

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

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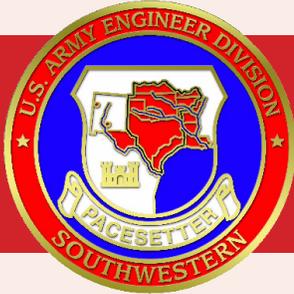
# **PACESSETTER**

APRIL — JUNE 2011

Vol. 6, No. 2

## **April showers bring May dozers at Table Rock Dam**





## Pacesetter

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

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

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## On the cover

**Quality Assurance Representative Carroll Osburn of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers monitors repair work on Table Rock Dam. Repairs are necessary because recent heavy rains caused surface "skin" slides of topsoil that covers the embankment.**



## Also Inside

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# Have a safe and enjoyable Summer and strong 4th Quarter

**Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula**  
**Commander, Southwestern Division**

**A**n extraordinary model of teamwork emerged this Spring, as the Southwestern Division responded to spring flooding events in both the Little Rock and the Tulsa districts. Rainfall in April and May resulted in record river stages and record flood pool levels throughout eastern Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, southern Missouri, and all of Arkansas, and a resulting well-coordinated, effective response by those two districts. Fort Worth District augmented with staff from several functional areas, including water management—the technical expertise to do it right—and public affairs to handle the news requests, social media requirements, and public interaction.

Interaction was key. The Corps worked closely with many people and agencies, locally and regionally. These included the U.S. Geological Survey as well as the National Weather Service. Equally important: the work with local and regional emergency management agencies and local officials to ensure that the public was kept

both informed and safe. All of the nurturing of these partnerships paid off, and the result was better support to the local communities and the public.

Well done, to the entire Southwestern Division team! Through your dedication, expertise, and ceaseless efforts, you showed to the Corps and the Nation how to get it done, and done right!

Our next challenge could very well be a hurricane, as the 2011 Hurricane Season kicked off on June 1. We need to make sure that we are prepared to provide the same kind of teamwork in support of Galveston and Fort Worth Districts as we showed with Little Rock and Tulsa.

Another subject that involves water and teamwork has not been as promising, and that is our Water Safety Program. While our current Fiscal Year 11 water safety statistics are somewhat disheartening, all of you still can make a difference. A tremendous amount of work has already been done, but we can't stop there;

the summer recreation season has just started! We need to be looking at more collaboration with local officials, increased media outreach, and better use of our resources to ensure that of every Pacesetter sets an example and plays a role in water safety at our lakes and recreation areas. Make sure we get our Volunteers and gate attendants involved to help the cause!

Finally, as we approach the last quarter of this fiscal year, we all need to refresh our understanding of and refocus our support to the SWD Top Priorities. This is what it's all about for SWD right now, and I ask you to really hone in on these priorities as the fiscal year winds down:

- ❑ **Deliver BRAC.** It's our top priority for many reasons, and we have some fantastic momentum. Keep it going; as always we deliver quality on time!
- ❑ **Establish our Dam Safety Program.** We made excellent strides as a result of great team work. Continue to aggressively implement our plan, analyze our future work load, and force the Dam Safety Production Center to start working. Demonstrate some early successes.
- ❑ **Execute our projects and fully use P2.** Deliver quality projects and programs, execute CAP, and make timely awards. We are all under close scrutiny to spend what's scheduled- I know the team will fight through challenges to do best possible.
- ❑ **Optimize FY12 Civil Works Operations and Maintenance program.** Manage FY12 and begin to set priorities for FY13. Optimization of available funding takes on a greater level of importance in this cycle we have entered of reduced funding.
- ❑ **Develop and maintain a coordinated regional strategic outreach program** to identify and strengthen relationships with regional stakeholders and customers. We do this at all levels through open and transparent communications.

Together, we can get it all done! Thanks for all you do every day! Pacesetters—Building Strong!



Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula, commander, Southwestern Division, poses with the Emerging Leader Class of 2011 at the Sr. Leader Conference Awards Banquet held in Arlington, Texas, April 2011. Class members include Eric Pedersen, Fort Worth District, Joe Harper, Little Rock District, Randy Devenport, Little Rock District, Jason Owen, Fort Worth District, Melanie Ellis, Fort Worth District, Melonie Zincke, Tulsa District, Esta Allen, Division Office, Keith Rice, Tulsa District, and Dana Coburn, Little Rock District.



**Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula's family all participated in the promotion ceremony. (Courtesy photo)**

# Kula's star shines bright over SWD

## Staff report

Southwestern Division Commander Thomas W. Kula was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on May 13 in a Dallas ceremony officiated by Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General Merdith W.B. Temple.

With SWD Pacesetter team members, family members, and distinguished visitors from both the military and civilian arenas in attendance, the promotion included several ceremonial events that mark reaching the ranks of a general officer.

Among the events were the placement of the new rank, presentation of the general officer belt, presentation of the side arm, and uncasing and unfurling of the general officer one star flag. Both family members and officials participated in these events.

Kula took command of the Southwestern Division on July 2, 2010.

He was born in North Chicago, Ill., and commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers and awarded a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1982. He holds a Master's Degree in Military Arts and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College.

Prior to assuming command of the Southwestern Division, Kula served as the Chief of Staff, Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Among his other previous assignments are Doctrine Writer and Tactics Instructor, U.S. Army Engineer School and Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Chief of G-3 Plans, 82nd Airborne Division and Executive Officer, 307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.; Military Assistant to the Undersecretary of the Army and Program Analyst for Force Structure, Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate, the Pentagon, Washington D.C.; and Commander, 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps, Hanau, Germany (OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07, IRAQ, September 2005-September 2006).



**Maj. Gen. Merdith W. B. Temple, then-deputy commanding general of USACE, administers the Oath of Office to Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula. (Courtesy photo)**



**USACE Command Sergeant Major Micheal Buxbaum, left, assists with the uncasing and unfurling of the one-star flag. Also taking part is Airman First Class Thomas Kula, right, Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula's son. (Courtesy photo)**

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with two oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with five oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (with one oak leaf cluster), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Combat Action Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Sapper Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Pathfinder Badge, the German Parachutist Badge, and the Army Staff Badge.



**SWT members of SWD regional team, from left: Vince Crifasi, Tyler Jones, Mark Webster, Rick Smith, John Lambert, Scottie Fiehler, Brenda Anderson, Ken Kebbell, Monique Ostermann (SPD), Bob Thurman, Ashley Allinder and Scott Weber.**

## SWD regional munitions team attains HQ USACE designation

*By B. Scott Weber, chief, Environmental & IIS Branch, Southwestern Division*

Building upon our successfully assisting the USACE Military Munitions Design Centers munitions cleanup assignments over the years, the Southwestern Division and the Fort Worth and Tulsa Districts formed a regional team in 2009 with a goal of assuming our own execution responsibility for this specialized work. This goal has now been achieved with the issuance of Fragmentary Order 2 to Operation Order 2010-49 (FY11 Military Programs Delivery), signed by Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, on May 11.

The FRAGO authorizes SWD resources the full authorities and responsibilities of a HQ USACE designated MMDC in conjunction with the former South Pacific Division Range Support Center (SPD RSC), now referred to as the SPD-SWD RSC, or simply the RSC. The four USACE MMDCs include Baltimore District, Omaha District, the Huntsville Center, and the RSC.

This approval successfully concludes a 15-year campaign to gain this designation. That the HQUSACE designation is of a regional nature is ideal in further uniting munitions remediation teams in SWF and SWT.

The path of this initiative began over two years ago after several unsuccessful SWD attempts in the past to gain entry into the USACE Military Munitions Support Services (M2S2) execution community, which is comprised of the four MMDCs. With the support of former SWD Commander Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, SWD submitted an initiative for HQ USACE consideration in June 2009.

The initiative's intent was to establish a new SWD Regional MMDC merging the talents of the Fort Worth and Tulsa Districts. The initiative was formally proposed to the Corps' Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, and based upon the following:

- ❑ a substantial current/projected MMRP workload within SWD's area of responsibility (AOR)
- ❑ a strong cadre of MMRP project management and technical resources
- ❑ a high degree of range construction and clearance expertise
- ❑ an enhanced regional holistic approach to SWD installation/client needs
- ❑ a proven capability in productively working with internal/external partners

The proposed SWD Regional MMDC would provide the USACE M2S2 community needed freeboard to immediately support any MMRP workload bubble within or outside SWD's AOR

General Dorko approved Fragmentary Order 23 to Operations Order 2008-21 in late July 2009, authorizing SWD regional MMDC authority "under the supervision and mentorship" of the SPD RSC for a two year test period. This two year period (FY10-11) performance has been

undergoing evaluation by HQ USACE to determine if SWD should become an independent center, formalize a permanent partnership with SPD, or return to the original status.

Earlier this year, SWD leadership decided that immediately pursuing HQ USACE approval of the permanent SPD-SWD partnership option made sense, considering the ongoing success of the test mentoring partnership.

Military munitions remediation is now an additional 'product line' that is officially recognized as another SWD area of expertise. Army and Air Force military munitions response programs, including the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program's munitions-related projects, are projected to increase in the out years.

The approval of this initiative is perhaps the most significant regional accomplishment and opportunity in the recent history of the SWD team's management and execution of environmental remediation programs. SWD resources are now in position to execute this growing workload within its AOR versus relying on USACE MMDCs that are outside of SWD. Keeping in mind that the four USACE MMDCs do not have prescribed AORs, SWD resources will also likely be afforded additional future assignments beyond SWD's AOR.

**SWF members of SWD regional team, from left: Scott Weber, Dave Bowersock, Emily Seidel, Frank McStay, Ken Kebbell, Steve Martin, Monique Ostermann (SPD), Karan Holmes, Vince Crifasi, Kevin DaVee.**





**Levee Program Manager Elmo Webb helps Grubbs, Ark., emergency operation officials set up a temporary levee to protect houses from the rising Cache River. The work was effective, and the levee held through the crest. (Army Corps of Engineers photo by Laurie Driver)**

## Floods happen quickly in SWL's mountain canyons

*By P. J. Spaul, Little Rock District*

The rain slowed in May, but not before setting off a chain of events that will go down in history. As flood crests gradually took shape on the Mississippi River in what some commentators referred to as “slow motion,” Little Rock District personnel had little more than minutes at times to respond to developments on two river systems under their jurisdiction.

Little Rock District operates six flood damage reduction lakes in the White River basin, which drains 28,000 square miles across a swath of southern Missouri and Arkansas before emptying into the mighty Mississippi. These lakes work in conjunction with downstream levees to reduce flood damage. The dams that form these reservoirs are built across mountain canyons where rain runoff plunges downhill. That is why when it happens, it happens fast.

The district also operates 13 navigation locks and dams and two flood damage reduction lakes in the Arkansas River basin in Arkansas. The entire basin, which originates high in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, drains 160,000 square miles before emptying into the ‘Big Muddy’ a dozen or so miles downstream of the White River’s confluence.

The first sign of impending trouble came Thursday, April 21 when Mike Biggs, chief



**Little Rock District Commander Col. Glen Masett (right) and Clearwater Lake Operations Manager Randall Devenport prepare for a stakeholders meeting April 29 as water was rising in the lake. (Army Corps of Engineers photo by P.J. Spaul)**

of Little Rock’s Reservoir Control Section, alerted several district personnel.

“As of noon today, NOAA is forecasting significant rainfall for the next five days... If rainfall materializes as predicted we will transition from minor drought conditions to flooding in some parts of the district...”

The forecast called for 3.5 to 11 inches of rain in the White River basin. Rain began falling over the weekend. By Easter Sunday, it appeared spillway releases might be necessary soon at Table Rock Dam. Personnel began notifying local emergency management officials.

The Hydraulics and Technical Services

Branch, including the Reservoir Control Section, Hydrology and Hydraulics Section, Survey Section and Programs Section, swung into high gear.

“Each section went into emergency response mode in order to respond to the heavy rainfall and rising lakes and rivers,” Biggs said.

It was still raining, and more rain appeared in the forecast for coming days.

The Public Affairs Office ramped up efforts and issued more news releases Monday, April 25. These contained public safety tips and cautioned people in low areas below the dams to consider moving belongings, livestock and equipment to higher ground ahead of time. People were urged to coordinate with local officials. Depending on the rain’s intensity, the public was cautioned there might be less than an hour’s notice if large spillway releases became necessary.

It appeared Clearwater Dam in southeast Missouri might fill to capacity in coming days and crest above the overflow spillway of this high risk dam. A contingent from the district office left early Friday morning to meet with emergency management officials and stakeholders at the Clearwater Project

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Office. Meetings with stakeholders and elected officials were held at various locations where the levels of other lakes were rising as well.

Those and many other precautions proved worthwhile. Property was spared, and lives were likely saved. By May 6, up to 22 inches of rain had fallen in large portions of the White River basin. Homes were inundated in the floodplains downstream. At Clearwater, the lake crested just inches below the rim of the overflow spillway.

Steve Bays, an engineer in the Reservoir Control Section, said the White River hit its highest crest at Newport (34.17 feet) since the first few lakes in the system were brought online about 60 years ago. By comparison, the stage at Newport topped that mark four times in less than 30 years from 1916 to 1945 before the system of lakes was in place.

Since they were constructed, those lakes and levees have prevented more than \$1 billion in flood losses, not counting this event because those estimates are yet to be prepared.

To help ensure success in downstream areas, the district provided flood fighting materials like sandbags, pumps and other supplies to local governments and levee boards.

“The district also provided technical assistance to the levee boards by evaluating and inspecting the levees, helping them decide how to protect the levees, and how to minimize damage to the levees”, Tony Hill, Little Rock’s chief of Emergency Management, said.

Significant rain also fell in the Arkansas River basin in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Flows climbed dangerously high to more than 300,000 cubic feet per second. To put this in perspective, small craft advisories are issued at 70,000 c.f.s. Five navigation locks were closed because of high water.

One of them was Murray Lock and Dam at Little Rock, where some docks from a commercial marina in a raging tributary upstream were torn loose from their moorings. Debris from the docks and damaged boats formed a trail of litter all the way to the lock.

“It (debris) caused us to shut down navigation at Murray Lock for safety reasons,” Chief of Navigation and Maintenance Brad Shoemaker said. The lock could not be reopened until crews surveyed the approach to ensure there were no submerged hazards



**(Above) Demolished docks and damaged boats litter the entrance to Murray Lock and Dam on the Arkansas River at Little Rock. The lock was temporarily closed until the navigation channel was surveyed. Flash flooding on a tributary upstream caused some docks from the River Valley Marina to break away from their moorings and float down the Arkansas River. (Army Corps of Engineers photo)**



**Rodney Raley, chief of natural resources at Table Rock Lake, talks with visitors at Table Rock Dam. During the spring floods, Table Rock Dam released water at a rate of about 68,000 cubic feet per second. This drew many onlookers. (Army Corps of Engineers photo by Bob Dahms)**

to navigation.

“Nothing was found so the lock is back in operation,” Shoemaker said.

As of press time, several district lakes were still nearly full, leaving them vulnerable to repeat rains that could cause repeat flooding. Engineers say it will take months to evacuate the 4 million acre-feet of floodwater captured and held in these lakes.

Another difficulty was that portions of many district parks remained flooded as Memorial Day weekend approached. These parks typically log about 30 million visits a year, and they are the centerpieces of a very large recreation and tourism industry. It could be some time before all facilities are

back in operation.

“We won’t know how much damage the parks have until the water goes down,” Dale Leggett, Little Rock’s chief of natural resources, said.

The Flood of 2011 will be remembered as one of historic proportions all along the Mississippi River Valley. And the people who live and work in the White and Arkansas River watersheds in Arkansas and southern Missouri will agree. It hit them same as it did those along the Mississippi River, only faster. And “Round 2” might be just around the corner in the White River basin.



# SWL demonstrates 'Value to the Nation' during spring floods

**Col. Glen A. Masset**  
**Commander, Little Rock District**

**T**here are so many of you in Little Rock District who unquestionably demonstrated your "Value to the Nation" during the floods in April and May that I hardly know where to begin. Your work reduced flood damage in Arkansas and Missouri by many millions of dollars, probably saved some lives, and certainly saved entire towns from the ravages of flooding.

There are several articles and photos in this issue of the Pacesetter that depict in greater detail the challenges you faced and overcame. My purpose with this article is to thank each of you who engaged in the flood fight. I also thank those of you who 'picked up the slack' on other work as your co-workers engaged the floodwaters.

We went from emerging drought conditions and low lake levels to torrential downpours that dumped as much as 12 to 22 inches of rain over large areas in just days. Five of the six White River basin lakes filled near or beyond capacity. Our lakes captured 4 million acre-feet of flood storage, enough to cover 4 million acres a foot deep, and prevented it from barreling downstream where it would have driven flood crests higher, spread out over more land and submerged whole towns.

Our Reservoir Control section went into 24/7 mode to ensure the water control plans were followed as conditions changed from minute to minute. They ensured every last drop of flood damage reduction capacity was squeezed out of the lakes. At the same time, they continued regulating our lakes and locks and dams in the Arkansas and Little River basins, where significant rain was also falling.

The water regulators remained very professional when talking to residents, although sometimes it was tough. It was hard to explain to someone whose house was being flooded that you had to take the whole system into account not just the area where they live.

Then before Table Rock Lake had even crested, surface "skin" slides of rain-soaked topsoil appeared on the downstream embankment. As it turned out, they did not threaten the integrity of the dam, but there were some tense moments. Tulsa District dispatched two engineers to assist our dam safety engineers in evaluating the situation. The project offices dealt

with wild rumors and snarled traffic as the public turned out in droves to see what was going on.

Flows on the Arkansas River climbed dangerously high at more than 300,000 cubic feet per second, prompting the closure of five navigation locks. A commercial marina in a raging tributary upstream from Murray Lock and Dam was torn loose from its moorings. Debris from the docks and damaged boats formed a trail of litter all the way to the lock.

Our lock operators and river maintenance crews went to work restoring navigation as soon as flows dropped enough for them to begin. Meanwhile down at Lock 2, the crews placed stoplogs to prevent water from flowing backwards through the lock and damaging the gates.

Our Emergency Operations Center went into high gear, as did several personnel from our project offices to support local communities and levee districts. We provided 433,000 sandbags, four pumps and 2,900 linear feet of HESCO, as well as expertise and manpower to save levees that protected towns and valuable cropland. True to the regional concept, several employees from Ft. Worth District came to assist in the EOC and in Public Affairs.

Meanwhile, 10 employees from the Little Rock District Office and our Greers Ferry and Mountain Home Project Offices walked levees around Jacksonport, Newport, and Grubbs, Ark. Clearwater Project Office worked with the local levee authorities at Poplar Bluff, Mo. Just about every project office provided support in some form or another.

The Public Affairs Office responded to a never-ending stream of calls from the news media, including several national media, as well as the general public. During this flood, PAO not only utilized news releases, interviews and the Internet to disseminate news, they also tapped into social media.

They responded to questions from concerned citizens day and night on Facebook, posted photos and accompanying information on Flickr where the news media and concerned citizens could access them, and the PAO crew working with the Visual Information staff even posted a video of work at Lock 2 on YouTube!

Meanwhile, just getting from one project to another was a task that often took many hours and many dozens of miles longer than normal because there were so many flooded roads. At times it seemed impossible just to get to work. Commutes that normally take no more than 20 or 30 minutes were taking hours. U.S. Highway 67/167 was flooded for days.

Then the Nation's main east-west artery, Interstate 40, flooded at the White River. About 32,000 vehicles a day, 16,000 of them heavy trucks, were detoured more than a hundred miles. Sometimes the detours were detoured because of flooding.

To everyone who was not directly involved in the flood fight, thank you for picking up the slack. Even though we were in a flood fight, we had many other important missions underway that could not be set aside. Without you we would not have been able to continue.

I am so very lucky to get to be the District Commander and Engineer here in Little Rock District. There is no doubt you have proven your 'Value to the Nation,' and you have spared many, many people the misery of flooding. Thank you!!!

## Before a Flood

### To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Avoid building in a floodprone area unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Contact community officials to find out if they are planning to construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the homes in your area.
- Seal the walls in your basement with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

# Dam Safety Production Center: Strengthening dams and the workforce

*By Sara Goodeyon, Tulsa District*

**W**ith an inventory of more than 650 dams, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers knows a thing or two about dam safety. With the advent of risk-based classification of its dams, the Corps has recognized the need to effectively address high priority dams and to maintain a pool of talent to do that work. Therefore, USACE headquarters has directed every Corps region to present a plan for how they will manage the high priority dams in their areas, and has decided that dam safety modifications will be maintained as a technical competency.

In response to this directive the Southwestern Division is in the process of standing up a Dam Safety Production Center, which will be based in Tulsa with a cell in Little Rock, and will receive input from all four districts. The center will provide a better means of addressing high priority dams in the region because Individual districts don't have enough of that work to do on their own.

"It should make things go more smoothly. Our dams are fairly unique to the Corps of Engineers. As the owners of those, the Corps is convinced that having the technical competency to do this work themselves is the best approach," said Clif Warren, Tulsa District, chief, Engineering and Construction. "We need to do more than review that work; we need to do that work."

Regionalization will allow the Southwestern Division to "grow" a workforce from entry level, to journeyman, to subject matter expert because there will be enough work for them to do to hone their skills. Warren said one example of the strictures of non-regionalization is the dam safety modification that was designed and completed for Tenkiller Dam in Oklahoma a few years ago and the design work now being done on Canton Dam. "If you look at those two projects, there is about ten or so years between them and therefore, many of the designers working on Canton are not the same folks that designed Tenkiller. For districts, the projects don't line up where you can learn from the previous project," said Warren.

Some of the engineering disciplines are available in private industry, but private industry tends to be conservative and expensive in its approach to dam modifications due to the liability and the risks involved.

"We need to have a capable workforce that will be able to address high priority dams with the correct solutions that are not overly conservative and wasting money, but keeping safety the main priority and safely implementing a correction that will buy down the risk," said Warren.

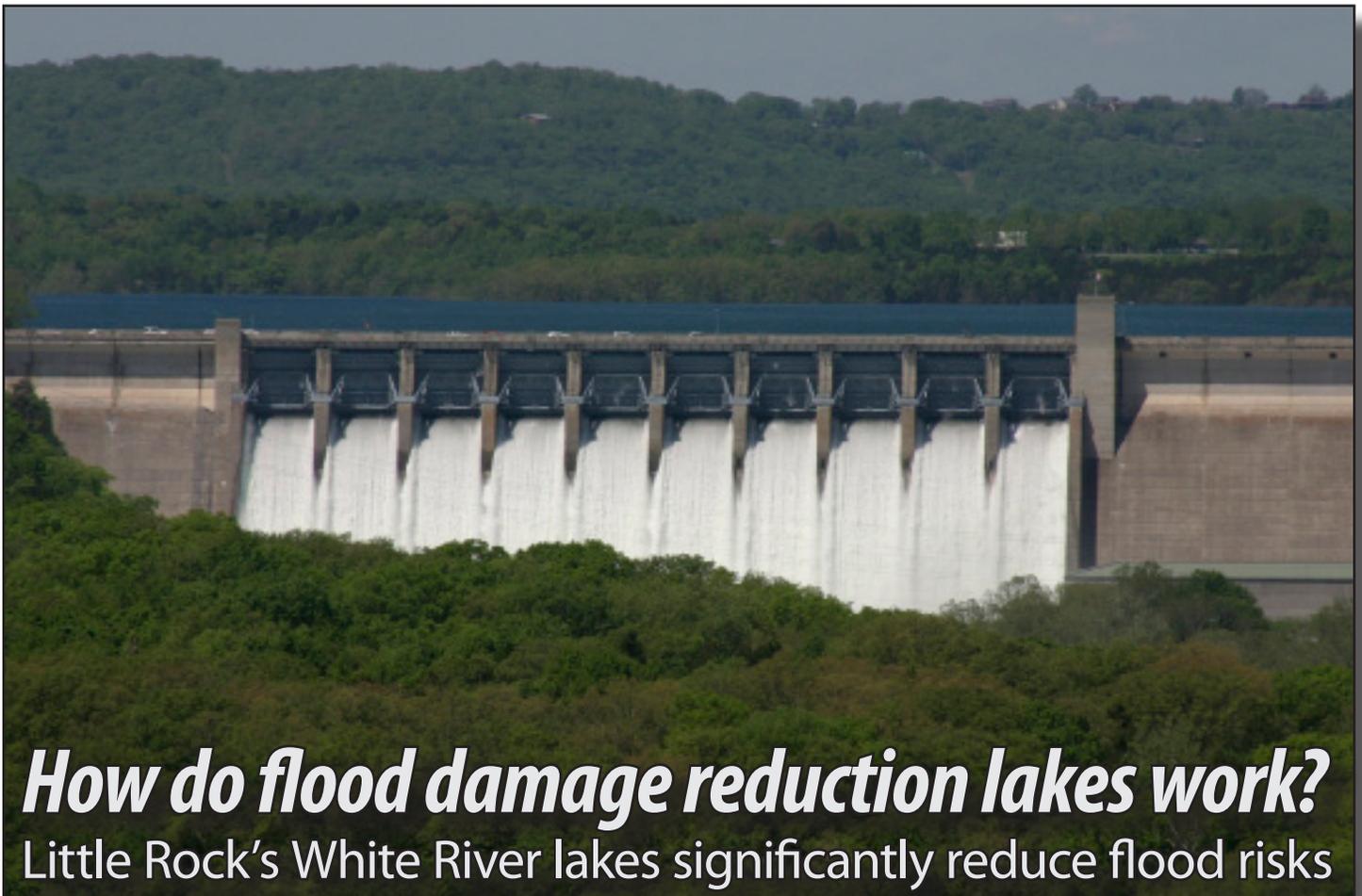
There are challenges. The division has one of the largest inventories of dams within the Corps and there is a lot of work that needs to be done. More work than there are people to do the work. There is also the issue of recruiting

talent and balancing the workforce with the income levels. And that persistent and pesky thing called the budget. "The priority for dam safety is there and I think the budget will include dam safety as one of the bigger priorities, but there is always an unknown with what the total budget will be," said Warren.

The Dam Safety Production Center could eventually become a stand-alone center reporting directly to our commander with its own resources, said Warren. For now though it is in its infancy, being nurtured along by existing district organizations and many of the existing resources as it is being stood up. "Kallie Clark, who is on a 120 day temporary detail as interim director to help stand up the center has done a tremendous job launching this new center," said Warren. Tulsa's Ramona Willig, deputy chief, Engineering and Construction Division, and Nancy Crenshaw, administrative officer, Engineering and Construction, and Wade Anderson, Tulsa's Dam Safety Program Manger, all helped with many of the issues and reorganization tasks. Individuals from the Resource Management Office were instrumental in helping get the new organization off the ground. Warren's counterpart, Tony Batey, chief, Engineering and Construction for Little Rock District, worked for a long time to get the center's cell organized there.

Tulsa's been mentioned a lot, but Warren cautions that it's more than just Tulsa. "It will be under the command of the Tulsa District, but it's more than just us. Little Rock will have a focus on hydraulic steel structures and concrete dams. Tulsa will have more of a focus on earth and rock filled dams and geotechnical engineering. Galveston and Fort Worth will likely contribute with some subject matter experts and some resources, particularly as we get stood up, so it's truly a regional center," said Warren. "I think it is exciting. It is a great thing for our region and district. I'm tickled to death about the opportunities it will create to be able to take care of a lot of our high priority dams." 

**Water flows from the spillway of Tenkiller Dam in Oklahoma, one of the many dams in the Southwestern Division.**



## *How do flood damage reduction lakes work?* Little Rock's White River lakes significantly reduce flood risks

Table Rock Dam's spillway gates released water 68,000 cubic feet per second, while inflows into the lake topped 300,000 c.f.s. Without Table Rock Dam, the Branson area below the dam would have seen four times the amount of water. (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Bob Dahms)

**By P. J. Spaul, Little Rock District**

**T**he six White River basin lakes operated by the Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District were key players in reducing the extent of flooding in April and May in southern Missouri and Arkansas. There was significant flooding to be sure, but the flooding would have been much worse and more widespread without the lakes.

The lakes work together as a system to capture and hold upstream runoff during heavy rain. Without the lakes, all that water would pour downriver at one time and add to flood crests already developing from rain falling downstream. Flood crests would rise higher, spread over more land, and cause significantly more damage and loss of life.

Mike Biggs, chief of the Reservoir Control Section, and his team of engineers regulate all of Little Rock's dams, including Table Rock Dam near Branson, Mo. Biggs said flows moving into the Branson area would have been about four times greater without Table Rock.

"Preliminary estimates indicate the flood crest would have been as much as 20 feet higher, inundating many more homes and businesses in the Branson

area," he said. "While the peak release from Table Rock Dam was about 68,000 cubic feet per second, there were times when inflows into the reservoir exceeded 250,000 cubic feet per second and crested near 300,000 cubic feet per second."

The engineers in Biggs's section also reported that flows in the vicinity of Beaver Dam in northwest Arkansas would have been about twice as much if not for the dam and the way it was operated.

Without lakes like Bull Shoals and Norfolk near Mountain Home, Ark., most of the major levees downstream would have been overtopped, inundating towns like Jacksonport and Newport and flooding prime cropland.

Nathaniel Keen of Little Rock's Reservoir Control Section reported that peak flows on the Black River at Poplar Bluff, Mo., "would have been four times greater if not for Clearwater Dam." The city levee and floodwall would have been "easily" overtopped. And that water would have paid no attention to the state line as it then made its way toward Pocahtontas, Ark., and other communities along the Black River.

Now that the rivers downstream have begun re-

ceding, water is being released in a controlled fashion following pre-determined plans. The water control engineers report that several lakes are still nearly full, and it will take months to empty the flood pools and get the lakes back to their conservation levels. They say they hope no additional heavy rains fall until they can evacuate quite a bit more water.

Henry Himstedt, chief of Little Rock's Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, cautioned that there will continue to be circumstances from time to time where large releases are necessary from the dams. They are designed to operate that way under extreme conditions. Dams reduce risk. They reduce the frequency and severity of flooding, but no dam can eliminate all flood risk.

"The lakes are not intended to and cannot prevent all flooding," he said. "Some people think they are fully protected downstream of a big dam. Not so. The lakes have limitations that Mother Nature can sometimes exceed as she did in late April. One week before the rain started, all of the lakes were below

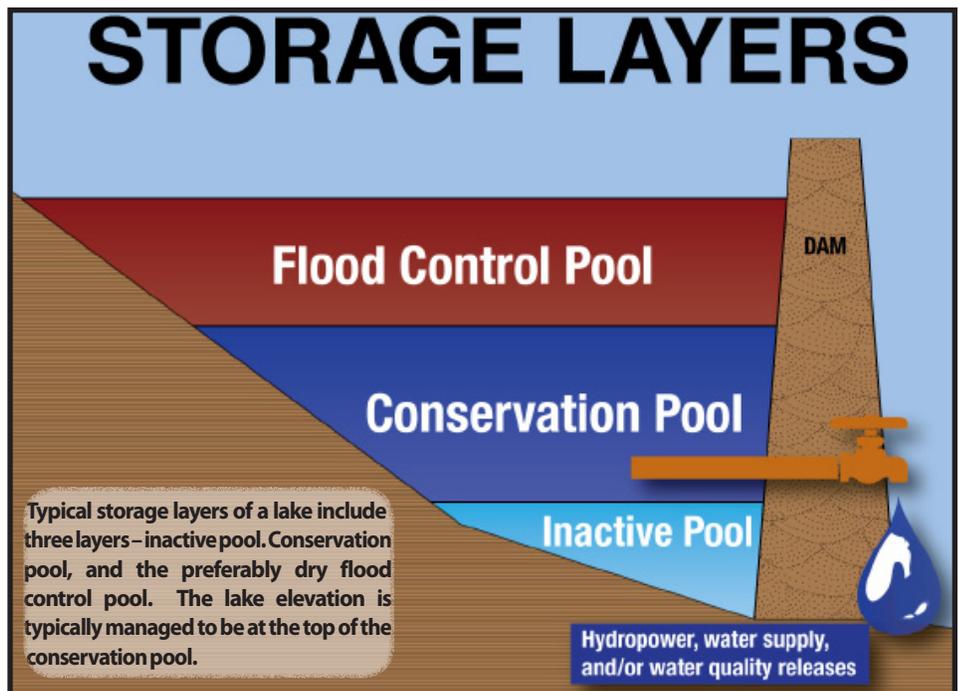
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conservation pool, and we were looking at drought conditions. In a matter of three days, that changed to a major flood fight.”

Most of the White River Basin lakes were still nearly full in mid-May. As a result, engineers cautioned people who live or work in flood plain areas downstream to monitor weather and news media. If more heavy rain comes, there could be repeat episodes of flooding.

Since they were constructed the White River Basin lakes and levees have prevented more than \$1 billion in flood losses, not counting damage prevented during this event because those estimates have yet to be prepared. This infrastructure was key in reducing damage during the Flood of 2011, and it will continue to do so into the future. 



## Did you know?

Steve Bays, an engineer in the Reservoir Control Section, said Little Rock District lakes captured and held 4 million acre-feet of floodwater during the recent torrential storms. “That’s enough water to cover 4 million acres of land a foot deep. The entire State of Arkansas contains just over 34 million acres.”

## Thank You Letter

*(Note: The following letter came in response to the work of Little Rock District’s team from the Greers Ferry Lake Project Office. Team members, Gary Ivy, David Moore, Jason Pressley, Jeff Price and Brent Watkins worked tirelessly to help local levee boards keep the levees intact in Jackson County, Ark., during the Flood of 2011.)*

This letter is in regards to the recent flooding in Jackson County. I have recently seen flooding like never before in my lifetime. And over the last two weeks I have seen it up close and personal. I have family and friends in Jacksonport, Ark. I have spent some long days and even longer nights there helping them during the last two weeks. From moving out families, sandbagging,

cooking for volunteers and anything else that needed to be done.

But during this time I got to see what the Corps of Engineers does. I guess I never really knew. I met a great group of guys and observed not only their work but their bond with the town. Some of these men have been in Jacksonport before so they knew most of the community. They worked away from their homes and families, working day and night, in the rain and the cold, and yet they never complained.

I just wanted to take time and say thank you to those men and also to let someone know what a great job they have done. I don’t know everyone’s names and I don’t want to leave anyone out, but Benny Rorie and the guys



**Ms. Sue (right) a resident of Jacksonport stops Park Ranger Jason Pressley and gives him fudge to share with the Greers Ferry personnel in appreciation of their efforts monitoring the Massey-Alexander Levee. (Army Corps of Engineers photo by Laurie Driver)**

he brought with him Brent, Gary, Jason, Dave and others did an awesome job. Their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. I know I speak for the Guffey family and the town of Jacksonport when I say we couldn’t

have done it without them.  
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Donna Long

# IF YOU RESTORE IT, THEY WILL COME

By Randy Cephus, Fort Worth District

As the Corps and its partners continue phase 2a, of the San Antonio Mission Reach Project, many local residents are already reaping some of its benefits by walking the trails that run along the San Antonio River and observing the re-emerging flora and fauna that had once flourished in the region.

On May 10, leaders from the Corps, the San Antonio River Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency met with Bexar County Judge, Nelson W. Wolff to provide an update on the Clean Water Act and to tour the project site.

During the tour one could observe many cyclists, joggers and walkers enjoying the scenes along phase 1 which is now open for public use. Workers continued to plant and water native vegetation while ridding the area of invasive species. Although the area has recently suffered drought-like conditions yielding a very low river level, an array of native birds, turtles and fish could be seen cooling and watering themselves in the river.

The San Antonio Channel Improvement Project was originally authorized for the purpose of flood damage reduction in 1954 and the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 modified the authorization to include ecosystem restoration and recreation as project purposes.

"The ecosystem restoration features include eight miles of the previously channelized San Antonio River while maintaining the existing level of flood risk management," stated Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander of the Fort



Work consisting of constructing hike and bike trails and planting native vegetation continues on the Phase 2a of the San Antonio Mission Reach Project.

Worth District Corps of Engineers.

A huge part of restoring the ecosystem is the reintroduction of native plant species which have been previously overtaken by invasive plants. Horsemint is a native species that has been reintroduced to the river according to Muraski.

"We are trying to combat some of the invasive species to prevent them from proliferating and this will allow the native plants and animals to come back to the river and thrive," Muraski said.

Recreational features include eight miles of hike and bike trails, pedestrian bridges, picnic tables, and benches. Phase 1 weirs include cuts to allow canoe and kayak passage, though

currently this portion of the river is not rated for these particular water sports or human contact.

The Region 6 Administrator for EPA visited the project for the first time and was impressed with the revitalization efforts. EPA and the Corps have recently developed draft guidance for determining whether a waterway, water body or wetland is protected by the Clean Water Act. The draft guidance will be open for a 60-day public comment period, which began on May 2 to allow the public and stakeholders to provide input and feedback before it is finalized. Comments must be received on or before July 1.

"Clean water and healthy watersheds are vital to our economy, environment, communities and quality of life, said Al Armendariz, EPA's Region 6 Administrator. "This project showcases our commitment to protecting the health of America's waters."

So, it is true that if you restore it; they will come. People have come to enjoy the recreational aspects and to enjoy nature. Native plants are beginning to thrive and multiply while aquatic animals, fish and birds can be seen frolicking in the area. And with the help of the EPA, the water that makes up the river is well on its way to returning to its natural state.

(Background) Native vegetation planted during Phase 1 of the San Antonio Mission Reach Project has taken bloom and is gaining a foothold along the river banks of the San Antonio River.

Environmental Protection Agency's Region 6 Administrator, Al Armendariz (left) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District Commander, Richard J. Muraski, Jr. discuss status of draft modifications to the Clean Water Act during a May 10 site visit of the Mission Reach Project in San Antonio.



# Crane successfully retrieved from bottom of Kaw Lake

*By Sara Goodeyon, Tulsa District*

**T**he Tulsa District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in conjunction with a team of U.S. Navy divers has successfully retrieved a crane and other equipment from the bottom of Kaw Lake.

The crane and a lifting device were lost January 6, 2011 when the crane fell off of the dam while being used for work being done on a tainter gate. The crane operator got out uninjured before the apparatus fell into the lake.

A team of 10 U.S. Navy divers based out of Washington State arrived in Oklahoma Sunday, April 24 and did a reconnaissance dive Monday, April 25 to determine the location of the sunken equipment. Divers worked throughout the past two weeks to attach inflatable bags to the crane, and lifting device to raise them to the lake's surface and then used cables to pull them to shore.

The Corps deemed it environmentally and economically necessary to retrieve the equipment from the lake if possible. It is unknown what damage could be caused by not retrieving the crane from the lake. The lifting device is unique to Kaw and will be placed back into service after a thorough inspection.

The crane was at gate eight using the lifting device to move the curved stop log to gate seven when it fell over the side and came to rest 60 feet below in the lake, upside down. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

**Photo top, the crane rests on the shore of Kaw Lake after being retrieved from the bottom.**

**Photo bottom, cable is stretched across the shore in preparation of attaching it to the crane to pull it to shore.**





# Weathering storms

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

It certainly does not feel like we have been part of the Tulsa Team for a year. Time certainly flies when you are having fun, or when you are dodging the recent “storms”.

As the last issue of the *Pacesetter* went to press we were working through our plans in case the federal government had to shut down. There were lots of hours put into the plan and lots of hours spent nervously waiting to see what would happen. It was impressive to see our District and Division leaders working together to keep missions moving forward while we took care of our people. We ended up with a good plan that, thankfully, we didn't need to use.

More recently we have been preparing for and fighting “real” storms. During the Southwestern Division Command Strategic Review, many of us were quietly keeping an eye on the water levels in the lakes and rivers back in the districts. It is impressive to see the cooperation between our Hydrology and Hydraulics folks and the National Weather Service in coordinating the storm forecasts and the predicted impacts on the water levels. When you add in the U.S. Geological Survey folks and their stream gage monitoring it is very much like watching a great symphony. And while this year has certainly not matched the local storms of 2007 (knock on wood), we have played a small part in helping our Mississippi Valley District brothers and sisters as they fight record flooding on the Mississippi River simply by doing our jobs well and coordinating with Little Rock and SWD on water releases along the Arkansas River.

This is about helping others. Watching the district team come together with the Operations, Hydrology and Hydraulics, Public Af-

fairs, Emergency Management, and Programs and Project Management Divisions to do a very short notice public meeting at Lake Tenkiller was outstanding and really appreciated by the folks of Sequoyah County.

When Little Rock District had a surface slide at Table Rock they called our Dam Safety experts. Wade Anderson and Jeremy Mulvaney jumped on the road and immediately went to help. Their determination of a surface slide and actions to quickly make the repairs saved money, but more importantly, kept the downstream flooding from being any worse.

The most recent storm is certainly the large tornado that ripped through Canton just before Memorial Day. The storm spared the Lake Office and the construction site but it demolished the Canadian Park area and the concession area nearby. While we are still assessing the damages and sorting out the way ahead, we are thankful that volunteers and campers took shelter in the overlook building and the concrete restrooms in the park so that no one was killed and only minor injuries reported so far.

As we continue through the spring storm season and into the summer, the next “storm” is the water safety storm. We have had 10 fatalities in the Tulsa District so far this year and eight of them were drownings. Our Rangers and PAO have been engaged in getting the word out for everyone to wear lifejackets, but we all need to be involved. We had 10 volunteers, outside of our Rangers, working at the Memorial Day media events at the Broken Arrow Bass Pro Shop and the Oklahoma City Academy Sports stores. We have manned booths at the boat shows and the fish & tackle shows in the area. We have done media interviews at Keystone, Texoma and in Wichita, KS. We had 15 drowning fatalities last year and we have to do better. We are quick to help others through flooding and through tornados. We need to help them safely through the summer. The Safe Boating Council has a great campaign promoting water safety called “Wear It!” The message is that if a life jacket is not worn it can't save a life. Consider sharing that message with someone and remember it for yourself.

The Tulsa Team is strong and together we will weather these storms and those that are ahead (can anyone say “end of fiscal year?”) So buckle up and let's finish out the year together. 



# USACE Galveston launches summer water safety campaign

By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, kicked off a summer water safety campaign April 1 in time for the busy recreational water season.

As the leading provider of outdoor recreation on all federally-managed public lands in the U.S., the Corps has a dedicated focus on water safety by putting “safety first” and becoming “water aware” when participating in water-related recreational activities.

“The arrival of the summer months brings an increased level of outdoor activities throughout the State of Texas, especially with outdoor recreation involving water activities on public beaches, swimming pools, boating and other aquatic-related activities,” said Col. Christopher W. Sallèse, Galveston District commander. “The Corps understands the important role that education plays in saving lives and requests the assistance of community leaders, volunteers and the public to partner with us to help reduce public fatalities and improve public safety at our lakes, recreational areas and public facilities.”

As part of the water safety campaign, the Corps partnered with local governments across the State of Texas in order to proclaim April 1 as USACE Galveston District’s Water Safety Program Kick-off Day.

On March 24, the City of Galveston presented Sallèse and Twila Lindblade, a representative of U.S. Congressman Ron Paul’s office, with a proclamation supporting the Corps’ efforts to communicate water safety information to families, whether owners of private pools, users of public swimming facilities or visitors to Texas beaches and water parks.

“We the mayor and city council, by virtue of the

Mayor Joe Jaworski, City of Galveston, recognizes Col. Christopher Sallèse, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Galveston District, with a proclamation dedicating April 1, 2011, as USACE Galveston District’s Water Safety Program Kick-Off Day. Representative Twila Lindblade, Congressman Ron Paul’s office; USACE Park Ranger Kris Brown; USACE Supervisory Natural Resources Manager Richard Long; and “Bobber” the water safety mascot, graciously attended the event in support of the Corps’ water safety awareness program.



Simon DeSoto, lockmaster at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colorado River Locks, visited students at the Matagorda Independent School District to discuss the importance of water safety before the children were released for spring break in early March.

authority vested by the City of Galveston, Texas, do proclaim April 1, 2011, as USACE Galveston Water Safety Kick-off Day,” said City of Galveston Mayor Joe Jaworski. “We urge each and every citizen to join in recognizing this day.”

Jaworski also thanked Sallèse for the Corps’ efforts in repairing the Galveston Seawall following damage sustained from Hurricane Ike.

The County of Matagorda presented a similar proclamation March 28, Nueces County March 30 and Cameron County March 31.

“We encourage residents to raise their awareness of water recreation safety issues and participate in water-safety programs conducted by trained and certified professionals,” said Kristine Brown, a park ranger with USACE Galveston and water safety program manager. “It is imperative that we educate the public about water safety, as drowning is the number two fatality in the U.S. for children 13 and

younger with vehicle accidents being number one.”

Brown, Corps park rangers and USACE Galveston District staff continually provide water safety tips and lifejacket demonstrations to the public through outreach activities scheduled throughout the year.

In Matagorda County, Texas, Simon DeSoto, lockmaster at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colorado River Locks, visited students at the Matagorda Independent School District to discuss the importance of water safety before the children were released for spring break in early March.

In Jefferson County, Texas, Corps Park Ranger Ruth Millsaps provided a water safety information booth during “Marsh Madness” at McFaddin Wildlife Refuge March 26. In Houston, Brown presented a water safety program to local elementary school children in conjunction with Texas Children’s Hospital and Safe Kids Houston March 26.

Other events the district participated in included a press conference and water safety event on April 1 titled “April Pools Day,” where local agencies and the news media kicked off a coordinated water safety campaign in the City of Houston as part of Safe Kids Houston.

Additionally, the Galveston District’s Houston Project Office participated in the 9th Annual Picnic in the Park and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Fair April 16, at George Bush Park located in the district’s Barker Reservoir. Brown, Corps employee Bill Krampe and Bobber the Water Safety Dog handed out water safety information and water safety coloring books to children, adults and parents.

Throughout the summer, the district will assist in presenting water safety to children during a free night at the Children’s Museum of Houston.

For more information and tips on water safety, visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/>.

# Rawhide!

Galveston District helps cattle cross Colorado River



Cattle cross the Colorado River, April 4, in Matagorda County, Texas, after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Galveston District made way for the cattle drive following a jetty construction and dredging project designed to reduce dredging frequency and channel maintenance costs at the mouth.

**By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District**

**I**t's not every day the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lowers a river's edge for cattle to cross. But on April 4, the Corps' Galveston District did just that, making way for 520 cows and their young to successfully wade through the Colorado River as part of a biannual cattle drive in Matagorda County, Texas.

This undertaking, a result of accommodating the needs of the local community after a dredging project turned up clay in the channel, was completed by the Corps following the conclusion of a jetty construction and dredging project designed to keep the river open for navigation.

Last October, USACE Galveston completed the construction of a new east jetty at the mouth of the river. The jetty, which is parallel to an existing west jetty, was constructed to reduce dredging frequency and channel maintenance costs at the mouth.

Following the jetty construction, the channel was dredged to ensure an adequate depth for recreational boats, commercial fishing and shrimp boats.

"During the dredging of the channel, clay was encountered as part of the dredged material," said Harley Rowe, a supervisory civil engineer with USACE Galveston. "We had to find a location to place the clay after it was dredged and decided on an adjacent area next to the channel, as it was the most cost-effective and environmentally-friendly solution."

According to Rowe, the clay was placed on an embankment by the river; creating a dike and allowing access for a barge to place the dredged clay material behind it.

When local ranchers and the City of Bay City informed the Corps of the cattle drive, the Corps implemented measures to allow for the cattle to cross as part of its commitment of working with the

local community on this project.

The cattle graze on the west side of the river in the winter time, returning to the east side in the spring.

"We received a call from community leaders informing us of this deeply-rooted cattle driving tradition," said Rowe. "As a result, we cleared nearly 220 feet of the newly-built dike, bringing the land back to its original embankment for the cattle to cross."

According to Rowe, the three-day work done for the modification now allows the cattle to successfully cross the river, with the first attempt taking place in April.

"The swim was a success considering the drastic weather change that occurred when a front blew in as we were swimming," said local rancher Keith Meyer. "The swim area itself worked well and the cows came out fine on the east side."

Meyer thanked the Corps for accommodating the cattle drive. "Please know that your time and work is greatly appreciated by all the members of the Huebner Ranch and our family," Meyer said. "Without the Corps, we would have been in a huge bind."

The Huebner family has been driving cattle between its ranchland and homestead in Bay City to the isolated Matagorda Peninsula for 101 years.

According to Meyer, the Huebner and Cullen families own much of the land that is grazed in the winter, while the Corps has an easement to work on the land for dredging purposes.

"It was a pleasure working with the community to come up with a solution that allowed for the cattle to cross the Colorado River in Matagorda," said Rowe. "The Corps remains committed to working with the local communities when carrying out projects now and in the future." 

# Spotlight on:

## Galveston District Project Engineer Edgardo Perez-Cosme

By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District

**W**hen Edgardo Perez-Cosme was growing up, he dreamed of being a Soldier or policeman. However, after winning second place in his high school's regional math fair, a career in engineering sparked his interest. Coincidentally, the judge reviewing his winning project was an engineer from the Corps.

Perez-Cosme now serves as a project engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Corpus Christi Resident Office, where he manages various construction projects.

"I am the project engineer for the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Sinton, Texas," said Perez-Cosme. "I also assist as a project engineer for both the Kingsville and Corpus Christi Border Patrol Stations where I complete field site visits, revise submittals and negotiate change orders."

Perez-Cosme says he loves construction, specifically being able to see beautiful buildings constructed where there was nothing, which was one of the main things that at-

tracted him to choose civil engineering as his career.

"In middle school, I developed a passion for construction, and my first dream was in the architecture field," said Perez-Cosme. "In high school, I saw that my potential – always exploring and wanting to know how things worked – was more suited for engineering."

Perez-Cosme has worked with the Corps for four years, recently completing a full year with the Galveston District. He previously worked in the Baltimore District as an intern from May 2007 to May 2008.

He is a member of the National Guard, which makes his work with the new reserve centers special, as he feels the facilities constructed provide the opportunity for the nation's Armed Forces to excel and allows for the same level of readiness as his active duty counterparts.

"I started in military construction, so the civil works area is a new environment for me," said Perez-Cosme. "I like that I am doing something not only for our Soldiers, but also



Edgardo Perez-Cosme, project engineer, Corpus Christi Resident Office, Galveston District.



Edgardo Perez-Cosme a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Corpus Christi Resident Office project engineer manages projects for the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Sinton, Texas and assists as a project engineer for both the Kingsville and Corpus Christi Border Patrol Stations. He has worked with the Corps for four years, recently completing a full year with the Galveston District. He previously worked in the Baltimore District as an intern from May 2007 to May 2008.

for all of us. Working in a district that handles a lot of civil works projects has let me see the 'other side' of the Corps."

Perez-Cosme attended the Corps' Hispanic Engineers Conference and had the opportunity to interact with the Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp. According to Perez-Cosme, listening to the chief speak and having the opportunity to interact with him one-on-one has been his most memorable experience with the Corps thus far.

Perez-Cosme earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez Campus in 2000. He also earned a master's degree in engineering and construction management from the Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico in 2002.

He is certified in Maryland as a stormwater management design reviewer and has completed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 30-hour certification.

In his spare time, Perez-Cosme enjoys scale model building, going to the movies, driving and visiting historic places. He is engaged to Laura Chapa and has one son, Gustavo.

"I am proud to work in such a diverse district," said Perez-Cosme. "Working in different districts has allowed me to see the diverse environments the Corps has and I hope to be a great asset to the district and expect to keep learning." 

# The Dashboard

The Corps' program-tracking tool, developed in Fort Worth, is drawing notice at Headquarters after it proves to managers that it can be customized to better execute large, complex programs.

By Jim Frisinger, ECSO, Fort Worth District

A pilot at 30,000 feet has a great view. The pilot's instrument panel provides the critical information at a glance needed to safely view and understand content which will help make fast, reliable decisions whether delivering passengers, or steel, on target.

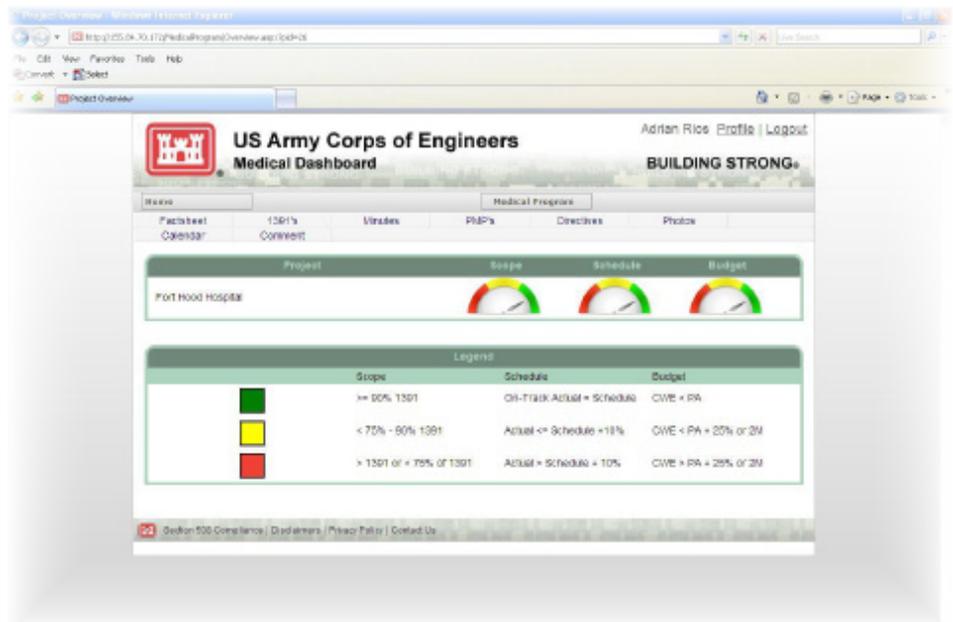
For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the development of the Dashboard has given senior program managers – both at the Corps and with its partners – the kind of grand view and detail to deliver large, complex projects, on schedule.

Col. R. J. Muraski Jr., the Fort Worth District Commander, said the Dashboard mirrors developments on the Army's electronic battlefield. Improved monitoring of the battle space gives commanders the operating picture they need to understand and act. The Dashboard's accurate, consistent data gives USACE leadership and their agency partners an edge in executing construction projects.

The Corps developed this new tool while ramping up the border fence program for U.S. Customs and Border Protection in 2007. Eric Verwers, director of the Corps' Engineering and Construction Support Office, was visiting his program partner in Washington, D.C. He brought with him his ECSO Sector Book of fence segment fact sheets. Greg Giddens, executive director of CBP's Secure Border Initiative, recognized its value. CBP wanted the same information.

ECSO and CBP then jointly developed a web-based common project-tracking tool – the Dashboard – customized to meet CBP's needs for the fence program. The concept has since been adopted and customized by the Fort Worth District's Medical program and may spread soon to the Los Angeles District and the Trans-Atlantic Division.

For CBP, the Dashboard quenched its thirst for information in the geographically spread out, \$1.4 billion border fence program. What began as ECSO's PowerPoint slides that contained links to spreadsheets would be customized into a web-based common data source that both partners could use. It would be populated and monitored by a Corps operations cell. The first Dashboard became known as TIPO – Tactical



The Medical Dashboard here gives an at-a-glance, color-coded view of scope, schedule and budget for the Fort Hood Hospital project. Note the other pull downs for minutes, calendar, project management plans, etc.

Infrastructure Program Overview – a password-protected tool that helped knit this multi-district Interagency and International Services program together with CBP.

While P2 was doing a good job serving the Corps and the project management function internally, the TIPO Dashboard grew to better serve external teammates. TIPO provided CBP digestible tracking data, particularly valuable to the agency's requirements for reporting to the administration and Congress on this fast-paced, high-profile program. More than a hundred fence segment pages utilized color-coded progress bars charting environmental, real estate, planning, design and construction progress. Other tab pulldowns were developed to drill more deeply into data as Corps and CBP teams worked together to build its capabilities.

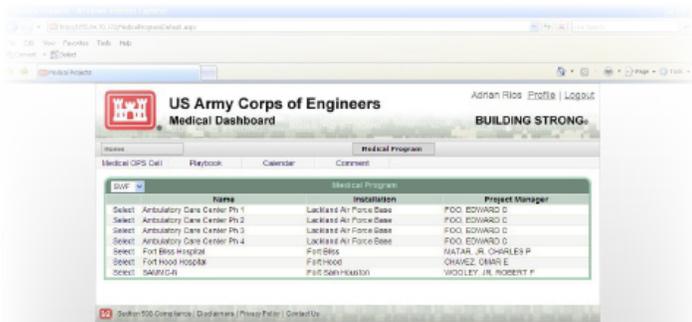
TIPO also helped to build trust and transparency between project teammates. It encouraged project managers to keep data fresh to minimize phone calls from stakeholders. Further, it provided the fence Program Management Office a clear way to identify risk for all teammates,

working from different locations, but literally off of the same page.

CBP found the fence-oriented Dashboard so valuable that it worked with the ECSO to develop a more robust generation called FITT (Facilities and Infrastructure Tracking Tool). It added its facilities construction program – Border Patrol Stations, for instance – to the Dashboard. It also added new capabilities.

“As good as the original TIPO system was for the fence construction projects, the tool the Corps developed for the FITT is even better,” said Border Patrol Facilities and Tactical Infrastructure Program Management Office Director Loren Flossman. “Through the development of the FITT system, USACE and CBP management, staff and end users can track all aspects of the project portfolio from project initiation to closure. The tool creates a single management and reporting mechanism that enables consistency and clear communication between the two agencies.”

The beauty of the concept is its adaptability to  
**continued on next page**



This Medical Dashboard page offers entry points for seven different hospital units being overseen by the Fort Worth District Medical Program.

*continued from previous page*

program needs, Muraski said. The Fort Worth District Medical Program was next to use it. The \$3.5 billion Department of Defense program is concurrently building four major hospital complexes in Texas (at Fort Bliss, at Fort Hood and two in San Antonio). Urgency steered it to the Dashboard.

The District was delivering these medical projects, to the same customer, with different means and methods. DoD had also been frustrated with

the Corps' legacy systems that weren't formatted to produce fact sheets the department leadership needed to brief Congress.

The Fort Worth Medical Program team spent six weeks working with John Becker, director, Portfolio Planning and Management Division, Military Health System at DoD. The collaboration gave Becker the project data, header and comment fields he wanted. "That's what made it attractive," said Brian Giacomozzi, Fort Worth District's Director of Medical Operations. "We didn't tell him what the answer was. We said, 'You're the customer, tell us what you want and we'll design it for you.'"

The result was a bare-bones version. The Medical Program didn't need all of the capabilities of the FITT; it was customized more as an executive summary tool.

It features a push system: Although each of the pages is individually updated in an ongoing basis, it is also processed in a batch sequence so the Ops Cell can verify data integrity. When the latest batch is approved, e-mails are sent out (the "push") to customized lists of stakeholders with links to the pages they've indicated an interest in. Each of the four fact sheets now in the system has a freshness date attached to it. It helps track scope, schedule, cost, budget information, milestones, renderings and progress photos. It also has a data repository for directives, the project management plan and meeting minutes. One innovation is an integrated calendar that stakeholders use to de-conflict double booking assets for meetings.

It also helps to keep track of the complexity of the funding streams with accurate information. The large Fort Bliss hospital alone has multiple components and all the hospitals are in many budget cycles.

The Medical Program Dashboard can also upload data from other Corps Districts with the same DoD client. DoD's medical construction is vast. It is nationwide and international – and the Corps supports about 60 percent of it. In designing the Medical Program Dashboard, DoD agreed that it could include a universe of thousands of projects. Every hospital that is a DoD hospital is funded by the Military Health System. This is an enterprise client.

The Los Angeles District has already seized the opportunity: In April it loaded one of its upcoming hospital projects onto the Dashboard to prove that the functionality meets its requirements.

"We're the Corps – whether it is Los Angeles or Fort Worth," said Steve Daniels, the Fort Worth District Medical Account Manager. "How to consistently provide the data out and up the chain of command – the dashboard is providing that."

Maj. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Commander of the Trans-Atlantic Division, said the Dashboard will likely be customized to support the Afghan National Security Forces program. Cox said there are daily requirements for information to track key metrics – from materials, equipment and deliveries to contracting – for this important program. "At a moment's notice, at the 4-star level, we're putting this in place so when Gen. Petraeus says, "Where are we on ... , we can pull it up on his computer screen."

Cox knows the Dashboard's capability firsthand. He was the Southwestern Division Commander supporting the Department of Homeland Security's border fence program. This new Afghan mission has multiple agencies, a constrained time requirement, and large amounts of equipment, material and information – the same environment the Dashboard handled with border fence construction.

"It was one place to go to get all the critical information that the senior leadership needed. That's rare in a cross-interagency program and that's what made it so beautiful," he said. "There was nothing behind a firewall for use for just by USACE, or just DHS. It was interagency gathering and sharing. That's what makes it so powerful and that's why we want to use it again."



### USACE Galveston Bird Abatement Program

Carl Wipff, a civil engineering technician with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, oversees the bird abatement program on a dredge placement area in the Houston Ship Channel which began March 6. Nearly a dozen trained birds are used in this innovative and environmentally sensitive effort to temporarily deter migratory birds from nesting in the project site until the construction phase concludes this summer. Wipff is a retired annuitant who has returned to the USACE Galveston District after serving 45 years with the Corps. For more information on the bird abatement program go to [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-xqwjt\\_Yww](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-xqwjt_Yww).



Joshua Adekanbi



Celia Cockburn



Louis Esqueda



Frank Garcia

## Galveston District employees Building Strong in Iraq, Afghanistan

**By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, has been a supporter of the war efforts in both Iraq and Afghanistan, contributing dedicated military and government personnel to war zones for more than a decade.

“The USACE Galveston District has continued to deliver support to combat operations since 2001,” said Col. Christopher W. Sallese, Galveston District commander. “Since the war efforts began, five military and 35 civilians have deployed while assigned to the Galveston District in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

Today, the Galveston District continues to support overseas contingency operations with eight employees currently deployed or scheduled to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Frank Garcia, a project operations manager in the Galveston District’s Operations Division, deployed to Afghanistan in May 2011. He has deployed previously in support of combat operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We are proud of Frank’s willingness to deploy and support our troops overseas,” said Joe Hrametz, chief of the district’s Operations Division. “His expertise will certainly con-

tinue to support combat operations, leaving a lasting impact on those in Afghanistan.”

Steve Ireland, a physical scientist in the district’s Environmental Section, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division, deployed to Afghanistan Jan. 17, 2011, as an environmental engineer.

The Environmental Branch understands the importance of resolving environmental issues in a combat zone and is very supportive of Ireland’s deployment.

“We all admire Steve’s patriotism and commitment in his second deployment to a war zone, as he previously deployed to Iraq,” said Carolyn Murphy, chief of the district’s Environmental Branch. “He will provide much needed assistance in resolving environmental issues and providing environmental services in Afghanistan in support of the war effort.”

Joshua (Josh) Adekanbi, a civil engineer in the district’s Construction Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, deployed to Afghanistan Jan. 4, 2011, as a project engineer.

“Josh’s willingness to deploy overseas on multiple occasions is testament to his dedication and commitment to support the Galveston

District, Corps of Engineers and our nation’s Armed Forces,” said Donald W. Carelock, chief of the district’s Construction Branch. “His selflessness and the sacrifices made by both him and his family to fulfill critical USACE needs are reflective of his outstanding character and integrity.”

“All of us in the Construction Branch are proud of the impact his work as a civil engineer is making and will continue to pray for and look forward to his safe return,” said Carelock.

William (Bill) Kiddy, a supervisory civil engineer in the district’s Northern Area Office, deployed to Afghanistan Nov. 14, 2010, as a supervisory civil engineer.

“We have the highest admiration for our team members, such as Bill, who willingly accept the challenges and adversity of deployment into a contingency environment,” said Dale Walters, acting chief of the district’s Northern Area Office.

Louis Esqueda, a construction control representative in the district’s Rio Grande Valley Resident Office, deployed to Afghanistan Jan. 23, 2011, as a construction representative.

“We’re very proud of Louis’s willingness to deploy in support of our mission in Afghanistan, as he is into

his second year in support of this effort,” said Kenneth (Chip) Worley, Rio Grande Valley Resident Office Engineer with the Galveston District. “Having served 24 years in the Armed Forces myself, I understand what a sacrifice this is to both him and his family. His work as a quality control representative will bring lasting impacts to the people of Afghanistan.”

Robert (Bob) Peel, a program analyst in the district’s Programs Management Branch, Programs and Project Management Division, has been deployed to Iraq as a program analyst since 2009.

Celia Cockburn, a contract specialist in the district’s Execution Branch, Contracting Division, deployed to Afghanistan as a contract specialist in March 2011.

Luis Lopez, a safety specialist in the district’s Safety Office, is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan as a safety specialist this summer.

“I ask that you keep our deployed employees and their families in your thoughts as they continue our mission abroad,” said Sallese. “The Corps family has always been a strong one, and together we will continue the Corps motto of ‘Building Strong!’”



Steve Ireland



William Bill Kiddy



Luis Lopez



Robert Peel

# Pacesetter readership survey results provide insight for improvement

In an effort towards continuous improvement, the Southwestern Division Public Affairs Community of Practice conducted a readership survey during the month of April to obtain input from readers in order to better serve the division's communications needs.

The survey was included in the March edition of the Pacesetter and the link was sent in an e-mail from the commanders or public affairs officer for each district or the division. One-hundred and four employees responded to the survey.

According to the results, 56 percent always or frequently read the Pacesetter while 44 percent seldom or never read the Pacesetter.

In response to, "how much of each issue do you read?" Sixty-two percent of those responding read quite a bit or some, 30 percent read a little and 8 percent not read any of the Pacesetter.

The survey revealed that 55 percent always or frequently read stories about other districts in the division while 79 percent always or frequently read stories about their own district and 63 percent always or frequently read stories that have a division-wide interest.

Seventy percent of those that took the survey rate the Pacesetter overall as excellent or good while 29 percent rate it average or fair and one percent rate it poor.

When asked about what types of stories they read, stories about employees was the most read with 73 people saying they read that type of story. Feature stories was second highest with 65 people, followed by civil works stories with 62, commander's columns with 50, military construction with 46, stories about policy with 42 and water safety with 41. The least read type of stories according to those responding to the survey was the Pacesetter Points with 24. Three people said they read other types of stories and five said they read none at all.

Those surveyed were asked whether they were more likely, about the same, or less likely to go to a continuously updated news page on the division website instead of the Pacesetter. Twenty-six percent said they were more likely, 28 percent said about the same, and 46 percent responded that they were less likely to visit an online news site.

Employees were also given an opportunity to provide comment on the Pacesetter. Twenty-seven comments were received. Comments included:



**Laverne Chisholm, Program Analyst, Fort Worth District recently returned from an eight month tour in Baghdad, Iraq was just the journey she was looking for.**

## Fort Worth's Chisholm proud of overseas assignment

*By Denisha Braxton, Fort Worth District*

**F**or many civilians a trip to another continent doesn't come often. But for Laverne Chisholm, Program Analyst, Fort Worth District, an eight month tour in Baghdad, Iraq was just the journey she was looking for.

Chisholm, a 36 year federal employee, deployed eight months from February to October 2009.

"When I found out the work the Corps of Engineers was doing in Iraq and Afghanistan, I wanted to be a part of it," said the Virginia native. "Before I retired, I wanted a "true" adventure. Something way out of my comfort zone."

Initially Chisholm was hesitant to participate in the deployment program. She had several colleagues talk to her about their deployments to Iraq and that it was a life changing experience that she wouldn't regret.

Chisholm's mind changed when her youngest daughter volunteered on several medical trips overseas and saw a life changing experience in her.

"You will learn a lot, see a lot and be a part of something bigger than yourself," said the mother of two.

After a few months of online training and the completing clearing process was at the District, Chisholm received her deployment date and

spent a week at the Trans Atlantic Division in Winchester, VA.

There she received additional training, shots, fitted for uniforms, and information on her new assignment. From Virginia she flew to Kuwait, the staging area and then was transported to her duty station in Baghdad.

Once she arrived at her duty station, Chisholm was introduced to co-workers, received a briefing and required safety training, and the next day she began her shift. For the next eight months she experienced long days, sandstorms and 120-degree temperatures.

"Despite the long hours, I met civilians, soldiers and Iraqis that made such a positive impact in my life," Chisholm said.

She helped train Iraqi women in developing business skills and empowering them to become independent. Chisholm said these stories and accomplishments aren't typically conveyed to the American public.

Chisholm worked with program managers and participated in on-site visits and projects with soldiers, one which included a ride on an UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

"My job became fun because you work with people there that share your same excitement, I am so glad I volunteered for this assignment... awesome," said Chisholm.

This is a quick way to keep up on points of interest and obtain knowledge that might be otherwise missed. Really do enjoy the pacesetter, keep it coming.

I particularly like the human interest stories relating to employees in the Division. Anything about the lakes and parks are of interest to me as well. I sometimes read the construction stories, if I can relate to them in some way.

It is an antique and should be abolished immediately. Commanders should regularly talk or send emails to their folks about their philosophy.

I don't read the Pacesetter. I get news and

information online, so I can choose the stories I want to read.

I think the Pacesetter is a very good publication, but the information is always dated. Some of the information is nearly two months old by the time it comes out. A web based publication with up to date articles like the Army Homepage probably would get the information out quicker. Also, instant feedback could be received on a variety of topics for further relevant stories.

The results of the survey will be analyzed and used to improve the Pacesetter and evaluate its future as the division publication. 

## WTB Complex opens

# WBAMC's campus-style environment to promote unity, healing

By Kellie J. Burns, WBAMC Public Affairs

Fort Bliss' Warrior Transition Battalion Complex officially opened with a June 8 ribbon-cutting ceremony here.

The WTB is a \$57 million construction effort awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program in 2009. This project was the first ARRA project awarded by the Army.

The 140,000-square-foot, three-story facility will house as many as 232 wounded Soldiers. The complex is configured in a campus-style environment to promote unity and healing. It was built with the focus to create a holistic healing environment for mind, body and spirit.

William Beaumont Army Medical Center Commander Col. Dennis D. Doyle, who hosted the ribbon-cutting, said the opening of the WTB marked a special occasion for Team Bliss and WBAMC.

"We are demonstrating today the Army's commitment to providing the best possible care and support to our warriors in transition," he said.

Doyle explained that warriors in transition are Soldiers who have become wounded, injured or ill during mobilization, pre-deployment, post-deployment or during separation



Team Bliss leadership and senior government officials join Fort Bliss warriors in transition June 8 to cut the ribbon signifying the opening of the new Warrior Transition Battalion Complex here. Photo by Spc. Shahna Glover, WTB.

from their units. While Soldiers are assigned to the WTU, their mission is to heal as they transition back to duty or continue serving the nation as veterans in their community.

Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, commanding general of the 1st Armored Division and Fort

Bliss, recognized that the facility was designed to accommodate the unique needs of warriors in transition. However, he reminded WTs that their prime focus is to heal and move forward.

"It will be very comfortable, but we need to remember that it's a transition," said Pittard. "Transition and move on."

Each warrior in transition works within a "triad of care" consisting of a primary care manager, a nurse case manager and a squad leader. A comprehensive plan is developed with personalized goals to enable Soldiers and their families to move forward in healing.

Soldiers present for the opening of the complex said they were impressed with the thought and hard work that went into creating such a facility.

"This is amazing," said Pvt. Alan Raggio, warrior in transition. "I know they didn't have these kinds of facilities back in the day, so this is really impressive."

Raggio was shot in the hip while serving in Afghanistan and has been confined to a wheelchair until he fully heals.

"I just want to get out of this thing and go run again," said Raggio. "A lot of people don't realize there are a lot of guys in wheelchairs, so the fact they have done this to help us out is really awesome."

Spc. Philip Casanova, also a warrior in tran-



The Fort Bliss Warrior Transition Battalion Complex was a \$41 million construction effort under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program. They were the first ARRA project awards by U.S. Army, awarded under two contracts the barracks facility and site complex in May 2009 and the Battalion Headquarters Administrative Facility and Soldier Family Assistance Center in June 2009.

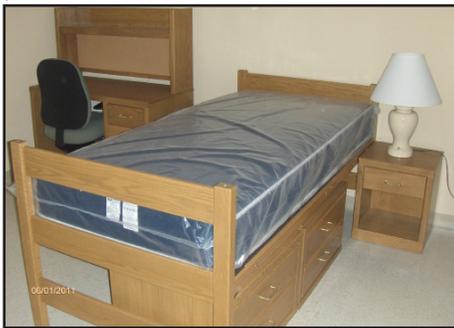
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The complex has 9 lounge areas, three per floor with a main lounge in the lobby with pool table, couches and gaming machines.



58 two-bedroom units have private bathrooms, walk-in closets, shared kitchen, laundry and living area. Another 58 two-bedroom units have Semi-private bathroom, walk-in closets, shared kitchen.



Warrior Transition Battalion Complex barracks are designed to accommodate warriors' needs with 116 suites and 232 beds in two unit styles.

### ***continued from previous page***

sition, said he too was impressed with the new facility. He said it will help Soldiers on their road to recovery.

"Wounded warriors, we form an unofficial team and bond," said Casanova. "This facility will help us all heal and get back to where we need to be."

Doyle thanked Soldiers and their families for everything they have sacrificed.

"You have paid a high price for our nation's freedom and security," said Doyle. "Our William Beaumont Team will provide you with the best medical care and support during your transition.

"Enjoy your new home and this superb healing campus."

## **Fort Bliss' Warrior Transition Battalion Complex**

### **WTB**

- ❑ \$41 million construction effort under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program.
- ❑ Project was first ARRA project awards by U.S. Army
- ❑ Complex was awarded under two contracts, Sundt Construction Inc. and FPM Group, LLC.
- ❑ Sundt was awarded barracks facility and site complex in May 2009.
- ❑ FPM was awarded Battalion Headquarters Administrative Facility and Soldier Family Assistance Center June 2009.
- ❑ Ground breaking, Oct 16,2009

### **Living at the WTB**

- ❑ Barracks designed to accommodate Warriors' needs.
- ❑ Three story facility. Designed for pursuing LEED Gold. Includes radiant barrier, thermal solar window tinting, solar panels for hot water heating and photovoltaic canopies for electrical generation.
- ❑ Total of 116 suites/232 beds. Two unit styles.
- ❑ A units/ 58 two-bedroom units (675 sq ft). Private bathrooms, walk-in closets, shared kitchen, laundry and living area.
- ❑ B units /58 two-bedrooms (530 sq ft). Semi-private bathroom, walk-in closets, shared kitchen.
- ❑ 12 units are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. Rest of rooms can be converted to ADA compliance if needed.
- ❑ Rooms have free cable TV and mounted flat screen TV in bedrooms. Wifi internet with government issued laptop.
- ❑ Barracks are in close proximity to services Soldiers need to access regularly.
- ❑ 9 lounge areas/3 per floor. One main lounge in lobby with pool table, couches and gaming machines. Other eight lounges are in center of complex and in corner on each floor next to A unit laundry rooms.

### **Company and BN HQ**

- ❑ Battalion Headquarters Administrative Facility, 30,100 square foot two story facility. 61 private offices, 30 workstations, three conference rooms and SIPRNET capability to serve administrative needs for one Battalion of two Companies.
- ❑ Nurse case managers and administrative functions are housed in company operating facilities on first floor.

- ❑ Company level cadre, nurse case managers, squad leaders and all who are integral in shaping WTs recovery and rehabilitation, are co-located on first floor to facilitate information-sharing and collaborate on WTs needs.
- ❑ Doctors will be located in building within 20 feet from the Company/BN HQ building behind building by Sep. 2011.
- ❑ Battalion staff and social workers located on second floor of building to accomplish commander's objectives and facilitate best administrative and social worker needs for WTs.
- ❑ Areas likely to receive "traffic" from WTs were strategically placed to facilitate ease of access.
- ❑ Access to the battalion commander by WTs if they have needs or concerns. Commander has an open door policy.

### **Opportunities at the SFAC**

- ❑ Soldier Family Assistance Center, 15,000 square foot single story facility.
- ❑ Critical element of WTs and Families success while assigned to the unit.
- ❑ Eliminate roadblocks and facilitate resolution of problems encountered at all levels.
- ❑ Leverage resources to promote Warrior and Family well-being
- ❑ SFAC has full kitchen/nourishment center for families and WTs to use during their stay.
- ❑ Unique features, see-through gas fireplace, cathedral-style raised ceiling, celestial windows, ceramic floor tile and carpeted office areas.
- ❑ Child activity center in SFAC for children of WTs to play during appointments, in-processing and when WTs are taking care of their needs. Playground located outside childcare center.
- ❑ Large media center helps accomplish mandatory classes given by staff of SFAC. Equipped with computers and large screen /projector.
- ❑ Staff office area provides financial/ educational services, TSGLI, Social Services, Outreach, Information & Referral, Military HR, Program support, ACS, ACAP, AW2, VA representatives, Chaplain/ Chaplain's Assistant.



# Are you ready to rumble?

**Col. Christopher W. Sallese**  
**Commander, Galveston District**

**M**y Coastal Custodians, Welcome to hurricane season 2011! I know after June 1, the topic of hurricanes is taboo within the Galveston District and just the mention of the word finds people quickly looking for some wooden object to knock on to vanquish the evil spirits. The National Weather Service and a slew of other weather prognosticators are again predicting a very active season for the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. I can tell you the district and SWD's leadership are ready to respond. In April, the division leadership, FEMA, Army Northern Command and HQ USACE came together in Dallas to complete an annual table top hurricane exercise. This exercise enabled us all to review our roles and responsibilities and ensure our efforts are synchronized to prepare and respond to an actual event.

So I have to ask you...are you ready? Have you started your Pre-hurricane inspections (PHIs) to ensure your personal evacuation plans are up to date, your emergency kit has adequate water, food, a first aid kit, batteries, radio and cash? Are you confident that if you have to evacuate that you will have a place to go and your car will get you there? **MOST IMPORTANTLY, DO YOU HAVE THE DISTRICT'S AND YOUR SUPERVISORS CONTACT INFORMATION** so we can maintain accountability throughout the event? Many of you are Rita and Ike survivors, but we have quite a few new employees who could use your sage advice to help them get ready – so share the knowledge. Please take a few minutes this weekend to do your PHIs; you owe it to your family and friends.

We now have an approved fiscal year 2011 district work plan and program. In other words, we have a little more than four months to execute a whole bunch of money. This is a team effort and the schedules are tight, so we

are going to have to communicate and resolve issues at all levels in a timely manner. Our success will be defined by our ability to work multiple actions in parallel and get the right people from the internal, vertical and sponsors' level together when needed to solve our problems. We have been in this situation before and I am confident that we are positioned well to execute our program based on the work we did early in the year to prepare plans, specifications and bid packages. As with any end of year, contracting will be bearing the brunt of the work effort, but we can certainly make their lives easier by ensuring we provide them with quality products.

Please join me in congratulating Eva Zaki, who completed her master's degree in marine resource management from Texas A&M University on May 14. While completing this monumental task, she worked part time in the Student Cooperative Employee Program, Regulatory Branch. During this time she completed numerous jurisdictional determinations and a few enforcement actions. Eva's accomplishments are an excellent example of someone pursuing their lifelong learning objectives.

Summer is upon us and I need you all to be safety conscious and ensure your family members are doing the same. I know of at least two drowning fatalities this year that occurred near our navigation features. To my motorcycle riders, please ensure you are wearing all your safety gear and watch out for the other guy. It only takes one careless activity for an accident to occur. If it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't and I ask you to step back re-evaluate the situation. It could be the difference between life and death.

I look forward to seeing you all on the beach or out at the boat basin (wetting a line). My goal this summer is to catch a Big Bull Redfish!

Be cool and stay safe! 

## Basic Emergency Supply Kit

Items to include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

- Cell phone with chargers
- Additional items to consider adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:
- Prescription medications and glasses
  - Infant formula and diapers
  - Pet food and extra water for your pet
  - Important family documents in a waterproof, portable container
  - Cash or traveler's checks and change
  - Emergency reference material such as a first aid book
  - Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.
  - Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes.
  - Fire Extinguisher
  - Matches in a waterproof container
  - Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
  - Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
  - Paper and pencil

## Little Rock employees earn top spots in regional natural resources competition

Several employees of the Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District recently earned three top awards in this year's Southwestern Division Natural Resource Management Awards program.

Rick Hightower, a natural resource specialist at the Beaver Project Office in northwest Arkansas, was named Stewardship Employee of the Year. Hightower effectively managed the boat dock program for Beaver Lake by processing applications, transfers of ownership and inspections for more than 1,800 private docks. He identified 37 and resolved 35 encroachments on Corps property.

Hightower was also cited for promoting conservation of natural resources and wildlife management by monitoring the only known community in Arkansas of the Missouri Bladderpod, a threatened plant species. He oversees wildlife surveys and works to preserve the natural areas along the shoreline of Beaver Lake even though the lake sits within one of the fastest growing communities in the United States.

Natural Resource Specialist Brooke Kervin of the Millwood Project Office in southwest Arkansas earned the Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence for her dedication and inventive methods. She formed multiple partnerships with individuals, organizations and businesses to promote water safety through electronic messages and environmental awareness by creating an an-

nual nature festival. She recruited volunteers who logged nearly 1,400 hours of service to the Millwood project.

Kervin excels not only in her local area but also at the district level. She chairs the Little Rock District Water Safety Team and is seeking new opportunities to promote water safety education in high use public areas.

The employees of Mountain Home Project Office, whose two lakes straddle the Missouri-Arkansas border, were selected as the Natural Resources Management Project of the Year. Employees in the Mountain Home office, driven by a desire to "Do better with less," search out new and efficient techniques in managing Bull Shoals and Norfolk lakes.

Through partnerships and the use of volunteers Mountain Home has served the community by providing activities and events that are both safe and educational. Some of the activities include mobility impaired and youth hunts, fishing derbies, wildlife habitat improvement, boating safety checks and water safety programs.

Responding to prolonged high water in 2008 and 2009, while simultaneously contending with aging infrastructure, employees used innovative equipment and techniques to prioritize problem areas. With funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and Emergency



Natural Resource Specialist Brooke Kervin (left) helps Volunteer Judy Grimes secure a young camper's life jacket. Kervin earned the SWD Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence for her dedication and inventive methods. (Army Corps of Engineers photo by Bob Dahms)

Relief for Federally Owned Roads, they rehabilitated the Bull Shoals Dam Bridge, rebuilt the Ozark Isle causeway, and repaired and improved park roads and camping areas.

These regional award winners are automatically submitted as Southwestern Division's nominees in their respective categories in the national Corps competition. 

## Van Cleave named Federal Executive Employee of the Year

Robert E. "Bobby" Van Cleave, a geotechnical engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District, was named the Federal Executive Association of Arkansas' Employee of the Year in the Professional, Technical and Administrative Category, GS-12 and Above.

Van Cleave was credited for his work on the \$200 million Clearwater Dam Major Rehabilitation Project that is still underway. He has also worked with the Corps' national Risk Management Center helping assess risk at several Corps dams in other states.

He gives technical talks at professional meetings, and he co-authored a paper on the Clearwater Dam project for the Environmental and Engineering Geoscience Journal.

The federal executives noted Van Cleave's leadership and excellent communication skills in support of multiple other projects at Lock 2 on the Arkansas River, Rock Creek, Fort Bliss, Fort Polk, Little Rock Air Force Base, Millwood Lake, Pine Bluff Arsenal and more. He is trained in levee screening, and he developed scopes of work for periodic levee inspections across Little Rock District.

The award winner is also a civil design team member of the Little Rock District's Base Development Team that provides troops overseas with technical engineering support.

The award nomination cited Van Cleave's "easy-going nature and high degree of professionalism" in his interactions with co-workers, and he stays involved with professional development training



Eric McKisick, president of the Arkansas Federal Executive Association, presents Robert E. "Bobby" Van Cleave (right) a certificate naming him the Federal Executive Association of Arkansas' Employee of the Year in the Professional, Technical and Administrative Category, GS-12 and Above.

Van Cleave is a deacon at First Baptist Church in Benton, and he is involved in many church and civic activities. 



# Maintain momentum as fiscal year closeout comes into view

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

**A**s we cross the threshold on the halfway point of calendar year 2011 and are a mere three months away from our Fiscal Year-end closeout, we are moving full speed ahead on our projects and initiatives but also taking time to assess where we are and lessons learned to-date.

One of the initial assessments I can share with you at the mid calendar year is that all of our project and budget assessments indicate that as a District our future looks good for the next two years through Fiscal Year 2013. There are and will continue to be budget challenges but again we are in good shape due to diligence and approach we took increasing personnel to handle the surge over the last few years using contractors and rehired annuitants.

While this is indeed good news, we cannot afford to rest on the laurels of our current successes. Each of you as a part of Fort Worth Team must strive every day to continue the momentum we have established over the first six months of 2011 delivering quality facilities and services. Our efforts today will lead to more work in the future. Remember some of our teammates (customers) have a choice for services and facilities. Let's make sure they want to use us.

While we move forward completing the numerous projects SWF has responsibility for, we have to look at that completion two-fold. It goes without saying that the level of expertise, proficiency and safety measures we take working various projects must be priority one. We must also look at successfully completed projects as a means to a bright future for the

District. The successful work we do today in 2011 will greatly influence future work for our District.

You've heard me repeatedly say that the reputation of Fort Worth District is that if it's hard, give it to Fort Worth. While we say this jovially, it is a reputation that did not come about by achieving the minimum. We have this stellar reputation because each of you without hesitation gives 100% and then some each and every day for the district.

During our 2011 Engineer Day and Team of the Month Awards Recognition Ceremony earlier this month, even as the Commander, I was and continue to be in awe of the level of expertise, professionalism and true dedication of the Fort Worth team. While those recognitions and awards meant many different things to the recipients, what I know for sure is that each of the awardees excellence was achieved not for recognition but because of their commitment to the District, the Corps and the Army as a whole.

As we finish off Fiscal Year 11 and the last six months of Calendar Year 2011, I appreciate and want each of you to continue to strive for excellence, but also look out for each other as teammates to ensure that your personal well-being is also a priority.

I recognize that the op tempo we work at as a District sometimes seems to make that well-being seem impossible, so I challenge you to make 'balance' a part of your work plan to finish out the year. With that combination of discipline, leadership, balance and fitness we will continue to have pride in what we do, continually moving us from 'Good to Great.'

## The Fort Worth District team members and family take on Cowtown Marathon

The Fort Worth District had 37 employees and their relatives entered in this year's Cowtown Marathon races. According to our Cowtown historian Randy Roberts, this ranks with the district's highest participation levels ever. There were 48 District employees who ran in 1990 and 35 in 1991. Some runners entered the half and full marathon races individually. Three teams were formed representing Fort Worth District. The Army of Run – Essayons finished 2nd in the 10K Open Division. The USACE ECSO Team finished 2nd in the 5K Military Division and took first place for most participation in that division. We've Got The Runs finished 13th in the 5K Corporate Division.

Roger Shields and Susan Ford-Ahern of the USACE ECSO 5K Team pin their race numbers.



From left, runners Ginger Booher, Nancy Parrish, Kevin DaVee, Karen Scheffer, her son Collin Scheffer and Linda Eadie.



Coming out of the starting gate in the 5K is USACE ECSO 5K Team member Jonathan Celone.



Alicia Rea, a project operations manager with the Galveston District started her career with the Corps as a student employee in the District's Evaluation Section, Regulatory Branch, before being hired full time in the Compliance Section.

## Spotlight on USACE Galveston District's Alicia Rea

*By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District*

Alicia Rea, a project operations manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, knew she wanted to be a part of the Galveston District since she was a junior at Texas A&M Galveston. In fact, she started her career with the Corps as a student employee in the district's Evaluation Section, Regulatory Branch, before being hired full time in the Compliance Section.

Having completed 10 years as a Galveston District employee this year, Rea now works in the district's Navigation Branch, Operations Division, ensuring America's waterways remain open for navigation.

"I am currently the project operations manager for South Texas' waterways, including the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, channel to Port Mansfield, channel to Harlingen, channel to Port Isabel and the Brownsville Ship channel," said Rea. "I take a lot of pride in ensuring our waterways remain open, as several of my projects are low tonnage and don't receive funding."

Rea says she enjoys working with sponsors as it provides her with an opportunity to assist them in solving complicated issues related to navigation regulations and feels that her efforts have not gone unnoticed. Port Isabel San Benito Navigation District Port Director Bob Cornelison couldn't agree more.

"Year in and year out, Alicia has tirelessly demonstrated in words and in deeds her support of our needs here," said Cornelison. "In my mind, she represents the soul of commitment to the Corps' mission goal of 'full partnership' with all its local sponsors."

Cornelison says Rea has diligently advocated

for their projects and in the process mentored and educated sponsors on how to initiate projects and better partner with the Corps in these tough economic times.

"We here in Port Isabel consider her a team-

mate in the Laguna Madre community's efforts to provide living wage jobs, environmental enhancements and, of immeasurable more importance, true hope for the future of the second poorest county in the nation," said Cornelison.

As the navigation business line manager for the district, Rea remains busy with the development of plans and specifications for a Gulf Intracoastal Waterway job that will dredge high shoals from Corpus Christi to Brownsville and is preparing to kick off the fiscal year 2013 budget development process.

Though the job is demanding, Rea says she likes the challenges and problem solving involved and said she couldn't complete her mission without the support she receives from her co-workers and sponsors.

The Galveston, Texas, native is one of five children who enjoys spending time with her family, boyfriend and two energetic pups, as well as volunteering at the Emergency Operations Center during emergency response missions.

A graduate of Ball High School in Galveston, Rea completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean and Coastal Resources in 2002 from Texas A&M Galveston then continued on to earn a master's degree in marine resource management in 2003.



### Galveston District Celebrates Administrative Professionals

USACE Galveston District celebrated the 2011 Administrative Professional of the Year April 28 at the District's headquarters building on the east end of Galveston Island. The following professionals were nominated: Becky Bostick; Patricia Brannan; Staci Claunch; Delia Dunn; Joyce Gonzales; Maria Henkel; Lisa Johnson and Denise Landry. Winning the day's top honor was Lile Henkel, administrative assistant in the District's Real Estate Division. Col. Christopher W. Saltese, Galveston District commander, presented awards to all nominees in attendance. Beverly Martin, chief of the district's Resource Management Office, addressed the audience as the keynote speaker, having served 18 years as an administrative professional before changing career fields. Martin spoke of professionalism in the workplace and the key role administrative professionals play in the district.



Nicholas Laskowski, a project manager in the district's Regulatory Branch, was recognized as the Employee of the Year for his role in ensuring the accuracy of the determination of hundreds of isolated waters, finalizing jurisdictional determinations for thousands of acres along the Texas coast, and employing methods within the workplace to better share valuable geospatial information and increase the district's ability to accomplish its mission.



Fred Anthamatten, chief of the district's Regulatory Branch, was named Supervisor of the Year for providing excellent leadership to the district's Regulatory Program over the past 12 months. Under Anthamatten's direction, the team exceeded seven of eight national performance standards, demonstrated an exemplary and unblemished record of successes in district legal cases and exhibited unparalleled efficiency in programmatic efforts to implement compliance inspection contracts that helped the district exceed national compliance performance standards.



Charles Scheffler, a civil engineer in the district's Hydrology and Hydraulics Section, was awarded the Engineer of the Year award for his contributions to the Addicks and Barker Master Plan and for the support he provided during the dam safety initiatives. Additionally, Scheffler became a relied upon professional to the emergency operations and flood management professionals, providing accurate and timely reservoir forecasts during the development and testing of emergency action plans.

## USACE Galveston District celebrates Corps' 236th birthday; names Employee, Engineer and Supervisor of the Year

*By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District celebrated the Corps' 236th birthday with an awards ceremony, June 9, to recognize an Employee, Engineer and Supervisor of the Year, as well as to honor staff for their contributions to the community, state and nation.

"This day is for you," said Col. Christopher Sallese, commander of the USACE Galveston District. "We're here to reflect on the hard work and achievements of our predecessors, to celebrate our heritage and to acknowledge the people who make this organization great."

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Year for his role in ensuring the accuracy of the determination of hundreds of isolated waters, finalizing jurisdictional determinations for thousands of acres along the Texas coast, and employing methods within the workplace to better share valuable geospatial information and increase the district's ability to accomplish its mission. Furthering his commitment to the profession, Laskowski earned the Professional Wetland Scientist certification and was the first regulator within the Southwestern Division to earn the Texas State Professional Geoscientist credential.

Charles Scheffler, a civil engineer in the district's Hydrology and Hydraulics Section, was awarded the Engineer of the Year award for his contributions to the Addicks and Barker Master Plan and for the support he provided during the dam safety initiatives. Additionally, Scheffler became a relied upon professional to the emergency operations and flood management professionals, providing accurate and timely reservoir forecasts during the development and testing of emergency action plans.

"Service awards to recognize employees who dedicated 5 through 40 years of federal service, a special acknowledgement and presentation of blue star flags to su-

pervisors of deployed USACE Galveston District civilians serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, and a tribute to eight Corps' retirees who have passed away within the last year made this year's awards ceremony unique," said Sallese. "We're about people. We execute a lot of money and we do a lot of great things but our organization is about people and this ceremony serves to recognize their accomplishments."

George Washington appointed the first engineer officers of the Army, June 16, 1775, during the American Revolution, and engineers have served in combat in all subsequent American wars. The Army established the Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802, and gave the engineers responsibility for founding and operating the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The Galveston District was established in 1880 as the first engineer district in Texas to oversee river and harbor improvements. Since then, the district has expanded its mission to provide vital public engineering services in peace and war that strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy by keeping waterways open for navigation and commerce, and reducing risks from disasters.

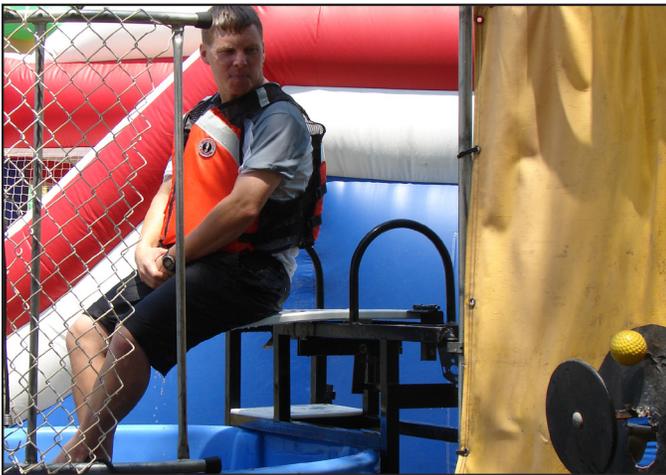
# FORT WORTH CELEBRATES ENGINEER DAY 2011



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District, shows his pitching form as he fires a fastball to the dunk tank target.



(Above) Don Longfellow, left Executive Office, and granddaughter Rachel, 4, enjoy the water safety trivia game with Park Ranger Darlene Moore at the Water Safety Booth.



Exercising his water safety prowess Maj. Andrew N. Liffing, deputy commander, Fort Worth District sports his lifejacket in the dunk tank.



(Above) The line grows for an opportunity to dunk Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District.



Sylvester Rodriguez, 13 about to launch a frisbee.



Beverly Williams, Resource Management, Fort Worth District displays the winning numbers to find a lucky winner during the Bingo game at the Engineer Day Picnic.

# Texas businessman gives of time and talent in Joplin recovery

By Sara Goodyeon, public affairs specialist, USACE, Joplin Field Recovery office

Walking through a devastated neighborhood in Joplin, Mo., June 25, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Col. Daniel Patton paused beside a heap of rubble with a huge portion of standing-seam metal roofing, obviously from a commercial building some 300-400 yards away, wrapped around the entire front and sides.

"This was a home," said Patton. "There was a family who lived here and had a nice life. Can you imagine what it must have been like to stand here and see that section of roofing coming at you?"

Moved by the devastation caused by the EF5 tornado that ripped through Joplin May 22 and knowing there was a need for help, Patton, an Army Reserve officer, who is a Fort Worth, Texas business owner, volunteered to serve as the USACE commander overseeing the Recovery Field Office here. The mission, assigned by FEMA, includes debris removal and construction of temporary housing and critical public facilities.

The USACE Kansas City District had jurisdiction over the disaster area, but was already stretched thin with repeated flood fights along the Missouri river this year. Patton, a University of Florida alum with a 27 year background as a military engineer and business executive, felt he had the right skill-set for the recovery mission and he knew the Army needed volunteers.

"I'm an individual augmentee and that's what we do," said Patton. "We are there to help out the Corps and our communities in times such as this. Fortunately, my wife and daughters understand and are able to adapt while I am gone."

In his capacity as commander of the Joplin RFO, an organization of more than 200 professionals, Patton provides what he calls "top cover."



Col. Daniel Patton, commander, Joplin Field Recovery Office, stands in front of Joplin High School which was destroyed in a tornado that struck the city May 22.

In essence, he is responsible for providing a working environment that allows the Corps civilians to do the job they are trained to do by giving them the resources and support to get the job done. Patton proactively engages to resolve strategic issues to ensure the mission runs smoothly.

"This mission has had such a rapid response," said Patton. "There is a great cohesive team between FEMA, the Corps, the city and state. I hope to add value to this team so we can continue to build upon our current momentum and successes"

All of the Corps civilians working in Joplin volunteered for the job and Patton admires that.

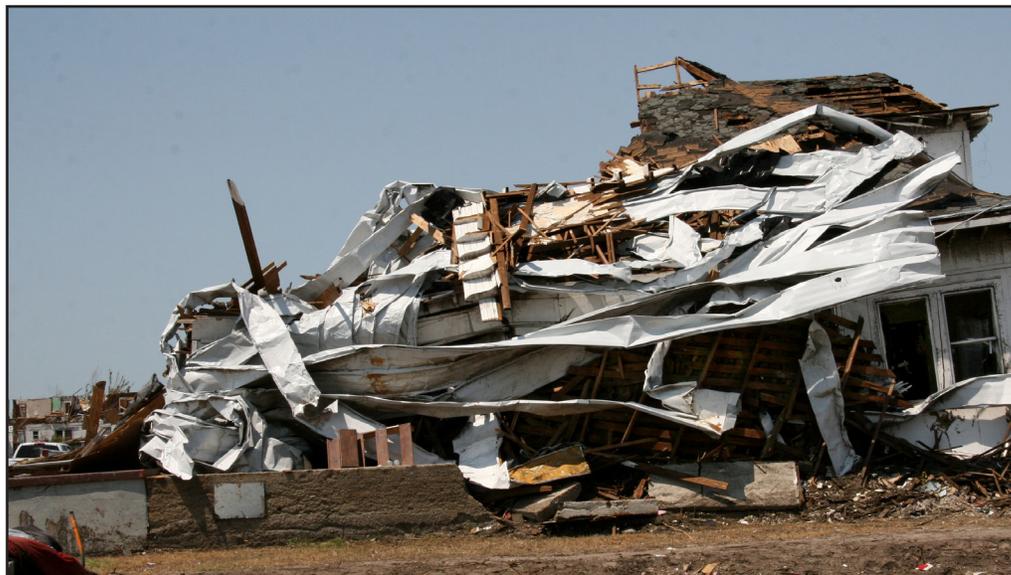
"Although I have spent my entire Corps career in uniform, these civilians are my role models, because of that selfless, volunteer mentality," said Patton.

There has been an outpouring of support and donations to Joplin in the aftermath of the tornado. Donations of food, goods and money have been coming in, and volunteers from across the country have come to help clear the storm debris. In turn, the people of Joplin often want to demonstrate their appreciation to the volunteers by picking up the tab for a meal or paying for someone's haircut.

"These are people who have lost everything, yet they still want to give something back to us. That's amazing to me," said Patton. "What I will most remember about being in Joplin is the outpouring of gratitude."

According to Patton, the challenge now is for the Corps to live up to the expectations of the people who survived that awful Sunday afternoon when their homes, businesses and lives were twisted to pieces. Patton and the Corps are working with the city to first provide temporary housing and critical public facilities such as schools, fire stations, and hospitals. Patton has also offered to lend his expertise as a land developer in creating a plan for Joplin's future.

"The long-term mission of FEMA, the Corps and the city of Joplin is to leave the city in a condition that they can build upon after the Corps is gone," said Patton. "We want to create a vision for the citizens of Joplin that their community is going to be better and stronger in the end."



Standing-seam metal roofing, blown from a commercial building 300-400 feet away, is wrapped around the entire front and sides of a home in Joplin, Mo. The roofing was blown into the home by an EF5 tornado that hit the city May 22.



## Janecka celebrates 47 years of service

**Castle Keeper.** Arthur J. Janecka, the Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Program and Project Management for the Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers, was recognized for his 47 years of service at a retirement dinner in Galveston on June 23. Janecka, who began his career as an intern in the Galveston District in 1964 following graduation from Lamar University, was presented with a crystal Corps castle from the Southwestern Division by Senior Executive Service member Michael P. Fallon, Director of the Programs Directorate for SWD. Flanking on left is Col. Christopher Sallese, Commander of the Galveston District, and on right, Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula, SWD Commander. Janecka was also honored with a silver de Fleury Medal, among other honors. (USACE photo by Paul Cox)

## Keeping yourself & others safe

The following guidelines are to help reduce the risk of drowning for you and others in your care.

### Keep yourself safe:

- Learn swimming and water safety survival skills
- Always swim with others
- Obey all safety signs and warning flags
- Never go in the water after drinking alcohol
- Know how and when to use a life jacket
- Swim in designated swim areas or areas with lifeguards
- Know the water and weather conditions before getting in the water
- Always enter shallow and unknown water feet first
- Always enter shallow and unknown water feet first

### Keep others safe:

- Help and encourage others, especially children, to learn swimming and water safety survival skills
- Set water safety rules
- Always provide close and constant attention to children you are supervising in or near water
- Know how and when to use life jackets, especially with children and weak swimmers
- Learn first aid and CPR.
- Learn safe ways of rescuing others without putting yourself in danger



# Pacesetter Points

## Congratulations

Little Rock's **Renee Wright** was named Planning Division's Continuing Authorities Program Manager in May.

Little Rock's Operation Division selected **Randy Davenport** as operations project manager of the Clearwater Project Office.

Little Rock's **Barbara Homes** and **Lee "Wes" Garrett** have been recognized as Real Estate Division "Employees of the Quarter" for second quarter for their efforts on the U.S. Army Mapping and Digitization Program.

Little Rock's **Wes Garrett**, a student geographer in Real Estate Division, maintained a 4.0 grade point average in his first semester of the Geographic Information Systems Masters Program at the University of Central Arkansas.

Little Rock's **Jamal R. Williams**, voucher examiner in Real Estate Division, has been admitted into the Presidential Clinton School of Public Service. He will pursue a Masters of Public Service beginning in the fall.

Little Rock's **Kathrene Fletcher**, a lock and dam equipment mechanic at Montgomery Point Lock and Dam graduated May 12, with honors with an Associate of Applied Science in Renewable Energy Technology from Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas.

## Family Matters

Congratulations **Chris** and **Angie Vaughan**, Fort Worth District on the birth of their daughter **Callie Michelle Vaughan**, February 10, 2011.

Little Rock's **Terri Shrum**, executive secretary, welcomed her second grandchild, **Bretton Thomas Gaines**, born March 8, to Shrum's daughter, Misty Gaines and her husband, Michael Gaines.

**Misti Evans**, wife of Little Rock's Jimmie Evans, lock and dam operator at the Russellville Project Office, graduated with her doctorate in pharmacy from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Arkansas.

**Jamie Elaine Edwards**, daughter of Little Rock's **Elaine Edwards**, of Regulatory Evaluation Branch, graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas with a Bachelor of Architecture.

**Timothy Montgomery**, son of Little Rock District's Realty Specialist **Sharon Montgomery**, graduated from Fountain Lake High School and plans to attend culinary school.

Little Rock's **Lisa Owens**, Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office, announced the graduation of her daughter, Danielle Owens. The graduate is co-vaedictorian in the first class to graduate from Two Rivers High School.

**Patrick Kelley**, son of Little Rock's **Rodney Kelley**, Regulatory Division, passed the general Arkansas Bar

Examination in February.

Galveston District Captains **Scotty Autin** and **Greg Couturier** have been selected for promotion to major. **Capt. Tricia Campbell** was also selected for promotion to major prior to her retirement from the U.S. Army. Campbell now works in the district's Navigation Branch as an operations manager.

**Al Meyer** and **Paula Wise** had their technical papers published by the Western Dredging Association.

The Department of the Army Brigade and Battalion Command Board announced that Deputy Commander of the Galveston District **Lt. Col. James (Brooks) Schultze** was selected for Battalion Command, 15th Engineering Battalion in Germany. He is slated to take command in fiscal year 2012.

**Sam Watson** was selected to serve a 120-day developmental assignment as the lead regulatory specialist for the Galveston District's Evaluation Section of the Regulatory Branch.

Congratulations to **Kenneth "Chip" Worley** for his selection to fill the area engineer position in the Galveston District's Southern Area Office. Worley has been the resident engineer in the Rio Grande Valley Resident Office since August 2009. Before coming to Galveston, he served as a project engineer, resident engineer, assistant area engineer and area engineer in the Fort Worth District, and also worked for the Louisville District and private industry.

Congratulations to Galveston District for making safety a priority and contributing to the Southwestern Division's recent selection as the recipient of the 2010 Safe Performance Award of Excellence.

## Retirements:

**Gloria Appell**, a regional economist and regional technical specialist with the Galveston District's Planning Section, retired after 30 years of federal service to the nation.

**Isidoro S. Martinez**, a structural engineer with the Galveston District, retired with nearly 54 years of service to the nation.

## Arrivals:

**Christopher Frabotta**, South Atlantic Division, was selected to temporarily fill the 120-day deputy to chief of operations position in the Galveston District's Navigation Branch

**Ralph Solomon** joined the Galveston District's Contracting Division in April.

**Ronald Dunaway** joined the Galveston District's Northern Area Office as a hydrographic surveyor in April.

## Departures:

**Capt. Scotty Autin** departed the Galveston District May 13. Autin is slated to attend Columbia University

in New York where he will pursue a master's degree in organizational leadership.

## Condolences:

**Joyce Gonzales'** husband Johnny lost his battle with cancer April 10. Joyce is a financial management analyst in the Galveston District's Resource Management Office.

Marla Duhon, age 55, daughter of long-time Corps Galveston District employee **Fern Kirkley** and sister of Corps retiree Judie Lester, passed away at her residence April 12, after a long illness.



## Galveston District O-Plan: Meet Project Engineer Gilberto Lozano-Lopez

*Supporting Goal 3 - Objective 3a: "Deliver sustainable infrastructure via consistent and effective military construction and real estate support to customers."*

Gilberto Lozano-Lopez joined the Galveston District in November 2010 as a project engineer for the Corpus Border Patrol Station and assistant project engineer for the Kingsville Border Patrol Station. Prior to joining the district, the Puerto Rico native worked as an engineer for more than 12 years for different vertical construction management firms working on projects ranging from military design-build to public housing complex construction and renovations. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, exercising and riding motorcycles.

*Transitioning SWG From Good to Great: How Do I Fit In?*

*"I am proud to be part of this prestigious organization. Working on the Border Patrol Station Project is a great professional experience that is an important component of the SWG mission."*

*- Gilberto Lozano-Lopez*