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Pacesetter

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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, Information Products Coordinator, Fort Worth District.





Thanks for all you do every day! ... enjoy some safe summer fun

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

Summer is here and so is the sun, fun and all the things that we attribute to this time of the year. I hope all had a wonderful school year (for those with family members still in school) and that you now have some time to relax and reflect with family. This may mean a trip to one of our highly acclaimed lakes or parks, and recently I've seen some of America's finest for sure, and I assure you fun will be had by all. But please be sure to wear your life jacket and sun screen because we don't want anything to happen to you or your family while on summer vacation.

Some of you may not ever get the chance to see some of our projects or know what all is going on throughout the Region, so let me see if I can pass on just a few highlights at this point in the year:

- We just turned over the first battalion set of facilities at Fort Bliss, part of an overall BCT program that will be delivered in 24 months after the first piece of dirt was turned. Overall, the Bliss program is \$4.4 billion and growing and it has become the model for MILCON Transformation for all of USACE to emulate.
- The JPMO at San Antonio is now in full swing and they have begun construction on their \$3.2 billion program that will bring the premier medical capability for our Armed Forces to Fort Sam Houston.
- Fort Sill is moving out and making huge strides in preparing for the move of the ADA School to Fort Sill as they stand up the Fires Center of Excellence. They have already turned over the initial facilities for the Basic and Advanced Training programs and have awarded some very difficult projects associated with the rest of the BRAC required moves. The overall program remains ahead of schedule and receives continual praise from the installation and customers.
- The San Antonio River Authority recently held a ground breaking ceremony for Phase I of the Mission Reach project. This was a significant step in this program as it signified a tremendous partnership between the city and Fort Worth District as San Antonio moves to improve the overall flood risk management process and provide economic and other environmental improvements along the river.
- Tremendous strides have been made associated with the fence project. This is a major collaborative effort across the entire Region, with all four Districts having a huge role, as

The SWD Family is blessed with so many great performers who recognize that they are part of something much bigger than themselves, and they routinely perform at a level of excellence.

Without your efforts, many of our communities would be without essential services or suffer catastrophic events, and to me that makes you heroes.


well as many other Districts and Divisions within USACE. This project will set the stage for future collaborations with teammates and within the Corps, which is critical for success in the future.

- The framework has been set for emergency operations should we be unfortunate and experience a hurricane or other disaster this summer. We have the best emergency operations teams in the Corps (ok, maybe I'm biased but that's what I believe) and their recent ability to respond to local and national disasters (look at the floods in Arkansas, ice storms in Oklahoma, tornadoes in both Arkansas and Oklahoma, floods in Iowa, etc.) is absolutely amazing and critical to ensuring key services are provided to those who are truly in need.

We recently had a FEST-A team return from a four-plus month rotation to Iraq where they provided outstanding support to GRD and JTF 134. Their efforts made a huge impact on ongoing operations and set the stage for future rotations as this was clearly recognized as a major success.

These are just a few of the many outstanding accomplishments across the Region and for this, I say a personal thanks. The SWD Family is blessed with so many great performers who recognize that they are part of something much bigger than themselves and they

routinely perform at a level of excellence. Without your efforts many of our communities would be without essential services or suffer catastrophic events, and to me that makes you heroes. So, if I don't get the chance to thank you and shake your hand in person, let this be an advance on that and I owe all of you my deepest gratitude for a truly awesome "job well done."

We just celebrated America's 232nd birthday. For many, this is a long time, but for most parts of the world these past 232 years are just a fraction of their existence. But if we look back on all that has been accomplished by our forefathers and the many who have given their all so we could live in the "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave," we should all be proud that we can be a part of this great Nation. Our freedoms and liberties have not come easy and even today we work hard to ensure our rights and privileges remain untarnished and the things many nations could only hope for we provide to the American people every day. So stand tall and be proud of who you are and what you represent and as Lee Greenwood so aptly said back in 1990, "God Bless the USA"!! 

Pacesetters – Army Strong – Engineer Ready!

Come hell or high water ... Tulsa District responds

Ross Adkins
Pacesetter Staff

Quick thinking and action by Tulsa District hydraulic technicians probably saved the life of an 87-year-old Oklahoma man. Dion Burleson, Dr. David Williams (PhD) and Randy Moe were making Doppler radar flood stream flow measurements along Big Creek near Childers, Okla., when they happened upon a pickup truck that had been pushed off the road by swift moving water.

At first, none of the three paid any attention to what looked like an abandoned vehicle as they were busy taking flowage measurements. But, the truck was *not* abandoned and when its driver saw the Corps van, he stepped out of his truck into hip deep water.

Spotting his movement, Williams shouted at the man to stay in his truck so they could get help. But he tried to wade towards the front of his pickup through the swiftly moving water.

Dion Burleson said, "As he approached the front of his truck, he slipped and fell, almost going under. He was lucky he managed to cling to his truck."

Seeing him lose his footing, Burleson quickly drove the heavy van closer to the pickup. As they approached the truck, Moe jumped into the water, made his way to the elderly gentlemen, and helped him regain his footing. While this was going



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Randy Moe helps Mr. Beu wade from his pickup truck to the Corps van moments after the elderly gentleman lost his balance and almost went under water.

on, Burleson documented the effort by shooting pictures. Moe and the gentleman carefully made their way to the Corps van which then backed out of the water.

"He looked pretty frail, but he was pretty insistent that we drive him to a neighbor's house," Burleson said.

The man, identified only as Mr. Beu, convinced his neighbor to take his tractor back to where the pickup was stranded. "Mr. Beu was pretty set in his ways and insisted on being taken by tractor back to his pickup. When he couldn't get it started,

he agreed to let them drag it back to higher ground," said Burleson.

Burleson commented, "If he hadn't caught onto his truck when he lost his footing, he'd have been in the next town in a couple of hours."

All three technicians agreed Mr. Beu's adventure was a good example why people should not drive into moving water.

It was also an excellent example of Corps employees' concern for others. 🇺🇸

When disaster strikes



Districts, Activities and Center Commanders/Directors are asked to ensure all personnel are aware of 1-877-HI-USACE and 877-HI-USACE@usace.army.mil in the event of a catastrophic or large-scale emergency, disaster or Command-order evacuation, and when this system should be utilized. The purpose of this toll-free number and email is to establish a redundant emergency accountability and reporting system, if needed, when local procedures cannot be followed. In such large-scale events, the impacted Division, Activity or Center will notify the USACE Operations Center (UOC) that accountability assistance using the toll-free number and email will be necessary. In these types of situations, employees are to call the toll-free number or email the 877-HI-USACE address within 72 hours of an emergency or an evacuation. Accountability rosters with the names of military members and civilian employees must be furnished by the Districts, Activities and Centers to the UOC, along with information and procedures on leave and/or instructions on when to report to work, or if an alternate work location has been designated.

Southwestern Division Commander visits Galveston District's Southern Area

Martha Cencki
Pacesetter Staff

Southwestern Division Commander Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox made an orientation visit to the Galveston Division's Southern Area April 14-15. The visit included tours of the southern half of the District, briefings on programs and projects, and meetings with Corps employees and agency partners.

"This visit has given me a great overview of the complexity of the Galveston District mission," he said, "as well as the importance of our team partners in other agencies. All of our districts face a challenging environment, and our partnerships help us overcome obstacles and achieve our missions."

The visit included meetings with the Lower Neches Valley Authority and the Ports of Port Lavaca/Point Comfort and Victoria.

Gen. Cox also visited the Brazos River Floodgates and the Colorado River Locks and met with Corps employees there.

"These Corps employees are representative of the very best characteristics of the SWD team," he said. "They have been doing these jobs for 35 years, and every single day they are smiling. They are the face of the Corps to the public, and the foundation of the great relationships that we have built over the years. I've seen that at all the places I've visited, and Galveston District is an excellent example."

Accompanying Gen. Cox on his orientation was Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander.

"It was a real honor to host Gen. Cox," he said. "This was a great opportunity to show him some very unique aspects of the Galveston District's mission and area of operations." 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Brig. Gen. Cox discusses issues facing the Port of Victoria with Port officials during his visit.

Military competition held at Canyon Lake

Security forces from 17 countries participated in the Fuerzas Comando 2008, a special operations forces team skills competition, June 19-26. The competition began at Camp Bullis, Texas. The swimming and accuracy shooting portions were held at Canyon Lake.

Fuerzas Comando 2008 is a unique opportunity for the nations of the Americas to improve their military capabilities through friendly competition.

This competition fosters cooperation and advances the spirit of friendship among the military forces in the Western Hemisphere.

Special operations military and police forces from Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay participated in the competition.

Approximately 300 military, law enforcement and civilian personnel from the participating nations will be taking part at the peak of the exercise.

U.S. support for Fuerzas Comando 2008



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Participants of the Fuerzas Comando 2008 competition arrive by boat to the accuracy shooting portion of the competition.

includes about 150 personnel from the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTH-COM), Special Operations Command South (SOCOS), U.S. Army Reserve, Texas National Guard and Puerto Rico Air

National Guard, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy.

This is the 5th consecutive year that Fuerzas Comando has taken place in the Western Hemisphere. 🇺🇸

Worth Remembering ... **Houston succeeds as dominant Texas port**

Judy Bullwinkle
Pacesetter Staff

While dreams of a shipping channel in Houston from Buffalo Bayou to the Gulf of Mexico began years before the city was established in 1839, work toward that dream began in earnest in 1841.

That is when the Houston City Council, working to improve shipping in the city, established the Port of Houston with authority over all wharves, landings, slips and roads. The council then approved authority for collection of wharfage fees giving the Port of Houston the financing to improve the wharves and clear the bayous.

Buffalo Bayou seemed a great choice as a navigational outlet to the sea for the rich agricultural products of the Brazos region. Running east to west, the bayou was wide and deep at the confluence of the San Jacinto River to Brays Bayou, where

by funding improvements to Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River. In 1857, the state engineer awarded contracts for improving Clopper's Bar and Red Fish Bar, two shell reefs obstructing navigation in Galveston Bay.

Also of particular significance to bayou development during the 1850s was Houston's emergence as the railroad center of Texas. When Galveston finally succeeded in obtaining its own railroad late in 1859, goods could be transported more cheaply between the two cities by rail than by bayou. Fighting to keep commerce on the water, Houston voters repealed the wharfage fees in 1860 as they were no longer essential for bayou improvement.

Galveston's excessive charges made Houstonians more determined to bypass Galveston for shipping. The Houston Direct Navigation Company's business boomed when it began loading and unloading shipping cargo mid-channel and transporting the goods up and down the bayou on barges. Houston's Buffalo Bayou Ship Channel Company, incorporated in 1869, began to collect tolls to create a 9-foot channel and cut a canal to eliminate



Houston Ship Channel located in Houston, Texas.

the city of Harrisburg had been built. However, the eastern extremity's direct path to the sea across Galveston Bay was filled with uneven depth, dangerous reefs in Galveston Bay, sandbars, snags and logs that hampered navigation.

By the early 1850s, wharfage revenue had enabled the city to clear the upper bayou of the troublesome snags and overhanging limbs, and even more opportunities for shipping became available.

Organized in 1851, the Houston and Galveston Navigation Company dominated navigation with a monopoly on steamship service from Houston to Galveston. Early in 1853, the new state of Texas shouldered some responsibility for its streams

problem shell reefs.

In 1870, the Corps began the first federal survey for a navigation channel through Buffalo Bayou and Galveston Bay. The Corps surveyor said the advantages of improving the channel were obvious, especially in light of Houston's prominence as a rail center. Although a number of improvements were suggested, the federal government only funded \$10,000 for the improvement of Red Fish Bar, which did little in the overall scheme of things.

A financial panic in 1873 halted the Buffalo Bayou Ship Channel Company's work on the bayou. Fortunately, the

See *Channel* on page 7

Channel

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following year, the Galveston Wharf Company withdrew from Commodore Charles Morgan the free use of its facilities, a concession his shipping line had enjoyed since 1867.

The hard-pressed Buffalo Bayou Ship Channel Company appealed to Morgan to take over its operation. On July 1, 1874, Morgan agreed to construct a channel 9 by 120 feet from Galveston Bay to Houston for \$806,500 of the company's unissued capital stock and put his dredges to work under the supervision of Capt. John J. Atkinson.

While the Army engineers dredged a channel through Red Fish Bar and deepened the route across Galveston Bay, Morgan constructed the canal across Morgans Point and developed terminal facilities where Sims Bayou joined Buffalo Bayou.

Morgan finished the canal by 1876, and the Morgan Line steamship, *Clinton*, drawing 9.5 feet of water, navigated the new ship channel across the bay and up to the Clinton terminal complex where goods were loaded onto trains to continue to Houston, center of the railroad network. On May 2, 1892, the U.S government paid \$92,316 .85 for the 5.5-mile-long canal.

The 6,100-foot channel, dredged by the Army engineers at the time Morgan was building his, was 14.5 feet deep at mean low tide and connected respective depths of 9 feet and 8.5 feet in the upper and lower bays.

Another high point in the port dream came when the Houston Cotton Exchange successfully petitioned Congress in 1880 to improve the Buffalo Bayou from Sims Bayou at Clinton to the mouth of the White Oak Bayou at Houston. The government funded several projects, including the removal of trees along a seven-mile stretch as well as dredging, snagging and building sheet pile revetments.

The 1897 plan for deepening the Galveston Ship Channel from 14 feet to 25 feet in 1897 distressed the Houston shipping community. Seeing that the development would doom their

port chances, Houstonians began to lobby for their own 25-foot channel. The two projects merged in the 1899 Rivers and Harbors Acts as "Galveston Ship Channel and Buffalo Bayou, Texas."

Appropriations and work lagged behind schedule and the progress desired by the Houston backers, so they developed a new plan. By securing legislation in 1909 to create navigation districts in Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, and Corpus Christi, the Houston group proposed to the Corps' Rivers and Harbors Committee that both share equally in funding construction of the 25-foot channel. This became the first official cost-sharing

endeavor between local interests and the federal government.

The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1910 changed the name of the project to the Houston Ship Channel and authorized \$2.5 million, with half the cost coming from the navigation district.

Awarded in June 1912, the contract was completed more than a year ahead of schedule. The schooner *William C. May* arrived at Clinton on September 26, and on October 12, the steamer *Dorothy* arrived. In 1914, President

Woodrow Wilson pushed a pearl-handled button in Washington to trigger canons on the banks of the turning basin north of Harrisburg and officially opened the Houston Shipping Channel.

To attract more business, Houston voters approved a \$3 million bond to construct wharves, warehouses, and terminal facilities. Before long, the Southern Steamship Company established regular service between New York and Houston.

Houston continued to press for greater port expansion and, by the 1930s, had surpassed her old rival Galveston. She became first in cotton exports, with oil and grain following closely behind, and third in U.S. ports for foreign exports.

For further reading on the history of the Houston Shipping Channel, see Lynn Alperin, "Custodians of the Coast: History of the United States Army Engineers at Galveston," chapter 4, "Buffalo Bayou Bonanza."



Houston Shipping Channel near Bolivar Marsh.

Division, District commanders recognize Fort Bliss folks

Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Southwestern Division commander, and Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, visited Fort Bliss June 9 for an update on the progress being made and recognized several employees while they were there.

Maj. David Stewart was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Brad Hartell was awarded the Construction Management Award, and they announced Troy Collins as the next Deputy District Engineer. 🇺🇸



Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, watches as Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Southwestern Division commander, awards Maj. David Stewart the Army Commendation Medal during his visit to Fort Bliss June 9.

Photo courtesy of Wade Moore

Regional Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance returns from Iraq

James Fields

Military Construction Planner
Southwestern Division

(Editor's note: FEST-A members are military, active duty or reservists, and civilian volunteers who deploy worldwide in response to any military contingency operation in support of the Global War on Terror. If you are interested in volunteering, you must be proficient in your area of expertise, a self-starter, and flexible. For more information, contact your District's Emergency Operations Center staff.)

A six-member Southwestern Division Forward Engineer Support Team-Advance returned to the Transatlantic Program Center June 17 after a four-month support mission in Iraq.


The team members, Capt. Frank Mendoza and Wayne Elliott, Fort Worth District; Charles Miles, James Bavido and Stephen Chapman, Tulsa District; and Michael Baker, Buffalo District; served as an interim engineer staff for Task Force 134, headquartered at Camp Victory in Baghdad. TF134 has operational responsibility for three detainee facilities located at Camps Bucca, Ramadi, and Taji.



Photo courtesy of Transatlantic Program Center

FEST-A team members (left to right): James Bavido, Tulsa District; Michael Baker, Buffalo District; Stephen Chapman, Tulsa District; and Capt. Frank Mendoza, Fort Worth District. Not pictured are members Charles Miles, Tulsa District, and Wayne Elliott, Fort Worth District.

While in Iraq, the FEST-A provided engineering and planning services for eight projects, ranging from construction of a brick factory, to a water treatment and storage facility, to barracks.

In recognition of their team and individual achievements, FEST-A members received the Joint Service Commendation/Achievement Medal prior to their departure from Iraq. 

Fort Bliss Program Office team members meet with local small business reps

Edward Rivera
Pacesetter Staff

Continuing to support the local business community, Fort Bliss hosted an Industry Day at the Centennial Club on Biggs Army Airfield in April that was organized by the El Paso Small Business Consortium.

The event provided workshops on federal contracting and financial preparation to do contracting as well as more than 200 local business representatives with the chance to meet members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other military agencies, in addition to prime contractors.

According to David Wojciechowski, Fort Worth District contract specialist at the Fort Bliss Program Office, most of the attendees were interested in sub-contracting work.

"I let the contractors know what it is we're doing out here, who to contact and what would best suit their needs based on their capabilities," said Wojciechowski.

Many attendees were interested in knowing if their services or type of business were in demand by Fort Bliss or prime contractors, in addition to finding out how they could market their business on or to the expansion program.


According to Zenia Hernandez, civil engineer and project integrator for the Fort Bliss Program Office, a list of current prime contracts with contact information and a listing of product line



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Zenia Hernandez and Camile Wilson, Fort Bliss Program Office, field questions from local contractors at an Industry Day. Hosted by Fort Bliss in the Centennial Club on Biggs Army Airfield in April, the event was organized by the El Paso Small Business Consortium.

district websites was provided to attendees.

"In addition to the contractors, El Paso Community College played a great role in making connections between the contractors and local community," said Hernandez. 

Special uniform making comeback in Iraq

Deployed Corps civilian's attire helps bring joy to Iraqi children

Cheri Drago-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

His uniform had not been seen in Iraq for years. Nonetheless, troops from around the world recognized it right away even though it was not a military uniform. In May, the man wearing it turned his 38-year passion into action on behalf of 16 boys in Bagdad when he helped organize what may be Iraq's first ever Scout Pinewood Derby.

Ralph Allen, division counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division, along with other volunteers deployed in Iraq, are helping Scouting secure a new foothold. When not deployed, Allen is an attorney for the Corps' Little Rock District. In Iraq, he is actively sharing his decades of experience from the American Scouting Movement.

The attorney took his Scout uniform to Iraq in November 2007, and he has been using his spare time reacquainting Iraqis with scouting activities, such as the May 8 Pinewood Derby at a school near his compound. Race day was a sight to behold.

"The Iraqi boys were totally taken up by the excitement of the races, and there never appeared to be any disappointment that I saw," he continued. "The boys would cheer and shout the name of the winner and many times mob the winning boy or even lift him up into the air for a short celebration. They treated the winner of each race like he had just kicked the winning goal in the World Cup Soccer finals.

"I always thought American kids had energy," Allen declared. "But all these Iraqi boys were like mini tornados. They were in perpetual motion and just exhausted our group and the interpreters. We had great interaction during the derby. It was a great success."

Allen said that although their parents were happy and willing to get the boys involved in scouting, during the race it became obvious the boys made the cars themselves.

"There were 16 cars, and two of them were just below or at the maximum weight. The other 14 were grossly under



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District
While in Iraq as Gulf Region Division counsel, Little Rock Lawyer Ralph Allen weighs Iraqi boys' cars before the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby he helped organize in May.

weight," Allen said. "Five ounces is the weight we wanted to be close to, and some of the boys had carved their cars down to 1 or 1.5 ounces."

Allen noted they were unable to find scales for the event, but because of his Scouting experience, he was able to improvise a scale with a metal bar from a filing cabinet and a large paper clamp in the middle for a fulcrum. Placing each car at one end of the bar and 28 nickels at the other end, he added weight to the car until it balanced with the coins.

Since the Global War on Terrorism is in full swing in Iraq, there are special challenges with stability, safety and security.

"We don't have a problem getting kids who want to join," Allen said. "But we always have to worry about security and the safety of the kids." He added that security can actually slow down a lot of projects and planning.

"For example, if kids are bused into the International Zone, it may take them and the Scout leaders one hour or more to get through the checkpoints to attend a special program," he explained. "Safety is always an issue. Yet, both in and outside of the International Zone, there is so much to see, explore, and places to hike and

conduct scout activities; but we can't plan trips to most localities since the danger level is still so high."

Allen said there wasn't any shortage of volunteers for the Pinewood Derby event, despite the dangers associated with traveling in the area.

"When we asked, many Americans were willing to give up a few hours of pay or free time to help with the derby," he said with pride. "Even the Iraqi civilians want to help, and a few have even made small monetary donations. They don't mind since they know all the money and assistance we raise goes toward the boys and girls of Iraq. I can show you pictures of the smiles on these kids faces and that makes it all worth while."

Scouting was banned under the former Saddam Hussein regime after the first Gulf War and is absent from Iraqi communities where it was once strong.

"During the 12 years scouting was banned, a whole generation of kids never saw, heard or had a chance to experience the positive sides or opportunities of scouting," Allen said.

See *Pinewood Derby* on page 10

Pinewood Derby

Continued from page 9



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District
Iraqi boys enthusiastically cheer during the Boy Scout Pinewood Derby held at one of their schools recently. Scouting is making a comeback after a 12-year ban under Saddam Hussein.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District
Ralph Allen congratulates Youisif on his win for his most amazing car design.

“Helping others, building self-confidence or teaching leadership were not things the old regime wanted in Iraq. It especially didn’t want an outside world organization having direct contact and sharing ideas with the youth of this country.”

Not so now. Volunteers like Allen are assisting Iraqi adults, some of whom were Scouts in their youths, in re-establishing Scout councils. One council has been established in the Green Zone. International relief workers are assisting Iraqis in the north. But Allen said they are careful to “step back” and let the Iraqi adults establish and run their programs.

“We want the Iraqi Scouting program to be just that, a Scouting program run by and for the Iraqi boys, girls, and adults,” he said.

The derby was not the only place the attorney has worn his Scouting uniform. He has donned it a few times just to see the reaction it would get. It was more than he hoped for. He said it was fun to wear it to dinner and places where there are foreign troops. The Canadians, Brits and Australians easily recognize the scout uniform and talk about their own experiences in scouting.

The reaction was mixed among Iraqis. He explained that many men and women in Iraq have been involved in scouting, so for them, the uniform is a conversation starter. However, many Iraqi troops do not know what type of uniform it is.

“When I explain, they laugh and ask if their kids or younger brothers can join,” the attorney said. “This is the same reaction I get from Iraqi civilians; they want to know more about the scouting movement and how they can help others to join.” 🇮🇶



No Summertime Blues for the Fort Worth District

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

I'd like to begin by congratulating all our Engineer Day Award recipients for their achievements in 2007. I want to also commend those who received Length of Service Awards for their dedication to country and Corps; you are all an integral part of this team whether receiving a 5-year certificate or your 40-year pin.

Our 2008 Recreation Season is in full swing and we experienced the busiest Memorial Day and July Fourth Weekends we have seen in a while. According to reports from the lakes, this may have been partly due to the rising cost of gasoline, which is keeping the recreating public closer to home.

Although we were still dealing with damage to many of our recreation areas caused by the floods of 2007, we were able to reopen many of the affected parks as we drew closer to the recreation season. Some still have limited facilities and others are fully operational again.

The Corps, in cooperation with our water safety partners, will continue to put out our safety messages this summer by personal contacts, signage, publications, our web site, and other media venues. Just as wearing your seat belt while driving, wearing a life jacket when around the water can save your life. Please remember, nothing is more valuable than a life.

Along with recreation, we must keep in mind we are in hurricane season, and must be

prepared to answer our Nation's call in the event of a hurricane. Anyone wanting to volunteer in support of recovery operations should contact Paul Krebs or Sherry Christopher to ensure the Emergency Management Office has your current information.

As far as our military projects go, the Fort Bliss "Troop Ready" Program is being considered a major success. Instead of turning over facilities at beneficial occupancy to the Director of Public Works, we are turning the facilities over to the troop commanders. Our quality assurance staff is working with the installation fit out contractors such as furniture

When drought or flooding does occur, we are scrutinized every time we make a change to our lake operations. Let's continue to be successful in getting the right messages across. Remember, it's not only the Corps story; it is your story too.

and information technology contractors in completing the facilities, similar to the private sector.

May and June were critical months for the Fort Bliss Expansion Program. By the end of June, the first battalion set was turned over to the troops. The Bliss Team and the onsite contractors are working fabulously to ensure facilities are troop ready!

I also want to commend all of you for keeping our image positive in your communications with the media. The news has been good, thanks to the media training many of you have

had and the dedication and professionalism of our Fort Worth Team members. Many of our activities draw media interest and we have to be ready to articulate messages on any number of topics ranging from routine to complicated and sensitive.

Recreation will continue to be a key topic as will permit issues and our many projects. One severe storm system could put us into disaster recovery operations. When drought or flooding does occur, we are scrutinized every time we make a change to our lake operations. Let's continue to be successful in getting the right messages across. Remember, it's not

only the Corps story; it is your story too.

As we continue to tell our story here, let's not forget those abroad. Check out the new updates on the deployment board on third floor. After recently meeting with deployed team members, I'm looking to find out what more we can do as a

District and what I can do as your commander to better support our deployed personnel and their family members.

Don't forget to visit the District's website for more valuable information for everyone on water safety messages as well as rules and regulations, facility closures and hours of operation.

As always, remember we are in the 101 critical days of summer, take time to ensure safety is paramount not only at work, but at play with your family and loved ones. 🇺🇸



Media relations ...

Three Rivers Regional Office Project Manager Toni Rushing spoke with Congressman Chet Edwards and several members of the media at Airport Beach Park on May 29 regarding repairs and opening dates around Waco Lake. 🇺🇸

Mike Mocek - Fort Worth District, Corps Legacy

Deputy District Engineer retires after 40 years of federal service

Judy Marsicano and Clayton Church
Pacesetter Staff

Mike Mocek is a giant among men. Not an easy statement to make, but one that is firmly embedded in 40 years of service to his country and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. With the exception of the five years he spent in the Albuquerque District, all have been with the Fort Worth District.

Raised on the family farm in Seymour, Texas, Mocek received a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering and a master's degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University. He joined the Fort Worth District in August 1971 beginning a legacy of many accomplishments, an uncanny ability to learn from and build on his experiences and to encourage and teach those around him.

Mocek is retiring as the Deputy District Engineer and Chief of Programs and Project Management Division for the Fort Worth District, responsible for the management and oversight of the Civil Works, Military and Support for Others programs and projects. He ensures projects are effectively managed for scope, quality, budget, and schedule, and he supports the civil works and military programming processes by providing budgetary input for Administration and Congressional actions.

Being the first to fill this senior civilian position at the District level was not without controversy. During an interview several years ago for the District history report, Mocek said, "when the office was created, some felt I was over scribes and tattletales. Project management continues to change and we are still struggling today with challenges of focus for the Project Delivery Teams, making progress awfully, awfully slow."

Over the years, Mocek's direction and dedication have been instrumental in ensuring the Fort Worth District has the staff and the resources needed to meet the critical water infrastructure needs of the citizens of Texas. Among his most noteworthy projects was the construction of the District's last three reservoirs--Joe Pool, Ray Roberts and Jim Chapman Lakes. Currently, he is overseeing the highly visible and controversial Dallas Floodway Extension Project, comprehensive cost-share watershed studies in the Trinity River, Lower Colorado River, Nueces River, Sulphur River, Brazos River, Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins and numerous other single purpose studies in Texas.

An example of Mocek's work with a major civil works project comes from the Upper Trinity Watershed Program Manager, Gene Rice, who writes about work on the project. "The most recent challenge was the continuing coordination and cooperation with the City of Dallas and other state/federal agencies on the on-going Trinity River Project in Dallas," he said. "This includes many meetings with City officials (mayor, city council, city manager, and staff) and officials from other agencies, in an effort to keep the project on schedule and moving forward. Mike understands the fine line of working with a sponsor to achieve their goals and wishes, while still conforming to the regulations and guidelines of the Corps."



Michael J. Mocek

The District also has extensive involvement in support of the military, in the design and construction of facilities such as barracks, family housing, training and aircraft facilities, schools, childcare centers, clinics and hospitals. Current District projects at 17 active installations in Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana include the multi-billion dollar base realignment and closure work in San Antonio and the Fort Bliss Expansion Program in El Paso, in addition to the typical military construction projects. Mocek provided exceptional leadership during design and construction of the 475-bed Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Completed at a cost of \$238 million, BAMC is the largest military hospital in the world and serves an estimated 1.1 million patients annually.

Mocek led the 4th Infantry Division Modularity program, valued at nearly \$89 million, which provided both permanent structure renovations and new temporary construction for Soldiers at Fort Hood. Unlike other modularity initiatives, Fort Hood's action covered the entire installation with an unprecedented schedule and project scope. The project "shoe-horned" a newly organized 4th Infantry Division Brigade Combat Team, consisting of an additional 4,200 Soldiers into the existing 4th ID footprint on the main cantonment area. Under his mentorship and leadership, the PDT overcame extraordinary funding and scope of work issues so that the initial contract could be awarded.

See *Mocek* on page 13

He was a leader in establishing the Architect-Engineer Resource Center (now the Engineering and Construction Support Office), which provides “one door” USACE support to the Department of Homeland Security. Through the ECSO, the District supports facilities management, including planning, environmental, design, and construction, utilizing many other Corps districts nationwide. Since the inception of this support office in 1997, the Corps has performed over \$1 billion in services.

Mocek chairs the Fort Worth District Commander’s Advisory Board, and oversees and supports the Fort Worth District’s Project Review Boards. In this capacity, he provides regional leadership and implements action plans to achieve the goals and supporting objectives of the Corps Strategic Vision, the Southwestern Division Campaign Plan, and the Fort Worth District Operations Plan.

Although he has received many accolades from people over the years for his ability to listen, understand and encourage them through the challenges, Mocek is most dedicated to the accomplishment of mission and satisfying customers. He is insightful and knowledgeable of not only Corps processes but is astute when dealing with the sponsors, stakeholders and elected officials. Almost every Corps project has some controversy and challenges, but his ability to recognize strengths in people and his willingness to listen, brought resolution to what was perceived to be a problem.

General Manager Suzanne Scott of the San Antonio River Authority explained one on-going project this way. “Mike and I (and the previous GM Greg Rothe) have worked through many challenges on the San Antonio Channel Improvements Project. We have worked through preconstruction, engineering and design and project cooperation agreement execution issues, funding issues, project scheduling issues, etc. A project with as many moving parts as ours has and will continue to present challenges,” she said. “Mike has worked with us to move through each hurdle....some easier than others!” she added, “He has

always shown that his heart was in the right place. Even when issues have gotten contentious, I always knew that Mike was working through the challenges with integrity, attentiveness and determination. He is a man of honorable character who often had to navigate through rough waters, but did so with loyalty to his people and the Corps and respect and appreciation for the desires of the local community.”

Charissa Kelly, project manager for the \$23.4 million Mission Reach ecosystem restoration in San Antonio, gave another view of Mocek’s ability to provide wise counsel and advice. “It

would be as if you are trimming a tree branch swaying in the wind that is about to break, and Mike is there watching you to ensure the limb holds and the safety lines are still in good shape. His retiring is a big deal to me. He always listened intently and ensured you left his office feeling better.”

To further illustrate Mocek’s lifetime contributions, his diplomacy, exceptional competence, leadership and sense of duty, he was selected as the USACE Civilian of the Year in 2005.

In response to his selection, he said, “I truly believe that the Civil, Military, and Support for Others projects we

deliver are important to the people of our Nation. We add value to this country and no other public or private organization, in my opinion, could do better.” He added that it is practically impossible to single out one “outstanding” Civilian in an organization of more than 35,000 employees doing great things all over the world. “In that light, I will be honored to accept this award on behalf of the many, outstanding Civilian members who make the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers such a great organization.”

Mocek has truly set the standard for all Corps team members to emulate and his record stands as a testament to his dedication to duty and public service. He is leaving a legacy for the generations to come and we wish our mentor, leader and friend the best in retirement. 🏠



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District
Col. Christopher W. Martin, Fort Worth District commander, presents Michael J. Mocek, deputy district engineer, his official retirement certificate.

Tulsa District embraces Family Readiness Group

Col. Anthony Funkhouser
Commander, Tulsa District

Welcome to the new recurring section of the *Pacesetter* where we'll discuss what we are doing in Southwestern Division and USACE regarding the Family Readiness Group. Last February, USACE hosted a FRG conference to identify challenges of Department of Army Civilians who deploy, and their families. One of Lt. Gen. VanAntwerp's priority objectives in the Campaign Plan is to "Establish human resources and family support programs that enhance deployability and quality of life."

My wife and I were fortunate to attend with Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kerr from Tulsa to represent SWD. The conference broke into work groups and identified a number of concerns including:


- No pre-deployment Standard Operating Procedure for employee or families
- No standard support source for families
- No trained support personnel
- Standard not understood for casualty notification
- No single USACE point of contact for casualty management

- No standard casualty management system
- No USACE Army Family Action Plan to resolve issues
- No USACE representation at DA Army Family Action Plan or General Officer Steering Committee
- No standard access/portal for USACE personnel

At the conclusion of the conference, Gen. VanAntwerp pledged to make this a priority. As a result, USACE has established four Project Delivery Teams:

- Army Family Action Plan
- Pre-Deployment
- Deployment/Post Deployment
- Casualty Assistance

SWD is part of the Army Family Action Plan team for USACE, and we also have a team that is developing a recommended SOP for employees and their families. We will be consolidating your concerns and addressing them here and at the next DA level AFAP meeting.

Tulsa District has been spotlighted for its updated website for deploying personnel, and it will continue to improve with your feedback. Also of note, SWD has assigned Ms. Holly Taylor as Family Readiness Coordinator; her role will be defined in the coming months. Please pass on any recommendations or subjects you would like to see discussed here or in our AFAP PDT. 

Corps revitalizes participation in the Army Family Action Plan

Anna Marie Cox
Special to the Pacesetter

The Army Family Action Plan is a grassroots process identifying issues of concern to America's Army Family. The program gives everyone in the Army--Soldiers and Civilians, as well as Family Members--the opportunity to influence quality of life and standards of living. Through this process, issues requiring action are prioritized, given measurable objectives for acceptable change and assigned to a lead agency to be worked.

In the late 1970s, Army spouses wanted to improve on the standard of living for their families. They realized they would have to get organized in order to accomplish this. They brought light to problems, suggested ways to resolve them and then volunteered their efforts to fix them. These community-minded spouses, and their commitment to a good standard of living within the Army, formed the beginning of AFAP. The AFAP was formally adopted at the first Army

Planning Conference in July 1983, and the Army Family Action Plan was published in 1984.

Issues that affect everyone at the local activity or the Global Army are good AFAP issues - whether they are of interest to Soldiers, Families, or Civilians. The focus should be on improving facilities, changing policy or regulation, and just making things work better for everyone. Issues may be on pay and allowance, readiness, retention and training, single Soldier issues, Permanent Change of Station moves, medical, dental, schools, childcare, PX/BX, Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, and volunteers. AFAP issues should focus on improving the quality of life for everyone, not just one person's "Pet Rock."

Examples of past successful Army-wide AFAP issues are:

1. Increased dental benefits for both the Active and Reserve components, and expanded dental insurance for Reservists — effective in February 01, Reservists may enroll in the TRICARE Dental Plan.
2. Thrift Savings Plan for Soldiers.

3. Stabilization for Soldiers with family members who are high school students.

In the recent past, the Corps has not been active in the AFAP process, but as a result of the recent emphasis on Family programs, we are beginning an effort to revitalize our participation. Watch for articles in the *Pacesetter*, *Engineer Update* and other publications for more news and begin thinking of issues you may want to submit!



“What can we do better?”

Fort Worth District commander meets with former deployed personnel

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

Fort Worth District Commander Col. Christopher W. Martin recently hosted a face-to-face and video teleconference meeting with team members who have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism. “I’ve been meaning to host a meeting like this for a while,” said Martin. “I want to know what we need to do better as a District and what I can do better as a leader for the folks that support GWOT.”

The group spoke openly about their willingness and hesitancy to deploy, what their expectations were, and what they liked and disliked about their deployment. “I felt like I was accomplishing something,” said Ray Schuler, Engineering and Construction Division. “I’m glad I went.”

Many members of the group commented that shortly after 9/11, it was clear as to what professions were needed for deployment to fulfill the Corps of Engineers missions. “In the beginning, ENLINK taskers were sent out regularly and a lot of the employees were aware of what the needs were,” said Mark Simmons, Programs and Project Management Division.

Now that deployments are voluntary, many in the group voiced concerns that it is unclear as to what professions were needed to fulfill the missions. “I learned of opportunities from people that had already deployed,” said Lauren LeCren, Planning,



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Col. Christopher W. Martin talks with District team members who have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism to learn what support from the District would have helped them during their deployment.

Environmental, and Regulatory Division.

The group also agreed that the deployment environment is not what it used to be. “The picture that is painted by the media is not what we were experiencing over there,” said LeCren. “It is dangerous over there but it is also a really rewarding experience and there is a lot of good work being done.”

Col. Martin asked what the District could do to make deployments easier for the team member going and for their families. While many agreed that a group support system was a good idea, many said that they felt they needed a mentor before deploying.

“Our families, for the most part, have

support systems in place,” said LeCren.

“I think it would be good to prepare the person for their deployment so they can prepare their family,” said LeCren.

Martin wrapped up the meeting by thanking the participants for their time. “We have a lot of work going on in the District,” he said. “We have missions that we cannot fail on but we still must support GWOT. We need to do a better job as a District of talking about the real mission and getting the Corps story out. Thank you for meeting with me today and being so open and candid. Learning from our experiences is a great way to learn how we can do better.”

Galveston District deployees return from flood recovery efforts



Several Galveston District employees recently returned from a deployment to Iowa to assist with the flood recovery efforts there. The members, who are part of a Corps of Engineers Commodity Planning and Response Team, joined with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support a Joint Field Office and provide training to the State of Iowa on setting-up points of distribution for bottled water in affected communities. Pictured from left: Karl Brown, ocean engineer, Navigation Branch; Dan Williams, project assistant, Bay Area Office; Cheryl Jaynes, regulatory project manager, Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch; Franchelle Craft, civil engineer, Bay Area Office; Fredalyn Colston, program analyst, Programs Management Branch; Gary Stangeland, civil engineer, Emergency Management Office; and Mike DeMasi, civil engineer, Bay Area Office. Not pictured is Steven Rodgers, realty specialist, Real Estate Office.



Tulsa District ... leaving a legacy

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

As I write this column, I reflect on the last year and the importance of our mission as stewards of our water resources and maintainers of its infrastructure. In the last 12 months, the Tulsa District has sustained multiple record setting floods, tornadoes, and ice storms. The cost in lives and property has been high, but without our dams, levees, and emergency response, the cost would have been exponentially higher. I have found the dedication and professionalism of our team to be extraordinary, and I just want to say thanks for your efforts to take care of our communities during these tough times.

In June, we were three quarters of the way through the fiscal year which means the pace is about to pick up. Our parks are open for the recreation season, we continue recovery from the floods and weather events, our military construction continues to expand, and we continue to award contracts and prepare the FY10 civil works budget request while we close out this year's budget, etc., etc. Needless to say, everyone is extremely busy and trying to do the best they can. I want everyone to remember that no matter how much we have to do, safety is our top priority. Everyone is a safety officer, and we need to check on our buddies to ensure we are doing everything safely. That also extends to the public who use our facilities. We must continue to emphasize safety while we do our jobs and care for our communities.

Although we continue to deal with and support emergencies that occur in our District and Division, we are proud to announce we have completed the FEMA construction and technical services mission at Greensburg, Kan., as they recover from the devastating tornado. This mission consisted of designing and constructing an 18-acre evapotransmissive landfill cover over the tornado debris portion of the construction and debris landfill. The team included Pete Navesky from the Emergency Operations Office, Project Manager Terry Murphree from HTRW Design Center, Daniel Foyil and Rick Hedrick from Contracting Division, and Roy Long, quality assurance representative. Great job!

Our Forward Engineering Support Team, led by Capt. Eric Fladie, supported Second Brigade Combat Team, Fourth Infantry Division, during their rotation at the National Training Center. All reports were positive, and great training was provided for all involved.

On our military programs side, the first four (of five) task orders have been awarded and will set up Fort Sill for the final portion of BRAC construction. The final task order was expected to be awarded in early June. A Training Aids Support Center warehouse project was awarded in early May and despite spiraling prices in steel and fuel, we are postured to award all but two of the nine 2008 projects by the end of September 2008.

Construction is progressing on the Fort Sill Restationing of the Air Defense Artillery School with completion anticipated in the summer of 2009. The relocatable buildings needed for the additional training load at Fort Sill came on line May 29 and will continue through mid-July.

The ribbon cutting for the Altus Base Civil Engineer Complex, Phase 2, was held May 8, and the beneficial occupancy of the Airfield Fire Station at Fort Sill was achieved May 12.

Civil Works had a great visit from Mr. Mike Fallon, director of programs, Southwestern Division, who provided remarks and recognized our Level 1, 2, and 3 program and project managers. Congrats to all! Mr. Fallon also attended a luncheon with our local officials and received a briefing on the Arkansas River Corridor Project.

We successfully awarded the third and final turbine on the Webbers Falls Powerhouse Rehabilitation project after overcoming a major issue on the Memorandum of Agreement among City Water and Light Plant of the City of Jonesboro, Ark.; Southwestern Power Administration; and the Corps.

We received approval from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) to advertise and award a continuing contract for the spillway excavation which is critical for the success of the Canton Dam Safety project.

We are currently working on five PL 84-99 projects in Oklahoma and Kansas repairing federal levees to condition existing before flood damages. They are located in Wichita, Coffeyville, Winfield, and Iola, Kan., and Jenks, Okla. All contracts have been awarded, and we are undertaking the repairs.

As always, Tulsa has a large number of employees who were nominated or received various honors and achievements, and I want to publicly congratulate them. The National Water Safety Congress presented Eugene Goff, Operations Project Manager at the Kansas Area Office, the President's Award during the International Boating and Water Safety Summit 2008 Awards Banquet in San Diego, Calif. Tom Skelton was our nominee for USACE Cost Engineer of the Year. During the Oklahoma Federal Executive Board Employee of the Year Awards Banquet, the following employees were recognized: Sandra Egan nominated for Outstanding Customer Service; the Military Construction Transformation Team nominated for Outstanding Team Efforts; and Gene Lilly won in the Outstanding Technical, Professional and Administrative, GS-9 and Above category. Randel Mead was recently selected to serve on an expert panel of consultants to review seepage issues for the International Boundary Water Commission, Lake Amistad, and Adam Crisp has been selected for a four-month developmental assignment at Headquarters as a project manager for military construction on the SWD Regional Integration Team.

Two of our engineers, Keith Rice and Daniel Morales, recently received bridge inspection certification from the Federal Highway Administration. Sue Morris from our Resource Management Office spoke in Boston at an American Indian program sponsored by the Defense Contracting Management Agency. She provided a very

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Students learn about wetlands at Arkansas event

On April 22, Tim Scott of the Little Rock District Regulatory Office, leaning across display, and Marc Fossett (with Sarah Chitwood), presented a program on Backyard Wetlands to students during Water Fest 2008.

This annual event was held this year at Fuller Middle School in Little Rock, Ark. District team members set up the Regulatory Office area with displays of aerial photography, site photographs, a small-scale water filtration demonstration and a wading pool that represented a wetland.

The wading pool included live hydrophytic vegetation and live small creatures such as dragonflies and mussels.

This was the fourth year the Regulatory Office has assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the Earth Day program for local schools, Scott said.

Each year the volunteer presentations have increased and other schools want to be on the list for next year.

"Most of the kids understood their local wetlands were great for hunting and



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

fishing, but they were interested to learn that there are other valuable functions of wetlands like filtering contaminants and acting as fish spawning and nursery areas," Scott added.

"One young boy was excited when we showed him a crawfish that came from

a wetland. He said he likes to eat them. I informed them that was another function."

The Water Fest event had at least 25 booths that demonstrated natural resource subjects such as bluebird trail construction, soil demonstrations, water safety, rain garden construction and wetland development. 🌿



Photo courtesy of Wade Moore

FORT BLISS ... HOME TO THE ORYX

Fort Bliss Contractor Wade Moore spotted this Oryx bull at mile marker 21 on highway 54 North just south of Oro Grande. "I was still on Active Duty and stationed at White Sands Missile Range when they brought the first 50 Oryx over from Africa," said Moore. There are now approximately 1200 in region. 🌿

Tulsa

Continued from page 16

insightful talk on the Comanche Code Talkers and received extremely positive feedback.

Our actions and achievements will be our legacy. I had the privilege of meeting with three previous Tulsa District commanders at the Joint Engineer Training Conference. Tim Sanford, Leo Flor, and Bob Suthard all extended their pride in the Tulsa District and wished everyone a great summer.

This year's Corps Day was very special as we had a special guest speaker. We were very excited to welcome retired Lt. Gen. Morris back to Tulsa District. Gen. Morris is a former Tulsa District commander and

Chief of Engineers. His legacy to our District is the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and so much more. He will speak to our employees, recognize a number with awards, and attend a Drillers' baseball game! We were honored and humbled to have him visit us.

Finally, I want to end with special thanks to our deployed team members. This month, I would like to recognize Melissa George from RMO who received a Department of Defense Certificate from Gen. Petraeus for process improvements! Well done, and I look forward to everyone's safe return!

Thanks again for all you do and have a safe summer! 🌿

Galveston District welcomes new deputy

Lt. Col. Ed Feigenbaum arrived in May to serve as the Galveston District deputy commander. Feigenbaum, a native of New York, comes to Galveston from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he served as deputy director of the Quality Assurance Office in the Maneuver Support Center.

“I’m really looking forward to meeting all the great people of this District and working with them to carry out our missions,” he said. “With all the new learning opportunities and experiences that the Corps has to offer, I know it will be a great assignment.”

Feigenbaum’s service spans a period of 18 years. He was commissioned through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Niagara University in 1990. After completing Engineer Officer Basic Course, he was assigned as a platoon leader in the 20th Engineer Battalion (Corps Wheel) at Fort Campbell, Ky., and later at Fort Hood, Texas, as part of the newly activated 1st Cavalry Division Engineer Brigade (Mechanized). Other assignments have included Headquarters 7th Army, USAREUR; company commander of Charlie Company, 82nd Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Bamberg, Germany; deputy G-4, Army Intelligence and Security Command; and assistant division engineer for the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood. He also served as the executive officer for the 20th Engineer Battalion (Mechanized), 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, which had the responsibility of Eastern Baghdad as its area of operations. During this assignment, Feigenbaum provided the necessary oversight for all of the support systems required to keep the

battalion combat ready as they conducted full spectrum operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

He also holds a Master of Science degree in Occupational Technology from the University of Houston. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Humanitarian Service Award, The Army Achievement medal with two oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, the Bronze DeFleury Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Air Assault Badge, the Parachutist Badge and the Sapper Tab.

Feigenbaum and his wife Erlinda and their two children will be living in the League City area.

“Though I am from a small town in western New York, I now consider Texas my home and I’m happy to be back here to live,” he said. 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Galveston District Engineer Col. David C. Weston welcomes new Deputy District Engineer Lt. Col. Ed Feigenbaum.



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Piece of cake!

Members of the Galveston District participate in a cake walk during a Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 9. About a dozen lucky participants took a cake home. Other events included a balloon burst and a la cucaracha dance. 🇺🇸

Water Safety Summit is rewarding experience

Little Rock District Park Rangers Allison Smedley and Alan Bland were among hundreds of people gathered to talk “water safety” during the 12th Annual 2008 International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in April in San Diego, Calif.

This conference draws boating and water safety professionals from all over the world, and Smedley and Bland joined them to learn new techniques in teaching water safety.

Both District employees learned a lot while attending the Summit.

“I’ve been very blessed to attend the last three Summits,” Smedley said. She has been the Southwestern Division representative on the National Water Safety Project Development Team for three years. “Every Summit brings new information, ideas and contacts. The first week back from the Summit, I took three great ideas and put them to work for the Russellville Project Office.”

The first Annual Water-Rama Festival conducted in Old Post Road Park benefited from one of those ideas. Six hundred fifth grade students took home a brown paper bag donated by Kroger. After attending Water-Rama, they went back to their classrooms to create posters on the bags, telling what they learned in their water safety session.

The top artist will win a new life jacket to be presented at his or her school at an awards ceremony at the end of the year. Kroger will then get those bags back for use in time for National Safe Boating Week.

“It is such a win-win idea,” Smedley said. “It doesn’t cost a penny for the school, the sponsor or the Corps. The kids are spotlighted, and we hope to catch some adult attention. These kids are great water safety advocates!”

Bland, as the Region IV vice president of the National Water Safety Congress, said he would like to see more Corps employees



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Don Harris, Fort Worth District, speak at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit, San Diego, Calif.

attend these conferences because there is a lot of information to be shared and learned.

“I have been fortunate to attend a majority of the Summits, first as the SWD representative on the National Water Safety PDT, then as a board member of the Congress,” said Bland, who works at Little Rock’s Beaver Lake. He said the small number of Little Rock District attendees was disappointing.

“We used to have six to 10 rangers and managers attend the Summit in the years past, but in the last three or four years, almost no one attends from our District,” he said. “It would be nice to see someone from each lake attend the Summits again because it is such a learning experience.”

Bland said boating and water safety is his passion, and attending the Summits is “always exciting.” He said he enjoys

seeing old and new friends, and he especially likes to meet new people from government and private industry who share new and exciting ways to promote water safety.

During the conference, the National Water Safety Congress awarded the SWL Water Safety Team with a Letter of Commendation for its water safety efforts. Smedley received the plaque on the team’s behalf.

Bobber, the Water Safety Dog, was there summit, too, where he and other SWD team members introduced his latest water safety cartoon, “Who’s your buddy?” The cartoon later won first place for Electronic Education in the Summit’s media competition. 🐶



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Galveston celebrates Earth Day - Bay Day

The 9th Annual Earth Day-Bay Day celebration was held on April 19 at Cole Park in Corpus Christi. This year’s theme was “Enjoying Our Bays & Habitats, Now and Forever!” The Galveston District’s Corpus Christi Field Offices represented the Corps by setting up the new District display and talking to visitors about our mission areas. Participating were Abel DeLeon, Paul Sandoval, Larry Ramos, Bert Troche, Abraham Reyes, John Wong, and Benito Posas. Pictured from left, Bert Troche, Abel DeLeon, John Wong, Paul Sandoval and his wife Phyllis. 🌊

Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base get regional transportation plan

Rumanda Young
Fort Worth District

Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base are vital to the economic health of the San Antonio metropolitan region. To prepare for Base Realignment and Closure expansion, the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Fort Sam Houston Directorate of Public Works, Lackland Air Force Base, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinated three transportation planning studies to identify BRAC impacts and improvement alternatives to transportation systems immediately surrounding the installations. These studies were important in that a national policy encouraged intergovernmental collaboration. These studies were conducted to not only enhance the transportation system as it related to Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base, but also to evaluate improvements as they related to, and impact, the surrounding communities and overall region.

In August 2007, the Fort Worth District contracted PBS&J to provide a comprehensive engineering study of traffic conditions at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In September 2007, USACE contracted Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. to complete a comprehensive engineering study for Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The purpose of these studies was to consider present, programmed, and proposed land use and transportation development scenarios with recommendations for both short-term interim solutions to present problems and long-term improvements to accommodate



Graphic courtesy of Fort Worth District

the BRAC improvement plans.

The purpose of these studies was to support future BRAC activities by providing a variety of multi-modal access and circulation alternatives to address the transportation needs of the installations and the surrounding communities. All studies were conducted using the same model format (Synchro) in order to understand the regional transportation impacts. The studies focused on three issues:

- Assess existing and future operating conditions under current access and circulation to determine existing and future shortcomings
- Develop a range of access/circulation improvement alternatives to address these issues
- Evaluate these options and work with stakeholders to prioritize the implementation of proposed enhancements

The City of San Antonio, Office of Military Affairs is participating in the development

of a Growth Management Plan, with the goal of preparing the community for the opportunities and challenges associated with BRAC related growth. The team(s) will evaluate impacts of traffic generated as a result of BRAC, including travel between the North and South BAMC Campuses, traffic on streets within neighborhoods around the installations, and construction traffic impacts on streets around Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base.

Throughout the planning process, the MPO, PBS&J and Michael Baker, Inc., sought input from the Fort Sam Houston area study team, in cooperation with the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, VIA, Fort Sam Houston and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) used the suggested solutions to develop a variety of area-wide

transportation improvement plans. To visualize the alternatives effects on the area's transportation system, the team(s) built a microsimulation model of the areas that is a 3-D representation of the improvement plans.

Combined, these transportation plans will serve to improve the installation's transportation system as well as the San Antonio regional transportation network. These studies also show intergovernmental cooperation between military installations and their contiguous community when planning for future transportation enhancements. 🌐



SWL's selfless service likened to Optimist Creed

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

I recently had the distinct pleasure of addressing the Little Rock Optimist Club. I was touched to stand alongside these great Americans and recite this creed with them: *Promise yourself... "to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind; to talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person that you meet; to make all your friends feel there is something in them; to look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true; to think of only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best; to be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own; to forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future; to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile; to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others; to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble."*

-The Optimist Creed, Optimist International®

Standing together in that room were men and women from all walks of life and all ages, united by a common desire to serve. It was fitting for me to be there, as I represent another organization equally committed to service - the Little Rock District.

The Optimist Creed challenges us to be positive and to make a difference in our Nation, our region, and in our communities. It challenges us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. It demands we look for ways to make a difference. This our employees do every day and for that commitment I thank them all.

This spring was a tremendous challenge for the District. I observed commitment by each member of our team to serve the public selflessly. Our project offices on the front lines communicated with the public and leveraged the capabilities and strengths of many in the community to save lives and protect property to the greatest extent possible.

Our hydraulic engineers flawlessly executed a complicated water control plan. Our geotechnical and structural engineers walked miles of levees and dams, providing technical advice to communities and pitching in to repair damage where it occurred.

Our emergency management and public affairs teams brilliantly communicated and coordinated with others to ensure our community partners understood how to seamlessly work together and make the best of some often dire circumstances. Countless others across the District contributed and worked long hours to get us successfully through this mission. They all have my greatest respect, admiration and appreciation.

We are now finally coming out of the rainy

I encourage each of you "to think of only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best." You will always get this in Little Rock District.

season but there are many additional challenges before us. We estimate more than \$50 million in damage to Little Rock District property as a result of this flooding with no immediate relief in sight. Water levels will remain high throughout the summer stressing an already heavily affected recreation industry.

In response, our project offices have coordinated with local communities to work together to restore recreation areas and ready whatever was possible as the recreation season arrived.

Our Operations and Programs staffs worked closely with SWD to prepare supplemental submissions that our congressional delegations wholeheartedly support. We have worked closely with state agencies and local

communities to develop strategies that maximize the recreation opportunities this season, despite the many challenges and constraints. In short, we will have a recreation season this year, a testament to the hard work of our Operations folks and the collective efforts of our community and states.

Memorial Day weekend officially opened the recreation season. Last year, District recreation areas hosted more than 30 million visits, which was eight percent of the Corps of Engineers total visitation at the national level.

While we have no idea what impacts the high water will have on visitation this year, we do know new hazards await visitors at each of our projects. High water levels have covered picnic tables, sign posts and other objects normally on dry land, presenting those as risks to boaters, skiers, anglers and swimmers. We will remain vigilant to these risks and do all we can to properly report these hazards in a timely manner.

High water closed numerous boat ramps, and I suspect folks will go to great lengths, using imaginative means, to launch their watercraft this year. As always, we will urge boaters to wear appropriate life jackets and refrain from using alcohol when operating vessels of any type. We are committed to the safety of our staff and to those who visit our parks, lakes

and recreation areas. Together, we will work to enjoy a safer summer despite limitations brought about by our record rainfall this spring.

In closing, I want to especially thank three members of the Little Rock District team who will have retired by the publication of this article.

Project Manager Jim Pfeifer has worked on a number of projects throughout the years, but he will be remembered as the lead for the Big Dam Bridge. That project, already a winner of several awards, recently received a 2008 Honor Award in the Environmental Category of the Chief of Engineers Design

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Employees Honored by Federal Executive Board

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

A Tulsa District employee has once again walked away with honors from the annual Federal Executive Board ceremony. This year's event was held in Oklahoma City in early May. The organization recognizes employees who best exemplify the outstanding qualities of federal service.

Gene Lilly, a lead planner in Planning and Environmental Division, was named Federal Employee of the Year in the Technical, Professional and Administrative, GS-9 and Above category.

Other Tulsa District employees were also recognized during the ceremony. Sandra Egan was the District's nominee for Outstanding Customer Service, and the Military Construction Transformation Team was nominated for Outstanding Team Effort.

Lilly was named as Federal Employee of the Year because he demonstrated leadership, innovation, and perseverance in

directing the Corps of Engineers Western States Watershed Study. He has led studies on riverfront development in Oklahoma City and Tar Creek, Okla., and is respected for his "outside-the-box" solutions. Those were again evident when addressing the complex water issues in the 17 western states included in the study. He used a shared vision approach, introducing collaborative planning to water issues covering the vast geographic area. His efforts have been instrumental to the success of the study.


According to the nomination, "Gene's intellectual and institutional entrepreneurship is not typical. He never accepts the status quo. He took risks of bringing together contentious stakeholders. He challenged standard practices and agency 'turf.' The study identifies bold initiatives that may significantly impact long-term water policy. Gene transcended his job description as a regional planner to deliver recommendations that will help meet water needs into the 21st century." 



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District
Gene Lilly, Planning and Environmental Division.




Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Pictured, from left, Capt. Christopher Collins, Galveston District, Nicholas Sherwood, 7th grade, Larry Dunaway, chief of Logistics Activity, Galveston District, Marianne Fullen, Logistics Activity, Galveston District, and Cathy Van Ness, school principal. Pictured with the computer equipment in the front row are Amar Harris, 6th grade, and Amjad Harris, 6th grade.

Galveston donates computers

Capt. Christopher Collins, Galveston District, presented excess computer equipment to Austin Middle School, May 29.

The donation included six laptops, seven desktops, six monitors, and several sets of speakers and keyboards. The Galveston District has been transferring excess computer equipment to local schools for many years under Executive Order 12999, Educational Technology: Ensuring Opportunity for All Children in the Next Century. The Executive Order streamlines the transfer of excess and surplus federal computer equipment to our Nation's classrooms. Earlier this year, Galveston District donated 11 computers to O'Connell College Preparatory School, and donated to Westbury Christian in Katy and Galveston Catholic School in 2007. Schools interested in receiving excess computer equipment from the federal government can register online with the General Services Administration's Computers for Learning at www.computersforlearning.gov. 

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and Environmental Award Program.

Steve Atherton, chief of our survey and data team, has been a tremendous technical expert and leader for the District. Like Jim, Steve has been involved in numerous projects throughout the years and has contributed to the collective successes of our navigation, hydropower, flood damage reduction and recreation programs.

James Montgomery, a realty assistant in Real Estate Branch, is closing his career with about 38 years of government service, to include 27 years

of active duty in the Air Force and 10 more years of civilian service.

Best of luck to each of you, and thanks for your many years of service. You will be missed. Now that school is out for the summer, I wish you a blessed time with your families, and hope your travels bring you in our direction.

Referring to the Optimist Creed again, I encourage each of you "to think of only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best." You will always get this in Little Rock District. 

Do you know Jack?

Oldest Corps employee calls Galveston District home

Martha Cencki
Pacesetter Staff

Kamikaze pilots and a still-smoldering Nagasaki. Sniper fire from the Viet Cong, decades before America was involved in Vietnam. The legendary World War II journalist Ernie Pyle. The rocket for the Apollo 11 moon shot.

A conversation with Project Manager Jack Otis, Galveston District's very own member of "the Greatest Generation," is full of these and other fascinating intersections with history.

Otis, who is a Project Manager in the Galveston District's Programs and Project Management Division, is the oldest employee in the Corps of Engineers at 85. And he has plenty of stories to tell.

A news clipping posted in his cubicle depicts the death photo of Ernie Pyle, whose news reports from the front lines kept Americans informed in a way not seen since. The clipping is there not because Otis knew Ernie Pyle, but that it brings back memories of their paths that *almost* crossed. As a young sailor aboard the USS LST 620, landing on the beach at Ie Shima, near Okinawa, in 1945, the first thing he heard was that Pyle had been killed there several weeks earlier. That was huge news in World War II America, right behind the news of President Roosevelt's death.

Otis fought hard to get into the Navy after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was motivated by his father and uncle who had both served in the Navy in World War I. His college studies in engineering—and his dean's insistence that he complete those studies—kept him on student deferment until graduation.

But after graduation, he soon found himself in the Navy, trained as an Electronics Technician's Mate in the Pacific theater. His duties included maintaining radio and radar, standing a radar operator's watch, manning ship to ship radio communications during General Quarters, plotting navigation courses for the Officer-of-the-Deck and, as he said, "any other duties as assigned."

That job description doesn't do enough to convey the amazing - and sometimes terrible - events that tied his life with a history that we associate with great movies.



Photo courtesy of Jack Otis

Jack Otis, second row, fourth from the right, in his class photo.

Take, for example, the B-29 Superfortress. Some may have seen a B-29 in a museum or even in an air show now and then. But during World War II, the B-29 was a mainstay in the Pacific. Otis saw them in action.

"The B-29s did their job," Otis said. "They were the best things we had near the end of the war. They flew out of Tinian Island and firebombed Japan, and then of course they dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

While the huge great loss of life from those two bombings stunned the world, Otis said that he believed the atomic bomb saved the war effort.

"It probably also saved my life," he said, "because we had orders to invade Japan in October."

Otis also has a searing recollection of that military bombing.

"When we went into Sasebo, the Japanese naval base, we saw that the B-29s had sunk several carriers and warships right in place," he said. "As we came up the harbor we could see all this, and that they had destroyed the infrastructure. We had to go 10 miles offshore to evaporate fresh water. I took a jeep ride with the communications officer, and we went up a wide shelf and then a road up to the top of a cliff. Suddenly, there were Military Police blocking off the road. Off in the distance was Nagasaki, and we could still see the smoke."

This was in October 1945. The "Fat Man" atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki two months earlier, on Aug. 9, 1945.

Also in August 1945, Otis remembers the great typhoon off Okinawa. LST 620 and

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many Navy ships were pounded by 40-foot waves that sank some of the fleet. Otis was ordered to restore radio communications after the antenna blew off the main mast. He crawled along the bridge with the antenna tied to his waist until he was able to fasten it to the mast, restoring the ship's communications.

Otis also remembers spotting large horned Japanese mines close to the ship's port side. He shouted a warning to the executive officer, who ordered flank speed to pull the ship a safe distance away. The executive officer then ordered the gunners to destroy the mine which exploded with a great water geyser near the ship.

Otis remembers too the Kamikaze pilots, the young men who flew their Japanese Zeroes—often laden with explosives, bombs, torpedoes and full fuel tanks—into Allied ships.

"They were similar to today's suicide bombers in a way," he said, "but there was something even more similar during World War II: the Japanese Soldiers would put explosives on our wounded and dead Soldiers, and when the medics went to help or move them, the Soldiers would blow up. Many of our service men were killed by that."

After the war ended, Otis took a trip to French Indochina—what is now Vietnam—as part of a mission to pick up Nationalist Chinese troops and take them up to Manchuria and Korea. As lead ship sailing up to Haiphong Harbor, the LST 620 encountered heavy fire.

"We took heavy machine gun and small arms fire," he said. "Everyone hit the deck, and I said to the French pilot, 'I thought all the Japanese had surrendered.'"

The pilot responded, "Those are not Japanese, they are Viet Cong." To Otis, that was a benchmark in his service.

After the war, Otis wanted to get a graduate degree, and he had the GI Bill to help him along.

"I didn't know exactly what I wanted a degree in, but Syracuse University was looking for graduate assistants in chemistry. So I thought maybe I would get a masters in chemistry. I decided on that road, and was teaching freshmen half the time and taking graduate courses the other half. But then I found out that most of the freshmen students were taking the course only because they had to."

He decided he didn't want to make a career out of it, underwent career testing and found out he would be better off as a manager dealing with people rather than nuts and bolts. So, he transferred over to the business graduate school and got an Master of Business Administration.

He started to work on his doctorate, but, because the GI Bill wasn't sufficient to take care of his expenses, he took a job with General Motors in 1951 and moved to Alabama and the world of aerospace.

It was in Alabama that Otis was part of the Boeing team that designed and tested the booster rocket for the Apollo missions, including the rocket for Apollo 11, the first moon shot. And it was in Alabama that he joined the Corps of Engineers family.

"I started with the Corps in Mobile in July 1971," he said, "and came to Galveston in May 1974."

He worked in regulatory (permits) for three years and then planning for five years. After that, he transferred to engineering, in part because there was an emphasis on military work and he had spent time in the military. He was assigned team leader for Mobilization Master Planning and military design projects.

The best job is often the one a person is in "right now," and Otis was recently promoted and works on the Matagorda Ship Channel deepening project, the MSC jetty rehabilitation, coastal surge modeling



Photo courtesy of Jack Otis

Jack Otis and his family on their way to church in 1966.

for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cedar Bayou and Greens Bayou, among other projects.

But the project he liked best (so far, anyway) was being part of the team that drew up the master plan for Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

"It was fantastic," he said. "We worked out the details to get the funding and plan for the facilities—dormitories, roads, buildings, hospital, everything."

"Fort Sam is very historical. We drew resources from engineering or planning or wherever necessary and of course worked closely with the post itself. It was such a worthwhile project. The Brooke Army Medical Center was part of the plan, and of course has since been constructed and now provides great medical support for our military men and women."

Another important project for him was his work for the Defense Environment Restoration Program, which focused in its early years on the identification, investigation, and cleanup of land impacted by decades of military operations and training activities.

"It was right up my alley," he said. "With my military background and my degree in chemical engineering, all the remediation efforts were something I really understood."

Over a period of about 15 years, Otis developed and wrote reports for 105 former military sites. SWG was funded to remediate about 21 and develop plans and specifications. The military sites were from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and even earlier.

"The oldest site was Fort Brown in Brownsville, and that was ancient history," he said. "Then in the Rio Grande Valley at the airport in Harlingen—well, that was Harlingen Air Force Base in World War II. There was a Naval Inactive Ship Storage Facility where the ships were decommissioned in Orange. In the Galveston area, Scholes Field was an Army Air Corps base in World War II, and there were fuel storage tank spills and contamination that we investigated and remediated."

Today, Scholes Field is Galveston's Scholes International Airport, home of the Lone Star Flight Museum. Some of the types of aircraft that were part of Otis' life more than 60 years ago sit in that museum. It brings full circle a life lived with such excitement, honor, and service by one of Galveston District's best. 🇺🇸



Galveston District ... moving in the right direction

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

The summer is upon us here along the Texas Coast, and our workload for the rest of the year is a fast moving train. By now, we have all enjoyed our celebration of Engineer Day, celebrating 229 years since Congress first established a Corps of Engineers. A day at the beach was memorable, but the highlight for me was our public recognition of our valued teammates, both for significant individual and team achievements and for significant milestones in government service. Each one of them is indicative of the talented, high-quality workforce we have here within the District and it was an honor to pay tribute to them.

The workload pace will quicken as the summer goes on. We have our normal load of challenging civil works projects to wrestle, and we are finally on the verge of constructing PF225 border fence projects in South Texas. Through a lot of hard work and effort, you have set the stage for success, and now it is time to bring it home through the remainder of this year. It will take all of us working together both within the District and across the region to execute all our mission requirements on time and to standard. Good, open and frequent communication across our organization, at all levels, will help us work through the challenges that lay ahead. Throughout this summer, we need to be

adaptive and open to new ideas while we focus squarely on getting the job done.

The Sabine-Neches Waterway PDT achieved a significant milestone when they delivered the draft Feasibility Report to HQ USACE right on schedule. This tremendous accomplishment resulted directly from their dedication of a lot of late hours, weekends and holidays. Thanks to everyone involved in this project!

We recently hosted Mr. Chris Kelley, a

satisfaction surveys back, and while we were not perfect, we did improve our scores from the previous year, so we are definitely moving in the right direction. It comes from each one of you doing your best every day to meet the needs of our sponsors in concert with executing our important mission. I challenge each of us to continue to communicate openly and often with our local sponsors as we work through the challenging issues that arise on each of their/our projects. They are an indispensable part of our team.

Lastly, hurricane season is upon us once again. While we can all hope and pray for another storm-less year, we cannot count on it! The District leadership is reviewing District procedures to ensure our readiness. We must

do everything necessary, both as individuals and as an organization, to ensure we are prepared to meet the challenges that may come our way. You must make sure your families are prepared with sheltering, and evacuation plans that match your individual situation and you must make sure your part of our organization is prepared to meet the District's responsibility to our region and the Nation. They are counting on us to get it right, and we must!

It is going to be an exciting summer. Work hard, play hard, and have fun! 🇺🇸

I challenge each of us to continue to communicate openly and often with our local sponsors as we work through the challenging issues that arise on each of their/our projects. They are an indispensable part of our team.

staffer from Congressman Chet Edwards' office, and gave him a whirlwind two-day tour of the Texas Coast. While the time was well spent educating Mr. Kelly on all the great things we do in the District, the most rewarding part of the trip was to hear every single one of our sponsors tell him that we have a great working relationship with all of them. As a civil works district, maintaining excellent customer relationships with our cost-sharing sponsors is critical to accomplishing our mission. We recently received our Fiscal Year 2008 customer



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Welcome to Galveston ...

Chris Kelley, left, staff member for Rep. Chet Edwards (Texas 17th Congressional District), poses with Corps of Engineers leaders during a recent orientation visit to the Galveston District. The visit included an aerial tour of projects, briefings at Port Authorities, and a visit to the Southern Area. Pictured with Kelley are, from left, William Wise, Galveston District chief of Project Management, Susan Hughes, HQUSACE and SWD Regional Integration Team member, Ray Russo, chief, Civil Works Integration Division, HQSWD, and Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. 🇺🇸

Reported damage thus far is extensive

The flood fight continues for another round

Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

(Note: This is the second part of the SWL flood story. Part 1 appeared in the April Pacesetter while the flood was still underway. That article focused on levees and SWL's actions to help affected communities. Since then, most SWL lakes filled while some exceeded capacity, and the flood fight shifted.)

The gloves came off in April at Little Rock District during the flood fight that first began in March. Extreme weather persisted, and the situation worsened. Records were set, homes flooded, lakes filled beyond capacity, navigation tonnage declined, shoreline vegetation began dying and recreation facilities closed through a major holiday.

Now the District is facing the aftermath of all that water, and several lakes still teeter near capacity. Most of the flooding occurred in the White River Basin. The six lakes within the basin, Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Clearwater and Greers Ferry, are operated together as a system to reduce the frequency and severity of floods. These lakes did their jobs well by reducing tremendous amounts of downstream flood damage.

"From March through May, we had record amounts of rainfall throughout the state," said Jan Jones, Little Rock's assistant chief of Hydraulics and Technical Services Branch. "But in the White River Basin, at Beaver Lake alone, we had 23.34 inches of rain during those three months, when we usually average 46.3 inches for the whole year. That's the way it was for almost all of the lakes in that system."

At one point, nine of Little Rock's 12 multi-purpose lakes were near, at or beyond capacity during this flood fight, and several set record elevations.

"Four of the (White River) lakes exceeded the set capacity levels, and spillway gates were opened to release the excess runoff coming in during heavy rain periods," John Kielczewski, White River System engineer, said.

"Since the rain came in such large amounts and happened with such frequency, water couldn't be released in between earlier events due to the already flooded conditions existing further down the river," he continued.

The lakes are designed to capture and hold upstream runoff during heavy rain. They did exactly what they were designed to do. Although to date, hundreds of homes have been damaged in areas below the dams, without the dams in place, flood damage would have been much higher.

"We opened the spillway gates at Beaver Lake six times and reached record high lake levels," Kielczewski added. "Unfortunately, once the lakes were full and the gates had to be opened, extensive flooding did occur right below the dams." Events like these are rare and people are learning that the lakes are not intended to and cannot prevent all flooding.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Spillway releases from Beaver Dam damage the fence and danger sign below the dam.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Table Rock Lake's Moonshine Beach suffers damage as the lake does its job capturing and holding as much rain and runoff as possible during recent record rains.

See **Little Rock Flood** on next page

Little Rock Flood

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Two lakes on tributaries to the Arkansas River, Nimrod and Blue Mountain, also exceeded the top of flood pool elevation and had water going over their spillway crests. Flooding issues around these lakes was limited to mostly agricultural lands rather than residential areas.

High water still exists at a number of lakes throughout the District and is not projected to drop to normal levels until late summer or early fall.

“Our forecasts put Beaver and Bull Shoals to reach conservation pool in early October, Greers Ferry in August, Table Rock in late June and Norfolk to empty by late September,” Deputy Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis said. “That is of course, barring any more rain.

“Because of the flooding, about 40 percent of our recreational facilities were not available for the Memorial Day weekend,” Lewis said. “Not only did the high water close and damage some of the facilities, it could destroy an estimated \$2,242,450 in timber on the public lands surrounding the lakes. “That continued high water has already inundated timber around the lakes for more than 45 days, which will kill large stands throughout the project,” she explained. “We could be looking at a bathtub-ring-like effect around our lakes next spring, when these trees don’t leaf out again.”

The high water and fast flows along the Arkansas River have taken their toll, too, as they continue to reduce barge traffic along the river. A monthly tonnage report on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System indicated more than two million tons of commodities moved on the system in January and February. When the rains came in March and continued through April, that total was cut in half when only one million tons of commerce came through.

Flows at times exceeded 320,000 cubic feet per second in parts of the river system. Along with the decline in barge traffic, the District is also facing dredging and bank stabilization work along the river once the flows decline to more typical levels.

Little Rock District is still collecting reports on the damage done to its facilities. So far, the District has put in for a supplemental funding request at \$50 million, but that may not be the end of it. 🙄



*Photo courtesy of Little Rock District
Part of a parking lot disappears near the Arkansas River down from Dardanelle Lock and Dam.*




*Photo courtesy of Little Rock District
Trees lining Beaver Lake are in danger of dying as they go longer than 45 days under water.*

Engineer Day 2008

Southwestern Division headquarters team enjoys Engineer Day activities

Some 80 staff and family members gathered at the Cedar Canyon Dude Ranch, Lancaster, Texas, June 13 to enjoy various activities, including volleyball, a dunk tank, horseshoes,

swimming, bingo, closest-to-the-pin golf shot, sack races and more. Participants also enjoyed a barbecue lunch. 



Maj. Greg Ramey, chief, Readiness and Operations Division, his daughter, Madison, 7, and son, Gavin, 4, display their colorful catch. His wife, JoAnna, missed the event because their 2-year-old son, Callen, was taking a nap inside the pavillion.



The Engineer Day activities were planned and coordinated by Leland Daniel, Charlotte Waldron, Holly Taylor, Virginia Satarino, and Linda Brzuszkiewicz, Recreation Association president.



Teams vied for prizes in volleyball and other events throughout the day.

Mike Fallon, director, Programs Directorate, winds up for a fast pitch toward the dunk tank bull's eye.



Bob Slockbower, director, Regional Business, awaits the inevitable plunge into the dunk tank.



Tulsa District celebrates Engineer Day



Louis Vogele, Employee of the Year

As program manager for Tulsa's civil works program, Louis Vogele is a consultant to the commander and others on all programming and budgeting aspects. The civil works program is an extremely complex system of regulations, laws, and automated information systems. In the year that he's been in this position, Mr. Vogele has done an outstanding job learning and has brought great leadership and guidance.

He maintains close contact with Southwestern Division and Headquarters on all phases of reprogramming and budgeting.

Mr. Vogele's exemplary work in developing the FY09 budget request, and his leadership in preparing briefing packets to defend the request have resulted in a significant increase in the number of congressional adds being discussed on Capitol Hill.

Larry Stringer, Engineer of the Year

Larry Stringer leads the way in the Canton Dam Safety Project and is also the first person consulted regarding geotechnical and materials issues for military projects.

He has a record of volunteering to assist beyond normal duty, especially in regard to supporting emergency operations during floods, and for emergency repairs from natural disasters. During the July 2007 floods in Kansas, he provided geotechnical assistance to the City of Coffeyville, Kan., inspecting and patrolling their levee into the early morning hours. He is a member of a Power PRT team for the Corps, trained to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency for operations in federally-declared disaster areas.



Dan Brueggenjohann, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Fritz Leadership Award

One of Tulsa District's most prestigious ways to recognize individual contributions to the organization is its own Lt. Col. Mark Fritz Leadership Award.

The award was established to recognize an employee who most clearly demonstrates those leadership traits exemplified by Col. Fritz who served as the District's deputy district engineer before his untimely death. He always insisted on excellence and was never willing to sacrifice the individual.

This year's honor went to Dan Brueggenjohann of Programs and Project Management Division. He is project manager for Tulsa District's most complex civil works projects, including Canton Dam Safety Rehabilitation, McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Deepening, Webbers Fall Hydropower Major Rehab, and several Operations and Maintenance infrastructure projects. Although the projects are diverse and require different sets of technical knowledge, each has been highly successful, largely due to leadership – team building, good planning, effective risk management, and commitment toward common goals.



Keen named SWL's Engineer of the Year

Tammy L. Moody
Pacesetter Staff

Nathaniel Keen of Little Rock District's Hydrology and Technical Services Branch was named the District's 2008 Engineer of the Year.

He earned the award because he was instrumental in some recent high-profile civil works projects.

Keen served as the lead hydraulics and hydrology engineer for the Arkansas-White River Cutoff Feasibility Study, the Jim Smith Lake Risk Assessment and Repair and the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System 12-foot Channel Study. Henry Himstedt, chief of the Hydrology and Technical Services Branch, praised Keen's work before presenting him with the award.

"Nathaniel always presents a positive, professional image and continuously demonstrates a high degree of individual initiative and leadership in every facet of his job," Himstedt said.

Keen, who has worked for the Corps for seven years, said he appreciates the award.

"It is very exciting to be marked among the other engineers on the plaque," he said.

"When I look at the names there, it is hard not to think about my hard-working colleagues, all of whom deserve to have their names inscribed there more than I do.

"I try to quantify my work in terms of lives saved from floods or dangerous navigation conditions rather than in hours at a desk, dollars earned or years of service. The Corps work is important, and it is our work."

An example of his work includes the Arkansas-White River

"I try to quantify my work in terms of lives saved from floods or dangerous navigation conditions rather than in hours at a desk, dollars earned or years to retirement. The Corps' work is important, and it is our work."

feasibility study where Keen developed a model to see how water flow was affecting area ducks and trees in their growing season. He also developed a method to compute the rate of soil erosion.

"The method he developed will serve as a demonstration model for similar projects," Himstedt said.

"His work also helped shape the District's environmental analysis in its study.

"Nathaniel does great work while simultaneously supporting, assisting, and helping others understand the technical aspects of hydrology and hydraulics within the Branch, Division, District and community," Himstedt added.

Keen is a registered professional engineer who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla.

He and his wife Audra have four children. 🌍



Nathaniel Keen conducts surveys for a project with the help of fellow Little Rock Engineer Scott Willis.



Photo courtesy of Tammy L. Moody
Nathaniel Keen receives the Engineer of the Year plaque from Henry Himstedt during Engineer Week activities in February.

Galveston recognizes 70 team members at Engineer Day

More than 70 members of Team Galveston were recognized at the 2008 SWG Engineer Day on June 13. Highlighting the awards were the Employee of the Year and Engineer of the Year presentations.

Employee of the Year is Rick Villagomez, project manager, Programs and Project Management Division, and Engineer of the Year is Mark McMahon, structural engineer, Engineering and Structural Division.

Villagomez has been a Corps of Engineers employee for 20 years. He is currently the program manager in the Programs and Project Management Division, overseeing the construction of the PF 225 border security fence on the Texas border in the Del Rio and Rio Grande Valley sectors, and is considered a national leader in that effort. In previous positions, he has been instrumental in the fielding of CEMS and was the lead program manager in the Galveston District conversion to the Project Management P2 system. He has also been project manager for Sims and Brays Bayous and Raymondville Dam. His efforts with the PF 225 border fence project have been lauded by senior leaders in the Corps of Engineers and the Department of Homeland Security.

McMahon, a Galveston District employee since 1994, is involved in the overall design and analysis of steel, concrete and wood structures and foundation systems of coastal and inland civil works and military projects. Among his many projects, McMahon was the lead structural engineer on the Wallisville Reservoir Texas Lock Rehabilitation and



Photos courtesy of Galveston District

Mark McMahon, structural engineer, Engineering and Structural Division, was selected as the Engineer of the Year. McMahon joined the Galveston District in 1994.



Rick Villagomez, project manager, Programs and Project Management Division, was selected as the Employee of the Year. Villagomez has been with the Corps for 20 years.

Construction of New Facilities project, and has been responsible for the analysis and design of various drainage type structures including Channel to Victoria Channel to Seadrift, Texas, Corpus Christi Ship Channel, and Galveston Harbor. He is also responsible for the analysis and design of various docks, including Fort Point Reservation, Brazos River Floodgates, Sabine Neches Waterway, Neches River Saltwater Barrier, and Colorado River Locks.

Also nominated for SWG Employee of the Year were LaVonne Collins, legal instrument examiner in the Regulatory Branch, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division; Maria Green, administrative assistant, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division; and Rick Medina, chief, Planning and Environmental Branch, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division. Also nominated for Engineer of the Year were Joshua Adekanbi, Mike Diaz, and Nancy Young, all from the Engineering and Construction Division.

Other awards include the following: Commander's Award for Civilian Service, Linda Fredendall and Maria Rodriguez, Contracting Division; Glenda Gallaway and Cindy Jones, Resource Management; and Dan Keys, Office of Counsel; Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Jacqueline Adekanbi, Curtis Cole, Lucille Smith and Angela Zahid, Contracting Division; Karen Adams, Resource Management; and Robert Peel, Volker Schmidt, and Betty Voelkel, Programs Management Branch. Regulatory awards were to Eugene Patterson, Team Work Award; Maria Patillo, Customer Service Award; and Cheryl Janes, Regulator of the Year.

Among the service awards presented was one for 40 years to Bill Hopkins, chief of the Project Operations Branch, Operations Division.

Following the awards ceremony, the Team Galveston family, including retirees and family members, enjoyed a picnic on Galveston's East Beach. 🌞



Bill Hopkins, chief of the Project Operations Branch, Operations Division, received his 40-year length of service pin.

SWL earns two Division awards

Little Rock celebrates Engineer Day with awards, picnic

In June, Little Rock celebrated the 232nd birthday of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with Engineer Day activities that included an awards ceremony and picnic for the District headquarters and several smaller events at projects throughout the District.

In Little Rock, District Commander Col. Ed Jackson briefly covered some Corps history and highlighted milestones in the District's 127-year history. He thanked the many employees who have deployed to support the Global War on Terrorism and pointed out that some have volunteered for multiple tours.

He focused attention on District happenings that have given him an unusual first year in command. As he focused on the spring floods, he thanked everyone for their hard work.

Kris Mullins, assistant chief of Programs and Project Management Division, served as emcee for the ceremony. The District Commander pointed out that she was preparing to deploy in support of GWOT. In her remarks, she noted that Engineer Day "allows us an opportunity to think about our future service to the Nation and to re-commit ourselves to public service.

She and the colonel then presented awards to numerous SWL team members.

Highlights of the awards are as follows:

50-Year Pin – Foster McConnell was the focus of a rare milestone for any civil servant when he was recognized for 50 years of service. McConnell's wife Shirley attended the presentation. When McConnell began his career with the Corps of Engineers in 1958, his favorite singer, Elvis Presley, was in the Army in Germany and Ike was president.



SWD/SWL Regulator of the Year - Sara L. Chitwood, an environmental engineer in Little Rock's Regulatory Office, earned both the Southwestern Division and Little Rock District

Regulator of the Year Award. Chitwood was a key member

on project delivery teams that developed the Little Rock Stream Mitigation Functional Assessment Method, adapted the Charleston Functional Assessment Method, and have addressed oil and gas projects that are a huge workload because of the Fayetteville Shale exploration.



SWL Engineer of the Year – Nathaniel A. Keen has been with the District for almost seven years and continually demonstrates exceptional engineering and interpersonal skills. He has developed innovative tools that better the Hydrology

and Hydraulics Community of Practice. He has contributed significantly to the Branch's ability to perform its mission. Keen holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri at Rolla, and he is a registered professional engineer in Arkansas.

SWL Project Manager of the Year – Craig Pierce serves as project manager for all projects within the Biggs Army Airfield Area at Fort Bliss. His energetic leadership style, enthusiasm, and willingness to mentor influenced the entire chain of command and civilian leadership within the region. His projects include child development centers, youth activity centers, fitness center expansion, general instructional facility, and air support operations squadron. Pierce also serves as program manager for the \$450 million BAAF Combat Aviation Brigade.



SWL Natural Resources Recreation Employee of the Year – Tommy D. Greenfield, a natural resources specialist at Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office, exemplifies Army

See **SWL Engineer Day** on next page

Engineer Day 2008

SWL Engineer Day

continued from previous page

and Corps of Engineers values in his work and day-to-day business with the public. He is committed to the protection and enhancement of our Nation's natural resources through wise management decisions and the furthering of quality recreational opportunities for the public.

SWD/SWL Stewardship Employee of the Year – Randy Becker (not pictured) District forester, earned the Stewardship Employee of the Year Award from both Little Rock District and Southwestern Division for exceptional programs and innovative efforts, utilizing limited resources in developing partnerships and furthering research. His work benefits forestry, wildlife, aquatic resource and data management programs. He has demonstrated considerable initiative, a high degree of professionalism, and a can-do attitude.

SWL Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees – Johnny Browko (not pictured) retired from Little Rock District in 1994 with 37 years of service. The geologist began his civilian career in 1957 and was involved with the rapid design and construction of the Titan missile program, which helped lead to the end of the Cold War. This former World War II Prisoner of War provided geological support during the development of the Arkansas River Navigation System, Conway Water Supply Dam, Clearwater Dam seepage study and spillway widening, Beaver Dam seepage

study and cutoff wall, Montgomery Point Lock and Dam, and many other projects. He mentored many geologists and engineers who would be the future of the Corps.

SWL Civilian of the Year Award – Richard B.

Huffmaster was commended for contributions to the Armed Forces Recruiting Facilities Program. His effective management allows the customer to focus on recruiting Soldiers for our Nation's defense. He meets each challenge with energy, enthusiasm and Army Values to ensure the customer gets the best possible facilities. In addition, he was commended for contributions to his community and his family. He helps make our community and workplace a happier and healthier place to live and work. 🇺🇸



**Engineer Day
Fun - Food,
bubbles,
bingo
and
more!!!**



San Antonio Joint Program Management Office heads to Canyon Lake to celebrate Engineer Day

The Joint Program Management Office oversees the Base Realignment and Closure construction program in San Antonio, Texas, and includes representatives of three services and several private-sector contractors. With an organization of this size, gathering employees and their families in one place requires a lot of planning ... and a lot of room.

The JPMO held a Organizational Day picnic at Canyon Lake on June 20 for about 200 people. The day included a barbecue lunch, a raffle, and a tug-of-war competition, along with other games.

JPMO Director David Thomas also took time at the event to recognize several individuals for their ongoing contributions:

Matthew Sargent- Named resident engineer for the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) Area Office that will lead the team that builds the SAMMC- North Tower.

Ricardo Gonzalez- Named resident engineer for the SAMMC Area Office that will lead the team that builds the structured parking garage and supervises SAMMC renovations.

Gary Jolley -35 Years of Service

Charles Cole -25 Years of Service

Roy Peer -25 Years of Service

James Bennett -25 Years of Service

Thomas Falk -25 Years of Service

Pat Selsor -20 Years of Service

George Cardenas -20 Years of Service

Curtis Evans -10 Years of Service



JPMO employees participating in the tug-of-war competition.



JPMO Director David Thomas recognizing (l-r) Matthew Sargent and Ricardo Rodriguez as being named resident engineers for the SAMMC Area Office.

Fort Worth District splashes into Burger's Lake for annual picnic

The Fort Worth District celebrated Engineer Day Hawaiian style at Burger's Lake, June 20. Team members enjoyed lunch, bingo, and swimming. Kid games were also incorporated this year and included the Wacky Tourist Relay Race, the Cactus Limbo, and a Hula Hoop Contest. The picnic is hosted by the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Association.



Above: Charles Webster and Mark McMurray, both of Office of Counsel, launch their boats in the build a boat contest. Webster's boat tied for first place with another Office of Counsel member's boat.



Left: Liam Walker, son of Jennifer and Stan Walker, Regulatory Branch, worked really hard to build this sandcastle. Seconds after the picture was snapped, a tsunami size wave carried by a sand pale destroyed the castle.



Below: Kids participate in the Cactus Limbo.



Right: Ali Marshall, Contracting Division, and her sons Davis and Winston, wore Hawaiian shirts for the picnic.



Family Fun Day

Neal Whitaker
Tulsa District

On Saturday, May 17, many federal, state, and local agencies, as well as volunteers, gathered to make Marion Reservoir a safer place. The Family Fun Day, conceived and coordinated by Park Ranger Traci Robb, was an effort to start the summer recreation season with public safety in mind.

Co-sponsored by the Corps of Engineers, Safe Kids Marion County, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the event also included the Marion County Sheriff's Department, Hillsboro Police Department, Marion Police Department, Marion Fire Department, and Marion County Emergency Medical Services. There were eight hands-on stations covering bicycle safety, child identification, water safety, and vehicle backing/car seat usage, among others. Approximately 150 to 175 people participated in the safety stations.

Campground and community volunteers served a noon meal which was donated by local grocery stores and businesses. Those children who completed all eight stations were eligible for a drawing in which a wagon and three bicycles were given away.

In addition, five KDWP natural resource officers provided courtesy boat inspections at three boat ramps and officers joined park rangers in Corps patrol boats to conduct on-water inspections. Approximately 80 to 90 vessels were checked.



Photos courtesy of Tulsa District
Above: Bobber the Water Safety Dog (Eugene Goff), Marty Ramirez and Traci Robb discuss proper life jacket usage.

Left: A youngster dons bunker gear with the direction of a volunteer firefighter.

Corps personnel who participated included Wyatt Cooper, John Fredrickson, Eugene Goff, Tory Hett, Alan Peters, Mary Ramirez, Traci Robb, Gary Simons, and Neal Whitaker. 🇺🇸

Water safety ... everyone's responsibility

Siblings model the new life jackets they received at the Annual Water Safety Fair held at Joe Pool Lake, June 7.



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

The North Texas Water Safety Coalition hosted its annual Water Safety Fair at Joe Pool Lake, June 7. During the Fair, parents and kids participate in hands-on water safety activities and receive a free life jacket. The Coalition is made up of local, state, and federal agencies that are working to raise awareness of water safety. 🇺🇸

American Society of Civil Engineers Texas Section ASCE Government Civil Engineer of the Year 2007 Award



George L. Williams

George L. Williams, P.E., civil engineer with the San Antonio Joint Program Management Office, Contract Administration Branch, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was recognized by the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers recently. He was recognized as the Government Civil Engineer for 2007 at the ASCE Spring 2008 Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, in April.

Williams is a registered professional civil engineer in Texas and a graduate of Prairie View A & M College in Prairie View, Texas, and the Army Basic Engineer Officer School.

He served as a construction materials officer in South Viet Nam while on active military duty with the Corps of Engineers in 1970 and 1971.

While working in private practice with engineering and architectural firms from 1971 thru 1986, Williams held the position of field surveyor party chief and structural/ civil engineering designer of over 250 projects. Starting his civil servant career with the Corps of Engineers in San

Antonio, Texas in 1986 as civil engineer, Williams has served as quality assurance representative, project engineer and office engineer during the past 21 years. He has worked on various projects at Lackland, Kelly, and Laughlin Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston.

Williams assisted with the establishment of the San Antonio Branch American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Younger Members Group in 1995, and participated on the National ASCE Diversity Committee from 1997 to 1998. He previously participated as member of the University of Texas at San Antonio College of Engineering Advisory Committee. He has enjoyed over 35 years of speaking engagements at middle and high schools with the purpose of encouraging grade school students to pursue a degree in engineering. He is an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and has served on the Diversity and Professional Development Committee and other committees with the San Antonio Branch ASCE.

Getting certified


Several project and program managers started the month of May by receiving official notification of their Level 1, 2, or 3 certification. Tulsa District has 31 program and project managers who met all qualifications for the next level. Mike Fallon, director of Programs Directorate in the Southwestern Division, joined Col. Funkhouser and John Roberts in recognizing them. Pictured from left, seated, are Cynthia Kitchens, Kathy Carlson, John Marnell, Mark Ellison, and Richard Bilinski. Standing, John Roberts, Michael Ware, Shane Charlson, Shawneen O'Neill, Mike Fallon, Bob Thurman, Eddy Mattioda, Kent Dunlap, Lt. Col. Bernie Thomson, Dan Brueggenjohann, Bryan Taylor, and Bill Smith. Not pictured, Maj. Lora Carroll, Mike Abate, Kevin DaVee, Kevin Weber, Eugene Goff, Ken Kebbell, Todd Hughes, Ramona Wagner, Louis Voge, Ryan Allen, Richard Alexander, Joe Custer, Clif Warren, Penni Walker, and Tim Hartsfield. 



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Restoration project benefits over 90 species of fish

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

A restoration project that is a first of its kind is nearing completion in Jefferson, Texas. The Fort Worth District and contractor BW Strayhorn are completing the first warm water ecosystem on the Big Cypress Bayou.

“This project has been about 12 years in the making,” said Duke Deware, of the Jeffersonian Institute. “The Jeffersonian Institute and the City of Jefferson are really excited about the project and our partnership with the Corps.”

The Big Cypress Bayou wraps around the southern part of Jefferson. The Bayou was once the habitat of paddlefish, a billed freshwater fish that the state considers to be threatened.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department used to stock the riverbed with paddlefish but found the effort was not resulting in a higher number of the species. Texas has protected the scale-less paddlefish since 1977. It’s illegal to catch, kill or harm the fish in the state.

The original spawning habitat was disrupted when the District impounded Lake O’ The Pines. “We are recreating a natural spawning area that was lost when we impounded the lake for flood control,” said Marcia Hackett, project manager, Fort Worth District. “This restoration project is one of the first of its kind in a warm-water flowing stream,” said Hackett. “The ecosystem will restore a natural spawning area for over 90 species of fish, including the paddle fish.”



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Workers prepare to drop a load of gravel into the Big Cypress Bayou. The restoration project will recreate a spawning habitat for 90 species of fish.

The ecosystem is being mimicked by placing different types of rock under water at strategic locations in an area marked above water on a grid system. The stones range in size from 1 to 8 inches in width. The gravel bars are 1,100 feet and 400 feet long, and range in width from 17 feet to 30 feet. They have a depth ranging from 18 inches to 24 inches.

“Once the gravel is placed in the river bed we can’t see the system, but the benefits will serve an entire region,” said Hackett.

The restoration site could not be accessed without the cooperation of local land owner Bob Sanders. Sanders donated the use of his land and allowed Corps personnel, contractors and over 2,800 tons of gravel on

his private property. “It’s a great project and I’ve been really pleased with the Corps and the contractors,” said Sanders. “Everyone has been very professional and I couldn’t ask for a better experience.”

This project is the first phase of a larger environmental restoration effort. The proposed plan consists of restoration of approximately 40 acres of bottomland hardwood forests, emergent wetlands, urban wildscape and instream spawning habitat.

“Our community is very lucky to have worked with the Corps,” said Deware. “We are looking forward to the completion of this phase and the beginning of the next phase. We’re just very lucky.”

Improvements net meeting with commanding general

Check It recognizes process improvements

Multi-National Force - Iraq Commanding General Gen. David Petraeus presents Melissa George, right, and Danny Huffman, below, with Department of Defense certificates in Baghdad on March 18, 2008.

The two Gulf Region Division Resource Management team members were recognized by the DoD Check It Campaign for process improvements that freed up \$831 million of Fiscal Year 2007 funding.

The funding was re-invested in critical items for Iraqi Security Forces. The action made possible by George and Huffman garnered the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq the first round of the Check It Campaign - Most Improved Process Competition.



Courtesy photos

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Melissa George of Tulsa District’s Resource Management Office is currently serving in the Gulf Region Division in Iraq. She recently was honored by Gen. David Petraeus with a Department of Defense certificate for process improvements that freed up \$831 million for reinvestment in critical items for Iraqi Security Forces.

George says it was an honor to receive the award from Gen. Petraeus. She is currently supporting more than 700 reconstruction projects as a program analyst for Economic Support Funds at GRD. She says, “I love what I’m doing at GRD. The work is fast paced and exciting, and I work closely with local nationals every day.”

Diane Fortelka, chief of Tulsa District’s RMO, said, “The Tulsa RM team is very proud of Melissa’s support to GWOT. We know she is gaining invaluable experience as she serves our Nation.”

Galveston District counsel earns U.S. Attorney award

Clark Bartee, assistant District counsel for the Galveston District, was presented with a commendation award by the U.S. Attorney Southern District of Texas, Donald J. DeGabrielle, in a Houston ceremony on April 24.

The award recognizes Bartee's efforts on a litigation involving Lafitte's Cove Nature Society in Galveston and the Corps of Engineers. Bartee's successful preparation of the argument of this case in the Texas Southern Federal District Court resulted in a determination that the Corps not only correctly met the requirements of the law, but had in fact exceeded them.

"Clark Bartee, Assistant District Counsel with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, has provided outstanding investigation and support in a very difficult, lengthy and highly controversial and well publicized Army Corps of Engineers, National Environmental Policy Act case in Galveston," according to officials with the U.S. Attorney's office. "Bartee took the primary responsibility for analyzing more than 10,000 pages of Administrative Record, organized and paraphrased the expert witnesses, and wrote all the factual arguments."

The case lasted almost five years. The Corps lost in the first round of the case in December 2004, but Bartee undertook coordinating the experts who revised the cumulative environmental impact



Clark Bartee, assistant District counsel, Galveston District, poses with Assistant U.S. Attorney Charmaine Aarons Holder.

Photo courtesy of Galveston District

analysis for the entire Galveston Island West End. He worked with the expert team to create new documentation to withstand the anticipated challenges in court, and crafted the briefing to present the Corps' complex position. Foregoing a training opportunity critical to his career advancement in the Corps, Bartee stayed with the case to see it through.

"Clark's perseverance, as well as placing the interests of the Corps of

Engineers above his own personal career interests, provides a great example of absolute professionalism," said Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. "His efforts have made an impact that will long be felt not only throughout the Galveston District, but also throughout the entire Corps of Engineers." 🇺🇸

Meeting keeps people informed



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Dawn Rice, technical manager, provided tours of the project via presentation boards. Here, she speaks with Canton resident, Troy Everett.

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

In early May, Tulsa District hosted an open house at the Canton Community Center to discuss the Canton Dam Safety Assurance Project with members of the public. About 40 people attended the open house and spoke one-on-one with Corps representatives.

Studies have determined that there are seepage issues and the potential for the embankment to be overtopped during a probable maximum flood event. Consequently, restrictions to the flood pool and authorized project purpose are in place while the dam safety project construction is under way.

The multi-year, multi-phase project includes construction of a new auxiliary channel spillway which will resolve the embankment overtopping deficiency. As a secondary benefit, the excavated channel material will be placed at the toe of the existing embankment to correct the seepage issue.

The open house was part of a continuing effort to keep the public informed on current and future activities for this project. Ross Adkins, public affairs officer, attended the meeting. "It was very well received. People left grinning," he said. 🇺🇸

Two thumbs up!

Galveston District's DeSoto makes movie debut

Martha Cenkci
Pacesetter Staff

It's a rare occasion when a lockmaster with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gets to be part of a major movie production with two famous actors. But that's just what happened to Galveston District's Colorado River lockmaster Simon DeSoto.

DeSoto was cast as an extra to play a part in the movie "Tree of Life," starring Brad Pitt and Sean Penn. The director of the movie was Terrance Mallick, the Academy Award-Winning director of "Thin Red Line" fame.

DeSoto went for a local casting call in Matagorda, Texas in March. He was one of about 175 other extras to be in the ending scene of the movie.

The shooting of DeSoto's scenes involved three days of intense concentration.

"I had heard of long waits on movie sets before, but the truth was brought home to me when my days started at about 5 a.m. and ended around 10 p.m. each day," he said.

"But it was worth it for the experience of working alongside Brad Pitt and Sean Penn—that was an experience I will never forget.

DeSoto said that Pitt was a very gracious person who interacted with all the cast members and took the time to converse



*Photo courtesy of Galveston District
Simon DeSoto*

with the extras and made an effort to have fun with the children on the set.

"In fact, Pitt had a conversation with my grandson on the set," DeSoto said. Two of DeSoto's grandchildren were also extras.

DeSoto was pleasantly surprised at the amount of camera time he got while filming. The director and producer used him many times by pulling him aside and giving him personal direction on exactly where they wanted him and specific

directions on where to be in certain shots.

"I will be fairly easy to spot in the movie," he said, "if I make it through the editing phase. I was one of only three people out of the 175 in a three-piece suit during filming."

DeSoto understands that sometimes movies are shot and the majority of the film goes on the cutting room floor while the editing of the movie takes place. But he holds out hope of his appearing in this major movie production.

DeSoto was also able to interact with other actors and actresses during the shoot. He has maintained contact with a couple of actresses who had major parts in this movie and he now has a desire, along with a few other extras that were in the movie with him, to pursue future movie work.

No stranger to the world of entertainment, DeSoto has been a radio disc jockey since the early 1990s and continues to work in the radio and video arenas with a local FM station in Texas and a video production company that shoots sports videos.

"Retirement could hold an exciting lifestyle for me in a few years if the right breaks come along," he joked.

"Tree of Life" will be released in 2009. So check out the Colorado River lockmaster Simon DeSoto in his movie debut. Not to mention checking out Brad Pitt. 🌟

STOP!

Field office personnel feel like hollering, "Stop!" as weather events -- one after another -- keep hammering the projects. As soon as volunteers, park personnel, and contractors get a park cleaned up from an ice storm, along comes a flood -- and so on.

This picture was taken in mid-April at Appalachia Bay on Keystone Lake, but scenes like this are being dealt with at many Tulsa District projects. 🌟



Photo courtesy of Raef Perryman

Broken Bow sets lake level record

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Broken Bow Lake in southeastern Oklahoma was very active in this spring's efforts to reduce downstream flooding. The lake started holding flood water on Feb. 17 and it still has water in its flood pool.

David Stewart, lead park ranger, said, "The flooding that occurred during March-April 2008 was, in fact, the flood of record for Broken Bow Lake. The normal pool elevation for the summer period is 603, and it crested on April 6 at 11:00 p.m. at elevation 626.30. It got close to the top of the tainter gates at the spillway but was still well under the top of the flood pool."


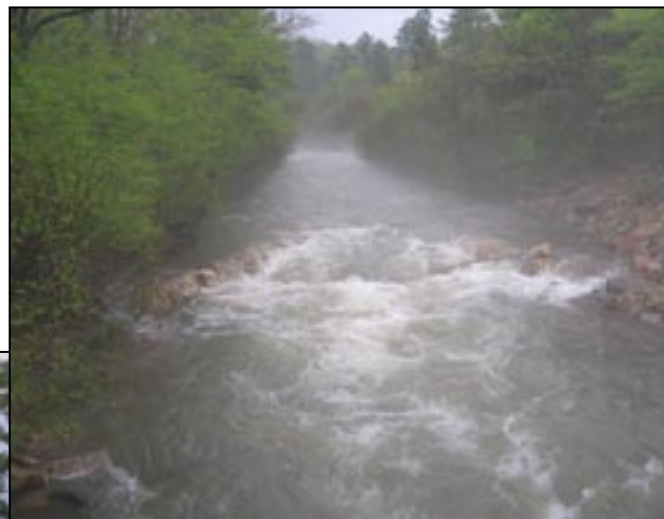
By mid-May, the project reported on its website, "Broken Bow has recovered from the recent flooding and has resumed operations within the park areas ... The Beavers Bend Marina suffered significant damage and may remain under partial closure for an extended time." 



Photo courtesy of Grady Dobbs

People gathered to watch the water as the tainter gates were just opened six inches each to allow discharge.



Taken at the box culvert looking upstream on what is commonly known as Beaver Creek. This location is about one mile downstream of the spillway structure on Broken Bow Lake. If releases had been slightly more, the access road at this location would have been washed out, cutting the northern access route to River Bend Area of Beavers Bend State Park. This photo was taken only minutes after releases were made from the spillway gates on Broken Bow Lake when it reached its pool of record in April 2008.

Photo courtesy of Cliff City



Photo courtesy of Cliff City

At the Beavers Bend Marina on Broken Bow Lake, the fuel storage tank broke loose and floated. It was tied off and kept secured by ropes and the chain link fence. Although it did contain some unleaded fuel, valves had been shut off, preventing the loss of fuel from the tank.



Photo courtesy of Grady Dobbs

A contractor for the state removes stop logs from the bridge just south of the entrance to the powerhouse.

Little Rock reaches milestone with Ozark Major Rehab

Little Rock District's Ozark Powerhouse is the first slant-shaft turbine powerhouse to go through a major rehabilitation. The \$78 million rehab of five turbines is in progress, and under the same contract Tulsa District is rehabilitating three of the turbines at the Webbers Falls power plant.

On April 8, Little Rock District team members removed the first unit's runner from the draft tube and set it in a pedestal on the turbine bay floor. It was a culmination of events that began a year ago with the rehabilitation of the crane shown in the photo.

Reaching this milestone required a team from Little Rock's Operations, Construction, Engineering, Programs and Project Management, and Contracting. 🌟



Bobber and Seamoor visit Canton

The 41st annual Walleye Rodeo was held at Tulsa District's Canton Lake May 15-18. This year, Oklahoma's oldest and largest fishing tournament attracted 635 registered anglers competing for big bucks and numerous prizes. The winning walleye, which weighed a walloping 9 lbs. 3 oz., broke the Canton Lake record.

At Saturday morning's Walleye Rodeo Parade, Corps of Engineers water safety mascots, Bobber the Water Safety Dog and Seamoor the Water Safety Sea Serpent, joined the Canton park rangers in celebrating the event and promoting water safety to residents and visitors. 🌟



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Park Ranger Debbie Chaloupeck flings water safety frisbees while Bobber waves from the Corps float in the parade.



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Bobber and Park Ranger Dakota Allison impress young rodeo visitors with the importance of water safety.

Tulsa District employees recognized for dedication to water safety

Sailing away from this year's International Boating and Water Safety Summit with honors for their work were some of the many Tulsa District employees dedicated to water safety. Kansas Operations Project Manager Eugene Goff received the President's Award and Dean Roberts and Aimee Jordan, park rangers at Eufaula Lake, received Letters of Commendation from the National Water Safety Congress for their outstanding achievements and dedication to the District's Water Safety Program.


Arlyn Hendricks, president of the National Water Safety Congress and Kaw Lake project manager, said, "It was my pleasure to present Mr. Goff the president's award from the National Water Safety Congress. This award is given by the president to an individual who demonstrates dedication and passion for making the waters of our Nation safer for those who recreate on them and for longtime assistance to the NWSC and the president." 



Photo courtesy of B. J. Parkey

Dean Roberts receives his Letter of Commendation from Alan Bland, vice-president of the National Water Safety Congress Region IV.



Photo courtesy of B. J. Parkey

Aimee Jordan received a Letter of Commendation.

Kansas Operations Project Manager Eugene Goff received the President's Award.



Photo courtesy of B. J. Parkey

Head 'em up ... move 'em in



Photos courtesy of Wade Moore


Above: Soldiers line up for room assignments outside of their new "barracks" on June 20.

Right: A Soldier stands at attention in his kitchenette.

June 2008

As part of the Army's Military Construction Transformation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has adopted industry standards, codes and best practices and keeps only those specialized requirements - such as Force Protection - that are necessary to meet the Army's needs. The over-arching goals of these new facilities have been developed to enhance quality of life for the Soldier and his or her family.

When it came to unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing or barracks, attention was given to methods used by private industry and to non-traditional construction methods such as prefabricated, pre-engineered, panelized, and modular construction. The barracks will house single Soldiers and is intended to be similar to off-post apartment-type housing. A Soldier's room includes private sleeping area, walk-in closets, a shared bathroom and kitchenette and will be wired for telephone, cable and Internet access.

The Fort Worth District team at Fort Bliss welcomed troops to their new "barracks", June 20. 

Pacesetter Points

Condolences

Patricia Bland, mother of Little Rock's Beaver Lake Park Ranger **Alan Bland**, passed away May 9.

Jean Calaway, 65, Southwestern Division headquarters retiree, passed away April 16 in Fort Worth, Texas. As most will remember, Jean was an avid Rangers fan who served the Division for many years, retiring in 1998.

Martha Clingerman's mother, Flossie Claypool, passed away April 4. She was 87 years old and was married to Martha's dad for 68 years. Martha retired from the Tulsa District Office of Counsel.

Tulsa District retiree **Jack L. Crawford**, 86, died April 9.

Charles Crownover, the father of **Tim Crownover** of Little Rock's Hydraulics & Technical Services Branch (and retired E&C employee Larry Crownover), passed away April 10.

Lelia Mae Hunt, mother of Little Rock's Chief of Contracting **Sandra Easter**, passed away suddenly May 26.

Rick Gardner, Tulsa District, Real Estate Division, lost his mother April 23.

Lile Henkel's husband and **Trina Ruse's** father passed away May 20. Lile and Trina both work for the Galveston District.

Effie Lee Highsmith, mother to Little Rock's **Harold Highsmith** of the Survey Section, passed away May 18 while recovering from surgery after a short illness.

Tulsa District retiree **Louise Lambert**, 89, died May 19.

Michael Sloate, brother to Little Rock's **Jim Mcelroy**, Pine Bluff Project Office, passed away April 16.

Dennis Moix, father to **Matt Moix** of Little Rock's Hydraulics & Technical Services Branch, passed away suddenly March 31 at his home in North Little Rock.

Tulsa District lost a good friend and teammate when former employee **Richard Oldham** died in early April. Oldham left Tulsa District several years ago for a promotion in Kansas City District and later went to Northwestern Division in Portland where he was employed at the time of his death. His wife, Kimberly, is also a former Tulsa District employee.

Ecolia Dunn, father of **Cheryl Partee**, budget officer, Business Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, passed away May 5 in Killeen, Texas.

James Martin Paulsen, son of Little Rock District retirees **Marty and Peggy Paulsen**, died May 2 from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident. James lived in Memphis and was the information technology director for the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

Tulsa District retiree **Louis Renne**, passed away May 15.

Kathy Riggle, Tulsa District, lost her mother, Frieda Marie Benton, on May 7.

Dan Zinanti, Fort Worth District, died after a courageous battle with cancer May 1. Dan served 27 years in the military. He began his career in the Army and fought in Vietnam. He continued his career with service in the Navy and retired as a chief petty officer. He was a kind and caring person, always in great spirits with a positive attitude, offering help whenever he could. He was a blessing and will be missed by all who knew him.

Congratulations

Tamoria Blond, budget analyst, Business Resources Division, Regional Business Management Directorate, joined SWD headquarters June 23. Tamoria comes to the Division from the Corps' Engineer, Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, Miss.

Sarah Brewer, daughter of Little Rock's **Kathy Brewer**, Resource Management Office, and **Steve Brewer**, Hydraulics and Technical Service Branch, graduated May 16 with honors from Cabot High School. Sarah will attend the University of Central Arkansas in the fall where she was awarded a Presidential Scholarship.

Ashley McAdams, the granddaughter of Little Rock's **Marcy Brown**, Real Estate Branch, is a junior at Harmony Grove High School, where she was selected by school leaders to attend Arkansas Girls' State this summer on the campus of Harding University in Searcy. Girls are chosen based on qualifications in leadership, character, honesty, scholarship, cooperation, community participation and service.

Little Rock Librarian **Judy Bullwinkle** has a new grandson, Silas Dominic Tropea-Lester, born March 18 in San Francisco.

Little Rock's **Laura Cameron** and her husband, Iain, welcomed William James Cameron to the family May 14. William weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21.5 inches long.

Jasmine Ware, 6-year-old daughter of Little Rock Budget Analyst **Carla Cash**, was promoted to the 1st Grade after taking

the Reading and Math Assessments at King Interdistrict Magnet Elementary School. Jasmine also graduated in February with a 1st Degree Black Belt with Karate for Kids, American Taekwondo Association.

Maria Chin joined Programs Directorate on a temporary assignment as the civil works environmental team leader, SWD headquarters, April 28. Maria works in the Office of Water Policy Review at Corps headquarters.

David Clement, son of Little Rock's Assistant Chief of Design Branch **Tom Clement**, graduated May 10 from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

Capt. Christopher Collins joined the Galveston District Mar 28. Collins is working as a project manager in the Operations Division.

Mike Costello was reassigned from Business Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, to the Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, as its installation support program manager May 11.

Tonya Dunn, SCEP student in Environmental Analysis and Compliance Branch, Planning and Environmental Division, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in biology from Northeastern State University this past December. She is now pursuing a Master of Science in environmental science at Oklahoma State University.

John Grigg joined SWD headquarters June 8 as a liaison to Installation Management Command, West Region, for the Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, with a duty station in San Antonio, Texas. John, a West Point graduate, has a wealth of experience and comes to SWD from the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center where he served as a program manager for the Army's Access Control Point Equipment Program.

Mary Hartsfield departed the Galveston District Apr. 25 to join the Little Rock District Programs team.

Tulsa District's Resource Management Office welcomed Rylee Laryn Kopp, daughter of Larry and **Christi Kopp**, May 21. Proud grandma is **Diane Cianci**, Contracting Division.

Paul Krebs, current chief, Emergency Management, Fort Worth District, will join the SWD headquarters July 7 to serve

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our regional team as chief, Readiness and Operations.

Little Rock's **Frankie Mills**, an administrative assistant at Millwood Tri-Lakes, graduated May 17 from Texas A&M at Texarkana with a Bachelor's degree in arts and applied science. His professional sequence is Public Relations with a specialization in Public Administration.

Loc Nguyen, regional cost/value engineer, Regional Business Technical Division, Regional Business Directorate, joined the SWD headquarters May 27. Loc previously served in Kansas City District.

William Penn, geographic information system manager, Planning and Environmental Office, Little Rock District, is the Southwestern Division's nominee for the annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Excellence Award.

Kathi Reding, Galveston District, left the District on May 10 to work at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

Phillip Renfro of Little Rock's Construction Branch and his wife, Brittney, welcomed their daughter Rory Katharine Renfro at 7:44 p.m. May 21. Rory was 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

Steven Rodgers joined the Galveston District Mar. 30. Rodgers is working as a realty specialist in the Real Estate Division.

Harley Rowe joined the Galveston District May 12. Rowe is working as a supervisory civil engineer in the Northern Area Office.

Mary Smith joined the Galveston District Apr. 14. Smith is working as a realty specialist in the Real Estate Division.

Porter Bradley Smith was born on March 10. He is the grandson of **Patty Smith**, Tulsa District, Contracting Division. Porter has a proud big brother, Finn, who is 2 1/2 years old. His parents are Joey and Brooke Smith.

Tiffany Smith, a park ranger at Little Rock's Dierks Lake, and her husband Adam are the proud new parents to Mason Bryant Smith. Mason was born Feb. 24, and he weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces.

Little Rock's **Stacey Snead**, a civil engineering technician at Greers Ferry Lake, her husband, Ricky and daughter, Katelyn, welcomed twins, Avery Lorraine and Ricky Denzil III, April 14. Avery came at 1:39 a.m. and weighed 4 pounds, 14 ounces and was 17.5 inches long. Trey was

right behind her at 1:47 a.m. and weighed 5 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Rikki Stanley arrived at the Galveston District Colorado River Locks on Apr. 28. Stanley is working as a lock operator.

Alan Taylor, program manager/geologist, Civil Works Integration Division, Programs Directorate, joined the SWD headquarters May 5. Alan has 19 years of experience in the Louisville and Fort Worth Districts, and also serves in the U.S. Army Reserves as a Civil Engineer officer and has deployed to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Alan is a registered professional geologist in Texas.

Bernice Taylor was recently selected for the civilian pay technician position in the Galveston District Resource Management Office. She started her new position June 8.

Mary Thomas rejoined SWD headquarters as a regional strategic workforce planning specialist, Regional Business Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, in May. Mary, a retired annuitant, has more than 20 years experience in Human Resources.

Tulsa District donors gave 22 units of blood in the recent drive.

Andrew Wendel arrived at the Galveston District Colorado River Locks on Apr. 28. Wendel is working as a lock operator.

Gary Williams, brother of Cathey Williams, Tulsa District, Operations Division, was on the Registrar's Honor Roll and received an Associate's degree from Oklahoma State University in Okmulgee in construction technology - construction Management. "Gary is 48 years old, and it took him 13 years to get this degree taking one or two classes per semester. He was working fulltime, taking care of two kids, getting married, etc. Also, during this time, we lost both parents and a sister. We are very proud of him! It proves it is never too late and doesn't matter how long it takes as long as you keep working," said Cathey.

James Worthington, Galveston District, left the District on Apr. 25 to work in the private sector.

Kathleen Wu, navigation business line manager, Operations Division, Programs Directorate, joined SWD headquarters, April 28. Kathleen comes to the Division from Fort Worth District, where she served for more than 20 years.

Raekesha Danielle Yarbrough, daughter of **Joyce Yarbrough**, Programs and

Project Management Division, Tulsa District, graduated May 10 from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. She received a bachelor of science in dietetics and was honored as a magna cum laude graduate.

Retirements

Billy Banks, Tulsa District, Operations Division, retired.

Gerald Dunaway retired 28 May after 34 years of service. Gerald worked for the Galveston District.

Willie Grimes, Tulsa District, Information Management Office, retired.

Little Rock's Information Management Communications Secretary **Glynda Haggard** retired May 3, with more than 28 years in the Corps of Engineers.

Tom Hammons, Tulsa District, Engineering and Construction Division, retired.

Larry Hill retired 30 May after thirty years of service to the Galveston District.

Angela McPhee, Tulsa District, Real Estate Division, retired.

James Montgomery of Little Rock's Real Estate Branch retired May 30 after 38 years of federal service.

