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Walla Walla District

Intercom

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McNary employees honor past 50 years

p. 4-5

FROM WHERE I SIT

LDP class members gain D.C. perspective on Corps

Compiled by **Randy Chong, environmental engineer, Eng. Div.**

A highlight of the Walla Walla District's 2004 Positional Leadership Development Program is sure to be our recent trip to Washington, D.C.

The group had the opportunity to meet Sept. 13-15 with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Corps headquarters senior leadership, staffers from the House of Representatives and the Senate, and leaders of a well-respected, private company.

We were struck both by the commitment and talent of those we met and their willingness to engage in frank and open discussions on the challenges facing today's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It was evident from those outside of the Corps that we are viewed as an effective organization that employs a rational and consistent decision-making process. Although we did hear a number of concerns with how the Corps currently does business, it was clear that our role in solving the nation's water resource problems is broadly supported.

Some of the key points that we took away from these discussions were:

- The multi-disciplined, decision-making process that is characteristic of the Corps positions it to take the lead in facilitating integrated water management and watershed solutions. This role is significant to our continued relevancy to the nation. To do this, we must build effective networks and strategic alliances with other agencies, state governments and key stakeholders.

- The Corps needs to embrace the concept of working as one organization to bring its best technical and management skills to the table. We can no longer afford to limit our abilities by having artificial boundaries. The premise of 2012 is to work effectively together.

- Under the president's management objectives, future funding will be based on business lines, like flood damage reduction, commercial navigation, etc., and the out puts to the nation. The result may be some projects will no longer receive funding. If Districts wish to remain relevant, they must organize to support regional and national teams. Key to this is the adoption of Corps standard operating procedures. Districts that ignore this will risk their ability to secure future work.



Photo by Brian Miller, mechanical engineer, Eng. Div.

LDP class members visited many Corps leaders and elected officials during their three-day trip to Washington, D.C.

- The Learning Organization Doctrine, posted online at <http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/learning/learning.htm>, allows us to speak about leadership with a common reference point. Our leaders must ensure that we periodically stop working and spend time learning through candid after-action reports and tools like the lessons-learned database. It was suggested that the first step in beginning any new project should be a thorough review of lessons learned from similar projects executed in the past.

We would like to thank our Walla Walla leadership for making this experience possible. We gained invaluable insight into the Corps' senior leadership and their vision of our future. Through discussions with the ASA(CW) and congressional staffers, we learned much about our relationship with each office.

If you would like to hear more about the discussions we had, stop by and chat with any of the LDP class members.

The 2004 LDP class

Mark Lindgren

Steve Fink

Brian Miller

Kim Callan

Randy Chong

Linda Kirts, unable to attend

Carl Knaak, deployed to hurricane operations

Dave Coleman

Rich Hilt

Gay Ernst

Sharon White

Bob Hollenbeck



You've got the power to help...

Combined Federal Campaign

Walla Walla District's CFC drive runs Oct. 1 through Nov. 15
Contact your section's CFC coordinator for a brochure.

District volunteers support hurricane relief operations

by Nola Conway

When the call went out for hurricane support, more than 20 Walla Walla District employees answered the call.

They joined some 1,300 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers employees supporting recovery efforts in Florida, Alabama and surrounding states affected by Hurricanes Charley, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne.

The recovery operation is the largest of its type ever undertaken by the Corps, officials said, and it extends to areas flooded by the storms' aftermath.

For many residents living along the eastern Florida coast, Hurricane Jeanne's landfall on Sept. 26 was another punch that they could not afford to take.

The Corps handles eight mission areas: humanitarian support (e.g. ice and water), emergency power, debris removal, temporary housing, emergency restoration of critical facilities, demolition/stabilization of structures, temporary construction of access routes and temporary roofing. Typically, the ice, water and emergency power are key missions just after a disaster. These missions are divided between the Corps, with Walla Walla District tasked with providing emergency power.

Several District employees are taking part in efforts to provide emergency power to Floridians. Nearly 3 million power customers over 56 counties were affected by power outages. As of Sept. 26, 44 percent have had power restored to homes and businesses, according to the State of Florida Emergency Response Team. Other District employees are involved in debris removal and assisting with covering ruined roofs.

Carl Knaak, lead mechanical engineer, Technical Support Branch, Operations Division, sent back the following reports on his deployment in support of hurricane recovery. He was stationed in Tallahassee, FL, at the Florida State Emergency Operations Center.

"The monster called Hurricane Ivan came ashore in Alabama and Florida around three in the morning packing



Photo provided by Carl Knaak, mechanical engineer, Ops. Div.

Carl Knaak, Technical Support Branch lead mechanical engineer, volunteered to help the State of Florida Emergency Response Team's operations center.

120 mph plus winds, driving rain and crashing surf. Tornadoes, like misbehaving children, spread out from its center turning homes and trees into matchsticks while lighting up the sky with exploding transformers. In an instant, nearly 500,000 people were without power, thrown back to primitive times.

"Staff Sgt. Charles Cochran of the A Company, 249th Engineer Battalion, assessed the needs of the Ft. Walton Beach Medical Center in Escambia County just hours after the hurricane's passing. Hit hard by the high winds and rain, its public utilities were out and its emergency generator was barely keeping the power up.

"Applying his years of expertise, he determined the best

See **Hurricane**, page 6

On the Cover...

Walla Walla District employees at McNary Lock and Dam celebrated 50 years of hydropower production. About 300 people gathered at Spillway Park to commemorate the anniversary with a ceremony, reception and facility tours.



photo illustration by Chris Koch, graphic artist, Information Support System (service provider contracted to support NWWs Technical Information Processing)

Intercom



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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 celebrates

Story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

Sept. 23, 1954, a crowd of hundreds gathered at McNary Lock and Dam to watch President Dwight Eisenhower pull a switch which started the powerhouse's massive electric generators.

Fifty years to the day later, a crowd again gathered to celebrate the 50th anniversary of McNary's dedication and start-up.

Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser, Walla Walla District commander, spoke of Corps' members willingness to serve whenever duty called – whether building dams, responding to flood and hurricane disasters across the nation or supporting U.S. missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Oregon State Sen. David Nelson, keynote speaker, hailed the benefits the dam brought to the region – power, navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, wildlife habitat and irrigation.

The event marked more than the structure itself, it celebrated the people who built and maintained it for the past 50 years. After the ceremony, past and present workers shared McNary stories.

"I worked on the construction of McNary from start to finish," said 93-year-old Elmer Skinner, whose family brought him to the celebration from Selah, Wash. "Every time I look at this dam, I have such a sense of pride. I know I did something good with my life."



"We delivered," Walla Walla District Commander Lt. Col. Randy Glaeser praises the Corps' work in the region, across the nation and overseas.



Above, Oregon State Sen. David Nelson addresses a crowd gathered Sept. 23 at McNary's Spillway Park to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Right, McNary's workforce alumni stand to be recognized for their contributions to the construction and maintenance of the dam.



Rolly Cassens, a Corps carpenter/welder from 1948 to 1954, and Elmer Skinner stand to be recognized for their experiences building and maintaining McNary Lock and Dam.



Above, Chief Warrant Officer and band leader, Col. Randy Glaeser, and band members provide music for the celebration. Right, Col. Randy Glaeser, District Commander, stands with 93-year-old Elmer Skinner at McNary throughout its history.

50 years



and Jim Walker, an iron worker from 1949 to 1953, reflect on and Dam. Cassens' son, Merlin, works as a rigger at the dam.



Officer Mary Wood, master, directs the I Fort Lewis, Wash. as the event. Right, Lt. district commander, chats Skinner, who worked s construction period.



Above, Fort Lewis' I Corps Command Color Guard posts the colors. Below, Walla Walla District employees, past and present, attend the celebration.



Visitors get a rare, inside look at one of McNary's generators. Tours inside the dam have been limited since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2002.



Wayne Condit, a power plant operator at McNary Lock and Dam, explains how the generators produce electricity to visitors touring the facility.

District Cost Engineer earns top USACE honor

Story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

A civil engineer at the Walla Walla District headquarters was named the 2004 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cost Engineer of the Year during an Aug. 30 ceremony held in Omaha, Neb.

Karl Pankaskie, Cost Engineering Branch, earned the national-level award for his efforts to improve the quality of cost engineering in the Corps.



Karl Pankaskie

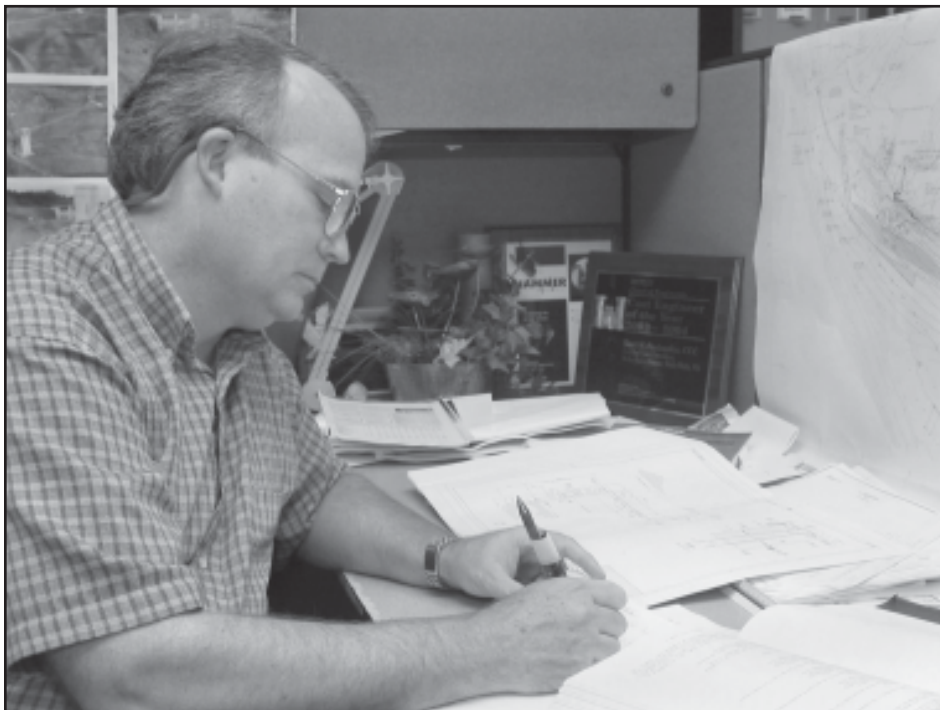
The annual award is given to one cost engineer in recognition of his or her contribution to the cost engineering profession, according to the award program regulation, ER 672-1-12.

Pankaskie began his federal career in 1981. He spent the first five years in Walla Walla District's Construction Division as a field inspector. That experience helped him become an effective cost analyst when he moved to a position in Cost Engineering Branch. Lately, most of his time is spent on work outside the District, often telecommuting, to support other Corps organizations and projects. Last month, he was in Alaska working on cost estimates for the Corps' Kake Dam project. He also

recently developed a labor and equipment database for hurricane support missions.

The work he's most fond of is a database used in the Corps' official estimating software. The nationally used database allows estimators to work more efficiently and to provide verification of their many complex computations.

"I'm really proud of that one," said Pankaskie, "because it makes the job easier for other Corps cost engineers."



Design schematics, materials lists and equipment inventories cover Karl Pankaskie's desk as he analyses a proposed project for cost-effectiveness.

Hurricane, from page 3

size of generator to power this hospital. Using his satellite phone, he sent the information to Marcus Smith, a Walla Walla District employee from Dworshak Dam in Idaho, stationed at the Eglin Logistic Staging Area.

"Marcus and Larry Lewis, a District logistics expert, found the proper-sized generator, prepared it for transport and sent it with a contractor work crew to the hospital. Within hours, the hospital was powered and able to take in more disaster victims.

"According to 1st Lt. Heath Papkov, "It has been a devastating month for Florida. Prime Power members of A Company, 249th Engineer Battalion (which is stationed out of Ft. Lewis, Wash.) remains focused on providing support to the residents. It is the 249th Engineer Battalion's role to provide expertise in bringing power to critical facilities and assisting in restoring Florida's power grid. Our soldiers have been working up to 20 hours a day for seven days a week and never seem to lose focus on assisting those in need. No matter what the mission, our soldiers truly performed without haste and with true professionalism."

Within hours of the hurricane's passing, lights, air conditioning and vital medical equipment like ventilators, monitors and dialysis machines were running at several affected hospitals, skilled nursing homes and senior citizen facilities, courtesy of the power team.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers teams have been working in Florida and Alabama for six weeks for Charley, Francis and Ivan and are now responding to their fourth hurricane. The organization's effort, as are the hurricanes themselves, unprecedented, officials said.

"The Corps is very adaptable," said Col. Ray Alexander, leading the response and recovery effort in Alabama. "I know our folks are tired, but they keep on demonstrating their flexibility."

Author's Note: Information for this story was contributed by Carl Knaak, the Florida State EOC and an Army News Service release by Lt. Col. Stan Heath, HQUSACE.

Lunchbag lecture draws public to HQ

Story and photos by Gina Baltrusch

About a dozen Walla Walla-area residents came to the District headquarters Aug. 19 for a lunchbag presentation about the Lewis and Clark expedition through the Pacific Northwest.

Jeanne Newton, a park ranger at Ice Harbor Lock and Dam, told the audience of public visitors and several employees on lunch break, about what Lewis and Clark encountered and where they camped along the Snake River as they made their way to the Pacific Ocean. Her stories, drawn from historical accounts of the expedition, entertained and educated attendees with many little-known facts about the adventurers and their experiences.

"Many stories about the journey of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery tell in detail of their adventure through the plains and their difficulty in getting over the Rocky Mountains. Few mention much about their experiences in what is now eastern Washington," said

Newton. "I enjoy doing Lewis and Clark interpretive programs. I like sharing all the interesting stories about their journey through our District."

Visitors giggled as Newton relayed an entry from an expedition journal about the company being afraid to eat anything from the Snake River because when they first encountered the red-colored, spawning salmon, they thought the spawned-out, dying fish must be victims of disease. Newton also brought a Discovery Box containing examples of items used by the Corps of Discovery and what they collected during their journey.

After the slideshow presentation, attendees were able to handle many of the objects, like pen-and-ink sets, fur pelts, uniforms, hats and a casting of a bear's paw print.

"The stories and all of the artifacts we can just pick up and really get a look at made it a wonderful presentation," said Barbara Stanford, a Walla Walla resident who brought her grandson, Joel McClure, to the lunchbag lecture.



Joel McClure examines a prickly pear cactus, an item similar to those collected by Corps of Discovery explorers.



Jeanne Newton, far-right, explains how Discovery Box items were used on the expedition.

Lucky Peak, Air Force partner on projects

Twenty-five volunteers from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, went to Lucky Peak Dam Sept. 10 to help enhance recreation areas. Airmen from the 366th Fighter Wing (Gunfighters) repaired shelters, assembled tables and maintained trails. Right, Monte Crawford (hardhat), Lucky Peak maintenance foreman, and Will Rodman (sitting beside Crawford), laborer, give Air Force volunteers (from left) Tech. Sgt. Jim Geyer, Senior Airman Josh Mattson and Staff Sgt. Pat Howells, a safety briefing. Far-right, Tech. Sgt. Travis Reynolds takes apart a shelter for relocation. The airmen's efforts helped raise Lucky Peak's volunteer hours this year to an all time high, with more than \$47,000 in estimated savings to the Corps, said Toni Fisher, park ranger and volunteer coordinator at Lucky Peak Dam.



Photos by Toni Fisher, park ranger, Lucky Peak Dam

BUSTED

Sheriffs nab illegal crop

by Gina Baltrusch

Officers from the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office confiscated more than 300 marijuana plants found growing in the District's Burbank Height Habitat Management Unit on Aug. 4.

Ice Harbor Park Ranger Ken Lloyd was conducting a routine patrol about one mile upstream of Hood Park on the lower Snake River when he saw the sheriffs removing the plants from the HMU. He immediately reported the activity to Lanell Adams, park manager, Ice Harbor Natural Resource Management.

"This is not an unheard-of occurrence, yet it doesn't happen too often on our lands," said Adams. "There have been similar incidents in the past at Wallula HMU and other non-Corps public lands along the river. Law enforcement officials around here are great about looking for and finding illegal crops like this hidden away in remote-access areas." Sheriff's Office officials said they



Photo by Ken Lloyd, park ranger, Ice Harbor Natural Resource Management

Walla Walla County Sheriffs Office patrol-investigators confiscate more than 300 marijuana plants found illegally grown by trespassers on Walla Walla District's Burbank Height Habitat Management Unit.

plan enforcement actions like this during late summer.

"Our officers spotted this site by helicopter," said Under Sheriff Carole Lepiane. "The plants are big this time of year. One officer walked into the crop area and completely disappeared from view."

"We wound up with about 500 plants from two locations that day. The big haul was on the Corps' land – those plants were about seven to eight feet high," said Captain Bill White, who heads the patrol and investigation section.

No evidence was found on the scene that could lead investigators to the trespassing growers, said White.

"Unless we invest considerable manpower to do surveillance, we're not too likely to catch the people who do this," he explained, then added with a chuckle. "But, we sure can confiscate all those illegal plants they put so much effort into growing."

If a Corps employee discovers an incident of this nature, it is reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency that has jurisdictional authority, Adams said.



Photo by Gina Baltrusch

Volunteers tidy riverfront view

Volunteers joined Lower Granite Natural Resource Management staff Sept. 18 to tackle a riverfront cleanup project in Clarkston, Wash., in honor of National Public Lands Day. Travis Chewning, a Walla Walla District park ranger, led the handful of volunteers who showed up at the Chestnut Beach Day Use Area to help clear overgrown brush, thin out crowded saplings and pick up trash within a one-mile portion of the well-used Greenbelt Trail along the Snake River. "I use the trail every day," said Joe Dubner (bottom-left in photo), a Clarkston resident who walks the riverfront with his dog, Smiley. "I run into Travis quite regularly out here. He told me about this Public Lands Day project, so I came out to do my part." Other volunteers were Jesi Chewning (carrying leaves), Travis' wife; Roger Giese (near the river), park host at Swallows Boat Launch; and his friend, Sally Hoffman (raking), a local resident. The five-person crew sawed, pruned, raked and hauled about a dozen truck-plus-trailer loads of brambles, trash and brush off the shoreline side of the trail, reclaiming a scenic view of the river. "Most rangers' duty time is taken up by 'must-do' items. Tidying up natural growth on the trail is in the 'if we get the essential tasks done first' category," said Chewning. "Without these volunteers, that area would still be overgrown."