



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

Volume 103, Number 8

*Respected-Responsible-Reliable*

August 2003



## Taking Command of Nashville District

*Pages 6 & 7*

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Photo by Dave Treadway

One of 20 billboards placed on streets and highways around middle Tennessee to draw attention to water safety. This billboard is located on Demonbreun Street in Nashville. The boards are valued at \$39,000 and were placed as a public service by Lamar Advertising.



Photo by Dan Loftin

## On the Cover

Lt. Col. Byron G. Jorns (left) accepts the Corps flag from BG (P) Steven Hawkins, Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and with it the responsibility for all water resources activities of both the Cumberland and Tennessee River Basins. The ceremony was held in the auditorium of the Bell South building July 11.

## DistrictDigest

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IMO (Mail Center)

The District Digest is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is designed through desktop publishing and printed by offset process for the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Circulation is 1,600.

The editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

The District Digest is printed monthly and is a Command Information publication of the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to all material submitted for publication.

Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7161.

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

# Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

I extend my sincerest thanks to the entire workforce for the warm welcome my family and I received during the Change of Command.

The ceremony was exemplary of the military's traditions as well as the professionalism that exists within the Nashville District workforce.

I'm proud to be a part of this great organization. I feel lucky to be following in the footsteps of Lt. Col. Steve Gay and what he and his family have done for the Nashville District. I know that Lt. Col. Gay greatly appreciated the heartfelt farewell from all of you.

I suppose many of you are wondering just who I am and how I operate. I was born and raised in a military family, Dad was an engineer, and spent most of my

## Communication

high school days at Fort Knox, Ky. Have been married to my wife, Megan, for 18 years and we have two daughters; Claire (16), and Eileen (12). I've never been to Nashville before ...and I'm extremely excited to be here and learn about the full depth of the District's mission and geographical boundaries.

So far, I've been able to get out to eastern and western Kentucky and see firsthand some of the good work being accomplished by our workforce. I've added some new words to my geographical lexicon such as: Old Hickory, Cheatham, Wolf Creek, Laurel, Martin's Fork, Cumberland, Harlan County, Barkley, Kentucky Lock, Hopkinsville ...and Demonbreun Blvd. I look forward to meeting all of you face to face in your own work environment.

My operating philosophy is simple. I like to operate on a foundation of mutual trust and respect. I think these basic principles provide a strong foundation for leadership, teamwork, and communication.

Long ago, I adopted the seven Army Values as my guidepost. These simple, yet challenging, values have been a part of me for most of my career. They are what I believe in and what I strive for everyday. I encourage each of you to embrace them as well. They will not fail you.

Safety is very important and so I want to leave you with some thoughts on that topic.

It is now August and many of you will have children returning to school. Remember these safety tips:

\* Ensure your children have a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic.

\* Children should stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals students to enter.

(See "From Where I Sit" page 6. )



Photo by Dan Loftin

Employees welcome Lt. Col. Jorns and his family to the Nashville District at the Change of Command ceremony July 11.

## July Employee of the Month

Paul VandeBunt, a Budget Analyst in the Programs Section of the Planning, Programs, & Project Management Division, was named the Nashville District Employee of the Month for July.



Paul VandeBunt

As the fiscal year drew to a close, VandeBunt continued to manage the Nashville District's Continuing Authorities

Program in an exceptional manner. The program is complex, consisting of about sixty separate projects. Each project has funds allocated according to its phase and individual authority (from studies to design to construction). He reviewed progress with the project managers, finding surplus funds and offering them to LRD and HQUSACE for other projects across the nation.

VandeBunt diligently tracked the actions of Congress. After the passage of the appropriations bill through the House and Senate in July, he kept senior leaders posted about impacts the bill will have on the Nashville District. He also ensured senior leaders were informed of the progress of WRDA '03, the Corps' authorization bill, as it made its way through the House. 🏠

# Nashville Team Searches for Downed Aircraft

by Dave Treadway

Three Nashville District employees spent several days helping search for a downed airplane in late June and early August.

Bob Taphorn, Wayne Ligon and Owen Traugher were working on a job in Decatur, Ala., when the call for assistance came from 1<sup>st</sup> District U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield. The Corps team left Decatur early Tuesday morning, June 24, and joined area searchers from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) police, divers from the Army's 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces at Fort Campbell, Stewart County (Tenn.) Sheriff John Vinson, Mainstream Diveres, and a host of volunteers from all around the Paris, Tenn., area. A local restaurant provided barbecue lunches for searchers and several businesses loaned search teams underwater cameras.

Pilot Earl Witte and passenger Clem Anderson took off from Short Creek Field in Dover, Tenn., on June 14 and apparently crashed shortly after takeoff. Friend and fellow pilot Howard Brandon took off from the same airstrip two minutes before Witte, encountered a storm cell and was able to steer his plane away from it to regain visibility. Searchers on foot and in fishing boats began looking for the downed craft that day over an ever-expanding land and water area.

On June 22, searchers found a wheel and strut assembly in the Turtle Bay Inlet of the Tennessee River near the Paris Landing Bridge, the only clue to the whereabouts of the missing plane.

The Corps' navigation survey boat was equipped with Survey Sounder Sonar, more sophisticated sonar than any other craft in the search.

"Before we arrived," said Bob Taphorn, "searchers really didn't have any sonar except a side-scan unit on one craft. Fishermen were also using fish-finding gear to look for possible objects in the water.

"We had to have some method for searching because we couldn't just go out there and start doing figure-eights so what we did is set up survey lines on a



Photo by Bob Taphorn

**The Nashville navigation survey boat (foreground) and other watercraft line the shore near where the landing gear for the downed craft was located June 22.**

20-foot spacing beginning with the coordinates of the two dog hits (possible detections by two cadaver dogs). We used a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) to lay out the grid system to ensure we covered the area in a tighter meter accuracy." Traugher created the detailed maps of the search area for everyone to use.

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**A search crew from the National Underwater Marine Agency located the wreckage Aug. 9 in 60 feet of water one mile off shore.**

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The searchers ranged in water depths between 12 and 70 feet. "We didn't go in shallower depths," said Taphorn, "because pilots from the air could detect shadows from objects in water down to a depth of 10 feet."

Ligon, Traugher, and Taphorn methodically searched more than four square miles of the lake bottom with sonar for signs of the aircraft.



Photo by Bob Taphorn

**Owen Traugher scans the sonar for images while searching more than four square miles of Kentucky Lake.**

Taphorn said the search area was chosen based on several factors. The cadaver dogs indicated distinct possibilities in two locations and aircraft also demonstrated potential flight paths of the downed plane by flying over the area that may have been used by Witte and Anderson. The Corps work boat then mapped off the area with the DGPS to ensure accurate coverage of the most likely crash sites in Kentucky Lake.

"On two occasions," revealed Traugher, "our sonar detected potential debris. One was in 60 feet of water and appeared to be 12 feet high on the bottom, much like the aircraft should look if it was on the bottom of the lake. We looked at it from four different angles and were convinced we had something because it looked the same from all angles." Divers then explored the site and surfaced to report the equivalent of underwater stalagmites. A woody structure was found at the other site.

After searching diligently for eight long days, each 10 to 12 hours without results, both the Corps and 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces crews ended the search just before the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

"I was wanting to find that thing," Taphorn explained, "We tried. We did all we could do."

Families of the missing flyers were appreciative of the searchers' efforts. Virginia Anderson, wife of Clem Anderson, said, "I just thank them from the bottom of my heart. They've worked really hard out there. We really appreciate it." 🙏

# Congressman, Mayor Help Dedicate Metro Levee

## Trail features artistic elements

Photos and story by Dave Treadway

Congressman Jim Cooper (5<sup>th</sup>-TN) and Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell joined District Engineer LTC Byron Jorns July 12 to dedicate the refurbished Metro Center Levee and officially open the trail atop the structure.

Immediately following the 7 a.m. ceremony, more than 200 runners participating in the inaugural 10K Run and a Family Fun Run/Walk sponsored by the Nashville Striders and Easter Seals initiated the 2.8 mile trail as part of the Metro system of greenways. It is the 5<sup>th</sup> such greenway to be completed in Davidson county, according to Bill Troup, assistant greenways director for Metro Parks. About 23 miles of greenways have now been completed.

Both Congressman Cooper and Mayor Purcell praised the teamwork of Metro Parks and Recreation, Metro Greenways Commission, Metro Public Works Department, the Corps of Engineers, and no less than five contractors to complete the \$7.5 million project begun in 1999.

"The trail on the levee," said Mayor Purcell, "represents a great addition to the greenway system in Davidson County." The Mayor's "Master Plan for Parks and Greenways" calls for placing a greenway within two miles of every resident in the county — eventually creating a system of 200 miles of greenway paths.



**Congressman Jim Cooper, Mayor Bill Purcell and Lt. Col. Byron Jorns cut the ribbon July 12 to officially open the greenway on top of a complete Metro Levee.**

"I thank my predecessor, Bob Clement," said Congressman Cooper, "for his work in helping make today possible, and I pledge to continue to work

### Process

with the Nashville District Corps of Engineers on other such projects that will benefit the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County."

District Engineer Lt. Col. Byron Jorns first recognized all of the people from various agencies and the Nashville District who played a significant part in making the project a reality. He then talked of the refurbished project now in place.

"With these new features," said Jorns, "the annual risk of failure is reduced from 9 percent to 0.1 percent. This is a significant improvement in the reliability of the (flood protection) system."

The levee was built in the early 1970s to protect the 1,000-acre area and has permitted commercial and industrial development there where more than 70 properties holding more than 200 companies employ about 8,000 people. Project Manager David Hendrix said the Metro Center levee enhancement project was designed to improve the embankment's stability and improve flood protection by raising the height of the levee.

Shain Dennison, director of Metro Greenways Commission, said those who visit the trail on the levee can expect to see artistic elements, designed by the firm of Gresham, Smith & Partners, such as a concrete retaining wall "in the shape of waves with images of fish sandblasted" into it.

Dennison said the greenway "gets you very close to the water and the art makes the greenway trail interesting."

The Greenways Commission defines a greenway as a park and trail that connects neighborhoods to schools, shopping areas, downtown, offices, recreation areas, open spaces and other points of activity. It is now open to walkers, runners and cycling enthusiasts.

To use the greenway trail on top of the Levee, exit off Interstate 65 at Metro Center Boulevard and go north for half a mile to Vantage Way. Turn right and go four-tenths of a mile, then turn right on Great Circle Road. Proceed about a third of a mile to the trail head. Free parking is available at the trailhead. 🏠



**The first runners enter the Metro Levee greenway at the I-65 Trailhead July 12.**

# Changing Command at the Nashville District



**Lt. Col. Byron Jorns addresses guests at the Change of Command.**

*Story and photos by Dave Treadway*

**L**t. Col. Byron G. Jorns was handed the reins of the Nashville District July 11 by BG (P) Steven Hawkins, Commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division in a ceremony at the Bell South building.

Lt. Col. Steven Gay, who had led the Nashville District for two years, relinquished command after retiring in an early morning ceremony at the federal building. He will make his new home in Clarksville, Tenn.

“I am honored and humbled to be here today,” said Lt. Col. Jorns, “honored due to the trust and confidence that the Army and General Hawkins has placed in me. But I am also humbled with the responsibilities that are now upon me. I have to say it feels nice to be back within the folds of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It’s a wonderful family, one that has nurtured me, and challenged me at key phases of my career. I look forward to the challenges within Nashville District. I look forward to the continued teamwork the District has with its stakeholders and our community leaders. Nashville District with its professional workforce has a reputation that extends beyond its boundaries. I can simply say I’m proud to be part of the Nashville team.”

Immediately following the formal ceremony, District employees attending

the ceremony welcomed the Jorns family as they filed by to meet the first time.

In the adjoining room, employees said goodbye to Lt. Col. Gay, his wife Lisa and twins Nicole and Wesley.

At Gay’s retirement ceremony, BG (P) Hawkins praised his leadership and presented the Legion of Merit Award.



**BG (P) Steven Hawkins presents appreciation to Lisa Gay at her retirement ceremony.**

## From Where I Sit . . . (cont. from page 3)

\* When exiting the bus, students should immediately walk ten steps away from the bus.

\* Use the handrail to enter and exit.

\* Never run while approaching or leaving the bus.

\* Be aware of street traffic around you. Traffic is required to stop while the bus is stationary.

While riding in a car, always wear a safety belt. Belts can lower your risk of injury by 45%. People are four times more likely to be injured seriously or killed if ejected from a vehicle. Everyone needs to be buckled up properly. That means older children in seat belts, younger ones in booster seats and the

smallest ones in child safety seats.

Make returning to school a safe experience!

So...these are some of my thoughts and views “from where I sit”. I look forward to hearing your thoughts from where you sit. I’ll be seeing many of you in the weeks ahead.

I feel blessed to be your commander and I look forward to our time together.

# Nashville District

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exceptionally meritorious service as commander of the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from July 14, 2000 through July 11, 2003. In April, Lt. Col. Gay became the first Nashville District Engineer to be awarded the John W. Macy, Jr., Award for demonstrated excellence in the leadership of civilians by an Army military or civilian supervisor. 🏰



certificate of husband's retire-

Lt. Col. Steve Gay, assisted by wife Lisa, unveils his name on the Commanders plaque at the District Office July 11, one of his final acts as Commander of the Nashville District. Sergeants Major Larry Craig, Ken Laster and Sammy Alley, (top right) present colors during the Change of Command ceremony. Lt. Col. Gay's former commander, Col. Jeff Wagonhurst, USA (ret), presents a shadow box of memorabilia (right) from employees of the Nashville District during his retirement ceremony which preceded the Change of Command.



# Army, USACE Tighten Travel Card Policy

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs-Army News Service

Using the government travel card when changing duty stations will no longer be permitted, and Army officials said non-authorized use of the card would be met with harsher penalties.

Congress directed the Department of Defense to develop a comprehensive disciplinary policy for military personnel and civilians who misuse the Bank of America travel card.

In addition to discontinuing the use of the travel card during permanent change-of-station moves, a

memorandum from the Office of the Secretary of the Army states that cards are to be deactivated prior to departure from duty stations, unless there is a temporary duty en route.

The Army directed that, effective immediately, commands and activities should not use the card to pay for conference registration fees (USACE adds "unless absolutely necessary") and USACE said those fees should be paid by DD Form 1556, Corporate small purchase card or convenience check. Each person assigned to an Emergency/Planning Response Team should have a minimum six-month review of travel card activity. Any indication of misuse of the card would cause revocation and the employee would have to develop a plan to pay for expenses (personal cash, personal credit card, etc.) associated with the deployment.

At the installation level, one of the first changes program coordinators made was to put accounts of infrequent travelers in a closed or inactive status.

"The Army's goal is for installations to keep dollars delinquent below 4.5 percent and account delinquencies below 3 percent; ours is at 1 percent," said Cynthia Jackson, from the Garrison Resource management Service Center at Fort McPherson, Ga.

"Creating a smaller list of cardholders allows us to keep tabs on our users. We know who is traveling, and what they are doing while in travel status."

The Corps of Engineers' goal is to keep dollars delinquent below 3.0 percent and accounts delinquent below 2.0 percent.

Fort McPherson is following the example set by DoD and the Army, by limiting their number of cardholders. The Army has cancelled more than 156,000 travel-card accounts since October, and currently has 280,000 open accounts. The number of



accounts will fluctuate, and once current legislation is implemented, cards will not be issued to those who are not credit-worthy, Pentagon officials said.

Commanders and program coordinators have always had the responsibility of maintaining accountability of their cardholders, but according to a January memorandum from the Army Secretary's office, travel-card coordinators now must review at least 10 percent of active accounts each month. USACE further directed review of all delinquent accounts.

"If we notice that an account is 30 days late, we contact the commander or unit point of contact before the account goes beyond 60 days," Jackson said.

The new policy means cardholders can use the card only for official travel expenses, a claim for

reimbursement must be done immediately upon return from official travel, and split disbursement is used to pay their travel card bill. Under split disbursement, part of a reimbursement would be sent directly to Bank of America and the balance to the traveler's bank account.

"Personal and non-travel use is a serious offense," wrote USACE Director of Resource Management Stephen Coakley in a memo dated May 1, "and should be dealt with. Misuse of the travel card undermines the program's viability. Appropriate corrective action should be taken to avoid repeat offenses."

Congress is now considering legislation that could mandate split disbursement for some cardholders.

In any case, not paying the bill could affect the user's credit.

Congress directed there be a government-wide quarterly report on the travel card program, to

include a statistical summary of disciplinary action taken, officials added.

Three years ago DoD mandated that federal employees use the travel card for all official travel expenses such as lodging, transportation, rental cars, and other allowable charges. That changed after July 2002, when a U.S. General Accounting Office audit found numerous incidents of cardholder abuse, lack of accountability, and inadequate command emphasis.

"The GAO report correctly pointed out many problems with the Army's implementation of the travel card program, and the Army is increasing scrutiny and taking corrective actions to resolve misuse and delinquency in the Program," Pentagon officials said.

Since March, there have been 6,869 delinquent travel card accounts, with a balance of \$4.1 million in delinquency. 🏠



# Program Gives Opportunity to Summer Hires

by Tiffany Hedrick

Summer jobs are a yearly ritual for many students. The break presents an ideal opportunity for them to make a little extra money. However, not everyone finds this ritual to be an easy process. In the past, some students with disabilities have had trouble finding employment due to their physical challenges or simply the stigma of being “disabled.”

The Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities (WRP) is changing that by finding jobs for students like Tammy Lauderdale. The program helped Tammy find her current position as an Office Automation Clerk at the Old Hickory Lake Visitor Center. She discovered WRP through the Disabilities Program at Volunteer State Community College. After completing the appropriate paperwork, she was interviewed in Atlanta and received an offer for a summer job with the Corps.

“We have been fortunate enough to

hire students for the last several years under this program,” said Carl Crews, resource manager at Old Hickory Lake. Co-sponsored by the Office of Disability Employment and the Department of Defense, WRP helps businesses across the nation find highly qualified temporary and permanent employees for various fields of work. Candidates must submit an application and a resume as well as undergo an in-person interview before they are placed in the WRP database. The

Office of Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor, manages the program and markets it to prospective employers like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Nancy Taylor, an office assistant at Old Hickory Lake Resource Manager’s Office, said working with Tammy was wonderful. “She does more than just administrative tasks. She also assists in providing visitors with lake information and willingly does any other task that is asked of her. We are fortunate to have her; she is a big help.”

Although WRP has proved helpful to the other staff at Old Hickory, the biggest benefit has been the impact it has had on Tammy, herself. Her math disability has not presented any extra challenges to her work, and that has helped her build self-confidence. Her position has also given her valuable employment experience.

“Working for the Corps has been great,” Tammy said. “I want to run my own business when I get done with school, and this has given me some insight.”



Photo by Matthew Detlefsen

Student Aide Tammy Lauderdale types deposit tickets at the Old Hickory Lake Visitor Center.

## Retired Corps Employee Helps Open Nashville Landmark

Nashville District Retiree Marie M. Gish, known by many as the District’s poet laureate while she worked for Nashville, made history for the second time Aug. 3 when she joined a host of dignitaries to help cut the ribbon to reopen the refurbished Shelby Street Bridge, now only open to pedestrians and

bicycles.

Gish made history the first time when she was the last person to drive across the bridge Feb. 8, 1998 when it was closed permanently to vehicular traffic. Local TV crews interviewed her and she told them how she had used the bridge “at least 50 years.”

She was on her way to church five years ago when she approached the bridge and saw a workman preparing to place barricades across the road to prevent vehicles from crossing. She asked if she could be the last one to cross and did so on his signal. Channel 2 news recored her historic crossing and aired it on the news.

# The Corps Crowd

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## **Congratulations to ...**

...Richard Cox, Power Project Specialist at Cheatham Power Plant, who has a new granddaughter, Callie Leanne Cox. She weighed 8-lbs., 9-ozs., and was 20 inches long when born July 11.

...Sandy Breault, Resource Management, on the graduation of her daughter, Eva L. Birdine, from the University of Phoenix. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and will receive her Bachelor of Science Degree in Information Technology, Programming and Operating Systems. She earned her degree while working a full-time job and being a loving parent.

... Kayl Kite, Park Ranger at Lake Barkley, on his marriage to Elisha Scott on July 12, 2003.

... Henri Leveridge, Office Assistant at Wolf Creek Power Plant, on the birth of her grandson, Samuel Bryant Leveridge who was born on June 8th and weighed 8-lbs., 5-ozs. His parents are Matthew and Bernadette Leveridge.

...Jason and Jessica Givens on the birth of their son, Logan Charles, July 30, at Hendersonville Hospital. He weighed in at 7-lbs., 3-oz. and is 18 inches long.

Jessica is the daughter of Chester W. Lowery, Senior Operator, Old Hickory Power Plant, and the sister of Josh Lowery, Lock Operator, Cheatham Lock.

...Travis Claud, who became Acting Chief of the Readiness Branch on Aug. 4 pending recruitment.

## **Farewell to.....**

...Ronnie Butler, Senior Electrician at Dale Hollow Power Plant, who entered retirement on Aug. 3.

...Jean Todd, Contracting Division, who will be departing during August to become the new Chief of Contracting for the Memphis District.

## **Welcome to.....**

...Karen Lewis, new regulatory program assistant in the Western Regulatory Field Office, Decatur, Ala.

... Mike Kuntz, a new Park Ranger at Lake Barkley. His previous Park Ranger position was at Wappapello Lake, St. Louis District.

## **Sympathy to .....**

...Dow Williamson, senior mechanic at Center Hill power plant, whose mother, Sarah Williamson, passed away Sunday July 13.

...Clara and Randall McFall, a supply technician at Wolf Creek and Laurel, whose daughter, Wendy Carol McFall Cerrato, 28, passed away July 13 after a long illness.

...John Case, a retired regulatory employee, whose sister passed away after being involved in a motorcycle accident.

...Paul Murry, Equipment Mechanic at Fort Loudoun Lock, whose brother Steve Murry, passed away on Sunday, July 20.

...Anita Taylor, Pineville Office, Upper Cumberland Area, whose father, Wheeler Young, passed away Saturday, July 19.

...Tommy Thompson, Senior Operator at the Old Hickory Power Plant, whose mother, Willie Belle Thompson, passed away on Saturday, July 26. Mrs. Thompson is also the grandmother of Brent Thompson, Power Plant Trainee at Wolf Creek Power Plant.

...the family of Patricia (Pat) Vaughn, former employee with the Operations Division and the Office of Counsel, who passed away on July 26. Mrs. Vaughn left the Nashville District several years ago to accept a position with the Bankruptcy Court.

## **Get well to...**

... Randy D. Crabtree, superintendent at Old Hickory Power Plant, who had left carotid artery surgery on July 29 at Hendersonville Hospital, following right carotid artery surgery a month ago at Tennessee Christian Hospital.

## **Thanks from.....**

...Janet Hines, Operations Division, and the family of Mason Rowland, the 3-year old son of Janet's niece, who wish to thank all Corps employees who donated blood this summer. Mason was scheduled to undergo heart surgery at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and needed O negative blood donations. Although the first date had to be postponed due to strep throat, Mason finally had the procedure on Saturday, July 26. Doctors repaired three holes in his heart and were able to

use two pints of blood donated by Corps employees.

... Marva Strong Morris, EEO Officer, who wishes to share the following message: "To my Nashville District co-workers: Thanks so much for your cards, gifts, and words of encouragement and support when my mother died. I am blessed to be a member of such a caring organization."

... Anita L. Taylor, Upper Cumberland Area Office, said, "I would like to thank my Corps family for the wonderful support, prayers, cards, phone calls, emails and beautiful flowers I received during the loss of my father. Your overwhelming thoughtfulness was truly appreciated during a very difficult time for me and my family. Please continue to keep us in your prayers."

## **Upcoming Events...**

... All employees are invited to say farewell to Bonnie Rawle at her retirement on Aug. 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room A640 of the Federal Building.

... Retiree Hobart Parrish invites all retirees and current Corps employees to the next semi-annual retiree luncheon Oct. 15 at the Picadilly Restaurant in Madison. For more information, contact Parrish at hollyvahobi@webtv.net.

... Club member Janet Threet invites all fly fishers to events hosted by the Hendersonville Fly Fishers Club.

"My husband and I are fly fishers," said Threet, "along with some other Corps employees. It's a fun hobby and a fun club with lots of outings and information about techniques of the sport."

The club meets next at 6 p.m. on Aug. 12 at Steamboat Bills Restaurant in Hendersonville. "Carp Fishing" is on the program and will be presented by Jim Mauries of the FlySouth Fish Shop. The club's next outing will be to the Watauga River in northeast Tennessee Sept. 12-14.

The September meeting will feature a program about the Hiwassee River by Tic Smith, Hiwassee Outfitters. The November meeting will be entitled "Fishing in North Georgia" by Jimmy Harris, Unicoi Outfitters. 🏠

# Night-time Storm Damages Elm Hill Marina

Story and photos by Dave Treadway

Corps Recreation areas and a Marina at J. Percy Priest Lake sustained heavy damage Aug. 4 when heavy thunderstorms and wind struck late at night.

At about 9 p.m. a storm front moved through the Nashville area and a storm cell struck Elm Hill Marina.

As several fishermen weighed in their catch at the end of a bass tournament, a section of pier “K” containing 54 covered slips was overturned by high winds, sinking or setting adrift a number of boats. Some fishermen who sought shelter on Pier “K” were in the slips when they were blown over. Two were seriously injured and transported to local hospitals.

One boat owner was luckier.

“I wasn’t there last night,” said Jim Owen as he toured the devastation early Tuesday morning, “and I sure am glad. My cell phone has been burning up this morning. I got a call last night about 11 and the caller said “Where are you?” I told them I wasn’t at Elm Hill and they said, “Good thing you aren’t, it just got blown away!” My slip is, or was, 52 on “K” Dock. The dock ends now at slip 51, from there on out the dock is turned upside down and boats that were tied well to the dock are also upside down on opposite sides of the dock. Those with bad ropes were luckier. The ropes broke and people were able to retrieve the floating boats and tie them off at various places. I’m just glad I wasn’t here last night or mine may have also been bottoms up this morning,” concluded Owen as his pontoon boat provided a platform for WKRN-TV’s Bo Flenner to videotape the damaged Marina.

Metro police, fire department, TWRA boating officers, and emergency personnel were immediately dispatched to the scene and quickly closed off the area so emergency personnel could search for those who needed assistance.

Many trees were downed or severely damaged in Corps recreation areas during the storm, according to Resource Manager Todd Yann. Cook and Seven Points Day Use Areas sustained lots of



One of many overturned boats lies partially submerged Tuesday morning along what used to be “K” Dock at Elm Hill Marina before high winds flipped the structure.



tree damage and were closed until an assessment of the damage could be made. Rangers Sherry Roberts and Mark Vaughan assessed damage early Tuesday and reported a large tree completely blocked the road at the Seven Points Campground. Several trees were damaged or downed in Elm Hill Day Use Area, although it remained open. A Corps contract park attendant in Cook Recreation Area reported wind damage and downed limbs on his trailer. 📺

A cameraman from WTVF-TV Channel 5 (left) captures images of an overturned boat at Elm Hill Marina Aug. 5.

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PERMIT NO. 559

## Photo Contest Seeks Entries from Corps Employees

Officials with the HQUSACE National Water Safety Committee have begun accepting entries from employees in five categories for the 2003 photo contest.

Submissions for Commercial Boating, Winter/Fall Recreation, Spring/Summer Recreation, Corps Employees in Action, Scenic, and Boating Accidents/Mishaps. categories should promote water safety, demonstrate safe water practices, and/or showcase the Corps' water-based recreation facilities. Deadline is Feb. 1, 2004.

Photographers may submit up to three photos in each category in either 35 mm slide format or digital in 300 dpi (dots per inch) at 6.5 by 10 inches on CD ROM or zip disk.

Each entry must be accompanied by a completed ENG Form 5067-R, Digital Library Image Information (Appendix B of ER 25-1-91, so the image can be placed on the Corps' Digital Visual Library. Submit to LRD representative Pete O'Connell.

Two Nashville District employees, Dale Hollow Ranger Sondra Hafling and Wolf Creek Electrician James Johnson captured first place in separate categories in the 2002-2003 contest. Wilson Lockmaster Gary Harding captured a first place in the 2001-2002 contest.

All uniformed employees shown in contest entries should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the activity in which they are engaged. Photos will be

judged for clarity, composition, originality, visual impact, and theme.

Category winners will be announced in April 2004 during the 2004 International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Florida. Winners will receive a plaque and one overall winner will have travel and registration expenses paid by the committee to the 2005 Summit. Previous sweepstakes winners may enter but are not eligible to win the trip.

All photos become the property of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for use in publications, exhibits, and web pages.

For more information, contact Pete O'Connell at [harry.l.oconnell@lrp02.usace.army.mil](mailto:harry.l.oconnell@lrp02.usace.army.mil) or (724)962-7744. 📠

## August Dates to Remember in District History

**1834, Aug. 8** - U.S. Civil Engineer Howard Stansbury begins the first survey of the Upper Cumberland River.

**1888, Aug. 18** - Prompted by requests of the Cumberland River Commission, various legislators, and the engineering faculty at Vanderbilt University, U.S. Army Engineer District established in Nashville at 609 Broad Street. Colonel John Barlow then moved into the District

office as its first District Engineer on October 1.

**1933, Aug. 1** - Chattanooga District is abolished due to the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

**1943** - Ft. Loudoun Lock opens for the first time to navigation traffic.

**1966, Aug. 20** - Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey dedicates the Barkley Lock and Dam project, which was completed for \$20 million dollars

less than the original estimate. He symbolically mixed the waters from both river basins to commemorate the opening of the Barkley Canal.

**1973** - Congressman Joe L. Evins pulls a lever to power up the first generator at Cordell Hull Dam.

**1984** - Groundbreaking held for Barbourville, Kentucky, Section-202 flood control project. 📠