



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

Volume 106, Number 1

Relevant-Ready-Responsible-Reliable

January 2006



Employees Donate Toys to Children at Christmas Time

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Toys, Food Collected for Children


Many Nashville District employees chose to make Christmas better for others in 2005.

They did so by collecting toys for the children in Harlan, Whitley, and Bell Counties in Kentucky for the 18th consecutive year. The need was great there and Nashville District's Danny Ferrell, Upper Cumberland Area Office, made the trip to Nashville on December 9, loaded his truck with toys until it was nearly overflowing and drove the load north.

Collection boxes were placed in the Executive Office, Operations, Engineering-Construction, Contracting, and Real Estate. Ferrell then made a trip early the

next week to the home of former Corps employee James Traylor in Knoxville for a second load to add to those collected by employees at the Upper Cumberland Office. All were then delivered by Farrell and Anita Taylor to the Bell-Whitley Community Services Agency where they were wrapped and presented to school children at a party hosted by the Agency December 17.

District Office employees made a separate collection and delivered them to the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital for patients there.

Carol Warren spearheaded another effort. She ensured that collection boxes were placed throughout the Estes Kefauver Federal Building for food items. Those items were then delivered to Second Harvest so that needy families could enjoy traditional meals during the holidays. 

On the Cover

Thomas Carr (left) and Gabriel J. Shelly, District Supply Room, play Santa Claus and prepare to load the mountain of collected toys December 9 on a cart for transport to Danny Ferrell's waiting vehicle. For the 18th straight year, they were then transported to southeastern Kentucky and distributed to the children of Bell, Harlan, and Whitley Counties by workers at the Bell-Whitley Community Services Agency.



photo by Dave Treadway

District Digest

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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.

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

Commander's Corner

I trust that everyone had a wonderful Christmas, Holidays and New Year. I would like to especially give thanks to those heroes who spent the holiday season deployed, either to the Gulf Coast region or in support of GWOT in Iraq or Afghanistan.

We had 22 personnel deployed from the District during the holidays and five of these were abroad. Currently, we have 27 deployed with another six preparing to go. I expect to sustain this level of commitment for the long-term. If you are considering volunteering, even if it would be later in the year, please notify your supervisor of your interest; we still need volunteers.

The deployment of the National Security Personal System (NSPS) is delayed. There are concerns expressed by

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various National-level unions over the integration of NSPS. Our Headquarters has agreed to defer NSPS deployment until these concerns are resolved. I am disappointed in the delay as I believe that this system is a better way to recognize high-achievers within the organization; however, the delay will provide us more time to ensure that our supervisors are adequately trained and prepared for the additional skills required by NSPS. I am unsure as to the duration of the delay and as soon as I hear anything definitive, I will pass along an update.

The District's Senior Leaders just completed the 2006 Nashville Business Plan (NBP). We are now in the process of publication and distribution of this plan.

The NBP is a management system that measures our success in those areas that lead us toward long-term strategic goals. In our current environment, we have very little discretionary funds or resources and I am using this plan to ensure that we utilize our resources in those areas that will drive performance and ensure the District's future health and vitality.

The plan contains a number of objectives with corresponding measures and targets. The plan also lays out various initiatives that we will strive to


undertake this year. Good performance toward our objectives and initiatives leads to effective and efficient accomplishment of our mission; conversely, poor performance provides the opportunity to reallocate resources to ensure success.

Through your work and dedication, the Nashville District will achieve our objectives and — I have no doubt — will even exceed our targets. I will update you frequently throughout the year relative to our performance on the NBP objectives. Working together, with a clear plan in hand, we will provide a high-quality, cost-effective, timely, innovative and safe solution to our customers and to our Nation.

I would like to close with a note on safety and eye protection. One of the most dangerous jobs we do in the Nashville District is welding. It is important that our welders wear the proper eye protection; this includes a welding helmet with proper shading, and safety glasses with side shields. The safety glasses with side shields are necessary to



prevent burns from hot metal slag during welding.

Section 05.B, *Eye and Face Protection of the Safety and Health Manual, EM 385-1-1*, provides guidance and requirements you need to know to protect your eyes. Please take the time to read this section of the safety manual. In addition to welding, please be mindful of conditions that could cause damage to your eyes, albeit from pressure washing to various administrative functions that have inherent dangers. Reading it could save your eye sight. 


December Employee of the Month

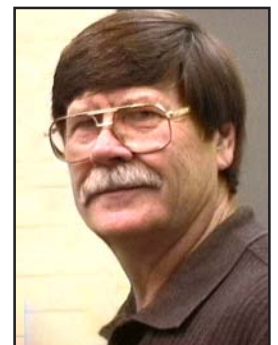
Richard Cox, power project specialist, Cheatham Power Plant, was selected as the District Employee of the Month for December 2005.

The power project specialist recently provided invaluable support as a member of the Project Development Team tasked with studying the feasibility and practicality of remote control for Dale Hollow Power Plant.

Cox has also been very active as a Consideration of Others (CO₂) facilitator for the Nashville Area Office. He consistently demonstrated an outstanding ability to establish a rapport with employees throughout the Nashville Area as well as the Old Hickory and Cheatham Power Plants. He fully supported the hydropower training program, making himself available for quarterly and bi-annual student examinations. He continually worked with those trainees assigned to the Cheatham Power Plant to

ensure continuity of verbal and hands-on training to meet the needs of each trainee. Cox always supported the personal and educational development of his employees and his retirement from the Corps of Engineers on January 3 leaves a void, not only at Cheatham Power Plant but also in the Nashville District.

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. 



Richard Cox

Children Invited to ‘Shop With a Cop’

by Park Ranger Becky Jolly
photos by Greg Smith, USFWS

Cheatham Lake Park Rangers Jeff Hancock, Tadd Potter and I helped play Santa with 23 students from Dover Elementary School on December 12.

It was a unique experience. We were joined by 19 Law Enforcement Officers from various agencies, along with nine Dover High School students, for the opportunity to take each third- and fourth-grade student Christmas shopping at Wal-Mart. The event was dubbed ‘Shop with a Cop 2006’.

Our entourage drew stares from onlookers as we arrived in patrol cars and a school bus. Amid the stares, we wondered what they were thinking. The curious came up and asked and when we explained our mission a few of the shoppers offered to add to the money that had already been raised! We let them share in the fun.

‘Cops’ in uniform represented the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dover City Police Department, Stuart County Sheriff’s Department, Tennessee Valley Authority, Cumberland City Police Department, the National Park Service and the Corps of Engineers. Each officer helped a different student pick out presents for their families and goodies for themselves. Items purchased ranged from shoes to radio remote control hummers.

Dustin was my charge and I had the pleasure of helping him shop for a flower for his girlfriend. It also HAD to be a rose! Turns out he had three ‘girlfriends’. We first found a rose for his girlfriend, then a rose for his Nana, and finally carnations for his Mom.

“I had a great time shopping for myself and my family,” said Student Amber Floyd. Amber went straight to the clothes department and then finished in the toys section. Amber “wanted to save the best for last!”

After the shopping was finished, the money was spent, and the ‘Cops’ were tired, we returned to Dover Courthouse where a lunch of pizza, chips and cookies was provided and each student got to meet Santa (who helped the National Park



Park Ranger Tadd Potter (right) and a High School student named Heather help Dover Elementary third grader Amber Floyd shop at Wal-Mart Dec. 12 during ‘Shop With a Cop’ day.

Service on the side). Although they had just cleaned out Wal-Mart, each told Santa what they wanted for Christmas. As they were being entertained by Santa, all the ‘Cops’ helped wrap presents for

each family member. It’s debatable who had more fun, the children playing with their toys or the law enforcement personnel wrapping an assortment of gifts for wide-eyed children! 📷



Park Ranger Jeff Hancock, with the aid of a High School student, helps a Dover Elementary fourth grader shop for a Christmas present.

Former District Employee

Harvard Law Student Wins Skadden Fellowship

by Dave Treadway

Jessica Myers Swafford, daughter of Contractor Randy Myers and sister of Amy Agoo, Hydropower Branch, Operations Division, was named the winner of a 2005 Skadden Fellowship in December. She is a Harvard law student and will graduate in May, then work for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlandns this fall.

"She worked with Myrna King in Information Management," said older sister Agoo, "as a student aide for one summer while she was working on her undergraduate degree in Anthropology at Barnard College. She always wanted to work for the 'little people' and I think this may have prompted her to go on to law school. I am very proud of her. She is very talented, self-motivated and will do very well. Working for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlandns will now let her do exactly what she wants to do."

King had high praise for 'Jessie'. "She had so much initiative. We gave her one thing to do and she would do much more."



Jessica Myers, Barnard graduation day.

Agoo said Jessica, her hubby and two cats will move back to Nashville this summer.

Myers helped Harvard law students set a new record this year in winning nine of 27 Skadden fellowships. The Skadden program grants funding to graduating students and recent alumni to pursue

public interest legal work. This year's achievement breaks the school's own record set in 2003 when eight students won the award — the most ever won by students from a single school in the history of the fellowship.

The Skadden Fellowship Foundation, described as "a legal Peace Corps" by *The Los Angeles Times*, was established in 1988 to commemorate the firm's 40th anniversary, in recognition of the dire need for greater funding for graduating law students who wish to devote their professional lives to providing legal services to the poor (including the working poor), the elderly, the homeless and the disabled, as well as those deprived of their civil or human rights.

The aim of the foundation is to give Fellows the freedom to pursue public interest work; thus, the Fellows create their own projects before they apply. Fellows are chosen in December each year and begin their work the following autumn.

The fellowship grants awards to graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks. Fellows are provided a salary and benefits package, with the expectation of renewal for a second year. 🏠

Nashville District Celebrates Native American Culture

by Dave Treadway

Nashville District celebrated the sounds of Native Americans Nov. 30, 2005, using the theme, "Respecting Tradition, Embracing a Healthy Future".

President George W. Bush proclaimed November National American Indian Heritage Month to honor the many contributions and accomplishments of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

"Since the earliest days of our Republic," wrote President Bush, "Native Americans have played a vital role in our country's freedom and security. From the Revolutionary War scouts to the Code Talkers of World War II, Native Americans have served in all branches of America's Armed Forces. Today, that proud tradition continues, with Native Americans bravely defending our country in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and helping to spread liberty around the world."

Native American John Michael Shrewsbury served as Master of Ceremonies. Sally Wells, a member of the Native American Indian Association of Tennessee, Incorporated (NAIA), talked about the Association and how it



photo by Stacy Bennett

Anthony Martin performs a native dance Nov. 30.

represents more than 10,000 members who call Tennessee home.

"The NAIA provides a broad range of services," said Wells, "including job training and placement, vocational training, scholarships, bilingual and other educational services, health services, cultural revitalization and emergency assistance in times of crisis.

"NAIA represents all Native American Indians regardless of sex or tribe."

Those gathered for the observance were then treated to a musical performance by recording artist Timo Cano as he played and sang several songs, some of which he also wrote.

Native Dancer and Storyteller Anthony Martin also performed to educate employees about the art of the dance and how it was used to tell stories and celebrate significant events.

The program helped District employees, many of which were viewing an event such as this for the first time, understand the legacy of America's first inhabitants. 🏠



Haditha Dam's Iraqi Plant Manager Hasan Yahya Hasan and Chester Lowery stand in front of the facility's Power Project.

Chester Lowery Makes a Difference in Iraq

by Norris Jones

Gulf Region Central District

Chester Lowery believes in harmony. That philosophy is clear in the way he's been helping U.S. Marines and Iraqi engineers work together to maximize the output of one of Iraq's largest electric generating facilities. It's also the reason, for a pastime, he formed a bluegrass band back in his home in Tennessee.

Lowery, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer employee for 27 years, volunteered in September to fill the billet as Power Project Manager at Haditha Dam, located in Al Anbar Province in western Iraq. He's the only USACE representative there.

Haditha is Iraq's second-largest hydro-electric facility whose construction was started in 1976. Located on the Euphrates River, it has a reservoir capacity of 8.2 billion cubic meters (compared to Mosul Dam on the Tigris River that has a 12.5 billion cubic meter capacity).

Haditha Dam is capable of producing 660 megawatts of power from its six units. Because of low water, the facility is currently producing about 150 megawatts daily.

Capt. James Haynie, U.S. Marine Corps, commander of Headquarters and Service Company, explained the actions that brought Lowery to this critical position.

"We funded this position," said Haynie, "to bring in someone who could interface between our security force at the dam and the Iraqi engineers operating the

facility. The Iraqis would seek access to certain parts of the facility, would suggest certain actions, and we had no idea whether it made any sense or not. Mr. Lowery filled that void."

He also brought a depth of experience and has helped the Iraqis institute a preventive maintenance program. "He worked with them," continued Haynie, "in writing a 90-page maintenance manual that calls for certain daily, weekly, monthly and annual inspections covering every aspect of the plant. Prior to this the Iraqis' main focus was fixing problems as they occurred."

What's really remarkable about Mr. Lowery is his infectious personality. He's well respected by all who know him."

Hasan Yahya Hasan, the facility's senior Iraqi operator, also has high praise for Lowery's efforts. He says Lowery helped get the Iraqi staff increased from 20 employees to 165 workers. "It's great to talk to somebody who understands what we're trying to do," he said.

Lowery says he gets great satisfaction in seeing the smiles on Iraqi faces as they solve problems together and work as a team. And he doesn't spend much time at his desk, preferring instead to roll up his sleeves and help with jobs like replacing broken valves and snapped pipes. Lowery said initially the language barrier was the biggest challenge.

"None of the Iraqi engineers would speak English," revealed Lowery. "But after we

worked together and they built up their confidence in me, I discovered 90 percent of them understood what I was saying. Communication is no longer an issue."

The silver-haired Lowery is the senior mechanic at Cheatham Power Plant which has three units producing 12 megawatts of electricity. He originally signed up for a four-month tour in Iraq but has agreed to stay two extra months until March 2006. He and wife Patricia, married 32 years, have two children. Son Joshua has worked with USACE as a lock and dam operator at Cheatham for the past seven years, and daughter Jessica is a nurse. The couple and their two children formed a bluegrass band called "The Lowerys." They even built a stage in the backyard of their one-acre homestead and each year invite musicians from throughout the Midwest to stop by for a weekend of camaraderie and songs. Chester says Patricia has a voice reminiscent of Patsy Cline, while Jessica's is more in the Alison Krauss genre.

Whether it's watching him in 2-4 time hike up some of the 290 stairs at Haditha Dam's 10-story structure (elevators are non-operational), or hear his southern accent in a much slower 4-4 cadence, you experience some of the rhythms in Lowery's life. Timing is everything and Lowery's bottom line on this assignment is getting those six hydro-electric turbines singing in unison as they produce the maximum power for residents of Iraq. 🇮🇶

Christmas in Iraq

by Suzanne Fournier, LRD Chief of Public Affairs, who is deployed to Iraq.


Base Camp Adder, Dhi Qar Province - The Shepherds with their flocks of sheep were keeping watch just outside Camp Adder. Camels stood by the wise men, called Coalition forces, keeping all safe and secure.

This venture started several months ago and is likely to remain in the hearts of Gulf Region South employees forever. This project inspired an existing group of Corps employees, upgrading their spirits, changing their hearts and replacing all their fear and doubt with energy to give hope to the people of Iraq. Work will continue throughout the next year, replacing old schools with healthy, safe places where the young (pictured below) can learn; building water

distribution and treatment facilities to reduce waterborne illness; and helping police, border guards, highway patrolmen and soldiers to be safe and prepared to protect all of God's chosen people.

Vital structures continue to be upgraded to protect the smallest angels by providing health care that will lower the infant mortality rate; roads, rail stations, airports and ports to transport vital commodities to families; and electricity to light each heart and home.

Renovations will bring peace, joy and hope to Iraqi men, women and children so that one day the desert that gave birth to Abraham will grow fertile again.

People who live in the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers will be self-sustaining, free and, once again, full of hope. 



Young school students at Camp Adder, Dhi Qar Province, Iraq, stand on each side of Suzanne Fournier.

Express line replaces 'Hurry Up and Wait'

by Peter Versteegen

The express line has replaced the "hurry up and wait" line for supplies at the Louisiana Recovery Field Office (RFO) in Baton Rouge. La. Jo Miller, Nashville District, and Jean



Bailey, Alaska District, have shortened the Army Corps of Engineers' supply lines for both personnel and materials from nearly an hour to about five minutes in their little corner of the world. (See Express, page 8)

Readiness Update

Deployed Personnel: Civil Emergencies: 19 GWOT: 5 Total Deployed: 24

Support to Civil Emergencies (Katrina/Rita/Wilma): Nashville to date has deployed 113 employees. Currently 19 are deployed. 94 others have completed tours and returned home.

Global War on Terrorism (GWOT): Currently four are in Iraq and one is in Afghanistan

Returning Personnel: Thank you for your support to the recovery operations!!

All disaster temporary duty travelers are responsible for ensuring the official record file of their personal travel and time contain copies of all timesheets and travel records (orders, vouchers, and all receipts) for each of their disaster travel periods. It's VERY probable you will be audited at some point in the future.

Helpful hints provided by RM for preparing the official records:
a. Review each travel voucher settlement statement and verify correctness. Immediate corrections must be made to vouchers funded by FEMA before the money is withdrawn from the District.
b. Keep original receipts, travel orders, and vouchers with original signatures in the official records. A copy of this travel record will be requested when audited. The traveler is responsible for the completeness of this record. Don't leave it up to someone to see that all documents are included. This official record will remain in the traveler's official duty office and should be maintained under regulatory guidelines for official files.

c. The official record file should contain at a minimum:
(1) Orders with amendments, (2) Travel Vouchers, (3) Lodging Receipts, (4) Rental Vehicle Receipts, (5) Travel Voucher Settlement Statements, (6) and all other receipts for anything being claimed for reimbursement with a value of more than \$75.
d. Timesheets and Tour of Duty Letters should also be reviewed for correctness, and a copy kept with your travel records.

Volunteers are still needed in Mississippi and Louisiana. Those interested in deploying should hold a government credit card in good standing and take the following measures:
STEP #1: Complete your Personal Data Sheet (PDS) and Medical Screening in ENLink <https://englink.usace.army.mil> (Instructions are available in the Emergency Operations Center).
STEP #2: Get supervisor's approval; then have supervisor email the EOC with their approval.
STEP #3: Supervisors, Timekeepers, and Travel Clerks of the volunteer should complete their Personal Data Sheet to include the 'Phone/Commo' section. This information is required because it is displayed on the deploying person's PDS.
STEP #4: Contact the Safety Office for assistance with getting the Hepatitis A and Tetanus shots; and get Personal Protective Equipment that includes a hardhat, safety boots, safety glasses, etc.

New Madrid Earthquake Response Plan: Efforts are underway to update the Nashville District New Madrid Earthquake Response (Cont. on page 11)



(Graphic for the 1895 & 1994 events)

The Best Communication Debate of 2005

Robert T. Anderson, Memphis District Chief of Public Affairs, recently came across an excellent exchange by communicators (consultants who freely shared their views in a public forum) about their craft which is worth sharing, like ‘lessons learned’, so that we might all benefit.

Chris Smithers observed:

More and more I hear discussions which revolve around ‘elevating’ communications to a strategic role. As a communicator with 30 years experience, I always thought our role was to help others understand an idea, a proposition or a concept . . . it involves execution, the ability to span the divide between organizational strategy and grasping the audience by the throat and getting them to deliver up the goods, whether they are customers or employees whom we need to take on a journey.

John Clifford responded with:

Communicators should do what we do best. . . if we’re not making the impact . . . for the benefit of the organization due to some blockage, we need to get the blockage cleared. Communicators . . . can bring people together more effectively . . . to meet organizational needs, not to enjoy writing and playing with photographs or information technology . . . great channels can’t work miracles if they’re being drowned out. Communication can (work miracles) if targeted where it’s needed most . . .

Keith Hardie countered with:

. . .there must be a balance . . . communication is becoming a more important strategic issue (‘strategy’ is the purpose and direction, not the detailed plans) because people’s expectations of involvement at work are rising . . . need to

Communication

react more quickly to changes. Well-thought-out strategies without the capability to deliver are useless.

Chris Smithers wrote:

. . . your director will appreciate, recognize and reward your contribution about how he might deal with organizational issues . . . from a different perspective . . . far more recognition than for production of a pretty newsletter or web site . . . and he WILL love you for producing great newsletters and great intranet sites.

And the final note by Tom Lee:

Ask yourself a couple of basic questions: What is the purpose of all those internal newsletters and web sites? Why do organizations devote scarce resources to them?

It is not to make people feel good. It is not to win Quill awards. It is not to keep “communicators” employed. None of that is fundamentally important.

Rather, it is to enable the organization to succeed like never before. Just as you do not buy gasoline for the sake of owning it, but rather because it can take

you places, so a company . . . publishes newsletters because they can take the company places it wants to go.

But the newsletters and web sites are irrelevant by themselves because they do not operate in a vacuum. They cannot enable the company to succeed unless their messages are consistent with other messages, far more powerful, being sent by leadership behaviors, programs, policies, day-to-day decisions, an ineffable passion for the enterprise . . . stuff employees pay attention to.

The messages in our publications and web sites must absolutely be consistent with the reality experienced by employees. If it isn’t, the company cannot change and it cannot succeed.

Do leaders want us to speak up? Just ask one. I did. Let me tell you a little story.

Fourteen years ago, in my first meeting with a Fortune 25 global CEO and board chairman to whom I had just been assigned to write internal presentations and announcements, I asked him straight away how I should view my role. I could merely make him sound wise and eloquent, and if that was all he wanted, that’s all I would do. Or I could tell him when he was full of bull.

“Which,” I asked, “do you want me to do?”

My career since then has reflected his response. Communication is far more than words and pictures. In fact, words and pictures are often the least of it. 📄

Express (Cont. from page 7.)

They work in a 20- by 23-foot supply room operated by logistics management at the RFO.

They expedited the supply lines by finding trends in what project managers and project engineers wanted field personnel to take with them. They shortened the wait time for duty personnel by pre-packaging those supplies in a ready-to-go bag. The go-pack includes a Louisiana state map, insect repellent, “Fix a Flat,” hand sanitizer, file folders, a flashlight, clipboard, tape measure, calculator and pens. Personnel simply sign for the go-pack and are on their way.

“We used to have three long lines of people that went from inside the room out into the hall,” said Bailey, who helped stand up the RFO with supplies for people to accomplish the recovery mission.

They have outfitted workers assisting the recovery from the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management on assignment to the Corps.

Miller is an administrative assistant in the Engineering - Construction Division of the Nashville District. Bailey is administrative assistant in the regulatory

branch of the Alaska District. Miller likes working with people.

“It’s very fulfilling to help people accomplish their part of the recovery mission,” she said. She started at the RFO as a property book assistant, issuing cell phones, laptops, global positioning system units and digital cameras. After the RFO lost two people in the supply room, she moved there. “It gives me a sense of accomplishment and gratification that I am, in a small way, helping victims of Katrina.”

Primary RFO missions under FEMA authority are debris clean-up, critical public facilities and providing temporary roofing material for qualified residents. 📄

Hunting the Land of the Giants

by Dave Treadway

Shadowy forms moved at the edge of the clearing. Through my binoculars in the poor light of dawn I made out several white-tailed deer, one apparently with a nice rack. My watch showed 8:05 a.m., still 15 minutes until legal shooting time. Within moments, the buck with the nice rack slipped into the timber.

Two years in the planning, I was finally sitting in a tree stand north of Meadow Lake in the middle of Saskatchewan, Canada, hunting the most sought-after north American big game animal.

My son, Michael, from Gainesville, Fla., sat a stand high in a black spruce to the west.

We flew into Saskatoon on Saturday then drove north, with four friends, on Sunday for more than three hours to Safari River Outfitters on the banks of the Beaver River, a camp situated in forest that serves as the far northern reaches of the whitetail. Here they must compete for survival with moose, bears, coyotes and wolves.

Zeroing in our rifles before darkness fell was required by the outfitter, a good precaution after rough handling by baggage carriers on the long flights from Florida, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Michael was accompanied by Phil and his son Craig, and their friends Rick and Allen. Ray and Robert arrived from West Virginia. I was the lone Volunteer.

Tree stands would be the usual perches from which we hoped to spot deer, along with an occasional ground blind. Thick vegetation made stalking nearly impossible.

Well before dawn on Monday, we bounced along rough roads to remote sites.



The author's buck.

A bull moose crossed the road and vanished from the beam of the truck's headlights, a reminder of just how far north we had traveled. Then a short ride on an ATV put me at my stand which overlooked the

small clearing surrounded by spruce, mixed with aspen and jack pine.

Bucks and does intermittently visited the clearing, one carried a wide eight-point rack, or four by four, as the Canadians measure it. Another sported a high rack, again with eight points.

As darkness fell on the first day, the sound of the guide returning for me was a welcome sound. He also brought the news that Michael had scored on a nice buck. When we reached the truck, Michael was all smiles.

"I watched several deer during the morning," said Michael, "but none that looked like 'shooters'. Then at 11:05 this bruiser stepped out of the trees and I knew this was the one I wanted. I put the scope on him, followed him until he stopped and pulled the trigger. He dropped in his tracks." The rack green scored 143 5/8 and was his largest deer to date, an 11-pointer with one broken tine. Craig's wide 10-pointer taken just before dark scored 163. Both deer weighed more than 300 pounds.

Early Tuesday morning I was back in the same tree stand and watched some of the same bucks appear and disappear. One nine-pointer made an appearance but I let him walk.

On Wednesday the temperature hovered at 18F with a forecast of snow. A 30-minute truck ride followed by 30 more minutes on an ATV put me in a spot so remote I could only hope my guide remembered where he had left me. I settled into a tree stand 30 feet up a spruce. As the forest floor became visible, again I could see shapes moving about. Three bucks showed with deformed antlers and one nice eight pointer tempted me to take a shot, but again I waited. Numerous does passed my stand as snow fell and made me thankful I had packed lots of chemical hand warmers.

A tally at camp that evening showed only Robert and I had failed to fill our tags, but three days still remained. Phil had taken a 10-pointer that scored 157 5/8. Allen's 10-pointer ranked just above it at 159. Rick's scored 147. Ray's nice 10-pointer was in the 150 range.

On Thanksgiving morning we were greeted with another 18-degree reading. I



Author's son with his trophy.

bundled up and headed out with Ray while everyone else slept in.

Darkness was fading as 8:30 approached and the sounds of deer walking below easily reached my ears. Behind me and to my left sounded heavy footfalls of what could only be a big deer. Strain though I might, I could not see what approached. A glance back to my front caused my heart to skip a beat. A big-racked buck was looking my way, also trying to glimpse the noisy intruder behind me. I could easily tell this was a shooter so I eased my rifle into position and settled the crosshairs of the Simmons 3X9 on his left shoulder. The crack of the rifle broke the morning stillness. I glanced up to see white flags of fleeing deer bouncing away through the timber. Surely I hadn't missed that shot!

My eyes returned to the spot where he had been standing and I was rewarded with a patch of brown and white! He had dropped where he stood.

Late that same evening Robert returned to camp wearing the widest smile of all



Robert's 180 class trophy.

and with good reason, his 12-point topped the charts at 180, the biggest buck he had ever taken. 🍷

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to...

...Gwen Haliburton, Resource Management Office, Finance and Accounting Branch, of the Nashville District. Gwen assumes the duties of the District revolving fund accountant and brings a wealth of experience from her years in the Vicksburg District.

Goodbye to ...

...Rob Karwedsky, District archeologist, who retired December 9.

...Lynn Bowden, District audio-visual specialist, Victoria Hooper, Human Resources specialist, Richard Cox, Cheatham power plant specialist, and Mary Hayeland, Power Plant office assistant, who all retired January 3.

Baby Brigade to...

...Carey and Jennifer Snellings (daughter of Beryl Newsome) on the birth of son Nathan Carey who arrived November 9 and weighed in at 7 pounds, 8



Nathan Carey



ounces. He measured 20 and ¼ inches. ...Retiree Joe Cathey, upon the birth of Margaret (Maggie)

Margaret Mae Campbell Mae Campbell November 10 to daughter Jennifer Jo Cathey Campbell and Jimmy Campbell, who live in Chattanooga, Tenn.

...Janelle Dickens, budget analyst in the Resource Management Office, Budget



Brandon Mikel

Branch, for whom Christmas came early – 3:51 a.m. on December 13 to be exact.

That's when Brandon Mikel arrived, weighing in at 6 pounds and 8 ounces.

...Kevin and Stacy Claywell are the proud parents of Jacob Bryant Claywell who was born December 29 at 4:03 a.m. Jacob weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and measured 19 inches long. Kevin is an electrician at Center Hill Power Plant.

Sympathy to...

...Gary Stinson, Cost Engineering, whose father passed away November 27.

...John T. Baird, a park ranger at J. Percy Priest Lake, whose grandfather, John L. Baird, passed away on Wednesday, December 7.

...Sonja Pam Reams, Laurel River Powerplant maintenance worker, whose father, Raymond Allen, passed away December 31.

...the family of Floyd H. Grubbs, Jr., an office assistant at Center Hill Power Plant for many years, who retired from the Corps in December 1988. Mr. Grubbs passed away at his home in Cookeville during the Christmas holiday season.

...the family of Lynn Collette, a former power plant superintendent at Cheatham,

Old Hickory, Wolf Creek, and Barkley Power Plants, who passed away December 24, after losing a battle with lung cancer.

...Nancy Taylor, park resource office assistant, Resource Managers Office, Old Hickory Lake, whose mother, Margo Meiers, passed away just before Christmas.

...Morris Hatmaker, lock operator at Barkley Lock, whose mother, Velma Hatmaker, passed away Sunday, December 18.

Thank you...

"I want to tell everyone how much I appreciated your expressions of sympathy upon my father's passing. The prayers, cards, emails, phone calls, spoken words, and flowers meant so much to me and my family. It shows what a caring group I have the privilege to work with each day. My dad was a WW II Navy veteran, and I was proud to receive the US flag that honored his casket. Thanks for all you did."

Gary Stinson/Cost Engineering



photos by Dave Treadway

Human Resources Specialist Victoria Hooper, (below) who served Nashville District employees for 36 years and 7 months, retired Jan. 3 and is presented the Superior Civilian Service Award by District Engineer Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt.

Audio Visual Specialist Lynn Bowden, (above right) who retired effective Jan. 3 after 34 years and 6 months service, is presented a banjo by Brad Bishop, a member of the Deep Water Boys, as a symbol of the superior support he provided the group over the years. With his help the group recorded and produced *The Ballad of the Twin Rivers*.



Readiness (Cont. from page 11)

Plan by incorporating lessons learned from the 2004/05 hurricane seasons.

New Madrid Seismic Zone History: a significant risk exists for the occurrence of a damaging earthquake in the central United States along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. This zone extends generally from the northeastern corner of Arkansas to the southernmost part of Illinois. In this region, during the period of December 1811 through February 1812, three earthquakes occurred with estimated magnitudes in excess of 8.0 on the Richter Scale. While earthquakes of this magnitude are very rare with estimated return intervals of once every several hundred years or longer, earthquakes of lesser magnitude in the 6.0 to 6.5 range may be expected to occur once every 75 to 100 years. The last such earthquakes in this region occurred in 1843 and 1895. {Reference LRD OPLAN 2000-01}

The graphic of the United States compares two events of relatively equal magnitude. The impacted area is many times greater for a New Madrid earthquake than it is for a west coast earthquake. This is due to the difference in geology present in the two areas.

The projected timeline for completing the revisions to the response plan are:

20 Dec 05- Staff briefed Commander on current plan

27 Jan 06- All Staff elements provide updated Annexes to EOC

1 Mar 06- DRAFT complete; Staff elements review changes

15 Mar 06- Provide corrections/comments to EOC

24 Mar 06- FINAL Plan Complete

29 Mar 06- Staff briefs Commander

14 Apr 06- Submit plan for Commander's signature

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA): Go to the TEMA website at <http://www.tema.org/> to find winter travel and other information such as:

Homeland Security: Current Threat Level

Weather Info: Current weather conditions, warnings/watches, and local radar

Earthquake Info: Near real-time seismic activity in the state and region

Travel/Road Conditions: Winter road conditions, statewide construction reports, and traffic cameras

*Readiness,
it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle.* 🏠

COL Dwight Pearson, executive officer at the Louisiana Recovery Field Office, Baton Rouge, La., presents the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service to Rachel Owens, (right) Human Resources at the Regional Field Office, hurricane recovery missions. She served from October 17 to December 9.



Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt (left) presents the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service Jan. 9 to Bill Bennett for service as the senior Safety Representative in the Louisiana Recovery Field Office during October, November and December 2005.



Lt. Col. Steven Roemhildt (left) presents the Commanders Award for Civilian Service Jan. 9 to Jim Beaujon for service in the Gulf Region Division during a second deployment in support of the Global War On Terrorism.

NSPS Implementation Schedule Delayed

A delay in the implementation of the National Security Personnel System was recently announced by the Program Executive Officer (PEO) to allow for sufficient time to fully develop and refine the system and implementation strategy.

PEO Mary E. Lacey indicated that over the past few months the Department of Defense has been engaged in a wide variety of activities and events relative to implementation, soft skills training for the workforce, and aligning individual performance objectives with mission objectives and measurable outcomes.

Major undertakings have included piloting training classes and preparing instructors to teach the NSPS basics to all employees, managers, and supervisors, and collaborating with the unions on implementing measures.

"The PEO has received much feedback," said Lacey, "in the course of all these activities that lead us to conclude we need more time to focus on simplifying the performance management design, getting performance objectives right, and ensuring the system is simple, clear, and understandable."

She urged managers to press ahead with communication, alignment of strategic plans/goals with performance objectives, and soft skill training initiatives, but to put January training on hold.

Lacey said she wanted to "take the time to do this right. We want to ensure that our employees, supervisors, and leaders fully understand this system, and have the tools to succeed in a results-focused, performance-based environment." 🏠

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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Winterize Your Car

by **John Tibbels**

Winter is here, so it's time to start preparing your vehicle for winter if you haven't already done so. The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" certainly applies.

First off, check out your car. Make sure your battery and charging system are in good working order. Inspect all belts and hoses for signs of wear or cracking. Replace any that are not in good condition. It is also a good idea to change to a lighter weight oil, which will make your engine a little easier to crank during cold weather.

Make sure your tires have adequate tread remaining. Using an all-weather tire is a good choice for winter driving. Also check your antifreeze. Most automotive supply stores sell economical testers so you can test the strength of your antifreeze.

Change your wiper blades if needed. Fresher blades are more important in winter to push sleet and snow. Also make sure that your washer reservoir is full and contains a cleaning fluid for use in cold weather.

Now it is time to pack some items in your car. It is a good idea to check your spare to see if it is inflated and that your jack is in good condition.

Here are some of the items that would be good to carry in your car: a small tool kit, a set of jumper cables, tire chains, a bag of sand or cat litter for traction, a flashlight and

a knife. Some bottles of water and extra food bars might be in order as well.

Never let the gas tank get below half full for winter driving. You may need the extra gas if you get stuck in traffic. Make sure your tailpipe is clear to avoid build up of carbon monoxide gas.

And, of course, take your cell phone along. Should you get "stuck", it still may take a while for help to arrive. Remember, taking good care of your vehicle before winter is that 'ounce of prevention' which could be the difference between life and death in severe weather. **Safety - it's a team effort.** 🇺🇸



Lock Operators Chris Taylor, (from left) Watts Bar, and Brian Brewer, Gunterville, took these nice trophies last fall on a December Texas hunt. Taylor's scored 136 and Brewer's 153.

Jim Deal, (right) Programs and Project Management Division, took this eight pointer about sunset Nov. 8 with a muzzleloader in Humphreys County, Tenn. on an 1,800-acre quality deer management (QDM) lease. The rack scored 128 Gross – 126 Net.

