

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

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Happy Holidays





Pacesetter

Southwestern Division Regional News Service

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

Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox
Commander,
Southwestern Division

Rhonda James
Chief, Public Affairs
Southwestern Division

Melanie Ellis
Editor
Fort Worth District

Associate Editors

Mary Beth Hudson
Tulsa District

Tammy Moody
Little Rock District

Martie Cencki
Galveston District

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In this issue:

- 3 **Happy Holidays to all of the SWD Family!!!**
- Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox
- 5 **Corps and Division chiefs visit Fort Bliss projects**
- 6 **Worth Remembering:
19th Century Locks and Dams in northeast Arkansas**
- 7 **Team work pays off: F-22 facility team honored**
- 8 **Southwestern Division Commander visits Galveston District**
- 9 **SWL's Norfolk Lake helps with bird banding**
- 11 **Customer service to our Nation and to each other as well**
- Col. Christopher W. Martin
- 12 **ECSO: Helping secure our Nation's borders**
- 15 **Thanks Little Rock District** - Col. Donald E. Jackson
- 18 **Holiday Season Reflections** - Col. David C. Weston
- 21 **Happy Holidays Team Tulsa**
- Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser
- 24 **Honor to be with real heroes**
- 30 **Pacesetter Points**

On the cover: Original graphic illustration by Andre` Mayeaux, Visual Information Specialist, Fort Worth District. The Pacesetter staff would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season.





Happy Holidays to all of the SWD Family!!!

**Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox
Commander, Southwestern Division**

It's hard to believe it has only been four months since I had the pleasure of taking command of this great Division, but it has truly been four of the most exciting and amazing months of my career. As a newcomer to the Corps, I never knew there was so much to accomplish, and yet because of the tremendous members of our Team you all make each day wonderful and my job the best in the Corps.

As we look back on 2007, you all should be very proud of your accomplishments. With BRAC, MILCON and Grow the Force making our Military Programs the largest in our history, all of you have risen to the challenge and set the stage for delivering these projects on time and within cost so our troops and their families will have the facilities they so need and deserve. Teamwork and superb effort have been the key elements as we make huge progress in supporting DHS and CBP with the border fence and tactical infrastructure programs. This high visibility program remains at the top of our priorities and I am confident through dedication to excellence we will deliver in all aspects by this time next year. In our Civil Works programs, we have made huge strides in developing critical partnerships that are

focused on water resources management across the region and are quickly becoming the example for all of USACE. Despite limited resources and frustrating budget processes, you have developed innovative concepts and challenged our teammates to continue to work together which ultimately will make 2008 the best year ever in the region.

2008 is almost here and with it comes many more "opportunities" to excel. It is already shaping up to be yet an even bigger year than 2007 and I am encouraged by the motivation and dedication of our team to deliver for all.

2008 is almost here and with it comes many more "opportunities" to excel. It is already shaping up to be yet an even bigger year than 2007 and I am encouraged by the motivation and dedication of our team to deliver for all. The mark of a true champion is to rise to any challenge and I am confident we will make it happen.

Anna Marie and I wish each of you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. As you gather with friends and family for a much deserved time to relax and reflect, please remember our deployed Soldiers and Civilians and their families as they continue to serve our Nation and the American people. Finally, lest we forget the "real reason for the season," let's all remember to give thanks for our many blessings and praise to the "newborn King." 🙏

Regional travels

Col. (P) Cox has been busy visiting the district offices, touring projects, and meeting the folks that make up the Southwestern Division. Some of his travels are highlighted in articles on pages 5 and 8. 🙏



The award for Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative goes to ...



Janice Brown, Texas Division Director, Federal Highways Administration, presents to Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox, Southwestern Division Commander, its national award for Exemplary Ecosystem Initiative in recognition of SWD's Regulatory Program's staff participation in development of transportation related mitigation banks in Texas. As he accepted the award, Cox recognized Presley Hatcher, Fort Worth District, and Sam Watson, Galveston District, for their efforts which resulted in the award. The presentation took place during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 30. 🇺🇸

LOGCAP to Support Civil Emergency Operations

Jeff Tharp
Emergency Planning and Response

On Aug. 2, 2007, the USACE Deputy Commanding General signed a memorandum requesting Department of the Army approval for the Corps to utilize the Army Materiel Command's Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, also known as LOGCAP, to enhance the organic USACE logistics response capability during civil emergency operations. This request has been approved by the HQDA G-4, and LOGCAP is now available as an additional tool in the Corps' emergency response kit.

The Task Execution Plan, developed in a joint effort by planners from the USACE Logistics Activity and the LOGCAP Program Office, includes a number of key support elements and calls for the LOGCAP contractor to be prepared to provide logistics support including receiving, warehouse operations, equipment operations, quality assurance, property accountability, and general organizational support, for example fleet vehicles, lodging, office management, to USACE responders

arriving in the impacted area.

The contract is valued at \$2.4 million per year when it is fully activated. Until it is activated, however, it remains "on the shelf" at no cost to the Corps. The cost estimates for this TEP focus primarily on pricing of resources around Florida and the Gulf Coast area. Although the TEP was drafted with the Corps' typical hurricane response mission in mind, LOGCAP has the flexibility to adjust to meet other emergency requirements within the continental United States, such as a terrorist attack or earthquake. Because of the vastly different costs and planning factors involved in supporting OCONUS emergency and contingency requirements, the ULA will take the lead in working with LOGCAP to develop additional plans that address civil response requirements in the Pacific and the Caribbean, as well as general contingency plans for military operations.

The ULA is committed to providing world-class logistics support to the Corps of Engineers in peacetime and in war. Since a smaller number of USACE personnel is being called upon to do a larger amount of

work than ever before, it is important that the ULA reach out to its partners in the private sector, those at other government agencies, and around the Department of Defense to develop a flexible system of providing logistics support. The ULA will provide the initial surge of Logistics Support Modules and subject matter experts to meet requirements in the first days of an event. As the operation transitions from response to recovery mode, LOGCAP personnel will be available to provide the follow-on support that will allow USACE civilians to redeploy to their home stations, reset, and prepare to deploy as the surge force during the next operation. This will help alleviate the conditions found during Katrina where employees deployed for months on end and were not available to support new missions as they developed. The use of LOGCAP to provide follow-on support during the recovery phase is a tool that will free up USACE civilians to provide the unique logistics management skills necessary during the early phase of a response mission.

Corps and Division chiefs visit Fort Bliss projects

Edward Rivera
Pacesetter Staff

Two prominent members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' leadership, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, and Southwestern Division Commander Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox recently toured construction sites on Fort Bliss, Texas, getting an overview of the enormous expansion program taking place.

For both commanders, it was their first visit to the area since taking charge of their offices. Before getting first-hand looks at the more than \$1 million-a-day construction site, they were briefed on the status of the program by Corps and Garrison team members.

General Van Antwerp was also able to take some time to recognize some of the program office staff members for their hard work and support.

"One of the most important things we as team members can do is maintain and grow our core competence," said Van Antwerp. "It's people like those being recognized today who continue to ensure we pass on the competence to our new, and eventually future, team members."

Those recognized by Lt. Gen Van Antwerp were: Steven Wright, Fort Bliss Expansion Program coordinator; Michael Bormann, Infrastructure Project Manager; Administrative Support Assistants Etta Gracia, Sylvia Gomez and Carmen Leonard; Construction Representatives Jason Castro and Darillo Herrera; and Master Sgt. David Breitbach, the Fort Bliss Program Office Noncommissioned Officer in Charge.

According to Gracia, being recognized by the Chief of Engineers was an honor. "It was a surprise, a pleasant one," she said.

After departing from the briefing room, Van Antwerp and Cox were driven to an observation point where they were oriented to the construction site of Brigade Combat Team 1. Following the site overview, the visitors were taken on a tour of several facilities under construction to include unaccompanied enlisted personnel housing, brigade and battalion headquarters, company operations facilities, and tactical equipment maintenance facilities.

December 2007



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Col. Christopher Martin, and Troy Collins are briefed by David Buchanan, Biggs Area Office, about the progress of ongoing construction at Biggs Army Airfield.

"A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished in such a short period of time," said Cox. "The superb teamwork by the members of the Fort Bliss Area Office, the Garrison staff, and the contractors is clearly evident by how much they have been able to do. This is truly the role model for military construction transformation and will set the stage for success in the subsequent BCT projects at Bliss and across the Nation."

Cox went on to say, in terms of the overall program, the most significant aspect is that, through the efforts of the Fort Bliss team, our great Soldiers, Civilians and their families will have the facilities they need and the quality of life they deserve as they prepare for future requirements.

"We owe it to our customers to deliver on time and within budget, and this program will accomplish that and is the epitome of excellence in all regards," said Cox.

There are many opportunities to learn from the efforts at Bliss, according to Cox. Standard facilities are still being developed at the same time teams are working on finalizing installation and

area design guides. Efficiencies and cost savings for future programs that can also be utilized across the Division are apparent as these two critical pieces come together and true lessons learned are incorporated into our MILCON program.

"Because all of the Districts are involved in this major program, they are all seeing the key ingredients for success and can benefit more readily," said Cox.

After the walkthroughs, both commanders left with a better idea of the endeavors taking place at Fort Bliss.

Troy Collins, the Fort Bliss Expansion Program Office Manager, said that it was key for the leadership to come away from their visit with a keen understanding of the scope and challenges of the program and the teamwork it takes to be successful.

"The importance of the visit is not only for validation of the Centers of Standardization model, but a testament that product line districts and the Garrison are working together, which allows facilities to be turned over ahead of schedule, under budget and in quality condition," said Collins. 🇺🇸

Worth Remembering ...

19th Century Locks and Dams in northeast Arkansas

Judy Bullwinkle
Pacesetter Staff

In the late nineteenth century, Little Rock District began a lock and dam project on the White River near Batesville, Ark. The project was the second effort at developing a navigable waterway in the state for commerce.

From the mid-1870s, the Corps had considered improving navigation in Arkansas. The Corps' Capt. Henry Taber had hoped to improve the Arkansas River to allow reliable shipping from the Indian territory west of Fort Smith to the Mississippi River.

He felt the Arkansas River could compete with the railroads to be the major transportation point for cattle arriving from Kansas.

However, because of extreme low-water periods, maintaining a 5-foot depth for the channel proved unattainable. Complicating the situation, bitter winters and drought through the 1890s devastated farmers and ranchers.

Taber saw another opportunity in the northeast corner of the state. He suggested that the White River could become the leading shipping outlet by building a series of 10 locks and dams from Newport, Ark., to Forsythe, Missouri. Rich in mineral ore, the area was also in the midst of a timber boom. Local citizens lobbied Congress for appropriations, and the project was authorized in 1899.

Plagued by ill health, Capt. Taber did not live to see his plan approved. However, his successor, Lt. W. L. Siburt, proved to be an outstanding choice to command the District and develop the White River project, as he had just finished projects that remodeled and repaired dams in Kentucky and worked on the 21-foot channels connecting the Great Lakes.

When construction began, the White River project used the latest lock technology. Prior to the White River locks, the only concrete

block construction was the Illinois and Mississippi Canal in Illinois. Traditionally, the fixed sides of locks were made with cut stone, but application of concrete offered new options.

The basic structure used large timber cribs made from pine, a standard material for impermeable dams, piers and breakwaters, and concrete caps held the cribs together. These cribs were sunk and weighted down with rock.

Designed as overflow structures, the dams allowed the river to flow over its banks except in the driest conditions. This important feature allowed large raft boats that pushed steamers and ore-boat tows to move smoothly along, by-passing the locks. In dry conditions, the locks guaranteed a navigable channel of 4 feet. In 1903, Lock and Dam #1 near Batesville was finished, but only two others were ever completed.




At the time of the White River lock and dam construction, railroad officials were hard at work building a new track paralleling the White River to Cotter. Eventually, the railroad connections provided faster and more convenient service to the area, and the Corps project ended with completion of Lock and Dam #3.

The three locks continued to enable commercial navigation for nearly 50 years until 1951 when the Corps sold the locks and dams to private investors. After acquiring ownership of the project, Independence County began to convert

them into hydroelectric plants in the early part of the 21st century.

The Corps returned to the White River in the 1940s to build multipurpose dam projects, such as Greens Ferry and Bull Shoals, to provide flood damage reduction and hydroelectric power for the area.

To learn more about the White River Locks and Dams, read "Castle on the Rock: The History of the Little Rock District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1881-1985" by Mary Yeater Rathbun, 1987. 

Holt earns deFleury Medal

Terry Holt, Natural Resource Specialist, Marion Lake, Tulsa District, received the bronze DeFluery Medal from Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, Chief of Engineers, at the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Conference in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 30. Holt was presented the medal for his outstanding work to implement the Critical Incident Stress Management program within the Corps. See the full story on page 13.



Team work pays off ...

F-22 facility team honored

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

The team tasked with the Integration Support Facility at Tinker Air Force Base was named Tulsa District's Team of the Quarter for the third quarter, FY 08. The \$8.5 million facility gives the base the flexibility to take on a new F-22 mission and to compete for the B-2 and other missions. In this unique facility, workers can create, coordinate, test, and evaluate software from cradle to grave. All aspects of a mission, such as flight parameters, can be simulated and corrected in this facility before the aircraft is flown.

In this design-build project, the government provided a recommended floor plan layout and performance criteria for everything else. There was zero time growth and only a 1.3 percent cost growth due to user changes delivered very late in the contract.

Since there was essentially no staging area, all work was accomplished in a very confined and congested, high security work area that required unique construction sequencing and techniques. Tilt-up panels were formed on the building slab to conserve space and the schedule was strictly controlled as materials came on site and went directly into the facility.

At the recent ribbon cutting, Lt. Col. Bernie Thomson, Tulsa District deputy commander, received multiple accolades for the team's work on delivering this much-needed project to the Maintenance Wing of the Air Logistics Center.

The team was comprised of contractors, Tinker AFB representatives including the end user, and Corps employees from various disciplines. Tulsa District members included John Tichenor, Phil Haubert, Richard L. Alexander, Dan Johnson, Susan Killgore, Sandra Egan, and Taylor Mann. 🌍



The new Integration Support Facility at Tinker Air Force Base. Work done in the facility is classified, so it displays secure construction features such as a lack of windows.



John Roberts, far right, is shown with some of the Integration Support Facility team members. From left, Dan Johnson, resident engineer, Central Oklahoma Resident Office; Renee Lane, architect, Tinker AFB Civil Engineering; Jim Rowden, electrical engineer/project manager, Tinker AFB Civil Engineering; John Tichenor, project engineer, Central Oklahoma Resident Office; Greg Gray, MILCON project manager, Defense Maintenance Group; and Richard Alexander, P.E., deputy resident engineer.

Southwestern Division Commander visits Galveston District

Martha Cenkci
Pacesetter Staff

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division commander Col. (P) Kendall P. Cox made his first orientation visit to the Galveston Division Nov. 26-28. On the agenda were tours of the northern half of the District, briefings on programs and projects, and meetings with Corps employees as well as officials with other agencies who team with the Corps.

“The initial purpose of my orientation visit was to hear the Commander’s Brief from the Galveston District so that I have visibility of their overall tasks, purposes and programs. Secondly, the trip gave me the opportunity to get out and meet some of our teammates — those we often refer to as ‘customers’ or ‘stakeholders’ — and get a clear understanding of what the Corps of Engineers family can do to support them. These meetings also gave me the chance to put a face to a name and meet those we work with on a regular basis. Third, but by no means last, my purpose was to get out and see the Corps employees so that I could really thank them for all the hard work they do for our Nation every single day.”

The visit included meetings with the directors of the Ports of Galveston, Houston, Texas City, and Freeport. Additionally, Cox met with the Lower Neches Valley Authority, which is the local sponsor for three Corps projects, including the Neches River Saltwater Barrier, and the Harris County Flood Control District. He toured several areas that the Corps and the Harris County Flood Control District team together on, including Addicks and Barker Reservoirs and the Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project.



Col. (P) Cox meets Park Ranger Ken McDonald during a visit to the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs.



Col. (P) Cox and Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District Commander, look over maps of the Port of Texas City after the briefing by Port officials.

“I’ve had a chance to meet a significant number of customers and teammates,” Cox said, “and I feel pretty good about it. All comments have been very positive, and that’s great to hear.”

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

“I know that I speak for the entire Galveston District when I say that it was a real honor to host Col. (P) Cox. We are proud of what we do, and appreciate the opportunity to highlight our programs. He has seen part of our District, and we are looking forward to showcasing another part on his next visit,” Weston said.

On subsequent visits, Cox will tour the remainder of the District and looks forward to meeting more Corps employees.

“What never ceases to amaze me is the passion of each of the Corps employees I have talked to, a passion for what they do and a real appreciation for the opportunity to provide a service to the American people. It’s not about a job. It’s more about what can they do to make life better for someone else. That is the definition of selfless service, and it is very evident in the Galveston District.” 🇺🇸

SWL's Norfolk Lake helps with bird banding

Rangers and others collect critical data

Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

In the dark before dawn, government workers and volunteers worked side-by-side, quietly setting up mist-nets in hardwood stands in the Ozark forest. These early risers traveled to this secluded 40-acre location in hopes of capturing birds of many species and collecting critical data that could help reverse the decline of North American land bird populations.

Eight times from May through August, park rangers from the Little Rock District, personnel from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and local colleges, and community volunteers met at Little Rock District's Norfolk Lake in north central Arkansas to collect that information as part of an ongoing Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship program.

The program, called MAPS, is administered by the Institute for Bird Populations, and it is part of a cooperative effort among public agencies, private organizations and other bird banding groups of the continental United States, Canada and Mexico.

The IBP is dedicated to identifying, documenting and possibly reversing declining North American land bird populations by collecting and compiling data from hundreds of MAPS stations across the United States.

The Norfolk Lake MAPS station is run cooperatively between the Corps and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission by Bruce Caldwell, Little Rock District's Mountain Home Project Office wildlife biologist; Catherine Rideout, AGFC state ornithologist; and Ted Zawislak, AGFC biologist.

Since the Corps owns and manages more than 100,000 acres of forest along the White River chain of lakes, including the two lakes administered by the Mountain Home Project Office, Rideout enlisted Caldwell's and Zawislak's help to set up a Corps station at Norfolk. "We set up the station at the Chapin Point Unit in 2003, then began banding in

See **Bird Banding** on page 10



*A biologist examines the wing flight feathers of a male Indigo Bunting (*Passerina Cyanea*) during a session of the bird banding held from May through August at Little Rock's Norfolk Lake.*



*A biologist carefully bands a female Summer Tanager (*Piranga Rubra*).*

Bird Banding

Continued from page 9

May 2004. The big concern about birds in this area is the effect of shrinking stands of hardwood timber in the Ozark region,” Caldwell said.

“Large expanses of forest are being replaced with a mosaic of fields, wood lots, and of course, homes. This is the biggest reason the data is needed from this region as Rideout suspects all of this is adversely affecting forest-nesting birds, and there was virtually no data available.”

The station is in the fourth year of a five-year study. Banding crews made up of Corps park rangers, AGFC biologists and technicians, and volunteers operate a series of 10 mist-nets at permanent sites scattered around a 40-acre area. Eight six-hour netting sessions, conducted from May 20 to Aug. 4 each year, capture an average of 100 birds representing 37 different species.

“The nets are virtually invisible to the birds, and when they fly into one, they become entangled,” Caldwell said. “We carefully extract them using small crochet hooks, tweezers and lots of patience. Since the program started, we haven’t had any fatalities or serious injuries.”

The birds are placed in soft linen bags then transported back to the banding station, where they quickly undergo a series of observations and measurements and are tagged around their legs with small numbered bands made of very light aluminum.

“We record the band numbers and gather data such as species, sex, age, mass, wing length, time of capture, net number, etc., on each bird,” Caldwell said. “We also collect information about their overall appearance – flight feather wear and molt patterns, body fat and the presence of a brood patch.

“This patch is a bald area on the breast of the bird which allows the birds’ body heat to contact the eggs during incubation,” he added. “We use extreme care not to injure the bird or disrupt its nesting or young rearing.”

During the summer of 2006, the Norfolk MAPS station also was involved in a bird influenza virus study, in which the birds captured were swabbed and the preserved samples sent to the University of California in Los Angeles for examination. The study was to determine if migratory passerine birds, such as those



Wildlife biologist Bruce Caldwell releases a banded female Indigo Bunting unharmed, back into the wild.

being captured at Norfolk Lake, could possibly be carriers of a virus that could spread to North America.

“Results of the study, so far, have not identified any occurrence of the virus or anything closely related to it in the birds we’ve captured,” Caldwell said.

“Most of the birds we catch here are classified as neo-tropical,” he explained. “This means the birds actually spend the winter in Mexico and Central America and migrate back to the United States and Canada in the spring to breed. It is hard to imagine these little birds flying thousands of miles a year.”

Caldwell added that the information they collect will go into a national data base and will provide the Institute for Bird Populations data to determine population indices to ultimately determine a nationwide trend.

“It has been very rewarding to be part of such an important study,” he said. “It is the Corps’ responsibility as stewards of the land we manage to do our best to protect and conserve the wildlife resources that live there.”

Winners of Little Rock’s Oct. 8 Big Bass Tournament



Logistics’ Dean Erickson and Reservoir Control’s Kevin Fagot won first place with 11.11 pounds of bass.



Greers Ferry’s Jason Presley and Jamie Camp of Mt. Home were the Big Bass winners with 4.51 pounds of bass.



Customer service to our Nation and to each other as well

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

As we draw closer to a new year, many people make resolutions or set their goals for the coming year. I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you about a subject that is near and dear to my heart, but that might not be part of your thought process as a general rule. I am talking about customer service among co-workers.

We typically focus on our external customers who are easily identifiable. But there is an equally important group working alongside each of us. I'm talking about those within the Fort Worth District. We must remember that even though we are a part of the same team, we do need to provide the same level of service to our internal customers as well as those outside the district and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

We can't take for granted those who are across the hall, on the other side of a partition, at an area office or at one of our lake projects, simply because they understand more about our operations than those outside of our agency. We still owe it to them to keep them informed, give answers as quick as possible and deliver timely and quality products to them.

Another important aspect is that, as internal customers, we must ensure we communicate our needs clearly and use our understanding of the Corps to help in the process and provide good feedback for improving a process or giving kudos when our expectations are met or surpassed.

When it comes to our external customers, I feel that it's very important

to understand and not take for granted that although at times we are the only option, we still should provide a level of customer service equal if not greater than if we are competing with another agency.

Some feedback from recent surveys show that many of our customers value the things we do for them, some have pointed out areas in which we need to improve such as timeline and cost. According to a survey from the Department of Defense Educational Activity, they are pleased with all areas of our service.

Remember to keep those who are deployed in your thoughts and ensure you have happy and safe celebrations as we prepare to tackle what could possibly be the most challenging year this District has ever known.

With the understanding that no two projects are alike and each has its own unique challenges, we should strive to ensure our level of customer service is unmatched.

I sincerely hope that you have a wonderful holiday season sharing and celebrating with family and friends.

The district continues to be extremely busy right now. Our dedicated team remains

committed to do what is right for our Soldiers and our local partners and stakeholders. Everyone is doing a wonderful job at keeping the district going strong, and your reputation as the best district in USACE is evident every day.

Remember to keep those who are deployed in your thoughts and ensure you have happy and safe celebrations as we prepare to tackle what could possibly be the most challenging year this district has ever known.

Happy Holidays and a joyous New Year! 🎉

Happy Holidays team Fort Worth



The Fort Worth District Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Association hosted the annual Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon Dec. 12. In addition to the traditional luncheon, team members entered the stuffing contest, won door prizes, participated in the Corps version of "Let's Make a Deal" and placed bids on baskets that were donated from offices around the district. The auction raised \$631 that will go toward hosting the annual Engineer Day Picnic in June. 🎉

ECSO: Helping secure our Nation's borders

Katherine Shelton

Communications and Public Affairs
Specialist, PF225

Ask someone what the Engineering and Construction Support Office does and “PF 225” comes to mind. Indeed, the massive fence program, initiated under the Secure Border Initiative through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is a major part of the ECSO’s workload these days. However, it is but one of many border projects for which the ECSO provides support.

The ECSO, located in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Fort Worth District office, serves as “the door to the Corps” for the DHS, specifically the efforts to secure and maintain the Nation’s borders. Founded 10 years ago,

at the Fort Worth District office. The AERC provided a consolidated, single office for new construction and repair and maintenance, improved project coordination, efficient delivery and high design and technical standards for border security projects. The office also served as a resource to INS headquarters as well as its regional locations.

The events of 9-11 increased concerns about securing the Nation’s borders and, in response, the DHS was established in 2003. Under the new federal department, U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Customs became the responsibility of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, while detention and removal was taken over by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Just three years later, the AERC was reorganized and expanded.

and the hiring of contract employees. Since the Corps was awarded the PF 225 project, the branch’s financial work has increased substantially.

“The ECSO has grown tremendously, in programs and funding,” said Smith. “We were just under \$600 million in program and projects in the past fiscal year alone.”

The branch also oversees the planning and technical support of ECSO projects through its Technical Standards Section. Planning support is provided through the section’s environmental and real estate staff and includes conducting analyses for National Environmental Protection Act, ensuring other Corps district follow CBP NEPA protocol and standard procedures for real estate appraisals. Technical support includes engineering, setting



the office has grown from three people to three branches and provides a variety of skills to border projects, including engineering, environmental, cultural, real estate, procurement and project management.

Establishing the ECSO

Prior to the formation of DHS, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was responsible for facilities and tactical infrastructure for the Border Patrol and Detention and Removal offices. In 1997, INS began seeing an increase in demand on its programs. As immigration became a bigger issue, the INS decided to develop an interagency agreement with another federal agency for the planning, programming, design and construction of its facilities.

The Corps competed with the General Services Administration to become that agency and, in 1997, the Architect Engineer Resource Center (AERC) was established within Southwestern Division and located

“We reorganized to position the Corps with a new organization that would be able to support CBP’s expanded mission,” said Eric Verwers, ECSO director. Verwers has served in the AERC/ECSO since its inception in 1997 and has directed efforts since 2001. After the reorganization, he took responsibility of the organization’s three new branches: Planning, Programs and Technical Support, Tactical Infrastructure, and Facilities.

The three branches of ECSO

The Planning, Programs and Technical Support Branch, headed by Todd Smith, is the largest of the three ECSO branches. Its primary responsibility is to manage ECSO funds and ensure the millions of dollars provided for ECSO projects are applied appropriately. The branch manages labor funding from the ECSO’s Fort Worth office, while non-labor funds for projects are sent to the appropriate Corps District. Non-labor costs can include contract awards, travel fees

standards for business processes, upholding design standards and procurement analysis and contracting.

The construction of the many miles of tactical infrastructure is the duty of the Tactical Infrastructure Branch, led by Stephen Brooks. Tactical infrastructure includes border patrol roads, access roads, fence, lights and other barriers. The branch works not only with the Corps District Project Delivery Teams, but with agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Boundary and Water Commission to ensure barriers comply with local, state and federal law enforcement and environmental laws as well as international treaties.

The third branch of the ECSO is the Facilities Branch, headed by Dennis Karns. This department is responsible for constructing new facilities supporting border security as well as the operation, maintenance and repair of such facilities.

See **EC SO** on page 13

Holt awarded de Fleury medal for work with Critical Incident Stress Management program

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Stunned. That's how Terry Holt felt when he was given a standing ovation and presented a bronze de Fleury medal by the chief of engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, at the Environmental and Natural Resources Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in November.

Holt was honored for his work in the Corps' Critical Incident Stress Management Program. He had a dream to develop a CISM program within the Corps and has shepherded it since its beginning in the Southwestern Division. He now serves as director of the national program.

"Working with the CISM program has been the highlight of my career," Holt said. "I am deeply humbled to receive this recognition. In particular, it has been very rewarding to work with so many caring people in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I really believe that it is possible for a small group of people to change the Corps culture and improve people's lives. Given the chance, the CISM program will do just that."

Holt says he often uses the analogy of a person about to drown to describe the

necessity of the CISM program. You see someone out in the lake drowning. What is your first reaction? Do you throw them a life jacket or try to teach them how to swim? Of course, a rescue comes first.

"CISM's educational program and peer interventions literally become that life jacket that can bring that drowning person back to shore and provide stabilization from an encounter with a critical incident or stressful environment," Holt explains.

He says that being part of the CISM program is tremendously rewarding and uplifting. "I am exceedingly grateful for the commanders, supervisors, and employees who see the benefit of a program that, for a small cost, can promote and support respect, health, and dignity of an individual."

The de Fleury Medal ties the beginnings of our Nation and the Army Corps of Engineers with the Army engineering of today and the future. This prestigious Army Engineer Regiment award was developed to honor individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army engineering. 🌍



Terry Holt accepts his de Fleury medal from Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp.

ECSO

Continued from previous page

The work of the ECSO

Since its inception in 1997, the ECSO has completed more than 1,000 projects totaling more than \$1 billion, including more than 50 border patrol stations/sector headquarters and houses and hundreds of miles of fence, lights and roads. The work includes segments of the PF 70 project which was completed in September of this year and added more than 70 miles of border fencing.

Of all the work the ECSO does, the most high-profile project currently is PF 225. The program is part of SBI, the comprehensive, multi-year plan formally launched by DHS in September 2005 to promote border security strategies to gain effective control of the Nation's borders, protect against and prevent terrorist attacks and other transnational crimes and ensure the legal entry and exit of people and goods across the borders. The goal of PF 225 is to construct 225 miles of primary fence along the Nation's southern border by December 2008.

The Corps was chosen as the agency in charge of oversight for the program, including the acquisition of real estate, engineering, awarding and administering construction contracts and providing materials to sites constructed by military personnel. The Corps work involves the district offices located in each of the PF 225 sectors and is centrally managed from the ECSO.

"We felt good about bringing the strengths of the Corps into this partnership," said Brad Benson, SBI spokesperson for CBP. "The skill sets within the Corps and ECSO provided instant expertise to a very complex project."

In tandem with PF 225, the ECSO is also responsible for the Vehicle Fence 300 project, launched in October, which will place 300 miles of vehicle fence adjacent to the pedestrian fencing from Texas to California by the end of next calendar year.

The Facilities Branch has the lead in the Ramp Up 6000 project, which has already started and is also slated for completion in December 2008. The project calls for the establishment of facilities to house 6,000 new border patrol agents. The facilities will be at more than 70 sites along the northern and southern borders.

Other projects for the ECSO include the continued construction of tactical infrastructure projects along other portions of the Nation's border and the upkeep and repair of the current border infrastructure and facilities.

The Corps has a long history of assisting the INS and, now, the CBP with their mission of protecting our Nation's borders. With the continuing pedestrian and vehicle fence projects, plus the Ramp Up 6000 project, the Corps looks for a continued successful partnership with CBP in the years to come. 🌍

25 years ago this month

Pacific low sparks flood, but SWL checks damage

Henry Himstedt
Little Rock District

(Editor's Note: Henry Himstedt is chief of Hydraulics and Hydrology at Little Rock District. He worked for the District's Emergency Management Office during the December 1982 storms.)

December 1982 is etched in the minds of many people in Arkansas and Missouri because multiple storms swept through spawning record rainfalls, devastating floods and killer tornadoes. For those working in Little Rock District, it proved to be one of the largest flood events many experienced in their careers.

The damage was bad, but without Little Rock District projects, economic losses would have been more than double.

An extreme weather pattern set in with unseasonably warm temperatures. A strong low pressure system drew tropical moisture from the Pacific Ocean eastward. This caused a devastating string of tornadoes and extreme rains. Many Corps and Bureau of Reclamation dams in southern and western states swelled to capacity or beyond.

November closed with above average rainfall. More rain began Dec. 1 and continued throughout Little Rock District for four days. Twenty-four tornadoes were confirmed by Dec. 2. From 4 to 14 inches of rain fell, mainly on a line from southwest Arkansas to southeast Missouri. The White River Basin got hammered.

While Little Rock's Steve Atherton did not yet work for the Corps, he remembers the flooding well. At the time, he lived at Cozahome, Ark.

"I had been helping one of the park rangers at the Buffalo National Park carry his furniture out of his house and up the hill behind his house," Atherton said. "He lived in a Park Service house not too far from the river. The next day, he discovered his house had been washed away. His truck, which he had driven as high up the

hill as he could get it, was still there, but it had been submerged up to the top of the cab."

Chris Hicklin of Little Rock's Planning and Environmental Office worked for the district at the time.

"There was a lot of flooding in the White River Basin, and Clinton was under 15 feet of water," Hicklin recalled. "Everybody was working long hours, and it was hectic. It was the flood of record for some of the rivers and streams... largest ever observed on the Strawberry River," he added.



Barges slammed into the Wilbur D. Mills Dam damaging four tainter gates.

Ten major gauging stations experienced flows exceeding the 100-year recurrence interval and three stations experienced floods of record, while another five recorded floods exceeding the 50-year recurrence interval.

A main stem levee at Jacksonport failed flooding Jacksonport and Diaz. Padgett Island, Bateman, Little Red River (2), Butler County, Inner River and Curia Creek levees also failed, flooding vast tracts of farmland, roads, and buildings. It was estimated that more than 500,000 acres were flooded in the White River Basin.

Two subsequent storm systems exacerbated flooding, with the final event occurring Christmas Eve. It took until February to recover the conservation pools at Table Rock, Norfolk, and Greers Ferry and until March at Bull Shoals and Beaver. The White River remained above the start

of damage stage for up to six months.

"As a result of the damage and floods, our workload ramped up for about 10 years with projects like the Clinton Channelization and the Batesville Levee and Flood Wall," Hicklin said.

In the Arkansas River Basin, the Corps temporarily closed Ormond, Toad Suck, and Murray locks to protect gate equipment. A 70-foot breach in the Point Remove levee closed I-40 west of Morrilton.


The biggest story developed at Wilbur D. Mills Dam Dec. 4, when 36 barges

loaded with various commodities broke free of their mooring at Pendleton. Fourteen slammed into the dam. Four Tainter gates were inoperable. Engineers feared the dam might fail because of extensive scour downstream.

The Little River Basin was not spared. Flash floods and tornadoes struck with rainfall reports of 7 to 10 inches. Although flood losses were substantially less than in the Arkansas and White River Basins, there were widespread evacuations and transportation interruptions as bridges and area highways were

overtopped.

All in all, three counties in Missouri and 21 counties in Arkansas experienced significant flooding. Flood damages across SWL were estimated at \$53.4 million (about \$111 million in today's dollars). Most damages were urban. Agricultural damage was limited because of the time of year. Costs associated with the Dam 2 barge incident included \$5 million to remove barges and \$12 million for repairs.

District projects prevented about \$54.5 million in damages (about \$114 million today), mostly in the White River Basin. Regionally, SWD districts provided assessment teams and damage survey report teams to document and estimate damages for areas receiving a major disaster declaration from the President. 



Thanks Little Rock District

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

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I should do and, with the help of God, I will do." Everett Hale (former Chaplain to the U.S. Congress)

Another year is coming to a close, and much has happened to make 2007 a stellar year for Little Rock District. I want to reflect on what we have accomplished this year and use this as an opportunity to lay the groundwork for a prosperous New Year (hopefully one with a budget before the summer!)

I am truly indebted to an outstanding team of professionals, each one making a difference one project at a time. We've had great changes this year, both in leadership and organizational structure, and we all rose to the challenge, continuing to do great things for our region and our nation.

Clearwater Dam's rehabilitation was a focal point this past year. I am pleased to report the project is ahead of schedule and on course.

The dam is a national-level project ranked number six on the Headquarters priority list for Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) level 1 structures. A team of dedicated experts in the district, along with a national panel of experts, recently completed the Clearwater Interim Risk Reduction Measures Plan that has become a national model under the new headquarters requirements.

In addition, this project continues to be fully funded under the President's Budget and supported throughout the Corps and by our congressional delegations. Although there has been risk and an ongoing

construction project, there have been no disruptions to operational capabilities as a result.

District personnel continue to execute a seamless communications and emergency management plan that is closely coordinated with local and congressional leadership and the public. We recently held an outstanding table top exercise that validated our crisis action plans. We will follow up with another, more detailed exercise in March 2008. Thanks to all of the teams involved for continuing to make this a Little Rock success story.

Regionalization continues to be a trend in the Corps and Southwestern Division, and

Thanks to all in Little Rock District, and to our regional SWD teammates, for a successful 2007. The coming year will again be full of challenges, but together we can and will rise to the occasion.

the cooperation between Tulsa and Little Rock Districts has served as a model for this effort. The bilateral agreement we have with Tulsa over operation of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System continues to prove beneficial to both districts and the entire region.

Our partnership was tested and validated this past year during extreme flooding events that made water management a challenge throughout the region.

Despite intense public pressure to release water from their reservoirs, Tulsa worked closely with Little Rock to manage water releases, greatly minimizing the impacts to our district, ensuring a system of systems approach to the drawdown.

Throughout the event there was extraordinary



coordination between both districts and teamwork displayed as elements of our staff and both district marine terminals worked together to solve numerous maintenance challenges arising from the increased flows.

This effort included some ingenious methods for clearing the navigation channels that greatly added to restoring commercial operations despite the slow pace of contracted dredging efforts.

In the face of continued degradation of operation and maintenance budgets, our cooperation with Tulsa and our excellent maintenance personnel ensured the

MKARNS' operability with virtually no significant outages during the past year.

Even with the continued challenges of shrinking budgets, the district accomplished a number of critical maintenance projects this year. Many members of the district staff, project offices, and maintenance staff were instrumental to these efforts.

On the MKARNS, the district completed painting and rehabilitating Lock and Dam 5. In addition we completed rehabilitation of tow haulage at Locks 3, 4, 5 and 6 as well as the replacement of motor control center panels at Locks 7, 8, 9 and 13. Also the water stops at Dardanelle were repaired. In a record 10 days, Russellville's Marine Terminal supported the dewatering of Tulsa District's Lock 14.

See **Little Rock** on page 16



Little Rock

Continued from previous page

Around the district repairs were made to the Norfolk Dam roadway and the spillway catwalk at Bull Shoals (ongoing). In addition, improvements were made to the Bull Shoals Field Station, campsites at Nimrod Lake, a transfer ramp at Moonshine Beach and the Dewey Short Visitor Center at Table Rock Lake.

Numerous other project improvements are made each month through various partnerships developed by our outstanding project office teams across the district. Your continued efforts to improve service to the public reinforce our reputation as a ready, relevant, reliable and responsive force despite the numerous challenges we face each day. Thanks for a job well done!!

Throughout the year we have experienced some trends that indicate more of our future roles. We continue to find ourselves playing more of our games "on the road" as opposed to here within our district footprint. We have taken on a much bigger role in regional military construction. Currently we are responsible for \$443 million in Base Realignment and Closure construction projects at Fort Bliss and Fort Hood.

In addition we have increased our support to the Department of Homeland Security and the Border Patrol. Several key members of our staff, to include Karyn Higgins, DeJuan Carter, Trish Smith and John Balgavy worked countless hours in support of the border fence project, which is the number one priority for Southwestern Division.

A number of our employees have either returned from or deployed in support of the Global War on Terror or disaster recovery operations. These include Trish Anslow, Jim Marple, David Shoults, Jennifer Hoban, Mike Lee, Ralph Allen and Barry Stuard in support of GWOT, and Ed Watford, Paul Wagener, Charlie Tobin, Tony Hill and Cathy Funkhouser in support of disaster recovery. Little Rock District has no

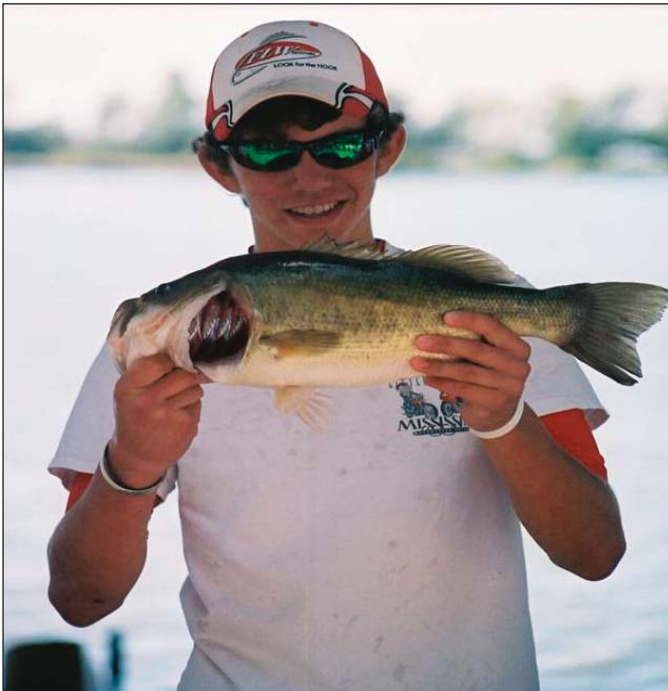


lack of dedicated volunteers who have risen to the challenge, so please join with me by warmly thanking those who have recently returned and in praying for those still deployed.

Finally I want to thank so many of you who mourned with us the loss of Carolyn Perugini. Carolyn passed away unexpectedly last month. She was a dedicated and loyal teammate who will be greatly missed by all in the district headquarters.

Thanks to all in Little Rock District, and to our regional SWD teammates, for a successful 2007. The coming year will again be full of challenges, but together we can and will rise to the occasion. **Kapshi kapshi da** ... we will go together. Happy holidays to all and best wishes for a prosperous New Year. 🍀

Little Rock employee's son wins local bass tourney



For five hours and 55 minutes on Oct. 13, 16-year-old Matt Gray, son of Little Rock District's Bill Gray, went empty-handed at Big Ditch Trophy Bass Lake in Stuttgart, Ark. With five minutes left in the Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Junior Bassmasters State Championship tournament, Gray finally hooked one. He reeled in a beauty of a bass weighing 4.28 pounds, winning him the 15-18 age group championship.

Arkansas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Junior Bass Club anglers who finished first or second in their local clubs in the age groups of 11-14 and 15-18 were invited to compete in the state championship.

Gray's win qualified him to represent Arkansas in the Junior Bass Master World Championship in Greenville, S.C., in February 2008. Junior anglers will fish with one of the top fishing professionals in the nation. Gray plans to practice for the national tournament as much as possible. "I try out different baits to see how the fish are biting," he said. "Hopefully, I'll be prepared for February." 🍀

Little Rock loses valued employee and friend

It is with much sorrow that Little Rock District reports the loss of one of its most valued employees and trusted friends - Carolyn Perugini. Her family informed the district Oct. 30 that Carolyn, a Program Analyst for Engineering and Construction Division, passed away at her home in Hot Springs, Ark. We all lost a co-worker and dear friend.



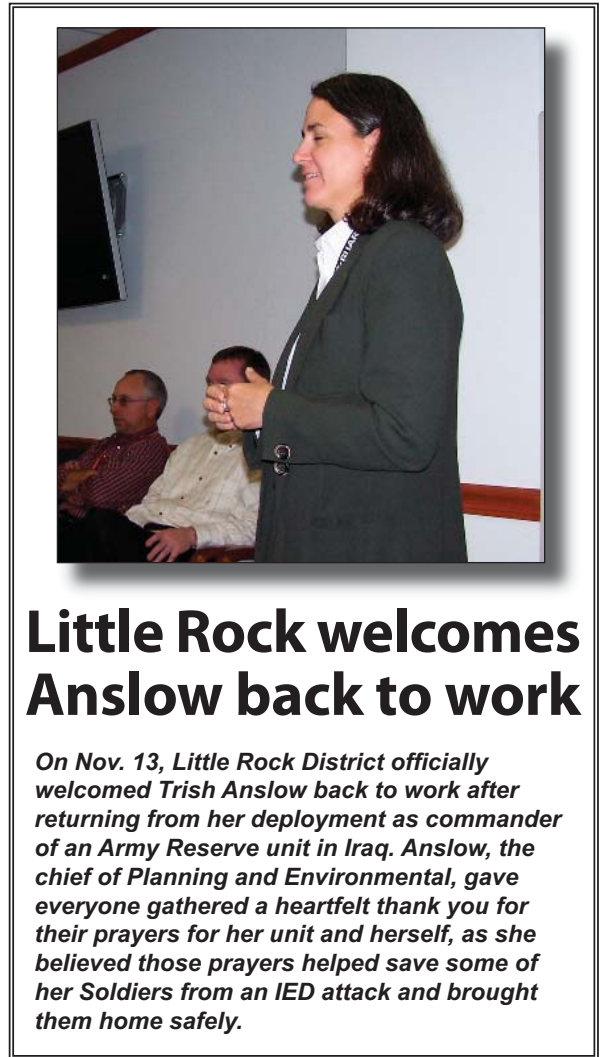
Carolyn was well known and greatly respected by all in Little Rock District.

Although she worked as the program analyst for Engineering and Construction Division, she was always willing to assist anyone. Because of the breadth of the funding sources for Engineering and Construction Division, she worked closely with all offices within the District. She was an advisor to many and friend to all who worked with her.

She was also a Marine at heart having worked at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar near San Diego, Calif. for many years. She held many positions with the MCAS culminating as the Director of Resources, Plans, Operations, and Analysis Division.

Little Rock District was very lucky to lure her to Arkansas in 2002, when she moved to be closer to her family.

In the Little Rock District, she worked as the program analyst, and temporarily served as the Resource Management Officer. She was also the District representative to the regional Consolidated Departmental Overhead project team. 🇺🇸



Little Rock welcomes Anslow back to work

On Nov. 13, Little Rock District officially welcomed Trish Anslow back to work after returning from her deployment as commander of an Army Reserve unit in Iraq. Anslow, the chief of Planning and Environmental, gave everyone gathered a heartfelt thank you for their prayers for her unit and herself, as she believed those prayers helped save some of her Soldiers from an IED attack and brought them home safely.

Job well done



Tim Morrison accepts his plaque from Robert W. Gilbert, Chief Patrol Agent, Tucson Sector.

Tim Morrison was presented a plaque by the Tucson Sector Border Patrol Chief for his efforts as Project Manager on the PF70 fence project. It reads: Presented to Tim Morrison, ACOE Project Manager, In recognition of your dedicated service and outstanding leadership given to the Tucson Sector Tactical Infrastructure Program. Your steadfast efforts and countless hours worked have helped strengthen our Nation's borders. Robert W. Gilbert, Chief patrol Agent, Tucson Sector.



Holiday Season Reflections

Col. David C. Weston
Commander, Galveston District

The holiday season is upon us, and I know we are all busy making plans for how to spend this time with family and friends celebrating the respective holidays that occur this time of year. By now, most of our office parties are over, most of the flounder fishing is winding down, and we are looking forward to taking some time off to re-energize for the coming New Year. Kim and I feel blessed every day to be able to serve the nation here in Galveston District. It is truly a great place, with great people executing important missions for the region and the country.

As we reflect on the great year we have had, and the challenges we have faced as individuals and as a nation, we have a lot to be thankful for, and many - many folks to thank as well. I would like to offer my personal thanks to those employees here in Galveston District and across the Corps who have volunteered their service to operations in the Gulf Region Division, as well as to continuing hurricane recovery efforts in New Orleans. In particular, I say "THANK YOU!" to Joshua Adekanbi, Celia Cockburn, and James Worthington currently deployed in GRD; and Michelle Matte deployed in support of Task Force Hope. You all are doing great service to the nation, and I wish you and your families all the best during this holiday season. We are all looking forward to your safe return to Galveston District.

We also reflect daily on the sacrifices of the men and women serving in our Armed Forces, and many of us have family and friends deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The holidays are always a tough time to be away from

family and friends, so I encourage you to reach out to these folks as well - through cards, emails, packages, etc. - and let them know that we understand and are grateful for their sacrifices on our behalf.

For many of us, the holidays are a time for giving, and many of you have shared with me heart-warming stories of the great things you are doing through volunteer efforts in your local communities or places of worship. I want to thank all of you who exhibited your generosity by participating in this year's Combined Federal Campaign fund drive. The contributions you made, more than \$29,000 worth (much of it to local organizations), will have a positive impact on the lives of those that receive them. The Salvation Army also thanked

us for those of you who volunteered to participate in their Angel Tree Program. Through your efforts, more than 70 children in Galveston will have a much better Christmas than they otherwise would have. The generosity displayed by the

I wish everyone a joyous holiday season. We have all worked hard this year to achieve excellence for the district, and deserve some well-earned time off to reflect on all the goodness that we have experienced.

district is indicative of the high quality people we have in our organization.

As we rush out the door to enjoy this holiday season, and all the activities associated with it, I ask each of you to commit to taking personal responsibility for the safety of you and your loved ones. We need every one of you back here ready to help the district ring in the New Year, and accomplish our mission. I wish everyone a joyous holiday season. We have all worked hard this year to achieve excellence for the district, and deserve some well-earned time off to reflect on all the goodness that we have experienced. See you next year! 🌍

Making spirits bright



The Galveston District continued its participation in the Angel Tree Program for the seventh year, helping make a happier holiday for 72 local children. Preparing to transfer the gifts are (from left) Galveston District Angel Tree coordinator Wanda Hollman; Salvation Army Officer Major Elda Flores; Angel Tree Program Chair for Galveston Mary L. Hearn; Galveston District's Linda Fredernall, who started the program at the Galveston District; and Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander. 🌍

New crane on board

New crane will help maintain, repair areas along McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

If seven is a lucky number, then the crew at the Marine Terminal hit the jackpot early Monday morning, Oct. 29. That was the day the new Manitowoc 777 crane rolled in from Wisconsin on eight semi trucks. The new delivery took nine months to manufacture and deliver.

The shiny, red 350,000-pound crane will be assembled on site and will replace the almost 40-year-old crane currently in use. "It took us two years to get this crane," said Rodney Beard, acting operations project manager for the navigation system, who cited maintenance problems with the one currently in use.

Once assembled, track mounted, inspected, and moved onto its barge, the crane will be used primarily to perform maintenance and repairs along the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The barge is currently in a ship yard in Memphis being made wider to accommodate the new crane's capacity.

The crane's 120-foot boom (with an extra 20 feet available) has a 200-ton maximum lifting capacity. It replaces the 175-ton which was manufactured in 1968.

New safety requirements also helped cement the terminal's case for a different crane. ANSI/OSHA regulations, implemented in September 2006, prohibited lifting personnel with the existing crane. "This severely limited our capacity to perform work along the river," explained Vic Heister, acting Marine Terminal manager. "The Manitowoc 777 complies with the new regs and restores our capability to work on flood damage reduction structures, hydropower plants, and locks." 🌍



The crane arrived at dawn. It took eight semi trucks to deliver all of its parts. This photo shows the crane following assembly.



Crane on Cranes -- The new Manitowoc 777 is suspended between two other cranes after removal from the truck bed. The dusty red crane on the left is the one being replaced.

Corps of Engineers in Herat Support Afghan National Police

Thomas Basinger and Kurt Floyd
Herat, Afghanistan

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan District's Herat Area Office is overseeing the construction management of the Uniform Police Regional Headquarters, Regional Logistics Center and Stand-By Police Battalion located northeast of the ISAF airport in Herat, which is scheduled to be completed May 2008.

The center is one of nearly 300 Afghanistan National Police projects that the Corps' Afghanistan Engineer District will be building throughout the country in the next year. However, the RLC is much larger than most ANP projects and will be the headquarters for several Afghan government agencies responsible for security and logistics in the Herat Province. The massive compound will house 500 personnel with a future growth capacity for up to 700. Once completed, this facility will make it easier for the local Afghan Police forces to provide security for various agencies and will be a one-stop center for civilians doing business with the Afghan government in Herat.

The center cost about \$17 million, and is a self-sustaining design-build project that will have its own well, septic and backup

generator power system. It will feature dining facilities, storage yards, barracks, toilets, showers, a laundry building, administrative buildings, headquarters buildings, electronic and communications buildings, a weapons facility, a small arms maintenance facility, an ammunition supply point, a vehicle refueling point, vehicle parking, a vehicle maintenance facility, storage and trash points, a Battalion Command Center, and a Soccer Field.

Thomas Basinger is the Afghanistan Engineer District's Project

Engineer and Contracting Officer's Representative for the project, and is the sole point of contact for all contractual actions. The contractor, International Construction Consultation & Support, Ltd., is an Afghan and German partnership company. At peak construction, ICCS plans to employ up to 250 local Afghans per day. According to figures obtained from the Central Bank of Afghanistan, an unskilled laborer on a Corps of Engineers project earns about eight times more than the average per-capita income in Afghanistan. This project is providing jobs for local Afghans, is training local workers in various construction trades and skills, and



Barracks Construction at the Regional Logistics Center northeast of the ISAF Airfield in Herat.

will make a lasting improvement on the security and stability of the region. 🌟

Galveston District Corps of Engineers recognized for contract awards to disabled vets

The Galveston District was recently recognized for its achievement in awarding government contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. The District awarded more than \$9 million to service-disabled veteran-owned firms in FY07. This amount was 5.4 percent for the Corps as well as the three percent goal set for all federal agencies.

Accepting the award was Galveston District commander Col. David C. Weston. The award was presented by Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, chief of engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"This award shows our commitment to our Nation's wounded warriors," Weston said. "Disabled veterans have proven their worth many times on the battlefield, and now bring that same drive and commitment to the business arena. As a Nation still at war, it is only right that we give back to those who have given so much for our country."

The award was presented Nov. 6 at the Corps' Small Business Conference in St. Louis, Mo. 🌟



Ken Adams, Small Business Office, and Col. David Weston were on hand to accept the district's award.



Happy Holidays Team Tulsa

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

The holidays are upon us, and we in the Tulsa Engineer District wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season. It is not only a time of reflection but also a look forward at the opportunities that lie ahead for the District in 2008. Although it is the holiday season, we all know the pace has not slowed down. The year-end close-out was a success, and then we immediately got moving under the Continuing Resolution for FY08 requirements. It has taken great effort to manage our resources so tightly, and I am appreciative of how our team pulled it all together.

The last couple of months have been busy with a number of major events.

At the National Small Business Conference in St. Louis, we had the opportunity to meet and discuss many topics with our large and small business partners. Yolane Hartsfield and Rick Hedrick did a great job as part of our Southwestern Division Team to explain small business processes to new businesses and to exchange information with the community. Representatives of our Leadership Development Program, Melonie Zincke, Laura Redemann, and Adam Smith, led by Lt. Col. Thomson, also attended and studied the operations aspects so they would be prepared to host our small business conference in the spring. We had the opportunity to speak with our Society of American Military Engineers professionals in Tulsa and Oklahoma City regarding small business themes.

Other major events were the State Governor Water Conferences in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. There, we had the chance to meet Mr. Woodley, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, and state officials to discuss the role of water within both of our basins. We discussed many opportunities including the Water Resources Development Act 2007, a number of feasibility studies to assist our local communities, levee and dam

safety, deepening of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, the Red River Chloride Control Project, and Tar Creek. The discussions were all positive, and our relationships continue to grow.

We want to congratulate our Dredging Crew Project Delivery Team as our PDT of the Quarter! All their innovative efforts to reduce

We in the Tulsa Engineer District wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season. It is not only a time of reflection but also a look forward at the opportunities that lie ahead for the District in 2008.

the shoaling along the Arkansas River after the floods were recognized. Great job to all the folks involved, especially Patrick McQueen, Rodney Beard, and their entire team, as well as the Ozark crew from Little Rock District and our navigation partners!

On our military programs side, I want to highlight Fort Sill. Both increments of the Base Realignment and Closure project to build facilities for restationing the Air Defense Artillery School from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill were awarded for construction in FY07. Eleven separate contracts were awarded to provide infrastructure, instructional buildings, a dining facility, barracks, and to renovate multiple existing administration buildings for the new mission. Construction is anticipated to be complete and facilities ready for occupancy by August of 2009. They are also working closely to provide relocatables for new trainees by the summer of 2008 to accommodate the Army's plan to grow the force. Of special note is that the Fort Sill team was selected

as our PDT of the Quarter! They broke all previous records and awarded the largest Fort Sill O&M Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization funded program in Tulsa District history. Awesome job to Rick West, Walt Garner, and the entire team! And not to be outdone, Tinker Air Force Base's team won the Air Force Material Honor Award for concept design for the FY09 Medical/Dental Clinic Replacement.

Our regional support has been just as significant. Many of you may not know that the Tulsa District is an integral part of the regional team supporting the Department of Homeland Security/Customs and Border Protection Tactical Infrastructure Program. Tulsa has been assigned the tasks of selecting and awarding 15 Multiple Award Task Order contracts. Twelve of these MATOCs are in place with a combined capacity in excess of \$3 billion dollars available for use in supporting this mission. The MATOCs are associated with

the various CBP sectors along our southern border and provide access to both large and small businesses to meet requirements for design, construction, and major maintenance of border infrastructure (e.g., fences) and associated projects. Tulsa is also part of the Engineering and Construction Support Office environmental support team with an on-going project to complete environmental due diligence assessments along the border corridor.

Finally, a special thanks to our Forward Engineering Support Team that recently deployed to the National Training Center in support of 4th Brigade Combat Team of 4th Infantry Division. Our team was recognized for their outstanding support, and we want to recognize Maj. Lora Carroll, Michael Baker, and Dale Davidson.

See **Tulsa** on page 22

Pope chosen for Customer Care



Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Tallie Pope, administrative support assistant, was chosen as Tulsa District's Customer Care Employee for the fourth quarter. Pope has been doing double duty and more since the Kansas Area administrative assistant job was left vacant in August 2007.

According to the nomination, "Tallie, acting in the capacity of the administrative support assistant for the Fall River Lake Office, stepped into the role of administrative assistant for the Kansas Area Office, undertaking what could only be accomplished by someone with her exceptional work ethic, experience, knowledge of the area, and willingness to step up to the tasks . . . The Kansas Area Office also gained a new area manager during this time, and her assistance to him is an invaluable asset as well."

The nomination continued, "Year-end processes for close-out are in full swing during this quarter of the fiscal year which lends to the magnitude of her duties. Her duties include managing FY07 project funds expenditures, clean up of committed and obligated balances, accruals, CRA requests for FY08 budgets, timekeeping, ensuring contract suspenses were met, visitor assistance, and coordination of fund usage between multiple projects and other divisions within the Tulsa District." 🌍

Team Fort Worth gives back

The Fort Worth District hosted an Angel Tree this year featuring 45 angels and five families that needed to be adopted. Every angel was adopted by an office or individual and Team Fort Worth made sure to give the angels and families an even brighter Holiday Season. 🌍



Collin McCormick,
Engineering and
Construction
Division, wraps a
gift for one of the
adopted angels.

Tulsa

Continued from page 21

We have also enjoyed some very special visitors which included Command Sgt. Maj. Winzenreid who had the opportunity to meet Dennis Duke and his team at the Red River Chloride Project in Truscott. He was extremely impressed with the project's operation and the innovation our team displays each and every day. We also had Col. Dan Bentley, Fort Sill's deputy garrison commander for transformation, who received updates on the Fort Sill projects and finally Col. Cox, Southwestern Division commander, who visited Tulsa for the first time, saw all the projects at Fort Sill, and met with all the base civil engineers/departments of public works at our annual conference. He

also enjoyed meeting our navigation partners at the Port of Catoosa. He only saw a fraction of the District, but we look forward to his return.

Special recognition goes to our retirees: Jerry Daniels, Marion Newton, Colin Clark, John McKinney, Ruth Fritz, and Wes Baker for their valued dedication and service.

Once again, let me close by wishing all of our deployed Soldiers and Corps employees a heartfelt thank you from the Tulsa Team. We will miss you this holiday season but look forward to your safe return! Essayons. 🌍

Let's dance ...

Galveston District celebrates Native American History Month



Galveston District employees try their hand (and feet) at Native American dancing with the help of Lyndon Alec, a member of the Alabama Coushatta Tribe in Texas.

At left, he performs the Hoop Dance during the District's Native American Heritage/Thanksgiving Dinner Potluck in November. More than 100 dishes were served to the group, and speakers and dancers from the tribe, located near Livingston, Texas, shared their culture with dancing, music, and handmade items.

Festival marks third year

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Council Grove Lake was the host for the third annual Twin Lakes Water Festival in September. Beginning in 2005 with about 1,000 participants, the festival has grown by about 100 participants each year. Mike Lowry, park ranger at Council Grove Lake, was recruited to help plan the original event and has stayed actively involved since then.



The students learn about mussels and how they are one of the indicators of a stream's health.

Fourth and fifth graders from six different counties -- 30 schools and 58 classes -- were welcomed to the lake. The free, day-long educational event focused on natural resources with an emphasis on water quality and conservation. Students explored resources through a multi-sensory, hands-on approach. Presentations were led by natural resource professionals from across Kansas in a fun, interactive way that encouraged critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible decision-making.

Participants were taught to be good watershed neighbors. Topics included the geology of an aquifer, the water cycle, landfill construction, water conservation, macro invertebrates as indicators for stream health, and Kansas wildlife, soils, and native grasses.

The Twin Lakes festival is sponsored by the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Project, grant funding through the Kansas Department



Youngsters get acquainted with a snake.

of Health and Environment, and has many local sponsors whose in-kind donations totaled \$55,000 this year. The festival has been a great success with involvement by school superintendents and teachers as well as students. 🌍

Honor to be with real heroes

Clay Church
Pacesetter Staff

Project Engineer might not be the title you normally associate with your unit chaplain but in the case of Ted Nicholson, Fort Worth District, it would be if you are a member of the Air Force Reserve 301st Fighter Wing. Chaplain (Major) Ted Nicholson deployed earlier this year to support an Aerospace Expeditionary Force with the 301st but it was his engineering skills and background that also played a major role in a successful mission.

When not doing his Reserve duty, Nicholson is a Lead Civil Engineer with the District. In the past he has worked on environmental design and clean ups, but more recently he has worked on the design and construction of civil works and military construction projects.

This was not Nicholson's first Global War on Terror deployment. He first deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 as an engineer with the Corps's first Forward Engineering Support Team. It was there that Nicholson saw the physical and spiritual needs of deployed Soldiers. "God used that experience to convince me to become a military chaplain," said Nicholson. In 2004, he deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq--this time as a military chaplain. "Up to that point, my deployment to Iraq was the highlight of my career."

Nicholson left again for Iraq in early May 2007 and returned home toward the end of September, spending the entire time he was in Iraq on Balad Air Base. The air base is approximately 40 miles north of Bagdad, occupying 25 square kilometers which makes it one of the largest air bases in Iraq. It is home to about 200 U.S. Army helicopters and is the launching point for F-16 fighters and numerous cargo and unmanned aerial systems. It is home to about 25,000 U.S. troops and is the largest and busiest aerial port operation in all of Iraq. Nicholson was one of seven chaplains and five chaplain assistants who ministered to the military members who serve on this vast sprawling base.

Chaplain Nicholson's days were full from beginning to end with never a dull moment. Through the 126 days he spent at Balad there were 142 attacks requiring "Battle Rattle" -- the donning of body armor and helmet. When the air temperatures soared above 120 F, Nicholson was out visiting Civil Engineering, Security Forces, aerial port, and airplane maintenance troops on the flightline, where it was even hotter. "Being with people where they work and live, and experiencing part of what they experience, gives you a feel for where they're coming from, and helps you more effectively minister to their needs," said Nicholson.

Then there were the many nights spent with the troops as one of his "additional duties" were night visitations at the Air Force Theater Hospital. Here is where he learned his biggest lesson...the will of the U.S. Army Soldier. "Seeing these guys in the hospital that defended their buddies or dragged a fellow Soldier out of a burning vehicle wanting to get back to their units really showed me the real heroes. I would have to tell them that they have done the brave stuff, now let the medical folks get them back into shape. It was a real honor for me to be with real heroes," Nicholson said.

Nicholson also saw some of the not so pleasant sides of war. He was pressed into service on more than one occasion to perform duties not normally associated with being a chaplain or engineer.



Nicholson prays with two Airmen underneath a broken airplane. "The plane was broken and they had tried everything to fix it. They finally called the chaplain to come and pray over the plane and the people working on it to ask God to fix it or show our mechanics how to fix the problem." (Inset): "This is my favorite photo I took. I can't really say why, but it is. These were Army firefighters to whom I was the chaplain."

He described one episode when he assisted in the operating room by suiting-up in surgical scrubs, hair net, gloves and mask. A Soldier had been shot in the leg which severed his femoral artery and besides comforting and praying with the Soldier prior to the surgery, Nicholson was pressed into being a member of the surgical team. The surgery was a success and Nicholson stated how there is a 98 percent survival rate for the patients that make it into the hospital.

Even when surrounded with the stress of combat operations, injuries, and constant attacks, the issue that most people sought him out for counsel was relationships. "Over 80 percent of my work was helping people with their relationships with spouses and significant others back home," said Nicholson. "More than anything else, I reminded people that God is the only one who can help them, especially in situations where we have no control."

Besides his chaplain and "surgical skills," his engineering talents were also put to the test when he was given the duties as the technical point of contact for a new chapel. His duties were similar to that of a Project Engineer, including design changes, quality control of the contractor's work, and ensuring the project kept on schedule, which was no small task in a war zone. The new chapel is on schedule to open just prior to Christmas on December 20.

Nicholson summed up his experience from his third overseas deployment since 9/11 by saying how easy it is to be motivated when others depend on you. "There are no extra people over there. It is a dangerous mission where people get injured and killed. It is good to see people use their training where it really matters for the mission," Nicholson said. 🇺🇸

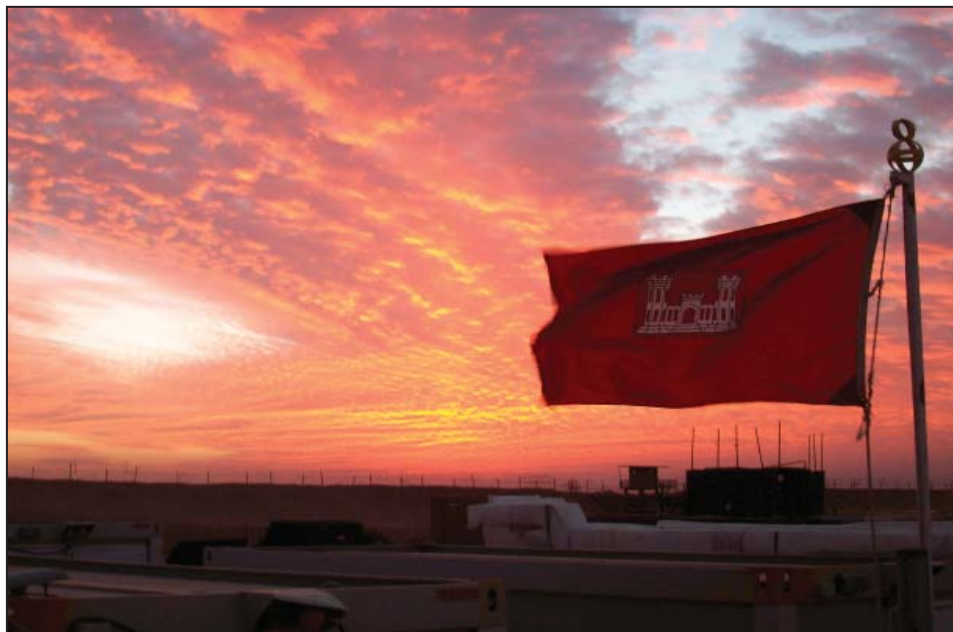
Home for the holidays



Fort Worth District team member and Army Reservist Lt. Col. Kurt Floyd returned home just in time for the holiday season Dec. 18. Floyd was greeted at the airport by fellow Fort Worth team members, friends, and family. Floyd, who is home for rest and relaxation, will return to Afghanistan soon where he serves as the Area Engineer at the Herat Area Office. 🌐



Let us not forget ...



Jeff Boutwell, Fort Worth District, provides this photo of the Corps flag against an Iraqi sunset.

Little Rock District hosts special deer hunts

Tammy L. Moody
Pacesetter Staff

It was rainy, cold and downright nasty the first day of a special hunt hosted recently by Little Rock District's Greers Ferry Project Office. Despite the rain and cold, the hunters were there. This hunt, and others like it throughout the district, was aimed at helping those who might not be able to enjoy hunting on their own to be able to get into the woods to hunt.

Although there are designated areas open to public hunting at most Little Rock District projects, seven project offices in Arkansas and southern Missouri held special hunts for mobility impaired hunters and one youth hunt for children 15 or younger.

"For these guys this is one of the very few opportunities they get to go hunting," said Toney Lequieu, a volunteer with the nonprofit Disabled Sportsmen of Arkansas. "So it doesn't matter what the weather's doing they will be out there, and they will stay as long as they can physically withstand it."

Lequieu, also a case manager with the Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission, works with the Corps to set up mobility impaired hunts throughout Little Rock and other districts.

This year, he worked with park rangers at Little Rock's Greers Ferry, Dardanelle, De Queen, Clearwater, Beaver and Nimrod-Blue Mountain project offices to coordinate these small, special hunts on Corps property.

"Mobility impaired hunts are set up for people who have limited mobility and require the use of prostheses, wheelchairs, braces or crutches for ambulation," he said. "They are designed to help people with physical limitations get into the woods and back out."

See **Special Hunt** on next page



Eight-year-old John Hankins, with his father, Joe, thought it was absolutely awesome that he bagged an eight-point buck during the Millwood Lake Youth Deer Hunt, Nov. 3-4.



Larry Pettit killed a spike, while Trey Lovell got a six-point and John Hays brought home an eight-point buck during the Greers Ferry Mobility Impaired hunt Oct. 23-25.

Special Hunt

Continued from page 26

Larry Pettit lost a leg when he was hit by a car more than a decade ago, and it has gotten harder to hunt every year since. He was looking to get a wall hanging out of the Greers Ferry hunt.

"I can't go out by myself anymore," Pettit said. "I go out with my brother when we can, and he's here to help me today. This is my first special hunt with the Corps, and they are taking just four hunters out to our blinds, so it should be easier to hunt with less pressure."

He may not have gotten his wall hanging with the spike he shot, but he was satisfied with the hunt overall.

"The rangers at Greers Ferry set each of us up a blind, and gave us hats and lunch," he said. "I also met a bunch of people and really enjoyed meeting those new folks."

Natural Resource Specialist Mark Green, of Nimrod-Blue Mountain, worked with Lequieu to set up the special hunts hosted at Nimrod Lake the last five years.

"We have an area out of Sunlight Bay

Recreation Park that is open all year round for mobility impaired hunters, but during our special hunt we assist the hunters with getting there, dragging their deer in, etc.," Green said.

"They can have an assistant come out with them, we can help them, or they can go out alone, but we keep in radio contact with them.

"They really enjoy being able to hunt as some of their families can't take them out, so they really appreciate us putting this together for them," Green added. Someone else who really appreciated his hunt was 8-year-old John Hankins who participated in a district youth hunt at Millwood Lake. He did go home with a wall hanging. He shot an eight-point buck.

Derick Walker, a natural resource specialist at Millwood Lake, said that when the hunters shot their deer during the youth hunt, they were supposed to radio in to report it.

"This is John's report, 'Derick, I have good news and bad news, the bad news is

I passed up three six-point bucks, but the good news is I just shot a awesome eight-point.' He thought it was so awesome he's already planning to come back next year," Walker said.

"I bet he said awesome a hundred times while we were taking pictures, and he never quit smiling the entire time." This was Millwood Lake's second Youth Deer Hunt, and each of the four young hunters harvested a deer.

Although Millwood was the only Little Rock District project office to hold a youth hunt this year, other project offices are considering youth hunts in the future.

"We conducted the hunt near food plots planted by our staff around the lake," Walker said.

"They were then able to hunt without pressure from other hunters in the woods. The Corps' goal is to expose these children to the outdoors and teach them safe hunting practices and principles." 🌲

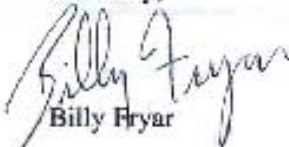
Hunter thanks Russellville for mobility impaired hunt


November 12, 2007

Dear Corps of Engineers Staff,

I just wanted to personally say thank you for your continuous support for the disabled hunters of Arkansas. The deer hunt would not be a success without your support and donations. We had a great and successful hunt this year. I hope that I get the opportunity to come back again next year.

Sincerely,


Billy Fryar

Miles - 7
Forward to PAO.


Update: Tracking dogs defeat obstacles to claim new titles

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

In the October issue of the Pacesetter, the Southwestern Division was introduced to Yaqui and Forest, two tracking dogs that belong to Deb Davis of the Fort Worth District. Since then, both dogs have cleared major hurdles in their tracking careers. "On Nov. 3, a chain of events was set in motion that led me and the "boys" to a once in a lifetime experience," said Davis. "I entered both of my male Tervs to take part in the upcoming tracking test hosted by the Indian Nations Tracking Club at a site just north of Sand Springs, Okla."

Yaqui, Darboshea Dark Plains Thriller, TD, RN, was entered for the Tracking Dog Excellence test and Forest, Darboshea Something to Believe In, was being entered for the Tracking Dog test. "My hope was that we would be lucky enough for one of them to be drawn," said Davis. Against all odds, both dogs were drawn to compete for their respective titles.

On Dec. 2, the day of the actual tests, the weather was anything but cooperative. A cold front had moved in, bringing strong winds, falling temperatures and light rain falling off and on as the day progressed. In spite of the weather conditions and some major distractions around the tracking field, 8-month-old Forest successfully completed his 450-yard TD test and earned his new title. Later in the day, after watching all other TDX handler/dog teams meet insurmountable difficulties that led to their not passing their tests, it was time for Yaqui and Davis to take the field as the day's final TDX entrants.

"After making our way for 920-yards through a field of tall grass, some of it was over my head, crossing water several times, making our way precariously over many rocks, going down through a deep gully, across more water, and back up again to continue through more tall grass, 16-month-old Yaqui indicated the final article for the test-a glove - and earned his TDX," said Davis. "To be lucky enough to have both dogs drawn for the same test was unbelievable. To have both dogs successfully complete their tracks in weather conditions and terrain that were too difficult for all other entries - well, as the commercial says - that's priceless." 🌟



From left to right: Tracking Judge Jerry L. Lewis, Deb Davis, Forest, Darboshea Something to Believe In, Tracking Judge Charlene Dunn and Track Layer Judy Pomfret.



From left to right: Tracking Judge Jerry L. Lewis, Deb Davis, Yaqui, Darboshea Dark Plains Thriller, Tracking Judge Robert S. Brown and Track Layer Jane Wittstock.

Cub Scouts help clean SWL's Clearwater Lake for NPLD

The 2007 National Public Lands Day at Clearwater Lake was a great success. More than 40 volunteers gave their time and energy to improve the public recreation areas of Clearwater Lake.

The Clearwater Project office thanked the Piedmont Cub Scouts for their outstanding effort. Pack 65 concentrated their efforts on Thurman Point and the Black River Hike and Bike Trail. The scouts picked up a significant amount of trash, and worked hard while having fun.

The project office also thanked the Missouri Department of Transportation for the donation of trash bags for this project, and many other individuals who took the time to help make NPLD a complete success.

This celebration is a nationwide hands-on volunteer effort aimed at improving and enhancing



the nation's public lands. NPLD began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year, nearly 100,000 volunteers worked at 1,100 locations in every state. Now, nine federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual event. 🌟

LITTLE ROCK'S CRA HOSTS HALLOWEEN FUN

Oct. 30 proved to be a day of work with a bit of fun thrown in for team members at Little Rock's District office. The Civilian Recreation Association sponsored a Halloween Costume Contest that sparked hilarity and fun among the contestants, judges and audience members during the brief contest.

As a nonprofit committee, the CRA plans and promotes social events within Little Rock District. Its mission is to benefit district morale. Since everyone was laughing during the contest, the event seemed to be a success.

Other events the CRA has put together so far this year are June's Engineer Day Picnic, the Family Fun Night barge ride and BBQ in September and a Fall Bake Sale in November. There are more events scheduled so keep an eye open for them. 🍁



Dana Remsing shows off her first-place winning costume - Stop, did you P2 today?



Glynda "The Ghoul" Haggard scares the others away from her prize.



Little Rock's Regulatory office came as a "Bad News Bears" baseball team, hitting a homerun with the crowd.



This is why you can't take the Wolfman anywhere, he just can't control his hunger.



"Bad Raggedy Anne" Lisa Yoakum pulls "Good Raggedy Anne" Donna Wilkerson's hair during the Halloween Costume Contest Oct. 30.

Pacesetter Points

Congratulations

Ronnie Barcak left the Galveston District Oct. 26 to answer his call to ministry and to serve as pastor of a Southern Baptist Church in Missouri.

Jennifer Cash, Little Rock District, was selected as the budget analyst in the Management Support Section.

On Oct. 4, **Mary-Ann Cooper**, program analyst, programs management branch, Galveston District, became a proud grandmother to Joshua Blake Mokry. He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 19 ½ inches long.

Mandy Edmondson, Little Rock District, and her husband, Tim, welcomed Grace Elizabeth Edmondson, Oct. 15 at 4:42 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and she was 20 inches long.

On Oct. 1, Little Rock District welcomed **Dean Erickson** as the new lead logistics management specialist.

Karen Felker, Program Analyst, was reassigned from Fort Worth District to Military Integration Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, in October.

Brent Hyden, Planning Division, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, and his wife, Chloe, welcomed the birth of their son, Maxim Constantin Hyden, Nov. 20. Max weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces.

Sylvester Jackson, Little Rock District, and wife, Ashia, welcomed Braylen Sylvester at 3 p.m., Oct. 16. He was 20.5 inches long and 6 pounds, 3 ounces.

Debbie Johnson of Little Rock's Construction Management Section will relocate Jan. 6 to Vicksburg District to be with her husband. She has worked in Little Rock District for five years and nine months.

Sarah Keith-Bolden, daughter of **Nancy Keith**, a civil engineering technician in Little Rock's Design Branch, and Jack Keith, a Corps retiree, was admitted to the Bar of Arkansas after scoring the highest on her Arkansas State Bar Examination in July. She graduated with honors from Emory Law School in May. After serving one year as a law clerk with Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Robert Brown, Sarah will join the Little Rock Law Firm Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull and Burrow. In addition, Nancy and Jack's youngest daughter, Shannon Keith, started her graduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin, I-School.

Sam Mayhew, Little Rock's Pine Bluff Project Office, became a proud grandfather

when his daughter gave birth Oct. 17 to Sydnee Brickey. Sydnee weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

Aaron McGee was selected in November for a temporary developmental assignment as Little Rock's chief of Navigation and Maintenance.

Lynette Mills left the Galveston District on Dec. 7 to join the Mobile District as a project assistant at Lake Sidney Lanier. Lynette served as an administrative support assistant for the Bay Area Office.

Congratulations to **John "Jack" Otis**, Galveston District, on his selection for a 120-day developmental assignment as a project manager in Project Management Branch.

Al Rein, Little Rock District Programs Management Office, and wife, Paula, welcomed their newest family member, Lina Ann, Nov. 14.

Phillip Renfro, Little Rock District, will serve as chief of Navigation Branch beginning Dec. 9 for the Russellville Project Office, for a period of 120 days.

Stacey (Spakes) Snead, a civil engineering technician with Little Rock's Greer's Ferry Project Office, married Rick Snead Sept. 29. Rick, a firefighter in Sherwood, and Stacey were high school sweethearts who reconnected after 17 years apart.

Little Rock District's **Shawn Snow** began working as the technical information specialist in the library Nov. 26.

Barbara (Litsey) Stahl, Little Rock District Russellville Project Office administrative support assistant, married retired Danny Stahl, Dardanelle Lock and Dam Mechanic, on Oct. 14.

Holly Taylor joined the Programs Directorate, Southwestern Division headquarters, as a Staff Administrative Assistant Oct. 28. Taylor comes to SWD from a previous assignment with the Corps' Nashville District.

Congratulations to **Richard Tomlinson**, Galveston District, for starting a new career with NASA. Richard served as a project manager in the project management branch.

In Sept. Little Rock's **Elmo Webb** was appointed to serve as the levee safety program manager.

Condolences

Troy Kenney, father-in-law to Little Rock District's Budget Officer **Mike Lee**, passed away Oct. 23.

Carolyn Perugini, a program analyst in Little Rock's Hydrology and Technical Services, passed away unexpectedly Oct. 29. Carolyn joined the district as a budget analyst in Finance and Accounting Branch in 2002,

and she previously worked at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego.

Tommy Qualls, brother of **Billy Ray Qualls** of Little Rock's Operations Division, died Nov. 25, in an automobile accident.

Dan Williams's mother passed away suddenly on Nov. 28 in New York. Dan works as a project assistant in the Bay Area Office, Galveston District.

Outreach

On Oct. 23, Little Rock's **Jack Johnson** gave a presentation about recreation impacts on natural resources to Mills University Studies High School students preparing for an annual Envirothon. The event includes 50 states and Canadian Provinces and exposes the students to diverse environmental issues, ecosystems and topography.

Retirements

Billy Christmas, Galveston District, will retire on Dec. 31 with 18 years of federal service. Billy served as the lock and dam operator at the Colorado River Locks.

Warren Etris, Little Rock District Russellville Project Office, retires Jan. 3 after 39 years of civil service.

Ron Gillespie, Little Rock District Greers Ferry Project Office, retires Dec. 31 after 18 years with the Corps.

Jerry Harris, Little Rock District's chief of the Regulatory Office, retires Jan. 3 after 33 years with the Corps.

Chris Hicklin, of the Planning and Environmental Office, Little Rock District, retires Jan. 3 after almost 31 years – 28 years of that with the Corps;

Charlotte Hipp, Little Rock District Greers Ferry Project Office, retires Dec. 31 and has more than 44 years in civil service;

Don Hubsch, chief of the Arkansas Post Field Office Little Rock District, retires Jan. 3 with 31 years in the Corps and four years with the U.S. Navy.

Marvin Logan, Little Rock District Greers Ferry Project Office, retires Dec. 31 and has more than 44 years in civil service.

Bobby Moore, Little Rock District Pine Bluff Project Office, retired Nov. 3 with more than 26 years of civil service.

Tommy Park, Little Rock District Greers Ferry Project Office, retired Dec. 3 after almost 35 years with the Corps.

Lee Schoonover, Little Rock District Regulatory Office, retires Jan. 3 with 25 years of civil service.

Frank Swift, Little Rock District Office of Counsel, retires Dec. 31 after 27 years of civil service. 