



Volume XV, No. 6  
December 2005

# Flagship

SEATTLE DISTRICT



**Corps weathers winter  
challenges in Montana**

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Succeeding in a multi-hazard world

*"I do not view problems as great obstacles to avoid, but as inevitable parts of life."*

— Richard Carlson

Since arriving in the great and beautiful Northwest over two years ago, I have gained an appreciation for why the Seattle District has the largest emergency management office in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

There are volcanoes, like Mount St. Helens, which was bad in 1980, but a Mount Rainier eruption would be much, much worse. Many seismic faults run through the region, including the newly identified Seattle Fault, running underneath a major sector of the Emerald City.

Along the coastline, tectonic plate movements are poised to create corresponding quakes and tsunamis potentially affecting thousands of miles of shoreline along the coastal and Puget Sound areas.

Each year, the "Pineapple Express" weather pattern creates some of the worst flood conditions in the Nation. So much so that local diking districts and communities have become very skillful in sandbagging and evacuation procedures. Additionally, extensive forests present an annual threat of fires. Drought conditions persisting over the years, as in eastern Washington, create unsustainable conditions needing solutions. Similarly, man-made potential threats, such as the Elliott Bay Seawall and the Seattle Viaduct, create further threats, especially under potential seismic events.

This past year, a number of disaster scenarios played out globally with devastating impacts. While specific details may vary, identifying key fundamentals to succeed in a multi-hazard environment are possible, should be understood and widely shared — sooner rather than later.

Recently, I had the good fortune to hear Steve Browning, a former Seattle District team member who is currently a Senior Executive Service (SES) civilian with the South Pacific Division, speak to a group in Seattle about crisis management and execution.

Steve has a unique perspective on the subject with more than 20 years working for the Corps, preceded by private consulting experience, along with several experiences with disaster recovery such as Hurricane Mitch, 9/11 in New York, Iraq and most recently, the Corps' hurricane recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast.

In his speech, Steve identified six key areas we must pay attention to and properly address before the next crisis.

Leadership is Important and Matters.

In a disaster, leadership is essential. Clear lines of responsibility and accountability must be established. Who the decision-maker is and how decisions are made, must be understood. When nobody is in charge, then chaos occurs.

The current National Response Plan does not make this easier and indicates states report through FEMA. Complicating this situation is how responsibilities may shift before, during and after an event. Contrast what happened in New York after 9/11 and what happened in New Orleans after Katrina. While different situations, both events emphasized that without leadership, personal agendas, turf battles, the blame game and other equally undesirable conditions flourish.

Importance of Planning and Preparation.

When do you plan and prepare for a disaster event? Before the event! We should all have learned by now "hope is not a method."

Unfortunately, Steve's experience has been that real planning often begins during the event as we did during 9/11 and Katrina. Prior to these events, the Federal Emergency Management Agency identified three likely scenarios: West Coast Earthquake, New Orleans Hurricane and a New York City Terrorist Attack.

How well did their planning fill in critical details, such as who would take charge? Would it be the FBI, Department of Defense or FEMA?

What about our own Seattle situation? How many people do you know have food, water and supplies for 72 or more hours? How many families have a plan with a rendezvous point? How many have a "fly away" kit with all key papers and documents in one place to pick up? How many organizations have similar plans to ensure continuity of operations? Shouldn't



Col. Debra M. Lewis  
Seattle District Commander  
and District Engineer



Cover: Workers bundle up against the cold as they off-load construction material at the Corrosion Control Facility, currently being built at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. See more photos and story on pages 6 - 7) (Cover photo by Patricia Graesser)



This issue was especially prepared for Eyland Washington, Records Manager, Information Management. A wealth of information, Eyland always has a smile and an admirable work ethic. (File photo)

### Flagship

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## Succeeding

Continued from page 2

these preparations be common sense since we live in a potentially dangerous region?

**Importance of Relationships.** Cultivating personal relationships with those you may need to rely on in a crisis is critical. After something happens is not the best time to start building trust and understanding with other organizations and support personnel. Make an effort to know your neighbors, your first responders, the capabilities of others and how to contact them. You may not know exactly what help you'll need or when, but having established ties to others before a crisis increases your chances you'll be supported during a crisis. One of Steve's most incredible stories is the call he placed after the Chief of Engineers asked him to go to New York City on 9/11. His contact at the Pentagon provided an aircraft and a presidential order to pick Steve up at the San Francisco Airport and fly him to New York City on Sept. 12 when no commercial aircraft were flying.

**Three Communication Challenges, Post-Disaster.**

◆ **Assume No Communication and Plan Accordingly.** In general, for every crisis or disaster the standard forms of communication (telephones and cell phones) rarely work or are incompatible and everyone is always surprised. However, there are many ways we can plan for this likelihood, including using couriers.

◆ **Miscommunication is Normal Communication.** If we routinely think we must communicate in a crisis, imagine the impact of chaos and confusing language. The key is to have day-to-day

communications that are clear, succinct, and repeated.

◆ **Deal with the Media to Get Information Out to the Public.** Think of the media as a tool and friend, and use it. Manage relations with the media and make it easier for them to carry the message. It is important to educate the media. For example, Steve clarified similar phrases, identifying important differences between a "levee breach" and "overtopping a levee." The educated reporter later corrected other reporters.

**Importance of Critical Infrastructure.** Disasters create hopeless situations, without a robust infrastructure and redundant designs instituted before the next potential crisis. Currently, the American Society of Civil Engineers gives our U.S. infrastructure a "D" report card. Additional education and further influence are needed to improve our situation because we no longer maintain or design redundancies with adequate factors of safety to withstand likely disaster scenarios.

**Integrate Many Missions to Optimize the System.** If you optimize every element, such as the need for mortuary services, evacuation, medical health care, levee repair, emergency power, etc.; you cannot optimize the overall system. Not all actions have similar priorities nor are they on the critical path. While people may only focus on their small fragment or piece of the crisis, it is important for them to understand they are part of a larger system. Optimizing such a system requires dynamic leaders making decisions on priorities, resources and timelines in a collaborative and systematic way.

"Our problem, as one put it, is to get at the wisdom we already have." - Stephen Covey

*Debra M. Lewis*

### Letter to the Editor

## Getting serious on health — no more donuts

I love Krispy Kremes - especially the Kremefilled ones. Folks at the Corps used to celebrate by bringing them to me. But I can't eat them anymore. My doctor says that 25 years of eating sweets and carbs without limit - since my mid-30s - caused my pancreas to work overtime pumping out insulin. Now it is worn out, and the insulin producers in my body are dying off.

I have diabetes, type 2.

Diabetes 2 (insulin resistant) is the equivalent of a "first heart attack without the damage." Doctors will treat me as if I have one heart attack under my belt. There is no known cure for diabetes. Causes are heredity (few if any others in the Harris family), age (61), weight and activity. Treatment: diet, exercise and medication. Medication is no good without the other two treatments.

So, here's what my doctor says I must do: aerobic exercise a minimum of 30 minutes a day seven days a week. On days I don't exercise, I should say, "OK I won't eat or sleep today." It's that important.

Normal blood sugar level is 80-120 while fasting. Mine was 139 on Oct. 1. I was called in for

a glucose tolerance test. That day my initial level was 133. I took the prescribed sweet beverage, and my level was 317 after an hour, then back to 133 after two hours. He put me on light blood pressure medicine (an ACE inhibitor, Licinipril) and doubled my cholesterol medicine, Zocor. I am to continue taking an aspirin a day. I am to eat balanced meals including about 25 percent carbs, 50 percent veggies and 25 percent protein. I can eat bread the size of an audio cassette; meat no larger than a deck of cards. A plate of food is not an Azteca plate, which can feed a family of four, my doctor says. I am to make an appointment for an ophthalmologist's diabetes evaluation of my eyes.

The good news is that by playing racquetball, cutting out sweets and reducing portions of everything else, I've lost nine pounds in nine days. I have to take blood samples with a meter, and I've kept my blood sugars in the 90s.

I have no choice, but I can do this. I am missing those Krispy Kremes less and less. I'm serious about my diet and exercise now.

I only wish I had been this serious when I was 30.

Sincerely,  
Dave Harris  
Retired Chief, Public Affairs

# Looking for options

## From waste to resources: Fort Lewis and Seattle District host open house on alternatives to demolition

The saying “out with the old and in with the new” is used frequently, but do we ever think about what happens to the old things?

The Army has been thinking about what will happen with the 26 million tons of construction and demolition (C&D) that is expected to be generated from installations over the next 15 years as old facilities are torn down to make room for new buildings. They have strategically planned a sustainability program that takes into account the mission, environment and the community.

Fort Lewis is leading the way with the entire installation now fully integrated into a sustainability goal of “zero net waste by 2025.” Seattle District has directly teamed with Fort Lewis Public Works to help with this new approach to building removal.

On Oct. 1, Fort Lewis and Seattle District hosted an alternatives-to-demolition open house. They were joined by employees from the U.S. Army Construction and Engineering Research Laboratory and Army Environmental Center. The goal of the open house was to begin giving contractors the tools and education they need to achieve the rates of diversion required by the new initiative.

“One issue identified by the team early on was that this alternative building removal approach to demolition was very different than the traditional demolition practices employed by the contractors. The contractors were requesting information regarding how to achieve these new contract diversion levels, so an additional step that this team has taken has been to facilitate a series of educational video conferences, meetings and an alternative building removal open house,” said Elizabeth Chien, environmental engineer at Seattle District.

Contractors will be required to meet different specifications than previous projects they have worked on. For example, every piece of material that leaves the site is required to be weighed, tracked and documented. The contractor is allowed to salvage, resell, reuse and recycle building material and keep the profits. There is also a built-in dollar incentive for the contractor to achieve more than 50 percent diversion.

Ken Smith, chief of Environmental Operations at Fort Lewis Public Works, feels that this initiative will ultimately reduce the cost of



**Participants at the open house examine a vintage light fixture located in a building slated for demolition at Fort Lewis. The light fixture is just one example of a material that can be salvaged and reused during demolition.** Photo by Elizabeth Chien.

operations and will have a positive affect on the environment.

“This change in business practice will allow us to manage what was once just a waste as a resource. The partnership Seattle District and Fort Lewis formed to change traditional crush and haul demolition practices is unprecedented.”

Smith coined this first open house a “dating service” to bring contractors and resources together. There are plans to have other open houses throughout the next year to focus on other aspects of alternatives to demolition program. — **Ashlee Richie**



## Lock maintenance

Fred Goetz, biologist with Seattle District, answers reporter’s questions inside the empty large lock of Lake Washington Ship Canal. The district hosted a media tour inside the lock chamber to give a behind-the-scenes look while the large lock was closed for annual maintenance in November. Photo by Ashlee Richie

## Park built to encourage public to learn Lewis and Clark history

To honor the historical aspect of Fort Lewis, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) teamed up with Fort Lewis Public Works and Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to design the Fort Lewis Memorial Park.

Since Fort Lewis is named after Capt. Meriwether Lewis, who led the famous Army expedition out west more than 200 years ago, the park contains statues and plaques commemorating the Lewis and Clark journey.

John Reid, one of Seattle District's landscape architects, worked closely with AUSA and Fort Lewis Public Works to meet their vision of the park.

"Fort Lewis Public Works asked the Corps to provide concept drawings for review by AUSA. Terri Taylor, who recently passed away, and I developed several concepts," Reid said. "The AUSA park committee selected one of my concepts for the park. It is great to finally see my concept come to life."

The park was built outside of the Fort Lewis main gate in order to encourage the public to use the park and learn the history of Lewis and Clark. During the opening ceremony, the partners gathered to dedicate the park and two statues.

The bronze statues of Capt. Lewis and his dog Seaman were dedicated to symbolize the historical expedition in the United States' and Army's history. The last statue planned for the park is of Sgt. John Ordway.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leads the Army mission of not only celebrating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial through 2006, but also educating the public about the Lewis and Clark journey. Since 2003, Corps employees have traveled across the country entertaining people with the tales of the expedition.

The Corps has direct stewardship of 22 percent of the Lewis and Clark Route and offers recreational opportunities to visitors who are following the Lewis and Clark trail.

To learn more about the Lewis and Clark expedition, visit [www.army.mil/cmh/LC/](http://www.army.mil/cmh/LC/). — **Andrea Takash**



The statue of Meriwether Lewis and his dog Seaman is unveiled at Fort Lewis Memorial Park. From left, Alan Archambault, curator of the Fort Lewis Military Museum; Brig. Gen. John W. Morgan III, 1st Corps, Fort Lewis deputy commanding general; retired Maj. Gen. John Hemphill, chairman for the Fort Lewis Memorial Park Committee for the Association of the U.S. Army; Col. Debra M. Lewis, Seattle District commander; and Dr. John Patrick Jewell, statue sculptor. Photo by Ashlee Richie.



**Dru Butterfield, natural resource manager, leads the planting effort.**

## Partnering creates synergy to beautify one-mile of shoreline at Fremont Cut

A Seattle District partnership with Seattle Parks, Groundswell NW, Fremont Chamber of Commerce and a local Rotary club was selected for a \$15,000 Starbucks neighborhood grant program designed to support local communities in the development and care of open space and neighborhood parks. More than 180 Starbucks employees, community members and volunteers from the Corps worked several hundred hours planting groundcovers to re-vegetate nearly one mile of shoreline. In addition to the original grant, Starbucks donated \$10 per hour per volunteer, not to exceed \$1,000 per event, generating an additional \$2,000 to support future volunteer opportunities in the community. Photos by Ashlee Richie



**Jeanette Fiess, electrical engineer in Design Branch, works hard to make sure the people planting have the soil they need.**



**Col. Debra Lewis, district commander, works beside her husband, Doug Adams, and Jeanne Muir of Muir Public Relations to place plants along the ship canal.**



Giant icicles hang from unfinished houses and serve as a reminder of the winter weather conditions.



A clever snowman at the entrance to Malmstrom Air Force Base offers a friendly reminder to drivers that the snow brings dangerous driving conditions.

*The weather outside is frightful, but inside it's warm and delightful.*





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# Corps team weathers challenges in Montana

**A**s the first snow of the season blew onto Malmstrom Air Force Base, construction pounded steadily along, with workers expected to deliver a major housing project by the end of the year.

The district staff at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., is directly contributing to improving the quality of life for the base's airmen and their families. The project office is overseeing several housing projects, a new painting and maintenance facility, and a dorm renovation project. In all, the Malmstrom office has over 200 new family housing units under contract, with another 300 to be bid yet this year.

Contractors are building the houses and duplexes on a pier and grade beam foundation system, unique to residential housing, to withstand the problematic soil conditions in the local area. Malmstrom has clay soils that shrink when they're dry and expand and get mushy when wet. Older housing on base was built with standard basements that have since buckled and cracked, with floor slabs and walls pushed up and out of alignment.

"The pier and grade beam construction is more expensive, but they won't have heaving floors and walls," said Alan Korslien, Malmstrom project office.

The Air Force has funded the housing replacement projects in phases. The district is currently constructing Phases 3, 4 and 5. The first portion of Phase 4, eight prestige units for Wing leadership, is nearly complete, with Phase 3 scheduled to wrapup by the end of December. Phase 6, funded by the fiscal year 2006 program, contains 268 units in 4-plex and 6-plex configurations and 28 single family and duplex living units, and bids yet this month. The fiscal 2007 program includes an additional 500 units, in duplex configuration.

"The Air Force is committed to quality of life," said Korslien. On the other side of the base, the dorm renovation project will upgrade heating systems, landscaping and all interior finishes, and install blast resistant windows and frames in dorm 762. This \$2 million project is also expected to be finished in the spring of 2006.

In addition to housing, the district is building the base a new \$4 million corrosion control facility that will be about 10 times the size of their old facility. The building will provide corrosion control for parts and equipment from the missile sites. The media blasting booth and paint booth "are big enough to drive a car into," said Korslien.

Even as icicles accumulated in late November, fork lifts rumbled, electricians wired lights and framers put up walls, building comfortable future homes and commercial facilities for Air Force personnel and their families. — **Patricia Graesser**



Enlisted family housing under construction is shown in the middle photo. Terry Childers, right, and James Stordahl, construction representatives at the Corps Project Office at Malmstrom Air Force Base, discuss the turnover punchlist while inspecting recently completed quarters, such as the commander's residence shown above. Photos by Patricia Graesser

# Kootenai Trail dedicated by Libby staff

Libby Dam Project Manager Mick Shea and Park Ranger Mark Andraesen attended a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 13, recognizing the completion of the Kootenai Trail.

Mayor Craig Eaton of Eureka officially cut the ribbon on the trail, a seven and a half mile east-west, non-motorized hiking, biking and riding trail winding along the Tobacco River near Libby Dam. It connects the city of Eureka's Riverside Park to Rexford Bench's Mariner's Haven.

Libby Dam Park Manager Dick Wernham is credited for seeing this effort through to its completion from its inception in 1999 to the signing of the Cooperative Agreement in October 2000.

The trail was at one time the Great Northern Rail route through Eureka, Mont., on the east-west line from Chicago to Seattle. During the construction of Libby Dam the line was relocated to the south along the Fisher River.

As part owner of the abandoned rail line, the Corps has partnered with the U.S. Forest Service; the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and the Sunburst Community Foundation to make public trail out of the old line.

The Corps has made improvements on its section of trail by providing a vault toilet, fishing access, chemicals for weed control and a wildlife friendly fence to keep out cattle.

The trail is another example of making something that was just an idea into something that really benefits the community and fosters partnership between neighbors. — **Mark Andraesen**



The Kootenai Trail Birding Area is a popular trail attraction.



Project Manager Mick Shea at dedication ceremony. Photos provided by Mark Andraesen

# Chief Joseph Dam staff hosts training course for area canine units

Chief Joseph Dam hosted a regional training night for canine units from Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan County Sheriff's Offices on Oct. 28.

Park Manager Laura Beaugard worked with regional K-9 units to coordinate logistics and set up the scenarios. This security training was beneficial for the K-9 officers to get used to working inside a powerhouse in the event their services are needed. Their normal duties are to assist the patrol units, other Sheriff's Office units and outside government agencies, such as the Corps.

The local law enforcement agencies use appropriately trained police dogs to enforce laws, keep order and assist the community.

These dogs are trained to locate and apprehend wanted criminals; protect law enforcement personnel and citizens; locate evidence, bomb devices, gun powder, illegal drugs and lost persons; and locate and recover lost property. — **Laura Beaugard**



K-9 Officer Harley and his handler Deputy Scott Nesary corner a "bad guy" at Chief Joseph Dam. Photo by Laura Beaugard



**Sustainable development: Meeting present needs without compromising the stock of natural resources remaining for future generations. In terms of buildings, it implies resource efficiency, minimum energy use, flexibility and long life.**

— *Richard Rogers, Architect*

Tom Pitcher, Lori Danielson, Brenda Bachman and David McCormack stand behind a pallet loaded with one ton worth of information technology equipment that took only six weeks to generate. *Photos by Andrea Takash*



## Promoting sustainability in information technology

**A**s part of the Seattle District's Environmental Operating Principles/Sustainability working group, a small team came together to promote sustainability in information technology areas.

The team is focusing on issues related to the district's purchase, use and disposal practices for electronics and information technology equipment and supplies.

This work supports the Corps' Environmental Operating Principles and two of the district's sustainability goals: producing zero net waste by 2025 and providing a sustainable workplace for all employees by 2015.

The team is currently planning three actions:

- ◆ Making recommendations on printer purchases and lifecycle in order to promote future energy and/or paper savings
- ◆ Supporting practices that reduce paper use in the district, such as making district printers default to double-sided printing, publicizing the wireless networking

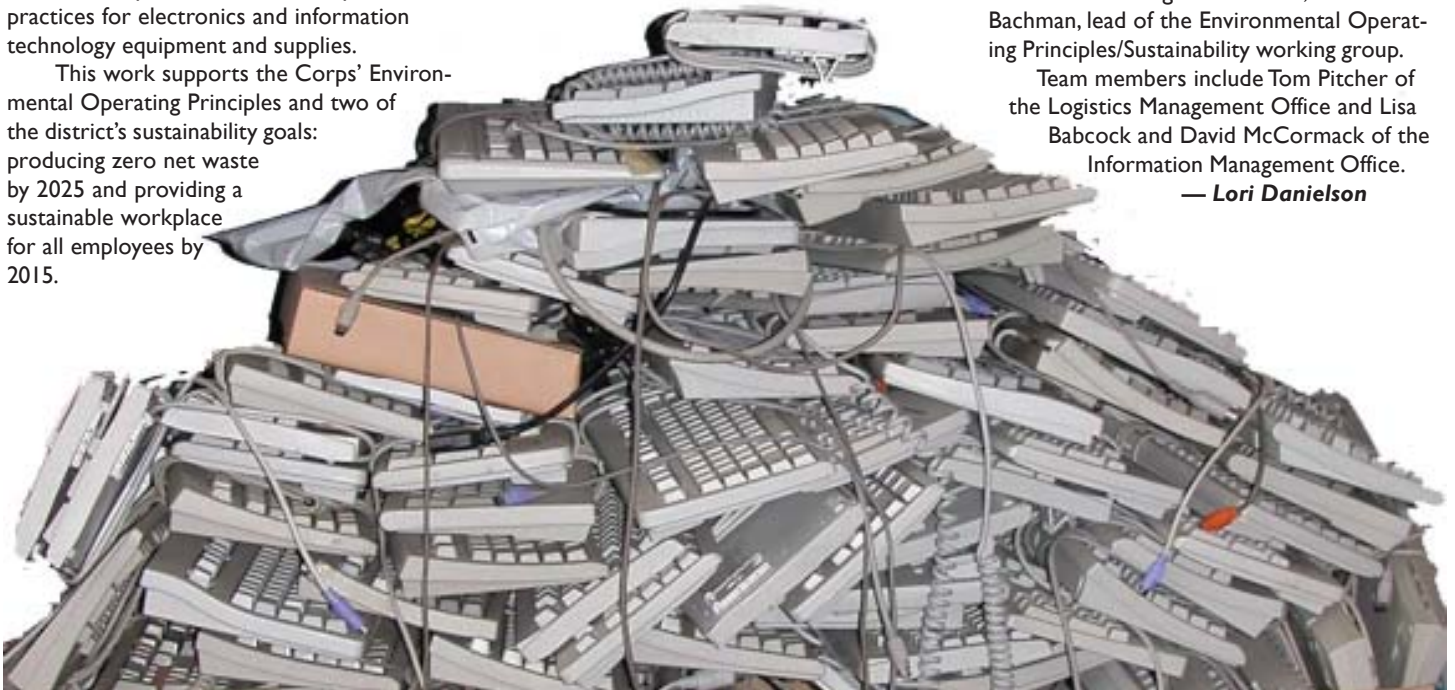
project for reducing paper in meetings, as well as promoting CD/DVD media use for transporting documents instead of mailing paper.

- ◆ Making recommendations for the district's VISA cardholders for sustainable and recyclable supply purchasing

The team is led by Lori Danielson and championed by Mike McClellan, chief of the Information Management Office, and Brenda Bachman, lead of the Environmental Operating Principles/Sustainability working group.

Team members include Tom Pitcher of the Logistics Management Office and Lisa Babcock and David McCormack of the Information Management Office.

— *Lori Danielson*



## Seattle historical experts assisting with New Orleans recovery efforts

**N**ew Orleans is a city unlike any other, a city steeped in history and rich with its own unique identity.

In the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, officials are wrestling with heartrending decisions about final disposition of structures in devastated areas. It's a monumental effort fraught with emotion and filled with historic and future relevance.

John Ketchum, FEMA's federal preservation officer, is well aware of the magnitude of the task at hand. He explains that the agency is working with partners at local levels and at the state preservation office to ensure that FEMA lives up to its preservation responsibility in all activities and disaster programs.

Ketchum requested support from the Corps Center of Expertise for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures, located at Seattle District. Shortly after the request was received, Horace Foxall and Lauren McCroskey were on their way to the Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge to support FEMA's environmental and cultural resources team.

Ketchum explained that they will serve as liaisons and spokespersons with the Corps to ensure that FEMA's preservation responsibilities are satisfied and that Corps representatives understand that FEMA is tasked with those responsibilities even when missions are assigned to the Corps.

Ketchum stressed the importance of knowing what the requirements are when speaking with local governments to ensure that everyone is "speaking from the same script." A clear, unified message can also help allay some of the concerns that abound.

"In New Orleans, where you have areas of the city where people are very apprehensive about their future, it's an opportunity for us to give clear answers, so they'll know what to expect," he said.

Foxall and McCroskey will aid in that endeavor. Foxall is an architect, and McCroskey is an architectural historian. They are technical specialists in historical rehabilitation, historic preservation, regulatory compliance, and architectural history. Presently, the pair comprises the Corps' Center of Expertise, and they have brought everything at their disposal to the challenge of preserving historic architecture in New Orleans at this time of massive destruction. "It's taxing everything we've ever learned, and we're digging into every little nook and cranny of our life experience, personal as well as professional," McCroskey said.

According to Foxall, historic preservation during disaster recovery is fairly new territory, and New Orleans presents an immense challenge. "This is a greater magnitude than we've ever seen in our lives," he said. "So we're trying to wrestle with this magnitude and, at the same time, trying to do the right thing."

The right thing, in this instance, is ensuring that the processes of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are followed. Section 106 requires that any federal action or recipient of federal funds comply with that act. It sets out a process for identifying what impacts the action will have on historic properties. Those properties include buildings, structures, objects, archeological sites, bridges, the entire cultural property – including places that people may have considered significant for an activity throughout time.

Thanks to Section 106 and to the sensitivity of the officials faced with making decisions in the wake of such tremendous destruction, no rash actions will take place. Bulldozers will not arrive without notice to plow down homes. Section 106 should ensure that there's what McCroskey calls "a thoughtful process."

"FEMA and the Corps are working very closely with the local communities, the local preservation commissions, and the state historic preservation office to reach consensus on the properties," McCroskey said. To begin with, a determination must be made whether a property is significant and should be preserved. Decision are also made on the level of damage and – if an important property must be lost – what process or mitigation might occur. All of this occurs initially



**Horace Foxall, founder of the Corps of Engineers Center of Expertise for the Preservation of Historic Buildings and Structures, explains his ideas for installing a temporary roof on a structure that would not qualify under existing Operation Blue Roof rules. Photo by Jim Pogue.**

at the local government level with the state historic preservation office. FEMA either then concurs with that recommendation or does not. If the agency does not concur, a negotiation process begins that eventually results in an agreement document. It is only at the final stage – once the processes have been worked and Section 106 requirements have been met – that the Corps begins implementation.

Foxall and McCroskey say the process does more than ensure that significant historic properties are preserved in some manner.

"A huge element of our task is weaving in the social justice concerns," McCroskey explains. "There's a process that slows people down and gets them to think about fairness and maybe preserving representative examples of properties – not wiping out entire areas – and having some balance in what gets preserved and how things get treated across all socio-economic levels."

The pair sees their mission as both protection and education. They say decisions on demolition must be based on more than a structural assessment.

The 106 process looks at the historic value properties. "We know a lot of them will probably have to be lost, but they won't be lost without a process," McCroskey explained.

"We want to get people thinking about the culture and thinking about the Big Easy," said Foxall. "I love the Easy. It has a different culture than the rest of America and has provided so much to America. I think the Easy has to come back," he added. "We want the federal government to be one of the leaders in this area."

Seattle District commander, Col. Debra Lewis, said the district was honored to have the talents of Foxall and McCroskey engaged to assist in this critical mission. "Historical preservation is one of many valued skills our talented Corps employees bring to difficult situations," she said. "With a rich history and extensive losses, both Horace and Lauren were eager to deploy so they could help others preserve America's special legacy for future generations."

Ketchum added, "We're delighted to have them here. They've hit the ground running – and then some! We're delighted to have them as part of our team."

— **Mary Beth Hudson, Louisville Recovery Office**

# Around the district

## Speaking Outreach

**Tim Grube**, district safety officer, spoke at a safety fair on Oct. 12 to more than 30 sub-contractors and their employees. The subs work for Centennial Construction, Inc., just awarded a contract at Fort Lewis. The purpose of the safety fair is to assist small companies with providing much needed safety training, with focus on the Corps' Safety and Health Requirements Manual.

**Gail Terzi**, an environmental analyst in the Regulatory Branch, spoke at a Wetlands in Washington conference on Oct. 24. Her topic was "The Talent Decision: Ditches as Waters of the U.S."

The staff from Chief Joseph Dam participated in the Safety Harvest at Rocky Reach Dam Oct. 30. As part of the commitment with other federal, state and local agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers places a high priority on Water Safety. For that reason, Park Ranger **Javier Pérez** and volunteer **Maria Zamora** went with Seamoor the Water Safety Sea Serpent to offer educational tips to the participants. Around 500 participants and especially children enjoyed the participation of Seamoor and old friends like McGruff the Crime Dog.

On Nov. 9, **Anil Nisargand**, chief, Specifications Section Design Branch, spoke to the Federal Facilities Committee of Associated General Contractors of Washington about three-year construction outlook and participated in a panel discussion about federal-versus-private sector construction. Audience and participants included contractors and federal agency representatives from the Navy, Government Services Administration, Park Service, Federal Highways Agency and U.S. Coast Guard.

**Col. Debra Lewis**, district commander, gave a presentation Nov. 12 to 100 members and friends of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Seattle Yacht Club for their National Defense Luncheon. Col. Lewis covered timely topics, such as Veteran's Day, Lewis and Clark, Women in the Military, and History of the Corps.

**Mona Thomason**, Chief of Planning, and **Beth Coffey**, regulatory specialist in Regulatory Branch, spoke to an University of Washington water resources planning class on Nov. 18. The presentation was a case study of the planning process for the Centralia flood damage reduction project and provided insight on federal roles and responsibilities in water planning.

Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 invited the Corps to give a presentation on the Pacific Sound Resources (PSR) Superfund Cleanup to a delegation from the Taiwan counterpart to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, at the EPA office in Seattle

on Nov. 28. **Mariam Gilmer**, environmental engineer in Project Management, briefed the six-member Taiwan delegation. The group was in Seattle to gather information on the remediation of non-aqueous phase liquid and sites like the former wood-treatment plants at PSR and Wyckoff Eagle Harbor, both of which are EPA and Corps collaborations. The presentation was followed by a tour of the PSR site.

## Kudos

**Jon Olson**, a Corps employee at Howard Hanson Dam, is also a trained EMT/firefighter volunteer with the City



**Jon Olson at his desk, is also a trained EMT/Firefighter.** Photo by Alison Bird.

of Buckley. Jon's training was put to use on Oct. 28 when a construction worker at the dam suffered what appeared to be a heart attack. Howard Hanson Dam is in a remote area and medical care took time to arrive. Thanks to Jon's training and quick actions, the worker received immediate aid and was eventually airlifted to Harborview Medical Center. Both leadership and medical crews lauded Jon's efforts and response to the situation.

Please congratulate **Pat Zimmerman** on her selection as Seattle District's newest Finance & Accounting Officer, replacing Chuck Wilson who retired last month.

**Patricia Graesser** was selected as the chief of Public Affairs for the district. Starting in the office in the late 1980s, Patricia has served in every position in the office, from clerk to chief. She brings with her a wealth of information about the district, as well as the skills and talents to tell the Corps' story.

**Anthony Slamin**, Logistics Management Office, was meritoriously promoted to Petty Officer Second Class (E-5) in the Naval Reserve. He is a Seabee with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 18, headquartered at Fort Lewis, Wash. Seabees are U.S. Navy combat troops and construction workers heavily involved in national defense and humanitarian aid worldwide. The Oct. 13 promotion ceremony was delayed to Nov. 5 because Anthony was deployed to Biloxi, Miss., in support of Hurricane Katrina relief operations for the Seattle District.

## Departures

**Willie Anderson**, Information Management Office printing specialist, left the Corps after 27 years of service, accepting a position with the Government Printing Office in November. Other departures included:

- Debbie Solis**
- Connie Krutsinger**
- Chinky Diwan**
- Rose Olds**
- Sandy Hartley**

## Welcome Home

### Iraq

Rod Whiting



**Celebrating Diversity** — Tammy Detrixhe, center, Bruce Rohde, right, and Michelle Newman-Gallarado enjoy the celebrating diversity luncheon held at the district headquarters on Nov. 10. Corps team members brought meal items to the potluck that represented their cultural background to the event. Photo by Nola Leyde

# Welcome to the district family



Hunter Glenn Hansen  
Grandson: 9 lbs, 11 oz  
Tim Grube  
Safety Office



Koko Cronin  
Regulatory Specialist  
Regulatory Branch



Nancy Gleason  
Biologist  
Operations Division



Terry Childers  
Construction Representative  
Malmstrom Project Office



Pamela Phillips  
Biological Science Tech  
Project Management

**Not pictured:**  
Arthur Goodkin, EC  
David Kilbourne, OD  
Joseph Leski, OD  
David Loi, EC  
Justin Lane, OD  
Benjamin Maillet, PM  
Gene McNeil, OD  
Wanda Spragg, OD

## Lions, tigers and bears, oh my!

October brought the march of children through the Federal Center South in various costumes. Shown in top row, left to right, Gail and Mate' Akiyama; Melia Takasaki, right, and friend; Cooper and Quincy Lazo with Anna Shaw; Patricia and Thomas Robinson. Bottom row, left to right, Dan and Joy Roper, Melina Pratt, Benjamin Robinson, Sydney Weber and Ronan Caesar. Photos by Patricia Graesser.



Flagship is published bi-monthly. Let us know when you're retiring so we can feature you in our next Flagship. We also want to know about professional accomplishments, speaking engagements, wedding engagements, marriages, births and memorials. Guest features are welcome, or if you just like to write, we want to hear from you. Please contact the editor, nola.r.leyde@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6896.