



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

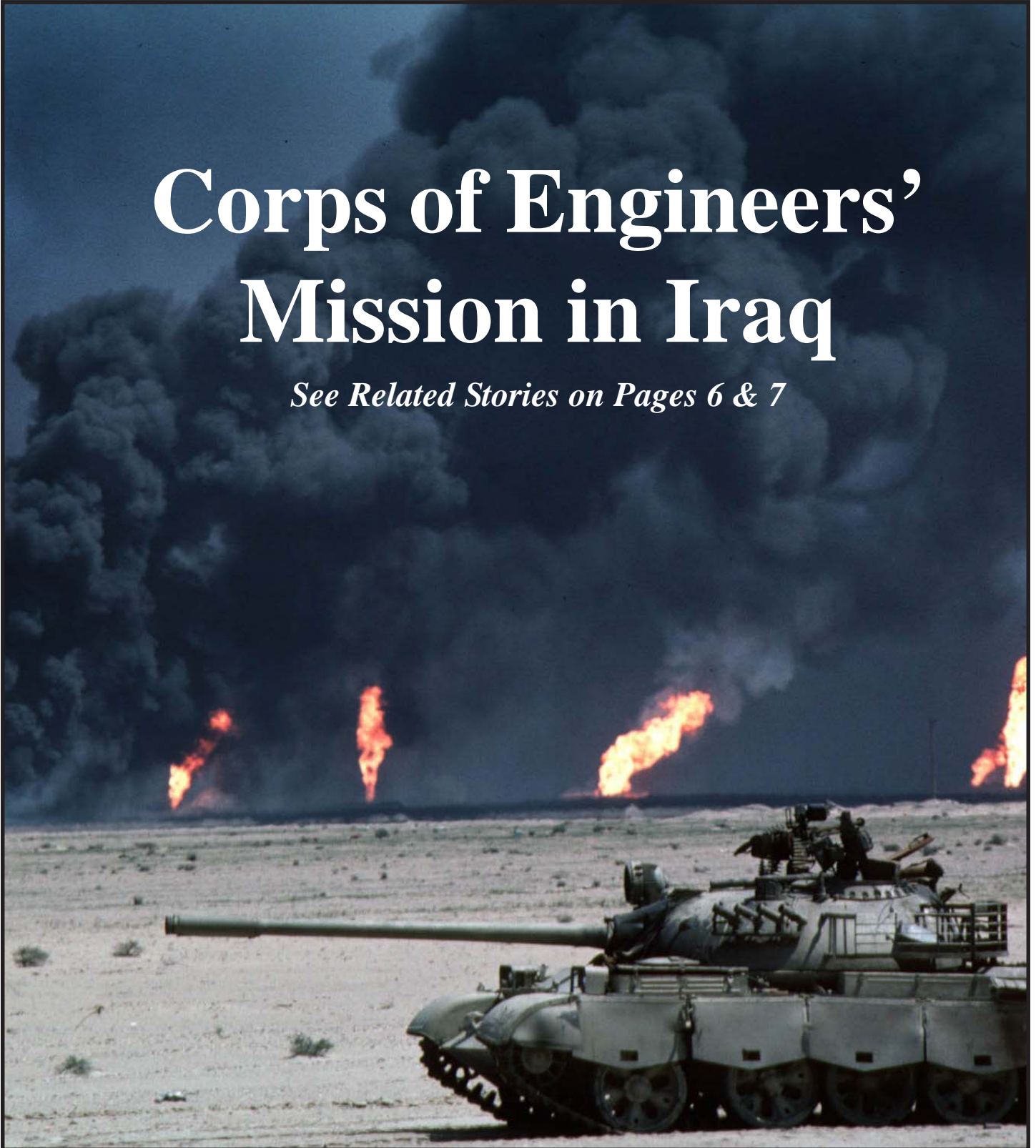
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Respected-Responsible-Reliable

April 2003

Corps of Engineers' Mission in Iraq

See Related Stories on Pages 6 & 7



Contents

The Bottom Line	3
March Employee of the Month	3
Newest Marina Offers Seclusion on Center Hill Lake	4
Corps Employee Honored for Volunteer Service	5
Engineers to Extinguish Iraqi Oil Fires	6
Engineers Face Numerous Obstacles in Mission to Restore Oil	6
Nashville's Contribution to War	7
Many Ways for Public to Support Troops	7
How You Can Support Fort Campbell Soldiers	7
Victims Tell How to Safeguard Identity	8
Lakes Plan Earth/Environmental Awareness Day Activities	9
The Corps Crowd	10
All Welcome to Engineer Day Picnic	10
Three District Campgrounds in Reserve America's Top 100	11
Laurel Power Plant Hosts Distinguished Visitor	12
April Dates in District History	12

Actions Employees Should Take When Injured at Work

Everyone of us strives to do our work in a safe and healthful manner.

The Nashville District safety slogan says, "Safety - Our Future Depends on It", and it really does, but when an injury occurs on the job, there are certain procedures which must be followed.

Did you know that injury medical bills and other costs are paid by the U.S. Department of Labor. The link

below will give you an overview of what forms must be filed and to what benefits employees are entitled.

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/owcp/ca-11.htm>

"When rules are respected, health and safety are protected"



Photo by Jonas Jordan

On the Cover

The Army Corps of Engineers has the responsibility to extinguish oil-well fires now burning in southern Iraq. Booby traps, blazing wellheads and neglect mean it will take months to get Iraq's southern oilfields pumping again, said Brigadier General Robert Crear, the U.S. Army officer in charge of oil rehabilitation. This Iraqi tank was photographed in front of burning oil wells during Desert Storm in 1991.

DistrictDigest

Commander

Lt. Col. Steve Gay

Public Affairs Officer

Edward Evans

Editor

Dave Treadway

Online Editor

Steve Foshee

Circulation

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Written material may also be sent electronically to the editors at the following e-mail addresses:
david.s.treadway@usace.army.mil
steven.c.foshee@usace.army.mil

Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil>.

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Gay

The Bottom Line

Hello to everyone in the Nashville District!

By now, most of you have heard the rumor that I plan to retire this summer. It is not a rumor. My wife, Lisa, and I have decided to retire after my change of command on July 11. I want to share with you our reasons; first because you are my friends and second, I want to know, it was nothing you, the District or Army has done (wrong). In fact, I have never had a bad job, a bad boss, or served in a bad location and I have never had it better than I do right now. I enjoy leading a large complicated organization with so many wonderful people and believe I have more to contribute to the Army.

However, if I stay in the Army, my family and I would face several moves over the next three to four years before (hopefully) being given the privilege to command a district again. At one point in my life, I would have welcomed the multiple moves. However, my priorities are changing. I want to stabilize my family or at least move them when I choose.

Communication

My chain of command has been patient, understanding, and helpful as Lisa and I have wrestled with our decision to retire, or not. During our whole decision process, that has taken about one year, our opinion of the Army and the Corps has never changed ...we love it! The Army has provided us with a wide-range of personal and professional opportunities that we will cherish for the rest of our lives. Again, I am not tired, burnt out, or unhappy with the Corps or the Army, my priorities have simply changed. I am seeking a change in lifestyle where Lisa and I can create the best environment possible to raise Wesley and Nicole.

Further complicating this tough family decision over the last year was talk of war in Iraq. It was impossible for me to predict the future and in the end, not a factor. Therefore, we decided to retire in November. I needed to make plans for my family and life after the Army and did so. It is very possible that the Army may postpone my retirement because of the

war. If that happens, I look forward to serving the nation wherever and for as long as the Army needs me.


I intend to do my very best to lead the District until the day I depart. And, over the next three months, I look forward to visiting all of you, either in the halls of the District Office or on the projects to say good-bye and thank you for your service and friendship.

Speaking of retirement, I recently had the opportunity to speak at a District retiree's luncheon and plan to attend another retiree gathering in April. If you have never attended one, whether you are retired or still serving in the Corps, I highly recommend it. There is always a room full of friends and co-workers, still with very much in common and many pre- and post-retirement stories to tell. It is a great way to catch up with friends and get some lessons-learned on how to retire, successfully. I hope to see you at the next luncheon.

Before I go, I want to talk about one of my favorite topics. Next month, usually when folks head out to their favorite boating spots, will be here before you know it. So now is the time to think



about safety. Let me offer you some basic boating safety tips. Make sure the weather is suitable for boating. Always operate your craft at a safe speed. Pay attention to other boats in the area and maintain proper distance. Never exceed the weight limit of the boat. Always prepare a float plan. Make sure a first aid kit is onboard and properly stocked. Remember, alcohol and boating just don't mix. Have an up-to-date registration on your boat. Last, and most importantly, make sure all necessary safety equipment such as personal floatation devices, flares, fire extinguisher and radio or phone communication, is onboard before launch.

Thanks to all of you for your service and for your part in helping me realize my intention of having a good day....everyday! Be safe! 

March Employee of the Month

Jackie Vied, the resource manager at Cordell Hull Lake, was named Nashville District Employee of the Month for March.


While it was only one of his many accomplishments, Vied oversaw one of



Jackie Vied

the most successful partnering efforts in which the District has participated - the Duds-Haile Cave Gating project. Under his leadership, the Corps cooperated with the Tennessee Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and area volunteers to protect a series of caves which are home to the endangered gray bat. The cave system also contains graves of a number of native Americans.

In recognition of this remarkable accomplishment, the cave gating team received the 2002 Tennessee Conservation League Wildlife Conservationist Award.

District Senior Leaders select the Nashville District Employee of the Month because that employee personifies the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 

Newest Marina Offers Seclusion on Center Hill Lake

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

Center Hill Lake's newest Marina and Campground is called Horseshoe Bend, tucked away nearly as far upstream as one can go and still be in Center Hill Lake.

Eddie and Brenda Muncey, longtime residents of McMinnville who camped and fished there with their young children in the '70's, negotiated a 20-year lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in June 2000 and immediately began clearing the area formerly known as Webb's Camp.

"We built everything from scratch," said Brenda. "We always brought our children down here when they were small, when you had to bring your lawnmower to clear off a spot to set up your tent."

The pair built a residence, fully renovated the old Webb's Camp bathhouse, installed nearly 400 feet of water line, built slips (28 covered) to accommodate 58 watercraft, 14 of which can be houseboats, and cleared and manicured spaces that will allow up to 50 campers to pitch tents and enjoy the beauty. Campsites boast full service hookups, a grand view of the lake, picnic tables and a grill.

Converting the old camp into a commercial marina has provided tremendous benefits to the public in the upper portion of the lake, according to Center Hill Resource Manager Tim Dunn.

"I'm excited about partnering with the Munceys as they continue to develop Horseshoe Bend Marina," said Dunn.

Visitors are often treated to views of wildlife as squirrels, raccoons, foxes, deer and turkeys wander through the area. The Munceys have watched excitedly as turkeys and wild geese return every year to nest and raise their young.

"We have a big stairway at the end of the camping area," she explained, "where campers can walk down and fish from the bank. The recent floodwaters kind of wrecked a good part of it, so we will have to repair some of the stairs. It's so pretty here when the grass is green and the trees are all out. It's so quiet and that's why people come here, to get away from the hustle and bustle of the cities."

The Munceys created a safer swimming area, about 15 feet deep, for youngsters by removing all the willows from the

shallow water and then placing a walkway to the marina between the shallow area and the deeper channel. That way parents can watch children and know they are protected from passing watercraft. Some folks, said Muncey, come and stay for two weeks at a time during the summer, although most come for a couple of days, or a long three-day weekend.

Although Horseshoe Bend Marina is open year round, Memorial Day usually kicks off the busy season.

"Memorial Day is our best camping day of the year," said Brenda.

Their Marina office serves many purposes.

"We have a place where folks can get them something to eat, get some bait, rent a boat, and just get in out of the weather," explained the three-time grandmother. "We rent a variety of boats by the day, half-day, or by the hour."

organized and run by Professors W.R. Webb and G.W. Follin of the famous Webb School in Bell Buckle, Tenn. The camp gradually evolved from a summer school to a recreational camp. It closed in 1939.



Brenda Muncey stands on the walkway of Horseshoe Bend Marina in front of the 'office' where she serves her customers.

Revolutionize Effectiveness

All the features of Horseshoe Bend can be explored on the internet at www.horseshoebendmarina.com. Visitors can see a detailed map that makes it easy to find, make a reservation, and view excellent photos of the tidy campground.

David Meacham, a facilities engineer who works at Arnold Engineering Development Center (AEDC), enjoyed the warm spring weather in late March and said he comes often to enjoy the beauty of Center Hill Lake. He uses it as his getaway from a job that requires him to produce air for the giant wind tunnel at AEDC.

The name Horseshoe Bend, derived from the actual shape of the lake, dates back to 1794. Webb School Camp was located on the site in the 1920's. The camp started as a "summer school"

Horseshoe Bend's new proprietors plan to construct seven rental cabins of both one and two bedroom layouts overlooking the water. They will contain all of the comforts of home — fully equipped kitchens, covered porches, and even linens. They plan to add a dry-storage building, paved parking lot to accommodate 15 recreational vehicles, and a boathouse with a laundry room.

The lease agreement between the Corps of Engineers and the Munceys stipulates a certain percentage of the gross income each year be paid as rent. More than \$1.2 million is collected each year from 70 such leases on the District's 10 lakes and more than \$300,000 of that is returned to the U.S. Treasury. Approximately \$900,000 or 75 percent of all lease income goes to the states from which it is derived for distribution to each county where concessionaires operated.

Corps Employee Honored for Volunteer Service

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

Myrna King cares. And she doesn't just extend that care to close friends. Most of the time those she helps are total strangers.

She counsels abuse victims as a representative of the Rape & Sexual Abuse Center in Nashville. Since 1987, Myrna has been willing to listen to men and women when they needed someone to talk to. She has logged more than 4,450 hours listening, and talking with those who need to talk. Her formal training at the Center prepared her to counsel clients of all ages.

People

"You have to be able to listen," revealed King, "that's the first thing the victim needs. You need to let them know the assault was not their fault, they didn't cause it to happen. Victims wrestle with the thought, 'maybe I did something that caused this to happen to me'. It's never the victim's fault. Sometimes I am able to help them realize this truth, sometimes I am not."

Why does she do it?

"I don't do the things I do for monetary compensation. Momma always taught us to leave things better than we found them. That's what I try to do."

Volunteer Coordinator Leetah Stanley had high praise for King.

"Myrna is an amazing person," exclaimed Stanley. "She is always willing to go when called upon. She is always willing to take the time slot no one else can fill. Over the course of more than 14 years, Myrna has handled some really hard cases and we are very proud of her."

The Memphis native started out as a counselor on the other end of a Crisis Line when callers wanted to talk, so at first she never had the chance to meet those whom she helped.

She later became hospital accompaniment and now visits medical facilities where victims have been taken for treatment and counsels with them there.

"I most enjoy contributing my time there," said King.

A typical call will begin with the sound of her beeper. She then calls her backup



Myrna King leaves Metro General Hospital where she frequently works as a volunteer counselor.

staff person, who is also on-call.

They let her know what they have, to what hospital the client has been taken, and sometimes a little about the case, including the name of the client. Within 30 minutes she must be en route to the hospital, usually either Metro General Hospital or Baptist Hospital.

When she arrives at the emergency room, she identifies herself as a Rape Center Counselor and asks about the client. She is then escorted to the room where the client has been taken. She talks to the nurse-practitioner treating the victim and often the policeman or policewoman working the case.

She doesn't normally remain in the room during the examination of the victim, but is available to do so if requested. "I have sat with them during the exam, simply to hold their hand and provide comfort, if they needed me."

Although Myrna is on call weekdays, she normally is not called at work but would be available from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. and might typically spend 2 and ½ hours on each case. She has handled back-to-back cases. If a third case then came in, a different counselor would be called.

She has counseled with as many as six victims over the course of one week, although that isn't normal. During the last two years her caseload has been light perhaps, King indicated, because every case is not referred to the Rape Center.

King really calls herself a Buckeye since her family moved to Mansfield, Ohio, when she was small. As the oldest girl in a family of 13, she had three older brothers. She now cares for one of them who suffers from diabetes, post traumatic stress disorder from service in Vietnam, and is in end stage renal care that requires dialysis treatments.

Some things are more important than money. "Every once in awhile," said King, "I will run into someone I have counseled and they will be happy to see me and they let me know they appreciate how I have helped them. That lets me know I have done good."

King was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in March for her many hours of work as a counselor for the Rape & Sexual Abuse Center in Nashville. One year she was nominated for the prestigious Mary Catherine Strobel Award, traditionally awarded to recognize a valuable volunteer. The Crisis Center also nominated King for the Titans Community Quarterback Award, a statewide award sponsored by the NFL. As a finalist, King earned RASAC \$2,500 and she attended an awards ceremony at the stadium and met several of the Titans.

As a counselor, she "sorta . . . kinda," works hours of her choosing, honoring her Momma's legacy of always leaving things a little better than she found them. 🏠

Engineers to Extinguish Iraqi Oil

by Denver Beaulieu-Hains,
USACE Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, March 26, 2003) - While U.S. and coalition forces continue their advance to Baghdad, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers received the mission to extinguish fires in Southern Iraqi oil fields. When the order came, several oil fires were burning in Southern Iraq.

“This mission gives us the opportunity to support our troops, ensure their safety, and support our nation. It brings together civilians, reservists and active military into an experienced, enthusiastic Corps team dedicated to getting the job done quickly and as smoothly as possible,” said the Corps’ lead contractor for its deployed Forward Engineering Support Team. Because he is currently serving in the war zone, he asked to remain unnamed.

Process

The Department of Defense designated the Army as executive agent for implementing plans to extinguish oil well fires and to assess the damage to oil facilities during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Corps has contracted with Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), from Houston, Texas, to extinguish current fires as quickly as possible to limit their associated environmental damage. KBR was instrumental in planning the oil well fire-fighting mission during the Kuwaiti oil fires during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, said officials from the Army Corps of Engineers. KBR

prepared the current contingency plans for the government under the Army Field Support Command’s Logistics Civil Augmentation Program.

During Operation Desert Storm, there were about 700 oil fires burning in Kuwait. Other problems experienced were oil spills in the Arabian Gulf caused by sabotaged pipelines, and oil-filled trenches that were ignited in an attempt to

obscure targets. The Corps will perform a variety of activities, including engineering design and repair or reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, operation of facilities, and distribution of products, if required.

The Corps has been supporting Operation Enduring Freedom since September 2001. Most recently, the Corps’ has been building barracks and training facilities for U.S. troops and the National Army in Afghanistan.

For more information, contact Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (202) 761-0014 or (202) 761-0011. 🏠



(Army file photo.)

Contractors extinguish an oil fire in Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Engineers Face Numerous Obstacles in Mission to Restore Flow of Oil

SOUTH RUMAILA OILFIELD, Iraq — Booby traps, blazing wellheads and neglect mean it will take months to get Iraq’s southern oilfields pumping again, said the U.S. army officer in charge of oil rehabilitation. Brigadier General Robert Crear of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers told Reuters that a painstaking operation to comb southern Iraq’s 800 wellheads for explosives must be completed before the taps can be

reopened. “If it was physically possible to get it done in weeks we would...but we are talking months,” Crear said, as he stood in sight of wells the U.S. military says were set alight by Iraqi troops in southern Rumaila, south Iraq’s biggest oilfield. “We will work as fast as we possibly can, but safety is paramount,” he said. Aside from taking pot shots from armed Iraqis, U.S.-led forces also fear mines remain among the fields. 🏠

1 Fires

Nashville's Contribution to War

Nashville District employees who have been either deployed as civilians or activated with their military units to serve various places in the war on terrorism or Operation Iraqi Freedom include Tony Ellis (project engineer), and James Cook (contract specialist), Sharon Price (U.S. Army Reserve), Bobby Puckett (U.S. Army Reserve), and William Peek (Ky. Army National Guard). At least 15 other District employees are currently preparing for deployment as volunteer members of Forward Engineer Support Teams — called FESTs — small groups who bring the full force of engineering capability to the warfighter in the field. 🏠

How You Can Support Fort Campbell Soldiers

In keeping with popular request, the Nashville District will be providing support to the Fort Campbell-based 326th Engineer Battalion (EN BN), 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), which is deployed, and some of its families left behind. District Public Affairs will coordinate the community relations effort in three ways:

1. Providing soldiers overseas with requested lip balm, suntan lotion, and sunglasses.
2. Collecting and mailing packages filled with items soldiers can't get "over there." A list of requested goodies is available from the Castle Club.
3. Identifying deployed soldiers' families who could use

Many Ways for Public to Support Troops

These websites represent several organizations sponsoring programs for members of the Armed Forces overseas. While the items and services are not endorsed by the military, these providers help soldiers and their families keep in touch. You may:

Donate a calling card to help keep service members in touch with their families at Operation Uplink a <http://www.operationuplink.org/>

Send a greeting via e-mail through Operation Dear Abby at <http://anyservicemember.org> or <http://www.OperationDearAbby.net>

Sign a virtual thank you card at the [Defend America](http://www.defendamerica.com) web site at <http://www.defendamerica.com/nmam.html>

Make a donation to one of the military relief societies: Army Emergency Relief at <http://www.aerhq.org/>

a hand while their wife/husband or mother/father are standing in harm's way.

Invest in People

To accomplish these goals, the District is working with the Castle Club, Mt. Juliet Chamber of Commerce, the Nashville Sounds baseball team, the Carpenter's House Church in Murfreesboro, and representatives of the 326th EN BN still at Fort Campbell.

Items and money should be made to the Castle Club. Contact Kristal Jones at 736-7916 or drop off donated items in the Public Affairs Office (Room A453.). 🏠

Navy/Marine Relief Society at <http://www.nmcra.org/>
Air Force Aid Society at <http://www.afas.org/>
Coast Guard Mutual Assistance at <http://www.cgmahq.org/>

Donate to "Operation USO Care Package" at <http://www.usometrodc.org/care.html>

Support the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services at <http://www.redcross.org/services/afes/>

Volunteer at a VA Hospital <http://www.va.gov/vetsday/> to honor veterans who bore the lamp of freedom in past conflicts.

Support families whose loved ones are being treated at military and VA hospitals through a donation to the Fisher House at <http://www.fisherhouse.org>.

Reach out to military families in your community, especially those with a loved one overseas.

Send a personal message via "Stars and Stripes" to U.S. troops deployed to the Persian Gulf region and other locations can now receive personal messages from family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues and supporters..

(For remainder of story, go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/> 🏠)



Photo by Army Pfc. James Matise
Spec. "Eagle Attack" Christian Fernandez, Co. B, 3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, cleans the windows of an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter as it waits to take off from somewhere in Iraq.

Victims Tell How to Safeguard Identity

Story and photo by Steve Foshee

Mark Carnes, Nashville District Regulatory Office, has partnered with the FBI and U.S. Postal Inspection Service to fight the fastest growing white-collar crime.

He learned the hard way about this crime. He was recently informed that someone in South Carolina was using his credit information to open new accounts.

"I called the U.S. Postal Service and local police to report the theft of my identity," said Carnes. "It was important that I obtain a police report number to mediate with any creditors or credit card companies." Carnes said the vital personal information was taken from his credit card company's databank by a hacker. In a quiet, but stressed voice, he encouraged everyone to check his or her credit report at least once a year.

Officials warn that identity theft and fraud will only get worse as our economy relies more on credit and E-business becomes the norm. Identity theft involves obtaining key pieces of information, such as name, address, date of birth, social security number, and mother's maiden name to impersonate victims. This opens the doors to criminals to commit fraud, which include taking over accounts, purchasing automobiles, obtaining social security benefits, and applying for loans or credit cards.

According to U.S. Postal Inspection Officer Ron Waller, you can minimize the damage of identity theft by taking the following precautions:

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery.
- Do not leave mail in unsecured mail receptacles. The red flag up is an invitation for theft.
- Never give personal information over the telephone, such as your social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card number, or bank PIN code unless you initiated the phone call.
- Shred pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, bills, and other financial information.




Agent Kolbe Biggers

- Empty your wallet of extra credit cards and identification. Cancel the credit cards you don't use and maintain a list of the rest.
- Order your credit report from the three credit business bureaus once a year to check for fraudulent activity or other discrepancies.
- Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank counters, trash receptacles, or unattended gasoline pumps. Keep track of all receipts and destroy them when they are no longer needed.
- Memorize your social security number and all of your passwords. Do not record them on any cards or anything in your wallet or purse.
- Sign all new credit cards upon receipt.
- Save all credit card receipts and match them against your monthly bills.
- Be conscious of normal receipt of routine financial statements. Contact the sender if they are not received in the mail.
- Notify your credit card companies and financial institutions in advance of any change of address or phone number.
- Never loan your credit cards to anyone.
- Never put your credit card or any other financial account

number on a postcard or on the outside of an envelope.

- If you applied for a new credit card and it hasn't arrived in a timely manner, call the bank or credit card company involved.
- Immediately report all lost or stolen credit cards.
- Closely monitor expiration dates on your credit cards. Contact the credit card issuer if replacement cards are not received prior to the expiration dates.
- Beware of mail or telephone solicitations designed as promotions offering instant prizes or awards designed solely to obtain your personal information or credit card numbers.

"Identity theft is all about obtaining key information," said Secret Service Agent Kolbe Biggers. The criminal can even start with the phone book to obtain a name and telephone number or gather Internet and On-Line Services Information. Biggers warned everyone to use caution when disclosing checking account numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal financial data at any Web site or on-line service location unless you receive a secured authentication key from your provider. He also said when you subscribe to an online service, you may be asked to reveal credit card information. When you enter any interactive service site, beware of con artists who may ask you to "confirm" your enrollment service by disclosing passwords or the credit card account number used to subscribe. Don't give them out!

Biggers discussed whom to contact for copies of your credit report and the steps victims should take. The three companies that you should write or call to obtain a credit report are: Equifax, P.O. Box 105873, Atlanta, GA 30348-5873, (1-800-997-2493), Report Fraud at 1-800-525-6285; Experian Information Solutions, P.O. Box 949, Allen TX 75013-0949, (1-888-397-3742), Report Fraud at 1-888-397-3742; and Transunion, P.O. Box 390, Springfield, PA 19064-0390, (1-800-916-8800), Report Fraud at 1-800-680-7289. For full story, see <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/> 

Lakes Plan Earth/Environmental Awareness Day Activities

By Dave Treadway

Resource Managers at a number of Nashville District lakes are currently planning Environmental Awareness Days to celebrate Earth Day and the environment. The dates for observances are not all during the week of Earth Day due to the many other activities scheduled that week. District employees who wish to take part should call the respective contacts below.

Old Hickory Earth Day. The Lake is coordinating with the TWRA to provide an Earth Day interpretive program for students from local elementary schools on Apr. 22. Rangers will discuss the importance of fish attractors and how to construct them. If time allows, students may even construct and place one near the Old Hickory Environmental Study Area. Students and volunteers will meet near the Environmental Study Area before 10 a.m., the official start time. A local group from the Bowhunters Association will be on hand to provide a demonstration and instruct students in archery.

In a separate event, Old Hickory will host 195 sixth grade students from T. W. Hunter Middle School on May 6 for **Environmental Awareness Day.** Call Ranger Tim O'Connell at (615)822-4846.

Lake Cumberland's Earth Day activities will be held at Kendall Recreation Area on Apr. 22. Native species seedlings and ball and burlap trees will be planted in the Day Use Area, Campground and trout stream area by a Boy Scout Troop or a Junior ROTC group from one of the local High Schools. This is part of the Lake's ongoing efforts to reestablish trees in areas where the pine trees have been removed as a result of devastation by the Southern Pine Beetles. Some details have yet to be finalized. For more information, call Ranger Gary Davis at (606)679-6337.

Dale Hollow Lake Environmental Education Camp. The Lake will host about 50 students from Clark Range High School and

Cookeville's Upperman High School for the annual Environmental Education Camp Apr. 22 - 25. Students will camp free for four days at Dale Hollow Dam Campground. During the first day, students will be instructed in the art of planting trees and then be given a chance to try their hand at replacing some of the trees in Dale Hollow Dam Recreation Area that were destroyed by Southern Pine Beetles in 2000 and 2001.

They will then be given a demonstration of campfire food preparation by the Boy Scouts of America before hearing the presentation "Cumberland Wonderlands" by a renowned State Naturalist. Wednesday, Apr. 23, they will get to practice canoeing skills on the Obey River. Thursday, Apr. 24, will be a full day filled with; cave conservation, a stream study involving all the critters that call the waterway home, raptors – birds of prey, and reptiles native to the area. Friday, Apr. 25, will feature classes on how to protect the environment through recycling. Contact Ranger Mark Willis at (931)243-3137 for more information.

The annual Laurel Lake Cleanup, planned each year to coincide with Earth Day, will be held Apr. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers should meet before 9 at the Laurel Spillway Beach. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Crews will then be dispatched by land and by water to tidy up federal property surrounding the lake by collecting refuse and properly disposing of it. The event is jointly sponsored by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service. The London-Laurel County Optimist Club will provide lunch for all volunteers and the first 300 volunteers who register will receive a T-Shirt to commemorate the 2003 event. To pre-register, call Toni Rushing or Judy Hargis at (606)864-6412 or the Forest Service at (606)864-4161. If not pre-registered, volunteers can do so Saturday morning. Last year's event drew 365 volunteers.

Cheatham Lake Annual Environmental Awareness Day will be held Apr. 29 at Lock A Campground


near the Dam. More than 270 students in grades 4 through 6 from Cheatham County Schools will be entertained and educated by a variety of speakers from a number of organizations. Students will be divided into groups and rotated through the following sessions.

- 1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Bob Sneed & Richard Tippet (water quality)
- 2) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Sarah Welker (exotic species/illegal trade)
- 3) U.S. Dept of Agriculture – Carolyn Dillard and Rhonda Batts (watershed pollution)
- 4) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Greg Smith (birds & worms)
- 5) Long Hunter State Park – April Welch (fossils)
- 6) Radnor Lake State Natural Area – LinnAnn Welch (Native American program)
- 7) Tenn. Solid Waste Education Project – Tandy English (recycling)
- 8) Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Officers Terry Hastings and Joe Hall (Animal habitat/bone box/skins)
- 9) Austin Peay State University – Laurina Lyle (Project WET)
- 10) Long Hunter St. Pk. – Matt Blakney (fishery)

For more information, contact Dena Williams, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 615-792-5697.

Process

J.Percy Priest Earth Day. The Lake will host 80 students from Southside Elementary School at the Cook Recreation Area all day on May 13. Corps personnel will be joined by a host of individuals from other state and federal agencies. Brad Jackson will represent TWRA, Matt Blakney and April Welch will represent Long Hunter State Park (a valuable lake tenant), LinnAnn Welch will represent the Radnor Lake State Natural Area, and Tandy English will represent the Tennessee Division of Solid Waste Management.

"I plan to bring along the Native American Box," said Welch, "which contains tools used by people who used to live in the Cumberland River Basin. The box contains tools for working the land and catching and killing wild game for food." For more information call Rangers Justin Reed at 889-1975. 

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to . . .

... David Mackie, senior mechanic at Cordell Hull Power Plant, upon his selection as the new Superintendent at Center Hill Power Plant.

...Madison Flowers, the daughter of Jeffrey Flowers, power project manager, Barkley Power Plant for being on the 12 Region All Star team, the 48 District All Star team and was honorable mention All State team for Kentucky Girls basketball. Madison is a sophomore at Somerset High School in Somerset, Ky.

... Tony Morris, whose daughter Maeghan just had her dreams of playing college softball come true. She signed a scholarship to play with Bethel College in McKenzie, Tenn.

...Jerry Wisdom, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic at Barkley Lock, on his recent graduation from West Kentucky Technical College. He received a degree in Instrumentation and Process Control Technology; this degree is in addition to two other degrees he holds in Robotics and Electronics. He has three certificates from the National Electric Board and has been a Journeyman Electrician since 1982. While attending West Ky. Tech., Jerry was part of a team that competed in the National Competition for Instrumentation Systems and Automation Conference in St. Louis, Mo. His team placed first in the All-Star Bowl, which included 12 teams from throughout the United States, including teams from the University of Florida and Alberta, Canada.

Welcome to ...

...Brigitte Rugare as the new Public Affairs Assistant in the Public Affairs Office. She formerly worked as the Secretary in the Planning Branch, Programs & Project Management.

Farewell to . . .

... Joe Melnyk, who retired from the Corps of Engineers last month after 38 years of service.

Get Well to . . .

...Gerald Cunningham, Lockmaster at Barkley Lock, who underwent a triple-

bypass heart operation Mar. 19.

Sympathy to . . .

... the family of Deborah Fletcher, whose father passed away Mar. 31.

...the family of Leon Harden, Lock and Dam Operator, Wheeler Lock, whose brother, Carl Harden Jr., passed away Mar. 4.

Baby Brigade . . .

Sandy Walters, administrative assistant at Eastern Kentucky Area Office and Wolf Creek Resource Office, became a grandmother for the second time when son Byron and daughter-in-law Theresa gave birth to Daniel Marlow Walters. Daniel arrived weighing 5-lbs., 8-ozs., and measured 18 inches.



Wedding Bells to . . .

... Andree DeLoach, who married Kerry Cox on Apr 5, in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The newlyweds will live in Atlanta, Ga. Andree is the daughter of Marva Morris, EEO Officer.

Thank you to . . .

"...all of my Corps family: Thank all of you so much for making my retire-

ment events so special. The retirement dinner, the reception, the cards and all of the gifts were wonderful and I appreciate every expression of kindness. I will miss my Corps family but I am very happy about my retirement. I will look forward to seeing you in the future at a Corps event."

Leveda Parton

"...all our friends for the phone calls, cards, flowers and the visits during the loss of my father. The loss of a parent is difficult, but you all made it more bearable." Ronnie D. Butler

"...the Corps family for your thoughtfulness, cards, and prayers during my time of bereavement. The knowledge that you shared my sorrow was a source of strength and comforts me." Deborah Fletcher.

"...all Corps employees active and retired, for the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits and prayers during the illness and death of my mother, Elsie Langford. Thank you is so little for all the kindness you all showed me during a most difficult period. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for all of you. Thank all of you from the bottom of my heart, especially my Corps family from J. Percy Priest Lake and Dale Hollow Lake." Jewell Spivey

All Welcome to Engineer Day Picnic

Red, White, & Blue Family Day will be the theme for the 2003 Engineer Day Picnic June 13 at Old Hickory Lake's Rockland Recreation Area.

Planners are making arrangements for all the traditional 'fun' events for both youngsters and adults alike and are planning some new attractions. Several employees have entered a contest to construct a model of a Corps Castle. To enter this contest, contact Lynn Bowden at 736-5677. District Divers Bill Bennett and Charlie Bryant will display historic and current diving equipment and answer questions about the use of both. Other activities are still in the planning stages.

Proceeds from Management Sponsored Activities events, such as the

Valentine's Day bake sale and the Chili Cookoff Apr. 9, help off-set the costs of Engineer Day activities.

Mark your calendars for June 13 and call Valerie Carlton at 736-7278 after May 12. Tickets will be on sale May 12 to June 9 at \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. Tickets for adults on the day of the Picnic will be \$5 and \$3 for children. The menu will include BBQ and complimentary items.

District Engineer Lt. Col. Steve Gay will present a Corps Update Briefing for the benefit of retirees and family members at 10 a.m.

A collection of photos and details from the 2002 picnic can be viewed online at <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/0702/story05.htm>.

Three District Campgrounds in Reserve America's Top 100

ReserveAmerica, a leading access point for outdoor recreation, named three District Campgrounds among its first annual "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" listing from across the U.S.

Cheatham Lake's Lock A Campground, Cordell Hull's Defeated Creek Campground, and Old Hickory's Cedar Creek Campground were selected for the distinction.

The list was developed in part by park rangers, regional park management and campers who write testimonials, rate campgrounds and provide feedback throughout the year. More than 2,500 parks were reviewed and the final 100 parks were chosen based on specific family friendly criteria ranging from educational programs and visitor centers to camping amenities and overall beauty and scenery. Consumers can make camping reservations online at: www.ReserveAmerica.com.



Official Nashville District photo

A camper enjoys the benefits of Cheatham Lake's Lock A Campground during a 2002 visit to the award-winning site. It was recently selected as one of the Top 100 Corps of Engineers campgrounds in the United States.

Invest in People

"Our first annual Top 100 family Campgrounds was created as a resource

to the camping consumer looking to plan and reserve a family camping trip for this spring or summer," said Brock Weatherup, President of ReserveAmerica. "We are proud to honor these outstanding public parks, that provide such a high level of service and dedication, while protecting our beautiful natural areas for future generations."

The "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" were selected based on criteria requested by family campers including park amenities, beautiful outdoor scenery, and educational facilities. The criteria included parks that offer hot showers, laundry facilities, hiking trails, family beaches, radio-free zones, visitor centers, educational programs, children's events, and that are located within 100 miles of a metropolitan area.

"Idaho campers are always seeking recommendations or information on family oriented parks in their area," said Tammy Kolsky, Reservation System Coordinator for the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. "A guide of this sort serves as a resource for individuals looking for the perfect site, in the perfect park, and is accessible with the click of a mouse." 🏠



Photo by Dave Treadway and Stacy Bennett

Nashville District was honored in January by the Combined Federal Campaign Committee with the Ricky Jett Foundation Award, named in memory of Ricky Jett, who was the plant manager for the Tennessee Valley Authority Johnsonville Fossil Plant. Mickie Porter (from left), Tim Dunn, Carol Warren and Cullum Miller served on the 2002 committee. Ricky was an exemplary supporter of the CFC and his community. According to TVA officials, he led by example ...always giving. Ricky supported his local campaign with energy, time, talents, and gifts. He was very involved and was a supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. In 1997, Ricky was awarded "Man of the Year" by the African American equality Congress. Nashville District was judged the agency that best embodies characteristics Ricky displayed everyday.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202-1070

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April Dates in District History

1780, Apr. 12 - Settlers ascending the Cumberland River arrive at the mouth of the Red River and found a settlement that becomes Clarksville, Tenn.

1780, Apr. 24 - John Donelson's party of settlers reached the future site of Nashville after an epic four-month voyage down the Tennessee River, up the Ohio and the Cumberland.

1865 - Major Wilbur F. Foster, Confederate Engineers [later of the Foster Creighton Company a builder of several Corps projects] arranges the escape of the Confederate government from Richmond, Va.

1865 - General Godfrey Weitzel and Major William R. King [later in charge of improvements on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers] lead the first Federal troops into Richmond, Va.

1918, Apr. 1 - Satellite district established at Florence, Ala., to manage the construction of Wilson Dam.

1936 - The Nashville District steam towboat *Warioto*, transports the 317th Field Artillery and 310th Cavalry (U.S. Army Reserve units) to Lock A, Ashland City, Tenn., for tactical maneuvers and weapons testing.

1943 - Work on Center Hill Dam is stopped by World War II. Work never resumed until after the war was over. 🏰



Photo by Robert Williams

Laurel Hosts Distinguished Visitor

Laurel Power Plant was honored with a very special visitor Mar. 25. Wilfred Fischer (center), retired chief of hydro electric design branch, visited his last design project for the first time. Jack Hoffmeister, retired chief of structural branch, (left) and Bobby Ezell, retired chief of mechanical branch, accompanied Fischer, who retired from the Nashville District Mar. 31, 1973. He came to Nashville from Little Rock District on Sept. 15, 1940 to do a study of the Cumberland River Basin for Hydro Power, a two-year task. Before the study was complete, money was appropriated for construction of Wolf Creek, Dale Hollow and Center Hill Dams. Fischer then was involved in the design and construction of all multipurpose projects in the Basin. When the visit was arranged, some were concerned that Fischer, 98 years young, might have trouble with the stairs while touring the powerhouse. Robert Williams, power project specialist at Laurel River, said the veteran design engineer went to see the penstock, wheel pit and everything else in the powerhouse without a hitch. "It was a pleasure to have our retirees come and visit," said Williams, "and if there are any others who would like to come and see us, please call and we will try to make arrangements for you." 🏰