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DistrictDigest

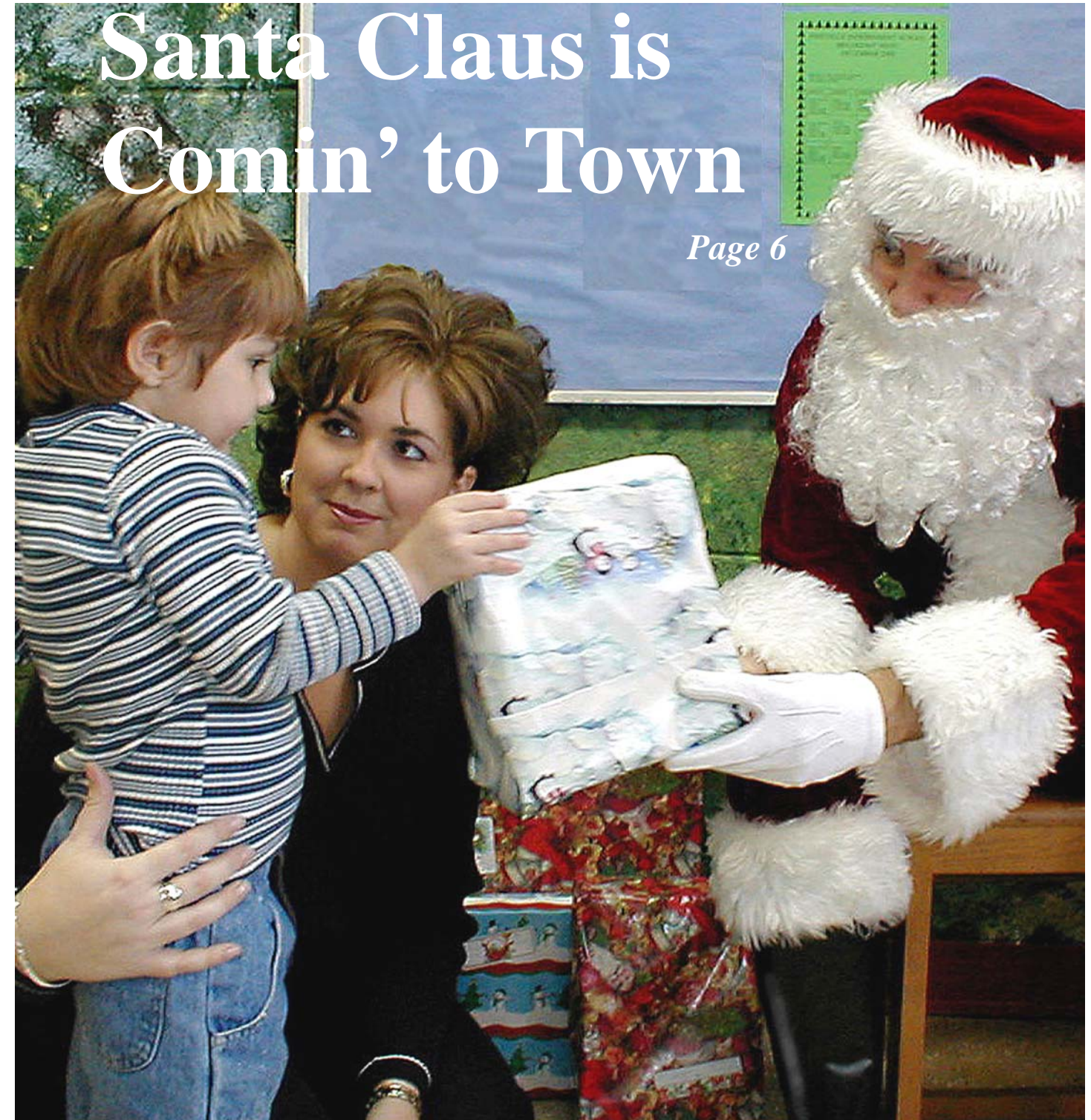
Volume 103, Number 12

Respected-Responsible-Reliable

December 2003

Santa Claus is Comin' to Town

Page 6



Be On The Safe Side

by Safety Officer John Tibbles

Winter is just around the corner, so it's time to prepare your vehicle for winter.

First, make sure your battery and charging system are in good working order. Inspect belts and hoses for signs of wear or cracking and replace those not in good condition.

It's also a good idea to change to a lighter weight motor oil, which will make your engine a little easier to start in cold weather. Check your antifreeze, automotive supply stores have inexpensive tester.

Make sure your tires have adequate tread left on them.

Change your wiper blades. Fresh blades are more important in winter to push sleet and snow. Refill your washer reservoir with a cleaning fluid suitable for use in cold weather.

It is a good idea to check your spare to see if it is inflated and that your jack is in good condition.

Now it is time to pack some items in your car. A small tool kit, a set of jumper cables, tire chains, a bag of sand or cat litter for traction, a flashlight and a knife are good for starters. Some bottles of

water and extra food bars might be in order as well. Your cell phone might be one of the most important items that will allow you to get help to your location.

Never let the gas tank get below half full for winter driving. You may need to have extra gas if you get stuck in traffic.

Make sure your tail pipe is clear to avoid build-up of carbon monoxide gas.

Remember, taking good care of your vehicle before winter and packing the right supplies could be a matter of life and death. 🏠

Safety – It's a Team Effort

Myra Haley Paces Scott's Scooters

Myra Haley, office assistant at Dale Hollow Lake, contributed 231 miles as a member of Scott's Scooters, which recently participated in "Walk Across Tennessee."

Clay County walking teams once again proved themselves leaders in the Upper Cumberland when it comes to health and fitness. Scott's Scooters were the top team in the Freeway Category with 2,315.35 total miles.

In as little as eight weeks, 20 teams participated in the "Walk Across Tennessee" program and tallied more than 18,000 miles.

Walk Across Tennessee began as an effort to encourage individuals to get moving and to make physical activity a part of their daily routines.

Teams could participate in several categories. High mileage teams could

elect to participate in the Freeway Category allowing for friendly competition with other high mileage walkers. 🏠



Melanie Eads, (from left) Myra Haley, and former Corps employee Frankie Scott, owner of Scott's Best Way Grocery and sponsor of Scott's Scooters, proudly display their first-place trophy.

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Dates in District History

1779, Dec. 22 - Colonel John Donelson's flotilla begins a five-month journey down the Tennessee River and eventually up the Cumberland River to present day Nashville.
1830, Dec. 1 - Construction of first Muscle Shoals canal begins.
1864, Dec. 15-16 - The occupying Union army emerges from Corps of Engineer constructed fortifications and routs the Confederate Army of the Tennessee in the climactic Battle of

Nashville.
1911, Dec. 4 - Colbert Shoals Canal opened on the Tennessee River.
1916, Dec. 21 - Lock D opens for navigation on the Cumberland River.
1926, December - Nashville's greatest flood begins.
1941, Dec. 1 - The Construction Division of the Army Quartermaster Corps is transferred to the Corps of Engineers, greatly increasing Nashville District's military construction mission.



Photo courtesy of Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency

On the Cover

Case Manager Janet Jackson (center) coaxes three-year-old Amber Jones to accept a present from Santa during a holiday gift distribution at Pineville Elementary School last year. About 250 children in Middlesboro and Pineville received gifts, partly because Corps employees entered into the spirit of giving and collected a vanload of toys for the youngsters. See page 6.

District Digest

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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>.

Corps Commits to Partners in Stewardship

Major General Carl A. Strock, Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, signed a Pledge of Partnership with six other federal agencies in November and committed the Corps to serve as an Ambassador for Partnerships.

At the Los Angeles Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship Conference attended by 1,500 government employees and partner group representatives, the National Park Service, the Dept. of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management joined in the Corps commitment to collaborate.

Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers said in a message to attendees, "The U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers is the leading provider of outdoor recreation.

"This year, one in ten Americans will visit a Corps lake. We also serve as steward to 11.7 million acres of public lands and waters. This is a relatively small figure when compared to the other land managing agencies; however, most of our 456 Corps lakes are located within a short drive from a major metropolitan area. The Corps is where the people are," said Flowers.

Assistant Interior Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget Lynn Scarlett likened partnerships to music. She said partnerships can be like a duet or a symphony.

"It's all about finding points of convergence," she said. "We need to

listen and ask questions."

Interior Secretary Gale Norton highlighted the President's programs in Texas-the Landowner Incentive Program and the Private Stewardship Grant Program-each encouraging private partnerships and a strong belief in the ethics of communication, consultation, and cooperation in the service of conservation.

"Cooperative conservation and partnerships," said Norton, "give us this ability to build creative and vibrant networks for conservation-they empower people to solve problems in ways that make sense for each community."

Park Ranger Sondra Hafling represented Nashville District at the conference.

Vacation Opportunities

(Cont. from page 7)

Head, snorkeled at Hanauma Bay, visited the Polynesian Cultural Center and Pearl Harbor. Overall, I would rate this as one of my best vacation spots." Visit them on the web at <http://www.halekoa.com/about.htm>.

Another destination closer to home is the Rocky Mountain Blue at Keystone Resort nestled in the Snake Valley amid thousands of acres of the White River National Forest. Through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program, visitors can take advantage of the Resort at discount prices. Prices range from \$69-\$182 per night. Other accommodations are also offered through this agreement. Visit them at <http://www.rockymountainblue.com/>.

Armed Forces Travel

The best deal available is the Armed Forces Travel Club, according to Doug Radley, chief of the Project Planning Branch.

"I have been pleased with numerous accommodations made through the Armed Forces Travel Club," said Radley. "The Armed Forces Vacation Club offers DoD personnel the opportunity to book a seven-night luxury vacation, on a space-available basis, for just \$249." Simply log on to their web site, <http://www.armymwr.com/portal/travel/lodging/patronlinks/sav.asp>, click on Search and

select the city, state or country where you want to travel. The Website is updated daily with information about specific resort amenities and availability on the dates you choose.

In the Orient
 "One of the most interesting Armed Forces Recreation Centers I have visited," said Dave Treadway, Public Affairs Office, "is the Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, South Korea. The accommodations and grounds are excellent. You are situated within minutes of some of the best places to shop for leather goods, jewelry, copper and brass fixtures. If you like to shop for one-of-a-kind deals this is your vacation spot of a lifetime." Visit Dragon Hill Lodge at <https://www.dragonhilllodge.com/main.html>.

In Europe
 Another Armed Forces Recreation Center is located in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and is nestled in the valley at the foot of the Zugspitz,

Germany's highest peak. Garmisch is famous for hosting the 1936 Winter Olympic Games. Bavarian tradition and old-world charm make this a picturesque vacation destination. Winter activities include skiing, snowboarding and cross-country skiing. When the snow melts, their 9-hole golf course provides a challenge for any golfer. Summer activities include kayaking, white water rafting, mountain biking and hiking. Visit Garmisch at <http://www.afrc europe.com/>. The Armed Forces Recreation Center site logo states that "Morale, Welfare and Recreation is for all of your life."



The beach at Waikiki, adorned by an afternoon rainbow, is framed by one of the Hale Koa towers.

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

...each member of the 2004 LDP Class. District Senior Leaders selected Olga Beddingfield, Craig Carrington, Ron Carter, Bill Colvin, Jim Deal, Cathy Elliott, Mike Looney, Cullum Miller, Cassandra Mora, Bill Peoples, Jeff Ross, Craig Shoe, and Joe McMahan (alternate).

Baby Brigade ...

...Stephanie and Gerald "Jerry" O. Lee, Engineering/Construction-Design, announced the birth of Adam Ridley, born Oct. 10. He weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 20 and 1/2 inches. Adam' grandparents are R. Gerald Lee (Cordell Hull Resource) and Linda Lee (Cordell Hull Power Plant) and his uncle is Mike Lee, Engineering/Construction.



Thanks to ...

...I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for the kindnesses and consideration that has been extended to my family in the last several months. As some of you know, William Nelson is my husband and suffered a stroke in July. Also in August, I lost my father unexpectedly. The past few months have been very hard to get through, and words cannot express my gratitude for the flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and most of all, the donated leave. This allowed me to be home with William and aid in his continuing care, i.e., doctor's appointments, therapy, the surgery he had to repair his heart, etc. I have always known that I have true friends in the Corps family, but this outpouring has been overwhelming and I am humbly and eternally grateful. *Janice Nelson, J. Percy Priest Resource* ...I want to thank all of my Corps friends for the lovely flowers and cards received after the passing of my father. Your

words of encouragement meant a great deal. *Zan Blackburn, J.Percy Priest, Resource Office.*

Sympathy to ...

...the family of Lynn Midgett, whose father, former Nashville District employee Robert Wilson Midgett passed away on Nov. 7. Mr. Midgett worked at Old Hickory Powerplant during initial construction. Lynn retired in 1999 as Chief, Physical Support Branch, Operations Division.

...the family of John W. Chandler, who passed away Nov. 23 at age 73. A veteran of the U.S. Navy and the Air Force, John retired from the Corps of Engineers while foreman of the Electrical Repair Section of the Repair Party in 1986.

...the family of James R. (Bob) Jackson, retired resource manager of Cheatham Lake, whose wife Jewel L. Jackson, passed away November 30.

Upcoming Events . . . Red Cross Blood Drive

...There will be an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, December 12 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Cafeteria B. You must have an appointment in order to donate. You can make an appoint-

ment by email to Melissa.Cothon@irs.gov. Give your name and time that you wish to give. Predators T-shirts will be given to all who donate and you will be eligible to put your name in for free Predators tickets.

Retirees Luncheon

...To all retirees, their spouses and families.. You are invited to the next Retirees Luncheon at the Piccadilly in Madison, Tn., in the old shopping area on the left of Gallatin Road just North of Briley Parkway and Gallatin Road interchange. Mar. 17 is the date. Call Hobart Parish at 615-391-4488 or 615-855-1952. 📧



Photo by Dave Treadway

Chris Stempson cleans a generator surface air cooler at Old Hickory Power Plant. The coolers are disassembled and tubes are rodded out. Stempson is a member of Hydropower Training Class XIV, which completed training assignments and oral evaluations for Phase 1A during the week of Oct. 6, and progressed to the next phase of training that began Oct. 20.

Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

Earlier this month, the annual Nashville District Christmas play, *A Flintstone's Christmas*, was performed in front of a luncheon full house of District family that included current and former/retired employees as well as many of their family members. Thanks to the cast and crew, directed by Stephanie Coleman, for the spirit and fellowship you instilled as we approach the holiday season. Clearly, there are many hidden talents within our ranks.

Communication

Please continue to keep our deployed workforce, as well as uniformed family members, in our thoughts and prayers. As you know, many of the deployed Nashville District team have volunteered to extend their tours of duty in Iraq beyond the Christmas season. If anyone is wondering where to find a combination idealist and realist ... I'd say they're in Baghdad, grappling every day with large-scale engineering/technical challenges combined with the realities of a harsh work environment. I appreciate their selfless service and willingness to go beyond themselves to help others improve their quality of life.

Make no mistake, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is spanning the divide between order and chaos ... and we're doing a terrific job. I'm convinced our volunteers would not extend their tours if they didn't feel the mission was important or that significant progress was not being made.

Life gets better every day for the Iraqi people. Our President has asked for patience as America pursues the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) ... and for the seeds of democracy to take root in Iraq. An essential element of this goal is the provision of a stable infrastructure capable of providing reliable public works services throughout the country. There is no doubt that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the main effort in this endeavor. I'm very proud to be a member of the Engineer Regiment.

Shortly after the new year dawns, Nashville District will deploy our

Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) in support of the Southern District of the newly-created Iraq Division. The southern district will be based in the town of Basra. The new USACE division, based in Baghdad, is a tremendous undertaking that will be commanded by Major General Ron Johnson. Major Pegg will lead Nashville District's FEST team while other District employees will work directly for the Southern District headquarters. My thanks to everyone who helped put together this superb team representing the Nashville District. Every District within LRD has a significant role in the Southern District's establishment and ultimate success in the region. There will certainly be future opportunities for employees to make a contribution to the overseas effort.

Before I close I want to offer a few reminders to keep your holiday season free from accidents and injuries:

- * Purchase green, moist Christmas trees. Check the needles. Try to find a tree with needles that will bend instead of break.



- * After purchasing a live tree, be sure to cut the bottom of the tree to expose new wood that will be able to soak up water. Always keep live trees watered.

- * Keep trees away from ignition sources such as fireplaces and candles.

- * Ensure that artificial trees are fire resistant and UL (Underwriters Laboratory) or FM (Factory Mutual) listed. This will ensure the tree has been manufactured and tested to meet specific safety standards.

- * Make sure the base is steady so the tree won't easily tip over.

My wish is for everyone to have a happy holiday season and safe travels. 📧

November Employee of the Month

Mandy Sage, an accountant in the Finance and Accounting Branch of Resource Management, was selected as the Nashville District Employee of the Month for November.

Sage spent many hours processing the recent Nashville Business Plan team



Mandy Sage

awards for all District employees (including a number of retirees). She single-handedly entered the award information into CEFMS for more than

700 employees, which involved matching individual labor codes to the appropriate employee. Her efficiency and dedication resulted in employees receiving the team awards within a few weeks of the announcement of the successful achievement of established goals.

In addition to this noteworthy achievement, she worked with the senior hydropower accountant to prepare the annual hydropower financial statements, an extremely complex and demanding effort. Both of these tasks were accomplished while Sage maintained her normal workload.

District Senior Leaders select the Employee of the Month from the many excellent employees identified by the District's chain of command. Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 📧



Three EAGLE class members install roofing shingles on a utility building Oct. 17 while working on the Habitat for Humanity project.

EAGLEs Build Home for Needy Family

by Park Ranger Troy Hawks

The sounds of saws and hammers broke the morning silence Oct. 17 as the 2003 Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence (EAGLE) class began their community-based volunteer project in Lebanon, Tenn.

The class assignment was to assist Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) in the construction of a house for a needy family. HFHI project leaders Cynthia Todd and Mel Hansen first briefed the class on safety instructions and then handed out work assignments. The pair have both been with HFHI for several years and have many home-building accomplishments to their credit.

People

Assignments varied greatly. Some class members were assigned site cleanup and material reclamation, while others made decking improvements, laid mortar and blocks, set steps in place, applied aluminum flashing to cornice areas, and re-roofed a storage building.

Some EAGLEs were unfamiliar with their assigned tasks, while others had at least some building experience. Rachael Owens unique hammering technique worked great as she built handrails for steps.

As the day drew to a close, each member of the EAGLE Class 2003 took something positive from the house-building experience.

“Just getting to work with your hands and produce something is worth the

time,” said Chip Hall, “add to it helping those in need, pushes it over the top.”

“I am thankful,” said Shirley Puckett, “that I had the opportunity to be a part of helping a needy person have a new home. It was a very rewarding experience, and my first time to work with vinyl siding.”

Dee Rivera found the experience very rewarding. “After being a part of the Habitat for Humanity work I felt my day was complete,” explained Rivera. “At the end of the day we felt like we had accomplished a full days work! The best part for me was meeting the lady that was going to live in the house and seeing the joy in her face when she saw all of the EAGLEs working on her home.”

Class members also each gained more insight into each other’s personalities and strengths, one of the goals of EAGLE as they worked together on a community project. Each accomplished assigned tasks, some with more difficulty and sore muscles than others and became a more close-knit group of individuals.

Charlynn Reichardt summed up the day’s activities best. “What a nice feeling it was to have worked as a group all day and to see the homeowner’s face light up with happiness!”

For more information about Habitat for Humanity International, visit them on the web at www.habitat.org.

Information about the Nashville District EAGLE program can be found at http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/about_us/EAGLE.html. 🏠

EAGLEs Graduate at Belmont Univ.

by Brigitte Rugare

Members of the EAGLE Class of 2003 graduated from the seven-month leadership development program Nov. 21 at Belmont University and will now use the knowledge they gained from the class at their respective positions in the District. Deputy Commander Maj. Robert Pegg reminded graduates that they were participating in a unique program.

“The type of training you received here at Belmont,” said Pegg, “other people pay for with their money. Use the skills you have learned here to broaden your horizons and even aspire to go into a different line of work.”

Graduates were asked to talk about things by which they want to be known.

Rachel Owens said she plans to continue her education, and study other cultures. Robert Davis believes family bonding should be his first priority. Mark Carnes believes in our country as a place where different people can come together. Jon Summers wants to be remembered for a strong work ethic. Cheryl Wallace wants to be known as a preacher who spreads the gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew Tays sees himself as one who stands for strong Christian principals. Chip Hall believes in both earning respect and in respecting the rights of others.

Delia Rivera wants to hand down to her children her Spanish heritage, beliefs and family traditions. Troy Hawks wants to be remembered for his hard work, as well as his honesty. Travis Wiley wants to be perceived by his children as a good father who taught his children the difference between right and wrong. Charlynn Reichardt wants to be known as one who was dependable while treating others with respect. James Mills wants to be remembered for service to his country in both the Army and in the National Guard. Myrna King wants to be remembered for her commitment to helping others. Arthur Wright believes in leading by example. Shirley Puckett believes in the values that come from the heart, courage and gratitude. Morris Hatmaker wants to learn something new every day. 🏠

TFRIE Members Plan Return from Iraq

by Ed Evans, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

During September 2003, a small number of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers volunteers began their movement to Baghdad, Iraq, to be part of Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TFRIE). Over the next month, that Task Force eventually grew to 84 members. Each man and woman had one thought in mind, to apply their particular talent and skill to the mission of positioning Iraq to reach its Summer 2004 goal of 6000 megawatts of electricity.

Included in that team was Jose Garcia of Nashville District, volunteering his time in Iraq on a crash project, sometimes under fire, and always under a ticking clock. The project was to end on Dec. 20th, although some members will return home earlier. Team member Ed Evans will return Jan. 24, 2004, and Charlie Ogle on May 1, 2004, as they work with the newly established Iraqi Division.

Each member went through a weeklong crash course in field procedures, using satellite telephones, video equipment, first aid techniques, medical examinations, and a battery of vaccinations. They also received lectures on in-country procedures, Iraqi culture and customs, received an Arabic language CD and an issue of U.S. Army uniforms. For a few, it was their first time in the uniform of their country’s armed forces. From there it was an intercontinental flight to Spain and finally Baghdad, Iraq, and on to the vital mission before them.



Chuck Ogle sits on one of Saddam Hussein’s thrones.

Task Force RIE was built with volunteers of specific skills such as mechanical, civil and electrical engineers; cost estimators, contractors, schedulers, and a wide range of support skills. They were operating as a “team within a team” asset of the Commander, Joint Task Force-7 (CJTF-

7), responding to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) request for immediate Corps expertise in restoring electricity and launching capabilities to assist the Iraqis in rebuilding their country.

They were a short-term, high-impact task force charged with making it possible for Iraqis to restore specific areas of high-tension lines and power stations critical to long-term restoration of the nationwide electrical grid. What they were up against was 623 damaged or destroyed transmission towers and roughly 400 miles of 400KV and 132KV transmission lines lying on the ground that were needed to transmit power from deteriorating generation stations and substations to sabotaged distribution nodes.

It was into this mix the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent its very best with a “reach back” capability that brought to bear the latest wisdom and technology to a country that had been in technological limbo for the past 17 years. For every wheezing thermal transfer plant with eight generators sitting in various stages of disrepair, for every critical substation limping along so badly it was taking electricity from the grid, rather than adding it, for every generating station with a polyglot of French, Russian and American generators no longer working, the team members inspected, assessed, photographed, and brought in contractors with solutions.

But they had to hurry. This task force was under a 90-day deadline that closed on Dec. 20th to get people home for Christmas. With a handle on the size and extent of the problem before them, their next task was to infuse the contractors with the same sense of emergency they were working under. In the same way the Corps performs emergency recovery efforts within the U.S. after a hurricane or a flood, TFRIE was working as a responsive team within a team employing specific skills to deal with highly unusual problems on a national scale.

Soon, from all over the world, generators, parts, transmission towers,



Members of the southern Team, from left, Rett Hubbard, Rebecca Coble, Bill Teuscher, and Jeff Means, discuss for Ed Evans’ video camera their most recent activities involving Baghdad area electric substations.

electric lines began to flow to Iraq as if drawn by a magnet. They came by ship and by plane, some civilian, some military transports. Convoys of trucks began to unload the vital materials needed, and crews went to work putting an electrical grid together that would be a foundation toward providing reliable service to all of the people of Iraq by the summer of 2004.

In the end, some projects ran past the Dec. 20th deadline and had to be handed off to the Corps of Engineers’ Iraqi Division being formed in country. But Task Force RIE’s mission had been met. Proudly they said goodbye to those they served so well in the new, free country of Iraq, and flew back to say hello to the families and friends they left behind. The emergency over, they went back to work in their Districts all

across the United States as the rebuilding in Iraq continues. They returned as important, integral members of a team that came together when their country called, and met the challenge. A job well done. 🏠



Ted Ryon stands near one of the satellite dishes he installed.

Closplint Project Begins In Eastern Kentucky

by Steve Foshee

A public meeting November 18 allowed residents to voice concerns about a District project for a Water Treatment Plant and Sewer Project in Closplint, Kentucky.

Attendees also heard from representatives of organizations associated with the project.

The community was awarded a federal grant for sewage line extensions and the construction of a new treatment plant under the Section 531 Program, provided for by the Water Resources and Development Act of 1996.

The crowd at the public meeting was enthusiastic about the sewer system upgrade project as long as considerations were made for the possible "overwhelming odor."

Dan McKenzie, a representative with the Rural Community Assistance Program, told Closplint residents their community's sewage system, which was first constructed in the 1920s or 30s, wasn't built to withstand the weight, vibrations and heavy pressure of coal haulage that has taken place in the area for decades.

"We all know we've got cracks in the system, here," McKenzie said. "And this

causes wastewater to not only spill into the creek, but to seep into your yards where it rises to the top of the grass. This has the potential to make you sick."

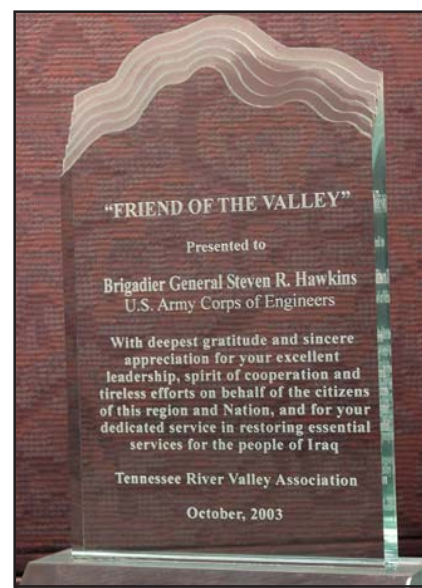
Nashville District Project Manager Jay Sadler addressed those present.

"We considered 31 applications," said Sadler, "from communities bidding for about \$3 million and inclusion in Congressman Hal Rogers 531 Program. Closplint was fortunate to be one of those selected for the Program for 2003. All those applications totaled more than \$20 million so competition for available funds was stiff. Closplint is fortunate to be in the position to have a system installed this year."

Joe Burns, project manager from the Kentucky Rural Water Association, told residents their projected sewer rates would be \$21 a month. "You should feel fortunate with this flat rate," Burns said. "It's this low because we were able to land the grant. If this project had to be financed, you would be looking at \$70 or more a month."

"This is the right thing to do," added Richard Thomas, executive director of PRIDE(Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment). "You owe this to yourselves, your children and your grandchildren." 🇺🇸

Dave Day, deputy District Engineer for Project Management, accepted a plaque Oct. 26 on behalf of LRD Commander Brigadier General (P) Steven R. Hawkins along with some kind words from Jan Jones, executive director of Tennessee River Valley Association. The plaque reads "With deepest gratitude and sincere appreciation for your excellent leadership, spirit of cooperation and tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of this region and Nation, and for your dedicated service in restoring essential services for the people of Iraq." Hawkins sent a video acceptance of the award to the group from the banks of the Tigris River. TRVA considered that a reminder of the "heavy lifting" being accomplished by LRD and the Corps of Engineers in Iraq. 🇺🇸



Corps Will Waive Day Use and Camping Fees for Active Duty Service Personnel on R&R from Iraq

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced last month that it will waive day use and camping fees for active duty service personnel on temporary leave from duty in Iraq for the duration of U.S. operations there.

"Corps lakes provide excellent opportunities to find renewal, solace and inspiration," said Maj. Gen. Carl A. Strock, Director of Civil Works. "Our intent is to recognize the selfless service of these men and women to our nation and the world."

Service personnel on R&R will be required to show identification and leave orders to obtain the waiver. The waiver will also apply to all family members accompanying the serviceman or woman.

To take advantage of the waiver, military members should call the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) call center to make a reservation or ask for the waiver at the campground as a walk-up on a space-available basis. Camping fees will not be waived for on-line reservations made through ReserveUSA.com. 🇺🇸

General Flowers' Holiday Message

The holidays are a time for remembering others, and for giving to others. This year, I want us to remember that there are many in our Corps of Engineers family who are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are giving an expensive gift...willingly sacrificing their holiday with their families so that others who lived for decades under tyrannical rule might have a future of safety and freedom.

I'm enormously proud of them. They volunteered for an important cause, and they are doing excellent work under difficult circumstances.

Of course, Afghanistan and Iraq are not the only places where our Corps team members will spend the holidays. Our people are at work in 91 countries worldwide, and many of them will also be separated from their loved ones during the holidays.

Please take a few moments during these holidays to remember those in the Corps family who are serving overseas. If you are acquainted with some of them, please mail them a card or send them an e-mail letting them know that you're thinking about them, and that their service is appreciated.

I have also served overseas during the holidays under difficult conditions, and you can trust me on this...in the situations that our people face in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere, simple gifts like those will be treasured.

For all of us, this has been a busy year. As in years past, the Corps of Engineers has taken part in events that made headlines, and made a difference.

When the space shuttle *Columbia* burned up during re-entry, Corps people took part in the search in Texas and other states to find debris that helped piece together what happened to the spacecraft.

During Super-typhoon Pongsona on Guam, Hurricane Isabel on the East Coast, and the wildfires in California, Corps emergency teams were on the scene to fight the disaster, and to clean up afterwards.

Whether it is helping clear landmines in Afghanistan, or advising the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources in re-routing water to preserve the Marsh Arabs' way of life, or providing new facilities for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, this year Corps people have continued making a difference in America, and in the world.

The holidays are also a time to look to the future, and the Corps of Engineers' future is bright. The plans for USACE

2012 have been released and are now being implemented. People throughout the Corps are learning the basics of the Project Management Business Process, cornerstone of the Corps' new way of doing business. And Corps people are learning the concepts of competitive sourcing, which will be our part in the President's Management Agenda.

These actions and others will give the Corps of Engineers the best possible gift...the ability to improve service to the American people.

As always, I encourage all of you to take time off during this holiday season. Relax and have fun, and especially make time to enjoy your families.

And my family and I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Essayons!

ROBERT B. FLOWERS
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding 🇺🇸



Photo by Dave Treadway

Chief of Engineers Lieutenant General Robert B. Flowers presents coins to Rachael Owens, Wanda Coleman, Sue Crofutt and Victoria Hooper at the Townhall meeting in Nashville Nov. 20.

Chief of Engineers Explains USACE 2012

Chief of Engineers LTG Bob Flowers explained how USACE 2012 will affect the Corps during a Townhall meeting Nov. 20 in Nashville.

He said USACE 2012 is an initiative to reorganize the Corps to make it more responsive to customers and better position to Corps of Engineers to meet customer expectations.

Although the name 2012 may imply implementation in that date year, LTG Flowers said, "Don't let the name fool you; USACE 2012 is being implemented now."

It will primarily affect the Headquarters and the Divisions.

The main changes at the District level will be a change of emphasis away from

work being "District work" to work being regional work and the formation of Project Development Teams which cross District boundaries.

"This is a concept not new to Nashville," said Flowers, "since the District has been doing a lot of regional work for several years."

Another effect of USACE 2012 may be that a small number of people may have their rating chain changed. Their rating chain may include someone from Division.

"As a team of teams," said Flowers, "we'll tear down stovepipes and become interdependent – working together to provide better service to our customers, the American people." 🇺🇸

District Collects Toys for Kentucky Children

by Dave Treadway

Nashville District employees played Santa again this year with a van load of toys collected for children in eastern Kentucky.

J.C. McDaniel, area engineer for both eastern and western Kentucky, transported toys to the children from the District Office to Bell County Dec. 12.

Officials with the Bell Whitley Community Action Agency will then distribute the toys during Christmas parties staged for deserving children at Middlesboro Elementary School and Pineville Elementary School before students go home for holiday break.

Beginning as early as the first of the year, members of the Corps of Engineers began collecting toys and sending them to eastern Kentucky to be handed out at Christmas. According to Area Engineer J.C. McDaniels, the toy collection drive is designed to make sure the children have gifts to open at Christmas time. This marks the 16th year the Corps has done so.

"This is an initiative of the employees of the Nashville District of the Corps of Engineers to help here in southeastern Kentucky," said McDaniels.

The Corps, in conjunction with Bell Whitley Community Action Agency, works with Youth Service Centers from the three area schools to help provide Christmas for children in the county.

Rudelle Greene, with Bell Whitley Community Action Agency, helped coordinate the collection of toys delivered by Barney Davis last year.

"We wrapped all 250 toys," said Green, "and put a child's name on each toy which was then presented by Santa during parties for students at both Middlesboro Elementary School and Pineville Elementary School. It was a terrific experience for all of us. To see the expressions on the faces of the children was priceless. We ensured that each deserving child received a gift. I want to thank the Corps of Engineers for helping us accomplish that."



Photo courtesy of Bell-Whitley Community Action Agency
A nine-year-old named Jess from Middlesboro Elementary School has his picture taken with Santa at a gift-giving party in 2002.

"It's great to participate in this type of project," said Janet Jackson, "It reminds us of how often we take things for granted."

Last year, Nashville District employees took a newly immigrated family into their hearts, and made sure they enjoyed their first Christmas in

America. The father, from Bosnia, had brain surgery and could not work, so even unemployment funding was not available. His wife, from Yugoslavia, visited him in the hospital, and while there was diagnosed with an abscessed tooth and a tumor in her mouth. At the same time, their pre-school daughter collapsed and was diagnosed with a severe blood disease. Christmas did not look good for them until Corps employees stepped in and donated clothes and toys for the little girl, and clothes and gift certificates for food for the parents. Employees then learned they were part of a larger immigrant family, including a set of parents too elderly to work, a brother and sister-in-law looking for work (he found a job only days before Christmas), and a single mother with a young child. Corps employees adjusted their donations to ensure the larger family would at least enjoy their first Christmas holidays in their new home.



Photo by Dave Treadway

District employees place gifts in the box of toys destined for the children in eastern Kentucky this year. They will be delivered Dec. 12.

Vacation Deals Are Closer Than You Think

by Steven Foshee

District Employees looking for a vacation bargain can choose from many options, some exotic and some right in their own backyard.

The Nashville District has two cabins employees can rent on a first-come first-serve basis. One is located just above the Center Hill Lake Resource Managers Office. This area offers great opportunities for outdoor activities like fishing, hunting and boating. The Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency offers special permits for trout fishing and hunting of certain game such as deer and waterfowl. An excellent side trip while in this area is the Appalachian Crafts Center, stocked with numerous paintings and other items for sale and usually a story behind each one.

The second cabin is located at Dale Hollow Lake near the entrance to Dale Hollow Campground. Two points of interest for visitors are the Alvin C. York home-place (World War I hero), in Pall Mall, Tenn., and the birthplace and memorial of Cordell Hull (father of the United Nations), located near Byrdstown, Tenn. The Natural Resources Management Branch, at (615)736-5115, can assist Department of Defense employees and contract employees with reservations. Both offer great local opportunities to enjoy the fall colors in Tennessee or just to get away from it all at other seasons.

Other opportunities exist through the Armed Forces Recreation Centers program (www.armymwr.com) such as camping, snow skiing, boating, condos and resort accommodations. Room rates



Photo by Mike Farmer

Fall colors highlight the waters of Martins Fork Lake.

are usually determined by military and civilian grade and apply to both active and retired military personnel and Department of Defense civilians. Through this site you can also get last minute trips and accommodations at reduced rates.

More Exotic Getaways

Shades of Green, in Orlando, Florida is another great place to visit. The resort has been closed for more than a year for remodeling but is scheduled to reopen in March 2004. It features 586 oversized rooms and is comfortable and so self-contained, it's easy to enjoy an entire vacation without ever leaving the property. Extra spacious hotel rooms accommodate up to five people.

Outside your door are two Walt Disney World Resort PGA championship golf courses and a 9-hole executive course, two lighted tennis courts, two heated swimming pools and a hot tub. The resort offers discount tickets to local theme parks and attractions and is minutes away from the gates of Disney World. Visit Shades of Green at <http://www.armymwr.com/shades/index.html>.



The Hale Koa Hotel, "House of the Warrior", sits right on the beach at Waikiki and may be more affordable than you think.

families." That includes DoD civilian employees.

Ft. DeRussy has come a long way from 1906, when it was sold as a 72-acre parcel of "undesirable" land. Today, Ft. DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center is the home of the Hale Koa, or 'House of the Warrior', an 817-room world-class-resort hotel and favorite R & R destination for military personnel.

In 1991, major expansion began at the Hale Koa, and included a new swimming pool complex, a beverage bar and aluau garden. By 1995, the new Maile Tower was in place beside the existing Ilima Tower and the room count had doubled. Also opened at the same time was a 1,287-stall parking garage, a fitness center, an adults-only pool, and a new restaurant named Bibas.

Information Technology Specialist Vicki Isham and her husband Kenny recently stayed at the Hale Koa and loved the experience.

"The Hale Koa had excellent accommodations and guest services," said Isham. "During my stay we hiked up Diamond (See Vacations, page 11)