



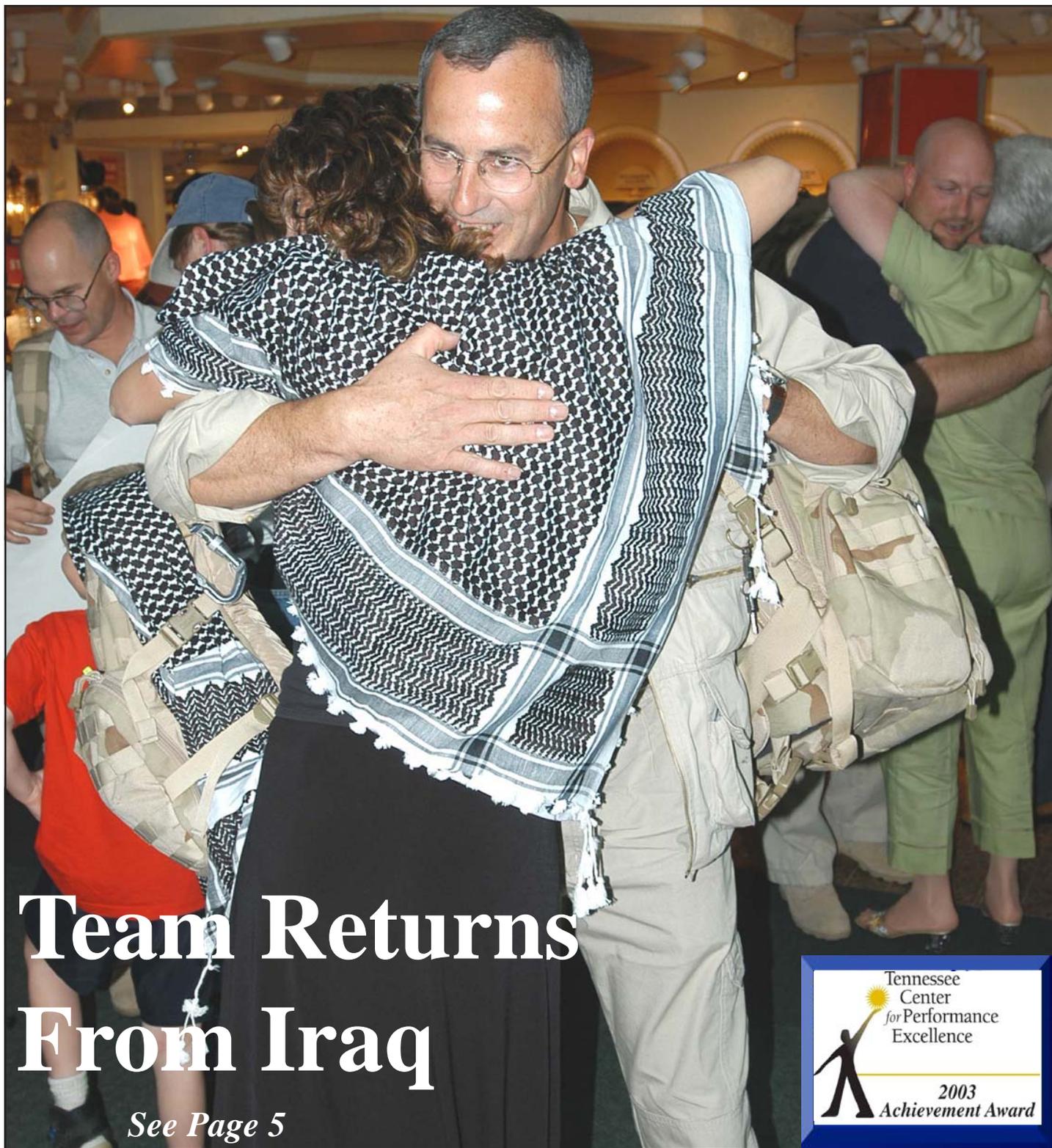
US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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Respected-Responsible-Reliable

May 2004



Team Returns From Iraq

See Page 5



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Beware . . . Computers are Monitored!

All DoD computer systems, including all related equipment, networks and network devices (including Internet access) are provided only for authorized U.S. Government use. DoD computer systems may be monitored for all lawful purposes, including to ensure their use is authorized, for management of system, to facilitate protection against unauthorized access, and to verify security procedures, survivability, and operational security.

Monitoring includes, but is not limited to, active attacks by authorized DoD entities to test or verify the security of this system. During monitoring, information may be examined, recorded, copied, and used for authorized purposes. All information, placed on or sent over any DoD system may be monitored. Unauthorized use of a DoD computer system may be subject you to criminal prosecution. Evidence of unauthorized use collected during monitoring may be used for administrative, criminal or other adverse action. Use of all DoD computer systems, authorized or unauthorized, constitutes consent to monitoring for all lawful purposes. 🏰



photo by Dave Treadway

On the Cover

Mark Hallar (Center) hugs his daughter at the Nashville International Airport May 6, as Major Bob Pegg (left) and Jared Gartman (right) are greeted by family members. The Forward Engineer Support Team served in Iraq for more than 4 months helping rebuild much of the infrastructure there as part of the Global War on Terrorism. More photos are included on page 5.

District Digest

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the

Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns From Where I Sit

Folks, ...this month we welcome home our returning Forward Engineer Support Team (FEST) team from a 120-day tour in Iraq. This team, and all our deployed team members, performed admirably overseas. I'm proud of each and every one of them for the sacrifice they, and their families, have made to help better the lives of others. (See photos on page 5). Also, congratulations to Joe Faustina, lock and dam equip mechanic, Maintenance Section, Navigation Branch, on his recent deployment to Baghdad. Please keep him and Richard Cummings (RE), who is also deployed, in your thoughts and prayers.

...I'd like to tell you what I see in our future. I think we're all aware that the Corps is not growing. We're actually getting smaller and that makes sense when compared to future budget outlooks.

...many of you have heard about workload challenges throughout the Division. One of our sister Districts is

Communication

experiencing a difficult time this year regarding an imbalance with manpower versus workload. During this time of need, the Corps has always taken care of its own. Our Division is undergoing an effort to assess what opportunities may exist in other districts to help balance workload vs. workforce requirements. Nashville District will certainly play its role in whatever manner possible. More to follow on this as LRD determines viable options ahead.

...the workload vs workforce topic will be an ever present issue in the months and years ahead. As you know, Nashville District's funding is not increasing nor is it expected to anytime in the near future. Each district has been asked to undergo an internal review and assessment of their "vulnerabilities" with respect to future funding streams. The idea is that we can no longer count on past revenues to automatically be available year after year. To do so jeopardizes the alignment of workforce and workload. The subsequent imbalance would likely cause districts to take

severe personnel actions to bring the organization back into alignment. My challenge is to ensure that Nashville District does not get into this unfortunate position, but rather to continue to make prudent decisions to keep us "balanced" and capable to meet future missions.

...LRD is studying every business line for possible regionalization and efficiencies. The first business lines to be reviewed are Navigation, Environment, and Flood Damage Reduction. The results of these reviews will help us determine what our future workforce will look like. Nashville District is well represented on each of these study teams.

...I share these comments with you only to put into perspective some of our future challenges. The Division has asked us all to "live within our means". I think Nashville District is in good shape and on a healthy downward trend towards a smaller workforce. Backfill hires cannot be assumed to be "automatic". Each new hire will be reviewed to ensure it meets Nashville's anticipated future workload. The expectation is that we will balance ourselves with our future needs through normal attrition and retirements. There is no magic number established as an ultimate goal and no deadline or date



set. We're simply on a glide path towards a smaller workforce whose capability will be aligned with our future workload. This is an ongoing process.

Now a word about Safety. Work-related hearing loss continues to be a critical workplace safety and health issue. Approximately 30 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise on the job.

Wearing your hearing protection devices is most important while in an area designated as a high sound level area.

It is up to you to have hearing protection and that you use it, whether ear muffs or ear plugs is not important.

What is important is that you wear what is appropriate for the work performed and the noise levels expected.

Noise-induced hearing loss is fully preventable, but once acquired, it is permanent and irreversible. Take care of your hearing. You'll be glad you did! 🇺🇸

April Employee of the Month

Mike Lee, project engineer in the Construction Branch, Nashville Resident Engineer Office, was selected as the Nashville District Employee of the Month for April. Mike is



Mike Lee

currently detailed to the Oak Ridge area and is working in support of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration at the Y-12 National Security Complex. He has been cited for

exceptional performance during the past few weeks in his current role as Project Engineer and Contracting Officer's Representative on several design and construction projects at the Oak Ridge facility.

His can-do approach has enabled Nashville District to both help DOE with their small business construction program and provide work for the District.

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. 🇺🇸

Secretary Woodley Visits Chickamauga Lock

by Bill Peoples

On April 27, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) John Paul Woodley saw first-hand the condition of Chickamauga Lock during a visit to the lock arranged by U.S. Reps. John Duncan and Zach Wamp.

Woodley testified before the House Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, which Duncan chairs, to defend the President's 2005 budget in February. Duncan invited Woodley to tour the lock and be briefed on its condition by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and TVA personnel.

"I appreciate Secretary Woodley accepting Congressman Duncan's invitation to come and see first-hand the condition of Chickamauga Lock.," said Wamp. "I think the Secretary now has a better understanding of the vital importance of this lock and will be able to communicate that to the Administration and OMB."

Woodley was briefed by Janet Herrin, vice president of River Operations for TVA and Wayne Huddleston, project manager for Chickamauga Lock, Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of



photo by Bill Peoples

Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) John Paul Woodley (center) takes questions from the media after touring Chickamauga Lock. During the media interview, Woodley pledged to work with Congress and the Administration to continue the support for a replacement lock at Chickamauga Dam.

Engineers, on the history of the concrete growth problem at the lock, the present condition of the lock and the planned construction of the replacement lock. "Janet emphasized the history of

Chickamauga Lock, the identification of the problem and the impact of the potential loss of the lock to navigation," said Huddleston. "I focused on the aggressive maintenance and monitoring program we have in place to keep the lock open and presented the plan for the lock's replacement. The bottom-line is that the lock has a finite life and will have to be replaced or closed. I believe ASA Woodley was impressed with the problem we are dealing with and will take these concerns back to decision makers in Washington to obtain funding for Chickamauga Lock in the President's FY06 budget."

Woodley in his remarks to the media after the tour pledged his support for a replacement lock for Chickamauga Lock.

"There is an absolute need for us to get together and work together in Washington to bring to fruition the replacement of this facility at the earliest possible timeframe," said Woodley. "I will be working with Congress and the Administration to complete the analysis we need to do to make the appropriate recommendations to get moving and to continue the support for a replacement lock."

With PRIDE

Volunteers Clean Up Laurel Lake

by Steve Foshee

Despite several days of rain in the eastern Kentucky area, the annual Laurel Lake Clean-up began April 24 as planned. Buses arrived one after another filled with volunteers who wanted to join the 2004 PRIDE event.

The hills around the lake echoed with the sounds of organizers from Laurel County and Whitley County battling to see which county could muster the most volunteers. Last year Laurel County took home top honors along with a handsome trophy. At stake this year was a commemorative cup and bragging rights for the county that recruited more volunteers. The competition was fierce and resembled a supporting event as both counties combined for a total of 513 volunteers who worked as a team to

gather more than 4,800 pounds of discarded garbage.

Pontoon boats lined the shoreline at the event site.

One boat owner said, "I can take five people on this boat," and another quickly followed with, "I can take six over here!"

Park Ranger Judy Daulton assisted volunteers with boarding the watercraft and provided safety tips before their departure. Each boat was directed to a designated area to be cleaned. Nearby, a ranger with a mobile radio directed other groups to trash sites that were not accessible by water.

Greg Greer, Russellville, Ky., Waste Management, assisted with containers for the collection effort.

See www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/ for complete story and photos. 📷

FEST-A Returns From Mission in Iraq

photos by Ed Evans and Dave Treadway

Six team members from Nashville returned home May 6 after a four-month deployment in Iraq. They were part of a Forward Engineering Support Team (FEST), which left Nashville January 4. Family members and friends greeted them at the airport. During the deployment, the FEST helped rebuild the country's infrastructure and managed construction projects that included: police barracks, schools, water treatment facilities and rehabilitation of electrical power plants.



Bill Bennett (above), surrounded by his family, talks to a TV reporter. Major Bob Pegg (below) holds his son while speaking to the media.



Kathy Grimes gets a warm greeting.



Jim Cook greets Jim Beaujon (above) and Mike Ensich (below) arrives April 16 in Nashville hand in hand with wife Christi.



Jared Gartman talks to the media.

Five Named Distinguished Civilians

By Dave Treadway

Five former Nashville District employees will be honored at the Engineer Day Picnic June 11 with Distinguished Civilian Service Awards, one of them posthumously.

Albert J. Dunn, Harold Lynn Midgett, John U. Miller, Clifford G. Reinert, and Thomas M. Wilkerson will be honored and have their names affixed to placards in the District Executive Office.

Al Dunn served 36 years in the Nashville District until his untimely death August 5, 2000. A civil engineer, Dunn worked in the Engineering Division during the early years and during the last 20 years as



a member of the Operations Division's Readiness Branch and the District's Natural Disaster Manager.

In that later role, he deployed personnel for levee rehabilitation in Kansas and Missouri, and supported South Atlantic Division's disaster response and recovery efforts following Hurricanes LUIS, MARILYN, OPAL and ROXANNE.

For his work in North Carolina in 1977 and in West Virginia in 1986, Dunn was commended for his performance after catastrophic floods struck those areas.

He was responsible for the District's Emergency Response Teams, personnel deployments for Damage Survey Report taskings, Preliminary Damage Assessment, contract administration and quality assessments and control. He streamlined and improved each of those processes.

Lynn Midgett retired in 1999 after 36 years exemplary service. He began as a temporary seasonal laborer at Old Hickory reservoir and



finished as the chief, Physical Support Branch.

During the late '60s, Midgett inspected critical weldments and fabricated components for dams at Barkley, J. Percy Priest, Cordell Hull and many other projects. He was also primary inspector for massive welded beams and trusses fabricated at Decatur Iron Works, Decatur, Ala., for NASA.

Midgett served as the District's first diving coordinator. Under his leadership, the diving program was recognized for excellence Corps-wide, and has become the benchmark standard by which other underwater diving programs are measured today. During his entire tenure District divers never had a significant mishap and worked in excess of 25,000 manhours underwater. That incredible safety record still continues today, thanks in large part to its first leader.

As Superintendent of Locks and later Chief, Locks Management Section, Midgett streamlined staffing in the repair fleet and at District locks, making Nashville the first in LRD to staff navigation locks with one operator per shift, an arrangement that has proved to be the most efficient workable model in the Corps to this day. He was involved from the outset as a member of the team that implemented the National Conditions Index System for Navigation Locks, a system still in place around the Corps.

He helped establish a formal Lock Operator Training Program in partnership with several community colleges and technical schools, which gained him Corps-wide recognition that helped make it the model for the Corps.

John Miller served the Nashville District as an attorney in the Acquisition Branch of the Real Estate Division from September 1966 until



November 2001, and was, for years, the District's primary authority on real estate acquisition.

During his tenure, he actively participated in the acquisition of ten projects with a combined size of about 200,000 acres. In the mid-1970's, the District began the acquisition of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. One of the highlights of his career came in 1979 when he played a key role in the negotiations and ultimately closed the purchase of 53,000 acres acquired from the Stearns Coal and Lumber Company. This property, acquired at a price of \$16,543,000, is still the largest single civil works acquisition in Corps history.

As branch chief, he oversaw lands in the Upper Cumberland Area for flood control projects at Pineville, Barbourville, Williamsburg, Middlesboro, and Harlan, Ky.

Miller was recognized as one of the most knowledgeable attorneys with the Corps in the field of condemnation and, at the time of his retirement, was also the Corps' longest tenured attorney.

Cliff Reinert retired in December 1997 after 34 years

in the Nashville District, serving for many of those years as the



District's only registered landscape architect.

His innovative ideas, tireless work ethic, team spirit, and ability to inspire and lead others resulted in many nationally recognized achievements and awards for the District.

He had many responsibilities associated with construction of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and associated facilities, and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. He played a major role in writing General Design Memoranda for many of the District's multipurpose lake projects. He prepared recreation facilities plans for Lake Barkley, Cordell Hull Lake, Laurel River Lake, Martins Fork Lake, and J. Percy Priest Lake. He then prepared project Master Plans, Master Plan Supplements, and updates for these and other District projects.

Thomas M. Wilkerson retired in January 1999 after more than 36 years with the



Army Corps of Engineers in the Nashville District.

He began as a ranger at Center Hill Lake in 1963 after earning a BS degree in Agriculture from Auburn University. He then served at Old Hickory Lake before moving to the Real Estate Division, then to the Personnel Office. In 1971 Wilkerson was

See www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/ for more. 📄

Employees Honored by Federal Executive Association

By Dave Treadway

The Middle Tennessee Federal Executive Association honored five Nashville District employees as winners of 2004 Employee of the Year Awards May 4 at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel.

Mike Ensich, chief of the Operations Division, was named Outstanding Manager of the Year.

Carl T. (Tom) Swor, a senior environmental planner, biologist, received the Outstanding Scientific Award.

Jerry Breznican, emergency management specialist, earned the Outstanding Technician Award.

Joseph M. Adawag, a marine machinery mechanic with the Cumberland River Operations Center at Old Hickory, was awarded the Outstanding Trade or Craft Award.

George A. (Tony) Ellis, a civil engineer with the Kentucky Lock Addition Resident Office, received the 2004 Award for Heroism.

Three other employees and a team of Old Hickory Power Plant Operators were named finalists in the competition.

Supervisory Geologist John L. (Jody) Stanton was a finalist for the Outstanding Supervisor Award, Training Program Specialist Judy J. Potaczek was a finalist for the Outstanding Professional Award, and Hydropower Office Assistant Mary J. Hayeland was a finalist for the Outstanding Secretarial or Administrative Support Award.

Old Hickory Power Plant Operators James Caplinger, Mike Ezell, Richard Flowers, Chester Lowery, and Tommy Thompson were finalists for the Outstanding Team Award.

Ensich's award was based on his personal commitment to

excellence and exceptional leadership which contributed to the accomplishment of the



District's civil works mission. In addition to his performance in special assignments with the

Office of Management and Budget, and Headquarters USACE, his exemplary service as chief, Operations Division is reflected in the operational efficiency and superior condition of the District's hydroelectric powerplants, navigation locks, navigation channels, and natural resource management areas.

Ensich's efforts and leadership as program manager for Task Force RIO (Restore Iraqi Oil) is and will continue to have a significant and extremely positive global impact, particularly on the welfare and economic improvement of the Iraqi people. He returned April 15 from that assignment.

Swor led the Environmental



Team for the Ohio River Main Stem Study (ORMSS) and developed a framework and processes for conducting a

Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate effects of past, present, and future actions on resources, ecosystems, and human communities along the Ohio River. This was the first attempt in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, and

perhaps the entire Corps of Engineers, to undertake a comprehensive assessment of cumulative effects on such large geographic and time scales.

Swor authored and presented a paper entitled *System Investment Plan As A Tool in Adaptive Management* at a January meeting of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Science. He taught a course in November 2003 in Louisville, Ky., the first specifically tailored to the Corps Regulatory Permit Program, based on analytical techniques developed through the ORMSS process.

Breznican was honored for his role as the District's



primary liaison for team members deployed around the world in support of the

Global War on Terrorism. He handles the fiscal resources for training and pay for those deployed and coordinates their movements in preparation for and during overseas deployments. He represents the District in interaction between the Gulf Regional Division (GRD) in Baghdad, and the deployment center in Louisville. He remains in contact with employees in Baghdad, Al Hillah, and elsewhere in Iraq resolving problems and ensuring smooth transitions in and out of the U.S. He is recognized as the "go-to" employee throughout the Division for Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as Task Forces Restore Iraqi Oil and Restore Iraqi Electricity.

Adawag is responsible for the maintenance and repair of



three diesel-powered towboats, two diesel-electric derrickboats and associated

equipment aboard two major floating plant groups. These floating plant groups - WARIOTO and IROQUOIS - are engaged in navigation channel maintenance throughout the 1,200-mile Cumberland and Tennessee River Systems, and support major repair and maintenance for 14 navigation locks and related facilities. He procures repair and maintenance supplies and parts for the floating plant, investigates technological improvements, and researches product availability. Reduced lock and floating plant downtime translates into hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings to customers in the shipping industry. His ability to assess, devise and adapt new methods and procedures to ongoing work has proven extremely beneficial in reducing maintenance and repair time.

Ellis volunteered for a four-month assignment at the Corps



of Engineers construction area office in Kabul, Afghanistan, last year to help fight the Global War on Terrorism. His duties during that

stint required daily visits to
See www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/ for more.

Sons, Daughters Join Moms, Dads

by Brigitte Rugare

April 22 was a special day for sons and daughters of Corps of Engineers employees in the Nashville District. That's the day five children accompanied their Mom or Dad to work to better understand the role they play in helping the District accomplish its mission.

Marty Tyree, Holly Taylor, Mark Elson and Gerald Lee were accompanied by their children.

Victoria Hooper explained to the children the wide variety of jobs performed by the more than 800 District employees and then asked each of them to write down a description of the job they felt their parent performed.

Cheatham Lake's Jerry Strother talked about what it's like to perform the job of a Park Ranger and the myriad of tasks he faces every day. He explained how his number one job is to assist visitors to Cheatham Lake. More than 2.5 million visit Cheatham each year. Sometimes he is called upon to help with emergencies while patrolling the 3,000 acres of land or 7,000 acres of water included in the project.

One of his missions is keeping everyone safe. Strother talked about the importance of wearing a life jacket, or Personal Floatation Device, every time visitors are on or near the water. Each child was afforded the opportunity to put on a jacket of the proper size and before they left that day, they could do so like a pro. They also left with a new understanding of the value of wearing life jackets when they visit a lake or river this summer to enjoy recreation activities.

"I enjoyed it," said Hunter Tyree, "especially learning about water safety."

Each of the youngsters tried their hand at designing a bridge with a computer program designed by students at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Mark Elson's son Chris was shy and reluctant



photo by Terra Thornton

Robert Nesbitt, electrician at Wheeler Lock, brought his daughter Michelle to work with him on "Daughter Day". Michelle enjoyed seeing what her dad does while at work.

to talk until he got in front of the computer. Then he came to life and was more animated than all the others. When they finished, each of them was provided a copy of the program so they could refine their engineering skills in their spare time and perhaps one day also work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

USACE Water Safety Photo Contest Seeks Entries

The HQUSACE National Water Safety Committee sponsors a Corps-wide photo contest, with a focus on promoting water safety. This 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. 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

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 For 5067-R, Digital Library Image Information (Appendix B of ER 25-1-91). Indicate the category you are entering in the 'remarks' box. <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/usace-docs/eng-regs/er25-1-91/a-b.pdf>

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](http://district.equivalent).

Submit contest entries to your Division Water Safety Committee Representative listed at <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil/contacts.htm>.

Submission deadline is Feb. 1, 2005. Winners will be announced in April 2005 at the USACE session of the 2005 International Boating and Water Safety Summit (IBWSS) in California. Category winners will receive a commemorative plaque. Previous sweepstakes winners may enter. All photos become the property of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for use in publications, exhibits, and web pages.

For more information, contact your division water safety committee representative.

Corps Tests Inflatable Life Jackets

by Dave Treadway

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers tested a number of inflatable life vests from SOSpenders in the salt-water environment of the Gulf of Mexico near Panama City, Fla., April 21 under the supervision of Corps Safety experts.

Sam Testerman, assistant to the program manager, Headquarters Safety Office, described the results of their recent tests.

"We brought along 50 vests to test in various environments," said Testerman, "and under a variety of controlled conditions. Inflating times varied between 3-7 seconds. SOSpenders is the only company that has a model that meets Corps requirements. Several were tested in a fresh water environment at Lake Seminole and the remainder we tested in salt water."

Corps Rangers attending the International Boating and Water Safety Summit helped test the inflatables and provided instant feedback.

Philip Martinez, an Abiquiu Lake ranger from Albuquerque District, had the opportunity to test two of the Type V devices and found them to be lightweight, comfortable and very maneuverable.

"I found the testing to be quite effective for me," said Martinez, "as a ranger to actually take part in the hands-on visual and physical aspect of the testing. The devices provided instant buoyancy upon impact with the water. If I had the opportunity to wear mine, I would probably do so about 80 percent of the time during the summer season. It is an ideal jacket."

Alan Bland, a park ranger at Beaver Lake, Little Rock District, entered the water both by diving (simulating intentional entry) and by falling backwards into the water while participating in the test.

"Both PFD's inflated within 5 to 6 seconds, well within the time for which they are designed. I found that the two oral tubes in front by which the inflatables may be deflated or manually inflated caused some discomfort by kinda' sticking up into your chin once the vest was inflated. But that was a minor



problem. The PFD was lightweight and it did not rub on your neck, it fit very well. I see the vest as a good asset for us. It was easy to view the green indicator on the vest, meaning it was good to go."

Bland feels like it will be an excellent instructional tool.

"When you are doing boat patrol, you run across a lot of Dads who don't wear life jackets. They are always complaining that jackets are too hot and too uncomfortable. So then I could say, 'Look at this, it's very lightweight, very comfortable.' I could take away their excuses, show them why now there is no reason for them to not wear a life jacket."

Harry "Pete" O'Connell, a resource manager at Shenango Lake, Pittsburgh District, thinks an inflatable PFD is a good alternative to have available.

"I think when employees are exposed for long periods of time out there in the heat, this will reduce the perspiration in the back area. You may still experience a little perspiration in the front but this PFD should allow for enough circulation to reduce the body temperature of a boat operator and crew comfort is important. I probably will plan to buy them initially for my rangers because they spend more time in the summer months actually on the water than my maintenance crew, who may be out more during the spring and winter when it isn't hot. I then may purchase more of them for everyone. I realize this test was only part of their overall test. Yesterday they tested them

in fresh water with people of different weights and sizes. The sole purpose of our test was to judge time required to inflate in salt water vice fresh water and all performed as they were designed. I think the devices have a lot of potential."

Comfort was only one consideration for the inflatable devices.

"For the most part," confirmed Testerman, "wearers were comfortable in them. Perhaps a few weren't but you have all kinds of body types and it may be impossible to make something that fits everybody perfectly. Of course, there will be no requirement that people wear this particular life jacket, it just gives our people one more option. The vests are not totally certified yet, this is part of the process, our part of the certification process. We want to make sure that the devices meet the kind of reliability standards we require. We want owners and users to be able to look at them and be sure they are charged and ready for use. With the see-through window, users can look at them and be sure they are ready for use before they ever don them. SOSpenders is still in the process of getting final UL approval, working some final details with the Coast Guard. What we would like to do is actually have one more sample that we select at random off of their production line. These we tested this time were a special run as a courtesy for us. We would like to have a Corps project wear test them for a month or two before we go into full-scale approval for the rest of the Corps of Engineers."

The U.S. Coast Guard may have this model approved for purchase within a month. This model is not the average recreational type. Cost will be between \$150 and \$200 and subsequent costs include an annual check-up return to the company at \$30 each time, as well as a return to the company for repackaging after discharge. There will be certain other restrictions such as non-swimmers or PWC operators are not allowed to wear them. All of this information needs to be described on the Gateway. Sterns is working with Coast Guard for approval on one of their inflatables and Mustang is interested in working with us to develop a model that meets our standards. 🏠

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to ...

...Larry Forte upon his retirement from the Corps of Engineers and the Nashville District on April 30.

...Sandy Breault, who was selected CEFMS Systems Administrator in Resource Management Office.

...Crystal James, park ranger trainee at Cheatham Resource, on her marriage to Nathan Tingle on April 27.

...Angela & Hugh Knoth, whose daughter Emily Knoth was selected as field commander for the Lyon County High School Marching Band. Angela is the budget technician for the Western Kentucky Area Office.

...Phillip Brown, conservation biologist at Lake Barkley, who was named the new resource manager at Garrison Dam Lake Sacagawea in North Dakota.

...Doug Bailey, power plant shift operator at Dale Hollow Power Plant, on his retirement.

Baby Brigade to ...

...Tim and Jennifer Higgs, environmental engineer in Planning Branch, whose third child, Barbara



Cheyenne was born April 5 and weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces.

...Kenny Claywell, Conservation Biologist at Old Hickory Lake and his wife Tanya, who are the proud parents of Gary Bransford Claywell, who was born April



19, weighed 7 pounds, 6.8 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Sympathy to ...

...the family of Charles R. Jones, retired maintenance worker at Barkley Power Plant, who passed away in April.

...the family of Paul Robinson, South Atlantic Division's Regional Business Director, who passed away April 25.

"Paul knew the Corps like few others," said Chief of Engineers LTG Robert Flowers, "having served in the Philadelphia, Seattle, Savannah and Nashville Districts; and the Europe and Middle East Divisions. Paul's greatest contributions to the Corps came while serving in the Senior Executive Service in Southwestern Division, Lakes and Rivers Division, and most recently in South Atlantic Division."

... the family of Gary Cheatham, retired lock & dam operator from Pickwick Lock, who passed away April 9.

...John Hunter, whose father passed away April 17.

...Mike Wilson, whose father passed away April 19.

...Yvonne Hamilton, whose father, Guy C. Peek, passed away May 4.

...the family of Frank Kee, retired superintended from Dale Hollow Lake, who passed away May 4.

Thank You ...

...Andreas Patterson expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Nashville District family for all the kind thoughts, prayers, cards, flowers and hugs following the passing of my mother on April 3rd. "These actions went a long way in helping to ease my family's loss and I am truly grateful."

2004 Picnic Planned For June 11, Tickets on Sale

"Oasis of Fun!" will be the theme for the 2004 Engineer Day Picnic June 11 at Old Hickory Lake's Rockland Recreation Area.

Planners are making arrangements for all the traditional 'fun' events for both youngsters and adults alike. Volleyball Competition will begin at 8, Team Relays and Horseshoes will 'kick off' at 8:30, Bingo will begin at 12:15 and the Dunk Booth will get volunteers wet from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Planners expect the Volleyball Championship Match to begin at 1:45.

Various games for children will be held throughout the day and start times/locations will be announced over the public address

system. District Engineer Lt. Col. Byron Jorns will present a briefing for the benefit of retirees and family members at 9 a.m.

Five former employees, Al Dunn, Cliff Reinert, John Miller, Tommy Wilkerson and Lynn Midgett and participants in the Global War on Terrorism will be honored. Lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, and sandwiches of BBQ pork and chicken with all the trimmings will follow immediately after the ceremony.

Call Valerie Carlton at 736-7278 for tickets. Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 'til June 7. After that date, tickets will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

2004 EAGLE Class Takes Flight

by Kathy Canaday

The 2004 Class of Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence (EAGLE) began with an orientation May 5 and 6 at Nashville's Belmont University.

District Engineer Lt. Col. Byron Jorns and Susan Gordon, Dean of Belmont University, welcomed the students to the course.

Belmont instructor Mary Fink led students in various teambuilding exercises including "Wacky Olympics" in which the class was divided into four teams. The "Wacky Olympics" involved both indoor and outdoor activities that fostered a climate of teamwork. Students identified personal goals, discussed plans for self-development, and took the Myers-Briggs

personality test. Class members discussed and voted on projects to complete this year; an external project to assist Habitat for Humanity in constructing a home, and an internal project at Lake Barkley to create fish structures, hang woodduck boxes and bat boxes to enhance wildlife habitat.

"Orientation was a great introduction," commented student Ariana Beck-Scott, "to other Corps employees whom we may otherwise never meet face to face, but with whom we correspond daily through email. This also was a great opportunity to learn, not only about yourself, but also about others in the workforce."

Program Coordinator Mickie Porter and Assistant Coordinator Chip Hall will lead the 2004 EAGLES. 🐦

Life Jackets in Focus During Month of May

It is a tool designed for only one purpose. It's even custom made to fit bodies of every size and shape. And when properly worn, it has been proven to perform the job for which it was designed. But it only works if you wear it!

The life jacket saves lives when worn by those who unexpectedly fall into the water. That's why it's still called a life jacket, although in many places it is now also referred to as a Personal Floatation Device, or PFD for short.

Water related fatalities at Corps of Engineers projects has steadily declined since the enactment of the Federal Boat Safety Act in 1971. That year more than 475 people died. In 2003 that number fell to 137, much better than the number 32 years ago, but still far too many, according to safety experts.

Nationwide 524 people drowned in U.S. waters in 2002, the last year for which such statistics are available, and investigations show that 442 victims were not wearing the one device that might have saved their life.

Each year the nation sets aside one week in the spring to draw attention to safe boating practices. This year it's May 22 - 28 and the emphasis is again on getting boaters and their guests to wear properly fitting life jackets while they



Park Ranger Mike Watkins, Kansas City District, captured this image for First-Place in the 2003 USACE National Water Safety Photo Contest.

are enjoying themselves on the nation's waterways. The theme promoted by the North American Safe Boating Campaign is "Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear it!" and the message encircles the one device that

Some Things You Should Remember

by Steve Foshee

The theme for Safe Boating Week, May 22-28, this year is "Boat Smart from the Start-Wear Your Life Jacket."

This year Nashville District will use the media and community supporters to help park rangers raise the level of safety awareness among those who play on or near the water. Several park rangers have recorded water safety public service announcements for local radio stations.

The U.S. Coast Guard reported 524 water-related fatalities in 2002. The sudden and unexpected in-water experience contributed to 60 percent of national boating fatalities. Most people drown within 10 to 30 feet of safety. Learn these few simple techniques

to help someone in trouble and also keep yourself safe.

Reach: To help someone in the water, reach first with a fishing pole, towel, or boat oar but don't get in the water.

Throw: Scan your area for items such as an empty milk jug, cooler, or ring buoy that can be thrown to someone in the water.

Row: It's not safe to go near a swimmer with the boat motor running. Use the oars to bring the boat close enough to reach or throw something to them.

Don't Go: Without expert training and experience in lifesaving techniques, you could put yourself in danger along with the person you are trying to help. Go for help if none of the above are effective. 🚒

may do the most to reduce the number of those who will need safety officials to respond.

"Nearly 70 percent of the boating accident victims drowned," said Rear Admiral Jeffrey J. Hathaway, director of operations policy, United States Coast Guard, "and nearly 85 percent of those drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket. We estimate that as many as 440 lives may have been saved in 2002 if boaters simply wore their life jackets."

The Admiral made those comments at the 2004 International Boating and Water Safety Summit in Panama City, Fla., where more than 200 officials from all across the U.S. and from seven foreign countries gathered April 18 to explore ways to save the lives of those who live, work and play on our many rivers, lakes, oceans and other waters.

"We have come to realize that recreational boating is a privilege that we all may enjoy and carries with it a serious responsibility to be safe and secure."

Others at the Summit also focused on life jackets.

Canada put together a task force in 2001 to explore the advisability of advocating legislation that would make wearing PFDs mandatory. Officials there expected resistance to the idea but found they were wrong, according to Barbara Byers, Ontario, Canada public education director.

"We found support for PFD legislation for all occupants on-board was very strong," said Byers. Now the U.S. neighbor to the north is pursuing such legislation.

Several agencies at the Summit displayed products or ideas that would help promote the merits of life jacket use.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers shared a video entitled *The Young and the Reckless* that could be used to reach teens and web-based graphics called *Bobber the Water Safety Dog* ideally suited to appeal to grade schoolers and pre-teens. The later is available online at <http://www.bobber.info>. 🚒

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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . .

by John Tibbels

Spring weather produces thunderstorms and lightning, what some call the underrated killer. During the last 30 years, lightning has killed an average of 73 people each year in the U.

S. That is more than the 68 killed per year by tornadoes and far more than the 16 per year caused by hurricanes.

During a thunderstorm, each flash of cloud-to-ground lightning is a potential killer. Although some victims are struck directly, many are struck as the current

moves in and along the ground. Lightning can strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain area in a storm. That's about the distance you can hear a thunder-clap and if you can hear it, you are within striking distance. Seek shelter immediately!

Use the 30-30 rule. When you see a flash of lightning, count the time until you hear the thunder. If that is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles and is dangerous. You should seek shelter. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!

Even inside homes, people should avoid activities that put them at risk. People should stay away from windows and doors and avoid contact with things that conducts electricity.

If a person is struck by lightning, medical care may be needed immediately to save the person's life. Cardiac arrest, irregularities of the heart, burns, and nerve damage are common in cases where people have been struck by lightning. However, with proper treatment most victims survive a lightning strike.

Remember, when thunderstorms threaten, find a safe place, stay longer than you think is necessary, remain away from windows and doors and avoid contact with conductors of electricity. ⚡

Spring Perfect Time to Create Critter Habitat

by Park Ranger Troy Hawks

The sun shines brightly through a window that faces a favorite open view. One can feel the warmth of the sun as it streams through the glass. Then, just out of the corner of your eye, you see it, a sign of spring that is unmistakable, a robin bouncing along the grassy lawn, and not far away, a gray squirrel, both playing in the sunshine.

As children, most can remember similar scenes in their own yard, on a farm, or in a park. Animals like robins, eastern bluebirds, squirrels, and many other species in our area are very adaptive. Once, long ago, these creatures observed no boundaries and could live almost anywhere they desired. Today, however, with much of the area being cleared for development some of these critters have had to adjust to new homes and new ways of life. Though birds and squirrels still

live in trees, they also live in flower gardens, public park buildings, and almost as many places as one can imagine.

One adaptation these small but resilient animals have made is the utilization of living quarters we can supply in the form of houses, boxes, feeders, and gardens. If you would like a free set of detailed plans for birdhouses, and squirrel and bat boxes, or a list of native plants to enhance the attraction of songbirds, hummingbirds, and butterflies to your yard, both urban and rural, send an e-mail to troy.r.hawks@lrn02.usace.army.mil.

What better way to spend some time with your family than to construct a beautiful garden, birdhouse or feeder? One day, you and your children or grandchildren can watch through your favorite window as birds bathe, butterflies feed, and squirrels play. The quality time spent with a child will be remembered for years to come. 🏡