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Be On The Safe Side . . .

by John Tibbels

This is the first in a series of articles dealing with safety and health issues. I welcome input from everyone on what subjects you would like to see covered.

Since we are beginning a new fiscal year, it is appropriate to give everyone a summary of our accident experience for FY 03. The Safety Office is tasked with keeping accident statistics during the year. The type of accidents tracked by the Safety Office are government employee lost-time and non-lost-time injuries, contractor employee lost-time, government property damage with a value of more than $2,000 and recreational public fatalities. A lost-time injury is defined as one that prevents a person from reporting to work after the date of injury. So the number and types of accidents for FY 03 are as follows:

* Government employee lost-timeinjuries - 12.
* Government employee non-lost-time injuries - 20.
* Property (auto) accidents - 1.
* Public fatalities - 9.

The most numerous type of injury was back strain, which totaled eight. The remaining cases concerned dermatitis, abrasions, strains, one case of allergic reaction and one case of a bone fracture.

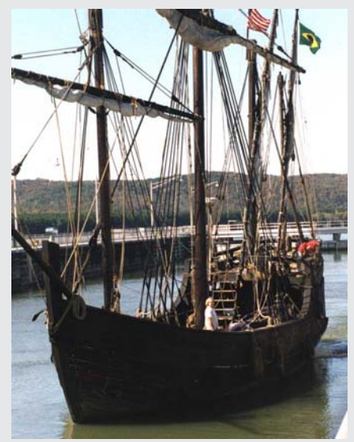
If you are injured on the job, it is very important to have the necessary forms completed as soon as possible, normally within five working days, by your immediate supervisor. The ENG 3394 form, Accident Investigation Report, reveals what caused the accident and recommends corrective action. For medical expenses and lost wages, the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Worker's Compensation Program (OWCP) requires completion of forms within five working days. The original forms, CA 1 or CA 2 and a CA 16 are to be sent to the Safety Office. The Safety Office forwards them to OWCP for processing and payment.

Sometimes payments are late and employees are contacted for payment of bills. If this happens, let the Safety Office know immediately so we can contact OWCP to effect proper payments. We do our best to see that required forms are sent in to OWCP as soon as we get them so that all payments are made on time.

Remember, if you have a safety or health topic you would like the Safety Office to research and report on, please let me know. Email me or call 615-736-7170.

Safety - It's a Team Effort

A Unique Visitor



On Sept. 23, this clone of Christopher Columbus' sailing vessel, the Nina, locked through Cheatham. The vessel is the exact size of Columbus' boat. Lockmaster Billie Boyd indicated that most yachts locked through Cheatham are the same length. Boyd said, "It's amazing to see the small size of this and think of crossing the ocean in it." The Nina is quite possibly "the most historically correct Columbus replica ever built," according to the Columbus Foundation. For a complete history of this sailing musuem made in Brazil, go to http://www.Thenina.com.

US Army Corps of Engineers®
Nashville District

District Digest

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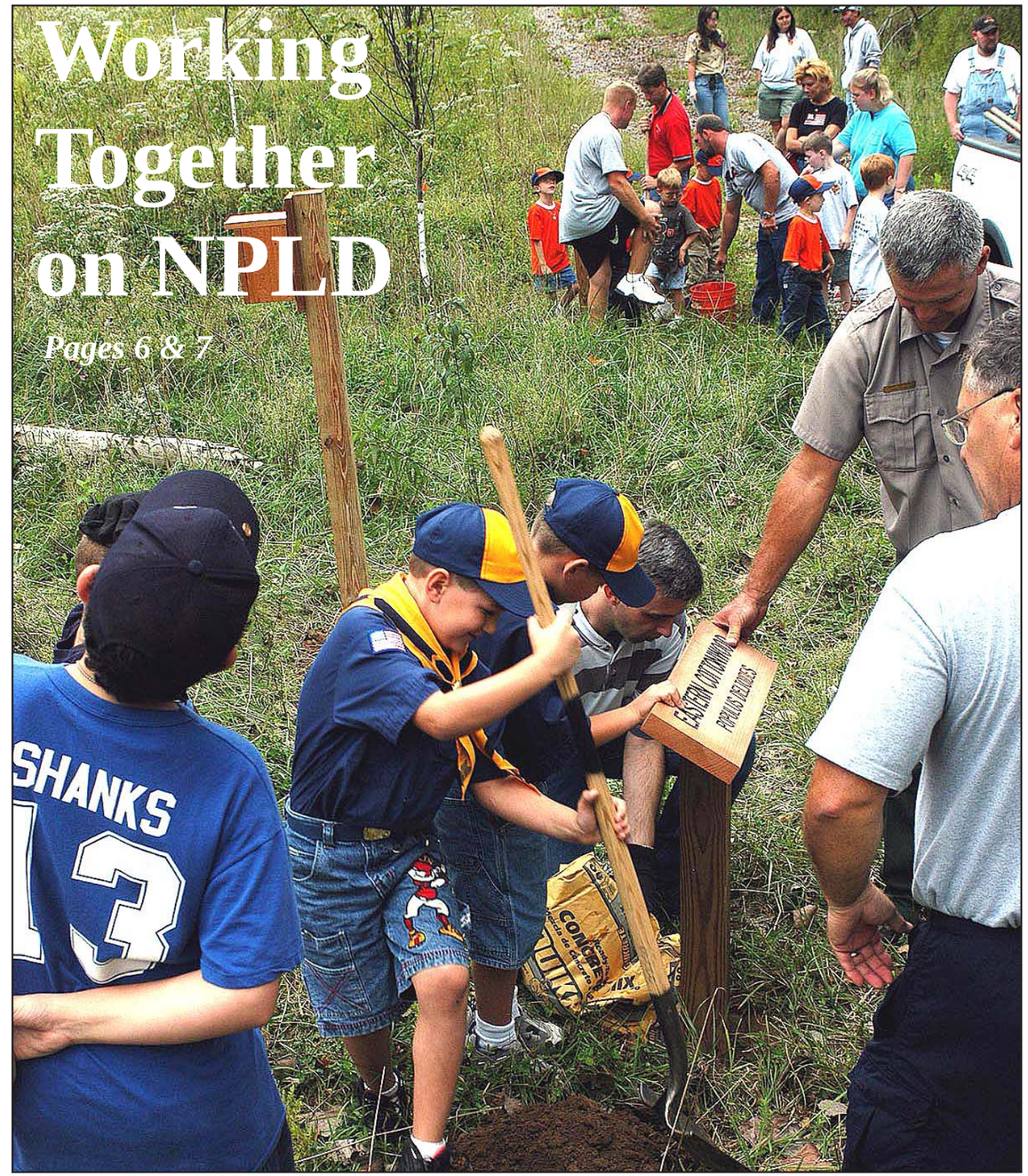
Working Together on NPLD

Pages 6 & 7



Contents

From Where I Sit 3
Employee of the Month 3
Employees Recall 9-11 Two Years Later 4
Chief of Engineers Speaks in Nashville 5
Volunteers Tidy Up District Lakes for NPLD 6
Jim Cook Becomes Desert Contractor 8
Stones River Shooting Range Will Open Oct. 18 9
The Corps Crowd 10
Nashville Helps Victims of Hurricane Isabel 11
Be On The Safe Side 12
District Gets A Unique Visitor 12

October Dates in District History

1768 - Lt. Thomas Hutchins, Engineer, British Army, supervises the construction of an armed galley which he uses the following year to reconnoiter & map the Tennessee & Cumberland Rivers.

1832 - Captains' Henry Shreve and Richard Delafield examine the Lower Cumberland River. Channel and stream bank clearing begin the same month and continue for several years.

1863, Oct. 26-27 - While under artillery fire the 1st Michigan Engineers lay a 900 foot pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River at Brown's Ferry, breaking the siege of Chattanooga.

1867, Oct. 7 - Topographer Edward McDermott, U.S. Engineers, drowns below Chattanooga during a survey of the Tennessee River.

1888, Oct. 1 - Colonel John Barlow opens Nashville District Office.

1925, Oct. 1 - Widows Bar Lock opens on the Tennessee River (submerged by Guntersville Project in 1939.)

1973, Oct. 17 - Cordell Hull project dedicated.

1983 - Beginning of Pineville, Ky., Section 202 flood protection project.

Photo by Dave Treadway

On the Cover

Center Hill Resource Manager Tim Dunn (center) and Park Ranger Mike Adcock (right) erect an interpretive tree placard Sept. 20 along the Buffalo Valley Nature Trail with the assistance of Cub Scouts from Pack 295 and a variety of Scout Leaders and family members from Baxter, Tenn.. The 'crew' erected six Eastern Bluebird boxes (left center)and 16 interpretive placards while also trimming grass and brush along the walking trail. For full story, see pages 6 and 7.

DistrictDigest

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

Nashville Helps Victims of Hurricane Isabel

By Dave Treadway

When Hurricane Isabel approached the coast of the eastern United States, select members of Nashville District packed their bags and prepared to become part of the recovery team.

Kathryn Grimes deployed to Richmond, Va., as a member of the Rapid Needs Assessment Team, Steven Beason deployed to the FEMA Regional Operations Center, Philadelphia, Pa., to serve as the subject matter expert for the roofing team, and James Sowell, Mike Swing and Doug DeLong comprised the Rapid Response Vehicle-03 team which deployed early Monday, Sept. 22, after being notified of the need to deploy late on Sunday.

Grimes spent Sept. 19, 20, and 21 working early to late helping assess damage over a large portion of the damaged tidewater area. Beason assisted the Emergency Support Function-Three team leader with planning and coordination after officials determined a roofing mission was not necessary. He returned Sept. 25.

The RRV team departed Nashville early Sept. 22 enroute to Fort Eustis, Va., the Federal Emergency Management Agency's main staging area for logistics. They arrived there shortly after noon the next day after fighting heavy rain along the way and were redirected to the Virginia Beach Convention Center to set up operations.

They had an immediate impact as they provided critical communications capability for the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force Personnel at an Ice and Water Distribution Site.

"We were left alone much of the time," said Sowell, "because we were the only group, FEMA felt comfortable letting act independently."

As a communications center, the RRV provided critical 24-hour support for access to computers, fax, copier and phone lines where personnel had been trying unsuccessfully to rely on cell phones.

"B Battery, 2/111 Field Artillery was able to channel all calls," said First Lt. J. Serafin, "as Officer In Charge, the RRV enabled me to instantly respond to all requests from Headquarters with minimum delay. This allowed units to take control of problems and solve them in a minimal amount of time," wrote Serafin afterward.

Photo by James Sowell

Nashville's Mike Swing assists a member of the Virginia National Guard establish critical communications links Sept. 25 while deployed in support of recovery efforts after Hurricane Isabel. RRV3 was crucial to efforts to deliver essential supplies to the residents of Tidewater Virginia.

On Sept. 24, the RRV made possible the dispatch of 12 trucks loaded with ice to critical areas. The next day, Sowell took responsibility for 16 more trucks of ice when FEMA was unavailable to receipt for them and redirected them to their assigned destinations.

On Sept. 25, the RRV was relocated to Suffolk, Va. to perform the same mission.

"We were critical to the success of the operation," said Sowell, "because the National Guard got behind by trying to communicate with cell phones and they were missing calls, missing faxes, and not able to direct trucks where they needed to go. Once we arrived, they were able to communicate via email, receive and send faxes and get things back on track."

Hurricane Isabel approaches U.S.

Many local residents appreciated the help they received and showed it.

"On many occasions," said DeLong, "residents in the area thanked us for aiding their community. Once on a lunch break, when we went into a restaurant, some of the locals saw our Emergency Operations shirts and asked us how the effort was going and thanked us for helping them."

Capt. Walter N. Patrick, commander of Task Force Tidewater, the name given to the military contingent assembled to aid in the recovery effort, called the support provided by the District team "outstanding."

"The professionalism and expertise," said Patrick, "demonstrated by Sowell, Swing, and DeLong greatly contributed to our success in delivering essential supplies to the residents of Tidewater Virginia during the recovery operations from Hurricane Isabel.

At press time, Kim Trevean and John Baird were still deployed in support of the FEMA Region III office.

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to…

...Center Hill Lake for being named the Best Lake and Second Best Fishing Spot in the June issue of *Tennessee Magazine* in the Third Annual Best of Tennessee Readers Choice Awards.

…Chip Hall, biologist in Project Planning Branch, on his marriage to Amy Henderson on Aug. 9.

…J.R. and Rebecca Simpson on the birth of their daughter, Rhiannon Janelle Simpson, born Aug. 8. She weighed 7 pounds and 9-1/2 ounces and measured 20 inches long. J.R. is a power plant Mechanic Trainee at Wolf Creek Dam and the son of Teresa J. Perkins, eastern Kentucky Area budget technician.

…Doug Radley upon his selection as chief, Project Planning Branch.

…Jewell Spivey, construction inspector at J. Percy Priest Resource Office, upon the birth of her grandson, Jeffery Tyler Spivey, who checked in at 7 pounds., 10 ounces., and was 21 inches long on July 29. Parents are Spivey's son, Kelly, and Amanda Spivey.

…Laura Paris and Ryan Hatley on their marriage Sept. 27. Laura is the daughter of Corrine Paris, park resource office assistant, Cordell Hull Resource.

…Russell L. Seay, lock & dam equipment mechanic at Fort Loudoun Lock on his retirement Sept. 30, after 24 years service. The accomplished musician received a banjo as a retirement gift from both current and retired Corps employees.

…Wayne T. Bodey, lock operator at Chickamauga Lock, on his retirement Sept. 30, after 34 years of service.

…Jeff B. Neely, lock & dam equipment mechanic at Watts Bar Lock on his reassignment to this position from the Maintenance and Repair Section.

…Kimberly Hedrick, daughter of Ray Hedrick, Planning Branch, on her selection as Captain of the Fairview High School Dance Team, where she is a senior.

...Abdulnasir Farah and his wife, Rahma, who welcomed a baby girl into their household on June 20. She weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces and her name is Aisha Abdulnasir Farah. Abdul is a journeyman mechanic at the Old Hickory Power Plant.

Farewell to ...

…Navigation Branch employees Civil Engineering Tech Rick Williams, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic Supervisor Ray Bryant, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic Supervisor Freddie Whaley, Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic Charlie DePriest, and Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic Robert Reed, who all retired Sept. 29.

…Judi Tucker, who retired Sept. 15.

…Jack A. Midgett, Sr., who retired Sept. 25 at Center Hill after many years in the Nashville District.

…Sigmund Hanke, Regulatory Branch, who retired from the Corps Sept. 30.

…Paula L. Fitzpatrick says, "I write this with a wave of excitement and sadness as I journey out to the new world. I would like to thank the Army Corps of Engineers for welcoming me into their lives and allowing me the opportunity to be part of a wonderful organization. I would also like to thank everyone for their contributions and the gifts following the loss of my apartment due to fire. Without you guys I would not have made it. Everyone of you has been so kind. It has truly been a pleasure to work beside each and everyone of you. I have had many great years at the Corps, and you guys will always be remembered."

Sympathy to...

…the family of Teresa J. Perkins, eastern Kentucky Area budget technician, whose father, Charles F. Hatmaker, passed away Sept. 23, and to grandson J.R. Simpson, power plant mechanic trainee, Wolf Creek Power Plant. Mr. Hatmaker was a retired U.S. Marine Corps Master Sergeant. He received many outstanding awards, ribbons, and citations, including the Purple Heart Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star; Presidential Unit Citation; Navy Unit Citation; Combat Action Ribbon; and Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V".

…Richard Burney, lock & dam equipment mechanic at Wheeler Lock, whose father, Oneal Burney, passed away Sept. 25.

…the family of Maurice (Bo) Lewis, former District administrative chief, whose daughter Marsha recently passed away.

...the family of Galon Ramey, civil engineering technician at Lake Barkley, whose mother, Eva Ramey, passed away in September.

Get Well to...

… Corps retiree William T. "Bill" Brown who was recently hospitalized in Paducah after reactions from chemotherapy following colon surgery. He went home from the hospital Sept. 24.

Upcoming Events...

…the date for the2004 Engineer Day Picnic has been set for June 11.

…the date has been set! The Annual Corps Christmas Luncheon and Play will be held Dec. 2 at First Baptist Church. Plan your vacation time accordingly so you don't miss it! Stay tuned for more.

…To all retirees, their spouses and families of retirees. Please join us for the next Retirees Luncheon at the Piccadilly in Madison, Tn., in old shopping area on the left of Gallatin Road just north of Briley Parkway and Gallatin Road interchange. Third Wednesday, Oct. 15 is the date. Please contact anyone you know and push for a big turn-out. From Wolf Creek area to Barkley and Kentucky Lock to Knoxville and those who moved out of the Nashville District area and other Corps retirees who moved in to the area, all are welcome. For more information, call Hobart Parish at 615.391.4488 or 615.855.1952.

…Open Season for Federal Employee Health Benefits will be Nov. 10 through Dec. 8. The Health Benefits fair at the Estes Kefauver Federal Building will be on Thursday, Nov. 20 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Cafeteria A.

…Flu vaccinations will begin Oct. 1.and run through Nov. 30. No appointment is necessary. Email questions to **Melissa.Cothron@irs.gov.**

Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns

From Where I Sit

Folks… it's been a busy month exemplified by personnel deployments, year-end closeout, and the arrival of cooler temperatures.

Nashville District currently has four great Americans serving in Baghdad supporting Brig. Gen. (P) Steven Hawkins and the Restore Iraqi Electricity (RIE) mission. This is a challenging 120-day mission that is off to a great start. I'm proud of Nashville District's contribution. Many of Nashville District's "chiefs" had the opportunity to hear a familiar voice from Baghdad; Lt. Col. (ret) Steve Gay. As you know, he is also supporting the team effort in Iraq while working with Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR). Let's keep the Gay family and all our folks overseas in our thoughts and prayers.

Communication

Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell recently visited the Old Hickory Power Plant and Lock. He later toured the J. Percy Priest Reservoir. He appreciates the positive impact our work adds to the quality of life in the area. Great job to the team that received and escorted Mayor Purcell.

Although Hurricane Isabel did not impact our boundaries, that did not prevent Nashville District from assisting in the recovery efforts. I continue to be amazed at our ability to respond to the needs of others, over great distances, in times of emergency. Our Corps representatives were pre-positioned to support damage assessment and recovery efforts. The RRV team rolled immediately upon notification, a tremendous display of Nashville District's support to others in a time of need.

The end of September means "year end close-out." This year provided some unique challenges to overcome and we met all of our goals and expectations. Great effort by the close-out team. I appreciate the cross-communication and long hours to account for every dollar and to spend year-end money wisely.

October is Fire Safety and Auto Care Month. I want to provide you with a few tips to help you prepare both your home and car for colder temperatures.

In the Home

* Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detector.
* Test detectors monthly.
* Replace detectors if they are 10 years old.
* Discuss a plan with your family that includes fire safety, emergency escape and a meeting place. You might even conduct a drill.
* If your home heating system burns a fuel for heat, have the system tested for proper operation as well as levels of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide.
* Check fire extinguisher pressure and replace unit if pressure is low.

In the Car

* Check all fluid levels and replace as required.
* Check tire pressure when tires are cold and inflate to recommended pressure.
* Replace windshield wiper blades.
* Make sure you have a good window scraper.
* Check battery and clean terminals.
* Pack an emergency safety kit for the trunk that includes a blanket, extra gloves and jacket, flashlight with new batteries and kitty litter or sand for emergency traction on ice.
* Slow down.
* Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you.
* Be ever watchful for ice and slippery conditions.

Following these suggestions do not require much time, and could save your life.

Remember, ***"Safety – It's a Team Effort!"***

September Employee of the Month

Victoria Hooper, a Human Resources Management Specialist, was named the Nashville District Employee of the Month for September. Hooper was selected because of her outstanding work in counseling and processing employees selected for the latest round of Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VSIP) and Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA).

Victoria Hooper

She demonstrated professional and compassionate concern while assisting 10 employees in completing their retirement applications on very short notice. All paperwork and counseling were completed by the required suspense date. This was all accomplished in addition to her normally heavy workload. Hooper's performance reflects great credit upon herself, the Nashville District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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

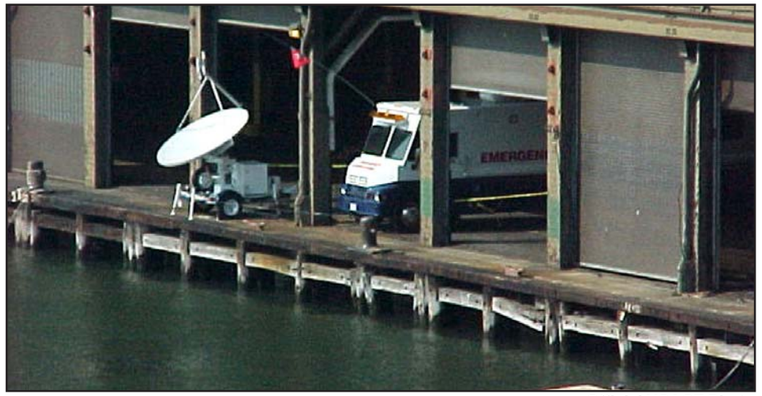
Employees Recall 9-11 Two Years Later

by Dave Treadway

A recent TV documentary, *'Rise and Fall of an American Icon'*, aired on the two-year anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center. Some Nashville employees helped restore communications in New York City in the aftermath of that terrible attack.

Nashville's Mike Swing, a communications specialist who was a member of the Response Team sent to the World Trade Center disaster site, remembers September 2001 all too well.

"The day started as usual," recalled Swing. "I was out loading my vehicle, and Ken (Laster) told me his wife had called him with news that a plane had hit one of the towers in New York City. My first thought was of a small Cessna-type plane. I continued about my business. A few minutes later, Ken said another plane had hit, so he turned on the television. At that point, it was crystal clear that we were under a terrorist attack. The news then followed about the Pentagon. It then occurred to me to go to our HF (high frequency) radio, and check into the SHARES radio network. Traffic was fast and furious. We continued to monitor that network throughout the day. I personally went from a feeling of disbelief to ABSOLUTE ANGER!!!



Official USACE Photo

The Corps' Rapid Response Vehicle-3, based in Nashville District, sits at Pier 90 in New York City and served as the North Atlantic Division Commander's communications center in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack.

People

"Today, on the second anniversary, when I see all of the TV specials regarding 9/11, it rekindles that anger, and, in a sense, that is good. It gives me a resolve to not stop, and not give in!!!

I was honored and privileged to be a member of the Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV 03) team to go to New York City. I felt we had a great team up there. I do believe we were able to contribute in a small way to help re-establish communications and office capabilities for the Corps of Engineers New York District."

Swing went on to say, "I have seen the documentary *'Rise and Fall of an American Icon'*. The piece is really good. I also watched it again with my kids. Colonel O'Dowd, who was interviewed in the documentary, was certainly a focused man when we met him, and he was very cordial, and appreciative of our efforts. Today, what I take from that awful day is resolve and cautious optimism. As our Commander-in-Chief said, and I believe these words are absolute, 'We WILL NOT tire, We WILL NOT falter, and We WILL NOT fail!!!'"

Nashville's James Sowell, on only a six-hour notice, prepared the RRV Team and equipment and deployed to New York to provide communication capability for the Division Commander.

"Only four days after the attack," said Sowell, "my team was enroute to New York City. I was proud to be going but scared about what we would find when we got there. Along the way, when we would stop to eat, people would say, 'I'm proud of you for going. You are in our prayers.'

"It made us know that we were needed. When we arrived after driving all night, they sent us to Pier 90 and asked us to establish critical communication links." Sowell, as the RRV Team Leader, was named Corps of Engineers Disaster Responder of the Year.

Communication Specialist Ken Laster and Driver Cleo Howard deployed as the third and fourth members of the team. Jared Gartman had just become a part of Nashville District Emergency Management, when he was asked to go to New York and assist the North Atlantic Division accomplish a number of tasks. He deployed August 13, arrived the next day, and stayed about three weeks.

"I was at Fort Hamilton as one of three Emergency Managers from LRD to the Emergency Operations Center," said Gartman, "working at North Atlantic Division Headquarters. We coordinated with all the other Corps districts for supply people to replace people working at Ground Zero, and we coordinated RRV movement from Pier 90, replacing the Baltimore RRV with the Nashville RRV. "Initially we were working three eight-hour shifts, then backed down to two 12-hour shifts. Our biggest task was to reconstitute the New York District Office that had been located on the World Trade Center Plaza. We had to set them up in three different locations and also do year-end closeout.

"Another mission was to account for all the Corps personnel and equipment using ENGLINK (Engineer Link) for only the second time. The first time it was used was earlier that year for the West Virginia flood. This was a major task with all the people coming and going from the site, but a very critical task.

"I got to see a lot see a lot of things on TV (this year) that I didn't get to see while I was there because I was working. The documentaries added a little light that I had never seen, mostly the personal side of things.

At press time, Swing and Sowell were again deployed, this time to aid in the effort to restore communications in Virginia in the wake of Hurricane Isabel.

Stones River Shooting Range Will Open Oct. 18

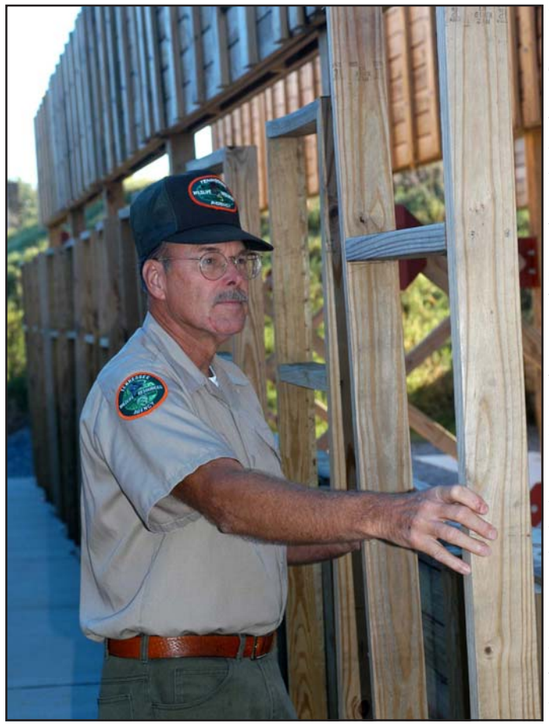
Story & photo by Dave Treadway

The new Stones River Shooting Range, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's (TWRA) newest and most modern firing range, will open to the public Oct. 18 at 9 a.m. following a site dedication ceremony.

Situated on the south shore of J. Percy Priest Lake on Hobson Pike, the range will be the largest public shooting range in middle Tennessee. The new facility can accommodate 70 shooters at any one time on a 50-foot range, a 50-yard range, a 100-yard range, and two positions for 200 yards.

TWRA's Les Brown will manage the new range and recently talked about his plans.

"We plan to have it open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays," said Brown, "from 10 a.m. to sunset Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. to sunset on Sunday. At no time will we be open past 8 p.m. We anticipate that we will expand those hours based on demand." Danny Montgomery will assist Brown and both will initially be on hand full-time but, depending on the workload, at least one will always be present.



TWRA Shooting Range Manager Les Brown places a target holder in place on the new Stones River Shooting Range.

"We are hoping," said Brown, "that demand will provide justification for us to ask for additional personnel to provide expanded hours.

"There will be no restrictions on the types of weapons that can be fired," explained Brown. "Muzzleloaders and black powder will be allowed, but there will only be stationary targets. No moving targets, or clays will be available for owners of shotguns."

Safety is always the first concern with this type facility, Brown pointed out.

"There will be volunteers who are trained Range Safety Officers (RSOs) and we will always have two present or the range will not be open. A total of 60 volunteers went through our Range Safety Class, as well as 20 of our own people. All are trained to be RSOs. We have a few ladies who want to serve as well. Many of the volunteers are former military RSOs so they come with some experience and aren't afraid to speak up when they observe a safety violation. We hope to rely entirely on volunteers as RSOs." TWRA's Tommy Whitehead, from the John Sevier Range, trained each RSO.

Brown explained how the range will conduct business.

The public will come from the parking lot to the Range Office. Customers will purchase Entrance Tickets at $4 for adults and $1 for youth under age 16. Each Ticket is good for two hours and youngsters must be supervised by an adult. Adult Annual Entrance Tickets are also available for $100. An annual Ticket for youth is $25.

"We are doing everything we can to keep the range affordable for the general public," said Brown. "Fees cover cost of supplies."

Shooters must present a valid Ticket and a safe, empty weapon at an Inspection Station staffed by a RSO. He or she will enter the range only after passing through the Inspection Station. Each of the three firing ranges will be under the control of a separate RSO and shooters will fire only when directed to do so by the RSO on duty. High earthen berms in front and on either side, as well as overhead wooden baffles filled with gravel, will ensure that stray rounds do not leave the range or endanger nearby residents.

Each shooter must put up and take down their own target. And target frames are built so that the shooter can simply attach his or her own target to the frame and then move that frame to the desired distance and place it in holes lined with PVC pipe. When a shooter wants to change the distance they are shooting, they will simply move their target to holes placed at the desired distance.

Shooters do not need a hunting license to use the range although everyone who uses it must purchase an Entrance Ticket.

"Our Hunter Education Classroom Office Complex will be erected in the near future and classes will then be conducted on-site," explained Brown.

"Once we have a fully operational Hunter Education Center with our permanent building in place, our hunter education classes will conduct live fire only when the range is not open to the public."

The Hunter Education Center is built on 19 acres formerly leased and managed by TWRA for the benefit of hunters. TWRA plans to add features on those additional acres at some point in the future.

For more information, directions to the range, and detailed photos, visit http://www.state.tn.us/twra/srhc.html.

The public is invited to the Oct. 18 dedication ceremony.

Jim Cook Becomes Desert Contractor

Story & photo by Wayne Stroupe

When Nashville District's Jim Cook, the alternate administrative contracting officer for Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil (RIO) talks about his work in Iraq, he talks about hope in the future for the Iraqi people.

"I'd like to come back in two years to see a new country. I met a lot of good people in Iraq," said Cook. "But there are some bad ones, too."

The Ridgetop, Tenn., native has been assisting RIO contracting chief Cheryl Hodge-Snead in contracting more than $900 million in work to support the various missions of Task Force RIO. "I've never dealt with this large of dollar amounts in a contract, nor the magnitude and complexity. The military aspects were also different than I was accustomed to," said Cook.

A team leader/contracting officer in the Nashville District's Contracting Division, Cook brought experience and expertise to the complex contracting missions of Task Force RIO.

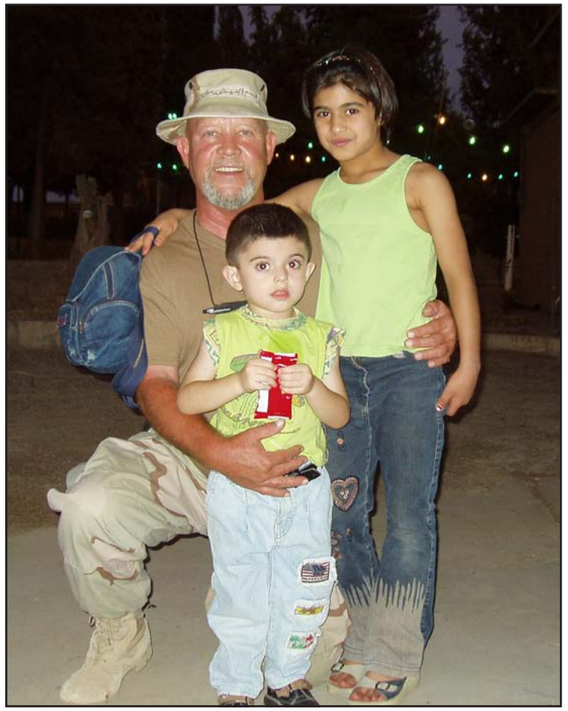
"When we first got there, it was a shambles. The staff was working contract actions related to the war, and it was all mostly manila files. The office was tiny, we shared PCs, and the staff was about half military and half civilians," said Cook. "Now the files are all set-up, the procedures are much better, and we're under control. We've made great progress."

The contracting office mainly was handling three general purpose task orders under the contract. The first was the repair and reconstruction of all damaged Iraqi pipelines and oil infrastructure. Another task order provided all of the office space, transportation, supplies, housekeeping and other logistical items for all three RIO offices. The final task order covered all the importation and transportation of fuel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for the Iraqi people to use for cooking, transportation and other purposes.

"It was very challenging due to the complexity of the contract and the vagueness of the scopes of work in the task orders. Just transporting the fuel for the Iraqi people's use was costing millions of dollars a day, and sometimes we didn't get our required funds in until almost midnight," said Cook.

Once things were going well at Camp Doha in Kuwait, Cook moved to Kirkuk in northern Iraq as a contract specialist to support the RIO Northern Area Office.

"I became close to some of the Iraqis in the Kirkuk area. We were dealing with the Northern Iraqi Oil Company, both Kurds and Arabs. Our joint committee had four Corps representatives, six contractor representatives, and 20 from the Northern Oil Company," said Cook. This committee helped facilitate a new pipeline crossing of the Tigris River, construction of a new 50-kilometer pipeline, and reconstruction of a lot of the Iraqi oil and gasoline production infrastructure in the northern area.



Jim Cook with some of his friends from the Iraqi Northern Oil Company, Mohammed and Farrah, the children of some of the Iraqi workers.

Cook was worried about the security issues in Iraq and still is.

"I remember the first time I went into Iraq in late May near the Basrah oil refinery area. The people were the poorest of the poor, living in huts. However, I am more afraid in some U.S. cities than (I was) in Iraq. Security was the number one priority and still is. Once something is fixed, we have to stop the terrorism and attacks on the oil infrastructure. It is only hurting the Iraqi people."

Cook deployed May 4 and returned to the states Sept. 6. In that time, he lost 25 to 30 pounds and his blood pressure went down from 140. Iraq may be the new health spa site for the future!

Cook has 42 years of government service, including 30 with Nashville.

"I wanted to come for Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s, but didn't make it. Since I had never seen the desert and am nearing retirement, I thought I would come on over for this one. However, some of my friends asked why I didn't just get some desert camo uniforms and go to Las Vegas," Cook joked.

Cook faced the same deployment related problems all others face. He missed his mom, friends, his cat, and fishing with his ex-boss. But he is planning to take some time off to visit family and friends on his return, "We'll make it all up when I get back!" said Cook.

Would he deploy to Iraq again or recommend deployment to other Corps team members?

"If they say they need me, I'd go back. If they just need a body, no. Those willing to sacrifice, that have a good attitude and are coming to work – come on!"

Chief of Engineers Speaks in Nashville

Story and photo by Dave Treadway

Lt. Gen. Robert B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers, was the keynote speaker at the National Association of Women In Construction Awards Banquet at the Hilton Hotel in Nashville Sept. 30.

He shared with those present the Corps' Role in the Global War on Terrorism and told them how important they were as small business owners in executing contracts on projects for which the Corps is authorized funding.

"People of the greatest generation," said Lt. Gen. Flowers, "talked of Pearl Harbor Day as a significant event in their lifetime and if our children and grandchildren were alive on Sept. 11, 2001, many of them will someday see that day in the same way.

"What happened at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11 turned this country's attitude. And in the midst of the tragedy, we saw some of the best in our country brought out."

The General pointed out the aim of terrorists now is to get America to leave Afghanistan and Iraq before peace can be restored there and a form of democracy put in place. He told attendees the Corps of Engineers is committed to helping coalition forces win the war on terrorism with a two-pronged mission to defeat terrorism in Iraq and also to protect Americans at home.

"Whenever I talk about the Corps of Engineers," explained Flowers, "and what we are doing, I'm also talking about you because 100 percent of our construction is done by contractors."

He said Operation Enduring Freedom was designed to defeat the Taliban and then stand up a free and independent Afghanistan. Presently in Iraq, the Corps' mission is threefold, to Restore Iraqi Oil; serve as Joint Task Force Engineer for U.S. and Coalition Forces, and Restore Iraqi Electricity.

Lt. Gen. Robert. B. Flowers, Chief of Engineers, addresses members of the National Association of Women in Construction Sept. 30 at the Hilton Hotel.

Photo provided by Chuck Ogle

District employees Chuck Ogle (right), and Ted Ryon (left) and Buffalo District employee Michael C. Vanderlich relax in one of Saddam Hussein's palaces while on deployment in Iraq for Operation Restore Iraqi Electricity. Ogle and Ryon departed Nashville Sept. 10, Jose Garcia left Sept. 12. Ed Evans departed Sept. 21 to serve as Brig. Gen. (P) Steven Hawkins' PAO for the mission.

"Those are our specific missions in Iraq," said Flowers. "One of the greatest challenges our engineers face there is restoring the Garden of Eden. If you think restoring the Everglades is a daunting task, the wetlands Hussein destroyed near the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers because he had issues with the populace that inhabited them is even bigger. It is believed that here is where the Biblical Garden of Eden was located."

He pointed out that among those Corps employees serving in Iraq, four are from the Nashville District.

Flowers reminded the audience of Sept. 11, 2001 by showing a video of images from that fateful day set to music as a reminder that America is facing a determined foe that still poses a threat to this nation. Before opening the floor for questions, he then asked those who had it in their culture to say a prayer for America's forces who continue to go in harm's way in the Middle East.

Volunteers Tidy Up District Lakes for NPLD

Nashville District Lakes were given a facelift during September in concert with National Public Lands Day. Concerned volunteers conducted a wide range of activities.

Lake Cumberland was first on the agenda and 851 volunteers joined The Friends of Lake Cumberland (Friends) Sept. 13 to collect 4,677 bags of garbage and 1,288 discarded automobile tires at the fourteenth annual clean-up.

On Sept. 20, Cordell Hull staged a shoreline clean-up, Center Hill refurbished a nature trail, Old Hickory made improvements to an Environmental Study Area, J. Percy Priest cleaned Primitive Camp Sites, and Cheatham Lake performed park maintenance and exotic pest plant removal.

Dale Hollow and Martins Fork Lakes wrapped up the month's activities Sept. 27 with shoreline clean-ups. Center Hill Lake conducted a separate shoreline clean-up Oct. 3-4.

Photo by Park Ranger Gary Davis

Junior ROTC students prepare to load trash on a pontoon boat at Lake Cumberland's shoreline.

Photo by Dave Treadway

Eight-year-old John Taylor Bush, from Carthage, collects trash at Cordell Hull Lake.

Individuals and groups began arriving at Lake Cumberland as early as 8 a.m. at nine different locations. After registration, volunteers departed 'by land and by sea' throughout the morning to gather trash and debris. Marinas situated around the Lake donated a total of 23 pontoon boats to help collect floating debris and transport it to the nearest collection point.

Various local groups including High School Junior ROTC units and Boy Scout Troops make the Lake Cumberland clean-up an annual community service event. Not only does the lake and environment benefit from the removal of trash, volunteers also learn the value of community service and gain a life-long respect for a clean environment. Some even won prizes for the most trash and old tires collected.

The Pulaski County Junior ROTC earned a $500 cash reward for collecting 502 bags of trash from the upper end of the lake while the Boy Scouts of America Pack 727 earned the same prize for collecting 340 bags on the lower end. Wayne County Junior ROTC found 185 old tires to capture first prize of $100 at the upper end of the lake, and Russell County Junior ROTC earned the same reward for finding 122 old tires at the lower end. Lesser prizes were awarded for second, third, fourth and fifth place at each location.

Photo by Park Ranger Charlie Leath

Dennis Arnold (left) and Brandon LaFever, of BSA Troop 594, Kingston Springs, TN, stack firewood in Lock A Campground at Cheatham Lake.

Kentucky Baptist Home for Children and Clinton County Junior ROTC each captured a $50 prize for collecting the most unusual items.

At the end of the day's work, volunteers were rewarded with two appreciation picnics that included presentation of prizes at General Burnside Island State Park and Lake Cumberland State Park.

Since 1990, more than 70,520 bags of trash and 11,204 tires have been removed from the lake and surrounding land.

The Friends is made up of local citizens, organizations and agencies, who care about Lake Cumberland and the environment. Friends work with area businesses and organizations to obtain event sponsorships throughout the community. Donations are used to cover everything from disposal fees to picnics and prizes.

Compiled by Dave Treadway with contributions from Park Rangers Dave Robinson, Gary Bruce, Jerry Strother, Judy Daulton, Mark Klimaszewski, Scott Fanning, Travis Wiley, and Justin Reed.

More than 50 volunteers joined Park Ranger Travis Wiley and staff from Cordell Hull at Defeated Creek and Roaring River to help collect more than five tons of debris from the shoreline which filled two large dumpsters.

Connie Bush and eight-year-old John Taylor from Carthage, Tenn., joined the effort.

"We were walking on the trail only the week before and Taylor said 'There is too much trash and someone needs to pick it up!' Then we saw the notice in the paper calling for volunteers to help clean it up and I told Taylor, 'Here is your chance to help.' So that's why we came today."

Center Hill Lake hosted 42 Cub Scouts and family members from Pack 295 in Baxter, Tenn., to assemble and place six Eastern Blue Bird boxes and 16 interpretive placards along the Buffalo Valley Nature Trail.

Led by Park Ranger Scott Fanning, the group also trimmed branches and other vegetation to make the trail more attractive.

Photo by Park Ranger Dave Robinson

Boy Scouts from Troop 149 clean a roadside near Martins Fork Lake.

Old Hickory Lake hosted more than 100 volunteers Sept. 20 for a Shoreline Clean-up. They helped Park Ranger Mark Klimaszewski and other staff members spread more than 25 cubic yards of mulch in the Environmental Study Area and rebuilt a boardwalk at the Old Hickory Nature Trail. They also removed numerous bags of garbage from the shoreline. Gourmet Pizza and Purity Dairy supplied food for lunch while Metro Beautification and the Gallatin Resource Authority donated all supplies used by volunteers for the clean-up.

Park Ranger Justin Reed had 15 volunteers at J. Percy Priest who helped pick up trash that cluttered primitive campsites on Bear, Pig, Hole-in-the-Wall and **See *http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/* for complete story.**

Photo by Andreas Patterson

Park Ranger Tadd Potter gets help at Old Hickory Lake.

Photo by Park Ranger Gary Bruce

Workers unload trash from a boat at Dale Hollow Lake.