



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

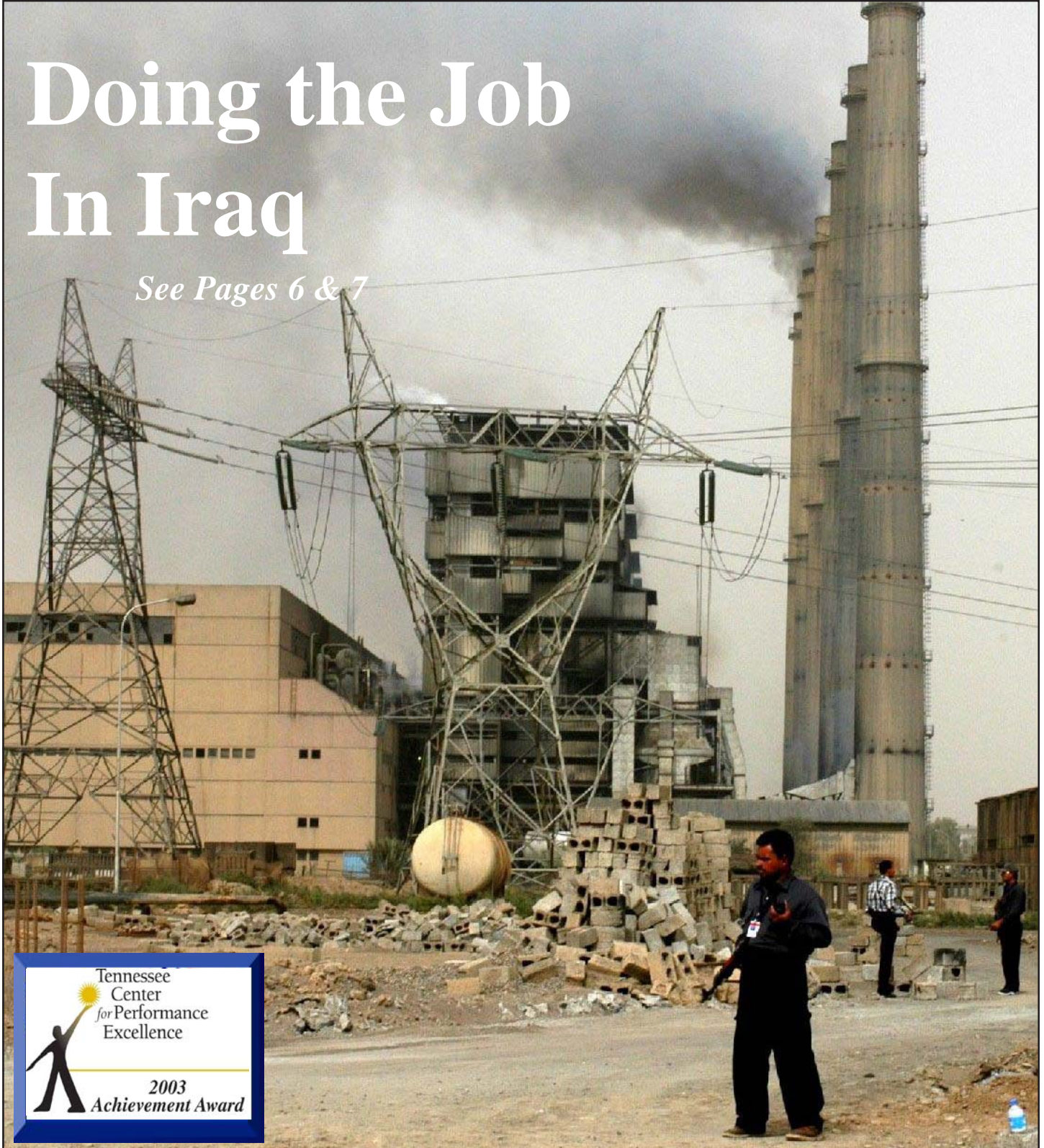
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Respected-Responsible-Reliable

June 2004

Doing the Job In Iraq

See Pages 6 & 7



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Comptroller Society Wins National Awards

For the second year, Nashville Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) has earned several National awards. The awards include: The Distinguished Five-Star Award, Chapter Competition, Chapter Newsletter, and the Community Service Award.

To qualify for the awards, the chapter had to meet strict criteria and follow up with proper documentation. The plaques and award checks were presented at the National Professional Development Institute Conference June

1-4 in Cleveland, Oh. ASMC is open to any persons, military or civilian, involved in the overall field of military comptrollership, which includes all DOD and Coast Guard Financial Management personnel.

For further information go to the national website at: www.asmcconline.org.

To see what is happening in your local chapter check out www.samenashvillepost.org/asmc/asmc/.



photo by Ed Evans

On the Cover

Iraqi security men guard the country's largest thermal transfer plant, located near the Tigris River in Baiji, early this year. With only three of the six neglected units working, the Corps installed 12 large petroleum generators to put more megawatts on the power grid country-wide. For more on the Corps' role in support of the mission in Iraq, turn to pages 6 and 7.

District Digest

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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

Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

Folks, ...by now, most of you are aware of the official start date, June 2, for an A-76 study of the Corps' Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) functions. Although we've known about this impending event for some time now, the official start date makes it no less emotional to our workforce.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Workforce Announcement meeting on June 1, I'll cover a few highlights here. A-76 studies are prompted by the President's Management Agenda. The requirement to conduct studies is applicable to all federal agencies. USACE has chosen to compete the IM/IT functions Corps-wide. Although IM/IT will be the first functional area studied, it will not be the last. Upwards of 7,500 positions within USACE will be competed over the next several years. The CIGA and FAIR Act help guide which functions are designated as "commercial activities" eligible for study.

Communication

There is no decision or announcement of what functions will follow the IM/IT study. This study will be conducted in several phases that take about two years. On June 2, a team was formed that will develop a comprehensive Position Work Statement (PWS) that will take a year to complete. During this period, opportunities for District review and comment will be available. The PWS team has both USACE level and division/district level participants, and will develop the official statement of work for the IM/IT function throughout the Corps. That statement of work will be included in a solicitation for bids and a request for proposals will be issued in May next year.

For four months in the fall of 2005, bids received on the solicitation from both private contractors, as well as the Corps, will be analyzed and a selection will be made. Once a decision is made (government vs contract), there is a year's transition period to put the new IM/IT structure in place. This final step is scheduled to be completed in February 2007. I remain confident that the USACE IM/IT workforce,

and especially the Nashville component, will compete favorably against the private sector. We have a tremendous IM/IT staff that offers excellent service. I think anybody would be hard pressed to match our talents at a cheaper price.

June also signals the initial data entry for P2. This is a critical three-week test period followed by a 90-day implementation period. Lessons learned from other districts show that mistakes made during the data upload period can wreak havoc later in the deployment cycle. I ask everyone to give the data entry period your focused attention. Surely we'll experience some problems during the trial implementation period but they should be minimal. I think we can overcome any potential setbacks with good communication and commitment.

I want to congratulate and thank Nashville's newest recipients of the Distinguished Civilian Service recognition award: Albert Dunn, Lynn Midgett, John Miller, Cliff Reinert, and Tommy Wilkerson. Each of these folks have left a lasting legacy and been a guiding influence to those who follow. Thank you for your selfless service to Nashville District.

Now a word about safety. The boating season is about to get underway. One of the



most important things you can do while recreating on our lakes and rivers is to wear a life jacket (personal flotation device—PFD).

Each summer more than 13,000 boats containing 40,000 boaters were observed at 120 sites in 30 states. Overall PFD use was relatively stable at about 24 percent for a five-year period. Within Nashville District the accident reports we see reflect a 50 percent usage rate. But clearly, some people who drown may have been trying to swim too far while not wearing a PFD. Wearing a PFD saves lives!

Another area of concern while boating is consumption of alcoholic beverages. There are state laws against boating under the influence (BUI) and a person could be taken to jail for that offence. So have a designated boat operator and keep everyone safe. 🍷

May Employees of the Month

The Hydropower Team consisting of Jerry Brown, Kathryn Firsching, and David Mistakovich was selected to receive the Nashville District Employee of the Month Award for May.

The award is typically presented to one employee and the May selection is



Mistakovich, Firsching, and Brown.

the first time a team earned the prestigious award.

The three employees prepared a funding plan and then presented that plan during a meeting of Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA) officials and the agency's power customers in Chattanooga on May 19. The meeting produced a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that the various customers will recommend their respective governing boards accept.

This MOA, when signed, will make five million dollars available to the Nashville District from the sponsors by Oct. 31, 2004, for power plant upgrades at both the Wolf Creek and Center Hill power plants. These upgrades will allow the Nashville District to continue to provide reliable power to SEPA. 🍷

Chief's Engineer Day Message

On June 16, we pause to celebrate the history and accomplishments of the Engineer Regiment and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On that day in 1775, the Continental Congress established the position of the Chief Engineer of the Continental Army, just two days after the Congress established the Army itself.

In his first mission, Col. Richard Gridley, the first Chief Engineer, directed construction of fortifications for the Battle of Bunker Hill from which American artillery forced the British to evacuate Boston.

That heritage of service to the nation continues today. I'm enormously proud of the entire Regiment – active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and civilians. The Regiment's soldiers and civilians are serving around the world, often in dangerous conditions and doing a tremendous amount of work on behalf of the nation and the Armed Forces. What we are accomplishing as we help build democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan is remarkable.

In Afghanistan, we established a district office to support the important initiatives underway. Army Engineers are building garrisons for the Afghan National Army, overhauling the national hospital, and building police facilities at 50 locations in Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. We are assisting the U.S. Agency for International Development in developing roads, schools, clinics, power generation and transmission, and water resources.

Engineers are building or improving facilities at Kandahar Air Base, Bagram Air Base, and Karshi-Khanabad Air Base. This work includes a new joint operations center, temporary barracks for 6,000 troops, repairing runways, and building a new modular hospital.

In Iraq, the Corps of Engineers stood up the Gulf Region Division to consolidate the \$12.6 billion in construction work we are doing to support the Coalition Provisional Authority and Iraqi ministries. About 600 of the Corps' civilian and military personnel are in GRD right now, and we are always looking for more volunteers to take part in this historic mission.

Thanks to them, the Iraqi people enjoy a better quality of life. Most Iraqi citizens now have 16-18 hours of electricity per day,

and our goal is for the national power grid to produce at least 6,000 megawatts of power. The electrical distribution system is much more stable, so the Iraqis now endure few blackouts.

After the war began, our first mission was to extinguish fires on the oilfields and help to rebuild Iraq's oil production capability. The average crude oil production is up to 2.4 million barrels per day, up from 1.8 mb/d before the war. Iraq now produces 50 percent of its refined fuel requirement in-country, up from zero before the war.

The oil and electricity missions are just two of the many jobs that the Army Engineers are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. Several senior leaders served as advisors in reconstituting Iraqi ministries. We continue to secure and destroy captured ammunition, which is helping create a safer Iraq. In both countries, Army Engineer soldiers and civilians volunteer their time to support orphanages and schools. Their donations of clothes, books, and other materials are giving the Iraqi and Afghan children a good start as their countries are rebuilt.

Since the Global War on Terror began, 1,700 military and civilian employees have deployed. Through it all, Corps employees have accomplished their work in austere and

dangerous conditions. Yet all have accepted the challenge with courage, dedication, and professionalism. Through their work, they are not only providing valuable service, they are serving as ambassadors and showing what good government is all about.

I'm also proud of everyone who continues to accomplish our vitally important work here at home and around the world. Thanks to you, our civil works, military construction, environmental, and research and development efforts are making a lasting difference in the life of our nation.

This marks my last Engineer Day as the Chief of Engineers. It's been a privilege to see everything you have accomplished. Thanks to you, the proud legacy that began 229 years ago continues to be strong. This summer, when I leave the U.S. Army after 35 years of service, I will leave knowing the Army and the nation is in good hands. Engineers have never let the country down and, thanks to all of you, we never will.

Essayons! **Robert B. Flowers**
Lieutenant General, USA, Commanding



photo by Crystal Tingle

This damage occurred May 30 when a severe storm moved across Cheatham County. The occupant, Kenneth Woodard, was camping at Lock A Campground. He was not injured but the motor home was destroyed by the Elm tree. Another camper, owned by the volunteer monitor for the campground, was damaged but not destroyed in the storm.

Guntersville Dewatered Ahead of Schedule

by Steve Foshee

District employees dewatered Guntersville Auxiliary Lock in May ahead of schedule and accident free. The efficiency meant big savings.

“By accomplishing the dewatering ahead of schedule,” explained Jeff Ross, chief of Navigation Branch, “by eight days we saved an estimated \$200,000.”

Ben Amos, lock and dam mechanic leader who has been with the Corps for 19 years, explained what is involved when a lock is dewatered.

“Dewatering is basically an inspection process,” said Amos, “to determine needed repairs. We check for any problems with the upper/lower gates, miter sill and cracks in the lock chamber. This is our opportunity to inspect every detail of the lock since Guntersville is on a five-year dewatering schedule for this kind of work.”

Other locks such as Wilson, Pickwick and Kentucky are on a three-year rotation.

One challenge workers faced at the Auxiliary Lock is the grates on the

decking aren't reinforced. This means workers must set all equipment in position from the Derrick Workboat and reposition equipment via the Workboat to perform all work, a process that requires more time for set-up. In contrast grates on the decking adjacent to the main lock are reinforced and equipment can be moved easily up and down the lock decking.

The dewatering process utilizes District personnel from Florence Repair Station, Nashville Repair Station and Plant Section, as well as maintenance personnel from other locks.

Guntersville Dam's auxiliary lock measures 360 x 60 feet and is primarily used to transit pleasure craft. The main lock measures 600 x 110 feet and is primarily used by commercial barge traffic.

The lock and dam had a vast impact on the local community and the development



photo by Steve Foshee

Kevin Fevers, lock and dam equipment mechanic, builds handrails to ensure the safety of employees during the lock dewatering.

of the Appalachian foothills community.

A local resident named Don, who insisted on only the use of his first name, recalled some of the history of the community and his interpretation of the lock's economic impact. He said Guntersville was named after John Gunter, a Scottish settler adopted by a Cherokee tribe who then established the community towards the end of the Revolutionary War. During the Civil War Guntersville was known as a supplier of saltpeter, a basic ingredient used in the production of gunpowder. The saltpeter, claimed the old-timer, was mined from a nearby cave and was the only trade Guntersville had at the time. As soldiers returned from World War II, the government retrained many of them as farmers and the education proved helpful for the region. Through education and government assistance, the new farmers were able to produce several hundred bushels of corn per acre on land that formerly yielded only 30.

The old gentleman laughed and recalled a barge full of corn that was taking on water in the reservoir. Workers had to pump all the corn into the reservoir to keep the barge from sinking and he said for a while after that the fishing couldn't be beat.


Guntersville Lake hosts numerous fishing tournaments and boat races which bring visitors with money to spend at local businesses. The Guntersville port now serves as a distributor of grain, petroleum, and wood products. 



photo by Dave Treadway

District Engineer Lt. Col. Byron Jorns, SADB Manager Charles Appleton, and Contracting Officer Cassandra Mora are presented a replica June 3 of the Nunn-Perry Award for Mentor-Protégé Teams by Larry Nave (left) SAIC, and Sharon Douthitt, GEO Consultants, LLC. Nashville District sponsored the company for the award, established in 1990 by Public Law 101-510, which assists small disadvantaged business firms, qualified organizations that employ the severely disabled, and women-owned small businesses in transitioning and growing to become successful contributors to the defense of our nation. SAIC and GEO Consultants, LLC, was recognized March 17 as one of DoD's top performing 2003 MP teams, the only Army-sponsored team recognized at the DoD level for outstanding support of the MP Program.

Nashville District's Role in Iraq

by Dave Treadway

Seven District team members returned to Nashville May 6 after a four-month deployment in Iraq.

The employees were part of a Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST), which supported U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operations in southern Iraq. The FEST left Nashville January 4. Family members, friends, and co-workers greeted them at the Nashville airport.

During the deployment, the FEST supported infrastructure rebuilding and managed construction projects that included: police barracks, schools, water treatment facilities and electrical rehabilitation of power plants. The actual construction was done by Iraqi or international companies.

The team included a diverse cross-section of capabilities including: military operations and planning, project management, construction oversight, quality control and quality assurance. Each team member was selected based upon their experience and the requirements of the team.

To date, 16 Nashville District team members have served in Iraq supporting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers missions including restoring oil production, restoring electricity and rebuilding infrastructure. Some of them talked about their accomplishments.

Jim Beaujon, Engineering-Construction Branch, went to Iraq as a member of the FEST but, like Mark Hallar, Kathy Grimes and Jason Faust, was reassigned by the Gulf Region Division to work on other projects.

"My assignment, said Beaujon, "was to TF-RIE South which became GRS-RIE on January 25 when the Division and Districts were officially stood up. I served as Project Engineer and QA Officer on a project at the Nasiriyah Power Station. This project, when completed sometime in June (if still on schedule) will give the Nasiriyah Power Station a new, stand-alone 28-40 megawatt generator. The 28-40 MWs will help the country's power grid but its primary benefit to the plant will be a "Black Start" capability.



photo by Mike Ensich

Two kids in Iraq.

Electric plants need power to get started so if the Plant went down and the grid went down at the same time, the Plant wouldn't be able to return to generation until the grid could provide it enough power. The generator I helped install will allow the Plant to come back up even if the grid is still black. I started with the project just as it was beginning the construction phase and I left after most of the concrete work had been completed so I saw the project go from a nearly barren job site to the start of major equipment assembly."

Safety Specialist Bill Bennett worked on a number of projects as a member of the FEST. He considered one in particular noteworthy because of its importance to the people of Iraq and gave them the ability to move around their country more easily.

"I worked on the passenger train station at Al Samawah," said Bennett, "which was the first major station between Basra and Baghdad. It was very important to the Iraqi people to get this station operational."

Hydraulic Engineer John Hunter served in Iraq and came away with a new appreciation for the region.

"Mesopotamian Iraq is the birthplace of all civilization," said Hunter. "The Garden of Eden was located there. The once fertile region between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers has been brutally ignored and mismanaged. Senior Iraqi leaders realize they cannot exist without better management of the country's water resources. Water, not oil, is Iraq's most necessary resource, the most necessary to maintain.

"We all know oil and water don't mix," continued Hunter. "To date, the Corps has emphasized oil and power production in Iraq. Until the Corps realizes that water is Iraq's most necessary resource, we, as the world leader in managing this resource, may be missing the opportunity to provide Iraqis our best product."

Operations Chief Mike Ensich served for several months on the mission to Restore Iraqi Oil. He noted that \$990 million in reconstruction work is currently underway with \$809 million more ready to begin. Refinery production is near 50 percent of national requirements and more than \$5 billion has been returned



photos by Jim Beaujon

Nasiriyah B Power Plant Site (inset) before site work. Workers cut rebar for foundations of Fire Water Line (FWL) Relocation. Yellow pipe in center of site is existing FWL, otherwise an unkempt lot. Bottom photo is site from roof of building in background on Jan. 31.

Accomplishments in Iraq

by Bernard Tate, editor,
Engineer Update

The Army Engineers worked near-miracles in Vietnam, and they are doing the same in Iraq. For example, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently created the Gulf Region Division to consolidate the \$12.6 billion in construction work performed in support of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) and Iraqi ministries. Among Corps accomplishments...

- * Average crude oil production is now 2.4 million barrels per day, up from 1.8 mb/d before the war.

- * Iraq is now producing 50 percent of its crude oil requirements, up from zero before the war.

- * Iraq's national power grid is now producing 40 percent more electricity than before the war, and the power is better distributed. Most Iraqi citizens now have 16-18 hours of electricity per day, and the system is more stable, with very few blackouts. Corps and CPA goal is to have the power system producing at least 6,000 megawatts per day.

- * Corps has built 600 kilometers of electrical transmission lines.

- * USACE has secured 350,000 tons of captured ammunition. By September, officials expect to have secured about 600,000 tons. This captured ammunition will be secured for future use by the Iraqi Defense Forces, or destroyed if it cannot be used.

- * USACE is investing in education and training programs in several Iraqi ministries at every level from executive to mid-manager to worker. In fact, the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), a ministry with

which the Corps has been heavily involved, returned to Iraqi control on May 9, the first Iraqi ministry to do so.

Those are just a few of the Corps' accomplishments.

Advisors with the Corps of Engineers have also led the effort to restore the Mesopotamian Marshes, and return the Marsh Arabs to their native lands.

It is noteworthy that Corps people serve as planners, supervisors, and managers while much of the actual hands-on work is done by Iraqi contract workers. Not all Iraqis are shooting at Coalition Forces, or shaking their fists for TV cameras. Many are employed, and paid well for their work.

In addition, almost every month *Engineer Update* receives an article about Corps employees supporting orphanages and schools in Iraq. Donations of clothing, books, and other materials from throughout the Corps of Engineers are giving the Iraqi children a good start as their country is rebuilt.

To date, about 1,700 Corps of Engineers personnel have deployed to Iraq. About 600 people are on the ground there now...450 civilians, 150 soldiers. Some of them are on their second or third tour of duty.

Corps people on the ground in Iraq say what Americans see in the news is a very skewed version of what is really happening in Iraq. For every masked thug waving an AK-47 or RPG, there are 20 Iraqis who are working with the Americans, and glad to have them there.

Editors' Note: This article was prepared to set the record straight for those who inquire about what the Corps has been able to accomplish in Iraq.



photo by Mike Ensich

Corps employees repaired the reverse osmosis water plant at the Basra Refinery to provide fresh water for the refining process there.

to the Iraqi treasury from the sale of crude oil exports.

Public Affairs Officer Ed Evans served on the team assigned the mission to Restore Iraqi Electricity (RIE).

"They faced a formidable task," said Evans. "Their goal was to restore the electrical grid, providing electricity throughout Iraq. Even Saddam Hussein had not been able to do that. Hundreds of miles of transmission cable and towers were down, through sabotage, through years of no maintenance, and some because stealing and selling the wire was the only way men could feed their families in this war-torn, bankrupt country. And even if the power

lines were instantly restored, power stations lay in ruin and disrepair through neglect.

"The volunteer civilian men and women of RIE had to filter their way throughout Iraq, going where they were vulnerable to attack by those who did not want America to succeed. They had to go heavily armed, in force, and in secret. My job was to go where they went, photograph and document quietly, under cover, the tremendous job they were doing, almost always under fire, so once the job was completed, the story could be told. I have never in my life worked with more dedicated, caring men and women, and finer leadership." 🇺🇸

Brushing Up on Fishing at Center Hill

by Park Ranger Philip Earhart

As bad news seems to dominate the media, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Staff at Center Hill Lake is working hard to take a destructive situation and turn it into something positive for the environment. Fishermen who visit Center Hill Lake this spring and summer will benefit from the work.

A damaging snowstorm struck areas around the lake in February this year and several trees either fell or were stripped of large branches, broken by the weight of the heavy snow. Many of the trees and limbs blocked access roadways in and near recreation areas or campsites.

Center Hill Lake Resource Manager Tim Dunn decided to use his resources and employees to clean up the damaged trees instead of contracting for their removal, and then, with the help of two state agencies, placed some of the collected brush in the lake to provide ideal habitat for various fish species.

"Drs. Brad Cook and Phil Bettoli," said Dunn, "of the Tennessee Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville advised our rangers on techniques for proper placement of the debris to create what they call 'fish attractors'." The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) even agreed to help fishermen find the new 'honey spots'. The result of the collaborative effort is several fish attractors and two bank-fishing areas available for public use on Center Hill Lake.

Maintenance employees Bill Anderson and Gene Christian joined Park Rangers Mike Adcock, Philip Earhart, and Jamie Summers to take advantage of the assistance from the two agencies to turn the damaging situation into something that will benefit members of the public who enjoy using the lake. They saved money for the Corps at the same time.

"Brush fish attractors," said Summers, "were strategically placed along the shoreline and in



photo by Tim Dunn

Rangers Philip Earhart (left) and Mike Adcock load debris onboard a boat in late May at Hurricane Bridge Recreation Area.

coves around the lake in the vicinity of Hurricane Bridge and Ragland Bottom Recreation Areas, two of the most popular launching spots on the lake."

Dr. Bettoli said the natural brush attractors seem to work much better than many of the new, man-made devices created for the same purpose. Bettoli called them, "A good place for people to meet fish."

Rangers created two public bank fishing areas, one in the cove

immediately downstream of Hurricane Bridge Recreation Area and another between the campground and day-use portions of Ragland Bottom Recreation Area.

Both areas are easily accessible to visitors and require nothing more than an interest in fishing, some bait, and a fishing pole, coupled with a little time. Rangers marked the bank fishing areas and many of the attractors with signs and buoys provided by TWRA.

All the work was completed in advance of Free Fishing Day in Tennessee June 12 as a way for the Corps to make it easier for parents, grandparents, or other adults to help kids enjoy the sport of fishing.

Ranger Mike Adcock thinks the devices may pay dividends for the lake in many ways.

"The improved areas can also be used to host fishing rodeos," said Adcock, "and other fishing events for youngsters throughout the year. These areas should be a great place for a child or an adult to catch his or her first fish." 🐟



photo by Mike Adcock

Rangers prepare to anchor the new 'fish attractors' in position in late March with concrete blocks.

Cheatham Lake Staff High On Grass

by Jerry Strother, *Environmental Protection Specialist*

Hold on—not that kind of grass!! Resource Manager Larry Nash and his staff are excited about planting and maintaining native warm season grasses on public lands around Cheatham Lake.

The Staff partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cheatham County Soil Conservation District, and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to establish 9.3 acres of native grasses and 2.3 acres of green firebreak in a field next to Harpeth River Bridge Campground. Work began last year to establish an additional 30 acres of native grasses next to the Extension Farm operated by Tennessee State University on River Road in Cheatham County.

Native warm season grasses, such as big bluestem, little bluestem, indian grass, and switchgrass are valuable for several reasons. They enhance ecological diversity and wildlife habitat on public lands. They grow well during the summer heat and produce abundant seed. They grow in clumps, and the bare ground between clumps provides excellent cover and nesting space for bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbit, and various small mammals. Whitetail deer graze native grasses, and the assemblage of prey species present attracts predators.

Early Tennessee settlers migrating westward found native grasses growing in treeless areas they called “barrens.” These barrens may have been created by fires either set by Native Americans or started by lightning strikes and maintained by the grazing and trampling of herds of bison, deer, and elk. As settlers built homes and altered the landscape for agriculture, native grasses were replaced by hay and pasture grasses imported from Europe. Controlling

wildfires also allowed some native grasslands to gradually become forests.

Some introduced agricultural grasses provide very little wildlife habitat. In the southeast, bobwhite quail populations in particular have been adversely affected by widespread loss of suitable open habitat. The first step in the establishment of native warm season grasses is the eradication of the introduced invasive grasses present.

After native grasses are established, the prescribed use of fire is an important tool in their management. Fire prevents the takeover by woody plants that would gradually produce forest cover through the process of natural succession. Periodic burning also helps maintain the clumped structure of the native grassland that provides cover, nesting space, and travel lanes for small mammals and birds

that prefer to make their homes on the ground.

“The native grass program is a great way for us to partner with other agencies to improve habitat diversity and aesthetics on open lands we manage,” commented Nash. “The Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil Conservation District also use the Harpeth River Bridge area to demonstrate native grasses to farmers who may want to plant them for hay or pasture.”



photo by Jerry Strother

Ranger Crystal Tingle inspects this year’s new growth of native grasses in the field at Harpeth River Bridge.



photo by Jerry Strother

District Conservationist Carolyn Dillard, Natural Resources Conservation Service, inspects a sea of feather-like Indian grass seed heads in early fall along the Harpeth River.



Photo by Charlie Leath

Jerry Strother monitors prescribed burning of native grasses early this year.

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to ...

...Tom Cayce's son, Jeff, upon his marriage to Casey Wilson Apr 24.

... Robert Franklin, Internal Review Office, has been called to active duty in the Army Reserve and will serve at Ft. Benning, Ga., for one year in support of the Global War On Terrorism. He deployed in late May.

...Tasha Helm, a new student trainee park ranger at Lake Barkley. Tasha is a student at Eastern Kentucky University studying Recreation and Park Administration.

...Terra Thornton, Office Automation Clerk at Wheeler Lock upon her graduation from Athens State University with a bachelors degree in Human Resources and also on her new job with Jacob Engineering Group in Huntsville, Ala.

... the Hydropower Power Plant trainees, Old Hickory Power Plant, upon passing their phase examinations.

... Rosa Nanette Boone, daughter of James H. Boone, Old Hickory Power Plant, who graduated "Magna Cum Laude" from Tennessee State University on May 15, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Africana Studies.

... Sherry Phillips, Executive Office secretary, and Keith Romine, on their marriage June 19.

...Philip Earhart, Center Hill Lake Student Ranger and Holly Neely whom married on June 5.

... Edward L. Boone, maintenance worker at Cheatham Lock, who retired May 31.

Sympathy to ...

...the family of Janis Clark, whose father-in-law passed away May 13.

...the family of Elmo Thomas, maintenance worker at Barkley Power Plant, whose mother Mabel Ray, passed away June 1.

...the family of Yvonne Hamilton, IM Records Manager, whose father, Guy C. Peek, passed away in May.

...the family of Shirley Jones, whose wife Peggy passed away May 25.

...the family of Abdul Farah, journeyman mechanic at Old Hickory Power Plant, on the death of his mother-in-law, Fadumo Ahmed, who passed away May 26.

...the family of Richard Cox, power project specialist at Cheatham Power Plant, whose mother just passed away.

...the family of Cheryl Wallace, administrative assistant in Resource Management, whose father, W. J. Jackson, passed away June 4.

Correction ...

...The May *District Digest* erroneously indicated that Distinguished Citizen

Employee Lynn Midgett was responsible for the Nashville District's restructuring to a single lock operator per shift at District navigation locks. Midgett actually was responsible for restructuring and staffing realignments at the District locks and repair fleet, but not the single operator per shift. That action was accomplished before he came to Operations Division. The staff regrets the error.

Just To Be On The Safe Side

by John Tibbels

One condition that affects the health of one in six people sometime during their lifetime is depression, a subject many people know very little about.

Depression strikes people of all ages, backgrounds and ethnic groups. Medical experts estimate that about 20 million people in the U.S. suffer from depression each year, and up to 25 percent of women and 12 percent of men will experience an episode of major depression sometime in their lives.

The condition is not a sign of weakness or a character flaw. It is a medical condition.

Some of the common signs of depression are persistent sad mood, loss of interest or pleasure in most activities, changes in appetite or weight, changes in sleep pattern, loss of energy (frequently

feeling tired), difficulty with decision-making, feelings of worthlessness/guilt, and recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.

Today it is widely recognized that depression is a medical condition that may be associated with an imbalance in the delicate chemistry of the brain. If this imbalance occurs, it can control the way people feel and the way they see the world. Experts think absence of enough of the chemical called serotonin may play a role in depression.

If federal employees are experiencing the above symptoms or know someone who is, then getting medical help is important.

And if employees don't know a doctor to call, the Employee Assistance Program would be a good start for a referral. Consultations with them are strictly confidential and the first five visits are paid for by the Nashville District Corps of Engineers. Call toll free at 866-443-3277.

Enhance Your Career at Workshops

The 7th Annual Career Enhancement Workshops, sponsored by the Special Emphasis Programs Committee, Nashville District, will be held June 21-24 in Room A-640.

Monday will feature *Benefits and Entitlements* and *Back to the Basics*. An eight-hour course on Tuesday and Wednesday will teach you how to perform in front of a crowd with *Public Speaking for Scaredy Cats*. Thursday, the final day will feature *Diversity is Like a Mirror*, *Identify Theft/Security Awareness* and *Mock Interviews*.

Register for sessions below with Stephanie Coleman at 736-5273.

Benefits and Entitlements - As important as your job/career is to you, so should be the case for those things that come along with it. This session provides details on some very critical employment and life matters.

Back to the Basics - A fluent command of the English language is essential for advancement. This workshop, for the 'grammar challenged', covers many of the common errors applicants make in written and oral communication.

Public Speaking for Scaredy Cats - This lighthearted eight-hour course (over See <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/> for full story.

Being There...During History in the Making

by Mark Willis

It's not often that an opportunity to be a part of history in the making comes our way, but for Wyman Davis of Livingston, Tenn., that extraordinary circumstance happened not just once, but twice.

In April of 1942, Wyman Davis was hired as a construction worker at the new Dale Hollow Dam construction project in Celina, Tenn. Three different shifts were hired so construction could continue around the clock, according to Davis. The new hire was assigned the 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. 'graveyard shift' and soon found himself working with a massive piece of machinery known as a 'vibrator'. Concrete was poured into the vibrator, which then removed any air pockets from the mix. Enormous amounts of concrete were necessary as construction of the dam continued, and tons of loose cement arrived by rail from as far away as Algood, Tenn. Trucks then moved it to the dam construction site in Celina.

"It was hard work," said Davis, "but it also paid well, especially for those days."

Though they may have been too busy to give it much thought at the time, Davis and his co-workers were actively participating in a piece of Tennessee's history, as the massive form of Dale Hollow Dam gradually began to take shape.

In October of that same year, Davis became involved in yet another chapter of American history when he and a co-worker drove to Nashville to enlist in the Navy, during the turbulent years of World War II.

After completing Basic Training in Great Lakes, Illinois, Davis boarded the U.S.S. Destroyer 'RINGGOLD' - a newly commissioned fighting vessel - at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, a few days before Christmas 1942. The crew became acquainted with their new home as it made its maiden voyage down the East Coast to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. By the time they returned to New York, they had become molded into an efficient fighting unit. After this initial training period, Davis was on board the RINGGOLD as she took on her first assignment - escorting 4 troop ships to Casablanca, Morocco.

The RINGGOLD then headed for Pearl Harbor, by way of the Panama

Canal. Once in the South Pacific Theater, the RINGGOLD saw plenty of combat action. The role of a destroyer was shore-line bombardment prior to sending in any U.S. Marines to enemy occupied islands.

Davis and his fellow crewmen aboard the RINGGOLD were a part of the "Island-Hopping Campaign" as they traveled and fought - island by island - toward Japan.

"The worst fighting we experienced was at the island of Tarawa, located in the Gilbert Islands," said Davis.

During this, the bloodiest of all battles in the South Pacific, approximately 3,000 U.S. Navy sailors and Marines were lost, and more than 5,000 Japanese soldiers perished before that island was finally taken.

During the fierce battle, the RINGGOLD was hit, and temporarily sidelined until repairs were complete. Afterwards, while the ship was in New Guinea, Davis was astonished to discover that his brother, Weaver, was temporarily being stationed on the same island base. It was the only time he was to see his brother during the war. They were both given the day off to catch up on news about family and some much needed 'R & R'.

Later in the war, the Tennessee native and his crewmates were destined to be involved in one of the most daring raids of World War II when the RINGGOLD - as a part of Destroyer Squadron 25 - made the deepest penetration of Japanese home waters by surface forces. On July 30-31, 1945, this small destroyer squadron approached within 50 miles of Tokyo undetected by all except one unfortunate craft, and accomplished their mission of destroying several key armament and railway targets in the area.

"We didn't expect to come back from that mission alive," remarked Davis.



photo by Mark Willis, insets courtesy of Wyman Davis
Wyman Davis helped build Dale Hollow Dam and defend the country during a three-year span as a sailor (inset) on the USS RINGGOLD.

Miraculously, the U.S. ships met with very little resistance - except for a single Japanese boat which had discovered their position. The lone Japanese ship proved no match, however, for the U.S. destroyers, and was quickly sent to the bottom of the sea. The U.S. ships slipped away from the very heart of enemy territory, unscathed.

When the war in the South Pacific finally came to a close, Wyman Davis was discharged on Oct. 27, 1945. "During the war," said Davis proudly, "the RINGGOLD traveled enough to circle the earth eight times."

And during all that combat action, she lost no men in combat, despite being subjected to enemy shore-based gunfire at Tarawa, Wake, Kavieng, Guam and Kwajalein. She did, however, successfully rescue 14 pilots who found themselves floating in the Pacific, victims of encounters with enemy planes.

And the next day after Wyman returned home to Tennessee, brother Weaver - whom he'd seen only once during the war - got off the bus and both went fishing that day.

The incredible events and experiences from 1942-1945 are still crystal clear for Wyman Davis. Those were the days when his hands helped shape Dale Hollow Dam, and also to defend our country during a cataclysmic, global war. 🇺🇸

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Boat Capsizes at Nickajack Lock

by Bill Peoples

A powerful rush of water from the Nickajack Dam spillway caught the small boat May 27 and in seconds it was swamped, its occupants thrown into the raging waters below the dam. Unfortunately, it was too late for the unlucky couple aboard as they were torn apart by strong currents.

Most people, especially those who have seen the force of the water as it spills from Nickajack Dam, would say only dummies would fish near this dam. These were dummies, real dummies, or in this case mannequins put together to show the dangers of boating below such a structure.

"It is real life," said Butch Witcher, lock operator, Nickajack Lock and member of the Nashville District's Water Safety Task Force. "If those floodgates are open and a boat is near the gates and loses power, the result would be exactly what happened here. I think in a real situation there would have been loss of life here today. The mannequins and boat were torn up by the water."

The idea to have a water safety demonstration at Nickajack Dam was first voiced by Tom Hood, operations manager, East Tennessee River Area about a year ago. After the death of a

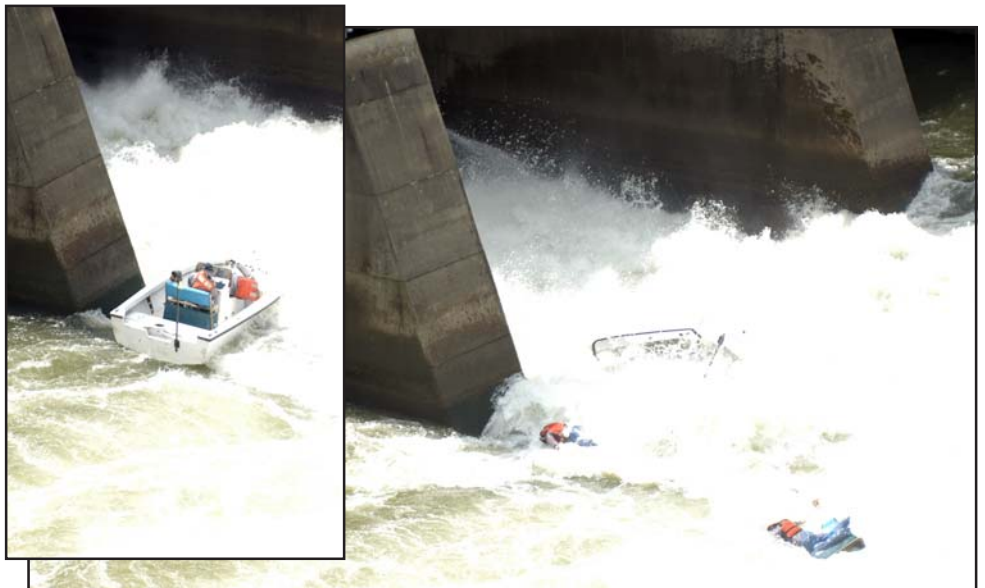
boater near Nickajack Dam in January, the idea gained momentum. A boat was donated by Marine Specialty in Chattanooga, Tenn., and two mannequins

Drowning is often referred to as the silent killer, which can happen in only 60 seconds. A unique demonstration was captured May 27 on video in dramatic footage to simulate the challenges boat occupants would face while

were donated by Goody's Department Store in Kimball, and Hecht's

For full story, see <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>.

fighting turbulence in the water below a dam. Some of this footage was used as an educational tool when it was broadcast nationwide by the Weather Channel over the Memorial Day weekend. **See <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>.**



photos by Bill Peoples

Debris fills the water below Nickajack Dam after the small watercraft (inset) is swamped by rushing water and its 'occupants' thrown overboard May 27.