



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

Volume 108, Number 05

Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable

May 2008



Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Story on Pages 8 - 9

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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 1,400.

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) 736-7835.

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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>.

Electronically Yours
Data Storage Systems,
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In Your Service - A Note from Electronically Yours Data Storage System (EYDSS)

EYDSS thanks the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, for the opportunity to help generate the Nashville District Digest. We know that the monthly publication is greatly missed by its readers. After reviewing past issues, we realized that there is a high standard to maintain. EYDSS will enthusiastically compile wide-ranging information about Corps members and Corps activities. We are proud to write for an organization whose superior workforce is committed to serving the Cumberland/Tennessee River Basin and the Nation effectively and efficiently. With your help, EYDSS will continue the tradition of providing comprehensive monthly digests to the Corps and to the community.

- Angela A. Davis
Manager

Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact. - William James



On the Cover

Nashville Deployment Diary

This issue features the first of many Deployment Diaries and an introduction to our new Deployment Coordinator. For complete story, see pages 8 - 9.

Lindstrom Sends

Greetings to all! Cara and I are thoroughly looking forward to the spring and summer seasons. The spring and summer seasons are GREAT and folks in our profession should take advantage of this time of the year to maximize our contribution to life. We have so much to get excited about. Our Engineers will see the construction of their design efforts take off, our Navigation folks will see an increase in lock traffic and commercial boating, our Environmentalists, Botanists, and Biologists, will see the new spring beauty in the efforts in nature preservation, and our Rangers will see the positive effects of their engagement with the recreating public. No matter what you do, no matter where you are, you are on a very successful TEAM, and Cara and I truly appreciate your friendship, camaraderie, and willingness to apply that "How may I serve you, Attitude of Gratitude!"

In the past month, we recently published a Safety Video that describes our new Safety Campaign Slogan ... "Own The Edge!" https://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/media/Own_the_Edge.wmv. With the video, we also published the Nashville District Safety Campaign. The focus of the video and the campaign plan is to raise awareness of the things that you and I can do to increase our awareness of risk. Through that awareness, we can enjoy life to the fullest.

I recently turned the big 40, and with that, I truly recognize my personal responsibility to Own the Edge, and take full ownership of my personal health risks. Occupational and health awareness is a key part of our Safety Campaign, and good health is a key to many great things in life. To help you maintain and improve your health, I highly recommend that you take ownership of your health risk. The importance of routine screening exams by your physician cannot be overemphasized.

Many serious diseases and conditions can be prevented or cured with

early detection. You and your physician will need to consider your own medical and family history to decide which health screening services are right for you. Although you cannot change your family history, you can improve your long-term good health by practicing healthy habits. Consider the following:

- Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S., causing more than 440,000 deaths each year. If you smoke, seek assistance to stop smoking.
- Alcohol and other drug use contribute to motor vehicle accidents, fires, drowning, and firearm accidents. Responsible use of alcohol means avoiding intoxication. Never drink and drive, and always wear a seat belt.
- Currently more than 65% of U.S. adults are overweight. Obesity or excess body fat is associated with increased risk of diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and some cancers. Eating a balanced, low fat, whole food diet and exercising regularly can help you maintain a proper body weight.
- You are our most valuable asset. Your organization wants you to stay healthy. I encourage you to take disciplined action and personally go from Good to Great with your health and fitness. I believe strongly that it is important to recognize the areas of life that you can control and have influence over and the areas that you do not. Health and fitness are in the category you can control. You have the ability to influence your own health by applying mental energy to think about the hazards that contribute to poor health that you will face. Through this effort you can control risk and provide a healthy atmosphere to live and to work. I encourage you to take action now! Make a plan and a commitment to understand and to solve this problem. This is one



of the areas of life that give each and every one of us the ability to tackle the safety challenge and make our workplace, our families, and our lives better, more productive, and rewarding! You can do it!

Speaking of people who are demonstrating disciplined action; I want to recognize a few high performing folks:

- Mr. Joe McMahan and the McMahan family for personally contributing to the mission success of the Afghan Engineer District, USACE, and the United States Army. Joe recently returned from a deployment in support of GWOT serving in Kamdesh, Afghanistan from 30 SEP 2007 to 31 MAR 2008. Thank you and your family for your selfless sacrifice to promote democracy and promote a better life for the people in this region.
- Mr. Dane Owens, Ms. Avis Kennedy, Ms. Linda Adcock, Mr. Bill Hill, Mr. Thomas Browder, Mr. Donald Fulcher, Mr. Tim Dunn, and Mr. David Mackie for supporting the Chief on Internal Review to provide a learning atmosphere for the Regional Community of Practice workshop in Nashville 18-20 March 2008.
- Mr. Chris Clinton, and Mr. Bill Bennett for achieving the recognition from the IG during the EIG inspection for being the only Dis-

(See Lindstrom, page 15)

Nashville District Commander's Intent:

We protect People from Water, Protect Water from People, and Make Water Useful.

Nashville District Mission Statement: We serve the region, the Corps, and the Nation by providing collaborative water resource engineering solutions, world class public infrastructure management, and environmental stewardship for the Cumberland-Tennessee River Systems.

Nashville District Goals:

Goal 1: Deliver Enduring, Innovative, and Sustainable Civil Works Operations Programs & Projects.

Sustain Regional and National needs in operational, regulatory, and readiness missions

Goal 2: Execute Consistent, Effective Civil Works Programs & Projects

Enhance execution of planning, design, construction, and operation of water resource and environmental remediation programs and projects to meet regional and national needs

Goal 3: Transparent Communication & Collaborative Approaches to Water Resource Problems

Form, strengthen, and enhance relationships with stakeholders and customers through deliberate communication and increased partner involvement.

Goal 4: Build the T.E.A.M. (Trust, Excellence, All About People, Motivating)

Attract, retain, and develop a technically competent and diverse workforce to deliver Civil Works projects and programs, execute effective business processes, and enhance support to Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) and expeditionary missions

Nashville District Priorities:

- Enhance quality of support to our civilians, soldiers, families and the public
- Deliver on projects and programs
- Support GWOT with a highly talented volunteer workforce

- Effectively prepare for and respond to disasters
- Do it all safely – Own the Edge – Own Risk!

Nashville District Tenets:

- Communicate Transparently
- Focus on your Mission
- Team with Industry

March Employee of the Month



John L. Nunley

Master Pilot John L. Nunley was selected as Nashville District Employee of the Month for March.

Nunley, of the Motor Vessel Iroquois, is recognized for his actions during an urgent unscheduled river closure at Chickamauga Lock to remove debris on the river bottom obstructing the navigation channel. The Motor Vessel Iroquois/Binkley repair fleet was in the area building a mooring cell when they were given the order to quickly change missions from cell construction to clear debris obstructing the channel. Being rigged to do cell repair work, the fleet had to re-rig the floating plant equipment to a dredging mode, unload barges, and stage barges to take on dredged material.

Nunley said; "We needed to act quickly in our recovery efforts to avoid an interruption to traffic and damage to vessels."

During dredging operations

approximately 500 tons of rock with some being the size of a small car were removed from the channel. The floating plant operation was maneuvered through out the channel area to provide a final verification of the soundings provided from the navigation survey crew. The recovery was swiftly accomplished through the cooperative efforts of Master Pilot Nunley, Chief of the Plant Unit, Asst. Chief Navigation Branch, on site, the contractor, Lock personnel, a Channels Section crew and Construction Branch personnel with no impacts or delays to navigation.

This was definitely a team effort, but Master Pilot Nunley's leadership and expertise were pivotal to the successful and safe execution of this unexpected mission.

A Health-Safety Message from Walter Green

Being recently notified that my wife Debbie has a significant health issue and then reading LTC Lindstrom's "Own the Edge" safety message, I am compelled to reach out to my fellow Nashville District employees with a lesson learned the hard way and to offer a suggestion.

We all want to be safe and healthy, but both require awareness and effort and both involve ownership of risk. Regarding health, "Owning Risk" and "Owning the Edge" mean knowing what health-related risks are unacceptable. We all know many of the health-related risks – I am picking one to put before you (actually, it picked me) – health screening, more particularly, a colonoscopy.

The typical recommended age for a first colonoscopy is 50 years old. My wife procrastinat-

ed getting her first one because there was no known history of polyps or colon cancer in her family, and because she didn't want to go the trouble. Her complacent attitude was very convenient. This past January, at age 57, blood work indicated that she was very anemic. Her type of anemia usually results in blood loss in the digestive tract, so she finally got her first colonoscopy to locate the source of bleeding. They found a growth hiding at the far end of her colon, nearly large enough to block it. There had been NO symptoms. Biopsy indicated that the growth was a 2-3 year old cancer that developed from a much older polyp. She had surgery to remove that third of the colon. Follow-up treatments will be chemo and a serious change in diet to detoxify her and build up her immune sys-

tem. Though we intend to make our lives better than ever, I do not wish this situation on anyone. I used to think that "other people" got degenerative diseases. No more.

My wife had the perception (and a false sense of security) that her body was safe. If she had used LTC Lindstrom's philosophy and observed the control that modern medicine recommended by getting the health screening a few years sooner, she would have reduced her risk and been safe.

The lesson – it is important to "Own the Edge" by knowing what risks are and are not acceptable. The suggestion – take the idea of owning risk seriously, in both health and safety. More importantly – get your health screenings!!

Walter Green is a Project Manager in the Planning Branch.

April Employee of the Month

Vicky Caldwell was named Employee of the Month for April.

Caldwell is a Program Analyst in the Programs Section of the Planning, Programs, & Project Management Division. She consistently performs her duties in an outstanding manner, but her recent efforts to manage the Regional Business Processes and Value Stream Analysis (VSA) initiatives for both Nashville District and Lakes & River Division have been superb. She organized the Regional Recruiting Process VSA held in Nashville in Dec 07. Changes in our recruiting and hiring practices are underway as a result of that initiative. She is work-

ing on both internal and external audits to improve Regional Business Processes along with training employees and management in use of the Qualtrax system. She also organized the production of the FY 2009 Testimony Preparation Review notebooks used to prepare Commanders for budget testimony before Congress. Finally she produced the Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report of the Secretary of the Army on Civil Works Activities for Nashville District. All these assignments were in addition to her regular Programs duties.

Vicky's performance of duty reflects great credit upon her, the Nashville District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Vicky Caldwell

Wilson Lock Team Concerned by Recent Deaths

By: Allison Jarrett

Five deaths over a three-week period near the Wilson Lock and Dam have combined with an accidental death inside the lock to create a concerned and saddened atmosphere among the team that operates the navigational and hydro-power units on the Tennessee River near Florence, Ala.

Four lives were claimed when a barge collided with a leisure boat on the evening of March 27th. According to the *Alabama Times Daily*, a tugboat towing several barges collided with a 32-foot aluminum cabin cruiser just east of Wilson Dam, killing the cruiser's four passengers.

While multiple agencies assisted with the search and rescue efforts following the accident, the Corps of Engineers dive team was critical in the recovery of the victims. Equipped for deep-water diving, the Nashville District divers assisted in retrieving the bodies of three of the victims. The body of the fourth victim was discovered later by a boater.

The dive team was commended by Mike Melton, director of the Colbert County Emergency Management Agency. "I can't say enough good things about them coming in and helping us," he said. "There are some mighty good people in that organization."

The dive team assisting with the rescue effort included the Mid-Tennessee River Area Operations Manager Jim Davis, Jeff Ross, Charlie Bryan, Carl Scott, Donald Dean, Richard Burney, Dennis Wiley, and Gerald Choat.

The fifth fatality occurred when a driver crossing Wilson Dam on April 4th struck the Tennessee Valley Authority hydro plant. According to the *Times Daily*, the driver failed to make the 90-degree turn in Wilson Dam Road, sending her vehicle into the plant and up in flames. The victim's family believed a seizure may have caused the accident, as she had a history of seizures.

A sixth life was lost on April 11th when a barge worker fell into the

water while locking through Wilson. David Cherry was the Lock Operator on duty. According to Jim Davis, once Cherry and another barge worker realized the victim had gone into the water, Cherry jumped onto the barge and assisted the worker in pulling the victim out of the water and onto the barge.

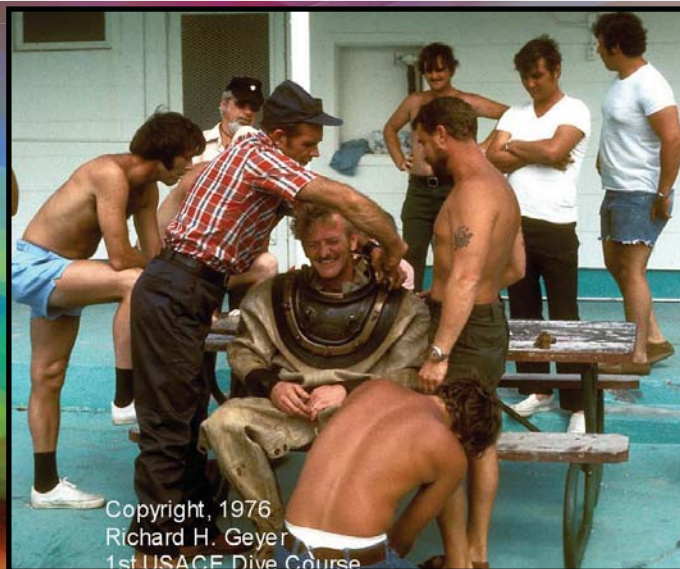
Cherry called 911, retrieved the defibrillator, and with the deck crew, attempted CPR. TVA and emergency response officials arrived on the scene, but the victim was pronounced dead. The details of the accident are under investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard. Davis praised Cherry's efforts in such a difficult situation, saying, "He responded that night with everything he could do."

Davis expressed pride in the efforts of his team over the past month; nevertheless, this string of sad events has him concerned. "These accidents are unfortunate," he said. "You don't have control over this kind of stuff, but everyone's holding up well."

1976 Dive Class

Richard Burney is Last Active Diver from Initial USACE Dive Training

The first USACE Dive Course took place in 1976, as shown in this photograph contributed by Richard Geyer. Three of the men pictured were Nashville District employees, including Richard "Rabbit" Burney (back row, third from right). In March, Burney attended what will be his last Dive Refresher training course, and he is the last diver still working in the Corps who participated in the initial 1976 training course. Jim Davis, Mid-Tennessee River Area Operations Manager, is also one of the last USACE supervisors from 1976 still actively involved with the diving program.



Copyright, 1976
Richard H. Geyer
1st USACE Dive Course

Photo Provided by Dick Geyer

From left: Wayne Hickman (LRN), Bob Smith (Course Director), Foy Turner (LRP), Ralph Seely (LRP), Dan McFarland-kneeling (LRP), Dick Geyer (Chief SSA Instructor), Richard Burney (LRN), Ted Thompson (LRN), Bob Himes (LRL), unknown.

Bobber Says, "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE." Wear Your Life Jacket!

By: Mark Willis & Tadd Potter

Nearly every boy and girl loves a parade, and the same is true about golden retrievers – kids just can't keep their hands off of them. Put the two together, and you'll have the reason for a flurry of excitement as "Bobber the Water Safety Dog" took part in two Christmas Parades in the Nashville District.

The first parade was in Gordonsville, near Cordell Hull Lake, held on Saturday, December 1, 2007. Bobber's

participation in the parade marks his first-ever appearance in any Nashville District activity or special event. Bobber - a relatively new Corps of Engineers "mascot" - was specifically designed to carry the message of water safety to youngsters of all ages.

Bobber's premier outing in the District came about after the staff of Cordell Hull Lake decided to enter a float in this year's local Christmas parade to promote water safety. Although the Gordonsville Christmas Parade is usually held in the daytime, this year a decision was made to hold it at night, instead. The result was one of the biggest Christmas parade turn-outs ever, with a crowd estimated at over 1,000 along the mile-and-a-half route.

"I thought it was fantastic," said Gordonsville Mayor Larry Bradford, speaking of the unprecedented turn-out for this year's "The Night of Lights" special nighttime parade.

In the Corps of Engineers float, Conservation Biologist Kenny Claywell wore the popular "Bobber" costume, and Park Rangers Stephen Gregory and Aurora Scott were also on hand to represent Cordell Hull Lake. During the parade, the Cordell Hull staff handed out bagfuls of water safety coloring books, crayons, and



stickers to eager youngsters along the route.

As for Bobber, he was clearly a hit amongst the younger crowd, whose eyes grew wide when they saw the big Water Safety Dog waving at them from inside the Corps of Engineers patrol boat. The kids waved back enthusiastically, and after the parade they took home the new "Bobber" coloring books that will remind them to always be safe, whenever around water.



Bobber and friends at the Gordonsville Parade

Just about a week later on December 9, 2007, Bobber did an encore performance at the Ashland City Christmas Parade, in the vicinity of Cheatham Lake.

During the mile-and-a-half route on Hwy. 12, Bobber was spreading

the ever so important message, "Wear your life jacket". This is the first year the staff of Cheatham Lake participated in the city's Christmas parade, and Bobber was more than well received. Kids went out of their way to make sure Bobber acknowledged them, and they were thrilled to catch a wave from the new Corps of Engineers mascot.

"Bobber was adorable" said Executive Assistant of Ashland City's Chamber of Commerce Stacy Luna. "I'm glad to see the Corps of Engineers participate in this year's

parade."

Conservation Biologist Tadd Potter wore the lovable "Bobber" costume while his daughter Allie, Environmental Protection Specialist Charlie Leath, and his wife Ani handed out water safety packets. These packets included items such as coloring books, crayons, pencils, key chains, and Frisbees. Kids of all ages raced to pick up the packets as they were tossed from the boat.

As for Bobber, he enjoyed spreading the water safety message during the holiday season to an estimated crowd of nearly 1,200 people.

Water safety is important during anytime of the year and because it is a wonderful life, we should always wear our life jackets.



Bobber Does an Encore at the Ashland City Parade

Victoria Hooper Returns as Deployee Support Coordinator

Victoria Hooper retired in January 2006 after serving 37 years in the Corps, but has now returned to serve as the new Deployee Support Coordinator. The fact that she came back, she said, "is proof she really loved her job!" When Hooper heard about the position, she saw it as a chance to work exclusively with the people of the District. "That's my heart," she explained. "The people of this District are my heart."

Hooper started as Deployee Support Coordinator February 4, 2008. As part of the Executive Office, Joanne Mann, the Executive Officer, is her direct supervisor while MAJ Straus is her senior leader. The relatively new position offers support to deployees and their families, and has Hooper serving on teams for the Division and Headquarters.

Both the Division and Headquarters teams uniformly address steps the Corps goes through to prepare deployees and their families. By teaming together, they implement the best ways to handle issues that arise and to stay in contact with the deployee and his or her family.

Currently, Hooper emails seven deployees one to two times a week and sends cards to deployees and their fami-

lies for special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations. In her contacts with deployees' children, she makes a point to express the pride the Corps has in their parent.

In the emails to deployees, Hooper asks about their basic daily routines, what kind of work they are doing, and how they are enjoying it. She often acknowledges the big sacrifice for deployees AND families.

"It's important to let them know that we share their concerns and that we share the pride of knowing what wonderful work is being done," Hooper said. "When you're

working seven 12-14 hour days in one compound, you start to lose perspective. The simple act of telling deployees about ordinary things like the weather, the Corps picnic, or the presidential election helps the deployees make sense of things."

Hooper commended MAJ Straus for initiating the Family Support Group Teleconference. At this monthly teleconference, family members of deployees call in to hear Hooper present a program. She said that the program typically consists of relaying news about deployees, as well as, explaining safety concerns for the deployees. In addition, she offers

information about the areas in which they are serving. One of the many services she provides to family members involves suggesting ways to constructively pass the time until deployees return home.

Further, Hooper stresses the importance of sharing the rich histories of the countries in which Corps deployees serve. "Having a knowledge of the countries and the work being done there is power for these families. It can help get rid of fear and give them an understanding of the purpose and goals," Hooper explained.

Hooper further stated, "I am so impressed with the work being done. The deployees are helping to build back a country so that it has its basic needs met." She exclaimed, "I look forward to every day!" and she is brimming with pride for the District deployees.



Victoria Hooper

Employees now in Gulf Region Division (Iraq):

*Qiana Davis,
Office of Counsel
Mark Gibson, EC-C-KYL
Robert Franklin (USAR),
RM-B*

Employees now in Afghanistan Engineer District:

*Ray Bess, OP-N-M
Larry Cole, OP-OLD/P
Diann Farmer, RE
Joe Faustina, OP-N*

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) POSITION

To volunteer for a position, contact the Nashville District Operations Division, Readiness/Emergency Management Branch.

To see what is available, GWOT positions are posted on several sites, such as ENGLink, (<https://englink.usace.army.mil>), CPOL (<http://cpol.army.mil>), USAJOBS (www.usajobs.gov), and the USACE homepage has a link to CPOL as well. (<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil>). Then look at GWOT Recruitment Page.)

Once you find a position for which you feel you can qualify, you

must build a resume in the RESUME builder to link with the position you want. Without the resume being linked with the position, there is no way to be considered for the position. There are a number of ways to find a position overseas. You can use a vacancy announcement, a placement from division or higher, or by word of mouth.

No matter how you find a position, paperwork MUST be processed through Readiness/Emergency Management Branch for processing. As with most Government

processes, there is a large amount of paperwork to be completed. The Readiness/Emergency Management Branch has a step-step instruction to expedite the deployment paperwork. Due to the ever changing deployment requirements, please stay flexible during your pre-deployment preparation.

-- You can reach the staff at the Readiness/Emergency Management Branch at (615) 736-7037, email kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil, or jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil.

Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Qiana Davis, Office of Counsel

Beginning with this edition, the DISTRICT DIGEST will feature a personal view of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) mission. Our Nashville employees who are presently deployed or have returned from deployment have accomplished so many great things. We want to bring to you the real picture of the work, the commitment, and the reward.

This month, we are featuring one of Nashville's newest deployees, Ms. Qiana Davis, an attorney with Office of Counsel. Qiana made her decision to apply for a GWOT position after one of her friends, another attorney from Corps of Engineers, Memphis, was selected for a position in Iraq. They emailed often and Qiana was impressed with the opportunities to help the Iraqi people and to be a part of something very special.

Qiana is a native of New York City. As an only child, Qiana and her mother, Lenore Boyce, are extremely close; in fact they both have spoken of being best friends as well as parent and child. Mrs. Boyce is so very proud of Qiana's accomplishments, and they miss each other dearly.



Lenore Boyce (left) and Qiana Davis

Qiana's education includes college graduation from University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. She received her Juris Doctorate in 2005 from Indiana University.

Qiana is engaged to fiancé Jabari Capp. They met while working together at the University of Miami's library. Jay graduated from the University of Miami with his Masters in Biomedical Science. He always knew he wanted to help people, and he was accepted at Meharry Medical School in 2005.

Another important



Gyzmo



Qiana and fiancé Jabari Capp

part of Qiana's life is Gyzmo, her peek-a-poo (mixture of Pekinese and Poodle) dog. Qiana says Gyzmo is her pride and joy and is the best and greediest dog in all of Nashville, but she would not trade him for anything. Gyzmo spends most of his day sleeping and dreaming about Centennial Dog Park and his "Mother" coming home from Iraq.

Memphis District, Corps of Engineers was Qiana's beginning service with the federal government. In February 2006, Qiana reassigned to Nashville District Office of Counsel. In 2007, she deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina to assist the Director of Project Hope in New Orleans, LA.

The GWOT journey began for Qiana with finding a job, being selected, and being processed through Operations Division, Readiness/Emergency Management Branch. On March 2, 2008, Qiana traveled to Winchester, VA, to the Trans-Atlantic Center's (TAC) Unit Deployment Center (UDC) for training and receipt of uniforms, boots, required safety gear, etc. The intensive training is usually for three to four days.

All aboard, Qiana left the USA on March 6 for Frankfurt, Germany, and then on March 7 she traveled to Kuwait, Kuwait. A long and tiring trip ended after she was met by her sponsor and transported to her new assignment in Iraq.

"I arrived in Iraq on Saturday, today (Monday) is my first full day of work and I am very busy trying to get acclimated. The

conditions here are very nice, the USACE compound was surprisingly nice," said Qiana in her March 10, 2008 email. On March 19, Qiana said, "Things here are going great, I am learning so much, it is like a 'trial by fire.' I am loving being out here,



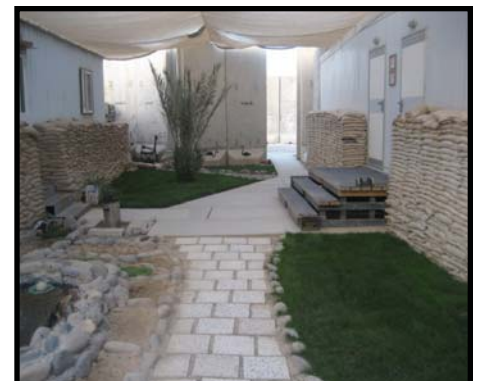
Qiana Davis and Diann Farmer at UDC

the Corps is really making a difference in Iraq." In the same email, Qiana shares her thoughts: "I can't think of the hardest thing I've had to do yet, but I do get emotional when you learn that some of our contractors have been killed while working on a Corps project. The contractors over here are very brave, they face danger everyday so that Iraq will be a better country in the future.



Training at UDC

The most rewarding thing to me is awarding contracts for schools, health clinics, police stations, pipe lines, and other things that help build this country. I am proud to come to work because I know that everyday I am making a difference. Even though the hours are long and challenging it is all worth it to me because I feel fulfilled."



USACE Compound in Iraq

Old Hickory Staff Prepares for Another Busy Recreation Season

By: Park Ranger Mark Klimaszewski

With warm weather fast approaching, that can only mean one thing: another busy recreation season will soon be here. Old Hickory Lake, which is one of the busiest lakes in the country, hosts over 8 million visitors each year. With such high visitation comes the responsibility to ensure each visitor will return home safe and sound with only great memories of their visit.

Each spring, Old Hickory Staff take measures which prevent public accidents, spread the water safety message, and ensure public safety. Each of the three beaches are carefully checked to ensure water depth and depth markers are accurate, buoy lines are in place and secure, and proper warning buoys are in place to warn boaters to keep out of designated swim areas. As an additional measure of assurance for members of the public, water samples are taken from each beach prior to opening and biweekly during the recreation season to ensure water quality is within state standards.



Also, large, colorful water safety messages have been painted onto each courtesy float at launching ramps to stress the importance of wearing personal flotation devices.

As an additional effort to enhance the awareness of water safety this recreation season, Old Hickory Lake rangers plan to increase boat patrols in order to have more face to face interaction with boaters on the lake. It's the goal of Old Hickory Lake staff and the Corps of Engineers that through increased public education and hard work this will be one of the safest recreation seasons yet.

If tests reveal fecal coliform levels are too high, beaches are closed to the public and will not re-open until further testing indicates water quality levels have returned to normal.

Recently, additional measures have been taken to ensure the importance of safety on the water. New bulletin boards have been installed near each launching ramp which display current water safety promotional materials, emergency contact numbers, and contacts to find additional information regarding water safety. Life Jacket Loaner Boards have been installed at every beach to ensure the availability of personal flotation de-



Wolf Creek Dam featured on History Channel's MEGA DISASTERS

Look for Wolf Creek Dam and other Army Corps of Engineers projects to be featured this fall on The History Channel's MEGA DISASTERS program.

Combining science and history, MEGA DISASTERS visits the sites of previous disasters, then recreates them in modern times and locations, using state-of-the-art computer animation.

Mike Zoccola, Chief of Civil Design, Allison Jarrett, Public Affairs, and a film crew from MEGA DISASTERS visited the Wolf Creek Dam in March. Zoccola said the film crew looked to highlight past dam

disasters and the extensive efforts that are being performed today to avoid similar disasters. Dam monitoring, community communication, environmental efforts, and security issues were discussed.

This episode is expected to air this fall on The History Channel.



A cameraman films as Larry Craig (Wolf Creek Power Plant), Brook Brosi (Wolf Creek Resident Office), Mike Zoccola (Civil Design Branch), and Paul Ross (Wolf Creek Resident Office) walk the grouting work platform at Wolf Creek Dam.

Nashville District Employee Joins Albuquerque District for Border Fence Project

A personal account by Ashley Klimaszewski, Nashville District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working collaboratively to help erect a strong, healthy boundary that intends to be a good, solid fence between the U.S. and our long-lived neighbor, Mexico, in the interest of improving our National Security.

In October 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act of 2006 in an effort to secure the U.S./Mexico International Border. In his press conference before signing the act, Bush announced that illegal immigration is on the rise. In recently released statistics, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that in FY 07, their agents seized 1.7 million pounds of illegal narcotics along the Mexican border. According to the Department of Homeland Security, Secretary Michael Chertoff is heading up the effort to secure 225 miles of non-contiguous fencing along the border scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

The project is known as Pedestrian Fence 225 (PF225).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is commissioned by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Secure Border Initiative Program to handle real estate acquisitions, fence construction and environmental compliance for the PF225 project. The Albuquerque District has become one of the districts that will handle real estate acquisitions in Southern California (San Diego County), New Mexico, and parts of Texas. By September, 2007, with the Albuquerque District's Real Estate team consisting of two people and an increasing amount of real estate work to be accomplished, it was determined by John Baker, Albuquerque District Chief of Real Estate Branch, that help was needed. Baker put the word out and the call was answered by the Nashville District.

I arrived in Albuquerque September 30 and began working at the District office October 1. I was briefed

by Baker and Lopez, team leader, on the PF225 project and what the responsibilities were for the real estate team. By the end of October, Ben Miranda, another real estate team member, and I were traveling to Marfa, Texas to meet with U.S. Border Patrol agents.

We were escorted to the border town of Presidio, Texas where we met with various landowners to obtain rights-of-entry needed for the government to gain access to the border.

Landowners in Presidio were very supportive of the effort, and the trip was a success.

Since my arrival in Albuquerque, the real estate team has grown to four members with Mike Love from Tulsa District joining the team mid-October. The team



Albuquerque District PF225 Team (from left to right: Al Lopez, Albuquerque District), Ben Miranda, Albuquerque District, Ashley Klimaszewski, Nashville District, and Mike Love, Tulsa District).

and I made trips to the U.S./Mexico border in San Diego, CA as well as El Paso, Texas where we drove the border with agents and landowners in areas where fencing will eventually be built. During the trip to El Paso, I witnessed three illegal immigrants climbing a section of existing border fence.

The agents we were with contacted other agents patrolling the area and the illegal aliens were pursued. I was told later that the Border Patrol agents were successful in apprehending the aliens.

My departure from Albuquerque was originally scheduled for December 21. However, with much work to still be done and future acquisition work anticipated, I agreed to extend my stay through January, after which time I will return periodically through the end of March to assist with various real estate actions.

Representing the Nashville District in Albuquerque has been a great experience both personally and professionally and I look forward to continuing the work on the PF225 project.



One of the proposed designs for PF225 fencing. (Picture by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol)

TSgt Robert W. Tuck

TSgt Robert W. Tuck (Bob) is stationed in Sather Air Base, Iraq with the 447th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron from 118th Airlift Wing, Civil Engineering Unit, TN Air National Guard located at Berry Field, Nashville.

Bob Tuck has been there on a four-month tour of duty as Construction Manager over several base improvement projects, and is due home this month. While there, he was awarded the coveted General's Coin, NCO of the Month, and his team also won Team of the Month.

His wife, Deborah T. Tuck, is a Regulatory Specialist in Regulatory Branch. Bob has been the Construction Manager for the roadway projects and upgrading around the base.



Eyewitnesses to History

By: Park Ranger Mark Willis

Being asked questions – and lots of them – is just an everyday part of the job for a Corps of Engineers Park Ranger. The more common ones are usually about wildlife, campgrounds, or maybe the best place to catch a small-mouth bass. Sometimes the questions are about the lake itself - such as when was the dam built? Or, why was it built?



Ranger Aurora Scott interviews Willie Ragland, Jr.

The answer to this last one can be surprising since many of the dams along the Cumberland River were originally built for flood control, rather than for recreation or power generation purposes, like most people think. Before these dams were built, the Rangers go on to explain, certain towns along the Cumberland River, like Carthage, Gainesboro, and Celina, frequently fell victim to devastating floods after heavy spring rains, especially during the 1930s, 1940s, and 1960s.

During these modern times when water levels along the Cumberland River are carefully regulated by the ten Corps of Engineers dams which make up the Nashville District, it can be hard to imagine what life was like along the river prior to the dams being built. Even more difficult to envision are the terrible floods that swept through the countryside as the mighty river overtopped its banks, often laying to waste entire communities and anything else in its path.

Thinking of these things, it recently occurred to some of the staff at Cordell Hull Lake that there are some out there who actually *do* know exactly what those early days – and momentous events – were like, because they saw it for themselves. They were eyewitnesses to history.

With this in mind, Cordell Hull Lake Rangers Aurora Scott and Mark Willis decided to conduct a series of visits to nursing homes, assisted care facilities, certain homes, and even a country store where local ‘old-timers’ are known to congregate, to learn what they could about life along the Cumberland before most of these dams were built.

Their first stop was at the Smith County Health Care Center, in Carthage, Tennessee, where they spoke with a number of seniors who shared some of their own special memories of the Cumberland River. Among those interviewed was 101-year-old Easter Hiatt, who remembers a flood of staggering proportions when the Cumberland River overflowed its banks and flooded the land between the communities of Monoville and Carthage, TN. After making her way to a lookout spot with a companion, she saw that the entire town of Carthage completely submerged over its rooftops. “Instead of a town, it looked more like a lake,” she says, describ-



Clyde Winfrey, of the Smith County Health Care Center, tells Ranger Aurora Scott of a Red Boiling Springs flood.

ing the amazing sight.

After that, Willis and Scott next made a stop at the Take One Video Country Store in the Dodson Branch Community, where they spoke with Willie Ragland Jr., age 79, and his brother, Wesley Ragland, age 65, who described the day to-day activities of loggers working on the Cumberland River. River logging was strenuous, difficult work, they explained, involving hauling the logs to the river on wagons pulled by mules. Long poles were placed along the bank and the logs were rolled off the wagons and onto the poles, and then down into the river. Next, the logs were tied into huge floating rafts

that could eventually become as big as a football field. Little sheds for shelter and cooking would be built onto these massive log rafts for use during the trip down the river. An experienced raft pilot would be hired, and the entire crew would consist of between 6-8 men. According to the



Jack Meadows, of Gainesboro, relates stories to Ranger Aurora Scott

Ragland brothers, it usually took about two weeks to make the trip by raft from White’s Bend to Nashville to sell them. The logging crew would then catch a train for the return trip back to Double Springs. This unique operation usually took place only once a year, and always during the winter, when the water was higher. The men were farmers and raised their crops during the summer, and logging was considered work for the off season.

A week later these same rangers stopped in at the Mabry Health Care and Rehab Center, Gainesboro, TN, where they spoke with seniors like Opal Sadler, age 87, who described the heavy spring rains which frequently resulted in high water covering up local roads. “We’d just have to go another way to get where we were going,” she said, adding that this kept happening until the dams along the



Gwenn Lynn, of the Roaring River community, describes long ago floods to Ranger Mark Willis.

(See History, page 13)

The Corps Crowd

Valentine's Day Fundraiser



The Management Sponsored Activities Committee (MSAC) held a Valentine's Day Fundraiser on February 14, 2008. The Committee brought in homemade cookies, brownies, and other treats to sell, as well as balloon bouquets for employees to buy for their loved ones. The purpose of these fundraisers is to raise money for the Annual Engineer Day picnic and other community events. A Breakfast Fundraiser was also held on April 24, 2008, which involved the whole District making breakfast items to sell. Many thanks to those who participated.

Myrna King Retires After 30 Years of Service

Since she was in the sixth grade, Myrna King knew she wanted to be a teacher. After 30 years with the Corps, she is retiring and pursuing that dream.

Myrna began working at Tennessee Preparatory School in 1975 as a teacher assistant, when Alma Norton, wife of the former Personnel Officer of the Nashville District, encouraged Myrna to take the Civil Service test. Myrna received a "big" raise to join the Corps, and she reported to work at the Nashville District on February 13, 1978 as a GS-2 Mail Clerk. Myrna has worked in the District under 13 District Engineers and has held a few positions in the District, always staying in the realm of Information Management. She says one of her most gratifying assignments was deploying to Mississippi to clean up the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Myrna has a lot to look forward to in retirement. As she says, "Life after the Corps means I will continue to travel and do the volunteer work that is so dear to my heart."



Myrna King

Myrna is deeply involved in community affairs, whether working and singing for her church, leading Girl Scout troops, or volunteering with the Prison Ministry. She also works with the First Baptist Church Smyrna, making periodic Disaster Relief trips to Mississippi, and for the past two years has joined with AARP and Rebuilding Together Nashville to assist the elderly in getting their homes up to codes. In addition, for the past 19 years she has volunteered with the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center, first being a telephone counselor and now serving as an on-call hospital accompaniment counselor.

Myrna has received various awards for her efforts, including the 1998 Mary Katherine Strobel Award and the 2000 Titans Community Award.

Myrna will also return to the dream she had as a sixth-grader, and will teach in the public schools as a substitute teacher. Myrna, her smiling face, and her positive attitude will be greatly missed, but the Corps knows the community will be stronger, reaping the benefit from her continued work and dedication.

History (Continued from page 12)

river were built.

While interviewing Gwenn Lynn, age 87, in the Roaring River Community, Scott and Willis heard about a medical emergency that once took place during a flood of the Roaring River – a tributary to the Cumberland River. A neighbor gave birth to a son on January 29, 1950 during a time of high water, when all road access in the area was blocked. A day or so later the baby needed to be seen by a physician, so Roger Lynn, husband of Gwenn Lynn, managed to use a scalding pan (a massively large, 50-gallon kettle used to heat water when butchering hogs) like a boat, and traveled up Morrison's Creek and back in this unusual watercraft to bring Dr. Gaw to tend to the baby.

In Gainesboro, Tennessee, the pair of Corps rangers interviewed Jack L. Meadows, age 79, whose father fulfilled his dream of becoming a steamboat pilot

at the amazingly young age of 18, and was the youngest pilot on the Cumberland for years. He continued to be a steamboat captain for 40 years.

Steamboat passengers were housed on the upper deck, and trade goods and commodities were stored on the lower deck. According to Meadows, his father often worked and lived on the boat for up to two months at a time. He says the meals for the steamboat hands were always excellent - living up to the old saying "Feed them good, and they'll sleep good, and give you good work." Steamboats continued to travel the waters of the Cumberland, Meadows says, up until about 1929.

After spending time with these remarkable nursing home residents and local seniors, the Cordell Hull Lake Park Rangers were amazed at the fascinating – and in some cases, little known – facts that could be unearthed just by asking a

few questions.

In the end, the rangers found out these "eyewitnesses to the past" were a storehouse of local history, and a repository of knowledge that's too often overlooked in today's society. For this reason, their historical memories and mesmerizing stories often go unrecorded for future generations, forever lost in the mists of time.

As for the Carthage and Gainesboro senior citizens and nursing home residents, they were delighted to discover that a younger generation was interested in hearing more about the local history that was a part of their own past.

When the Rangers finally took leave of the nursing homes, assisted care facilities, and the little country store, they left behind seniors and residents proud of having shared some of their heritage, and took back with them priceless gems of history, now recorded for all time.

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

...Daniel Keenum, Lock & Dam Operator, Pickwick Lock, who married Ashley Dobbs, on Oct. 27, 2007.

Mr. & Mrs. Keenum



...Ricardo B. Booker, III, currently stationed in Dexheim, Germany was promoted to Staff Sergeant on Oct. 1, 2007. SSG Booker also graduated from Chemical Basic Non-Commission Officer Course (BNCOC) on Oct. 31, 2007 in Ft Leonard Wood, MI. SSG Booker is the son of Joanne Booker, IM, Administrative Assistant.

...Stacy Bennett, Bill Bennett's daughter, on getting married on March 1, 2008 to Kristopher Daniel Greer. Stacy is a Visual Information Specialist for ACE-IT and Daniel is a Marine and Firefighter.

...Teela Fleeman, Student Aide at Old Hickory Power Plant, who made the Dean's List. She attends Watkins College Art & Design, where she is majoring in Graphic Design.

Baby Brigade to...

...James Gunnels, Civil Engineer in the Civil Structural Section, on the birth of his granddaughter. Aubrey Katherine Gunnels was born to Joshua and Jenna Gunnels on Feb. 23, 2008 at 12:13 a.m. in Memphis, Tenn. She weighed 5 pounds 0 ounces and was 18 and one half inches long. Joshua is finishing dental school at UT Memphis and is scheduled to graduate in May. He plans to open a new dental office on North Mt. Juliet Road this summer.



Aubrey Gunnels

...Owen and Jennifer Traugher on the birth of their first son. Levi Traugher was born Dec. 11, 2007, weighing 7 lbs and was 19 inches long. Owen is a Civil Engineer Tech in the Navigation Branch.



Levi Traugher

...Donny D. Davidson Jr., Project Engineer at the Nashville Resident Office, on the birth of his son. Donny Dwayne 'Tripp' Davidson III was born Jan. 13, 2008 at Martin Volunteer Community Hospital to Donny and Jean Aliceon 'Kimo' Cook. Tripp weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.



Tripp Davidson

...Chris and Amanda Campbell on the birth of their daughter, Natalee Sienna. Chris is a Shift Operator at the Old Hickory Power Plant. Natalee was born at 4:30 p.m. on April 7, 2008. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 1/2 ounces, and is 21 inches long.



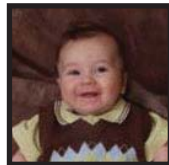
Natalee Sienna Campbell

...Sami and Casey Wozniak on the birth of their first daughter. Charli Jean was born in Texas on April 10, 2008 at 2:52 p.m. weighing 8 lbs., 6 oz and was 19.5 inches long. Casey is the son of Judy Potaczek (Proud Grandma), Operations Division.



Charli Jean Wozniak

...Ronnie and Terri Bridges (Administrative Assistant, Nashville Area Office) on the birth of their first grandchild. Eston Brady Bridges was born on Dec. 1, 2007. The proud parents are Kevin and Rosie Bridges of Goodlettsville, Tenn.



Eston Brady Bridges

...Harold (Center Hill Power Plant) & Lesslie Williams on the birth of their 2nd grandson, Clark Sawyer Prichard who was born on Oct. 31, 2007 weighing 6 lbs 11 oz. This is Harold's youngest daughter, Kristi and her husband, Ryan's first child.



Clark Prichard



...the La Vergne High School Boys Cross Country Team for finishing third in Region 5-AAA XC race, advancing to the state meet to be held in early November at the Steeplechase Park, Nashville. Led by Mark Kendrick (13th), with Alfonso Banks (16th), Josh Wise (17th), and Jesse Rodriguez (20th), all finishing among the top 20 scorers. Completing the State bound Wolverine line-up were Victor Sanchez, Chris Aultman and Nick Fowler. Alfonso Banks is the son of Charyse McDaniel, Human Resources.

Welcome to...

...Ms. Janice Kane, serving on a temporary detail in the Executive Office. Janice comes from the Old Hickory Power Plant and will serve as the Commander's Secretary. We are extremely happy to have Janis supporting the Commander and the Nashville District in this position.

...Old Hickory Park Ranger Jonathan Wuebker. Jonathan joins us from Saylorville Lake in the Rock Island District, where he did his co-op work. He is a graduate of Iowa State University.

Farewell to...

...Betty Enlow, Budget Technician, Mid-Tennessee River Area Office, who retired on January 3, 2008.



Betty Enlow

...Dow E. Williamson, Jr., Senior Mechanic, Center Hill Power Plant, who retired Jan. 3, 2008 with a total of 32 years service time with the Federal Government.

...Mike Russell, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic, Pickwick Lock, who retired on January 03, 2008.

Thank you to...

...everybody for allowing me the honor of working with and for the best the Corps has. It's been real and it's been fun, but I just can't say it's all been real fun. I always keep an extra rocker on the porch, you are all welcome at anytime.

Thanks and God bless you all,
Mike Russell

April Fool's Day seems like the most appropriate day of the year to leave Federal service, especially if, like me, you are thinking about becoming a teacher. But it's not an April Fool joke when I say I want to thank each and everyone of you for the past 30 years with the Corps of Engineers. None of us makes it to retirement without the support and understanding of friends and colleagues. I really appreciate your patience, understanding, and latitude everyone has given me over the years. Thank You. Good Luck. I wish the best for all of you and hope for your continued happiness in the future.

Best Wishes,
Wayne S. Easterling

A Letter from Chaplain Sherrill F. Munn

My Corps Friends and colleagues, today (April 25, 2008) is my last day in the office before I begin transition toward retirement this summer. I will keep my remarks brief today because I come back on July 29, 2008 at the GAO Building for my actual farewell ceremony from the Corps. Upon my retirement July 31, 2008, I will have worn the uniform of the United States Army first as a National Guard Chaplain, then on active duty for a little more than 29 years.

I have been greatly blessed and honored to serve the best America has, our Soldiers, their Families, and all of you that serve our nation so selflessly, courageously, and competently. This has been more than a career for me. It is a vocation, a calling that I have felt in my heart from God. I thank the Lord that he called me into this labor of love. I also could not have asked for a better capstone assignment than to the Corps of Engineers.

I leave with nothing but the greatest respect, admiration, and

love for you who make this Corps the truly wonderful organization it is. Your service to the people of this nation is absolutely essential.

I know that times can be tough. I know that sometimes you bear very unfair criticism, as in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. But you have shown your strength of character and have pressed on with great success with integrity and honor.

I could not have had better leaders to work for and with. LTG Van, LTG Strock, MG Riley, MG Johnson, MG Temple, our Chiefs of Staff, COL Prettyman-Beck and BG McMahon, you have been the best and have blessed me greatly with your outstanding leadership and deep personal faith.

To our Division and District Commanders, our great SES's, all of the Corps of Engineers Family, thank you for the consummate privilege of serving as your Chaplain. You will always be in my heart and prayers. A little part of me will always be an Engineer. Essayons.



The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Sherrill F. Munn
Chaplain (Colonel) U.S. Army
USACE Command Chaplain

The Corps Crowd (Continued from page 14)

Sympathy to...

...the family of John "Johnny" Ashton, who passed away on Thursday, May 8. Mr. Ashton was a Maintenance Foreman at Old Hickory and Cheatham, and has been retired for about 20 years. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth

and son Robert.

...Johnny Wilmore, Chief of Engineering, whose mother passed away May 10. Mrs. Nell Boston Wilmore, age 93, is survived by her husband, four children, two sisters, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

...Carl Winfree, whose wife Jean Winfree passed away. Carl is a Lock and Dam Equipment Mechanic at Cumberland River Operations Center.

...Sovireak In, whose mother Sary Hang passed away April 16. Sovireak is with the Civil Design Branch, Civil Structural Section.

Lindstrom (Continued from page 3)

trict with a Safety Management Action plan that addressed all the Chief's strategies and initiatives.

- Ms. Priscilla Paige for earning her PhD. Also, to the entire Real Estate TEAM for hosting the USACE Real Estate Conference.
- Donny Davidson for receiving the LRD Construction Management Excellence Award for 2007.
- The Wolf Creek maintenance TEAM for repairing the intake structure and manifold for the National Fish Hatchery.
- The Cave Springs TEAM (Operations, Planning, Real Estate, Counsel) for the outstanding

effort to bring this to reality... hurdles and all.

- To ALL TEAM members who contributed to "Our Friends Fighting Hunger," and the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, with 175 pounds of food donated to needy families during the holiday season.
- The Hydropower TEAM for placing the Center Hill main generating unit #2 back in service after a 21-month outage.

Your selfless service and dedication to our mission is continuing to promote a legacy of engineering excellence that will serve the future of this

region as it has since 1888. Every day I feel like it is a new day and I sincerely look forward to continuing to serve with the passion and commitment to lead our organization and preserve our legacy of excellence and achievement that makes this organization GREAT. Again, Cara and I appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Spring is In and God Bless! One team! Ready! Relevant! Reliable! Responsive! Essayons! Engineer Strong!

"One of the greatest discoveries a man makes, one of his great surprises, is to find he can do what he was afraid he couldn't do."

Henry Ford, Founder of Ford Motor Company

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