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Walla Walla District

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A large-scale photograph of the Lucky Peak Dam spillway. The dam is a long, low concrete wall across a valley. In the foreground, a massive, white, turbulent plume of water is being discharged from a spillway, cascading down a rocky slope. The background shows rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The word "GREEN" is visible on the dam wall in the distance. At the bottom of the image, a road with several cars and people is visible, indicating a public viewing area.

**Lucky Peak Dam
celebrates 50 years**

Commander reflects on first year



Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser
Commander
Walla Walla District

Wow – I can't believe I've passed the midpoint of this awesome assignment already. I must admit, my first year in command has been quite an adventure – fun filled, action packed, challenging, hectic, dynamic, busy, fluid, frustrating, fulfilling, humbling and extremely rewarding. Without doubt, the best assignment I've had in the Army to date.

I truly appreciate everyone's patience and professionalism as you educated me on what we do for a living in the Walla Walla District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At times I felt like I was drinking from a fire hose – but after 15 months of the best training ever, I feel fairly comfortable, honored and privileged to lead this outstanding organization. And, although I'm over halfway through my command, I'm convinced I'm less than halfway up the

mountain. I plan to continue climbing until the day I pass the colors to the next commander. I still have plenty to learn and will look to you to help me get better and smarter each day.

I'd like to share a few things based on observations and experiences over the past year.

I'm extremely proud of the District's unwavering support of the Corps' number one priority – fighting and winning the Global War on Terrorism. Walla Walla District has supported 98 volunteer deployments – over 14 percent of the District. We have 8 folks in country now and one with orders waiting to deploy. We also have 15 folks on the volunteer list waiting to get picked up for deployment. This is a tremendous good news story focused on some great Americans and genuine patriots. And, with the recent hurricanes wrecking havoc along the Gulf of

Mexico coastline, our list of volunteers wanting to help others in need continues to grow larger. So far, we've supported 91 deployments to assist with hurricane recovery operations, and at times, we've had more than 12 percent of the District deployed at one time. Incredible support for priority missions.

But, it's not just those deploying who make this such a good news story. My hat's off as well to all those back here who are filling in the gaps for those deployed, working a little harder and a little longer to ensure we accomplish our required missions on the home front each day. In some organizations, we've had close to 25 percent of the people deployed at one time, yet the work back here gets done. We also have many folks here providing quality and timely reach-back support to those in theater. We have others committed to ensuring families of those deployed are doing okay – be it fixing a porch light, replacing a broken door, doing a little baby sitting or a simple "how's it going" phone call – the entire team has stepped up to ensure we win this war. Thanks to all – I cannot possibly tell you how proud I am of the entire team – you're all super bowl champs in this area.

As most of you know, I really enjoy the outdoors and love to hunt and fish. I felt



photo provided by Bert Cerrillo, Afghanistan Engineer District

Bert Cerrillo, a power plant electrician from Lower Granite Dam, Walla Walla District, taps his surveyor skills while deployed to support the Afghanistan Engineer District.

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On the Cover...

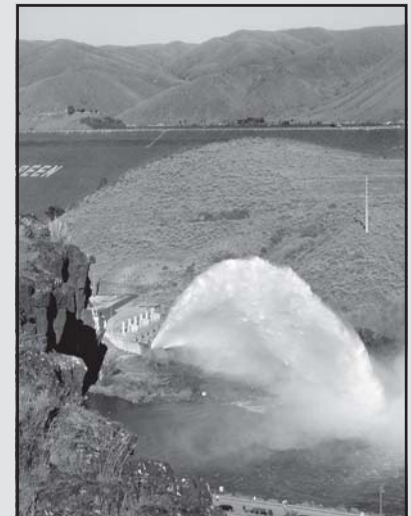


photo by Gina Baltrusch

Lucky Peak Dam employees mark the project's 50th anniversary by treating celebration guests to a rare view of one of the dam's discharge gates in "rooster tail" mode. Since the addition of a powerhouse in the mid-1980s, water from Lucky Peak Lake is used for power generation. Once a routine part of operations, the rooster tail discharge is now seldom seen. See story and more photos on pages 8-9.

See **FWIS**, page 10

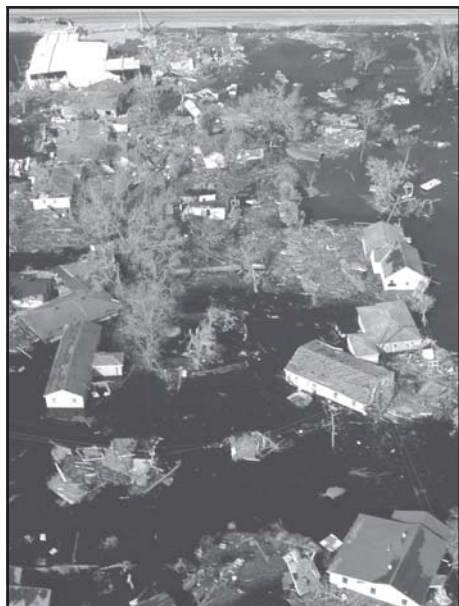
NWW responds to hurricane disaster

by Gina Baltrusch

Three hurricanes have left their marks on communities in the South-Coastal region of the United States over the past two months.

More than 80 Walla Walla District employees have deployed to support disaster relief efforts addressing damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And, the recent landfall of Hurricane Wilma in Florida may require even more U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assistance.

When Hurricane Katrina struck and flooded New Orleans on Aug. 29, Walla Walla District answered the Federal Emergency Management Agency's call for help.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

The Corps anticipates removing more than 46.2 million cubic yards of debris caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The debris total estimate does not include demolition debris (debris from buildings that are torn down).



Digital Video image by Kerry Vigue, Lower Monumental Lock and Dam

The Corps typically handles eight mission areas involving disaster relief. Those areas include emergency power, humanitarian support (ice and water), debris removal, temporary housing, emergency restoration of critical facilities, demolition and stabilization of structures, construction of access routes and temporary roofing.

The District's eight-member emergency power team was the first to go, deploying to Montgomery, Ala. They handled emergency power requirements as established by Alabama's Emergency Operations Center. The team acquired and set up power generators for police and fire departments and other emergency responders, and in hospitals, government buildings and other facilities.

Two District volunteers joined other Corps personnel to assist with logistics support to the recovery effort, getting supplies transferred in and dispensed to areas where they were needed.

Walla Walla District's emergency management team coordinated the deployments of its responders.

And, the requests for more help kept coming. Within two weeks, 18 District

volunteers were on the ground in three states.

By the third week, about 50 District volunteers were deployed, working with more than 1,000 other Corps personnel in areas hard hit by hurricane damage.

And, just when it seemed that relief crews had a handle on dewatering New Orleans, Hurricane Rita sent everyone into duck-and-cover mode as it hit near the Texas-Louisiana border on Sept. 24.

Many temporary repairs to homes, business and infrastructure in the city were undone by Rita's 120 m.p.h. winds.

More than 3,300 Corps people have deployed to support missions for hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Louisiana, Alabama, Texas, Florida and Mississippi.

Volunteers from several federal agencies have joined the Corps team in providing support to FEMA. Corps volunteers are working closely with the Bureau of Reclamation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Army Material Command, according to an Oct. 21 Corps headquarters update on hurricane response efforts.

See **Hurricanes**, page 6



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo by Shannon Bauer

Above, Ron Gosselin, a Walla Walla District park ranger at Lower Granite Natural Resource Management (second from right), joins other U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responders for a morning briefing. Left, David Wells, a power plant electrician from McNary Lock and Dam, relays generator maintenance information by telephone to a FEMA Joint Staging Facility.

USACE sets new STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

*Editor's Note: This story is edited for the Intercom's limited space. Employees are encouraged to read the original article interviewing Lt. Gen. Carl Strock in the July 2005 issue of **Engineer Update** on the Corps' Web site at www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/pubs/jul05/jul05.htm. The brochure and other Corps Vision information are posted on the Walla Walla District intranet (employee-only access) at w3.nww.usace.army.mil/pa/vision2005.htm.*

from an USACE **Engineer Update** article

After eight years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the past year as Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock adjusted the Corps' Vision, presenting new "strategic directions" to Corps employees on June 16.

"We've looked at our processes, at how we communicate, how we develop people and so on," said Strock. "Now, I think it's time for us to look outward, and focus on our missions and the people we serve. We've spent a lot of time talking about doing things right. We didn't talk much about *doing the right things*. That's what I'm attempting to do with our mission focus."

Leadership teams looked at the Corps' five traditional missions – a spectrum of operations that runs from peace to war. On the peace side of the spectrum, Corps missions include water resources, environmental and infrastructure operations, which supports both Military Programs and Civil Works. On the hotter end of the spectrum there was disaster response, and finally contingency operations to support the war-fighters. Two important facts emerged during their review.

"First, we found that there is a lot of overlap among the mission areas," said Strock, "and second, we found that the nation today is at both peace *and* war.

"One of the central missions we have in Iraq is helping them with their water resources," said Strock. "Our understanding of hydropower, irrigation and water supply is being applied in a war zone to help us win this war on terror, whereas before we just thought of them as things we do in peacetime.

"...we saw that our disaster response mission today overlaps our homeland security mission," said Strock. "The cause of a disaster might be a terrorist strike, or it might be a hurricane. But the consequences are frequently the same – debris removal, and displaced people needing shelter and water and food and other basic human services. We recognized that our response to both a disaster and to a terrorist act is pretty much the same, so we pulled natural disasters into the homeland security mission."

As the Corps' leadership realized how much the five mission areas overlap, and that many of those missions apply equally well to both peace and war, they created three major campaign goals:

develop sound water resources solutions, enhance life-cycle infrastructure management, and support stability, reconstruction and Homeland Security operations.

The overarching values that have driven all of the Corps of Engineers' Vision Statements, past and present, is the fact that it is an Army major command. The current Vision Statement reads, "*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable, proudly serving the Armed Forces and Nation now and in the future.*" Much of that comes from the Army Vision.

"We looked at the organization that we're part of, the United States Army, and built off of their vision," said Strock. "We took our words directly from the Army Vision...ready, relevant, responsive and reliable."



Lt. Gen. Carl Strock
Chief of Engineers

Rellevant
Ready
Responsive
Reliable

Strock explained the four Rs:
Readiness – the Corps is prepared to carry out any missions it receives. A great example is Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil, established to rebuild Iraq's oil infrastructure. "We're not in the oil business, but we were able to pull together expertise from within our ranks and from outside sources to take on that mission," said Strock.

Strock pointed out another aspect of the Corps' commitment to readiness.

"Whatever we're doing today, we're ready for it only because at some point in the past someone thought about the likelihood that we *might* be called upon to do that," said Strock. "So, there's a futuristic aspect to readiness that we've got to be ready not only for what is expected of us today, but what we *might* be expected to do in the future.

Relevance – "If we're not doing things that are relevant to the needs of the nation, then I guess by definition we're irrelevant," said Strock. "The former Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Eric Shinseki, once said, 'If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less.' So, we've got to make sure we're doing the right things for the nation.

Responsive – "We're a public service agency – we exist to serve others," said Strock. "So the next critical word is responsive. We respond to the needs of the nation – when there's a problem,

See **Directions**, page 5

Power partnership helps Osprey

story and photos by Craig Rockwell,
assistant natural resources manager,
Lower Granite Natural Resources Management (stringer)

Ospreys, fish-eating raptors about the size of a raven, and electricity simply don't mix.

Inland Power and Light Company personnel had tried for years to discourage osprey from nesting on their power poles near Central Ferry Park along the lower Snake River. Inland serves about 20 customers along this line, including homes, grain growers, two port districts and an agricultural research farm. The raptors' activity on the poles frequently led to power outages for local customers and loss of revenue for the company.

Ospreys make their nests of whatever they can find, including baling twine, barbed wire and hacksaw blades. When any of the metal items touch an active wire, they short out the service and often start the pole on fire. But, with no alternate nesting sites, the osprey quickly overcame barriers built on top of the poles.

A partnership between Inland and Walla Walla District helped provide a nesting area for osprey while preventing power interruptions to Inland's customers.

George Harrington, wildlife biologist at the Corps' Clarkston Natural Resources Office, and Doug Heiser, Southern District foreman for Inland Power and Light Co., partnered on a solution.

"No one wants to harm the osprey to prevent their nesting," Harrington said. "In fact, to do so is a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (of 1918)."

So, they hatched a plan to keep the osprey from using local power poles – construct a nesting platform. Using Harrington's wildlife expertise to offer the ospreys a preferable nesting site, Heiser got Inland to fund, build and install the new platform near an osprey-damaged power pole.

The osprey quickly moved in, building a nest within a few days after the platform was erected in March and raising two chicks during the summer.

"We're never going to solve all power outages," Heiser said, "but by working together, we can solve many and provide for wildlife in the process."

Directions, from page 4

we go after it, and we get it done.

Reliable – "When the Corps of Engineers is involved, you can count on the Corps to do the right things and to do those things the right way," said Strock. "When we come up with a solution, you can count on that solution working. When we establish a process, you can rely on the Corps following that process.

"So ready, relevant, responsive, reliable are the words that we took from the Army Vision and adapted to our Corps of Engineers' Vision," said Strock.

Strock emphasized that the "one team" part of the Corps Vision Statement often includes teammates from outside the organization.

"The other thing that is representative of our new vision is that we know that we don't do it alone," he added. "We collaborate with a lot of different communities to get the job done. We don't do any construction, but we bring the construction industry to the



Above, an intruding male osprey attacks an osprey pair on a nesting platform provided by the Inland Power and Light Company. The nesting male successfully repels the attack while the female protects the nest. Below, a new platform provides osprey a shock-free nesting site while preventing damage to Inland's power poles.



table and work with them. We don't develop solutions in isolation; we work with local stakeholders to develop solutions. So there's a whole context of collaboration with others as we get the job done. That's an important part of our vision."

There are some things that will *not* change with the new vision. Strock said that he wants Corps' employees to know that he is still committed to process improvement and to the sweeping organizational changes of USACE 2012.

The Chief of Engineers summed up his philosophy in the "Commander's Intent" section of the new *Strategic Directions* brochure:

"The organization changes we have made during the past few years have us moving in the right direction. However, we must remember that an uncertain future may require us to adjust to future challenges. My intent is for us to remain prepared for what the future brings as we work on doing the right things *and* doing things right."

Hurricanes, from page 3

The Corps' three priorities for this mission are: first – supporting efforts to save lives and find people, second – sustaining lives (water and shelter), and third – setting conditions for recovery (cleanup, restoring infrastructure and navigation).

And, there's plenty of work to go around. Corps officials estimate more than 130,000 temporary roofs need to be installed and 46.2 million cubic yards of debris, not including demolition debris from houses and buildings to be torn down, need to be removed, as a result of damage caused by hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

With Hurricane Wilma, which made landfall on Oct. 24 in the Florida Keys, 2005 became the first year on record to host three Category 5 storms in the Atlantic basin, according to information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center.

District emergency management officials anticipate a need for disaster relief volunteers to help with Wilma recovery efforts, too.

"Our power team was placed on 24-hour recall for Wilma (on Oct. 25)," said Herb Bessey, Walla Walla District's Readiness Branch chief.

More than 60 volunteers stand ready for orders, typically deploying for 30 days at a time. But, more may be needed as time goes on.

Contingency Planner Jim Blanscett added, "There is so much damage from just Katrina and Rita, we'll probably be sending volunteers for many, many more months."



photo by Mike Deccio, engineering technician, Operations Division

Bob Minden, a supply technician in the Walla Walla District's Logistics Management Office, and Bob Williams, a civil engineer in Design Branch, inventory power generators and other emergency equipment slated for distribution to hurricane-hit communities in Alabama.



photo by Rob Wall, supervisory electrical engineer, Lower Monumental Lock and Dam



photo by Jack Henson, engineering technician, Lower Monumental Lock and Dam

Above, Corps volunteers evaluate hurricane damage, like this apartment building in Slidell, a New Orleans suburb near Lake Pontchartrain. Left, Bob Minden and Ronald White, a FEMA property book officer, discuss property book accountability for recently received generators at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

Walla Walla District cost engineers tackle Russian nuclear reactor project

by Joe Saxon

Walla Walla District is one cog in a wheel rolling towards eliminating nuclear weapons-grade plutonium in Russia.

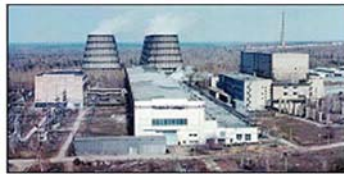
It's a wheel that includes national and international organizations and up to 15 countries, and benefits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regionalization efforts between Walla Walla, Omaha, Albuquerque and Europe districts.

"The Corps is working with the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration to eliminate weapons grade plutonium and prevent the spread of materials, technology and expertise relating to weapons of mass destruction," said Rick Grubb, a civil engineer in Walla Walla District's Cost Engineering Branch – a Corps directory of expertise for the construction equipment manual and cost database (cost engineering).

Three nuclear reactors, designed to produce weapons-grade plutonium, are still operating in Russia. Because these three pre-Chernobyl design reactors also produce heat and electricity for the cities of Seversk and Zheleznogorsk in Siberia, Russia is unable to shut them down until replacement power is available.

That's where Grubb and his Walla Walla District teammate James Neubauer come in. They are part of a Corps project overseeing the refurbishing of an existing coal-fired fuel plant and the construction of a new fossil fuel facility.

"Europe District requested our help in reviewing the costs and schedules of the fuel plants' construction and refurbishing contractors because the Walla Walla District Cost Engineering Branch was a directory of expertise," Grubb said. "So, we put the team together including Ragan Glandon and George Sims of Albuquerque District, Jay John Skarbek from Northwestern



ADE-4, 5 Reactors at Seversk



ADE-2 Reactor at Zheleznogorsk

Division and Kevin Birkett from Omaha District."

During the past year, the cost engineering team went to Wiesbaden, Germany, six times where they spent between two and three weeks each trip working on the project.

"Specifically, we served as an external independent reviewer of contractor packages for NNSA. We reviewed construction packages for the plants, examined schedules, plans and total project costs. All totaled, there were 14 items we examined to ensure there was a high probability for success," Grubb said.

The cost engineering group will work as part of a site assessment team that will conduct periodic visits to the two Siberian sites over the next four to five years.

"The Corps of Engineers is doing things that are so globally important, that have the potential to have a big impact upon the world," said Grubb. "Not only is the Corps involved in the global war on terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq,

but there are folks working on

this type of project worldwide who seek to keep nuclear materials out of terrorists' hands. The Corps is a great place to be to have this type of experience."

Birkett echoed that

sentiment while lauding the Corps' regionalization effort.

"The most important thing we've done working as a team is that even though all the districts are stretched thin due to overseas commitments, we were able to pull together a group of unique individuals from across the Corps and meld together a cohesive, professional group," he said. "It was grueling, hard work and a tough project to work on, but I get a sense of satisfaction from having participated."

Grubb named cost engineer of the year

from a NWD *It's Your Business* article

Rick Grubb, a Walla Walla District civil engineer in Cost Engineering Branch, earned top honors at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2005 National Cost Conference held June 28 in New Orleans.

Named "National Cost Engineer of the Year," Grubb said the award acknowledges work performed as a member of the cost team for source selection for Iraq reconstruction contracts, as well as for a cost review role in the Elimination of Weapons Grade Plutonium Production program.

Grubb is recognized as a USACE technical expert for cost engineering involving construction equipment costs and serves as a key member in the Directory of Expertise for Civil Works Cost Engineering, located in Walla Walla District.



Lucky Peak 50 Years

by Joe Saxon

Since 1955, Lucky Peak Dam has stood as a silent sentinel on the Boise River, guarding the region from devastating floods while providing Idaho's Treasure Valley with nourishing water that created a greenbelt in this semiarid region.

On June 23, rangers and scouts, retirees and a "rooster tail" joined together in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Lucky Peak Dam's opening. The ceremony, held at the adjoining Discovery Park, included musicians, speeches, a photo-graphic display and the Idaho National Guard performing a flyover in UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Lucky Peak, located eight miles upstream from Boise, is a "rolled earthfill dam," with an effective height of about 250 feet and 1,700 feet long at the crest, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District commander, pointed out some of the benefits Lucky Peak brought to the region when he called it a "magnificent, multi-purpose project...a goldmine of sorts," which is valued for flood damage reduction, electricity generation, reservoir storage, and as a recreation destination for more than a million visitors each year.

Construction of Lucky Peak Project began in November 1949. Five years later, the dam became operational, and the lake was filled. A dedication was held on June 23, 1955.

A quarter of a century later, the Boise Project Board of Control initiated a power-production project. The powerhouse, cooperatively managed and operated by Seattle Power and Light and several local irrigation districts, includes three generators capable of producing 101 megawatts of electricity. It was dedicated Oct. 7, 1988.

Facilities at Lucky Peak include: the dam, the lake, drive-to and boat-in public recreational areas, and over 4,000 acres of federal lands managed by the Corps for recreation and wildlife.

Joyce Dunning, project manager for the event, said, the theme, 'A Celebration of Water and Partnerships,' was reinforced by the participation of the other federal, state and local agencies, and civic organizations that helped with

the event. "I was particularly thrilled that Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne honored our invitation to be the keynote speaker."

The celebration also included John K. W. Keys III, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner, who spoke of partnerships and the benefits to area residents. Lee Sisco, the Boise River Basin watermaster, and Reuben Murray, an Idaho Special Olympian, managed water festivities that sent a stream of water through outlet slide gates 150 feet into the air creating what local residents call the "rooster tail."

Former Director of Idaho State Parks Yvonne Ferrell was master of ceremonies while Dave Brownell, operations manager at Lucky Peak since 1975, asked for a moment of silence for the two men who were killed during the construction – Donald Davis and William Kirk, contract construction workers.

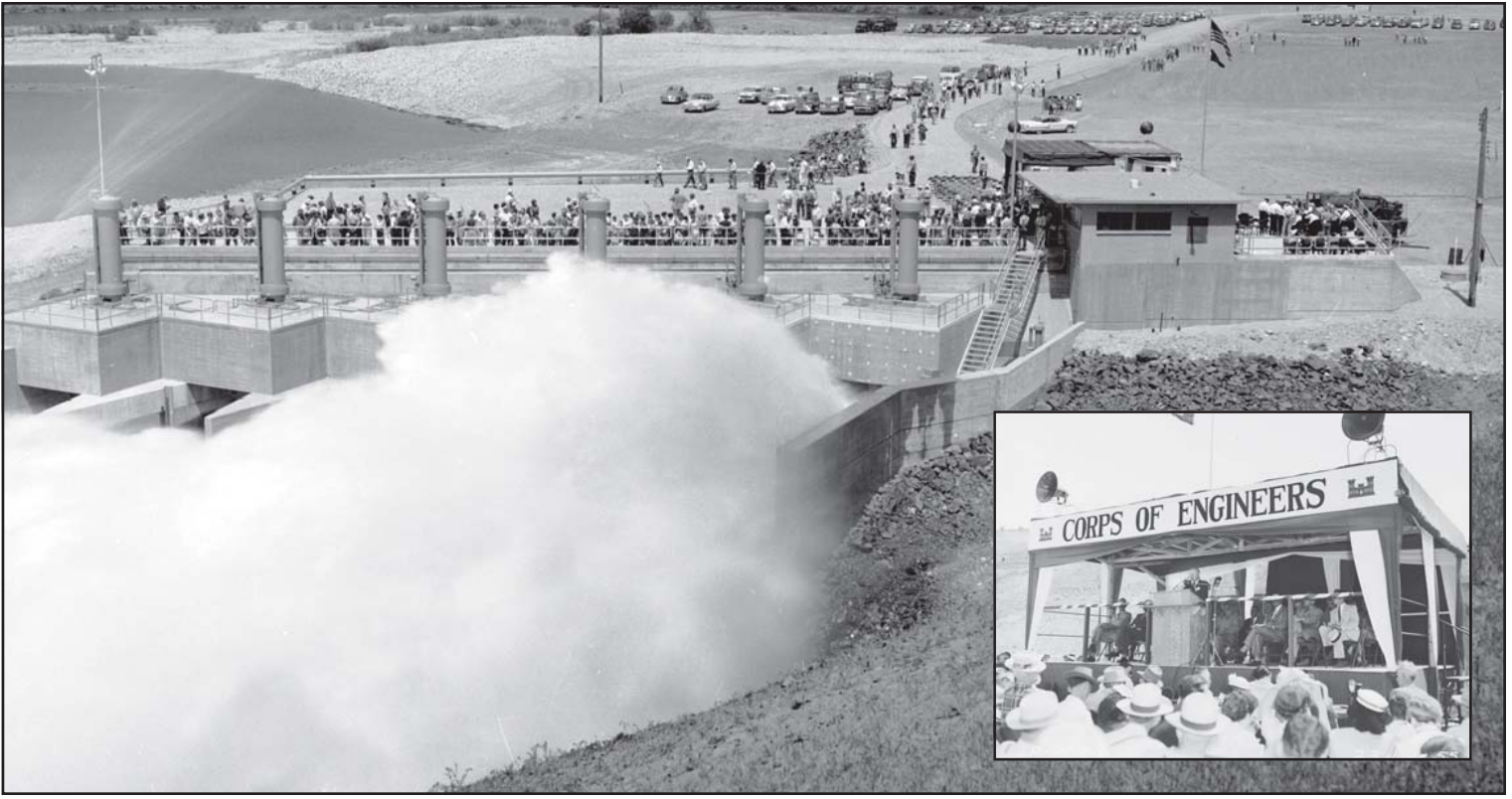
One of the retirees present, Ivan Custer, had served as the building contractor's office engineer and surveyor on the project from 1951 to 1954. In reminiscing over the years since Lucky Peak's construction, Custer said, "I think it was a beneficial project for the whole valley. The cities and State of Idaho got a good return on their investment, and it's a great recreational vehicle that supplements irrigation."

Lucky Peak Dam proved its worth to the region in 1997 when it prevented three floods from washing through the Boise valley.

In January, a rain-on-snow storm sent dam operators scrambling to open flood gates. Snowpack in the 2,680-square mile Boise River watershed reached 183 percent of normal by late February. The dam held, providing a controlled release of the flood water, protecting the 35,000 residents of Boise from the rushing snowmelt and keeping some of the most valuable real estate in the valley from flooding.

Glaeser acknowledged the vision and efforts of those who planned, designed and constructed the Lucky Peak project during his remarks, "The magnitude of their efforts cannot simply be measured in acre feet of water, miles of shoreline or even megawatts of electricity. Instead, it's reflected in overall quality of life enjoyed by those who live and work in this beautiful part of our country."

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo

Above, visitors gather on Lucky Peak Dam's outlet deck to watch the "rooster tail" discharge during the facility's dedication on June 23, 1955. Above-inset, George H. Roderick, then-assistant secretary of the Army for civil-military affairs, dedicated Lucky Peak Dam. Far-left, a family of four ventures out on the outlet deck for an up-close view of the "rooster tail" during dedication day activities.



photo by Scott Moore, outdoor recreation planner, Operations Division

Above, visitors at Lucky Peak's 50th anniversary celebration watch the dam's "rooster tail" discharge.



photo by Joe Saxon

Above, anniversary guests stroll through "A Walk Through Time," a photographic display of Luck Peak Dam's construction period, 1950-1954. Below, more than five million cubic yards of earth and rock were excavated and placed during the construction of Lucky Peak Dam.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers photo



2005 Combined Federal Campaign

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FWIS, from page 2

pretty confident in my knowledge of fish, based on many years of personal experience, fishing numerous lakes and rivers across the country. It was not until I came here, that I realized just how little I really knew about fish – especially anadromous fish. The Walla Walla District has some true experts in fish and fish related issues across the basin.



NWW file photo

Be it design and construction of fish hatcheries, juvenile fish facilities, fish by pass and transport systems, or habitat restoration projects, we have some of the Nation's best. Good stuff being done by great folks every day.

Success often hinges upon how well we work with others and the relationships we've established over time. I'm extremely pleased with the outstanding relationships we've developed with our partners, customers and stakeholders. We work very well with key players such as Bonneville Power Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, congressional delegations, Native American tribes, Environmental Protection Agency, contractors and many others. We must continue to maintain and build strong relationships at all levels across the region, as teamwork and cooperation guarantee success.

Each time I visit one of our operating projects, I'm in awe of the amount and complexity of work that gets done every day. Everything is big – be it a downstream lock gate, fish pump Number 2, or generator Unit number 6 – it's amazing to see the type work our project personnel do daily. Then we have our rangers and other natural resource folks taking care of camp sites, habitat management units and other recreation areas across the entire basin. I'm continually impressed with the quality of our recreation areas – I've visited quite a few and have enjoyed every visit.



photo by Krissy Antes

Young visitors beat the heat Aug. 6 in a swimming area at Fishhook Park, one of Ice Harbor project's recreation areas along the lower Snake River in Washington.

Our support staff is also first rate. They punch the buttons to make the payments, move the money, process the paperwork and all the other things needed to keep the business running smoothly each day. Tremendous work by a super staff.

And, of course, there's always room for improvement in any organization.

We struggle with effective communication up, down and across the organization. I've placed a tremendous amount of time and energy over the past year in trying to correct some of these problems. I think we're making progress, but we're not where we need to be. I attribute about 90 percent of our problems to our inability to effectively communicate with each other. This is one critical area we must concentrate on and continue to get better – it will improve effectiveness and efficiency across the board.

We must continually look for ways to improve the quality, effectiveness and support of our project managers. This is a common problem across much of the Corps – it's a tough job and we've done little to properly prepare folks for the challenge.

It's somewhat tied to communication, but also focuses on abilities to form and lead a team of diverse folks to effectively and efficiently accomplish the mission. Our ability to function and communicate as a team will help – multiple people asking questions, getting answers, checking, rechecking and elevating issues early will ensure success. The process gets further complicated by mandates such as P2 software that have bogged down the project management process. We must find ways to adapt and overcome as opposed to getting mired in the muck. Easier said than done – but we must keep trying (and smiling) as we make it happen every day.



NWW file photo

See **FWIS**, page 11

Statue finds home at District HQ

by Joe Saxon

For 150 years, the legend of Walla Walla Chief Peopeomoxmox, or Yellowbird as he was known to his tribe, reverberated throughout the Walla Walla Valley.

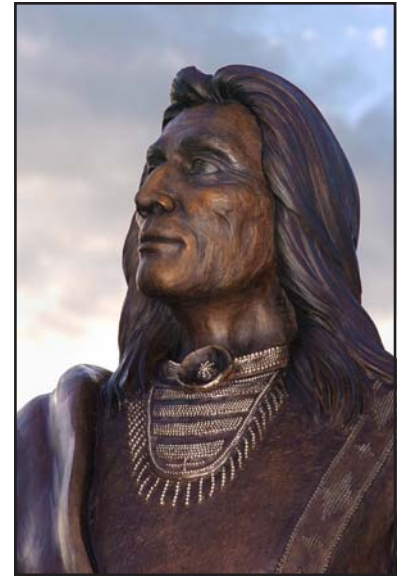
On June 10, Yellowbird, in the guise of a bronze, eight-foot high statue found an honored resting place adjacent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters building on the corner plaza of Rose and 3rd Avenue in downtown Walla Walla.

Peopeomoxmox was one of the signatories to the 1855 Walla Walla Treaty. The treaty council drew several thousand Native Americans from tribes in the region, resulting in three treaties establishing the Yakima, Nez Perce and Umatilla reservations.

“Bringing his likeness to the plaza took about two years and plenty of coordination” said Gay Ernst, tribal liaison coordinator and former chief of logistics.

Roger McGee, a local artist and Army veteran, sculpted the bronze statue, while the District’s real estate staff worked the lease agreement, she said.

During the unveiling ceremony, Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District commander said, “Chief Peopeomoxmox was a great warrior whose intelligence and skillful diplomacy complemented his intense desire for peace. He stands before us in glory and honor – a constant reminder of history and of those who tirelessly pursued peace and prosperity for their people. The Corps is truly honored to provide the setting for this beautiful statue.”



FWIS, from page 10

We need to continually reinforce the concept of regionalization. Some folks are starting to understand the benefits of operating regionally and sharing resources and expertise to accomplish all missions.

Others are struggling with the concept and cannot see how their actions and decisions now effect other organizations across the District and the Northwestern Division. We need to remove the blinders and get more of us thinking corporately. This will become even more critical as we move towards regional overhead rates and other regional metrics.

We must all get better at planning our work and working the plan. We will place added emphasis on program execution in fiscal year 2006 – it remains the priority metric to measure overall success. The goal remains 100 percent execution of our program. This is another team effort requiring attention and commitment at all levels across the command to ensure success.

I’m very pleased with the efforts of most members of the team. I have noticed, however, that in some cases, the majority of the heavy lifting often gets done by a handful of “superstars.” I’d like to spread the wealth and get everyone involved in the fight. We need an honest day’s work from every member of the team if we expect to win the game. If you’re not actively engaged every day, something’s probably wrong. Take some initiative, be proactive, ask some questions and get in the fight.

Don’t sit by and watch others make it happen – help us win.

So...overall, I’d say we’re definitely on track. The ship is moving forward, and we’re making the turns when necessary. We still face plenty of challenges as we continue our journey.

Things like P2, 2012 regionalization, A76 competitive sourcing,

National Security Personnel System, performance based budgeting and others are not going away. As these initiatives affect you, do what you can to learn about them and support implementation to the best of your ability. Stay positive and look for ways to make things work.

My priorities for the District over the next year are precisely summarized in the District’s focus statement. If we truly focus on these things as we execute our work in support of any mission, I’m certain we’ll succeed.

A little over a year ago at my change of command I said, “Wow – what a great day in a great place. Who could ask for anything better? Few get the opportunity to command the greatest district in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – smack dab in the middle of some of the most beautiful and adventurous land in the country.”

Those words hold true today, and it’s the people of this great District who make this the best job in the Army. Thanks for a super successful first year – I can’t wait for part two.

Keep charging!

Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser
District Commander

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The Walla Walla District supports the region as a first-class public engineering organization with a focus on:

- Innovative, Quality and Timely Performance
- Vigorous, Productive Communication
- Regional Execution
- Relationships
- Safety

Statement

US Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District

Former chief of Geotechnical Branch named 2005 'Distinguished Civilian'

by **Krissy Antes**
and **Cassie Duong, summer aide**

A retired Corps geologist, was honored as Walla Walla District's 'Distinguished Civilian Employee' for 2005 for his performance and dedication to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Fred Miklancic's award and portrait joined the Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees during a Corps Day ceremony June 17.

Miklancic and his wife, Sherri, attended the ceremony at the District headquarters in Walla Walla where District Commander Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser presented the award.

With 35 years of federal service, Miklancic retired from the Corps in March 1995 after a career marked by dedication, achievement and selfless service.

His service began when he enlisted in the U.S. Army from 1958-1961. Soon after leaving the Army, he enrolled at the University of Oregon where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology.

An interest in the environment brought Miklancic to serve as an entry level geologist for the Corps at Portland District. His career started during the

time of the big dam construction period on the Snake River which provided the opportunity for hands-on geology work. He oversaw the critical dam foundation construction.

In 1968, Miklancic transferred to Walla Walla District to work on the plans for Lower Granite Dam. Two years later, he accepted an assignment at the Lower Snake River Resident Office.

"During the years out at the projects, I had the advantage of working on the design, then going out to the field to build the thing," Miklancic said. After spending five years at the resident office, he transferred back to the headquarters where he soon became a section chief.

Miklancic was promoted in 1980 to Chief of the Materials and Dam Safety Branch. It was later renamed the Geotechnical Branch under his leadership. He served as the branch chief for 15 years.

His work helped lead the District to become a more environmentally conscious organization as it developed the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan that constructed numerous hatchery facilities.

Miklancic was instrumental in the establishment of an environmental engineering branch in the Engineering Division. Later, it expanded to include a field office located in Richland,

Wash. The branch provided support to the Department of Energy in the environmental cleanup effort at the nuclear Hanford Site in Richland, Wash.

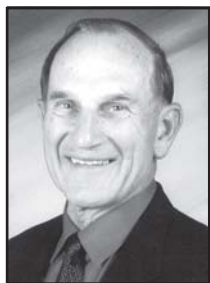
"Fred made decisions that were best for the organization even if those decisions were not always popular," said Steve Fink, civil engineer for Soils and Civil Design Section. "If policy came down from above, he could be counted on to see it was followed."

He was known throughout the District for his tremendous people skills and received numerous awards for his work throughout his career. His dedication to the Corps continued after his retirement, volunteering to perform consultations and independent reviews for the District.

"Every three weeks after I retired, I came to visit the Corps," Miklancic said. "I just like the camaraderie of all the people."

"I always felt he was fair, honest and administered with integrity," Fink said. "He will always be remembered here as having a positive influence on the careers of the engineers and geologists who have followed him."

Miklancic remains active in the Corps family. He is a member of the District bowling team "The Inconsistence."



Fred Miklancic



photo by Gina Baltrusch

Fred Miklancic, District retiree and 2005 'Distinguished Civilian Employee', places his portrait in the headquarters atrium.



NWW file photo

Fred Miklancic, Corps retiree, and wife, Sherri Miklancic (left) stay in touch with their Walla Walla District "family" by playing with the District bowling league.

Annual awards recognize excellence

by Krissy Antes

Three Walla Walla District employees were recognized for their quality work during a town hall meeting held at the headquarters June 17.

District Commander Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser presented employee-of-the-year awards to the top achievers in three

categories: engineering, general schedule, and trades and crafts.

Gary Stolz, power plant electrical worker-in-charge at McNary Lock and Dam, earned the Outstanding Achievement Award (Trades and Crafts) for his efforts as lead member of the McNary electrical maintenance crew.

Stolz demonstrated outstanding technical, interpersonal and leadership skills which

enabled him to help the team meet project goals. He often has a common-sense approach to an overanalyzed problem and provides extra training to any apprentice in need of a little extra help.

Stolz was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam era. He worked as a combat engineer, clearing minefields and building roads, bridges and structures. After serving the Army for two years, Gary worked for the Umatilla Army Chemical Depot for 10 years as an electrician until he obtained a job with the Walla Walla District in 1992. During 2004, he earned an award for 12 years of accident-free service at the dam.

During his off-duty hours, Stolz loves to head to the outdoors to hunt, fish and camp.

Marlene Freels, administrative



Gary Stolz



Marlene Freels

officer for McNary Lock and Dam, received the Outstanding Achievement Award (General Schedule) for her hard work and dedication for the McNary Project. She served as the project manager for the McNary 50th anniversary celebration. With her experience, she was able to aid Lucky Peak Dam near Boise, Idaho, plan for their recent 50-year event. She served as lead for P2 implementation at McNary, helping dam personnel learn the new project-management software.

Freels joined the District in 1996. She attended Portland State University and majored in business administration and accounting. Freels' ability to multi-task, and handle financial and personnel actions in very short time frames are an asset to McNary.

Outside of the office, Freels volunteers with the 3B's Cancer Support Group, which provides support to women going through cancer treatment. She also participates in Relay for Life events.

Jim Neubauer, a civil engineer in Cost Engineering Branch, earned the Outstanding Achievement Award (Engineering) for his accomplishments as the senior construction contract manager on both the Lower Granite and Ice Harbor spillway weirs. Neubauer ensured that past experiences and lessons learned

were continually implemented into spillway weir designs. He carried the responsibility to coordinate all aspects of the fabrication, river transport and final site installation of the Ice Harbor weir.

Neubauer holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Wyoming. After college, he worked as a construction project engineer with the Wyoming Highway Department. He earned his professional engineer's license in 1986 and started a career with the Department of Defense in Europe.

He transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a project manager in 1988. His Corps career took him to Albuquerque, back to Europe, and finally, to the Walla Walla District in 1999. Jim said he believes in humor, teamwork and trust to get a job done.

Neubauer recently volunteered to deploy to support hurricane recovery efforts in Southeastern states. He currently serves as a civil engineer on the public facilities team for Task Force Hope in Louisiana.



Jim Neubauer

Martin leads Northwestern Division

from a Northwestern Division
Public Affairs news release

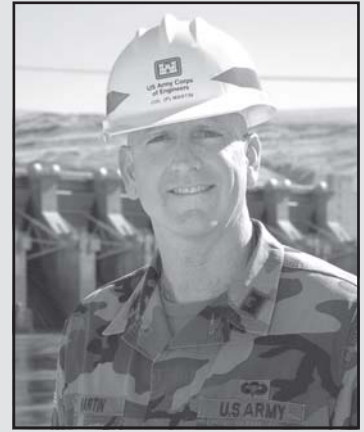
PORTLAND, Ore. – Col. Gregg F. Martin assumed command of the Northwestern Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers July 22 during a change of command ceremony here.

The outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. William T. Grisoli, was selected to lead the North Atlantic Division in New York City.

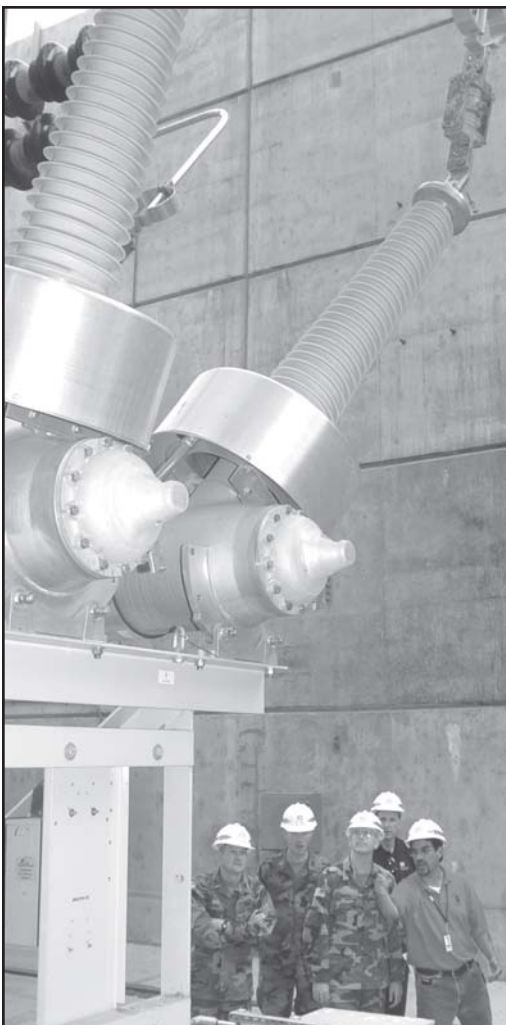
Prior to this assignment, Martin served as deputy director of operations for U.S. Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany. He has held numerous com-

mand and staff positions in the U.S., Germany and Honduras. During the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003-2004, he commanded an expanded engineer brigade in Iraq.

Born in Massachusetts, Martin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1979. He subsequently earned Master of Science degrees in civil engineering and technology policy, as well as a doctorate in construction engineering management and public policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Col. Gregg F. Martin
Commander
Northwestern Division



Above, Art Maldonado Jr., acting operations manager at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam (right), shows Martin (center) rehabilitation work done to the dam's power house transformers. Right, Mark Halupczok, wildlife biologist at Ice Harbor Natural Resources, explains the challenges of managing invasive noxious plants in the Big Flat Habitat Management Unit.

New NWD commander visits NWW projects

story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

Col. Gregg F. Martin, Northwestern Division's new commander, visited Walla Walla District for the first time Sept. 26 and 27.

Whirlwind tours of three dams and their associated facilities, and a get-to-know-you session with District leadership helped Martin learn about key issues and missions here. His visit included stops at Mill Creek, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor projects, and a side trip to the Big Flat Habitat Management Unit.

"I really enjoyed Col. Martin's visit," said Bill Spurgeon, a fishery biologist at Lower Monumental Lock and Dam. "He asked great questions about the Juvenile Fish Facility and adult fish passage."

Martin was quick to tell employees that he had not had a civil works assignment until taking command of the division July 22 and thanked them for helping him "get smart fast."



ASA (CW) tours Dworshak

story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul Woodley Jr. met June 8 with Walla Walla District staff, local partners and stakeholders during a tour of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts in the Pacific Northwest.

In Lewiston, Idaho, he met with officials from ports along the lower Snake River. Then, he headed up the Clearwater River for a look at Dworshak Dam and its project facilities.

Greg Parker, Dworshak operations manager, gave Woodley a tour of the visitor center and dam.

Then, he boarded a ranger patrol boat with Paul Pence, natural resource manager, for a tour of the reservoir. Pence showed him several key recreation sites and recent improvements Dworshak personnel had made for visitors.

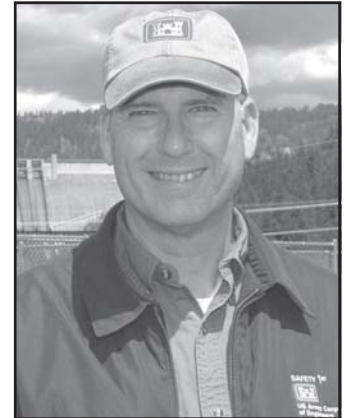
Woodley praised the beauty of the reservoir and the many innovative and environmentally conscious improvements Dworshak staff had made to the area.

"I wish I had more time to spend in this gorgeous country – this is fantastic," Woodley remarked to Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District commander, as they ate sack lunches under the trees at one of the remote campsites on the reservoir.

But, Woodley's schedule was packed, and he had to move on if he was going to get to the airport on time. Next stop – Portland District.



John Paul Woodley Jr., assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, catches a glimpse of bald eagles nesting on the shores of the Dworshak Reservoir during his June 8 visit to Walla Walla District.



John Paul Woodley Jr.
Assistant Secretary
of the Army (Civil Works)

Hydromania hits McNary

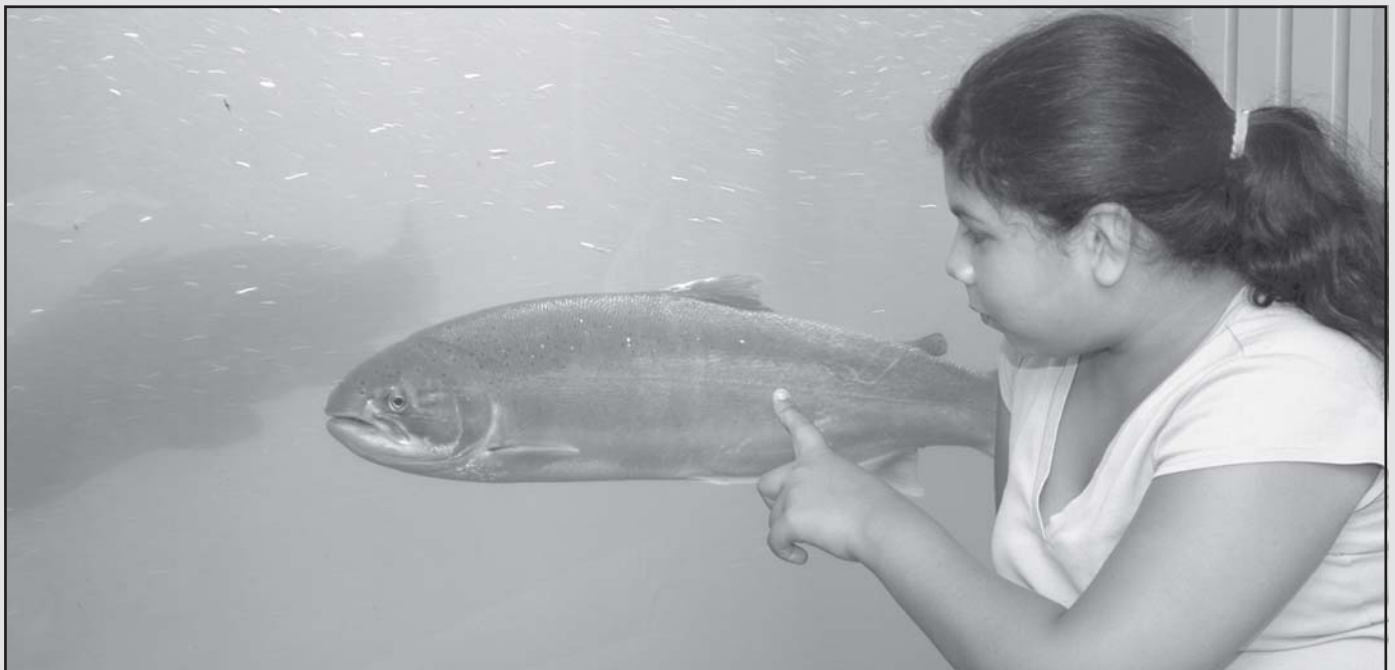


photo by Gina Baltrusch

Dalila Avila, 11, watches steelhead and chinook salmon pass by a window in the north shore fish ladder Aug. 2 at McNary Lock and Dam. McNary Natural Resources Management staff gave dozens of tours of the dam's power house, visitor center and fish facilities to fifth- and sixth-grade students from Umatilla County schools as part of several Umatilla Electric-sponsored Hydromania science summer camps. The camps introduced students to the science involved in generating power, managing watersheds and habitat, environmental consequences of resource choices, energy efficiency and safety.

A salute to military service...

Walla Walla District Veterans

...honoring Veterans Day - Nov. 11

David C. Alexander
James W. Allen
Alex E. Almeida
William C. Alteneder
Pasquale V. Anolfo
Ronald W. Ashley
Terry R. Atchison
Louis C. Audi
Jerel Autrey
Brian E. Badgwell
Jim Baker
Robert W. Baker
Charles L. Ball
Gina Baltrusch
George N. Barkas
John D. Beck
Carl C. Bender
Kenneth G. Bennett
Robert M. Berger
Gene Bilbrey
John M. Binford
James K. Blanscett
Kent C. Blevins
Harold B. Bond
Bob Bonstead
Bruce E. Borgelt
John W. Boschker
Shawn Bothum
Roger D. Bowen
Thomas L. Bradshaw
James E. Bramell
Travis L. Brock
David F. Brownell
Shawn F. Buckendahl
Art Cadieux
Lyle R. Calhoon
Samuel R. Carlton
Merlin G. Cassens
Humberto M. Cerrillo
Garald K. Chisman
Eric L. Christian
Roy A. Clark
Gareth M. Clausen
Timothy R. Collier
Phillip C. Colson
Richard W. Conserriere
Tom J. Cook
Valerie Corteville
Robert D. Coursey
Marvin A. Cramer
Bruce W. Crittenden
Eugene D. Crothers
Douglas D. Cruz
Thomas C. Cummings
Lester L. Cunningham
Earl L. Darst
Larry D. Davis
William H. Day
Michael J. Deccio
Stephen L. Deeney
Michael S. Deitrick
Van D. Dewitt
Warren T. Dimson
Jim E. Drake
John R. Dunn
William H. Ebding,
Eric W. Engle
Robert D. Eskildsen Jr.
James D. Ezelle
John A. Farthing Jr.
Mark D. Fender
Michael P. Fessler
Terry L. Filson
Darrell R. Findlay
Anthony J. Fink
Richard E. Finney
Gary L. Fisher
Joseph W. Fisk
Stuart J. Fitzsimons
Lester J. Foster
Harrison P. Fowles
Frank Gates Jr.
Scott M. Gates
Delmer L. Gehrke
Richard W. Geiger
Ronald L. Geyer
Gerald P. Giedeman
Steven J. Gilliland
Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser
Thomas W. Glover
Roger M. Golladay
Linda R. Gonzalez
Paul H. Good
Ronald E. Gosselin
Mark A. Graves
Michael A. Greco
Stuart A. Gregory
Richard S. Grubb
Kenneth E. Hacker
Byron N. Hall
Timothy W. Hall
Richard E. Halverson
Dick Hammer
George L. T. Hardin
Leslie L. Harmon
Trena C. Harmon
Robert B. Harms
George G. Harrington
James A. Harris
James D. Harris
Michael A. Harris
Catherine M. Harrison
William J. Harrison
James L. Hay
Robert L. Hays
Michael O. Heaton
Russell D. Heaton
Jack W. Heffling
John J. Heitstuman
John F. Hendergart III
Clarence V. Henderson
Robert D. Henderson
Kenneth L. Hengen
Jack G. Henson
April L. Herald
John W. Herrell
Carla C. Hicks
Gail S. Hicks
Richard A. Hilt
Leonel R. Hinojosa
George F. Holland
Kurt C. Hubbard
Clarence A. Hueth
Robert I. Hughes
Floyd L. Hunt
Richard L. Huntley Jr.
Lisabeth A. Huston
Barry J. Jackson
Michael P. Jacobs
Thomas P. Jagelski
Leo C. Janes
Nicholas R. Jarosch
Denny E. Johnson
Randall S. Johnson
Richard D. Johnson
Wallace C. Jorgensen
Robert J. Joshlin
Robert J. Kaufman
Charles S. Kidd
Lyall Kindelspire
Leo A. Kochis
Thomas J. Koehler
William P. Koskenmaki
Charles R. Krahenbuhl
Darby K. Kramer
Charles L. Krasselt
Jeffrey A. Kuhn
Alex Kwan
David R. Lance
Joseph A. Lapeyre
Hedley O. Lee
Jim L. Leeper
Kenneth A. Lepage
Jacky L. Leroue
Joseph R. Leroue
Richard D. Lester
Larry D. Lewis
Steven P. Lightbody
Jack L. Lilly
Samuel V. Liming
David A. Loran
Cedric N. Lundberg
Larry H. Lundberg
Bradford L. Lynch
Deborah K. Lynch-Christian
Bill F. MacDonald
Lester L. Maier
Artemio T. Maldonado Jr.
Patrick W. Marsh
Phillip Martin
Robert A. Martin
Glenn R. Matlock Jr.
Ida E. May
Robert F. McCoy
James D. McDaniel
Steven P. McFarland
Steven D. McGill
Peter L. McGuckin
Douglas R. McIver
Jeffrey W. Mears
George W. Melanson
Stuart R. Mellick
Michael L. Metzentine
James F. Metzger Jr.
Robert B. Meyer
Robert E. Minden
Douglas L. Mitchell
Gary W. Moore
Michael L. Moore
Gale D. Morgan
J. D. Morrow
Zachary E. Nelson
Edward A. Newsome
William H. Newton
John T. Niezgoda
Steven W. Nobles
Timothy S. O'Connell
Darren N. Opp
Jerry A. Osburn
Cory R. Parker
David C. Parker
James T. Patchin
Lenley W. Paul
George E. Peck
Benjamin E. Perkins
Janelle S. Peterson
Rodney H. Phillips
Maj. Don Pincus
David R. Piper
Don E. Plucker
Mark F. Plummer
Willie L. Prewitt Jr.
Dale E. Pugh
Robert E. Radke
Jeffrey W. Randall
Kyle M. Rankin
Tad Rathburn
Gregg A. Rayner
Stanley O. Reese
Randall R. Reynolds
Norman W. Rhoads
Kenneth R. Richards
Leroy J. Richardson
John A. Richter
Phil W. Rider
Dale M. Rincker
Gary D. Risley
Lisa Rodighiero
Arthur B. Roland
Bill H. Rose
Gerald E. Ross
Randall B. Ryan
Manuel A. Salas Jr.
Daniel R. Saucedo
Joseph B. Saxon
Herbert W. Schueerlein
Edwin R. Schlaht
Alan J. Schlachter
Sam D. Schlachter
Mark D. Schoen
John B. Schroeder
Frank V. Scopa
William D. Shaw
Jack C. Sheldon
D. Scott Shelley
Tony Sijohn
James R. Simonsen
Joshua A. Simonsen
Clark L. Simpenderfer
Jeffrey L. Simpson
Steven C. Sipe
Gary J. Smit
Bret A. Smith
Chad T. Smith
Marcus J. Smith
Gene R. Spangrude
Richard H. Spooner
William F. Spurgeon
Roy T. Staley
Gary E. Stolz
Scott C. Stolz
Morris D. Stout
William G. Stratton
Tim Streng
Mark S. Summers
Peter D. Summerton
William A. Szuch
Daniel E. Tate
Glen B. Tauscher
Orin P. Thomas
Thomas M. Thorington
Gerald A. Tomren
Ray L. Tracy
David A. Tucker
Travis J. Turner
Mark M. Tuten
Tony Van Loenen
Gordon E. Van Scotter Jr.
Loren D. Van Swoll
Robert L. Verdegan
Lawrence P. Walker
Robert F. Wall
Thomas A. Wallace
James W. Weaver
Frank J. Weiglein
Richard S. Weiss
Douglas M. Weldy Jr.
David E. Wells
John M. Wetterling
Donald R. Weza
Tracy L. Wickham
Robert D. Williams
Robert R. Williams
Brayton P. Willis Jr.
Rick Wilson
David J. Woll
David L. Woodland
Everett L. Wright
Carl J. Yeater
David S. Youso
Nicholas C. Zwald

Editor's Note: This list is not all-inclusive - personnel databases only identify veterans with a hiring preference status. Intercom staff sent District-wide messages encouraging all military veterans to respond so their names could be included in this tribute to Walla Walla District military veterans. Also, some employees requested their names not be published. In respect of their right to privacy, their names do not appear here.