



Start 'em when they're little and they will grow up right



Shaun Frost and his son, William, work together to bring new life to the Rio Salado project along Arizona's Salt River. (See On your mark, Page 10.)

Flight medicine clinic opens, dedicated to 'rocket-sled' designer

By 2LT Christian Hodge
AFFTC Public Affairs

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. – A different kind of hero, but one particularly vital to Edwards and its flight-test legacy, was honored Wednesday with the dedication of the COL John P. Stapp Aerospace Medicine Facility here.

According to LTC Mark Mavity, the 95th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander, naming the Air Force's premier aerospace medicine facility was actually quite easy.

"There is only one flight surgeon in the history of Edwards whose contributions are truly of historical significance: COL John P. Stapp," said Mavity.

The \$6 million, 30,000 square foot project was started in July 1999 and completed in December of last year. Accommodating approximately 60 folks from the 95th Aerospace Medical Squadron, it will house the base's flight medicine, public health, bioenvironmental engineering, optometry, physiology and medical readiness functions.

Stapp, who died in 1999, is best known for his work on his famous 'rocket-sleds,' unique high-speed, track-mounted test sleds that he designed. From 1947 to 1951 here and from 1953 to 1954 at Holloman Air Force Base, NM, he forged new research paths on the effects extreme rapid acceleration and deceleration had on the hu-

man body - specifically his own body.

Human test subjects were required after an anthropomorphic dummy named "Oscar Eight-ball" had served his purpose during initial runs, according to Dr. Jim Young, the Air Force Flight Test Center's chief historian.

Stapp asked about recruiting test pilots but was told he couldn't.

During a discussion many years later, "With a smile, Dr. Stapp recalled that he was informed that test pilots were too valuable," said Young. "Well, as he also recalled, 'I was told to come out here and do it, and they didn't send anybody else with me.' So on Dec. 10, 1947, he made the first human sled ride himself."

The reason Stapp became his own test subject was from a scientific perspective.

"He became his own test subject because he wanted to be able to personally identify and diagnose the effects of the extremely high g-forces impacting his body," said Young. In 1954, Stapp became the "fastest man on earth" at Holloman in his sled, the Sonic Wind, when it accelerated to 632 mph in just 5 seconds across a span of 2,900 feet and then decelerated in 690 feet and 1.4 seconds to a stop, according to Young.

He was testing the human body's upper tolerance to linear deceleration, and black eyes, concussions and cracked ribs were often his rewards.



CPT Al Goodnite, health promotion flight commander, and Lillian Stapp, widow of COL (ret.) John Stapp, talk after the dedication ceremony of the base aerospace medicine facility. (Photo by 2LT Christian Hodge)

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Javier Gonzalez, front, with tie; Humberto Gallegos, back, far left, with hydraulics students at Cal State LA.

Engineering the engineers of the future

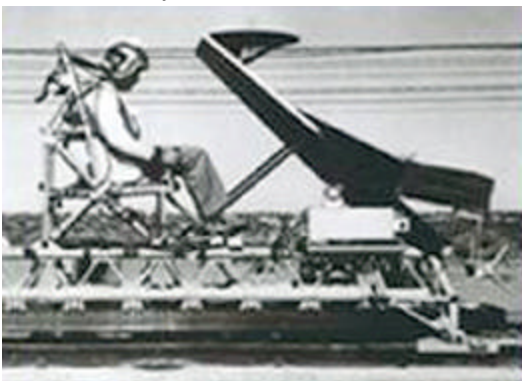
Hydraulic engineer Humberto Gallegos and student engineer Javier Gonzalez hosted a workshop for a hydraulics course at Cal State L.A. on March 4 to familiarize students with the Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System, along with Kerry Casey and Van Crisostomo.

The purpose of the workshop was to show students the program's usefulness in speedy computations of hydraulic analyses for flood control and natural channels. In the demonstration, students were shown how HEC-RAS enables the user to directly input cross-section information, flow data, and boundary conditions in a simpler manner than other techniques allow, producing one dimensional water surface profile models quicker and more efficiently with HEC-RAS than with other conventional methods.

In addition, a one-dimensional water surface profile steady flow model was produced for a class assignment that dealt with the design of a flood-control channel. Dr. Raymond Jeng, hydraulics professor for the class, said he was pleased with the demonstration and asked for another demonstration to his water resources class next quarter.

ROCKET—Continued from page 2

In more than three and a half years here, Stapp completed a total of 26 "bone and tissue punishing" sled runs and, while others volunteered to 'ride the rails,' he made all of the most hazardous runs himself, according to Young. "He personally proved that the human body is, indeed, a very resilient mechanism."



Col. John P. Stapp on a rocket sled to test acceleration/deceleration on human tissue.

He made the final run of the program here on June 6, 1951. During that test he reached a plateau of approximately 45 g's with a rate of 500 g's per second. Stapp's 'rewards' led

to work that has made cockpits immeasurably safer, and he carried his mission over to the auto industry as well. Initially met by stout resistance, many of the features he advocated, like seat belts and air bags, are now standard on most automobiles.

"A lot of people from around the world - both aviators and motorists - owe their lives to the pioneering work that Dr. Stapp commenced on this base more than 55 years ago," said Young.

As the special guest of the day, Mrs. Lillian Stapp, looked on, Young continued, "Doctor, colonel, aeromedical scientist - John Paul Stapp - was a hero during an age of heroes. He was here at Edwards during what is often called the 'golden age' of flight test."

Although respectful of the past, the facility's commander is looking to the future.

"The men and women of the 95th Aerospace Medicine Squadron are honored to now carry the banner of this legacy, and we will serve as faithful stewards of this facility and the mission to which COL Stapp dedicated his life's work," Mavity said. "We stand ready and engaged to support the development of tomorrow's air and space force."

War in Iraq

Corps team members' responses vary as much as the people themselves

Photos and story by Pam Wills

Recently, Corp employees were asked questions about the war with Iraq. Whether their answers echo your own feelings or not, the war is definitely something that's affecting us all.

How do you feel about the war in Iraq? Are you for or against it?

Jeff Armentrout (Con-ops) says, "I am not convinced that Iraq poses a clear and present danger. I would prefer UN support, but I do support our troops in the field."



Jeff Armentrout

Monique DeZiauto (IMO) says we should drop the big one on them. "I'm a soldier," she says. Many are for it because of Saddam Hussein.

Wayne Ballance (VI) is for it because, "Saddam Hussein has had enough time and is a threat to his people and others." But like some in the District, he doesn't like tax dollars being used for war.

COL Richard G. Thomp-

son says, "For. I think Saddam's regime is a danger. He became leader in a coup with others and then overthrew the man over him. He invaded two neighboring countries with chemical weapons and has used terror and torture on his own citizens. If you don't support the action of our country, you don't support the soldiers. To support the soldiers is to support the cause they fight for." Mary Jo Nowak (VI) adds, "I am for the war because we have given Saddam enough time." But she hates the idea of war. Beverly Patterson (PAO) is against the war. "We don't know why we're fighting. You can't believe TV or the newspapers. I don't think it's about Saddam Hussein because he's been a problem since 1953. Why did we allow him to be in power for so many years? War doesn't solve the problem." Gary Burger (Internal Review) says, "I have questions about the war but I am loyal to the troops there. I think there are multiple reasons, more than the weapons of mass destruction. I do support policy

to go to war."

Some are for the war because of the threat of weapons that Iraq might have. Ramon Andujo (RMO) is for it because of the threat of nuclear weapons and Irma Neva-



rez (EEO) says, "I am against it because of the human casualties but I'm for it because of the threat of terrorism." Sherrie Powdrill (Mailroom) comments, I am for it because of our safety and the safety of our fellow citizens. Megan Hamilton

Ramon Andujo

(Engineering) says, "I trust the president. All the troops are there, so we should do it and get it over with. We shouldn't prolong it. I don't like the indecision."

Marie Lampkin (IMO) isn't sure how she feels about the war. "Regardless of my political views about President Bush, I wouldn't want to be in his shoes and having to make the decision to go to war." Henry Watson, Jr. (LMO) said, "I wish we didn't have to have wars. I am for them when they are needed." He added, "The United States is kind of laid back when it comes to war. People haven't known war here and they shouldn't put war on

one person like the President."



Henry Watson, Jr.

Are you or your family doing anything in preparation for the war?

When asked if they or their family were doing anything to prepare for the war, many said they weren't doing anything. But some, used to living in Southern California with earthquakes, have made provisions. Charles Alexander (IMO) says, "I took advantage of warnings in

previous years and have a home disaster kit that should last me a couple of months. It has water, some canned goods, and other supplies.” “We’ve beefed up our earthquake supplies. We’ve doubled the amount of water,” says Andujo. Lampkin says her family has emergency kits that include food, water, gas masks, and other safety gear. Patterson takes a more spiritual stance. “Duct tape cannot save us. Just praying to the Almighty God will help.” Powdrill says, “I haven’t gone out and bought gas masks or anything. I talked to my kids about the soldiers going away from home and their children. However it



Wayne Ballance

turns out, it’s God’s will.” Some choose to be prepared with information, such as Nevarez and DeZiaueto (IMO). Hamilton just moved to Southern California from Pittsburgh and says, “I haven’t really done anything to prepare. I’m more prepared for snow storms with snow boots and stuff. I am paying more attention to news. I don’t know the history of the conflict but I try to learn more about it and understand.” Burger, a reservist, is preparing himself to be called up to

war. “My military mail comes to work now instead of home because my wife gets worried.” Ballance says, “I have about a weeks worth of food. If they closed down Interstate 15 to Las Vegas it would be bad because I go home every other week.”

Have you made any changes to your lifestyle?

When asked if they have made any changes to their lifestyles in response to the Iraq War, most said no but Armentrout admitted that he was probably in denial. Powdrill says, “I try to be courteous to others of all races and ethnic groups. I’m not judgmental. I am praying for a good outcome. I am teaching my children to do the same.” COL Thompson says, “My family and I look out for the families of the men deployed. I often take them to basketball games, etc.” Some Corps employees are more concerned, such as Patterson. “I look up more and look around more. I am also more careful where I buy my food.” And Nowak says, “I do watch the planes to make sure which way they’re going.” Alexander says, “I look at tall buildings more” and Andujo is more aware of his surroundings. “Our cars are always full of gas.”

How are your families reacting?

Many Corps employees are concerned about their families. “The children don’t understand that we were attacked first,” Powdrill says. COL Thompson says, “I have talked to my kids about the images on television. They know their father is a soldier. Many of their friends’ and classmates’ fathers have been deployed to the war.” Nevarez tells us that she and her family are afraid of what might happen to troops overseas and us here in the States because of terrorism. Burger’s wife is opposed to the war. “There was some friction at home after September 11th but we’ve learned to not make it personal.” Patterson says, “My college-age son reads the newspaper and laughs because he thinks it’s all insane.” Lampkin’s sons are training to be part of the L.



Gary Burger

A. County Sheriff’s Department’s first response team.

How do you feel about living in Los Angeles knowing it could be a target for terrorism?

Los Angeles could be a target for terrorism, but when asked how they feel about living here, many were not that concerned. Alexander says, “I’m a native Southern Californian and if it happens to be here, so be it.” COL Thompson says, “Los Angeles isn’t any more or less dangerous than anyplace else.” Powdrill admitted that she felt nervous sometimes but she thinks that the safety measures in the city are good. “We are in an unmarked building so we are more hidden than other government buildings. Ballance and DeZiaueto both had some concerns because of Los Angeles high profile and large population, but they, like the majority believe that any place could be a target. Nowak says, “Every place is a target. I don’t plan to move to Montana or North Dakota.” Patterson commented, “I am always on high alert in Los Angeles. Because of gang activity in L.A., I am on high alert all the time.” Hamilton says, “I can’t prevent some stuff like chemical warfare. I try not to live on ‘what-ifs.’” I do take more precautions, but I don’t scare very easily.” Armentrout says, “I choose not to live in fear.”



Megan Hamilton

Bringing a fresh breeze of inspiration to the desert

Story and photo by Kim Matthews

When entering Fort Irwin, one of the first things you notice is that they do things big out there. Just past the entrance, several huge rock piles are painted in patriotic colors with the names and insignia of the men who trained there. It fits. Fort Irwin is only 1,000 square miles smaller than the state of Rhode Island.

But pride and land area aren't the only big things about Fort Irwin. They train in tanks out there. And big machines like tanks take big support.

Maintenance shops are 75,000 square feet with two cranes that can lift 30 tons apiece.

The world's largest car wash is there. It has 24 bays that can hold almost 200 cars at a time, including Humvees & tanks.

There's also a tank washer that washes two at a time. With the desert sand and dust this is extremely necessary. When the tank washer was first tested, the results went a



little beyond just a clean tank. Combine four 200-psi water nozzles, 15' high walls with tank gaskets and seals dried out by the hot sun, and you get one almost-drowned tank driver who finally managed to climb out, sputtering and dripping.

Phyllis Holley

started out as a clerk in an office with a telephone, window and a radio. The lack of room to grow soon became evident and she went to upward mobility. Things have been moving up ever since.

The ex-Marine has "been at the Corps a day or two" – since 1980.

Working to make sure people have the best isn't something she keeps to herself. Her daughter Carrie, 19, is currently working on a degree in law, with plans to go into the Air Force. Carrie also helps her grandmother.

It's hard to find anything on the base Holley hasn't had something to do with – buildings, landscaping or design. The list is almost as big as

Fort Irwin itself.

- The first elevators and spiral staircase on the base.

- Landscaping on housing projects – when she first arrived, housing had grass on the lawns and cottonwood trees that looked great, but were costing a fortune to keep up. In any project now, the landscape not only matches the environment with gravel and drought-resistant plants, but it also wins conservation awards such as the Secretary of the Army 2001 Environmental Award.

- A playground for every 15 houses.

- Mess halls – the designs and building materials may vary, but they all blend with the desert landscape.

- Four childcare facilities on base. During construction, the children put their claim on one building by pressing their handprints into the concrete. Holley's policy is to "bring users into everything we can."

- Two-family houses were combined into single one-family homes, resulting in larger quarters for the families. She also made sure the houses had individual looks, giving a neighborhood look and feel to families who often don't get to stay in one place very long.

There aren't many lives she hasn't had an effect on out there either, including the little burrowing owls living in the drainage ditches.

New barracks will have volleyball and basketball courts, BBQs, a community building with recreation rooms, washers and dryers, a kitchen and a weight room. During the design process, barracks at Fort Huachuca were looked at to see what hadn't worked, then fixed for Fort Irwin to make sure the soldiers living there had the best.

As with anything, though, things don't always go as planned.

The 27-mile-long pipeline from the lake has locks on the manhole covers to keep the soldiers out during bad weather.

In the new officer's club, the then-Chief of Staff set up a watering schedule for the indoor plants to make sure they would do well. There was just one problem – all the plants were plastic.

During housing construction, kids took out tree stakes and irrigation admitter heads to make forts of their own.



The 200-vehicle car wash at Fort Irwin is the largest in the world.

Commander's Excellence Award

Making small business a big priority

By Mike Tharp

His father was a command sergeant major, so the family moved every two years. In 1969-70 he manned a tank-mounted 50-caliber machine gun in Vietnam for the famous 11th Armored Cavalry. Back home again, he became a carpenter, then a general contractor and by the end of the '70s was building custom homes in Missouri.

Then Dick Aldrich joined the Corps. In the two decades that followed, he moved from St. Louis District to Fort Huachuca to Panama and now to Phoenix. Along the way, the 53-year-old civil engineering technician picked up enough experience and expertise to recently be named one of only eight winners of the Commander's Small Business Team of Excellence for 2002. LG Bob Flowers picked the eight team members.

Aldrich says the award "caught me off guard. But it's pretty neat to be recognized by your peers."

Aldrich was honored for a creative strategy he devised in the mid-'90s. He recognized the need for a cost-effective, high-quality, short time-frame demand instrument to meet District customer requirements in the \$500,000-and-less range. Those requirements generally weren't scoped out, and sometimes incidental design was required to finish a job. Aldrich worked with team members from L.A. District. The first performance-oriented construction activity contract (POCA) was awarded to a Small Business Administration 8(a) contractor for an amount which couldn't exceed \$3 million or three years—whichever came first.

The contract was so successful that the first one reached its capacity in less than a year. Today, the District's Ari-

zona/Nevada Area Office has awarded seven POCA contracts.

Acquisition strategy is the name of the game, and it soon became apparent to Aldrich that there was a gap between performance-oriented construction activity contracts and design-build contracts. To fill that gap, Aldrich formulated a hybrid: a best-value, trade-off multiple award

performance-oriented construction contract whose ceiling is \$29,950,000 or 36 months, whichever comes first. It's an 8(a) set-aside, awarded to nine contractors and is mainly for design-bid-build but can be used for performance requirements.

The contract was structured to accommodate the awards of three groups of three contractors each, one for each Area Office—High Desert, Southern California and Arizona/Nevada.

During his stint at Fort Huachuca in southern Arizona, the one-time cav tanker could have passed for a frontier gunfighter with his flowing Custer-length hair and mustache.



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HOLLEY

When the obstacle course was being constructed, a 10-year-old girl wrote a letter asking when it would be finished so she and a friend could play there. A fence was promptly put up around it.

One exercise with drones things went slightly awry – they ended off-base by I15.

The old range area is still hazardous. A man stepped on a mine, resulting in one dead and five injured. Holley said, "I don't think there's any part of Fort Irwin that hasn't been used to shoot or blow something up" at some time or another.

Her work does have more rewards than simply making Fort Irwin a better place to work or live at.

In the 14-building Pierce Barracks complex, an attempted suicide was foiled by one of the ground-fault interrupters Holley insisted on having installed during construction. When a radio was pulled into a filled bathtub, the GFI she had to fight for tripped the entire floor, but saved the man's life. "Any time I feel bad, I just drive by."

Her imagination comes into play in more than just design. In 1982 a mile-and-a-half road was built to bring the sewage plant back on line. The cost? Two bottles of liquor to the right people.

Sometimes, you just have to do what it takes to get the job done.

Essayons! Keeping the volunteer tradition

Photos and story by Pam Wills

The Corps has long been known for involvement, and employees of the Los Angeles District keep the tradition going strong.



Gretchen Wotherspoon (IMO) is treasurer for Boy Scout Troop 12 in Pasadena. She helps with outings and activities like weekend ski trips and campouts. She wanted to give time instead of just money. She likes interacting with the kids, seeing them relate their experiences to real

life and working with the every-day kids who do good things without rewards.



Al Moreno (IMO) is a Pop Warner football coach in Rancho Cucamonga. He volunteered because he loves football and enjoys teaching. He likes to be part of molding the kids in his community, getting involved in their lives and helping them.

Through his Masonic membership, Matthews Turner (Contracting) volunteers for a wide variety of causes including: Junior Olympics of Santa Monica, Minority AIDS Foundation, Toys for Tots, food giveaways, Prince Hall Masonic Education Scholarship Fund and as a Power Team member for the Corps Emergency Operations.



He enjoys volunteering because he can be of service, see the results and make people happy.

Mark Cohen (Regulatory) volunteers for public affairs work in disaster operations for the American Red Cross. He is part of the Rapid Response Team. When a disaster, such as a hurricane,



takes place, he is sent out within hours to the scene to deal with the national media and the public. He answers questions about loved ones who may be missing or hurt. He provides information to victims about where to seek shelter and when to evacuate. He is often sent ahead of the media event to coordinate efforts. He worked during the Colorado and Arizona wild fires and in New York after September 11th. Mark is always on call, carrying a beeper and keeping a bag packed at all times. He uses his annual leave since the assignments are usually less than three weeks. He says that sometimes the logistics aren't friendly and that once he had to sleep on a table at a high school shelter.



Lynn Coachman (RMO) works for the Developmental Disabilities Area Board, an organization that helps with different economic and social issues affecting those with developmental disabilities. She attends meetings with local officials, visits and participates at schools, helping to mainstream children. She also works with junior high kids from her church by taking them to museums and other outings. In addition, she provides respite care for foster children, providing some free time for foster parents who need some time away from home. Lynn has a natural desire to work with children and

says that they are sometimes easier to work with than adults. She says that service brings self-satisfaction and humility.

Gustavo Ruiz (LMO) volunteers as a Little League t-ball coach during the summer at City Terrace Park. He began coaching at 15 when there weren't enough coaches for the teams and has been coaching ever since to give back to the community. He likes talking to the kids and listening to what they have to say.



coming to the Corps and learned about this one from the daily bulletin. She also works at her local church on leadership and food committees. She likes being involved and the satisfaction that service brings.

Alejandro Hernandez (Planning) volunteers at Budlong Elementary School, helping out in the classroom by reading stories and monitoring the kids as they clean the yard. He went to Budlong School, so he likes to go back and help. He sees that public schools are hurting and having to cut back on things so he works with non-profit organizations to get needed resources.



Representing the Corps, Susan Tianen (Safety), goes to community clean-up days such as those at Rio Hondo and Hanson Dam. She volunteers for clean-ups at elementary schools and other community locations. She likes mingling with the people who live in the communities and says sometimes these people never knew what the Army Corps was and what we do. She says that they are surprised to find out that "we're nice." She likes to volunteer because she can make a difference and share the word about the Corps.

Representing the Corps, Susan Tianen (Safety), goes to community clean-up days such as those at Rio Hondo and Hanson Dam. She volunteers for clean-ups at elementary schools and other community locations. She likes mingling with the people who live in the communities and says sometimes these people never knew what the Army Corps was and what we do. She says that they are surprised to find out that "we're nice." She likes to volunteer because she can make a difference and share the word about the Corps.



COL Richard Thompson (District Engineer) volunteers as a Cub Scout den leader for Webelos in their pack in San Pedro. Webelos are 4th and 5th graders working on the last rank of Cub Scouts. His pack is made up of boys from military families. He has two sons, one in Cub Scouts and one in Boy Scouts, and was a Cub Scout when he was a boy. He likes working with the kids and noted that some of the activity badges are for engineering, science and geology, subjects that relate well to Corps skills.

COL Richard Thompson (District Engineer) volunteers as a Cub Scout den leader for Webelos in their pack in San Pedro. Webelos are 4th and 5th graders working on the last rank of Cub Scouts.



Tiffany Kayama (Planning) also likes going to environmental clean-ups like the recent days at Ballona. She was very active doing this kind of work before

Dr. Fred-Otto Egeler (PAO) volunteers for the California State Military Reserve, serving as public affairs officer and editing their newsletter. He has served as PAO for the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 1976. His favorite part of volunteering is packing up boxes of things to send to the troops. He chose to help so that he could return something to his country.





Shaun Frost and his son, William, work together to bring new life to the Rio Salado project along Arizona's Salt River.

Randy Riggins came of age in the Rio Salado. The Arizona native recalls his 1960s' church group being hauled on hayrack rides by his family tractor along the river's dry bottom. In pre-Columbian times, the Hohokan people dug a verdant network of irrigation canals from its tributaries, but over the centuries the Salt River (its English name) lost liquidity. When the first of six upstream dams went up in 1911, the river's waters were diverted for municipal, industrial and agricultural uses. By the 1990s the Salt River had become an arid dumping ground, a sand and gravel mine, a barren channel for the homeless, an urban eyesore.

Then the cities of Phoenix and Tempe called on the Corps of Engineers.

On your mark...get set...grow!



In the latest ceremony marking the long-planned restoration of the Salt River, dozens of Arizona resident stakeholders joined BG Larry Davis and Corps team members, elected officials, contractors and others when they planted 100 trees as part of the Rio Salado project.



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor talks with one of the project participants who will be enjoying the results of their efforts for many years to come.

Photos by John Keever



Water spilling over one of the rubber dams.

In what has become one of the most effective displays of federal and local teamwork throughout the West, the Rio Salado Project is transforming miles of both cities into attractive, useful venues for humans and a hospitable habitat for animals and plants. Besides the obvious economic benefits, the multimillion-dollar project is also renovating civic pride on both banks of the river and beyond, revitalizing neighborhoods and livelihoods.

For many disadvantaged citizens in Phoenix, especially south of the river, the project represents nothing less than environmental justice. “We’ve always thought it would be a catalyst for some positive things happening in this community,” says George Young, chair of the Rio Salado Citizens Advisory Committee.

One of Rio Salado’s hallmarks is Tempe Town Lake, a 220-acre manmade oasis finished in 1999. Recently, Riggins visited the two-mile-long city-funded waterway. The former Army combat engineer officer paddled his 18-foot sea kayak up and down the lake. Next to it are three separate areas where the Corps is spearheading extensive environmental restoration. Reflecting on the contrast between the dry riverbed of his youth and the lush riverbanks of today, he said, “I can’t believe this is here.”

To make Rio Salado happen, the Corps capitalized on an expansion of its strategic horizons. Traditionally its missions have focused on flood control and navigation, but in the early ‘90s the agency got approval to do environmental restoration. The severely degraded Rio Salado clearly qualified for that new mission.

And so, for the past decade, the L.A. District has been working with Phoenix and Tempe, first in a reconnaissance phase, then a feasibility phase; finally, in 1998, the District recommended a plan for each city. “We couldn’t do development

things,” recalls project manager Mike Ternak, “but we do have restoration authority to make the river more natural and return native plant species and wetlands. They liked the idea—it was a first stepping-stone for them.”

The Phoenix section involves a five-mile stretch about 1½ miles south of downtown. The entire habitat restoration project covers 580 acres within the banks of the river and a 50-foot-wide corridor on either side. Construction began in the 2001 fiscal year, a celebration ceremony was held in March and the Corps’ first construction contracts have already been advertised.

Funding is coming from several sources. In March 2001 Phoenix voters approved \$16 million in bonds to continue cleanup of the riverbed and begin habitat restoration. Maricopa County then approved an additional \$7 million to the \$11 million it already had committed to continue work on the low-flow channel, which lets the river carry storm water. Finally, in June 2001 Phoenix Mayor Skim Rimsza and Corps officials signed an official construction agreement that allows nearly \$86 million in federal and local funds to continue the project in both cities.

Overall, the federal government is paying about 65 percent of the cost of construction, which is about halfway completed in Phoenix. “We’re really pushing to have it finished by late 2004,” says Karen Williams, project coordinator for Phoenix. “It takes a long time, so it’s really exciting to see the wonderful wildlife coming to enjoy the habitat.”

So far, 18 acres of habitat have been developed, with 60 more acres underway. There’s a 1,000-tree forest with stands of cottonwood and willow, cattails and bulrushes, mesquite groves and desert grasslands and shrubs. The habitat’s streams, ponds and wetlands assume national importance, since they’re critical to the survival of certain fish and wildlife species. Williams says the Audubon Society has spotted 44 bird species there in recent months.

When the areas along the banks are finished, they’ll fea-



Restored habitat is attracting more than 44 kinds of birds.



One of the rest areas along the trail

ture a latticework of trails for hiking, biking, jogging and horseback riding. There'll be plenty of space for picnicking, wildlife viewing and guided tours.

Williams and other Phoenix officials hope that the project will generate productive ripples into nearby environs. Already, junkyards and similar businesses have been restricted, and several development projects, such as a golf course, are onstream. "This will be a different place in 10 to 15 years," Williams says.

While Phoenix's focus could be called a return to nature, Tempe's going for the bright lights, hoping to build a bustling waterfront along Tempe Town Lake. The city's portion of Rio Salado includes Town Lake and the restoration project being partnered by the Corps and the city. Overall, the combined projects extend along the Salt River and Indian Bend Wash for a total of about 5.5 miles.

The lake is their heartbeat, using inflatable dams, a water pump system and slurry walls to keep it full. City planners expect to see resorts, restaurants, retail shops and a marina at what they call "this regional destination." Already, the high-rise Hayden Ferry Lakeside Building towers over the lake, and the 25-acre Tempe Beach Park has been completely refurbished and serves as a community gathering spot. The Corps restoration project will add to the greening of the lake district.

Tempeians are proud of the project's progress. When a recent editorial in the Arizona Republic dissed the lake for "no profit yet," Mayor Neil Giuliano swiftly responded: "No profit except having turned a dry ugly garbage dump river bottom into an open space visited by

tens of thousands on a regular basis, and the lake is not even four years old!"

Rio Salado's success has caused other municipalities in the Valley of the Sun, such as Mesa, to ponder their own options for taking advantage of both the river and the Corps' resources and expertise. And the two cities now involved in the project praise their federal partner. "We're happy with the great partnership we have with the Corps," says Williams. Adds Chris Baxter, Tempe's economic development marketing coordinator: "We couldn't do this without the Corps. There's absolutely no way we could build this habitat on our own without the Corps' resources, the talent, intellect and financing."

Ternak, the District's project manager, is quietly proud of the Corps role in reversing the river's decline and making it a place where people want to go and be and live. "Hopefully, this will bridge the gap," he says, "and break down the barriers. The benefits of the project include habitat for plants and wildlife, environmental education and recreation for people. It will result in a restored and unique resource—unlike any other in a city."

—Mike Tharp



Workers position a tree just before removing the planter.

Morrow's puppy raising turns wiggly wagers into skilled guides

By Mike Tharp

About 1.5 million Americans are legally blind. Some 5.5 million Americans aged 65 or older are considered blind or visually impaired. Just over 7,000 blind Americans use guide dogs. Each year about 1,500 individuals graduate from a dog-guide user program.

Those are the facts.

Then there's Ariel. She's a black Lab. Her first birthday was on April 2.

She's learning to be a guide dog. Her teacher is Contract Specialist Sharon Morrow. Ever since she read a book about adopting dogs called "Dogs Don't Lie About Love," Sharon has been interested in being "a puppy raiser." While she was volunteering to help elderly people, she took a lady's cat to a vet in Huntington Park. Pinned to the wall was a card for Guide Dogs of America (GDA), a guide dog school that promotes pairing humans and canines.

Sharon called. GDA sent officers out to her house and interviewed her. She passed their tests (temperament, dedication, financial wherewithal) and was given Phaedra, also a black Lab. They made it halfway through the training program before Phaedra decided she didn't like wearing the harness. Sharon's friend Randy Brooks, chair of International Guiding Eyes, an umbrella organization, explained to her that "the dogs choose to work." Phaedra chose otherwise. "So we adopted her," says Sharon.

Now she hopes to train the two-year-old as a "therapy dog" which she will take into hospitals, nursing homes, physical therapy wards and the like "to visit people just to make them feel good." Therapy dogs have to be calm and willing to tolerate a lot of handling and cuddling. Phaedra can do that.

GDA does its own breeding, so when she was ready to try again, Sharon went back to the kennel in Sylmar. There was Ariel. She carried her out in her arms. Now they spend nearly all Sharon's off-duty time together.

Guide dog training comes in three phases:

1. Fostering: Volunteers take the puppies, usually at 8 weeks, to their homes and raise and teach them as if they were there own; that includes housebreaking, obedience, good behavior, socialization. This lasts until the dog is 15 to 22 months old. "We get to take them out in public to experience as much as possible," Sharon says. "The more experience they have, the better they do."

2. The dogs are then returned to the GDA campus in Sylmar, a state-licensed facility. There they learn guide work, including wearing a harness and commands.

3. Near the end of this six-month period, blind students come to the campus and work with their dogs. On the fourth day of working together, they get their dogs. "It's called 'Dog Day,'" says Sharon, "and it gives a whole new meaning to that phrase—it's not a bad thing, it's a good thing."

GDA works with Labs—yellow, chocolate, black—golden retrievers and German shepherds. The group is just beginning to experiment with mixed breeds, including what trainers call "a Labradoodle." (You can figure out the breeds.)

With Ariel, it took Sharon three weeks to house-break her. She taught Ariel and Phaedra how to ring a bell on a lanyard by the backdoor when they wanted to go out. "That can help a blind person," Sharon explains. After Ariel turned four months, Sharon began taking her out in public as much as possible, walking on a leash. She took her to Disneyland (where Sharon has a part-time marketing research job at the resort) in order to get her used to crowded areas and loud noises.

At around six months, Ariel went to obedience school. That gives guide dog recruits a chance to socialize with other dogs besides guide dogs. Ariel was valedictorian, meaning she could "heel," "stay," "leave it" and "sit" better than any of her peers. ("I'd been working with her on a daily basis," Sharon confesses.)

Ariel's been around. She went to Graceland ("I tried to get her to pee on the front lawn, but she wouldn't do it—she has too much reverence for The King"). She went to Disney's California Adventure. Last fall, she flew to Pennsylvania for a Morrow family reunion, and then to a Contracting class in Ohio. Late last year she took the Metro downtown and watched "Santa Claus 2" with Sharon.



Sharon and Ariel when the pup was just eight weeks old.

Photos Courtesy of or By Sharon Morrow

Continued on page 7

TWIN TOWERS—Continued from page 20

Current grade point average of 3.0-3.5. UCLA and Red Cross Blood Drive chair. High school site counsel board member. Student body government and leadership programs. Commissioner of school spirit. Youth empowerment facilitator for community groups. Several awards and leadership posts from the U.S. Marine Corps Devil Pups Academy Program (sort of a gyrene Scouting gig). Community college security cadets. Sheriff's Explorer Academy graduates and rank-holders.

In their spare time they run six to seven miles once a week and two to three miles several times a week. They do 50 to 60 pushups in two minutes.

What have they had to sacrifice to get where they are? "Some of our friends," says D'Andre, "who we used to hang out with. They went downhill." Adds Delwin, "A few of the friends I grew up with got into drugs and I had to give them up."

Referring to their 6-foot-2 statures, their mom calls them the Twin Towers. Her main advice to her sons: "Choose your path in life and be ready for the consequences—good, bad or indifferent. Be prepared."

That's the carrot. The stick: "I've had to tell them I'd hang 'em in the garage with a rope and tell the police they were practicing their bungee-jumping."

GUIDE DOG

Ariel likes movies.

They go together to the grocery store, dentist office, beauty salon, drug store, the eye doctor. "Basically, I dedicate every moment I have at home to be with her," says Sharon. "Every time there's a training opportunity, I take it."

Wherever she goes, Ariel wears a yellow Guide Dog vest identifying her as a puppy-in-training.

Sharon expects to have her until she turns 15 months—"they could wait till they're as old as 22 months, but there's a shortage of dogs."

After Ariel is turned over to the guide trainers and put through her paces, there will be a graduation ceremony. The blind person who is receiving the dog lines up with the dog and behind them is a representative of the dog's foster family who raised her. It's up to the blind person to stay in touch with the puppy trainers, and Sharon estimates that 90 percent of them do.

On the prospect of giving up Ariel, Sharon says, "It's hard but it's worth it. When I close the door on that kennel, I'll know that I've helped give independence to somebody." Her husband Kevin Guertin, a U.S. Navy chief petty officer, is "very supportive" of her training, Sharon says his deployments often take him away for months at a time, so he knows the dogs provide company at their home in Norwalk.

It costs about \$25,000 or more to provide a guide dog,

SMALL BUSINESS—Continued from Page 7

But he hasn't owned or fired a weapon since his days in Vietnam, preferring instead to cast a fly rod in both fresh and salt water.

He's maintained his thirst for adventure, and the 18-month tour in Panama helped quench that. He worked on civilian and military projects in Ecuador and Honduras, and even a plane breaking down in Quito—at 8,146 feet altitude—couldn't keep him from calling the assignment "the best tour I ever had." The tropical environment suited him and his wife Cathy, and they are aggressively searching for their next equatorial adventure.

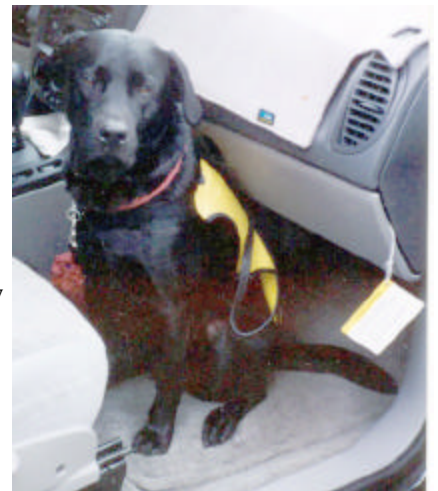
Maybe surprisingly, Aldrich doesn't credit his military experience or any institution with making him who he is. "My father had more influence on me than any organization," Aldrich says. "He was very regimented. He just treated us kids like he did his GIs."

In the mosaic of his career, Dick Aldrich has combined two of the military's most revered mottos: The Corps' own *Essayons!* and the 11th Armored Cav's *Allons!* We will try. We will go.

And he has.

which includes the cost of training the dog and instruction for the guide dog user. Blind and visually impaired people don't have to pay for a guide dog, whose average working life is six to eight years; most guide dogs are about 2 ½ when they start working.

The GDA Web site (www.guidedogsofamerica.org) notes that guide dogs know where to go because the blind person directs them; they're allowed by law to go anywhere the general public can go, and guide dogs ride free on public transportation and even airlines where they can sit with the owner.



Phaedra waiting for her turn-in.

Sharon firmly believes that working with Phaedra and Ariel has helped her in her Corps job. "Contractors tell me, 'You've been the most helpful of anybody,'" she says. "I don't know if I'm more compassionate because I'm a puppy raiser or if I'm a puppy raiser because I'm more compassionate."

No matter. Like the puppies she trains, Sharon has chosen to work.

L.A. District History Quiz

The first three people who answer **EVERY** QUESTION CORRECTLY will receive a T-shirt.

1. In 1898, the district was formed by:

- A. Major John James Myler
- B. Captain Jerome J. Meyler
- C. LT J.J. Meyler
- D. Captain James J. Meyler

2. In 1899, the district began construction on:

- A. Palos Verdes Breakwater
- B. San Diego Harbor Breakwater
- C. San Pedro Harbor Breakwater
- D. Dana Harbor Breakwater

3. The district maintains the depth of harbors along its _____ miles of coast.

- A. 386
- B. 400
- C. 420
- D. 451

4. To celebrate our nation's bi-centennial a graduating high school painted 1776-1976 on which of the following Corps projects?

- A. Santa Fe Dam
- B. Salinas Dam
- C. Prado Dam
- D. Seven Oaks Dam

5. At the beginning of World War Two, the Corps of Engineers took over the responsibility of military construction from _____.

- A. U. S. Navy Construction Units (SEEBEES)
- B. The War Department
- C. The Quartermaster Corps
- D. The Department of Housing and Urban Development

6. At the beginning of World War II the Corps of Engineers accepted the responsibility for the _____ water supply dam/reservoir that supported the buildup of military personnel at _____.

- A. Santa Fe Dam
- B. Salinas Dam
- C. Waterford Dam
- a. Camp Roberts
- b. Ft Irwin
- c. Camp San Luis Obispo

7. The first federal *recreational* harbor to be constructed after the Korean War (which began as a WPA Project in the thirties) was

- A. Oceanside Harbor
- B. Newport Harbor
- C. Redondo Beach King Harbor
- D. Dana Point Harbor

8. Which one of the following harbors was the first one in southern California constructed during the depression days for the exclusive use of small craft?

- A. Sunset-Bolsa Chica Bays
- B. Dana Point Bay
- C. Anaheim Bay
- D. Newport Bay

9. During World War II the Los Angeles District built _____ so that General George C. Patton could train his new _____ Corps. It was reactivated by the Department of Defense in 1981.

- A. Yuma Proving Grounds
- B. Fort Lewis
- C. Camp San Luis
- D. Camp Pendleton
- a. Artillery
- b. Infantry
- c. Tank
- d. Engineers

In Brief...Around LAD

Retirees leave with nearly three centuries of service

At her retirement ceremony in 1986, Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper gave her naval and civilian audience a little advice. "The only phrase I've ever disliked is, 'Why, we've always done it that way.' I always tell young people, 'Go ahead and do it another way. You can always apologize later.'"

Her words could well be applied to the L.A. District's recent roster of retirees. Eight team members ended their Corps careers in December after amassing more than 266 total years of service.

In alphabetical order, with years of service:

- Earl Allen, Resource Management Office, 40 years;
- Michelle Amigle, Resource Management Office, 35 years;
- Philip Benoit, PPMD, 25 years;
- Harvey Beverly, Engineering Division, 30 years;
- Irving Delino, Security, 36 years;
- Raymond Mellard, Resource Management Office, 36 years.
- Linda Okimoto, Resource Management Office, 30.5 years; and
- Steve Temmel, Office of Counsel, 34 years.

For a combined term of service of nearly three centuries, these folks dedicated their time, energy and loyalty to the Corps and the District. Admiral Hopper would have approved: They went ahead and did it. No apologies needed.

Essays!

Donations keep going

Romano Caturegli collected 47 pieces of L.A. District equipment in late February —“mostly excess computers”—for the latest delivery by Glynn Alsop to the Dine Indian College's Uranium Education Program at Shiprock, N.M.

To: Aaron O. Allen Ph. D.; Mo Chang; Tony Risko



As you are each head of your respective branches of the Corps LA District, I want to compliment the fine work and customer service that I and members of my management team and staff have recently experienced from these fine folks (Jim Fields, Josh Burnam, Kathy Anderson). They are each easy to work with, informative and highly-skilled individuals who make our daily responsibilities ever more enjoyable!

Jim's timely assistance with the recent shoaling problem that has returned at the Marina del Rey Entrance Channel enable us to include this project with the County's federal funding request and meet our submittal deadline for Congressional consideration in FY 2004. Josh's constant vigilance and helpful advice with respect to our ever-changing regulatory responsibilities continues to amaze us all. Kathy's steadfast and thorough management of the many planning studies affecting the Ballona Creek watershed have kept us on track and involved -- WELL DONE!

Please provide what recognition is appropriate for these three "Corps ambassadors", or forward to me any official acknowledgement forms so that I can submit them back to the proper authorities. I look forward to many more opportunities to work together as we manage our coast together.

Joseph Chesler, AICP
Chief, Planning Division
Los Angeles County
Department of Beaches & Harbors

Online Newscastle

PDF files for the Newscastle are available on the intranet. They can be viewed, downloaded or printed.

Welcome to New Hires — through March 31, 2003

Planning

MaLisa Martin
Anita Pritchard
Anita Allen
Bryon Lake

RMO

James Hern

CONOPS

Gerardo Salas
Shaun Frost
Victoria Read
Clesthe Eldridge
Jason Lambert

Ron Colwell
Steve Saucedo

PPMD

Chandra Welch
Deanna Ruiz
Richard Deleon
Randall Elder
Michael Martin
Joe Derungs
Lawrence Lam

Angela Danielly

Safety

James Milton

EEO

Michael Lawton

Engineering

Megan Hamilton
Lucila Martinez

Real Estate

Sean Bupara
Joseph Gatti

On the move: ***From country to country, military to civilian and back again***

By Mike Tharp

Like Woody Allen's *Zelig*, Robert Zemeckis's *Forrest Gump* or the '60s radio spoof *Chickenman* ("He's everywhere! He's everywhere!"), LTC David Turk sure pops up in a lot of places.

Currently, he's a program manager for the District's PPM, working directly for Brian Moore. His duties vary, from backfilling for branch chiefs to providing direction on project review board issues. With extensive experience and expertise in the Army Reserves, Turk also assumes the mission of developing citizen soldier resources available to the District. His checkerboard civilian and military careers have found him hop scotching from job to job, mission to mission, business suit to camo, coast to coast. "I work wherever I'm needed," he says. "I fill in just about anywhere."

Turk recently returned to the District from Wiesbaden, Germany, where he spent a year with the Corps Europe District. He led a group of reservists mobilized to support the District's contingency activities for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Noble Eagle, which protects American skies.

He also participated, he says cryptically, "in contingency planning for future operations where the Corps will be an active player." He was the Corps liaison to European Command in Stuttgart, as well as dealing with major component commands, including the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines in Europe.

For antiterrorism missions, for example, he oversaw the surveys, analysis and security proposals affecting all Corps offices in the theater. "We have to look out for Corps employees," he explains, "regardless of where they are or who owns the building."

Before 9/11 Turk was an Army reservist on temporary duty in the District. After the attacks, he was mobilized to active duty and assigned his slot in Europe District. Before the European assignment, he'd spent time the L.A. District's Emergency Operations Center as deputy chief of operations, helping out during earthquakes, floods and training of District team members. He participated as part of the Corps response to natural disasters elsewhere in the U.S. He was also a program manager on the L.A. Unified School District E-rate project.

Turk spent most of the '80s in the private sector, working for some of America's bluest-chip companies: Procter & Gamble ("I made Pampers Diapers"), Pepsi Cola Co., Baskin-Robbins and Aramark Uniformed Services. Those jobs took him from New York to Georgia, back to New York and finally to Southern California. During that

span, he was also an Army reservist assigned to the Corps in Jacksonville, Fla., and Savannah, Ga.

His first experience in the military came as an Army enlisted man in 1972. He became a member of the military police and, later that year, was almost sure he and his unit would be posted to Vietnam (where an older brother had served earlier as an Air Force medic). But geopolitics intervened, the American side of the war wound down and Turk got out as a sergeant.

Using the G.I. bill, he returned to Georgia Tech to study industrial engineering.

Somewhere along the way, he decided that the ol' Army life hadn't been too bad after all, so he joined Army ROTC at the school. He earned one of the few Regular Army engineer commissions handed out at the time to non-West Point cadets and stayed in a little more than three years.

He regards his civilian work experience as a valuable supplement to being a green-suiter in the District. "You're all civilians here," he observes. "The fact that I worked with and managed civilians made for an easy transition." Here, he applies some of the same management techniques that he acquired at such corporate icons as Procter & Gamble: "Be firm but fair and always put yourself in the other person's shoes. For civilians, ranks are not important, they want to be given an opportunity and they don't want to be left in the dark. The boss in 'Dilbert' is a classic example of what not to do. That's not the way you lead or inspire confidence."

Turk comes by his peripatetic ways naturally. Both his father and mother were in the military during World War II, and afterwards his father's social agency work with the blind took the family up and down the East Coast.

Nowadays Turk and his wife are empty-nesting in Valencia, while their two sons attend UC Santa Barbara and San Diego State University. His mandatory retirement date from the Reserves is in two and a half years.

'Til then, the man who moves with ease between military and civilian worlds is content to be the District's trouble-shooter.



Twin Towers

Earning grades, awards as they prepare for careers with L.A. Sheriff's Department

By Mike Tharp

One is taller by a half inch for most of the year. But when their birthday rolls around, the other one catches up and they're the same height for a month or so. Then the growth cycle repeats itself. The shorter one is three minutes older. Over the phone, they sound exactly the same. Sometimes they communicate nonverbally—an arched eyebrow, a slight smile or a quick shrug telling the other all he needs to know about what his twin brother is thinking.

Meet Delwin and D'Andre Lampkin, the 18-year-old sons of Marie Lampkin, a communications technician in the District's Information Management operation.

It would be hard to find a pair in Los Angeles who have decided so early who they want to be and what they want to do. Who have then lasered their energy to reach their



D'andre Lampkin

goals. Who have sidestepped the temptations that trap so many of their peers. And who have made their mom simply burst with pride. "They're going places," says Marie. "For their age, they're a force to be reckoned with. They've made wise decisions."

Delwin and D'Andre want to be cops. Given their single-minded drive to prepare themselves, there's no doubt they will.

Here's their plan: After graduation from high school this spring, both plan to enter Cal

State University, Los Angeles, majoring in criminal justice administration. At 19 ½, they plan to enter the L. A. County Sheriff's Department's Training Academy in Whittier. They plan to graduate by age 20 and continue their career as law enforcement officers.

"All we're waiting for is to see if they're going to be finalists for several scholarships," says Marie.



Delwin Lampkin

Why a badge and baton? "The neighborhood we grew up in [76th and Western, near the flashpoint of the 1992 riots] had a lot of crime—addiction, shootings," says Delwin. "Law enforcement gives us a good opportunity to reach out to the community, to play an active role, to be a role model for others."

Both brothers cite many of the same positive influences on their lives and choices, chief among them their mother. "Without her supporting us for all the activities we do, we couldn't do them. A lot of them are quite strenuous." Other mentors have included Sgt. Joanne Hollis of the Sheriff's Community College Bureau; their adviser from the department's Explorer program, Deputy Hector Castellanos; Natilia Roundtree, a leadership adviser from their high school, and Sgt. Jerry Cummings, yet another Explorer adviser.

Their resumes look as if they should be lining up for beatification, not just starting college. Perfect attendance from pre-school to 12th grade. See **Twin Towers Page 15**

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