

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

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Season's Greetings



Pacesetter

Southwestern Division Regional News Service

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

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In this issue:

- 3 **Happy holidays to you and yours! - Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko**
- 4 **Army starts transformation at Fort Bliss**
- 5 **Little Rock welcomes new deputy commander**
- 6 **Topo Engineers on the Texas frontier**
- 7 **Auxiliary spillway dedicated**
- 8 **Season's Greetings- Col. Miroslav Kurka**
- 9 **Paralyzed veterans break ground for accessible recreation area**
- 10 **Be safe, recharge and let's continue to roll in 2007 - Col. Christopher Martin**
- 11 **Safety First emphasized at annual banquet**
- 15 **Lackland Air Force Reserve unit training facility**
- 18 **Galveston District welcomes Col. David C. Weston**
- 21 **Otters study at Corps project in East Texas**
- 22 **Pacesetter Points**

On the cover: Original graphic illustration by Andre` Mayeaux, Visual Information Specialist, Fort Worth District. The entire PACESETTER staff wishes you a joyous holiday season and all the best in the New Year!





Happy holidays to you and yours!

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

With the holidays fast approaching, some folks might wonder where all the days have gone. Those of us within the Southwestern Division, however, know exactly how our time was spent ... and your productive pace continues as this year is about to end.

Just a few days ago, December 11, the division welcomed Col. David Weston as the new commander of Galveston District. He comes to the division following his most recent assignment as Deputy Commanding Officer, U.S. Army 6th Recruiting Brigade, in Las Vegas, Nev. He has held a variety of prestigious assignments, including command of the 62nd Engineer Battalion (C)(H) when it deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2003, as well as others you can read about in the article included in this issue of the Pacesetter. And, he is no stranger to Texas, having served at Fort Hood a couple of times and earning his master's degree in Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. His wife, Kim, is a Texas native. Dave brings the experience, credentials and vision that will allow the Galveston District to continue its extraordinary

record of service to the people of Texas and the nation.

Since my last column, we've completed the Little Rock District Command Staff Visit. As you know, we are transforming from past inspections that focused on broad compliance to a more dialogue-friendly, kind of a mobile Regional

Worth and Galveston next year. Stay tuned.

One last important item ... Madeline Morgan, our dual-hatted Safety Officer for Fort Worth District and division headquarters, is consolidating information from our regional team for inclusion in our Safety Management Action Plan.

You can expect to receive a copy of that soon. When we think "safety," our thoughts usually turn to drownings, followed by contractor lost-time accidents and other on-the-job concerns. All are important. Also important, when you are off-the-job taking

some well-deserved leave, remember your personal safety as well. As you prepare for and celebrate the holidays, stress and fatigue levels can be high. So, be careful on that ladder putting up decorations, get plenty of rest before traveling, and don't drink and drive.

Have safe and happy holidays! 🎉

"Have safe and happy holidays!"

Management Board approach, with participation by team members from other districts. During the visit, we discussed six areas submitted by Little Rock District for review that fell into categories of Project Oversight and Regional Teaming, Risk and Reliability Processes and Shoreline Management, and Indirect Funded Activities and Core Capabilities. The results were shared division-wide during a video-teleconferenced outbriefing at the conclusion of the CSV.

We'll continue to refine the Command Staff Visit process during trips to Fort



Dirt is flyin' at Fort Bliss

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko and other officials "turn dirt" during a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 23 at Fort Bliss, Texas, to start the Expansion Program that will provide facilities for Soldiers and units relocating there as part of the Army's Transformation initiative.

See story on page 4. 🎉

Army starts transformation at Fort Bliss with \$2.6 billion program

Judy Marsicano
Pacesetter Staff

Fort Worth District, along with five other Corps districts, partnered in October with the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, Texas, in marking the beginning of probably the largest military program anyone can remember in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ground was officially broken Oct. 23 on the Fort Bliss Expansion Program to provide facilities for Soldiers and units relocating to Fort Bliss as part of the Army's huge transformation initiative.

Because Fort Bliss is on the brink of a significant population explosion, driven by the Army Modular Force, the Integrated Global Positioning and Basing Strategy, and Base Realignment and Closure initiatives, the Corps of Engineers is planning, developing and building what will amount to a small city for approximately 19,000 Soldiers returning to Fort Bliss from overseas installations.

Most of the growth can be attributed to the restationing of the 1st Armored Division from Germany. The division headquarters, four Brigade Combat Teams and a Combat Aviation Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas, will make Fort Bliss their home within the next five years. This substantial influx of Soldiers over a short period of time, along with the approximately 27,000 family members they will be bringing with them, necessitates working, living and community facilities including headquarters and administrative space, dining facilities, aircraft hangars, arms rooms, unit storage facilities and barracks.



Brigade Headquarters

When the expansion program is complete, the new development alone will surpass the main post of Fort Bliss in size, more than doubling the size of the Army post.

The Fort Worth District has set up a program office at Fort Bliss, sort of a mini-district, as one of the first steps in executing this multibillion dollar program. The Fort Bliss Program Office, led by Program Director Troy D. Collins, will provide direct support to the installation for all deliverables and services the Corps is providing Fort Bliss. The Corps has already awarded some \$252 million in contracts to four prime contractors and competition among subcontractors and suppliers has begun.

This transformation program is being undertaken while the Army is still at war. New facilities to be constructed are provided through design-build Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contracts set up for each type of facility, called Product Lines. Standards and criteria for each product line are provided by Corps Design Centers. Support Districts, or Product Line Districts, will provide "cradle to grave" support for task orders issued against their product line contracts. On-site Resident Offices will administer execution of all site and product line task orders.


"We are managing all projects in the Program using the USACE Project

Management Business Process, putting into play the Program's construction management plan as a roadmap integrating all the Product Line Districts," Collins said. "By managing the construction work at Fort Bliss as a Program, the Corps will provide consistency, coherence and project integration across the full spectrum of projects."

Fort Worth District will be responsible for infrastructure, barracks, and training ranges in addition to providing a central point of contact and coordinating the activities of the other Product Line Districts. Albuquerque District will be responsible for company operations facilities, Galveston District for ammunition storage and parking facilities, Little Rock District for dining facilities and aircraft hangars, Sacramento District for brigade and battalion headquarters buildings and unit storage facilities, and Tulsa District for maintenance facilities.

At the ground breaking ceremony, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, commander of the Southwestern Division, bottom-lined the importance of the program:

"We are breaking ground because of the scope and everything that is going on with this expansion, such as 300 buildings, 15 ranges, 46,000 linear feet of water lines, 22,000 linear feet of sewer lines, 66,000 linear feet of gas lines and 1.5 million linear feet of electrical lines," he said.

"The Corps was issued a challenge to ensure all this was done properly and to find a way to provide construction more quickly, of incredibly high quality and at a lesser cost, and to do it in a way that honors the environment and takes care of all the other requirements we have to be good stewards of the nation's resources. Whether that be the natural environment or taking care of our most precious resource, the American Soldier." 



Dining Facility

Little Rock welcomes new deputy commander

P.J. Spaul
Pacesetter Staff

Lt. Col. Donald L. Balch is the new deputy district commander of the Little Rock District. Balch replaces Lt. Col. Trina Patterson who moved to a new assignment in Georgia.

As deputy district commander, Balch is second in command of district civil works activities, which span a 35,000-square-mile area covering about half of Arkansas and the southern part of Missouri. The district plans, builds and operates water resource projects in the Arkansas, White and Little River basins to provide flood damage reduction, hydropower generation, navigation, water supply, improved drainage, recreation, environmental and other uses directed by Congress.

Balch's responsibilities also include construction and real estate support to military installations, as well as Army Reserve and recruiting offices for all branches of the military. The district also supports Middle East military and reconstruction efforts as part of the Global War on Terrorism.


The Vermont native graduated from Norwich University with a Bachelor's of Science in civil engineering and has since served as a U.S. Army Officer for more than 20 years in the Corps.

He has served in a variety of command and staff assignments both in the United States and abroad. His assignments have taken him to a host of nations in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere. All totaled, he has traveled or worked in




more than 65 countries.

Balch's awards and qualifications include the Army Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Airborne Badge.

He is an active member of the Society of American Military Engineers. In the past four years, he has added golf to his list of numerous hobbies. He is married to Isobel Johnson and has two children, Maxwell and James. 

Goin' with the flow ...



A portion of the Trinity River at the Interstate Highway 45 bridge was recently allowed to flow into a new channel. This was done as part of the continuing work on the Dallas Floodway Extension Project. This segment will ensure the structural integrity of the I-45 bridge. Boating traffic at this location is still closed until construction is complete and it is safe to reopen the river. U.S. Army photos by Melanie Ellis, Fort Worth District 

Worth Remembering:

Topo Engineers on the Texas frontier

Judy Bullwinkle
Pacesetter Staff

The annexation of Texas in 1845 focused federal attention on that new area of the nation. Between 125,000 and 150,000 new citizens needed the rights and privileges of the United States. The officers of the Topographical Corps rose to the occasion to meet the civil and military needs of the expanding nation.

Defending the area against chronic Indian attacks and against Mexicans who refused to acknowledge the loss of Texas, the Army was woefully ignorant of the geography of the Southwest. The first Texas expedition by the topographical engineers was led by Lt. James W. Abert, son of the Chief of the Bureau of Topographical Engineers. Beginning in Colorado in mid-August, Abert's reconnaissance of the Comanche and Kiowa Indian territory began by crossing the Llano Estacado (Staked Plains) in north Texas and traveling along the Canadian River. Although his march through Comanche territory was marked by the sound of war drums, the group was never attacked and arrived safely in Arkansas by late October. Using only a sextant and a chronometer, the engineers mapped the area and collected scientific information on the flora, fauna, and mineral resources.

Their greatest success was the first accurate representation of the Canadian region of North Texas. The descriptions of Indian life in the area proved invaluable in an overall understanding of the region as did their scientific investigation of the environment. Their work paved the way for settlement of the area.

In May 1846, the Mexican War erupted as diplomatic attempts

to stabilize the Texas-Mexican border failed. As the United States went to war with Mexico, the topographical engineers jumped into combat duty. While involved in the war, they continued to absorb the lessons of the new land, particularly the harsh environment. They immediately understood the essential importance of water to any future development in the area.

Although the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildago, signed Feb. 2, 1848, ended the Mexican War and transferred a huge amount of southwestern land to the United States, the border was not well defined. That border dispute was finally resolved through the Gadsden Treaty of 1853 by which the United States purchased the land needed for a southern railway route along the 32nd parallel. The Mexican Boundary Survey of the topographical engineers laid the groundwork for the treaty.

Throughout the mid-1800s, the topographical engineers conducted river surveys and explored routes for wagon trains. Always mindful of navigation opportunities, the men looked for routes to connect waterways and argued the economy of river transportation over freight wagon and pack mule. The badly needed maps they produced benefited the settler, the Soldier and the gold seeker.

The year 1853 marked a major shift for the topographical engineers. Their surveys nearly complete, the group found that the advancement of the railways had undercut the other routes of transportation. In 1863, the Topographical Corps was merged as a division of the Corps of Engineers.

To learn more, read "Custodians of the Coast; History of the United States Army Engineers at Galveston" by Lynn M. Alperin. 🇺🇸

Border patrol breaks ground for new station



The Brownsville Border Patrol Station hosted a groundbreaking ceremony in November to officially mark the start-up construction of its new facility. John Curtis, Construction Branch chief of the Galveston District, was on hand to represent the Corps of Engineers, along with other agencies from across the state.

The new 54,472 square-foot facility, with a completion date of 2008, will be built at a cost of \$23 million and have an 86.7-square-mile responsibility. This also covers 23.02 river miles. Surveillance cameras, bulletproof windows, and an electronic security key system are some examples of the security equipment to be installed in the new facility. Eventually, in the second phase of the project, a firing range will be built there for border patrol agents from all over the Rio Grande Valley sector.

The ceremony highlighted the cooperation between local and federal law enforcement officials as key to working toward a better and safer community. 🇺🇸

Auxiliary spillway dedicated

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Weather threatened and temperatures plummeted as officials and guests gathered to dedicate the new auxiliary spillway at Tenkiller Ferry Lake Nov. 29. Dignitaries including U.S. Rep. Dan Boren and Oklahoma State Sen. Jim Wilson joined Col. Kurka, John Roberts, and Randel Mead in addressing the crowd at the overlook. Most had driven through violent storms to make it to the ceremony celebrating Tulsa District's latest civil works construction project. The sun broke through just long enough for the group to travel to the spillway itself for the actual ribbon cutting.

The numbers are staggering in this massive project -- often hard to grasp -- 35 miles of holes drilled for explosives, the ability to pass enough water to fill almost 180 swimming pools every second, and huge gates that take more than a half hour to fully open.

The need for an auxiliary spillway was identified in the early 1980s when a nationwide dam safety study determined that Tenkiller Lake did not have sufficient flood release capabilities. The nearly \$30 million, federally-funded construction project was completed in two phases. Phase I involved relocation of water,




U.S. Army photo by Lori Hunninghake, Tulsa District

power, and telephone lines; excavation; and construction of the gated structure. Each of the five gates is approximately 35 feet tall and 50 feet wide. Phase II comprised paving the new roadway and building the approach channel from the new spillway to the lake. The entire project took seven years. During construction, more than 500,000 yards of rock were excavated. A bridge was built across the channel for State Highway 100 traffic.

There were many challenges, including a slide when the new highway fill was placed on an ancient fault not detected during investigations for the project. Mead expanded on another. "Concrete generates heat when it cures, and placing large volumes in small areas can result in temperatures so high that the concrete can be damaged." The new spillway was constructed using about 40,000 cubic yards of concrete which is enough to cover a football field 7-1/2 feet deep. He explained that special cement (low heat of hydration) and a high percentage of fly ash were used in the concrete to control the temperature during curing and that temperature probes were placed in the concrete to monitor the temperatures during curing.

Col. Kurka praised the team that brought the project to fruition, and Roberts noted the political support that is vital to funding. The dignitaries emphasized the importance of Tenkiller Lake and the many benefits it provides to citizens of the area.

Mead summed up the feelings of many of those gathered who braved the weather to be at the dedication. "It is a rare pleasure to get to work on a large dam construction project today, and I believe I can speak for all the engineers and construction office personnel by saying we enjoyed being a part of such a unique project that will be here for many decades after we are gone." 



U.S. Army photo by Lori Hunninghake, Tulsa District



Season's Greetings!

**Col. Miroslav Kurka
Commander, Tulsa District**

We had a terrific year in 2006 and are off to a great start in FY07! We've executed a record military program and completed a very large number of civil works projects to the delight of sponsors, stakeholders and the public. We've provided excellent support to hurricane ravaged areas and the Global War on Terrorism, and enhanced our reputation as the premier engineering organization in this part of the country. These have been true team accomplishments and I want to thank each of you for your excellent and hard work and positive attitude.

I spent some time in November in St. Louis, Mo. at a small business/contracting conference and district commander conference. I wanted to share a few things that I've learned with everyone.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is *decisively engaged* in several critical activities. There is a huge workload. Baltimore and Fort Worth Districts' military construction workloads are each in the billions of dollars. New Orleans District's levee/civil works workload is similarly very large. Sacramento District, with the recent passage of the California's infrastructure bond measure, has the largest amount of levees in the nation (over 580 miles) that are affected by recent guidance on the inspection of completed civil works. All of this, plus ongoing support to the War on Terror (more workload in the billions of dollars), is stretching everyone. In Baltimore District alone, they are hiring over 200 people. Many other districts are similarly hiring, and there is great competition for motivated, qualified people to get the work done, and serve. This, together with the retirement of many of our colleagues who entered federal service 20-30 years ago, is

creating unprecedented opportunities for you in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

These opportunities, however, require us to emphasize our expeditionary mindset, because with the exception of the BRAC program at Forts Sill and Bliss, none of these critical activities is in our area of operations. The work being done in Iraq, Afghanistan, New Orleans and Sacramento is work that comes along only once in a decade or two – to maintain our technical expertise and relevance, we in Tulsa must be involved! We do have folks deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and we're supporting the efforts of Sacramento District in California and Mississippi

“Tulsa District has great people, a great plan, are part of a great Southwestern Division Team. We are absolutely relevant, ready, responsive, and reliable and we are ready for the challenges of working on the nationally significant projects in New Orleans and Sacramento – bring it on!”

Valley Division in New Orleans - my challenge to everyone is to expand our efforts supporting these Corps major missions, especially the efforts in New Orleans and Sacramento. I will be working on this very hard with the district's senior leaders.

The future is bright for Tulsa District, and for you, if we continue to volunteer and get involved in the Corps major missions. You have been magnificent supporting GWOT and hurricane relief and I know you will give your full efforts to supporting New Orleans and Sacramento as well.

However, before we all fly off to California and New Orleans, we need to celebrate the holidays. We already took time in November to thank and salute our veterans – many of you now are on the receiving end of that exchange after your service in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also took a long weekend in November to recognize our many blessings at Thanksgiving. Now, the whole month of December is loaded with festivities and the holiday spirit. We have all worked very hard this last year. Enjoy the natural slow down in tempo that comes in December. Spend time doing things you enjoy with family and friends. I do ask that you all

remember our 11 Tulsa District members who are deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as their families here in the states who must celebrate the holidays without them. Also, please temper your holiday celebrations with a good measure of common sense safety. I want us all to stay happy and healthy.

Tulsa District has great people, a great plan, are part of a great Southwestern Division Team. We are absolutely relevant, ready, responsive, and reliable and we are ready for the challenges of working on the nationally significant projects in New Orleans and Sacramento – bring it on!

Thanks once again for all that you do; I remain honored to serve as your commander.

ESSAYONS! 🌍

Paralyzed veterans break ground for accessible recreation area

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

The former Overlook at Oologah Lake will soon be home to a campground created specifically for visitors with a disability and their families. On Friday, Nov. 10, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held in conjunction with Veterans Day and the annual special hunt for those with disabilities.

The Mid America Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America has leased the original overlook area at Oologah Lake with plans to create a first-rate camping destination for individuals with handicaps.

Bill Kokendoffer, president of MAPVA, spoke at the groundbreaking and accepted a \$1,000 check from the Oklahoma Game Wardens Association to kick off the building fund. Other contributors were on hand to present their gifts as well. "MAPVA has dedicated seed money to start this project, but we are relying on friends and businesses to help finish the

funding," Kokendoffer said.

"When completed, this campground will allow people with disabilities and their families to enjoy the great outdoors and the beauty of Oologah Lake," Kokendoffer said. A communal, 30x40, insulated-steel building will have an open floor plan with a large meeting room, kitchen area, and accessible bathroom with shower. Asphalt pathways will lead to the six campsites, and a gazebo on the bluff will overlook the lake.

John Carmichael, Corps of Engineers lake manager, says he and the staff are pleased that Oologah Lake will be the first in this area to offer a totally accessible camping experience through the Paralyzed Veterans of America.

"We think it will be very popular and will provide a high quality outdoor experience to individuals with challenges."

Kokendoffer says the lease was the first step, and momentum is gathering. 🌍



Cindy Doan goes above and beyond



Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Cindy Doan, systems accountant in Resource Management Office, has been named Tulsa District's Customer Care Employee of the Quarter for the fourth quarter, FY 06. Doan was nominated by Rick Hedrick, chief of Contracting Division, for her vital help which allowed the district to make the award for the Fort Bliss Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract and first task order for maintenance facilities.

Hedrick said there were stressful times as the district was awarding the \$165 million contract and that Doan calmly and professionally guided the process. "This contract award

benefited the entire Southwestern Division region, and her actions were very important in accomplishing this goal."

She also helped a Contracting Division branch chief clean up old Purchase Request and Certification commitments and obligations in preparation for the end of the fiscal year.

As stated in the nomination, "Twice she went beyond normal expectations to help the Contracting Division accomplish actions vital to the district." 🌍



Be safe, recharge and let's continue to roll in 2007

**Col. Christopher W. Martin
Commander, Fort Worth District**

The holiday season is now in full swing. As we take time to enjoy this time with family and friends, please take time and give thanks for the freedom our forefathers fought for and our Soldiers today still fight to secure.

Please continue to support our deployed Soldiers and deployed district members whether they are supporting the Global War on Terror or the needs of our citizens here at home.

Having recently returned from the Commander's Field Conference where we recognized some of our contractors for safety, I want to remind all of you to continue your safe practices on the job as well as at home. If you plan on traveling during this holiday time, then it is imperative you prepare for your journey in advance. If you will be traveling by car, get plenty of rest prior to your trip. Remember to buckle up and practice good defensive driving. If you choose to drink alcohol, make sure you have a designated driver.

We will face many challenges in the year to come. In addition to supporting the Global War on Terrorism, the district continues to support our military program with projects that are going strong and continue to grow. We will continue to support our nation's citizens with our expanding civil works program. And in

conjunction with our civil works projects, I expect the operation of our dams and lakes to remain steady.

To meet these challenges, I want you to take time during the holiday season and recharge. We often become too busy working that we forget to maintain ourselves. Being proactive in maintaining oneself may not be obvious, yet without it we will not be able to maintain in the long run.

In order to support the many other programs and projects we support in real estate, regulatory and the environmental branches we must sustain the quality and health of our work force.

We have made great strides over the last year but there is always room for improvement. I have no doubt that we will attack this year with the same tenacity we have in the past.

I thank all of you for what you do for the district, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our country. We truly have the best district in the Corps, because we have the best people.

Happy holidays to all of you and your families, be safe and let's continue to roll in 2007.

Essayons! 🇺🇸

"I thank all of you for what you do for the district, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our country. We truly have the best district in the Corps, because we have the best people."

Thanks to District employees for hurricane support



Fort Worth District employees were recognized for their efforts in supporting hurricanes Katrina and Rita at the Hurricane Support Appreciation Ceremony Nov. 20. Approximately 200 district employees were recognized at the ceremony. 🇺🇸

Safety First emphasized at annual Operation Reward Safety Banquet

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

The fourth annual Operation Reward Safety Banquet was held Nov. 29 in Bossier City, La. The banquet, held in conjunction with the Commander's Field Conference, recognized employees and contractors for working safely and preventing accidents.

The ceremony included guest speaker Dr. Isabel Perry, "The Safety Doctor," who utilized props to demonstrate the importance of safety. She also spoke of the importance of recognizing a 'Safe Attitude' and outlined the characteristics that could create an unsafe environment such as procrastination, lack of knowledge, denial, and lack of focus.

Perry emphasized the importance of thinking ahead in her demonstrations. With consequences that were very obvious and predictable, the audience refused to take the bait in the demonstrations

See **Safety** on page 14



U.S. Army photo by Melanie Ellis, Fort Worth District

Dr. Isabel Perry uses Chip Worley, from the San Antonio Area Office, to demonstrate the loss of limb usage at the Operation Reward Safety Banquet.

There's room for everyone on the 'Nice List'

Lt. Col. John Dvoracek, wearing his Grinch t-shirt, hears from Santa, Tom Fleeger, about why he is on the 'Naughty List' in a skit performed at Fort Worth District's annual Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon Dec. 9. The annual luncheon, hosted by the district's Recreation Association, featured a silent auction and live music by Tim Tynes, Resource Management, and Becky Griffith, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory. Proceeds from the silent auction will be used to help pay for the annual Engineer Day picnic in June, which is also hosted by the Recreation Association. The silent auction raised \$360. 🎅



U.S. Army photo by Melanie Ellis, Fort Worth District

Volunteers make a difference

Dorie Murphy

Park Ranger, Bardwell Lake

Volunteers have important and diverse roles at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes across the country. Some serve as park hosts greeting and facilitating the stay of camping families, others staff visitor centers and run interpretive programming, some maintain park facilities, and much more. Kathy and Jack Duke began their volunteer service after discovering a potential equestrian trail at Bardwell Lake near Ennis, Texas.

In 2002, Kathy Duke was looking for some fresh air and began taking her lunches at Bardwell Lake. An avid equestrian trail rider, Kathy wanted to know if she could ride her horse on the 2000+ acres of natural areas surrounding the lake. That fall, Kathy emailed the Fort Worth District to ask about equestrian opportunities at Bardwell Lake. She was surprised to receive a reply from a Bardwell Park Ranger, Thomas Eurke, stating, "she needed the backing of a non-profit and a trail proposal before management would consider her request." She contacted the Director of Texas Equestrian Trail Riders Association, which she had ridden with a time or two and got them on board to back her. She drew up an eight-page proposal outlining her plan and the support she would have from TETRA. On Christmas Eve 2002, Kathy received a gift that would keep her busy for the next four years - the Corps partnered with TETRA and the Dukes to build a multi-use trail starting at the north end of Waxahachie Creek Park.

In April 2003, Kathy, Jack and a few trail riding friends, set out on an old Ford tractor armed with weed-eaters, tree loppers and other hand tools to begin an adventure that continues today. The Dukes have become the backbone of the Bardwell Lake Volunteer program. They spend almost every weekend supervising other volunteers or working on the 22+ miles of trails they developed at Bardwell. Their commitment and dedication goes well beyond the weekend work days. Kathy explains, "It started as a selfish request to ride my horse and it has transformed my life and the



Bardwell Lake volunteers pose on the new bridge that links the trails making one trail 22 miles long.

community I call home." The excitement in her face, as she tells of the many thanks she's received from mountain bikers, other horse riders and even local joggers, says it all. Kathy recently remarked, "The fact that all these people now have a place where they can enjoy their chosen sport, see butterflies, spring flowers and other natural wonders is what keeps me going." And going they are!

During the regular work week, the Dukes work their regular jobs and spend their free time planning for the upcoming

work days, recruiting new volunteers, meeting with Park Rangers about the next phase, soliciting donations of materials from local businesses and more. This self-motivated couple has amazingly rallied the local community, businesses, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in support of their dream to have a trail they can ride close to home. The first sections of the trail opened in September 2003, with the trailhead parking and camping area open one year later. Since

See *Volunteers* on page 13

Volunteers

Continued from previous page



Richard Garcia assesses how to remove trail debris.

that time, a core group of volunteers including Terry Jo Parker, Zelma Wright, Sandy and Kenny Rudd, Butch and Char Anthony, and Julie and Richard Garcia have put in between 250 to 500 or more hours each. The Dukes have put in well over 3,000 hours. Countless others have come out for a day or a weekend or two and the number of volunteer hours

this project has received thus far is staggering. The financial and in-kind support received from local businesses also stack up with Wal-Mart supporting the project with a \$1000 civic grant; Advance Drainage Systems, Inc., donating culvert piping for gully crossings; Home Depot giving the project numerous bags of cement; Maverick Metal Trading providing pipe rail for hitching posts; and, Redwine Farms donating materials for rider mounting blocks. Individuals have contributed too. One person with a tender heart for equestrian trail riding donated PVC piping for an extension of the water line required for the trailhead parking and campground area. Many individuals are counted on for cash donations when supplies, tools or equipment are needed. State agencies

became involved with a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreational Trail grant 3 years ago for \$41,000.

When the trail reached the crossing at Waxahachie Creek, the Rotary Club of Ennis commemorated their 100th year anniversary by donating funds for a bridge, and by September 2005, the

70-foot bridge was in place. Through it all, the Dukes were there organizing, supervising and ensuring it was up to the standards of the Corps.

The trail building continues with a recent gully crossing being placed last spring giving access to the land between the gullies, and to gates to be installed for access near Mustang Point. Signs for nature and historical interpretation are also in the plans.

In June 2006, the barn roof at Waxahachie Creek Park trailhead and campground was completed. Now, horses staying overnight have a stall with shade to call home while their riders sit back and relax in the breeze off Bardwell Lake, catch a gorgeous sunset, or watch as the stars come out.

As the trail building nears its finish, the Dukes look to the future and how to ensure the trails' maintenance is kept up. They hope to establish a foundation that can receive donations and grant money that would support replacement of signs and equipment. For now, Kathy and Jack, along with Volunteer Coordinator Dorie Murphy, are just looking for people who want to spend time at Bardwell Lake, make a difference, and work as part of a team preserving the future of recreation and natural resources through volunteer stewardship. For more information on joining the Bardwell Lake Team, please visit our website www.swf-wc.usace.army.mil/bardwell/.

I once caught a fish ... THIS BIG!

Kurt Floyd
Pacesetter Staff

Four teams braved stiff winds and cool morning temperatures in the annual Fort Worth District Fall Bass Tournament on Lake Ray Roberts. Weather reports called for moderate 10-15 m.p.h. winds with the high temperatures in the mid-70s.

The weather reports were a bit off on the wind speed as most of the teams felt that the winds never dropped below 20-30

See **Fish** on page 14



Carl Smith and Jeff Tripe pose with their first place trophies at the Fort Worth District Fall Bass Tournament.

Fish

Continued from previous page

m.p.h. the entire day. Everyone had a great time despite the windy conditions and the lack of biting fish.

Jeff Tripe and Carl Smith brought in two fish for a total weight of 6.75 lbs. to take First Place. Tripe also caught the biggest bass of the tournament with a 4.25 lbs. largemouth bass. They caught their fish on Senko-style worms in shallow water.

Blake Bryant and Kurt Floyd had one fish that weighed 1.31 lbs. and that was good enough to take Second Place. Their fish came on a Watermelon Candy Zoom Finesse worm on a 1/8 oz. jig head in 4 feet of water.

Charlie Burger and Jimmy Murdock brought in a 1 lb. largemouth bass that they caught on a small Wiggle Wart crankbait. Burger and Murdock also reported a very slow day with only five bites during the entire day.

The next Corps Tournament will be held in the spring at Lake Sam Rayburn. 🇺🇸



Charlie Burger and Jimmy Murdock pose with their Third Place plaques at the Fort Worth District Fall Bass Tournament at Lake Ray Roberts.



Blake Bryant and Kurt Floyd pose with their Second Place plaques at the Fort Worth District Fall Bass Tournament at Lake Ray Roberts.

Safety

Continued from page 11

and decided to put safety first. When the consequences are known, “we don’t want to take the risk,” said Perry.

The contractors present were recognized for various levels of safety including quarterly awards for safety, annual Lone Star awards, and Zero Lost Time awards. Emerson Construction Company, Inc., reported 984,244 exposure hours with no lost-time accidents.

The banquet wrapped up the annual Commander’s Field Conference a day early but on a good note by emphasizing the importance of safety in all that is done. Col. Christopher Martin closed the ceremony by thanking everyone for their great efforts to create safe work environments and making the choice every day to “work safely and encourage those around you to do the same.” 🇺🇸



Col. Christopher Martin, commander, Fort Worth District, presents members of M.W. Builders of Texas, Inc., with the Annual Contract Award for the Medium Contract Division for their work on the Brigade Command and Control Facility at Fort Hood. The company was recognized at the Safety Awards Banquet on Nov. 29.

Resident office prepares to turn over training complex to Lackland Air Force Reserve unit

Ed Rivera
Pacesetter Staff

A ceremonial ribbon cutting for the C-5, Galaxy cargo plane Training Schoolhouse Complex was held Nov. 30 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. After breaking ground on the \$17 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administered project in June 2005, the 433rd Airlift Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, is almost ready to take over the C-5 Formal Training Unit missions with these highly-anticipated facilities.

According to Brig. Gen. John C. Fobian, commander, 433rd AW, this current program began as part of a mobility plan over four years ago. Senior leadership from Air Mobility Command, Air Education and Training Command, and the Air Force Reserve agreed to a transition plan to relocate the C-5 schoolhouse from Altus Air Force Base, Okla., to Lackland to make room for the C-17, Globemaster III cargo aircraft, FTU move to Altus.

"The greatest significance of this move was the change from an active duty to a reserve operation," said Fobian.

The 18-month project, which consisted of a three-story, 69,000 square foot Ground Training School and a 25,000 square-foot Flight Training School had to be finished by November 2006, its contract completion date, with all modifications.

The training complex capable of supporting the future training needs of the aircrews flying the Air Force's 111 Lockheed Martin C-5 Galaxy is near completion. All that remains is certification of the fire suppression system, furniture, and a few minor touch ups to the facilities.

According to Larry D. Reser, Quality Assurance Representative, Lackland Resident Office, who closely works with the construction aspects of the project, construction of the complex in such a condensed schedule meant communication and teamwork had to be paramount.

"Initially the project got awarded 45 days late due to Base Realignment and Closure so we all started late out of the chute. From the start of the project, all involved were on a tight schedule. Teamwork and communication between
December 2006



Major Generals Robert Duignan, 4th Air Force Commander, and Quentin Peterson, Director of Air, Space and Information Operations, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, did the honors at the C-5 Formal Training Unit Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Lackland AFB's Kelly Field while Brig. Gen. John Fobian, 433rd Airlift Wing Commander looks on. When the transition from the former facility at Altus AFB is complete, the schoolhouse at Lackland will be the only C-5 FTU and will supply aircrews to every Air Force C-5 unit, active duty, Guard and Reserve. Training at the new Kelly Field facility began in October and will reach full capacity in April.

all the parties helped solve many issues that arose," said Reser.

Excellent communication helped overcome an early design problem encountered by the field office and the contractor. They discovered the power support needed to service the simulators was insufficient. The project delivery team and Fort Worth District Project Managers engaged the electrical engineer of record.

"The electrical problems were resolved by Gary Jolley of the San Antonio Area Office, Bob Allison of Fred Clark Electric, and concurred with by the electrical designer of record, most of the problems were figured out by Gary and Bob with the assistance of the users," said Reser


Building quality working relationships and maintaining communication was the key to keeping close to the tight schedule. The relationship between the Corps of Engineers, the 433rd AW,

and the contractor has been a model of cooperation.

According to Reser, the contractor was extremely hands-on in helping to find solutions for problems that arose.

"The contractor, SpawGlass could have sat back and waited for our fixes to problems, but they were proactive and committed to the on time completion of the project," said Reser.

The 433rd AW, also known as the Alamo Wing, will not only be able to send aircraft out on real world missions, but in the near future, every C-5 will be operated by aircrew members who got their start at Lackland.

"The success of this project was due in large part to the efforts of key players... the Corps of Engineers and team Lackland," said Fobian. 

Oh, the weather outside is frightful ...



December greeted many districts in the Southwestern Division with a blanket of snow and ice. Crystal Bay Marina at Skiatook Lake, Tulsa District, suffered extensive damage from the snow. The weight of the snow caused the roof to collapse onto all the boats in one slip. The winter weather forced several districts to close early because road conditions had become too dangerous for employees to travel to and from the district offices. 🌐

U.S. Army photo by Steve Armstrong, Tulsa District

Annual deer hunt continues to be a success



Oologah Project's Special Hunt began in 1999 with six hunters. It has been a hit from the beginning, according to all involved. Hunters are chosen by a drawing held by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. Since the hunt is for persons with disabilities, each hunter is entitled to have someone to help with mobility issues.

One of the reasons the hunt was conceived was that a lot of deer were being killed along the road between Tacora Hills and the project office. According to Amanda Peters, Park Ranger, "Since the hunt began, it has helped to control the population and less deer have been hit."

In 2003, the hunt grew to eight hunters. Food plots were planted and blinds were constructed near the plots. This year, 14 out of a possible 16 total deer were taken. This was the highest number in the history of the hunt.

There are several anecdotes about the popularity of the annual event. In 2002, one hunter killed his very first deer. He was so excited, the paramedics had to be called, and he was given nitro tablets for his heart.

"It's very exciting to see hunters who are not able to get out on their own to be able to kill a deer and be so excited about it!" said Peters. 🌐

Somerville Lake annual deer hunt a hit



On Dec. 2, hunters participating in the Fort Worth District's Physically Challenged Deer Hunt met at the Somerville Lake Office for their safety briefing. The hunters were then taken to their blinds by the volunteers between 5:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. After a morning of hunting, the participants gathered for a hamburger lunch that was provided by the Somerville Lions Club. Park Ranger Russell Meier serves as the Physically Challenged Deer Hunt Program Coordinator for Somerville Lake. 🌟

Officials dedicate new tournament facility

P.J. Spaul
Pacesetter Staff

Federal, state and local officials were on hand Nov. 4 to cut the ribbon and mark the opening of the Devils Fork Tournament-Fish Life Support Center at Little Rock District's Greers Ferry Lake.

The new facility provides a place for official tournament weigh-ins, but more importantly, it provides aerated holding tanks and other features that will increase survival rates among tournament fish returned to the lake.

Little Rock District Commander Col. Wally Walters pointed out during the ribbon cutting that this is a unique project in the Corps.

"The Corps is happy to be the landlord and is happy to see this partnership bring this project to fruition," he said.

The project was completed using the Challenge Partnership Program. This program allows the Corps to accept funds, materials, and services from non-federal public and private entities to provide for construction, operation and management of

recreation facilities and natural resources. This was one of 11 projects nationwide selected.

Components of the project include a 42- by 52- foot wood frame building, six concrete holding tanks with temperature control and aeration, a sandy boat beach, expanded parking area and trailer-mounted tanks for returning fish to the lake. These components work together to ensure tournament fish are returned to the lake in healthy condition.

Partners for the project are the Corps, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Cleburne County, City of Greers Ferry, First Electric Cooperative, Community Water System, Greers Ferry Area Chamber of Commerce, Greers Ferry Lake Bassmasters and numerous other businesses and individuals.

The Greers Ferry Challenge Bass Tournament weigh-in was held



Col. Wally Walters and local officials cut the ribbon to open the Devils Fork Tournament-Fish Life Support Center at Greers Ferry Lake.

immediately following the ribbon cutting. Seventy-four two-angler teams participated. The winners were Carl Davis and Royce Davis with a five fish limit, 11.89 lbs.

The Greers Ferry Area Chamber of Commerce has agreed to operate the center during fishing tournaments. Groups interested in hosting tournaments on the lake should contact the Greers Ferry Project Office at 501-362-2416 to obtain a special events permit. 🌟



Galveston District welcomes Col. David C. Weston

Col. David C. Weston
Commander, Galveston District

Maj. Richard L. Hansen, acting commander, Galveston District, relinquished command to Col. David C. Weston Dec. 11 in a ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko, Southwestern Division commander.

Weston was born at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He was commissioned in 1984 following graduation from the U. S. Military Academy and assigned to the 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas where he served as platoon leader, assault and barrier platoon leader, HHC Executive Officer, and Echo Company Executive Officer.

In 1988, Weston was assigned to the 27th Engineer Battalion (C)(A), Fort Bragg, N.C. where he served as Battalion S1, and Commander of Alpha Company, deploying his unit to Saudi Arabia in 1990 for Operation Desert Shield. Upon completion of command, Weston was assigned to the 20th Engineer Brigade (C)(A) as Assistant S3 Operations Officer, then attached to the 197th Infantry Brigade (M), 24th Infantry Division, as Brigade Engineer for Operation Desert Storm.

In 1991, he attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a Master's Degree in engineering. Following graduation in 1993, he was assigned to the Corps' Alaska District in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, serving as Project Engineer and Assistant Resident Engineer.

In 1997, after graduating from the Command and General Staff College, Weston was again stationed at Fort Bragg serving until 2001 as Staff Engineer - 1st Corps Support Command; Battalion Executive Officer - 27th Engineer Battalion (C)(A);

Joint Integration Officer - Joint Contingency Force Advanced Warfighting Experiment; G3 War Plans Officer - XVIII Airborne Corps; and Staff Engineer - XVIII Airborne Corps.

In 2001, he served as the G3, Chief of Current Operations, III Corps, at Fort Hood, and in 2002 assumed command of the 62nd Engineer Battalion (C)(H), deploying his battalion in January 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Upon completion of command in 2004, Weston attended the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle Barracks, Pa., and earned a Master's Degree in strategic studies. Following graduation in 2005, he served as Chief of Staff, for the U.S. Army 6th Recruiting Brigade, Las Vegas, Nev. as Deputy Commanding Officer.

Weston's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4), Army Commendation Medal (6), Army Achievement Medal (3), Meritorious Unit Citation (2), Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal (2), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal (2), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, NATO Medal, Saudi Arabian Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwaiti Kuwait Liberation Medal, Master Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.

Weston is married to the former Kimberly K. Cassle of Abilene, Texas. They have two children, Daniel, 14, and Rebekah, 12. 🇺🇸

Ribbon cutting marks Hike and Bike Trail opening

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the Addicks new bike and pedestrian trail was held in October. The Addicks trail is located along the base of Addicks Dam, just north of the Katy Freeway. The trail is a project designed and constructed by the Texas Department of Transportation to replace bike lanes that were removed on Old Katy Road due to Interstate Highway 10 expansion. The trail covers approximately 2 miles and provides off-street accommodations that connect various communities. There are also 10-foot wide concrete bicycle and pedestrian bridges that provide connections to the existing on-street bikeways at Kirkwood and at Chatterton.

In late 2007, Harris County Precinct 3 plans to extend the trail under the freeway to link with the popular Terry Hershey Park trail along Buffalo Bayou.

Support for this project was received from the Galveston District, Harris County Precinct 3, Harris County Flood Control District, and Shell Oil Co. The trail will be maintained by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. 🇺🇸



Weston assumes command of Galveston District



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko (right), Commander, Southwestern Division, passes the Corps colors to Col. David C. Weston during the assumption of command ceremony in Galveston, Dec. 11. Also participating are Art Janecka (left), Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, and Maj. Richard Hansen, Deputy Commander.



Former Galveston District Commander Col. Leonard Waterworth, U.S.A. (Ret.), meets Col. and Mrs. Weston.



Park Ranger Richard Long escorts Mrs. Weston to her seat in the crowded auditorium



Brig. Gen. Jeffrey J. Dorko chats with dredging contractor, Wayman Boyd.



Pete Reischek, Port of Freeport, enjoys the event.



Coming from the city of Corpus Christi were Angel R. Escobar, city engineer and Tom Utter, special assistant to the city manager.



New commander Col. David C. Weston addresses attendees.

U.S. Army photos by Marilyn Uhrich and Phyllis Bledsoe, Galveston District.

Otter study at Corps project in East Texas

Marilyn Uhrich
Pacesetter Staff

Otters ought to prove interesting ... or at least that is the supposition of the Houston Zoo's study on river otters occurring now at the Galveston District's Wallisville Lake Project located in east Texas, between Houston and Beaumont. The study began August 30.

According to Richard Long, park manager at Wallisville Lake Project, the district has entered into an agreement whereby the Houston Zoo will learn more about wildlife at the lake. Their first project is the study of river otters, he said.

Rangers Ruth Millsaps and Russell Malahy at Wallisville guided the zoo employees through remote areas until they found a spot to install cameras. The camera trap has already captured photos of the carnivorous animals, including one mother with two babies.

"The river otters being studied are a keystone species, important to the environment," said Carolyn Maddox, zoo keeper who leads the study. Many other animals interact with the otters and from them you can get an idea of the environmental health of the wetland habitat; reptiles, amphibians, snails, crayfish, and other creatures found within



William Konstant, director of Conservation and Science at the Houston Zoo, and Richard Long, park manager for Wallisville, sign a Memorandum of Understanding between Houston Zoo, Inc., and Wallisville Lake Project for the study of river otters.



Three otters cavort in front of a camera placed by the Houston Zoo in a remote area of the Wallisville project. The zoo is making a study of river otters.

the riparian habitat are also signposts for the environmental well-being.

Fish are the main diet of the North American river otter. The animal can be as long as four feet and can weigh between 15 and 20 pounds. It is dark brown in color, and known to be very shy and elusive. Of the 13 species of otters, this is the only one found in the United States. Probably the best known of the otter species are those found along the Pacific coastline.

The study will provide the researchers with data regarding habitat usage by the river otters. Researchers look first for latrine sites used by the otters. Genetic studies then can be done on the animal droppings to determine the number of otters, family relationships, general health and other statistics. Thus far, only one such latrine site has been located.

The study is funded through the Houston Zoo's Conservation Fund and a grant from the American Association of Zoo Keepers. The study is approved for one year with

its extension to be applied for at the end of the year.

Peter Riger, conservation program manager for the Houston Zoo, reports that the zoo has 20 or more projects and studies in 11 different counties. These include, in part, looking at the Swift Fox in Texas, reptiles, frogs and salamanders in the ten Texas counties bordering Mexico and New Mexico, the ocelot in south Texas, the endangered Attwater Prairie Chicken breeding facility, and the last remaining Houston toads in Bastrop County. National Marine Fisheries partners with the zoo on turtles, both the Kemp Ridley and green sea turtles. In east Texas, the zoo works with Texas Parks and Wildlife on both the black bear and a bat survey. 🇺🇸

Pacesetter Points

Congratulations

Larry Bogue, Southwestern Division Natural Resources Program Manager, was recently promoted to GS-14.

Three people were selected to serve as Arkansas River lock and dam equipment mechanic leaders in Little Rock District. They are **Billy Bowman** at Murray Lock and Dam, **Barry Campbell** at Dardanelle Lock and Dam, and **Tarik Holmes** at Arthur V. Ormond Lock and Dam.

Meantime, **Ken McClain** was selected as the maintenance mechanic leader for the Russellville Project Office River Maintenance Section, and **Jonathan Beagle** was promoted to the trainee 3 position at Ozark Powerhouse.

Shawneen O’Neill of Tulsa District and **Dana Needham** of Little Rock District graduated from the Planning Associates Class Sept. 19. Ceremonies were held at Corps headquarters with Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, Maj. Gen. Don Riley and Chief of Policy and Policy Compliance Tom Waters in attendance, as well as several family members and friends.

Family Matters

Pfc. Charles Hubsch, son of Park Manager **Don Hubsch** of Little Rock District, was selected Soldier of the Month. He is deployed to Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 15th Field Artillery. He has also been awarded two Army Achievement Medals.

Outreach Activities

Little Rock’s Russellville Project Office has had a busy outreach schedule. **Sam Jones** and **Mike Treadway** hosted 50 students and parents with the Russellville Home School Education Association at Dardanelle Lock and Dam. **David Gipson** and **Jerry Young** hosted the Dardanelle Junior High 8th Grade Advanced Placement Science class at Dardanelle Lock and Dam. **Allison Smedley** hosted 378 Morrilton Junior High School students at Old Post Road Park for water safety education, and spoke to 85 Russellville 4th graders about the history of the Arkansas River. **Rick Bradford** gave a water safety demonstration to children in the Fort Smith Head Start program and hosted a water safety booth at Family Night on the Ozark Courthouse Town Square.

Smedley and Bradford also operated a booth interpreting the missions of the Russellville Project Office at the River Valley Business Expo. **Jeff McCarty** and **Robert Ahlert** taught boating safety to over 100 women at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s “Becoming an Outdoor Woman.” Smedley and **Joel Epperson** spoke at the 11th annual 4-State Ecosystem Workshop hosted at Winrock Conference Center on Petit Jean Mountain.

Condolences

Phil Callahan died Oct. 17. He retired in 2000 from his job as facility manager at Little Rock’s Dardanelle Marine Terminal.

Laura Ellis died Sept. 5. She was the mother of **Jim Ellis** of Little Rock District’s Planning and Environmental Office.

Frank B. Fancher died suddenly Aug. 15 of a heart attack. He was 50 years old. His brother is Little Rock District’s **Tracy Fancher**, Mountain Home Operations Manager.

Joyce Gillentine, 85, died Sept. 21 in Athens, Texas. She was mother of Little Rock’s **Sheila Ellis**, a statistical assistant in Operation Division.

Erma Dorothy Gray, mother of **Bill Gray** of Little Rock District’s Operations Division, died Aug. 10 at the age of 87.

Charles Raymond Jones, uncle of **Scott Hodge** of Little Rock’s Operations Division, died Sept. 30. Jones, a retired federal employee, worked at one time for the district as a mechanical engineer during construction of Beaver Dam, Ozark Lock and Dam, other Arkansas River locks and dams, several missile sites in Arkansas, and other projects. He is survived by his wife Barbara of 43 years and three daughters.

Sam Jones, 54, lockmaster at Russellville (Little Rock District) died Nov. 12. Jones had undergone treatment for a lung disorder in recent months. Jones had a lifelong history of public service, not just with the Corps. Some of his accomplishments include 25 years service with the Hatley Volunteer Fire Department, where he was a co-founder and current department president. He was a Viet Nam era Navy veteran and a member of the Rogers-Rye Post 2283 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a

retired reserve sheriff’s deputy and reserve police officer. He was one of the founding union stewards of the Local IBEW 2219.

J.E. Smith, 71, died Nov. 29. When Smith retired from Little Rock District, he was a construction inspector with 40 years of service.

Susan Swift, wife of **Frank Swift** of the Little Rock District Office of Counsel, died in her sleep early Saturday morning, Sept. 23. The former Little Rock District employee was very committed to the Spay and Neuter Clinic of the Humane Society of Pulaski County and the platelet donation program at the American Red Cross in Little Rock. Memorials can be made to these organizations.

James U. Thurman, 82, Southwestern Division headquarters retiree and former attorney in the Office of Council, passed away October 29, in Dallas. He is survived by his wife, Ann.

