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Col. Steven R. Miles, P. E., (right) accepts the Corps colors from Northwestern Division Commander, Col. (P) William Rapp during a change of command ceremony on May 30. Miles replaced Col. Tom O'Donovan, who was selected to command the Afghanistan Engineer District.



Thank you for the warm welcome the District demonstrated at the change of command. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Col. O'Donovan for a smooth transition and wish him all the best on his next assignment in Afghanistan. We continue to keep all our deployed teammates in our thoughts and prayers.

I feel privileged to join this outstanding Team. I've been looking forward to this opportunity for many years. I am excited to lead this great Team of professionals and will continue to focus on our key role of water resource missions that support the nation here in the Pacific Northwest.

I have a great passion for Soldiering, engineering and the important business we execute for our stakeholders. I look forward to getting to know each member of the Portland District Team and spending time with you.

This is my fifth assignment with the Corps and I really enjoy the synergy of military working shoulder-to-shoulder with Civilian professionals like you to make the Corps the nation's finest public engineering enterprise. Going from Good to Great and sustaining excellence is our charter; building and maintaining our technical competency is the foundation of our reputation.

My experience as the Northwestern Division commander has given me valuable insights into



Col. Steven R. Miles, P.E.

the key role the Portland District plays in the region. I have immense respect for the District's history and our reputation across the nation as an organization that can "make it happen".

My wife, Laura, is also an engineer – she's working in downtown Portland with a tunneling firm. She grew up in Spokane, Wash., and is very happy to return to the Northwest. We have two beautiful children, Rebecca, 12, and Kevin, 8. My family and I thank you for your hospitality and look forward to continuing the mission.

Essays and ARMYSTRONG!

CORPS'PONDENT



US Army Corps of Engineers - Portland District

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Three years ago I assumed command on a sunny day at Bonneville Lock and Dam. On the 30th of May I will relinquish command at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. I knew time would pass quickly and I would pass the colors to the next commander before I knew it. Allow me to reflect a moment on the past three years and speak with you one more time.

The saying “People first, mission always” has always explained my view on how to best accomplish the mission given us by the nation. Throughout my command time I have found the Portland District team embraced that philosophy as well. Whether it is deploying in support of hurricane recovery or the Global War on Terror, operating and maintaining our tremendous infrastructure and our beautiful lands, or building the things needed by the people of the United States, this District has consistently stepped up and done what was asked.

Thank you for your support, your expertise and your passion for serving the nation. There were some tough challenges and some fun moments, and there were things I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I have been proud to serve with you.

To Col. Miles, I can only say that Portland is the finest District in the Corps. Its employees are dedicated and committed to excellence. You have a great team behind you ... good luck to you all.

Essayons! 🏰



Col. Thomas O'Donovan



COMMANDER'S FAREWELL





Corps team scouts Afghan countryside for hydro potential

By Amy Echols,
Public Affairs Office

It was a mission they couldn't refuse: bringing light to dark homes. It also included local hospitality, traveling bumpy, dusty roads and even digging out of an occasional ditch.

Steven "Duke" Loney, a retired annuitant returning to the Corps for this task, Jeremy Bynum from the Hydroelectric Design Center, Jeff Sedey from Engineering and Construction Division and Rick Garrison, a geologist from Seattle District, toured and inspected eight small hydropower plants and sites in Afghanistan from March 15 through April 8. Each team member was selected for their hydropower experience.

Their 25-day mission, organized and funded by U.S. Agency for International Development, was a part of the national electrification program to get 100 watts to each home, enough for one light bulb and a radio. Because less than 15 percent of the nation has electricity and many rural areas have none at all, the Corps team had no illusions that electrical development would be quick business.

Military escorts led the team through small villages and large towns, where mud walls made traveling in wide Humvees a bit of a squeeze. At times they found the hydropower plant they were looking for; at others, the team discovered that their GPS coordinates were wrong, or they were searching for facilities that had never actually been built.

The team traveled to and assessed three sites during day trips from their home base in Kabul. First on the list was the oldest plant, built by an American company in 1920, whose parts were brought all the



The Corps team and their security and project escorts prepare to take off from Kabul. From left to right: LTC Wayne Dick, MAJ Mark Gregris, Jeremy Bynum, Duke Loney, Kathryn Carpenter, Rick Garrison (NWS) and Jeff Sedey. Dick and Gregris lead the security team accompanying the Corps experts and Carpenter, a Seattle District employee, participated as the USAID project manager.

way from India on elephants. While the original equipment is still there, little of it works.

On their way to one plant, the team took in views of the brown and barren countryside, patched with green cultivated fields. The plant was barely operable; a dispute between a contractor and the province's minister of electricity left the work unfinished.

Conflicts between contractors, suppliers, local provincial governments and even the Taliban are typical around the country, the team learned. "Seemingly small issues, as well as the constant dust, keep simple solutions from becoming reality," said Sedey.

The team traveled over beautiful 11,500-foot Salang Pass and inspected two powerhouses in Pule Khumri. The turbines of one powerhouse, built with German equipment in 1941, were leaking 400 liters of oil a month into the local river. The Corps experts earned some unexpected local publicity when Afghan television cameras arrived. "After that new distraction, the work and communication with the powerhouse maintenance staff seemed secondary to the locals," recalls Loney.



While the team was in country, Afghan New Year's Eve (year 1387) was celebrated and the provincial governor announced it would indeed be a good new year if the region could get more electricity. He invited the Corps team to dinner at his mansion, where the team watched themselves on the television news.

On New Year's Day, the team attracted an audience of almost 2,000 during their inspection of the town's second powerhouse.

Taliban raids in the region near the next powerhouse inspection tainted the friendliness of the preceding days. "Had we arrived in Pul e Khumri one day later, we probably would not have been able to assess the site and do our part in providing electricity to the people. Thus is the volatile nature of people at war," reflects Loney.

"Despite this tension, we heard no rockets or bombs and saw no bullets in just over three weeks," said Sedey. "Between Afghanistan's army and our American and NATO escorts, we felt safe."

Security issues kept the team from getting to a powerhouse during their trip south to Helmand Province, a region with a strong Taliban presence and many poppy fields. Using secondhand information and talking with maintenance staff, the team gathered enough information to support recommendations to the State Department. After that the team headed back to Kabul, having spent five days on the road for a 2-hour meeting.

The final plant visit found the team in the locally famous resort town of Istalif. "It's not as green and pretty as Madras, Ore., in August, but it was nicer than many other places we traveled," Loney said. The plant, commissioned in 2007 with Canadian equipment, already has technical problems, including controls that are too complicated for the skill level of the local staff.


The visit in Istalif ended with dinner at a local resident's home. Since the team couldn't turn their vehicles around in the narrow neighborhood streets, their only option was to take a partially washed out road alongside the local river. Despite trying very hard to avoid getting stuck, the team and its security escort had to work off their dinner by filling a washed-out area with rocks before they could ford the river.



Jeff Sedey takes GPS coordinates in Chark to ensure accurate project maps.

Everyone agreed that it was a memorable way to top off an exciting trip.

In their reports to USAID, the team identified some low-cost and easy-to-implement solutions that will make life better for the Afghan people. If USAID chooses to implement some of these solutions, the Afghanistan Engineering District, under the command of outgoing Portland District commander Col. Tom O'Donovan, could be tasked with implementation.

The Corps' work and expertise, from site reconnaissance and inspection through project completion, reaches far across the globe. "In Afghanistan, specifically, the Corps will help rebuild a country in need of even just basic electricity," Loney adds. "Our skills are truly needed here - and that is a mission that's hard to refuse." 



The Corps team inspects the severely damaged Khanabad power plant. The Taliban used the structure as a hideout after Sept. 11, 2001, before U.S. forces bombed it.

Corps of Engineers Photos



Do today's kids ever have Adventures?

A commentary by Erica Gann
Public Affairs Office

When I was a child, my family and I camped every summer at Cultus Lake near Bend, Ore. The first thing my sister and I would do when we got there was run down to the lake to see if there were any rafts left behind by other families. If there were – that was great! If not, we'd build one out of tree limbs and other found objects. We'd use that raft for a week or so, and when our trip was over, we'd leave it for the next family to find.

Will your kids or other young family members have similar memories when they grow up? Memories of the special places you went and the restaurants that you stopped at along the way – like Camp 18 on Highway 26 on the way to Cannon Beach.

Statistics show that it's not as likely today, because families aren't camping, taking long road trips or generally recreating the way past generations did.

What has changed?

Since the late 1980s, visits to national parks have declined more than 20 percent, with other federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service, experiencing similar trends. Unlike its sister agencies, the Portland District has seen visitation increase. In 2006, Corps parks counted 10 million visitors at its recreation sites. "Our numbers have actually risen, increasing from 8 million in 2000 to around 10 million in 2007," said Melissa Rinehart, Operations Division. "The Corps

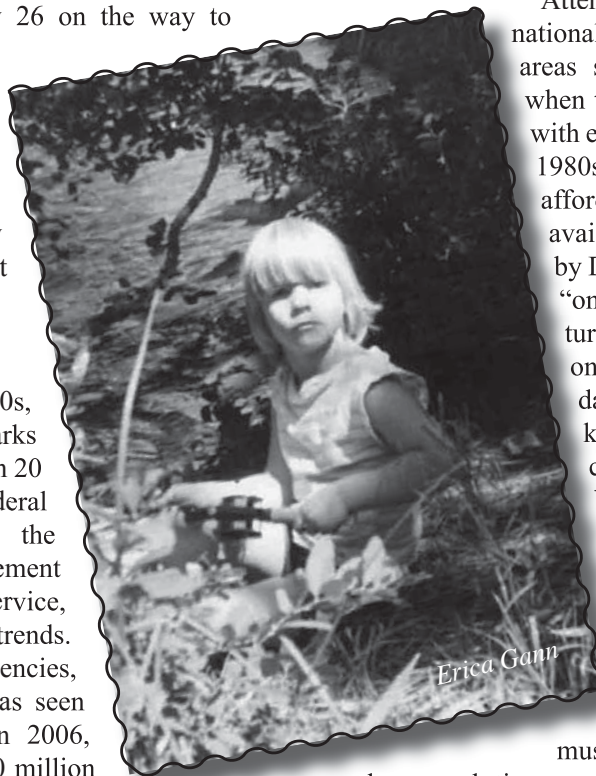
is actually the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation, with nearly 385 million visitors a year at 4,300 recreation areas across the nation." There are more than 100,000 campsites and 2,100 miles of hiking trails in Corps parks, which also includes about 33 percent of all freshwater lake fishing in the United States, she added. "Our numbers are up, and that's good news for the Corps."

Cumulatively, though, visitation at recreation sites across the country is down and there are reasons for the drop.

Attendance at America's biggest national parks and other recreation areas started declining just about when the U.S. began its love affair with electronic media. It was in the 1980s that the first mass-produced, affordable VCRs were made available to the public, followed by DVD players in the 1990s and "on demand" recording at the turn of this century. I watched one or two TV shows every day after school, but today's kids can access hundreds of channels after they get off the bus.

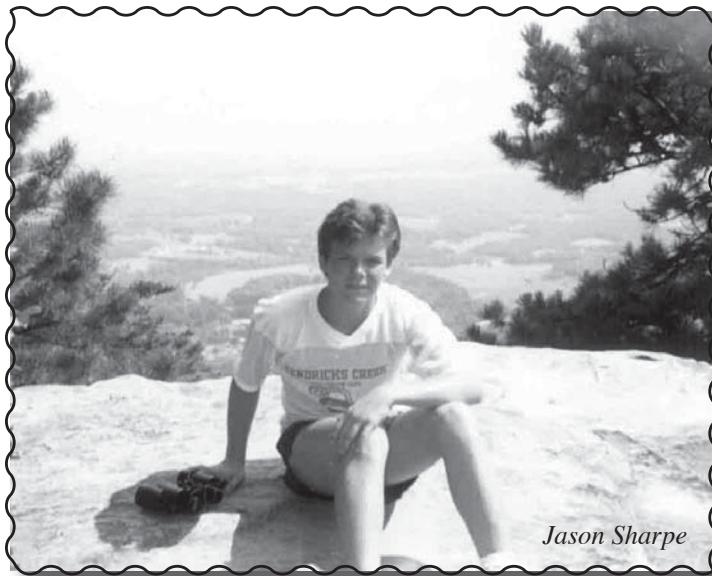
Take a moment and count the number of media devices you have in your home: TVs, MP3 players, cell phones, computers - along with all the games, music and software. Think about

how much time your young nieces, nephews and friends spend with any of these electronics – or two or three of them all at once. How much time do you spend with them yourself? Could it be that families



COMMENTARY





Jason Sharpe

park or other recreation area. Even those who can afford it think twice with today's increasing fuel costs. As I write this, gas is \$3.79 a gallon. Some families are limiting their vacations away from home because they can't afford to drive there. "When I was a child, my family loved road trips. One of my favorite trips was when we went to Steens Mountain. I still remember the time my uncle tried to get me to eat a fish eye!" Nyquist-Acosta recalled.

My generation didn't have as many electronic distractions as today's youth does; nor did I have as many demands on my time. It seemed a little safer when I was younger and it didn't cost as much for my family to go camping at Cultus Lake.

aren't getting out more because they're held hostage by a bunch of wires and cables?

It's not just electronics, of course; other concerns keep kids from outdoor experiences, too. Parents today are more worried about crime and safety issues that keep them from letting their kids play outdoors unsupervised. "When I was a kid, my pals and I would take off on our bikes and be gone all day. I'd just tell my mom that I'd be home sometime that night," said Bill Nielsen, Executive Office. "I would never let my kids do that today!"

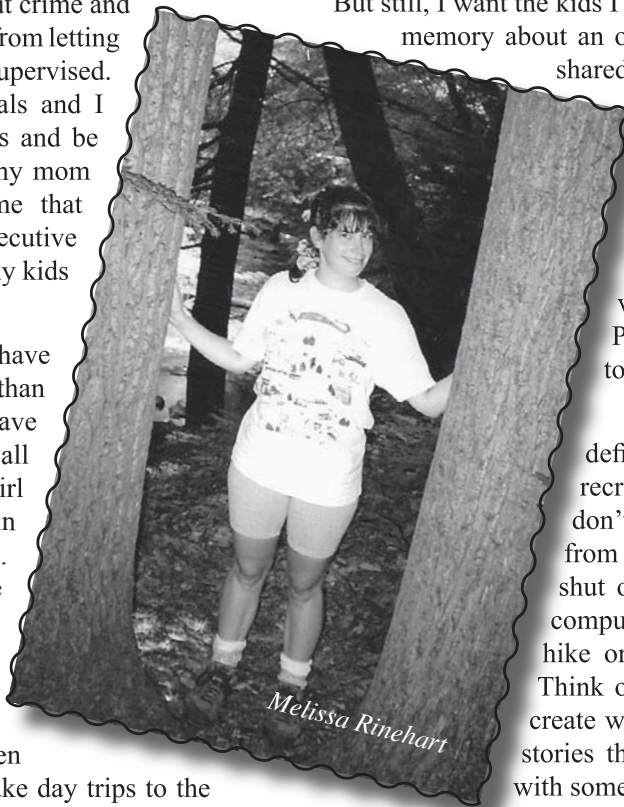
Young people today also have more scheduled activities than past generations did. "I have three daughters and they all play sports. They're in Girl Scouts and are involved in their church's youth group. We keep a calendar in the kitchen that shows when and where everyone has to be every day," said Leslie Nyquist-Acosta, Resource Management Office. "When we do have free time, we take day trips to the beach or drive up the Columbia Gorge for a day hike."

Finances may also play a part. Some families simply can't afford to take their kids to a national

We just packed up our old canvas tent and a cooler full of food and went.

Life is definitely more complicated and fast-paced these days.

But still, I want the kids I know to have a special memory about an outdoor adventure they shared with me - like the time my niece and I hiked Eagle Creek, then enjoyed mile-high ice cream cones at Cascade Locks afterward. Or when we visited Zion National Park and climbed to the top of Angel's Rest.



Melissa Rinehart

Yes, gas prices are definitely on the rise. But recreation opportunities don't have to be far away from any of us. You can still shut off the TV, get off the computer and go on a nearby hike or a weekend vacation. Think of the memories you'll create with your kids - and the stories they'll be able to share with someone else one day.

We always had bacon and eggs on the last day of our camping trips ... it was a family tradition. What's yours? 🏕️

Photos provided by employees.



Celilo Village Ribbon

May 23,



Cutting Ceremony 2008





Portland District leads Corps' efforts to adopt environmental management systems

By Scott Clemans, Public Affairs Office

Operating projects in Portland District and the Northwestern Division are serving as role models as the Corps' works to reduce its impacts on the environment.

Bonneville Lock and Dam, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project and the U.S. Government Moorings are among the first projects in the Corps to fully implement Environmental Management Systems. Federal agencies were directed in April 2000 by presidential order to develop management practices that reduce their environmental impacts.

"[EMS is] a way for us to look at the things we do on a daily basis and how they impact the environment, and figure out how to do them better," said Tia Mousseau, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project.

The Corps picked 13 facilities from the Northwestern Division, based on size and potential environmental impact, to develop pilot EMSs, said Ken Duncan, who is the District's environmental compliance coordinator.

EMS isn't really a new system, but rather a way of codifying and measuring what projects are already doing, said Josh Patton, U.S. Government Moorings. "For example, we've always known intuitively that oil spills are bad for the environment," he said. "EMS lets us measure how bad and drives us to do more to prevent, or at least minimize, spills."

Implementing an EMS involves several phases,

Mousseau explained. In the first step, employees identify and prioritize a project's activities and the effects each has on the environment. They then figure out how best to reduce environmental impacts for each activity, develop the steps and identify responsible parties and deadlines.

Each selected project has an EMS core team, a group of managers and employees assigned to oversee progress, which meets regularly to check the status of the overall system and individual plans.

All of the District's ECCs agree that it's taken a lot of time, energy and motivation to get the program this far. "We started in 2005 by establishing our environmental policy, which basically says, 'We're committed to the environment and this program,'" Mousseau said. "In 2006, we ramped up the



Northwestern Division environmental specialists meet at Seattle District's Libby Dam in August 2005 to learn the process of developing and implementing EMS which helps agencies reduce their impact on the environment.

EMS; 2007 was the first year the system was fully implemented.”

As implementation began, the team quickly learned about some challenges they will face; communication became challenge number one. “My core team, which includes dredge crew members, is scattered throughout Oregon, Washington and California, so it’s hard for us to meet, either in person or electronically. Better communications between the Moorings and the vessels will increase our effectiveness,” Patton said.

Another challenge, according to Patton, has been trying to adapt a system originally designed for the managing large, private corporations, rather than a government agency. “Fortunately, the project managers and all of my core team are 100 percent behind it,” Patton said.

Mousseau agreed. “It’s like safety – people never used to think of safety as something to incorporate into their daily routine, but now they do. Hopefully EMS will become the same way.”

Funding, as always, is another challenge. “EMS came with no money, but we should want to do it anyway,” Mousseau said. “It allows us to be more proactive, rather than reactive, in our environmental compliance.”

Despite these challenges, the projects’ EMSs have seen success.

“EMS allows us to meet Oregon’s toxic use/waste reduction requirements without developing a whole new program,” Patton said.

In another example of EMS-driven results, the Moorings eliminated roughly 100 obsolete or highly hazardous chemicals, improving employee health and safety, Patton said, while minimizing hazardous waste generation by an estimated 750 pounds per year. “EMS helps us justify getting the extra equipment, training and personnel that make us more effective in our response to spills,” Patton said.

The three projects have already completed several internal audits of their EMS implementation; this summer they will be evaluated by external auditors for the first time.

“Employee awareness is critical to passing audits. People need to know what EMS is and what their role in it is,” Mousseau said. “It’s not just the ECC running the program; the entire project needs to be involved. Folks need to talk about it daily – at



Environmental compliance coordinator Tia Mousseau inspects waste drums at TD/JD/WC Project.



Mousseau inventories supplies in the project’s spill response trailer. EMS helps organizations quantify the effect of oil spills on the environment.

meetings, or even just when passing through the powerhouse,” she added.

Employees ought to know which parts of their jobs could have a significant impact on the environment, as well as how they can reduce those impacts, Duncan added. “Little things like recycling and replacing mercury switches make a difference.”

Although there’s still plenty of work to be done, Patton wants district employees to be proud of what they’ve achieved so far. “Portland District projects are the shining stars of this program,” he said. “We’re setting the standard for the rest of the Corps in how to implement a very demanding executive order.”





High-tech treasure hunt leads to more than cache

By Jennifer Sowell, Public Affairs Office

Geocaching is a hobby whose popularity has grown quickly since it began. The game started in 2000 with a single cache of goodies hidden near Portland, Ore., and has grown into a truly global hobby: the planet's largest treasure hunt, with caches stashed all around the world.

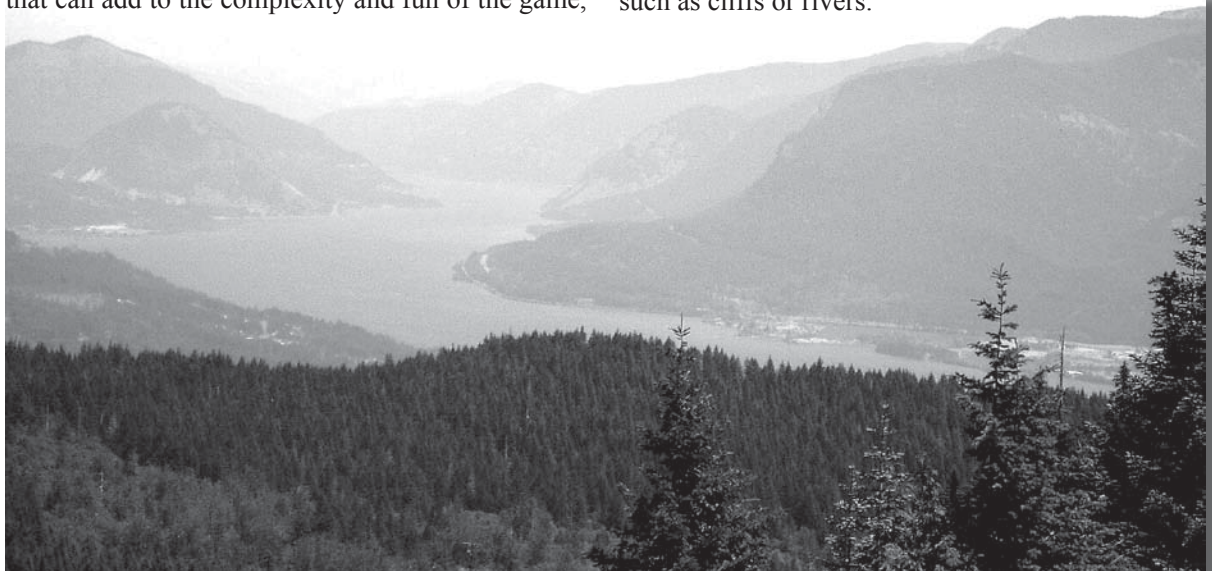
The idea for placing that first cache came after the government allowed some aspects of its global positioning systems to be made available to consumer GPS units; before then the technology had been reserved for government and military use. The new technology increased the accuracy of consumer GPS units by essentially giving them an automatic upgrade. Since then, geocaching has quickly gone global, championing the phrase, "if you hide it, they will come."

Here's how it works: various items, usually of little monetary value, are hidden in a weatherproof container, along with a logbook. The coordinates of the hidden cache and clues as to its location are posted to a geocaching website and the hunt begins. Once a cache is found, the finder signs the logbook, takes an item from the cache and leaves something in its place. There are many variations to the caches that can add to the complexity and fun of the game,

such as trackable items that are to be carried from one cache to another by the finder and special, higher-value items hidden for the first person who finds the cache.

All you need to participate is a GPS unit. Any model will do, but some may be more accurate than others and work better in various environments, such as heavily forested areas. A geocache kit, basically a day pack with items useful in the hunt such as gloves, a shovel, a flashlight, sunscreen, pen and paper is handy to have. Don't forget trinkets to leave in the caches you find. A compass and topographical map of the area can be very helpful as well.

It sounds easy enough, but a GPS unit will only get you so far. Caches typically have additional clues as to their location, some of which require a good deal of research before heading out to the site. Some are highly cryptic and involve solving additional riddles to get the needed information, so if you haven't done your homework, finding the cache can be nearly impossible, with even the best technology. And don't forget, your GPS will only point you in the right direction; reaching your destination could be complicated by countless obstacles along the way, such as cliffs or rivers.





Along the trail.

Often you'll need to go the wrong way to get on the right path to a cache. Therein lies the real fun of geocaching. It's more about the experience than about finding every cache you set out for.

"It's important not to get caught up in finding the cache," said Ray Guajardo, Bonneville Lock and Dam. "Finding the cache is only part of it, the rest is getting there and what you find along the way."

Guajardo picked up the hobby last summer and enjoys it for the outdoor activity, exercise and cool places he has found.

Some of those cool places happen to be at Portland District projects. There are hundreds of caches hidden on or near Corps property. Bonneville park rangers are getting in on the action by placing their own caches,

effectively using the popular hobby as an interpretive tool.

Information woven into the hunt for Bonneville's caches include why the dam is a historic landmark, the history of Bradford Island, facts about the fish bypass system and water safety tips. Some of the caches placed by park rangers lead seekers on educational routes through the visitor centers to gather clues as to the caches' locations. Rangers plan to stash several more caches around the area, including one on a trail that leads to an often overlooked wildlife viewing area.

"It's a great way to get people out to the project and draw them to some lesser-used areas," said Jennifer Baker, Bonneville Lock and Dam. "With all the caches on and around Bonneville, people can make a day of it and find information they may not have gotten otherwise."

There is a Corps policy on geocaching, used mainly to track and manage the placement of caches, in part to ensure they do not conflict with project missions or security.

"Most geocaches located on Corps land are tracked by websites, where each cache has a registered owner," said Symantha Sermino, Willamette Valley Project. "That makes it fairly easy for us to contact them, if for instance, the owner unknowingly hid a cache in an environmentally sensitive area and we need them to relocate it."

Continued on page 14



Finding the cache.

Continued from page 13



Some types of caches don't need to be moved at all - because they are virtual caches. The coordinates simply lead to locations with unusual or unique features the cache owner wants people to experience. While a traditional cache may also be hidden, what may be discovered on the journey is often as important as the location itself, and integral to enjoying the hobby.

"I try to place caches in areas that are really neat for some reason," said Baker. "There are some excellent finds in some wonderful places that you may not have known existed."

If it sounds hard, don't despair; there are plenty of easily found caches out there for the beginning geocacher. In fact, caches are rated on the websites relative to their size (how big of an item you are looking for), the difficulty level (how hard the item is to find) and the level of terrain on the route to the cache. A geocache could be hidden nearly out in the open, but require a long hike or difficult climb to get there, or the journey could be fairly easy, but the cache itself very well hidden. There's no lack of hiding places, because caches can be hidden anywhere; in forests, neighborhoods, city buildings, high up in a tree, under water, or just off a well-

traveled road. There's plenty of variety for every level of geocacher, whether you're just learning how to read a GPS or you're a hardcore hiker looking for a challenge.

"Some don't consider it a good cache unless it's a five-star hike, but there's something out there for every level," said Baker.

It's more about the hunt than the treasure, according to Guajardo. "You don't always find what you're looking for, but sometimes you find something you weren't."

A hobby spawned from advances in technology that leads people from their computers out into nature is a fairly rare occurrence. What better place to get involved in such a unique activity than at a Corps project? Go to <http://www.geocaching.com> and search for caches hidden by 'Bonneville.' There you will find the first in a series of caches hidden by park rangers. Give it a try, but don't forget to stop and smell the flowers, watch the wildlife and take in the views while you're at it.

As Baker puts it, "That's what makes it all worthwhile!"

In Memoriam

Frank Erwert died March 22. He was 81. He lived for 30 years in The Dalles, where he was a machinist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for 20 years. Survivors include his wife, sons, stepson, stepdaughters, sister and 15 grandchildren.

Ralph Clifford died March 29 at age 88. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was a civil engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for more than 30 years. In 1943, he married Lela Cox; she died in 1987. Survivors include his sons, and a sister, 11 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Richard Oldham died April 7. He was 58. Oldham worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for more than 24 years, most recently in the Portland District. In addition to positions in Tulsa and Mobile districts, Oldham served in the Afghanistan Engineer District. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, who works at The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project, one daughter, two sons, mother, sisters, brothers and grandchildren.

King Ewing died April 8. He was 88. Ewing served in the U.S. Army during World War II from May 1944 to February 1946. He worked as a construction inspector for the U.S. Army and for the U.S. Navy Corps of Engineers on the John Day Dam, the

Foot safety starts with steel-toed boots

By Hailee Parks, Public Affairs Office

While the exact history of the steel-toed boot remains a bit of a mystery, they were probably designed just after the first heavy object was dropped on someone's foot. Steel-toed boots have been worn by laborers ever since to protect their feet from the dangers of working in construction and logging industries, as well as in factories. During the 1960s, the image of these boots changed when, rather than just being used by the common worker, they were embraced by cultural sub-groups as a fashion statement.

Steel-toed boots are crucial in many industries that involve heavy equipment or extremely hot working environments. The built-in steel cap can withstand the pressures and temperatures of these working environments and protect the toes and lower foot from injury. While each brand of boot has its own code for signifying the degree of protection the boot provides, a stamp on the boot's tongue should indicate, at least, how much pressure the toe cap can withstand. Other information might include the electrical conductivity of the boot, the level of chain-saw protection, or whether the soles are puncture resistant. If any of these are not indicated, be safe and assume the boot does not provide those protections.

There are a few things to keep in mind when you purchase steel-toed boots:

- Since you will likely wear these boots for long periods of time, be sure they are comfortable.
- Your feet will swell during the day, so don't buy boots that are too tight. Try shopping in the afternoon after your feet have swelled throughout the day for a more accurate fit.
- Pay attention to where your foot might be pressing up against the steel edge. This can cause pain and discomfort over time.


• Boots should provide protection for all the work conditions you face. For example, even if you don't encounter electrical currents every day, you still may need a sole that is resistant to an electrical current. A good guideline is, if the working condition is consistent and not a random event, take the precaution and get the extra protection.

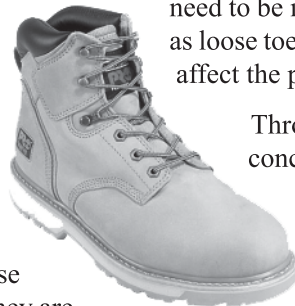
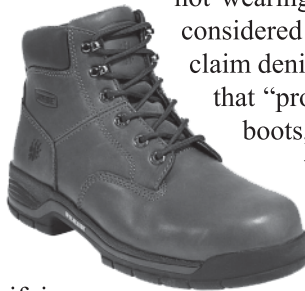
The Corps requires workers to wear steel-toed boots as part of their Personal Protective Equipment. If an accident occurs on the job site and you are not wearing some part of your PPE, you could be considered negligent and your worker compensation claim denied. The Corps' policy on foot wear states that "protective footwear, such as ... safety-toed boots, shall be worn by all persons exposed to hazards to the feet (including, but not limited to, puncture, slipping, electrical, or chemical hazards)."

"The Portland District is very serious about foot protection," said David Stanton, District safety officer. "It's always better to be prepared for any condition you may encounter in your work environment."

Like any piece of equipment, steel-toed boots need to be inspected regularly. Look for defects such as loose toe caps, or deteriorating stitching that could affect the proper function and wear of your boots.

Through the years people have expressed concerns about how safe the safety gear really is. The Discovery Channel's television program *MythBusters* took on the myth that the steel cap in the boots can curl and amputate the toes when a heavy object is dropped on it. The myth was busted after the team dropped several different weights (including a blade attachment) on the boots. At no point did the steel cap amputate any part of the foot.

Boots have come a long way since their first appearance. They have changed materials, styles and durability, but one thing hasn't changed since the beginning: steel-toed boots save feet! 



June is _____



U.S. Army Birthday



Flag Day



Corps Birthday

DoD Photos