



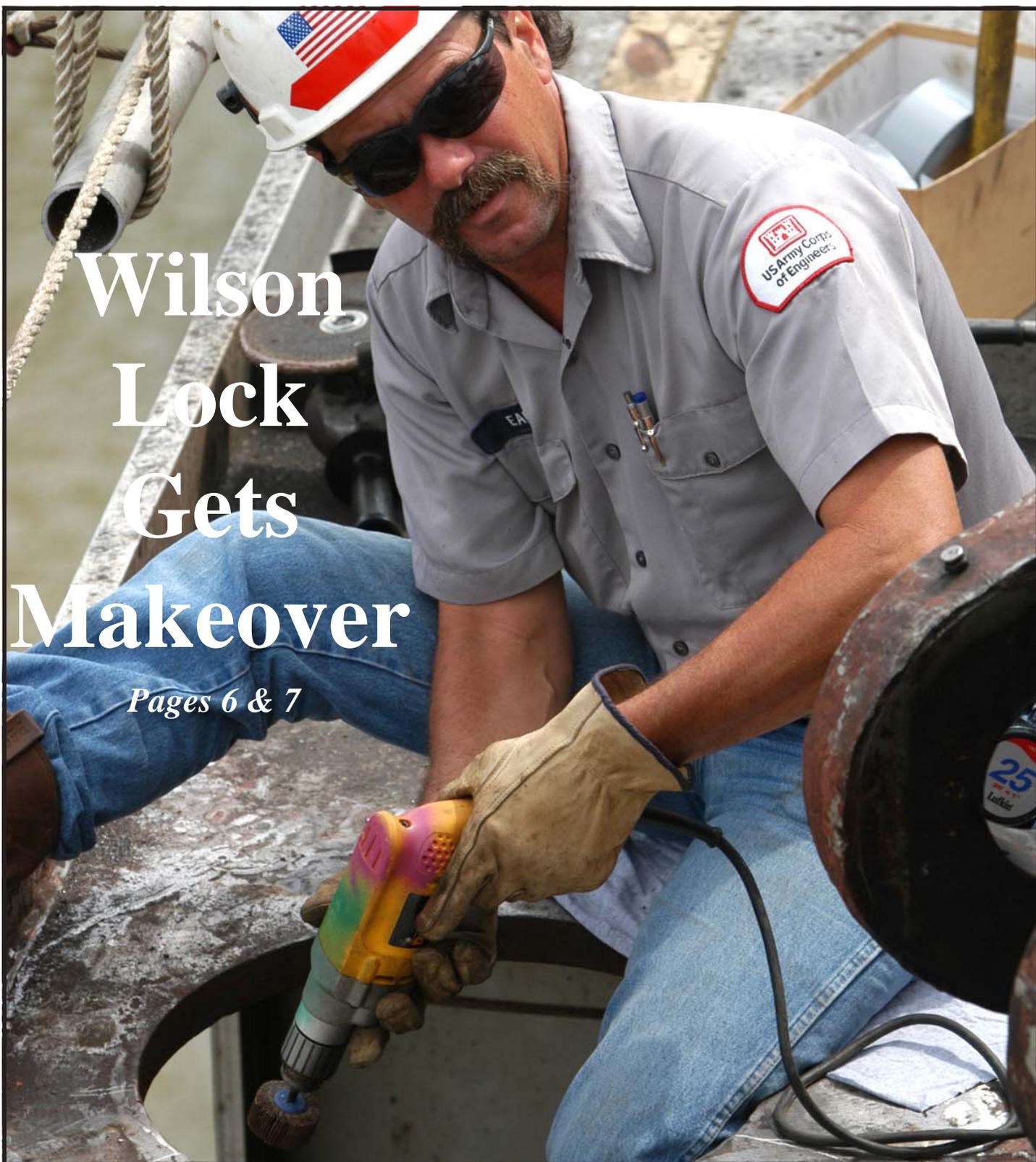
US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

Volume 103, Number 6

*Respected-Responsible-Reliable*

June 2003



## Wilson Lock Gets Makeover

*Pages 6 & 7*

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## Tennessee Professional Privilege Tax Exemption

The link below takes you to where you get the IRS form to claim tax exemption from the Tennessee Professional Privilege Tax.

Although this site is maintained by the Tennessee Bar Association, open the WORD document under Federal Employees, and it will explain the exempt professions including engineers. Appar-

ently, you must file the exemption form to not have to pay the tax.

Please pass this on to others whom you feel this may benefit.

For a copy of the privilege tax form, visit the web page below:

<http://www.tba.org/news/exempt.html> 



Photo by Dave Treadway

## On the Cover

Mechanic Wade Earl, Cumberland River Operations Center, uses a drill to smooth the lower gate strut pin and prepare it for installation of the keeper plate and bushing May 9 at Wilson Lock near Florence, Ala. The Maintenance and Repair Section completed all planned work at the Lock despite record rainfall in the Tennessee River valley which caused them to relood the Lock earlier than anticipated and while TVA was flowing more than 350,000 cubic feet per second through the dam. For the full story, see pages 6 and 7.

## DistrictDigest

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

Lieutenant Colonel Steve Gay

# The Bottom Line

Hello to everyone in the Nashville District!

The month of May was certainly a challenging time for those of you in the field serving on our locks, as well as our Engineering and Construction Division, Operations Division, and many others in the District office. Record or near record rains across the entire District caused much additional and sometimes critical work to be accomplished on many of our projects up and down the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. I am happy to report that through your efforts in the field, damage to our projects was averted, saving many thousands of precious Operations and Maintenance dollars. Thanks for a job well done!

Summer and vacation season is finally upon us and I, for one, am extremely grateful. I encourage each of you to take some time off away from work to travel or just stay at home and enjoy your families. We all need some time off occasionally to recharge our batteries. I hope you make the time to do so for yourself.

## Communication

Summer also means our annual District and project picnics are just around the corner. I hope all of you (and especially our many retirees) and your families can attend your picnic this summer. I've been to most of our annual picnics the last couple of years and can guarantee you'll have fun if you attend. Thanks in advance to all those who work so hard at putting on these great events!

This summer also marks the completion of many of our high profile construction projects to include: the Black Fox environmental project in Murfreesboro, Metro Center levee flood protection project in Metro Nashville, Drakes Creek ecosystem restoration project in Hendersonville, Lower Cumberland ecosystem restoration project in Kentucky, Blannahassett Island stream bank protection in North Carolina, and the Ely and Puckett Creeks ecosystem restoration projects in Virginia. The countless members of each of these project management teams should be justifiably proud of their work. Through

the efforts of each of these teams, we will positively affect the lives of thousands, even millions, of people for generations to come. Thanks and great job!

For those of you who may not have heard, I must report the departure of two of the District's finest. Roger Brown, our chief of Resource Management, recently accepted a position with the Rock Island District and reports to work in June. Herb Sharbel, our chief of Internal Review, has retired after nearly 30 years of government service. Roger and Herb were great technicians and leaders but, more importantly, were great "team players" and friends. Roger and Herb are most deserving of this new job and retirement, and I am extremely happy for them but hate to see them go and will miss them both.

Finally, I want to point out that June is National Safety Month. Today safety is a way of life, not just on the job, but also at home, in public places, and on the road. People are taking personal responsibility



for their own safety, and making plans to keep their families, communities, and workplaces safe. The National Safety Council promotes this effort with four words which I think are good.

**Knowledge:** Know the issues, the risks and the responses. **Action:** Make plans. Be prepared to handle any emergency.

**Dedication:** Be a role model. Make safety a priority. **Community:** Engage your co-workers, family and neighbors. Remember, Safety - Our Future Depends On It.

I look forward to seeing you in your offices or on your projects. Thanks for all that you do for the District, the Army, and nation. Have a great summer! 🇺🇸

## May Employee of the Month

Judy Potaczek, the Training Program Specialist in the Resource Management Office, was named Nashville District Employee of the Month for May.

Potaczek routinely performs her role in an outstanding manner, but her efforts during May deserve special recognition. She coordinated complex tasks to accomplish the District's implementation and successful use of the Automated Training Management Program (ATMP), and she achieved a smooth transition from the FY 03 training plan to the development of the new FY 04 training plan now in use.

She supported the team implementing the extensive Project Management Business Process (PMBP) training effort and scheduled small group session facilitators and participants. In addition to her usual responsibility for organizing the latest session of the quarterly Supervisory Training Session in Somerset, Ky., which includes coordinating instructors and course materials, she served as the moderator, a task normally performed by

the Resource Management Chief.

The resourceful Potaczek is a member of the newly-formed Division Training Committee and represented Nashville at the committee's initial meeting, helping identify common training opportunities and achieving efficiencies in division-wide training. She conducted Management Analysis Branch functions with professionalism and a high level of competence during a difficult period when the Management Analyst position was vacant. And she accomplished all of this while performing her own heavy workload of capably providing superior service to all Branch customers. 🇺🇸

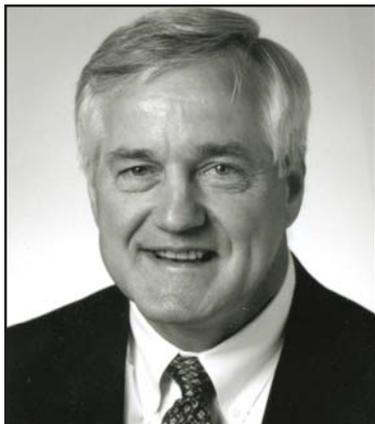


Judy Potaczek

# Retirees Honored as Distinguished Employees

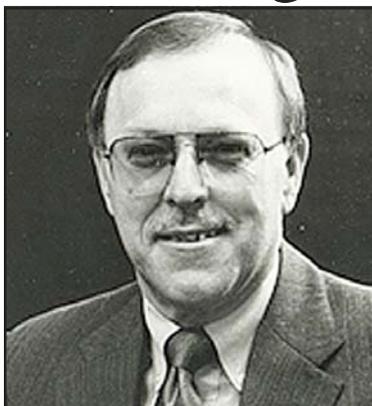
by Tiffany Hedrick

Four former District employees have been recognized as Distinguished Civilian Employees and their names will be added to a Nashville District plaque designed to honor their exceptional service.



Daniel F. Hall served the Corps for more than 38 years as both a military officer in Europe and a civilian with the Vicksburg and Nashville Districts. A premier leader in the construction arena, he held many positions in the Nashville District, including area engineer; chief of the Construction Division; and chief of the Operations, Construction, and Readiness Division. The Operations, Construction, and Readiness Division realized unrivaled success while under his guidance because of his innovative and far-sighted business processes. Hall's efforts also helped the Nashville District maintain a leadership position in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. His leadership, honesty, candor, and professionalism were essential in preparing the Division for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

During his 30-year career, Ronald G. Rains served the Nashville District in a variety of leadership positions. He acted as chief of the Natural Resources Management Branch, chief of the Waterways Management Branch, and assistant chief of the Waterways-Operations Division. Among his accomplishments was the development and implementation of a formal career-training program for park rangers, which served as a model for Corps natural



resources professionals nationwide. He also pioneered the development of Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) to protect the natural beauty of public lakes from private development; HQUSACE later adopted Nashville's environmental stewardship policy and required SMPs for all Corps lakes. The Nashville District was able to become and remain a leader in recreation and natural resources management thanks to the work of Rains.



Janet M. Caffey distinguished herself during a 28-year career that began in 1973 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Caffey led the District in a hydropower cost analysis study process that garnered favorable recognition Corps-wide and also from agencies outside the federal government. She was the catalyst that kept the study on track and on schedule.

Her ability to see the "big picture" was also evidenced in her role in the complex comprehensive management study of a park fee collection process for which she received an award from the Secretary of

Treasury and the General Accounting Office for two innovative fee collection methods, previously unauthorized for use by the Corps of Engineers. As a result of her work, contractors now deposit funds directly with the Federal Reserve, and gate attendants at recreation areas are authorized to use credit cards for collection of government fees. She allowed Nashville District to become the first component in the Army to collect revenues by credit card.



Jerry O. Rainer distinguished himself during a 35-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the last 25 of which were with the Nashville District. His accomplishments in the construction and project management arena were many and included contributions to such noteworthy projects as the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway project until its substantial completion, Pickwick Lock Major Rehab, and the Levisa and Tug Forks of the Big Sandy and the Upper Cumberland Rivers flood control projects.

As Deputy for Project Management, he oversaw implementation of many project management initiatives in the District. He was instrumental in studies that led to the authorization, design, and construction of Kentucky Lock and other significant projects. Rainer was recognized as one of the leading deputies for Project Management in the Corps of Engineers.

Each recipient will be honored at the 2003 Engineer Day Picnic at Old Hickory's Rockland Recreation Area on June 13. 🏆

# Lt. Col. Jorns New District Engineer

**L**t. Col. Byron G. Jorns will take command of the Nashville District at 10 a.m. July 11 in a ceremony at the Bell South Auditorium.

Lt. Col. Steve Gay will retire in an 8:30 a.m. ceremony at the Estes Kefauver Federal Building on the same day. He and his family plan to make their home in the Clarksville area. All District employees and retirees are invited to attend both ceremonies. Attendees at the retirement ceremony should be seated by 8:15.

Jorns is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and was commissioned as an armor officer in May 1983.

Upon completion of the Armor Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to the 4th Battalion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Armored Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo., where he served as a tank platoon leader, battalion support platoon leader, and assistant brigade logistics officer. Upon receiving a branch transfer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he attended the Engineer Officer Advanced Course and was assigned as the staff engineer officer

to the 4<sup>th</sup> Transportation Command at Oberursel, Germany. He later served as an assistant battalion operations officer and company commander in the 317<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Mechanized) at Eschborn, Germany. Upon completion of his Master's of Science in Environmental Engineering degree from the University of Texas at Austin, he served as an environmental project manager with the Seattle District.

## People

After completing the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., as a current-operations officer on the XVIII Airborne Corps staff and as the operations officer for the 27<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (Airborne). He then served with New York District as a project officer at the West Point Area Office. Lt. Col. Jorns' most recent assignments include being the director of Public Works at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. and an action officer with the Assistant Chief



**Lt. Col. Byron G. Jorns**

of Staff for Installation Management at the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Staff Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Ranger Tab. 🇺🇸

# Mark Hallar Pulled from Cumberland River

by *Dave Treadway*

**M**ark Hallar would just as soon forget May 22, 2003, the day he took an unscheduled dip in the Cumberland River at Old Hickory Dam.

"He and some contractors," said Power Project Manager Olga Beddingfield, "were traversing the spillway walkway as Mark was showing the contractors the spillway machinery access area, and he stepped on a corner of the grating. The grating evidently had been loosened, possibly by debris passing through the structure from the clips which secured it. When he stepped on the grating, it tilted, and he fell through, entering the water on the upstream side of the dam's spillway gate."

Before traversing the dam, Hallar had notified operator trainee Chris Campbell that he was enroute. As Chris went to meet Mark and his party, he was greeted by an alarmed contractor running for

help. Chris immediately notified Superintendent Randy Crabtree and Senior Mechanic Jerry Kennedy. All three, along with other plant employees, rushed to help. They tossed a life ring buoy to Hallar who then managed to pull himself out of the water by grabbing a chain attached to the floodgate.

## Communication

Crabtree then sent Curtis Malone, Johnny Hayes and Greg Forte to get Old Hickory Lock's work skif to retrieve Hallar. One employee retrieved a blanket from the power plant and used it to wrap a soaked and chilled Hallar as he was loaded onto the skif.

"We were able to communicate with him all the time," said Beddingfield, "so he knew help was on the way. We were also able to assure ourselves that Mark wasn't in an acute medical emergency situation. Had the skif not been able to reach him, we were prepared to lower a harness to him and pull him up."

Beddingfield called 911 and had an ambulance waiting upstream at the Rockland Recreation Area when Malone delivered him safely to shore a scant 30 minutes after the accident occurred. Although he had suffered some contusions, scrapes, and bruises in the fall, Hallar's vital signs were okay. He made a precautionary visit to the hospital and was then released.

"He was upset that he had caused all the excitement," said Beddingfield, "but I told him we were sorry that he had to discover the unsafe situation in an unconventional way. This was a flaw in the original project design, and this hazard had never been identified. Now we can correct this oversight and prevent any future mishaps."

Thanks to quick action by some alert District employees, Hallar was quickly retrieved, given proper medical treatment, and returned to work the next day. 🇺🇸

# Wilson Lock Makeover Complete

Story and photos by Dave Treadway

The Main Lock at Wilson Dam was given a makeover during April and May in spite of Mother Nature.

The Lock was scheduled for shutdown in late April to allow lock personnel to inspect and repair underwater components. Things went according to plan, and work was progressing on schedule until the rain began to fall.

“Early on,” said Mid-Tennessee River Operations Manager Jim Davis, “we did what we had to in the chamber, so that when we could no longer keep it dry, it wasn’t a problem. We just worked on other equipment that wasn’t impacted by the higher water level.

Corps workers closed the main lock to navigation on April 29 and were well underway with planned activities when the rain began to fall farther upstream.

The Knoxville and Chattanooga areas experienced rainfall amounts greater than 12 inches in the first days of May, the second highest rainfall amounts in the valley since 1873. The river crested in Chattanooga six feet above flood stage impacting nearly 500 structures and causing about \$17 million in damages.

In nearby Florence, crest levels were seven feet above flood stage, and Wilson Dam, at times, was passing more than 350,000 cubic feet of water per second. By May 8, Guntersville, Nickajack, and Chickamauga Locks were closed to river traffic due to high water.

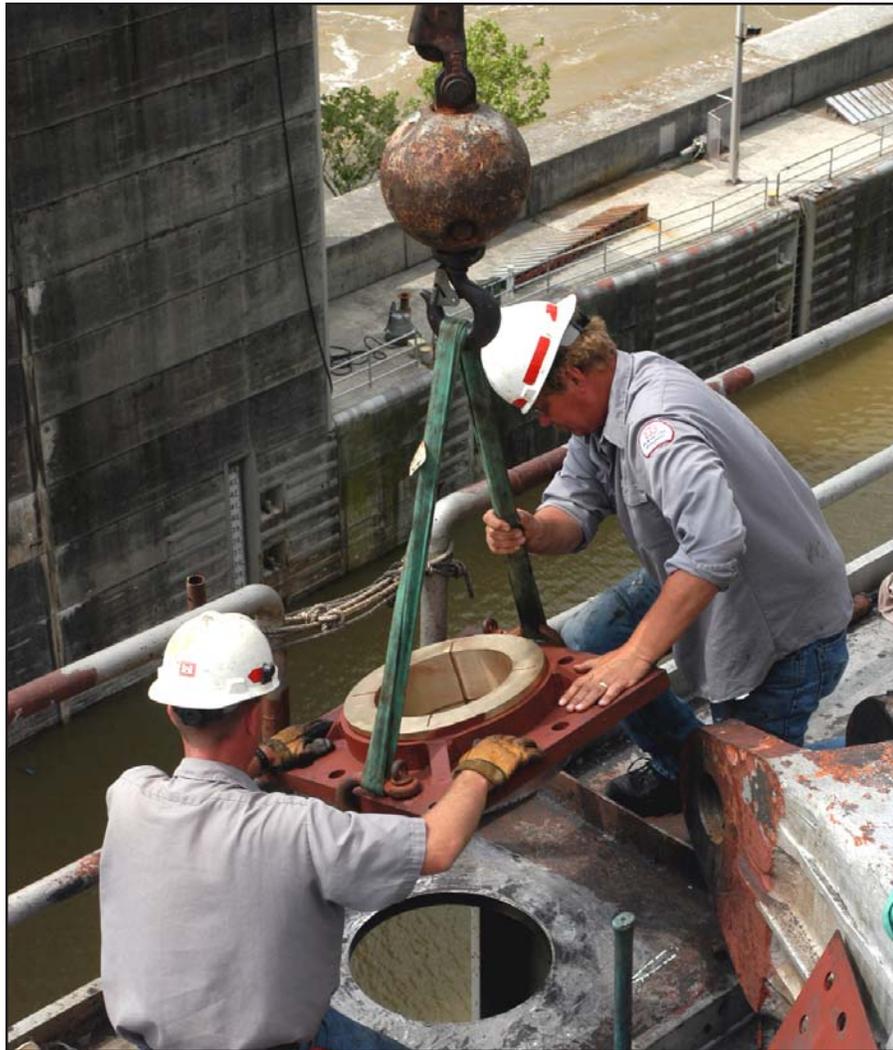
“We accomplished everything we planned for the dewatering,” added Davis, “even though we had the high water

event to contend with. We found some extra cracks in the lower gate and were also able to repair them.”

The auxiliary chamber at Wilson, normally not in use, got a workout during the dewatering work. The chamber conducted 371 lockages to pass 47 tows and a variety of other craft. Total commercial tonnage was in excess of 341,000 tons.

Charlie Bryan, chief of the Maintenance and Repair Section, explained the wide array of work accomplished while the Lock was closed to navigation.

“We worked on both upper lift gate chains,” explained Bryan, as he began running down a mental checklist, “replacing all the chain on the land wall side and 22 of the 24 links on the river wall side. Cracks on the lower gate revealed by the pre-dive inspection were repaired. We worked on the floating sill; then we floated out, removed the caisson, and worked on valves, one at a time. We completely rehab’ed the upper land wall fill valve, and then each of the other valves. When we flooded out, we continued to work on the upper lift gate, installing a new “J” seal, a rubber device all the way across



Don Johnson (above right) and Jason Bradley ensure that the keeper plate and bushing are properly positioned to fit the opening where it will help the lower gate to open easily at Wilson Lock. Charlie DePriest (left) cleans a filler gauge during a spare moment on the lock wall.

# ed Despite Rain

the upper seal. We reworked the tow haulage unit and replaced the strut pins, bushings on the lower wall gates, and the connector pins.”

Bryan pointed out that all this was possible because of teamwork.

“The Maintenance Repair Section performs these dewaterings,” said Bryan, “but we could not do them without all the help from the other locks in the District -- electricians, mechanics -- we get a lot of volunteers to help and they make it happen. We always use a rotation of other project managers, lockmasters whose primary responsibility is safety officer. Eddie McBride served as our safety officer during the first part of the work and Gary Bowling did the second part. Their whole purpose is to ensure we are doing work safely at every stage. They hold safety meetings whenever necessary to brief all workers who are going into hazardous areas.”

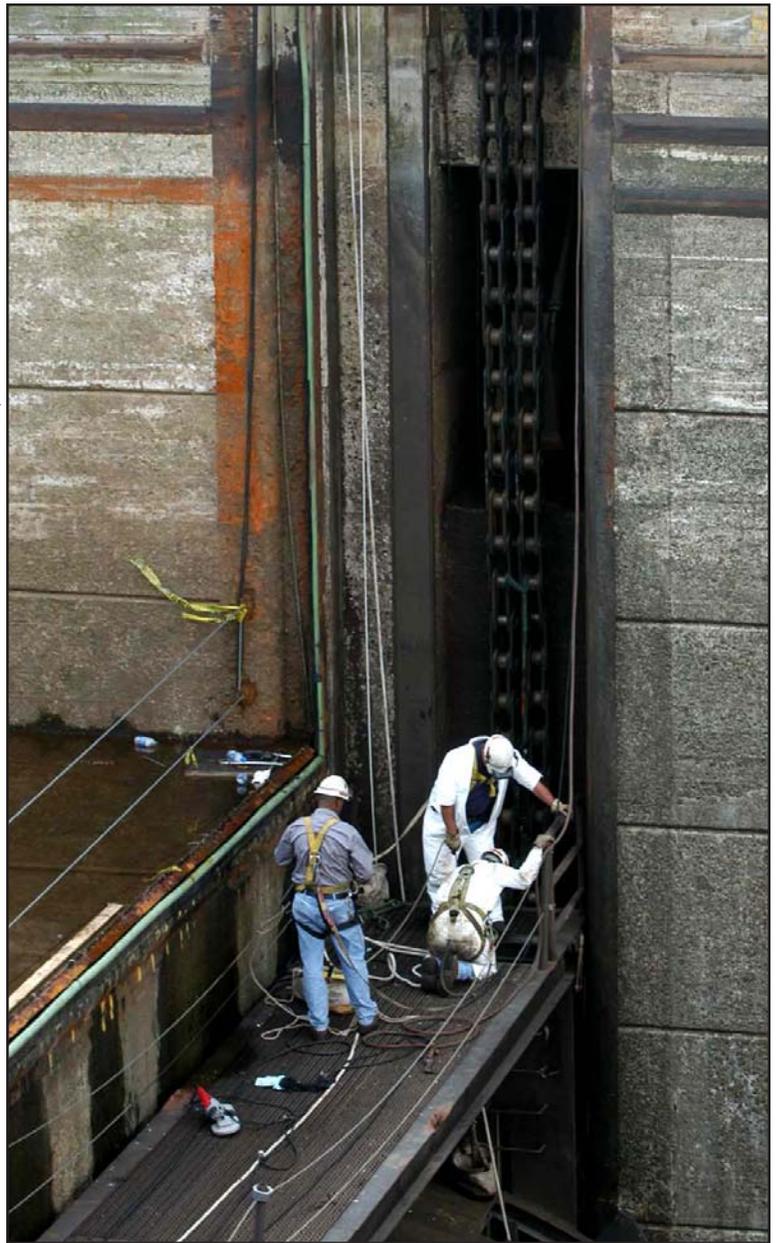
Bryan said a complete pre-diving inspection of all of the valves was completed before the dewatering to determine

the extent of work to be done. This allowed the Repair Section to plan work to be accomplished.

All tasks were completed ahead of schedule and the lock was returned to service at 8:45 p.m. on May 16, four days ahead of schedule.

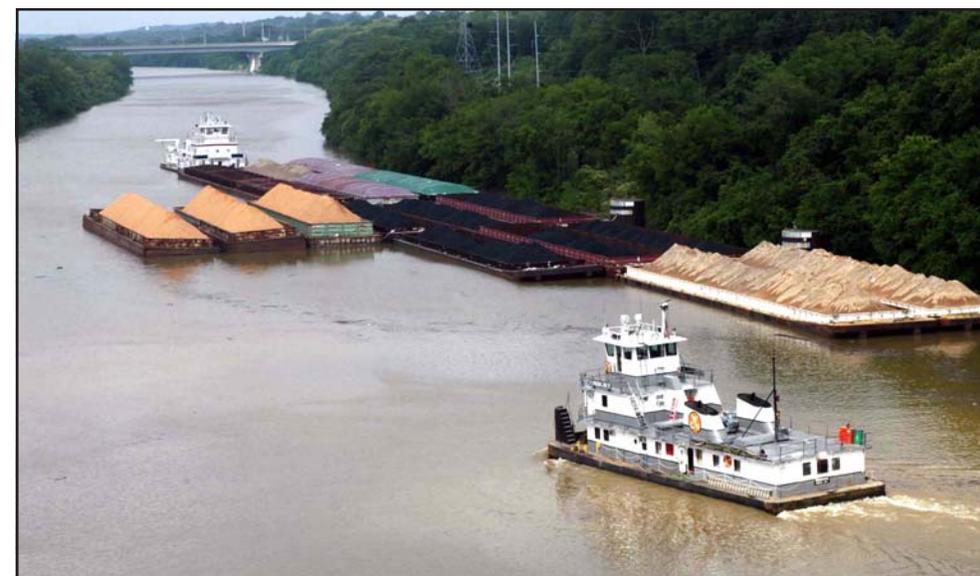
“We never anticipated the high water,” revealed Bryan, “it’s just that we did work in the proper order, and then when water caused us to reflood the chamber, we could continue work on the other components. And we are still doing work. Each dewatering is different. Each has its gremlins, and we just try to plan for it and deal with it. This time the gremlin was high water.”

“This was one of the most successful dewaterings with which I have been associated,” said Davis, “and we have had some good ones recently. I attribute our success to excellent planning and coordination with everyone involved. Everyone worked hard to ensure work was completed according to that plan.”



(above from left) Don Johnson, Robert Love and another employee from the Maintenance and Repair Section work to replace 22 of 24 links on the river wall side of the upper lift gate. They replaced the entire chain on the land wall side during the dewatering.

Barges and tows wait (left) for their turn to transition through the Auxilliary Lock while work continued on the Main Chamber. All the craft waiting for transit were moved through the smaller lock chamber while the other was in rework, despite the high water experienced in early May.



# Fitness Center Opens in Federal Building

Story and photos by Tiffany Hedrick

The Estes Kefauver Federal Building/U.S. Courthouse is a healthier place this summer thanks to the brand new Courthouse Fitness Center. Although co-owners Morris Jamison, John Payne, and Elmond Johnson did not open the Center until June 2, they staged an Open House May 21 to show prospective members the Center and answer their questions.



**Morris Jamison demonstrates a piece of equipment at the Fitness Center Open House May 21.**

Jamison said he wanted to open a Center in the Federal Building to make the service accessible to workers. While its location in the basement of the Federal Building in room AB49 is convenient, the facilities themselves are the major attraction. The fitness room features a wide variety of equipment

including treadmills, exercise bicycles, elliptical machines, weight benches, free weights, and an assortment of strength training machines. An exercise room with mats for stretching, aerobics, and yoga is also available.

## People

The Fitness Center has a full staff of helpful employees like floor manager Regina McCrary. Either she or Morris Jamison is present at all times to assist clients and teach novices how to properly use equipment. For a \$25 monthly membership fee, clients gain unlimited access to the Fitness Center and its staff.

To simplify the billing process, the Fitness Center staff has set up an automatic payment system, which will deduct the membership fee from member's bank accounts each month. Appointments for personal training, massage therapy, and nutritional consultation are also available for a nominal fee. The Center's current hours are 6 a.m.- 6 p.m., but the owners said those times may be adjusted to meet client preferences.

The Center's amenities and management's commitment to customer satisfaction have gotten the Fitness Center a good response from potential clients like Kathy Lesley.

"I think it's going to be great," said Lesley. "I've been wanting to do this for a long time."



**Federal employee Kim Kroger checks out the new Fitness Center May 21.**

John Payne emphasized how glad he is to have the new facility open and said that he believes the Center will be a huge success.

Information about the Fitness Center can be obtained by phone at (615) 579-3239 or by e-mail at [johnson40s@aol.com](mailto:johnson40s@aol.com). 🏠

## June Dates in History

**1775, June 16** - Congress authorizes the commissioning of Engineers in the new American army.

**1864** - Union engineers construct a 2,170-foot pontoon bridge across the James River in Virginia, the longest pontoon bridge constructed until World War II. Another James River pontoon bridge, laid down by Major William Rice King, District Engineer at Chattanooga during the 1876-1885 period, spans over 1,300 feet. Three years later the District Headquarters moved to Nashville.

**1927, June 1** - Wilson locks open for navigation.

**1943, June 30** - Dale Hollow Dam completed for purpose of flood control.

**1977** - Initial public meetings completed on Upper Cumberland local flood control projects.

**1979, June 30** - Martins Fork Dam is dedicated.

**1991, June 14** - The largest lift lock in the District undergoes dewatering and repair. Wilson Lock was closed down for maintenance and a scheduled dewatering.

**1993, June 3** - Peter W. Tunnicliffe, President of the Hazardous Waste Action Coalition (HWAC), and Lieutenant General Arthur E. Williams, Chief of Engineers, sign a Partnering Agreement aimed at guiding the

cooperative efforts of the two organizations in the nation's environmental restoration program.

**1995, June 13** - Electrician Steve Tinker closed Chickamauga Lock to navigation at 4:48 p.m. What Tinker spotted was the failure of the gudgeon pin's hinge assembly on the lower miter gate's land leaf. The closure was of great interest to local media since the annual River Bend Festival was about to start. Traditionally, the River Bend Festival is a time when many pleasure craft use the lock to travel to the Ross Landing Dock area in Chattanooga. The lock was reopened to barge and pleasure craft on June 17 before the festivities began. 🏠

# Employee's Son Takes Part in 'Fall of Saddam'

by Dave Treadway

As national media focused on the recent fall of Saddam Hussein, specifically the toppling of statues to him in Baghdad with the assistance of U.S. and coalition forces, one Nashville District employee was more personally involved in that action than she could have ever imagined.

Jerry A. Reichardt, Jr., the son of Charlynn Reichardt, executive assistant to the Director of Programs and Project Management, was part of that historic moment. She didn't know it then but found out soon after when she was directed to an Associated Press article.

"I was so-o-o shocked to hear that he played such a big part in toppling that statue," explained Reichardt. "From his letters, he sounds as if it has been a big adventure for him, and he is happy to have played a part in this. He continuously talks about how happy the Iraqis are that we have done this for them, and that makes him feel good."



Her son Jerry is a Specialist in the U.S. Army with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 70<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, from Fort Riley, Ks. He joined the Army in Sept. 1997 in Hawaii, has nearly six years in uniform, and, as a welder, he repairs tanks and

other equipment. It is in the capacity of a welder that he made his mark in Iraq.

"In Kerbala, after we took the town," Jerry wrote in a letter to Mom, "I got to cut down a huge statue of Saddam, and all the Iraqi civilians were cheering me on. I felt like a celebrity. They were singing and dancing while I was up there cutting this statue that has been in the center of their city for 20 years — and I brought it down to the ground. I was getting mobbed by civilians, kissing me, telling me thanks for freeing them, shaking hands. I felt like a pop star or something. I did some interviews, and then they (the Army) had to get me out of there because I was being overwhelmed by civilians. It was crazy — like a movie or something."

The AP article was illustrated with a photo of a falling statue. Two tiny figures are near the base of the statue and standing nearest is a figure with a welder's mask raised above his face, Specialist Jerry A. Reichardt, Jr.

"As for how I feel about my son being over there," reflected Reichardt, "at first I was okay with it. Then, when soldiers started getting killed, I was really worried and still am to some extent. Right now, I just feel extremely proud."

She expects her son to return by September.

"Life is made up of events, memories, and adventures," she said, "and it looks as if this is a big one in his life."

## EAGLEs Take Flight at Belmont

by Rachel Owens

New EAGLE program (Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence) participants with the Nashville District began the 2003 curriculum Apr. 30 – May 1 with an Orientation at Belmont University.

District Engineer LTC Steve Gay and Mike Farmer, chief of Engineering-Construction Division, encouraged all to make the most of opportunities offered by EAGLE. Program Manager Joanne Booker and Asst. Program Manager Mickie Porter told everyone about course activities and projects.

Belmont instructors Mary Fink and Martha Kelley introduced participants to the Belmont staff at the Jack C. Massery Business Center where some sessions of EAGLE will be held.

On the first day, new EAGLEs tried to answer the questions, "What makes you thrive?" "What are your chal-

lenges?" and "What is your learning style?" the answers to which will help them become effective leaders and efficient communicators.

On the second day, EAGLE students completed the Myer-Briggs Indicator test, which helped each understand their own personality types, a key to better communication. Facilitators Fink and Kelley spoke about stages of team development and success strategies.

The 2003 EAGLEs are a diverse group that includes administrative employees and lock and dam operators. They are Mark Carnes, Robert Davis, Morris Hatmaker, Chip Hall, Troy Hawks, Myrna King, James Mills, Rachel Owens, Shirley Puckett, Charlynn Reichardt, Delia Rivera, Jon Summer, Matthew Tays, Cheryl Wallace, Travis Wiley, and Arthur Wright.

EAGLEs took flight with excitement, curiosity, three new books and a binder filled with assignments. 🏠

# The Corps Crowd

## Congratulations to . . .

...Victoria Caldwell, who has been selected on a Not-To-Exceed 120-day assignment as chief of Resource Management until a new chief is selected.

... Jim Deal, who has been selected for the position of chief of the Programs Management Office.

... Carmen U. Munoz who graduated from Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science in Speech-Communications, and Theater. Carmen is the daughter of Daniel Munoz, a Maintenance Worker at the Old Hickory Power Plant.

... Kimberly Hedrick, daughter of Mary and Ray Hedrick, Program Management-Planning, who was the Fairview High School female \$100 essay winner in the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation 2003 Writing Contest. Kimberly is a member of the Fairview 2004 Senior Class.

... Stacy Bennett upon graduation from Nashville State Technical Community College with an Associate Degree in Visual Communication with a concentration in Graphic Design. Stacy works as a graphic artist in Visual Graphics.

... Sherry Phillips who will become a proud grandmother in January 2004!

... Billy Cherry and Shannon Doyle on their marriage May 10. Billy is the son of Shirley Cherry, Power Plant Office Assistant, Dale Hollow Power Plant.

...April Huddleston, daughter of Wayne Huddleston, Programs, Planning and Project Management Division, graduated from the University of Tennessee in May with a degree in English Literature. She has been accepted to the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, a partnership between Japanese ministries and local Japanese governments to promote foreign language education. April will depart for Japan July 27 to teach English in the Japanese school system.

... the Music City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers for winning the **Chapter Competition Award** - Group C - Distinguished Award (Plaque and \$200 check) **1st time award**,



Photo by Dave Treadway

**District Engineer LTC Steve Gay presents a Distinguished Civilian Service Award to James H. Fyke, retiring Parks Director for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, May 6. LTC Gay commended Fyke for his exceptional leadership skills and ability to coordinate and provide oversight for multiple recreation projects and programs. Under Fyke's leadership, Metro Nashville and Nashville District successfully operated several parks on Corps projects and completed construction projects at Riverfront Park and Shelby Bottoms. These Metro Nashville-U.S. Army Corps of Engineers joint projects now serve as perfect examples for other local/federal agencies to follow and will benefit many future generations. Fyke now serves as the Deputy Commissioner, Parks and Conservation, with the state of Tennessee and continues to help coordinate work, statewide, on Corps projects.** 🏠

## Community Service Award -

Category C - (Plate for plaque received last year) **2nd time award** (Presented for a minimal of 50 hours of community service),

## Five Star Recognition (Plaque)

\*\*\*\*\* **1st time award**

## Farewell to . . .

... Chuck Langley, Lock & Dam Operator, Wilson Lock, who retired May 31, after more than 27 years with Nashville District.

## Welcome to . . .

... Jonathan Daniels, the new student aide

at Martins Fork Lake. Daniels is a student at Southeast Community College. ... Jenny Jenkins, who is working at Martins Fork Lake through a grant with the Harlan County Community Action Agency.

... Tiffany Hedrick, who is a student aide in the Public Affairs Office. Hedrick is a sophomore at Murray State University and the daughter of Mary and District Biologist Ray Hedrick.

## Sympathy to . . .

...the family of Bill Fisher (Chief, EC-A), whose sister, Mary Pogue, passed away May 4. 🏠

# Congressman Gordon Cuts Ribbon to Open Boardwalk

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

Under a threat of rain, Congressman Bart Gordon and a host of friends opened the Bart Gordon Boardwalk at Murfreesboro's Murfree Spring on May 17.

District Engineer LTC Steve Gay joined the Congressman and Vice Mayor Chris Bratcher to officially open the city's newest urban green space.

"Now," said LTC Gay, "this beautiful learning Center (Children's Discovery Center) is a showplace where our children and our grandchildren can be educated regarding the fragile environment about

## Process

us, and this ecosystem in particular. And with the education will come enjoyment, appreciation, and protection of such areas."

Officials at the Center hope school students will visit for field trips, school science lessons, and a stroll through a reclaimed ecosystem. Located on the site of the city's old water treatment plant, the Children's Discovery Center sits next to Murfree Spring, in a beautifully landscaped "wetland park."

Vice Mayor Bratcher, who is also a member of the Parks & Recreation Commission, read a proclamation naming the Center's nature trail after Gordon, who appropriated the federal dollars that paid for 75 percent of the cost of the project. The city donated the 25-acre site as its in-kind contribution toward the project costs.

Congressman Gordon called the nature trail, "The perfect addition to Children's Discovery Center where our children and grandchildren can learn about nature and watch wildlife from the safety of the boardwalk where they will not disturb them but can coexist with them in a manner that would have been impossible without the teamwork of the City of Murfreesboro and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers."

Gay pointed out that the area at Murfree Spring is part of only 700,000 acres of remaining wetlands in Tennessee. "I am proud," Gay said, "to



**Margaret and Katherine Stubblefield, children of staff member Jim Stubblefield, help Congressman Bart Gordon cut the ribbon to officially open the new boardwalk over Murfree Springs Wetland May 17 in Murfreesboro, Tenn.**

be a part of preserving Tennessee's wetlands."

Chris Dickson brought his family for their first visit to the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring and took advantage of the recently completed nature trails.

"This is the first time that I've really seen all of this," said Dickson.

The Murfree Spring wetland, located at the corner of Broad Street and Maney Avenue, served as the original water supply for the city and gave the city its name. Children's Discovery Center at the

site now includes a playground for toddlers up to age five, sidewalks, parking, landscaped green space, and the quarter-mile-long boardwalk that allows visitors a closer look at the natural ecosystem with minimal impact to the surroundings.

The Wetlands area is accessible only during daylight hours and the Discovery Center's hours of operation are Monday – Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. They can be reached at (615) 890-2300, or at their website [www.discoverycenteronline.org](http://www.discoverycenteronline.org).

## Manufacturer Recalls Pool Dive Sticks

WASHINGTON, D.C. - In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Swimways Corp., of Virginia Beach, Va., is voluntarily recalling about 25,000 packages of dive sticks (each package contains four dive sticks), which fail to meet the commission's safety requirements.

Children can fall or land on these dive sticks in shallow water and may suffer impalement injuries.

The commission and Swimways Corp. have not received any reports of incidents or

injuries with these dive sticks. This recall is being conducted to prevent injuries.

These are "Swim Ways Deluxe Dive Buddies" weighted dive sticks. The dive sticks are soft plastic tubes that have character heads and feet. The characters are a yellow seahorse, a green and purple walrus, a red and blue underwater diver, and a blue shark. The dive sticks are about 7.5 inches long and an inch in diameter. For full story and a photo of the product, go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>

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## USACE Helps Restore Baghdad Water, Electricity

by U.S. Air Force Maj. Dani Johnson

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Preventing a humanitarian crisis here is what a small group of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other U.S. military engineers were tasked April 12 to accomplish.

Almost three weeks later, electricity and water production is nearing pre-war status said Army Brig. Gen. Steven R. Hawkins, Task Force Fajr commanding general, deployed here from USACE Great Lakes and Ohio Division, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is the commander.

“It is absolutely amazing, what the Iraqi engineers with the fine men and women of the U. S. military have accomplished in such a short time,” said Hawkins. “We came in here with “black start” conditions (no major power production facilities operating) and now we are almost at 70 percent of pre-war conditions for electricity and providing almost 65 percent of the water demand.”

Task Force Fajr, which means dawn or first light in Arabic, has worked hand-in-hand with Iraqi engineers to provide electricity to critical facilities such as hospitals, water and sewage treatment facilities.

“This has been a pretty awesome assignment,” said Army Maj. Andy Backus, who until recently served as the utilities



U.S. Army photo by Mark Valentino

**Brig. Gen. Steven R. Hawkins (center), with Col. Gordon Wells (right) and Col. John Peabody along with U.S. military engineers and Iraqi engineers discuss how to restore power to Baghdad at the Baghdad South Power Plant.**

(power) planner for the task force. “It has been a challenge but very rewarding to get the chance to utilize engineering and management skills.

“The best part is getting the chance to meet the Iraqi people,” said the major deployed from the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), Fort Belvoir, Va., where he is the executive officer. “There was always this vision of Saddam Hussein’s Iraq as an ‘evil axis.’ I had no idea what the worker level was like and they are people just like us and we are not only restoring power but ushering the first steps into a new society.”

Before water could flow or sewage could be treated, power had to be reestablished. The primary focus of the task force had been the Regional Transmission (132 kilovolt) system to restore some power as quickly as possible to the city.

According to Capt. Ben Kuykendall, who replaced Backus when he redeployed, Iraqi engineers with U.S. military engineer assistance now have most of the 132 kilovolt system operating and are focusing on the 400 kV Super Grid system.

For complete story go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>. 