Engineering Technicians and, in lesser numbers, Program Manager, Financial Managers, Accountants, Budget/Program Analyst & Realty Specialist, Contract Specialist, as well as others. Most of these positions are at the GS-11 or higher grade level.

There is a critical vacancy for a Chief, Construction Branch, GS 801-14 (801, 810, 808, 830, 850) in Kabul, from March 2011 through September 2012. There is also another critical vacancy for an Area Engineer GS 801-14 (801, 810, 808, 830, 850) at the Shank Area Office, for a period of 7 months, from September 2011 through March 2012.

If there are contractors, non-Federal government employees, interested in deploying to Afghanistan, Schedule A appointment is a special approving authority that OPM issued. This allows the hiring of individuals in direct support of the Overseas Contingency Operations mission in Iraq or Afghanistan only. These appointments are temporary in nature and will not confer any employment rights to federal service.

Interested candidates should contact their District's Deployment point of contact in the Emergency Management Office.

SWF Amber Lamkin (817) 886-1443
SWT Kerri Stark (918) 669-7431
SWG Gus Marinos (409) 766-3956
SWL Tony Hill (501) 324-5695
SWD Mary G. Thomas (469) 487-7115

We are proud of the volunteer efforts of our Pacesetters, whether having served, serving now, or preparing to serve this year. Together, we can provide solid support our Nation's missions. 

Mary Thomas contributed to this story.

Tri-service facility ready to serve military, nation

By Edward Rivera, Fort Worth District

With the March 4 ribbon cutting ceremony for the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute at Fort Sam Houston, Texas a new era in inter-service teamwork will begin as the 150,000 square-foot facility will house medical research teams from the Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

The \$111 million laboratory and research facility broke ground in January 2008 and is one of four major components under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, Medical Construction Program. Built adjacent to the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research on the Brooke Army Medical Center campus, together both facilities will comprise the BHT.

“The BHT was USACE’s first ever delivery of a major medical facility project using the integrated design-bid-build delivery method,” said David Thomas, director, San Antonio Joint Program Management Office. “Combined with the research center’s complexity, the project proved to be very challenging for the entire project team and required unprecedented

levels of coordination and cooperation.”

Thomas said the USACE project and construction management teams worked tirelessly to develop a state of the art design that translated to the highest quality of construction in the field.

“As schedule pressures grew, the USACE project teams identified acceleration and work around strategies that ensured the trauma research missions re-located on-time from locations throughout the country in accordance with BRAC mandated legislation,” explained Thomas.

Units moving to the BHT came from Great Lakes, Ill.; Bethesda, Md.; and Brooks-City Base. The units located in the BHT are: the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, Naval Medical Research Unit – San Antonio, the U.S. Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service and the U.S. Army Dental and Trauma Research Detachment. The building will provide space for 230 researchers and staff support, with three floors of laboratory and administrative space and one floor that houses a vivarium.

According to Mike Feeley, BRAC program manager for USAISR, construction of the new facility was a daunting task involving close coordination between the architects, the construction contractor, the Corps, the Joint Medical Facilities Office and the BHT units.

“Over the course of the design and construction, countless issues had to be resolved in order to ensure the delivery of a facility that will serve researchers for decades to come,” said Feeley.

While this project had its challenges, it did earn the District’s Project Delivery Team of the Month Award for August 2008 for an on-time award.

Glenna Wheatley, BHT project manager, said, in addition to the timely award of the project, the adherence to acceptable budget increases was attributable to a unified team effort.

“An informal partnering relationship developed among all members of the PDT, the stakeholders, and the customers. Cooperation among District members, the installation Directorate of Public Works, the customers, and the local utility companies in San Antonio allowed seemingly insurmountable obstacles to be overcome,” said Wheatley. “The professionalism of the Project Delivery Team in handling the unique characteristics of the project and managing the obstacles encountered was commendable.” 

At Left, Major Gen. James Gilman, commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command along with Herbert Coley, Senior Executive Service, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Medical Command, Air Force Major Gen. Gerard Caron, Assistant Surgeon General for Dental Services and Rear Adm. Elaine C. Wagner, director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy, Chief of Naval Operations signal the official opening of the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute during the March 4 ribbon cutting on Fort Sam Houston, Texas.





Teammate — a member of the same team

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

Senior leaders from the Fort Worth district recently returned from one of our most important TDY trips we make annually – the update briefings and meetings with the Texas Congressional members of the U.S House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. In addition to the members from this great state, we also had the opportunity to monitor several other briefings and hearings that involved other USACE Divisions and Districts.

Our meetings and briefings to the Congressional delegation are vital exchanges on the issues and concerns within their respective Congressional districts as well as the progress and support we provide to our partners and fellow teammates. It is also an opportunity for feedback and in many cases praises for a job well done. During our discussions, it struck me that as great as our district is, much of our mission success would not be achievable without the longstanding relationships and partnerships we maintain with other agencies, local governments, stakeholders and our overall surrounding communities.

One of the key aspects with respect to relationships is understanding our teammates' perspective... and I mean teammate. We often use the term customer, partner or client, but truly, everyone with whom we interact, or to whom we provide services, products or facilities is a true teammate. The word Teammate means... a member of the SAME team.

Our team is comprised of various players who bring their own special skills and perspective to collaboratively achieve a common goal. Every teammate is an integral member of the team. Once we understand what is important to our teammate, we can better understand how to let them know we understand, while simultaneously remaining focused on a common goal. Our mission to provide an honest and unbiased professional engineering judgment and let them know what is possible within authorities, resources and time rather than provide a response that they want to hear.

My wife, Nina, and I have been married for over 20 years and as we look back at some of the challenging periods in our relationship these challenges were almost always a result of a lack of communication. One of us thought we knew what the other was thinking or we failed to ask what was important to each other at that specific time, or we just took each other for granted. When we fail to take our teammates perspective into account it may lead to strained or poor communications and friction within the relationship. People often wonder what is the toughest year of a relationship. I say it's the year you're currently in... Meaning relationships require constant care and attention. Let's keep that in mind as we work with our teammates. I encourage everyone to read a great book on professional relationship is entitled "Relationships 101" by John C. Maxwell. It is a short but powerful book.

A 'snapshot' of the many key missions in the Fort Worth District and the partnerships and relationships surrounding those missions are greatly influenced primarily by the continued support from our constituents and funding from Congress and secondarily by how we

execute those missions.

The Fort Worth District's has responsibility for water resources development for two-thirds of Texas; military design and construction in Texas as well as parts of Louisiana and New Mexico; and a substantially significant Civil Works mission. Our partnerships continue to grow and each of you in the district family is responsible for helping us foster and sustain those relationships and partnerships. As budgets get tight, some of our teammates have choices of whom to turn to for services, products and facilities. Every district staff member needs to nurture existing relationships, build new ones, so those who have a choice choose us, the Fort Worth District. How you treat a teammate today may determine whether or not we have future work.

Two of our key teammates we work with hand in hand locally and continue to build relationships with are the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth and their surrounding communities. Our district has responsibility for the dam and levee safety programs that so greatly impact the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex. It continues to be our goal to identify and confront the challenges we encounter, keep open and transparent communications with our teammates, ensuring we work to achieve a common vision... which is ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens.

Closely aligned with our work with the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex are also local, state and federal government agencies that include the Texas Water Development Board, the Trinity River Authority, the Trinity River Vision Authority, the Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Federal Highway Administration, Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, just to name a few.

We take great pride in the partnerships with those in the Dallas-Fort Worth immediate area. Additionally, we will also continue to build great relationships with the cities of Austin, San Antonio, El Paso and Laredo to name a few, as we complete civil works projects such as Mission Reach; and a multitude of military construction projects (Army and Joint Services) around those communities of Fort Bliss, Fort Hood, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Polk and Joint Base San Antonio.

We have many district team members and leadership assigned and working at off-site locations away from District Headquarters. These numerous project sites, as well as all of our lakes and projects are also critical to establish partnerships and relationships. These off-site locations and work areas are key to what makes the Fort Worth District successful and labels us as the 'git r done' district.

Do we have challenges with our teammates? Of course we do, and just as with our personal life challenges, we will work through and overcome them together as a team.

It is often said, "if it's hard, give it to the Fort Worth District, they

continued on next page

continued from previous page

can do it.” You should all take pride in this because it is YOU who make it happen. We work extremely hard and sometimes forget what we do and how we do it impacts the state of Texas, our teammates, communities and the nation.

As Fort Worth District team members, please know that each of you are critical to that positive partnership direction. I encourage all to keep striving to foster those relationships as we continue to move our district from Good to Great. 

“Belton” *continued from page 5*

walls contained within the stilling basin.

Because water flowing to the river was now cut off, maintenance crews had to find a way to provide water to the City of Temple. This was accomplished by filtering water through a large pipe which runs from the conduit and ultimately to the Leon River and residents of Temple.

“The Leon River is our primary potable water supply so every drop of water that comes out of the dam is very important to us,” said Nicole M. Torralva, Director of Public Works for the City of Temple.

Miller stated that another scheduling component of the project was to schedule work requiring intermittent flow during the

autumn and winter months. This is the non-peak usage period where 13 to 15 million gallons of water are used by Temple residents per day. During high usage periods, this number reaches around the 25 million gallon mark per day.

According to Torralva, there could have been a huge impact to the quantity and quality of water as a result of the maintenance but through close coordination and early warning, the city was able to address the changes that would take place regarding flows and water quality. “There are operational challenges, but cooperative efforts on both ends have allowed for minimal disruptions in service to communities that rely on this water source,” Torralva concluded. 



Maintenance crews for the Belton Dam continue to de-water the spilling basin as part of periodic maintenance and inspections.

Meet Nova Robbins ...

SWD's 'Endowed Chair' with the RIT

Background: Started with the Alaska District April 2006, Afghanistan 2007-2010; Fort Worth District April 2010 as a Project Manager.

Current Assignment: "Endowed Chair" with the Southwestern Regional Integration Team, Washington DC.

In January I was offered the opportunity to spend a 90-120 day assignment serving with the Regional Integration Team as an "Endowed Chair" for the Southwest Regional Division at Headquarters. Currently I have been here 6 weeks and can definitely say that this is proving to be an excellent opportunity. Every day that I am here I gain insight to the entire Southwestern Division regarding policy requirements, processes, challenges and successes that all of our Districts encounter.

The unique opportunity to be involved with Limited Re-evaluation Reports, Alternative Formulation Briefings and Civil Works Review Boards are just a few of the experiences that I will be fortunate enough to participate in while I am here. The knowledge that I will be able to take back to my Division and District will be invaluable to understanding the requirements and thinking through our processes.

Our organization is in a changing environment and the opportunity to view policy from a different organizational perspective has provided me priceless information on the importance of our mission and the policies and laws that guide us in our everyday decision making.

I would encourage all Southwestern Division Personnel, if they are presented the opportunity, to participate. It's a very dynamic and exciting time for the Corps of Engineers and this is proving to be a great opportunity that will contribute greatly to continued successes for the Southwestern Divisions mission. 



Diversity in the workplace

By A.J. Carter, EEO Officer, Southwestern Division

Diversity is a commitment to recognizing and appreciating the variety of characteristics that make individuals unique in an atmosphere that promotes and celebrates individual and collective achievements. Examples of these characteristics include but are not limited to the following: cognitive style and creative thinking, culture, disability (mental, learning and physical), ethnicity, gender and language(s) spoken.

Educating managers and staff on how to work effectively in a diverse environment not only helps the Southwestern Division prevent the "perception" of discrimination, especially at the decision making levels throughout the organization, and it also promotes acceptance and inclusiveness.

There is research evidence that managing a diverse work force well can contribute to increased retention rates, productivity and organizational profits. Likewise, diversity can enhance the organization's responsiveness to an increasingly diverse world of customers and improve business relations with stakeholders. In addition to contributing to these business goals, diversity can contribute to our goal of being the employer and engineering firm of choice providing public engineering services and delivering innovative, resilient, and sustainable solutions to the Armed Forces and our Nation. 

during the Iraq reconstruction on power supply issues, Karns outside the Green Zone and Flossman inside the zone. Flossman spent more than two years there as a contractor, his final assignment as chief engineer of facilities for the Projects and Contracting Office. He was in charge of providing a small city for their work: 600 rooms, office space, electrical power, and a dining facility to serve a working population of 2,000 in the Green Zone. He at one point hired USACE to renovate a seven-story building – his first close contact with USACE. Flossman ended up working for Karns in Fort Worth.

The ECSO in Fort Worth agreed to take on this task.

Electricity helps power counter-insurgency strategy

“There is no question that the consistent delivery of electricity to the Afghan people is a key element of the Counter-Insurgency (COIN) strategy,” said Col. Thomas H. Magness, Commander, Afghanistan Engineer District-North. “The fact that we could do this by leveraging the resources of USACE, in this case the Fort Worth District, is a clear signal that this is a priority project, both here in Afghanistan and within the entire Agency.”

According to Gary Hinkle of the Omaha District, Fort Worth was brought on board because of its design capabilities and connections to nearby Jacobs Engineering Group. Hinkle normally works on hydropower for the Omaha District’s Operations Division. He was deployed last summer to Kabul in Afghanistan Engineer District-North as project manager for the grid expansion.

The new requirements demand greater sophistication in building out the Afghanistan power system. Flossman said an Inspector General’s report found a need to standardize transmission lines and substations from the earlier patchwork system built by various agencies and governments. This requirement will be met in part by turning to sole-source providers of key hardware to reduce operations and maintenance issues as the grid is expanded. Making the system sustainable for Afghanistan’s future is an important goal. There will also be an effort to standardize substations to three or four designs and to build with an eye to continuing capacity expansion.

“In Iraq, we often met the requirements without looking at growth,” said Flossman. “Six months later we were hammered by Iraqis for lack of foresight.” Newly built transmission towers couldn’t handle extra lines or pipes were too small to accommodate expansion and growth.

The grid expansion, by agencies other than USACE, is running about two years behind schedule and this has brought tension to local communities between what the government has been promising and what it has been delivering, Flossman said.

“There’s a real urgency for this project to get it done,” he said.

Funding and policy challenges

The initial call to the Corps had been to turn around and develop an RFP with a 10 percent design for the project that was ready to advertise in about 60 days. A late policy change, however, slowed the project pace as the funding source changed and scope expanded. “Now we’re providing a 30 percent design with the package as well,” Flossman said. Delivery deadline for

this package was set at February 2011.

The Commander’s Emergency Response Program in Afghanistan was expected to fund the expansion. The discretionary fund is used by commanders on the ground for important non-military projects that benefit the people. A new policy greatly reduced the amount of money commanders could quickly allocate.

“This program continues in that spirit, even though the delivery will be different,” Hinkle said. Under the revised plan, a request for proposal ready to advertise will be prepared so that USAID or international donors will have a ready-made project to fund and carry forward.

Corps project managers are well aware of the importance delivering electricity has to counterinsurgency effort. Once the lines are installed there is a surge of demand as Afghans find out how useful it is for cooking, refrigeration and supplying water.

Providing power to Kandahar City is a major priority for the Afghan and U.S. governments with several initiatives planned as part of a Power Initiative that will increase power generation and distribution to the city over the next three years. To assist Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), the Afghan national power utility company, both USAID and USACE’s Afghanistan Engineer District-South have contracts underway. The South District is constructing two diesel generation power plants on the east and west sides of Kandahar City to help jumpstart the economy. These diesel plants are an interim measure until a longer-term solution is in place to provide sustainable power to Kandahar City – a solution which includes improvements at Kajaki Dam. The improvements at Kajaki Dam are being managed by USAID, along with other projects to improve power generation and transmission in Kandahar. The anticipated future connection of the Southern Electrical Power System to the NEPS is necessary to bring more than 160 MW to Kandahar City, which is critical for increasing the overall efficiency and capacity of the national grid and helping to create a vibrant economy for Kandahar City and southern Afghanistan.

One of the planned transmission lines will run from Baghlan in the north of the country south through Bamiyan and Wardak to Ghazni. Another will serve Parwan, Panjshir and Kapsia north of Kabul.

The importance of electric power is underlined by an example provided by the Asian Development Bank. The Marco Polo Shoe Factory in Kabul employs 60 people and produces thousands of sandals a day. The monthly cost of diesel to power its generators was costing the company as much as its labor, consuming 20 liters of fuel per hour. The addition of reliable, low-cost power enables the factory to buy more machines and hire more people.

“We’re trying to make it a valuable contribution to the people of Afghanistan, something we can be proud of,” Flossman said. 

Jim Frisinger is a USACE public affairs specialist with the ECSO in Fort Worth.

BEYA Conference: *Making significant contributions*

By Kendrick Adam, mechanical engineer, Fort Worth District

For more than 20 years, the Annual National Black Engineer of the Year Award STEM Global Competitiveness Conference has provided thousands of professionals and students the opportunity to network, exchange information, and discuss future opportunities in an effort to promote diversity and education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Throughout the conference, workshops and seminars introduced students to new leadership programs, diversity training, and career development activities. The Nation's most accomplished professionals shared personal revelations and experiences to encourage and inspire students to overcome challenges and obstacles they may face in today's shifting job market.

It is important for United States Army Corps of Engineers to continue to support and celebrate the Annual National BEYA STEM Global Competitiveness Conference efforts in linking the best and brightest technical minds in the country with employers both regional and national, one America, one future.

I attended the 2009 BEYA conference in Baltimore, Md., during my last semester as a Mechanical Engineering student at Tuskegee University, Ala. Dean Legand L. Burge, Jr. and Toya Dean made this trip possible to encourage graduating students having trouble finding jobs to attend and compete on a national level.

The conference was so empowering, spearheaded with a letter written by President Barack Obama which seemed to lift the spirits and spark a sense of pride throughout the student body in attendance. The conference concluded with the largest career fair I had ever attended. Companies from all over the world were there hosting presentations, accepting resumes, answering questions, and even holding interviews for potential hires. It was at the Annual BEYA Career Fair where I was discovered by the Corps.

Diversity is an essential key to the Corps' success and it is imperative to continue using helpful resources to fulfill our mission to provide a diverse force of engineers delivering innovative and sustainable solutions to the Nation. 

Boat show visitors quizzed about water safety

How many types of life jackets are there? This and nine other questions about life jackets were posed to children and adults in a quiz administered in January by personnel from Little Rock and Tulsa districts at the 2011 Boat Show

in Fort Smith, Ark.

The quiz is being used at regional water and boating safety events to help educate and inform people about the value of wearing a life jacket. Youngsters who take the quiz received a water

bottle with a water safety message in addition to other water safety goodies. Corps personnel helped test takers if they were stumped by any of the questions.

The partnership between the two districts has increased each year as regional water safety outreach expands. Little Rock's Rick Bradford and Tulsa's Rick Smither have been the driving forces, but natural resources staffs from both districts take part. In fact, nine natural resource specialists from four projects participated in this year's boat show.

While the Fort Smith show is an annual event, the facility was new.

"The new Phoenix Expo Center is really user friendly," said Tommy Greenfield of Little Rock District's Blue Mountain Field Office. "It allowed us to make more contacts to get our water safety message to the public. The more people we contact the better chance we have to save lives."

Oh. Just in case you need a little help from the staff at the water safety booth, they say there are five types of life jackets. 



Tulsa Park Rangers Eric Summors and Craig Robbins administer a water safety quiz during the Fort Smith Boat Show.

Super Outdoor Expo planning links partners at all levels of government

By Randy Cephus, Fort Worth District



Super Outdoor Expo volunteer workers set up the event site despite the adverse weather conditions on Feb. 3. The event was later canceled due to continued inclement weather.

Safety was the driving force for the decision to cancel the Super Outdoor Expo which was to run in conjunction with Super Bowl XLV. The planned three day event running Feb. 3-5, was initially shorten to two days but when Mother Nature still would not cooperate and provided subzero wind chill conditions with more snow, the sponsors were forced to cancel the event.

Not all was lost, according to event planner and Fort Worth District Workforce Development Coordinator, Dorie Murphy. “Through the planning of this event, we forged new partnerships and strengthened many existing Federal, state and local agencies partnerships paving the way for future collaboration.”

The partners included Fort Worth Parks and Community Services, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers and Our Lands and Waters Foundation.

The Corps and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department decided in late September to do something to promote water safety, outdoor recreation and conservation. This nucleus soon expanded its outreach and partnered with Fort Worth Parks and Community Services to use a Fort Worth Park located near the ESPN Headquarters for Super Bowl coverage and began the process of inviting additional partners to participate in the event. Planning for the events and site logistics started in November and with just a three month planning window, the team quickly organized and began collaborating.

“To accomplish this scale of an event in such a short time, the team had to involve everyone right from the beginning so at our first partner meeting we asked Office of Counsel, Safety, security and other internal office as well as all potential partners,” said Murphy. “Having all our internal offices represented allowed for quick review, suggestions and often added support to handle the numerous tasked involved.”

As new people joined the team, Murphy added them to an email distribution and sent them the past meeting notes so they could quickly come up to speed and move forward with the planning.

According to Murphy, Super Bowl week was the driving force on timing this event, where the team wanted to capitalize on the anticipated crowds that would gather in Fort Worth to enjoy all the

pre-game hype and fanfare.

Murphy felt that there are many other activities that people could engage in to promote a healthy life style besides organized team sports. Texas has numerous parks, lakes, rivers, and other outdoor venues that promote a balanced and healthy lifestyle so the event would create a great opportunity to showcase these activities to a large audience.

Activities that were to be showcased during the expo included fishing, shooting sports, archery, live reptiles, a “dino-dig” kids corner, camping demonstrations and mountain biking.

Planned educational aspects of the expo were to included displays where visitors could learn about wildlife, migratory birds, state record fish, hydropower, disaster response, water resources and flood risk management, and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Lessons learned from the many hours of planning event exhibits, budgeting costs for support items, soliciting volunteers, and advertising the event will now shift to support events the Corps and its partners will host in the future.

Fort Worth District Park Ranger, Steve Perrin provided the muscle for the operation as he was responsible for ensuring all agencies achieved the event milestones. Perrin, along with

Murphy and other supporting staff conducted an After Action Review to capture the positives and negatives of each aspect of the event.

“This gives us a good template from which to plan future events and will help ensure every detail — large and small — is tasked to a responsible person and not overlooked,” said Perrin.

Perrin and his team have already initiated the lessons learned to the next planned event, Mayfest, which runs May 5-8. The Corps is co-sponsoring this event with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to provide public awareness to a myriad of outdoor activities. The event will take place at Trinity Park in downtown Fort Worth and is free to the public.

“We will be showcasing our lakes and parks as places for the public to come enjoy the outdoors in a safe and friendly environment,” said Perrin. 

Social media in Little Rock District: What's next?

By Jay Woods, Little Rock District

Little Rock District is among the growing number of organizations worldwide who have added social media to their communication tool belts. What are “social media”? While there is no hard and fast definition, social media typically blend technology and social interaction on the Internet. They differ from news media in that users can interact with the site and other users.

The district first entered the social media world in June 2010 when we launched a YouTube channel where we post videos about our missions, such as navigation, recreation and hydropower. By early February we had logged more than 4,000 views. But we didn't stop there.

There has been a good deal of command emphasis at all levels of the Corps to tap the potential communication value of social media, but there are hundreds or thousands of social media sites from which to choose — Twitter, Flickr, Facebook, My Space and even Digg.

The district's Leadership Development Class researched social media as a class project, and presented a recommendation to District Commander Col. Glen Masset that Little Rock establish a Facebook site that focuses on our recreation program. The commander concurred. Public Affairs took the class's work and developed a communications

plan to make our page “great.”

By focusing on recreation, the Facebook page can help our park customers plan a safe and fun family outing or vacation at one of our 25 bodies of water in Arkansas or Missouri. We post frequent updates from input provided by the Facebook PDT that was assembled during the planning stages. I had the pleasure of serving as team leader. Team members represent each of our water projects. Whenever activities are planned at their lake or if information needs to be communicated to park visitors or stakeholders, we post it on the Facebook page.

We launched the page in late January, and in only two weeks we had more than 160 people “liking” our site and had over 7,300 views. The PDT will help market the site to lake visitors and stakeholders. Ideas such as printing our Facebook address on camping and day use receipts, park maps, news releases and other venues are being considered to help get the word out. Once camping season arrives, we anticipate a dramatic increase in likes and views.

Now that we have a Facebook presence, what's next? Wait and see. *(Jay Woods is the social media contact for the Little Rock District.)*

Eagles make annual visit to lakes

This eagle was photographed at Cardinal Cove, Lake Texoma by ranger Jeremy Harvey. Hundreds of eagles winter at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes throughout the Southwestern Division.





Getting the 'biggest bang for the buck'

Col. Christopher W. Sallese
Commander, Galveston District

My Coastal Custodians, Welcome to the second quarter of fiscal year 2011 where we find ourselves still working with a bit of program uncertainty as we continue to execute operations under the CRA. The new Congress is now hard at work and they have made it clear to all government agencies that their priority is to reduce spending and decrease the nation's debt. So what does this mean for Galveston?

First, the days of the \$400-500 million program are over and I fully expect us to fall to a program somewhere in the \$200-250 million range in FY11 which is about what the district executed before the Ike storm and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplement dollars money came along to plus us up. I also expect the program to continue to drop some more in both FY12 and 13. The good news among all this uncertainty is that I believe the district personnel are organized around our core functions and in this time of uncertain budgets and programs we are right sized. That being said, we will still exercise our due diligence for future hiring to ensuring we remain efficient and do our part to help manage regional costs.

Second, the need to develop, maintain, and execute our schedules is more critical than ever. We have to accurately portray to everyone up the programming chain from Division to Congress that dollars allocated to the district are a great investment in the economy of the nation and that we as the custodians of those funds will get the taxpayer the "biggest bang for their buck."

We need to continue to tell our story to the public at every opportunity. I believe there is not another public agency that contributes to the holistic well being of the nation as much as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does. Sandra Arnold, the district's new PAO gets it!! Since her arrival in December, our coverage in the media is up by over 400 percent. Our Facebook site, is receiving a record number of hits each month and we getting new friends every day. The District is now a

member of the Houston-Galveston Chamber of Commerce. Who better to reach out and help tell our story than the businesses and industry that benefit from our active navigation, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration projects and regulatory program.

It is my great privilege to recognize and congratulate Franchelle

Craft for being selected by the Council of Engineering Deans of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine a "Modern-Day Technology Leader" during the 25th annual Black Engineer of the Year Award; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference. Franchelle is a shining example of all the hard working folks with the District.

Happy 131st Birthday Galveston District. The District was founded 1880 to facilitate the construction of the Houston- Galveston and Sabine ship channels, two of largest economic engines in the entire nation. Our mission has grown and become much more complex over the years but the constant force behind the district, the people, my coastal custodians, continue to exceed everyone's expectations. I am proud to lead such an awesome organization.

Spring is upon us, the tourist traffic on the island is picking up, the surfers are hitting the waves hard, the black drum are running, the boats and motorcycles are coming out of the garages and summer is just around the corner. Please take the time to review the water safety procedures published by the safety office and ensure your safety equipment is in tip-top condition. It is also a great time to go see your doctor and get your annual checkup just to make sure the old ticker is ready to deal with the heat and humidity of a Texas summer. You all are much too important to me, your family, your friends and your co-workers.

Remember Be Cool and Stay Safe!!! 



Reduce public fatalities by half? Why not?

Division commander sets 'bold' goal for this year

By Sara Goodeyon, Pacesetter editor, Tulsa District

A memorandum from the Southwestern Division commander calling for a 50 percent reduction in public fatalities was a hot topic of conversation at the annual division Water Safety Conference Jan. 20-21 in Dallas.

Many were wondering how on earth Col. Thomas W. Kula's "bold" goal for 2011 could possibly be met; there have already been fatalities at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects this fiscal year and isn't everything possible already being done to protect the public?

"We can do more," said Kula during remarks to water safety representatives from across the division. "We can achieve this goal through working smarter, not necessarily harder. It calls for greater cooperation, and collaboration with those agencies, community leaders, and organizations that can assist in getting the message out for something we all want — to save lives. It's not going to cost money. Go back and look at each death — it can be tied back to a cause [such as the victim] being untrained, complacent, overconfident, undisciplined. Somebody can help prevent this."

Acknowledging that Corps rangers do what they do because they have a passion for the job, Kula told them to unleash that passion and go after the goal. "Saving lives is so important. Why not give this big, bold goal a shot? It's not a report card. I want us to believe we can make a difference, and at the end of this fiscal year I want you all to say 'we did everything we could,'" said Kula.

Breaking it down

Districts have been using old and new tools to analyze data about public fatalities at Corps projects. The data varies from district to district, but what is important is that this information gives insight into the age and gender of who is most likely to drown at a Corps lake, where, at what time, and on which day. For instance, data indicates that for Tulsa District, men over age 18 are most at risk in the early evening hours of a Saturday. Districts can take this data and target their messages.

The division is using Geospatial tools to collect some data. The vision is for this information to be available so that commanders can actually see a map of where fatalities have occurred at a given project. There will be a common format across districts and the capability to analyze the data.

These tools will allow districts to "work smart" and do exactly what Kula asked. It will be possible to go back and tie a cause to the death and then work to prevent such deaths in the future.

Protect the public

Much has been done to try and keep the public safe at Corps projects. Rangers conduct boat safety checks, do outreach to local communities, lead "Train the Trainer" programs, conduct enforcements and have face-to-face contact with visitors. There are life jacket loaner boards at Corps lakes, and volunteers and

student interns also have face-to-face contact with visitors.

There is coverage of the water safety message by conventional media such as print, radio and television, and the message is being presented through emerging media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Fort Worth District has had success with the YouTube video "Cassidy's 21st Birthday" which focuses on the danger of cliff jumping, and another water safety video is almost complete. Tulsa District mounted a water safety media campaign through traditional and emerging media that reached more than 4.5 million people in 2010.

The biggest challenge seems to be reaching the highest risk group — young men. This group tends to over-estimate their abilities, fail to wear life jackets, and consume alcoholic beverages while boating. Getting a message to this group and modifying their behavior would dramatically reduce public fatalities at Corps projects. That could involve collaborating with new groups and organizations to influence their perception about water and boating safety. It will also involve using the new GIS data to determine where the fatalities are occurring and the circumstances surrounding them. A way must also be found to make wearing a life jacket "cool."

Steal shamelessly

Face it. Good ideas for communicating to the public can be hard to come by so members of the division water safety team agreed it is best to "steal shamelessly" from one another. Basically, if another district is doing something and it is working, the marching orders from the division water safety team are to "copy it."

There are a lot of ideas out there that are working. The Fall River Lake Project Office in Kansas was recognized at the conference (and later at the International Water Safety Summit in Savannah, Ga.) for their ideas, which included having the message "Pop into your PFD" printed on popcorn bags that were then distributed to area schools to use when handing out popcorn at sporting events. Fall River also reached out to the military by manning a water safety booth at the McConnell Air Force Base Air Show, an event that attracted more than 4,000 visitors. Galveston District is planning "April Pools Day" for April 1 to highlight the importance of water safety at pools as well as at Corps lakes.

It is also important for district water safety teams to work with Corps partners like S.A.F.E. Kids, the National Safe Boating Council, the National Water Safety Congress, the "Wear It" campaign and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to get the water safety message out to the recreating public. These agencies have a wealth of resources available for use by the Corps.

continued on next page

Looking forward

The 50 percent reduction in public fatalities goal set by Col. Kula is not about meeting metrics or achieving a “green” rating. It is about reducing public fatalities and improving public safety. “My desires are to fuel our passion for safety, come up with new innovative ways to educate the public, and partner with our community leaders, volunteers and other who help us,” said Kula in a memo to division employees. “We are all safety officers, and I want safety to be emphasized to everyone visiting our lakes, recreational areas and public facilities.”

Reduce public fatalities by half? Why not? 



Southwestern Division Commander Col. Thomas W. Kula, center, handed out awards during the Southwestern Division Water Safety Conference to several division employees in recognition of their efforts to inform the public about water safety.

The weather is warm, but the water is cold

By Jay Woods, Little Rock District

The weather is getting warmer, and the fish are biting. Many boaters are heading out to enjoy a warm, sunny day. However, the Army Corps of Engineers cautions boaters that although the weather is getting warmer, lakes and rivers are still cold. Immersion in cold water can, well, get you into “hot water” very quickly.

Extra caution should be taken for the next few weeks. Always wear a life jacket, even when launching your boat. In an emergency, a life jacket will keep you afloat. It can also help conserve body heat and delay the onset of hypothermia. For instance, last year the average temperature of Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas in March was 42 degrees. Water that cold will quickly sap energy from even a strong swimmer.

If your boat gets loose while trying to launch it, which happens sometimes even to veteran boaters, do not swim to catch it. Get help from another boater. Wind and currents can quickly move your boat farther away. The cold water will limit even a strong swimmer, and you can quickly find yourself in deadly trouble.

Boaters intend to be in the boat, not in the water. But you can unexpectedly wind up in the water for any of a thousand reasons. Cold water can quickly limit your chances of survival. So be prepared — wear your life jacket. Other tips for boating in cold water include:

- Dress warmly with wool clothing or other fabrics that do not readily absorb water.
- Wear rain gear and stay dry.
- Seek a warm environment at the first sign (mild shivering) of hypothermia.
- Be aware of activity around your boat and the potential for fast-changing weather.
- Be sure your boat is in good operating condition and has necessary safety equipment.

For more information about water safety, visit the Little Rock District Website at www.swl.usace.army.mil or check out the district’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/littlerockusace.

USACE deputy chief of staff speaks at Women's History Month observance

By Nate Herring, Tulsa District

Sara Goodeyon was named the Tulsa District Woman of the Year during the Federal Women's Program held March 8, 2011 at the Tulsa District headquarters.

Goodeyon, who works in the district's public affairs office, was recognized for her contributions both at work and in the community.

"There are a lot of deserving women at Tulsa District who could be the National Women's History Month Women of the Year. I am humbled and grateful at receiving this honor," she said. "Congratulations to the other nominees and the winners for their contributions that brought them this recognition. Thanks also to the Equal Employment Opportunity office and the Federal Women's Program Committee for sponsoring this program."

In addition to Woman of the Year, Bill Johnson, operations division, tech support/hydropower, was named as Mentor of the Year and Raye Thornton, office of counsel, was named as Administrative Support Employee of the Year.

The guest speaker for the program, which had the theme, Our History is Our Strength, was Cheryl Partee, deputy chief of staff for the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters.

Partee spoke about overcoming adversity in her own career and how each woman is in charge of her own destiny.

"From my own history, I have gained strength through continuous learning and taking control over my own destiny," she said. "Your struggle may be professional or personal but it is up to you to either accept what life throws at you or find a way to deal with it, learn from it, and then turn it into something positive."

Goodeyon also echoed the importance of how having positive role models and support can help a woman succeed.

"I especially identify with this year's theme, Our History is Our Strength, because I come from a line of strong women who set a great example for me, most notably, my mother," she said. "I also had inspiration from many professional mentors through the years. Their achievements were an example to me of the kind of women I should aspire to become. My husband, my children and my co-workers also inspire me to work toward being a better person." 



From left, Trisha Huffe, Administrative Support Employee of the Year nominee, Felicia Fisher Administrative Support Employee of the Year nominee, Michelle Horn Women of the Year nominee, Dawn Oliphant, Administrative Support Employee of the Year nominee, Shellie Pearson, Administrative Support Employee of the Year nominee, Raye Thornton, Administrative Support Employee of the Year recipient, and Bill Johnson, Mentor of the Year recipient.

Photo top right, Cheryl Partee, deputy chief of staff for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters, guest speaker at the Women's History Month observance, receives an award of appreciation from Tulsa District Commander Col. Michael Teague.

Photo bottom right, Sara Goodeyon, Women of the Year recipient, receives her certificate from Col. Teague.



Pacesetter Points

Congratulations

Tulsa District's ACE-IT office welcomed **Kari Barr** as the new Operations Officer Dec. 20. The position was previously called the customer Relationship Manager. Barr has worked in Tulsa District for several years in the IMO office and most recently as the Southwestern Division ACE-IT Integrated Product Services Division Supervisor.

Tulsa District welcomed **Gregory Sowle** as Chief of the Military Design Section, Design Branch. Sowle is a registered architect with nearly 14 years experience including both private industry and the Tulsa District Design Branch. Sowle is a licensed architect, is a LEED accredited professional and a licensed interior designer.

Joe Hrametz, Galveston District's Navigation Branch chief, was promoted to the district's Operations Division chief in January.

Paul Orr, assistant lockmaster at Galveston District's Colorado River Locks, who welcomed his fifth granddaughter, Lilly Elizabeth Landry, to the world Feb. 7. Lilly, who was born to Orr's daughter Candice and her husband Johnpaul Landry, weighed 10 pounds, 6 ounces.

Galveston District Natural Resources Specialist **Kris Brown**, whose daughter Jenny and son-in-law Tim Dobson welcomed son, Pierce Dobson, in late November. Dobson weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and is Brown's first grandchild.

Franchelle Craft, a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Galveston District, for being selected to be recognized as a Modern-Day Technology Leader at this year's 25th BEYA Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Global Competitiveness Conference. Modern-Day Technology Leaders are men and women who demonstrate outstanding performance in their fields.

Mallery Williams, granddaughter of James Clemons, Architectural Technician, Fort Worth District Architectural Dept, a junior at Philadelphia University was accepted to attend the International Christian University in Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan in summer and fall 2010.

Jake Ellison, ranger trainee, Lake Eufaula, welcomed Gatlin Cole Ellison, March 1, 2011, weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 21

and three-quarter inches long. Mark Ellison, Red River Area OPM, is the proud grandpa.

Arrivals

Sandra Arnold arrived at the Galveston District in December to assume the position of the chief of public affairs following the completion of a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan as the Public Affairs Advisory Team director at NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan's Regional Command-North.

Patrick Spoor arrived at Galveston District in late November to assume the position of chief of the district's Safety Office.

Robin Horsely, Administrative Assistant, Executive Office, SWD.

Capt. Jeremy Button, Aide de Camp, Executive Office, SWD

Magdalena (Maggie) Rivera, Administrative Assistant, Readiness and Operations, SWD

SFC James Williams, FEST-A, SWD

Paul Limvorratre, FEST-A, SWD

Departures

Rebecca Sullivan, Programs Directorate, SWD, to Fort Hood, Texas

Capt. Jared Ulekowski, Aide de Camp, separated from service

Retirement

Rob Hauch, a physical scientist with the Galveston District's Environmental Branch, retired in December after 30 years.

Little Rock's **Daniel Patterson Sr.** of Dewitt, Ark., retired Dec. 3 from his job as a lock and dam operator after 23 years.

Little Rock's **Patrick Jordan** retired Dec. 30 from Little Rock District after 24 years.

Bill Jakeway, a civil engineer in the Galveston District's Project Operations Branch, retired December 31 after 26 years.

Tulsa District's **Steve McCarn**, an employee of ACE-IT, retired Dec. 31.

Little Rock's **James Beard** of Pea Ridge, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from his job as operations manager of Clearwater Lake near Piedmont, Mo., after 40 years.

Little Rock's **Billy Calloway** of Pine Bluff, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from his job as a survey technician after 32 years.

Ron Carman of Little Rock, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from his job in Programs and Project Management after 24 years.

Little Rock's **Robert Lance** of Mountain

Home, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from his job as an engineer technician after 33 years.

Little Rock's **Jim Randell** of Hollister, Mo., retired Dec. 31 from his job as a power plant senior controller after 30 years.

Little Rock's **Rebecca Jane Smith** of Conway, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from her job as an emergency management specialist after 35 years.

Charles Tobin of Sherwood, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from his job as Little Rock District's emergency management chief after 41 years.

Little Rock's **James L. Webb** of Lavaca, Ark., retired Dec. 31 from his job as an engineering technician after 23 years.

Little Rock's **James Duck** of Vilonia, Ark., retired Jan. 1 from his job as a senior power-plant controller after 35 years.

Tulsa District's **Lloyd O. Lance**, Canton and Fort Supply Lake, retired in January after 35 years.

Wanda Cook, Programs Directorate, SWD
Peter Shaw, Programs Directorate, SWD
Angela Premo, Chief of Operations and Regulatory, SWD

Condolences

Tulsa District Internal Review Office Evaluator **Mitchell Stapleton** lost his father Dec. 23.

Former Tulsa District employee **Carl Sparks** passed away Dec. 21. Sparks worked at the Tinker Air Force Base Resident Office and at other offices throughout the district.

Bruce Orvis, husband of Tulsa District retiree **Janice Orvis**, passed away Jan. 15.

Tom Gay, a geologist with the Tulsa District Engineering Division, passed away Jan. 24.

Robert Lewis, Tulsa District Logistics Office, lost her father Jan. 25.

Ralph (Rip) Van Winkle, spouse of **Sally Van Winkle**, Tulsa District Eastern Area Office administrative assistant, passed away Feb. 3.

D.C. Williams, Tulsa District retiree from Pine Creek, passed away Feb. 2. John Dow, retired administrative officer for Lake Texoma and the Denison Powerhouse, passed away Feb. 15.

Arthur Freeman, 94, retired Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District Real Estate Division, died Feb. 18.

Mark McMurry, Office of Counsel, SWD, on the loss of his mother Mrs. Betty McMurry.