

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

R E G I O N A L

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Flood Coverage 2008



Pacesetter

Southwestern Division Regional News Service

Serving the men and women of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division

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In this issue:

- 3 **We're just over halfway through FY08 and we've accomplished a year's worth of work already!** - *Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox*
- 5 **Fort Bliss team plays in the 'Red Zone'**
- 6 **Pine Bluff Marine Terminal's 'get 'er done' crew**
- 7 **Fort Sill ... sizzling growth**
- 8 **Johnson-Muic and Bryant receive W. Howard Armstrong Partnership Award**
- 9 **Galveston District holds Service-Disabled-Veteran-Owned Small Business Seminar**
- 10 **Milestones - Milestones - Milestones!** - *Col. David C. Weston*
- 13 **Safety must be foremost in what we do**
- *Col. Christopher W. Martin*
- 14-16 **Volunteers**
- 17 **You can always count on Tulsa Teamwork!**
- *Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser*
- 19-21 **Flood Coverage 2008**
- 26 **America's symbol flying strong in Little Rock**
- 28 **Safety: Our children, our responsibility**
- 30 **Contracting specialist sees firsthand the 'fog and friction' of war**
- 33 **Pacesetter Points**

On the cover: Little Rock District Commander Col. Ed Jackson discusses flood fighting with Mountain Home Operations Manager Tracy Fancher (black jacket) and Dam Operator Steve Hernandez as they stand in front of open flood gates at Norfolk Dam. Photo courtesy of P.J. Spaul





We're just over halfway through FY08 and we've accomplished a year's worth of work already!

**Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox
Commander, Southwestern Division**

Spring is here and boy did she arrive packing a punch! March came in like a lamb but it sure went out like a lion! Rain is once again the dreaded word across the region and if not for the continued superb efforts of our Operations Divisions and the dedicated teammates supporting the local communities, we could have already suffered catastrophic losses. So let me start this message with a special thanks to all those who have been giving 110 percent this past month to ensure health and welfare of the American people remain at the forefront in all that we do.

I've had the pleasure of visiting three of the Districts during the past two months and I am honored to say I was among the finest in the Corps. It is so enlightening and energizing when I get the chance to go out to some of our project sites and meet the true people out front for the Corps, serving America selflessly every day. The challenges each of you face, from dilapidated and damaged facilities in dire need of repair, to recent flood damages and facilities under water, while also experiencing woefully underfunded budgets, would normally stop an organization in its tracks. But not the SWD Family – all of you continue to find innovative ways to “git er dun,” ensuring the best possible solution delivered with a smile!!!


We're just over halfway through FY08 and we have accomplished a year's worth of work already. Our execution rates are higher than previous years, our construction rates off the chart, and our efforts to partner with “teammates” to accomplish numerous critical missions in the water resource management arenas is truly amazing and is definitely setting the pace for other MSCs to emulate. I applaud all of you for

this superb effort, but ask that we continue to stay the course if we hope to achieve the lofty goals we have set for ourselves this FY, as well as in FY09.

At the end of April we will be conducting our annual Command Strategic Review with HQUSACE. At the completion of this visit, we will soon publish the SWD Strategic Operations Plan that will outline our focus for the next 3-5 years. It focuses again on our ability to execute our missions in the Military and Civil Works programs, continuing efforts to ensure our work force remains the most professional and competent engineering organization in the world, while also improving our efforts to care for our employees and their families, and ensuring we “tell the Corps Story” whenever and as

transparently as we can. The Plan will also lay out how we will support the efforts of the Corps as the entire organization goes from “Good to Great,” relying on disciplined people with disciplined thought and actions. We have just those people in SWD and I am truly blessed to be on the same bus with all of you.

Thanks to all for what you do every day to make life better for the American people. What we do is all part of something a lot bigger than ourselves and it makes me proud to say I am a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and I hope

you can say the same too. Let's hope the rest of Spring brings a lot more sunshine and “May flowers,” and if you happen to be down in Matagorda any time soon be sure to stop in and visit Spoonbills – it's a mouth-watering treat you'll never forget. And if golf is on your calendar, then here's hoping you “Hit 'em straight and hit 'em far!” 

Thanks to all for what you do every day to make life better for the American people. What we do is all part of something a lot bigger than ourselves and it makes me proud to say I am a member of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and I hope you can say the same too.

Pacesetters – Army Strong – Engineer Ready!

Secretary of the Army cites Slockbower for Exceptional Civilian Service

Robert E. Slockbower, director of Regional Business, Southwestern Division, received the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service from the Secretary of the Army, Pete Geren, in a ceremony April 15 in the Pentagon.

“This has truly been your year and it is all indicative of your tremendous accomplishments and dedicated selfless service to our Nation, Army and Corps. We are all blessed to have you as part of the SWD Family,” said Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox, Division commander. “On behalf of all of the SWD Family, you are truly most deserving of this award for a job way beyond well done!”

Slockbower was granted the award by the Secretary, in part, for his unwavering dedication to duty, resolute commitment to the Army, and loyal, selfless service to the Nation that have had a direct impact on operational capability and quality of life for Soldiers and citizens throughout the Southwestern Division and beyond. He also aligned Corps programs to meet Army Transformation requirements and outcomes defined in the President’s Management Agenda and directed reconstruction efforts for the Iraqi Reconstruction Management Office.

The award citation also states that “he provides the drive and management skills leading two of the Corps’ most challenging multi-billion dollar missions: Military Construction Transformation, and support for Department of Homeland Security projects. Mr. Slockbower is a world class leader who is shaping USACE technical competencies as the lead Engineering and Scientist Career Program manager.”

In September 2007, Slockbower received the 2007 Presidential Rank Award as a Meritorious Executive. He has served as the Division’s Director of Regional Business since October 2004. 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Southwestern Division

128 years young

Galveston District recognized for years of service



Photo courtesy of Travers Powell

Col. David C. Weston (left), Galveston District Corps of Engineers commander, accepts a Certificate of Recognition from Danny Weber, Sr., District 5 Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, in honor of the District’s 128th anniversary. The District was established in Galveston on Feb. 25, 1880, and the City of Galveston’s certificate notes the Corps’ efforts that built the Galveston jetties, helped construct the seawall, and numerous other projects that have contributed to the increased commerce, quality of life, and the success of Galveston. 🇺🇸

Fort Bliss team plays in the ‘Red Zone’

Edward Rivera
Pacesetter Staff

If the producers of NFL Films ever made it to Fort Bliss, Texas, their production might sound something like this:

“In a far west Texas town, a battle rages. Man and machine taking on the one opponent that can never truly be stopped... Time. A base that topped out at about 9,000 Soldiers and family members now is looking at tripling in size. East of Fort Bliss is where the action takes place, on an old Army air field appropriately named Biggs.

“The team with the scarlet banner and the castle emblem has the daunting task of marching down the field and building four Brigade Combat Team areas. Fort Worth District has assembled a juggernaut team of contractors and government workers to take on the ever-crafty Time.”

Maybe that is a little over the top, but building four BCT areas at Fort Bliss is a task that dwarfs the challenge of winning a no-loss Super Bowl season.

And this is a whole new ball game for Fort Worth District. Before the Fort Bliss Expansion Program, when the Corps got to the Beneficial Occupancy Date, it handed off the keys to the owners of the building and it was up to them to take on the final inspections, commissioning, furniture purchase, and other key tasks before troop occupancy.

But beginning in February, the Corps would turn over one complete and ready-to-use building per week for the next five years, which forced the team’s program manager to gather his troops and hit the dry erase board to develop a new game plan.

“Because of the magnitude and uniqueness of this program, we had to develop a dedicated and coordinated approach to bring all the aspects together,” said Steven Wright, Fort Bliss Expansion Program Manager. “We had to ensure that each party involved was informed and scheduled. We couldn’t leave anything to

chance.”

According to Wright, the new approach to the “Red Zone” is allotted about 60 days, but he expects the timeframe for the process to get down to about four weeks.

“The extra time was built into the schedule to allow time to learn the ins and outs of all team members involved in the troop ready process,” said Wright.

But, rewriting the playbook was just half the battle. It would take a team recruited from the Corps, Garrison, and some contractors to take the ball across the goal line.

Executing the plays for this special team was handed to Catherine Zultner, Troop Ready Program Manager. According to

“The value in the program is that we are working as a team to seamlessly deliver these buildings, fully usable, to the installation.”

Catherine Zultner
Troop Ready Program Manager

Zultner, the team consists of a strategic scheduler, members from contract administration, technical review, real estate, and project engineers from the field office.

In addition, members from the Base Transformation Office, Directorate of Information Management, Fire Department, Directorate of Public Works, Directorate of Environment, and various quality assurance specialists rounded out the team.

“The value in the program is that we are working as a team to seamlessly deliver these buildings, fully usable, to the installation,” Zultner said. “This includes furniture, phones, vending machines, mail kiosks, signage, etc. The big difference in our approach is that these items will be in place before the building occupancy, alleviating work for both the Directorate of Public works and the units occupying the new facilities.”

Facilities will be occupied a battalion set at a time, not a building at a time as is typical. The plan is to fit out and lock down the buildings as they are completed,

leaving the timeframe for occupying the buildings at the discretion of the installation. The first battalion set is scheduled to move into its new facilities June 30.

From the beginning, the key to the success of the program has been communication between all areas of the construction process. According to Col. Timothy White, Fort Bliss Deputy Garrison Commander, everyone involved in Base Transformation realized from the beginning that they had to get into the details and communicate on a weekly basis to develop operating procedures and schedules to make the facilities troop ready.

“Although we’re still learning, this well organized team will deliver no less than functional, operational, safe and secure, turn-key buildings in a manner that will be transparent to the Soldiers who will occupy them,” White said.

So, as these buildings, these monuments of hard work and “out of the box” thinking, are completed and the working

team of contractors and federal workers depart the field, they can rest assured that the Soldier team moving in will have the best facilities ready and waiting for them. 🇺🇸



Pine Bluff Marine Terminal's "get 'er done" crew

Tammy L. Moody
Pacesetter Staff

Little Rock's Pine Bluff Marine Terminal crews stay quite busy, maintaining seven locks and dams and 125 miles of navigation channel, but on any given day, you could find crew members working anywhere in the District or even other districts.

Most of the work they do saves the Corps money and time, both of which are valuable commodities in times of tight operations and maintenance budgets.

"We have had crews scattered all over the District, and beyond, teaming with others," said Mike Hendricks, the operations manager of Pine Bluff Project Office. "The Marine Terminal is used as a regional resource in support of other projects in the District, from making emergency repairs with infrastructure and equipment to helping build new things for their parks and project offices. The terminal crews live the "Regional Team" concept."

Their work has included such things as rehabilitating campsites and building a parking lot at Beaver Project Office, building a boat ramp at Table Rock, fixing gearboxes at Millwood Lake and helping other districts with river bank stabilizations and lock dewaterings.

Beaver Lake's Chief Ranger Michael Richards described some of the crew's work and one of the benefits of it.

"They came to Beaver with several tasks to complete. First on the list was rehabbing and enlarging the Prairie Creek Park boat ramp parking lot, which was constantly over capacity. Pine Bluff's Rex Davis improved the conceptual plans using his extensive knowledge of roads and parking."

The Pine Bluff Crew then demolished the existing parking area, transplanted existing trees, relocated playground equipment, and prepared the site for asphalt. The end result was a parking lot doubled in size.

They then rehabilitated nine campsites at Prairie Creek Park, relocated picnic sites, prepared a pad for the Prairie Creek Grand Picnic Shelter, and cleaned up a spoils area at Hickory Creek Park.

"These areas at Beaver Lake are now



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Pine Bluff's Rex Davis clears a site for a new restroom at Beaver Lake.

more user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing, thanks to Pine Bluff's hard work and expertise," Richards said. "The public greatly appreciates their contributions, which will benefit visitors to Beaver Lake for many years to come."

Table Rock Project Office in Missouri also benefited from the crew that hails from south Arkansas.

"Our Cow Creek boat ramp project was accomplished with mostly Corps labor," said chief of Operations and Maintenance Fred Esser. "We had a crew come in from Truscott Lake in the Tulsa District that started construction of the parking lot and access road, and then the Pine Bluff crew placed the fill for the boat ramp and poured it for us. About the only thing accomplished by contract was the materials and supplies, equipment rentals and the paving."

"The original government estimate back in 2005 was \$926,501. Our total cost for the project beginning in 2006 was \$608,500. We saved \$318,000 by using Corps labor."

Richards, Esser, and Hendricks all agree the biggest benefit the Pine Bluff crew brings to a job besides cost savings is the ability for the project to be modified or adapted in the field on the fly.

"One of the nice things about being able to do heavy maintenance or construction activities in-house is, if we have to make a change in the field, we get the experts together to talk about it, and they can say do it or don't do it," Hendricks said.

"If you do it by contract, you have to revise plans, specs, and negotiate mods to the contract, and have additional costs associated with that. A lot of the cost savings comes from the fact that you do not have to go through all the legal aspects of contracting when you make changes."

Pine Bluff Diesel Engineer Rex Davis said that, although they have to schedule in the other projects' work around their own work, they help defray costs even more by trying to be more involved in another project office's upcoming maintenance work from the very beginning.

"We are trying to be involved from the estimate on, all the way through the process," Davis said. "That way we have input, and we all know what is expected." District Commander Col. Ed Jackson knows Pine Bluff Marine Terminal can get the job done. Shortly after assuming command, he toured project offices where he heard a recurring theme about Pine Bluff and how they helped the offices he visited.

"Everywhere I went, I heard great things about these guys. Operations managers at Table Rock, Mountain Home and Greers Ferry all raved about them and the work they have done for them."

They told him that the marine terminal crew were "get 'er done" types of folks. 🇺🇸

FORT SILL ... *sizzling growth*

Ross Adkins
Pacesetter Staff

Camp Wichita, better known today as Fort Sill, Okla., was never a sleepy frontier outpost. In the 1800s, Fort Sill was home to six cavalry regiments accompanied by frontier scouts such as “Buffalo Bill” Cody, “Wild Bill” Hickok, Ben Clark and Jack Stilwell.

Today, there is even more hustle and bustle as it gets ready to accept the return of Soldiers from overseas posts or reassignment from other Army installations as part of the ongoing Base Realignment and Closure program, the global repositioning of troops, and the growth of today’s Army.

The move of the Air Defense Artillery School and the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade from Fort Bliss in Texas to Fort Sill is causing much of that new construction. It requires building new instructional buildings, barracks, dining facilities, vehicle maintenance facilities, and administrative buildings. Many existing buildings are being renovated and upgraded.

It also means a huge influx of families into the area. In addition, ‘on base’ infrastructure will have to be built or improved to support the additional troops.

The Tulsa District, along with four other districts, Fort Worth, Little Rock, Savannah, and Norfolk, have combined efforts to have everything ready for the troops. Some of the troops have already reported to Fort Sill and most of the troops will be there by 2010, one year before the required BRAC completion in September of 2011. Total cost for the two large BRAC projects is approximately \$338 million.

Ramona Wagner, Tulsa District’s chief of Military Construction Program and Project Management Office, said, “With the combined skills and dedication to getting the job done by these partnering districts, we should have everything up and running by the target dates.”

Another project soon to be advertised will be a nearly \$40 million, 1,200-person Armed Forces Reserve Center to be built on Fort Sill.

Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of all the forts built on the south plains during the early days of our country. Although it has not increased the size of its boundaries, it certainly has increased its size and stature within today’s modern Army. 🌍



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District
Air Defense Artillery School Instructional building being constructed at Fort Sill.



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District
New Air Defense Artillery School dining facility under construction at Fort Sill.

Johnson-Muic and Bryant receive W. Howard Armstrong Partnership Award



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented Paula Johnson-Muic and Blake Bryant, both from the Southwestern Division, the W. Howard Armstrong Partnership Award at the Real Estate Symposium held March 17-21, in Nashville, Tenn.

Paula Johnson-Muic, chief, Acquisition Branch, Real Estate Office, Southwestern Division, and Blake Bryant, Project Management, Fort Worth District, received the W. Howard Armstrong Partnership Award from Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at the Real Estate Symposium, March 17-21, in Nashville, Tenn.

Paula and Blake are responsible for executing the programmatic Real Estate actions of the multi-billion dollar Department of Homeland Security program to secure the border. They have taken several actions to ensure that the Real Estate portion of the border project, one of the Corps' largest and most complex property acquisition efforts, is completed successfully.

As stated in their nomination packet, Paula and Blake "have displayed personal leadership and innovations in an extremely political environment to place the team in the best possible position to execute this challenging mission while minimizing the use of eminent domain. Their leadership, teamwork, and adaptability are directly related to and responsible for the Real Estate program being on schedule."

The W. Howard Armstrong Partnership Award recognizes those who have achieved outstanding results in their work and who are committed to making a difference through partnering, developing programs and initiatives that expand the knowledge base of the profession and dedicated to the success of all partnerships involved. 🇺🇸

Dvoracek promoted to Colonel

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

Lt. Col. John C. Dvoracek was promoted to colonel in a ceremony April 1 in Fort Worth, Texas. Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District, spoke before giving Dvoracek the Senior Officer's Oath.

"You get promoted in the Army based on potential," Martin said. "John has great potential, outstanding leadership and organizational skills, and a strong desire to do what is right for our Soldiers. The Army is definitely going to benefit from his leadership."

After receiving the rank of colonel, Dvoracek addressed his family. "First, I want to say thank you to my family," he said. "Thank you for supporting me in everything I do and for being interested in what I'm doing."

He went on to thank the members of the Fort Worth District. "The Army does promote Soldiers based on potential," he said. "I believe potential is only as good as the folks you get to work with, so thank you."

Col. Dvoracek assumed the duties of Deputy Commander of the District on July 15, 2005. 🇺🇸



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District, gives newly promoted Col. John C. Dvoracek, deputy commander, Fort Worth District, the Senior Officer's Oath during his promotion ceremony April 1 in the District Office.

Galveston District holds Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business seminar



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Margo Jeffcoat, left, program manager with Skyline UTLD, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business from Round Rock, Texas, discusses opportunities with Ken Adams, Galveston District's deputy for Small Business.

Kimberley Benavides
Pacesetter Staff

The Galveston District Corps of Engineers held a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business seminar in Houston March 4, in conjunction with the University of Houston's Procurement Technical Assistance Center. Approximately 50 small businesses attended the seminar to hear presentations and ask questions of the Corps officials, as well as representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Administration.

Col. David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, opened the Corps' portion of the seminar with an overview of the District. He also highlighted the District's commitment to the SDVOSB program.


"To give you an idea of the Galveston District's commitment to the Small Business program, in Fiscal Year 2007, the Corps awarded more than \$200 million in contracts for a variety of services,"

he said. "Out of that \$200 million, we awarded \$9 million to Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned small businesses."

The \$9 million amounted to 5.4 percent of the District's contract awards and exceeded the Army Corps of Engineers' SDVOSB goal.

Also representing the Galveston District were Ken Adams, Deputy for Small Business; Joe Hrametz, Chief of Navigation Branch; Tom Benero, Chief of Contracting; Linda Fredendall, Contracting Officer; Curtis Cole, Contracting Officer; Jason Foltyn, Project Manager for Fort Bliss Military Construction; and Enrique Villagomez, Project Manager for the PF225 Border Fence Initiative.

The morning sessions of the seminar were conducted by speakers from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Small Business Administration.

For more information on Galveston District small business opportunities, go to www.swg.usace.army.mil/CT/smallbusiness.asp. 

Smokin' hot...

Volunteers help battle blaze in park area




Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

This pile of rubble used to be a recreational vehicle. It caught fire and part hosts Alan and Linda Updegraff helped prevent the fire from spreading to other areas in the park.

Alan and Linda Updegraff, Park Host Ambassadors at High View Park, Bardwell Lake, Fort Worth District, reacted quickly when they saw recreational vehicle on fire. They grabbed water hoses and began wetting down nearby grass and used their personal fire extinguishers to douse grass already on fire. Their actions allowed firefighters to concentrate on the burning RV and to prevent explosion of propane and diesel tanks in the area.

Alan and Linda began hosting in August 2007 and have donated over 500 hours to cleaning the park, assisting with general maintenance and acting as ambassadors to our visitors providing park information, rules and information on the local community.

To read more on great volunteer efforts from around the region, see pages 14 - 16. 



Col. David C. Weston
Commander, Galveston District

MILESTONES - MILESTONES - MILESTONES!

Summer is rapidly approaching along the coast of Texas, and with it comes a very busy project execution season for the Galveston District. Everyone in the District is engaged in, and contributes significantly to, our ability to deliver a variety of projects, many with national level significance. From our projects to secure the Nation's borders - to navigation projects that fuel the Nation's economic engine - to flood risk management projects that add to the safety and quality of life in our region - to military construction projects that improve the strategic posture of our Armed Forces, each of you plays a vital role in our ability to deliver quality engineering goods and services as we have been tasked to do, and as we have committed to do. I applaud your great efforts and am proud every day to see the level of individual commitment from each of you to accomplishing our mission.

The District leadership team (section chiefs through division chiefs) is expending significant energy to improve our project management performance. We have restructured our Project Review Board and implemented a Resource Managers Meeting to focus squarely on project

schedules, and the milestones that we use to ensure we are on the proper glide path to successful project completion. Key to that is not just looking at milestones due in the next week or two, but looking out 90-120 days to identify issues, conflicts and resource shortfalls far enough in advance that we can find a solution in time to minimize, or best case eliminate any impacts

We're making large strides in improving our performance; we have more to do to meet that 90 percent or better execution goal. Together with the commitment of our leadership team and all of our valued employees, we will make it.

to a project's final completion date. Our goal is to be 90 percent or better in executing our three programs: Investigations, Construction, and Operations and Maintenance. We cannot do that if we are not consistently hitting 90 percent or better of our project milestone completion dates.

Project milestones completion dates should drive every decision made in the District with respect

to planning, resourcing and executing workload. They tell us when completion of a feature of work is required to keep the overall project delivery schedule on track. Where do we find these milestones? In P2 of course! Your supervisor (regardless of section) should be accessing all the project schedules and associated milestones through P2 itself, or the PMBP Portal's P2 reports

section. Every task you receive from your supervisor to perform should have the completion date tied to a project milestone delivery date clearly labeled on it. Obviously the ones with an earlier date should be worked on first. If you're not getting that date from your supervisor, you need to ask them for it (pester the heck out of them until you get it!). We all must know not only what we are

supposed to work on, but also when it must be finished if the District is going to consistently deliver quality products on time.

Knowing when project milestones are due is critical to our success, but must also be accompanied by an intense drive within each of us to never fail to meet a completion date. Part of never failing is quickly asking for help when we see that we are not going to be able to meet a suspense date, regardless of the reason. So if you need help, ask for it early. There are very few issues that the District as a team, working with Southwestern Division headquarters and our sister districts, can't resolve if we all diligently identify challenges early enough to find and implement those solutions. Shame on us if we know we are going to fail and do not say anything about it until it's too late.

We're making large strides in improving our performance; we have more to do to meet that 90 percent or better execution goal. Together with the commitment of our leadership team and all of our valued employees, we will make it. Thanks for all you do. MILESTONES - MILESTONES - MILESTONES! 🇺🇸

Got an idea for the Pacesetter?

Do you have an interesting story or picture? Share it with your fellow Corps team members. Simply submit your story idea, written article, or photo with caption to your local Public Affairs Office by the first day of each month.

He's all grown up ...

Poster child for water safety is now a high school senior

The cute kid in one of Tulsa District's oft-used water safety pictures is all grown up now and playing basketball.

Justin Smither played in the inaugural Tulsa 66ers Native American All-Star Classic at Tulsa's Expo Square Pavilion in March. He is the son of Rick Smither, park ranger at Eufaula Lake. Justin is a 6-foot 4-inch senior with a 4.0 Grade Point Average at Stigler High School. In recent summers, he has logged almost 1,000 hours as a volunteer with the Corps of Engineers at the Eufaula office and power plant. Last summer, he was employed there as a student aid. 🌍



Justin Smither, son of Rick Smither, park ranger, Eufaula Lake, Tulsa District, gets a new life jacket. Inset: Justin as a high school senior, still works with the Corps as a volunteer and a student aid.

Photos courtesy of Tulsa District

Gig 'em Aggies



Lt. Col. Richard Hansen, Galveston District deputy commander, discusses Corps of Engineers career opportunities with a Texas A&M University-Galveston student during a TAMUG career fair Feb. 29. Also participating were Alicia Rea from Operations Division and Michael Sterling from Engineering and Construction. This event was part of an outreach effort to strengthen ties with local colleges and universities. 🌍

Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Commander's Field Conference allows District leadership to discuss the way ahead

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

The annual Commander's Field Conference was held Feb. 25-29 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas. The conference gave District leadership the opportunity to evaluate progress and plan for the road ahead.

"This is good for us to come together and go over some of our issues," said Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District. "We are busy and the work isn't going to slow down."

"We are eighth out of 41 districts in the amount of dollars of work that we have contracted for. We are third in contract actions," he said. "We are anticipating two billion dollars in contract action by the end of the year, we have 60 projects on the books for civil works, and we are transitioning into the National Security Personnel System. We have a lot going on."

Understanding the workload is heavy for Team Fort Worth, Martin challenged and encouraged the leadership to continue to work hard and work to ensure that customer service is a high priority, internally and externally.

"We all know the District is going through a lot of changes right now, but we need to do our jobs as supervisors and District leaders to reassure our work force that it's going to be okay," he said. "Customer service, not just externally but internally as well because we are all customers, has to be high on everyone's priority list. We need to keep doing what we're doing which is doing what we say we'll do. Think in actions not words, or better yet under promise and over deliver."

Following Martin's remarks, the group went through their first team exercise to learn the importance and the art of communication. Dr. Vincent Covello, founder and Director of the Center for Risk Communications and spokesperson for the World Health Organization, engaged the group in a risk communications exercise where they focused on understanding the stakeholder's



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District, presents Greg Pope, Operations Project Manager, Capital Regional Office, Fort Worth District, with the Bronze de Fleury Medal at the annual Commander's Field Conference.

point of view and learned how to communicate. "You have to know beforehand what is important to the stakeholder and understand why," Covello said.

During the conference, breakout sessions on District 'hot topics' were held and offered open discussion and listening sessions, and Martin encouraged everyone to take an active role to learn more about the changes the District is going through.

"We've accomplished everything that has been asked of us," Martin said. "I can't say this enough--thank you. You're doing great things and you're doing a great job. I appreciate all that you do for our District and our nation." 🌟



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Caring for Customers

Patti Alworden, support services specialist at Robert S. Kerr Powerhouse, is Tulsa District's Customer Care Employee for the first quarter. According to the nomination, she diligently performs a job that encompasses duties performed by four employees a few years ago. She deals with vendors on a daily basis and keeps up with administrative duties supporting 30 employees working at four geographically distant projects.

The nomination said she is a problem solver with a great attitude, and that vendors, customers, and employees benefit from her jovial and fun-loving spirit. 🌟



Safety must be foremost in what we do

Col. Christopher W. Martin
Commander, Fort Worth District

The success of the Fort Worth District completely rests on the shoulders of the people that make up this great team. It is the sum of its parts; military, civilian, contractors, customers and stakeholders. Without the people in this equation, nothing we are tasked to do can be done. Our nation depends on us to support its citizens and its defenders.

And, as we move forward on our projects, whether civil or military, it is incumbent on us to keep our safety and the safety of those around us foremost in our minds.

On March 7, a contractor employee working on the Fort Bliss Expansion Program was killed in an unfortunate accident. It is currently under investigation.

I have always said there is nothing we do that is more important than safety and ensuring that risks are minimized. Danger is inherent in much of what we do, yet, we must continue to find ways to remain vigilant and keep ourselves and others out of harm's way.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, one in five workplace fatalities is on a construction site. To reduce or prevent accidents or injuries, we must first remove any unsafe conditions that may exist and limit unsafe acts. We must continue to mitigate hazards and eliminate accidents as much as possible. We must take immediate action when a hazardous situation arises and ensure that it does not happen again.

It is incumbent on all of us to maintain current in required safety training and seek out and attend safety training opportunities. Above all, we must always take a few moments to ask ourselves some important questions: Is this the safest way? Have I thought of an alternative way? How can I make it safer? What could be my next accident?

As a combined entity, we accomplish amazing things for our country, together and individually, we must continue to apply our work ethic to the area of safety, to make onsite accidents, injuries or worse completely unacceptable.

In closing, it's you, the people, who make this District one of the best in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Take care of yourselves and each other, not for the mission but for your families and those whose lives you are a part of.

Each year OSHA publishes a list of its most frequent violations.

The following *are 2007's top 10 violations for safety hazards and how to protect against them:*

1. Scaffolding: Workers sometimes climb end frames (not designed as ladders) to access a work surface. Don't take shortcuts. Construct and use scaffolds in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

2. Hazard Communication: Read all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and any other instructions before using materials, equipment and tools that involve chemicals. If you can't find information, ask your supervisor.

3. Fall Protection: Check and recheck fall protection. Always make sure that you're protected from falls when you're at levels of six feet and higher by properly using guardrails, safety nets, safety harnesses with lifelines and other safeguarding methods.

4. Respiratory Protection: Always wear respiratory protection when working in areas that are oxygen-deficient or contain harmful airborne hazards. Before donning any respirator, make sure that your doctor gives you the OK, that

you're fit tested and that it's the correct type of respirator and filter for the hazard.

5. Lockout/Tagout: Lockout and/or tagout all equipment before servicing or cleaning it to avoid injury or loss of life.

6. Powered Industrial Trucks: Industrial trucks can tip easily. Follow instructions, drive at slow speeds and don't ride or overload forklifts.

7. Electrical Wiring: Make sure electrical wiring is up to code and inspected regularly for wear and tear.

8. Ladders: Observe basic ladder safety. Always select the proper ladder for the job and use it correctly.

9. Machine Guarding: Always replace machine guarding after maintaining or repairing equipment. Never remove the protection when operating the machine—it's there for a reason.

10. Electrical General: Sometimes working indirectly with electricity can put you at greater risk. Be aware and be safe.

Remember, no matter where you work or what you do, make safety your No. 1 priority on the job. 🇺🇸

As a combined entity, we accomplish amazing things for our country, together and individually, we must continue to apply our work ethic to the area of safety, to make onsite accidents, injuries or worse completely unacceptable.

Little Rock greatly benefits from volunteers

April is Volunteer Month

Tammy L. Moody
Pacesetter Staff

(With assistance by Michael Hurley, Don Henson, Joseph Harper and Jeff Farquhar.)

Using volunteers is an efficient and rewarding way to supplement existing project office staff at low or no cost with great benefits. Under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Volunteer Program, Little Rock District project offices offer many volunteer opportunities in recreation and natural resources management.

Project offices with volunteer opportunities can post those opportunities at the Corps' Volunteer Clearinghouse at www.corpslakes.us/volunteer, or call 1 (800) 865-8337.

The clearinghouse is a national information center that matches people interested in volunteering with Corps projects and lakes that need them.

"We use the Volunteer Clearinghouse when needed, and we keep our own list of potential volunteers compiled from telephone calls and walk-in visitors," said Russellville Project Office Park Manager Scott Fryer.

"Our team solicited volunteers who contributed more than \$600,000 in services in Fiscal Year 2007 and more than \$580,000 in Fiscal Year 2006."

Volunteers can staff visitor centers, serve as park and campground hosts, conduct programs, clean shorelines, restore fish and wildlife habitat, maintain park trails and facilities and more.

"We have volunteers of all types and skills, and some of our agreements are for groups such as the Boy Scouts or Master Gardeners of the Ozarks. Other agreements are for individuals with a certain skill type such as carpentry or computer training," said Table Rock Lake Park Ranger Jeff Farquhar.

He added that Table Rock Lake volunteers logged more than 2,000 hours of service to the government in 2007.

This amounted to more than \$40,000 saved in contract costs and 21 separate volunteer agreements.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Volunteer Stephen Butcher adds brochures to the racks at Beaver Lake and adds value to the volunteer receptionist position he shares with Kathryn Garner. The Beaver Lake staff greatly appreciates their time and efforts.

"It is truly remarkable how people are willing to devote their time to help a government agency. I have heard volunteers say it is their chance to 'give back,'" said Beaver Lake Park Ranger Michael Hurley.

"For many of our volunteers, it's just like having another ranger around."

Hurley said Beaver Lake has many success stories from volunteer work agreements.

"In fact, two class A campgrounds and three day-use areas were operated by volunteers in Fiscal Year 2007, with a savings of more than \$30,000 in contracting costs. Overall last year, nearly 30,000 hours of volunteer work were chalked up at Beaver Lake."

One significant success at the Beaver Lake Project Office is the receptionist position. Volunteers staff the front desk on a daily basis from November through March.

"Stephen Butcher and Kathryn Garner provide a valuable service by staffing this desk, greeting the public, responding to telephone calls, relaying messages to Corps staff, providing basic administrative support and assisting with projects as requested," Hurley said.

"Recently, Kathryn completed all the necessary paperwork issuing annual passes and user permits for contracted park attendants during the 2008 recreation season. This effort created a great

opportunity for a park ranger to make significant progress on a separate and very important task."


While the Corps seems to benefit the most from volunteer help, most volunteers are quick to point out that they receive the greatest benefits from the volunteer agreements. Benefits such as a free campsite while they work.

"This opportunity allows my husband and me to stay in the Northwest Arkansas area in between recreation seasons," said volunteer Garner.

"By doing this, you see, we do not have to move our camper to South Arkansas every six months, which is, to say the least, burdensome. I also enjoy very much the company and family atmosphere that the Beaver Lake Project Office staff provides."

The staff greatly appreciates Garner and Butcher, too.

"It takes a special kind of person to work three or four days per week serving as a receptionist, managing an entire campground, cleaning restrooms, and maintaining a professional demeanor when dealing with the general public," Hurley said.

"It takes an even greater person to do all of this with no compensation, except for a pat on the back. Volunteers are one of the federal government's most valued and appreciated resources." 

Volunteers

Volunteers, lake staff plant 300 trees at Wallisville Project

A new Galveston District Ecotourism Management Plan was recently launched at the Wallisville Project, with a tree-planting event in January jump-starting the plan. Wallisville Project staff joined 10 volunteers to plant 300 trees in five locations on the Project.

“Tree planting is really a catalyst for building community involvement,” said Ruth Millsaps, a park ranger at Wallisville and project officer for the tree planting. “This type of project will help to build a better community, one that is healthier and safer.”

Despite the cold, chilly January weather, volunteers gathered to learn the basics of urban forestry. They were also taught how easy it is to become a Citizen Forester and lead planting and tree care projects throughout the Gulf Coast region.

Millsaps said that the volunteers were given an overview of tree planting and care, including how to choose the right tree for the right place.


To learn about upcoming 2008 Wallisville Ecotourism projects, please contact Millsaps at (409) 389-2285 or visit the Galveston District Wallisville Project web site at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Wallis/default.asp> 



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Volunteers braved a chilly January day to help the staff at Wallisville Lake Project plant 300 trees. The tree planting was part of a new Ecotourism Management Plan.


Waco Lake hosts volunteer shore clean up



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Volunteers at Waco Lake make their way through a park area to pick up trash.

Despite the presence of 500 more volunteers than expected, shortage of sponsor supplies, and a reduction in Twin Bridges work projects, Waco staff in partnership with Keep Waco Beautiful were able to put all volunteers to work on April 5 cleaning around the lake and to ensure everyone had a good time.

Groups cleared entrance xeriscapes, painted sign posts, and removed trash and flood debris at Twin Bridges, Speegleville, Midway, Airport Beach, and Reynolds Creek Parks, and three Wildlife Management Areas. Over 60 tires were removed from areas and brought to HOT Fairgrounds for McLennan County’s Tire Amnesty Day. 

Little Rock thanks volunteers for their work

Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

(With assistance by Michael Hurley, Don Henson, Joseph Harper and Jeff Farquhar.)

April is National Volunteer Month, and Little Rock District would like to extend a 'thank you' to the many volunteers who donate their time by helping the park rangers at parks throughout the District.

Although this list is not all-inclusive, the following are examples of the many people who volunteer in our parks in one way or another. By doing this selfless task, they help save the Corps and government thousands of dollars and provide thousands of hours toward keeping the parks open, clean and safe.

Beaver Lake: Stephen Butcher and Kathryn Garner volunteer to serve as receptionists at the project office. Garner works the desk Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week. Butcher occupies the same position Tuesday and Thursday. He is also responsible for collecting camping fees and cleaning the restroom at Prairie Creek Park. Together, they have volunteered more than 650 hours of their time.

"Stephen and Kathryn have become a huge part of the success of the day-to-day operations at Beaver Lake," Park Ranger Michael Hurley said.

Clearwater Lake: Charles and Lynn Earnest serve as volunteers from October through March, helping visitors with questions, performing park and trail maintenance and providing routine surveillance to help offset vandalism within the developed areas of the Clearwater Lake Project.

"Their earnest willingness to participate as volunteers serves as a huge benefit to both the public as well as the Corps," said Clearwater Lake Park Ranger Don Henson.

Greers Ferry Lake: Bob Breedlove has been volunteering at Greers Ferry for two years. His skills with a paint brush and other handy work earned him a year-round maintenance volunteer position at the lake. He has painted many items around the lake and done other projects such as replacing hazardous timbers around the host's impact and flower bed areas.

"Mr. Breedlove has modestly accounted for more than 574 volunteer hours, saving Greers Ferry Lake \$10,775 with his selfless service," Greers Ferry Park Ranger Joe Harper said. "With his restless 'can do' attitude, he will continue to be a true benefit."

Greers Ferry Lake: Volunteer Jade Goldman first started by helping a friend during the annual Mobility Impaired Hunt. When his friend did not draw a permit the next year, he still volunteered to help in whatever way he could. He helped prepare and seed

wildlife food plots and set up the hunting blinds. On his own, he contacted local vendors to acquire door prizes for the hunters, including embroidered orange safety hats. He expanded his door prize efforts in 2007 so each hunter was able to take home some sort of new hunting gear donated by local vendors. He didn't stop there, as he also found local restaurants to donate food for a home cooked breakfast for each of the hunters.

"Mr. Goldman's volunteer efforts have established new standards at the Greers Ferry Lake Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt," said Harper. "His enthusiasm to the hunt's success is well accepted and greatly appreciated by everyone involved."

Table Rock Lake: A group called the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks earned thanks from Table Rock Lake's staff by taking charge of the Dewey Short Visitor Center and project office grounds and landscape gardens.

In 2007, the group was recognized with several articles in the local papers and even in larger publications such as the Springfield Daily News. Plans are now being made by the group to hold a showcase event and viewing at the project office in 2008, and future plans may include the Table Rock Lake Project Office area as the training site for future master gardeners.

"I could not believe all the positive comments that I and the visitor center staff logged about the beauty of the flower beds here at the office," said Table Rock Lake Park Ranger Jeff Farquhar.

"This group and the Corps of Engineers represent the perfect partnership."

Russellville Project Office: (At their request for privacy, their last name was omitted.) David and Annie S. have been part of the Russellville Project Office's volunteer staff since August 2006 after answering an on-line volunteer announcement.

"A broad range of projects and activities drew us to Russellville," said Annie.

"One of our major undertakings has been sign installation as we have installed directional, informational and safety signs in numerous parks."

This tag team has accomplished many rehabilitation projects including Toad Suck Park's privacy fence, Bona Dea Trails and Sanctuary and Piney Bay Park's amphitheatre. They added \$21,585 of volunteer labor to the Russellville Project in Fiscal Year 2007.


"Dave and Annie have become a vital part of our Russellville Project Office Team," said Park Ranger Greig Moe. "They are willing and able to tackle any project we propose to them and have done projects from Maumelle Park, Little Rock to Springhill Park, Ft. Smith and everywhere in between. They are a great example of our Volunteer Program." 



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District
Charles and Lynn Earnest take a break from their volunteer work at Clearwater Lake.



You can always count on Tulsa Teamwork!

**Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser
Commander, Tulsa District**

Spring is upon us, and the activity level is steadily increasing as the weather improves. I can see our FY08 momentum in the District shift to high gear as we enjoy the longer days and Spring flowers.

As activities increase and visitors come to our sites, please keep your focus on the safety of our teammates and all the folks who come to share in the use of our parks and lakes. Our goal is always “zero” accidents, and we will all need to help achieve this goal. As I travel to our projects, I look forward to seeing our safety measures that have been implemented throughout the District. Safety must be paramount in all we do. People are our most important asset; keep them safe!

Our military programs have really blossomed at all our installations, but particularly at Fort Sill. As you drive around the post, it is readily observed that construction is prevalent everywhere. New single and multi-story facilities are mushrooming from their foundations. It is amazing to see all the ongoing work. The \$200 million of Base Realignment and Closure construction funds awarded at the end of last fiscal year are responsible for 11 major facility renovation and new construction projects. These projects are in compliance with

the congressional BRAC Law to relocate the Army’s Air Defense Artillery training school from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Fort Sill, Okla.

In addition to the school, the BRAC Law also requires the 31st ADA Brigade to move from Fort Bliss to Fort Sill. In order for Fort Sill to accommodate the 31st ADA Brigade, Tulsa District will have to award and manage another \$100 million to \$150 million of BRAC construction projects for new facilities for Fort Sill.

The military mission does not stop with BRAC support. The President has approved the Army’s plan to “grow the force.” To support this rapid accession in military basic trainees, Tulsa District awarded (in January 2008) \$50 million dollars to a general contractor to provide and install relocatable modular barracks and administrative buildings. These modular structures will provide temporary facilities to support the new inductees as they arrive at the Reception Center, Basic Training, and the Advanced Individual Training. The “ready-to-use” date for these facilities is May 29, 2008. What an effort from the Tulsa Project Delivery Team!

In our civil works program, I had the privilege to meet with our congressional leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. We discussed our FY09 capabilities and also our FY08 execution. Everyone commented on our successes last year and liked how we have published priorities to address critical maintenance of our aging infrastructure.

As I travel to our projects, I look forward to seeing our safety measures that have been implemented throughout the District. Safety must be paramount in all we do. People are our most important asset; keep them safe!

It gave them an understanding of our challenges and where we are exerting our efforts. The briefings also gave them an appreciation of all we have done, with limited funding, to recover our recreation areas damaged by the floods and ice storms. They were appreciative of your relationships with the communities and the public support and volunteers you have been able to leverage to clean the parks and make limited repairs before the Spring openings. I cannot say enough to thank our park rangers and maintenance workers who make things happen each and every day!

We are also working hard to complete the Water Resources Development Act implementation guidance input to Headquarters. WRDA 07 was milestone legislation that has kept our staff busy from the date it was authorized. It has many great opportunities for our District in the future.

Our staff is also very busy with a number of ongoing studies. They include technical support to the development of the Oklahoma Comprehensive State Water Plan and implementation of water strategies in the Texas and Kansas State Water Plans.

This quarter, we were proud to participate with Congressman

Tiahrt and local community leaders in the Cowskin Creek and Sand Creek groundbreaking. These are Continuing Authorities Program projects to assist Kansas communities. Through our team’s perseverance, we have brought them to fruition. Great effort from our team and all partners involved.

Behind the scenes, we are keeping the gears turning with an eye toward the FY10 budget. We have put many experienced folks together to ensure we are addressing our fundamental operating budget, critical maintenance requirements, recreational damages, potential studies, and dam safety construction.

As I mentioned last issue, recruiting is one of our focus areas, and our PDT has been successful getting lots of resumes from all the schools they visit. Missouri University of Science and Technology submitted 20 resumes for permanent and summer hires. It was a great start to our recruiting effort!

As always, let me conclude with welcoming back our redeployed personnel -- Robin Parks, James McCoy, and John Weatherly -- and wishing a safe deployment to James Bavidio, Steve Chapman, Russell Holeman, Chuck Miles, and LeViene Hearne-Fleming. Thanks for all you do; we look forward to your safe return! Keep those pictures and notes coming.

You can always count on Tulsa Teamwork! 

Division commander visits Tulsa District

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

In March, Brig. Gen. Kendall P. Cox visited Tulsa District for the second time with a clear message for the work force: “Every day you make a difference – every single day – and that’s what I want you to understand.”

Cox held a Town Hall meeting in the district office and visited Canton, Skiatook, and Keystone.

He said aging infrastructure is the biggest challenge facing the Corps. He stressed the need to educate people on what the Corps does and to recruit young talent for the work force. Cox is new to the Corps of Engineers and is excited about the work the Corps does and its importance to the nation. He believes “Talent mixed with passion is unstoppable.”

When asked about districts in the Southwestern Division, he replied, in part, “One thing I will tell you that is far more prevalent than it has been in the past, we are not four separate and distinct districts. We are regionalized. What you do in Tulsa affects what happens in Fort Worth, Little



Brig. Gen. Cox, Earl Groves (hidden), and Kathy Carlson listen as Dan Brueggenjohann discusses the slurry wall at Canton Dam where the auxiliary spillway will be located.

Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Rock, and Galveston . . . We’re all part of the same team.”

When asked about ACE-IT, the general said, “I have an expectation that the level of service I get in my headquarters will not change. I will not accept for one of my ACE-IT employees to tell me, ‘That’s

not our job anymore.’ That’s the wrong answer. It is their responsibility to figure out how to ‘git ’er done.’”

The video of his Town Hall meeting is posted in the Tulsa District Scrapbook on the Team Page. 🌐

Galveston District celebrates Black History Month



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Harlem Renaissance Galveston District Black History Month participants went back in time in February. The focus this year for Black History Month was to recognize and highlight American Culture through the “Harlem Renaissance Era.”

The Jadwin Building auditorium was transformed into a Harlem locale. Art, literature readings, and music celebrated the historic Harlem neighborhood of New York City in the decades of the 1920s and 1930s. That time period, known as the Harlem Renaissance, saw the flowering of African American cultural and intellectual life. The movement influenced urban areas across the country, in both the cultural spectrum and social thought. 🌐

Little Rock helps communities through floods

Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

Little Rock District's people continue to duke it out, and have been for a month, with what seems to be a never-ending flood fight. Torrential rains continue to exacerbate already flooded rivers and streams, close more parks and fill lakes to record-breaking levels.

Thus far, some of the dams have exceeded their capacity, while others are perched dangerously close. As the rainy season typically extends into June, relief does not seem to be in the forecast.

The 10 team members of the District's Reservoir Control Section manage the four lakes in the Little River Basin, the two lakes in the Arkansas River Basin and the six lakes in the White River Basin, as well as 13 locks and dams in Arkansas on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

"We're working 24-hours-a-day, managing the flood waters within the dams along more than 400 miles of the White River between Beaver Lake and Georgetown, Ark.," White River System Engineer John Kielczewski said. "This is real-time water management at its best. With the dams spilling and more rain on the way, we have to be here to make controlled releases whenever needed."

Managing the releases is getting more complicated as the rain continues to swell rivers downstream and fill the lakes.

"The lakes and dams have been working, reducing flood damage downstream. Many of our lakes reached capacity, and it got to the point that what came in had to go out," chief of Reservoir Control Jan Jones said. "We worked hard to avoid that, but the rain kept coming. And, we are very early in the rainy season with already record rainfall."

That first rain in mid-March created a number of problems with several levees along the Black and White Rivers. Uncontrolled runoff caused those rivers to swell out of their banks and put pressure on levees that have not seen maintenance in years. This lack of maintenance caused some levees along the way to breach.

"Levees along the White, Black and Little Red Rivers experienced flood heights that haven't been seen since 1982," District Levee Inspector Elmo Webb said. "The levees that were properly maintained by the local levee districts are performing well, while those that were not are experiencing more problems. The flood heights at Pocahontas, Ark., where one levee was breached in three places, were record-setting."

To date, people from the District office, Greers Ferry, Pine Bluff, Mountain Home and Russellville Project Offices were dispatched to various communities along the Black and White Rivers to assist with levee problems. They took three pumps, which are still in use pumping water back

See **Flood** on page 20



Photo courtesy of Mike Bagley

Arkansas River Maintenance team members prepare Ormond Lock on the Arkansas River for overtopping.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

From Left - Levee Inspector Elmo Webb and Park Rangers Benny Rorie, Joe Harper, and Mark Case discuss what levees are in trouble and need Corps flood-fighting equipment.



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Little Rock District Civil Engineer Scott Hodge (in yellow shirt in center) shows Randolph County Road Department workers how to put together HESCO Bastion flood-fighting containers in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

Flood coverage 2008

Flood

Continued from previous page

over the levees, 200,000 sandbags, 500 feet of portable dams, another 3,000 feet of HESCO bastion walls and tons of knowledge and good will.

As the rain continues, District levee and emergency management personnel are monitoring levees to preposition the assistance that might be needed again.

“We have staged or employed 3,300 feet of HESCO Bastion containers, 400,000 sandbags and seven pumps with more in reserve, if needed,” said Charlie Tobin, chief of Emergency Management, during a planning meeting. “All of this equipment and more, as well as personnel, are ready to go where we need them to go.”

The Emergency Operations Center has been activated a number of times since the flooding began. When it was activated, Little Rock District experts managed the situation 24-hours-a-day, communicating with area emergency management personnel, coordinating field activities, and assisting communities with urgent questions and situations of all types.

“This is an excellent coordinated effort,” Deputy Chief of Operations Andrea Lewis said. “We established great rapport with the community leaders and emergency workers at the very beginning. By doing this, we are able to get them the people and equipment they need, when they need it.”

The commander mirrored Lewis’ remarks and thanks everyone for their hard work.

“I met with Governor Beebe, Senator Pryor, FEMA Director David Paulison, and other state leaders in a private meeting at the state capitol,” District Commander Col. Ed Jackson said in an e-mail to District employees.

“All praised the work you have done and continue to do to support the state, local levee districts and municipalities in their collective efforts to fight and contain rising waters. The work is not yet done. The forecast calls for more rain and the waters remain high.

“There is no doubt, where issues arise, an SWL team member will be on hand to assist. Thanks for all you are doing throughout this effort. Great job! Your hard work has been noticed and is appreciated by leaders across the state and our nation.”



Photos courtesy of David Virden
Engineering Technician Ricky Amos and Outdoor Recreation Planner Jack Johnson look for the location of a flooded town while working in the Emergency Operations Center.



Park Ranger Scott Fryer, Emergency Operations Chief Charlie Tobin, Public Affairs Officer P.J. Spaul and Reservoir Control Chief Jan Jones answer flood-related questions at a media roundtable.



White River System Engineer John Kielczewski uses noise-reduction headphones to help him concentrate on computing releases at White River Dams.

Flood coverage 2008

It's raining, it's pouring ... more flood photos from Little Rock



Photo courtesy of David Virden

Little Rock District Levee Inspector Elmo Webb grabs a sandbag from a Jacksonport, Ark., resident as Corps personnel and residents try to cut off a boil forming at a levee protecting the town.

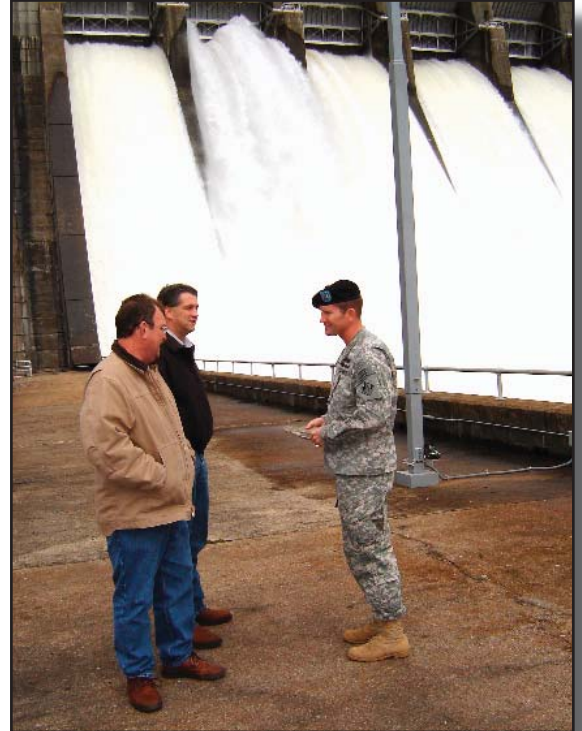


Photo courtesy of P.J. Spaul

Little Rock District Commander Col. Ed Jackson discusses flood fighting with Mountain Home Operations Manager Tracy Fancher (black jacket) and Dam Operator Steve Hernandez as they stand in front of open flood gates at Norfolk Dam.

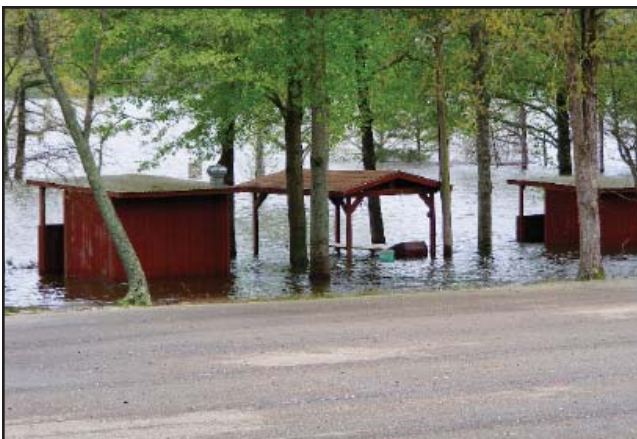


Photo courtesy of Dierks Lake Project Office, Little Rock District

Sights like this flooded picnic area at Dierks Lake and water pouring through the spillway gates at Bull Shoals spread throughout the District as record rainfall filled most of the District's lakes to capacity.



Photo courtesy of P.J. Spaul



Cowskin Creek Local Flood Protection Project



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Breaking ground for the Cowskin Creek project are, left to right, Director of Public Works Chris Carrier, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Councilwoman Lavonta Williams, Councilman Jim Skelton, Mayor Carl Brewer, County Commission Chair Tom Winters, Congressman Todd Tiahrt, Sandy Martz, and Councilman Jeff Longwell.

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Feb. 5 for the Cowskin Creek Local Flood Protection Project. Dignitaries included Mel Thompson from Senator Roberts' office and Congressman Todd Tiahart.

The Cowskin Creek Basin drains an area approximately 122 square miles and, over the years, this basin has sustained significant recurring flooding, directly impacting residential areas.

The November 1998 flood resulted in significant damage to about 200 homes and many businesses, some of which were damaged more than half their value.

The project consists of creating a 1,200-foot overflow channel about 300-foot-wide on the eastern overbank area of Cowskin Creek, between Kellogg Drive and Maple Street.

In September 2007, the construction contract was awarded to a local contractor, Pearson Excavating from Wichita.

Construction should be complete this time next year. 🌍

Hail of a storm ...

North Texas residents scramble for cover as hail, tornadoes blow into the area

Texas weather is legendary for its unpredictable nature and, despite numerous warnings from the National Weather Service and local news stations, many north Texans found themselves with a front row seat as they crammed into houses, restaurants, parking garages and other covered structures as the impressive storm moved into town.

A cold front moved through the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, April 17, producing a severe hailstorm and a lot of cloud rotation. Hail -- sometimes as large as baseballs -- fell throughout the area, shattering windshields and damaging roofs and tornadoes were reported in the Aledo and Denton areas.

There were some Fort Worth District folks who braved the storm to capture photographs and video footage of the cloud rotation and hailstorm as it moved from west to east, weakening as it went. 🌍



Top: A severe storm moves through the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex April 17 making its way from Aledo. Bottom: The severe storm produced large amounts of hail. While these three pieces are only about one inch, some areas reported hail as large as baseballs.



Photo courtesy of Angie and Chris Vaughan

Angie and Chris Vaughan, both of the Fort Worth District, captured this cloud rotation in Sanger, Texas, April 17. In addition to taking cover from the storm, their cat delivered kittens.

Sand Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

From left, Mike Nance, Steven Rous, Dan Johnson, Kevin Archer, and Congressman Todd Tiahrt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Sand Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project, Newton, Kan.

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 25 for Tulsa District's Sand Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Sand Creek corridor in Newton, Kan., was originally constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the 1960s to alleviate flooding problems through the center of town.

The proposed project focuses on riparian corridor habitat restoration that would extend approximately 1.7 miles along the Sand Creek channel.

Along with bank restoration, the project will include the creation of a 35-acre wetland west of the wastewater treatment plant and two hardwood tree planting areas. More than 450 trees and almost 800 shrubs will be planted throughout the project, with native grasses along the creek.

On Jan. 30 of this year, the construction contract was awarded to a local contractor, Utility Contractors, from Wichita.

Construction should be completed within 18 months, by Sept. 2009. 🌍

Corps of Engineers, Boy Scouts of America teach special guests that "Fishing is Fun"

Kristine N. Brown

Natural Resource Specialist/Park Ranger
Galveston District

Every Spring, both children and adults participate in a "Fishing is Fun" event hosted by the Galveston District Corps of Engineers at the Addicks Project Office in Houston.

The event is sponsored by the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts under the Special Needs Scouting Division. Special Needs Scouting provides various programs, projects, and events to special education youth and adults. Scout leaders, teachers, parents, and volunteers are utilized to organize, plan, supervise, and monitor event activities.

The 2008 Fishing is Fun event was held March 13 around the small lake located within Barker Reservoir. Approximately 150 children and adults participated in fishing and outdoor activities. Children arrived from Aldine ISD, Galena Park ISD, Houston ISD, Klein ISD, Magnolia ISD, North Forest ISD, Pasadena ISD, Spring ISD, Spring Branch ISD, and Tomball ISD. Both teachers and students participated, as well as adults from the Bridgewood Farm, St. Giles Living Center, Garden Oaks Adult Activity, and the Center.

The festivities, which started at 10 a.m., were blessed with good weather: partly sunny, breezy, and comfortable. Anxious lines formed while cane fishing poles and worms were distributed. Teams set up along the lake to fish and spent lunchtime sitting on the ground and eating brown bag delights.

The entire event lasted for three hours, with everyone baiting, casting, catching and releasing fish, snacking, and playing around the lake. At the end of the event, each participant was handed a Bobber goodie bag before loading up the buses. The bags



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Volunteers at the Addicks "Fishing is Fun" event introduce both children and adults with special needs to the joys and challenges of fishing.

contained Corps water safety information and materials such as coloring books, crayons, stickers, and pins.

The Corps of Engineers, partnering with the Boy Scouts of America, helped to provide an outdoor, hands-on experience for special education children and adults to remember for a lifetime. The "Fishing is Fun" event encourages everyone to have fun, enjoy, appreciate, and respect the environment by participating in the great activity of fishing.

From its beginning in 2000, more than 500 children, adults, and volunteers have participated in this fishing event. 🌍

Annual Safety Banquet – no laughing matter

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

The Fort Worth District held its annual Safety Awards Banquet Feb. 28 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Dallas. This year, the banquet, typically used to recognize District employees' and contractors' good safety records, featured guest speaker Elaine Lundberg.

Lundberg, who travels the country speaking on health and safety, taught the audience how to 'Laugh for the health of it.' "Stress is a choice," she said. "You can either lighten up or tighten up." She emphasized the importance of managing stress so that it does not impact a decision that could compromise safety. "You must be able to recognize when you or the people around you are in distress and you need to know how to address it," she said. "You need to be able to step back and get in the right frame of mind."

Col. Christopher W. Martin, commander, Fort Worth District, agreed with Lundberg about recognizing situations that could compromise safety. "It's a team effort out there and everyone has to stop and make sure work environments are safe--it's everyone's responsibility," Martin said. "Nothing is so important that we lose a life on one of our job sites."



Photo courtesy of Fort Worth District

Col. Christopher W. Martin presents Bob and Kathy Whitehead, owners of Backhoe Bob's Excavation, the Annual Subcontractor Award at the Annual Safety Banquet held in Dallas, Feb. 28.

Martin then presented the annual safety awards to individuals and contractors who demonstrated safety on the job sites and prevented safety accidents, and thanked them for their continued efforts in making safety a number one priority.

"Safety is and should be our number one priority. Thank you for all your hard work and for all that you do to make this the best District in all of the United States Army Corps of Engineers," he said. 🇺🇸

Military Execution and Protocol

Brett Cowan
Tulsa District

When the Regional Leadership Development Program Level 2 class traveled to the Central Oklahoma Resident Office for a "MILCON Execution" course, they were exposed to military design and construction processes and protocol. The course was taught by Richard Alexander, chief, Contract Administration and Technical Engineering.

Currently, the CORO covers the northern part of Texas, the southern portion of Kansas, and all of Oklahoma. Located at Tinker Air Force Base, the office is extremely busy with a diverse workload. CORO has more than 100 active contracts, and \$133 million in placement is projected in FY08. The CORO is actively recruiting personnel internally and externally to execute the workload.

In addition to the usual military activities, the resident office is also working civil projects around the region, the largest being the Canton Auxiliary Spillway construction which is set to take off this year. The spillway project is expected to total more than

\$70 million dollars in construction when finished in FY14.

From Tinker, the LDP class went to Fort Sill to learn more about MILCON execution and take "Army 101" taught by Maj. Steve Carroll and Maj. Lora Carroll. The students were given the opportunity to openly discuss military protocol, expectations of civilian and military personnel, and a basic overview of the military organization. The class took a tour of the Army Transformation construction at Fort Sill. The construction was just getting out of the ground, and the magnitude of the work was impressive.

This training at the two military facilities helped the RLDP Level 2 Class members develop their knowledge of military involvement in the Corps of Engineers. 🇺🇸

Fort Sill Project Delivery Team selected Team Excellence award winner

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

Tulsa District's Fort Sill Project Delivery Team broke all previous records and awarded the largest Operations and Maintenance (Sustainment Repair Modernization) funded program of record. The team successfully awarded 43 project actions at a value of \$26.3 million. The team was chosen as the fourth quarter's Team Excellence award winner. "Fourth quarter" is particularly relevant as this team raced the fiscal year calendar to victory.

The PDT met challenges that included many, many funding issues; time constraints; shifting priorities; changing scopes; communication delays; a flood; a new mission that brought additional projects; pressure to award design complete projects on three historical buildings that had to be approved by the State Historic Structures Officer; and an urgent, last-minute, end-of-fiscal-year request to provide a Forward Operating Base facility.

According to the nomination, "The PDT performed magic."

The Project Manager coaxed the team to excel by reminding them that their extraordinary efforts to build these new facilities and repair others could save American Soldiers' lives by providing realistic training facilities for them as they prepared to fight the Global War on Terror.

Team members were Walt Garner, Rick West, Dennis McCants, Brad Carter, Charles Foster, Kim Shirley, David Tighe, Barry Pyles, Jeremy Mulvaney, Larry Stringer, Rick Hedrick, Daniel Foyil, Susan Killgore, Jeremie Evans, Susie Mall, Adam Smith, Debbie Gibbs, Mary Blackburn, Leviene Hearn, Jane Noble, Laura Redemann, Patrick Beard, and Christopher Kennedy.

The nomination also credits each person in the Tulsa District who touched these projects. It says, "Without the tireless and dedicated efforts of the program analysts, resource managers, our P2 experts, and our contracting crew, we could not have successfully awarded 43 projects at a construction value of \$26.3 million under these very challenging circumstances." 🌍



Photos courtesy of Tulsa District

From left, Susan Killgore, Susie Mall, Adam Smith, Walt Garner, Patrick Beard, Leviene Hearne, Barry Pyles, Laura Redemann, Jeremy Mulvaney, and Chris Kennedy.



From left, David Tighe, Mona Wagner, Dennis McCants, Charles Foster, and Rick West.

Southwestern Division holds water safety meeting

Melanie Ellis
Pacesetter Staff

Safety Officers from across the region gathered in Arlington, Texas, to discuss Water Safety strategies for the approaching recreation season March 24 and 25. Division Deputy Commander Col. Billy G. Tollison welcomed the group and encouraged them to openly share ideas about safety education and prevention.

"We are all safety officers. Every member of our team is a safety officer," he said. "Think ahead and think outside of the box about what we need to do to improve awareness, and educate our own team members and the public about water safety."

The districts each gave a briefing about their water safety

outreach efforts before the flood event of 2007 cancelled most of the recreation season. They also spoke about the outreach efforts they have planned for 2008.

Tollison shared some of his personal experiences with water safety and stressed how fortunate he was to have someone around looking out for him, because there weren't many water safety education tools in place at that time. He also stressed the importance of each district doing everything within their means to educate others about water safety.

"There's nothing happy about a death. There's nothing happy about a serious accident," he said. "After an accident, everyone asks what could have been done differently. Being a safety officer is truly a thankless job but it is one that we should all take very seriously." 🌍

America's symbol flying strong in Little Rock

Cheri Dragos-Pritchard
Pacesetter Staff

Every winter, bald eagles migrate South, with some stopping at the lakes and rivers within Little Rock District to find open or unfrozen water to feed on fish. This year, during the 30th annual Eagle Survey, rangers counted 341 birds within SWL boundaries. Hundreds of observers, most from government agencies such as the Corps and private citizens, joined together to participate in the survey to count eagles along established routes in most of the lower 48 states.

Bald eagles sometimes arrive as early as September and stay until the first part of March. This is when instinct tells them it is time to return to the southern part of Canada and the Great Lakes states for nesting. However, some breeding pairs and immature eagles do stay year-round.

"We've only counted seven bald eagles here this year, but the survey has been a key event in the recovery of bald eagle populations," said James Beard, operations manager for Clearwater Project Office.

"The Corps plays a significant role in the recovery efforts of the bald eagle by supporting eagle conservation. The conservation includes conducting surveys during the breeding season and mid-winter, management of habitat, public education and outreach," Beard added. "Corps lakes are vital to the bald eagle population."

On average, 200 birds are counted at Beaver Lake each year. This year, Park Rangers George Ann Tabor, Thad Cheaney, Rick Hightower, Jared Trammell and Alan Bland tallied 179. Tabor was involved in the first count at Beaver Lake in 1980 when only 20 birds were counted.

Bland said they do their count over a two-day period in January. "If the eagles are out hunting, we'll see fewer than if they're spending the day roosting in the trees along the shore.

"We're proud to say, starting this year the Corps is keeping track of all the data from around the nation," added Bland. "The U.S. Geological Survey formerly coordinated the count, but now we're in charge of the official eagle count for the United States." At the Tri-Lakes area (Lakes De Queen, Gillham and Dierks), 23 eagles were counted while 10 bald eagles were sighted at Millwood Lake.


Nimrod reported five eagles, and Blue Mountain reported four, while Pine Bluff observed three eagles in their area. During two unseasonably warm, stormy days in January, the Russellville Project Office counted 44 bald eagles along 162 miles of the Arkansas River.

Rangers spotted 15 at Greers Ferry Lake, while Mountain Home Project Office rangers and wildlife and real estate specialists counted 26 eagles at Bull Shoals and 25 at Norfolk. Mountain Home Chief Ranger Mark Case helped with the count.

"The number of eagles counted this year is down from previous years, but this is probably because they're finding open water further north and stop there instead. We make our count using a boat," Case stated. "We drive the entire length of the shorelines on both lakes with the operator and the observer looking for mature and immature bald eagles."

The bald eagle was removed from the Endangered Species list in 1995. It was placed on the Threatened Species list until June

28, 2007. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the bald eagle from the Threatened Species list after it was determined there were nearly 10,000 nesting pairs within the lower 48 states.

"This national symbol is still protected by law," Beard said. "We encourage visitors to enjoy our project lands, lakes, rivers and streams and to help protect the bald eagle and take pleasure in all the wildlife associated with it." 

Little Rock District would like to thank the following for participating in the 2008 Bald Eagle Survey:

Beaver Project Office - Park Rangers George Ann Tabor, Thad Cheaney, Rick Hightower, Jared Trammell and Alan Bland

Clearwater Project Office - Park Rangers Doug Stilts and Chris Alley

Greers Ferry Project Office - Park Rangers Joe Harper, Jason Presley, Brent Watkins and Gary Ivy

Millwood/Tri-Lakes Project Office - Park Rangers Derick Walker, Brooke Kervin, Kristin Williams and Dustin Thomason

Tri-Lakes area - Lakes De Queen, Gillham and Dierks - Park Rangers Scott Corbitt, Victor Kuykendall, Tiffany Smith and Trey Shelton

Mountain Home Project Office - Park Rangers Mark Case, Jamie Camp, Jeremy Jennings and Mike Cannon along with Wildlife Specialist Bruce Caldwell and Real Estate Specialist Keith Loos

Nimrod-Blue Mountain Project Office - Park Rangers Kent White, Willie Davie and Tommy Greenfield

Pine Bluff Project Office - Park Rangers Webb Palmer and Wes Sparks

Russellville Project Office - Park Rangers Allison Smedley, Jeremy Wells, Jeff McCarty, Joel Epperson, Rick Bradford, Danny McKinney, Eric Small and Gary Mitchell and Environmental Specialist Robert Ahlert

Women first ...

Tulsa hosts Women's History Program

Mary Beth Hudson
Pacesetter Staff

The first of Tulsa District's 2008 annual awards were presented at the Women's History program on March 26. Tonya Holt, an engineering technician in the Hydropower Department of Operations Division, was named Woman of the Year. Administrative Employee of the Year was presented to Latreta Stout of Waurika Lake Office, and Steven Mills, powerhouse superintendent at R. S. Kerr Power Plant, was named Mentor of the Year.

Additional nominees were Patricia Alworden, Dixene Howerton, Helen Jackson, Mary Samuel, and Melonie Zincke.


The program's theme was "Women's Art – Women's Vision," and the guest speaker was Ruthe Blalock Jones, director and associate professor of art at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla. Collections of her art are included in the Philbrook Art Center, Gilcrease Museum, and the John H. Williams Center for Performing Arts in Tulsa; the Museum of the American Indian in New York City; the Department of the Interior; and the BlueEagle Collection in The National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.



Photo courtesy of Tulsa District

Latreta Stout, left, and Tonya Holt hold their plaques during the Tulsa District Women's History program and awards ceremony. Stout was named Administrative Employee of the Year, and Holt was chosen as Woman of the Year.

The program was well attended, and door prizes – including pieces of original art signed by Jones – were presented. A reception for the nominees, winners, and guests followed. The program was

a presentation of the Federal Women's Program Committee. Members are Dan Bentley, Rita Green, Lori Hunninghake, Laura Redemann, Steve Sanders, Lucy Spaulding, and Sally VanWinkle. 

Little Rock hosts project management training

Tammy L. Moody
Pacesetter Staff

In February, Little Rock hosted a week-long training course in project management that could help the Corps better compete in the global market.

Throughout the week, 24 Little Rock team members of various career fields were taught methodologies from the Project Management Institute's "A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge," an American National Standards Institute standard in project management that has been accepted worldwide.

"Taking this training and working toward the Project Management Professional certification is working toward an industry standard. This is a process that goes beyond

the United States. It is an international process of how professional industry is managing projects," said Shirley Boldon-Bruce, a project manager in Little Rock's Programs and Project Management Division, who set up and participated in the training.

Boldon-Bruce explained that the Project Management Institute is an international group of project management professionals who produced the book she calls the "Bible" of the project management process, the "Project Management Body of Knowledge," or PMBOK.

The PMBOK breaks project management into nine knowledge areas and five process groups. Those project management knowledge areas are integration, scope, time, cost, quality, human resources,

See **Training** on page 28



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District

Course instructor Mike Marco, a managing partner from eConsulting Group, Inc., discusses different aspects of the Project Management Body of Knowledge during recent training in Little Rock.

Safety: Our children, our responsibility

Teach the children in your life water safety

Michael Hurley

Little Rock Water Safety Team Leader

As a park ranger for the Corps of Engineers, I have been exposed to the good and bad aspects of the many lakes in this region. We can all enjoy them, if we keep water safety in mind. Therefore, teaching your family, especially the children, that water safety could be a matter of life or death.

I have been involved with more than 10 search and rescue missions that all ended badly. I was the first on the scene when a high school graduate was swimming with his buddies across a cove, but did not make it all the way across. Two years ago, a 7-year-old boy was recovered from the lake bottom after he went under in a Beaver Lake swimming area. I've also witnessed parents in panic, struggling to find their 12-year-old who became separated from a raft. They finally found him, with the assistance of a drag-hook and diver.

Many of these tragic incidents could have been prevented. I know as a father of two young girls, I take it personally and accept responsibility for teaching my girls the value of water safety. By doing this, I may help save their lives some day.

We never know when tragedy can strike. Nevertheless, I do know my children are two of the most important people in my life. So, teaching them water safety is one way I can possibly help protect them. Even if you don't have children, teaching water safety to someone you care about could be a gift that saves his or her life.

Take the time to instill a life-long passion about water safety in the children and other people in your lives. Sign your children or loved ones up for swimming lessons today, and teach them the benefits of wearing a life jacket.

My children started swimming lessons at the age of 18 months. Granted, they were not swimming laps or doing back-flips off the diving board, but they were exposed. Confidence in the water is critical to developing the ability to remain calm in any situation. If my children fall into the deep end of the pool or fall off the side of the boat, they are confident the swimming skills they have learned will get them to safety. This is why you should get children involved in swimming lessons as soon as possible. As important as swimming lessons is the fact that sometimes



Photo courtesy of Little Rock District


Park Ranger Trey Shelton shows "Bobber the Water Safety Dog" cartoons to children to teach them water safety as they participate in Little Rock Zoo's Kid Safety Day 2008.

the skills acquired from lessons are not always enough. You just never know when a cramp might set in or your feet might become tangled in some moss.

To play it safe, teach children to always put on a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket, without hesitation, before going into the water. Equally important is teaching them how to properly fit and buckle a life jacket each time they put it on.

Teach them that a life jacket is what keeps them floating and that, without one, they may be in grave danger. A good and safe plan for us as parents or adults is to set the example by wearing a life jacket ourselves.

My challenge to you as parents and responsible adults is to teach those children you care about how to be safe while swimming, boating or simply playing around the water.

If you would like information related to water safety, including life jackets, please visit the National Water Safety Team's website at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil>. 

Training

Continued from page 27

communications, risk and procurement, while the processes that could happen within each area are initiating, planning, executing, monitoring, and controlling and closing.

"Any project, purchase, procurement or task can be dissected into these knowledge areas and processes," Boldon-Bruce said. "It's all very logical as it makes you look at the big picture of your project and break it down into all of its work levels, so you do not miss anything."

Course instructor Mike Marco, a managing partner from eConsulting Group, Inc., talked about the benefits of the PMBOK.

"Learning that body of knowledge and earning the Project

Management Professional credentials show that your project managers have the ability to apply those tools and techniques. The PMBOK brings terminology and methodologies that allow the Corps to use a common language and processes throughout the project management office, the Corps and the global community."

"However," Marco added, "the fact that Little Rock is already managing its projects successfully, and that the District already has some processes in place that are working means it should be cautious. You do not break something that works but you do look for ways to improve. I think you can always do better, and these tools and techniques will help my students overall. They will

See Training on page 29


Award set in concrete



Photos courtesy of Tulsa District

Concrete pavements on the aprons and taxiway for the recently completed U.S. Customs Hangar project at Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City, Okla., were selected by the Oklahoma/Arkansas Chapter of the American Concrete Pavement Association as a Gold Winner in the Commercial and Military Airports Category. The ACPA is the concrete paving industry's national organization. The award was presented in late March at the chapter's annual conference in Oklahoma City. As a state winner, the project will be considered for a national award.

The ACPA sent an evaluation team shortly after the pavement construction was complete, resulting in the award. This is a significant recognition for the quality of work performed by the contractor and the Corps for the customer, the Department of Homeland Security.

DHS had a need for expanded ramp space, a new hangar, and operations facility for their complex at Will Rogers Airport. The new hangar, taxiway, and ramp are for the National Air Training Center, and the expanded ramp is part of the existing U.S. Marshalls facility. The design-build project was awarded to the Korte Company and included approximately 21,000 square yards of 12-inch and 14-inch airfield concrete pavement constructed by TTK Construction of Edmond, Okla. 

Training

Continued from page 28

be able to adopt these new processes over time and evolve into a better way of managing their projects.”

Greg Yada, a study manager from Little Rock's Planning Office, took the course to prepare for the PMP exam, which he took and passed shortly after the class.


“I believe this class and the PMBOK methodologies are both theoretical and practical. What percentage of each is up for individual interpretation,” he said.

“Some of the methodologies coincided with the way we are already doing business. There were some other practical ideas that we could implement to get in line with the PMI methods, but management, project managers and team members would all have to buy in to the changes.”

April 2008

That buy-in is already happening, says Assistant Chief of PPMD Kris Mullins.

“Currently, the three division chiefs all have their PMPs. Dr. Randy Hathaway was one of the first in the state to obtain the credential and has served as president of the local PMI chapter,” she said. “In addition, several mid-level managers hold a PMP, including myself and Trish Anslow.

“The leadership in this District fully supports the PMI concepts and theories, and that is demonstrated by its willingness to bring this class to SWL, send employees to the training and reimburse those who take and pass the exam.” 

Contracting specialist sees firsthand the ‘fog and friction’ of war

Martha Cenkci
Pacesetter Staff

When Celia Cockburn, Contracting Specialist for the Galveston District, attended the cultural briefing given to deploying personnel at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Programs Center in Winchester, Va., she learned a lot of what to expect in Iraq. The detailed explanation covered such topics as food, water, the culture, native customs, and all the other types of information that deploying personnel might need. As comprehensive as the briefing was, it couldn't prepare her for one thing: a personal experience with the fog and friction of war.

“My first night there was not the best of experiences,” she said. “After arriving at Baghdad International Airport and waiting for transportation at a way station with my new supervisor, I found myself in the middle of a battle with heavy crossfire, heavy fighting and security personnel running around.

“I remember standing there and thinking it looked exactly like a sci-fi movie,” she recalled. “I saw what I think was a



Photo courtesy of Galveston District

Celia Cockburn, contracting specialist with the Galveston District Corps of Engineers, pauses in a quieter moment in Baghdad.

Blackhawk—I just heard the noise, I didn't see any light—and I said to my supervisor, ‘Captain, is this what war is all about?’”

Her first week in country further trained her in the ways of war. With heavy mortar fire coming in all week, and the announcements of “Incoming! Incoming! Lock Down! Lock Down!” Cockburn wasn't sure what was going on at first, but soon learned the drill.

“When they said ‘Incoming’ what we had to do was try to get into the bunkers, which they told us about when we first arrived.”

Despite such a jarring introduction to Iraq, Cockburn never questioned her decision to go and never lost her gift of compassion.

“I went because I wanted to,” she said. “I volunteered because I wanted to help, first help the Soldiers, and after I was there, the Iraqi people also.”

The Soldiers were the heroes to her. When the contracting staff saw convoys going out, they sprang into action.

“I had never seen so many armored vehicles,” she said. “We would wave them down and pray for them, asking God to protect them and bring them all back.

“They would inspire me and I would think, ‘our battlefield is in this office, we need to get this contract going so that can support them’.”

Whenever the opportunity arose she would go with her boss to the military hospital.

“We would visit the injured Soldiers and pray for them, and my chief would present them with one of the General's coins,” she recalled. “I can close my eyes and still see those Soldiers.”

One in particular she remembers still, with a piece of metal still stuck in his jawbone. He explained to her that his group went into an area and the enemy suddenly came out of nowhere and cornered them, so they ran into a building. They knew what was going to happen but there was no way out. The enemy threw a grenade into the building, and one of the Soldiers threw himself on it and was killed. The Soldier in the hospital



Photo courtesy of Galveston District
Celia Cockburn, contracting specialist with the Galveston District Corps of Engineers, discusses contracting opportunities with an attendee at the contracting conference in Baghdad.

kept saying that he needed to get out of the hospital and get back out there because they needed him.

In spite of the harsh environment, Cockburn continued to do her job, which focused on life support contracts. She even attended a “job fair” in a downtown Baghdad hotel that focused on small Iraqi businesses that wanted to do business with the American military.

“We guided them and let them know how to do business with the Corps of Engineers, what to expect on a contract,” she said. “They were very appreciative. I gave them cards and had an email set up so I could send them additional information.”

She was also involved in other duties, like getting passes for contractors to come into the country.

“It was very busy,” she said. “I was happy there, and it was such a great learning experience for me. I made friendships and memories that I will cherish all my life.”

Little Rock Air Force Base opens new Child Development Center

Tammy L. Moody
Pacesetter Staff

The small, round-tipped scissors wielded Feb. 20 by Little Rock District Commander Col. Ed Jackson were a clue. He and seven other dignitaries used children's scissors to cut the purple and orange ribbon on Little Rock Air Force Base's newest Child Development Center.

At the ribbon with Jackson were 314th Airlift Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Wayne Schatz, Sen. Blanche Lincoln, Rep. Vic Snyder, General Contractor Carson Harris and other air base leaders.

"We know these are the kinds of things that are critically important to our military families," Lincoln said. "We know in times of deployments how critically important it is to have these types of facilities, these types of amenities, these types of commitments that we make to our military families when they join the service, putting their lives and their families' lives on hold and on the line. These are the kinds of things we can do and should do.

"We have jobs to do, and we want to do those jobs and give 150 percent to our jobs, but we also know we cannot do that unless we know our most treasured blessings in the world are being cared for," she added. "That is what has been built here, a facility that will embrace our families, our whole families, with people who will nurture our children and take care of them."

Schatz echoed the senator's sentiments. "Facilities like this wonderful new Child Development Center go a long way toward giving our airmen and their families the tools they can use to ensure their families are supported, so the airmen can worry about the mission at hand, supporting our nation and our people," he said.

"I want to give special thanks to Col. Jackson and the Corps of Engineers. Your folks played a huge role in managing this project and bringing it to fruition."

Little Rock started construction on the \$4.2 million, 14,000 square-foot facility in June 2006. The base took occupancy in December 2007. The center has eight rooms and can accommodate 88 infants and toddlers.

Jim Pfeifer, Little Rock District's CDC

April 2008



Rep. Vic Snyder, Child Development Center Manager Lisa Stone and SWL District Commander Col. Ed Jackson prepare to cut the ribbon on the CDC.

Photos courtesy of Little Rock District



The completed Child Development Center at Little Rock Air Force Base in February.

project manager, said the design and site planning is arranged for future growth. The full kitchen has room to support additions. The center includes the latest in child safety features such as rounded edges of all interior surfaces to prevent injuries.

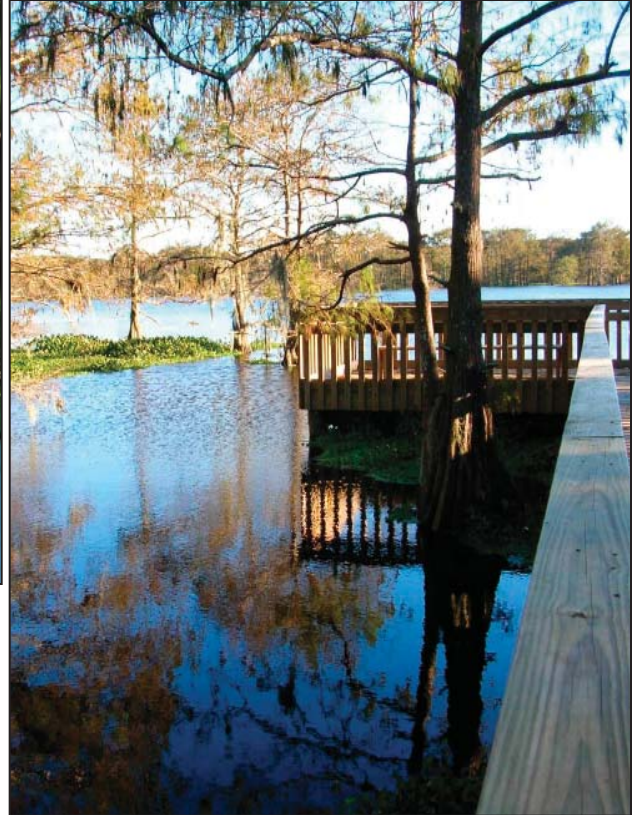
"The playgrounds also have rubberized safety surfaces and state-of-the-art play and climbing equipment," Pfeifer said. "In addition, there are four covered play areas that permit the children to play outdoors during mild wet weather."

The CDC is one of a number of Little Rock's military construction projects on the base. The District is about to complete an addition to a C-130J Flight Simulation Center and a new Airman Dining Facility, with a number of other projects scheduled

to start this year. There are more than \$70 million in military construction projects under way or in planning stages at the base.

The District also provides engineering, construction and real estate support for Pine Bluff Arsenal, Fort Chafee, the Army Reserve and recruiting offices from all branches. And the District has teamed up with other Corps districts to provide similar support to America's armed forces regionally, nationally and globally. 🇺🇸

A picture is worth a thousand words ...



Photos courtesy of Galveston District

Galveston District Park Ranger Ruth Millsaps, Wallisville Project Office, will have these two photos she took featured in a calendar. The snowy egret (above) and a landscape scene (right) will be included in the “Watchable Wildlife” calendar for 2009. 🌍

Little Rock District welcomes Senator Salmon for Women’s History Program



Photos courtesy of Little Rock District

Little Rock District welcomed Arkansas Senator Mary Anne Salmon as she spoke at a Women’s History event in March. Equal Employment Opportunity Managers sent out trivia questions to district employees to test their knowledge about Women’s History. 🌍

Pacesetter Points

Condolences

David Ardeneaux, Tulsa District, lost his father in March.

Don Hester's mother passed away March 21. Don works for the Galveston District Real Estate Office.

William Cline Hightower, the father of **Rick Hightower** of Little Rock District's Beaver Lake Project Office, passed away Feb. 8.

Leigh Ann Kahla-Adams' father passed away March 26. Leigh Ann works for the Galveston District.

Patrick Love, the father of **Michael Love** at Little Rock District's Mountain Home Project Office, passed away March 10.

JC "Pat" Patterson, retired park ranger at Oologah Lake, Tulsa District, passed away in March. Pat was the first park ranger at that project -- converted to such after working construction on Oologah Dam. He worked for Dave Kendall, Jim Harris, and Jay Jones, and was an early influence on many current Tulsa District Operations Division employees.

Irene Patterson, mother of **Sam Patterson**, Tulsa District, passed away in February.

A retired member of Little Rock District, **Anthony Ragar**, former chief of Management Section, Real Estate Division, passed away unexpectedly March 18. He served the district for 37 years and retired from Real Estate Division in April 2004.

Kenneth R. Sanders, the father of **Bill Sanders** of Little Rock District's Hydraulics and Technical Services Branch, passed away Feb. 12.

Glenn Scearce's mother-in-law, Mary Lou Harvey, passed away Feb. 14.

Eileen D. Cook, sister of **Maureen Weller**, Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting - Dallas, passed away peacefully March 28 in Bel Air, Md.

George Worsham's father, Fred Chance, passed away in March.

Congratulations

Little Rock District's **Jayson Alexander**, an engineering technician with the Survey and Data office in the Engineering and Construction Branch and his wife, Tori, welcomed their daughter, Taylor Rayne, March 5. She weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and was 22 inches long.

April 2008

Colleen Alford, resource analyst, joined the Resources Division, Regional Business Directorate, SWD headquarters, March 17. Colleen comes to the Division from Headquarters, U.S. Army Europe, Heidelberg, Germany, where she worked for four and one-half years as a budget analyst.

Aldo Brazzale, Southwestern Division retired annuitant, rejoined the Military Programs Integration Division, Programs Directorate, April 14 to assist in executing the Division's Military Program.

Little Rock District's Chief of Design Branch **Tom Clement** volunteers his time to coach the Catholic High School boys track team. One of his team members, Alex Tully, won the (first ever) indoor individual 3,200 meter race at the state championships held at Fayetteville, Ark., Feb. 28.

Justin Crow, power plant trainee at Webbers Falls, Tulsa District, is the proud father of Sadie Marie, 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and was 19 inches long, born Feb. 18 at 6:42 a.m.

Little Rock District's **Randy Devenport** was selected to work a temporary assignment as business line manager for flood risk management. He is coming from the Clearwater Project Office in Missouri.

Jorge Gutierrez, Operations Community of Practice team leader, joined the Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, March 16. Jorge comes to the Division from Little Rock District.

Little Rock District's **Jerry Hankins**, a facility maintenance inspector of the Russellville Project Office, welcomed his grandson, Liam Thomas Hankins, to the family Feb. 5. Liam weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces.

William Allen Harris, son of Little Rock District's **Bob Harris**, the chief of navigation with the Pine Bluff Project Office, was promoted to the rank of major. Maj. Harris is an infantry Soldier stationed in Germany as an observer/controller, training infantry units.

Bob Harris' other son, Christopher Bradley Harris, recently relocated from Tasmania, Australia to Boston, Mass., to join the Learning Edge International North America office, a software provider for the educational market. Brad is a software developer working with the North Carolina Community College System.

Little Rock District's **Helen Herr**, a paralegal specialist in the Office of Counsel, and her husband, Brad Jordan,

a retired Corps member, walked in Little Rock's Half Marathon March 2 and completed the 13.1 miles in 3 hours, 27 minutes.

Welcome to the world, Zachary Shane Hudson, grandson of **Mary Beth Hudson**, Tulsa District's Public Affairs Office. Zachary Shane Hudson arrived Feb. 5. He is the child of Perry and Ellisa Hudson of Oklahoma City.

Pamela Ingram, program analyst, Regional Business Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, joined the Division April 1. Pamela comes to SWD from Fort Monroe, Va.

Little Rock District's **Aaron McGee** was selected to be the Assistant Operations Manager for the Russellville Project Office. He began working in the new position March 17.

Jim Martell's son Michael is graduating high school this spring. He was awarded a National Merit Scholarship as well as a Presidential Scholarship at the University of Tulsa. Additionally, he was named Mr. Edison at Edison High School. Jim works for the Tulsa District.

Canton Lake Office is proud to announce the arrival of Bailey Jean Mayfield on March 26. She is the daughter of **George and Sabrina Mayfield**. George is a SCEP ranger at Canton Lake, Tulsa District.

Karen Milburn, administrative support assistant, Operations Branch, joined the Galveston District March 19. Karen comes to Galveston from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Teri Nolen joined the SWD headquarters as acting chief of Business Technical Division, Regional Business Directorate, March 31. Teri, chief of Engineering and Services Branch, Engineering and Construction Division, Fort Worth District.

Pete Perez, chief, Engineering and Construction Division joined the Galveston District on March 30. Pete comes to Galveston from the Alaska District where he served as Construction Operations Division Chief.

Glen Proffitt was selected as the new chief of Little Rock's Navigation and Maintenance Branch, Operations Division. He began working his new position March 17.

See *Points* on page 34

Little Rock District's **Michael Richards**, the chief ranger at the Beaver Project Office, served as an appraiser for the Missouri Regional Destination Imagination Program held March 1. Destination Imagination is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways. Audrey Richards, Richards' daughter, competed in the Reeds Spring High School Winter Guard Competition. Her team took first place in their division at the Ozark Winter Guard Competition event that included schools from Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri.

Chris Roark was selected as Little Rock District's new executive assistant. He started working in his new position March 31.

Patty Smith, Tulsa District, has a new grandson! Porter Bradley Smith was born March 10 to her son Joey and his wife Brooke Smith. Porter has a proud big brother, Finn, 2 1/2.

Linda Webster, work force development officer, joined the Regional Business Management Division, Regional Business Directorate, March 10. Linda has served in various Army commands in the human resources, education, and training and development fields.

Bound To Be a Star! At 10:24 a.m., Feb. 29, Taylor Nicole White joined us. She is the daughter of **Allen and Debra White** of PPMD in Tulsa District. This greatly anticipated Leap Year baby made the KOTV Channel 6 news her very first day.

Connie White, Tulsa District, Emergency Management Unit, is a grandma! Her son Isaac and his fiancé, Ashley, are proud parents of a healthy baby boy, Zaiden Lee White.

Craig Wright, Budget Branch, RMO, Tulsa District, celebrated his first wedding anniversary March 31.

Retirements

Bill Bowen, program manager, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, retired March 1, after 37 years of service.

Ronn Brock, navigation business line manager, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, retired March 13, after more than 16 years of service.

Jerry Fritzsching, Galveston District, retired Feb. 29 after 31 years of service. He served as assistant lockmaster at the Colorado River Locks.

Tom Hammons, civil engineer, Construction Branch, E&C, retired from Tulsa District.

Jack Shelton, cost engineer, Programs Directorate, SWD headquarters, retired March 3, with 37 years of service.

Ed Watford retired from the Little Rock District March 4 after 31 years with the Corps in numerous offices around the world. 🌍

Pacesetters – Army Strong – Engineer Ready!

