



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

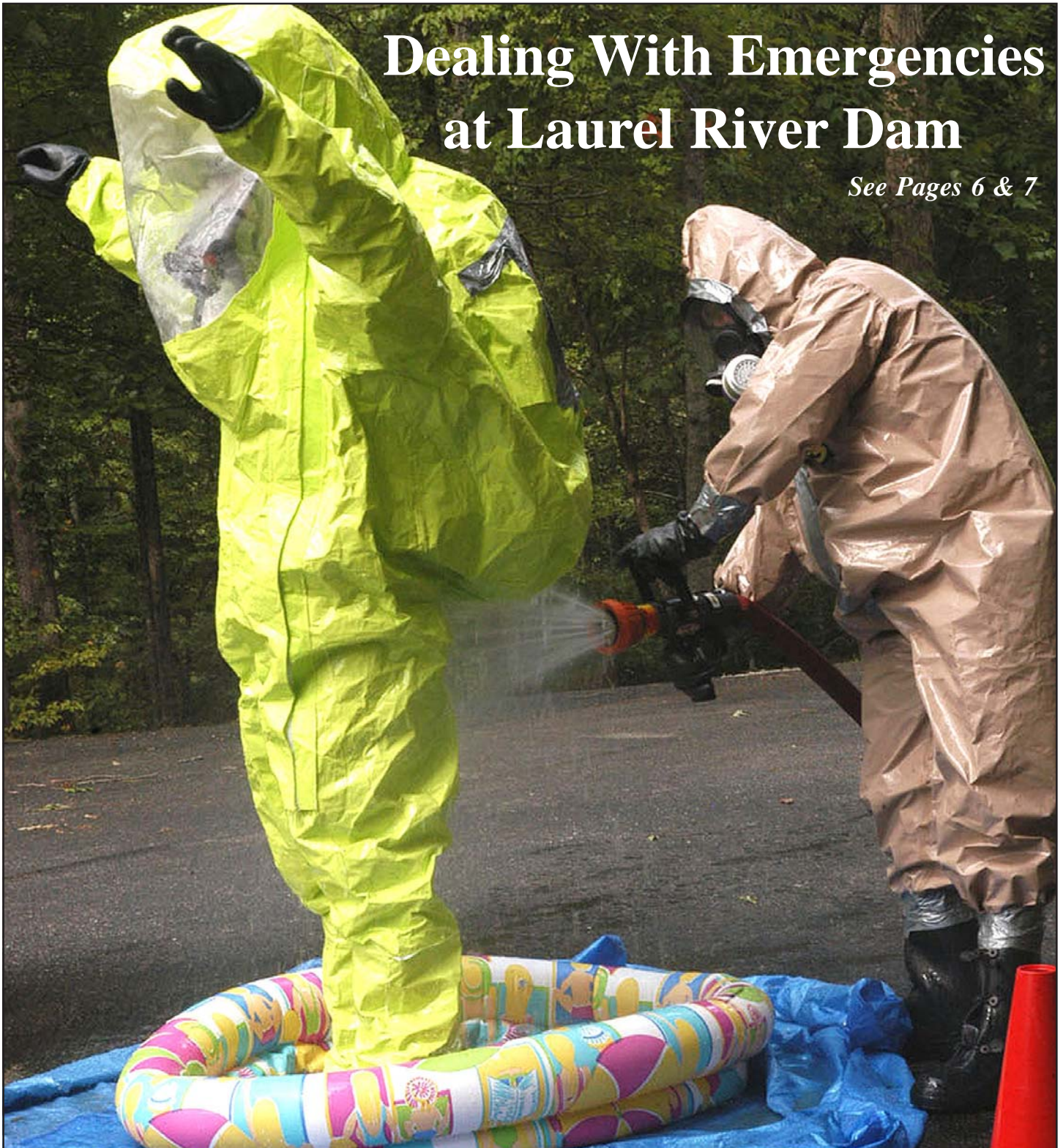
Volume 105, Number 8

Respected-Responsible-Reliable

September 2005

Dealing With Emergencies at Laurel River Dam

See Pages 6 & 7



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You May Be Entitled to a Discount on Cell Phone Service

All federale employees may be entitled to a discount on their personalcell phones by calling their carrier and mentioning the "Federal Telecommunications Act 1996 Discount to Federal Employees Past and Present."

Cingular offers a 19% discount. The number for Cingular is 1-800-319-6393.

Sprint offers a 15% discount. The number for Sprint is 1-888-788-4727.

T-Mobile gives subscribers a 22% discount. The number for T-Mobile is 1-866-646-4688.

Nextel gives subscribers an 18% discount. The number for Nextel is 1-800-639-6111.

Verizon offers a 23% discount. The number for Verizon is 1-800-865-1825.



photo by Dave Treadway

On the Cover

Two members of the Region 11 Hazardous Material Task Force from the Kentucky Department of Homeland Security go through the decontamination process after exposure to a chemical at Laurel River Dam August 31. The exercise involved more than 40 different agencies and used the Laurel River Resource Management Office as part of the scenario. For complete story and photo coverage of the event, see pages 6 and 7.

District Digest

Commander

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

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

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

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

Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7163.

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

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

Commander's Corner

As we are starting to realize the magnitude of destruction resulting from Hurricane Katrina, we are seeing a corresponding national-level response for humanitarian relief. In no way am I advocating or minimizing the terrible destruction or anguish felt by so many; however, I would like to highlight the goodness and optimism that can result from such a terrible disaster. It is amazing to see such a sincere and heart-felt response to those who are in need. I personally believe this is an American tradition and consequently a national strength for our country.

I have seen this strength first-hand within the Nashville District; when there is a need or requirement out there, there are quiet professionals who step up and say I will do it, or let me try. I have seen this with

Communication

individual employees who volunteer for duties in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and for Hurricane relief operations; I have seen this at our project sites where managers share resources to complete a difficult job, and I have seen this with many of our teams who have stepped up performance to meet an emerging milestone or a customer request.

I recently had the opportunity to chat a little with Pat Lowery; wife of Chester Lowery and mother of Josh Lowery; Corps employees who volunteered for service – Chester in Iraq and Josh in Louisiana. She told me that she was anxious about her loved ones, but it was something that they felt they had to do and that she was so very proud of them both. Nashville District has 46 employees deployed to Hurricane Relief operations and 4 employees deployed to Iraq/Afghanistan with Mark Gibson soon departing. J.W. Purcell, who is in Mosul, recently asked for a six-month extension because he felt that it would provide an opportunity for a Corps employee to volunteer for Hurricane Relief efforts.

With this type of selfless service displayed so conspicuously by so many of our employees, I can't help but feel optimistic about our future. We have a number of key District events happening that reinforces this feeling. Our FY06

budget numbers look good and I expect a gradual easing of our hiring freeze. I am committed to starting up the next round of hydro-power training classes, and to replacing those loses in certain, key vacancies. We recently received HQUSACE approval to award a \$90M superstructure contract at Kentucky Lock, and have received commitments for Wolf Creek; all of which shows long-term opportunities and work for the District while providing required support to the region. The Leadership Development Class recently updated senior leaders on their progress to complete class projects on Marketing Outreach and Overhead Reduction, both very well done and right on the mark.

I am excited to be your commander and to be part of this vibrant organization. As we continue to focus on getting the job done, we cannot take our eyes off of safety and risk management. This month I want to mention the use of hardhats. Hardhats are to be worn on all construction sites and wherever there is an over-head hazard. If you are wondering how you check your



hardhat to see if it is still usable to wear then give your hardhat the "squeeze" test. Place your hands on each side of the hardhat, grip the rim and squeeze your hardhat together as you try to collapse it. If you are able to squeeze your hardhat together without it cracking or popping then your hardhat is still serviceable. Once squeezed together this way, your hardhat should return to its original shape without cracking and popping. If it does not pass this test then tell your supervisor who will be responsible for replacing the old one. Please, wear your hardhat when required.

Thanks again for all you do. Essayons! 🇺🇸

August Employee of the Month

Contract Specialist Beryl Newsome was named Employee of the Month for August.

Newsome's current workload assignments include some of the most complex and visible formal contracting actions that impact the District's ability to execute FY05 funding as well as the overall mission. Newsome is the contract specialist for the Kentucky Lock Projects, most notably East Bank Approaches, and Superstructure. She is committed to contract excellence and works hard at customer relations by communicating frequently, and at great lengths to ensure the procurement process is not impeded.

The East Bank Approaches Project encountered several stumbling blocks but she worked aggressively at resolving the issues, and the project was awarded in sufficient time to allow for some FY05 execution.

Most recently Newsome was called to serve our District on the Roofing

Response Team for the Hurricane Katrina Recovery just as the second Kentucky Lock Project, Superstructure, was ready for award, but because of her pro-active approach to the procurement, the award will occur easily. During the process, she

(Cont. on page 12)



Beryl Newsome

Lakes Seek Volunteers for NPLD

story and photo by Dave Treadway

A number of activities are being planned in observance of National Public Lands Day (NPLD) and the public is invited to participate.

Old Hickory Lake will make improvements to the Archery Range Sept. 17 in observance of National Public Lands Day and invites the public to help.

The Archery Range, located off Rockland Road, will give volunteers a unique opportunity to give something back to the area and community by helping to install new targets and yardage markers, and by placing new stone on the trail. Volunteers who join staff members will have the opportunity to help remove invasive exotic plants and clean up various locations surrounding the lake. Necessary tools and gloves will be provided but volunteers may bring their own work gloves if they wish.

The check-in station for this year's event will be located at the Archery Range and volunteers should arrive no later than 8 a.m. on Saturday. Volunteers will be treated to lunch at 11 a.m., courtesy of Whit's Barbecue.

Volunteers may call Park Ranger Steven Gregory at (615) 822-4846 or 847-2395 for more information or to pre-register for activities.

Lake Cumberland will hold their Fifteenth Annual Lake Clean-up on Sept. 17. Activities will begin at 9 a.m. Eastern Time at General Burnside Island State Park, Waitsboro Recreation Area, Fishing Creek Recreation Area, Omega Launching Ramp and Conley Bottom Resort. Those on Central Time, Lake Cumberland State Ramp, Grider Hill Dock, and Jabez (across from Alligator Dock #1) will begin at 8 a.m. After the clean-up, participants will be treated to lunch, complete with entertainment and door prizes.

The Leadership Development Class will help plant trees at the remodeled **J. Percy Priest** overlook on Sept. 17.

Two events are planned at **Center Hill Lake**. On Sept. 24 volunteers will help restore "Ye Old Red Post Trail" in Ragland Bottom Recreation Area from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free camping is offered for those



Volunteers effect repairs to a bench alongside the Old Hickory Nature Trail in September 2002. This year the Old Hickory staff plans to repair the Archery Range.

who agree to help and volunteers should meet at the trailhead.

On Oct. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, the public is invited to have fun while helping preserve the natural beauty of the lake during the annual Fall Shoreline Cleanup from 9 a.m. - noon, rain or shine. Sign-in and garbage pick-up sites will be located at the Floating Mill and Ragland Bottom Recreation Areas.

Participants at each site will be provided gloves and garbage bags and assigned a section of shoreline to work. A free lunch for all participants, complete with door prizes, will be provided at each cleanup location. Volunteers may pre-register by calling (931)858-3125 and should wear work clothes and sturdy footwear.

Cheatham Lake plans to remove invasive exotic plants, repair park benches and clean-up litter from the shoreline on Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are asked to meet at Lock A Campground shelter. Lunch will be served.

Cordell Hull Lake will conduct a shoreline clean-up Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. until noon followed by lunch at the Damsite. Workers should gather at Defeated Creek Beach or Roaring River.

Dale Hollow Lake will conduct a shoreline clean-up with the aid of volunteers on Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., followed by a cookout and an opportunity to win a door prize. Workers should gather at either Pleasant Grove, Lillydale or Obey River.

Lake Barkley will stage a shoreline clean-up Sept. 24 from 8 to 11 a.m. followed by a free lunch. Kuttawa is the meeting location and staging area.

Martins Fork Lake will be the last District Lake to observe National Public Lands Day with a shoreline clean-up, trail maintenance, and painting of the picnic shelter on Oct. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and t-shirts will be provided to volunteers, who should meet at the Hilltop Picnic Shelter.

NPLD was designed to provide an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the betterment of our public lands.

At least 70,000 volunteers are expected at 500 sites this year. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation estimates that the volunteers' work nationwide, along with community contributions of food, tools, and equipment, will result in more than \$8 million dollars in improvements. 📷

District Responds to Hurricane Katrina

by Dave Treadway

In response to Hurricane Katrina, the Corps of Engineers developed an internet website to facilitate the urgent distribution of information regarding resources required to respond to this disaster.

Once visitors go to <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/hurricane/chr.php/>, they can then simply click on the available links to read the latest information or download current photos, complete with caption information.

Rapid Response Vehicle 03, manned by James Sowell, Jonathan Jarrett, and Luke Ditto was directed to head for Memphis, Tenn., on Aug. 22, and await further dispatch to other areas as needed. That next area turned out to be Camp Shelby, Miss., where the team facilitated the distribution of ice to affected residents in nearby communities. Kevin Phebus then replaced Sowell on Aug. 29.

“We headed west,” recalled Sowell, “and lost communication at Jackson. We activated the INMARSAT (satellite phone), located a satellite and then used that to communicate. At Camp Shelby we set up communication for the ice and water readiness teams so they could do their job.”

“Our mission here,” said Jarrett, “is to provide a command center with communication capabilities primarily for our PRT teams, but also for FEMA, the Forestry Service, the Fire Service, etc. Camp Shelby was selected to be a staging area for the supply trucks, but it would have been difficult for the PRT teams to work with no power, no phones, and no computers. When we arrived with our on-board generator and set up the satellite, we provided the PRT teams with computers on the Corps network (internet, email, ENLink), telephones, fax, copier, and handheld radios, as well as a place to sit and work. Camp Shelby had (and still has) an Ice, Water, and Power mission, so



photo by Luke Ditto

Nashville’s Rapid Response Vehicle 03 is deployed to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to facilitate the ice and water distribution to evacuees displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Deployed Employees should use discretion when revealing for whom they work.

there are a lot of PRT team members we are supporting.

On Aug. 27, Terry Forshee, Don Pambianco, and Melissa Cartwright headed to Alabama to supplement the Mobile District for 30 days. Floyd Hudson, Elaine Bustillos and Sammy Alley deployed in support of New Orleans District.

Two days later Charlie McCormick was dispatched to South Atlantic Division, while Joanne Booker, Dianne Frost and Dee Rivera were attached to Rock Island District as members of the LRD Logistics Team. Mike Enschede, Mary Hayeland, and Tim Dawson deployed Sept. 1 in support of Joint Task Force Katrina. Connie

Hurricane Fund Set Up

Littleton, CO — The Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) established the FEEA 2005 Hurricane Fund to assist those in the path of Hurricane Katrina. Civilian federal and postal employees may download an Emergency Assistance application from FEEA’s web site, www.FEEA.org, to apply for grants and no-interest loans to help with temporary shelter, clean-up, rebuilding, and other expenses. Those in need may also contact FEEA at 1-800-323-4140 or 303-933-7580.

Hardeman departed Sept. 4 in support of Vicksburg District.

Roofing Quality Assurance members deployed Sept. 9 with Vicksburg District and included Stephen Hurst, Michelle Young, Dave Robinson, Jon Summers, Daniel Reyna, Justin Reed, and Joe Young. QAs Bruce Johnson, John Brewington and Josh Lowery departed Sept. 10.

The Roofing PRT of Cory Morgan, Cullum Miller, Beryl Newsome, Brenda Simpson, Eleanor Ervin, Bill Debruyne, Vickie Isham, Joe McMahan, Bob Taphorn, Kelly Wannamaker, Britt Henderson, Joanne Mann and Stephen Beason left Sept. 10. At press time, Sylvia Brown, Linda Lee, Troy Hawks and Janice Nelson were preparing to deploy.

One Nashville Corps family is giving an extra effort during these trying times. Josh Lowery, a District employee at Wilson Lock, is in the process of deploying to Hurricane relief efforts even while his Dad, Chester, a Cheatham Power Plant employee, just recently deployed to Iraq.



Chief Counsel Bill Hill captured this image of representatives from the U.S. Attorney’s office and their donations which he helped move to the site where Tennessee Titans Quarterback Steve McNair was conducting a drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Corps Employees Play Key Role, Provide Location

Laurel River Dam Hosts Security Exercise

story and photos by Dave Treadway

Laurel River Dam was the scene of chaos and a terrorist attack August 31, all staged of course.

“They (Laurel County Dept. of Public Safety) originally chose the location,” said Laurel Lake Resource Manager Toni Rushing, “because they designated Laurel Dam as the most significant possible target in Laurel County. Laurel River Dam gave agencies the opportunity to stage multiple scenarios within a close proximity. Also,” added Rushing, “they wanted a public area that would provide a realistic setting with limited disruption to traffic.”

After all participants representing more than 40 local, state, and federal agencies were in place, the day began with a

report of injuries to students from North Laurel High School on a field trip at a nearby playground.

What members of the decontamination unit from Region 11 HazMat Task Force found was a propane cylinder leaking ammonia. They then intercepted the leak and worked to decontaminate the

Process

students while emergency personnel from Whitley and Laurel counties evaluated students’ conditions.

Public Affairs Officer Jerry Deaton of the Laurel County Division of Public Safety explained that the exercise allowed involved agencies to test their ability to respond to a disaster situation and sharpen response skills. The list ranged from local law enforcement and emergency personnel to federal

agencies such as the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Laurel County Judge Executive Lawrence Kuhl was on hand and declared the scene a state of emergency as members of the HazMat team assessed injuries to students and decontaminated each one.

Even while that was being accomplished, the Resource Manager and her staff came under attack from another direction. A gunman, played by Derek House – himself a hostage negotiator with the London, Ky., police department – entered the office and took Pam Warfield, Ashley Tye and Toni Rushing hostage because, as he put it, “the Corps took land that belonged to my family and now they have to pay.” He said he planned to destroy the Resource Management Office with a pipe bomb.



Toni Rushing ‘taken hostage’.

Accomplice Randy Lawson, operator of Laurel Lake’s Holly Bay Marina, quickly whisked Rushing out the rear door and attempted to escape across the lake by boat. He was chased and Rushing was rescued by Deputy Eddie Sizemore in the sheriff’s department helicopter, and by Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel in a boat, after the perpetrator tossed his weapon overboard. The County Rescue Squad’s dive team was then called in to recover the weapon.

The hostage taker was then talked into releasing first Tye, as a concession for officers moving back from the building, and then Warfield, in return for the chance to talk to the news media about his complaints, before giving himself up to authorities.

It was then revealed that a bomb was hidden in an abandoned Volvo in the parking lot adjacent to the Resource Manager’s office. A bomb squad robot then removed the “device” from the headlight compartment to wrap up the day’s activities. Exercise Coordinator Brian Reams, who is the Department of public safety director for Laurel



Students from North Laurel High School play the part of the ‘injured and contaminated’ at a playground near the Resource Manager’s Office.

County, called the exercise a success. “The goal,” said Reams, “was to bring all agencies that would respond to this type of situation together to train together and see where their weaknesses are. It has been a total success.”

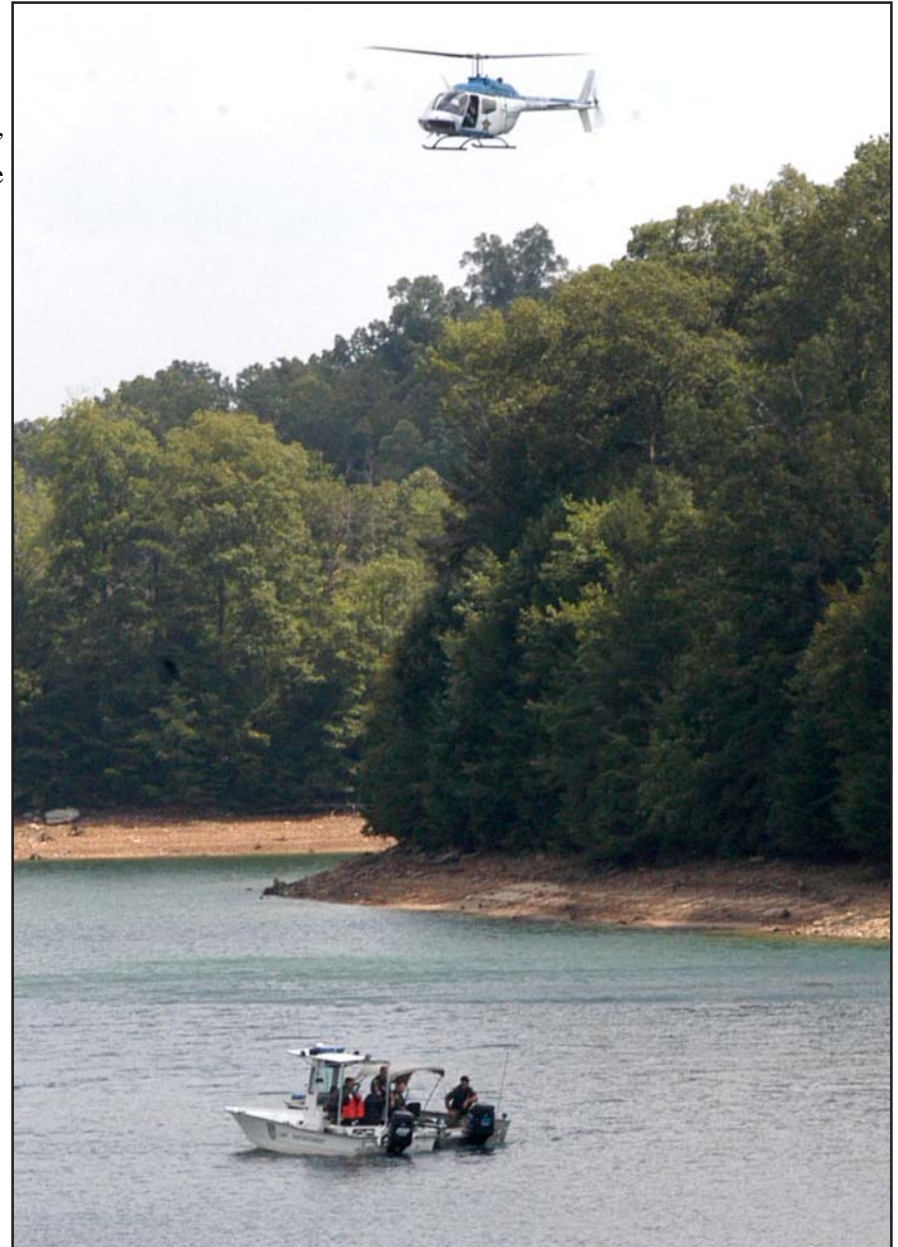
“Although the exercise was staged,” said Tye of her role, “being a hostage was really frightening.”

Rushing said representatives from participating agencies were very impressed with the entire exercise, especially the advance organization and planning that went into it.

“They stressed,” said Rushing, “that this was the best example of multiple federal, state and local organizations cooperating and working together.”

“It’s nice to know,” said Warfield, “that we have so many local agencies available to assist us in an emergency situation.”

Suggestions for future exercises, according to Rushing, included placing a safety official at each staging area to ensure the safety of participants. This suggestion arose perhaps as a result of a sheriff’s deputy succumbing to heat exhaustion and requiring transport to Marymount Hospital where he received treatment.



Pam Warfield (left) is controlled by hostage taker Derek House in the Resource Manager’s Office and relays messages to negotiators positioned in the parking lot. Resource Manager Roni Rushing is rescued from a getaway boat by Sheriff’s Deputy Eddie Sizemore in the helicopter and by agents with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In preparation for the exercise, Staff Sergeant Randy Duvall and Senior Master Sergeant Allen Staples, Tennessee Air National Guard, erect a tactical satellite dish to enhance communications among the 40-plus agencies.



Sluice Gate Improves Aquatic Environment

story and photo by Dave Treadway

A Sluice Gate in Center Hill Dam was opened August 22 to help raise the levels of dissolved oxygen in the Caney Fork River downstream and a Nashville news reporter from WKRN-TV 2 visited the Dam Sept. 1 to see how well the practice was working.

Video-reporter Peter White interviewed Bob Sneed, chief of the Water Management Section, below the dam.

“The release you are seeing below the powerplant,” explained Sneed, “is for hydropower generation. That water will have turned a turbine deep in the dam and you are seeing the discharge from that. The turbine is connected to a generator that in turn is connected to the power distribution grid.”

Sneed explained that water discharged from the turbines is aerated to some degree because of modifications the Corps made to the turbines when hub baffles and supplemental air supply lines were added in the past but not enough aeration occurs, hence the need for discharge of water through the sluice gate.

“We are supplementing what we have done in the past with the sluice gate. The extreme turbulence you are seeing from the sluice release is what is aerating that water. Natural chemical and biological processes that take place in the lake deplete the oxygen from the water deep in the lake and when that water, which is low in oxygen levels, is released through hydropower generation into the Caney Fork downstream it doesn’t contain enough oxygen to support a healthy, diverse ecosystem. Our objective is to raise oxygen levels and ultimately improve the aquatic life in the Caney Fork and that’s why we are making sluice releases.”

Hydraulic Engineers Jeff Gregory and Chad Braun were deployed in the tailwater in a small boat with equipment to measure the dissolved oxygen concentration. Their findings supported the contention that the practice was working.

“The reading they captured with their instruments just below the generators showed 4.6 milligrams per liter and the reading they took just below the sluice



Peter White (right), WKRN-TV2 News, videos Bob Sneed, chief of the Water Management Section, Chad Braun and Jeff Gregory below Center Hill Dam Sept. 1. Sneed explained the reasons for sluicing to improve levels of dissolved oxygen in the Caney Fork River.

Process

gate was 9.0 milligrams per liter. Readings taken further downstream, which represented a blending of those oxygen levels, averaged 6.3 milligrams per liter. We are trying to meet the State water quality standard which is 6.0 milligrams per liter for a cold-water environment like the tailwater of the Caney Fork. So we know this is a good means to meet the state standard.”

He explained that the sluice release is about 1600 cubic feet per second, under extreme pressure, since it comes from about 140 deep in the lake.

“The Caney Fork used to be a warm water stream but Center Hill Dam was constructed and now the resulting releases are cold. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) stocks the Caney Fork with rainbow trout and brown trout and those fish do quite well in a cold-water environment such as this. We are releasing cold water through both the sluice and the hydropower turbines but the water in the turbines doesn’t have enough oxygen in it as we would like this time of year so we are releasing water through the sluice which is highly oxygenated and that water is blended with the hydropower release and

the result is cold oxygenated water that benefits the downstream environment and ultimately the fishery, primarily rainbow trout and brown trout.”

Braun and Gregory will periodically monitor dissolved oxygen levels in the tailwater to determine the success of the sluice gate releases.

These actions are consistent with the Corps’ Environmental Operating Principles.

These Principles are to maintain an environment in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition necessary to support life, proactively consider the consequences of Corps programs, accept responsibility for activities under our control that impact the health of natural systems, seek ways to mitigate such impacts, and seek solutions to the nation’s problems that enhance the environment.

Corps officials are working closely with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, TWRA, and the Southeastern Power Administration, which benefits from power generated. Fishermen and boaters should avoid the turbulent water created by the sluice gate below the dam. Turbulence could actually draw small craft in and submerge them. 🚫

Focus is on Motivation for Women's Equality Day

"The real opportunities to help others come not by chance but by choice," declared Beth Harwell, Tennessee State Representative District 56, Aug. 26, when she addressed District employees gathered in observance of Women's Equality Day.

The House member currently serving her 9th term spoke about motivation.

"Giving to others is what makes the difference and is what should motivate us," continued Harwell.

She then recounted a story about her three-year-old son that taught her something about the subject.

"I was working in the kitchen one day and my three-year-old was needing my attention. I decided to give him something to occupy his time while I finished my task. I tore up a picture of the world into several pieces and told him to reassemble them to form a complete globe, thinking it would occupy him for a while. To my surprise, he was back in three minutes with the world properly assembled. When I asked him how he did it so



Rep. Beth Harwell

quickly, he responded, 'On the back side was a picture of a man, and when I

People

got the man right, the world was right too'. How's that for perspective?"

Representative Harwell was the prime sponsor of Families First, Tennessee's acclaimed welfare reform program. She has worked vigorously to

increase rights for children victimized by violent and sexual crimes. Harwell recalled the story of a woman who set a standard for all who followed her after she overcame her fear and made a decision to help others.

"Eleanor Roosevelt literally became ill when she was asked to speak. She did not feel good about her appearance and did not enjoy getting up in front of a crowd because of that. She determined to find a cause she believed in and pledged to promote it. She did that and set the standard by which First Ladies are now judged today. Each new First Lady now selects a cause to promote because Eleanor Roosevelt made the decision to overcome her fear."

Attendees then saw the film "We Were Arrested of Course", produced by Emmy Award-Winning Elaine Prater Hodges, which vividly re-creates the ordeals that Alice Paul and her followers in the national Women's Party endured to force the President and the Congress of the United States to confront the issue of women's suffrage. 🏠

Earn Cash for Your Ideas Through the Army Suggestion Program

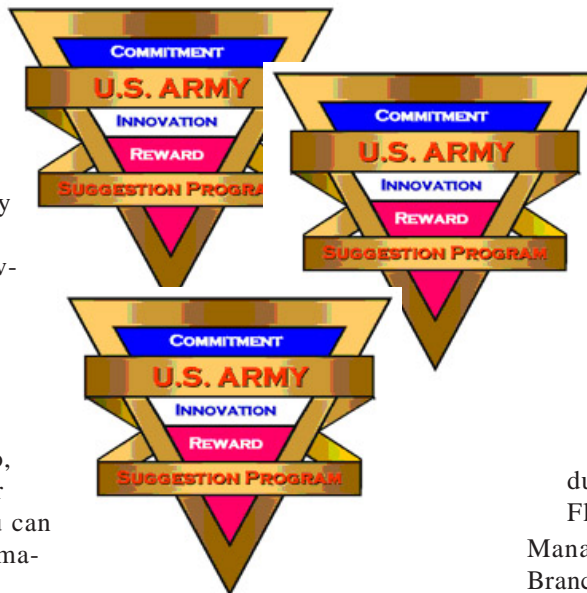
by *Flournette Roper*

Have you ever thought of a more efficient way to perform the duties of your job? Perhaps you know a way that will save time or money, streamline a process, result in higher quality products, or produce faster cycle times.

The Army Suggestion Program (ASP) provides you an opportunity to formally suggest ways to increase the efficiency and productivity of the Army. The ASP is now fully automated and must be accessed using your Army Knowledge Online (AKO) account. All ASP correspondence is forwarded using your AKO email address. So, even if you are deployed to Iraq or supporting emergency efforts, you can submit your idea through your permanent duty station by using your

personal AKO account.

The website for submitting a suggestion is <https://armysuggestions.army.mil>. Just click on



the link titled Submit a Suggestion. It's that easy!!! There is even a "save" function that allows the suggestor to fill out the submission information over a period of time rather than during one on-line session.

Suggestions are still processed in accordance with AR 5-17 and can be submitted by an individual or by someone submitting a group suggestion. The ASP provides cash award incentives up to \$25,000. Awards are based on the tangible and intangible first-year savings or benefits determined by the evaluator.

The Army Suggestion Program Coordinator is the point of contact during the entire process. Call Flournette Roper in Resource Management, Management Analysis Branch, at (615)736-7499. 🏠

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to ...

...Althea Rudolph, Yvette Walker, and Tunissha Marshall, who have joined the Contracting staff. Rudolph joined the staff from the Executive Office. Walker joined the staff from the Operations Division. Marshall joined the staff from the Louisville District, Fort Campbell Resident Office. We are pleased to be working with each of them.

...Ronald E. Gatlin, Jr., electrician trainee, who transferred to Center Hill Power Plant June 12 from Old Hickory Power Plant.

Congratulations to...

...Dana Gill, Project Management, upon her marriage to Benjamin A. Gibbs Sept. 3 in Ashland City, Tenn.

...Jade Carter, daughter of Jimmy Carter, Dale Hollow Lake, and Cody Cross of Livingston, Tenn., who were married Aug. 20.

...Cleo Howard, Cheatham Power Plant, who will join the Corps retired list but will not retire altogether. He is leaving the Corps of Engineers to expand his small engine repair business. A farewell reception will be held at the Cheatham Power Plant on Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.

...Tommy Cushman, Cheatham Resource, who will retire Sept. 27 following a luncheon at the Cheatham Lake tailwater shelter.

Baby Brigade to ...

...Angela and Robert Johnson on the birth of their daughter, Jamie Alexis. She was born on Aug. 2 and weighed 9



Jamie Alexis



photo by Lynn Bowden

Roger Devereux, Operations Division, Navigation Branch, Cumberland River Operations Center, is presented an award by District Engineer LTC Steven Roemhildt Sept. 12 that recognizes his service to the Corps, the nation and Operation Iraqi Freedom from Nov. 28, 2004 to June 11, 2005.

pounds 8 ounces. Angela is the daughter of Corrine Paris, office assistant, Cordell Hull Lake.

Farewell to...

...Stanley N. Young, maintenance worker at Center Hill Power Plant, who retired May 1 with 17 years of service.

...Ronnie W. Collins, Sr. electrician at Center Hill Power Plant, who retired June 1 with 35 years of service.

Sympathy to...

...John I. Case, Jr., retired, whose father passed away Aug. 15 after a long battle with lung cancer.

...Chrystal McConkey, Eastern Regulatory Field Office, Lenoir City, Tenn., whose father passed away in August.

...Carol Thomas, daughter of Robert Flood, lock operator at Barkley Lock, passed away Sept. 1 after a brief illness.

...the family of Jack Rowland, long-time Corps employee who passed away Sept. 6. Rowland worked for Construction Division for many years and then for Operations Division.

Thank you ...

...“I would like to say ‘THANK YOU’ to the Corps employees who donated sick leave during my recovery from surgery. You think it’s never going to happen to you, but when it does it’s nice to know there’s help. The Corps family is great. Thanks again.” *Jim Hughes*

Upcoming Events ...

...The National Disability Month celebration will be held October 18 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Room A640. Sharon Terrell-Lindsay, dexterity team leader for Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), will be the featured speaker.

Notice of Change ...

...the mileage reimbursement for federal employees when they use their personal vehicle on government business has been increased from \$.405 to \$.485. This applies to temporary duty and for local travel beginning on September 1 and will be effective through Dec.31. Depending on the fuel situation at that time, a decision will be made about whether to keep this rate, to reduce the rate, or to increase the rate. 📧

Corporate Challenge Seeks Runners

by Mark Klimaszewski

With just over a month to go before this year's Corporate Challenge event, you still have time to get in shape, get motivated and get ready.

October 22 is the big day to come out and compete against other companies in Middle Tennessee and represent the Corps of Engineers, not to mention grab one of the coveted Corporate Challenge T-Shirts.

The races will be held adjacent to the Nortel building in Nashville's Metro Center. At press time, nearly 20 employees from different offices had confirmed their intent to take part, but the more participants each company enters, the more chances to score points in the events.

Here is how the competition works. To make the competition fair, companies are grouped into classes according to how many employees are scheduled to participate. Participants are also grouped according to age to ensure a level playing

field. The team which finishes all the events with the highest point total wins the Challenge.

The morning will start with a fitness walk for non-runners, followed by separate men's and women's 3-mile events. There will be one-mile races, relays, stationary cycling events and even an open race where men and women can compete against each other.

Spectators and volunteers are encouraged.

7 a.m. – Team Packet Pick-up

8 a.m. – Three-mile and Master Women

8:45 a.m. – Three-mile and Master Men*

9:20 a.m. – Two Mile Fitness Walk

9:50 a.m. – Pyramid Relay

10:15 a.m. – Kid's Races (ages 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10)

10:40 a.m. – One Mile Women

11 a.m. – One Mile Men*

11:20 a.m. – One-Mile Master/Veteran Women

12:10 p.m. – Three-Mile Relay

Awards Ceremony follows final event.

* Open to women.

Money raised from the Challenge will benefit Book 'Em, a charity that promotes reading among Metro Nashville pre-K and first-grade at-risk children.

Organizers are still looking for participants so if you are interested in participating, volunteering or would like more information, contact Mark Klimaszewski by phone at 822-4846 or by email at mark.a.klimaszewski@lm02.usace.army.mil. We look forward to seeing you all at the race! 🏃

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SAME Golf Scramble Invites Players

The 2005 Society of American Military Engineers Scholarship Golf Scramble will be held Oct. 14 at the Windtree Golf Course, a change from the normal springtime event.

Registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. with a 7:30 shotgun start.

Prizes will be awarded in three flights for this four-person scramble. The cost

is \$70 per person for Corps employees and includes green fees, cart, breakfast, and lunch. No metal spikes are allowed on the course.

Businesses may sponsor a hole/team package for \$500, which includes entry for a four-person team, and a sign recognizing a hole sponsorship.

To reserve an individual spot, team spot, and/or sponsorship, contact April Barker at spril.barker@amec.com, or Cindy Popplewell at Cynthia.popplewell@amec.com. Registration forms received from either must be faxed to 615.781.0655. The deadline for reservations and payments is Friday, Oct. 7. Barker and Popplewell may be reached by phone at 615.333.0630.

To get to the Windtree Course from I-40, take Old Hickory north for 2.8 miles. Turn right on Lebanon Road and go 5.7 miles to Nonaville Rd. Turn left and go for 8/10 of a mile to the course on the right. 🏌

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photo by Mark Vaughn

A hydro-plane speeds across the calm waters of J. Percy Priest Lake Sept. 10 during the first annual Music City Hydrofest.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
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Just To Be On The Safe Side...

by John Tibbels

Investment in safety, health and environmental processes is a sound business strategy for any organization regardless of size, and will lead to a positive impact on the bottom line.

Turning to an occupational safety, health and environmental professional for the insights and information you need is part of that investment. In the past, much growth in safety was regulatory-driven, but today it makes good business sense to protect people at all workplaces.

All industries, corporations, organizations and government agencies must realize that developing and implementing effective safety programs reduces fatalities, injuries and illnesses. Employers need to realize that today quality of life is important and that fatalities and injuries are unacceptable in the workplace.

Please note the following facts:

In 2001 a total of 8,786 workplace fatalities occurred in the U.S., including those lost in the September 11 attacks, and tens of thousands more suffered job-related illnesses and injuries.


Every year workplace deaths, illnesses and injuries cost the nation \$170 billion, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Why it pays to invest in workplace safety

Studies and case histories indicate that for every \$1 invested in a safety and health program, \$4-\$6 are saved because injuries, illnesses and fatalities decline, medical costs and worker's compensation costs decrease, and productivity increases.

Organizations that invest consistently in safety realize reduced absenteeism, lower turnover, higher productivity, increased employee morale and a positive brand image.

The public and private sector should be encouraged to work together to show business and industry that occupational safety and health is not only required by law, but should become and remain a core business strategy.

Safety and health violations are no longer a cost of doing business. Investing in safety is a sound business decision, a fact that more and more companies and agencies are realizing. Every company and every government organization needs to also follow these safety-conscious examples. 

Employee of the Month

(Cont. from page 2)

communicated progress to several fellow contract specialists, resulting in a seamless transition of her workload.

The contract specialist's untiring efforts, focus on mission accomplishment, professional attitude and knowledge ensured successful mission execution of end of fiscal year 2005 for both Kentucky Lock Projects. She has displayed

initiative, professional competency, and devotion to duty while awarding a myriad of complex, highly visible contract actions within very constrained time-lines. Senior Leaders select the Nashville District employee of the Month from the many excellent employees identified by the District's chain of command. Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 