



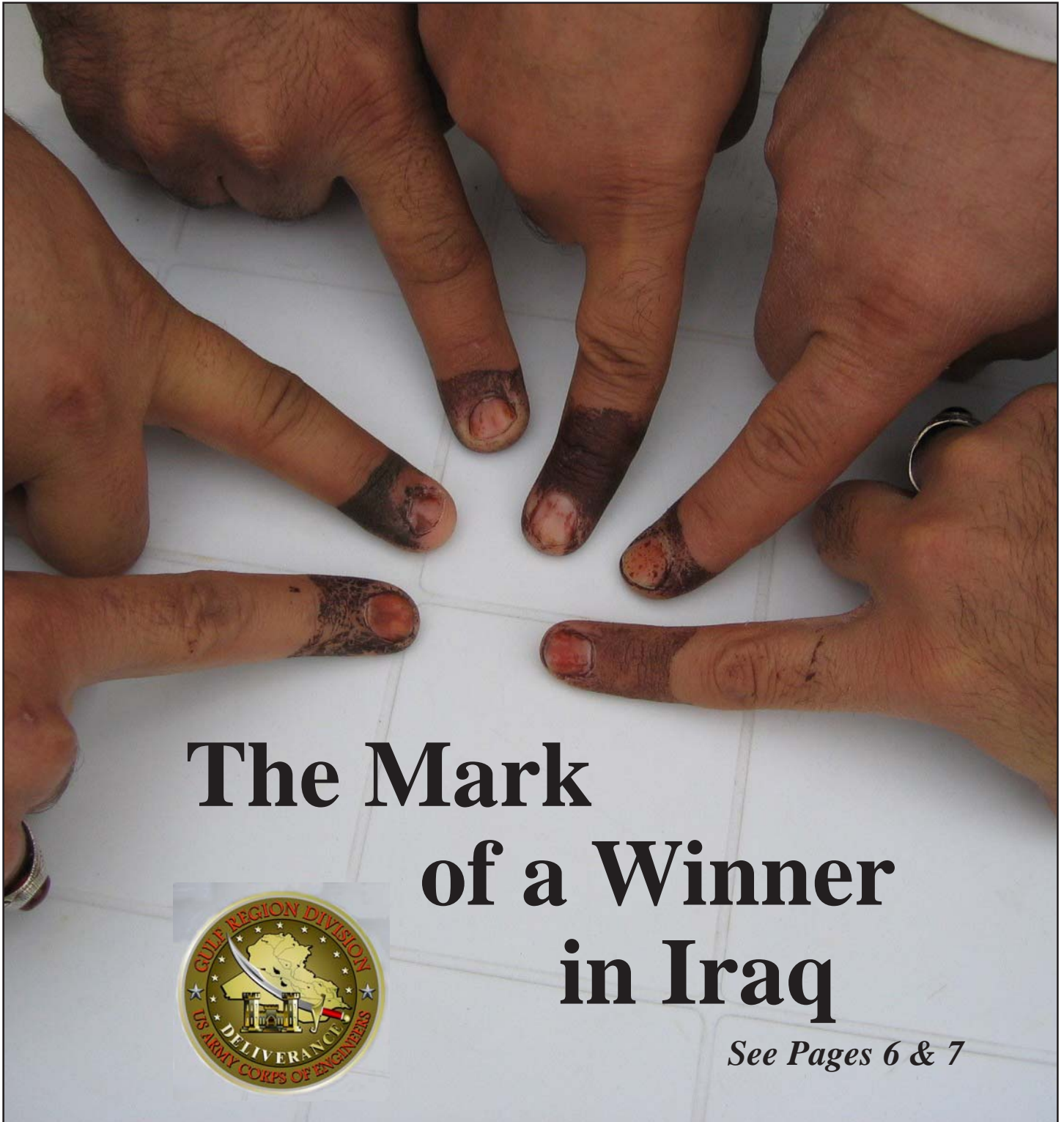
US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

Volume 105, Number 2

*Respected-Responsible-Reliable*

February 2005



## The Mark of a Winner in Iraq



*See Pages 6 & 7*

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## ***SAME Offers Scholarships***

**T**he Nashville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers invites high school seniors and current college students pursuing a degree in the fields of engineering, architecture, mathematics, or computer science to apply for scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year.

Scholarships up to \$2,500 will be awarded for the academic year. Complete eligibility requirements, selection criteria, and an electronic version of the scholarship application form can be found on the Nashville Post website at [www.samenashvillepost.org](http://www.samenashvillepost.org).

Sons/daughters or grandsons/granddaughters of a Corps employee are eligible to apply provided they meet all eligibility criteria.

Application deadline is April 22. Recipients will be notified of their awards about June 10 with funds distributed directly to the student's university on August 1. Questions about the program should be directed to William L. James, Regulatory Branch, telephone 615-369-7508, e-mail at [william.l.james@lrn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:william.l.james@lrn02.usace.army.mil). The Nashville Post created the scholarship program in 1990. 

## **On the Cover**

The attached photo was accompanied



photo by Dave Norwood, (COL. USA Ret.)

by a second one that showed the beaming faces of the Iraqis COL Dave Norwood works with on their first day back at work after the election. The men have arms thrown over the shoulders of their comrades, but each one is proudly holding up an ink-stained finger that shows he voted. For obvious security reasons, it would still not be prudent to show the faces of Iraqi engineers working on the reconstruction. But this photo of just their ink-stained fingers entitled "The Mark of a Winner" says enough. See page 6 for a thank you note one of the men in the photo sent Dave Norwood. (Jenny Norwood was kind enough to share both the photo and the letter.)

## District Digest

### Commander

Lt. Col. Byron G. Jorns

### Public Affairs Officer

Ed Evans

### Editor

Dave Treadway

### Online Editor

Steven Foshee

### Circulation

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

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



# Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit



I want to touch on three themes. ...first, as many of you have already heard, Nashville District is “partnered” with the Louisville District in a Joint Venture (JV) concept to conduct future business. This is in keeping with continued progress towards realizing the vision of USACE 2012 and actualizing the Regional Business Center (RBC). Some of the goals include eliminating redundancies and sharing resources across District boundaries to create a more productive, efficient, and fiscally sound RBC. Remember, we’re no longer behaving as independent districts. We are working as an integral part of a regional team. I am pleased to be associated with LRL as part of the lower Ohio JV team. There are two other JV teams to include the upper Ohio team (LRH/LRP) and the combined Lakes districts (LRE/LRC/LRB).

## Communication

...The JV’s will be the enablers that lead to the model end state where all Districts will function as interdependent partners within the Lakes and Rivers Region. Louisville will be our managing partner. It is important to remember some baseline facts: 1) each district will retain its own identity as a functional district, 2) each district will retain a core capability, 3) each district will retain its budgetary resources, and 4) each district will be responsible for its budget execution and maintaining relationships with stakeholders throughout its traditional geographical boundaries. Having said all that, opportunities to share workload and capability between districts will become more prevalent. The LRN/LRL leadership teams are working through the details our new relationship and how we will work together.

...in regards to our FY’06 budget. I’ve mentioned via email our challenges regarding Construction General (CG) funds for Kentucky Lock and Chick Lock. Although there are no CG dollars in the President’s budget...please remember that there are a few more budget cycles to play out before we know ground truth on this topic. The bottom

line is that CG projects are being prioritized with a new Performance-based budgeting approach utilizing seven evaluation criteria. Chick and KY/L on strong projects. However, other higher-priority projects within USACE are being emphasized to expedite completion at a “full capability” rate of execution. I have confidence that we will be ok in FY’06 with assistance from others. Our O&M programs can expect to maintain continued levels of funding/service.

...soon, we will all become familiar with the new National Security Personnel System (NSPS). This DOD initiative is the first significant change to the federal personnel system in more than 50 years. (see related article on page 11). Although the NSPS is a proposal at this time, it is gaining momentum towards ultimate approval and implementation. More to follow on this topic in the months ahead.

...and now a few words about safety. USACE has issued new standards to

meet the reduction of lost-time injuries. The accident frequency rate goal has been lowered from 1.55 to 1.10 to stay green in the CMR data charts for lost-time injuries. Our last CMR data shows Nashville at an accident frequency rate of 1.63. Those new metrics have now put us in the Red. We need to focus on our safety regulations and follow closely our activity hazard analyses to move the District back into the Green. Lost-time accidents impact productivity and can cause pain and suffering. Adherence to guidelines and regulations will help us avoid the impact of lost-time injuries. 🏠

## January Employees of the Month

**D**oug Delong and Connie Flatt, both of the Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, have been selected as the Nashville District Employees of the Month for January.

The duo led the Nashville P2 effort and helped Nashville become the first district in the Corps to have all projects fully loaded into the P2 software.

This milestone could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of many people on the Nashville team. However, Delong and



Connie Flatt and Doug Delong

Flatt played an integral role in achieving this goal. They were

both leaders in teaching the software to Nashville team members as well as providing support.

They both served as Local Configuration Managers with the vital role of ‘gatekeepers’ of the P2 system. They provided quality control on all the data that was put into the system. Delong continues to serve as chairman of the Great Lakes and Ohio River (LRD) P2 training committee and is a member of the national P2 reports team. Flatt serves on the LRD P2 process committee and is also a member of the national P2 Civil Works Users Manual team. Their hard work and dedication was largely responsible for the success of the Nashville District’s P2 effort and kept LRD in the forefront of Corps Divisions in P2 implementation.

Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 🏠

# Powell River Team Earns Division Award

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

The Powell River Virginia Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project Development Team (PDT) was recognized Jan. 7 as the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division PDT of the Year.

Division Director of Programs Gerald W. Barnes presented the award to District team members Jan. 12. Each member earned a Certificate of Achievement “for outstanding performance in actively and successfully accomplishing several of the Corps’ Environmental Operating Principles, a significant element of the USACE vision, in carrying out this project.”

Senior District Project Manager Jeff Linkinhoker led the team of expert, high quality professionals that represent the wide range of skills necessary to plan and build the project. Their objective was to restore the structures, functions and dynamic processes of the local and regional aquatic ecosystems destroyed by Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), the by-product of historic underground coal mines.

“The sponsor, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VDMME) were instrumental in making this project happen,” said Linkinhoker. “The State staff, in particular Roger Williams and Richard Meade, provided historic context and an unparalleled understanding of the local and regional problems associated with abandoned coal mines. LENOWISCO and VDMME knew the people (southwestern Virginia) and garnered local support for the project.” LENOWISCO also put together a local Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from 13 different agencies, that ensured a local perspective in the project.

Many of the team members are experts in design of AMD abatement projects. George Watzlaf, of the Department of Energy, was invaluable to the team as he provided a perspective based on his vast experience in AMD remediation. Don Cherry, of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Associates and Michael Baker Engineering, from the



Division Director of Programs Gerald W. Barnes (second from left) presented the PDT of the Year Award to District members Jan. 12 for work on the Powell River Virginia Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project.

private consulting community, were the workhorses involved in preparing the feasibility study and the project plans and specifications. The team successfully communicated the merits of the project and coordinated with local sponsors at every stage of project development.

## Invest in People

“You could not ask for more dedicated people than those who are on this team,” offered Linkinhoker. “There were many times when the team would work long hours into the night. It was not unusual to see Steve Gebhardt, Greg Hynes, Hari Chakravorti, Claire Trent and Tim Higgs sitting around the table working on the project at 10 o’clock at night. Of course, without dedicated professionals from Construction Branch, you would have only a great idea, but nothing constructed. Our construction folks worked hard to make the project a reality. These people are truly dedicated individuals who worked together selflessly, with the product – restored aquatic ecosystem – always the top priority.”

“All PDT members,” said Linkinhoker, “knew they were responsible for project success, and all were personally committed to working through project challenges to restore the

ecology of this severely damaged area for the benefit of the local community, as well as future generations. The team is especially proud, not only of its technical accomplishments, but of the overwhelmingly positive response of the local community, who would, we believe, affirmatively state that the Corps of Engineers kept its commitments.”

The team was comprised of Bob Bowles, Richard Meade, Hari Chakravorti, Ted Pace, Jose Garcia, Bill Peoples, Dane Poe, Keith Harrington, Lois Smith, Tim Higgs, Claire Trent, Greg Hynes, Paul Vandebunt, Phyllis Kohl, George Watzlaf, Robert Wiley, Steve Gebhardt, Roger Williams and Jeff Linkinhoker.

“So many people, even beyond the scope of the team, participated in the process as advisors.”

And the result of that teamwork will last for many years.

“This is a project,” the project manager pointed out, “that is helping to clean up the creeks and rivers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and it is not using a watt of electricity. It’s all done by gravity. Associated maintenance cost is very low and it is just sitting up there working away. Water comes in dirty and comes out clean and it will continue to work this way for the next 20-25 years.” 🏗️



# BG Berwick Takes Command of Division

**B**rigadier General Bruce A. Berwick, Commander and Division Engineer of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, took command on January 31.

General Berwick is nominated to be a member of the Mississippi River Commission by the Chief of Engineers for the President of the United States and subject to Senate confirmation. He serves as U.S. Chair of the Lake Superior, Niagara and St. Lawrence River Boards of Control as a part of the International Joint Commission.

Missions include planning, construction and operation of navigation structures and flood control throughout the Ohio River and Great Lakes system in addition to hydropower, environmental protection and restoration, water conservation, recreation and disaster assistance. He oversees the work carried out through seven districts at Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Huntington, Louisville, Nashville and Pittsburgh. General Berwick directs military construction in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan with design and construction of barracks, hospitals, airfields and family housing at military installations.

BG Berwick was previously assigned in the Pentagon as the Deputy Chief, Legislative Liaison Office of the Secretary of the Army and prior to that he served as Executive Officer to the Acting Secretary of the Army and Congressional Budget Liaison Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army.

After graduating from the US Military Academy at West Point, New York, General Berwick served in various troop and staff positions. Assignments include: 16th Engineer Battalion, 1st Armored Division, Germany; Office of Doctrine, US Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Department of Social Sciences, US Military Academy, West Point, New York; White House Fellow and Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Energy, Washington D.C; Office of Strategic Initiatives, US Army Corps of Engineers, Washington DC; 536th Engineer Battalion, US Army South, Panama; Assistant Executive Officer to the Commander in Chief, US Southern Command, Panama; Commander, 52nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado; Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Army, Washington DC; and Commander,

Baltimore District Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division of US Army Corps of Engineers in Baltimore, Maryland.



He completed the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, US Army Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Yale University and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

Among his many awards and decorations are: Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab. 🇺🇸

# Mike Ensched Commended for Work in Iraq

by Dave Treadway

**M**ichael G. Ensched, chief of Operations Division, was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal January 3 for more than four months service in Iraq.

The citation, signed by Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, commended Ensched for meritorious performance of duty while serving from Dec. 10, 2003, through April 13, 2004, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Chief cited Ensched's initiative, technical expertise and leadership skills as critical to the success of Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (TFRIO) operations during a period of significant change as TFRIO transformed into the RIO

Directorate under the newly established Gulf Region Division.

"Mr. Ensched provided critical and sound advice to the director," according to the citation, "ensuring the most accurate information was available to support the program decision-making process. His tremendous negotiating and interpersonal skills were critical to synchronizing the efforts of the RIO contractors, the Ministry of Oil and the Coalition Provisional Authority. His professional expertise and dedication to (Continued on page 10)



photo by Lynn Bowden

Operations Chief Mike Ensched is presented the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal Jan. 10 by Lt. Col. Byron Jorns.

# Army Commander Celebrates With Iraqis Who Voted

**S**ince Nashville District has provided possibly more than its share of volunteers for the work being done in Iraq, you may be interested in this message, forwarded by our former DE, COL Dave Norwood, still in Iraq as a contract civilian, who asked us to share this good news.

**Brigadier General Mike Jones, Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) of the 1st Cavalry Division in the Baghdad Central area.**

Dear Friends,

It isn't over yet, but today there was a resounding victory for freedom and democracy here in Baghdad. Having been here for a while now, many of us have grown weary of the hand-wringers, worriers, pessimists, whiners, and host of others who have been telling us for so long that all is lost in Iraq. Today we witnessed just how courageous the Iraqi people can be and how much they love their new-found freedom.

After listening to the pundits tell us how terrible the Iraqi Security Forces are, today I watched the Iraqi Security

Forces stand tall. They protected 1,188 polling sites in Baghdad. Although there were a number of suicide bombers who attacked today, not a single one penetrated the perimeter of a polling site. There were several Iraqi policemen, and several Iraqi soldiers who lost their lives today. But they did not lose their honor or their courage; none of the 30,000 plus Iraqi Security Forces on duty in Baghdad ran away from danger today.

At the site of our first suicide bombing of the day, voters did not lose their courage either. They quickly lined back up at the same site, spitting on the body of the suicide bomber as they passed by in line to vote. A woman came out of line and took the shoe of the bomber and put it on his face- a great insult to an Arab. The same was true at any polling site that had violence. Voters immediately lined up again to cast their vote. How many Americans value their privilege to vote enough to show that kind of courage?

We have listened to many experts talk about how the Sunnis would not participate in the election. Polling sites in

Abu Guyreb were moved to Gasaliya because the Iraqi Election Commission was concerned about security in Abu Guyreb. We watched thousands walk down the highway- Sunni Moslems- on the 7 mile round trip to the polling sites so they could vote. All under the threat that terrorists had been making that they would kill anyone who voted. How many Americans would do that?

All over Baghdad the story was the same and I could tell a dozen stories of great courage and determination. Despite the enemy's campaign of terror, despite danger, threats, intimidation, and the sporadic incidents of violence and terror today, Iraqis turned out in determined, large numbers to vote. The excitement was moving. Even though the terrorists have said they will kill anyone with a "marked finger" (when you voted your finger was dipped in ink to keep people from voting a second time), voters paraded down the street holding their fingers up in joy and overwhelming pride. When I told one Iraqi I was sorry that people had died or been wounded today, he just said "freedom has a price, and

this is the price that we must pay". And every Iraqi I talked to said thank you to the United States for this opportunity, for this freedom, and how grateful they were for our help.

I am sure it will only be hours until you start hearing all the "experts", most of which have never been to Iraq, start trying to convince us that today was flawed, failed, or somehow less than a wonderful day and a blow for freedom. They are the same people who say we are failing here, that you couldn't do an election on the 30th of January, and on and on. It is true we haven't "won" here yet. It is not predetermined that we will win, and it will take continued sacrifice and determination on our part. Those who hate freedom and democracy will still fight, many to the death, to try to stop this march to freedom and prosperity by the Iraqis with our help. They are

## Nashville District Support

Jim Cook, deployed May 13 – Sept. 14, 2003

Mike Ensich, deployed Nov. 30, 2003 – Apr. 11, 2004

John Hunter, deployed Oct. 27, 2003 – Mar. 4, 2004

Jose Garcia, deployed Sept. 14 – Dec. 10, 2003

Ted Ryon, deployed Sept. 14, 2003 – Mar. 10, 2004

Ed Evans, deployed Sept. 14, 2003 – Mar. 10, 2004

Chuck Ogle, deployed Sept. 14, 2003 – May 1, 2004

John Restey, deployed Dec. 12, 2003 – Mar. 10, 2004

Maj. Robert Pegg, deployed Jan. 4 – May 2, 2004

Bill Bennett, deployed Jan. 4 – May 1, 2004

Jared Gartman, deployed Jan. 4 – May 1, 2004

Kathy Grimes, deployed Jan. 4 – May 1, 2004

## A 'Thank You' Note from an Iraqi Citizen

The letter below, to former District Engineer Dave Norwood (COL USA Ret.), now serving in Iraq as a civilian engineer, is from one of the men whose finger is featured in the photo on the February cover. Norwood entitled this photo of just their ink-stained fingers "The Mark of a Winner." (Jenny Norwood was kind enough to share the letter and photo.)

Dear Mr. Dave,

Thank you for the photo, it was really a great day of freedom to all Iraqis,

The participation percentage sends a very strong message to all freedom opponents and it is the day of victory on terrorists,

I pray for all people dies trying to protect innocent people especially the brave soldiers of Iraq and coalition forces, Thanks to

the United States to bring freedom to our country,  
Regards, Ahmed





# Voted

terrified of the thought of a free and democratic Iraq that leads this whole region to a democratic future.

But despite this, I encourage you from here in Baghdad, for at least one day, to ignore the pundits and experts, to enjoy a day where a blow for freedom was struck. Know that somewhere in the world, because of the sacrifice of your friends, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and countrymen, good won over evil, freedom over terror, and democracy over despotism. Last June 30, Iraq was given their sovereignty. Today, they earned their freedom. And we should all be joyful for that. All the Best, Mike



## rt to Operations in Iraq

- Jim Beaujon, deployed Jan. 4 – May 1, 2004
- Jason Foust, deployed Jan. 4 – May 1, 2004
- Mark Hallar, deployed Jan. 4 – May 1, 2004
- Joe Faustina, deployed April 18, 2004 – Jan. 19, 2005
- Richard Cummings, deployed Mar. 28 – July 28, 2004
- Hugh Lowe, deployed May 31 – Sept. 30, 2004
- Elaine Bustillos, deployed July 11 – Nov. 11, 2004
- Holly Taylor, deployed Sept. 19, 2004 – Jan. 13, 2005
- Roger Devereux, deployed Dec. 12, 2004 – Present
- Maj. Robert Pegg, deployed Feb. 6, 2005 – Present
- J. W. Purcell, deployed Feb. 6, 2005 – Present

# Major Pegg Awarded Bronze Star Medal

Story, photo by Dave Treadway

**M**ajor Robert W. Pegg, Nashville deputy district engineer, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal in December for meritorious service in Iraq.

His citation read, “For meritorious service from Jan. 4, 2004, to May 2, 2004, as the Coalition Provisional Authority-South East Region Forward Engineer Support Team Leader during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Major Pegg effectively coordinated and constructed facility and infrastructure repair projects in Southern Iraq.”

The language was rather brief for an award that ranks 10<sup>th</sup> among those worn by U.S. Soldiers. While in Iraq last year, he led a seven-person team from the Nashville District, who were part of a Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST), which supported U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operations in southern Iraq. During the deployment

that spanned more than five months, the FEST supported infrastructure rebuilding and managed construction projects that included: asphalt plants, railway stations, banks, police barracks, hospitals, schools, waste water treatment facilities and electrical power plants. The actual construction was done by Iraqi or international companies.

The FEST team deployed with 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 experience and the requirements of the team.

Their work took them across the breath and width of southern Iraq. Bill Bennett visited Al Faw, the southern and eastern-most city in Iraq, John Love worked the northeastern province of Maysan, and Jared Gartman was once stopped in the city of Al Nasiriyah by a funeral procession where mourners all fired their weapons in the air. Jason Faust worked on several projects in Umm Qasr, a town 30 miles south of Basra. Mark Hallar called Al Hilla home for




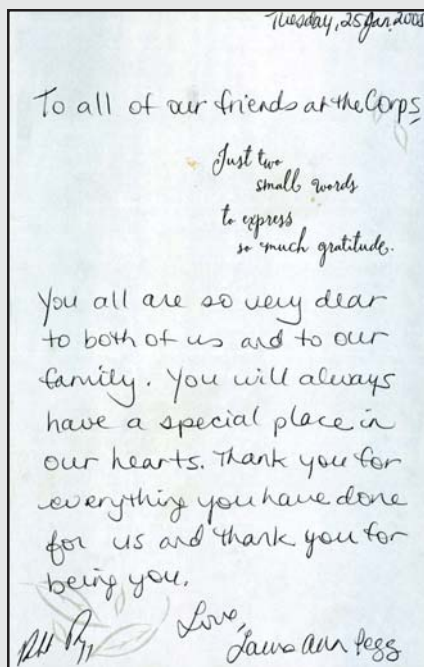
**Maj. Robert W. Pegg, deputy district engineer, is awarded the Bronze Star Medal Jan. 24 during a reception in his honor.**

much of the deployment. Kathy Grimes spent time at the Gulf Region South District Headquarters located at the Basra airfield. Several team members shared projects to repair the railway station, banks, hospitals, and schools in the city of Al Basra.

“There was a complete lack of any kind of construction standards,” said Maj. Pegg, “a total lack of building codes and absolutely no regard for safety which makes for one interesting job!”

He noted that the greatest danger faced by the FEST team members was on the roadways they had to use to reach projects on which they worked. “Iraqis drive wherever they please,” said Major Pegg. “It is not uncommon to have a car driving the wrong way on a major highway, and at night headlights are optional. Of course, the roadways are also under constant threat from insurgents placing IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices). Pedestrians, animals and all forms of motorized vehicles share a very crowded road in the cities.”

He has been ordered back to Iraq for a second deployment. 



**Thank you note from Laura Pegg.**

# Safety Specialist Recalls Duty in Iraq

by Dave Treadway

**B**ill Bennett spent four months in Iraq as a member of the FEST team and recently talked about that experience.

He spoke of some of the projects on which he was privileged to work.

“Replacement of the railway station at Samawah,” said Bennett, “which serves as the transportation link halfway between Basra and Baghdad, was completely looted by the Iraqi people during the war. Once we went in and looked into the possibility of refurbishing the station, with the assistance of some Iraqi engineers in the Samawah area, we encountered a lot of problems like getting parts and materials to rebuild it. We contacted people in Germany and found it was quite a challenge to get what we needed.

“Another project was the Basra Asphalt Plant. To refurbish all the roads, the Iraqis needed this asphalt plant up and running and they had looted everything out of it. So in this case we had to go in there and actually build parts, fabricate them from scratch to get this thing going again. We did it and also built two houses there for operators to live in who worked in the plant, complete with new bathrooms, a kitchen, and a security fence for protection.

“The Post Office in Al Faw, a city on the border with Iran, was a project suggested by the Italian government. It had been completely ransacked, so that it too was merely a shell. We had to refurbish the whole thing. One of the

## People

first problems we encountered there, as we were making our initial assessments, was hooded Iraqis armed with AK-47s coming in the back door as another gentleman came in the front door flanked by 30 Iraqi police. This turned out to be the Mayor of Al Faw who wanted to express his opinion on some other projects, things he wanted us to work on, since we were here doing some work. The hooded gun-toters were his security team coming through the back to make sure it was safe for him to enter through

the front. He then engaged us in a two-hour conversation and he spoke fairly good English. He wanted us to restore one of his communication centers nearby.

“The fire station at Um Qasr port, along with fire engines, was completely destroyed. We went there, looked at what they had along

with some British Marine Reservists who were firemen in their regular jobs. I worked hand in hand with them establishing a fire department, getting people trained, and equipped with new fire engines. We had four brand new fire engines delivered there before I left. They could respond not only to fires at the port but also to fires in surrounding communities. That made a really big impact on the people there.

“The British Marines would locate and help procure the fire trucks, for that and other cities, and we would actually drive them out and deliver them to different cities. I drove a few to the delivery sites and dropped them off, brand new German Mercedes fire trucks.”

Bennett found he had to improvise for some things that he had no way to anticipate.

“Sand storms when you could not even see your hand in front of your face were a surprise. All you could do was take cover and wait for it to blow through. You had to protect your face with a wet scarf and try to get back inside your security vehicle. You had to always be concerned about the weather. The wind at one of our security compounds blew so hard once that it damaged the grenade fence at the top and we had to actually repair that. That’s how strong the



Photo courtesy of Bill Bennett

**Bill Bennett works with a British Marine Reservist on the Tigris River to plot potential locations for fire stations to help safeguard shipping along the channel.**

winds get, and they blow up all at once. When they are over, they are over just as abruptly. You could look forward to sand in everything, every single day you had to dump sand out of your boots.”

Some things he found in Iraq surprised him.

“Of course I saw all the pictures on TV and classes at Fort Bliss were designed to prepare me for the duty. But when I got there and met the people I was pleasantly surprised by all the nice people I met. I was prepared for all of them to be bad. I met some great people, some great families, many of which are becoming more western in their dress. Many women now wear blue jeans, and regular tops, and show their face, let their hair down. That kind of surprised me. They wanted to break out of their shell. They even talked about Wal-Mart. They call their shopping area a Sook. They would point and say, ‘Someday Wal-Mart!’”

Bill was also surprised by the number of Iraqis who spoke English. He found that the majority, as soon as they start high school, begin learning English because it’s mandatory. They even study it all through their college years and as a result many speak English very well.

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



# Corps Racer Reaches Top in Tennessee

Story by Dave Treadway,  
photos by Beth Tiesler

When Cayce Tiesler, a senior electrician at the Cheatham Power Plant, began competitive cycling nine years ago, he just wanted to gain a higher level of fitness and add a little excitement to his daily work.

Last year his 'hobby' peaked and the electrician attained a level seldom reached by any competitor. He captured first place in the Single Speed Mountain Bike Category (MTB) of the Tennessee State Championship Point Series as he posted an undefeated record for 2004. He also placed second in the Category 3 Road Racing (RR) Field.

"I have been cycling competitively," said Tiesler, "in mountain bike events since 1996 and began road racing in 1999. Over the years, I have had success as I worked my way through the levels of each discipline (MTB racing levels: beginner, sport, expert / RR levels: citizen, category 5, cat4, cat3, cat2).

"A single speed mountain bike is just that. Instead of racing the trails with multiple gears, we race with only one on the front and rear. We choose the best combination for the terrain prior to the race. This class was opened to competition over the past several years and is now a nationally-recognized class. The single-speed class primarily consists of Expert level racers and times are comparable to the Expert class finishes."



Cayce Tiesler leads the pack on the way to a 2nd place finish in Category 3 Road Racing.



Cayce Tiesler bears down during mountain bike competition in 2004.

The Nashville native and Franklin High School grad is now considered an Expert in mountain bike and a Category 2 in road racing.

## People

Often accompanied by wife Beth, and sons Patrick and Kyle, Tiesler competed in Tennessee MTB events held in Gallatin (Lock A), Columbia (Chickasaw Trace State Park), Memphis, Jackson and Knoxville. Races typically were over a 20-mile cross-country course.

"There were up to 15 competitors per MTB event in my category," he explained. "And this year I was supported with sponsorships by two local bicycle stores, Bike Pedlar of Nashville, (MTB) and Allanti, The Bicycle Store of Brentwood (RR).

"Mountain bike racing was my original focus," revealed Tiesler, "but I found that training on the road bicycle between events led to better MTB results. After several years, I entered a

road competition and enjoyed the event along with the tactics needed to win - thus began my interest in road racing."

And at 23 such events he earned a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Category 3 on the strength of wins at The Cookeville Criterium, The Goose Gap Time Trial and Criterium, and the Allanti Road Race. He considered the Gateway Cup in St. Louis, Illinois, over the Labor Day weekend his biggest venue, where he placed 6<sup>th</sup> in a field of 100. He said road races are typically laid out on a 60-mile course and require two-and-a-half hours to complete. Criteriums are lap races, generally held on barricaded downtown courses averaging one mile in length and averaging 50 minutes in duration, while time trials are set up as a timed point-to-point event which can range from 5 to 30 miles in length.

"I generally race from March until October," said Tiesler. "I train with approximately 200 miles per week during the off-season and 160 miles per week during the racing season." Diet is important to him, especially during the racing season when he tries to maintain a regimen of 70 percent carbohydrates, 20 percent protein, and 10 percent fat. During the holiday period, by his own admission, he "lives life to the fullest" and goes back to fasting and a strict diet to prepare for the upcoming season.

The cyclist doesn't plan to take any time off to enjoy his title. For the 2005 road racing season, he is on a Masters road racing team of four primary racers and three supporting racers.

"We have Bike Pedlar to sponsor us as a primary and are seeking corporate sponsorship for all RR season expenses with the intention of racing several national events."

As Tiesler pursues the legendary Lance Armstrong, he is also training a successor, perhaps two. While his family goes along to watch him compete and cheer him on, Patrick, 9, and Kyle, 6, have aspirations of following in Dad's footsteps . . . uh, tracks. Both boys have entered several mountain bike events and have already developed a love for the sport.

Watch out Lance! 🏆

# The Corps Crowd

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## Farewell, Best Wishes to ...

...Bob Miller, Office of Counsel; Dave Day, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division; Charles Davis, Engineering/Construction, Geotechnical Branch; and Johnny Rice, Real Estate Division, upon their retirement.

...Steven Gregory, Co-op ranger at J. Percy Priest Lake, who recently left to return to school. Steven has one more semester at Tennessee Tech University before graduation.

## Congratulations to ...

...Patty Coffey, PPMD, who was selected to be the acting deputy district engineer during Major Bob Pegg's deployment to Iraq.

...Greg Forte, journeyman mechanic, Old Hickory Powerplant; Larry Cole, journeyman electrician, Old Hickory Powerplant, and Josh Hayden, journeyman mechanic, Cheatham Powerplant, who completed their respective training.

...Josh Hayden, student trainee at Cheatham Powerplant, who successfully passed his exam for a promotion to Mechanic "A".

## Sympathy to ...

...the family of William T. (BUZZ) Bradley, long-time Nashville District boat pilot of the Motor Vessel Redstone, known by most as Captain Bradley, who passed away January 10.

...the family of District employee Corazon Mundy, who passed away January 15.

## Thank you to ...

...I cannot express how grateful I am at your overwhelming expressions of kindness and generosity at my retirement dinner. Karen and I, and our whole family, were so thankful – Karen, for the Certificate of Appreciation, I for the Meritorious Award, the "Uke Award", the basket of wine, glasses, candle, Corps candy bar, and other goodies, mug, guest book, video, balloons – and so much more. Thanks so much to all who contributed, who worked, who wrote and called and planned, and who made it so memorable.

But especially, thanks for your friendship. I meant it when I said the people of the Nashville District make it the greatest place to work anywhere. My best wishes to you all. *Sincerely, Dave Day*

...Thank you so much for your gift of 270 pounds of food to Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. In December 2004, Second Harvest served 2,179 first time clients – people who have never had to turn to us for help before. Your gift makes a fundamental difference in the lives of our neighbors. *Jayne K. Day, President/CEO, Second Harvest*

...Thanks to all in Geotech and anyone else who might have had a role in planning my luncheon and reception. Thanks for the gift certificate and monetary present - it was much appreciated. Appreciate everyone's efforts and concerns that were showed to me and my family. Again, thanks for the great reception and luncheon. And to all my many friends with the Corps - it has been great. *Charles Davis*

## Upcoming Events ...

The theme for this year's Black History Month observance is "*The Niagara Movement*." In honor, Nashville District will celebrate with a program on **February 23, beginning at 10 a.m., in Room A-640**. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Professor of History, Fisk

University. We will also feature a trio of students from Franklin Road Academy who will perform in the program. These three young ladies were heard at last month's MLK Day Youth Rally at a local church, and were immediately pursued to participate as part of this program. Their performance is guaranteed to be inspiring! Please mark your calendars and attend in support of this District event.

## Other Planned Events ...

March 16, 10 a.m., Room A-640 - Women's History Month Program

April 28, 9 a.m., Room A-640 - Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

June 28 - July 1, Room A-640 - Annual Career Enhancement Workshops

October 12, 10 a.m., Room A-640 - Hispanic Heritage Month Program.

## Scholarships Offered for \$500

The Music City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers is offering scholarships in the amount of \$500 to high school seniors who are dependents of District employees or Federal employees and dependents of other agencies in the Middle Tennessee area. For more details, or to apply for a scholarship, call or email Ray Kendrick, Lucy Fears, Vicky Caldwell or Danita Jones.

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## Ensch Commended for Work in Iraq

### (Continued from Page 5)

duty inspired personnel to produce the extra effort and ensure mission success."

When Enschede departed Iraq in April last year, more than \$990 million in reconstruction work was underway with another \$809 million more planned. Refinery production was near 50 percent of national requirements and more than \$5 billion had been returned to the Iraqi treasury from the sale of crude oil exports.

He helped import more than three billion liters of fuel from Turkey, Jordan and Kuwait to help Iraqis heat homes and cook with over the winter, primarily with

funds returned to the Iraqi treasury from sale of oil exports. This humanitarian fuels mission offset the lack of production from the refineries and ended the five-mile-long lines at some Baghdad gas stations.

Earlier this year the Chief of Operations was named Outstanding manager of the Year by the Federal Executive Association. The organization noted his efforts and leadership as program manager for Task Force RIO which will continue to have a significant and extremely positive global impact, particularly on the welfare and economic improvement of the Iraqi people.





# DoD Proposes New Personnel System

The Department of Defense and Office of Personnel Management have finalized the proposed regulations to establish the National Security Personnel System (NSPS). The regulations will be published in the Federal Register during February.

This initiates a 30-day public comment period for interested parties to submit formal comments, views and recommendations on the proposed regulations. After the comment period, DoD will initiate the statutory meet-and-confer process with employee unions to discuss their views and concerns. DoD will then report to Congress on the results. Changes may be made to the proposed regulations as a result of these processes before finalizing the regulations later this spring. For more information, please visit the NSPS website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps>.

There are certain things the new system will do, and one thing it will not do.

NSPS is performance-based and will recognize and reward employee performance and contributions.

Employees will have a greater opportunity to affect their pay through excellent performance; pay increases based on performance rather than longevity.

A new pay banding system replaces the General Schedule (GS) system, simplifies the job classification process and provides flexibility to assign new or different work.

Managers will be able to recruit/retain high quality talent more effectively with streamlined hiring processes and have the ability to offer more competitive, market-sensitive compensation.

NSPS will improve reduction-in-force procedures and provide for less

disruption with greater emphasis on performance as a factor in retention.

Expedited disciplinary and appeals processes provide for faster resolution of workplace issues, while preserving due process rights of employees.

Labor relations system recognizes DoD's critical national security mission and the need to act swiftly to execute that mission, while preserving collective bargaining rights of employees.

All employees, supervisors and managers (including military supervisors) will receive extensive training on functional aspects of NSPS as well as behavioral and communication skills.

Employees will have an avenue to challenge performance ratings.

In addition to the statutory 30-day meet-and-confer process to collaborate on the proposed regulations, employee representatives will have future opportunities to provide input on the detailed policies and procedures through a formal "continuing collaboration" process provided for in the proposed regulations.

And there is one thing the new system will not do.



The new Personnel System will not cause employees to lose pay upon conversion to the NSPS pay system. 



photo by Charlie Bryan

Old Hickory Lockmasters Wesley Ross (left), and Bill Hayes were presented a Length of Service Award award by Ralph Troutman and Mike Murphy from the National Weather Service for 50 years of data collection at the Old Hickory Lock. Data collected by Corps employees is used by the agency to verify forecasts of storm watches and warnings. The data is also published both on the Web and in a Weather Service Bulletin, as well as made available to hydrologists who design rainfall models for many purposes. The National Weather Service data collection instrument has been located on the lock wall since before the Dam was completed in June 1954. Lockmaster Roosevelt Shoulders was not available for the photo.

## Deep Water Boys to Perform at Retirees March Luncheon

Corps of Engineers retirees will hold their first meeting of 2005 on March 16 at the Piccadilly Cafeteria in the Madison Shopping Center and attendees will be entertained by the District's own Deep Water Boys. The group is comprised of Barney Davis, Ralph Ownby, Wayne Lanier, Brad Bishop, and Todd Yann. The group recently produced and recorded an original piece entitled *The Ballad of the Twin Rivers* that details the history of the Nashville District, a number that is sure to be requested since most retirees have not heard the recording. All Corps retirees, family and friends are invited to the Luncheon (Dutch Treat). For more information, call Hobart Parish at 855-1952. 

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Nashville District  
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## *Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Heart attack*

by John Tibbels

**A**re you having a heart attack? Let's review some important information concerning heart attacks.

Statistically speaking, at least three-quarters of heart-attack scares turn out to be indigestion, stress, lung infections, or one of many other non-emergencies. Sadly, many actual heart emergencies are ignored until it is too late because the victim wouldn't admit he or she was having heart-attack symptoms.

**NEVER IGNORE THEM;** call for an ambulance immediately. Victims of a heart attack can die at any moment. Don't let a victim talk you out of taking him to the hospital or calling for assistance at work (likewise, don't fool yourself into believing the symptoms will go away if you are experiencing them).

- 1) Here are the classic symptoms of a heart attack:
- 2) Continuous gripping pains in the center of the chest. Be especially concerned if the pain tends to radiate up the arms, to the shoulders, and into the neck and jaw. Also look for numbness of the arms and/or fingers, usually of the left extremity.
- 3) Shortness of breath and possible gasping that tends to improve when the

victim is seated but may become worse when he or she is lying down.  
4) Profuse sweating.  
5) Nausea and vomiting. This sometimes confuses victims, making them believe they are simply having stomach trouble.

- 6) Pallor and a bluish cast to the lips and fingernail beds.
- 7) Extreme fatigue and prostration.
- 8) An irregular pulse.
- 9) Disorientation and confusion.

## Boating Safely Course Planned

**T**he U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will sponsor boating safety courses Saturday, February 26, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at three middle Tennessee locations: Bellevue United Methodist Church in Nashville, Long Hunter State Park in Hermitage, and Boater's World in Madison.

*Boating Safely* is an eight-hour, eight-chapter course designed to appeal to hunters, anglers, personal watercraft operators and other boaters who cannot find time for a full, comprehensive course. Topics include an introduction to boating, boating laws, personal safety equipment, safe boat, boating problems, pulling boats with trailers, storing and protecting your boat, and a chapter on using boats for hunting,

fishing, water-skiing, and boating on rivers.

Individuals who successfully complete the course and exam are awarded certificates of completion. Some marine insurance companies offer discounts on boat insurance to those individuals who have successfully completed this course. \*Class dates and times may vary and are subject to changes. Classes are taught free of charge to the public but each student must purchase

their own textbooks from the unit instructor. Prices of texts will vary. Please call one of the contact names below to register or obtain more information. Call Ronnie McNeil, 868-7254, (for Bellevue) Jon Sadler at 883-8738 (Long Hunter State Park) or Steve Gaines at 264-3542 for Boater's World. 📞

