



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Walla Walla District

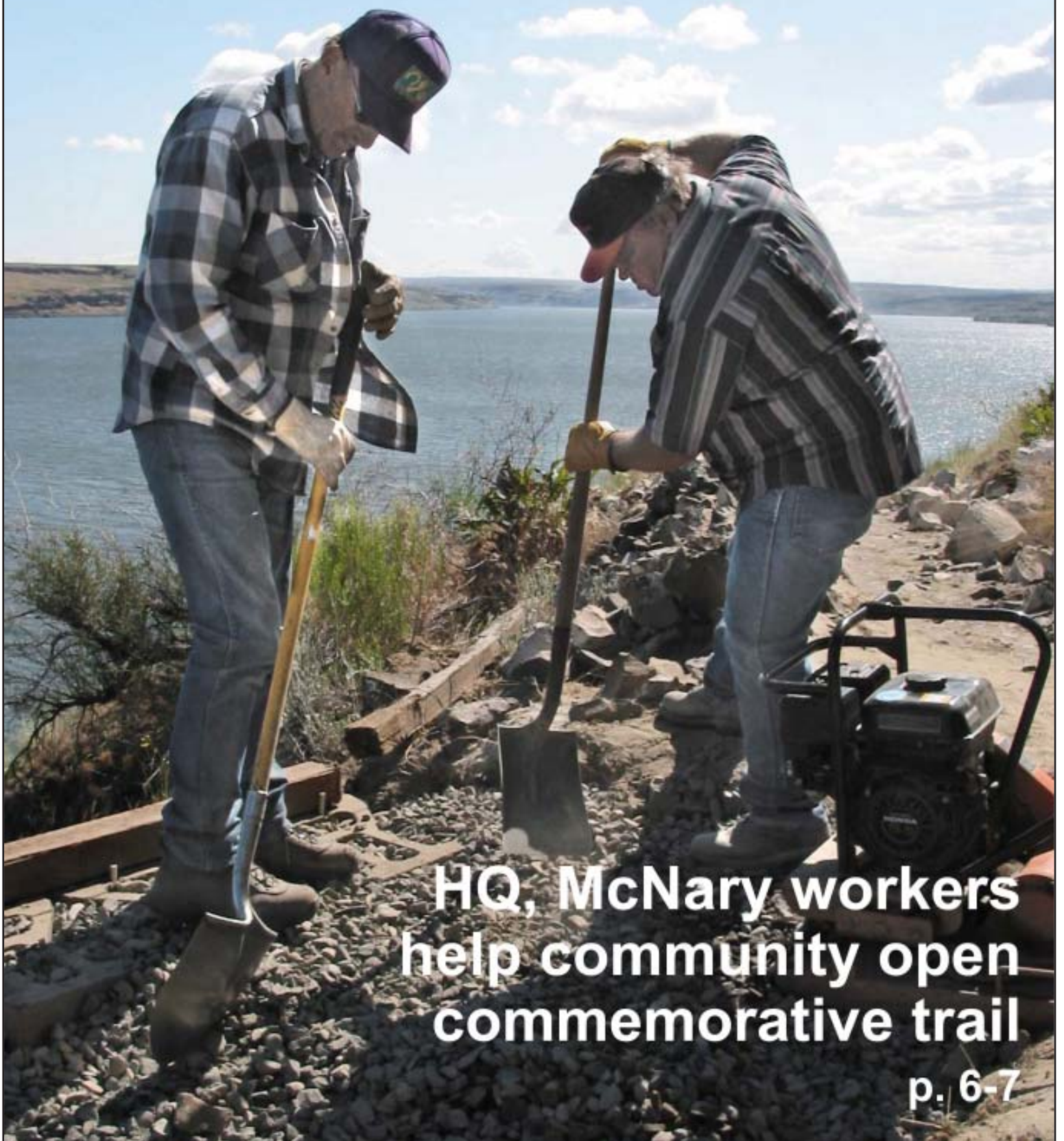
Intercom

Serving the military and civilian members of the Walla Walla District

Vol. 31

No. 7

August-September 2004



**HQ, McNary workers
help community open
commemorative trail**

p. 6-7

Deployment offers rewarding experiences, challenges

Hello everyone. Things here are incredibly busy, but I've found a few minutes to catch you up on what's been going on.

I am working 14-hour days most of the time. It makes the time fly by, and before I know it, a week has passed.



Danielle Stephens

I am the construction manager for the sewer projects in Baghdad for which the Corps provides construction management and quality assurance services. This includes all the projects directly funded to the Corps and ones from the Projects and Contracting Office. This is an extensive program involving about 13 contracts worth more than \$125 million. I've also had the chance to work on the project management and contracting side of

things. Sewers, right now, are the number-one priority and get visibility on a daily basis. There is a lot of pressure to get contracts awarded, scopes defined, contractors on-board and workers on the ground. It's a great learning experience and challenging at the same time.

There are some perks to this work besides playing with sewage all day long. I've been able to take several UH-60 "Blackhawk" helicopter rides to meetings, groundbreakings and site visits to see what work really needs to be done. Getting to see more of Baghdad and interact with the people is amazing, as well.

At a ground breaking I attended the other day, a man came up to me and asked if it was true we are going to install underground sewer lines in his neighborhood to replace the current open-slit-trench sewer. To see his reaction when he saw the hope that it might happen was incredible. It's people like him and all the little kids who bombard you with questions about your age, name, if I'm married, do I have a kid, etc., that make all the hard work and effort everyone is putting into the programs over here worth it. I can't even imagine living someplace where the



Photo by Steve Purdy, Central District, Gulf Region Division

Sewer trenches in Baghdad are frequently filled with trash.

power is sporadic— you're lucky if it's on four hours at a time, then off for six hours— a place where you have no potable water and a sewer system that involves a bucket you dump out on the street. I will definitely have to come back in five or 10 years to see what a difference these projects have made in taking the first step towards a higher quality of life for so many people.

As for the non-work parts of the day (which aren't very much), I

have a new roommate and another gal my age working over here. I've had the chance to hang out when they barbecue, and I frequent the pool instead of going to dinner. The weather isn't as horrible as I thought it would be (I know, it's not August). But, it's weird to walk outside in the morning, and it's over 80 degrees already. And, when I leave work at 11p.m., it's still 80. The wind has to be the worst part. It feels like you're in a blow dryer; but you just get used to it and walk faster to the next building with air conditioning. As far as the explosions, it is only a minority of the population causing problems. We are all taking the appropriate precautions. I do think the media blows things out of proportion and continues to report only the bad things going on. I know this is what sells to the public, but there are so many organizations doing great things over here.

I'm about to get off work at a decent time (it's a shocker). I hope all is going well for you and hope to hear from you soon. I'd love to catch up on what's going on in the U.S. while I'm over here. I miss you all!



Photo by Derrick Dunlap, Gulf Region Division

Affectionately known as "Sewer Princess," Danielle Stephens focuses her civil engineering expertise on waste water treatment in central Iraq.

Danielle Stephens

Editor's Note: Danielle Stephens is a Hydrology Section civil engineer at Walla Walla District. She's currently serving the Corps in Iraq with Central District, Gulf Region Division. More "Postcards from Iraq" written by deployed Corps employees are posted on the GRD Web site www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.html. Check out <http://cpolwapp.belvoir.army.mil/coe-gwot/> for information about deployment opportunities in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

District gets 'quick skinny' on new DE

Story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District's new commander and district engineer, presented his "quick skinny" to the workforce at town hall meetings during July at the headquarters and project facilities.

The overview covered what he expected of them on the job and what they could expect of him at the organization's helm. After providing the District an understanding of his



Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser

professional style and background, Glaeser offered Intercom staff the opportunity for another "quick skinny" on the new boss' private interests and personality.

He habitually offers the head chair at a conference table to others. He said, "You can drop the L," as his name with middle initial was written on a notepad. "That ultra-formal name stuff is for signature blocks only."

When asked how he got started with his Army career, Glaeser smiled broadly.

"I'm not really sure. My father served a four-year tour as an enlisted man in the Air Force," he chuckled. "My great-uncle was a retired one-star general, an engineer officer. My older brother, Tim, was accepted to West Point. He's four years older than I, and I was able to visit him several times at the academy. Those visits sparked an interest in me to pursue a career as an Army officer. When I got the congressional nomination for an appointment to West Point, I went ahead and accepted. My great-uncle gave me his engineer insignia when I was commissioned. Eighteen years later, I'm still playing Army and loving it."

While attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., Glaeser met, and upon graduation, married Vivian Haley, an Army transportation officer. They both served on active duty until the birth of their first child in 1991. They now have two children.

Glaeser tries to find time between work and family for his "absolute passion."

"I live for opening days," he said. "Hunting or fishing – it doesn't matter. Grandpa took me along with him on hunts before I could even hold a gun. From October through December, if I can spare the time away, I want to be in the woods or on the water. I was really excited to find out about Walla Walla District's many outdoor opportunities. This District is perfect for someone like me."

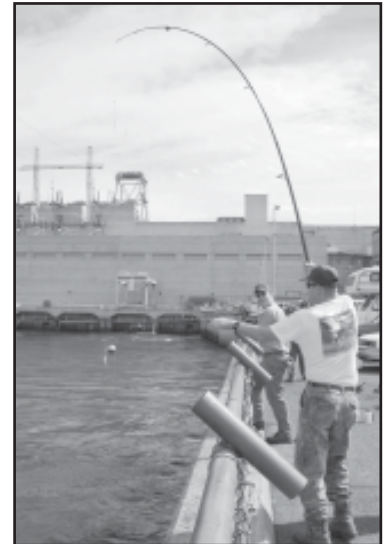
True to his word, Glaeser and Maj. Don Pincus, the District's deputy commander took some leave Sept. 1 (opening day) to cast their lines over the downstream fishing wall at Little Goose Dam, hoping to catch a steelhead. Although he didn't catch any fish, Glaeser still reported an enjoyable time at the river.

"Maj. Pincus caught a wild steelhead. It was great watching him haul that fish in even though he couldn't keep it," he said. "I sure had a great time getting to know all the local old timers who were fishing out there. It was a fun day."

Glaeser said singing and performing theater run a close second to hunting and fishing on his fun list. He's played lead roles in about a dozen different musicals produced by community theaters near his various duty stations. He most recently played King Arthur in the University of Missouri-Rolla's production of Camelot last school year.

"My family and I try to get involved with the communities where we are stationed. Theater is a great way to do that,"

See **Glaeser**, page 9



District Commander Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser (foreground) and Maj. Don Pincus, deputy commander, take leave to enjoy opening day of steelhead season Sept. 1 at Little Goose Dam.

On the Cover...

Mike Metzentine, left, and Bob Williams, McNary maintenance workers, use gravel to backfill the new retaining wall District engineers designed to repair a washed-out area on the Lewis and Clark Commemorative Trail between McNary Beach and Hat Rock State parks.



photo by Gina Baltrusch

Intercom



The INTERCOM is an unofficial publication authorized by the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is published by the Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has a distribution of 1,500 copies. It is digitally printed by the Document Automation and Production Service. Contents of the INTERCOM are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Commander: Lt. Col. Randy L. Glaeser
Senior PA Specialist: Nola Conway
Editor/PA Specialist: Gina Baltrusch
Public Affairs Assistant: Krissy Antes

For more information, contact:
E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office
201 N. Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: (509) 527-7020
Fax: (509) 527-7824



McNary to mark 50 years

by Gina Baltrusch

Walla Walla District's first hydropower-producing dam will celebrate its 50th year in operation on Sept. 23.

District employees, retirees and the public are invited to attend McNary Lock and Dam's anniversary event slated for 10 a.m. at Spillway Park on the downstream side of the dam's Oregon shore.

The I Corps Army Band from Fort Lewis, Wash., will provide music for the ceremony. Following the ceremony, attendees can participate in tours of the dam and explore McNary's past via a variety of interpretive displays.

"This is a great opportunity for folks who worked on the construction to get together with current District employees to celebrate the past, present and future of McNary," said Marlene Freels, project manager for the event. "This dam holds special significance for our District – construction of McNary was the reason that Walla Walla District was established."

Congress authorized the construction of McNary Lock and Dam, near Umatilla, Ore., in 1945. Construction started in 1947 and was completed in 1956.

The dam was named in honor of Oregon Senator Charles McNary who played a major role in the development of hydropower in the Pacific Northwest.

Throughout its 50 years, the facility has served the region with reliable hydroelectric power, water for irrigation, river navigation, outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits.



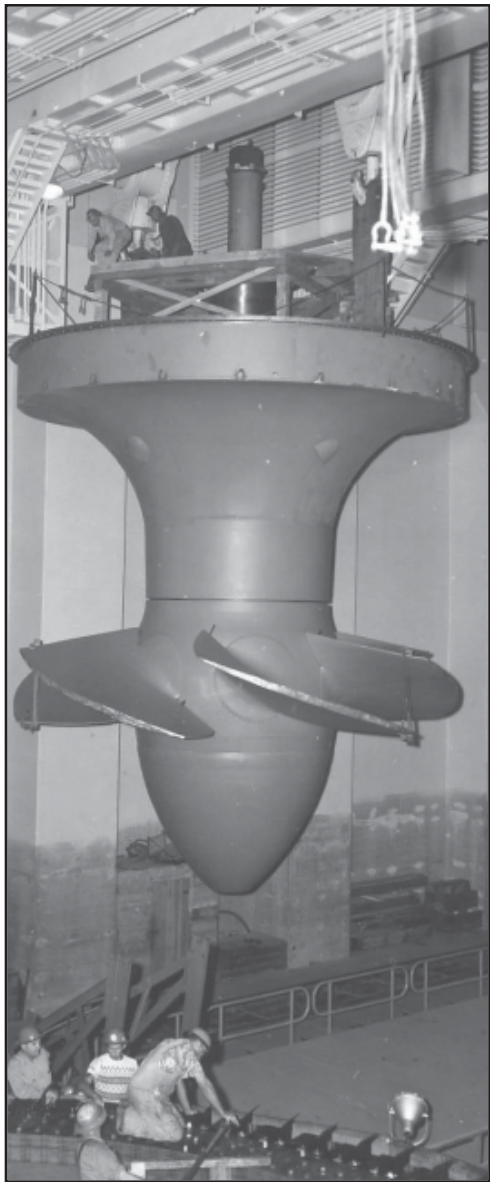
Powerhouse workers gather (far-right) to watch the final positioning of the generator rotor number 4 on April 23, 1954.



Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photos

Above, McNary's navigation lock is complete (in the background), and the powerhouse and stilling basin are under construction in this 1953 photograph. Left, McNary Project today. Below, generator unit number 4 goes online.





Above, hundreds of people gather Sept. 23, 1954, on the Oregon shore of the Columbia River for the official dedication and opening of McNary Lock and Dam. Left, inside the powerhouse, workers move turbine number 5 into position June 25, 1954.



McNary's powerhouse today.



In 1948, work crews drilled into the riverbed to begin building the navigation lock.

Employee association plans dinner-social

In addition to the official ceremony, the Civilian Welfare Council, McNary's employee association, is sponsoring a no-host social set for 5:30 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge, 160 N.W. 2nd Street in Hermiston, Ore.

The evening event was planned to provide current and past employees of McNary Lock and Dam a venue to socialize and have some fun, said organizers.

The evening will include a video presentation of the 50 Years of McNary.

Live music begins at 9 p.m. with music spanning popular hits from the 1940s to today.

Tickets cost \$20 per person. The choice of entrées includes Prime Rib, Chicken or Baked Cod.

For tickets, call (541) 922-2252 or (541) 922-2219.

NWW fixes community trail

by Gina Baltrusch

Walla Walla District engineers and McNary Natural Resource Management staffers teamed up with Umatilla County, Oregon State, tribal and community volunteers to repair and enhance a walking trail along the Oregon side of the Columbia River.

Erosion-damaged portions of the trail needed repairs to make it safe for the walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders that community planners anticipated would frequent the area during upcoming Lewis and Clark commemorative activities.

The trail, which follows the shoreline between Warehouse Beach and Hat Rock State Park, officially opened July 17 during a ribbon-cutting ceremony during which it was renamed The Lewis and Clark Commemorative Trail.

The multi-agency project included the Umatilla County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Steering Committee, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Walla Walla District, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Umatilla, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The primary challenge to completing the trail was a large washed-out area located on land managed by the District between Hat Rock and McNary Beach.

"After considering several options, we decided to stabilize, rebuild and widen the trail," said Steve Fink, a civil engineer in the District's Soils and Civil Design Section. "Our design team surveyed the site and came up with a plan that was implemented by McNary's maintenance workers."

Materials to build the trail were purchased with grant money received from the Wildhorse Foundation, the Oregon State Parks Department and Umatilla County.

"Our engineers planned how to fix the wash-out, the committee got funding for the materials, and our maintenance crew did the work on it," said David McDermott, a natural resource specialist at McNary.

"The trail generally follows the path traveled by the Lewis and Clark expedition," said Kathy Ferge, committee coordinator. "Some parts of the trail, like the stretch between McNary Beach and Hat Rock, run along these high bluffs over the Columbia – it's pretty spectacular."



District engineers planned construction of a new trail section between Hat Rock State parks. McNary maintenance workers used crushed gravel to build up the path. Work on the trail was completed by community volunteers, Umatilla County and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Above, Bob Rinehart uses a walk-along, front-end loader to transport crushed gravel to the repair site. The seven-mile trail section between McNary Beach Park offers a variety of amenities including horse-staging parking area, and horse watering stations. New kiosks were installed at Hat Rock State Park. Lewis and Clark plans to stabilize and rebuild the path where erosion damaged 80 feet of the trail. Right, McNary workers used crushed gravel and interlocking concrete blocks to stabilize the trail. Although yet to be developed, the committee plans to build a trail from Warehouse Beach going east to Sand Station and a trail running west through Umatilla to the Morrow C

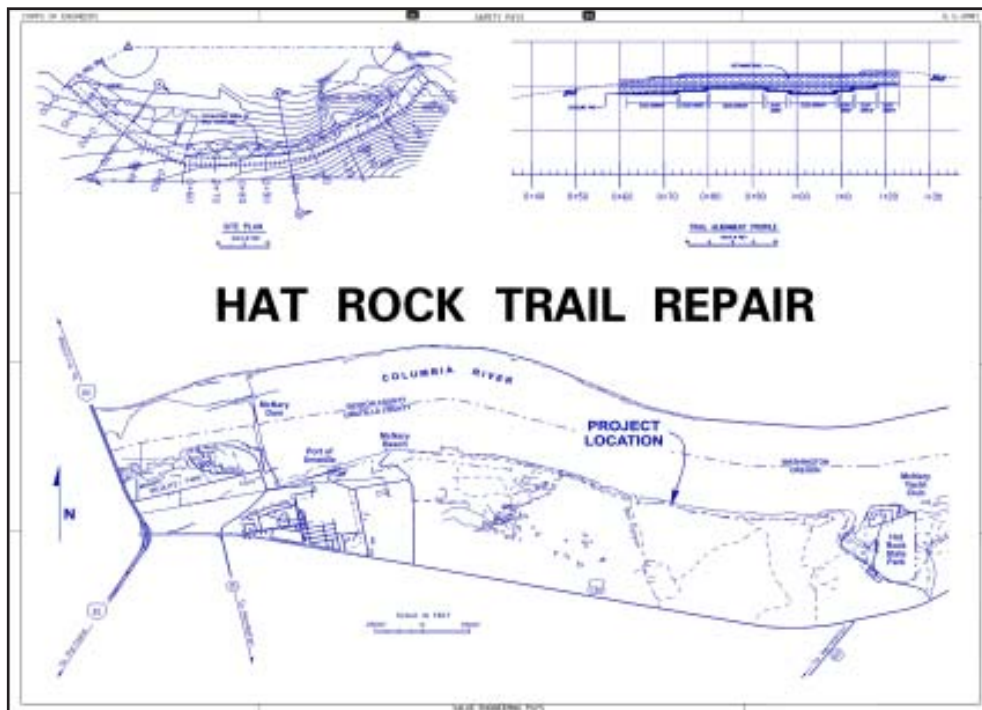




Photo by Gina Baltrusch

retaining wall to repair the washed-out area of the trail between McNary Beach and Warehouse Beach. Workers assembled the interlocking concrete blocks and backfilled the wall with gravel. Other parts of the trail were done by the Northwest Youth Conservation Corps, the Oregon State Parks Department.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

end loader to move gravel to Warehouse Beach. Warehouse Beach has a playground and interpretive signs. Left, District engineers drew plans to build a retaining wall of concrete blocks across the washout area. The plan is to improve the trail from Warehouse Beach to McNary Dam and from McNary Dam to McNary County line.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch



Photo by Dave McDermott, McNary natural resource specialist

District, Oregon State, tribal and Umatilla County representatives officially open the newly repaired Lewis and Clark Commemorative Trail July 17.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Above, the improved trail section runs from Warehouse Beach to McNary Beach Park. Below, Bob Williams, right, and Mike Metzentine, McNary maintenance workers, spread gravel on the trail.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Army's top engineer visits Iraq

from a Gulf Region Division news release
BAGHDAD, Iraq – Reconstructing Iraq after decades of dictatorship and war is going well and great progress is being made, the Army's top Engineer said in Baghdad Aug. 22.

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, the Army's chief of engineers and commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, toured reconstruction projects across the country Aug. 22-25, visiting engineer Soldiers and the more than 230 civilian volunteer employees charged with rebuilding the nation.

"You are demonstrating to the Iraqi people that there is a very positive difference between the new Iraq and what they knew under the former regime," Strock said during an address to the Corps' Gulf Region Division staff in Baghdad. "You are bringing clean water, new schools, reliable electrical service and all the critical infrastructure to the Iraqi people, and I have confidence in what you are doing and your ability to deliver for Iraq."

Corps civilian engineers, project managers and quality assurance specialists dot the map of Iraq, serving at power generation facilities, military bases and construction sites across the country executing a \$12.6 billion infrastructure construction and rehabilitation program.

During his five-day trek, Strock visited project sites across the



photos provided by Gulf Region Division Public Affairs

Army Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl Strock visits with Lisa Rodighiero, a Walla Walla District program analyst supporting the Gulf Region Division mission in Mosul, Iraq.

country ranging from a new Iraqi Army base to new and rehabilitated power generation plants to the Gulf Region Division's three district offices in Basrah, Baghdad and Mosul in hopes of better understanding operations of the seven-month old division.

Strock, who served in Iraq for six months in 2003 as the Deputy Director of Operations for the Coalition Provisional Authority, also visited engineer Soldiers deployed across the country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I am deeply indebted to the volunteer civilians and Soldiers for what they are doing and deeply gratified to see the results of their hard work," Strock said. "Everyone here has pulled together and is making a huge difference."

Difference in Iraq is measured in impact to the Iraqi people, a scale that is frequently in Megawatts, kilometers of pipeline and total numbers of new starts on construction progress.

In less than two years, the Corps' Restore Iraqi Electricity team added more than 1,535 Megawatts to the

national power grid, providing enough electricity to fuel nearly 4.6 million Iraqi homes. The Corps and the reconstruction team of the Project and Contracting Office and the U.S. Agency for International Development have repaired 1,230 schools, 52 clinics, 10 fire stations and rebuilt bridges, sewage treatment plants, water purification systems and upgraded Baghdad area telecommunications.

"The courage that each and every one of you shows here in this environment is absolutely amazing," Strock said. "There are a lot of people back home that will pat you on the back and celebrate what you are doing, but we cannot forget those back home who are unable to make the sacrifice and commitment you are able to make by serving here."

"They too are contributing in some way to our ability to complete our Corps mission and support you while you are over here," he said.

Since arriving to the country in the fall of 2003, more than 1,500 civilian volunteers of the Corps' 35,000-member workforce have served in Iraq.



**Lt. Gen. Carl Strock
Chief of Engineers**

Grebe roundup nets 12 birds

by Gina Baltrusch

It was the perfect location to take up residence this summer – running water, cool breezes, shelter from the rain and an endless supply of tasty morsels on which to snack.

Perfect for the 15 Western Grebes that found a way into McNary's fish bypass channel inside the dam. Not so perfect for the juvenile salmon traveling through the channel to the downstream side of the dam that often became the entrée of choice on the grebe's bypass buffet.

"No one's sure exactly how many fish they were eating, but that channel was their only source of food," said Rex Baxter, District fish biologist. "Fifteen grebes can eat a lot of fish over the course of a couple of months."

Walla Walla District personnel from the headquarters, McNary and Ice Harbor dams netted and relocated 12 of the birds during round-up efforts Aug. 10.

A representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Wildlife Services) joined the capture-and-release team as they used nets to capture the grebes, transferred them to burlap bags for transport to a release site downstream of the dam. The birds were removed in accordance with a USDA permit allowing the District to deter predatory birds from hunting juvenile salmon.

"Everyone worked well together," said Brad Eby, McNary fish biologist. "It didn't take long for us to figure out a routine to keep the birds moving into positions where they could be netted."

Grebes – gull-sized, pointed-beak waterfowl with red eyes and black, grey and white markings – hunt fish by diving and swimming under the water. Sometimes, they enter a turbine intake and swim into the bypass channel. Once inside the dam, there is little room for flying. The only way out by water is through the fish bypass system to the Juvenile Fish Facility, Baxter explained.

"Some folks working the fish separator occasionally see grebes flow from the bypass tubes into the separator," Baxter said. "The birds quickly fly away."

"We haven't had any new birds enter the channel," said Eby during a telephone interview Sept. 8. "Any birds left in there when we dewater the channel this winter will be captured and released to the river."

Glaeser, from page 9

he said. "The military lifestyle, especially when in command, can make it difficult to commit to rehearsals and performances. I don't know yet if the duties of this position will allow me time to take up that interest here."

Another aspect of military life repeated play for the new commander upon his assignment here. The lieutenant who served as Glaeser's executive officer when he commanded an engineer company at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., again serves as his right-hand man at the District.

"Maj. Pincus and I became great friends during our tour with C Company (5th Engineer Battalion). After that assignment, we stayed in touch over the years. Sometimes, we'd even go fishing or hunting together when we were passing through where the other was stationed," said Glaeser. "I was glad to hear he might be available for the deputy position here. It doesn't happen often in one's military career, but it seemed the timing was right for us to work together again. I couldn't ask for a better deputy."

As Glaeser settles into his new job, he said he hopes to



Photo by Al Sutlick, Walla Walla District wildlife biologist

Brad Eby, McNary fishery biologist at left, and Kye Carpenter, a biological science technician from Ice Harbor Natural Resource Management, carefully place a captured grebe into a sack for transporting to a release location outside of the dam.



Photo by Gerry Turner, USDA (Wildlife Services)

Mark Halupczok, Ice Harbor Natural Resource Management wildlife biologist releases a grebe downstream of the dam.

have a positive impact on the District and its workforce.

"I plan to focus my time and effort on making things better for the employees by improving quality of life issues, systems and inefficiencies," he said. "I've always tried to make things better – both for the organization and the people in it. I look forward to a fun and fulfilling assignment and appreciate everyone's efforts getting me up to speed on the District's mission and issues. Keep charging!"

Glaeser's biography is posted on the District Internet at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/welcome/glaeser_bio.htm.

Ooops, our mistake...

Correction: Intercom's June-July issue misidentified David Barnard as a fish biologist – he is a biological technician. The difference is job classification and responsibility, clarified Dave Hurson, Walla Walla District's fish program manager.

How effective is your hard hat?

by Mike Reser, Safety and Occupational Health Office intern

A hard hat is one of the most important pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE). However, the effectiveness of any PPE on the job is limited if it is not properly worn, maintained or replaced when needed.

The typical work environment for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees who use hard hats includes exposure to sunlight, chemicals/petroleum products and extreme temperatures. Hard hats should be inspected for wear and damage regularly and replaced about every five years. The manufacture date of a hard hat is usually located on the brim or bill. It appears as a clock face with year, month and day. Hard hats have two components: the shell and the suspension. Both require a thorough inspection before each use.

When inspecting the shell of a hard hat, look for cracks, nicks, dents and damage caused by impact. If the hat is made of thermoplastic materials, inspect the shell for stiffness, brittleness, fading, dullness of color or a chalky appearance. If the shell shows any of these age indicators, remove it from service and replace it with a new hard hat.

“Sunlight and ultraviolet light can cause the most serious damage,” said Bob Bonstead, Walla Walla District safety and occupational health specialist. “UV exposure causes deterioration over time, making a hard hat more susceptible to cracking that might let an object penetrate the shell. Hard hats should be stored away from sunlight.”

The shell can be tested for deterioration by compressing the exterior shell inward from the sides about 1 inch with

both hands and then releasing the pressure without dropping the shell. The shell should return back to its original form immediately. Then, do the same test on a new hard hat and compare the results. If the old shell does not return to the same shape in the time it took the new shell to do so, it should be replaced.

A hard hat’s suspension helps absorb the shock of a blow to the top of the hard hat. The suspension is just as important as the shell. It should be inspected by looking for cracks, tears, and frayed or cut straps.

It’s common for workers to take pride in what they do. Many like to stand out a little and express who they are,

often personalizing their hardhats with stickers. Stickers don’t usually harm a hat’s performance, but they can limit one’s ability to inspect the shell. If stickers are placed on hard hats, they should be at least three-fourths of an inch away from the brim.

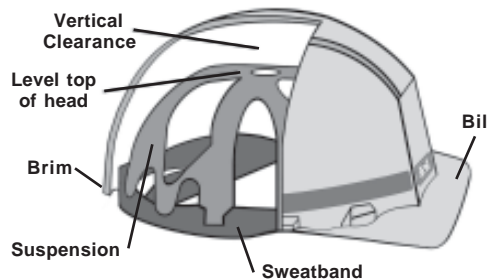
Many workers are required to look up at their work (riggers, crane operators, etc.), the brim of their

hard hats often obstructing their line of vision.

“It may be tempting for those workers to turn their hardhats backwards. But, when hats are worn backwards, they do not provide reliable protection,” said Bonstead. “Falling objects, dirt and dust can pass by the brim of a reversed hard hat, getting into your eyes.”

Corps policy requires workers to wear hardhats with the bill facing forward.

Hard hats have been saving lives for years. The cost of maintaining and replacing them is well worth their benefits.



District members hoop it up

Eight Walla Walla District employees threw hoops in their off-duty time during the Walla Walla YMCA Peach Basket Classic Aug. 8-9. They entered the three-on-three basketball tournament in the corporate category as teams Vertical Limit and The Engineers. Right, Kevan Schneidmiller, Engineers, goes up for the shot. The Engineers won their first game, then fell out of the running the next day. Far-right, Mark Lindgren, Vertical Limit, drives past an opponent during the first of two games lost on Aug. 8. Many District employees gathered on the Main Street sidewalks to support their coworkers. Jack Sands, Kim Callan and Steve Fink also played for Vertical Limit. The Engineers team included Kip Tyler, Sergio Sanchez and Austin Roberson.



Photos by Gina Baltrusch

Corps energizes GWOT recruiting efforts

By Denver Beaulieu-Hains, HQ USACE

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Aug. 1, 2004) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is recruiting Soldiers who are leaving the Army, retired military, family members and Department of Defense civilians to work in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Corps now has 328 civilian positions to fill in Iraq and Afghanistan. The goal is to have all of the positions filled by December, if not sooner, officials said.

"We're pulling out the stops to try to recruit people," said Shelia Dent, chief of the Corps' employment and compensation management division. "The Corps is using every hiring tool at its disposal, including recruitment bonuses, hardship pay, direct hiring authority, and dual compensation waivers to entice Soldiers leaving the Army, and retired federal employees back to work.

Since the war on terrorism began, the Corps has deployed about 2,000 people.

Pat Burgess, National Emergency Program Manager for the Corps' South Atlantic Division, said she volunteered to deploy to Iraq because she wanted to do something different and add to the mission. Burgess has spent eight months in Kuwait and Iraq during two separate tours.



Photo provided by Tony Sijohn

Tony Sijohn, a power plant mechanic from Little Goose project, takes a Global Positioning System reading on a point marker in Mosul, Iraq.

never personally had the opportunity to deploy.

"We believe there are Soldiers who may be leaving the military, retired military and even family members who have critical skills and experiences that make them a perfect fit for some of the positions we're filling," Dent said.

"Most people don't realize, out of the 300 personnel in theater, there are only about four-dozen U.S. military noncommissioned officers and officers working for the Corps in Iraq," said Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson, the first

"I'm an adrenaline junkie, and I'm in the twilight of my career," said Burgess, who has 35 years of federal service and is eligible for retirement. "I felt I needed to do one more good thing in my career before I retired. I wanted to utilize my operational background...to see how the work I do in rear support serves at the other end."

Before joining the Corps, Pat Burgess worked as a reserve mobilization specialist for the U.S. Army Reserve Command. She had seen the relationship between stateside planning and overseas execution, but



Photo provided by Fernando Aguilar

Fernando Aguilar, a contract manager for Construction Division, supervises construction projects in Kabul, Afghanistan.

commander of the Corps' Gulf Region Division.

During a recent interview with the Fox television network, Johnson credited the Corps' success to its civilian volunteers, which is the much larger population.

"The civilians are making a great sacrifice, and they are making a difference," Johnson said.

Employees of the GRD in Iraq are improving the oil infrastructure, power supply, water resources infrastructure, hospitals, education, roads, and bridges - all the things needed to build a strong society. The Corps also supports the military by constructing buildings and facilities.

In Afghanistan, the Afghanistan Engineer District is building new structures including power, water, sewage, barracks and other facilities for the Afghan National Army, and repairing runways and base camp improvements for the coalition military. They are also providing technical and quality assurance support to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The mission needs engineers, engineer technicians, program and project managers, resource managers, accountants, contracting officers, auditors, administrative staff, and safety and health officials. Other openings include logistics and information technology.

To find out more or apply for Corps jobs, go to the Army Civilian Personnel Online Web site at www.CPOL.army.mil.

For more information, email the Corps' Human Resources Office at CEHEC-CP@hq02.usace.army.mil or call (202) 761-1885.



Photo provided by Lisa Rodighiero

Lisa Rodighiero, a District program analyst, travels amidst a load of duffel bags to Mosul, Iraq.

Agencies partner to save salmonids

by Gina Baltrusch

About 30 people from federal, state, tribal and community organizations joined forces June 29-30 to rescue salmonids trapped in Mill Creek's receding waters.

The salvage operation was a first-ever event for the creek. Fish become trapped in low-water areas that develop each summer when water flows are redirected for irrigation purposes at the Yellowhawk and Garrison creeks diversion dam, about a mile east of Walla Walla city limits.

Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife fish experts co-lead rescue efforts with volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service, the Washington Department of Ecology, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Tri-State Steelheaders, a private, nonprofit group.

More than 600 fish, mostly steelhead and rainbows, were captured using nets and electroshock gear, dubbed "electrofishers" by their WDFW operators.

Corps, WDFW and tribal workers transported the fish upstream inside truck-mounted, 300-gallon tanks equipped with recirculation systems.

The two-day roundup was organized to save protected salmon species from rapidly climbing temperatures in shallow areas of the creek, said Rex Baxter, a District fishery biologist who led the Corps' participation.

The catchers worked their way upstream from the upper end of the creek's concrete channel near Edison Elementary School to the diversion dam near the Mill Creek project office.

"The salmonids were taken to the Five Mile Bridge area of Mill Creek and released," said Glen Mendel, a fish management biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Water temperatures at upstream release points ran about 64-68 degrees instead of the 70-80 degree

temperatures found downstream. Nonthreatened fish, like shiners, dace and suckers, were released where they were captured.

The rescue provided an extra benefit to the fish experts, said Mendel.

"We did it so we could save some of the fish, but also to document what was in there," he said.

Information gathered about the type and number of fish in the creek can help agencies better manage the stream for the fish and other water users, Baxter explained.

"It was a fine effort by everyone," Baxter said. "We all came to more fully appreciate the common goal we share of restoring the ecological, economic and aesthetic values of Mill Creek."



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Ben Tice, a District wildlife biologist (wearing blue jeans), takes captured salmonids by bucket to a truck-mounted, aerated tank for transport past the diversion dam.



Photos by Krissy Antes

Above and right, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife workers use beach seines in Mill Creek's deeper pools to capture threatened salmonids for transport to upstream release points where cooler water temperatures help them survive.

