

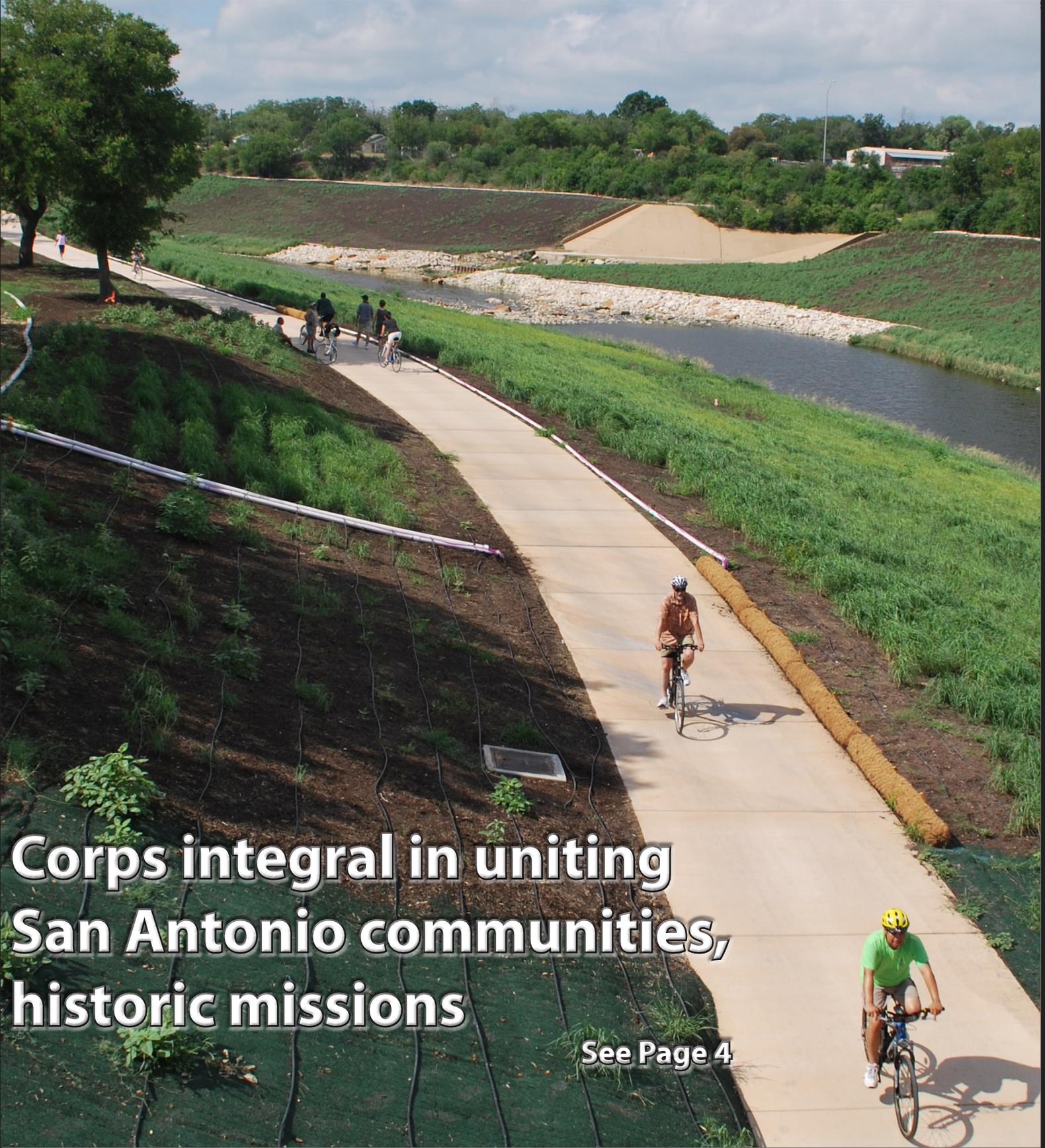
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

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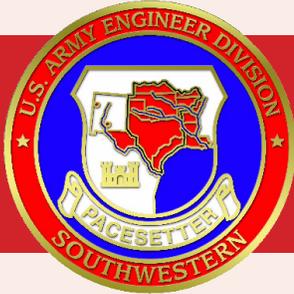
JULY — SEPTEMBER 2011

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**Corps integral in uniting
San Antonio communities,
historic missions**

See Page 4



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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When completed the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project will be eight-miles in length, restoring the previously channelized San Antonio River closer to its original state, while maintaining its role as a flood risk management area. The project provides walking trails and bike paths, and will use portals to connect the San Antonio River to the four historic missions along the river. See Page 4.



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Fiscal Year 11 has shown our value to warfighter and Nation

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

What a year it has been thus far: floods, drought and wildfires—you may be silently wondering to yourself if a swarm of locusts is next! All of our Districts have been impacted in one way or another, all assisting as we faced these challenges from Mother Nature. You have persevered, whether fighting floods in Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma, enduring droughts and un-usable lakes in Texas and Oklahoma, and watching wildfires in Texas destroying much of a beautiful state park in Bastrop as well as threatening homes across the state.

This has been the hottest and driest summer on record for Texas. One result of all this heat has been people using our Corps lakes and recreation areas more—and a sad result of that increased use is a spike in public fatalities this year. Each and every one of them has been a tragedy, however it may have occurred. I know you have all worked valiantly in your own areas to help prevent these sad events. We need to

learn what we can from them, and make next year's recreation season a better and safer one.

Also as a result of the heat and record drought, our Districts and the Division have increased coordination and collaboration with state water boards, River Authorities, and other State and Federal partners. With the exception of one water district along the Rio Grande, all public water supply entities across the state are under water restrictions. There are 295 public water supply authorities under voluntary water restrictions and 561 under mandatory restrictions. Four of our lakes have set record lows with more lakes surely to follow.

We have also interacted closely with Southwestern Power Association for hydropower issues. SWD ranks third in the Corps for total hydropower production, and our relationship with stakeholders like SWPA is vital to our mission, and communication, collaboration and cooperation are all showcased in that relationship—expect

to hear more about these three “C’s” in the future.

Of course, this Fiscal Year will soon be over, and year-end closeout is a time of concentrated efforts to finish business and finalize actions. The SWD team, at Mike Fallon's push, made a concentrated effort to award other MSC COS- related contracts first. Currently we are projected to complete all 13 of these contracts. For Civil Works, we have made a dramatic improvement in CAP execution—kudos to all!

The great success story is 2005 Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC. SWD is complete with BRAC! We have met BOD on all projects, and satisfied BRAC law, though we still have some minor construction ongoing. Absolutely a great effort by the entire team! After more than six years of hard work, we completed our program by turning over 104 projects at a Program Amount of \$4.7 billion on Sept. 15. Ad-

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Southwestern Division welcomes new Ops Chief

Andrea Murdock-McDaniel recently took the reins as the Chief of Operations and Regulatory for the Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As the Chief, she oversees the regulatory, navigation, hydropower, flood risk management, recreation, environmental stewardship, and water supply missions for the Southwestern Division. The Division's area of responsibility covers some 2.3 million acres of public land and water, with an annual program totaling nearly \$5.3 billion. It includes two major waterways, a 400-mile portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the 422-mile MKARNS, and operates and maintains 18 hydropower plants and 90 lakes with the accompanying recreation and flood risk management missions.

Murdock-McDaniel has served in a va-

riety of assignments within the Corps since beginning her career in 1988 as a park ranger in St. Louis District Natural Resource Management Branch. Subsequent positions include: Park Ranger at the Carlyle Lake Project Office, 1989-1994; Assistant Operations Manager for Rend Lake Project Office, 1994-2000; Operations Project Manager for Lake Shelbyville, 2000-2006; Deputy Chief of Operations for Little Rock District, 2006-2008. Prior to accepting the Chief of Operations and Regulatory position, she served as the Chief of Operations for the Little Rock District.

The Texas native holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology from Texas State University and a Master of Science in Geography and Environmental Resources from Southern Illinois University, Carbon-



dale, Ill. Ms. Murdock-McDaniel is certified by the National Wildlife Society as a Wildlife Biologist.

Corps integral partner in uniting missions, communities while restoring river ecosystem

Story and photos by Edward Rivera, Fort Worth District

Celebrating unity with a “ribbon joining” ceremony communities in San Antonio’s south side will not only be reconnected to their four historic missions but will be an added attraction within reach of San Antonio’s famed Riverwalk to the north.

The grand opening held June 25, showcased the first two miles of the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project Phase 1 and 2 on the San Antonio River.

When completed the project will be eight-miles in length, restoring the previously channelized San Antonio River closer to its original state, while maintaining its role as a flood risk management area.

The event was highlighted by the surprise event participation and endorsement of support from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. The Secretary announced his support for the nomination of the four historic missions within the project, the Alamo, and the river as a World Heritage site.

“I’m ready to sign off today,” said Salazar. “San Antonio deserves this recognition... you have set an example for the nation and the world.”

A nomination in itself is a great accomplishment since the United States is only allowed two submissions annually. The site must then compete with entrants from around the world. If chosen by the United Nations’ education, scientific and cultural organization which designates World Heritage sites, it would be the first U.S. World Heritage site in Texas, joining sites that include Yellowstone National Park, the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Although years in planning in 2006 it was up to a team comprised of the Corps, San Antonio River Authority, Bexar County, the city of San Antonio and several other entities to transform the



Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, Fort Worth District is interviewed by local media prior to the Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project Phase 1 and Phase 2 Grand Opening Ceremony held June 25 on the San Antonio River.

southern portion of the river closer to its natural state without losing the flood risk management benefits.

“The channelization of the river straightened it and made it steep in order to get the water out of the city quickly,” said Charissa Kelly, project manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District. “It worked great for flood management but degraded the riverine habitat and disconnected the missions from the river.”

The steep angle of the river increased the water velocities which cause erosion, sediment imbalance and the loss of native fish. The use of fluvial geomorphology principles, based on the natural river forming processes, will allow for improved sustainability and a more natural replication of the original river function.

“Within Phase 1 we placed eight structures to balance the slope of the river and river’s sediment transport capabilities,” said Kelly. “In addition in Phase 2 we created 23 riffles to create pool habitat which is of great importance to the survivability of native fish.”

To further support the native fish and wildlife, 334 acres of riparian woodland and eight acres of bottomland hardwood were established along with the planting of 20,000 trees.

“Planting the trees will provide shade and organic input to the water as well as helping insect production food,” said Kelly. “In 15-20 years when the canopy has developed it will be a very impressive view.”

Along with the vegetation planted along the river, the Mission Reach project provides walking trails and bike paths, and will

See Missions on next page



To support the native fish and wildlife the Mission Reach Project will establish 334 acres of riparian woodland and eight acres of bottomland hardwood along with the planting of 20,000 trees and native vegetation along the San Antonio River.

The Mission Reach project provides walking trails and bike paths, and will use portals to connect the San Antonio River to the four historic missions along the river. Background photo Mission Concepcion.



Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project Phase 1 and Phase 2 Grand Opening Ceremony held June 25 on the San Antonio River was highlighted by the surprise event participation and endorsement of support from Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar (Second from left). The Secretary took part in a “ribbon joining” ceremony with Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff and announced his support for the nomination of the four historic missions within the project, the Alamo, and the river as a World Heritage site.

Missions, continued from previous page

use portals to connect the San Antonio River to the four historic missions along the river.

As Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff eloquently explained with a poem, “The River runs south, and native Indians followed it and settled along its banks. The river runs south, and the Spaniards followed it, building the four missions: Concepción, San José, San Juan and Espada. The river runs south and now, finally, we will follow it, hiking, biking, walking, running and some of us will stop to build homes and businesses along its banks.”

According to Kelly, the missions were established in order to benefit from the wealth of resources from San Antonio River. “Today the missions which still have working parishes will reconnect the local communities to the river,” said Kelly

The project is being funded by Bexar County, the city of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the San Antonio River Foundation and the San Antonio River Authority, which is overseeing the project.

“As we stand here on the banks of the historical San Antonio River, looking at the great work already completed on the project, we can all agree that it represents a truly remarkable transformation of the River,” said Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District.

“From this point to when the project is complete, you can take pride in the fact that Mission Reach was made possible through the partnerships between the Corps, San Antonio River Authority, Bexar County, the City of San Antonio and many of our other project partners,” said Muraski.

Kula, continued from Page 3

ditionally, we were able to help the U.S. Air Force by successfully awarding two new BRAC projects for \$42 million, authorized late in FY 11, using bids savings to round out their BRAC Program. This required tremendous effort from SWD, our Districts and field offices. All went above and beyond to answer the Nation’s call and directly engaged with our contractors to complete the remaining 42 projects at a PA of \$2.9 billion over this past Fiscal Year alone.

We will provide additional feedback on our teams’ huge accomplishments of FY 11 priorities: BRAC, standing up the Regional Dam Safety Center, strengthening relationships, achieving Small Business goals. We are finalizing our FY 12 regional priorities after receiving input from the Districts, so they are not quite ready for unveiling. However, one area I’m pretty sure we will carry from FY 11 into 12 is strengthening relationships with stakeholders and other local, state, and federal agencies. Maybe we tag this next FY as the year where we better highlight our value to the nation on the Civil Works side and emphasize PM principles for execution. We daily demonstrate our value through relationship strengthening, and it starts at the PM level with his/her stakeholder.

Below I’m providing some feedback from some of our stakeholders throughout the region. While we have pockets of greatness, we still have a ways to go to develop stronger working relationships with our stakeholders at the PM, District, and regional levels. Here are some things they are asking for that we need to find ways of addressing:

- ❑ Need PMs to be more open and transparent of USACE processes, timelines, and accounting.
- ❑ Timelines for studies are too long; time is money; the pilot studies on Jordan Creek (Springfield, Mo.) and Westside Creeks (San Antonio, Texas) are very exciting and a step in the right direction.
- ❑ Projects seem to focus on process instead of results and progress; be more entrepreneurial; make sure every study delivers useful data and tools.
- ❑ Need a local sponsor guide or ‘rule book’; USACE internal process to rank budget priorities is not shared with locals.
- ❑ There is a disconnect between planning, design, and construction staff.
- ❑ System is set up for unsophisticated sponsors, not those with equivalent talent; leverage local money, talent, and innovation more.
- ❑ Help local sponsors overcome bureaucratic and permitting obstacles.
- ❑ There doesn’t seem to be a sense of urgency to stick to a committed date/schedule.
- ❑ Be more of a facilitator, advocate for the sponsor to other agencies

I look forward to working these with you and hearing your ideas of how we can better highlight our value to the Nation. We just hugely and successfully completed the six year BRAC program. Maybe we embark on a five year Civil Works program with the same vision, energy, and commitment to excel!

Thanks for all your efforts in FY 11, and looking forward to a successful FY 12!

Pacesetters...Building Strong.



Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, visits with a Boy Scout working on an Eagle Scout project at Oologah Lake.

Assistant Secretary of the Army (CW) Darcy visits Tulsa District

By Ross Adkins and John Roberts,
Tulsa District

The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Jo Ellen Darcy visited Tulsa District on June 7 and 8, 2011.

The visit was prompted by two significant water resource initiatives in the Southwestern region. The first was the result of the Tri-State Water Summit held in Norman, Oklahoma, in January 2011, which included the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Texas Water Development Board, and Kansas Water Office. Representatives from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, Southwestern and Northwestern Divisions and Tulsa, Fort Worth and Kansas City Districts also attended.

Through those discussions, two fundamental concerns were voiced from the States regarding the Corps ability to effectively partner with them to address the region's water needs: the relevance and reliability of Corps assistance through our current authorities and procedures, and prioritization of the water supply mission.

The second initiative was brought about by our hydropower stakeholders, particularly Jon Worthington, Administrator of the Department of Energy, Southwestern Power Administration, Ted Coombes, Executive Director of the Southwest Power Resource



(From left to right) Deby Snodgrass, Director of Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation, Col. Michael J. Teague, commander, Tulsa District and Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Association, and Ron Bowen, Director of Jonesboro Power and Light. Due to the success of the customer-funded hydropower rehabilitation project at Webbers Falls, Oklahoma, through the "Jonesboro Agreement" and numerous other customer-funded repairs at Corps projects throughout SPA's region, SPA and SPRA have proposed a 30-year, customer-funded hydropower modernization initiative for Corps hydropower projects.

With this background on exciting water resource projects that are ongoing in our area,

Darcy enjoyed two days packed with visits and information that are highlighted below.

Water Supply

Darcy began her whirlwind tour in Kansas, touring projects in both the Kansas City and Tulsa Districts, including John Redmond Dam in Tulsa District. Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, Kansas State Representative Tom Sloan and Kansas Water Office Director Tracy Streeter stressed several challenges of the Corps in providing relevant and reliable assistance to our State partners in ensuring sustainable water supplies for an ever-growing population. Two-thirds of the water supply in Kansas comes from federal reservoirs, and storage continues to diminish due to sedimentation in the reservoirs.

The theme of water supply as a key water resource planning issue in this region continued as Ms. Darcy traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she met with Oklahoma Water Resource Board Executive Director J.D. Strong, Senator Jim Inhofe's field representative Michael Lee, Senator Tom Coburn's field representative Connie Pearson, and Congressman Dan Boren's District Director Ben Robinson. Tulsa District is partnering with the State of Oklahoma in preparing

See Darcy on next page

Darcy, continued from previous page

the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, which develops holistic and sustainable solutions for Oklahoma's water needs. Corps reservoirs play an important role in the present and future water supply needs in Oklahoma.

America's Great Outdoors

A visit to Oologah Lake followed the Oklahoma stakeholder meeting to view one of Tulsa District's 38 reservoirs, 30 of which have water supply storage, including Oologah. There, Darcy was thrilled to see President Obama's initiative, America's Great Outdoors, in action. While touring the lake, Darcy was met at the Skull Hollow trail head by volunteers and Eagle Scouts working on a project to improve the appearance of the trail. The goals of the America's Great Outdoors initiative are to promote, conserve, and restore America's Great Outdoors and to encourage America's youth to embrace and protect our vital natural resources. Fittingly, a group of local Girl Scouts were picnicking in the area at the time, and gave Darcy an impromptu serenade by singing, "You're a Grand Old Flag."

Recreation

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Director Deby Snodgrass joined the entourage at Oologah Lake. Snodgrass discussed the rapidly developing positive relationship with Tulsa District, including the initiative of OTRD collecting contributed funds to enable completion of the Lake Eufaula Environmental Impact Statement, which is required for an update of the Shoreline Management Plan. Snodgrass is also partnering with the district for a Lake Texoma land conveyance to the State of Okla-

homa and implementation of Section 3134 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 that is intended to identify innovative solutions for increased public recreation opportunities.

Hydropower

Darcy was also able to visit the Webbers Falls Major Rehabilitation Project where she met with key stakeholders, Jon Worthington, Administrator of the Department of Energy Southwestern Power Administration; Mr. Ted Coombes, Executive Director of the Southwestern Power Resource Association; and Mr. Ron Bowen, Director of Jonesboro Power and Light. Darcy received a briefing on how the Jonesboro Memorandum of Agreement worked to fund the Webbers Falls Major Rehabilitation project and how it could be the funding source for the modernization initiative in our region.



Howard Davidson briefs Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works during her tour of Webbers Falls Power Plant. In back, from left, Ron Bowen, President, Arkansas Municipal Power Association, and Jon Worthington, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration.



Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works visiting with a volunteer at Oologah Lake.

Navigation

Tulsa District's portion of the Secretary Darcy tour concluded with a joint Tulsa/Little Rock District meeting with McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System stakeholders. The meeting was arranged and hosted by Bob Portiss of the Port of Catoosa. Discussions included the economic importance of the environmentally friendly navigation system to this region. Initiatives included the future deepening and widening of the system and potential contributed funds to maintain continued reliable service during challenging budgetary periods.

A lot of ground (physically and informational) was covered in two days. Following her visit to Tulsa District, Darcy did have one regret, "This has really been too short a visit to the hidden jewel of the Corps."



Back at Tulsa District, Jo Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works visits with J. D. Strong, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board.



Amarillo Armed Forces Reserve Center

The construction of the Amarillo Armed Forces Reserve Center started with the contract award on July 13, 2009, and was completed on August 15, 2011. This center includes classrooms, an Operational Maintenance Shop, and a storage building.

In flood aftermath

Little Rock uses 'triage' to get bigger bang per buck

Little Rock District staff report

Little Rock District lakes prevented numerous towns from being inundated during the 2011 spring floods. But some of this public infrastructure was left damaged in the aftermath. In response, district leaders plan to use 'triage' to get the most out of limited available dollars and attempt to head off unexpected breakdowns.

In the White River Basin, the district's six lakes were key in reducing the extent of flooding 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.

Without those lakes working together as a system, flows at Newport, Ark., would have been more than 700,000 cubic feet per second. That much flow has never been recorded there.

River stages downstream would have overtopped all the levees from Newport to Clarendon, Ark. Water would have spread out to close more highways, flood more homes and businesses, and inundate more cropland all the way down the White River basin. This "spreading out" would have slowed flow rates. Nonetheless, additional floodwater would have reached the Mississippi River and added to flood woes there.

In all, the district lakes captured four million acre-feet of floodwater. This is enough water to cover 4 million acres one foot deep. It is so much floodwater



As floodwaters continue to recede, entire trees and other debris litter the Shoreline and boat launching area at this commercial marina on Little Rock District's Beaver Lake. Flood damage to district facilities is estimated at \$33.5 million. (Army Corps of Engineers photo.)

that some is still being gradually evacuated from the lakes six months later. As the lake levels continue to recede, more damage to Corps facilities becomes evident.

The district sustained significant damage to its parks and navigation infrastructure. This damage, coupled with the existing maintenance backlog and the prospect of shrinking Operation & Maintenance funds are converging to create special challenges in the coming fiscal year.

Flood damage to district facilities is estimated at \$33.5 million. The existing maintenance backlog before the flood was \$68 million. Indications are district O&M funds might be reduced by \$17 million in the coming fiscal year.

In response to this difficult situation so

the district can continue its missions and provide the best public service possible, district leadership has formed a team to classify operation, maintenance and repair needs into three categories – must do, need to do, and like to do.

In triage style, once the list of items has been categorized, the team will first address those "must do" items. If all those can be accomplished, the district will then turn to the "need to do" list and accomplish as many of those as possible. The district does not anticipate any items in the "like to do" category will be accomplished.

Among the tough choices the team will consider are closing less-utilized parks and shortening the recreation season at parks that remain open. Some flood damaged parks may not be reopened at all. Additional park options include reducing trash pick-up and mowing frequency, reducing the number of temporary park rangers and contract park attendants. Such options would help focus available funds on more critical needs.

All the choices will have consequences. As long as a maintenance backlog exists, so does the possibility of unanticipated breakdowns, which can cause a cascading effect on the district's O&M program. However, focusing the district's limited dollars on priority items helps reduce the risk.

This campsite on Little Rock's Beaver Lake lies in ruins after severe storms caused spring floods across the district. The district will use "triage" techniques to decide which facilities to repair and reopen to get the biggest bang for the buck in light of limited funding. (Army Corps of Engineers photo.)



Greers Ferry Project teammates assist Jackson County residents

Story and photos by Laurie Driver, Little Rock District

(Note: Little Rock District project offices sent 10 field personnel to assist downstream levee boards in several communities during the recent flood. This is one of their stories.)

In mid-April, Natural Resources Specialist Brent Watkins couldn't have guessed he would soon be walking in driving rainstorms looking for weak spots on threatened levees. The weather was dry where he works at Greers Ferry Lake near Heber Springs, Ark., and the lake was at the top of its conservation pool, which is pretty normal. That would soon change.

"My team and I were inspecting boat docks and checking the shoreline for encroachments," Watkins said.

On April 21, forecasts began calling for rain. Heavy rains set in, and the water started to rise. In less than two weeks, the White River system of lakes received 12 to 22 inches of rain with the majority of it falling in a five day period.

The White River reservoirs did their jobs and captured huge amounts of runoff, which significantly reduced flood crests. However, 60 percent of the river basin drains below the dams, so dozens of swollen tributaries poured uncontrolled into the river system. Dramatic flood crests built and threatened levees at several communities in Missouri and Arkansas.

On April 28, Watkins was one of five natural resources personnel from the Greers Ferry Project who traveled over to assist Jackson County officials. Help was needed on three levees in the Jacksonport and Newport areas. This comprised more than 33 miles of levees that required monitoring 24 hours a day through May 7.

"When the National Weather Service predicted a crest of 36 feet at the Newport gage, we used our zip level to identify potential low areas on the levee," Watkins said. "Once the low areas were identified, we helped local officials and volunteers build up the low places with Hesco's (flood barriers) and sandbags along the northern portion of the Massey-Alexander levee above Jacksonport State Park."

And it is in times of need that communities really pull together. "On April 30, we worked for 17 hours straight, and the only



Army Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Specialist Brent Watkins inspects the levees between Jacksonport and Newport, Ark. Personnel from the Greers Ferry Lake Project Office worked with the Massey-Alexander Levee and Newport Levee boards to monitor area levees 24 hours a day April 28 through May 7. The work was effective, and the levees held through the crest.

reason we stopped then was because of the lightning," Watkins said. "There were about 45 folks filling sandbags, and about 100-200 folks from the community helping do whatever was needed. We started up again the next morning after that storm had passed to finish the job."

And their work paid off. About 1,500 feet of Hesco's and 2,900 feet of sandbags were added to the levee. The river crested below the predicted height, and none of the levees were overtopped.

"We were fortunate that the river crested below its predicted height," Watkins said. "But it was such a privilege to work with the high caliber of folks in the Jacksonport and Newport areas. They understand the risk of living in a flood plain. When it's needed, they pull together to protect their community. It was a community effort, and even though I was away from my family, they made me feel like I was a part of theirs."

Senate Committee visits Webbers Falls Powerhouse

Murphie Barrett and Kyle Miller from the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works visited the Webbers Falls Powerhouse on March 24, 2011. Barrett and Miller were shown the operations and work that is presently being done within the total rehabilitation project, and then toured the unit being rehabilitated. Representatives from Southwestern Power Administration were present and presented their philosophy and overview of their system operations along with an outlook and history regarding the Jonesboro Agreement that is currently funding the rehabilitation work at Webbers Falls.



My time flood fighting on the Missouri River

By Ruth Milsap, Galveston District

This year the Missouri River watershed is experiencing record and near record snowpack and some extreme rainfall events that have made life and work challenging for the folks of the Northwestern Division's Omaha District. The six dams and reservoirs on the main stem of the river are making controlled releases of as much as 160,000 cubic feet per second. As a result, the farmlands and homes of people living downstream are depending on the expertise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and levees along the river's banks to protect and inform them about this massive outflow of water.

I recently spent a few weeks on deployment to the Omaha District for the Corps Flood Fighting mission on the Missouri River working with the Joint Information Center as an external affairs specialist. The JIC provides current, accurate, and much needed information to stakeholders, partners, and the general public about the Corps and its work on the emergency status of the Missouri River. To facilitate this portion of the flood fight, the JIC personnel put together a Facebook page, "Operation Mighty Mo," posted pictures to Flickr and video to Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System, provided updates to the Omaha District website, answered literally thousands of phone calls, disseminate press releases, answered media queries, provided interviews with Corps personnel. Additionally, we attended public meetings, made both still photographs and video for use on the web and in publications, helped keep district personnel informed about the status of the mission, and kept staff on point and on message with daily talking points. I worked with a great team of folks from across the Corps who just like me, volunteered to come to NWD and be of service to our country, the Corps, and the mission.

The JIC was only half of the flood fighting mission control center. The other half was the Emergency Operations Center, where the engineering, hydraulics, hydrology, technical and operations personnel came together for the nuts and bolts and the day to day decision mak-



Ruth Milsaps, a park ranger at the Galveston District's Wallisville Lake Project, receives a coin for her service while deployed during the Corps' flood fighting mission. She has been trained by the Corps and Federal Emergency Management Agency as an external affairs specialist for the Emergency Support Function Team (ESF-15), and the External Affairs Planning and Response Team for public information dissemination during federal emergency and disaster situations.

ing processes of a major river system in flood.

One of my major tasks was to read through each day's news articles about the flood event (sometimes as many as 60), so we could address issues that would most likely come up that day or within the next few days. I found many interesting topics that included; what would the flooding be like if there were no dams on the Missouri River, what is groundwater seepage, can I get an exclusive on the opening of the Gavin's Point spillway gates, how does this year compare to years in the past? I also asked many questions about the capabilities of the dams to perform as predicted and their stability.

My other major task was to take the

day's media queries and enter the information into the district's Public Affairs Office database. A somewhat tedious task that not many people like to do was just the thing for me. I could sit in my little corner, type the entries, listen to the others as they went about the JIC's daily work, and learn a vast amount about how to go about making information available to the world. By the time I left to come home I had made several hundred entries into the database and my brain is filled with do's and don'ts.

For more information about the Missouri River, the Omaha District, the Northwestern Division, and the flood fighting mission go to www.facebook.com/OperationMightyMO or www.nwo.usace.army.mil/.



Team Galveston in the field

Galveston District's Capt. Greg Couturier deployed to Joplin, Mo., in June as the deputy commander for the Joplin Recovery Field Office to assist with the recovery efforts in the aftermath of the devastating tornado disaster. (USACE photo by Chris Gardner)

Corps provides district funding, operations perspective at 106th GICA convention

Galveston District staff report

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District participated in the 106th annual Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association's Convention Aug. 10-12 in New Orleans.

District senior leaders and members of the Navigation and Operations divisions attended the two-day conference to learn more about key issues and concerns relating to barge industry operations along the Gulf Coast.

Commander of the Eighth U.S. Coast Guard District, Rear Adm. Roy Nash, who took command June 1, 2011, thanked industry leaders for their professionalism and collaboration during this year's Mississippi River flooding events (the worst flood to occur on the river since 1927) and applauded GICA for the crucial role it played in managing waterway traffic during this natural disaster.

"Your years of experience and expertise in this industry plays such a critical role in our nation's economic stability," said Nash. "Your work and steadfast leadership on the waterways keeps cargo moving safely."

Nash discussed upcoming proposed changes in regulations to ensure the safety of vessels transiting along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and encouraged feedback from industry leaders.

Galveston District Commander Col. Christopher Sallèse was a one of four members of the conference's USACE Funding and Operations Perspective Panel to brief participants on the current status of USACE operations around the nation, highlighting the Galveston District's achievements, upcoming programs and studies.

Sallèse explained that over the last year the Galveston District



Galveston District Commander Col. Christopher Sallèse (far right) briefed participants of the 106th Annual Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association Convention Aug. 10 through 12 in New Orleans on the current status of USACE operations around the nation, highlighting the Galveston District's achievements, upcoming programs and studies. Sallèse was a one of four members of the conference's USACE Funding and Operations Perspective Panel. Members of the Galveston District's Operations Division also participated in the convention.

awarded \$26 million in contracts to remove four million cubic yards of dredge material along the Texas coast, replace mooring buoys, rehabilitate gates and guide walls and make improvements to dredge material disposal site areas.

"We have four of the top 10 busiest ports in the nation responsible for transporting 58 percent of the nation's cargo which ranges from petroleum products to supplying our military overseas," said Sallèse. "We need to work together to get the biggest bang for our buck and identify ways to improve the waterway system."

Sallèse conveyed the importance of keeping Texas waterways open as a national strategic investment and thanked industry partners and sponsors for their continued collaboration with GICA, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Corps.

Tropical Storm Don visits Matagorda

Simon DeSoto, Galveston District Colorado River lockmaster took this photo of waves crashing into a jetty in Matagorda County, Texas on July 29 as Tropical Storm Don made its way closer to the Texas coast. If you have an interesting or unique job-related photo and want to submit it for publication in the Pacesetter, contact your District's Public Affairs Office.



BRAC recommendations complete, benefits for San Antonio ongoing

By **Lori Newman**
Installation Management Command

After \$3.4 billion in construction and an estimated \$8.3 billion in positive economic impact to the city of San Antonio, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure recommendations are complete.

"[BRAC was] one of the largest economic development programs in the entire history of San Antonio," said Mike Novak, a member of the Military Transformation Task Force.

"We have completed all of the requirements set forth in the BRAC legislation," said Dr. "CEM" Maxwell, deputy director of the San Antonio Joint Program Office. "That's a considerable accomplishment."

Of the 200 overall BRAC recommendations made, 19 or almost 10 percent impacted military installations in San Antonio, Maxwell said, pointing out the six "major muscle moves," as he called them.

These include the Medical Education and Training Campus, which consolidated five major enlisted military medical training institutions from across the country.

METC consists of five new instructional facilities, six existing buildings, three dormitories, a new dining facility, new gymnasium and a headquarters building with a projected average daily student load of 8,000.

"There is nowhere on the face of the earth where students come and learn their skills to a higher level than they do at the Medical Education and Training Campus, in our 1.2 million-square-foot, \$800 million-BRAC-purchased facility," said Rear Adm. William Kiser, METC commandant.

"In our short duration of existence, we have already received multiple 'kudos' for the quality of our graduates," Kiser added.

The second of the big six is the San Antonio Military Medical Center. Brooke Army Medical Center has transitioned to SAMMC and Wilford Hall Medical Center changed its name to Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center Sept. 15.

SAMMC construction projects included a new 760,000-square-foot consolidated tower, renovations to BAMC, a 5,000-space parking garage, central energy plant and the Fort Sam Houston Primary Care Clinic at a total cost of about \$802.3 million.

"Once fully operational and staffed, SAMMC will be the largest inpatient health care facility in the Department of Defense and will continue to be the military's only level-



Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, U.S. Army Installation Management Command commander, reognizes Daniel Seastrum (above left), IMCOM-BRAC team and Marco T. Barbarena, (above right) Joint Program Management Office during an awards ceremony the day before IMCOM Headquarters ribbon cutting ceremony. Lynch recognized more than 110 team members from the Corps, IMCOM, BRAC, Fort Sam Houston and the 502 Mission Support Group.

one trauma center," said Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commanding general, Southern Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center.

"Ultimately, it's about providing the best possible and highest quality patient-centered health care services, in the best state-of-the-art facility for our patients and maximizing the effectiveness and the value of the health care services that we provide to our beneficiaries," Wong added.

"The Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center will be a premier facility with 38 specialty clinics, four operating rooms and an urgent care center that will operate 24 hours a day," explained Maj. Gen. Byron Hepburn, commanding general, 59th Medical Wing. "It will be the largest ambulatory surgical center in the Department of Defense."

The third major event was the move and consolidation of the U.S. Army's Installation Management Command to Fort Sam Houston.

Under the provisions of BRAC, Army Environmental Command and IMCOM headquarters moved to Fort Sam Houston, and Family and MWR Command was integrated into IMCOM Headquarters.

The construction and renovation of the IMCOM campus infused approximately \$121 million into the San Antonio community.

"We at Installation Management Command have been afforded a great windfall," said IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola. "We have been treated like royalty on this joint base since we have been here."

The creation of Joint Base San Antonio was another major undertaking, consolidating Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis and Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases.

Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing credited Brig Gen.

Leonard Patrick for creating an identity for Joint Base San Antonio. Patrick was the first commander of Joint Base San Antonio.

"We have three great historic locations, Fort Sam Houston, Randolph and Lackland Air Force Bases," Carter said. "One of the challenges of joint basing is how to combine the installation support functions, while at the same time preserving the history, heritage and lineage of those individual locations. I think General Patrick and his team have done that."

Joint Base San Antonio covers 40,000 acres and supports a workforce of more than 73,000.

Also noteworthy were several laboratory construction projects, such as the creation of the Joint Center for Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research and the Tri-Service Research Laboratory.

The 133,100-square-foot BHT, located on Fort Sam Houston at the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research, integrates three services' combat casualty care research missions. The project was completed in August 2010 at a cost of \$111 million.

Many of the construction projects are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certified. The LEED green building rating system, developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, promotes design and construction practices that increase profitability while reducing the negative environmental impacts of buildings and improving occupant health and well-being.

In total, there were 48 BRAC-related construction projects spanning across Joint Base San Antonio.

"We have built or renovated almost 11 million square feet," said David Thomas, director of the San Antonio Joint Program Management Office. "More concrete was poured here

See BRAC on next page



Fort Worth celebrates FY 11 success, continue momentum through FY 12

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

Team Fort Worth, as we just crossed the threshold from Fiscal Year 2011 into FY 12, I personally thank each of you for your individual and collective efforts over the past fiscal year and compliment you on a job well done!

As I say all of the time, the reputation of our district is: "if it's hard to execute, give it to Fort Worth, we'll 'get 'er done'."

Our accomplishments in FY11 truly exemplify why this is true and why we are known across the Army and Corps as one of the top districts.

In FY11, the Fort Worth District completed over \$1.5 Billion in military construction and civil works projects. While this statistic is impressive in and of itself, it's even more so when you consider that it is inclusive of several Base Realignment and Closure projects with a Congressional mandate to be completed by Sept. 15, 2011.

In the six-year period allotted for BRAC projects, the Fort Worth District completed all on-time and some even ahead of schedule. The Fort Worth District, by itself, accepted 94 BRAC projects that totaled \$4.4 billion that represents 40% of all the USACE BRAC projects. Not only did we complete those projects within that schedule, but for some of our BRAC projects we were actually ahead of schedule. Again, a job well done, Team!

As I travel to our various projects sites and their surrounding communities throughout Texas and outside the state, people I come in contact with ask, what I attribute to the Fort Worth District's constant success; my answer is always the same – OUR PEOPLE.

You, the SWF Team are a group of dedicated, loyal, and highly skilled individuals who work as a

BRAC, continued from previous page

than I have seen in my entire career, more than 770,000 cubic yards."

There will be another billion dollars in a future year development plan that is not BRAC money, Thomas added.

"San Antonio is 'Military City USA' and we deeply appreciate both the hospitality and the support that the city has given us during this venture," Maxwell said, crediting the city, county and chamber of commerce for positioning the military for success.

TEAM. That teamwork and your call to serve the Army, the Corps, and the Nation are what make us one of the best districts in the Corps.

While we celebrate the successes of the past year and move forward into 2012, primed to excel even further, we remain cognizant of lessons learned and have already implemented some key internal staffing additions that will help move us to that greatness.

We recently welcomed our former Chief of Programs and Project Management, Ms. Peggy Grubbs as our new Deputy District Engineer; and this past summer our new Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Andrew Liffing. Both Peggy and Lt. Col. Liffing bring a wealth of experience and management to the Command Group and the District and have already begun implementing changes that will bring positive impacts to our daily and overall mission.

In addition to changes within the Command Group, last month, we also made some key personnel changes to our number one SWF Civil Works project, the Trinity River Corridor Project.

Events occurring on this project have taken on precedence setting for the Corps and the nation both from a policy and technical aspect. As the Corps develops a comprehensive levee safety approach, this project is one of few projects that is at the forefront. Because of this significance, we are bringing in additional assistance to keep the project moving forward and to demonstrate our understanding that this is a national priority within the Corps of Engineers.

Even if you are not directly involved with the Trinity River Corridor project, as a part of SWF, each of you should be proud to be part of this great effort that is helping to forge policy and develop solutions that provide greater Public Safety through risk reduction to the citizens not only of Dallas but also across the nation.

Life safety is the No. 1 priority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Safety Program. Both the Corps and the City of Dallas share the responsibility of public safety, and both are committed to ensure the integrity of levees and protecting the public.

I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize some very special teams within the district, the first being our Regulatory Branch. The Regulatory Branch is vital to protect our environment

by enforcing the laws that are designed to balance economic growth while protecting some of our most precious resources. They execute their mission with passion and dedication unmatched by other agencies. Another team is our Hydrology and Hydraulic branch within E&C. During this record breaking drought, our group of dedicated H&H, Office of Counsel, Operations and PPMD staff professionals have been diligently working with many water authorities across the state helping to sort through the water rights and finding solutions to address the demands on this dwindling valuable resource. I was once told that in Texas, "whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting." Our goal is to help avert the fights and seek cooperative and viable solutions.

A special thanks to our Operations team and those who participated in the National Public Lands Day on the 24th of September. This day was celebrated at several lakes across the District. Sam Rayburn and Lake O'Pines cleared and extended several trails. Town Bluff, Waco, and Whitney Lake all worked with volunteer groups to clean up and beautify the areas around their respective lakes. These efforts show a great respect for the public lands that are entrusted to us and help educate local citizens as to the value we provide to the local community and the nation. Thanks to those who participated.

As we close out FY 11 and ring in FY 12, know that whatever Division you work in, Real Estate, Operations, Contracting, Resource Management, Planning Environmental and Regulatory, Engineering and Construction, Engineering Construction and Support Office, Program and Project Management Division, Office of Counsel, Emergency Management, Public Affairs, Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity, Internal Review or the Executive Office, YOU are what makes the Fort Worth District one of the Best in USACE. You should be proud to be a member of a team that does what it takes to get the mission done. Thanks for a great year and I look forward to meeting the challenges that lay ahead next FY with you. With a team like this, there is nothing we can't accomplish . . .

Thanks to all for your efforts to build strong in everything we do.

TULSA DISTRICT'S TRIBAL PROGRAM -- ONE OF A KIND

By Cynthia Kitchens, program manager, Tulsa District

The State of Oklahoma has 38 federally recognized Tribes. They range in size from the very small Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town of 350 members to the largest in the USA, the Cherokee Nation with 250,000 members. Tulsa District has on-going projects with both of these Tribes, and about 15 others. Tulsa District



Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town Elder Center groundbreaking

has a very unique Tribal program that no other Corps District offers.

In the early 1990s, it became apparent to some granting agencies that often times Tribes, especially smaller ones, did not have the expertise to implement the projects for which they received grants. The result was substandard facilities that were undersized and over budget. Unfortunately, grant funds were often abandoned.

In order to address this issue, Tulsa District began offering technical services on a reimbursable basis through the Inter-agency and International Support (IIS) program. This work is authorized by the Chief's Economy Act. Compliance with this act requires that federal grant money be involved and that we have permission from the granting agency for Corps involvement. The program shows every indication of growing as we partner with new Tribes and federal agencies to meet this important Tribal need.

Today the district uses more technical disciplines than ever including civil, mechanical, and structural engineers, architects, quality assurance technicians, planners, and economists to ensure these important customers have access to expertise they need. Most technical support is for Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grants, but last year Tulsa District was involved in U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Energy, and

the Office of Head Start grants. Popular projects include wellness centers, elder centers, community centers, child care centers and medical facilities.

To assist Tribes with grants, the Corps begin with the application process. We provide Tribes with up to seven different documents for HUD applications. We also have performed economic feasibility studies and developed alternative energy feasibility study scopes. Once grant funding is received, we assist by providing documentation necessary to put contracts in place. This includes the request for qualifications, selection committee worksheets, interview questions, and a contract the Tribes can use. After the contract is in place, we really prove our value by being on site for a minimum of 18 quality assurance inspections as distinct milestones. We also manage monthly progress meetings between the owner and contractor.

One of our most unique HUD projects began in 2010 when five Tribes from northeast Oklahoma agreed to combine almost \$5 million in grant funding to construct a multi-clinic medical facility. The collaborators intended to combine a second year of grants to fully fund the project. As the project gained momentum, the Northeastern Tribal Health System agreed to fund the remainder of the project. In July 2011, the NTHS awarded an \$8.5 million contract for design/build services to construct a 51,000 square-foot facility. Construction has begun, and the project should be open in 20 months. This state-of-the-art facility will provide services to any federally recognized Tribal member.

Through the Tribal team's outreach efforts, we have discovered a need for Tribal master planning and water resource studies. While some of the master planning effort is funded through federal grants, Tulsa District executed two Planning Assistance to State cost-share agreements with Tribes in FY11.

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma and Tulsa District

See Tribal on next page



Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Wellness Center

Tinker AFB gate gets LEED Gold rating

Tulsa District staff report

Tinker Air Force Base now boasts its first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design project -- and it received a Gold Rating!

On September 23, 2009, Tulsa District awarded a Design/Build project to The Ross Group Construction Corporation to realign Air Depot Boulevard, construct a new Pass and ID facility, and add a canopy to the gate house.

Beneficial Occupancy was achieved on February 4, 2011, with a final construction amount of \$4.6 million. The six-month time growth on this project was due only to unprecedented severe winter weather and government delays waiting on the Vance Gate to re-open so Air Depot Gate could be closed for construction activities.

One of the Request for Proposal requirements for this project was LEED Silver Certification. During its design and construction, the contractor's commitment resulted in a higher LEED certification. The project earned 39 points, moving the LEED certification into a Gold Rating.

The LEED certification program is an internationally recognized system for providing third-party verification that a building is both designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance. A LEED Silver Certification requires minimum earnings of 33 points



New canopy at Air Depot Gate

on the rating system. The categories within this rating system include sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, innovation and design process, and administrative inquiries.

Tribal, continued from previous page

executed at Planning Assistance to States agreement. It is a 12-month, \$100,000 Master Plan Study cost shared at 50 percent. Members of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe are direct descendants of about 81 Chiricahua Apache prisoners of war that were held at Fort Sill until 1913. The story of this Tribe is tragic but through their strength and perseverance, they are making great strides. It is truly our honor to serve this distinguished Tribe.

The Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations recognize their responsibilities to ensure current and future generations the long-term stability of their homeland's water resources. Tulsa District was very pleased to have been chosen to partner with the Nations on a Planning Assistance to States cost-shared study. This study will appoint a panel of experts to provide guidance on developing in-stream flow methodology in the southeastern region of the state. This is a 12-month, \$120,000 study that is cost shared at 50 percent.

Another project that is holding the interest of many is the W.D. Mayo Hydropower Project. In the Water Resource Development Act of 1987, the Cherokee Nation was authorized to construct a hydropower facility at W.D. Mayo Lock and Dam. At the time, it was not economically feasible, but it is now, and the project is moving into the design phase. Tulsa District is working with the Nation and their consultants to ensure all 408 report requirements and 404 permits are fully addressed. The Cherokee Nation hopes to begin construction within the next three years. 



Quapaw Fire and Emergency Medical Services -- the only emergency service in the county since the Tar Creek buy out.



Seneca Cayuga Wellness Center foundation work



Water, water ... everywhere & nowhere

Col. Michael J. Teague
Commander, Tulsa District

Seems strange that the last Pacesetter was just after our spring storms and with this issue we could really use some of that water.

In June, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy visited the Kansas City, Tulsa, and Little Rock Districts. The visit started in Kansas City and we flew with Kansas Governor Sam Brownback and the Kansas Water Office staff to see all of the projects. We were barely in the air when the briefing and conversation turned towards the flooding on the Missouri River. Mother Nature's power was impressive to see and that was a month before the real flooding even began. When the flights turned south, the landscape quickly turned from muddy, flooding rivers, to green fields, and then

to brown fields and not much water. And this was in June when our lakes were full!

It is equally impressive to see how our Corps responds to storms and flooding to help the American people. With Kerri Stark, Sara Goodeyon, Geza Horvath, Michael Wingfield, Stanley Spirlock, Michael McGill, Eric Smith, Richard McCanlies, Autumn Munkirs, Bryan Carter, Jim Miller, Yvonne Brownrigg, and Adam Hannaford deploying to Joplin, Nate Herring deploying to Alabama after the tornado there, and with our Power Team heading to the east coast for Hurricane Irene, our response to all of these storms says a lot about the character of the people we count as our teammates.

So while our sister districts to the north and east have been fighting flooding, we

are standing in a drought. It is interesting to see that our approach to both situations is very similar. We gather our partners together, roll up our collective sleeves, and figure out what to do next. The District Emergency Management shop spearheaded both the Corps Drought Management Committee and the Interagency Drought Management Committee (IDMC). Just as we work with the National Weather Service and the U.S. Geological Survey to forecast storms and floods, we have teamed together to forecast the drought and its effects. We are working with our state partners and in fact, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management hosted the Oklahoma IDMC meeting in

See Teague on next page



Tenkiller Lake releases 13,000 cfs

Due to heavy spring rainfall in the area, Tenkiller Lake flood pool nearly filled, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, released water at the rate of 13,000 cubic feet per second through the main spillway gates and hydropower. These releases brought the downstream channel to full capacity. The water did not rise above the channel.

Col. Michael Teague, commander, Tulsa District hosted an information meeting for elected officials and governmental agencies to discuss the releases that were being made at Tenkiller Lake.

Corps personnel monitored the lake around the clock. Individuals downstream of the dam followed guidance from local emergency officials.

Tulsa District responds to blue-green algae

By Nate Herring, Tulsa District

The extreme hot, dry temperatures throughout the Southwest have caused an outbreak of blue-green algae in nine Tulsa District lakes.

The Corps has confirmed blue-green algae in Keystone, Fort Gibson, Skiatook, Tenkiller, Waurika, Texoma, and Eufaula lakes in Oklahoma and Pearson-Skubitz Big Hill Lake and Marion Reservoir in Kansas.

Blue-green algae are a phylum of bacteria called cyanobacteria that obtains energy from photosynthesis. While blue-green algae exist in most surface waters, excessive blooms are typically caused by elevated nutrients in lake water, calm and hot weather conditions, and a lack of reservoir inflows/outflows that, under normal years, provide for flushing of excessive nutrients and algae from a lake. There are several different strains of the bacteria, some of which produce toxins that can be harmful to humans and pets. Because of the possibility for adverse health risks at higher concentrations, including gastrointestinal illness, respiratory symptoms, skin and eye irritation, and, in rare cases, even death, the Corps of Engineers issued lake-wide advisories and, in some areas of affected lakes, warnings and area closures.

The advisories, warnings, and area closures are based on recommendations and guidelines from the World Health Organization.

This has been an unusual year for blue-green algae blooms in Oklahoma lakes. There are a few lakes with a history of blooms, however, not to the severity and not in as many lakes simultaneously as is being experienced this year. In Kansas, the blooms are more common. Marion Reservoir, for example, has had blue-green algae blooms each year since 2003.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has an established policy for blue-green algae, and the Corps of



Blue-green algae exist in most surface waters, excessive blooms are typically caused by elevated nutrients in lake water, calm and hot weather conditions, and a lack of reservoir inflows and outflows.

Engineers follows their policy for Tulsa District lakes in Kansas. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality does not have an established policy for blue-green algae, so the Corps has adopted, in part, the KDHE policy and signage with the concurrence of Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

The Corps of Engineers is continuously adapting and improving the way it responds to blue-green algae blooms. Typically, when an algae bloom is reported by a member of the public, a park ranger or environmental specialist will go to the area where it was reported for a visual confirmation. Once it is located, water sampling and testing will be performed. When results are received, the Corps makes its recommendation for advisory, warning, or closure based on the cell counts documented in the results.

After tests have confirmed the presence of the algae that exceeds a level that could present a risk to health according to the WHO guidelines, a lake-wide advisory is issued. Under an advisory, all Corps boat ramps, public use areas, swim beaches, and access points are posted with advisory signs that discourage water contact. If an area is determined to have levels present that exceed the moderate risk to adverse health effects, that area will be posted with warning signs stating that water contact is prohibited. In some cases, areas are closed due to the blue-green algae concentration. At some of the affected lakes in Oklahoma, the lake manager has made the decision to close swim beaches as a precautionary measure.

In addition to the signs posted at affected lakes, the Corps has used social media and traditional media to educate the public on the risks associated with blue-green algae. There has been a tremendous amount of public interest, and the Corps regularly responds to public and media inquiries.

The Corps will continue to monitor the affected lakes and respond to any new reports of blooms. Follow-up testing will be completed to determine if the advisories, warnings, and closures can be lifted or need to be adjusted.

Teague, continued from previous page

the State Emergency Operations Center. We are already working with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Tourism and Recreation Department to develop the public information messages about the drought. We have been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in areas where low water is severely impacting either endangered species or fisheries. Southwestern Power Administration has been a tremendous partner at all of our hydroelectric power projects.

There are currently four Tulsa District lakes that are at Drought Level II and each one has unique problems and solutions. At Pine Creek we have worked with International Paper, the water supply customer, and the state to ensure that we meet all of the critical needs. Pine Creek is also a great example where we completed several smaller projects while the water is lower in order to improve habitat when the water comes back up. It is a great example of the future and the benefits of great partnership.

So, yes we avoided the floods of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and yes, we are in a drought. But the answers to both are good partners and fantastic teammates within the Corps. And a little bit of help from Mother Nature wouldn't hurt either!

Astronomy hobbyists search the night skies

By Jay Woods, Little Rock District

It is often said everyone needs a hobby. Some meet their friends on a sunny day for a round of golf. However, two Little Rock District employees meet their friends under starry night skies to pursue their hobby as amateur astronomers.

Jim Fisher, an assistant district counsel assigned to support the district's Medical Support Branch, and Bill Sanders, a civil engineer in the district's Hydraulics Branch, are both members of the Central Arkansas Astronomical Society. Each has had an interest in astronomy since boyhood, and it was this shared interest that brought them together as friends half a dozen years ago.

Not only do they both enjoy searching for objects in the night sky, but they also both enjoy teaching others about astronomy. Both even work with Boy Scouts to help them earn astronomy merit badges. In fact, Fisher first began studying the night sky when he was a young Scout himself.

"I went to a Boy Scout camp that was south of Benton," Fisher said. "Back in those days Benton was a small town and it was very dark at the camp. The Milky Way was just unbelievable."

Sanders echoed Fisher's interest in teaching youngsters about astronomy.

"I enjoy talking to kids who are looking at Saturn for the first time, or explaining to them how a telescope works," Sanders said.

Just as golfers seek a suitable course, astronomers also need a suitable location. A rural location is necessary because city lights illuminate the night sky and make it impossible to view many celestial objects. As a result, the astronomical society maintains property in a sparsely populated portion of eastern Perry County for use by its members.

The group also hosts monthly Star Parties from March to October at places like Pinnacle Mountain or Woolly Hollow State Park where the public can come look through telescopes provided by society members.

Fisher pointed out that sometimes more than 100 people attend the star parties.

"I think we perform a great service educating the kids and parents who come to the Star Parties," Fisher said. "This is the

type of stuff they are not going to learn in a classroom taking a science class. Here they are really doing hands on observations."

On one recent weekend, the weather was stormy, so instead, the 75 people who attended watched a DVD about astronomy.

Of course a beginning golfer is ill advised to run out and buy an expensive set of clubs, and Fisher and Sanders advise beginning astronomers to avoid running out and buying a powerful and expensive telescope right away. They say beginners are better served by first attending the Star Parties or by purchasing a good pair of binoculars to start off because that is all that is needed to view many objects in the night sky.

As one's interest in a hobby matures, golfers and astronomers alike gain a more mature appreciation for equipment. Fisher and Sanders are no different. Each uses two types of telescopes. Each uses an 81mm "refractor" telescope to look at the moon, planets and double stars. A refractor telescope uses a large lens to bend light to magnify an image and a second smaller lens called an eyepiece. This is the classic telescope design that Galileo first used to observe the night sky.



Bill Sanders (left) and Jim Fisher (center) loom 60 feet above Murray Lock on the Arkansas River atop the Big Dam Bridge, the nation's longest bridge constructed for pedestrians, as they prepare to view the Perigee full moon rise. A Perigee or supermoon occurs when the moon is closest to the Earth on its elliptical orbit.

Each man also uses a "reflector" telescope, which differs because it uses two mirrors

See Skies on next page



Jim Fisher (third from left) talks to Boy Scouts about viewing the sun during an astronomy merit badge class. Fisher, who first developed an interest in astronomy when he was a Boy Scout himself, said he enjoys teaching Scouts and other children about astronomy.

Little Rock welcomes new deputy commander

Little Rock District staff report

Lt. Col. Craig S. Guth has assumed duties as the new deputy commander of Little Rock District. Guth replaces Lt. Col. Marvin Griffin, who moved on to his next assignment at Fort Hood.

In his new position, Guth is second in command of the district's civil works activities, which span 35,000-square-miles and cover southern Missouri and about half of Arkansas. The district plans, builds and operates water resource projects to provide flood risk management, hydropower generation, navigation, water supply, recreation, environmental and other uses directed by Congress.

Little Rock operates 13 locks and dams, 12 multi-purpose lakes, seven hydroelectric power plants, 178 public parks and more than a half million acres of public lands and water in the Arkansas, White and Little River basins. Responsibilities also include construction and real estate support to military installations, the Army Reserve and recruiting offices for all branches of the military. In addition, the district supports Overseas Contingency Operations.

Guth comes to Little Rock from Heidelberg, Germany, where he was commander of the 60th Engineer Geospatial Planning Cell producing map data, terrain products and geospatial

web-services for U.S. European and Africa commands.

His previous assignments with the Corps include deputy commander of Nashville District; provincial reconstruction engineer for Gulf Region North District in Kirkuk, Iraq; and project engineer for the U.S. Engineer Group, European Division, in Ankara, Turkey. Guth pointed out a Little Rock District tie from his assignment in Ankara.

"My first USACE job was under Ed Watford in Turkey when Ed was Ankara resident engineer from 1988 to 1990," he said.

Watford would later serve in Little Rock as deputy district engineer for project management from 1997 to 2006. Watford has since retired from the Corps, but his wife, Patty, still works in Little Rock's Operations Division.

Guth has served in several additional Army command and staff positions both stateside and abroad, and he is a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

Guth graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering and was commissioned in 1985. He is also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College, the Combined Arms Staff Service School, the Armor Officers Advanced Course, and the Engineer Officer's Basic Course.



Lt. Col. Craig S. Guth has assumed duties as the new deputy commander of the Little Rock District.

During a break in service, he spent more than five years supervising inspection, maintenance and repair of railroad bridges and culverts for CSX Transportation in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Tennessee.

Guth's military awards include: Bronze Star (with one Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (four OLC), Army Commendation Medal (two OLC), Army Achievement Medal (two OLC), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

Skies, continued from previous page

to magnify light. The primary mirror is concave and directs light to a smaller mirror which then directs the light through an eyepiece lens. These telescopes are very popular among amateur astronomers.

Fisher uses an 8 inch reflector telescope while Sanders uses a 12.5 inch reflector telescope to look at faint deep sky objects like galaxies and star clusters.

The furthest objects they can see are galaxies outside of our home galaxy, the Milky Way. They can easily see the Andromeda galaxy, which is estimated to be 2.5 million light years from earth.

Like golfers who study to improve their game, astronomers seek to learn more

about the night sky to increase their chances of finding the objects they seek. Locating a particular pinpoint of light in the massive night sky can be the equivalent of finding a needle in a haystack. These two hobbyists know, however, that Saturn was recently visible and that Jupiter will be visible in October, and they know where in the sky to look.

Both Fisher and Sanders recommend reading *Sky and Telescope* magazine or *Astronomy* magazine to learn more. Among other things, these publications provide monthly sky charts. Sanders emphasized the importance of studying up beforehand.

"You have to learn the constellations and learn your way around the sky," Sanders

said. "If you don't know the constellations you are going to have a hard time finding the planets.

Fisher agreed.

"It's almost like hunting," Fisher said. "You have to hunt down a lot of the objects you are looking for. We can see pretty deep in space with our scopes."

For those without a hobby who feel the need to get one, before you hook up with a friend for an afternoon on the golf course, consider amateur astronomy. Fisher and Sanders have helped many get started. And Sanders will tell you he has one other special reason for pursuing his hobby.

"I really enjoy the beauty of the heavens," Sanders said. 



Little Rock District stands at a strategic crossroads

Col. Glen A. Masset
Commander, Little Rock District

The Army Corps of Engineers is at a strategic crossroads nationally and regionally, and Little Rock District is there as well. By extension, each of us working for the Corps is standing at a crossroads.

The Corps is wrapping up the historic Base Realignment and Closure 2005 effort, and Little Rock District has been a regional partner. The district placed nearly \$160 million in work under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and that is near completion. We received supplemental funds of about \$46 million in the wake of the 2008 flood to repair damaged facilities. That work is complete.

Even the Corps' stakeholders recognize we're at a crossroads. I attended the recent National Waterways Conference where the theme was "Get Ready to Ride the Wave of Change." So it's impacting our stakeholders as well.

Locally, spring floods this year again damaged Little Rock District parks and navigation infrastructure to the tune of \$33.5 million. Add to that a maintenance backlog currently at \$68 million and growing, as well as the prospect of an O&M funding reduction of \$17 million, and we see all of these situations converging to create special challenges in the coming fiscal year.

What does this mean? While at these crossroads, do we turn the corner and change direction? If so, which way do we turn? Or, do we continue travelling the same direction?

First things first. Each of us must recognize the fact that we're here at the crossroads.

Please know that at the regional and national levels, Corps leadership is addressing these issues. We will likely see a change in our strategic planning that includes a refocus on the Civil Works mission. But there will more about this in coming days and weeks.

As a district, we have formed a team that is reviewing the levels of service we provide in each business line. The team is developing a 'triage' approach to get the most out of available dollars and attempt to head off unexpected breakdowns at the projects. The team is classifying operation, maintenance and repair needs into three categories -- must do, should do, and nice to do.

Once the list is finalized, we will first address those "must do" items.

If all those can be accomplished, we will then turn to the "should do" list and accomplish as many of those as possible. We do not anticipate items in the "nice to do" category will be accomplished.

Among the tough choices to consider are closing less-utilized parks and shortening the recreation season at parks that remain open. Additional park options include reducing trash pick-up and mowing frequency, reducing the number of temporary park rangers and contract park attendants. Such options would help focus available funds on more critical needs.

All the choices have consequences. As long as a maintenance backlog exists, so does the possibility of unanticipated breakdowns. However, focusing the district's limited dollars on priority items helps reduce the risk.

How can you as an individual face the crossroads? Again, first recognize you are there. Strategic crossroads have a different focus whether you are talking about the Corps nationally, regionally, at the district level, or as an individual employee. But keep in mind, all the crossroads are interconnected.

Those things that are good for the district can also be good for you as an employee. Remain flexible. As the strategic focus shifts, you can too. Each of us will find ourselves doing new things in new ways. It won't remain the "way we've always done it."

Be sure to continue your professional development and seek appropriate training. Consider applying for developmental assignments that can help broaden your horizons and professional appeal.

Take a look at opportunities for overseas deployments. These can be a great way to not only support our fighting forces, but also to broaden your personal and professional horizons.

So I hope you recognize by now that we are at a crossroads. I want you to know that our national and regional leaders are addressing the challenges that lie ahead. I also want you to know that Little Rock District is doing the same. I ask you to address the crossroads on a personal level.

Little Rock District's workforce has always been and will continue to be its greatest asset. I am confident that you will continue to serve Arkansas, Missouri and the Nation, just as those who came before us have since 1881. Each generation since the district was first formed has faced its own crossroads and prevailed. We will too.

Operations manager 'living the dream' in Southeast Missouri

Story and photos by Laurie Driver, Little Rock District

"I'm the luckiest guy in the Corps," said Clearwater Operations Manager Randy Devenport. He was selected as Little Rock District's Clearwater Operations Manager earlier this year, and he says he has been living his dream for the past 27 years.

Most operations managers work at a number of different project offices before they are selected as the manager. Not Devenport. He has spent his entire career thus far at Clearwater Lake in Southeast Missouri.

And that's just the way he likes it.

"I've been so blessed to have had so many opportunities to be challenged and grow both professionally and personally right here at Clearwater," Devenport said. "Working here has been a dream come true."

Devenport started his career as a park technician with the Army Corps of Engineers at Clearwater Lake in 1984 after graduating from Southern Illinois University.

"I was young and still wet behind the ears when I moved to Clearwa-

See Dream on next page

Little Rock District retiree Hipp graduates summa cum laude from Arkansas Tech

Little Rock District staff report

In the 2007 movie "The Bucket List," two terminally ill men set out with a wish list of things they want to do before they die. Though she is not terminally ill, Charlotte Bradley Hipp, who retired nearly four years ago from Little Rock District's Greers Ferry Lake, has her own bucket list, and she recently checked off a major item on it.

Hipp graduated summa cum laude in August from Arkansas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in professional studies and community outreach with an emphasis in psychology.

"I believe I was the oldest graduate and the only one who took more than 30 years to get a degree," she quipped.

Hipp worked for the Army Corps of Engineers for 41 ½ years with all but a few months at the Greers Ferry Project Office. She said she enjoyed her job as an administrative officer but said she felt the only way she would have time to fulfill her personal goals was to retire.

"I always wanted to get my college degree and decided to retire and enroll in college," she said. "I retired Jan. 3, 2008 and enrolled in college four days later."

Hipp took her first college classes in the mid-1970s, and throughout the years she occasionally took a few classes when she could.

"Because of work, family and other commitments, a lot of time lapsed in-between," she said.

But all her hard work paid off in August when her family and friends gathered in Russellville, Ark., to watch as she received her degree.

Hipp suggests that everyone should set personal goals but still enjoy life.

"We all need to have goals but not be so goal driven that we fail to enjoy every day of life that God has given us and to glorify him," she said. "I agree with author Jim Davidson that setting personal goals increases our achievement levels and overall satisfaction with life."

Obtaining her degree is not the only item Hipp has completed on her bucket list. Since



Charlotte Hipp

her retirement she said she has lost 50 pounds, gotten more involved in her church, and has learned to swim.

"The next item on my personal bucket list is to travel to the 13 states that I have not visited," she said. "These travels should begin in 2012. Life is good."

Dream, continued from previous page

ter," he said. "I spent the first summer working with the maintenance crew. It was a great way to learn the project and the people in the area."

In the fall of 1985, Devenport moved into the ranger section.

"The rangers took me under their wing and brought me along," he said. "This spring-boarded me right into the contracting aspect. I had been a house painter, draftsman, carpenter and a masonry laborer during school, and when I started working with contracts I found my first niche."

Devenport cut his teeth on park additions and displays.

"My real ability was working up the proposals for these types of projects," Devenport said. "And my bosses recognized my ability and let me grow with the job."

He went on to be the facility manager for a number of years, honing those skills before he was named chief ranger in 1999.

That position just seemed to evolve somewhat into the deputy operations manager role, Devenport said.

Over the years he has been exposed to all phases of project operations.

"Clearwater is a small project and is somewhat managed by committee," Devenport said.

"If you don't get your hands on each phase of a project, you definitely rub up against it."

Not only has Devenport made the most of his years at Clearwater, but he also has done the same with the community.

"After the second year here, my wife and I knew that Piedmont was our home," Devenport said.

He has been a member of the school board for six years, and has been on his church board and involved in Little League for 12 years.

"My wife and I have five children, ages 10-23, and I would not want to raise them any other place," he said.

"I look back at how blessed I've been," Devenport said. "There have been several opportunities come up that I've thought about applying

for away from Clearwater, but it was never the right time to move my family. When it would have been a good time to move the family, I was blessed with new challenges here at Clearwater that I just couldn't pass up."

Dale Leggett, retired chief of Little Rock's Natural Resources Section, has known this operations manager since Devenport was considering taking his first job at Clearwater.

"When Randy was first considering the position at Clearwater I was able to talk to him about what a great project Clearwater was," Leggett said. "I saw his potential right away. He brings so much to every job that he has taken on. His goal has always been to make Clearwater the best project within the Corps."

And in 2010, Clearwater was selected as the Corps' Natural Resources Management Project of the Year.

Devenport was proud that the staff's efforts were recognized with the award. And the staff appreciates Devenport.

"Randy was here when I started working at Clearwater in 1988," Sharon Wills, administrative office for the project office, said. "We're just like a small family. Randy is such a caring individual who is always here to listen to us and encourage us to grow outside of our fields."

While many within the Corps travel the world as they climb the ranks, Devenport has found his slice of heaven at Clearwater Lake.

"Sometimes I think I need to pinch myself to make sure it's not all a dream," Devenport said. "I am really the luckiest guy on the planet to get to call this area home, to raise my family here and to have a career that just keeps on moving forward."



Randy Davenport



We planned, developed schedules and we executed

Col. Christopher W. Sallese
Commander, Galveston District

My Coastal Custodians, Fall is almost upon us and with that we wrapped up another fantastic year for the district. The final count is in and we executed more than 750 contracts worth approximately \$184.5 million. Regulatory processed more than 1,800 permits and more importantly in conjunction with the Department of Justice, we won a major case over a 404 violation. In short, we had a plan, we developed our schedules, and we executed what we said we were going to do. I am so proud of everyone in the district for your untiring efforts. **JOB WELL DONE!!!**

So where do we go now? Or as they use to say in the Pentagon, "What have you done for me today?" In fiscal year 2012, the Corps is going to be challenged across many fronts. First and most importantly, there is the need to rebuild the infrastructure that was destroyed during the FY11 flooding, tornado and hurricane seasons. Congress has not appropriated emergency supplemental dollars for these repairs and our sister districts across the nation are scrambling to find and execute dollars to provide the citizens of our nation protection before the spring flood events. I fully expect any FY11 carryover funds that we may have will be reallocated to those efforts.

Second, the president and the Congress have stressed the need for the nation to reduce our national debt. Federal agencies have been asked to prepare two budgets, one reflecting a 5 percent and another reflecting a 10 percent cut based on FY10 figures. In FY10, the district was allocated \$148 million in operations and maintenance dollars in the president's budget, in FY11 \$104 million and in FY12 \$98 million.

We have taken some reductions and with the needs of the nation and the priorities of the country in other areas I fully expect that we will go down some more in FY13. In short, we are going to be OK in FY12 and we will have to carefully manage all our resources to set us up for success in FY13. We are regionally linked with Fort Worth, Tulsa, and Little Rock districts in many areas and we will continue to work closely with all our partners to ensure our three-year work load planning and our human capital plan support our core missions.

Pete Perez has completed his first three months as the deputy district engineer for Programs and Project Management and I must say he has taken to the job very well. He still needs 30 years to catch up with Art Janecka but he has taken the bull by the horns and worked the areas that I feel he needs to focus on. First, I asked him to stand up and be the lead for the district on our business management practices. He has been, and will continue to be, the lead for the three-year work load planning which links to the human capital plan. Next, I charged him with helping me ensure we safely executed all actions as they were scheduled, within budget. This gets to the heart of the credibility of the district which we all must stay conscious of in our daily efforts. It is very simple, we must execute the schedule.

An excellent example of this is the La Quinta project. In FY10, the district awarded the contract for the Texas City Channel deepening project. We will complete it on time and provide the nation a project that will generate enormous economic benefits. Because we executed this project so well, the district was given the entire La Quinta deepening project in FY11. We awarded the \$40 million contract on schedule and delivered as we said we would. In short, we have shown everyone that if you give Galveston the resources, we will execute. All of our efforts are key to maintaining this credibility.

You have heard me say many times that the district's successes are attributed directly to our people and their desire to complete the mission. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a few of our unsung heroes out there.

First are Jan Stokes, Diana Laird, and Bob Heinly. These folks have been working with HQ USACE, the Texas General Land Office and the president's Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Their efforts have truly enlightened the task force on the requirements for Texas to complete the authorized Texas Coastal Study which will examine the needs for storm surge protection, ecosystem restoration, flood risk management, and coastal erosion protection. They are also instrumental in working with the six county judges in the northern region to get the Sabine Pass to Galveston Study restarted.

Eddie Irigoyen, Tricia Campbell, Byron Williams and Mike Gonzales actively support the district's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program. The recent program we hosted at the Rice Middle school in Houston brought 80 sixth grade students together for a day



Border Patrol Facility Groundbreaking Ceremony
USACE Galveston District participated in the groundbreaking ceremony July 27 in Corpus Christi, Texas, marking the first joint field operations and U.S. Customs Border Protection facility to be constructed in South Texas.

See Sallese on next page

Galveston District public affairs staff obtains APR certification

Galveston District staff report

Isidro Reyna, deputy public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, earned the Accreditation in Public Relations credential while Sandra Arnold, APR, chief of public affairs for Galveston, earned the Accredited in Public Relations + Military Communication designation from the Universal Accreditation Board, in early September.

“Earning the APR reflects mastery of the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to succeed in our increasingly complex profession,” said John Forde, Ph.D., APR, Fellow Public Relations Society of America, 2011 co-chair of the UAB. “Practitioners who achieve the designation are demonstrating their commitment not only to our profession, but also to a strong code of ethics and to the betterment of their organizations and clients.”

Professionals with a recommended five years or more of direct experience in public relations are required to provide a portfolio to the Readiness Review Panel outlining their experience; participate in a two-hour oral board comprised of three accredited practitioners who judge candidates on 16 areas of knowledge, skills and abilities; and pass a three-hour computer-based examination covering 44 key areas in public affairs ranging from ethics and law to communication models and theories.

“Attainment of this important credential and continuing professional development demonstrates the ability of our employees to meet the challenges of our diverse organization,” said Col. Christopher W. Sallese, Galveston District commander. “Mr. Reyna’s and Ms. Arnold’s accomplishments are testament to their professional commitment to execute the Corps’ public affairs mission.”

Reyna joined the district as a civilian public affairs officer in 2009. Prior to his employment with the district, he worked as a public affairs specialist in the U.S. Army Office of the Chief of Public Affairs at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., and for the U.S. Army Operational Test Command Headquarters in Fort Hood, Texas. Previous to his employment with the federal government, he worked as a media relations specialist and account supervisor for a full-service public relations and advertising agency in San Antonio.

Reyna is a member of the PRSA and a 2008 graduate of the Defense Information School’s Public Affairs Qualification Course. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts with



Southwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Kula presents Galveston District Deputy Public Affairs Officer Isidro Reyna with a commander’s coin for his attainment of the Accreditation in Public Relations credential. Reyna joins a prestigious group of more than 5,000 active accredited public relations professionals in the U.S.

a specialization in public relations from Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio in 2006 and most recently joined a prestigious group of more than 5,000 active accredited public relations professionals in the U.S.

Arnold is one of approximately 20 professionals to earn the new APR+M credential since its establishment last May.

APR+M candidates must either serve as a military member (active or reserve) or be a Department of Defense civilian employee/contractor whose primary responsibilities involve military communications.

Arnold arrived at the district in 2010 following the completion of a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan as the Public Affairs Advisory Team director at NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan’s Region Command-North where she mentored Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police officers in all aspects of public affairs. She became the first civilian member of the PAAT in Afghanistan.

Arnold has been employed by the U.S. government as a public affairs practitioner for 15 years. She has assumed progressively responsible positions at assignments located in Asia, Europe and America.

Arnold earned a Master of Human Relations degree in 2001 from the University of Oklahoma, earned the APR credential in 2006, and is a Navy reserve public affairs officer.

Sallese continued from previous page

of science fun and exposure to the Corps. They are helping us build a deep bench in our own backyard.

Chris Frabotta came to us for a 120-day developmental assignment from the Wilmington District to serve as our chief of Navigation. He came here to learn from us and in the process enlightened us on many new ways to do business. He created a new template for P2 that is going to help us significantly with our future workload planning.

Thanks to Dan Oden, Ron Dunaway, Armido Filidei for their heroic efforts to help a family after a horrific boating accident. Their rapid response and compassion emulate the spirit of all Corps employees.

Richard Long, Ken McDonald, Kristine Brown, Bill Krampe, and

Sam Watson’s efforts during the brush fires at Addicks and Barker dams and reservoirs enabled the Houston Fire Department, the U.S. Forest Service and Harris County Precinct 3 officials to quickly establish a command post and get these raging fires under control before it affected homes located within the area.

There are many more out there but unfortunately my space in this article is limited.

I want to thank you all again for everything you do on a daily basis to make this district so great. The kids at the Houston STEM event asked me what I like the most about my job and I told them it was solving tough and important problems with some of the greatest people and minds in our nation.

Stay Cool. Stay Safe. Build the Texas Coast Strong!!!

Mocek joins Gallery as the 57th Distinguished Civilian Employee

Story by *Denisha Braxton, Fort Worth District*

On Sept 9, a new addition to the Fort Worth District Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees was unveiled. Michael J. Mocek who retired in 2008, as the Deputy District Engineer and Chief, Programs and Project Management Division was inducted into the Gallery during the annual Retiree Luncheon held at the Petroleum Club, Fort Worth.

Mocek will join the other gallery members as the 57th inductee whose legacy of contributions led to the significant success of the District. The first ten employees were inducted in 1978.

"I am truly honored to have been selected to join this distinguished group of people", said Mocek, who began his long and distinguished federal service in 1971 at the Fort Worth District as a civil engineer in the Planning Division.

For more than 18 years Mocek served as Deputy District Engineer and Chief, Programs and Project Management Division prior to his retirement in 2008, where he



Michael J. Mocek who retired in 2008, as the Deputy District Engineer and Chief, Programs and Project Management Division was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees by Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr. during the annual Retiree Luncheon held at the Petroleum Club, Fort Worth.

played a pivotal role in his most noteworthy projects the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, one of the largest military

hospitals in the world, and completion of Jim Chapman and Ray Roberts multi-purpose reservoirs.

Mocek was also instrumental with oversight for the Dallas Floodway Extension, the Upper Trinity Study, the Middle Brazos Study, and others. He was a leader in establishing the Architect-Engineer Resource Center which provides "one door" USACE support to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Through this program, the Fort Worth District supported construction management in every geographical area of the Corps nationwide, providing \$50 million in annual services.

"I am so thankful to be recognized the work I have done and my accomplishments while working at the Fort Worth District. It's such a blessing to have great family and friends who have always supported me," said an emotional Mocek after the unveiling of his plaque during the Luncheon.

Mocek's superb management skills enabled him to successfully lead one of the largest and most diverse programs in the Corps of Engineers, ranging from \$500 million to \$800 million annually.

"Mike was very professional and dedicated to his position...he loved his job. Everyone he came across looked up to him," said Lynn Chapman, Executive Secretary, who worked for Mocek for more two years.

Oklahoma native looks back on 25 years as a summer ranger at Keystone Lake

By *Sara Goodeyon, Tulsa District*

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers park rangers work year-round at Corps recreation areas to protect the areas and make them a better place for people to visit.

During the busy recreation season the Corps bolsters its staff of rangers by hiring "summer" rangers. One of those summer rangers is Roger Moore, an educator by trade, who has worked at Keystone Lake every summer for the last 25 years.

Even though as a teacher he could vacation over the summer months and go hunting and fishing, or visit with his sons, (one lives in Oklahoma and the other in Colorado where he works for the Denver Broncos football team) but Moore has always chosen to return to Keystone when school is out for the year.

"It's important to stay busy," said Moore, who grew up on a farm near

Cleveland that has been in his family since 1911. "I've never taken a summer off."

One of the nicer aspects of being a summer ranger at Keystone said Moore is that it is so near the schools where Moore taught and was principal or vice-principal, so he often sees former students.

"Some of the students I see are the ones who were going through some difficult times and I got to know them well," said Moore. "I see them now and it is good to learn that they found a way to overcome those difficulties. I have great respect for them and I hope they respect me, too. They made mistakes but they handled it well."

Educators don't usually hear from former students that they made a difference in their lives, but Moore said there was one memorable exception.

See Moore on next page

Southwestern Division teams with Fort Bliss, DeCA to build commissary

Story and photo by Edward Rivera, Fort Worth District

The grand opening ceremony for the new Commissary on Fort Bliss, Texas on June 29 cemented the foundation of a unique partnership created between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division, Fort Bliss and the Defense Commissary Agency.

The partnering was born out of May 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Program recommendations needed in order to support the increase in the number of soldiers and family members, who would be stationed at Fort Bliss. The goal became a reality with the grand opening of one of the 10 largest DeCA facilities worldwide.

Al Rein, project manager, Little Rock District said, on this project the Corps was the mandated construction agent because of the BRAC funding which paid for the commissary.

“From the Corps perspective the project was unique in that we do not normally get involved with DeCA projects,” said Rein. “They usually manage their own design and construction of commissaries.”

Under Southwestern Division’s supervision contractors delivered the 114,000-square-foot facility that boasts more than 60,000 feet of sales space which includes an international delicatessen and bakery, fresh sandwiches and sushi, rotisserie chicken, along with fresh produce, fresh meats, fresh seafood and more as part of a variety of more than 17,500 items.

The construction includes many skylights that provide natural lighting for the store, native landscaping to reduce outdoor water usage and using geothermal for year round heating and cooling. This makes the commissary an energy conservation-friendly facility for the installation’s almost 30,000 soldiers and their families,



The new Fort Bliss Commissary will serve shoppers with more than 60,000 feet of sales space.

as well as the estimated 100,000 retirees throughout the region.

“It was a great partnering experience for both the Corps and DeCA as we discovered and worked through some of the differences in the way our agencies conduct business,” said Rein. “There were a few bumps in the road that we had to get over but all in all it was successful undertaking for both the Corps and DeCA.”

Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, commanding general of the 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, said other than the fitness centers and the training areas is the commissary was his favorite place.

“I appreciate DeCA’s newest commissary not only as the commanding general of the post, but also as a soldier and a member of an Army family as well,” said Pittard. “This is a world-class commissary for a world-class community. I appreciate the support of everyone that had something to do with this, whether it be the Army Corps of Engineers, our great garrison staff and even the City of El Paso.”

Moore, continued from previous page

“A co-worker came in from one of the recreation areas and said a lady had asked him if Moore was still a ranger, and he said yes, and the woman handed him a note to give to Moore,” said Moore. “The note said ‘Mr. Moore you made a difference in my life.’”

Moore is an admitted “people” person who enjoys working with the public, and also enjoys the people he works with.

“I think the people here at Keystone have been great,” said Moore. “I think as a group, rangers have a good attitude about looking out for the public and Corps resources.”

Attitude is a word Moore uses a lot because he said he believes that one’s attitude has a direct impact on any given situation.

“There are two main points for success: attitude and then people,” said Moore. “As a ranger, and even at school, I’ve always gone with the attitude that we can solve the problem, and the chances are greater that you will have a good solution.”

With the end of the 2011 recreation season, Moore looks back on a quarter century of being a summer ranger, and he hasn’t decided if he’ll return for 2012.

“I’ll just take it year by year,” said Moore.



Keystone Lake summer ranger Roger Moore chats with one of the park hosts at Keystone August 3, 2011. Moore is an educator who chooses to spend his summers working as a ranger rather than vacationing.

Galveston Deputy District Engineer Janecka retires after 47 years of service

By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District

On June 8, 1964, only a week after his college graduation and ten days after his wedding to his wife Cathy, Lamar University graduate Arthur J. Janecka drove up to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's headquarters building in an aqua Chevelle, ready to report for duty as part of an 18-month civil engineering intern training program where he would earn \$5,650 in his first year.

Forty seven years later, the Columbus, Texas, native would become a leader in coastal engineering, serving with 21 Corps district commanders, 24 division commanders and retiring as the deputy district engineer for programs and project management – the highest position attainable by a civilian employee in the Galveston District.

"I am so very thankful for being a part of the Army Corps of Engineers and having the opportunity to work with customers, stakeholders, commanders and district employees," said Janecka. "The Corps is like family. I've always had jobs that I thought were important, whether I was an intern or chief. I've been blessed with my assignments."

When Janecka began his career with the Corps, the 500-employee district was work-

ing on designs for the hurricane flood protection systems in Texas City, Freeport and Port Arthur, in addition to the Wallisville Reservoir and Brays and White Oak bayous flood protection systems.

"It did not dawn on me then, but over the years I have realized the importance of all those projects that produce benefits for this great nation that we live in," said Janecka.

Janecka said he's proud of the efforts of district employees, most notably the work to complete the deepening of the Houston Ship Channel and the completion of projects like the channels to Victoria, Freeport Harbor and Brazos Island Harbor.

"When I was in a position dealing in numbers, I saw numbers. But numbers look like channels, walls, protection devices or bank stabilization," said Janecka. "I think of the number of people who have been protected by hurricane flood protection systems and flood risk management structures – that's what is important."

Janecka recalls one of his most memorable moments at the Corps.

"I went to Houston with a group and we were walking Brays Bayou," said Janecka. "A few engineers told me anytime you see water running over concrete, stay away from it because of the algae growing on it. I didn't



Art Janecka is honored by Galveston District Commander Col. Christopher W. Sallese, right, and former commanders, Len Waterworth, left, and David C. Weston, center, at a retirement ceremony held in Galveston.

listen because it was just a short distance to the other side. Well, I slipped and fell and the senior engineers drove me all the way back to Galveston – I must've been an intern."

With 47 years under his belt, Janecka remembers when computers and automated systems were first introduced in the Galves-

See Janecka on next page

A closer look at the USACE Leadership Development Program

Pacesetter staff interviewed Galveston District Regulatory Project Manager Felicity Dodson to gain an inside look at the Corps' Leadership Development Program. Dodson recently completed a developmental assignment as part of the program's Level 3.

Q: What is the Leadership Development Program?

A: The goal of the U.S. Army Corps Leadership Development Program is to develop leadership competencies -- knowledge, skills and abilities -- of participants within each of the following four leadership domains: individual leadership, leading groups and teams, leading the organization and leading the community. There are three levels participants rotate through. Level 1 familiarizes employees with the Corps' culture and values, strategic direction, business processes and principles. In Level 2, participants increase self-awareness and understanding of talent, potential and methods to develop them. As part of the Level 3 component of the program, participants expand their regional leadership perspectives and are given the opportunity to complete a developmental assignment.

Q: As part of Level 3, which developmental assignment did you choose?

A: I was chosen to work with the Southwestern Division Planning Regional Integration Team at USACE Headquarters, in Washington, D.C., for three months, which gave me a new perspective on the civil works planning process. I was able to gain first-hand experience writing records

of decision and recommendation memos from a headquarters perspective.

Q: What has been the most valuable aspect of your developmental assignment?

A: The most valuable aspect of my developmental assignment was the opportunity to gain a more strategic perspective on the Corps' business processes and to broaden my network of mentors. From a district perspective, the opportunity was value added because of the experience it provided in learning to create a more polished product to send to headquarters. Spending time working with the Office of Water Policy Review and evaluating packets submitted to headquarters by a district helped improve my understanding of the review process beyond the district level, and also gave me insight into how I can help the district help headquarters execute its mission.

Q: Is there anything you found unique while working at the Corps' headquarters?

A: One of the unique aspects of working at USACE headquarters is the

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Janecka, continued from previous page

ton District.

"In 1975, I was named the resource allocation project manager while working in the Programs Management Office for the district," said Janecka. "That was the first time I used an automated system. A lot of people from the old school would tell you they could do work faster by hand than a computer could do it. In some cases, that was true."

According to Janecka, computers were just getting started in the Corps and the district had one that filled an entire room.

"I learned the benefits and bonuses of using computers from USACE Galveston District Program Analyst Betty Voelkel," said Janecka.

Although he appreciates the technology, he says there are some downfalls.

"E-mail is great technology, but it's also kind of damning," said Janecka. "We lost face to face communication, but as far as contacting people in faraway places, e-mail is great. We need to temper that with real person contact at times."

Janecka said he's willing to share his institutional knowledge with anyone on the job, whether via telephone or in person and offered the following advice for district employees, "continue your education, seek diverse assignments, look for opportunities to further your career, obtain professional licenses and certifications, and throw out the idea of not doing something if it's not written in your job sheet – you've got to put that mind frame aside sometimes."

Janecka's distinguished career has been filled with multiple military and civilian awards. He was most recently awarded the Silver Order of de Fleury Medal from the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment, one of the highest recognitions bestowed by Army engineers. Janecka was also recognized by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and U.S. Rep. Ron Paul during a retirement ceremony held in June, in addition to being named an admiral in the Texas Navy by Texas Gov. Rick Perry.

Janecka admits he was humbled and petrified by his retirement ceremony held in Galveston.

"I really would like to laud the accomplishments of others and be in the background," said Janecka. "I was tickled to death. The Galveston District has been good to me. It's been a blessing to me and my family."

Janecka plans to visit Alaska with wife Cathy and garden.

"I want to enhance the flower garden and add color in the yard. I also have some house repairs I want to catch up on, fishing to do, and plan on staying active in church," said Janecka. "I want to enjoy my grandkids."

When asked if he plans to stay connected to the district via Facebook, he said yes.

"I'm not an expert at Facebook, but I plan on learning," he chuckled.

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chance to step in to help with activities you would not normally have been exposed to. I was asked to participate in the 2011 National Level Emergency Operations Exercise, which turned out to be an exciting hands-on opportunity to learn how headquarters manages a national emergency.

Q: What advice would you give to those entering Level 3?

A: When considering a developmental assignment, look for opportunities that are different from the job you normally do. It contributes to career de-

Galveston selects deputy district engineer for programs and project management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, announced the selection of Pete G. Perez, current chief of USACE Galveston's Engineering and Construction Division, as its new deputy district engineer for programs and project management – the highest attainable civilian position in the district.

Perez, a 19-year veteran of the Corps, succeeds Arthur J. Janecka, who retired earlier this month after 47 years of federal service to the nation.

"Mr. Perez brings with him a wealth of design and construction knowledge and Corps experience which will allow for a seamless transition," said Col. Christopher W. Salles, USACE Galveston District commander. "His leadership will undoubtedly serve the district well as we carry out our mission of providing vital public engineering services to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters."

In his new position, which he will assume July 31, Perez will oversee approximately \$350 million in projects and services that span across 50,000 square miles, encompasses the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico and includes 48 counties, two parishes and 16 congressional districts.

"I am fortunate to have the opportunity to accept this leadership role in an organization that I've had the pleasure to serve for over nearly two decades," said Perez. "These are extraordinary times for the Corps as we're entrusted with maintaining the health of the nation's navigation system."

As the chief of the Engineering and Construction Division, Perez served an eight-month tour in Afghanistan Engineer District-South. Prior to this position, he was the former chief of Construction Operations at the Alaska District, held the position of an area engineer in the Southern Area Office, was a resident engineer in the Central Resident Office, and was an engineer in the USACE Far East District in Korea. He began his career with the Corps as a project engineer in the Fort Worth District's San Antonio Area Office.

A registered professional engineer in Texas, Perez earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering in 1985 from Texas A&M University, a Master of Science in 1997 from the University of Texas at San Antonio in Environmental Management, and is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level II certified. In 2002, Perez was recognized with the Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Award, earned a 2002 Professional Achievement Award from Hispanic Engineer National Achievement Awards Conference, received a Department of the Army Superior Civilian Award in 2008 and 2010, and earned the prestigious Bronze de Fleury Medal in 2008.



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he Leadership Development Program accepts new applications in October. If you are interested in joining, contact your district champion.

Spotlight on:

Brazos River Floodgates Lockmaster Robert Page

By **Sandra Arnold, Galveston District**

Ensuring operational readiness and compliance of the Brazos River Floodgates for nearly 2,500 commercial and recreational vessels each month is no easy task, but it's one that a handful of talented U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a dedicated lockmaster make look easy.

Robert Page, an employee of the Corps for more than 28 years, has held the position of the Brazos River Floodgates lockmaster since 2009, successfully juggling a variety of responsibilities ranging from supervisory and administrative tasks to maintenance and project rehabilitation.

"In May 2011 we removed the north and south sector gates from their hinges as part of our first major milestone in the Brazos River Floodgates Rehabilitation Project," said Page. "Each of the 90-ton sector gates along with an additional 30 tons of organic material were removed for repair and cleaning which will restore and enhance their structural integrity and operation."

Part of a routine 9-10 year maintenance cycle gate rehabilitation conducted by the Corps, this project (once completed by early 2012) will help decrease the number of future closures for corrective repairs to sector gates and provide increased service

for commercial customers.

The rehabilitation project is one of the many initiatives Page and his team have taken to reduce dredging costs and improve customer service.

"I instituted an 'Industry Day' with our customers to facilitate an open dialog with our users and learn how we can implement measures to better serve both our pleasure boaters and commercial industry," Page said.

Though managing the locks is a demanding job, Page says that his 20 years as a lock and dam equipment mechanic and five years as a lock and dam operator have prepared him well for the challenges and problem solving needed to maintain operational readiness, but acknowledges that he could not complete the mission without the support and dedication of his close-knit team.

A U.S. Navy veteran and Terre Haute, Indiana native, Page graduated with an associate's degree from Brazosport Community College in 1987 and calls Lake Jackson, Texas, home.



Students with Texas A&M University-Galveston's Sea Camp visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's headquarters building on the east end of Galveston Island Aug. 4.

CORPS IN THE CLASSROOM: TAMU Sea Campers visit Galveston District

Students with Texas A&M University-Galveston's Sea Camp visited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's headquarters building on the east end of Galveston Island Aug. 4. Sea Campers received a welcome from Galveston Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. James "Brooks" Schultze, followed by a Texas City Deepening Project presentation given by Project Manager and Biologist Sharon Tirpak. The presentation covered the planning and construction processes used to complete the deepening project, as well as the recovery of a Civil War-era Dahlgren cannon.



Spotlight on:

Galveston District hydraulic engineer Samantha Lambert

By Isidro Reyna, Galveston District

Samantha Lambert, a hydraulic and coastal engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, has always had a love for math. In fact, the Texas A&M graduate began her career with the Corps as a Department of the Army intern and says she uses math every single day.

In her position, which she's held since June 2007, Lambert is responsible for overseeing the hydraulic modeling of navigation and coastal projects, including work on the Brazos Island Harbor and Freeport feasibility studies and other Continuing Authorities Program projects and Dredged Material Management Plans.

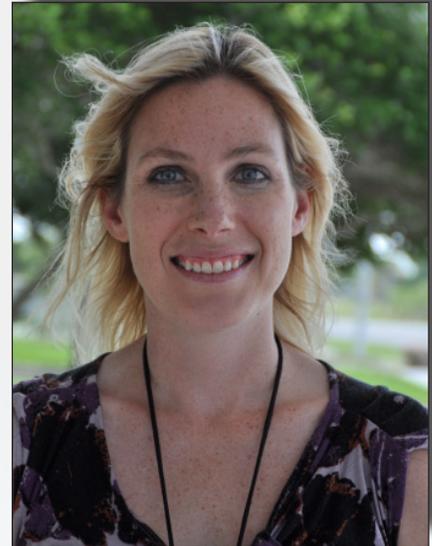
"The USACE Galveston Hydraulics and Hydrology Section is working to use the latest software and technology to solve problems," said Lambert. "I really enjoy when I get to do some of the modeling for various projects in-house, which requires me to use my math skills to solve complex navigation problems along the Texas coast."

Lambert recently completed work for a beach renourishment study at South Padre Island, Texas, and is currently working on a desktop sediment study for Brazos Island Harbor with plans to do the surge analysis in Galveston.

"On projects where I don't do the modeling in-house, I get to coordinate with the USACE Engineering, Research and Development Center," said Lambert. "Some of the different studies include surge analysis, ship simulations, sediment studies, hydrodynamic and salinity studies, studies on sea level rise, and effects of vessel traffic on shoreline."

For the Brazos Island Harbor Feasibility Study, Lambert said a precedent was set for the Corps when engineers had to solve how they would simulate two oil rigs navigating through a channel.

"It was a challenge to figure out how to simulate them and it involved coordination with ERDC, the Galveston District, the Port of Brownsville, and private industry," said Lambert. "It's fascinating to observe pilots driving the ship simulator to test out



Samantha Lambert is a hydraulic and coastal engineer with the Galveston District. The Texas A&M graduate is responsible for overseeing the hydraulic modeling of navigation and coastal projects.

the design vessels in the various channel alternatives for different channel deepening and widening projects."

Lambert says she's always busy and has a wide variety of different projects to work on, which keeps her work exciting. She also says she finds the people in the Galveston District very supportive.

"It's fulfilling to see how all the different sections and branches work together to finish such large-scale studies," she said.

Lambert is currently working with her supervisor, Michael Sterling, Ph.D., and project managers to increase district hydraulic modeling experience using the latest coastal modeling tools.

"This work will be great for the district because we will have the expertise in-house and it will save us money and time," said Lambert.

Lambert completed a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering from Texas A&M College Station. She is certified as a floodplain manager.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, traveling and distance running, having completed 20 marathons and five ultra marathons. 



USACE Galveston participates in Sediment Management Workshop

Employees from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, participated in the annual Regional Sediment Management Workshop held at the USACE Engineering, Research and Development Center's Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory in Vicksburg, Miss. Aug. 10-12. Participants listened to presentations by USACE headquarters personnel, learned about research and development strategic plans for RSM, discussed RSM implementation challenges and solutions and highlighted fiscal year 2011 accomplishments.