



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

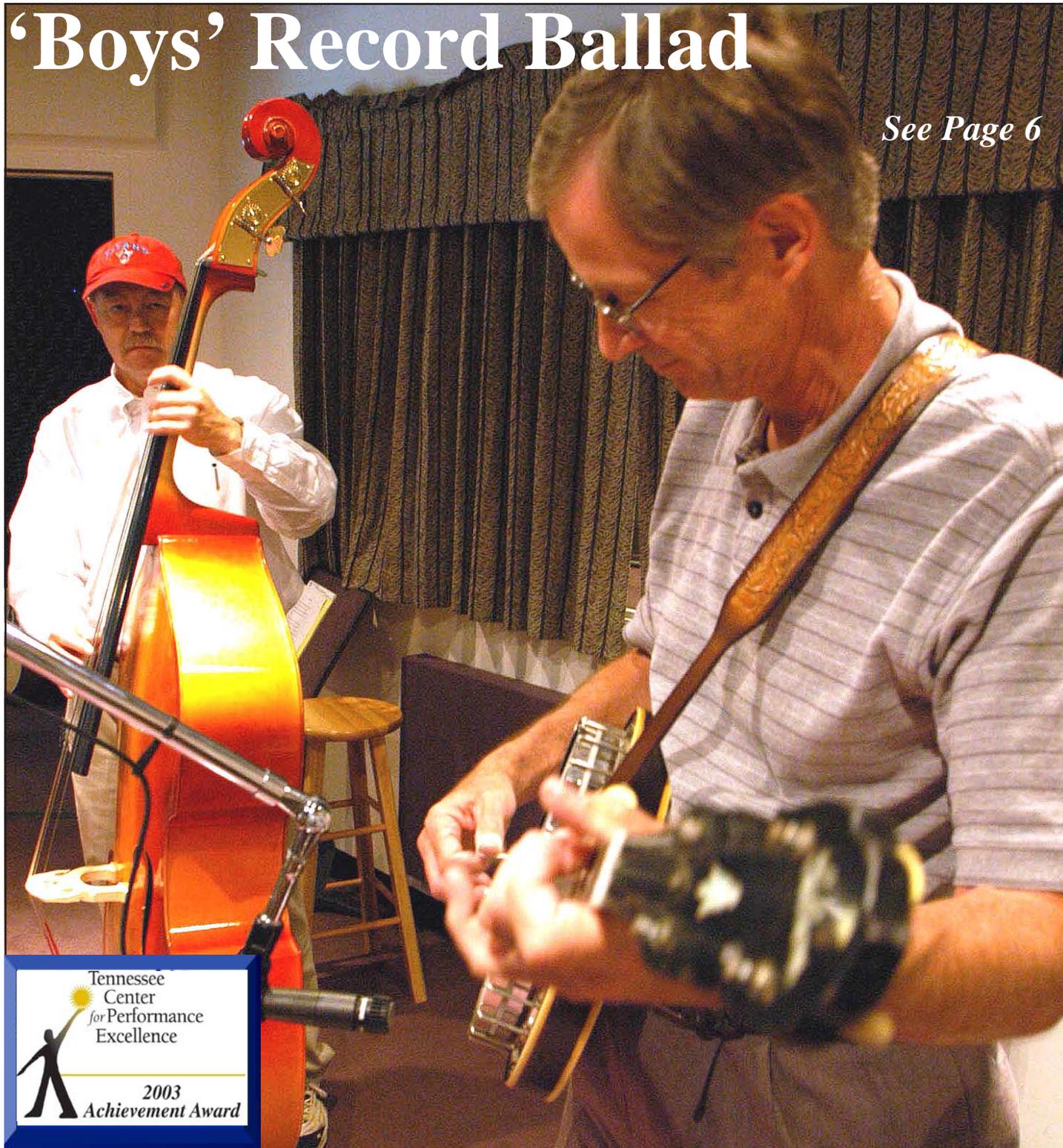
Volume 104, Number 12

*Respected-Responsible-Reliable*

December 2004

## 'Boys' Record Ballad

*See Page 6*



Tennessee  
Center  
for Performance  
Excellence



2003  
Achievement Award

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photo by Lynn Bowden

## On the Cover

Bass Player Barney Davis (left) and Guitarist Wayne Lanier rehearse 'The Ballad of the Twin Rivers' in preparation for a recording session at Audio Productions Nashville. The Deep Water Boys wrote and recorded the District song to honor the hard work of Nashville District employees. For the complete story about how the Ballad was 'born', turn to page 6.

## District Digest

### Commander

Lt. Col. Byron G. Jorns

### Public Affairs Officer

Ed Evans

### Editor

Dave Treadway

### Online Editor

Steven Foshee

### Circulation

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Written material may also be sent electronically to the editors at the following e-mail addresses:  
[david.s.treadway@usace.army.mil](mailto:david.s.treadway@usace.army.mil)  
[steven.c.foshee@usace.army.mil](mailto:steven.c.foshee@usace.army.mil)

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

# Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

Folks, ... I wish you all a very happy and safe Holiday this season. With all the tragic events surrounding us recently (Florida Hurricanes, GWOT, etc.), we clearly have much for which we can be thankful. I greatly appreciate the self-sacrifice that our Nashville District team continues to make to deploy outside the state and outside the country in order to help others in need. This spirit of giving is also seen in this year's overwhelming toy drive for the benefit of children living in Harlan, Whitley, Knox, and Bell Counties in Kentucky as well as children in Iraq. I don't want to forget the generous contributions by all of you towards this year's Combined Federal Campaign goal.

...I want to give a special thank you to our Deep Water Boys for producing a real gem of a song: *Ballad of the Twin Rivers*. I encourage you all to listen to the music and words. You can do so online at <http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/>.

## Communication

I think they have captured the essence of our great District and the people who make it happen. Nashville District has a rich heritage, a strong mission, and a great workforce that is the foundation of our existence and viability as public servants in the Cumberland and Tennessee River valleys. See pages 6 and 7 for the complete story of how *'The Ballad'* was born. I look forward to seeing 'the boys' at the Grand Ole Opry very soon!

Before we all head out to our various celebrations associated with the Holiday season, I would be remiss if I didn't mention a few words of caution. Please pay attention to safety wherever you may go.

Slips, trips, and falls represent a major cause of accidental death and injury, in both the home and work environment. About one-seventh of all accidental deaths are due to injuries sustained because of a fall. Approximately 12,000 lives are lost annually. Identified are four contributing variables to slips, trips, and falls:

- 1) a foreign object on the walking surface,
- 2) a design flaw in the walking surface,
- 3) a slippery surface, or
- 4) an individual's impaired physical or mental condition.

Do your part to help prevent a fall. Some of the things everyone can do:

- 1) keep work area floors and aisle ways free of debris,
- 2) clean up spilled coffee and other liquids from floor surfaces,
- 3) use handrails while walking down stairways.



Do your part to improve safety at work and at home. You may save yourself or someone else from a serious injury due to a fall. 🏠

## November Employee of the Month

Kathryn A. Lachicotte, a realty specialist in the Real Estate Division, has been selected as the Nashville District Employee of the Month for November.

Lachicotte performed her duties in an exemplary manner on several complex projects while also serving the U.S. Air Force in Honolulu District and the Island of Guam.

She successfully worked several complex, sensitive projects including the controversial City of Erin water pipeline easement application on Lake Barkley;



Kathryn A. Lachicotte

the four utility easements in connection with the relocation of Bell Road at Smith Springs Road on J. Percy Priest; the renewal of the Conley Bottom Resort concession on Lake Cumberland (one of the top concessions of the 53 marinas in the District in terms of assets and revenues); and Environmental Baseline Studies in support of the District Real Estate outgrant program. Lachicotte is also a key person and the District's point of contact in the clean-up efforts at landfill contaminated sites at Lake Barkley State Park and Grand Rivers Park, both on Lake Barkley.

While on temporary assignment in Honolulu District, her duties involved real estate management activities, including assisting the Air Force in their mandated requirement to update their Real Property Accountability records; and she worked miscellaneous other real property management activities. The realty specialist demonstrated professionalism, teamwork, dedication to duty, and a willingness to go above and beyond normal job requirements to assist the Corps and the Air Force.

Senior leaders select the Nashville District employee of the Month from the many excellent employees identified by the District's chain of command. Selected individuals personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 🏠

# New Army Secretary Sworn In Nov. 19

**D**r. Francis J. Harvey was sworn in Nov. 19 at the Pentagon as the 19th Secretary of the Army.

"This is a great honor for me. My top priority will be to serve our Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the Active Component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. I look forward to working with the Secretary of Defense, the Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Pete Schoomaker, and the Army senior leadership as we fight the Global War on Terrorism while continuing to transform the force," Secretary Harvey said.

The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of Dr. Harvey Nov. 16.

"It's great to have Dr. Harvey on board as our Secretary," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. "Dr. Harvey has a wealth of experience leading large organizations with diverse work forces, managing major programs and leading technology development. His education and industry experience will serve us well as he leads our Army in this window of strategic opportunity."

As Secretary of the Army, Secretary Harvey has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems

and equipment acquisition, communications, and financial management. Secretary Harvey is responsible for the department's annual budget of \$98.5

billion. He leads a work force of over one million

active duty, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers, 220,000 civilian employees, thousands of contractors, and has stewardship over 15 million acres.

Prior to his appointment, Secretary Harvey was a business executive with broad experience centered on the defense industry. He held various professional, management and executive positions within the Westinghouse Corporation from 1969 to 1997, including president



photo by Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess

**Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on while Raymond DuBois, director of administration and management, swears in Dr. Francis J. Harvey (right) as the 19th secretary of the Army.**

of the Electronics Systems Group, president of the Government and Environmental Services Company, and chief operating officer of the \$6 billion Industries and Technology Group. Most recently Secretary Harvey was a director and vice chairman of Duratek, a company specializing in treating radioactive, hazardous, and other wastes. In his career he has been involved in one or more phases of more than 20 major Department of Defense programs.

Secretary Harvey earned his doctorate in Metallurgy and Material Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and his Bachelor of Science at the University of Notre Dame in Metallurgy Engineering and Material Science. He was a White House Fellow in the Department of Defense in the late 1970s.

Secretary Harvey succeeds Les Brownlee, who served for 18 months.

"I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Secretary Les Brownlee for his leadership and stewardship of the Army over the past 18 months," said Gen. Schoomaker. "I speak for the entire Army family when I say his tireless efforts - to build a campaign-quality Army with joint and expeditionary capabilities, to equip our Soldiers with the best equipment and to improve their quality of life - will have an impact on the Army and ensure we remain relevant and ready for decades to come." ■

## Water Safety Photo Contest Seeks Entries

**T**he HQUSACE National Water Safety Committee is seeking entries in the Corps-wide photo contest to promote water safety. The contest is open to all Corps employees. Submissions should depict the promotion of water safety, demonstrate safe water practices, and/or showcase water-based recreation facilities.

Gary Harding, Sondra Hafling and James O. Johnson are former District winners.

All uniformed employees shown in the photos should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the activity in which they are engaged. Photos will be judged for clarity, composition, originality, visual impact, and theme. **2004 Categories:** 1. Commercial Boating 2. Hunters and Anglers (in/on/near Water) 3. Water Sports (swimming, boating, water play) 4. USACE employees in action around water 5. Scenic Water Scenes 6. Boat Accidents/Mishaps 7. Flora/Fauna (does not require water safety connection, but should be related to Corps projects)

**Submission Formats:** 35mm slide or digital image in 300dpi resolution or better at 6.5" by 10" on Compact Disc (CD). Images not in this format will not be judged. Each photographer may submit up to three photos per category. All entries must be accompanied by a completed ENG Form 5067-R, Digital Library Image Information (Appendix B of ER 25-1-91 at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-regs/er25-1-91/a-b.pdf>). Indicate the category entered in the 'remarks' box. Close-up images of people should be accompanied by a signed DD Form 2830 (general talent release) <http://web1.whs.osd.mil/forms/DD2830.pdf> or district equivalent. Submit contest entries to your Division Water Safety Representative listed at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/contacts.htm>.

Submission deadline is February 1, 2005. Winners will be announced in April 2005.

# EAGLES Graduate at Belmont University

by Mark Klimaszewski  
photos by Dave Treadway

When the 2004 EAGLES gathered at Belmont University Nov. 10, we faced one final assignment before collecting certificates that proclaimed us graduates.

We each approached the front of the classroom filled with peers, associates and supervisors to answer the question, "What do I stand for?"



**Mary Ann Brannon**

Each of us chose a different topic but in some ways, many were similar. Kelly Wanamaker spoke of opportunities and how we must take advantage of them when they pass our way. Jerry Lindsey spoke of success and the struggles each of us must overcome in the pursuit.

James Byrd said he stood for truth, that which is eternal, never changing, the foundation of his moral values. Gary Davis stands for patience and dedication, two qualities necessary in his hobby of raising and training horses, qualities which also stand everyone in good stead on the job. Rex Wakefield spoke of changes that he has observed over 27 years of government service and how EAGLE has helped him look within himself for courage to make future changes.

Kayl Kite spoke of his newfound faith in Jesus Christ, the one who best embodies the characteristics of honesty, humility, patience, kindness, compassion, and a forgiving heart.

"An eagle is a perfect illustration of how I define myself," said Ariana Beck-Scott, "someone who is soaring and is ever-watchful for new opportunities and challenges around me. It is my job to ensure that no one is adversely affected by the choices I make." She hopes to be an example others will want to emulate to perhaps be an EAGLE too.

I chose to use my great grandparents as examples of commitment. One from Russia and the other from Poland were committed to a cause, a better life for their families when they immigrated to northern Illinois in the early part of the last century. When I finished college, I knew I wanted to work in the natural resources field and chose Nashville because I was committed to my field of work and wanted to build a whole new life here.

Mark Vaughn stands for his father's son. "My father grew up in Nashville, became a Marine and went to the Pacific theater during World War II. My father's dedication to his mother has always impressed me." He gives his father credit for instilling those same values in him and which he hopes to pass on to his children.

Mary Ann Brannon recited a poem she wrote for the occasion.

"I stand for standing up, whatever be the cause, I'm true to my convictions, without doubt and without pause, I'm privileged in this country, whether I lean to the left or to the right, soldiers have handed me the freedom by never relenting the fight ..."

Cory Morgan said selfless service to others best characterizes what he stands for. Lannae Long most enjoys working on efforts to fund cancer research. Kathy Canaday stands for family and explained how her travels with a military husband caused her to expand that definition to include many more than blood relatives.

JW Purcell believes in mission accomplishment and the principle of never giving up, even in the face of great odds. Butch Witcher stands for middle-class America and cited three examples, teachers in the public school system, blue-collar workers of America, and the elderly – those who worked so hard to build this country.

Aaron Gillespie stands for family, for being a father and dad, and how he became both the day he recently married and

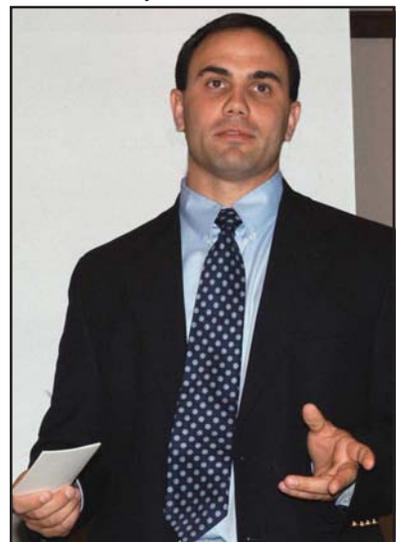


**Kayl Kite**

immediately acquired two daughters. District Engineer Lt. Col. Byron Jorns honored each graduate.

"Seeing the products that come back into the District," said Jorns, "shows us that the benefits far outweigh the costs associated with the program. I congratulate each of you for what you have done. I admire the EAGLE program because of the merits of the self-discovery aspect of the curriculum that it offers."

The EAGLE program provided me with a unique insight to the Nashville District for which I am very thankful. The experience I shared with my counterparts in the District will be one that I take with me the rest of my career. 🏠



**Cory Morgan**

# Deep Water Boys Debut Ballad to Honor District

by Dave Treadway  
photos by Lynn Bowden

Nashville has long been called Music City U.S.A. so it is only natural that Nashville District should lead the Corps of Engineers in pioneering a District song.

And since "The Deep Water Boys" is a bluegrass band comprised of District musicians, it was also natural that they write and perform the number.

"The idea," said bass player Barney Davis, "actually came from the District Engineer early this year when he returned from a trip to Headquarters. He was inspired by the Chief's townhall presentation of slides set to music and he asked me if a District song was possible to do."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Each member of the band contributed to the "Ballad of the Twin Rivers", as the song was named, in reference to the Tennessee and Cumberland River watersheds served by District employees.

Todd Yann (dobro, guitar, mandolin), Ralph Ownby (rhythm guitar), Brad Bishop (mandolin, guitar), and Wayne Lanier (banjo) all contributed to lyrics that tell a story that spans more than 116 years.

"The writing," revealed Yann, "was sort of an evolutionary process." After being commissioned by Lt. Col. Byron Jorns to create the song, they sat down to 'woodshed' some ideas. With input from Davis and Ownby, Yann penned two stanzas of lyrics for a starting point. That 'starting point', with refinements, became the first and second verses.

"My thoughts were about what the Corps was doing from the customer's perspective," said Yann, "and I threw in some personal experience. The 'young boy on the river bank' was a reference to my son, Logan, who is an avid fisherman and the line came from a mental image of him fishing from the shoreline on a recent fishing trip to J. Percy Priest."

Because Davis and Lanier were detained and arrived late for the first rehearsal session, Ownby and Yann used an empty conference room and a couple of guitars to fashion a melody, a chord progression, and a rough third verse.

"We then tackled the chorus," said Yann. "The four of us put our heads together and after much brainstorming, came up with the final version. *'Well it ain't just a job, and it's way more than a livin', it's doing the work we love, every day making a difference...'* I think those lines pretty well sum up the dedication and desire to do the best work possible we have all seen in the Nashville District workforce throughout our careers.

Davis, according to Yann, gets credit for the line 'from Martins Fork to Barkley, from Fort Loudon to Kentucky...' which captures the expanse of the Twin Rivers, over which District employees are spread.

The band felt the rich tradition and history of the Nashville District was still missing from the piece so Davis

volunteered to dust off his copy of *Engineers on the Twin Rivers* by Dr. Leland R. Johnson and come up with something by the next session. The excellent recitation by Davis is his product, a concise history of the District.

Davis previewed the recitation at the next rehearsal, when the band welcomed the newest member, mandolin player Brad Bishop.

"It was at that session," said Yann, "we began to develop the instrumental arrangement of the song." After three more rehearsals, the band presented the ballad to senior District leaders.

"For me," explained Yann, a musician who can reportedly play anything with strings, "it was something of a labor of love. I had tried my hand at songwriting before with marginal results. I was pleased with the results of our efforts on this project. I think the

synergy of working together as a group, along with the strong feelings we all hold toward the subject matter, helped us create something we were all proud to have represent our District."

The Ballad was produced by Audio Productions Nashville.



Ralph Ownby, accompanied by Todd Yann, sings the 'Ballad of the Twin Rivers.'

## Recitation

© 20

Folks, I want to tell you about our country, this place is nestled in the watersheds of the Tennessee Cumberland Rivers and made special people who live and work there. A some very special folks who take rivers, the Nashville District Corps

And they been carin' for the river long time, it was back in the 1700s work to open up the rivers for navigation young nation was growing, and the west was on. We were there for navigation on the rivers possible as you could ride the river from Knoxville to Orleans.

We continued to work on the rivers through the great Civil War, our fort sides of that conflict. Some of the forts built still stand today, Fort Donelson, Fort Henry. After the Civil War, we continued to improve the rivers and added locks at Muscle Shoals and Colbert Shoals.

The District was moved to Nashville and Gen Barlow was our first DE and didn't know that Gen Henry Robert's Rules of Order, was a Nashville. Why the namesake of University of Tennessee stadium was also a District Engineer Robert Neyland who was both District and UT Vols football coach.

We built the great hydropower at Wilson Dam and Wolf Creek and



J. Percy Priest Resource Manager Todd Yann plays the dobro and helps sing 'The Ballad' at Audio Productions Nashville.

# Employees



Ralph Ownby (left) plays the guitar while Brad Bishop plays the mandolin.

## Ballad of the Twin Rivers by Barney Davis

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...a special place in  
...the mid-south  
...and  
...special by the  
...and there are  
...care of these  
...s of Engineers.  
...ers for a mighty  
...s, we started  
...gation. Our  
...e movement to  
...to make  
...and in no time,  
...ville to New

...vers straight  
...lks were on both  
...fortifications we  
...on and Fort  
...tinued to  
...s and canals at  
...s  
...hville in 1888  
...and I'll bet you  
...ts, author of  
...f Tennessee's  
...er, General  
...istrict Engineer  
...projects like  
...n 1933 gave

...over responsibility for portions of the Tennessee  
...River valley to the newly created TVA, they've  
...been our steadfast partners ever since.

We helped with the Tenn-Tom waterway and  
...constructed flood protection for the upper  
...Cumberland area. We were there to design and  
...build Oak Ridge for the Department of Energy  
...and the Arnold Engineering Development Center  
...for the Air Force.

Today we maintain and operate the best  
...recreation sites in the nation and our rangers  
...and regulatory folks help to keep the  
...environment clean and healthy. Our planners  
...and engineers work with local communities to  
...provide needed flood protection and streambank  
...improvement projects and soon, new navigation  
...locks will be built at Kentucky and Chickamauga  
...which will provide economic stimulus for the  
...entire nation.

Patriotism runs strong in the Nashville  
...District. We were there to help out on the great  
...floods of 1977 and our folks were there in New  
...York at ground zero. Why, our folks have been  
...involved in every war and natural disaster from  
...the Revolutionary War to the GWOT.

Yes sir, we come to work every day with  
...pride and purpose because we got something  
...worth preserving, the proud tradition and bright  
...future of the Nashville District. Our folks put  
...their hearts and souls into their work and it  
...shows,

Yes sir, it really don't get any better than this. 🍷

### 'Ballad of the Twin Rivers'

By The Deep Water Boys

With Recitation

D Em  
As the sun comes up in the morning, over the river valley wide;  
G A G D  
There's a special group of people, rising up with pride.  
D Em  
They run the dams, the locks, and lakes, and build the future, too.  
G A G D  
They're the Nashville Corps of Engineers, bringin' it home to you!

Lead break

D Em  
From the pilot house of a slow-moving, mighty river tow;  
G A G D  
To a young boy on the river bank, watchin' as she goes!  
D Em  
From the center of a power plant, you can feel the energy flow;  
G A G D  
As it makes its way to farms and homes, to make the night sky glow.

CHORUS:

G Em D Bm  
Well it ain't just a job, and it's way more than a living,  
G Em D Bm  
It's doin' the work we love, every day making a difference.  
G A B E  
From Martin's Fork to Barkley, from Fort Loudon to Kentucky;  
G A D-G-D  
We're the folks of the Nashville District, making it happen!

Recitation by Barney Davis

D Em  
There are special places we have been, where we have set our hand,  
G A G D  
Harnessing the river's flow, restoring damaged land.  
D Em  
Along with friends and neighbors, we'll work to do our best;  
G A G D  
To make the Nashville District the very best of the best.

D Em  
We're proud of our beginnings, we still got a ways to go  
G A G D  
We're here to meet the challenges that the future holds  
D Em  
As long as the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers flow  
G A G D  
We'll be forever at the helm, It's ESSAYONS you know

Chorus

G Em D Bm  
Well it ain't just a job, and it's way more than a living,  
G Em D Bm  
It's doin' the work we love, every day making a difference.  
G A B E  
From Martin's Fork to Barkley, from Fort Loudon to Kentucky;  
G A D-G-D  
We're the folks of the Nashville District, making it happen! 🍷

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To listen to 'The Ballad of the Twin Rivers',  
go to <http://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/> and  
click on the Corps Castle adorned with a  
guitar.

## Report from Iraq

# Local Student Conducts Long-distance Interview

**W**hen 13-year-old Jamie Rader, son of Sharon Rader, Office of Counsel, was given an assignment to interview someone for a report at Kennedy Middle School, he took advantage of current technology to conduct the interview in cyberspace. Jamie sent his questions to Holly Taylor, deployed to the middle east as a member of the USACE team assembled to help fight the Global War on Terrorism. Some of his questions and the District team member's responses follow.

### **Holly, why did you volunteer for Iraq?**

I was in the Army for over six years and I have always been proud that our country has the ability to help others in need. I felt the desire to do as much as I could for such a suppressed country. We as Americans are very privileged and most live in nice homes with plenty of food. We have electricity, gas, and running water but here in Iraq most of that is a privilege. Here some homes don't have electricity and some only get to use electricity for two hours a day. They have to use bottles of gas like we use for grilling because the gas lines are in such poor condition it can't be pumped to their homes. The majority of the people are very poor and by helping rebuild their country we give the Iraqi people a better opportunity to find jobs. These people would have never had that opportunity under their previous leader.

### **What city are you in and how is it different than the United States?**

I am stationed near Basra about 120 miles north of the Kuwait border. Due to security issues we are not allowed to go into town. I have been on convoys (trips) to other military camps and noticed very limited housing between here and the other camps. Some parts of the road were blown up and we had to drive through the desert to get around. The homes are nothing like what you see in the states. They seem to be made of clay and look very poor.

### **What are the children like? Do they go to school like us?**

Unfortunately I haven't been able to speak to any of the children. But I do know most do go to school. The Corps

of Engineers and the local Iraqi Government are trying to help rebuild schools and hospitals.

### **Do you feel safe there? What kind of security do you have?**

I feel very safe. We are given training regularly to maintain awareness of potential hazards in the area. There is a lot of ordnance (unexploded bullets) here and you have to be careful. The camp I am on is controlled by the British Army. We have hired a company to provide security for the Corps of Engineers. They are called Gurka's, from the country of Nepal, which is near China. We also have a private British Company that does some security for us. The security people are very important; they are very well trained on driving in a combat situation in order to take the staff to remote locations to do work. They also keep our camp safe by having security checkpoints before entering the camp and guards posted continuously. Members of the Corps of Engineers are not allowed to carry weapons. We depend entirely on our security team.

### **What is the war like? Do you hear bombs and stuff?**

War is never fun but sometimes a must. Fortunately we're in a remote location that isn't bombed often. We did have a rocket launched into our camp a few days ago that landed about a half mile from our buildings. When the camp has incoming fire (rockets) they sound an alarm and we have to get our armor, helmets and vest on and go to the bunkers. We then have to wait for the experts to go out and make sure everything is okay before we are allowed to go back to our jobs. We work 12 hours a day, seven days a week. And war doesn't stop for holidays. I'll be here for Thanksgiving, my birthday and Christmas, but if it means sacrificing



**Holly and co-worker Marcia say "Hello" and send greetings from Iraq.**

those few precious holidays to help the children here get running water to their home for the first time, then it's no sacrifice at all. It's an honor.

### **How is your family dealing with you being gone?**

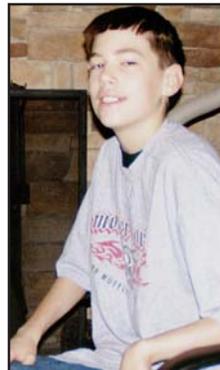
My husband is in the Army and he spent a year here in Iraq with the 101<sup>ST</sup> Airborne Division. He was very worried but understood that I felt the need to help out such a suppressed country. My husband and two children are coping very well. My daughter Marissa stays very busy with competitive cheerleading and my son Chase stays busy with wrestling. My daughter told me that life was a little harder around the house with me gone because Dad makes them do more housework than I did. I think keeping busy during times of family separation is a must, it helps make the time pass faster.

### **Do you feel the war will be over soon?**

No, I don't think the war will be over soon. It will take a lot of help to rebuild this country enough to help their economy. Most of the people here are very appreciative of our help.

### **What would you say to someone considering volunteering to come to Iraq?**

It really isn't that bad here. We have great protection and are doing something wonderful for a country that wasn't able to do for themselves. The work hours are long but will be worth it in the end. This is part of history that you will read about years from now and then I can say, "I was part of the team that helped rebuild that country." 🇺🇸



**Jamie Rader**

# Corps Dredges Florence Port

by Dave Treadway

Port Director Jim Loew calls the work underway at the Florence-Lauderdale Port “proactive management.”

A crew and their equipment from the Cumberland River Operations Center is dredging the port per an agreement with the port authority.

Ray Bess, Navigation Branch, Operations Division, said surveys indicate that as much as 30,000 cubic yards need to be removed to return the harbor to its correct depth.

“This is something they will be working on periodically,” said Bess, “during the winter lay-up at Tennessee River Operations Center. My understanding is work will be done as weather and crew staffing allows (end of leave year issues). If they were working on it solid, I estimate it could be completed within three or four weeks.”

High water levels in the river as a result of recent rains forced the work crew to temporarily cease operations until the water recedes.

Loew said the Corps performed a major dredging project in the port during the mid-1990s. Bess said the port was last dredged two years ago.

The work, being performed by a crew made up of Master Pilot John Nunley, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanics Ronnie Bordenet and Charles Reed, Derrickboat Operators Larry McGehee and Jacob Traughber, Pilot Trainee Chuck Nichols and Maintenance Worker Roger Devereux, is periodic maintenance that remains in the Corps’ area of responsibility.

The Corps brought in several work vessels, including one outfitted with a crane that is being used to scrape up rocks, silt and debris from the bottom of the canal.

The material is dumped in a work barge for deposit in the disposal area. “Material is being removed from the harbor channel,” explained Bess, “and placed in an upland placement



A crew from the Cumberland River Operations Center dredges the port in Florence, Ala., in November.

area created during the original harbor improvement project in the 1990’s. The unloading of the (dredged) material is very time-consuming.”

Loew said the eventual maintenance of the port will become the sole responsibility of the port authority. “Most ports need dredging periodically,” Loew said. “It’s just great that the Corps is interested in what we’re doing here in

Florence and the Shoals and maintaining this port.”

Loew said there have been few problems with navigation in the port, but there are areas that can, over time, become too shallow for barge traffic.

Sometimes those areas appear when the Tennessee Valley Authority must lower the levels of the Tennessee River’s Pickwick Lake.

“Even dredging won’t address that completely,” Loew said. A problem that the port can address involves flooding from nearby Sweetwater Creek. During periods of heavy rainfall, Sweetwater Creek

overflows its banks. The high water floods the roadway access to the other side of the causeway, Loew said.

The floodwaters bring a variety of dirt and debris that invariably builds over time at that end of the port.

Loew said the port is working with the city of Florence to manage that stormwater and ease the amount of silt it dumps into the port. 🏗️



photo by Dave Treadway

**Huge Lowe (above) is met at the Nashville Airport by his wife and co-workers and Elaine Bustillos holds her grandchild while friends greet her upon return from duty in Iraq and the Global War on Terrorism. Both returned to the District in October.**

photo by Bill Peoples

# The Corps Crowd

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## Congratulations to...

...Cayce Tiesler, Cheatham Power Plant senior electrician, for his accomplishments in the 2004 Tennessee cycling competition point series which included more than 30 state-wide events. He placed 1<sup>st</sup> Overall in the Single-speed Mountain Bike Category along with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall in the Category 3 Road Racing Field.

...Carl T. (Tom) Swor, senior environmental planner, whose oldest son, Charlie, will graduate from Tennessee Tech University Dec 18 with a degree in environmental chemistry.

...Sharon Rader, Office of Counsel, who was selected as the Employee of the Month for Kelly Services.

...selectees for the 2005 LDP: Joy Broach, PM-P, Gerald Choat, OP-N-L, Philip Jones, PM-P, Mark Klimaszewski, OP-OLD/R, Joanne Mann, RM-B, Joe McMahan, OP-F/E, David Morgan, OP-COR/P, Richard Rieger, OP-H/E, Dave Treadway, PA, Mark Vaughn, OP-JPP/R, Carol Warren, XO, Kyle Hayworth, EC-H, and Stanley Carter, OP-DAL/P (Alternate)

...Lake Cumberland Park Ranger Gary Hayes, whose son Gary Hayes, Jr., graduated Nov. 22, from Basic Training as a calvary scout and joined Reserve Unit E, Troop 397 CAV, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron.

...and best wishes to Lake Cumberland Park Ranger Gary Hayes, whose daughter Serenity Hayes and Ken Hopkins were married Dec. 17. Serenity and Ken are school teachers with the Rockcastle County School System in Kentucky.

## Baby Brigade to...

...Jeffrey Neely, lock & dam equipment mechanic at Watts Bar Lock, and wife Erica on the birth of their first child, Hayden Bryan Neely. Hayden was born Nov. 23 and weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces.

## Sympathy to...

...the family of Tennesse Henderson, Hydropower Branch, Operations Division, who lost her brother, Keith Thompson, age 39, on Tuesday, Nov. 16, and then her father-in-law, Milton Henderson Senior, on Nov. 18.

...the family of Ms. Lacy Campbell (former chief, Contracting Division) who passed away on Nov. 18. Ms. Campbell worked about 55 years for the Nashville



District and most of that time was in the Procurement and Supply Division.

...the family of Danita Jones, Resource Management, whose mother, Phyllis Everett, died Friday, Nov. 19.

...the family of Joanne Mann, whose brother-in-law passed away in November.

## Thank you to...

...I cannot express in words all that I am feeling right now. I would like to thank my Corps family for your friendship and support that was shown to me and my family during the loss of my brother and father-in-law. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the cards, emails, phone calls, word of encouragement, and for attending the services. It all meant so much to me and my family. *Tennesse M. Henderson, electrical engineer, Hydro-power Branch.*

## Upcoming Events

At the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Convention in Reno, Nevada, Aug. 29, the name of the Association was changed to National Active and Retired Federal Employees (Association). The acronym for the organization will still be NARFE. It is expected that all changes to forms, booklets, instructions and supplies will be completed by the 2006 biennial convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Current federal government employees have been able to join NARFE for some time, and now the name change will begin to appear on all documents. The Association works to protect retirement benefits of federal employees.

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## Postal Service Offers Free Shipping Materials

**W**ith so many military families scrambling to ship holiday care packages to their loved ones deployed around the world, the U.S. Postal Service is stepping in to make things a bit easier. It's offering a package of free packing materials, including 10 boxes, 10 customs forms with envelopes, 10 "Mili-Pac" shipping envelopes, which are specially printed to reflect the complexities of military mailing addresses, and a roll of Priority Mail tape.

By calling a toll-free number, anyone can request free shipping materials. To order the special kit, call (800) 610-8734 and request Care Kit 4. The Postal Service will ship it by Priority Mail, with

delivery generally within a couple of days.

Although the packing materials are free, shippers must still pay normal postage costs.

The U.S. Postal Service and Military Postal Service work hand in hand to support troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, more than 650 dedicated contract flights have carried mail to the region, and the Postal Service continues to send a 747-series freighter of military mail to Southwest Asia every day.

For more information, see [http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2004/n11232004\\_2004112312.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2004/n11232004_2004112312.html).

# Employee's Grandson is Karate Prodigy

By Patrick O'Grady

Used by permission of *Surprise Today*

**T**revor Breault moved across the floor with practiced ease. His movements in karate have drawn to him a lot of attention and made him one



Trevor Breault poses with some of the trophies he has collected in a career that has spanned only 18 months.

of the best students in the state (Arizona) and the nation for his age.

It's resulted in a lot of trophies taller than the 6-year-old student who studies the martial arts at Morning Star Karate in Surprise, Ariz., and he seems to take it all in stride.

"I just did it because I liked it," said Trevor.

*Trevor Breault is the grandson of Sandy Breault, Finance (Resource Management), and the above photo is the centerpiece of a collection just above her desk. One of her two grandsons, Breault proudly calls him, "My little buddy, buddy!"*

Those who have watched him learn and train during the past 18 months say they are constantly surprised by Trevor's skill and work ethic.

"I think the biggest thing is we don't have to push him," said Trevor's father, David. "We ask him if he wants to do it, and he just never says no."

**A proud young Trevor Breault.**



photo by Joy Lambert-Slagowski

Trevor discovered karate after attempts at several other sports. T-ball was OK, but he never really took to it, and soccer and flag football never had any appeal. Once they found a way to

Morning Star Karate, David said Trevor found something he really liked.

"He just didn't take well to other sports," he said. "You just never expect your child to just blossom."

Young Trevor trains under the watchful eye of Drake Sass, the owner of the Morning Star dojo, and another student, Mike Catalona.

He is ranked first in the state and nation in his age group, and already has regional, national and world championship trophies to his credit. He usually competes in either kumite, or sparing, and kata, which is a series of moves displaying a knowledge of karate. Trevor said his favorite part is kumite.

"It's hard to remember that he's just six years old," said Sass, "because he throws so much into it."

## Leslie Barron Named All-American Scholar Athlete

**L**eslie Barron, daughter of Bill Barron, chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch, was one of four UT-Chattanooga Lady Mocs Softball players recently named National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American Scholar-Athletes for the 2003-2004 season. Teammates honored were Jeannie Cochran, Stefani Thomas and Grace Pickett.

Barron, a Business Finance major, finished the semester with a 3.578 grade point average (GPA).

The senior from Goodlettsville, Tenn., started every game at first base for the Lady Mocs last season and proved to be one of the most disciplined hitters in the Southern Conference as she drew a school single-season record 59 walks. Her on-base-percentage of .474 for the season ranks third best in school history for a single season, and her .290 batting average was second on the team for the 2003-2004 season.

Left-fielder Cochran finished the season with a 3.8 GPA. Right-fielder Thomas closed out her freshman year with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Pickett, a second baseman, ended her Lady Mocs Softball career with a 3.341 GPA.

The Lady Mocs team finished the 2004 Spring Semester with a 3.147 cumulative GPA, which was good enough to rank 49th in the nation. This was the first time that UTC has ever been ranked in the top fifty in the nation in team cumulative GPA.



Leslie Barron slugs one during a game.

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## *Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Winter Driving*

by John Tibbels

**D**o you know the difference between snow tires and all-season tires? Here are the key differences between all-season and snow tires.

\* All season tires are designed to handle wet and dry surfaces, and some snow.

\* Snow tires are specially constructed to grip snowy surfaces. Even the rubber is specially formulated to stay pliable in the cold and give you better traction on icy roads.

\* Snow tires are more prone to rapid tread wear. They also need to be stored in a cool, dry place. Stacking them on top of each other is recommended. Some other factors might help you decide whether you need snow tires.

\* Think about what type of roads on which you usually drive, especially if you live in a rural area.

\* Do your streets get plowed when it snows?

\* How urgent is it that you get out and drive if it snows?

Tips for driving in snowy or icy conditions:

\* Keep your gas tank and windshield washer fluid reservoir full.

\* Slow down.

\* Allow more stopping distance on any surface that is not dry.

\* Don't be overly confident in a four-wheel drive vehicle. Four-wheel drive doesn't mean you can stop more quickly.



**The hill you need to climb with your car or four-wheel-drive vehicle need not look like this to give you trouble. Be extremely cautious when temperatures drop to the point that moisture on the road surface can freeze.**

\* 'Counter steer' to regain control in a skid. Steer the car in the same direction the back end of the car is going.

\* Check with the National Weather Service if you are planning to drive a long distance or to another part of the country. It's always good to know what weather to expect.

If you decide to pull over in a snowstorm, here are some tips to follow:

\* Turn on your hazard lights.

\* Raise the hood to indicate trouble once the snow has stopped.

\* Don't set out on foot unless you see a building close by where you know you can take shelter. Remain in your vehicle; rescuers are most likely to find you there.

\* Do not leave your car and proceed on foot until snow stops falling. Follow the road, so rescuers will see you.

While you wait for rescue or the end of the snowfall:

\* Conserve fuel, but run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm. Be sure to crack a window and keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

\* If more than one person is in the car, take turns sleeping so that someone is always alert.