

APACESETTER

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Lake is inches from spillway

By Laura Frase
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON — White Belton Lake and Johnson Reservoir are only a few inches from overflowing their spillways.

Lake still on rise

County builds road to give lake residents access to their homes without

By Candace Carline
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BELTON LAKE — Officials with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers kept raising rising water levels at the lake last week, but the

INSIDE STORY

• Section that offers an inside look at

Dams closed to ease rising Little River

By Joanne Williams
TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

CAMERON — Nearly 33 miles to the west of Milan, Co. for a Came in the riv Charlie W. The U.S. the river Casarrn. Flood stay inches of Thursday can rise. With, w over its Engineers water in and Gr Thursday closed.

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Lake parks remain flooded



Pacesetter

Southwestern Division Regional News Service

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

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko
Commander,
Southwestern Division

Rhonda James
Chief, Public Affairs
Southwestern Division

Melanie Ellis
Editor
Fort Worth District

Associate Editors

Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District

Tammy Reed
Little Rock District

Marilyn Uhrich
Galveston District

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On the cover: Original graphic illustration by Andre` Mayeaux, Visual Information Specialist, Fort Worth District. This month's Pacesetter captures the Southwestern Division response to the 2007 flood series. Every district in SWD was impacted, some more than others.





... well, it's finally time to leave ...

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko
Commander, Southwestern Division

Over the last three years I have had the distinct honor and privilege of serving with you, the best team and teammates in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Add to that, one of the most challenging mission sets faced by any organization in our Army, and a group of stakeholders, customers, and contractor partners without equal, and the end result, from my perspective, is SWD magic.

Commanders are often asked about what keeps them awake at night. The standard reply usually focuses on tough, thorny issues, or risks to the accomplishment of critical missions. In my case, it's been about keeping up with the incredibly high standards and fast pace you all have set as individuals and organizations. The collegial and visionary way you have built our regional business team, the relentless drive to deliver better, faster, and less expensively today with an eye toward being even better tomorrow, your integrity in serving the nation's needs, all crystallize for me just how special SWD is.

The challenges have been relentless -- prosecuting the global war on terror; hurricane recovery; leading MILCON transformation; securing our national borders; helping to operate and develop America's strategic (Texas Gulf) seacoast and critical inland waterways like the MKARNS and others; effectively and efficiently operating our assigned lakes, parks, locks, dams, and powerplants; serving the needs of our Army and Air Force installations; restoring and preserving the environment and preserving water as a resource for generations to come. And the list goes on. All overwhelmingly making the case that every job accomplished every day, by every individual in this division has been and will continue to be absolutely critical -- there are no unimportant jobs in SWD. You've all rolled up your sleeves and quietly and professionally gone about doing the nation's business. For all this, I can never thank you enough. It's truly all about people -- in SWD we've had the right people, in the right seat, at the right time, on the bus (I know you've all read Good to Great by now based on Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp's note).


Facing the harsh reality, that there's no way the Chief would let me stay in SWD for the rest of my natural life, there's only one job in USACE that, in my mind, could serve to follow what I've experienced here. And that's the opportunity to join the Gulf Region Division team on the front lines of the Corps' fight in the global war on terror. It's our number one priority. It's a USACE team of teams that includes our Sister Services, other government agencies, contract partners and most importantly, Iraqi citizens. And so I'm honored and humbled with this opportunity. And I'll look at this not so much as leaving SWD but an opportunity to take what you've taught me and contribute on a new team that includes now and will continue to include members of the Southwestern Division. And you can consider this paragraph a recruiting pitch. A

lot of work remains ahead of us in Iraq -- professionally rewarding work with global significance, where the GRD team is looking for help and reinforcement from the talent-laden USACE family. I look forward to the opportunity that GRD might provide for some of us to work together again.

Your new Commander, COL(P) Ken Cox, and I go back a long way. In Ken, you're blessed with the best our Army has to offer. His recent experience in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Pentagon, as well as two tours of duty in Iraq, combined with other

wide-ranging career assignments, strategic vision, high energy, and a real concern for people to make him the right guy at the right time for SWD. With Ken joining this all-star cast, I'll be able to continue to tell the world that, after GRD, SWD is truly the center of the universe.

May God bless you all, and all that you do for this great nation. You've given me a new perspective on *Essayons*. In SWD there's really no "try" involved. You just "get 'er done." Once a Pacesetter, always a Pacesetter.

(Editor's note: In a Change of Command ceremony, Aug. 20, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, who has served as SWD Commander since June 21, 2004, will relinquish command to Col.(P) Kendall P. Cox.) 

“May God bless you all, and all that you do for this great nation. You’ve given me a new perspective on *Essayons*. In SWD there’s really no “try” involved. You just “get ‘er done.” Once a Pacesetter, always a Pacesetter.”

Southwestern Division flood fighters

Anjna O' Connor
Southwestern Division

The flood of 2007 impacted every district in the Southwestern Division. The division office coordinated with the Fort Worth and Tulsa Districts, who were impacted the most, to fight the flood and address the Corps' primary mission of flood damage reduction, prevention and management. Lake levels in both districts were low as the summer recreation season started. The heavy rains in June were welcomed and quickly refilled the water supply at many of the lakes, but the rain didn't stop. It continued into July and SWD found itself switching gears from drought conditions to flood control in a matter of days.

The flood fighters, a common phrase for employees that contribute to the overall effort in managing and communicating during the flood, hit the ground running with the lakes filling up and doing so quickly. "Fort Worth District had 25 of its 27 reservoirs in flood control stage, seven of those 25 reservoirs experienced their second highest pool level, and three were at their fourth highest pool level," said Paul Rodman, the district's Chief, Reservoir Control Section.

Tulsa District was facing the same conditions. "Tulsa District had 40 of its 42 active flood control lakes all in flood operation at one time," said Russell Holeman, Chief of the H&H Branch in Tulsa. "Waurika Lake set a record pool elevation and there were 11 other lakes that were at their second highest pool levels." Tulsa District staff produced 755 pool and river forecasts during June and July.

Downstream in the Arkansas River basin lies Little Rock District. All the reservoir releases prompted by repeated rains in Oklahoma and Kansas had to traverse the state of Arkansas on the way to the Mississippi River. Because of the duration of high flows this caused, crops in bottomland fields were affected, navigation was impaired, and recreation was impacted.

The district issued and re-issued small craft advisories and emphasized water



Photo courtesy of Southwestern Division

Dallas levees hold floodwater as it makes its way down the Trinity River.

safety as the situation unfolded. Constant coordination was required with organizers of major fishing tournaments and other events. Dozens of media calls poured in.

The Reservoir Control Centers switched into overdrive and began staffing offices 24 hours a day, seven days a week as internal and external communication became more critical. Communication was important for effective management during the height of the flooding. The division and district offices were not only coordinating releases with, and getting information from the other district offices, but also from the National Weather Service, the Texas State Emergency Management Office, and many other state and local offices.

"There were many critical decisions that had to be made as to when and how much water to release," said Ron Bell, the SWD Water Management Team Leader. "The districts' highly skilled and dedicated staffs made all the right decisions at the right times and minimized the flooding downstream of the dams while protecting the integrity of the structures."

Prior to the flood rising, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, Southwestern Division Commander, directed and implemented an organizational change to combine the Reservoir Control Section and the Hydrology and Hydraulics Section into a single community of practice. This change

resulted in the creation of the North Water Center, which includes Tulsa and Little Rock Districts, and the South Water Center, which includes Fort Worth and Galveston Districts. This new community of practice allowed for increased access to technical capabilities with no organizational barriers, and the ability to extract efficiencies, share knowledge and workload leveling in all of the districts.

"We knew we had problems making flood control releases during the 1990 flood at Lake Ray Roberts," said Bob Gergens, Hydraulic Engineer. "We wanted to make sure we didn't cause the kind of damages to the discharge channel that occurred in 1990 that were attributed to our gate operating procedures."

High lake levels and seepage at Proctor Lake created the need to release more water than normal to draw the lake down quickly. Now, under the new community of practice, experts from both Reservoir Control and Hydrology and Hydraulics analyzed backwater model runs to advise on how to best lower lake levels without creating major problems downstream. The analysis was used in determining what the best course of action would be for lowering Proctor Lake.

See *Fighters* on page 5

Fort Worth District responds to drought-ending flood

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

In just a matter of days the Fort Worth District went from waiting out drought conditions to managing the Flood of 2007.

The flood of 2007 has impacted 24 of 25 reservoirs in the district. Seven of those recorded their second highest water levels and three were at their fourth highest water levels on record.

The roads leading into the parks were a concern as well. When the water goes down, the roads will still need several days of drying time to prevent extensive damage.

“When the water inundates a roadway or boat ramp area, the underlying base material is saturated. If you open an area too soon and let vehicle traffic on the paved surface, then damage to the roadway can occur and breaking and potholes can develop. Ideally we usually let an area dry for up to two weeks after the water recedes,” said Mike McInnis, Operations Division.

With the amount of water coming into the lakes, the district personnel prepared for the debris that would find its way into the lake and recreation sites. “Many of our lakes had vast amounts of

debris - decaying wood, plastic, used appliances, and many other things,” said McInnis. “Once the water recedes we are left with a major clean up job.”

Despite the large amount of debris, the district staff is looking at they are pleased with the performance of the flood control structures and the amount of flood damages they prevented.

“The preliminary flood damages for the Trinity Basin is in the range of \$3.7 billion,” said Paul Rodman, chief, Reservoir Control. “The preliminary damages prevented by specific lakes includes: Benbrook, \$32 million; Joe Pool, \$27 million; Grapevine, \$448 million; Ray Roberts, \$1.8 billion; Lewisville, \$1.4 billion; Lavon, \$2 million; and Navarro Mills and Bardwell, each less than \$1 million.”

“The prevented damages in the BrazosRiver system is around \$43 million as well,” said Rodman.

Rodman also reviewed streamage rating curves to better estimate the approximate stage reduction at a few points. Without Corps projects in place, a natural river flow would have flooded many housing developments.

“All of the damages prevented are for the largest flood in the flood series of 2007,” said Rodman. “Additional damages prevented will be computed for several additional, smaller floods.”



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District
Many recreation sites at area lakes were closed due to the floodwaters.

Great job everybody ...

Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Tulsa District Commander, and U.S. Congressman Tom Cole from Oklahoma met with stakeholders and media at Lake Texoma. During the meeting, Cole praised the Corps efforts to reduce or prevent flooding.



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Fighters

Continued from previous page

In order to get on-the-ground confirmation of impacts of current and potentially higher releases, staff from the South Water Center acted as a unified team deployed to conduct field reconnaissance of the situation downstream of Proctor Lake to Belton Lake. They checked roads and structures along the river. The effort provided timely and accurate information of the situation at hand and allowed for the team to make releases that would protect the integrity of the structure.

As the stored floodwater is released, lake staffs will be able to assess damages. Preliminary estimates of the flood damages prevented for the Brazos River system are about of \$43 million. Flood damages prevented for the Trinity River projects are estimated at over \$3.7 billion.

“This is one of the most severe flood events that I’ve seen in Reservoir Control,” said Mike Schwind, Hydraulic Engineer. “It is the most successful one as far as preventing damages.”

It's either feast or famine, flood or drought

Ross Adkins
Pacesetter Staff

During the summer of 2007, Tulsa District's 33 lakes with flood storage capacity quickly went from drought conditions to near the top of their flood pools.

For nearly two years, the lack of rainfall in Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma reduced the conservation pools to nearly record lows in all of our lakes. It took only 30 days for all that to change.

Rainfall, up to 18 inches in Oklahoma and as much as 40 to 45 inches in southern Kansas in the month of June, quickly saturated the ground. It rained a record 20 of the 30 days in June. The run-off immediately headed downhill to streams and rivers, much of it eventually finding its way into district lakes.

Normally storms will occur in the basin of one or two of our reservoirs. This time it seemed Mother Nature was trying to make up for the drought in one huge storm covering all of our drainage basins.

At one point, all but three of the reservoirs in the rain-drenched area of southeast Kansas, Oklahoma and along the border between Oklahoma and Texas were nearing the top of their flood control pools. At the same time, uncontrolled run-off below reservoirs was filling rivers and streams causing them to overflow their banks.

In Coffeetown, Kan., where hydrologists had predicted a 500-year flood event to reach 83,000 cubic feet per second flows, this storm had flows exceeding 150,000 cfs, topping levees and causing extensive flood damages.

Not knowing how extensive the rains would be, our hydrologists reduced or stopped releases from our lakes in order to avoid or reduce flooding downstream in the uncontrolled areas.

As the rains continued in torrential amounts over all of the river basins, very aggressive efforts were made by the district to capture flows that would have created



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

The result of too much water in one lake. Most recreation was closed on Tulsa District Lakes over the 4th of July holiday week due to high lake levels. It will take months before most recreation areas will reopen.

devastating flooding in areas below these dams and at the same time, not exceed the amount of storage in the flood pools. At one point, there was about 10 million acre feet of water captured in the flood control pools of our reservoirs. This nearly doubled the 13 million acre feet of water normally stored in our reservoirs. (That's about 10 million football fields filled with one foot of water.)

One example was Keystone Lake, a few miles upstream from the city of Tulsa.

There were recorded flows of nearly 300,000 cubic feet per second coming into the reservoir. Engineers controlled releases from the dam to no more than 80,000 cubic feet per second, well within banks of the Arkansas River through Tulsa. This effort was repeated at nearly all of the Corps operated lakes.

These efforts paid off. While the flood control pool at Keystone filled to within inches of the top of the gates at the dam, we did not have to make releases that would have caused flooding downstream. It's all in the timing.

Depending on where it rains, some of the run-off takes days before it reaches

the lake. On the other hand, releases from Keystone will take about 8 hours to reach Tulsa, and about 28 to 30 to reach Muskogee.

Col. Anthony Funkhouser took command of the Tulsa District on Friday, June 29. The following day, Saturday, he received a briefing on the extent of the storm and its impact on district-operated flood damage reduction reservoirs; he immediately scheduled visits to the flood areas and affected reservoirs beginning the next day. During his visits, he met with local and state officials, as well as congressional staffs and members, offering what assistance available from the Corps.

During the entire time of the storms, the district maintained constant dialogue with officials and shared information through the much-visited Tulsa District website.

By July 8, it seemed the worst was over as downstream flooding abated and hydrologists for the district began to see high lake levels stabilize or start to recede.

The good news is that our flood damage reduction reservoirs performed exactly

See **Feast** on page 7

Corps staff addresses seepage at Proctor

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

Fort Worth District staff at Proctor Lake went on 24-hour watch after discovering several areas of standing water at the toe of the dam, July 3.

That day, during an inspection with a tape reading 1191.50 mean sea level, the staff walked the dam and discovered several areas of standing water and a few areas with moving water.

“It was very difficult to differentiate between run-off from the rainfall and possible seepage and small boils,” said Tim Musick, Proctor Lake park ranger.

Seeps are areas where water has escaped from underground to the surface. Boils are the result of water under pressure that wells to escape or boil to the surface. Seeps and boils were discovered below station 46 and the staff soon discovered they would need to address the area between stations 46 through 56 for seepage.

The hole that the water seeped from was relatively small but required a certain amount of pressure to manage it so that it would not grow into a bigger problem. By stacking sandbags around the seepage areas, the water flow was more manageable. “Shortly after sandbagging the seeps in one area, we noticed two more that were flowing at a greater rate,” said Musick. “Then we started sandbagging the seeps at station 47.”

Feast

Continued from page 6

as they are supposed to. They captured and held back very high flows from these record-setting storms. This either prevented flooding or kept it to a minimum. Most of the flooding that did occur was from uncontrolled run-off in areas where there are no flood reduction reservoirs.

There was, of course, a huge impact on the parks, recreation areas and marinas, most of which are located in flood control pools of these lakes.

Another problem of so many lakes being so full is the speed at which the flood pools can be evacuated in preparation



Photos courtesy of Fort Worth District

Workers take a break from filling sandbags at Proctor Lake to address seepage areas at the toe of the dam. Inset: Workers stack sandbags around identified seepage areas.

“Next we ran a line about four feet in diameter around the seep, and when the second level of sandbags was placed, the seep stopped,” he said. “Toward the slope, about four feet out of the bagged area, the ground puffed up to about three feet in diameter and rose approximately eight inches.”

Moving quickly, the crew removed the sandbags. “We figured we crushed the seep outlet,” he said. The puffed area stayed and there were no more visible seeps.

District and regional engineers were notified of the seeping and boiling areas and a mass sandbagging effort was met head-on by Proctor Lake staff, assisted by staff from other lake offices and the district. In all, the sandbagging effort reached 179 seep areas but reached a point where sandbags were no longer working.

It was then decided that the best course of action was the construction of an access


See **Sandbags** on page 8

for the next round of storms. In order to avoid downstream flooding on the rivers, all reservoirs must evacuate the pools of collected run-off at a much slower rate. It is estimated that it will take six weeks to return the reservoirs to their normal levels.

Then it will take weeks, if not months, to clean up the debris left by receding water and to check damages to toilets, water systems and electrical systems at recreational vehicle sites. The soil under park roads will also have to be dry enough to withstand traffic.

“Safety of our visitors is of primary importance. We will not open parks and recreation areas until it is safe to do so,” said Billy Banks, chief of Tulsa District’s Operations Division.

It is estimated that it will take \$40.5 million to repair damages and return lakes and recreational facilities to usable condition.

Since their creation, Tulsa District’s reservoirs and personnel have prevented almost five billion dollars in flood damages. 

Waco Lake gets a jump on the flood clean up

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

Waco Lake got a head start on the post-flood clean up from some very motivated volunteers, many from the Fort Worth District office.

“Enlisting volunteers was being considered when Bass Clubs asked if they could help open the boat ramps earlier,” said Eric Haskell, Waco Lake park ranger. “It became a concrete idea when district employees offered to volunteer as well.”

Among the district employees interested in the volunteer effort was Andrea Bartula from the Contracting Office. “My interest stemmed mostly from the fact that my husband and I are avid lake goers,” she said. “This year we’ve been unable to use our boat because of all the debris, flooding, and other dangers at our lakes.”

Wanting to do something to speed up the re-opening process, Bartula began seeking volunteer opportunities. “After I read an article about Congressman Chet Edwards visiting Waco Lake, and our goal to have the parks ready for Labor Day, I sent an e-mail to Doug Perrin and Charlie Burger, Operations Divisions, and Karli Mulliniks, Real Estate, asking about volunteer opportunities at our lakes,” she said.

The volunteer clean-up effort was a large undertaking, but one that the volunteers were ready for. “I know the amount of work that needs to be done at our lakes far surpasses what a few volunteers can do in one day, but every little effort helps,” said Bartula.

Organization was key to a successful event and the park rangers kept the volunteers busy. “Our goals were to remove non-biodegradable, inorganic matter from the debris,” said Haskell. “We also wanted to get the facilities cleaned up and safer for our visitors.”

The volunteers were successful and pulled together in the spirit of teamwork. “We are all a team here no matter where we work,” said Bartula. “The disasters at our lakes affect us just as much as it affects the public. I’m just glad I was able to help.” 🌟

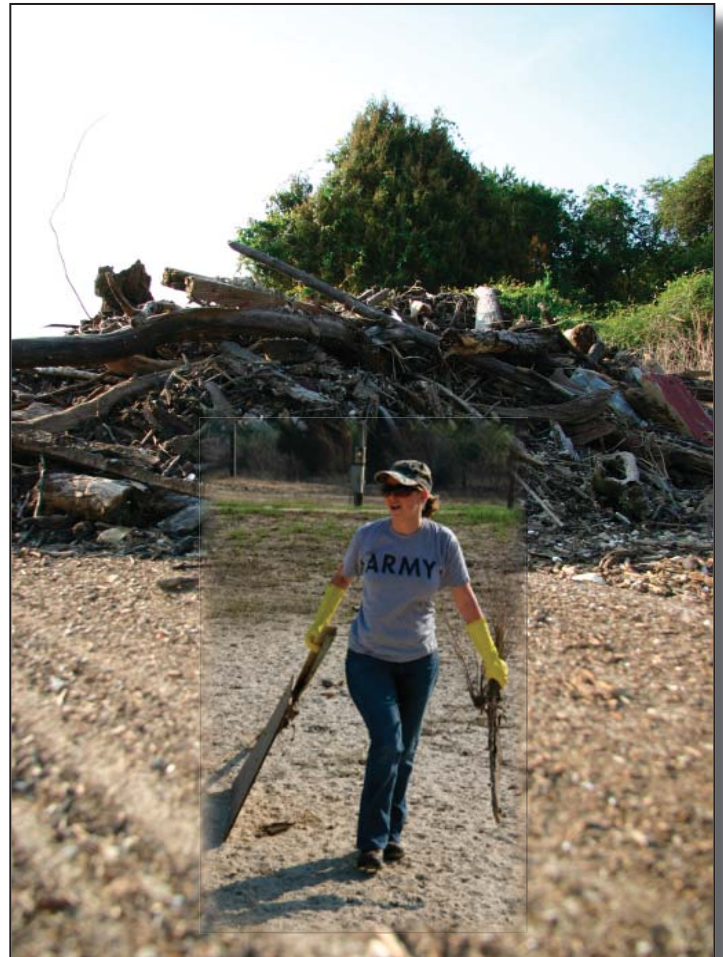


Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

One of the debris piles at Waco Lake. Inset: Andrea Bartula, Contracting Office, hauls part of a roof and some driftwood to the pile of debris.

Sandbags

Continued from page 7



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Seepage areas were identified and surrounded with sandbags.

road from the end of dam to the area below station 57. “The access road was built first by placing geotextile fabric to keep material in place while allowing water to pass through, followed by placement of some one to two-and-one-half feet of lift sand, then covered with at least two feet of caliche soil,” he said.

“The road was completed July 27, and combined with lower lake levels, the seeps and boils have begun to dissipate,” said Musick. 🌟



Chief of Engineers outlines priorities

Col. Christopher W. Martin
Commander, Fort Worth District

On May 18, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp became the 52nd Chief of Engineers. Recently, he outlined his priorities for the Command. I want to share some of those with you and our part in the Chief of Engineers' vision in being the world's premier engineering organization and how we are to maintain that reputation through trying and changing environments.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp has set six priorities for all of us, some of which we are in direct support of on a daily basis here in the Fort Worth District, and others we stand ready to respond to when called upon. The Chief's Priorities are:

Support the Global War on Terror and the expeditionary mission. Our district has supported this priority from the beginning and we continue to provide volunteers and reach back capabilities in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. And we should continue to volunteer and keep those who are deployed and their families in our thoughts.

Enhance the quality of support of Soldiers, Civilians, Families, and the public. According to Van Antwerp, families should be the Army's next area of emphasis. We must endeavor to provide all the beneficiaries of our projects with our very best workmanship, attention to detail and strive to deliver as promised, when promised.

Complete transformation of the Theater Engineer Commands. "We need to get that right, and it covers a lot of ground," Van Antwerp said. "It has to do with the Reserve Components, with command and control, with what you do when you're in a theater like Iraq or Afghanistan, and with your engineer command structure."

Effectively prepare for and respond to disasters. With the recent rains and flooding as well as being into this year's hurricane season, we are poised to respond effectively to our nation's needs during a disaster. We have verified our teams and their manning and capabilities as well as exercising our Concept of Operations Plan in May. "Our mark will be made by how quickly we get to a disaster area with the right stuff, and get the job done," said Van Antwerp.

Enable Gulf Coast Recovery. Although we are responsible for several major civil works projects in Fort Worth, Dallas and San Antonio, we continue to support the Command's number one civil works priority enabling the Gulf Coast recovery.

Deliver military, civil works, R&D, and regulatory programs and

projects. As for the Chief's final priority, we are deeply engaged in all of our programs and projects, ensuring on time delivery of quality products for our stakeholders whether they be military, a municipality or those who come to recreate at our lakes.

Not only has the Chief given us our priorities to attack, but he has provided us with three tenets which will guide us in *how* the Corps will operate as we do them.

The first tenet is **communicate transparently**, and in the past two months we have done just that. We held a Media Day at Fort Bliss to give the local community an update as to what was happening with the Fort Bliss Expansion Program and what was to come. We also invited the Dallas-Fort Worth media to talk to our reservoir control experts to get a clear and concise understanding of how we operate our lakes. As the Chief states, when you communicate transparently, when you have something that's due, you tell people when it's due, and you deliver on that date.

The second tenet is **focus on your mission**, as we have experienced in recent times, with disaster response and emergency actions, we can be overcome with additional duties and extra taskings. It is paramount that our attention is focused on the missions before us so that the beneficiaries get our very best.

The third tenet is to **team with industry**. Teamwork is the hallmark of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and ensuring that industry is a part of it makes perfect sense. Our District has been ahead of the pack with this initiative and continues to rely on the partnership with Industry to refine and streamline our processes as we have with the Fort Bliss Expansion Program.

As Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp so aptly puts it, "This is a time in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that's unprecedented in our workload and our opportunity. It's a time when we'll have to deliver, because I think we have an issue with trust. But I think we can build back that trust, and we will. We'll build it back by executing and delivering. In the most basic terms, say what you're going to do, and do what you say."

As I traveled across our areas of responsibility, I can confidently say that we are prepared to take on these priorities and follow the tenets put before us as required. Simply put as I've said before, I believe we are one of the best districts due to the fact that we have some of the best people. 🌟

"As I traveled across our areas of responsibility, I can confidently say that we are prepared to take on these priorities and follow the tenets put before us as required."

Worth Remembering ...

Galveston devastated by storm in 1900

Judy Bullwinkle
Pacesetter Staff

On Sept. 8, 1900, a hurricane of unprecedented strength struck the city of Galveston, on the Texas coast. Although the city had suffered many tropical storms since its birth, it was not prepared for the devastation of this event.

At that time Galveston was one of the largest settlements in Texas. Located on an island connected to the mainland by a causeway, the city of more than 38,000 was a busy port and resort location. To promote tourist opportunities, the natural sand dunes of 12-15 feet bordering the shoreline had been removed to provide access to the beach.

Grand boulevards lined with mansions and lush landscaping demonstrated the wealth of the town. Successful businesses and stores flourished in the commerce areas. Galveston was known as the "Western Ellis Island" since many European immigrants flowed into America through its port.

In 1886, a group of businessmen formed the Progressive Association to promote the building of a seawall, as the people of Galveston were concerned about their safety in a storm. However many of the residents did not want access to the beach and beach activities blocked by such a structure. The city had survived many storms before, and the citizens expected it to survive many more. The bond issue to finance such a venture met with such fierce opposition the matter was dropped and Galveston remained unprotected.

The passage of time brought only apathy and inaction. E. M. Hartrick, a former city engineer who later joined the Galveston Army Corps of Engineers Office, offered the timely comment, "The people of Galveston will go on living in fancied security as they always have."

And they did, until the city awoke Sept. 8 with the bay at a 5-foot elevation following several days of high tides and rough waters. All morning gale-like winds from the north gradually rotated eastward,

growing in intensity. By noon slanting rain and rising waters started damaging the brightly painted bath houses and wooden tourist piers. By mid-afternoon the storm moved into downtown.

Weather instruments were blown away. No actual measurements determined the wind velocity, but the speed has been estimated at 120 mph. Although the tide had only risen a foot between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., it suddenly swept upon the town, rising to a height of 8.5 feet at 5:30 p.m. Residents tried to swim down Broadway,



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Debris dominates this view looking west from Thirteenth Street and Broadway in Galveston.

the major street downtown. People clung to treetops and fragments of floating house parts. By 7:30 p.m. the island was completely under water with an elevation of 14.5 feet above the mean tide.

By 10:30 p.m. the waters started to subside and Galvestonians began to survey the unimaginable damage to their community. Early reports gave the death count at 2,000 and later ones soared to 8,000. However, the accepted figure, as no one knows for sure, stands at 6,000. Property damage stood at \$25 million (more than \$600 million in today's dollars) and 3,600 homes were demolished. The beachfront was destroyed, with more than 300 feet of the beach (1,500 acres) washed out to sea.

Cut off from the rest of Texas, the islanders struggled with lack of water, food and housing. Loss of electric power

and the destruction of the gas works further complicated the situation. Martial law was established to stop the looting. Because of the large number of fatalities and devastation of the island, the victims were burned in mass funeral pyres.

Following the storm, aid from other Texas cities, such as Houston, poured into the community. The residents immediately went to work to restore and protect their city.


Galveston instituted a city commissioner system of government which appointed a board of three engineers to implement a reconstruction plan. They selected as chairman of the board Brig. Gen. Henry M. Robert, recently retired Chief of Engineers. The new plan by the board called for the construction of a concrete wall to rise 17 feet above mean low tide and to extend it more than 3 miles.

Another element of the plan was to raise the town. After the remaining structures in Galveston were elevated with jackscrews, sand was pumped from the ship channel to increase the grade of the city to levels from one foot to as much as 12 feet. More than 2,100 buildings, including the 3,000-ton St. Patrick's Church were raised.

Residents re-built their businesses, churches, homes and their lives; however, the city never regained its prominence as a port or center of wealth.

Note: Badly damaged in the hurricane, the Galveston Engineer Office lost records and its offices along with many stations used as survey points of reference.

They recorded the greatest height of the flooding, 16.4 feet at battery Croghan on the Fort San Jacinto reservation. They did not have a significant role in the reconstruction plan. However, all the work on extending the seawall and other future protective measures after 1909 was handled by the office.

To read more about the event and the re-building, see Custodians of the Coast, History of the United States Army Engineers at Galveston, by Lynn M. Alperin, 1977. 

Provides for bigger, safer channel

Port of Galveston Project Cooperation Agreement

Officials of the Port of Galveston and the Corps of Engineers met in Washington, D.C., June 21 for the official signing of the Project Cooperation Agreement that will allow work to proceed on the enlargement of the Galveston Harbor Channel. The PCA was signed by John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Mr. Benjamin Holland, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Galveston Wharves.

The Galveston Harbor Channel improvements are designed to accommodate today's larger ships and to enhance navigational safety in the channel. Presently, the Galveston channel has an authorized depth of 40 feet. The project will bring the shipping lanes to an authorized depth of 45 feet with a minimum 630-foot bottom width.

The Galveston Ship Channel (entrance channel) is a 14.4 mile deep-draft channel that extends from deep water in the Gulf of Mexico, through a jettied entrance to Galveston Bay near Port Bolivar. The entrance channel was enlarged during the first contracts on the Houston-Galveston Ship Channel Project. From that point near Bolivar, the focus of efforts will run 2.6 miles to 43rd Street in Galveston, Texas. New work materials will be placed in existing, upland placement areas at Pelican Island and San Jacinto. Levees on the placement areas will be raised to accommodate the dredged materials. 🌍



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

At the signing are, seated, John Paul Woodley, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Steve Cernak, Port of Galveston. Standing are, left to right, Mr. Benjamin Holland, Port of Galveston, Senator John Cornyn, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Representative Ron Paul, and Col. David Weston, Galveston District Commander.

Like father, like son ... serving the Nation



Photo courtesy of Southwestern Division

Jim Gilmore (left), Regulatory Specialist, Programs Directorate, Southwestern Division headquarters, recently returned from deployment to the Afghanistan Engineer District. While serving there, he and his son, Sgt. James J. Gilmore, who is serving with the 4-73rd Cavalry/4th Brigade Combat Team/82nd Airborne Division, were able to spend some time together at Forward Operating Base Sharana. 🌍



Team Tulsa, raising the bar

Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser
Commander, Tulsa District

My first 30 days in command have been a whirlwind, or more appropriately, an excessive rain front that will be known as the Great Floods of 2007. Within an hour of taking command, our district emergency management team had rallied together to prepare for the impending flooding. By the weekend, we were marching to the “sounds of the guns” heading to all the communities near our lakes that were threatened with flooding. This storm period was to generate some of the most comprehensive flooding of the area in memory. The majority of our reservoirs across the district were filled to capacity and downstream channels were outside their banks. As a result of the efforts by our Hydrology and Hydraulics staff, lake staffs, and all of the team coordinating with local communities and managing the discharge flows, billions of dollars in damages were prevented and we ensured public safety.

I had the opportunity to see the efforts first hand and to visit our sites in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. I could not have been prouder of being part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our Tulsa Team. At each location, I met with congressmen and their staffs, local government officials, lake association members, stakeholders and partners, the media and our own staff. We received positive feedback everywhere we stopped. Local officials and their communities were most appreciative of the Corps’ sustained and open dialogue with them. Lake elevations and discharge rates were provided and our Reservoir Information Control Center provided a great source for addressing individual questions. The staff in our Public Affairs Office was literally on the phone daily to radio, television and newspaper reporters conducting interviews and providing public safety messages. It was a true team effort across the board.

As the flood waters started to recede and we began the next phase of recovery in our parks and local communities, I had the opportunity to see projects on our military installations and to meet and speak with the chain of command and their staffs. Once again, the Tulsa District received great compliments for our tremendous partnership and outstanding support. I could not ask for better.

I have spoken to many of you but wanted to pass on a few areas of my philosophy to make Tulsa the best district it can be. First, I will continue to emphasize **Safety**. Safety for our employees and for the public we serve. We must keep safety at the forefront and mitigate the risks we identify. As a lean organization, every employee is a valued member of the team and any loss requires the rest of the team to carry the additional load. Additionally, public safety is the

foundation of our trust, and we will maintain it as the primary criteria of our actions and decisions. Second, I want each of us to **Improve daily**. If there is one thing I have learned over the years in the Army, it is that we must improve our foxhole daily. We must make our organizations, relationships and teams better than they were yesterday. We must raise the bar daily to grow as an organization. If everyone leaves work daily making some aspect of their workplace better, then we can only get better. Next is **Discipline**. I want our organization to have systems in place to do routine things routinely and a system in place to deal with those last-minute issues that require focus. We need our team to continue to enforce standards, set the example, meet suspenses and only promise what you can keep for our organization and for our partners and stakeholders.

Finally, we need to sustain our greatest strength -- **Teamwork**. We have strength when we work together and move in the same direction. This increases our effectiveness as an organization and makes coming to work fun.

Let me wrap up by congratulating some folks from our recent 2007 Corps Day Awards ceremony. Thank you all for making Tulsa District the best!

“We must raise the bar daily to grow as an organization.”

Marion Newton – 40-year length of service
Cathey Williams – Customer Care Employee of the Year
Broken Bow Remote Powerhouse, Skiatook Lake Office, and Fort Sill Resident Office – Safety Accomplishment
Ronald Foster – Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year
Steven Rous – Hard Hat of the Year
Tammy Solomon – Technical and Administrative GS-8 and Below Employee of the Year
Edwina Poole – Technical and Administrative GS-9 and Above Employee of the Year
MILCON Transformation Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract – Project Delivery Team of the Year
Mike Abate – Construction Management Excellence Award
Nancy Crenshaw – Employee of the Year
Mark Burkholder – Engineer of the Year
Ralph Hight – Lt. Col. Mark Fritz Leadership Award

Thanks again for the warm Tulsa District welcome you gave me and my family. I look forward to serving this team and raising this district to the next level.

Essayons! 

Tulsa District gets new commander



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Tulsa District's new commander, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, with his wife Michelle, daughter Megan, and son Andrew.

Colonel Anthony C. Funkhouser assumed command of the Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, June 29, 2007, in a formal Change of Command ceremony attended by family members, employees, dignitaries, and friends and presided over by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, Southwestern Division commander.

The new commander was thrust immediately into a flood fight, and he traveled throughout the district in his first days of duty. After completing one week of duty, he sent a message to the work force which said, in part, "I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome. Since I took over, I have been on the road observing our areas of potential flooding. I have been to Waurika, Copan, Hulah, Elk City, Fall River, Lake Texoma, and Grand Lake, and to the cities affected by the storms. I have seen our team and their great relationships within their communities. I have also seen the tremendous efforts of our Emergency Management team, our Hydrology and Hydraulics team, and so many others supporting the residents of our district. I cannot be prouder to be part of this Tulsa Team. You have an incredible reputation, and I look forward to meeting all of you and working with you to make this the best district it can be."

His biography is available on Tulsa District's website team page as are pictures and video from the Change of Command ceremony. 🌐

Little Rock presents Arkansas River educational program

On June 29 members of Little Rock's Russellville Project Office worked with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at the Janet Huckabee River Valley Nature Center at Fort Chaffee near Fort Smith, Ark., to present a program to the public on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

Participants from Fort Smith and surrounding communities arrived at the nature center to receive an interpretive program on inland waterways and the history and facts of the navigation system led by Natural Resource Specialist Joel Epperson.

Some 75 people were escorted in small groups to Trimble Lock and Dam a few miles away for tours led by Lock Master Gordon Hamblin and Natural Resource Specialist Allison Smedley.

Team member Richard Bradford promoted the event along with an interpretive staff member of the nature center with live local radio station interviews and a local television station. The event was so well received, plans are being made on a partnership for future similar events.

The nature center's exhibits focus on the environmental features of the river valley and its wildlife inhabitants. Between tours visitors had the opportunity to experience the nature center, many for their first time.

The event was the result of the recently organized Arkansas River Valley Interpreters Alliance, of which Smedley is a member. The



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

association members are interpreters and naturalists with federal and state agencies in the river valley who share resources and ideas, and collaborate for special events. A water festival is currently being planned for next spring for area schools to participate. 🌐

Tulsa's Regional Leadership Development Program Class meets challenges at Camp Loughridge

Keith Rice
Pacesetter Staff

Tulsa District's Regional Leadership Development Program class met May 21, at Camp Loughridge in Tulsa to participate in a day of team building and training exercises. They were joined by many individuals from within the Tulsa District, including their immediate supervisors and other senior leaders.

Several of the day's activities were geared toward problem solving and working together in a team-building atmosphere. To achieve the goal of each activity, the group had to find a way to effectively communicate with



Photos courtesy of Tulsa District

Steve Harmon and Mark Burkholder (inset) compete for the best Peter Pan impersonation.



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Brett Cowan completes the confidence pole.

each other and agree on a course of action so the group could succeed together. After several activities and varied attempts at communication, the group began to come together and work as a cohesive unit.

After the group activities were completed, it was time to move on to the high elements in the challenge course. These elements were approximately 20 feet in the air and consisted of a balance obstacle, confidence pole, and zip line. The challenge course provided participants the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone in a safe and controlled environment. Each individual had the opportunity to step as far out of their comfort

zone as they could, and many people surpassed even their own expectations.

Overall, many important group dynamic lessons, as well as individual achievements, were attained that day. The class became a tighter unit and, I believe, a more compassionate and understanding team. The group showed improvement in the processes of conflict resolution, team building, and problem solving. Several realized it's okay to explore beyond your normal environment and that there are many people and resources available to help in new and unfamiliar arenas. 🌍

Fort Bliss Expansion Program gets civilian and Army media attention

Edward Rivera
Pacesetter Staff

As the construction under the Fort Bliss Expansion Program goes vertical with the first of four Brigade Combat Team sets taking shape, both Army and civilian news media outlets have flocked to the El Paso, Texas, post to cover this historic program.

Local and national members of the media got an up-close view of the progress June 27 during a Media Day event hosted by the Program Office and Garrison. Representatives from television, radio and print media were given an in-depth briefing and escorted to several buildings under construction for the first BCT.

The Media Day provided a means to update the El Paso Community on the state of construction, and what the future would be bringing to the growing post and city.

According to Troy Collins, director, Fort Bliss Expansion Program, keeping the public abreast of what we are doing strengthens the partnership between the local community, Fort Bliss and the Corps of Engineers.


In addition to civilian media interest in the Fort Bliss projects, Soldiers Radio and



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Mary Cochran, Soldiers Radio And Television reporter, films at the Brigade Combat Team 1 site for a report on the Fort Bliss Expansion Program.

Television also dispatched a correspondent to cover some of the programs sites. Mary Cochran, who covers USCACE for SRTV brought to millions of viewers a glimpse of what the Fort Worth district is doing at Fort

Bliss and White Sands Missile Range, N.M. Her reports on Fort Worth District people and projects can be seen on the audio/video link off of the U.S. Army website at www.army.mil. 

Louisiana 4-H group tours Murray Lock and Dam

On May 24, eleven members of a Louisiana 4-H Chapter visited Arkansas to hike Pinnacle Mountain, walk the Big Dam Bridge and learn how Murray Lock and Dam works.

Bill Bowman, lead lock repairman at Murray Lock and Dam, told the teenagers and their chaperones about the lock and dam's purpose and how it works as he walked them through the facility.

"The thing that stands out is not only their interest in the lock and dam but the fact that some of the students showed interest in the qualifications for working for the Corps," Bowman said.

"I let them know we do have a cool job."

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. The organization is the largest youth-serving organization in the world.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Jackson takes command of Little Rock

Tammy Reed
Pacesetter Staff

On June 28 some 200 people gathered on an inspection barge moored on the Arkansas River to watch Col. Donald “Ed” Jackson, Jr., assume command of the Corps’ Little Rock District from Col. Wally Z. Walters.

Under a bright summer sky, Walters, district engineer since 2004, relinquished his command to depart for his next assignment as the deputy director of the Strategic Communication Directorate for the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. One of his last acts as District Engineer was to hand his Blackberry to Jackson as an unofficial transfer of command. Jackson came to the district from an assignment at the Pentagon by way of the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. He is Little Rock’s 52nd district engineer since the district was first established in 1881.

“It is a tremendous honor for my wife Lynne and me to join your team in Little Rock District,” Jackson said during the ceremony. “Your reputation across the Corps of Engineers is superb.”

“Little Rock could not be a more perfect assignment for our family,” he added. “Lynne grew up camping with her family in the Corps parks managed by Little Rock District, and she learned to water ski on Clearwater Lake. We look forward to introducing our children to these national treasures during our tour here.

“I also look forward to working with all of you, embracing the challenges that lie before us and continuing to make a difference for the region, the Army and our nation.”

As part of this position, Jackson will head civil works activities in a 35,000-square-mile area covering about half of Arkansas and the southern portion of Missouri.

He also will head construction support to military installations, Army Reserve and recruiting offices for all branches of the military in Arkansas.

Jackson has held a number of command and staff assignments both stateside and abroad during his 21 years as an Army officer.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Col. Wally Walters, as one of his last acts as Little Rock District Engineer, hands his Blackberry to Col. Donald E. Jackson, Jr., for an unofficial transfer of command.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Building Science and Management from Clemson University and a Master of Business Administration from Webster University. His military education includes the U.S. Army War College, Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms Services and Staff School, Command and General Staff College, and other schools.

Among his awards and decorations are the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, Army Achievement Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Bronze Order of the DeFleury Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger Tab, Sapper Tab and Combat Action Badge. 🇺🇸

Little Rock signs agreement with Maritime Museum



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

During the Little Rock change of command ceremony June 28, District Engineer Col. Wally Z. Walters performed his last official duty as he signed, along with North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Hays, an agreement for the Arkansas Inland Maritime Museum’s use of the Motor Vessel Lipscomb.

The MV Lipscomb towboat is the latest addition to the Corps’ Arkansas River Maintenance Fleet. When not being used as a workboat, the MV Lipscomb will be moored on the Arkansas River at the museum in North Little Rock, Ark. There guides will take the public aboard to view interpretive displays and other media to learn more about the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and how the district serves Arkansas, Missouri and the nation. 🇺🇸



Little Rock making a difference

Col. Donald E. Jackson
Commander, Little Rock District

“Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing” - Theodore Roosevelt, 1902.

Little Rock District continues to support the nation by assuring public safety and welfare and by providing expert engineering services on time, within budget and to the highest quality standard. We are prepared to respond today in support of our regional partners. We continue striving to be the engineering professional of choice.

Hello everyone. My name is Ed Jackson, and I am honored to join this team of professionals in Little Rock District. My family is thrilled to be here, and we look forward to the next three years of service together in support of our Army and our nation.

Little Rock District continues to make a difference regionally, nationally and internationally. Professionals throughout the district play a key role in maintaining quality in civil works, military support, disaster response, interagency support and environmental management. In each case we continue to work through regional partnerships to provide the best possible service to our customers and, at the same time, consider the best interests of the public in Arkansas and southern Missouri.

The team in Little Rock continues to work closely with our vertical team members to solve the dam safety problem at Clearwater Lake. I am pleased to see the level of engineering expertise and teamwork involved in creating a solid solution that addresses the safety concerns in this critical project. The hard work of everyone involved in this project certainly exemplifies the professional competence and dedication to duty I have observed throughout the district during my first 30 days here.

I have been privileged to travel around the district, meeting and talking with many of you. I am impressed with the pride of ownership in our infrastructure and projects, as well as the commitment to service I see at our parks, area and resident offices, and here at the headquarters in Little Rock.

I am also impressed by the amount of teamwork I see across district boundaries. Our team in Little Rock works daily with partners in Tulsa, Fort Worth and Galveston to provide support in solving the many challenges in our region. I personally thank my fellow district commanders for the opportunity to work closely together, both in military construction and civil works, to leverage the capabilities of


the entire division to support our customers. I look forward to the many opportunities that will present themselves during the next three years together.

Several members of the district team have recently been recognized for professional excellence. **Ralph Allen** was awarded the Bert Pettinato Award for Public Service and **Jim Cullum** received a team award for his support to the Gulf Region Division Legal Services Team by the Chief Counsel at the Worldwide Legal Services Conference.

Our Planning and Environmental Office received an award from the Mid Arkansas Water Alliance in appreciation for a topnotch Water Supply Allocation Report for Greers Ferry and Lake Ouachita. Spearheading the report were **Jonathan Long, Jim Ellis, and Michael Collis** of the P&E staff. **Toby Isbell** was recently selected as the Federal Employee Association of Arkansas Employee of the year as well as the Little Rock District Civilian of the Year.

Shirley Boldon-Bruce was appointed to the Executive Board of the Arkansas State Board of Architects. **Jim Pfeifer, Leroy Arnold, A. J. Brown, Romy Buen, Mark Emmerling, Rod Garner, Mike Kohler, George Losak, Aaron McGee, Bob Oberle, Dana Remsing, Steve Ring, Jeff Stiles, Bobby Van Cleave and Bruce Watson** were presented the Southwestern Division Project Delivery Team Special Recognition Award. **Julia Smethurst** was recently selected as the Little Rock District Planner of the Year.

Great job! This recognition is just a random sampling of the superb work done by our entire team each and every day. Please take a look at the articles in this issue that provide more details about some of these award winners and that highlight some other award winners as well.

The words of Teddy Roosevelt ring true today. The work done by Little Rock District is important. The missions given to us by the nation are hard but definitely worth doing. Every team member has a key role to play in our collective success. I thank each of you and our teammates around SWD for all you do to make a difference. I look forward to meeting you and working together. 

“Every team member has a key role to play in our collective success. I thank each of you and our teammates around SWD for all you do to make a difference.”

Those World War II buildings have to go

Huntsville Center helping remove outdated wood structures at Fort Polk

Debra Valine

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

World War II-era wood buildings used to be a quick, easy, inexpensive option for office space and Soldier housing on Army installations.

As the Army transitions to the new modular force, newer, more up-to-date buildings are needed and the old wood buildings are being torn down.

Fort Polk, La., has 340 of these World War II wood buildings.

The Installation Management Command contacted the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, to manage the demolition at Fort Polk. Huntsville Center is working with the installation; Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Bhate Associates Inc. on the project.

A \$1.3 million contract awarded to Bhate Associates Inc. to remove 58 wood buildings – 294,148 square feet – is in progress. Demolition started May 4 with completion expected in August. Follow-on contracts will be awarded for the remaining 282 buildings.

“We’re making a dent in the wood building inventory at Fort Polk,” said T.E. Shirley, the project manager for Huntsville Center. “Fifty-eight buildings is a large footprint – about three-quarters of a mile will be cleared for new use by the installation.”

All the concrete from the project is being taken to the installation’s recycling center where it will be crushed and reused as road basing, according to Gary Westby, the Fort Worth District project engineer at Fort Polk. Any asphalt will be taken to a separate recycling center on the installation. All other construction and demolition debris is being hauled off the installation to a private landfill.

The wood can be used to a lesser extent. It does not have much value because the wood was treated with non-prohibited chemicals and reuse is limited. It can be crushed and used as a defoliant along fence lines, Shirley said.

As of June 22, 33 of the 58 buildings had been taken down.

“It’s a pretty straight-forward operation,” Westby said. “Keep it wet, knock it down, break up the slab, haul off the debris, cap the utilities, plant grass seed and move on to the next one.”

It doesn’t take long to demolish the building, Westby said.

Philip Gamble, superintendent, and Eric Chaney, operator supervisor, Bhate Associates, discuss the day’s tasks during a project to remove 58 World War II wood buildings from the inventory at Fort Polk, La.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army



Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

Bhate Associates is working with Fort Polk, La., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove 58 World War II wood structures.

“A two-story building across the street came down in three hours,” he said. “Of course, it takes longer to clear the area of debris after the building comes down.”

According to Phillip Gamble, the site superintendent, Bhate has exceeded the installation’s recycling expectations. “Everything that can be recycled is being recycled.”

“We’ve been very pleased with the way the contract is progressing,” said Scotty Goins, chief of the Directorate of Public Works at Fort Polk. “We are really pleased with Bhate’s work. They are conscientious of our needs and requests and work with us pretty good.”

Goins said a key to the project’s success was working out the details of the project at a pre-deconstruction meeting.

“In our master plan, we have identified facilities in the out-years,” Goins said. “We will take these vacant lots and construct new facilities in the future. We save a lot of money because the water, sewage and gas are already in place. There is also less environmental impact because the site was previously disturbed, meaning that the land is already cleared and utilities are already in place.”

Goins said two individuals deserve a lot of credit for the project’s success.

“Robert Hughes, Fort Polk’s project manager with DPW, has done a great job when we have had to relocate folks. He found homes for them. He also identified furniture that had to be moved prior to demolition. Bernard Harris, DPW’s field guy, also deserves credit for the project’s success. He goes out every day, meets with the contractor, takes photographs and takes care of all the paperwork to ensure the project is well-documented,” Goins said.

Fort Polk, home to the 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, and the Joint Readiness Training Center, is supporting the war on terrorism by providing contingency training for the Army’s light infantry and special operations forces and by deploying home station and reserve component forces in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom.

Academy of Fellows selects Alexander

Richard L. Alexander, P.E., was recently inducted into the Society of American Military Engineers Academy of Fellows. He is one of only 18 Society members across the nation, and one of six from the Texoma Region, to receive this prestigious honor this year.

The formal investiture ceremony was held at the annual Joint Engineer Education and Training Conference May 1. Alexander was inducted with Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, then Chief of Engineers. 🌍



Then Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, and Richard Alexander, Central Oklahoma Area Office, at the 2007 Joint Engineer Education and Training Conference where they were recognized as fellows in the Society of American Military Engineers.

Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Life goes on



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Life goes on-- with the help of our contractors TRDI, Inc., a tree, that died last fall, is replaced by Pedro Martinez. Galveston District's tree, located outside the Jadwin Building, was planted in honor of the Administrative Professionals of the Year. 🌍

Miss Juneteenth



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Amber Simmons won the title of 2007 Ambassador Miss Juneteenth for the City of Galveston. Amber will be a senior at Ball High School in Galveston. She is the daughter of Galveston District's Resource Management Customer Service Representative Johnnie Simmons. 🌍

Table Rock Lake staff helps Soldier heal at home

Tammy L. Reed
Pacesetter Staff

Team members at Little Rock's Table Rock Lake have found a way to help a Soldier wounded in the line of duty to heal at home with his family instead of at a distant military hospital.

In early May, Jim Hill, Table Rock's acting lake manager, worked with Community Based Health Care Organization – Arkansas to provide Sgt. John F. Coker a job at the lake while he recovered from injuries sustained during his latest deployment to Iraq.

Community Based Health Care Organizations were established in January 2004 to expeditiously and effectively evaluate and treat Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers who incurred medical problems while mobilized for the Global War on Terrorism.

Eight CBHCOs around the country provide case management and command and control for injured Soldiers while they reside at home, receive local medical care and do what work they can in Department of Defense facilities as they recover. The care is provided using TRICARE health insurance, Veterans Affairs and military medical treatment facilities.

"Without CBHCO, those Soldiers would have been in a medical-hold status in another state away from their families," said Brig. Gen. Larry W. Haltom, deputy adjutant general for the Arkansas National Guard, during House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearings in 2006.

Coker, a Missouri National Guard Soldier, is now under the care of the CBHCO-AR where he is recovering from a shoulder injury that involved surgery and a stay at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

"Without the CBHCO and the people running it, I would still be stuck at Fort Leonard Wood away from my family and hating all that came with that," Coker said. "The program is designed to help injured Soldiers go home while they recover and work with a DoD facility close to their home and to their appointments. For me this was the Army Corps of Engineers."

The Table Rock Project Office is the DoD facility Coker approached in May for a possible job.

"I went to them and asked if they knew



Photo and graphic courtesy of Little Rock District



Sgt. John F. Coker hangs a sign at one of Table Rock's parks.

anything about this program. Jim Hill did not know about the program but he was very interested in learning more about it, so he sat me down and started asking questions," Coker said.

He explained to Hill what the program was and that it was as simple as needing someone to be his supervisor. He also explained an agreement needed to be signed about the rules of the program. After that everything fell into place.

"After about two weeks I was in a position at the Corps of Engineers offices with some of the friendliest people dedicated to their jobs and to making people comfortable around them," he said. "Bottom line, I thank them all for making my homecoming much easier," Coker added. "They keep me close to my appointments, understand my scheduling, and have pulled me in to make me part of their family. After just a short time of being here, I have come a long way on my recovery."

Hill said Coker has been doing some office work and some field work, all of which falls within his comfort level of his injury and his rehabilitation.

"Sgt. Coker is still on active duty as a

Soldier getting paid by the Army, only now his duty station is Table Rock until he fully recovers. He puts in 25-30 hours a week with us with the balance spent in therapy for his injury," Hill said.

"We have him out doing things like maintaining Moonshine Beach, working our vegetative and shoreline management permits and putting up signs at parks."

"John has a great personality and is doing an excellent job for us. Although it's been great to have him here helping us with our workload, it's even nicer that we can do something for him, as a Soldier who's done so much for his country," Hill added.

"As we always want to support the Army, our first priority is his total recovery, rehabilitation and re-introduction to civilian life," he said.

"He's here with his family about 20 miles away and he's not recovering in some military hospital away from everyone.

"The CBHCO is a great program for any of our Corps projects to consider as it helps them out and it's great to help our Soldiers at the same time."

Greg Oller, Table Rock's new lake manager, echoed Hill's support for the program.

"If any project office is interested in participating in this, the only caveat I would say is that you have to be flexible to be able to work with the Soldier's schedule around his or her need for rehabilitation," Oller added.

"Other than that, this program pays dividends to the Corps and to the Army as we help each other out."

Project offices wishing to participate in this program can contact 1st Sgt. William J. Wilson of the CBHCO-AR at Camp Robinson, Ark., (501) 212-5644, for more information.

"We are always looking for more options for our Soldiers," Wilson said. "If we had a list of Corps offices throughout the CBHCO-AR's seven-state area we would have those options, too, and we would love to use the Corps of Engineers for our Soldiers." 🇺🇸



Training is essential to remaining Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable

Col. David C. Weston
Commander, Galveston District

The strength of our district is our people, and investing in their technical and personal growth is an inherent requirement if we are to maintain our organizational core competencies, and improve our ability to provide value-added service to the Corps and the nation. That investment comes in the form of training.

As a high performing district, all members of our team have to be proficient in the day-to-day tasks that we require of them. When we have teammates who are not as proficient as their duties require, we suffer an increase in time and cost to deliver the products and services for which our nation and local sponsors are paying. Proficiency levels do not remain constant, and without continuous training to refresh the skills we once knew, or to learn new procedures and techniques that develop within our respective professional fields, they will degrade over time. It is incumbent upon each of us then to have frank discussions with our supervisors to accurately assess our skill sets, and then focus our training efforts (both time and money) toward those areas that we need to improve upon.

Since training is obviously constrained by budget, we must focus our efforts on making sure there is a direct tie between the training we are funding and the tasks we are expecting someone to perform better, and that that better performance will pay off for the district in better project/product delivery. Supervisors at every level in the district should be able to demonstrate the linkage between the Mission Essential Task List for their section/branch/division and the skill sets required of their employees. They should further be able to demonstrate the linkage between their assessment of an employee's ability to execute those tasks to standard and the training scheduled in their annual individual development plan.

We must also try to provide opportunities for our employees to reach their career expectations and goals. Every supervisor should know their employees' individual desires for professional development and help them develop a plan for achieving those

goals. Depending on the individual's goals, that program may include appropriate training courses, developmental assignment opportunities, and activities contained in the Leadership Development Programs.

We need to be innovative in our delivery of quality, relevant training opportunities. We should leverage the knowledge that resides in the Corps' research laboratories, and fellow districts like New Orleans, whose many valuable lessons learned and associated solutions achieved from its experience with

Hurricane Katrina are directly linked to the tasks we must perform as a sister gulf coast district. We should also take advantage of the academic institutions like Texas A&M, University of Texas and others that are nearby, and their research programs which develop new engineering and construction techniques. Where possible, we should try to bring the training to the district to maximize the training opportunity for the dollars spent, and make it more convenient for our employees to attend.

As a professional, learning organization, it is incumbent upon all of us to seek out opportunities to gain and apply knowledge that will make us a stronger part of this team, and make our team stronger in return. I encourage all of you to take full advantage of training

opportunities as they appear during the coming year. It takes an investment in time and energy, but you will be better for the effort.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your dedicated service. As a highlight this month, I would like to extend special appreciation to our lock operators working along the Brazos and Colorado Rivers, our facility operators and rangers at Addicks and Barker Reservoirs, and Wallisville Lake, and our Emergency Management Team. Your extended hours and efforts during recent floods to minimize impacts to our customers and local communities, and maintain the safety of our operations were exceptional. 🌍

“As a professional, learning organization, it is incumbent upon all of us to seek out opportunities to gain and apply knowledge that will make us a stronger part of this team, and make our team stronger in return.”

Galveston District named Public Agency of the Year

On June 20, Galveston District received the Public Agency of the Year award given by the Society of American Military Engineers in Houston, Texas. Pictured above, from left to right, Capt. Tricia Campbell, Karl Brown, and Capt. David Bryant, all from Galveston District, who attended the banquet and award ceremony. Lt. Col. Richard Hansen, deputy commander, accepted the award for the district. Also attending the ceremony were former District commanders, Len Waterworth and Eric Potts. 🌐



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Jack Thisler honored in May ceremony

In May, John O. “Jack” Thisler, former Public Affairs Officer for Tulsa District, was honored for his contributions in the early days of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

According to the Tulsa World, Thisler was one of four people selected for the Arkansas River Historical Society’s Hall of Fame. Thisler started work with the Tulsa District in 1966. He was involved in 15 dedications on the McClellan-Kerr system – including ground-breakings, gate closings, and former President Nixon’s dedication of the project.

He retired after 18 years with the Corps and later served many years as volunteer publicity chairman of the Arkansas River Historical Society.

Thisler was honored along with three other men: Bob Leise, N. M. Shell, and John J. Mawn, who was once the Little Rock District Public Affairs Officer. 🌐



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Beneficial Uses Project



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

A fisherman sits on the dredge pipe carrying sand from the nearby Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the beach. The dredging job, done in cooperation with the Texas General Land Office, not only clears the GIWW of silt but also repairs erosion damage along the beaches at Rollover Pass. 🌐

Women’s Equality Day

August 26 of each year is designated in the United States as Women’s Equality Day. Instituted by Rep. Bella Abzug and first established in 1971, the date commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave U.S. women full voting rights in 1920.

For more information visit the following website.
http://womenshistory.about.com/od/suffrage1900/a/august_26_wed.htm 🌐

Fort Worth District team members, both with the Fort Bliss Expansion Program, garner annual Corps awards

Edward Rivera
Pacesetter Staff

The Fort Bliss Expansion Program in El Paso, Texas, has been recently highlighted in local, national and Army-wide media as the new wave of military construction. Recently, two integral members of the program were recognized by Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, for their leadership and dedication to this historic program.

Steven Wright, Program Manager, Fort Bliss Expansion Program, Fort Worth District, was selected as the USACE Program Manager of the Year, and Harold B. Hartell, of the Southwest Area Office at Fort Bliss, received the USACE Construction Management Excellence Award.

Managing the more than \$2.6 billion program, Wright leads a regional team guided by the principles of USACE 2012, the Project Management Business Process, and Military Construction Transformation. He led and guided six Districts from the Southwestern and South Pacific Divisions in preparing for the Expansion Program, which is the largest peacetime military construction effort in United States history.

"I am blessed with an exceptional team of managers from throughout the region who quickly harnessed the energy from the six Districts and got the program moving in a truly fast-tracked manner," said Wright.

Wright developed a new, cutting-edge concept that would utilize design-build principles and incorporate a Land Development Engineer concept to enable the Fort Bliss Program Office to serve as the General Contractor.

In the beginning, Wright thought getting buy-in to the product-line approach would be most challenging but the team members, stakeholders and leadership embraced the program's unique acquisition plan.

Demonstrating flexibility and adaptability as program and funding parameters changed throughout the development, he constantly meets all time schedules. Using Project Review Boards, videoconferences and project updates, he keeps leadership informed at all levels and facilitates the rapid dissemination of information.

"Getting projects under contract so quickly created a momentum and mindset that has carried into the construction phase of the program," said Wright.

With an energetic leadership style and his unrelenting enthusiasm for program and project management, and willingness to mentor, facilitate and teach, Wright has influenced the entire chain of command and senior civilian leadership within the region.

Wright has led USACE into a new era of program execution. His efforts have kept the Base Realignment and Closure transformation program (valued at over \$2.6 billion and encompassing 55 projects for over 300 buildings/8 million square feet being built on 2,500 acres) on track and ready to accelerate as the needs of the Army change.



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District
Brad Hartell briefs Gen. Richard A. Cody, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, about the Long Life Village Project on Fort Bliss.

"I am extremely appreciative of the honor and excited to represent the early successes of the Fort Bliss Expansion Program Team," he said.

With program leadership like that for Wright, it's easier for others to succeed and be recognized for their efforts and contributions like Hartell, who is proud of his Construction Management Excellence Award.

As the Resident Engineer and Administrative Contracting Officer for the more than \$171 million Design-Build Temporary Unit of Action Facilities project at Fort Bliss, he executed the highest value construction contract awarded in the United States by the Fort Worth District since 1992.

"I'm honored because my efforts are being recognized by my peers and superiors within USACE," said Hartell. "I'm also proud because the Temp project, my main focus during the year, was critical for the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Calvary Division to begin operations and training to prepare for their mission."

The project had an extremely compressed eight-month phased completion schedule in order to provide modular command, company operations, billeting, dining, training, and tactical vehicle maintenance facilities for the 4/1 BCT. The design phase of the project was accomplished in such a manner so as to allow the site grading and utility construction work to start while the remaining design effort continued – significantly leveraging the concept of "fast track" construction.

According to Hartell, keeping the team members focused on what was most important was the key to their success. With a massive fast-paced project like this, it could have been easy to get wrapped up in the detail of the many moving parts. Their focus never wavered from their goal for the 4/1 BCT Soldiers - moving into and utilizing fully functional facilities on or ahead of schedule.

See **Awards** on page 24

Sellers is grand marshal for city celebration

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Rick Sellers was honored Saturday, June 16, as parade grand marshal during the 25th anniversary of Wah-Shun-Gah Days in Council Grove, Kan. Sellers is the lead ranger at Council Grove Lake Office. The Wah-Shun-Gah Days parade is advertised as one of the largest in Kansas, taking a little over an hour to view from start to finish.

Sellers was selected as grand marshal for his numerous volunteer hours devoted to planning and coordinating many events including the very popular “Float for Fun.” He was chairman for all but two Float for Fun events until it was discontinued due to the construction of the Neosho River Walk seven years ago. “It was a lot of fun,” Sellers said. Other events Sellers coordinated include the hot air balloons, power boat races, ski tournaments, and water releases for the float and for ducky races. And, of course, trash detail. “I remember picking up trash until 3:00 a.m. and coming back downtown for the hot air balloons lift off at 6:30 a.m.,” he said.

Sellers got involved with the second Wah-Shun-Gah Days when he was chairman of the Tourism Committee and saw the event as a way to draw campers to the lake and increase camping revenues. The first two



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Grand Marshal Rick Sellers and his wife Jody wave to the crowd.

years lost money so the third year was “make it or break it,” he said. The event took off the third year. “We had people everywhere! We ran out of admission buttons, and the lake was full of campers.” It’s been that way ever since. This year, all the parks at Council Grove Lake were full of campers for the celebration weekend. All campsites and five group camping areas

were in use with campers in the overflow area.

“After 24 years, I still get a thrill seeing it all come together -- the town full of people and lake full of campers,” Sellers said. “I guess that’s why I keep doing it.” 🇺🇸

Awards

Continued from page 23

Construction proceeded so efficiently that at the peak of effort, construction placement was occurring at the rate of over \$1.4 million per day, seven days a week. Even with the fast pace, double shift work, sometimes in less than desirable physical conditions, the entire project was completed with more than 517,000 man-hours of labor expended without a lost-time accident.

“The entire team was dedicated to a safe work site. The prime contractor had an excellent site orientation workshop which all on-site workers, including government personnel, attended prior to starting work,” said Hartell. “This, along with a follow-up in the field, created a safe culture among all workers throughout the execution of the project.”

Under Hartell’s guidance and leadership, a professional, mutually advantageous partnering relationship between the contractor, the customer and the Corps was developed and maintained throughout the life of the project. This partnership resulted in project completion being achieved ahead of schedule, with all modifications being amicably settled, and no disputes or claims being submitted.

“As a manager, this project taught me that it is critical to establish and maintain a positive working relationship with all stakeholders and team members,” Hartell said. “I was surrounded by a group of professionals, both government and contractor, that would not accept failure and recognized the importance of this project for the Army, Fort Bliss Garrison and the Soldiers.” 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District
Steven Wright

Isbell named Little Rock's Civilian of the Year

Tammy L. Reed
Pacesetter Staff

In June, a project specialist was named Little Rock District's Civilian of the Year for conceiving and developing a multi-faceted water safety program that many feel is revolutionizing the way the Corps teaches water safety.

Toby Isbell's professional program targets pre-school and elementary-age children to modify their water safety behavior before they reach the at-risk teenage and young adult years.

"It is not an exaggeration to state that Toby Isbell has systematically revolutionized the Corps' water safety outreach materials for children," said Kris Mullins, acting deputy district engineer for Project Management.

"On his own initiative, and often on his own off-duty time, Isbell created what has become the Corps' icon water safety promotion program, Bobber the Water Safety Dog®, which now bears a registered trademark for the Corps.

"Choosing Toby as the Little Rock District Civilian of the Year might be a departure from the norm of honoring individuals who are recognized primarily for their work in engineering, construction, or as leaders in project management," Mullins said. "However, selecting him was not only appropriate recognition for his initiative and achievements; it was recognition for the importance of the Corps' water safety programs and for the Corps rangers and other employees who actively promote them."

Three years ago Isbell, a skilled artist, responded to requests from park rangers for more effective water safety outreach materials by conceiving an entire group of



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Top: Col. Wally Walters presents Little Rock's 2007 Civilian of the Year Award to Toby Isbell.
Bottom: Children and parents alike watch a Bobber the Water Safety Dog® cartoon during a recent Kid Safety Day at the Little Rock Zoo.

animated characters who appeal to young children.

While Bobber is the main educational cartoon character, Isbell also created Corky, Sinker, Tackle, Ranger Buck, Ranger Jane Doe and Ranger Toro to interact with him. Each character is designed for special appeal to his audience, and reaches across cultures often underserved by safety efforts.

"Bobber the Water Safety Dog® is the ultimate representation of the Corps' efforts in water safety," Mullins said. "The Bobber series focuses on teaching key safety lessons, such as the need to wear life jackets. It has a large impact on

children because the various entertaining characters provide an avenue to see and learn more about water safety through their activities."

She added that the graphic and design quality is comparable to high end commercial products, which makes it desirable for children, students, teachers and parents alike.

"Toby's unique program succeeds with children and adults because it is engaging, interactive, and most importantly, fun," Mullins said. "Bobber and his animated

friends have literally become a hit with pre-school and elementary-age children, not to mention their parents and teachers who have expressed their approval and support. His products are even attaining interagency and international notice."

She said the Boy Scouts of America, American Red Cross and Coast Guard Auxiliary have already embraced Bobber and his friends and have adapted them into their

water safety instructional efforts. Program materials are being used outside the United States in places such as the Virgin Islands, United Kingdom and Canada.

Once children are hooked by an animated cartoon or by exposure to a Bobber poster designed by Isbell, rangers use the rest of the Bobber series of materials as tools in safety lessons and as

These materials now include coloring books, stand-alone flyers, temporary tattoos, flying discs, window clings and plastic bags, and Bobber's own website, maintained by Isbell.

See *Isbell* on page 26

Water safety saturation day at Little Rock's Greers Ferry

On June 23 six Little Rock District park rangers and district staff met at Greers Ferry Lake in Heber Springs, Ark., for a Water Safety Saturation Day.

Michael Hurley, Buster Rinks, Jeff Farquhar, Roger Howell, Tammy Reed and Jason Presley set up a boat safety inspection site at a boat ramp and patrolled the lake to inspect boats already on the water for safety devices.

The event went well despite the rain, as they contacted 81 boats and 351 people. A warning and a citation were written for safety equipment, while five boats were turned around to get proper safety equipment before launching. In the photo Howell has a family check all their life jackets before heading out. 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Isbell

Continued from page 25

“Each of his products teaches children a vital water safety or important environmental message and helps lead to exploration of other ideas. The coloring book leads to the website that leads to the animated cartoons,” Mullins said.

“He championed the concept of integrating the Spanish and English versions into one book. This reduced costs by having one book instead of two. This was so popular that the cartoons will soon be translated into Spanish and will be featured on a Spanish version of the website.”

The Bobber website, www.bobber.info, is a new innovation to the Corps’ water safety program as it provides access to Bobber animations, downloadable and printable Bobber material, and interactive water-safety-themed games. Internet access to these materials maximizes the impact by allowing agencies outside the Corps to spread the message without additional cost to the Corps.

Bobber also now is a mascot character in costume who appears at water events, often with Isbell inside, spreading the safety message and greeting children and adults. Plans are now to have more than 10 mascot suits available across the country that will represent the Corps and promote water safety at public events such as boat shows, lake festivals, county fairs and parades.

Lynda Nutt, manager of the Corps National Water Safety Program, praised Isbell’s work because of the impact it is having on the national level.

“I can’t even begin to describe the contributions that Toby has provided the Corps water safety efforts nationwide,” Nutt said.

“Thinking beyond the actual fun of the Bobber program, Toby has brought a new element of programming to our educational outreach as kids today are very electronic and visual.” Little Rock District, Southwestern Division and the Corps Water Safety Center have since built upon Isbell’s effort with salary support, encouragement and a team of other employees who help with the cartoon storylines and voices. While recognizing the entire team’s contributions, Mullins gives the lion’s share of credit to Isbell.

“Creating the cartoons themselves though remains up to Toby as he is a one-man animation studio,” Mullins said.

She explained that he uses web-based animation software called Flash to turn scripts into storyboards, then turn storyboards into web videos for final review and approval by the Corps’ National Water Safety Team.

Mullins added that in the area of self-development, Isbell has pursued further learning of Flash animation and other moving illustration programs on his own time.

“His interest in this area is what led to his work on the Bobber program,” she said.

“His efforts are not for personal gain, but focus on using his talent to develop teaching tools and educational programs to support the Corps and his volunteer activities. We feel this especially dedicated and skilled member of the Corps staff has unlimited promise for future contributions.”

“His original work on Bobber, the Water Safety Dog® was not a requirement of his job but an extraordinary effort and shining example of public service that greatly contributes to the Corps’ mission, success, prestige and reputation.”

Another organization that felt Isbell’s work was a shining example of public service is the Federal Executive Association of Arkansas, which, earlier this year, awarded him its Federal Employee of the Year award in the professional, administrative, technical and legal category. The objective of the FEA awards is to recognize and celebrate outstanding individuals in the federal work community.

Isbell is appreciative of the recognition he has been receiving. “I feel grateful for the opportunities and support I have been given,” Isbell said.

“It’s easy for cartoonists to think and care about their creations as living things, especially when so many people act as if they are, and I consider these awards as wins for Bobber and everyone who helped make the Bobber program possible.” 🇺🇸

Juneteenth Celebration



Above: Fred Anthamatten, Regulatory chief, reads General Order Number 3, which informed the slaves of their freedom.



Left: Paul Cox, Navigation Branch, and Pat Agee, Executive Office, play jacks.

Photos courtesy of Galveston District

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union Soldiers, led by Maj. Gen. Granger, landed in Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. One of Granger's first orders was to read to the people of Texas General Order Number 3. On June 18 at the Galveston District, this was also the case. Fred Anthamatten, chief, Regulatory Branch, read the Order to the crowd. After he was finished reading, praise dancer Amber Simmons, performed to gospel selections which also tied into a vignette of Mama Shuggs which followed. Shuggs was a slave who was freed in Texas by the Order. She was known for her free spirit and her love for life even as a slave. "Soul Food Tasting" was the next event on the agenda, which featured food made and served by the Black Employee Program Committee members. Ending the day were games consisting of baseball, horseshoes, and jacks. 🇺🇸

Get down and dirty for America on National Public Lands Day

The largest hands-on volunteer effort to preserve America's lands, the 14th annual National Public Lands Day, will take place Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007. In addition to the usual facility clean ups and repairs, this year will have a new focus on countering the tide of invasive plants and animals that take over habitats and squeeze out native species.

The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$18.77 an hour for 2006, based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Independent Sector. So every 100,000 volunteers who participate in National Public Lands Day represent an additional \$1.8 million worth of labor for American lands.

This year's goal is to exceed the 2006 National Public Lands Day numbers of 100,000 volunteers by at least an additional 10,000.


One-third of America's land is in public hands, and may be used for everything from recreation and relaxing to logging and mining for natural resources. National Public Lands Day is a yearly chance for Americans to take ownership of these lands, which are constantly threatened by human causes such as pollutants and natural causes like disasters and erosion. Events will take place in parks, forests, rivers, lakes, wetlands, at cultural and historic sites and neighborhood areas. Families and students can tour national parks and many state parks for free on this date, and learn about wildlife habitats while working to benefit them.

Those interested in organizing a project or volunteering for this year's event can learn more at www.publiclandsday.org. 🇺🇸



Engineer Day Celebration

Fort Worth District celebrates annual Engineer Day

Fort Worth District employees waded out to the Lockheed Martin Recreation Center to celebrate Engineer Day, June 15. Gathered under a pavilion, attendees engaged in games and won prizes. Several children braved the rain to visit Miss Cookie the Clown to have their faces painted. The annual Engineer Day Picnic is hosted by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Association. Over the course of the year they host fund raisers to offset the cost of the picnic.  Photos courtesy of Fort Worth District

Parker Bublik, granddaughter of Judy Marsicano, Public Affairs, plays Strawberry Shortcake at the annual picnic.



Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, presents Scott W. Blank, Stillhouse Hollow Lake, the Recreation Employee of the Year Award.



Hell's Kitchen survivors, the "Grill Masters" braved the down pour to cook hamburgers and hotdogs at the annual picnic.

Col. Martin presents Patricia Zediak, Southwest Area Office, the Employee of the Year Award.



Kimberly Meadows and Lynn Chapman smile through the rain at the annual picnic.



Winston Marshall, son of Ali Marshall, Contracting, assumes his alter ego ... Batman.

Engineer Day Celebration

Annual awards ceremony honors outstanding employees
Friday the 13th proves lucky for many



Employee of the Year, Nancy Crenshaw, Engineering & Construction Division



Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year, Ronald Foster, Operations Division.



Lt. Col. Mark Fritz Leadership Award, Ralph Hight, Engineering & Construction Division




Engineer of the Year, Mark Burkholder, Engineering & Construction Division.



Hard Hat Employee of the Year, Steven Rous, Engineering & Construction Division.

Tulsa District's Corps Day was held Friday, July 13. Adam Smith and Liz Bashaw emceed the awards ceremony, presided over by the new commander, Col. Anthony Funkhouser. The day started with acknowledgements and length-of-service group photos. Pins and certificates for 30, 35, and 40-year employees were presented at the awards ceremony.


Honors announced at the ceremony were: Safety Accomplishment, Broken Bow Remote Power Plant, Skiatook Lake Office, and Fort Sill Resident Office; Customer Care Employee of the Year, Cathey Williams; Trades and Crafts Employee of the Year, Ronald Foster; Hard Hat Employee of the Year, Steven Rous; Technical and Administrative Employee of the Year, GS-08 and Below, Tammy Solomon, GS-09 and Above, Edwina Poole; Project Delivery Team of the Year, MILCON Transformation Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Contract Team; Construction Management Excellence Award, Mike Abate; Employee of the Year, Nancy Crenshaw; Engineer of the Year, Mark Burkholder; and Lt. Col. Mark Fritz Leadership Award, Ralph Hight.

Employees then headed to the Tulsa Zoo for lunch and an afternoon of fun sponsored by the CARE Council. 

Photos courtesy of Tulsa District

Engineer Day Celebration

Galveston District enjoys Engineer Day

On June 15, Galveston District held its annual Engineer Day Ceremony and Picnic. The ceremony started with the announcement of the 2007 Employee of the Year, Gloria Appell. Gloria works as a regional economist in the Planning Branch. Willis Walker was selected as Engineer of the Year. Willis works as a civil engineer in the Geotechnical Section. John Davidson, the first recipient to ever receive two awards in the same year from the Regulatory Branch, was awarded with the Team Work Award and the Customer Service Award. Regulator of the Year was awarded to Kristi McMillan for managing one of the heaviest workloads in the Regulatory Branch. Ending the ceremony was the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and service awards where Isidoro Martinez was honored, with a standing ovation, for 50 years of service to the Galveston District.  Photos courtesy of Galveston District



Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, joins nominees for Employee of the Year, left to right, Rick Villagomez, Rick Medina, Veronica Benavides, Gloria Appell, Diana Laird, John Davidson, Sandra Morrison- O'Donohoe, and Kristi McMillan. Not pictured is Debby Jones.

Isidoro Martinez accepts his certificate for 50 years of service.



John Davidson holds his Regulatory Award.



Kristi McMillan holds her Regulatory awards.



Gloria Appell accepts her award for Employee of the Year.



3 parks in Little Rock District rate in nation's best

(Editor's Note: The information for this story was compiled by James Beard, Sylvester Jackson and Jeffrey Farquhar.)

Of more than 3,000 campgrounds considered nationwide, two Little Rock District parks were named in "America's Top 100 Family Campgrounds" and one day-use area was among the "Top 20 Beaches" by Reserve America, the company that runs the National Recreation Reservation Service

Tar Camp Park on the Arkansas River near Redfield, Ark., and River Road Park on the Black River downstream of Clearwater Dam near Piedmont, Mo., were the two campgrounds honored. Moonshine Beach at Table Rock Lake near Branson, Mo., was among the country's top beaches.

Reserve America compiled the Top 100 list after reviewing those 3,000 plus campgrounds. Park rangers, regional park management and campers who provide testimonials review the parks. From that list they select the 100 best at providing campers outstanding locations to bring their families for a fun, safe, educational and memorable family-bonding experience.

Tar Camp Park has become a popular summertime destination for people from near and far. This 223-acre park is located just five miles east of Redfield off Interstate 530, and it is known for its beauty and first-class fishing on the Arkansas River.

Responding to the advancements in camping trends and styles, the Pine Bluff Project Office continues to update Tar Camp as funds become available. Today's new camping trailers and recreational vehicles require increased electrical amperage, and since they are getting longer and wider with more slide outs, they require larger campsites.

Some areas in Tar Camp have been rehabilitated to include lengthening camping pads for increased parking space, while new pull-through campsites have been added for convenient camper setup. Each new site also includes an area with a convenient, moveable lamp post and a handicapped accessible grill, fire rings and picnic tables. Some sites also sport new illuminated combination electrical and water hook-ups for better visibility at night.

The Corps has added two tent camping pads in "C" area at Tar Camp. These sites are available at a lower price for tent campers not

requiring electricity and water. For anglers, there are fish cleaning stations with two water cleaning sprayers and a motor for grinding fish byproducts.

To make the playground complete for children, a new rock climbing wall and basketball goal were added to the existing swing set, merry-go-round and combination slide set. Also, apple and pear

trees were added this year, with more trees to be added annually.

Located downstream of the Clearwater Dam along the Black River, River Road Park is open year round and offers quality camping as well as a wide variety of other recreational opportunities.

With its flat terrain and mature forest canopy, River Road Park offers shaded, level sites ideal for both recreational vehicles and tents. Sites are well spaced, giving visitors the opportunity to spread out. Additional amenities include a dump station, hot showers and flush restrooms.

More than 80 percent of the park's 110 campsites can be reserved during the peak season May 15 to Sept. 15. Of the campsites, 98 have electrical connections, with some providing 50-amp service and water hookups. Campsites have picnic tables, fire pits, lantern hangers and level asphalt parking pads.

For those interested in fishing, the Black River is known to hold bass, crappie, catfish and walleye. The park offers more than a mile of river bank to fish from as well as a boat ramp for those wanting to get out on the water.

Recreation in River Road Park is not limited to camping and fishing. Open green spaces throughout the park and a wide

variety of facilities accommodate many recreational interests. Within the park there are picnic shelters, two playgrounds, a basketball court, gazebo, horseshoe pits, 4.5 miles of nature trails, and a 3.25-mile paved hike and bike trail perfect for biking, jogging or a leisurely stroll.

River Road Park is just one reason why Clearwater Lake is an excellent choice to camp, fish, boat, bike, hike, picnic, or sightsee.



Tar Camp Park

Photos courtesy of Little Rock District



River Road Park



Moonshine Beach

See **Top Parks** on page 32

Little Rock earns 2 division awards

Little Rock District has earned two Southwestern Division awards this year: the Natural Resources Management Project of the Year and Recreation Employee of the Year.

These awards, along with a number of district awards were presented June 7 at the district's annual Engineer Day ceremony.

Winners of the division awards are representing the division in the USACE competition in their categories.

SWL/SWD's Natural Resources Management Project of the Year - Beaver Project Office

As outstanding leaders in the realm of Natural Resources Management, the Beaver Project Office team members were recognized as Little Rock District's and Southwestern Division's 2007 Natural Resources Management Project of the Year.

The Beaver Project Office staff was recognized for maintaining and enhancing project facilities and programs while enhancing manpower efficiency, effectively executing budget requirements, and utilizing resources that are seldom considered for operating procedures while supporting the Corps mission.

They were also recognized for their extraordinary efforts in working with local individuals, groups, clubs, businesses and industries to enhance services provided to the public.

The Beaver Project Office staff has reached out to all interested parties and has worked hand in hand to further Corps goals and objectives.

Recognizing the changing culture and the need to reach out to a new and growing visiting public, these Corps team members have actively engaged and built relationships with a diverse community and user groups, fostered long term relationships, and set a new benchmark for public service.

The staff at Beaver Lake continues to improve the quality, safety and availability of recreational facilities for visitors and to create an awareness of potential hazards related to boating, swimming and other forms of recreation.

They have created innovative programs that enhance the Corps missions in recreation, environmental stewardship, interpretation, and other business lines.

SWL/SWD Recreation Employee of the Year - Roger Howell - Mountain Home Project

Top parks

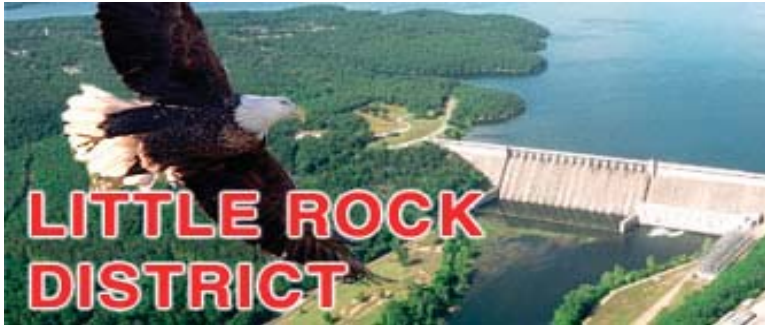
Continued from page 31

Open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., May 15 through Sept. 15, Moonshine Beach is located on Table Rock Lake just outside the city limits of Branson, Mo., on State Highway 165. It is near the dam, which provides this sand swim beach with some of the lake's clearest water.

Other Moonshine Beach amenities include a picnic shelter that will accommodate groups up to 150 people, a boat launch

Roger Howell is recognized as Little Rock District's and Southwestern Division's Natural Resources Management Recreation Employee of the Year. He has demonstrated a high level of professionalism and competence while enhancing the safety and quality of experience of our visiting public.

His outstanding efforts in water and recreational safety, visitor assistance and recreation management reflect well personally and professionally. He has demonstrated considerable initiative, and is a credit to his profession, Mountain Home Project, Little Rock District and Southwestern Division.



Graphic courtesy of www.swl.usace.army.mil

Little Rock District Awardees

SWL Environmental Compliance Employee of the Year – Ronald Hudson – Russellville Project Office

SWL Stewardship Employee of the Year – Bruce Caldwell – Mountain Home Project Office


Outstanding Regulator Award – Lee Schoonover
SWL Outstanding Planning Achievement Award – The May Branch, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, Feasibility Study Team Members The Feasibility Study Team Members are Julia Smethurst, Rajesh Gandhi, Cheryl Gibbs, Rod Gaines, Bob Oberle, Tuan Dang, Ronald Bridges, Max Frauenthal, Travis Stanford and Steve Brewer.

SWL Planning Excellence Award – Julia Smethurst
Commander's Safety Award – Trey Carter
Commander's Award For Technical Excellence – Nathaniel Keen
Commander's Award For Administrative Excellence – Zona Dupree
Army Engineer Association's Bronze de Fleury Medal – Darrell Johnson

Lt. Col. Darrel L. Johnson was recognized for the superb support provided to the Engineer Regiment as it performs its primary missions of mobility, countermobility, survivability, sustainment and topographic engineering.

Gallery of Distinguished Employees Inductee – William H. Henson 

for 45 boats, and enough parking for 275 vehicles. There is also a playground, volleyball and swimming areas, restrooms and outdoor showers, all of which, including the beach, are fully handicapped accessible.

Moonshine Beach and Table Rock Lake provide a perfect outdoor recreation area for the tourist families visiting Branson and all it has to offer. 

Condolences

Phil Blackwell, 53, passed away July 19. He was a former member of Little Rock District who retired after 25 years with the Corps.

James Q. Fletcher, father-in-law of **Kathrene Fletcher**, Little Rock District, Montgomery Point Lock and Dam, passed away July 10.

Larry David Harris II, brother of **Kathrene Fletcher**, Little Rock District, Montgomery Point Lock and Dam, died June 28.

Yolanda Hidalgo, mother of **Carlos Hidalgo**, Galveston District, Real Estate Division, passed away May 27.

Charles Smith passed away July 8 after a short illness. He was the father of **Bobby Smith**, a Little Rock District facility maintenance inspector at Nimrod Lake.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Karen Adams**, Galveston District, on her selection for the GS-11 accountant position in Resource Management.

Christopher Adebola Adekanbi, son of **Joshua and Jackie Adekanbi**, both of the Galveston District, graduated May 26 from Clear Creek High School in Clear Creek, Texas. Christopher plans to attend college in August.

In July Little Rock District lawyer **Ralph Allen** was honored at the 2007 Chief Counsel's Honorary Awards at the worldwide Legal Services Conference in Minneapolis. Allen received the Bert Pettinato Award - Pride in Public Service.

On May 25, Lance Amos, son of **Rick Amos**, Little Rock District, Construction Branch, graduated from Pocola Oklahoma High School with honors. He will attend Oklahoma Panhandle State University this fall where he received a football scholarship.

Dustin S. Anthamatten, son of **Fred Anthamatten**, Galveston District, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas at Arlington in May. Dustin graduated with a dual degree in Business and Economics as an Honors Scholar with a 4.0 GPA.

Congratulations to **Ronnie Barcak**, Galveston District, on his selection for a 120-day assignment as Chief, Navigation Branch.

In June **Brenda Bishop** was selected as a program analyst for Little Rock District's Programs and Project Management Division.

Jonathan Humphrey, nephew of **Stephanie Bobo**, Little Rock District, Resource Management, graduated from Clarendon High School in Clarendon, Ark. He was named All-State in football for his district, and he will invest seven days of his summer participating in the Down Under Bowl in Queensland, Australia, and then relaxing in Hawaii. He plans to play football for either the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff or Arkansas State.

Matthew Brock, Little Rock District, Russellville Project Office, was hired as a maintenance worker for the Dardanelle Marine Terminal.

Little Rock District's **Tom Clement** attended the National American Council of Engineering Companies Awards Banquet and Presentation in Washington D.C. Of the 147 nominees from around the country, the Little Rock District won the Grand Conceptor Award for the Montgomery Point Lock and Dam. Clement assisted the ACEC in preparing a three-minute video about Montgomery Point that was shown during the awards

ceremony, an honor reserved for the winner of the Grand Conceptor Award.

Nicolas Contreras, grandson of **Abel Contreras**, Freeport Office, Galveston District, graduated pre-kindergarten May 24 from St. Justin Martyr in Houston, Texas. Nicolas plans to attend kindergarten and play sports in McAllen, Texas.

Andrew Abel Eikermann, grandson of **Abel Contreras**, Freeport Office, Galveston District, graduated eighth grade May 24 from Quail Valley Middle School in Missouri City, Texas. Andrew plans to attend ninth grade and play sports at Elkin's High School in Missouri City.

Roman Scott Koehne, grandson of **Abel Contreras**, Freeport Office, Galveston District graduated kindergarten May 25 from St. Thomas More in Houston, Texas. Roman plans to attend first grade, play sports, and continue his interest in photography.

In July Little Rock District lawyer **James Cullum** was honored at the 2007 Chief Counsel's Honorary Awards at the worldwide Legal Services Conference in Minneapolis. Cullum was honored for his work as part of the Gulf Region Division Legal Services Team.

On June 11 Little Rock's Public Affairs Office welcomed **Cheri Dragos-Pritchard** as its new public affairs assistant. She came to PAO from a short stint at the Internal Revenue Service and is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Lt. Col. John C. Dvoracek, Fort Worth Deputy Commander, joined Southwestern Division headquarters, Aug. 1, to serve as its Deputy Division Commander for approximately three months.

Jessica S. Flynn, daughter of **Mike Flynn**, Galveston District, graduated May 26 from Clear Creek High School in Clear Creek, Texas. Jessica plans to attend the University of Texas in San Antonio in August.

Steven C. Fullen, son of **Marianne Fullen**, Galveston District, recently graduated eighth grade from Galveston Catholic School in Galveston, Texas. Steven plans to attend O'Connell Consolidated High School in August.

Frank Larry Perez III, nephew of **Marianne Fullen**, Galveston District, recently graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, with a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology. Larry has relocated to Omaha, Neb. to work for a real estate company as a property underwriter and professional pilot.

Congratulations to **Frank Gracia**, Galveston District, on his selection for a 120-day developmental assignment to the Project Management Branch. Frank recently returned from his third tour of duty in Iraq.

Abigail Guerrero, granddaughter of **Jose M. "Pepe" Guerrero**, Galveston District, graduated kindergarten May 24 from Garden Ridge Elementary in Flower Mound, Texas. Abigail plans to travel with family, enjoy summer camps, and attend first grade at Garden Ridge in August.

Zachary J. Myers, grandson of **Jose M. "Pepe" Guerrero**, Galveston District, graduated pre-kindergarten May 16 from Fellowship of Forest Creek in Round Rock, Texas. Zachary plans to start kindergarten at Brentwood Christian School in Austin, Texas.

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Jeremiah Brandon Jaynes, son of **Cheryl and Kenny Jaynes**, both of the Galveston District, graduated in May from Ball High School in Galveston, Texas. Jeremiah plans to attend Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Congratulations to **Barbara Johnson**, Telecommunications Specialist, Galveston District, for being selected as the Meridian 1 Subject Matter Expert for the DOD, Air Force 407th Air Expeditionary Group at Ali Air Base in An Nasiriyah, Iraq. She will be working as a contractor with Mutual Telecom Service. Her last day with the Corps was July 20.

In the Ozark Hydropower Plant, **David Johnson**, Little Rock District, Russellville Project Office, was hired as the powerplant mechanic A. He transferred from the Bureau of Reclamation in Colorado.

Sarah Keith-Bolden, daughter of **Nancy Keith**, Little Rock District, Design Branch, and John Keith, USACE retired, graduated with honors from Emory Law School in May.

Scot King, Sr., a mechanic at the Dardanelle Hydropower Plant, Little Rock District, received the Little Rock District's Wage Grade Employee of the Year Award.

Chris Knight, son of **Deannda Knight**, Little Rock District, Contracting Division, graduated from Conway High School in May. He received 7A All-State honors in both football and soccer this past year. Chris will attend the University of Central Arkansas this fall, where he will play football.

On July 23 **Kurt Kueter**, Little Rock District, Central Arkansas Area Office, began his new duties as a mechanical engineer for quality assurance in the Construction Branch.

Congratulations to **Samantha Lambert**, Galveston District. She completed the Department of Army Intern Program and will be assigned to the Hydrology and Hydraulics Section.

Donnie Lindsay, a natural resource specialist newly assigned to the Little Rock District, Ozark office.

Terry Madden, Little Rock District, completed the Hydropower Trainee Program and was promoted to powerplant mechanic A.

Holly Humphreys, stepdaughter of **Marney Mason**, Galveston District, graduated May 25 from Comstock High School in Comstock, Texas. Holly plans to attend Cameron University in Lawton, Okla. in August. She was recently married on July 27.

On May 22 former Southwestern Division public affairs team member **John Mawn** was inducted into the Arkansas River Hall of Fame. Mawn served with the Little Rock District as public affairs officer from March 1964 through December 1979. During that historic period, the Little Rock and Tulsa districts completed and dedicated the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. Mawn concentrated on publicity for the Oct. 4, 1968, dedication of the navigation system from the Mississippi River to Central Arkansas, and later would work on the June 5, 1971, dedication of the entire waterway.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Meyers**, Galveston District. She completed the Department of Army Intern Program and will be assigned to the Construction Division.

Shakar Misir, Galveston District, returned home from his tour of duty in Iraq in June.

Congratulations to **Kevin Morgan** on his selection as Chief, Evaluation Section, Regulatory Branch. Kevin comes to the Galveston District from the Alaska District.

Eric Mrdja, son of **Dushan Mrdja**, Little Rock District, graduated May 24 from Bryant High School as an Arkansas Scholar. He will be attending Pulaski Technical College this fall where he received an academic scholarship.

Brooke Elise Nelson, granddaughter of **Carol Nelson**, Galveston District, graduated May 25 from Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas. Brooke plans to attend the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, in August.

On July 2 **Greg Oller**, Little Rock District, was chosen as the new lake manager for Table Rock Lake.

Congratulations to **Jon Plymale**, Galveston District, for his selection for a developmental reassignment in Projects Operations Branch. Jon began his reassignment June 4.

Kimberly Roberts, Galveston District, received her Associates Degree August 26 from the University of Phoenix. Kimberly plans to continue school to receive her Bachelors Degree in Business Management.

On June 6 **Kim Samford**, Little Rock District, was selected as a program analyst in Engineering and Construction Division.

Jessika Rene Troche, daughter of **Bert Troche**, Galveston District, graduated May 22 from Casa Linda Elementary School in Corpus Christi, Texas. Jessika plans to attend Incarnate Word Academy Middle School, also in Corpus Christi, on a scholarship.

Robbie Pleasant graduated June 1 from the Santa Rosa High School in Santa Rosa, Calif. Robbie plans to attend the University of California in Santa Cruz in the fall. Robbie is the grandson of **Marilyn Uhrich**, Galveston District.

Congratulations to **Mark Williams**, RM Career Intern, for meeting all his requirements in training and rotational assignments during his first year, and being promoted to a GS-09.

Congratulations to **Sarah Hong Xie-DeSoto**, Galveston District. She completed the Department of Army Intern Program and will be working in the Geotechnical and Structural Section.

Family Matters

Mike Bagley, Little Rock District, Russellville Project towboat supervisor, and Betsey Cooper united in marriage June 6, on the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia.

On April 26, during the 99th Annual Student Awards night, Sara Beard, daughter of **James Beard**, Little Rock District, Clearwater Project Office, received two awards for outstanding achievement in academics, work and character from Dr. Marilyn Graves, the dean of the College of the Ozarks.

Cari L. Conner, of Little Rock District, Clearwater Project Office, received a granddaughter for her birthday, July 11. Her name is Isabella Reese Monson and she weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces.

Jim Evans, Little Rock District, Dardanelle Lock and Dam, will marry Misti Cook Sept. 1, at the Central Presbyterian Church of Russellville, Ark.

On June 28, **Larry Hurley**, park ranger, Little Rock District, Table Rock Lake, and his wife, Amanda, had a baby girl. Her name is Page Christine, and she weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

Nathan Woods, the 10-year-old son of **Mark Woods**, Little

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A road less traveled ...



Photos courtesy of Fort Worth District

The road leading into Murrell Park at Grapevine Lake was submerged by floodwaters. Murrell Park is one of many Corps recreation parks that was severely impacted by the 2007 flood series.

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Rock District, Design Branch, and his team, the Little Rock Junior Deputy All-Stars, won the Southwest Regional Tournament July 24 in Amarillo, Texas. They will go to Vincennes, Ind., to play in the Cal Ripken World Series Division of Babe Ruth Baseball Aug. 11-18.

Outreach

On July 11, **Capt. Tricia Campbell**, Galveston District, spoke at a dinner meeting for the Houston Sail and Power Squadron in Houston, Texas. She spoke about upcoming dredging projects on the Houston Ship Channel and highlighted past construction projects that were of interest to recreational boaters such as Redfish Island, Bolivar Marsh, Evia Island, Midbay Marsh, Atkinson Island, and Goat Island. Capt. Campbell is a project manager in Operations.

On June 21, **Ana Gordon** presented an hour long presentation to the Upward Bound students from Ball High School at Galveston College for their Career Day. Ana spoke about her career as a lawyer, the steps it takes to become a lawyer, and what to expect as an attorney in both private and government practice.

Retirements

Ralph Bledsoe, Galveston District, Bay Area Office, retired June 29 after 26 years of federal service.

Mike Caldwell, Little Rock District, Russellville Project Office has announced his upcoming retirement.

