



Southwestern Division

Pacesetter

Summer 2014

Volume 9, No. 2

Working together to complete the mission



*Strategies for sustainable
infrastructures*

SOUTHWESTERN

DIVISION

PACESETTER

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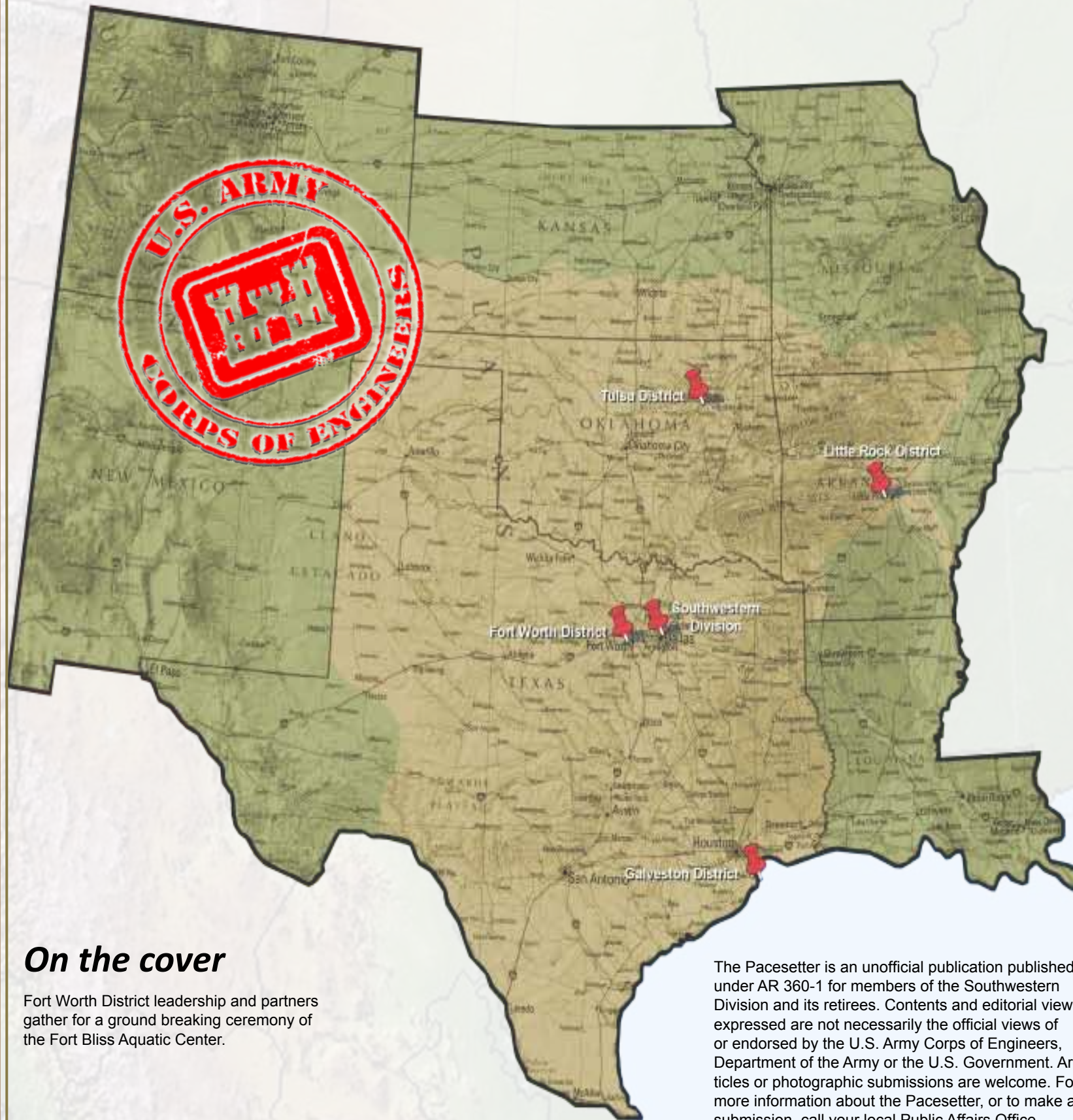
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On the cover

Fort Worth District leadership and partners gather for a ground breaking ceremony of the Fort Bliss Aquatic Center.



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Moving forward with change

**Col. Richard J. Muraski Jr.
Southwestern Division Acting Commander**

I have had the distinct pleasure and honor to lead the Southwestern Division Pacesetter Team for the past three months and into July. My goal and vision during this time is to keep us steady, moving forward with our Azimuth and Fiscal Year 14 Priorities until Col. (P) David C. Hill takes over July 24. An azimuth bearing uses all 360 degrees of a compass to indicate direction, and that is what we are doing in SWD, using all elements of our situational awareness and environment to help us determine the best way forward. We have focused our efforts on such events and meetings as an all hazards exercise (state and Federal emergency management officials), the Texas Water Conservation Association meeting to discuss drought and water supply, and such organizations as the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Ports Association to discuss issues that relate to our Texas Coast. We have also continued meetings with such customers as National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) at Pantex, as well as pursued our work on the MKARNS and our regional centers. The Districts have all been diligently executing their programs, meeting with stakeholders and customers, working together on our way forward and meeting our commitments. All these efforts remain part of the great partnerships we have forged and will continue to build on as we work with continuing to bring value to our communities and our warfighters.

As we roll into the summer, our Division also enters two very critical periods, each with its own challenges: Hurricane Season and Water Recreation Season.

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs June 1 through Nov. 30. In the past, some of the most devastating hurricanes to hit our coast occurred in the late summer-early autumn timeframe. Though NOAA has predicted a less active Hurricane Season due to the El Nino effect, that doesn't mean we'll be free of hurricanes, it could mean heavy rain events in our region instead. While most of our region needs rain, too much in the wrong area will bring potentially severe flooding.—not a very comforting thought. While we have no control over the weather, we do have control over our preparations and our ability to respond. That was the purpose of our May exercise, and more to come at the District level to ensure that we are ready to meet any challenges that hurricanes may pose. Many of you worked through Hurricane Ike, which hit Galveston in 2008, or deployed in support of Sandy. These events can be very devastating and require our most steadfast dedication.

The Water Recreation Season showcases the Corps' value to the public at its best, as our communities go to our lakes and recreation areas to enjoy the facilities. It's a great time to be a member of the Corps of Engineers, and you will see our Park Rangers featured on television interviews frequently. However, it is also a time of increased water safety efforts and unfortunately an increase in public fatalities. This year, as in the past, our team of operations, safety and public affairs

are actively engaged in spreading the word about water safety initiatives. But there are always those who don't get the word. Help us redouble our efforts to get the word out. You can make a difference, Help us save lives.

Finally, in June we celebrated Engineer Day and the Corps "birthday"—on June 16, 1775, George Washington appointed the first Engineer officers of the Army during the American Revolution. Engineers have served in combat in all subsequent American wars. We all used this time to celebrate and, at our Districts, recognize annual award winners. Here at SWD, we recognized seven of our employees who best represent the seven Army values.

Though we highlighted a few individuals in June, we actually celebrated each of you. For you are the ones who contribute so much to accomplishing our mission, to helping keep us on azimuth and achieve our priorities. Without your efforts, the priorities would simply be words. Thank you so much for all you have done and all you will do in the future. Thanks for the privilege of serving you and serving as the commander. I continue to be in awe of what you all do, day in and day for our communities, the region and the nation. I am honored to hand over the best Division in USACE to Colonel Hill on July 24, so he can focus on his assessment and then decide on how to take us to the next level of excellence. You all are truly amazing. Keep up the great work. Proud of each and every one of you... Essayons!



Delivering Value to the Nation

**Col. Richard P. Pannell
Commander, Galveston District**

Recent headlines in the papers showcase our ongoing efforts to add value to the nation's infrastructure and positively impact the communities in which we live and work. Last month I had the opportunity to visit with U.S. senators and representatives from Texas and discuss how our programs and projects contribute to sustaining an environmentally and economically vibrant coast. It was clear from our discussions how much congressional leaders recognize the significance of our daily efforts to deliver value to the nation.

I am pleased to report that we have been making great strides on several of our district priorities.

In support of the Houston Ship Channel, we completed work on a collaborative effort that will allow the Port of Houston Authority to improve the two largest container terminals in the gulf. These highly anticipated projects to deepen and widen the waterways will allow the port to accommodate larger ships that carry more cargo in preparation for the Panama Canal Expansion in 2016. The Galveston District re-

cently provided permit decisions to the Port of Houston Authority to deepen and widen the Barboours and Bayport channels. We have also received approval from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to provide for the long term federal assumption of maintenance of these channels. This project has been a top priority for the district and it's been your hard work, dedication and expertise that have delivered this vital project.

"I am pleased to report that we have been making great strides on several of our district priorities."

Additionally, the district is anticipating approval for the authorization of three Texas channels: The Sabine Neches Waterway, the Channel to Freeport and the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. Following the U.S. Senate-House joint conference committee's agreement on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), the bill is awaiting signature by the president. The 2014 WRRDA promotes our nation's competitiveness and economic growth along the Texas coast by providing the necessary authorization to modernize our ports. The channel improvements will support the

federal responsibility of maintaining a strong maritime transportation infrastructure to ensure the efficient flow of domestic and international commerce. The bill authorizes the construction of the projects; however, federal appropriation and local sponsor funding will be required to realize these projects. What it means for the district is a successful outcome for all of the work during the feasibility study phase and a mark on the wall for the future design,

construction and maintenance of three of the nation's largest channel systems.

These projects represent a critical step forward in closing the infrastructure gap to strengthen our competitiveness, grow the economy and allow our nation's ports to remain competitive on a global level. It's also a real indication of the significance of your efforts to the health of the nation!

Thank you for continuing to execute our projects and programs on time and within budget to deliver sustained superior products to our valued customers.



75 years of Building Strong

**Col. Richard A. Pratt
Commander, Tulsa District**

By the time this issue of the Pacesetter reaches you, Tulsa District will have observed its 75th anniversary. Founded July 1, 1939 the district began with \$11 million provided for work on eight projects. This Diamond Anniversary we can recollect on the great work done by the district over the last three-quarters of a century. As we do that, we must also look ahead and devise strategies for a sustainable future.

Three Tulsa District lakes will celebrate their 50th year in service this year — John Redmond Reservoir, Lake Eufaula and Keystone Lake. With proper management, these projects can offer another 50 years of service. At John Redmond, we are working with the Kansas Water Office on a plan to dredge the sediment from the conservation pool to restore water supply storage. At Keystone Lake, we are building a new innovative and atypical bridge to replace the 50-year-old Highway 151 Bridge over the dam.

The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System marks 44 years of service this year. Tulsa and Little Rock District are ensuring the viability of this system through levels of service. With this, we perform routine maintenance while normal operations continue. If maintenance work will result in a closure of the system, we schedule it well enough in

advance to let stakeholders plan around it thus preventing shipping delays.

Tulsa just wrapped up work at Lock and Dam 18 on the MKARNS that closed it down for just three days. We replaced the bearings and bearing races on sector gears that move the gates to let barge traffic enter and exit the lock. Corps crews completed this work with minimum down time for barge traffic.

We look to a milestone with our International & Interagency Support (IIS) program this summer with the completion of the Department of Energy's High Explosives Pressing Facility (HEPF) at Pantex. This project really is a great example of the value of partnerships like the one we have with DoE and the value of IIS.

Through our IIS program, we also provide support to several tribes throughout our district, but in a different way than support given to other IIS partners like DoE, and the VA. Many tribes across Oklahoma call on us for our expertise in engineering, planning, economic analysis, and contracting. The district established a process through which we assist tribes as they apply for grants and upon receipt, we provide contracting and construction expertise. Currently, we are assisting with FEMA grants for storm shelters, hazard mitigation, and drought vulnerability studies. Tulsa District's technical expertise is widely recognized among the tribes we work with.

There are lessons learned over a 75-year span. One such lesson led to the creation of the Southwestern Division (SWD) Regional Hydropower Governance Board. We learned over the last 20 years that the three SWD districts containing hydropower did not completely share standard business practices. The SWD RHGB seeks to share their best in the Hydropower Business Line across the region.

I've mentioned a lot accomplishments here and it must be noted that these are the result of the hard work of the great Tulsa Team. With summer upon us, we should all try to take some time to refresh, recharge and relax. Take some time to enjoy one of our Tulsa District lakes. Our folks worked hard through the fall and winter to get the parks and campgrounds ready for the recreation season. These areas all highlight the natural beauty of our region.

Whatever you do during your downtime, I urge you to make safety a priority. The Army introduced the "critical days of summer" campaign in June. I want to encourage you all to remember that safety is about doing the right thing for the right reasons, from wearing seatbelts to making sure to never drink and then drive, to simply saying "no" to risky situations. Have a safe summer!

75 years of Tulsa District history



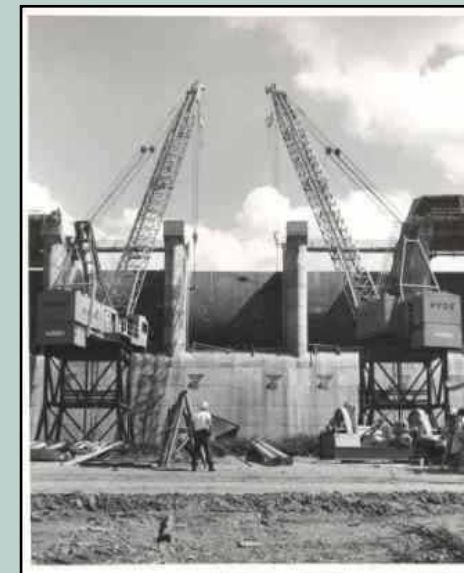
Kaw Lake Dam under construction



President Nixon speaks at the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas Navigation System dedication ceremony.



Flooding in Tulsa prior to construction of Keystone Dam



Keystone Lake construction



Tenkiller Auxiliary Spillway construction



SWF, a key part of USACE's strategy and mission for sustainability

Col. Charles Klinge Commander, Fort Worth District

Team Fort Worth – whether you have been with the Army and the Corps for a short time or many years, the term ‘sustainability’ is one of those very important terms you will hear a lot because it is a key element of our district mission.

In its simplest and most understandable terms, USACE and the Fort Worth

District define sustainability as what results from integrating economic, social and environmental elements into system approaches to meeting the needs of present and future generations.

As is such with all USACE/ SWF missions, sustaining key DoD initiatives that include infrastructures is aligned with the Army's ‘triple bottom line-plus’ of sustainability; mission, environment and community; plus economic benefit.

Using this strategy, SWF continues to lead the way by taking those key areas and for

each one, as you have heard me repeatedly say – ‘find the need and fill it.’

In the coming months you will see a series of articles, news releases, social media and other information that highlight each of these areas in greater detail. However, as members of Team Fort Worth, giving you an initial overview

To speak about the economic impacts and benefits that SWF brings to the table requires just looking in the mirror at ourselves.

snapshot of what we are doing in each of these areas is very important as it takes all of us to tell the SWF/USACE story and show our communities and stakeholders how we bring value to the Nation.

To speak about the economic impacts and benefits that SWF brings to the table, requires just looking in the mirror at ourselves. Our district employs over a thousand military, civil service and contract employees across the state of Texas and beyond. But you don't merely work in these

communities, you're integrated into them.

You repeatedly take the lead in these communities by engaging in STEM, water safety and adopt a school outreach just to name a few activities. You do so as volunteers, with your greatest and only reward being the win-win of giving back, making a difference

and encouraging students from elementary to college to like and learn about science, engineering and technology.

SWF is also making a huge economic impact within the small business community through the exceptional work of our Office of Small Business Programs, which exceeded USACE and Army totals in FY13 and is on the glide path to do so again for FY14.

I also mentioned water safety as one of our key community outreach initiatives, but there is an even more profound and critical mission in terms of water sustainability and our operations and maintenance programs.

As we enter the last quarter of FY14, SWF continues to maintain and manage 25 multi-purpose reservoirs, three major hydropower plants, several major floodways and many additional related local/state projects, to include the Trinity River Corridor Project and the Trinity River Vision Project.

Additionally, SWF is literally leading the way in terms of regulatory and environmental projects, stewardship, S-M-A-R-T (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Risk informed and Timely) planning and modernization.

I think it's well-known, but

that SWF's environmental and regulatory mission ensures compliance with applicable Federal environmental and cultural resources laws, executive orders and regulations in the civilian and government sectors.

What is not as well known is, that team, along with our Military Construction, Real Estate and Program & Project Management Division teams provide major support to help improve, modernize and sustain the Military's aging infrastructure for our current and future service members and their families.

Team Fort Worth as you read this snapshot of SWF's key role in USACE/Army's overall sustainability mission, there are three goals to emphasize:

(1) That you know your work as part of the SWF team is recognized, appreciated and making a difference throughout USACE, the Army and DoD;

(2) That you read and take the opportunity to learn more as we highlight in depth these key mission areas for sustainability in the coming months; and

(3) That you help tell the story of our sustainability mission and all missions of the Fort Worth District.

You are the SWF story and there isn't a better person to tell that story than each of you.

As we enter the last quarter of FY14, SWF continues to maintain and manage 25 multi-purpose reservoirs, three major hydropower plants, several major floodways and many additional related local/state projects, to include the Trinity River Corridor Project and the Trinity River Vision Project.

warrants repeating that SWF was formally named and stood up as USACE's Regional Planning and Environmental Center earlier this year.

The work our teams and leadership in RPEC are doing is the model for where USACE and the rest of the Army are headed with our infrastructure, environmental, regulatory and overall sustainability strategy and mission.

Most of the public is aware

Together, these outstanding SWF teams provide engineering and construction, project management, design, and oversight for projects that support the infrastructures of Army and Air Force installations/bases in Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico.

This includes but is not limited to family housing, schools, child care centers, training and aircraft facilities, clinics and hospitals.



Let your solutions define you, not your problems

**Col. Courtney W. Paul
Commander, Little Rock District**

To say the Little Rock District faces problems every day sounds negative. On the contrary, isn't that why we're here? Problem solving is our business. The solutions to these problems define us.

The engineers of our district's early years didn't guess how to build a dam. They didn't carelessly layout plans to reduce flood damage. They used a systematic approach that identified the real problems and analyzed every issue and plan before implementing a solution. The proof of their problem solving success is still visible today and our legacy is defined by solutions that still stand, not the problems that we faced.

Our organization is constantly judged on how we solve problems. Our congressional funding depends on our ability to reach solutions that positively impact our military and civil works missions. Make no mistake, law-makers and stakeholders don't want to hear about our problems. They want to know about our solutions. They present us with problems and we give them solutions. Simply put, our systematic operations and problem solving abilities are a gauge of our critical thinking skills and ability

to provide solutions. Providing sound solutions is how we get paid. It is why the Chief of Engineers has been heard to remark that his vision is to be considered as the nation's "Solutioneers."

Problem-solving is a challenge, particularly when you bring in a group of people with differing perspectives and viewpoints. To be sure, the diversity of perspectives and experiences makes for better decisions. Within the Corps, our "unit of action" when it comes to problem solving is the Project Delivery Team. The PDT, with the project manager at the helm, is the foundation of our ability to decide upon and implement solid solutions.

Problems come in all shapes and sizes; but solutions have one thing in common. It must be born of a structured problem solving process. By using such a process, we can avoid many of the pitfalls that derail a decision-making process. These pitfalls can blind us from seeing better solutions or worse, result in an impasse that keeps us from creating the right solution. We all know this feeling – when the day of the decision becomes the day of the "re-do." Following the common process spelled out below will help you and your team be a "first time go" at the decision brief and, more importantly,

help your organization make better decisions.

The Problem Solving Process

1. Identify the problem. Life in your PDT will be much better if you do this step first. It's not fun haggling over the definition of possible solutions and realize that different members had different perceptions of what they were trying to solve. A well proven technique is to get the entire team to agree to a single statement that starts with an infinitive verb and ends with "in order to" and a phrase that describes the desired outcome. For example, "To determine the integrated prioritization of projects in order to finalize and defend the budget submission to HQ."

2. Gather Information. To solve a problem you must first understand it. Gather information using professional judgment to find facts that are relevant to the problem. Has the decision maker given us guidance in solving this problem? Are there things we must do (constraints)? Are there things we cannot do (restrictions)? It's also our responsibility as problem solvers to recognize truth, bias, or prejudice of opinions during this process.

3. Develop criteria. As tempting as it may be to rush to developing possible solutions, it is important to define the

criteria we will use in our analysis. Doing this first saves time by not exploring dead-end options and will help you build possible solutions that are truly distinguishable from the others. Criteria come in two types: An idea must meet screening criteria to even be considered as a possible solution. Evaluation criteria are those qualities that are important to you in finding a solution.

4. Generate possible solutions. If you have followed the steps and developed the important criteria, the generation of solutions will logically follow and be far easier. For example, if you have decided your evaluation criteria will be performance, cost and schedule then it would follow to generate options that optimize one of those criteria or tries to achieve a balance between them. It is also important to make sure that all generated solutions are suitable, feasible, acceptable, distinguishable, and complete. Any recommended solution that doesn't have these traits is bound to be sent back to the drawing board.

5. Analyze possible solutions. Again, if you determined your criteria and developed your possible solutions with your criteria in mind, then analyzing how your possible solution performs based on the criteria follows naturally. A good technique is to use the SWOT analysis or consider the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats presented by each possible solution.

6. Compare possible solutions against the others to determine the optimum one. This will help you identify the solution that best solves the problem. The best technique is to put the possible solutions side by side in a graph and compare how each performs against each other on each criterion. Then score how well each did overall to provide you with a recommended course of action. Weighting – when used as intended – will help identify the solution that best supports priority criteria.

7. Make and implement a decision. If you've followed the problem solving process, making the decision can be anti-climatic. To a well defined and analyzed problem with a solid recommendation, success sounds like "hard to argue with that – your recommendation is approved."

It doesn't matter where you sit in the organization, you are a problem solver. Use this process to go forth and find great solutions.



Bob Meyer from the Detroit District received a coin from Col. Courtney W. Paul for his support to the Little Rock District Field Survey Crew. Bob has helped us out tremendously during the past two years performing crucial structural behavior surveys for the Pine Bluff reach of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and various flood control dams.



Regulatory Specialist Vincent Gregory received Col. Courtney W. Paul's Hard Hat Safety Award for improving and maintaining the safety of the Regulatory Division inspection vessel. The standard and example that Vince sets for safe vessel operation and maintenance helps ensure that all appropriate safety precautions are taken.

Delivering value through IIS

by Tony Roberson, SWD environmental & IIS branch supervisor

The Southwestern Division performs an integral and vital role in providing engineering and technical assistance to their non Department of Defense federal and state local partners, and tribal nations through the Interagency and International Support program.

The support and services include engineering and construction services, environmental management and restoration, research and development assistance, disaster relief and recovery work, real estate and other technical services. IIS partners include Department of Homeland Security, Veteran's Administration, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Treasury, U.S. Department of Agriculture and many others. The IIS program, authorized by the Economy in Government Act, falls under SWD's Military Missions. These services are provided on a cost reimbursable basis as part of interagency agreements between USACE and the IIS agencies.

Through strategic engagement and long term relationships, SWD has formed national and regional partnerships with their IIS clients to support them in accomplishing their respective engineering and construction missions. SWD's regional inter-disciplinary team is comprised of USACE division and district experts and professionals across the nation which are complemented by architectural, engineering or construction firms and private industry.

Department of Homeland Security



A border fence

The Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Patrol is one of SWD's largest and most diverse partnerships. The Fort Worth Engineering and Construction Support Office serves the USACE Enterprise program manager for the Department of Homeland Security providing project management, construction, maintenance environmental, real estate, and design support worldwide. To date, the ESCO has assisted CBP with the construction of more than 650 miles of border fence and numerous tactical facilities and installations. The ESCO utilizes 27 supporting USACE Districts, six supporting Divisions and is considered to be a model federal partnership and continues as a robust high performance team.

Department of Energy



High Explosive Pressing Facility at 95 percent complete.

The Tulsa District leads a strategic alliance with Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas. SWT is currently constructing the High Explosive Pressing Facility with a construction cost of \$65 million (estimated to be completed August 2014). Through partnering, innovative contracting and program management, SWT has saved NNSA more than \$30 million and accelerated the completion date by one year. The success of the HEPF project is a direct result of teamwork and collaboration between the NNSA, Pantex contractor B&W, SWD, SWT, and their contractor Kiewit Building Groups.

The HEPF was highlighted by Lt. Gen. Thomas

P. Bostick, USACE chief of engineers, as one of USACEs most successful partnerships during his visit in January 2014. Over the past five years, SWT has completed several projects at Pantex ranging from \$350 thousand to \$9.4 million, (excluding the ongoing HEPF project). The aggregate value of these projects was \$22 million. Other important projects completed by SWT at Pantex include OST Command Center and Safeguards and Security Training Facility.

The Little Rock District also plays an integral role in SWD's IIS program providing engineering consultation, construction management, design services and other technical support to all OST sites. Project management duties are performed by the respective geographic district in close proximity to each OST site. Program management responsibilities remain with the Little Rock District, in addition to the project management duties for the Fort Chaffee site.

The SWD Pacesetter team is currently positioned to lead for development and implementation of USACE enterprise program management strategy and plan for our support to NNSA.

Environmental Support for Others



USACE/EPA workers unload barrels recovered during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

For more than two decades, SWD has supported EPA Region 6 in the execution and management of superfund oil facility cleanups under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, federal disaster response recovery, and program technical support to the Brownfields program. SWD continues to maintain a full time program manager liaison collocated at EPA Region 6.

Under National Response Framework, SWD and EPA Region 6 has successfully partnered to support each other in the accomplishing their emergency support functions during disaster response and recovery such as the Columbia Space Shuttle and

Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and Gustav.

EPA Region 6 and the USACE Brownfield's partnership continues as a high performance team and is able to leverage Targeted Brownfields Assessment output by utilizing a multi-regional team (consist of 3 Corps Divisions and 4 Districts). The SWD/EPA Brownfields team is led by a dedicated SWD Program Manager embedded with the EPA Region 6 staff at their regional headquarters. Our specific program is successful due to the collaboration and integration of the SWD resources with EPA R6 staff.

Department of Veterans Affairs



Temple VA Long Term Care Facility, Temple, Texas

USACE has three major Interagency agreements (IA) in place to support DVA. The IAs authorized SWD and its districts provide construction, engineering, master planning and project management assistance to Individual Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs), Medical centers, and National Cemetery Agency (NCA).

SWD has managed over 50 projects in support of Veterans Administration Integration Network (VISN 16& 17) over the last eight years. The Little Rock District serves as our lead district for supporting the VISN 16 and 17.

SWD, SWF and SWT are currently in the process of establishing a partnership with the National Cemetery Agency (NCA). SWF and SWT are working with NCA on two pilot projects at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas and Fort Sill National Cemetery, OK, respectively. Both projects are expected to start in FY15.

Federal agencies working together just makes sense

by Jay Townsend, Little Rock District Public Affairs

If you track the U.S. fiscal situation then you're aware that every arm of the federal government is looking at different ways to cut spending and stay viable. One option federal agencies have to cut spending or trade services is the Corps of Engineers Interagency and International Support program. It's not a new way to do business but it's an effective way for government agencies to rely on each other's specialty skill sets during fiscally challenging times.



IIS is the Army Corps of Engineers program that provides technical assistance to non-Department of Defense federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal nations, private U.S. firms, international organizations, and foreign governments.

Instead of creating more bureaucracy, it's easier and more cost effective for government agencies to use a Corps' engineer or architect than it is to hire, train and employ a new one. Other agencies can tap into USACE's engineering expertise through IIS.

All IIS work is funded on a reimbursable basis.

"Corps services are 100 percent funded by the customer," said Darrin Curtis Little Rock District program manager. "The Corps charges IIS customers for the actual expenses incurred. These may include technical, management, contracting or other cost associated with a particular project or program. Although we

are at cost, we provide the customer with an initial estimate of cost that USACE believes it will incur. This leads to a working budget that everyone tries to stay within."

The Corps provides engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land related natural resources, relief and recovery work, and other management and technical services through the IIS program.

The Little Rock District is providing planning, design, and construction management for renovation and new construction of Veteran Affairs medical facilities in the Veterans Integrated System Network 17 located in central and south

central Texas. The total VA program executed during the past eight years consists of 60 projects at seven medical facilities with a combined value of about \$127 million. This includes four ongoing projects at the Dallas Medical Center with a total Architectural Engineering Services value of about \$2 million.

The district anticipates accomplishing more design services to support the VA's VISN 17 program and is working with VA VISN 16 to provide the same services for projects located in parts of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and east Texas.

Aside from IIS, the Little Rock District is also executing 23 projects totaling \$57 million funded through a memorandum of agreement between the Corps, Southwestern Power Administration and the Southwest Preference Customer Trust. This cost sharing agreement allows for funding of capital improvements to the seven hydroelectric generating plants in the Little Rock District. "The cost sharing agreement we have in place for hydropower improvements is 100 percent non-Corps or federal funded," said Lee Beverly, Little Rock District mechanical engineer. "The Corps does all the work but the funding comes from SWPA and the SPCT."

The federal power customers have committed to a multi-year program to rehabilitate the Corps-owned facilities in the Southwestern Power Administration system and to preserve the resource for future generations.

This type of funding arrangement effectively supplements the limited federal spending and allows the customer more input into the capital investment priorities. It also has been an effective tool in completing backlog maintenance at the district's hydropower facilities. This maintenance is extremely critical as each of these plants approach the later stages of their economic life.

IIS and cost sharing agreements are an effective way for federal agencies to work together and save taxpayer dollars. Sharing and spreading government manpower, expertise and resources is a glimpse of the future for the federal government. As agencies continue to look for places to cut overhead and spending they're discovering new and old ways to do business with each other.



Bull Shoals Powerhouse is one of seven hydroelectric generating plants in the Little Rock District that receives capital improvement funds through a cost sharing agreement with Southwestern Power Administration and the Southwest Preference Customer Trust. (Photo by Little Rock District)

Joint team works together on hospital project

by Jay Woods, Little Rock District Public Affairs

The Little Rock District Military Medical Support Branch continues to add to their plate after picking up the Keller Army Community Hospital renewal project at West Point, N.Y.

This project has turned into a true partnering effort. The Keller Army Community Hospital renewal project includes assistance from Air Force Medical using their contracting acquisition tool.

With the Defense Health Agency coming on line in 2015, to bring all medical branches of the military together, this hospital renewal project gives the district the opportunity to work with an established customer (Air Force Medical) and a new customer (Army MEDCOM).

Prior to this project, the district strictly provided a 'one door to the Corps' support to the entire Air Force Medical Service's Medical Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization Program for design-build projects at Air Force medical clinics and hospitals.

Prior to this project the Air Force was looking for an opportunity to show the Army how they handled medical construction contracts and the district was looking for contract capacity to execute the project.

"There was a lot of synergy with this project because we had relationships with the Army and Air Force, and we have been managing Air Force projects for more than four years", said Greg Yada, Little Rock District project manager.

Initially MEDCOM was not going to use the Air Force contracting tool to execute this project. They had plans to use their own.

"MEDCOM's experience with SWL has been limited and their business processes are significantly different than the Air Force model", said Yada.

MEDCOM reaches out to their clinical experts where the Air Force stays in-house, for technical, clinical and initial outfitting disciplines. They also have higher levels of prescriptiveness in their technical contract requirements, are funded differently and execute their projects through different contract vehicles.



Keller Army Community Hospital renewal project at West Point, N.Y. (Courtesy photo)

To help alleviate some of MEDCOM's fears the Little Rock District implemented four strategies that took the project over the top:

- 1) Hired an architectural engineer to develop the technical and clinical portions of the Request for Proposal.
- 2) Engaged the SWL Design Branch to facilitate technical requirements, provide quality assurance, and assist with technical coordination.
- 3) Engaged the Air Force to review the request for proposal and provide guidance and suggestion on being consistent with their model.
- 4) MEDCOM Headquarters was engaged from the start to provide guidance, oversight, and direction for quick decision-making.

Because of the hard work put in by all agencies the RFP was issued on May 9, as scheduled. Contract proposals will be accepted on Jul. 7, and the contract award could happen as early as Aug.

"Being part of a multi-agency, integrated team, shaping the future is pretty cool", said Yada.

Working to build the SWD Hydropower Board of Governance

by Ross Adkins, Tulsa District Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hydropower mission is to provide a reliable source of cost effective electricity and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced and reduce the dependence on fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas. The electricity produced at the four districts within the Southwestern Division is marketed by Southwestern Power Administration and is sold, at cost, to not-for-profit municipal utilities, military installations and rural electric cooperatives for use by the citizens of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Beginning in 1937 the Southwestern Division grew to 18 federally hydropower projects, located in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas. In the Fiscal Year 2010, these projects returned nearly \$154,218,600 to the U.S. Treasury from the generation of marketable electricity. SWD generated hydropower serves over 8 million customers. Since the average household uses 10,500 kWh of electricity annually, this is equivalent to 625,500 households being supplied with clean renewable energy.

Until recently, the SWD power generation projects have been managed independently by the three separate U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts. While the districts collaborate on prioritizing critical maintenance packages in preparation of President's Budget submittals and requests for customer funding, there were bound to be differences in the approach and execution of this work. There were no

standardized processes for regional command-level oversight to provide consistency.

After discussions among the stake holders, customers and partners, the idea of a Southwestern Division Regional Governance Board began to take shape.

The Regional Hydropower Governance Board, newly formed in September 2013, has the responsibility for management coordination between Tulsa, Little Rock and Fort Worth Districts and the Southwestern Division Office on all business decisions affecting the hydropower mission.

Its mission is to serve as the governing body for the development of human capital, implementing

and maintaining standard operating procedures for best business practices and to make strategic business decisions that affect the Corps hydropower mission. It also operates on a regional level to address challenges and opportunities while work within constrained budgets.

The current makeup of the board puts both Tulsa and Little Rock District commanders as co-chairs of the board with the Tulsa District Commander serving as the Executive Director. Members of the board include representatives from all three districts with provisions for special advisors to be select from best qualified from all three districts.

As the Board of Governance matures, its goal is to become the Pacesetter within the Corps hydroelectric generation community. It is a another step in the Corps of Engineers continuing efforts to provide leadership in delivering efficient low cost on demand electric power to our customers.



Lake Eufaula dam and powerhouse is one of the 18 hydropower facilities in the Southwestern Division. Lake Eufaula is located in the eastern part of Oklahoma on the Canadian River. (File photo)

Maintaining flood risk management infrastructures keeps staff busy

by Galveston District Public Affairs

When Mario Beddingfield's sixth grade science teacher asked him if he had ever thought about becoming an engineer, he replied that he wasn't interested in learning how to drive a train. Luckily for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District, curiosity got the better of him and he quickly became captivated with engineering after researching the subject.

"I have always been fascinated with the whole construction process, but over time I have found a good niche in water resources," said Beddingfield, a hydraulic engineer in the Hydrology and Hydraulics/Water Control Branch.

As the program coordinator for the district's Flood Plain Management Services Program, he oversees water control forecasts and operations for the Wallisville Lake Project and Addicks and Barker reservoirs and dams.

The Addicks and Barker flood risk management structures are located in southeast Texas in the San Jacinto River basin approximately 17 miles west of downtown Houston. While both reservoirs are normally dry, when a rain event occurs the gates are closed on the dams to reduce flooding below the reservoirs and protect the Houston metropolitan area from flooding.

"These structures have saved taxpayers an estimated \$6.74 billion (2013) in potential flood prevention," said Beddingfield. "I enjoy my career because I feel that the work I do prevents families and communities from experiencing the tragedies associated with flooding."

Assisting with implementing interim risk reduction measures at the dams to reinforce spillways and repair joints in the water-discharge tunnels, he explains that previous work to fill voids beneath the watercontrol outlet structures, construct a granular filter to capture fine embankment and foundation material and install lighting and emergency generators at the outlet structures have all helped to reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding of the downstream areas until a permanent solution can be executed next year.

"I enjoy the problem solving aspect of my work," Beddingfield said. "A customer comes to you with a flooding problem and ask you to fix it. It is really rewarding when you can design something that prevents destruction of personal and public property and possibly save lives."

Beddingfield knows firsthand the significance



Addicks and Barker Dams and Reservoirs are located near the intersection of I-10 and State Highway 6, in an area considered to be in the upper watershed of Buffalo Bayou. They provide flood damage reduction along Buffalo Bayou downstream of the reservoirs and through the center of the City of Houston.

structures such as the reservoirs and dams have in communities, serving as a hydrologic and hydraulic technical expert for the Unit Operations Center Crisis Action Team at USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C., during the 2010 Nashville and the 2011 Missouri River floods.

"Nashville experienced a record flood that caused billions of dollars in damage and casualties," Beddingfield said. "As bad as things seemed to be, I realized that without the projects and work that we do at the Corps, it would have been a lot worse. It really helps put into perspective the importance of what we do on a daily basis and I was able to see how the Corps handles disasters from a national level."

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Beddingfield earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (2005), a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Tennessee State University (2008) and is a licensed professional engineer. In 2014, he was awarded the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Conference Modern Day Technology Award. Previous to moving to Galveston, he was an adjunct professor for the Civil Engineering Department at Tennessee State University, teaching fluid mechanics, environmental engineering and structural testing labs.

In his free time he volunteers to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields within local high schools and colleges and is a huge fan of the Tennessee Titans and Tennessee State Tigers.



A multipurpose reservoir provides many water related uses to include hydropower, recreation, flood control and water supply. The Tulsa District maintains and operates 38 multipurpose reservoirs. (Graphic by Tulsa District public affairs)

Balancing the multiple uses of multipurpose reservoirs

by Tulsa District Public Affairs

The dictionary definition of a reservoir is a natural or man-made place where water is collected and stored.

Wikipedia identifies Multipurpose reservoirs as reservoirs that are designed to provide a water supply source, flood control, environmental management, fish and wildlife, hydroelectric power generation, navigation, recreation, and irrigation.

The Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built and operates 38 multipurpose reservoirs within its geographic boundaries.

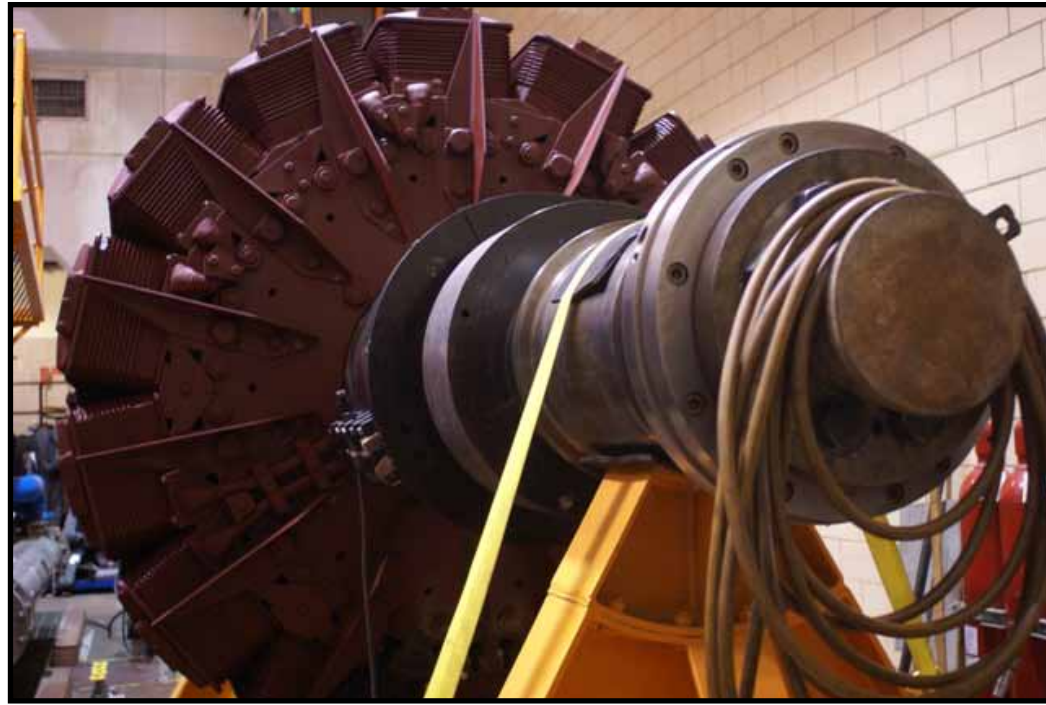
Earl Groves, Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief of Operations explains, "A multipurpose Reservoir means that Congress authorized the construction of each lake with specific purposes, such as Flood Control, Navigation, Hydropower, Recreation and others. We have the responsibility of trying to balance the sometimes competing uses that exist within a multipurpose Reservoir. For instance, generation of hydroelectric power can sometimes compete with other uses such as Water supply and Recreation during times of drought.

During the 50 plus years since these reservoirs were built, they have prevented more than six billion dollars of flood damages that would have otherwise occurred without them. Hydroelectric generation at eight of our lakes returns almost \$130,000,000 to the U.S. Treasury each year.

In addition to hydropower and flood risk reduction, more than twenty million visitors each year enjoy the various water related recreation provided by these reservoirs and contribute to the local economies.

Balancing the competing demands of the multipurpose reservoirs is a constant challenge for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees.

Earl Groves summed it up when he said, "It's like one huge juggling act. The challenge is we don't control Mother Nature. If she decides to rain on us, we're fighting floods. If she decides to hold back the rain, we're fighting a drought. But, that's what our mission is, manage whatever she decides to do"



The generators at Webbers Falls are being rewound to increase the output during generation. (Photo by Brannen Parrish)

Webbers Falls rehabilitation nearly two-thirds complete

by Brannen Parrish, Tulsa District Public Affairs

Workers at the Webbers Falls Powerhouse have completed more than 60 percent of the required upgrades on turbines and generators scheduled for rehabilitation.

The first turbine was completed and accepted in December 2013 and a second is about 90 percent complete. Once the second turbine is replaced, rehabilitation of the last turbine will begin said Byron Floyd, resident engineer, Tulsa District Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition to turbine replacement, the project includes rehabilitation of four cranes, rewinding the coils on three generators and rehabilitating the roller gates, intake bulkheads and tailrace bulkheads.

The improvements will increase power generating capacity and reduce mechanical failures.

“Some of the problems the plant has encountered over the years included cracked turbine shafts, and failed bolts at major connections that would put each unit out of commission as well as significant amounts of cavitation,” said Floyd. “In the early 1980s all of the shafts on the turbines were replaced but this is the first complete rehabilitation since the dam was brought online in the 1970s.”

Webbers Falls produces electricity with three

Kaplan-type, slant-axis turbines. Slant-axis turbines were popular in Europe when the turbines were installed but the European models were significantly smaller, capable of producing 5 megawatts or less of electricity. A single turbine at Webbers Falls can generate four times that output but the efficiencies of the smaller European tilt-axis turbines didn't transfer as well to the larger turbines.

“The fatigue stresses weren't properly analyzed when the system was designed,” said Ken Lehman, a contract engineer at Webbers Falls. “They didn't have the computer modeling or technology we have today, and they couldn't analyze all the stressors. Now, they can get a better understanding of how the stressors will affect the materials.”

An additional challenge not unique to Webbers Falls is cavitation. As the water passes through the turbine blades, the pressure drops below the vapor pressure and bubbles form. When these bubbles implode near or against the component materials, they create powerful shockwaves that act like millions of micro-sized hammers. Over time, these implosions produce pits or cavities in the components that have to be repaired.

“Cavitation is a major concern with any hydro-



An aerial view of Webbers Falls hydropower dam located in Muskogee County, Okla. (file photo)

electric system,” said Lehman. “With hydroelectric dams you can't eliminate cavitation, you can only protect against it.”

According to Floyd, each turbine is allotted three weeks of annual periodic maintenance, most of which is spent repairing cavitation. Utilizing stainless steel for the various components that have historically shown the most vulnerability to cavitation should significantly reduce that maintenance effort.

“Operation's staff spends about two weeks per year per unit on cavitation repair. The intent is to significantly reduce that time,” Floyd said.

Improvements in the insulating material surrounding the copper coils in the generators will permit a higher copper to insulation ratio. Greater copper concentration will increase the electrical output of each generator. The insulation is also more resistant to the heating and cooling of the coils.

The rehabilitation is sponsored by the Southwest Power Administration, an agency of the Department of Energy, and funded by SWPA customers. Upon completion, the project will reduce carbon dioxide

emissions and return revenue to the U.S. Treasury.

“The overall benefit SWPA expects for its customers from the rehab project The 60 megawatts of capacity at Webbers Falls has been fully marketed by Southwestern to its customers, so while the units are offline, Southwestern has had to replace that capacity with electricity generated from other sources, usually generating plants that run on natural gas or coal,” said Beth Nielsen, the Public Utilities Specialist in the Division of Electric Power Marketing at SWPA. “Following the rehabilitation and return to service of all three units, Southwestern will be able to offset nearly 200,000 tons per year of carbon dioxide and provide almost \$6 million a year in revenue to the U.S. Treasury. Of course, it will save our customers money too, because buying Federal hydropower is generally cheaper than buying power on the market.”



The second of three turbines have been installed at Webbers Falls as part of a major rehabilitation effort sponsored by Southwestern Power Administration and funded through customer fees. (Photo by Brannen Parrish)



.Area near Sam Rayburn hydropower plant where buoys were placed April 28 to prevent the oil from seeping into the lake. (Photo by Fort Worth District)

Playbook execution yields clean slate at Sam Rayburn hydropower plant

by Randy Cephus and Rhonda Paige, Fort Worth District Public Affairs

It is not every day that one has to execute disaster plans, but it's sure nice to have one when the need arises. Just ask the Fort Worth District's superintendent of power plants, Tom Webb. His team responded to the insulating transformer oil spill that discharged April 28 in the river channel downstream of the Sam Rayburn Power Plant.

Webb, the son of a former hydropower operator attributes the quick and decisive action by his staff as the key to avoiding a potentially serious incident at Sam Rayburn Lake.

Although the spill was not considered hazardous, the Sam Rayburn team made the containment and clean up its top priority and worked diligently over the next few days to complete the clean up action.

"Once we knew that we had a spill on our hands, we quickly executed our Spill Prevention Control Countermeasure Plan," said Webb. "It was approximately 10:30 a.m. when I was notified and by 11:30 a.m. we had our first boom out."

According to Webb, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, in compliance with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and other agencies, completed the clean-up of the non-

hazardous release on May 13th.

"No oil was introduced into the lake and we have not observed any aquatic or other environmental impacts," said Sam Rayburn lake manager, Bart Dearborn.

"Additionally, due to the quick response there has been no lasting impact to the project's natural resources and the site has been fully remediated," said Dearborn. "Recreation access to the area has been restored."

By all indications, 100 gallons of oil or less was discharged into the channel. The maximum amount of oil that could have leaked was originally estimated at 200 gallons. Once the leak was detected the team acted quickly to contain the remaining transformer oil.

"This equates to about two barrels of oil," said Webb, as he simulated the size of a 50-gallon oil drum with his hands.

"The transformer failure makes the #2 Hydro-Electric Generator unavailable for service, and will require a replacement," said Webb. This reduces the amount of available power generation of the plant to a maximum of 26 Megawatts."

Energy team scurries like bees during Marine Corps Reserve Center audit

by Randy Cephus, Fort Worth District Public Affairs

While the administrative staff at a Marine Corps Reserve training center in Texarkana, Texas went about its normal business on a bright, clear morning in May, civilians in reflective vests could be seen scurrying like bees in and around the training facility during a May 28 energy audit.

The Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers office for Energy Audits and Assessments heads the team charged with auditing and assessing the training facility.

According to Chelsey Click, energy project coordinator, the Marine Corps team consists of members from the Fort Worth and Buffalo District, along with a representative from a private architect and engineering firm. "We have a mechanical, electrical and civil engineer along with an architect," she said.

The D.A. Carson Marine Corps Training Center, named in honor of the Navy Cross winner for his extraordinary heroism and great personal valor during action at Iwo Jima, has an interesting history. It was originally built as a local Texarkana elementary school until 1985 when it was transferred to the Marines.

The campus was quickly altered to suit the needs of the Marines by transforming classrooms to administrative offices, the gymnasium into the company assembly area and the playground into a motor pool, complete with maintenance facility and wash rack.

This arrangement has suited the needs of the Marines for many years but as the military has become more energy conscience, these dated structures must go through yet another transformation to meet current energy standards.

"We are using thermal cameras to monitor the amount of air that is escaping from doors and windows," said Buffalo District civil engineer, Katie Mitchell. "We will input the readings as part of our data collection effort."

Like bees buzzing around from flower to flower collecting nectar, the team spent the day moving from room to room, gathering data. In keeping with



The Fort Worth District Energy Audits and Assessments team conducted a May 28 energy audit at the D.A Carson Marine Corps Reserve Training Center, in Texarkana, Texas. Once the audit is complete, the Corps will provide the Marine Corps Reserve unit an assessment on how they can become more energy efficient. (Photo by Fort Worth District)

the bees as they return to the hive to download the collected nectar, the team would come to the make-shift operation center to download collected data into a computer.

"We also look at the type of lighting to see if they are using current technology as well as look for equipment such as outdated air conditioning units, boilers," said Click.

According to Mitchell, the data will be input to a model based on floor plans and measurements taken of the structure during the building audit. Later, the model will show a schematic of where and how much energy is escaping.

The team will also develop graphs depicting trends such as high and low energy use over the course of an extended period of time. This is similar to what one receives with a statement from a private energy provider at a home residence.

"We want to provide a thorough assessment with viable recommendations so the customer can act on it and achieves real savings, said Click. "Then we will know that we have provided a valuable service."



Fort Worth District chief of Engineering and Construction, Brian Giacomozzi and Fort Hood's Director of Public Works, Brian Dosa look on as Erika Provinsal, the Health Facilities Planning Agency project coordinator, briefs USACE Commander, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, during an April tour of the hospital replacement project site in Fort Hood, Texas. (Photo by Fort Worth District)

Communication and commitment keep Fort Hood projects running smoothly

by Randy Cephus, Fort Worth District, Public Affairs

Providing quality project management, where projects are completed on time, within scope and budget, is a challenge, but it is vital to maintain positive relationships with the customer.

The Fort Worth District's Central Texas Area Office and its customer, the Directorate of Public Works attribute communication and commitment as the foundation for meeting the needs of the Fort Hood community.

"In order to remain a viable organization, we must strengthen and maintain customer relations by addressing their issues and delivering on our commitments," said the Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District commander, Col. Charles H. Klinge, Jr.

The face of the CTAO team is area engineer

Sam Parker. Parker works hand-in-hand with Fort Hood's director of public works, Brian Dosa, during the execution of the many on-going projects at the location touted as the largest military installation in the free world.

The two have worked together since 2010 on projects ranging from barracks, unit administrative buildings, training ranges and dining facilities, to medical and dental clinics, child development centers, and chapels.

Among the more notable projects the Fort Hood teams collaborated on include the new Carl R. Darnall Medical Center, the replacement for the old Prichard Stadium and the renovation of Abrams Gym.

"One of the keys to success is the communi-

cation and exchange of information between the two agencies," said Parker. "We conduct regularly scheduled project updates, conduct project site visits and work through our challenges as a team."

According to Dosa, there are two basic types of projects that are executed through the Corps: military construction and sustainment, restoration, and modernization.

"The Corps has project oversight for the Army when it comes to MILCON projects, but DPW is with them every step of the way because in the end, we will be the owners of the facilities and will have to maintain them," he said.

The SRM program, on the other hand, is managed by the installation. SRM projects are often lower in cost and smaller in scope but are just as important to the customer as the larger, more notable projects.

"With maintenance and renovation projects

"The Health Facilities Planning Agency is another team member that is vital to the success of the hospital replacement project," Dosa said. "The HFGA team is here to help ensure the facilities are built to suit the specific needs of hospital staff and their patients."

But before any of this could happen, they first had to make room for the new medical facility by demolishing one of the installation's most visible icons, Prichard Stadium, a Fort Hood landmark since the 1950s.

With a pledge to the Killeen Independent School District to complete the new stadium in time for the upcoming football season, the Corps and its DPW counterparts had to work swiftly and efficiently to deliver on this commitment.

"Building a medical center is a once in a lifetime project," said Dosa. "We wanted to put it in the best possible location and that just hap-

"In order to remain a viable organization, we must strengthen and maintain customer relations by addressing their issues and delivering on our commitments."

- Col. Charles Klinge

such as aircraft hangar repairs and barracks renovations, the DPW makes the decision on how we will execute those projects," said Dosa. "In some cases we will manage and QA the project using our local contracting office and in-house staff, while in others we will execute the contract using Corps contracting and QA personnel."

In September of 2010, the Fort Worth District awarded a \$534 million design-build contract for the construction of a 947,000 square foot medical center, which includes a six-story hospital tower, three out-patient clinics and three parking garages.

"The medical center project, managed separately from the CTAO office, is approximately 80 percent complete and is expected to be open for patients in the summer of 2015," said Richard Alexander, the Fort Worth District construction manager and area engineer. "We are a dedicated team with our sole focus on the Medical Center."

pened to be the location of the football stadium. This was a win-win situation because we got the best location for the medical center and a new \$14-million stadium delivered in time for the upcoming season."

The "Great Place," as Fort Hood is called, has many modern buildings, exceptional training facilities and world-class medical care. This is in large part due to the partnership between the Corps of Engineers and the DPW where commitments are honored and communication is free flowing.

"We have a great working relationship with the District headquarters in Fort Worth, as well as the area office here on Fort Hood," said Dosa.

Despite occasional differences on the path to take, the Corps and the DPW are always in agreement when it comes to their destination -- providing world-class facilities for the soldiers, family members and retirees of Central Texas.

S
SCIENCE

T
TECHNOLOGY

E
ENGINEERING

M
MATHEMATICS

Take Your Sons & Daughters To Work
Thursday, 24 April 2014
Middle and High School Students

For additional information, contact Elizabeth Whitmore

US Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District

photos by Little Rock District

Recently, the Little Rock District participated in Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day. While at work with their folks, the kids built bridges, played with an alligator, toured Murray Lock and Dam, participated in team building exercises, used professional survey equipment and learned about water safety.



Little Rock District's Chief of Reservoir Control Mike Biggs keeps a make shift science experiment bridge steady while Malachi Keen, son of Civil Engineer Nathaniel Keen, crosses during Bring your Sons and Daughters to Work Day.



Project manager Claude Howard and his son take a photo of ACE. Short for Army Corps of Engineers, ACE the Alligator was a big hit at Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day. Park Ranger Brook Kervin and ACE travel around the district putting on interpretive and informative programs that educate people on the biological lifecycle and danger of alligators.



For Bring your Kids to Work Day, Millwood Lake Park Ranger Brooke Kervin hooked a microscope up to the monitors in the district conference room to show students water samples from Millwood Lake.

Real Estate staff seeks strategies for sustainable infrastructure along the Texas Coast

by Galeston District Public Affairs

When Grandmother Florence Hunt, a 30-year-career budget analyst with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District, was preparing to relocate to Germany to oversee the budget for deploying troops in Desert Storm in 1991, Jody Rowe was wrapping up law school at the University of Iowa. What neither of them knew was that nearly two decades later they would share more than familial ties; Rowe's law degree would enable her to continue the family tradition of supporting military service by opening the door for a career with the Corps.

"Military and civil service are longstanding family traditions that I am very proud of," said Rowe. "Spending seven years as an Air Force spouse and later as a mother of a Marine affords me the opportunity to understand that each military member represents a military family and makes me appreciate how important the support of the family is in allowing military members to serve."

Prior to being hired by the USACE Rock Island District in 2009 as a realty specialist, Rowe was a county prosecutor, public defender and worked in municipal government to manage real estate requirements to build the first new bridge in 50 years to cross the Mississippi between Iowa and Illinois. In addition to government service, she owned and managed a title and escrow company closing \$70 to \$120 million in commer-

cial and residential real estate transactions annually. According to Rowe, managing projects along the Mississippi River, the busiest commercial waterway in the world, helped prepare her to oversee real estate projects along the Texas coast – home to three of the top 10 ports in the nation and an economic driver of the national economy.

In 2012, she was promoted as a branch chief at the USACE Galveston District to oversee the real estate management, disposal and other technical real estate services for the district. More specifically, she was selected for her proven business acumen to seek market-based business solutions to transform the district's real estate services.

Shortly after her arrival she focused on advancing district-wide programmatic efficiency and accountability to include implementing "cost-share and outgrant product delivery teams."

According to Rowe, the interdisciplinary teams strive to improve applicant services while reducing administrative expenses and notes that the important work includes methods for closing out cost-share projects with well over \$100 million in non-federal sponsor credits requiring real estate audits and establishing outgrant processes to handle the district's outgrant portfolio comprising over 1,000 outgrants with more being added daily. (An outgrant is a written, legal document that authorizes the right to

use real property managed by the Corps and establishes the timeframe, consideration, conditions and restrictions of its use).

Most recently Rowe negotiated a long-term license with a private developer to build an \$80 million petroleum transfer facility and pipeline on a property near Port Arthur, Texas, that is subject to federal easements and included provisions that will allow the pipeline to run under a federal placement area (a federally-authorized disposal site for dredged material). Her efforts not only support the Corps' goal of modernizing its management practices to remain a relevant provider of solutions for the nation's water challenges, they demonstrate that the district can protect the needs of federal projects while providing for maritime industrial development along the Texas Coast.

Looking ahead, Rowe is developing a programming model that will identify the resources, funding and scheduling requirements for each of the 25 real estate services to include charging to place dredged material in federal navigation placement areas as well as require applicants to obtain real estate authorization and submit sediment test results to the district for review and approval.

"The Corps has critical responsibilities to plan, construct, operate and maintain a significant portion of America's water resources infrastructure



Addicks and Barker Dams and Reservoirs are located near the intersection of I-10 and State Highway 6, in an area considered to be in the upper watershed of Buffalo Bayou. They provide flood damage reduction along Buffalo Bayou downstream of the reservoirs and through the center of the City of Houston. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continually inspects all of its dams nationwide under its Dam Safety Program, a program that shows our commitment to protecting lives, property and the environment by ensuring that all dams are designed, constructed, operated and maintained as safely and effectively as is possible. The USACE Dam Safety Program provides a framework to ensure that both short and long-term solutions are studied and applied, and helps to ensure public safety for our local communities. (Photos by Galveston District)

to enable the transportation of goods and commodities as well as restore significant aquatic ecosystems," said Rowe. "These efforts will improve the way the district conducts business along

the Texas coast and ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations."

Additionally, applicants who desire to use Corps-owned property must reimburse admin-

istrative costs associated with the processing of requests in advance, which include but are not limited to payment for work products such as environmental, cultural and historical assessments, contract preparation, determinations of value and preparation of land surveys, maps and legal descriptions.

"This modernization will improve our policies and procedures that govern federal water resources development and support strategies for managing the district's resources," said Rowe. "We recognize it will require time to process applications and are committed to being responsive to our customers."

Rowe's continued commitment to provide first-rate customer service led her to align work processes to maximize efficiency and earned her a 2013 Army Achievement Award. Her perseverance and dedication to the Corps is reminiscent of her grandmother's pursuit of excellence and continues the cycle of setting an example for her family to follow.

A native of Iowa, she earned an associate's degree in Nursing, bachelor's degree in Political Science from Northern Michigan University, a master's degree in Political Science and Juris Doctor of Law from the University of Iowa and an Economic Development Specialist certification from the National Development Council. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband Robert, five children and two grandchildren.

Fort Worth adds another Wheeler award to its medal cache

by Jim Frisinger Fort Worth District public affairs

Last month the Society of American Military Engineers awarded Dr. Rumanda Young, Fort Worth District, the Wheeler Medal. Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, deputy chief of engineers, made the presentation. Young is the third winner from Fort Worth since the Wheeler was first awarded in 1955.

She is just the second woman to ever win this national honor.

The first was Peggy Grubbs, now deputy district engineer, also from the Fort Worth District. (Brian Giacomozzi, chief of the district's Engineering and Construction Division, won the 2008 Wheeler.)

Coincidence? Or is there something special about Fort Worth?

Young, Master Planning Section chief of the district's Regional Planning and Environmental Center, won her Wheeler for using a collaborative, enterprise approach across U.S. Army Corps of Engineer divisions to develop new planning and other sustainability and assessment projects that support the Army, Air Force and Marines.

Dual-hatted as the regional energy program



Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, right, with Dr. Rumanda Young, Master Planning Section chief of the Fort Worth District's Regional Planning and Environmental Center, won the Society of American Military Engineers' Wheeler Medal. The medal, given out at the SAME awards luncheon May 21, recognizes outstanding contributions by U.S. Army personnel to military engineering in design, construction, administration, research or development. (Photo courtesy of SAME)

manager, she landed a \$1.22 million Department of Defense grant to develop a new analytic tool to help cut energy consumption at military installations worldwide with pilot programs set for Fort Hood and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Such work supports the Corps' goal of helping the Army and the Nation achieve energy security and sustainability goals – reducing energy dependence, increasing energy efficiency and adopting renewable and alternative energy sources.

"Rumanda Young's Wheeler Medal, following in the footsteps of Peggy Grubbs and Brian Giacomozzi, is a testament to the legacy of innovation that is a hallmark of what we do here in Fort Worth," said Col. Charles Klinge, district commander.

Giacomozzi earned the Wheeler for strategic execution of construction programs in support of Department of the Army Transformation and the Department of Homeland Security Secure Border Initiative. He contributed to the successful construction of \$1 billion border protection measures along the U.S.-Mexico border. Giacomozzi was cited for innovative



Group photo of Dr. Rumanda Young with other Society of American Military Engineers award winners during the SAME awards luncheon. (Photo courtesy of SAME)

use of product-line delivery for large scale military installations that utilized resources across USACE that resulted in construction placement of \$3 million a day.

Grubbs' earned her Wheeler 18 years ago for leading a team that applied emerging technology to make contracting more efficient. The pilot was a \$20 million dorm project at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Up to that time, mounds of paper specifications and drawings had to be printed and shipped to potential bidders competing for contracts. The team devised a new process to put the drawings and specs on CDs and online to streamline distribution. Her team, which included Denver Heath, Jim McKenzie and John Dagley, also had representatives from the Air Force, the Omaha District and the Engineering Research Development Center. The Navy was also an interested partner.

Developing the new process required educating large and small contractors alike about how to use digital technology, she said. Even some team members weren't sure the switch was a good idea.

"But we had people who were willing to try and

were not afraid of failure," said Grubbs.

The concept proved itself, and the Fort Worth District was asked to share it across the Corps of Engineers. Delivery of contracting materials today is based on that innovation.

Grubbs said some of what makes the Fort Worth District excel is due to the variety of programs that exist here, and that helps promote idea sharing. Engineering innovation and a drive for doing things efficiently are inbred.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the attitude. We try to find a need and fill it," she said.

The Wheeler Medal recognizes outstanding contributions by U.S. Army personnel to military engineering in design, construction, administration, research or development. It is named for Lt. Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, U.S. Army, deputy supreme allied commander of the South East Asia Command in World War II. He became chief of engineers in 1945.



Galveston District: *Louis Esqueda*

by Galveston District Public Affairs

Q. What project(s)/tasks are you currently working on?

A: Jetty Project at South Padre Island, Ship Channel Dredging and Safety Handrails at Port Isabel Detention Center and preparing for Falfurrias Border Patrol Check Point Station.

Q. Discuss your role at the Corps.

A. As a Construction Control Representative my role is to review plans and specifications on assigned construction projects for the RGV office. In addition, work methods and safety activities are monitored for contract compliance.

Q. What do you enjoy most about working on your particular project(s)/tasks?

A. The most enjoyable part of work is the flexibility of being able to work on projects on land as well as the water. I have recently started working on my first dredging and a jetty project, which I have found to be very interesting. I feel very fortunate to be given the opportunity expand my construction knowledge by being assigned to the dredging and jetty projects.

Q. What do you like about your current job?

A: I feel the part I like about my job is the time I spent out in the field monitoring various projects. This has given me the opportunity to monitor and report on construction projects during various phases during the construction process. With the ability to work with various contractors and learn the work of several different

trades, this has helped me provide assistance in many areas of construction.

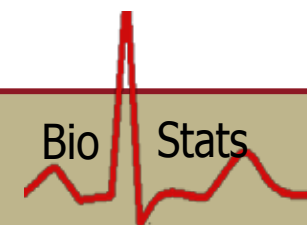
Q. What's the most interesting thing you've encountered or who's the most interesting person you've worked with during your tenure at the Corps?

A. The most interesting things I have encountered during my time with USACE would have happened during the three years I spent in Afghanistan with AED South. I went as a Construction Control Representative, after a short while I was promoted and took the role as a Project Engineer. I was



Louis Esqueda

held responsible for the construction of several Afghan Police Stations, Border Patrol Stations, Army Bases and an Educational Facility at the University of Herat. During this time I made countless trips to several of the surrounding Provinces in the western part of the country and frequented the downtown university. With the travels I had during my time in Afghanistan I had the opportunity to see alternative ways of construction and meet people from a different culture. I was also able to meet and work with Corps employees from several other districts.



Current Position: Construction Control Representative

How long have you held this position?: 4.5 years

Number of Years with the Galveston District: 4.5 years

Past Position(s)/Title(s): US ARMY: Tank Gunner 7 years, Assistant Construction Manager (Intern)University of Texas at San Antonio, Home Builder with Rialto Homes 4 years and currently Construction Control Representative, Port Isabel Texas.

Tulsa District: Bryan Taylor

by Tulsa District Public Affairs

Q. You started out as a Park Ranger with the Corps in 2002. What piqued your interest?

A. I was at a career fair, after I completed my master's degree, and I ran into Nancy Crenshaw and Earl Groves, Chief of Operations and asked them about what the Corps of Engineers was all about. I and gave them my resume and Earl called me and told me about a position as a park ranger and I said, let me think about it. So, I looked at the organization, and I looked at the structure and I saw Regulatory, and I said, "That's where I wanted to be." So, I told him my goal would be to hopefully work for Regulatory one day.

Q. Where were you assigned as a park ranger?

A. I was assigned to Keystone Lake. It was totally opposite of anything I was used to. I'm an urban, concrete guy but I was pleasantly surprised.

Q. In what way were you pleasantly surprised?

A. It was one of the best jobs I've had. It turned out to be one of the best experiences that I've had because of the nature of the work. The resource management and the interactions you have with people were probably the highlights of the job.

Q. You said you wanted to work in Regulatory even before you came to work for the Corps. Why Regulatory?

I was from a biology and environmental background, and I felt the regulatory position would really highlight my technical expertise, which is in biological sciences

and environmental sciences. There was also the policy aspect. I was really interested in environmental policy. It seemed like that would really fit my background.

Q. In your current position, what is your favorite aspect of the job?

A. The pace. There's never a dull moment. There's always an opportunity to solve an issue or accomplish something. It's like a moving train. From a career standpoint there is an extraordinary



Bryan Taylor

inner workings of the Corps from the district to division to headquarters level, and to see the connections that exist between a lot of the policies and processes and how things get accomplished within the organization. So, from a career standpoint, that's probably the most valuable aspect but in terms of my personal satisfaction, the pace. It just keeps me going.

Q. Was there any particular individual who inspired you to continue on in your education?

A. My inspiration was my mother. She was a single mom raising nine kids. I'm the fourth of nine. She never took "no" for an answer. She had this drive and I think she passed it on to me, and she always had extremely high expectations of me, and that still carries me now. I teach my daughters this, "You can't take 'no' for an answer. You have to always look for a work around no matter how difficult the situation."

Bio Stats

Current Title/Position: Civil Works Project Manager for the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers

How long in current position? 4 years

Number of years with the Corps? 12 years

Number of years with the Tulsa District? 12 years

High School: Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Okla.

Education: B.S. in Biology, M.S. in BioResearch, PhD in Environmental Science

nary amount of exposure to the organizational structures and the

Little Rock District: Bill Gray

by Little Rock District Public Affairs

Q. What would you say you do here Bill?

A. I work in the Operations Division where I go out to the projects and do annual inspections and provide technical assistance. It's our job to assess the status of our infrastructure and plan maintenance that will keep it resilient and reliable.

Q. What's the most rewarding project you've ever worked on?

A. I get to work on a lot of neat projects here in Little Rock like dewatering locks, making repairs, inspecting underwater parts, and helping fix things that are broken or about to break. I have been a part of things like lock dewatering, inspecting and repairing the stilling basins at DeQueen and Nimrod dams. I also have had the opportunity to be in most parts of all the dams in Little Rock District from the conduits at the very bottom of the dams to the gates on top. The most rewarding project was working on the Hurricane Blue Roof Teams where we got to help people whose homes and lives were affected by the disaster.

Q. Are you working on anything now that will have major impacts on the Arkansas River's future?

A. We are planning a dewatering at Montgomery Point Lock next year. We will replace the gudgeon pins on the river wall miter gates. We had to do an emergency dewatering in 2012 to replace the landwall gudgeon pins because the upstream one seized. This is going to be a big job that will inevitably increase the navigation systems reliability.



Bill Gray

Q. The folks in your office put you in for a Peer Recognition award. How does it feel to be recognized by your peers as a valuable team member?

A. GREAT! It's uplifting to be recognized for good things. It feels good to know the folks I work with value my contributions as much as I value theirs.

Q. Is there anything else about you that you'd like the rest of your Corps family to know?

A. The Corps is a great place to work and I'm very thankful that I get to be here with all these great people. Our work provides true value to the nation. When your work has meaning and value it makes it real easy to get out of bed and come to work.

Bio Stats

Position: Mechanical Engineer

Years with SWL: 24 years, 7 months

Years of federal service: 28 years, 5 months

Hometown: Graduated High School from Paron, Ark.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville

Fort Worth District: Dr. Rumanda Young

by Denisha Braxton, Fort Worth District

Q. When did you start your career with the Fort Worth District and what is your role?

A. I started with USACE in 2005 during BRAC. Specially, I was hired to help with planning the future realignment of Fort Sam Houston (Joint Base San Antonio). Currently, I am the Chief of the Master Planning Section under the Regional Planning and Environmental Center and the SWD Energy Development Manager. My current role includes exploring new partnership opportunities, technical development, programing, and project management consulting necessary for ensuring successful Real Property Master Planning initiatives and energy and water conservation and renewable energy projects.

grant will seek to demonstrate that by combining the NZI tool with CAMPS and up-to-date master planning practices, the level of effort to do energy planning can be significantly reduced.

Q. You recently received the Wheeler Medal at this year's Society of American Military Engineers meeting in Orlando, Florida, which recognizes outstanding contributions by U.S. Army personnel to military engineering in design construction, administration,



Dr. Rumanda Young

Q. Are there any key energy sustainment initiatives that you're working on?

A. All of the energy and planning work we do is intended to assist with the interpretation and application of federal sustainability laws and DoD policies and provide guidance concerning how federal customers are implementing planning and projects based on these laws. The Fort Worth District's Planning Support Center within the Regional Planning and Environmental Center teamed with CERL, Fort Hood, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for an Environmental Security Technology Certification Program grant. This \$1.22 million

Bio Stats

Position: Chief, Master Planning Section – RPEC, SWD Energy Development Manager

Years with Fort Worth: 9 years

Hometown: Anadarko, Okla.

Education Background: Bachelors in Landscape Architecture, Minor in Music, Masters in Regional Planning, Ph.D. Urban Planning and Public Policy.

Hobbies: yoga (currently working on teacher certification), running, playing princess with my girls, playing piano, teaching at SMU, writing continuing education courses, and traveling

research or development. What did you receive the award for? How did you feel when you were recognized?

A. The Wheeler medal was given in recognition of my efforts with bridging the gap between energy/water sustainability and planning. It was also given because the FWD Planning Support Center is working directly with HQ USACE to implement a new enterprise approach to program execution.

The most meaningful part of this award is that I am the second female, after Peggy Grubbs, to receive this honor. I am humbled to be added to the list of past recipients, but also being the mother of three daughters I feel the recognition is a positive example for my girls.

Galveston District welcomes new deputy commander

by Galveston District public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District welcomed its new deputy commander Lt. Col. Jared B. Erickson, P.E.. Outgoing deputy, Lt. Col. Marty Maldonado was selected to assume a joint assignment with NATO in Germany.

“We’re fortunate to have Lt. Col. Erickson onboard and I am confident that he will quickly become an invaluable member of the district,” said Col. Richard Pannell, USACE Galveston District commander. “His leadership experience along with his solid background in engineering makes him an ideal addition to our team.”

A native of Thief River Falls, Minn., Erickson graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1994 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Following his commission, he was assigned to Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Erickson’s past military assignments include serving as a battalion S3 and executive officer with 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) at Fort Polk, La.; and in Iraq, the chief of operations with 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade in Afghanistan; an instructor and assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.; a battalion maintenance officer and company commander with 92d Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) at Fort Stewart, Ga.; and as an assistant battalion S3, surveying platoon leader and company executive officer with 29th Engineer Battalion (topographic) at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Additional assignments include coordinating with USACE Headquarters for Individual Academic Development summer assignments for West Point cadets pursuing degrees in civil or mechanical engineering and considering the USACE as their branch assignment as well as working at the Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss., to conduct a study on concrete-based structural hardening systems. He also



Lt. Col. Jared B. Erickson, Galveston District’s new deputy commander. (USACE photo)

served as an assistant deputy district engineer with the USACE Omaha District.

Prior to accepting this position with the USACE Galveston District, he served with U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, as a team leader in the Current Operations Integration Center and also as chief engineer, chief of operations, G3, and deputy chief of staff of the Contingency Command Post and Task Force 51.

In 1999, he earned a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (structural emphasis) from Purdue University in 2004. Erickson is also a licensed professional engineer in the State of Missouri. His military education includes Engineer Officer Basic Course; Mapping, Charting and Geodesy Officer Course; Engineer Captains Career Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and the Air Assault Badge.

SWD's Army Values Program honors seven

by Martie Cenkei, SWD Public Affairs

Army Core Values

Loyalty Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, and our team mates

Duty Fulfill your obligations. Accept responsibility for your own actions and those entrusted to your care. Find opportunities to improve oneself for the good of the group.

Respect Rely upon the golden rule. How we consider others reflects upon each of us, both personally and as a professional organization.

Selfless Service Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.

Honor Live up to all the Army values

Integrity Do what is right, legally and morally. Be willing to do what is right even when no one is looking. It is our "moral compass" an inner voice.

Personal Courage Our ability to face fear, danger, or adversity, both physical and moral courage.

The core values of an organization are those that form the very fabric of an organization, the guiding principles that people use for both job performance and conduct. In the U.S. Army, these are called the Army Values, and they form the acronym LDRSHIP: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Army Values are American values, and soldiers must live these values more intensely and professionally than most others must in civilian life because soldiers serve to protect the Nation and the values upon which it was founded. So they learn these values in detail during their basic combat training and live these values everyday in everything they do.

Army civilians are also trained in the Army values, and judged against that standard in the work they do every day and in annual performance appraisals. Though the requirements placed on Army civilians are far from the requirements upon our soldiers, they too are an integral part of the U.S. Army and, in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the majority of the workforce.

Each year at its Engineer Day observance, the Southwestern Division Office in Dallas recognizes seven of its employees who best represent each of the Army Values. This year, SWD is proud to recognize the following employees:



Loyalty: Laurie Arvey, Procurement Analyst, Office of the chief of Regional Contracting



Duty: Kandy Frye, Program Analyst, Military Integration Division



Respect: Adam Crisp, Program Manager, Military Integration Division



Selfless Service: Elliott Carman, Regulatory Appeals Officer, Operations and Regulatory Division



Honor: Margaret Johanning, Senior Planner, Planning and Policy Division



Integrity: Karen Renee Robinson, Finance and Accounting Officer, Regional Resources Division



Personal Courage: Larry Leahy, Program Manager, Military Integration Division

PACESETTER POINTS

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Little Rock District employees on their achievements! **Phil Copeland** received a temporary promotion to Director of the Critical Infrastructure Cyber Security Center of Expertise, **Randy Devenport** for being selected to fill the vacant operations manager position on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System for the next 120 days. **Martin Regner** for being selected as the new Little Rock District Cost Engineer/Team Leader. **Marcus Mitchell** on his acceptance into the fiscal year 2014 Level 1 Acquisition Leadership Challenge Program. **Jeffery Blanford** for his selection as the Senior Electrician Leader at the Ozark Power Plant. **Elizabeth Anderson** on her selection as natural resource specialist at Mountain Home Project Office. **Ryan King** on his selection as natural resources specialist at the Toad Suck field office. **Misty Mayo** on her selection as the budget analyst for the Millwood Tri-Lakes Project Office.

Congratulations to the following Tulsa District employees: **David Sconyers**, P.E., selected as Chief of Civil Design within the Engineering Branch. The winners for the 2014 Federal Women's History Program were: **Mary B. Duke** for Administrative Support Employee of the Year and **Amanda Palmer** for Woman of the Year.

Congratulations to the following Galveston District employees for their accomplishments: **Simon DeSoto** was recognized with the "Award of Merit" from the National Water Safety Congress. **Jason Shreve** earned a master's degree in Safety Engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. **Dr. Edmond J. Russo Jr.**, was named a Diplomat, Water Resources Engineer of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers, a subsidiary of the American Society of Civil Engineers. "**Speedy**" **Tom Brauer** finished the Boston Marathon with an amazing time of 2:49:08. Congratulations **Brandon Smolinsky** and **Nancy Young** for earning their professional engineer licenses! **Valerie L. Miller** was selected as the next chief, Programs Management Branch, Programs and Project Management Division.

Congratulations to the Fort Worth District Engineer Day Annual Awardees: **Eric Verwers**, EEO Supervisor of the Year, **Ninfa E. Taggart**, Employee of the Year, **William S. Roberts**, Project Manager of the Year, **Robert Wooley**, Program Manager of the Year, **Robert Lopez**, Engineer of the Year, **Steve Atkinson**, Installation Support Professional of the Year, **Bill Bird**, Hard Hat of the Year, **Kevin C. Franks**, Hard Hat of the Year, **Ed Citzler**, Architect of

the Year, **Chandler Peter**, Regulator of the Year, Hords Creek Project, Natural Resource Management Project of the Year, **Brandon Mobley** Environmental Stewardship Employee of the Year, **Jennifer Sleezer**, Recreation Employee of the Year and **Robert Adams**, Natural Resource Management Environmental Compliance Employee of the Year.

Arrivals

Welcome to Tulsa District **Brannen Parrish** who joined the Tulsa District Public Affairs Office as a PA Specialist.

Welcome to the Galveston District: **Aron Edwards**, **Dawn Harrison**, **Yaiko Neill**, **Adrian Ramos (redeployed)**, **Lt. Col. Jared Erickson**, **Tiffany Mims**, **David Minero**, **Robert Thompson**

Welcome to SWD to the following employees! **Capt. Edwin Jimenez**, **Rubin Campos**, **Renee Hodges**, **Rustom Contractor**, **Timothy Foster**, **Carlos Duarte**, **John Poll**, **Maggie Rivera**, **Henry Gan**, **Paul Limvorratre**, **Sgt. 1st Class James Williams**

Departures

Best wishes to the following retired Galveston District employees: **Bill Ferenveich**, **Lawrence Redd (retired)**, **Curtis Walker (deployed)**, **Lt. Col. Marty Maldonado**, **Travers Powel**, **Martin Regner**, **Randolph Batiste**, **Dolan Dunn**

Farewell and good luck to the following SWD employees in their retirement: **Timothy Foster**, **Marla Anderson**, **Goodbye to SWD employees**, **James (Hunter) Lynch**, **Capt. David Freeman** and **Kristi Thornton**.

Good luck to the following Tulsa District retirees: **Stanley Spirlock**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, retired May 30 after 40 years of service. **Pam McCarn**, E&C Division, after 33 years of service.

Tulsa bid farewell to Deputy Commander **Lt. Col. Don Nestor** as he left for a command at Fort Hood, Texas.

Hill to take command of Corps' Southwestern Division, confirmed for brigadier general

by Martie Cenkci, SWD Public Affairs

Col. David C. Hill, who is slated to take command of the Southwestern Division, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Dallas in July, has been confirmed for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General by the United States Senate. Hill will take over leadership of the Southwestern Division in a ceremony here on July 24. The actual promotion date is yet to be determined but is normally several months after Senate confirmation.

Hill is currently serving as the director of the Office of the Chief of Engineers in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

"I am looking forward to leading the Southwestern Division team and working with our great partners throughout this region," Hill said. "We have many issues of critical importance to resolve, from water supply and drought to infrastructure, transportation, flood risk management, and disaster response support, to name just a few. We work these issues as a Corps of Engineers/stakeholder team, and I look forward to helping find the right solutions to satisfy our common goals of support to our communities and our warfighters."

Hill received his commission from the United States Military Academy in 1990, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from the University of Missouri-Rolla and a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.

Hill began his Army career as Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, 37th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, N.C., and Aide de Camp for the Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, Pope AFB, N.C. He then served as the Engineer Staff Officer and then Company Commander with the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade and the 16th Engineer Battalion in Bad Kreuznach and Giessen, Germany from 1996-1999. Other assignments include Combat Engineer Observer/Controller, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., from 1999-2001, and Battalion S3 and Executive Officer, 299th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas from 2002-2004.

He continued to serve at Fort Hood from 2004 to 2009, first as Chief of Training and Chief of Operations, 4th Infantry Division, and then as Commander,



Col. David C. Hill, who is slated to take command of the Southwestern Division, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in Dallas in July, has been confirmed for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General by the United States Senate. (USACE photo)

Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division. Hill then served as the Maneuver Support Human Resource Manager, U.S. Army Colonels Management Office, Rosslyn, Va., from 2009-2010 before returning to Fort Hood as Commander, 36th Engineer Brigade (2011-2013). His operational assignments include Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hill's awards and decorations include two Legion of Merit Medals, three Bronze Star Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.