



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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January 2004

Christmas Cheer in Baghdad

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January Dates in District History

January 1, 1863 - First Michigan Engineers, U.S. Army of the Cumberland, hold off several attacks by confederate cavalry along Nashville Pike during the Battle of Stone's River.

January 1, 1927 - Cumberland River reaches 56.2 feet at the Nashville gauge; highest recorded flood waters in the city.

January 1, 1946 - Catastrophic flooding at Pineville, Ky, leads to the construction of a system of levees and floodwalls.

January 10, 1991 - In Rhea County, Tenn., ravishing flood waters raced down normally quiet Piney Creek from Grandview Mountain's 20,000 acre

watershed and into Spring City, located near Watts Bar Lake. It was the worst flood in local history. Some damage estimates in Spring City alone reached a million dollars.

January 13, 1874 - MAJ Walter McFarland escapes fire at Chattanooga District Engineer Office; plans for Muscle Shoals Canal, seven months in preparation, go up in smoke.

January 1933 - The Nashville District begins construction of Wheeler Lock & Dam at Muscle Shoals, Ala., the last District construction project on the Tennessee River, until Kentucky Lock.



Photo by Ray Urena

On the Cover

John Restey sends a belated Merry Christmas from Iraq. This photo was taken at the entrance to the Restore Iraqi Electricity (RIE) building in the Baghdad coalition green zone. The children were selling items and posed for a picture with Restey. The little boy at right hugging Restey kept saying 'I love you'. Restey says, "There is no doubt in my mind that we did and are continuing to do the right thing." For full story about the snowmen, and other related stories see pages 6 and 7.

DistrictDigest

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Articles, photographs, and other contributions are welcomed and encouraged. The editor reserves the right to make editorial changes to all material submitted for publication.

Story ideas and articles may be submitted to P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Details may be obtained from the editor at (615) 736-7161.

Written material may also be sent electronically to the editors at the following e-mail addresses:
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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 Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. I personally had a fun but exhausting year end. As many of you know, my household followed Christmas with my two daughter's birthdays: Claire, who turned 17 on Dec. 26 and Eileen, who turned 13 on Dec. 27. By New Year's, I'm worn out!

For those who haven't yet heard, Curtis Malone retired at the end of December. He remains a tremendous asset to the Nashville District. He's

Communication

indicated that he'll stay on as Union President 'til his term expires this summer. I look forward to Curtis' regular presence around Nashville District as well as his BBQ endeavors.

This month, seven of our co-workers deployed to Iraq under the leadership of Maj. Bob Pegg. I commend the entire team for answering our nation's call to lend their time and talents to serve others in need. Please remember to communicate with these great Americans (mail, email, care packages, etc.) often and with regularity. It's always nice to get a note from familiar folks at the "home office". Iraq mailing addresses are readily available at the Readiness Branch.

Funding challenges will remain a familiar theme throughout this year. I appreciate the efforts of all involved to arrive at prudent business decisions to meet mission requirements. Our funding challenges run the entire spectrum of Corps capabilities:

1) Our Recreation Excellence at Army Lakes (REAL) program recently received BG(P) Hawkins' approval and is currently being vetted with the public. This initiative is one of the most important and sensitive undertakings by Nashville District and the Corps. Its success will have a domino effect throughout USACE as other Districts are watching Nashville District's lead and looks for our lessons learned. The bottom line is that, as good stewards of taxpayer dollars, the Nashville District is making a business decision with the intent to provide the

public with a better recreating experience through consolidation of resources at the same lake. In some cases, partial or full closure of some campsites will occur.

2) Navigation reductions are being considered for Melton Hill lock. These reductions seem to make sense considering the limited commercial and recreation traffic at this location. Although this is a difficult alternative, there appears to be some common ground that both the Nashville District and the Melton Hill recreating public can find acceptable. We will ensure that the recreating public maintains access to other reaches of the Tennessee River through regular (but limited) lockage intervals.

3) Construction General will be a challenge for the foreseeable future. USACE and LRD are wrestling with too many construction contracts and not enough funds. We can expect some



priorities to be made within LRD and funds will need to shift throughout the division to balance those needs. The intent is to ensure that on-going construction can continue throughout the division. Current construction schedules will remain on track. Future awards may need to be delayed. No doubt these are tough financial times, almost as tough as

(See *Where I Sit*, page 10)

December Employee of the Month

Curtis Malone, a maintenance worker at Old Hickory Power Plant, was selected as the Nashville District Employee of the Month for December 2003.

Malone has been instrumental in the development and implementation of



Curtis Malone with Chief of Engineers LTG Bob Flowers in November.

many programs throughout the Nashville District that have improved the work environment for the entire labor force. He has served as President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 2080) since July 15, 1995 and, in that capacity, has helped build a cohesive working relationship between management and the workforce. He has contributed greatly to the climate of mutual trust that exists between management and bargaining unit employees with his technical knowledge and candor.

Malone is also an active participant and charter member of the Nashville District Partnership Council (NDPC). Through this forum, management and bargaining unit team members discuss issues that have the potential to become formal grievances, yet almost all are satisfactorily settled at this informal stage. He has worked closely with both IBEW and the NDPC to facilitate a smooth transition following
(See *Malone*, page 9)

District Earns 2003 Performance Excellence Award

The Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE) named Nashville District in December as a winner of the 2003 Achievement Award, one of eight businesses to earn the advanced recognition.

District Engineer LTC Byron Jorns will accept the award in a ceremony Feb. 23, 2004, at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville.

Achievement Level recognition, according to TNCPE, is provided to Tennessee organizations that have



demonstrated, through their commitment and practice of quality principles, significant

progress in building sound and notable processes. Organizations recognized at this advanced level clearly demonstrate results directly attributable to a systematic, well-deployed approach.

"It is an honor," said Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, "for me to recognize and to offer my congratulations to all of these great Tennessee companies which have demonstrated a commitment to excellence. The employees of each of these organizations are to be commended for having set and met the highest possible standards for quality performance that reflect proudly on our state."

"I congratulate the entire Nashville District team," said Jorns, "for accomplishing the goals you set for yourselves in the FY'03 Business Plan. Each employee, at all levels, worked hard to achieve these goals and that's one of the most important reasons we attained this achievement level."

In February, 23 organizations will be recognized at the Quality Interest level; 15 are being recognized with the Commitment Award and eight will be honored at the advanced level with the Achievement award. For 2003, an Excellence Award is not being bestowed.

The Center, through its annual Award Process, recognizes organizations that have demonstrated through their practices and achievements the highest



standards of excellence. The program utilizes the *Criteria for Performance Excellence* established by the Baldrige National Quality Program as the evaluation and education tool. Awards are presented on a multi-level basis with organizations receiving recognition in

Process

one of four categories: Quality Interest – the beginning level, Commitment Award, Achievement Award, and the highest level – the Excellence Award.

More than 950 organizations have progressed through one or more levels of achievement that lead to the coveted Excellence Award. The CENTER's multiple levels provide a pathway to business excellence. A board of examiners comprised of more than 150 experts in business, education, healthcare, and government assess applicants in seven criteria. The criteria are leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, human resource focus, process management and business results.

"Excellence implies more than competence," said Marie B. Williams, president of the TNCPE, "it implies a striving for the highest possible standards. The 2003 Award winners represent the best and have done a great service by setting high standards for others to follow. I applaud their accomplishments."

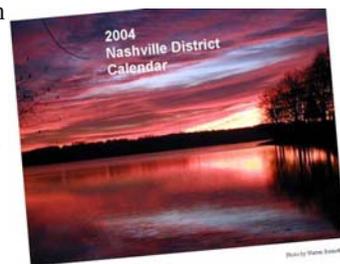
The District has participated in an internal self-assessment five of the last six years and this marks the most significant recognition to date from those assessments.

The Tennessee program, itself a national and international role model, is open to all business as well as public and private education institutions, health care organizations, government agencies and other non-profit entities. TNCPE is a public-private partnership.

2004 Calendar Published, Photos Sought Now for 2005

The 2004 Nashville District Calendar has been distributed and includes a number of excellent images taken by amateur District photographers.

For the second year in a row, Park Ranger Sondra Hafling wins the award for most photos by one photographer with both the January and February entries. For the first time, a photo by a retiree, Warren Bennett, was chosen as the cover. Park Ranger Gary Davis took the September photo and Archeologist Rob Karwedski submitted a photo of he and his daughter taken by a friend. All photos by PAO staff members were simply labeled as such. Your photo could be featured in the next District Calendar which will go to press late this year.



Submit in horizontal format to steven.c.foshee@ltn02.usace.army.mil or david.s.treadway@ltn02.usace.army.mil.

If digital, the photo resolution should be 300 dpi (dots per inch) to reproduce well in the calendar. You may also mail prints or color slides to the Public Affairs Office. All submissions will compete for space in the final collection. Good luck as you take your favorite photos! All themes are welcome.

Songwriter Pens One For Country Legend

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

Tim O'Connell has always been a big music fan, now he is also a published songwriter.

"Since high school," said O'Connell, "I have been interested in a variety of music, black music, soul, rhythm and blues.

"The songwriters captured my attention and interest. When I was 18, I began to think, 'Maybe I could actually be a songwriter.' I didn't realize it was going to take 32 years," chuckled the lanky park ranger who works at Old Hickory Lake.

He first moved to Nashville from his hometown of Clinton, Maryland, at age 19. College didn't do anything for him so he dropped out. He had met a girl from Nashville and she had to have surgery so, instead of going back to college, he came to Nashville with hopes of becoming a songwriter.

"I had written maybe five songs, they weren't any good but I was coming to Nashville to be a songwriter," smiled O'Connell. "I was lucky, that was the summer of 1970 and Johnny Cash was doing his live TV show at the Ryman Auditorium and I went every week with my girlfriend who later became my wife. He had everybody in music on his show; Liza Minnelli, Louis Armstrong, the Statler Brothers, Carl Perkins, they were all great. So seeing Cash every week, I felt like I kind'a knew him. His TV show faded away so I went back to school, finished my degree in agribusiness, moved back to Nashville and got a job."

Then O'Connell got what he considered his first break.

"In 1979 a friend of mine named Randall Hylton, who later became a bluegrass songwriter, told me he could get songs to Johnny Cash. Within a week I had written *A Singer of Songs*.

(Go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/0104/Story04.htm> to hear O'Connell tell how he wrote the song.)

He wrote it specifically with Cash in mind but says it rarely may be done that way.

"When I finished it," smiled O'Connell, "I thought 'This is a pretty good signature song for Cash'. I thought

this really sums up the man Johnny Cash better than *A Man in Black*, that became his signature song."

Normally a writer will have a publisher. The writer works for the publisher and the publisher is trying to market his songs.

"I sort of have a handshake agreement with Jeff Gordon at Bro n' Sis Music," explained O'Connell, "where we agreed to split the proceeds if he gets my songs recorded. I only hooked up with him about a year ago, so for the past twenty-some years I have been working on my own trying to get my songs to artists."

O'Connell 'writes' the music as well as the lyrics. "I don't write on an instrument, I do it as I drive in my truck. Since I don't know that much about chord structure, I will sing the melody while a good friend strums along on a guitar or plays a piano. He can instinctively play it just the way I want it to sound. So that has worked out real well."

The Old Hickory ranger recounted his odyssey of trying to get Cash to record his song.

"Randall made the first demo for me. I did everything I could, for 20 years, trying to get the song to Cash. I lived in Nashville so I met people who knew him, people in his record company, and every time I would meet someone like that I would give them the song, maybe 30-35 people over the years. I even gave it personally to Cash once at a book-signing when I bought a copy of his book *A Man in White*, about the Apostle Paul. But I never knew if he had actually ever listened to my song. Then in the late '90's he got pretty sick and in '99 I read that they were going to do this tribute to him in New York. As sick as he was, it



Park Ranger Tim O'Connell kept his day-job while pursuing his dream of becoming a published songwriter.

sounded like this album would be his last. So I knew if I was ever going to get the song to him, I better do it now."

The big break came unexpectedly.

"I saw where his son, John Carter Cash, whom I had met before, was going to be playing in Nashville. I went that night and right when he was ready to go up on stage, he asked if anyone had any harmonicas. He wanted to borrow a harmonica. Well, I play harmonicas but I didn't have any with me. I didn't live too far from the club so I drove home and got my box of harmonicas and returned 25 minutes later.

As I was walking in the door, the band was coming off stage from their first set and I sort of bumped into John Carter at the entrance. I said, 'Did you really want some harmonicas?' He replied, 'Eddie Money wants to play a harmonica.' Eddie Money used to be a rock & roll **(For rest of the story, go to <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/0104/Story04.htm>.)**

Snowmen Bring Christmas Carolers in Iraq

by Ed Evans, Baghdad, Iraq

Shortly before Thanksgiving one of the women on our team of civilian Army engineers received a box containing a trio of inflatable snowmen. That's not unusual since it takes anywhere from 9 to 18 days for packages to arrive in Iraq from the U.S., so some people try to mail early. However, we wouldn't let her put them up until after Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving night she had most of the guys out on the front steps of our "Baghdad palace" blowing up plastic dolls, and snapping the parts together.

Eventually we stood pale and panting, federal civilians with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, invited by the government to assist them in rebuilding and repairing the country's long-neglected infrastructure, before three huge snowmen tied down in the raised flower garden on the right side of the broad, marble steps of Hussein's white palace that served as our headquarters.

The first thing that happened with our three white Christmasy balloons out front was that we had an unusual number of helicopters buzzing overhead. Apparently every helo pilot and crewman now has digital photos of three mammoth snowmen in Iraq.

Then the bad guys got frisky with their rocket attacks and we began to wonder if the snowmen had become aiming stakes. In fact, one night they were quite close, with one rocket ending up in the river alongside, and three more scattered some distance away. Now we really became concerned.

As if to reassure us, however, God sent some special messengers one night. Working late as we always did, the

Operations Officer came rushing up to me exclaiming, "Grab your camera, there are Christmas carolers outside!" With camera in hand, I rushed out to find he wasn't kidding. A huge crowd of carolers had stopped their small blue bus in front of our grinning snowmen, and were singing, "We wish you a Merry Christmas," with a decided Iraqi accent. Turned out they were from the Christian Alliance

Church here in Baghdad, and wanting to share their Christmas spirit, they saw our snowmen, and they stopped to serenade us.

They sang about five familiar songs as we formed a semi-circle around our 6' 4" commander, Brigadier General Steven Hawkins, and faced their semi-circle of carolers. When they finished, BG Hawkins asked if they knew "Silent Night," his favorite. Their leader turned and spoke to them

Commentary on *Time Magazine's*

Recently a friend sent me a message congratulating me on being the *Time Magazine* 'Person of the Year', since this year's selection shows three U.S. Army soldiers on the cover, and since I am with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serving in Iraq to repair the infrastructure. This was my response:

Thank you, but I think it's a case of mistaken identity. However, I do know the *Time* "Person" of the Year very well.

As federal civilians the in-country commander, LTG Sanchez has decreed that we will not carry weapons. I don't

in Iraqi, they searched the pages of their small song booklets, then a voice called out in English, "It's on page 75!" And it was. The General suggested we all sing it together, so we all sang the first verse in English, then their choir sang it again in Arabic. Then we sang the next verse with them in English, then they sang it again in Arabic. It was a wonderful, loving Christmas concert. A slight winter breeze even had the

snowmen rocking to the music. Finally, they broke into "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and began loading on the bus. While they lined up to board, we shook hands and hugged and said, "Merry Christmas."

As they prepared to drive away, everyone on the bus shouted, "We love you!", and off they went. It was about the nicest thing that has happened to us during our time in Iraq. We decided to leave the snowmen up. 🏠



Photo by Ed Evans

Brigadier General (P) Steven Hawkins (left) sings along with carolers outside the TF RIE Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq. They even performed his favorite, Silent Night, upon request.

necessarily like that ruling, but being well acquainted with some of my fellow federal civilians, if they were armed over here it would scare the "you know what" out of me!

Consequently, every time we leave our "safe area", we must have what are called "shooters" with us. They are sometimes the mercenary security teams who are hired and paid by the contractors. But more often they are young American men and women in the U.S. Army. These young — usually 18-to 25-year-old — soldiers are very good at what they do, take their job seriously, and it is they who do the fighting,

the bleeding and the dying. Right there you see the reason I honor *Time's* selection for Person of the Year. They deserve our respect, our support, and our remembrance of them when this is over. For it is they who stand voluntarily in harm's way, between us and the terrorists. And I don't mean just the "us" who are over here, who see them do this every day, but I mean the "us" everywhere back home. What is happening here in Iraq could just as easily be happening in Baltimore or Boston, in Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Oklahoma City, Miami or Dallas. It did happen in New York City. That they have

Jose Garcia Recalls His Work in Iraq

by Dave Treadway

Jose Garcia deployed to Iraq in late September as a member of the FEST (Forward Engineer Support Team) working on Task Force RIE (Restore Iraqi Electricity) and returned to Nashville in December after a 120-day assignment.

While deployed in the war on terrorism, he performed a number of tasks.

“My duties,” revealed Garcia, “included writing and editing scopes of work for task orders to be issued to contractors, tracking the progress of work on a daily basis, representing engineering in operations daily briefs, and maintaining current information sheets on all projects.”

He interacted daily with three other Nashville District employees assigned to the headquarters office, Chuck Ogle in Logistics, Ted Ryon in IM, and Ed Evans in PAO.

“We each participated in operations daily briefs,” said Garcia.

The Baghdad Garcia described as he traveled around the city is different than that displayed on evening news reports.

“Baghdad seems to be going on business as usual,” said Garcia. “Sidewalks are full of pedestrians, streets are full of traffic, buses are full of people, shops are open, street vendors are everywhere, and children smiled and waved at us.”

He was not immune to danger, however.

“Our office was located in the Green Zone, right next to the Tigris River, directly across from major hotels and offices. I was working at my desk when the Baghdad Hotel was attacked by suicide car bombers on Oct. 12. The blast shook our windows a little, later we found out that the explosion took out one of our contractors’ security teams. They were in their vehicles waiting to enter the hotel parking. Then on the morning of Oct. 27, we were conducting our operations daily brief when the Red Cross was attacked by a suicide bomber. The explosion also shook our windows. On various occasions the green zone was attacked by either mortar fire or rockets. We could hear some of them coming and exploding. They were not aimed at our building, but we would take immediate cover in the basement and account for everyone. On one of those occasions I was dining in the Al Rasheed Hotel (For full story, go online at <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>)

— Ed Evans, MGySgt., USMC (Ret.)



Jose Garcia stands in front of one of the edifices Saddam Hussein erected in his own honor in Baghdad, Iraq. Garcia returned home just before Christmas after a 120-day assignment.

Selection of Person of the Year

taken their Commander in Chief’s words to heart ...”we will not falter, we will not fail”...., that they have held their ground here and refused to give ground to killers and criminals, that they have fought on when their friends lie dead or dying beside them, should earn from the men and women of America a respect that transcends politics, or philosophies, or time.

These young men and women, who could just as easily be home going on dates, or at college, or off playing computer games somewhere, have told the world irrevocably, this is not the America of Vietnam, this is not the America of Beirut, or of Mogadishu. No

matter how much you make us bleed, we will not back up. We will not leave until the job is done. We will keep the flame of liberty not only alive, but we will offer it to the oppressed of the world, to those under the thumb of terrorists and tyrants. When you see them in action here, you can almost hear them saying, “Here, as an American I have so much, give me your hand and let me lift you up, and I will stand here and protect you from the bully that kills and robs you of your humanity, until that day when you can stand on your own, and defend your own freedom.”

These young Americans in

uniform are a gift to the world. They have made the free choice to wear the uniform of their country, to be the ones of this generation to stand against tyranny. Like so many unsung heroes before them, they have learned that for those who fight for it, freedom has a flavor the protected never know. They shall forever share a special place in history. With all due respect to *Time Magazine*, for eternities they will forever be so much more than the Person of the Year. They are the Young American Heroes of This Age.

Class of 2003 Finishes Classes at Belmont

Story and photo by Bill Peoples

Nine Nashville District team members graduated from the District's 2003 Leadership Development Program on Dec 10. The class overcame the loss of three individuals due to surgery, retirement and reassignment.

"This is the first class to lose individuals during the year and even though it was traumatic, the class pulled together, readjusted and went on each time," said Patty Coffey, co-coordinator of the 2003 LDP. "This class had a few more challenges than other classes, but were still able to complete a project that was important to the District: mapping five business processes as part of the Project Management Business Process.

Graduates included David Hendrix, Bill Jackson, Jerry Lee, David Loyd, Barney Schulte, Caleb Skinner, James Sowell, Kimberly Spicer, and Dena Williams.

The nine join 60 other District team members who have completed the program since 1998.

"I believe strongly in leadership development programs, because they produce stronger leaders," said Lt. Col. Byron Jorns, Nashville District commander, as he addressed graduates. "As a selecting official, I look for evidence of leadership development and experience. I know you will take the

coordinator," said Brad Bishop. "Seeing the progress of the class throughout the year was tremendous. I have seen them grow as individuals and as a team. They have overcome some unique challenges and come a long way." Bishop told graduates, "You are amazing, and I wish you well as you complete the program,"



2003 Grad Barney Schulte (left) presents a gift to Co-coordinator Brad Bishop at 2003 graduation ceremonies.



Kimberly Spicer (left) receives her diploma for completing the Nashville District 2003 Leadership Development Program from Lt. Col. Byron Jorns, District commander.

skills you have learned this year and what you have learned about yourselves and apply them to your jobs and your roles as future leaders of the District and the Corps."

Through a combination of classes at Belmont University, projects, volunteer work and field trips, the class grew together as a team and learned about leadership and teamwork.

"I was very humbled when Patty asked me to assist her this year as co-

The program would not have been successful without the leadership of coordinators, Patty Coffey and Brad Bishop who spent many hours planning activities, attending classes and working with Belmont University.

"We were blessed with Patty and Brad and with Kaye Horsfall, our program administrator from Belmont," said Schulte. "We could not have asked for better people to lead us through the program and the classes at Belmont were excellent."

Dave Hendrix considered 2003 another successful year of developing leaders for the Nashville District.

"We are glad this year is over," said Hendrix. "We were able to make it through by balancing our jobs with program requirements. We met many individual and team goals. I think we will be able to take what we have learned and apply it to our jobs in the District." 🏠

A Lake Barkley Tale of Two Trails

Story and photos by Park Ranger Kayl Kite

Two trails at Lake Barkley were given make-overs in November by local volunteers and members of the Barkley Resource Management office.

An unseasonably warm first day of the month provided ideal conditions for local residents who were members of the local archery club to help construct a half-mile walking trail through a scenic patch of woods located on the Left Tailwater Recreation area at Barkley Dam.

Dubbed the Barkley Tailwater Trail, it is only a short walk from the Lake Barkley Visitor Center, making it very accessible for project visitors. The walkway meanders through several types of wildlife habitat to provide visitors an opportunity to view songbirds, rabbits, squirrels and the occasional whitetail deer or wild turkey. The trail will not only be used by hikers, but also by visitors en route to the Ten Points Archery Range constructed on National Public Lands Day in 2001.

Archery Club members and Barkley Resource staff hope to host monthly 3-D archery tournaments on the trail and use it as an interpretive resource at all other times. Future plans include lengthening the trail and adding interpretive tree identification placards along the way.

On Nov. 6, 2003, the weather was cool and damp, but the weather did not reflect the spirits of more local volunteers at Lake Barkley who had come to refurbish one of the oldest trails at the lake.

Local residents of Kuttawa, Ky., unveiled a facelift the community had given to one of the oldest trails at the lake.

Anderson Woodland Trail, located in Lake Barkley's Kuttawa Recreation area, has always been a popular spot for local residents and visitors alike. There, visitors have always been able to literally enjoy a walk in the park. The trail is handicapped-accessible and home to one of the largest black oak trees in the state, just two attractions that lure people to the area. Now, thanks to the cooperation and partnership of several agencies and

organizations, this trail has even more to offer the public.

The Corps of Engineers generated renewed interest in the renovation process by paving the trail, clearing away underbrush and landscaping some areas. Volunteers then installed tree identification markers, refinished the trailhead sign, installed landscaping stones and cleared away even more undergrowth. Now, the trail serves not only those interested in recreation, but also offers a self-paced interpretive program along the way. Future plans to



A volunteer, who is a member of the Ten Points Archery Club, trims branches from a white pine to form the new Barkley Tailwater Trail Nov. 1.

this trail may include an annual tree planting in the park as well as the placement of more interpretive tools.



Representatives of the City of Kuttawa, Ky., join Corps rangers Nov. 6 at the entrance to the improved Anderson Woodland Trail.

Malone (Cont. from page 3)

his retirement this month. During the November 20 NDPC meeting, several potentially contentious issues regarding changes in work practices and business methods were resolved in large part because of Malone's pragmatic approach to problem solving. He has been a major force in the successful implementation of the Drug Free Workplace Program working closely with his constituents, Human Resources and Safety. An unselfish and a big-picture thinker,

Malone gets much of the credit for the unsurpassed relationship that exists between management and the union in the District. He is highly respected by both peers and management.

Senior Leaders select the Employee of the Month from 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. 🏆

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to ...

...Paulene (Sneed) Webb, systems accountant, Finance and Accounting Branch, Resource Management Office, who retired January 3. Paulene joined the District in 1975 and retired with more than 36 years service. Her many friends will miss her smile, competence, and professionalism.

...Park Ranger Mark Willis, Dale Hollow Lake, who was recently published in *The Keats-Shelley Review*, No. 17, 2003 in London England. The *Review*, an exclusive literary society published by the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association, is devoted to the study of the life and works of the English Romantics (esp. Keats, Shelley, and Byron). Prince Charles himself is one of its sponsors/members. English scholars aspire to be published in the *Review* but most of them never make it! Willis did research on George Keats who was a brother of John. George Keats immigrated to Louisville, Ky, and became one of its most prominent and leading citizens. In fact, Louisville owes much of its founding economy and culture to the presence of George Keats in the early 1800's. Mark even tracked down and met descendants of the Keats' brothers. His article tells the story of how he researched and "found" the brother and the descendants of John Keats in America.

...Curtis H. Malone, maintenance worker at the Old Hickory Power Plant, on his retirement Dec. 31, 2003.

...Larry M. Strong, senior shift operator at the Old Hickory Power Plant, on his retirement effective Dec. 31, 2003.

...Carol Stanek-Markel, Larry Cole, and Greg Forte for successfully completing their 3B exams in December.

...Carol D. Haynes, EEO specialist, who has accepted a position as EEO manager (Officer) for three years in Wiesbaden, Germany. She reports to her new post on Feb. 8 and her return date to Nashville is Feb. 4, 2007.

...Bobby Hayes, Center Hill Lake ranger on his retirement Jan. 3.

...Philip Earheart, Center Hill Lake ranger for graduating from Tennessee Technological University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science on Dec. 13, 2003.

...Shannon Reeves, former student aid in Readiness Branch and daughter of Julie Reeves, Operations Division, was married Dec. 13, 2003, to Air Force Lieutenant Chad Christian. They will reside in Cheyenne, Wyo., where LT Christian is a finance officer at FE Warren Air Force Base, and Shannon is an accountant.

Baby Brigade ...

...daughter Maida Joe Treece was born Aug. 19, 2003, to Angela and Charles Treece. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 3/4 inches long. Maida is the granddaughter of Geneva and Bobby Bartlett, park ranger at Dale Hollow.



Thanks to ...

...all my friends throughout the Corps of Engineers, I want to thank all who have bid me farewell. I will be around until June in a union-capacity, so I will see some of you before I officially leave. It has been a wonderful experience working with the Corps of Engineers and IBEW. I have many, many valued friendships I shall cherish. I look forward, with reservation, to retirement because it will be so different for me, not participating in so many functions. I will continue to see some of you as I move on and very grateful for having the opportunity to work with you. *Curtis Malone*

...everyone for their thoughts and prayers for my successful recovery. Unfortunately I have not had my surgery yet so I am not recovering. Hopefully I will go to the operating room during January. After surgery I am looking at 4 to 6 weeks of healing and rehabilitation. *Theodore Caldwell, Goodwill Government Services, Mail Center Contractor*

Sympathy to ...

...the family of Debbie Tuck, whose brother, Eric Thibault, passed away Dec. 28. Eric worked as a seasonal employee at Cordell Hull Lake in the early '90's.

...Gerald Wooldridge, maintenance worker at Wolf Creek Power Plant, on the death of his brother, Wilbur.

...the family of Billie Jean Armstrong, upon the death of her husband Cordell. The staff at J. Percy Priest is saddened by the loss of Cordell, a dear friend and long-time park attendant, who passed away Dec. 15.

Cordell and Billie Jean Armstrong operated Seven Points Campground, were always friendly and cheerful to visitors and employees alike, and will be sorely missed. Cordell was also a Vietnam veteran, and worked for many years in the Federal Prison system.

...James O. Johnson and family upon the loss of daughter, Melissa, who passed away Dec. 31, 2003. Johnson is an electrician at Wolf Creek Power Plant.

Where I Sit (Cont. from page 3)

following Christmas with the birthdays of two teenage girls! Just kidding.

I appreciate everyone's commitment towards meeting mission and your creative solutions/alternatives to difficult problems. I am proud of all of you.

My safety message this month concerns carbon monoxide poisoning. This is an odorless, colorless and tasteless gas that can kill if undetected. If you use gas in your home, it would be wise to get a carbon monoxide detector. Some things you should know about carbon monoxide detectors:

- * Carbon monoxide detectors do NOT function as smoke detectors.

- * Smoke detectors do NOT work as carbon monoxide detectors.

- * Only select officially approved detectors marked with the label **UL2034**.

- * Follow manufacturer's recommendations for placement.

- * Treat all activations as real, and get the activation checked out by a professional.

- * Evacuate everyone from your home immediately, and leave the door open.

- * Notify the fire service from a neighbor's phone.

- * Test carbon monoxide detectors at least monthly and replace carbon monoxide detectors and batteries per manufacturer's instructions.

I am looking forward to a great new year! 🎉



Is Your Identity Safe Here?

by *Connie Hardeman*

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America.

Almost everyone knows someone who has been affected. Last year at least 14 employees of the Nashville District were victims of this crime. In most cases, someone obtained credit in the employee's name—usually at several different locations. Repairing damage is very difficult, time-consuming, and often expensive for victims. Most thieves get a victim's personal information from stolen mail or garbage. From incoming mail, thieves can get checks, new credit cards or pre-approved credit card applications. By stealing outgoing mail, criminals can intercept forms with personal information (Social Security Number, date of birth, etc.). Dumpster divers get the same kinds of information from discarded bank statements, credit card receipts, or paid bills. According to Ron Waller, U.S. Postal Inspection Officer, you can minimize damage by doing some of the following:- Deposit outgoing mail only at a post office or federal mailbox. And always make sure your mail drops down into the box.

- Get a PO Box or locking mailbox to protect incoming mail.
- Shred pre-approved credit card applications, credit card receipts, bills, financial papers, and papers containing your Social Security Number before you throw them away.
- Cut unwanted credit cards into several pieces. Make sure that someone going through your garbage is wasting his/her time.
- Have the Postal Service or a neighbor hold your mail when you will be away for a few days.
- Never give personal information to anyone over the phone unless you initiated the call.
- If you have financial information on a computer connected to the internet, make sure you install firewall software so hackers cannot access it.
- Limit the valuable information in your wallet or purse. Remove extra credit cards and IDs and cancel the ones you don't use. (Memorize your Social Security Number and bank passwords.)

- Keep personal items in a safe place (at work and at home).
- Check your credit rating at least once a year with the three major credit bureaus. Report fraudulent activity to police.
- If you order a new credit card and it doesn't arrive in a timely manner, notify the issuer.
- Don't include your driver's license number on bank checks.
- Don't print Social Security Number on your driver's license.
- Be cautious when entering your bank code at ATMs or on debit card machines.
- Never leave receipts at ATMs, gas pumps, etc.
- Save all credit card receipts and match them to monthly bills.
- Opt-out of mailing lists.
- Request to receive your Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) electronically. (There have been several pay periods where LESs were received in the mail unsealed—revealing all employees' personal data. Since the address is on the outside of the statement, this is all a thief needs to illegally obtain credit in the employee's name.)

"Identity theft is all about obtaining key information," said Secret Service Agent Kolbe Biggers. "The criminal sometimes will start with the phone book to obtain a name and telephone number or gather Internet and On-Line Services Information." Biggers warned people to use caution when disclosing checking account numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal financial data at any web site or on-line service location unless you receive a secured authentication key from your provider. He also warned against disclosing credit card information when you subscribe to an online service.

"When you enter any interactive service site," cautioned Biggers, "beware of con artists who may ask you to 'confirm' enrollment service by disclosing passwords or credit card account numbers. Never give them out!"

- If you become a victim, you should take these steps:
- Inform all creditors by phone and in writing.
 - Write down who you talked to and what you were told.

- Contact your local police or sheriff's department and request a copy of their report.
- Contact the local Postal Inspector if you suspect someone has filed a change of address or has used the mail to commit fraud.
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the problem (1-877-IDTHEFT).
- Notify one of the three credit bureaus' Fraud Units to initiate a Fraud Alert/Victim Impact Report.
- Alert your bank to flag accounts and confirm unusual activity.
- Request a PIN change and new password.
- Keep a log of all contacts and make copies of all documents.
- Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to see if another license was issued in your name—if so, request a new license number and fill out a complaint with DMV.

Identity theft is becoming more common every day. It can cause great personal inconvenience and embarrassment and can destroy your credit. You may have to prove your innocence.

The following is one contact that may be used to report identity theft and to receive a credit report. As of April 2003, if you notify one credit bureau they must notify the other two.

Equifax Credit Bureau, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241
1-800-685-1111
1-800-525-6285
www.equifax.com



More information :
When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name -Located in LRN Public Folders/ Security Information/Identity Theft Guidance.

Secret Service ID Theft Crime CD (Security Management Office)
Homeland Security Identity Theft Guide: www.consumer.gov/idtheft. 



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nashville District
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202-1070

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NASHVILLE, TN
PERMIT NO. 559

Just To Be On The Safe Side . . .

By John Tibbles, Safety Officer

The topic this month is
“Navigating Out of a Skid”.

Below are some driving tips to help you get out of a skid situation in your car.

Rear-Wheel Skids

The most effective way to get your vehicle back under control during a rear-wheel skid is as follows:

- * Take your foot off the brake or accelerator.
- * De-clutch on a car with a manual transmission, or shift to neutral on a car with an automatic transmission.
- * Look and steer in the direction you want the car to go.
- * As the rear wheels stop skidding to the right or left, counter-steer until you are going in the desired direction.

Front-Wheel Skids

Front-wheel skids are caused by hard braking or acceleration if your vehicle has front-wheel drive. Regardless of whether the vehicle has front-, rear- or four wheel drive, the best way to regain control if the front wheels skid is:

- * Take your foot off the brake or accelerator.
- * De-clutch on a car with manual

transmission, or shift to neutral on a car with automatic transmission.

- * If the front wheels have been turned prior to the loss of traction, don't move the steering wheel. Since the wheels are skidding sideways, a certain amount of braking force will be exerted.

* Wait for the front wheel to grip the road again. As soon as traction returns, the vehicle will start to steer again.

Remember, when road conditions get slippery, the best thing you can do to avoid skidding is to slow down.

Safety – It's a Team Effort 🏠

HR Captures Prize For 'Winning Door'

Gloria Cartwright, Victoria Hooper and Sue Crofutt, Human Resources Office, stand next to the first place entry in the Christmas Door Decoration Contest sponsored by the Management Sponsored Activities Committee. Twelve offices entered the contest. Judges Nery Estrella, Ben Rohrbach, Brigitte Rugare, Cheryl Wallace, and Stephanie Coleman said door crafters demonstrated great creativity. First prize was a \$25 pizza party. Real Estate captured Second Place and was honored by a fruit basket. Program Management-Planning took Third Place and earned a tin of cookies. Judges awarded an honorable mention to the Geotechnical Branch.



Photo by Cheryl Owens