

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

REGIONAL

# **PACESETTER**

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GALVESTON DISTRICT

*Celebrates 128 years*



# 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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On the cover: Original graphic illustration by Andre` Mayeaux, Visual Information Specialist, Fort Worth District. Feb. 25 marked the 128-year anniversary of the Galveston District. Read the full article that outlines District achievements on page 7.







# Time flies when you're having fun

**Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox  
Commander, Southwestern Division**

When they say “Time flies when you’re having fun” they aren’t kidding!!! I am having an absolutely wonderful time as Commander of the SWD Family and I can’t believe it has already been 6 months since I took command. WOW... someone please slowwwww this train down!!!

Last year was a year to remember as we all set new levels of excellence across all of our programs. But as luck would have it, 2007 will pale in comparison to all that we will accomplish in 2008...and it just keeps growing and growing the next 2-3 years after that. If there was ever a time to be a part of something bigger than ourselves that was focused on “delivering” it is now! And we all should be proud of our accomplishments and honored to have the chance to provide a service to the American people, our military members and Civilians, and our families who give so much every day so we can do our jobs.

I am declaring 2008 as the “Year of Partnerships.” In an ever increasing world of constrained resources and the need for “teammates” to ensure success in our critical missions, we must seek every opportunity to establish and work with other agencies, be they Federal, non-Federal or local organizations, which ultimately have the same goal as we do – provide a service to the people of our great nation. In my short time in SWD, it has become absolutely clear that

we cannot and should not go it alone – but rather look for innovative ways to break down old barriers, develop new partnerships, and support each other so collectively we can all “Git er dun”!!! I am also committed to ensuring that when we say we will do something, we do just that. Our credibility is based on our ability to deliver – to a standard of excellence – and we must all strive to achieve this and be held accountable.

I recently had the honor and privilege to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and I want all of the SWD Family to know I am truly humbled and grateful to be afforded the opportunity to continue to serve and work with you. This promotion was the result of many, many great Soldiers, Civilians, friends and family who supported me and my family through these past 29 years. I am blessed to have been a part of so many great organizations and surrounded by the best the Army has

***Our credibility is based on our ability to deliver – to a standard of excellence – and we must all strive to achieve this and be held accountable.***

to offer, and to all I am truly thankful. A former DCG once said, “If you see a turtle on a fence, it didn’t get there by itself” and no truer statement could apply here.

Thanks to all of you for what you do every day. You are the “Face of the Corps” to the American people and I sleep well every night knowing we are all on the same TEAM!

Pacesetters – Army Strong – Engineer Ready ! 🇺🇸

## Sharing the knowledge ...

Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, John Paul Woodley Jr., and Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D., visited the Elm Fork Project Office Feb. 15. They were given an update on Lewisville Lake since the 2007 flood event. Read the full article on page 21. 🇺🇸



*Eric Pedersen, Elm Fork Project Office, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, John Paul Woodley Jr., and Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-Texas-26), look at maps that show how the city of Dallas would have flooded if Corps projects were not in place.*

Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

# Cox promoted to Brigadier General

Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in a ceremony Jan. 23, in the Pentagon. His wife, Anna Marie, daughter, Paige, and son, 2nd Lt. Jeff Cox attended, as well as other family members and many friends, including fifteen members of his U.S. Military Academy Class of 1979. 🇺🇸



*Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli administers the Oath of Office during a promotion ceremony in honor of Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Southwestern Division commander, Jan. 23, in the Pentagon.*

*U.S. Army photo*



*Anna Marie Cox (right) and daughter, Paige, proudly display Brig. Gen. Cox's personal flag.*

*U.S. Army photo*



*U.S. Army photo*

*Paige Cox and 2nd Lt. Jeff Cox place their dad's new rank on his epaulets during the ceremony.*



# ACE program is aces

## Affirmative Civil Enforcement could help protect federal lands

**Mary Beth Hudson**  
Pacesetter Staff

A new program being promoted by the Department of Justice could help protect federal lands and punish those who flagrantly flaunt the law. Affirmative Civil Enforcement, ACE, may come to the rescue of attorneys, natural resource specialists, park rangers, and environmental enthusiasts as they safeguard government property.

Doug Beck, an attorney in the Tulsa District Office of Counsel, explains that the District has struggled for ways to adequately address events of significant damage to government land. He said, "Title 36, our regulation authority, is often seen as a mere slap on the wrist. No matter how we try, what sometimes results is a citation akin to a traffic ticket that appears on the court's Petty Offense docket." That means that a ticket for clear cutting federal property is considered no more serious than one for having glass containers in Corps parks. "The violators pay the fine and walk away." He added, "Some have even said that they view the paltry fines received for the Title 36 citations as a cost of doing business."

Attempts to have criminal charges filed were often doomed to failure since Criminal Divisions of the U.S. Attorneys' Offices were more likely to spend their resources on drugs and murders. Along came ACE, Affirmative Civil Enforcement, a program aimed at alleviating the caseload in the criminal courts. With ACE, U.S. Attorneys nationwide are tasked with finding ways to go after as many violators in civil court as possible. Beck says it was designed to address thefts and frauds against the government; the U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Oklahoma region was willing to work with the Corps to try to make the program fit damages to natural resources.

Beck said it took patience and several attempts to fit the square peg into a round hole. The U.S. Attorney had to be willing to explain to the court why the cases required the use of state statutes in federal court. Recoveries are much higher under the state statutes. "We put forth



*Photo courtesy of Tulsa District*

**Part of one of the roads bulldozed across the wildlife refuge to give the adjacent property owner easier access for fishing and four wheelers. The dozer entered federal property in three different locations and dozed almost 5,500 feet of road.**

the argument that as a landowner in the state, we are entitled to the protection and application of state law, but as a part of the government, we must pursue our matters in federal court," he explained. As a recent recovery indicates, "It worked."

Tulsa District Counsel John Roselle is pleased with the new approach used by Office of Counsel and expressed his appreciation to the U. S. Attorney's Office for its willingness to take this innovative remedy.

### **The Palmer Case**

A Haskell, Okla., man who bulldozed a road in the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge for his personal use has been fined \$30,000. The man, Kelly A. Palmer, an adjacent property owner, disturbed a total of 1.66 acres and .092 miles in the wildlife refuge. He destroyed trees, plants, and hardwood bottom habitat. The land, part of the Robert S. Kerr Lock and Dam Project, is owned by the Corps of Engineers and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Based on the investigation in this case, Palmer voluntarily admitted to entering and bulldozing on the refuge, including the destruction of fence line, habitat,

and damming a creek for easier access for fishing and four wheelers. Despite USFWS boundary signs and Corps survey monuments, the bulldozer entered the refuge in three different locations and dozed almost 5,500 feet of road, destroying more than 300 trees.

Palmer opted to settle his case before trial, but he is not the only culprit. Beck said that it is illegal but not unusual for neighboring landowners to "clear themselves a nice private beach or better view of a lake by bulldozing or otherwise clear cutting government land." He said some have cut channels across public land for easier boat launching and often have shown flagrant disregard by removing concrete and brass government property line markers in the course of bulldozing. He added that trees on government land have also been harvested for their lumber value.

Beck is passionate about this issue. He said, "There are reasons why the land around our lakes is meant to be left alone or managed properly by following permitted practices. Unfortunately, violators don't want to let these rules

**See ACE on page 6**

# Seeing is believing ...

## Trinity River Vision meeting provides vision for the future

*A Fort Worth resident watches a presentation of the Trinity River Vision on a flat panel monitor. The presentation showed current conditions and the proposed changes to the area.*



*Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District*

Although the January air outside in Fort Worth was crisp and cool, the feeling inside the Horizon Ballroom of the Trinity InnSuites Hotel was mostly toasty during a recent public meeting. Almost 225 people attended the standing room only meeting to give input on a draft supplemental environmental impact statement to the final Upper Trinity River Central City EIS. Local citizens, resource partners and elected officials gave more than a 10-to-one endorsement on the \$519 million flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, urban revitalization and recreation project. Major components of the supplement incorporates valley storage features of a 1,060 acre park and moves the location of a dam for better ecosystem restoration and hydrologic stability. 🌍

### ACE

*Continued from previous page*

based upon serving the public good to get in the way of maximizing their land values, views, and beach access -- especially when all they need to do is destroy government natural resources to do it." Palmer submitted an expert witness report to the court which concluded, "the value of all the trees damaged by Mr. Palmer on the Sequoyah Wildlife Refuge could be as much as \$196.90 if two trees in the list were valued as 'high-grade' trees and \$159.10 if they were not." Obviously, the other parties involved thought the value and damage was much higher.

The \$30,000 judgment in the Palmer matter could represent a turning point. Roselle stated, "This result not only protects public lands, but also the aggressive enforcement by the U. S. Attorney resulting in the successful solution increased the morale of our rangers and field managers who now see their work paying dividends."

Anyone who considers altering federal land for personal use should give the matter serious thought before starting down that road – especially if the individual is on a bulldozer. 🌍



*Photo courtesy of Tulsa District*

*A thorough survey of all the downed trees was completed. More than 300 trees on federal property were destroyed.*



# Happy anniversary Galveston District marks 128 years

**Ken Bonham**

former Chief of Public Affairs,  
Galveston District

**T**he date of Feb. 25 may not be a red-letter day for most people, but that date in the year 1880 was special to the citizens of Galveston and Texas.

It was on that day that Galveston heralded the arrival of Maj. Samuel M. Mansfield. His assignment was to officially take over harbor and river improvements in Texas and to establish the Engineer Office. Mansfield was from a distinguished military family, and was a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He later reached the rank of major general.

The most pressing issue facing Mansfield was the outer bar at the entrance to the Galveston Channel and the need to find an engineering solution for a functioning jetty system, one which would open the channel and keep it open with water movement.

Engineers had been playing an active part in mapping the coastal area of Texas, much of it by the Topographical Corps. Later, the Topographical Corps was more concerned with the interior of Texas while the Corps of Engineers took charge of coastal programs.

The Corps, known as the Gulf Corps of Engineers in the early 1800s, directed operations from Pensacola, Fla., and later New Orleans, La. What became known as "The Great Cement Pot Jetty Experiment" got under way in 1875. Early day engineers were not immune to storms, and they were caught up in a massive one in 1875 that virtually destroyed the port of Indianola and washed away the Corps buildings at Fort Point, where the cement pots were under construction. The gabions, basically six-foot high wicker baskets coated with concrete and filled with rock and sand, were placed along the sides of the Galveston Channel to control the water flow and keep the channel open.

The gabion project was completed in 1877 and deep water was in sight. This occurred on May 16, 1897, when the

Belgian King crossed the outer bar with 24 feet, 7 inches of water.

The 1900 storm brought devastation to the island city, but following the storm, the citizens of Galveston County made plans to construct a seawall. It was a former Chief of Engineers who headed the board which prepared the plans and designs for the Galveston seawall. In July 1904, Galveston completed the first segment of the seawall, and later, in partnership with local entities, the Corps added to the existing seawall to extend protection. The seawall today stands as a tribute to the residents of Galveston and an example of

the cooperative efforts between the public and the Corps of Engineers.

The Brazos River was opened to navigation in the 1880s. By 1885, construction of jetties and groins had been completed at Corpus Christi. With the opening of the Brownsville Channel in 1926, deep-water shipping reached the entire length of the Texas Coast.

In 1936, when responsibility for flood control was given to the Corps, the Galveston District became heavily involved in several projects that today serve to protect densely populated areas of



*Photo courtesy of Galveston District*

**The first self-propelled U.S. hopper dredge to work in Galveston Harbor, the General C.B. Comstock, could be filled in one and one half hours and dumped in 8 minutes. This \$86,000 vessel, built in 1895, served the district until 1913. Inset: Maj. Mansfield, the first Galveston District engineer.**

See **Galveston** on page 8

# Little Rock honors Martin Luther King



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Little Rock District celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by gathering Jan. 22 to listen to Jennifer Elaine Black, a local poet and singer, speak about King's accomplishments during his life in civil activism.

Black noted her main goal in her work is to, "encourage people to get involved in their communities and social activism."

She continued by saying, "if Dr. King were here today, I believe he would tell us to speak loud and proud and let your voice be heard on Election Day."

Little Rock's Commander Col. Ed Jackson honored King with his own words of praise for his work, as did the Equal Employment Opportunity officer Gerard Francis. 🌍

## Galveston

Continued from page 7

the Texas Coast. Addicks and Barker dams have protected the City of Houston since their completion in the 1940s.

In 1949, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway was completed from Corpus Christi to Brownsville, linking southernmost Texas with the nation's vast waterways network.

Today, the Galveston District is responsible for more than 50,000 square miles, including 700 miles of coastline and 150 miles inland. Its area of responsibility runs from the Rio Grande River to the Sabine River, and includes 48 Texas counties and two Louisiana parishes.

The District has more than 300 full-time employees in the District headquarters and the Northern and Southern area offices. (Note: Ken Bonham was a member of the Galveston District Public Affairs Office from 1971-1999, and served as its Chief of Public Affairs from 1982-1999). 🌍



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

An urgent problem facing the newly formed District was the need to find an engineering solution for a functioning jetty system, one which would open the channel and keep it open with water movement.



# Fort Sam begins BRAC construction

## *\$92 million facility slated for trauma research*

**Elaine Wilson**

Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The groundbreaking of a \$92 million research center Jan. 11 marked the first Base Realignment and Closure construction project at Fort Sam Houston directed by the 2005 BRAC legislation.

Once completed, the 150,000-square-foot Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research will be home to all Defense Department combat casualty care and trauma research missions.

“This is not just one new building we’re building here; this represents a major commitment and acknowledgement of the importance and the impact that trauma research has on all patients,” said Maj. Gen. George Weightman, commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, during the groundbreaking ceremony.

Military leaders from the Army, Air Force and Navy, as well as community leaders participated in the ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on the joint center. The new facility, slated for completion in September 2009, signifies a “new era in military medical research,” Weightman said.

The research center will enable research and development experts, scattered throughout the nation, to centralize efforts, which will improve efficiency, reduce duplication and enhance the collusion between them, he said.

By doing so, the DOD will ensure “we continue to provide the best research in an environment that will enable (medical experts) to extend the boundaries of research,” Weightman said.

The center will be collocated with the Institute of Surgical Research, which falls under Weightman’s command, and next to Brooke Army Medical Center. The ISR also will benefit from BRAC with a 5,000-square-foot renovation.

Additionally, the research center adds 230 people to the 440 already working at the ISR, which totals “670 people dedicated to improving the quality of life of our wounded warriors,” the general said.

“Locating this facility here (with the ISR) at Fort Sam Houston is the absolute logical choice,” he said.

Weightman attributed the high survivability rate of today’s war in part to the ISR, which has steadily produced life-saving products and technologies.

Innovations include new field dressings and tourniquets, hemoglobin-based oxygen carriers with a two or three-year shelf life rather than 30 days, new methods for wound closure after a burn injury, and five interrelated computerized devices that allow medics to provide quality care to wounded service members at the point of injury.

The focus of the ISR and the future focus of the new joint

center will be on the delivery of immediate care for warriors who have sustained life-threatening injuries on the battlefield.

“This is not just pie in the sky research ... (the ISR) has been saving lives and improving function every day since it has been open,” Weightman said. “It’s just incredible, the comprehensiveness



*Photo courtesy of Esther Garcia*

**Military and community leaders joined Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox (far left) to break ground for the Joint Center of Excellence for Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Jan. 11. The new research center will be collocated with the Institute of Surgical Research and just steps away from Brooke Army Medical Center.**

and far-reaching aspects.”

The combined research efforts of the ISR and the joint center will not only benefit military members, but civilians as well. “While the causes of trauma are different, the responses are similar,” Weightman said. “And the interventions to save lives are remarkably similar. The fruits of this labor will help every civilian in this nation.”

The construction project is the first of many for Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio; all tied into the 2005 BRAC legislation. Over the next three years, Fort Sam Houston will kick off 37 different BRAC-related construction projects, Lackland Air Force Base will begin 14 and Randolph Air Force Base will begin eight. In total, the projects will cost more than \$2 billion, the general said.

“I can’t think of a better investment of taxpayers’ dollars,” Weightman said. “It reaffirms San Antonio’s status as a global center of excellence.”

# Little Rock, Tulsa keep traffic flowing on river

**Tammy L. Moody**  
Pacesetter Staff

**T**orrential rains beginning in spring 2007 created high flows on the Arkansas River that slowed navigation through much of the summer. When flows finally began to recede, multiple shallow spots called shoals formed along the 445-mile waterway threatening to halt barge shipments.

Sixteen shoals formed in the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System between Pine Bluff, Ark., and Tulsa, Okla., but regional teams in Little Rock, Tulsa and Southwestern Division attacked them quickly to keep commerce moving.

Simultaneous actions occurred on four fronts. Hydraulics and Hydrology offices regulated reservoir releases as flows receded to minimize shoaling. Shippers and other stakeholders were kept abreast of the developing situation. Personnel from District marine terminal crews and survey crews worked feverishly using unique tools to pinpoint and remove obstructions. Contracting personnel even found ways to work during a power outage to enlist help from private sector dredging firms.

"We had a teleconference with members of Tulsa District, Division Headquarters and members of the various ports and marine industry stakeholders to inform them of river conditions, what we were doing to get the dredge to Tulsa and what H&H deviations were being done so the river would not shut down," said Andrea Lewis, the deputy chief of Little Rock's Operations Division. "This included the adjustments we were making to the navigation channel markers to keep boats from running aground."

She added that both Districts' H&H teams were great in significantly reducing the impacts to Little Rock's end of the MKARNS by coordinating releases from Oklahoma's reservoirs to keep the river from just shutting off and dumping all the sediment once it quit raining.

As the flows receded in mid-August and conditions were safe, survey crews from both Districts surveyed the navigation channel to assess its condition.



*Photo courtesy of Little Rock District*

**Crews from Tulsa and Little Rock help to put the flume on the back of Little Rock's Motor Vessel Ozark.**

Larry Prestien of Tulsa's Navigation Project Office said they were notified even before the high flows on the Verdigris River receded that some barges were bumping bottom.

He explained that this was amazing because the river was still 8 to 10 feet above normal.

"If it suddenly dropped to normal, there would have been some places along the river with shoals sticking out of the water, which we knew was an unusual situation," he said.

When the flows subsided, they used a survey boat equipped with multi-beam hydrographic surveying equipment to map the bottom of the river in 3D.

"We pinpointed the worst areas to work first while we waited for the dredge contractor - which was weeks away," Prestien added.

Aaron McGee, the chief of Little Rock's Russellville Navigation Branch, said surveys were also being conducted in the Russellville and Pine Bluff areas.

McGee added that both Little Rock survey crews also worked closely to develop plans and estimates for the dredging required and to coordinate the contract dredge.

All the crews came up with unique ways to open the channel until contracted dredges could finish the work, part of which was recently completed in Russellville and is still ongoing around Pine Bluff.

Crews on Little Rock's Motor Vessels Shorty Baird and Ted Cook used floating barge plants with cranes to remove shoaling in the downstream approaches to Ormond, Hardin, and Sanders locks and Lock and Dam 5 to provide sufficient clearance for tow traffic until the contract dredge got there.

McGee thought one of the more unique approaches was the M/V Ozark crew's efforts to clear shoaling on the MKARNS in Oklahoma.

"Several years ago, Little Rock's Dardanelle Marine Terminal built a 'flume' to hang from the stern of the M/V Ozark," he said. "The flume was designed to redirect the boat's prop wash to sweep lock seals clean of sand and debris prior to setting stoplogs to dewater a lock. It worked quite well. Since then, it has also been used to help remove shoaled material in the navigation channel."

At the request of Tulsa District, the M/V Ozark and crew mobilized to Oklahoma to work with Tulsa's M/V Mr. Pat to remove shoaling there.

"Without the aid of the M/V Ozark and crew, the channel would have been blocked for several weeks at a tremendous expense to the navigation industry and the region's economy," McGee said.

The Districts' efforts were emergency measures to keep traffic flowing until the

**See *Traffic* on page 11**



## *Little Rock thanks you for your hard work on MKARNS dredging*

### **Little Rock District**

Motor Vessel Ozark crew:

Spencer Cox, towboat pilot/work leader, Dardanelle Marine Terminal  
David Hill, crane operator, Dardanelle Marine Terminal  
Chad Crain, river and harbor maintenance worker, Dardanelle Marine Terminal  
Matthew Brock, maintenance worker, Dardanelle Marine Terminal

### **M/V Shorty Baird crew (aka Arkansas River Fleet)**

Mike Bagley, towboat supervisor, Arkansas River Fleet  
Tommy Gunther, crane operator, Arkansas River Fleet  
Tom Gindler, diesel engineer, Arkansas River Fleet  
Justin Crowe, River and Harbor Maintenance Worker, Arkansas River Fleet  
Brian Wade Williams, river and harbor maintenance worker, Arkansas River Fleet

### **M/V Conway and M/V Paul Bacon crew (aka Russellville Survey crew)**

Zane Snider, engineering technician, Russellville Project Office  
Richard Riggs, engineering technician, Russellville Project Office

Robert Peevy, small craft operator, Russellville Project Office  
Billy Reed, river and harbor maintenance worker, Dardanelle Marine Terminal

### **Pine Bluff used the Gene Crump and crane barge with the following crew**

Keith "Pee Wee" Stanton, towboat operator/crane operator  
Kenny Taylor, crane operator  
Garrison "Rug" Martin, rigger

### **Russellville Project Office**

Aaron McGee, chief, Navigation Branch/  
District Dive Coordinator

### **Pine Bluff Project Office Survey Team**

Billy Calloway, boat operator  
Scott Freeman, senior survey technician  
John Brady, survey technician

### **Contract Administrative Team**

A. J. Brown, contracting officer  
Amber Turnage, contract specialist  
Michael G. Hendricks, contracting officer representative Pine Bluff Project Office  
Paul Brown, Contract Support Branch team leader  
Carlton Taylor, civil engineering technician  
Lance Hutchison, civil engineering technician

### **Operations**

Lee Bass, chief, Operations  
Andrea Lewis, deputy chief, Operations  
Donna Wilkerson, program analyst, Operations  
Nick Mitchell, civil engineer, Operations

### **Little Rock Hydraulics and Hydrology**

Jan Jones, chief, Hydraulics and Technical Services  
Steve Brewer, hydraulic engineer, Hydraulics and Technical Services

### **Army Corps of Engineers, Information Technology - Little Rock**

Holly Hartung, chief, ACE-IT-LRD

### **Legal**

Frank Swift, assistant district counsel

### **Tulsa District**

Larry Prestien, civil engineering technician, Navigation Project Office - Hydrographic Surveying  
Sarah Prestien, CET, Navigation Project Office - Hydrographic Surveying  
Todd Carr, CET, Navigation Project Office - Hydrographic Surveying  
Patrick McQueen, Operations  
Scott Henderson, hydraulic engineer

## **Traffic**

*Continued from page 10*

contracted dredge could finish the job, which meant contracts had to be expedited to get the work done as soon as possible.

Little Rock's Amber Turnage was the contract specialist assigned to the MKARNS dredging. It was an experience she will remember throughout her career because they lost power while she was preparing the solicitation.

"I would have done it in Procurement Desktop Defense, Contracting's procurement database, but it went down

with the server due to the power outage," Turnage said.

"While just about everyone else went home, our computer personnel helped me find a dial-up connection and move my computer, and I pieced together the emergency solicitation using old solicitation documents I had saved."

"Luckily we pieced it all together, and Frank Swift approved it as legally sufficient. We sent the solicitation out to the


contractors that evening, doing a few days' worth of work in a matter of hours," she added.

Now more than five months after the flows returned to normal, that contracted dredging work still continues in Pine Bluff between nautical mile markers 44 and 87.

There has also been supplemental funding for about \$18 million requested for flood damages, which includes additional dredging, bank stabilization work, repairs to Jim Smith Lake and

other items.

"I am impressed, and extremely proud, of the effort everyone on the team has put forth on this task," said Billy Banks, Tulsa's chief of Operations.

"From our stakeholders to our employees, this has been one of the best coordinated cooperative endeavors we have seen in a while. We weren't just making progress, we were exceeding our expectations." 

# 2008 Southwestern Division Maintenance Conference

Melanie Ellis  
Pacesetter Staff

Civil engineering technicians, maintenance workers, lock and dam operators, lockmasters, powerhouse personnel, and more gathered in Fort Worth, Texas, for the 2008 Southwestern Division Maintenance Conference, Jan. 15.

Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, welcomed and thanked the attendees for their service and encouraged them to continue to network and learn from each other.

“Our lakes are the face of the Corps,” Martin said. “What you do out there every day is how people get their perception of the Corps of Engineers. It’s a good perception.”

Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Southwestern Division commander, also spoke to the group and charged them to continue raising the level of service.

“We say ‘no’ to no one. We say ‘can’t’ to no one. There is a solution to every problem,” Cox said.

Cox also thanked the group for their service, especially during the recent flood event and ice storm that impacted the Division, and encouraged them to continue to go forward and tell the Corps story.

“We have the best people America has to offer,” he said. “I need each of you to tell the Corps story. We have to do more with less and people don’t understand because we hide it so well.”

The conference lasted three days and covered several topics like National Security Personnel System, Hydromatic Pumps, Dam Safety, and Facilities and Equipment Maintenance System.

The conference was organized by a regional Project Delivery Team with participants from all four districts who are already



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox presents Commander’s Coins the members of the 2008 Southwestern Division Maintenance Conference regional Project Delivery Team.

looking forward to the next conference to continue learning from each other.

“I want you to walk away with a better understanding of what you do as a community,” said Cox. “You need to meet like this every year and walk away with a better appreciation for what the Corps, or better yet, what the Southwestern Division does everyday.” 🇺🇸

## Chief of Engineers visits Galveston District, Sims Bayou



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp (front, third from right) poses with members of the Galveston District, the Harris County Flood Control District, and Southwestern Division commander Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox during a recent visit to the Galveston District. The general received briefings and a tour of Sims Bayou in Houston. The Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project is a partnership project between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Harris County Flood Control District. The Corps is the lead agency for the project, which includes 19.3 miles of channel enlargements and environmental enhancements along Sims Bayou. The project will remove the one percent (100-year) floodplain from approximately 35,000 houses and 2,000 commercial structures.





# Tulsa Teamwork

**Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser**  
**Commander, Tulsa District**

Welcome back from a joyous and adventure-filled holiday season. I look forward to a prosperous 2008 with this awesome team. As we closed 2007 with the great ice storm in December, the Tulsa District showed its determination to support our partners and the Nation at large. Even by candlelight and generators, we met our suspenses and completed the Tar Creek Environmental Assessment, the Bartlesville Feasibility Study, the final MATOCs for the border fence with over \$3.4 billion in capacity, and sent out the Request for Proposal for the Fort Sill Relocatables and supported the state of Oklahoma with generators following the ice storms. Special thanks to our team of emergency management personnel from Tulsa, Fort Worth, Headquarters, Southwestern Division, 249<sup>th</sup> Prime Power Battalion, FEMA, and local and state officials. Great job!

The focus on the remainder of 2008 will be to execute our Civil Works, Military, and Interagency missions. By all accounts, we anticipate a milestone year with many opportunities. Our top priority in the District will be to address our aging infrastructure and the backlog of critical maintenance at our reservoirs, locks, and dams. With public safety and good stewardship of resources, we have developed a single prioritized list of critical maintenance requirements, and we plan to whittle away at it over the next year. We have already made progress during the Continuing Resolution Authority period, and we will continue to address these over

time. We also suffered some of the worst flooding in our District's history. Through our team's untiring efforts, our projects and personnel helped save more than 16,000 structures and prevented more than \$681 million in damages. However, in our efforts to preserve lives and structures, we sustained damage to our own structures and to our public use areas. Many recreation areas were submerged for weeks in the flooding and were subsequently hit by the ice storms in December. The damages are significant (more than \$34 million) with many of our

***Our top priority in the District will be to address our aging infrastructure and the backlog of critical maintenance at our reservoirs, locks, and dams.***

campgrounds, toilets, showers, utilities, and roads heavily damaged. Unfortunately, we are not funded for such massive destruction. Therefore, we will have to manage our limited funds closely to keep our parks open with degraded amenities. Many of you have done a great job. We've had help from volunteers, and we will recognize them for their contributions to our team effort. They all have our personal thanks. We have requested funding in the out years but in the meantime, many parks will be impacted with degraded/reduced services. Focus your efforts on maintaining safe facilities for our great public.

We have a large number of civil works and military projects occurring this year. Canton Dam is one of our largest projects in a while and Fort Sill's military projects are growing each day. We must deliver these quality projects on time and on budget. I challenge our project teams to emphasize improving our schedules in P2. I also ask for our teams on the ground to focus on our partners' needs and maintain programs that enforce safety and our quality assurance standards.

As I travel to each of our projects, many of you have shared your concerns regarding retirements and how we will retain our technical competencies. I concur with your assessment, and we have established a Project Delivery Team to centralize our personnel and recruiting efforts. We have identified future vacancies, and we are developing a plan to visit local universities and vocational schools to bring in the best and brightest to carry on our legacy of professional support to the nation. The first step in our campaign will be in February

as our team heads to the Missouri University of Science and Technology. It is critical for us to recruit and retain the right teammates for Tulsa District to continue to excel.

We have a lot to do as we gain momentum in the year, and I look forward to sharing our progress with our teammates and partners! I want to close this *Pacesetter* column by once again thanking our team for all you do to raise the bar of professionalism. I am most proud of our deployed teammates and remind them that we think of them often and wish them all a safe return.

You can always count on Tulsa Teamwork! 🌍

## ***Got an idea for the Pacesetter?***

Do you have an interesting story or picture? Share it with your fellow Corps team members. Simply submit your story idea, written article, or photo with caption to your local Public Affairs Office by the first day of each month.

# Eliminating the problem areas

## *Millwood Lake drawn down for preventive maintenance*

**Cheri Dragos-Pritchard**  
Pacesetter Staff

**M**aking a lake's water level drop three feet doesn't sound like it would make a big difference. However, when the lake is only six to eight feet deep on a normal day, three feet is a big deal, so drawing the level down must serve a good purpose.

Little Rock's Millwood Lake was temporarily drawn down three feet from Nov. 26 until mid-February to control unwanted and damaging aquatic vegetation that had spread in various concentrations throughout the lake.

The drawdown exposed shallow areas of the lakebed to alternate freezing and thawing to help control the invasive American Lotus, Alligator Weed and Hydrilla. Park rangers also attempted to burn the vegetation during the drawdown, but wet weather reduced the effectiveness of the controlled burns.

"The vegetation not only creates hazards for boaters and anglers, it contributes to accelerated silting of the lakebed and is damaging the lake environment," Park Ranger Derick Walker said.

"Hydrilla and Alligator Weeds are not native to this area and are very invasive, choking out all other species. American Lotus is a native plant, but it has caused problems due to its overabundance."

Another important purpose of the drawdown was to perform maintenance on the boat ramps and sections of the shoreline.

"We've closed three boat ramps to repair damages and remove sedimentation," Park Manager Steve Spicer said. "Once we took the level down, we found all but these three ramps usable."

"Millwood State Park replaced one of its boat ramps and performed shoreline work as well while we had the water level down," Spicer added.

To stabilize shorelines, large rocks, referred to as riprap, are placed. Gabions, wire cages or baskets, are placed over the riprap to hold it together better.

"We're placing riprap on the upstream shorelines," Walker said. "We're also installing riprap and gabions along the shorelines at Beard's Bluff Park. This will improve the appearance of the shoreline and stabilize it. Adding the gabions will allow anglers to walk on them – giving easier access to the water."

Walker said most people seem to understand the need for the drawdown.

"We'll get a complaint or two from an angler or duck hunter not able to get to a favorite fishing hole or duck-hunting spot," he said. "But most visitors understand that the positives far outweigh the negatives once we talk to them and explain why we're doing it."

Boaters were encouraged to use extreme caution while out on the water during the drawdown as submerged



*Photo courtesy of Little Rock District*

*During the past several years invasive aquatic plants have infested Millwood Lake causing problems with boating, fishing and siltation. Hydrilla, an exotic species, has grown significantly in the past two or three years. Some areas surveyed on the lake were up to 100 percent Hydrilla.*



*Photo courtesy of Little Rock District*

*Derick Walker, a natural resource specialist at Millwood Lake, attempts to burn some invasive vegetation during the lake drawdown.*

stumps and shallow areas appeared as the water went down.

Refilling the lake began Feb. 15, and depending on conditions, it could refill to a normal elevation of 259.2 within five to 30 days. Millwood Lake covers 29,500 acres at conservation pool with 23,000 acres of that being submerged timber. 🌿



# Workshop brings customers together to focus on their satisfaction

Mary Beth Hudson  
Pacesetter Staff

**T**ulsa District hosted its annual Base Civil Engineer/Directorate for Public Works workshop Dec. 4-5, 2007, at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. Representatives from Altus Air Force Base, Fort Sill, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, and Tinker Air Force Base were in attendance as well as Senator Inhofe's northeast Oklahoma field representative.

This workshop served as an opportunity to bring the installation engineers together to determine the support needed of our




Photo courtesy of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.

## Workshop participants tour the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.

District in these increasingly challenging times as well as reviewing military customer care survey results. Blu Hulseay from Senator Inhofe's office provided updated information on MILCON, Iraq Supplemental, and Defense Appropriation Bills.

Southwestern Division Commander, then Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox, and Tulsa

District Commander Col. Anthony Funkhouser participated in the workshop, focusing on continuous improvement of Tulsa District services.

The workshop concluded with an overview of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant's mission and a tour of the Ammunition Production Line. 

**Blu Hulseay,**  
northeast  
Oklahoma field  
representative  
for Sen. James  
Inhofe, spoke  
at the annual  
BCE/DPW  
workshop at  
McAlester Army  
Ammunition  
Plant.




U.S. Army Photo

# Little Rock employee honored by National Guard



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

(From left) Roy Schultz, a National Guard and Reserve ombudsman, Steve Hernandez, Bull Shoals Dam Powerhouse superintendent, and Joe Didden, Disabled American Veterans commander, Department of Arkansas.

**R**oy Schultz, National Guard and Reserve ombudsman, and Joe Didden, Disabled American Veterans commander, recognized Steve Hernandez, Bull Shoals Dam Powerhouse, Little Rock District, at a recent awards ceremony for his support of the National Guard and Reserves. Hernandez employs three National Guard and Reserve members, two of whom are officers. All three have been deployed to Southwest Asia for long durations. The nomination by one of the men states that Hernandez has ensured their jobs are available when they return from duty, and he is always available to discuss and grant military leave without negative results. 

## Galveston District plans to reopen the mouth of the San Bernard River

**Martha Cencki**  
Pacesetter Staff

Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Galveston District traveled to Brazoria, Texas, Jan. 25 to update local officials and the community on plans to reopen the mouth of the San Bernard River. More than 150 people gathered at the Brazoria Civic Center to hear presentations and ask questions of the Corps officials as well as representatives from the State of Texas and Rep. Ron Paul's (R-Texas) staff. The Corps was invited to participate by the Friends of the River, a local community organization which organized the event.

Representing the Galveston District were Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander; Art Janecka, Chief, Programs and Project Management Division; Johnny Rozsypal, Chief, Operations Division; and Ben Boren, Operations Project Manager for the San Bernard River.

Boren described how the mouth of the river became filled with sediment and caused the river to migrate down the coast, causing problems at the Brazos River floodgates.

"The water from the San Bernard River can no longer flow into the Gulf of Mexico but flows into the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway instead, and creates a crosscurrent at the Brazos River floodgates," he said. "The river mouth is migrating at a rate of 1 to 1.5 feet per day."

The plan is to dredge a channel 100 feet wide and 10 feet deep, Boren said. He anticipates contract award by the end of Fiscal Year 08. The project is expected to take approximately 45-60 days, barring unforeseen events. Estimated cost is \$4.5 million and is being funded from the existing budget.

Weston addressed the community, explaining the funding sources and how the plan was developed. He said that the Corps is using the river's impact on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to



*Photo courtesy of Galveston District*

**Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, responds to a question from the audience during a question and answer session at a public meeting on the San Bernard River Jan. 25 in Brazoria, Texas. Also fielding questions are Johnny Rozsypal, Chief of Operations Division, and Art Janecka, Chief of Programs and Project Management Division.**

take it on as a maintenance project rather than a new and separate undertaking. The currents at the Brazos River floodgates have become so severe that there are almost five times as many vessel incidents as on other waterways.

Weston also cautioned that the project could be delayed due to other contingencies, such as damage to the Colorado River locks or a major hurricane. "That's a possibility to keep in mind," he said, "but we are committed to getting this project done."

Following the presentations, Corps officials answered questions from the community. The Texas Department of Transportation also announced that it will be contributing \$500,000 to the project. 🌍

## Black History Month 2008

**Lola Holt**

Black Employment Program Manager,  
Little Rock District

February is dedicated to the celebration of black history. During this month, Americans everywhere foster education about Afro-Americans' significant historical breakthroughs while embracing multicultural change and social awareness.

Many years ago, the black American population was largely ignored in history books. If it was mentioned, it was generally to refer to the inferior social positions assigned to blacks at the time.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a notable author and scholar, learned this disturbing fact during his studies, and took on the

challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history.

In 1915, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. He later established Negro History Week in 1926 to spread the knowledge of black American contributions throughout the nation.

Negro History Week has since crystallized into what we now celebrate as Black History Month or African-American History month. In 1950, Woodson died, but the foundation he laid for black history was molded into a national celebration.

Black History Month was established in 1976 by the Association as a remembrance

of important people and events in African-American history. To highlight important black American developments, Woodson had suggested themes for Negro History Week. Today, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History carries on his tradition by selecting yearly a national theme to magnify the nation's focus on the study of black history.

The theme chosen by the founders of Black History Month for 2008 is "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism." 🌍





## Opportunity, challenge ahead in 2008

**Col. Donald E. Jackson  
Commander, Little Rock District**

**L**ittle Rock District continues to be a team of professionals, proudly serving the nation and our community, dedicated to providing innovative, responsive and high quality solutions to our nation's engineering challenges. 2007 was a banner year for the team at Little Rock District.

With continued growth in our support to Southwestern Division Military Construction and Support to Others programs, 2008 looks to be an even greater opportunity and challenge for the District. SWL continues to suffer from shortfalls in funding for backlog critical maintenance in our Operations and Maintenance program, as does the rest of the Division; however, we are able to make some progress based on funding allocations in the coming year.

The successful day-to-day operation of our program, despite resource challenges, is a direct reflection on the skill of our managers, operators, rangers, administrative and maintenance personnel at all levels of the organization.

Along the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, Little Rock District has received funding to execute bank stabilization and dredging contracts making the river a more reliable commercial conduit for the region.

We are funded this year to initiate planning and engineering design as well as repair erosion at Jim Smith Lake, a critical junction near the mouth of both the White and Arkansas Rivers, which has been overtopped and damaged by floodwaters during the past several years. This area is critical to the MKARNS' successful operation since preventing a cut-off from forming between the two rivers will maintain our ability to keep an adequate navigation pool that supports an ever-growing barge industry along the river.

Little Rock is also funded to continue efforts at finalizing a more permanent solution. Greg Yada and his study team of Rod Gaines, Nathaniel Keen, Cheryl Gibbs and others continues to work this with a goal of getting a Record of Decision approved before the year's end.

Elmo Webb and his team in Engineering and Construction and Emergency Management continue to make great progress on the complicated levee inspection/certification process. Their working together with state and local parties here in Arkansas provides leadership in an area of great concern regionally and across the nation as FEMA continues to complete its flood mapping

*The successful day-to-day operation of our program, despite resource challenges, is a direct reflection on the skill of our managers, operators, rangers, administrative and maintenance personnel at all levels of the organization.*

project.

Little Rock District received funding this year to initiate a Carrying Capacity Study. This is the first step in a desperately needed re-evaluation of the Master Plan/Shoreline Management Plan that Jim Sandberg, Greg Oller and other Table Rock staff continue to struggle with as development around the lake grows unabated.

Around the District we have also received funding for the repair and/or refurbishment of selected critical infrastructure. Larry Winters and his team of structural engineers continue to assess our structures and develop creative solutions that can be completed with our talented maintenance teams here in the District, thus reducing costs to make these repairs affordable.

In Fiscal Year 2008, we are funding repairs to the dam roadway bridges at both

Beaver and Greer's Ferry Lakes. We are also funding the repair and sealing of the dam roadway bridge at Bull Shoals, as well as developing the plans and specifications we hope will receive funding for much needed repairs in Fiscal Year 2009.

At Norfolk Lake, we are funded to replace trash racks and operating equipment at Norfolk Dam, as well as constructing the concrete overlay of bridge and median. In addition to the dam roadway bridge, we are able to rehabilitate the sluice gate and construct a tainter gate bulkhead closure at Greer's Ferry.

James Beard, Jon Wedgeworth and their great staffs at Clearwater Lake, as well as the project management team led by Mark Brightwell, continue to make significant progress on the Clearwater Dam major rehabilitation project. This year, we are scheduled to complete the exploratory drilling phase and award the contract to construct the grout curtain phase. Also at Clearwater,

we are able to repair and renovate a number of project roads.

In Russellville, we remain on track for the Ozark-Jetta major rehabilitation effort. Royce Colley and his team at Ozark, as well as the PM team led by Lee Beverly, have done a wonderful job of keeping this project moving despite several funding scares early on this fiscal year.

In 2008, District project delivery teams will remain busy executing military construction, Base Realignment and Closure, Grow the Force, and Support for Others projects both here within our boundaries and in support of Fort Worth District regionally.

Within the next month, Little Rock will award contracts to construct an Officer Family Housing project at Pine Bluff as

See **Little Rock** on page 18

# Galveston District celebrates Mardi Gras



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Galveston District Deputy Commander, Lt. Col. Richard Hansen, prepares to celebrate Galveston Mardi Gras with his sons Matt (left) and John. The event, which is hailed as a family-friendly celebration, included more than 75 events, including concerts, masquerade balls, and parades. It was held Jan. 25-Feb. 5. 🌍

## Catch and release ... Fort Worth District to host Spring Bass Tourney

The Fort Worth District will host the 8th Annual Spring Bass Tournament at Sam Rayburn Lake, April 12, 2008, at Mill Creek Park. The registration fee is \$40 per team, with that money covering awards and prizes. Entries will be accepted until March 21, 2008. Click [here](#) for the entry form. 🌍



Photos courtesy of Fort Worth District

### Little Rock

Continued from page 17

well as a Unit Operations Facility at Fort Hood, Texas. The District should also close out the Quality Evaluation Facility project at Pine Bluff Arsenal in March.

DeJuan Carter, Karyn Higgins, John Balgavy, Tammy Jones, Trish Smith, Richard Devine, and others from Contracting, Environmental and the Office of Counsel continue to support the Division's execution of the Primary Fence 225 project, which remains one of the region's top priorities.

This month, I will be in Washington, D.C., to discuss our Fiscal Year 2009 budget with the Arkansas and Missouri delegations. I thank all the resource managers, program analysts, project and study managers, contract specialists, and others who worked long hours to put our budget submissions together and prepare me to make this important trip. Jorge Gutierrez continues to be a workhorse for the District to ensure we have what we need and to hold us accountable for doing what we say. Thanks, Jorge, to you and your entire team!

In Little Rock District, our people are our treasure. We continue to provide the best service to regional efforts and, as a result, are continually called upon to deliver.

I would like to congratulate Tony Batey, our chief of Engineering and Construction, for his recent selection and future induction into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineers. Way to go, Tony!

We recently mourned the loss of Bill Carter who passed away a few weeks ago in a tornado that struck his home while he slept. His wife, LaDonna, is recuperating, and I ask you to keep her and the entire Carter family, as well as the team at Arthur Ormond Lock and Dam, in your prayers. A number of other key leaders have been hospitalized recently and, fortunately, continue moving toward recovery.

We also recently welcomed home Jennifer Hoban of the Russellville Project Office who spent the last year in Afghanistan. Remaining overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism are Ralph Allen, Barry Stuard, and Jim Marple in Iraq and Mike Lee in Afghanistan. Some of these teammates and others have had multiple tours. Join with me in thanking them for their extraordinary service, and pray for their safe return.

Thanks again to all who continue to make Little Rock District and our entire community a wonderful place to work and grow. Excellence through teamwork! 🌍





# Happy Anniversary

**Col. David C. Weston**  
**Commander, Galveston District**

**W**hen Major Samuel M. Mansfield arrived in Galveston on Feb. 25, 1880, to establish the Galveston Engineer Office (later renamed the Galveston District Office), he found a place vastly different from the Galveston of today. The Congress of the Republic of Texas had made Galveston a port of entry in 1837, and Galveston Harbor became an active port with ships from all over the world. The Strand in Galveston, named after the famous street in London, was known as “Wall Street of the Southwest” because of its large and important mercantile houses engaging in financial transactions. The city was the center of trade in Texas, and one of the largest cotton ports in the nation.

Propelled by the commerce and economics of that time and place, the Galveston District was created in part because of the need for deep water ports along the Texas Gulf Coast. Soon after its creation, and in the 128 years following, the Galveston District has embodied the spirit of “Essayons.”

Mansfield was assigned the job of conducting river and harbor improvements, including construction of the jetties to make Galveston Channel navigable. The Galveston stone jetties were completed in 1893, allowing deep-draft shipping to enter the port. Galveston Channel improvements were slow and arduous, but ultimately led to the first ship to cross the outer bar at Galveston harbor on May 16, 1897, creating another legacy of the Corps of Engineers.

The 1900 storm brought devastation to the island city, but following the storm, the citizens of Galveston County made plans to construct a seawall. It was a former Chief of Engineers, Brig. Gen. Henry M. Robert (also the author of Robert’s Rules of Order), who headed the board which prepared the plans and designs for the Galveston seawall. In July 1904, Galveston completed the

first segment of the seawall, and later, in partnership with local organizations, the Galveston District Corps of Engineers added to the existing seawall to extend protection. The seawall today stands as a tribute to the cooperative efforts between the citizens of Galveston and the Galveston District, and between the American people and their government.

In 1949, the Corps completed the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, opening the Texas Gulf Coast, including Galveston Island, to intracoastal commerce. The Texas Gulf Coast region has moved light years forward into international trade and commerce ever since.

Through two World Wars, the Cold War, and the Global War on Terror, the men and women of the Galveston District have battled hurricanes and mitigated flood risks, kept ship channels open for shipping of both commercial goods and military hardware, and helped to protect the wetlands and our environment.

Today we encompass more than 50,000 square miles, 700 miles of coastline, and 150 miles inland. Our District runs from

the Rio Grande River to the Sabine River in Louisiana, and includes 48 counties and two Louisiana parishes. We are home to 28 ports handling 400 million tons of commerce—Texas leads the nation in total tonnage handled—and we are embodied by a thousand miles of channels, 760 deep draft, and 240 shallow draft. As it has been throughout our 128-year history, our greatest asset is our people. With approximately 340 employees performing our missions of Navigation, Flood Risk Mitigation, Environmental Restoration, Shoreline Protection, Regulatory, Emergency Management and Military Construction, the Galveston District’s can-do history and present accomplishments exemplify the relevant, ready, responsive and reliable Army Corps of Engineers. 🌊

***The Galveston District’s  
can-do history and present  
accomplishments exemplify the  
relevant, ready, responsive and  
reliable Army Corps of Engineers.***



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

## Reaching out ...

Steve Ireland, Environmental Lead in the Planning and Environmental section of the Regulatory Branch, Galveston District, discusses a project with a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, Abigail Martinez, at L.A. Morgan Elementary School during its Science Fair Jan. 28. Ireland was one of several Corps personnel who served as judges in the school’s third annual Science Fair. Judges looked at projects from Pre-Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Abigail’s project was on light refraction and dispersal and involved making a rainbow with a glass of water and a mirror. Participation in the Science Fair was part of the District’s Community Outreach Initiative. 🌊

# First down ...

## Corps teams up with National Football League to teach water safety

The Corps of Engineers participated in the Outdoor Recreation Village as part of Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Ariz., 31 January – 3 February. Corps personnel talked to the general public and event participants about the Corps' recreation and environmental stewardship programs, recreation opportunities across the nation, children in nature issues, declining participation in outdoor recreation and Corps opportunities and water safety tips and concerns. Over 3,000 personal contacts were made by Corps staff distributing approximately 5,000 water safety related items. Bobber, the Corps' Water Safety mascot, Park Rangers and staff participated in two Westgate NFL parades on Friday and Saturday nights to crowds of thousands. Additional benefits of attendance included



Members of the Corps of Engineers that participated in the Outdoor Recreation Village during Super Bowl XLII took time to pose for a group photo.



Bobber talked Water Safety with pro football Hall of Famer Mike Ditka.

an interview with KKOB radio station of Albuquerque, N.M. with two broadcasts, and two partnerships lined up for 2008, one with Catch a Special Thrill for Kids, ([www.CASTforKids.org](http://www.CASTforKids.org)) and Recreation Boating and Fishing Foundation, ([www.RBFF.org](http://www.RBFF.org)). C.A.S.T. For Kids plans to reach 11,000 children in 2008 and has invited the Corps to participate in providing water safety and trip planning

information to attendees. R.B.F.F.'s professional fisherman, Mr. Ronnie Kovach ([www.MyOutdoorTV.com](http://www.MyOutdoorTV.com)), has invited the Corps to work with him to develop an episode of his TV program to talk about the Army's returning veterans, the Corps of Engineers relationship, and Corps recreation fishing opportunities with TV releases scheduled for July 4<sup>th</sup> and Veterans Day.

## Eagle Eye winners named

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**Mary Beth Hudson**  
Pacesetter Staff

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W.G. Yates and Sons Construction Company is the winner of the Tulsa District Eagle Eye Construction Safety Award for Fiscal Year 2007. The firm won the award for its outstanding work on the FY06 Student Pipeline Dormitory at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. The project had numerous safety and health issues to manage and control, including excavation safety, high voltage

electrical distribution safety, and difficult fall protection exposures. All of them were handled without a single lost-time accident.

The Sheppard Resident Office is the Tulsa District Eagle Eye Construction Office of the Year. Their active management of this contract set the tone for the safe manner in which work was conducted. Aaron Goldner served as the quality assurance representative on the contract and is the Eagle Eye Construction Representative of the Year. 🏆





Sharing the knowledge ...

## Woodley, Burgess, and Corps personnel meet for flood update

**Melanie Ellis**  
Pacesetter Staff

**A**ssistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley Jr., Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-Texas-26), and Corps personnel met at the Elm Fork Project Office for a post-flood update of Lewisville Lake.

The meeting provided Woodley and Burgess information on the 2007 flood event, the situation since the flood officially ended, and what the future looks like for the Fort Worth District.

Charles Burger, Deputy Chief, Operations Division, commented on the varied amounts of rain that the state received. "With all the heavy rains in April, our flood charts looked more like seismograph charts during an earthquake," he said.

Woodley and Burgess were shown maps and photos of structures that would have been flooded without Corps projects in place. "Our projects prevented \$8 billion in damages," Burger said. "In doing that, our prime facilities and recreation sites sustained more than \$30 million in damages."



*Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District*

**Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley Jr., talks with Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, about flood damages in the District.**



*Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District*

**Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-Texas-26), and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley Jr., listen to a briefing about the 2007 flood series that impacted the Fort Worth District.**

Burger also spoke about the volunteer efforts that have helped get visitors back into the parks and saved money for the Corps. "Volunteers have really stepped up and taken initiatives to ensure folks could safely enjoy some of the upcoming recreation season. We had several local organizations that approached the Corps for cleanup days," he said. "We are really utilizing volunteer efforts and local partnerships; these efforts are instrumental in our future strategy as we face flat-lined recreation budgets for Operations and Maintenance and aging infrastructure."

The meeting also covered what actions could be taken to help the District become more self-sustaining. "It would help tremendously if we could get even a fraction of the money that the parks' user fees generate," Burger said. "Right now, all of the monies we generate go back into the U.S. Treasury whereas other agencies,

like the National Park Service, are able to retain part or all of the money that they collect. If we had that, we could begin to address backlog maintenance items and improve facilities and, in turn, raise our level of service to the public."

Burgess thanked the Corps for its service and continued efforts in communicating with him and his staff, remarking to Woodley, "These guys were front and center during the flood. They've been very good to me and good about giving me the information that I needed."

Woodley also thanked the Corps team and presented those present with his coin. 🇺🇸



# The word of the day is “Execute!”

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

Last month I took the opportunity to address the District via a Town Hall and update everyone on the state of the Fort Worth District and where we are going.

As one of three districts to do more than \$1 billion of work last year, we continue to manage an amazing workload for our nation’s citizens and it’s military. This is directly attributed to the quality of our work force and a determination to be the best.

As we continue to maintain construction schedules, transition offices in San Antonio and advertise and award our Fiscal Year 2008 military construction projects, we will execute the conversion of all non-supervisory team members into the National Security Personnel System.

When executing our civil works and lake projects let’s ensure that we build realistic, valid schedules, keep open communication and

the flow of information going between our internal and external teammates. In addition, we must continue public outreach and develop our summer safety plan for the lake projects.

We must continue to focus on our priorities, which always include

**We must continue to focus on our priorities, which always include our continued support of the Global War on Terror and additional priorities like our border fence missions, to include acquisition and/or condemnation of private land needed for the fence.**

our continued support of the Global War on Terror and additional priorities like our border fence missions, to include acquisition and/or condemnation of private land needed for the fence. We must also endeavor to develop and implement plans to

reduce regulatory backlog and improve our efficiency in handling permits.

We will always face challenges but I have no doubt that we will always find the way ahead not only because we have a great team of skilled professionals, but because of the character and determination of everyone on this great team. 🇺🇸

## *Selfless service*



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Jackie Smith, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division, received a Superior Civilian Service Award for his performance while serving as the Project Management Specialist for the Engineering and Support Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Smith was specifically recognized for his willingness to help U.S. Soldiers in need and exposing himself to extreme danger. In Iraq, on June 12, 2007, the convoy he was in stopped to render assistance to an Army unit that had just undergone an improvised explosive device attack with subsequent bridge collapse. Smith assisted in helping the Soldiers set up a defensive perimeter and helped tend to the wounded. He was presented a framed certificate by Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, at a District Town Hall Jan. 24. 🇺🇸



# Little Rock loses 3.5 centuries experience

## 11 team members choose to retire

**Tammy L. Moody**  
Pacesetter Staff

**M**ore than three centuries of experience left Little Rock District between November 2007 and January 2008. Eleven employees with a combined 354 years of experience in a variety of fields throughout the District took some hard-earned experience and skills with them when they headed out for their well-earned retirements.

Little Rock's leadership is looking for ways to lessen the impact to the District of that current, and future, loss of experience and historical knowledge because of retirements. "Until recently, the effect of losing a retiree was not as obvious, but then we lost so many in so little time," Lt. Col. Donald Balch, deputy district commander, said.

"The district leadership has identified the issues of losing personnel with so much experience, and we are trying to get our hands around this as part of our Strategic 'Vision' Goal.

"We have identified that we do need a succession plan for our organization, which will tie into the Strategic Goals," he added.


"Currently we are identifying those who are eligible for retirement. With the federal government, we really cannot start the Requests for Personnel Action until employees notify us of their intent. This sounds easy, but employees have been reluctant to share their intentions of changing careers or retiring."

Balch explained the normal procedure for replacing someone who is retiring requires processing an RPA through a number of steps that could take about 150 days to get through.

"In an ideal world, the employee would give the organization a 6-9 month notification of intent, and then we can recruit in a timely manner and possibly have an over-hire for several weeks to learn the position first-hand from the incumbent," he said.

"As that usually doesn't happen, we are looking at our current leadership talent who is interested in volunteering for developmental positions coming available," he said.

Developmental and interim assignments are two ways Little Rock can fill its retirement and other vacancies as they pop up, but focusing on future vacancies is something the deputy commander would like to do.

"Unfortunately, there is not a regulated time period in which an employee has to notify the organization. But in looking at when our employees will be eligible to retire, we know that on the McKellan-Kerr and at our hydropower plants we have future concerns due to the training period for those employees, which is anywhere from one to four years to become certified," Balch said. 

## **Program helped fill gap at Greers Ferry**

**A**t Greers Ferry Lake, where four retirements hit the work force hard, a program provided by the Headquarters Natural Resources Management Community of Practice is helping fill the gap between Operations Manager Tommy Park's retirement and recruiting his replacement.

The Headquarters Career Assignment Program is designed to provide opportunities for career assignments at the GS 9-14 staff or section chief levels. Participants can be involved in all facets of the NRM CoP functions such as budgeting, drafting policy, and developing or reviewing regulations.


Andrea Lewis, the deputy chief of Little Rock's Operations Division explained that when the Natural Resource community recognized the need to develop operations project managers to replace those who were retiring, it expanded the CAP to include opportunities for career development assignments in HQUSACE and at project offices.

"Since it takes vacant slots to provide the developmental opportunity, headquarters solicits districts across the Corps to "volunteer" available slots when they have them," Lewis said.

"When Tommy signed his retirement papers in August, we offered his position to the CAP program as an opportunity to give someone the necessary training and experience essential to the career growth of a future OPM or NRM leader.

"There were five people across the nation who applied for the slot and were paneled by the CAP Selection Committee," she added.

"Mark Wilmes was the successful candidate for our Greers Ferry OPM 180-day CAP developmental assignment."

Benny Rorie, a natural resources specialist at Greers Ferry Lake for many years, worked as an interim operations manager from Dec. 3 until Jan. 6. when Wilmes arrived from the Louisville District. Wilmes' developmental assignment will last until June 8, when the selection process should be complete for the new manager. 

# Lift with your legs ...

## Corps employee lifts his way to national title, state records

Melanie Ellis  
Pacesetter Staff

What started as a hobby for a skinny 16-year-old culminated in a championship at the Natural Athlete Strength Association (NASA) Unequipped Nationals held recently in Oklahoma City, Okla. Ron Harris, Civil Engineering Technician, Central Texas Area Office, began lifting when he was a teenager. "It started out as just a hobby," he said. "I never knew it would turn into this."

Harris began competing two years ago after a friend suggested he compete in a local meet. "I didn't even know that such competitions existed," Harris said. He threw his hat into the ring and won first place in the Masters II category, which is for men 50 – 59 years old. "That's a polite way of saying the old guys," laughed Harris.

The meets have three areas of competition, the bench press, dead lift, and the curl. Each requires a great deal of concentration to receive credit for the lift. The bench press requires the lifter to lay on a bench and lower the bar to the chest. The curl is performed by taking a bar



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District  
Ron Harris works as a Civil Engineering Technician at the Central Texas Area Office.



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Ron Harris successfully curled his way to a national title in Oklahoma City, Okla., and was named 2007 National Power Sports Masters II Male Athlete of the Year by the Natural Athlete Strength Association.

off a rack, then strictly curling it without bending the knees or swinging the bar for momentum. The dead lift, one of the most strenuous lifts, requires the participant to squat down and lift the weight off the floor to an upright position. In all three lifts, "press" commands are given and must be obeyed to receive credit for the lift. "When that bar is laying on your chest during the bench press, it seems like an eternity while waiting for the command to press," Harris said.

Harris joined competitors from all over the United States at the meet in Oklahoma where he won all three individual events and the full meet in the Masters II 275-pound class. "I benched 320 pounds, dead lifted 413 pounds, and curled 170 pounds," he said. "Not bad for an old man. It was really satisfying because the lifts were all made without the aid of special bench shirts and lifting suits. They were "raw" lifts."

With all the steroid controversy surrounding some of baseball's greatest players, Harris was quick to point out that this is a drug free sport. "Winners are randomly drug tested to preserve the integrity of the sport," he said.

After winning the national title, Harris continued his winning streak in Gilmer, Texas, where he took first place and set three new state records. "I improved on all three lifts," he said. "I benched 330 pounds, curled 181 pounds, and dead lifted 419 pounds."

When asked about his training regimen, Harris said he works out four to five times a week for one to one and one half hours and favors lifting in his garage rather than at a gym. "I like training in my garage because there are no waiting lines and my wife knows exactly where I am at all times," he said.

Harris commented on several benefits of lifting other than health benefits. "In the past, it has scared off some of the boys dating my daughters," joked Harris. "It's a little embarrassing to some of them to know their girlfriend's 'old dad' can out lift them."

He also mentioned the mental and physical dedication it takes to compete in the sport and has been particularly moved by the spiritual connection he has had with many of the other competitors since

See **Harris** on page 25



# Regional team takes Tulsa District honor

**Mary Beth Hudson**  
Pacesetter Staff

The “Dredging Crew” was named Tulsa District’s Project Delivery Team of the Quarter for the fourth quarter. Members came from Tulsa District, Little Rock District, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, ports, and the navigation industry.

The crew was nominated in the Small Project category, although their accomplishment was anything but small.

When shoaling was identified on the navigation system, the dredge was 400 miles away and its projected arrival was two weeks away. The team’s goal was to keep the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System open by whatever means necessary until its arrival. By thinking outside the box, the Dredging Crew came up with unorthodox methods for removing shoaling at navigation miles 400 and 421. The first idea was to attach a flume to the back of the M/V Ozark and push it with the Mr. Pat. This would redirect the prop wash down, lifting the sediment and letting the current carry it into deeper water. The team also used a barge-mounted track hoe to pull the sediment to the side of the channel. The operation successfully kept the channel open for all navigation customers and had potential savings in excess of \$80,000 per day. 🌊



*Photo courtesy of Tulsa District*

*Tulsa District team members were Rodney Beard, Pat Mcqueen, Greg Barnes, Kelly Youngblood, Joe Johnson, Colin Clark, Troy James, Dan Gibson, Charlie Bennett, Robert Booker, Bob Perryman, Kenneth Wright, David Key, Jimmy Vann, Steven Fite, Jerry Starling, Todd Carr, Larry Prestien, and Sarah Prestien. Little Rock District team members were Spencer Cox, David Hill, Matt Brock, and Chad Crain.*

## Harris

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**Ron Harris and his wife have been teaching Sunday school for over 25 years. Harris is joined by other lifters before meets to pray for safety while competing.**



*Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District*

he began lifting. Harris and his wife, Noemi, have taught Sunday school for over 25 years and are currently teaching at Pershing Park Baptist Church in Killeen, Texas. He was very pleased to see that other competitors were not embarrassed to show their spiritual beliefs. “At Nationals, I was very pleased to find there were other lifters who wanted to pray before the meet to ask God for safety, success, and that their efforts glorify Him,” he said. “When I lift, it’s just me and the Lord and that’s exactly what I want it to be.”

Harris recently learned that in addition to his National title and state records, he was selected as the 2007 National Power Sports Masters II Male Athlete of the Year by the Natural Athlete Strength Association. Harris will continue competing next month in the East Texas Open in Tyler, Texas. 🌊

# Pacesetter Points

## Condolences

**Ray Barnes'** mother passed away in December 2007, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Ray works in the Tulsa District.

Patrick Allen Best, son of **Allen Best**, Little Rock District, Pine Bluff Project Office, passed away Jan. 3.

Elizabeth Marie (Betty) Clemans, mother to **Dan Clemans**, Little Rock District, chief of Construction Branch, passed away Jan. 3, in Monument, Colo.

**Wayne M. Cowan**, 94, Southwestern Division headquarters retiree and member of the Division's Distinguished Gallery of Employees, died Dec. 22, 2007, in Richardson, Texas. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII, and later retired after 35 years of service with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1972. He was preceded in death by his wife, Edith, and is survived by his daughter, Judith Stoker, a brother, Gene, and a sister, Anna Beth Miller, and a host of other family members and friends.

**Charley Crumpler's** mother passed away in January 2008. He is a Tulsa District engineering technician for Webbers Falls Power Plant.

**Jerry Daniels**, Tulsa District, lock and dam operator, Webbers Falls for the past 18 years and recent retiree, passed away in December 2007.

Damon Jeffries, son of **Mary Frye**, former Tulsa District employee, was killed in a house fire during the December 2007 ice storm.

**Charles W. Geelan**, 90, a hydraulic engineer who served the Corps for 31 years, first with Galveston District then the Southwestern Division, passed away Feb. 11 following a long illness. Mr. Geelan, of Normangee and Bryan, Texas, also served during World War II and the Korean War. Funeral services were held Feb. 12 in Bryan, followed by a graveside service at Houston National Cemetery in Houston, Texas.

Ruby Hardke, mother of **Burt Hardke**, Little Rock District, Pine Bluff Project Office, passed away Jan. 28.

Rosey Anglin, mother of **Pam Hardy**, Little Rock District, administrative support assistant at Greers Ferry Lake, passed away Jan. 21.

RuBeth Oder, mother-in-law to **Dale Leggett**, Little Rock District, passed away Jan. 23 in Little Rock.

Lillian Keeton, mother of **Patricia Lutz**, Tulsa District, died Dec. 17.

**Jeff Paskin's** father died Dec. 11. Jeff works in the Tulsa District.

John Reznicek, brother of **Ken Reznicek**, Tulsa District, civil engineering technician, Kansas Area Office, died Jan. 15. Memorials to either the Father Kapaun Guild or Quail Forever.

Charles "Tony" Rodgers, father of **Mike Rodgers**, Little Rock District, Planning and Environmental, passed away Jan. 29.

Louis Shaw, father of **Steve Shaw**, Little Rock District, Pine Bluff Natural Resource Manager, passed away Jan. 21, in St. Louis, Mo.

**Allison Smedley**, park ranger, and her brother, **Zane Snider**, engineer technician, both at Little Rock District's, Russellville Project Office lost their grandmother, Nora Snider, Jan. 11.

Sue Spicer, the mother of **Steve Spicer**, Little Rock District, Millwood Lake, passed away Dec. 8, in Nashville, Ark.

Gwen Stiles, mother to **Jeff Stiles**, Little Rock District, passed away Jan. 28.

## Congratulations

On Jan. 7, **Branson Austin** was selected as the newest lock operator for Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office. He is working at J.W. Trimble Lock and Dam in Ft. Smith, Ark.

**John Bridgeman**, Little Rock District, Russellville Project Office, and his wife, Shawna, welcomed baby boy Ethen Bradley Bridgeman Dec. 13. He weighed six pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches long.

**Jeff Brown**, Little Rock District, Ozark Power Plant, successfully completed the four-year hydropower training program and was promoted to journeyman mechanic.

Kairin Anita Marie Brown, daughter of **Liz Bashaw** and **Kevin Brown**, Tulsa District, was born Dec. 10, 2007.

**Cindy Burke**, Galveston District, was recently selected as project manager in the Project Management Branch.

**Wanda Cook**, team leader, Civil Works Integration Division, Programs Directorate, joined the SWD headquarters Jan 20. Wanda comes to the Division from a position at Corps headquarters, and served previously in the Mississippi Valley Division, both in Programs.

**Jennifer Dalton**, Little Rock District, Office of Counsel, and her husband, George, welcomed their new baby, Lindley Mackenzie, who was born Jan. 5. She weighed six pounds, seven ounces and was 18.75 inches long.

**Abel De Leon**, Galveston District, was recently selected as resident engineer for Corpus Christi Resident Office in the Southern Area Office.

**Eric Edwardson**, Little Rock District, came from Lake Shelbyville, Ill., to be the new supervisory natural resources specialist for the Nimrod Lake Office.

**Jason Foltyn**, Galveston District, was recently selected as project manager in the Project Management Branch.

**Kandy Frye**, management analyst, Regional Business Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, joined the SWD headquarters Dec. 9. Kandy comes to the Division from the Army National Guard Operational Support Airlift Agency at Fort Belvoir, Va., where she served as an Operations Research Analyst.

**Tommy Mark Green**, Little Rock District, Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office, is the new supervisory natural resources specialist at the Blue Mountain Lake Office.

**Jorge Gutierrez**, has been selected as supervisory operations program coordination manager (Team Leader), Operations Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters. Jorge will report to the Division in mid-March from a previous assignment in Little Rock District.

**Pablo Hernandez**, Galveston District, was recently selected as temporary resident engineer for the PF225 Border Fence Initiative.

**Kim Jackson**, Tulsa District, former real estate co-op, graduated in December 2007 from Northeastern State University, and is now a full-time realty specialist.

**Ronnie Jones** was selected as a permanent, seasonal park ranger for Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office.

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## Points

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**Sherman Jones**, operations and maintenance manager, Little Rock District Support Team, Programs Directorate, joined the SWD headquarters Jan. 6. Sherman comes to the Division from Tulsa District.

**Jeff Lord**, Little Rock District, Ozark Power Plant, successfully completed the four-year hydropower training program and was promoted to journeyman mechanic.

**Jimmy McLain** recently returned from Iraq and joined the Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office.

**Greg Mattson**, structural engineer, Little Rock District, Design Branch, passed the Professional Engineer license exam in October and is now a registered professional engineer in Arkansas.

**Andre Mayeaux**, visual information specialist, Fort Worth District, received the 2007 Herbert A. Kassner Journalism Competition award for Art and Graphics in Support of a Publication.

**Larry Mendoza**, flood control and coastal emergencies program manager, Emergency Management Office, joined the SWD headquarters Jan. 20. He last served as Fort Worth District's FCCE Program Manager.

**Larry Meux** was selected as a permanent, seasonal park ranger for Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office.

**Mark Moore**, realty specialist, Programs Directorate, received a temporary promotion and assignment to SWD headquarters, Jan. 6. Mark comes to the Division from Little Rock District.

**Karli Mulliniks**, strategic planner, Regional Business Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, joined the SWD headquarters Jan. 20. Karli comes to the Division from Fort Worth District.

**Bryon Murders** recently returned from Iraq and joined the Little Rock District's Russellville Project Office.

Lydia Jo Parkey, daughter of **B. J. and Audrey Parkey**, Tulsa District, was born Jan. 22, 2008.

**Raef Perryman**, Tulsa District, co-op student, graduated December 2007 from Northeastern State University, and is now in the ranger training program.

**Zach Ray**, Little Rock District, Table Rock Office, and his wife, Shelly, celebrated daughter Kenadee's arrival Jan. 5. She weighed seven pounds, 11 ounces.

**Marci Sablan** arrived Dec. 14 and began working as Little Rock District's new resource manager. She came from the New England District with her husband, Al.

**Pat Salinas**, Galveston District, welcomed her first grandchild, Luke Noel Penaloza, into the world on Dec. 18. He weighed six pounds, 10 ounces and was 19 and three quarters inches long.

**Lindsey Tatum**, Tulsa District, co-op student, graduated December 2007 from Oklahoma State University, and is now in the ranger training program.

**Sharon Tirpak**, Galveston District, was recently selected as project manager in the Project Management Branch.

On Dec. 19, **Anita Walters** of Little Rock District's Logistics office welcomed grandbaby Braxton Edward Derby, son of Tara and Charles Derby, to the family. He weighed seven pounds and was 21 and one-half inches long.

**Jeremy Wells** of Little Rock's Russellville office and his wife, Jamie, and daughter, Adrianna, welcomed Andrew Hayden Wells to the family Dec. 6. He weighed seven pounds, five ounces and

was 19 and one-half inches long.

Zaiden Lee White, grandson of **Connie White**, Tulsa District, was born Jan. 25, 2008.

**KaJuana Williams**, TRADOC/DA Intern, recently joined the Galveston District Resource Management Office for a 90-day rotational assignment. KaJuana is assigned to Fort Sill, Okla.

**Mark Wilmes** arrived from Louisville District to serve as the acting operations project manager at Little Rock District's Greens Ferry Lake until June under the HQ OPM Career Assignment Program.

**James Worthington**, Galveston District, was recently selected as project manager in the Project Management Branch.

Little Rock District's **Lisa Yoakum** was selected Jan. 31 as Budget Analyst, GS-07/09, for the management support team.

## Retirements

**Martha Armstrong** retired from the Tulsa District.

**James Benham**, Galveston District, retired on Jan. 3 with over 40 years of service. James worked in the Houston Resident Office, formerly the Bay Area Office, in the Engineering and Construction Division.

**David Berkey** retired from the Tulsa District.

**Sandra Blackwell**, Galveston District, retired Jan. 3 after 25 years of service. Sandra worked in the Real Estate Office.

**Mike Bragg**, Galveston District, retired Jan. 3 after 33 years of service. Mike served as a project manager in Project Management Branch.

**David Campbell**, Galveston District, retired Feb. 2 after 38 years of service. David served as chief of the Engineering Branch.

**Gary Cannon** retired from the Tulsa District.

**Dee Corren** of Little Rock's Operations Division will retire Feb. 29 after 30 years of civil service, 20 years with Little Rock District.

**Larry Dearing** retired from the Tulsa District.

**Paul Dietrich**, finance and accounting officer, Regional Business Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, retired Jan. 3 after 35 years of service.

**Carol Hankamer-Freeman**, Galveston District, retired on Jan. 2 after 38 years of service. Carol served the Resource Management Office as management analysis officer.

**Don Hoggatt** retired from the Tulsa District.

**John Reeves** retired from the Tulsa District.

**Beatrice "Bea" Richardson**, Galveston District, retired Jan. 31 after 25 years of service. Beatrice worked in the Regulatory Branch.

**James Sullivan** retired from the Tulsa District.

**Mary Sullivent** retired from the Tulsa District.

**Royce Swayne**, chief, Emergency Management, SWD headquarters, retired Jan. 3 after more than 36 years of service.

**Mike Teter** of Little Rock District's Mountain Home Project Office retired Feb. 18 after almost 23 years of combined civil service with two years in the Army Material Command, six years in Tulsa District and the rest in Little Rock District.

**Roseanne Theobald**, Galveston District, retired Feb. 2 after 34 years of service. Roseanne served the programs management branch as a program analyst.

**Sharon Turner**, budget analyst, Regional Business Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, retired Jan. 3 after more than 29 years of service. 