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Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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Respected-Responsible-Reliable

February 2004

Just To Be On The Safe Side . . .

By John Tibbels, Safety Officer

The topic this month is emergency eyewash and showers. Eyewashes and showers should meet criteria set forth by the American National Standards Institute in their standard ANSI Z358.1-1998. Construction, installation, and location should meet those ANSI requirements.

Also consider the following:

Most faucet-mounted (“gooseneck”) installations do not meet the requirements, principally because they lack quick-opening valves and have the potential for high water temperatures.

Eyewashes and showers should be located as close as possible to the hazard and on the same floor level. ANSI requires that an eyewash and shower be no further than a 10-second travel time from the hazard. ANSI also recommends that for highly corrosive chemicals, such as strong acids (pH <1) or bases (pH >12), the eye wash unit be immediately adjacent to the hazard.

Flushing fluid temperatures should be tepid to lukewarm (between 60 and 95 degrees F.) Temperatures outside this range are likely to discourage the use of the equipment, and, for showers, there is the also concern that shock may occur. Temperatures greater than 100 degrees F

can be harmful to the eyes. Plumbed eyewashes and showers must be flushed weekly to ensure proper operation. Eyewash flushing for at least three minutes is suggested to reduce bacterial and amoebic contamination that can cause severe infections when introduced into traumatized eyes. Units must also be

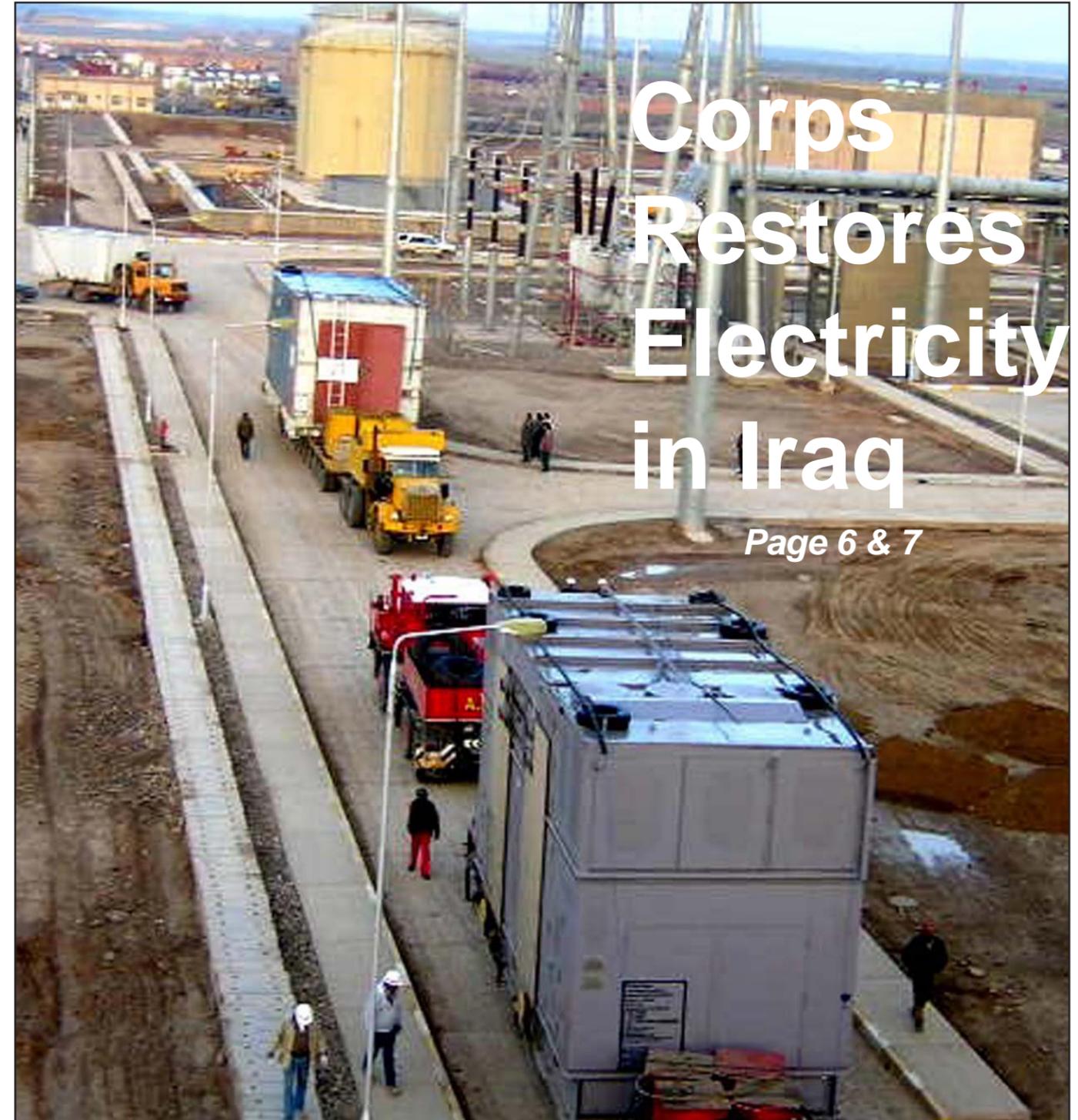
inspected annually to conform to ANZI Z358.1-1998.

There should be regular maintenance of self-contained eyewash units to ensure they are full and operational, the flushing solution is changed according to the manufacturer’s instructions, and access is not blocked.



photo by Dave Treadway

Chaplain (Colonel) Mark E. Fentress, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, speaks to employees of the Nashville District during a Prayer Breakfast Jan. 15. A native of Louisville, Ky., who earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Nashville, Chaplain Fentress is endorsed by the United Methodist Church and serves the entire civilian and military workforce. He met with employees, attended a prayer breakfast, and answered questions associated with all facets of government service.



Corps Restores Electricity in Iraq

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photo by Dave Treadway

John Seigenthaler, Sr., noted civil rights activist, author, former publisher of *The Tennessean*, founding editorial director of *USA Today*, and founder of The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, was guest speaker Jan. 19 for Nashville District's annual observance marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He detailed his involvement in the Civil Rights movement, his service to the nation as a member of the Johnson Administration, and his coverage of events as they unfolded from a publisher's perspective for a standing-room-only audience in Room A640. For the seventh straight year the theme for the annual observance was, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!"

On the Cover

Arriving at their destination, a massive generator and turbine are slowly driven into their locations at a major Iraqi power plant where they will be attached to the Iraqi national electric grid to help provide reliable and stable power for the people of Iraq. See pages 6 and 7 for more on the Global War on Terrorism and Nashville District's part in reconstructing Iraq's infrastructure.



photo by Cecil Whitehouse

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Information about the Nashville District may also be found on the District's homepage at: <http://>

Pickwick Lock Hosts NAIA Champions

Carroll College (Mont.) won its second consecutive NAIA national football championship with a 41-28 victory Dec. 20 against Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Rumble on the River VIII at Jim Carroll Stadium in Savannah, Tenn.

On Friday, the day before the historic victory, Pickwick Corps of Engineers Lockmaster Donnie Damron and his staff, along with Tennessee Valley employees, gave players and coaches a guided tour of the Lock and Dam.

"This is the 8th year the playoff game has been held in Savannah, Tenn.," said Damron, "and we have been able to give a tour for players, coaches, trainers and the local National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) staff each year. TVA Police assisted with security and temporarily opened the museum for the group that totaled 72."

Sophomore quarterback Tyler Emmert, the 2003 Rawlings-NAIA Football Player of the Year, threw for 344 yards and three touchdowns as the Fighting Saints capped a 15-0 season.

All three of Emmert's touchdown strikes went to senior wide receiver Mark Gallik. With the victory, Carroll extended its current NAIA-high winning streak to 19 games.

"You couldn't ask for a better ending," said Gallik, who caught 13 passes for 250 yards. "We have a great group of guys. This is wonderful for our team and for our school."



Photo by Donnie Damron

Members of the Carroll College (Mont.) football team wall across Pickwick Dam Dec. 19 as they toured the Lock and Dam, a ritual for the teams involved in the NAIA Championship game.

Burnside, Ky. and Corps Sign Project Agreement



Photo by Dave Treadway

Congressman Hal Rogers (R-5th) spoke to a full house in the Burnside Firehall at a ceremony Dec. 11, 2003, where Nashville District and the City of Burnside, Kentucky, signed a cost-sharing agreement to construct a Sewage Transfer Plant and Force Main, a project valued at \$1,142,200. Construction is expected to begin in the spring. The Section 531 project consists of design and construction of approximately 17,800 linear feet of 8-inch force main, 473 linear feet of 10-inch gravity sewer with four man-holes, submersible sewage pump station, sampling equipment, and related appurtenances.

The Corps Crowd

Welcome to ...

...Jamie Summers, new park ranger (Co-op) at Center Hill Lake. He is a student at Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, and is a native of Smith County.

... Brian Mangrum, who is a new park ranger trainee at Dale Hollow. Mangrum was a Co-op at Lake Barkley.

... Steven Gregory, who is a new Co-op student at J. Percy Priest Lake. Gregory attends Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville. His major is Fish and Wildlife Sciences.

Congratulations to ...

...Beryl Newsome, contract specialist, whose son Brad Snellings married Melissa Lauren Putnam on Jan. 24.

...Bob DeLong, lock and dam equipment mechanic, Cheatham Lock, who retired on Dec. 31, 2003.

...Henry Shumaker, senior mechanic, Barkley Power Plant, on his retirement effective Jan. 3.

... Lynn Bowden, Audiovisual Specialist in IM, and former EEO Office student aid, Shonka Dukureh, for being among the winners of the 2003 *Tennessean* Theater Awards. Bowden received a Community Theater Tennie for Best Sound Designs: *Master Class*, Circle Players and *Julius Caesar, ACT I*. Dukureh received a theater award for Best Musical Direction or Performance: (Vocalist), *American Duet*, Actors Bridge.

...the following employees who will serve in temporary assignments until May 15: Mike Wilson as assistant chief, Engineering-Construction Division (EC), Gordon McClellan as chief, Design Branch (EC-D), and Johnny Wilmore as chief, Construction Branch (EC-C).

Thanks to ...

"...I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for the love you expressed to me during the recent illness and loss of my brother. I appreciate all the prayers, phone calls, cards, and kind words of sympathy." *Sherry Phillips*
 "...I thank you all who gave me "leave donation" during my absence from my

job." *Karen Cowan*

"...Thank you so very much for all your cards, flowers, prayers and visits during the loss of my brother. My family and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts." *Debbie Tuck*

Baby Brigade ...

... Sherry Phillips is a grandmother for the first time. Phillips' daughter, Jennifer, and husband, John Green, are the proud parents of Danielle Renee Green. Danielle Renee was born Jan. 23 at 10:30 a.m., weighed 7 pounds, and measured 19 and 1/2 inches long.



Sympathy to ...

...Joe Cottle, a former employee of Goodwill Industries, whose wife, Janice, passed away Jan. 22.
 ...Lou Fioto, whose father, Louis J. Fioto, died Jan. 13, at the age of 96.
 ...the family of Gilbert Dorland, Nashville District Engineer in 1956, passed away Jan. 7.
 ...Charlie Leath, whose grandmother, Mary Stewart, park ranger trainee at CHE/R, passed away Jan. 12.
 ...the family of William T. Brown, retired assistant resource manager at Lake Barkley, who passed away on Jan. 7 after an extended illness.
 ...the family of David L. Buckner, lock & dam operator at Ft. Loudoun Lock, who passed away on Jan. 21.

Get Well to ...

... Maryellen Farmer, Regulatory Branch, who had heart valve repair surgery in January.



photo by Ray Bess

Retiree Stella Swope (left) paid a visit to the District Office Jan. 23, had a few laughs with old friends, and contributed a segment to the District oral history web site. Swope joined the District in 1959 by working in the Public Affairs Office and retired in 1985 from the Navigation Branch but not before training Anita Jarrett (right) as a navigation assistant. She was always identified by her trademark green hat. To hear her tell her story, go to http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/history/oral_histories.htm and click on Stella's photo.

Lieutenant Colonel Byron Jorns

From Where I Sit



Folks, many of you have asked me, "What's up with the BDU's?" that you've seen me wearing lately. Well, the answer is simple. LTG Flowers has asked all USACE military personnel to begin wearing Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU's) as a catalyst to conversation with individuals and organizations who may not otherwise be aware of our critical efforts in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT). There are even some senior Congres-

Communication

sional staffers who are unaware of our involvement in GWOT. This general lack of knowledge does not bode well for USACE. It is in all our best interests to "get the word out" about the "goodness" we're doing overseas. I ask all of you to assist me in "getting the word out" during any opportunities that present themselves throughout your day — be it on-duty or off-duty.

I'd like to share with you a couple of key events that occurred during the last two months. Each of these events typifies the character and mettle of the Nashville organization. First, as many of you are aware, Mr. John Hunter (H&H-deployed team member in Baghdad) experienced the effects of a random Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during a recent convoy in Iraq. The vehicle's windows were blown out, some holes were made in the sheet metal, and the vehicle suffered a flat tire. John and his team returned safely to their compound. There were no injuries. The soldier escorts were unscathed ... and John reports that he had a really bad "headache." John's actions during and after this dramatic event are nothing short of heroic. He remains on duty in Baghdad and continues his work to provide reliable water for drinking and irrigation to the region.

Second, the team down at Pickwick Lock recently pulled a deckhand who works for Ingram Barge Company out of the lock chamber (see page 5). Apparently the deckhand slipped and fell into the chilly waters and was in danger of drowning or being crushed between the lock wall and the tow. The Pickwick crew quickly sounded the 'man overboard' alarm, raced to the scene with safety equipment, placed

safety blocks in the water to keep the barge from crushing the deckhand and by so doing they saved a wet but grateful Anthony W. Green from what could have been disaster just before Christmas. I commend the entire Pickwick team for their instinctive and life-saving response.

In my mind, these two events display the very fabric and culture of the Nashville workforce. Whether serving at home or abroad, our workforce continually demonstrates the Army Values of "personal courage" and "selfless service." It is not always evident how someone will react when confronted with difficult situations. In these two cases, the response became crystal clear. When the call came ... they were there ... in spades. Everyday, I am extremely proud of our workforce throughout the Nashville organization. I am also proud to wear these BDU's everyday.

Before I go, I want to touch on safety. Hydroplaning can be a concern in Tennessee at this time of year. Hydroplaning occurs when excess speed, combined with water on the road surface, causes the tire to lose contact with the pavement. If you will be driving in the rain

you might consider adding 3 - 5 pounds of air pressure to your tires. I don't suggest you inflate them in excess of the max pressure specified on the tire sidewalls.

The reason is simple:

* Increasing the tire pressure makes its contact patch smaller. It increases the weight per square inch of the contact point. Therefore, it takes more 'uplift' by water to cause the tires to hydroplane.

* Just as increasing pressure makes the contact patch smaller, it tends to spread out the tread grooves which, in turn, makes it better to slough water away from the contact patch.

Most importantly, reduce your speed!
Remember, Safety - It's a Team Effort! 🇺🇸

January Employee of the Month

Kathy Canaday, administrative support assistant in the Executive Office, was selected as the Nashville District Employee of the Month for January.



Kathy Canaday

Canaday came to work for the deputy district engineer on Aug. 11, 2003, from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District, where she worked at the Human Resources

Office in Wiesbaden, Germany.

During January, she was required to assume additional duties. She not only supported the deputy district engineer but also the District commander, in the absence of the commander's secretary. She was called upon to provide assistance to various administrative offices and to take on a new process involving a training program for another District employee.

In the short time Canaday has been in Nashville, she has displayed a "can-do" attitude that has made her synonymous with customer care and assistance throughout the District. Supervisors noted her fine example of professionalism and Corps quality at work.

Individuals selected for Employee of the Month personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 🇺🇸

Barge Critical to Operations at Dale Hollow Lake

by Dave Treadway

There is one piece of Nashville District equipment that performs mammoth tasks at Dale Hollow Lake.

A 1969-model barge powered by a World War II era engine and out drive, literally held together with duct tape and baling wire, makes many things possible on the lake renown as a mecca for smallmouth bass.

"It is an invaluable piece of equipment," said Resource Manager Ronnie Smith, "not only to the lake but to the District as well in the form of positive public relations gained from programs made possible by use of the barge. For example, we have been conducting our annual winter Eagle Watches for the past 23 years. Just by this program alone, over the years, we have been able to introduce 12,000 people to Dale Hollow Lake and Corps of Engineers programs. The barge also makes it possible for us to offer primitive camping at Dale Hollow."

Park ranger and barge pilot Greg Nivens ran down a long list of items he simply could not accomplish without the barge.

"We could not do our annual eagle watch, partner with wildlife agencies in habitat enhancement programs, or maintain our navigational buoy program, which is essential for public safety," said Nivens. "These buoys weigh about 200 pounds each and stand eight feet tall with concrete



photo courtesy of Dale Hollow Lake

The Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery truck is transported onto Dale Hollow Lake for release of lake trout, a procedure that improves fish survival rates.

anchors that weigh more than 350 pounds. It is not possible to place those out of a smaller boat, especially without the aid of a backhoe or bucket loader. We also use it for the placement of riprap stone for erosion control at areas that are unreachable except from the water. We transport dump trucks, which weigh more than 22 tons when fully loaded, to these sites and dump the stone which is then placed with a backhoe that we also transport."

Purchased in 1969 by District Engineer Colonel Jesse L. Fishback, the 60-ton capacity barge, equipped with a Detroit Diesel In-line 71 and a Harbormaster out drive manufactured by Murray & Tregurtha, arrived at Dale Hollow in 1985.

"We've absolutely got to have it," explained Smith, "to maintain our primitive campsites which are reachable only by boat. The only way to maintain and pump the pit toilets is by barge. The work requires a truck and

sometimes a tractor with pump-out capability, and without the barge it isn't possible to accomplish the work. Campers enjoy 40 primitive sites at Dale Hollow because we have the barge. Without it, we would have to shut down primitive camping on Dale Hollow, one of our most popular programs. So we need the barge to provide this service. Our primitive sites can accommodate between 5 and 20 people each and that totals thousands of people over the years."

Nivens said it is a state requirement to have sanitary facilities available at all areas used for overnight camping, including primitive sites.

"Losing this privilege would be extremely unpopular," Nivens said. "Closing these areas would not be a viable solution, especially with the minimal cost of maintaining these areas compared to the popularity of the primitive camping program."

When repairs must be made to what may arguably be Dale Hollow's most valuable piece of equipment, the Resource Manager calls on Larkin Smith, Jr., of Smith Creek Enterprises, who has helped keep it running for years.

"The out-drive," said Proprietor Junior Smith, "is definitely the most vulnerable part of the barge. So far we have been able to find parts when we needed them, but they are obsolete and therefore expensive because the supplier knows we can't get them anywhere else. A recent seal we had to purchase cost \$1,600. There will come a

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



photo courtesy of Dale Hollow Lake

A sanitation pumping truck moves up onto the barge at a primitive campsite.

Zoccola Named Chief of Geotech

Story and photo by Steve Foshee

Michael Zoccola was named Nashville District's Chief of the Geotechnical Branch in January.

A native of Nashville, Zoccola earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1976 from Vanderbilt University and did his post-graduate work at Oklahoma State University at what was then the Corps' Special Program in Soil Mechanics. He began working for the Corps of Engineers in 1976 when he joined the Nashville District. From 1976 to 1991 he worked as a geotechnical design engineer in the Geotechnical Branch. In 1991 he became chief of the HTRW Design Section where he has served since then except for a one-year developmental assignment in 1999 as deputy chief of Engineering-Construction.

As chief, Zoccola has set several goals for himself.

"One of my goals," said Zoccola, "is to make sure the Geotechnical Branch keeps doing the good things it has done while always looking for ways to improve how we support our customers." He also plans to look for opportunities to improve, as well as acquire challenging work for his employees. He believes challenging work is what keeps employees happy.

Fellow co-workers factored in Zoccola's decision to apply for his new job. "I appreciate the support that Jody Stanton and Tim McCleskey, who were also competing for the position, have demonstrated since my selection. They are two of the reasons I applied for the position. They are both good managers, and technically proficient. I knew, if selected, I would have them in supervisory roles, to help in meeting the overall objectives of the branch.

"I also want to thank the people in HTRW. They are an outstanding group to work with and leaving them was extremely

difficult. I could not ask for a better, more supportive group."

The new chief talked about how he plans to operate.

"My leadership style is flexible, providing employees with greater responsibilities and then holding them accountable. We have a good, diverse group of people in the Geotechnical Branch and my challenge to them will be to respect each other, know their job, and be educated in what they are doing. Then, as General Flowers says, 'Just do it.'"

Zoccola's bottom line will be satisfying the needs of Geotechnical customers, be they internal or external. 📷



Michael Zoccola

Bowden Wins Community Awards for Theater Work

by Steve Foshee

First the Tennies, next will be the Oscars for Lynn Bowden.

Nashville District's Audiovisual Specialist recently won two awards for work he performed in his spare time with Nashville's Circle Players Community Theater.

He was recognized for his Sound Design work in *Master Class*, Circle Players and *Julius Caesar, ACT I*, in early January by *The Tennessean*.

His wife, Maggi, was also honored with a Best Costumes Award for *Lady Frederick, at ACT I*.

Bowden compared his hobby to his work. "Theater work," said Bowden, "is similar to what I do with the Corps as an Audiovisual Production Specialist because it is all technical production type work. It's great to know people recognize and appreciate the technical side of theater."

He explained how Community Theaters can sometimes prepare actors and actresses to go on to big professional careers in Hollywood or New York. Bowden knows other Corps employees

who have participated in the Community Theater experience.

Shonka Dukureh, who formerly worked in the Equal Employment Office as a counselor, was also recognized by *The Tennessean* for her musical direction and performance as a vocalist in *An American Duet* at Actors Bridge Theater.

"Community Theater should be supported by everyone in Nashville for we have 14 theaters in the area. If you attend one of these shows you'll possibly see neighbors or friends and gain an



photo by Doug Markham, TWRA

Lynn Bowden prepares to videotape a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Stones River Shooting Range Oct. 18, 2003.

appreciation for these talented people," said the Bellevue resident.

He said most Community Theaters may perform six plays each year and are always looking for volunteers.

Those volunteers can get involved in a wide variety of ways. They may have an opportunity to design or paint, construct sets, design costumes, or work backstage during performances and become part of a team environment in the process. Bowden has volunteered his spare time in more than 3,000 performances. Most of these have been at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in the Johnson Theater. He got his start at Opryland USA theme park as a sound engineer in the I Hear America Singing Show. Later Bowden was assigned to the Opryhouse as a sound engineer. He pursued this interest in college while majoring in Speech/Theater with a minor in Radio and TV Broadcasting.

"I encourage each employee," said Bowden, "to check Nashville's weekly Entertainment Guide and attend one of the many Community shows listed. Each performance is rewarding and brings one an appreciation for the arts." 📷

What Audit Says Nashville Does Well

by Christine Rossi

Nashville District has a real reason to be proud – we reached a new level this year in our quality program. We are one of only eight organizations to receive the 2003 Achievement Award from the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence. After submitting self-assessments for five of the past six years, we are recognized at a higher award level than we have ever earned. We know that we give our best to make the District better, and it's great to have such confirmation from someone outside the Corps.

We've just received our feedback report, and it outlines the findings of the Tennessee Center evaluation team. Five independent examiners read and analyzed our submittal, visited the District, and talked with people for two days last October.

Here's a sample of items for which they praised Nashville District in 2003.

Organizational Leadership

We have established a strong learning culture, including the Leadership Development Program (LDP) and the Employees Achieving Greatness and Leadership Excellence (EAGLE) program, cross-training and developmental assignments, a "lessons-learned" process, and assorted training and workshops.

We set direction for the organization through our Nashville Business Plan, which sets goals, identifies direction for the year, and helps us track progress.

Nashville District uses various means to make the public aware of our projects and to provide opportunities for feedback. We show concern for our public responsibilities.

We create and maintain strong links with customers and surrounding communities, including environmental camps and activities for the public, open houses at our projects, and other activities.

Strategy Development

Nashville District employs strategic planning at two levels. Senior leaders develop the Division Campaign Plan. Senior leaders, goal owners, LDP members, EAGLE classes, and others across the District identify goals



important to our success and develop strategies to achieve them.

Customer and Market Focus

Nashville has a systematic, effective approach to customer contact through Account Executives and Operations Managers.

We regularly survey customers, conduct public meetings, and use other avenues to determine customer concerns and satisfaction with products and services.

We have strong relationships with organizations related to our missions, such as the Tennessee River Valley Association, Cumberland Waterways Council, specific industry groups, other agencies, and individuals.

Measurement, Analysis, and Knowledge Management

At monthly Commander's Staff Meetings, leaders review progress against each target in the Nashville Business Plan. The progress spreadsheet is available to all employees.

Nashville District increasingly uses electronic methods to distribute information. Customers, suppliers, and the workforce are given information through internal and external websites, public folders, and e-mail.

We have an open communication philosophy, and encourage timely, accurate, and reliable distribution of information.

Human Resource Focus

Employees are empowered to "do it" from the Corps Commander, as long as what they do is good for the customer, legal and ethical, and something for which they are willing to be accountable.

Emphasis is placed on employee and workplace safety, and workplace safety is a key component of training programs. Approved safety plans are developed before any job begins; safety programs and training are provided as needed. Safety is addressed daily on the job

through lessons-learned, toolbox safety meetings, and activity hazard analysis.

Nashville District received the Five-Star Safety Award for a prevention-oriented safety program.

We offer benefits to employees, including the Employee Assistance Program, alternate work schedules, the leave donor program, flex-time, Special Emphasis Program, subsidized health and fitness programs, public transit and parking subsidies, defibrillators, and training in CPR and defensive driving.

Our Partnership Council provides a forum for union members and management to identify issues and collaborate to provide solutions.

Process Management

Nashville has a process for Quality Control/Quality Assurance.

The needs of internal customers and customers at higher headquarters determine the requirements for the support processes in the District.

Business Results

Nashville District regularly outperforms the industry average, the Corps goal, and performance of other districts in terms of Hydropower Unit Availability. We have done so since 1998.

We have consistently exceeded the Corps goal for open navigable waterways.

Employee satisfaction surveys show our ratings are equal to or exceed the Corps average on all items. In addition, the Army Civilian Attitude Survey shows us equal to or exceeding the Corps overall and Army in most areas.

Nashville had fewer lost work days than the Corps goal in every year except one between 1997 and 2002.

We have shown improvements in reduction of flood damage since 1996.

Every employee has contributed to these successes, and should be proud of our higher level of recognition. Quality efforts are working, and we are moving along smartly on our quality journey. All of us can thank each other and pat ourselves on the back for another successful year.

Lt. Col. Jorns will receive an award from Governor Phil Bredesen at the Tennessee Center's Awards Banquet on Monday, February 23.

Fire Damages Marina, Boats at Center Hill

A fire at Center Hill Marina on Jan. 29 in the Cove Hollow Area destroyed 16 houseboats and damaged six others. No personal injuries were reported.

Someone notified the Dekalb County Fire Department at 2 a.m. of a fire on pier "J". The Fire Department responded and extinguished the blaze.

At least two houseboat hulls sank in their moored location and pulled a portion of the dock underwater with them. Marina personnel began relocating the remaining burned hulls to the shoreline so that if they sank they would



photos by Tim Dunn

Smoke rises off of what remains of houseboats damaged in an early morning fire at Center Hill Marina Jan. 29. The blaze caused an estimated \$5 million in damages and destroyed 16 craft. Six others sustained damages. The hulls at left rest in shallow water near shore.

sink into shallow water rather than into the approximately 65-foot-deep water at their previous moorage

location. At least three houseboats sank near the shoreline during the relocation process. Initial reports indicate that the damages to the houseboats and marina facility will exceed \$5 million.

Pickwick Employees Help Rescue Deckhand Thrown From Barge

by Steven Foshee

Fast response to calls for help and quick actions by Corps employees at Pickwick Lock helped avert disaster and save an Ingram Barge Company worker just before Christmas.

Pickwick Lock Operator Dennis Wiley was pulling the first cut of a double locking upstream for the Motor Vessel Edwin L. Kennedy Dec. 16, 2003, when a deckhand running toward a ring buoy captured Wiley's attention. He quickly stepped outside the control room for a better view and spotted the head of a tow deckhand who had fallen overboard bobbing in the water.

Ingram Barge deckhand Anthony W. Green was now between the moving tow and lock walls. Wiley immediately ran back into the control room and transmit-

ted a MAYDAY distress message "man overboard" on the radio.

Ronald E. Barnes and Donnie C. Damron heard the distress call, quickly left the office, and ran outside to offer assistance.

Wiley sprinted up the lock wall to assist the deckhand with a ring buoy. Damron and Wiley both threw in safety blocks made of aluminum to place a barrier between the barge and the lock wall. The barges were still moving when Barnes and Robert Northcutt, who had been on the lock wall, checked both the tow haulage unit and pullout line, and brought life jackets to the scene.

James Russell climbed down the lock wall ladder onto the barges and began making his way toward the bow of the tow. Green was clinging to the ring buoy and lock line hanging from the

barge timberhead. By this time, the barges had come to a complete stop and the safety blocks thrown by Wiley and Damron did their job and kept the barges away from the lock wall to provide a safe space for the deckhand in the water.

"The important thing to remember," said Wiley, "is that we avoided a fatality."

Both Ingram and Corps employees have reviewed safety policies to assist in preventing this from occurring again.

"In the last month, Ingram Barge Company experienced one fatality and numerous deckhands have fallen overboard," added Wiley. With the help of many Pickwick Lock staff, this incident had a happy ending and could easily be called an early Christmas miracle.

Big Secret Creeps into Baghdad

Story and photo by Ed Evans

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — The biggest secret in Iraq successfully crossed Baghdad's 14th of July Bridge in the dark hours of Jan. 27, moving between armed guards through the capitol city under cover of night toward an unspoken destination.

This "big" secret was a convoy of 18 vehicles hauling one 198-ton, 125-megawatt generator, and its 220-ton turbine, that once installed would support stable and reliable power on the Iraqi national electric grid.

It was all part of a project of Brigadier General (Promotable) Steven R. Hawkins' Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF RIE), which on Jan. 25 became an Electric Directorate under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' new Gulf Region Division, commanded by Major General Ron Johnson.

The generator-bearing convoy had entered Iraq from an undisclosed neighboring country, and inching along at 10 mph, was handed off from one security detail of U.S. Army soldiers to another, taking extraordinary precautions to protect this vital machinery from attack and sabotage. One bullet or one RPG round could turn the convoy's remarkable cargo into \$45 million worth of trash.

All over Iraq, the "best kept secret" was discussed quietly by soldiers pulling for "our team" to get the huge generator and turbine across Iraq. It had to roll through several dangerous areas, through Baghdad, over a bridge that required load-testing for that weight, and then to its destination.

Taking no chances, the long convoy included a fuel truck, a

tool truck, a sleeper truck, the two low-boys — one on 96 tires and the other on 112 — a loader, a dump truck and the three prime haulers. Their drivers represented a number of neighboring countries. Along with the tool truck and dump truck were several work crews in two pick-up trucks and five SUVs for the specific purpose of clearing roads, removing low-hanging wires and close-to-the-road signs, filling potholes, and repairing roads ahead of the convoy. They were very aware that whatever lay before them, the slow-moving, two-story behemoth had to keep moving.

In fact, the convoy made good time and arrived in Baghdad a day early. Crews and drivers lay over for rest and equipment maintenance in the secure Green Zone. Then in the early evening of Jan. 26, the drivers fired up their 18 vehicles and drove slowly toward a major bridge crossing the Tigris River. The bridge, with an upper and lower deck, had not recently carried anything with the weight borne by the two low-boys. So before the convoy ever entered Iraq, U.S. Army engineers load-tested it; not once, but twice.

The bridge over the ancient river was not new, and the lower span, over which the drivers would have to ride, looked badly used and inspired no confidence. In fact, one piling underneath had been damaged and was slightly bent. The shifting sands beneath were also a matter of grave concern. Then too, the width of the drivers' great cargo nearly matched the width of the bridge. However, load-testing by Army engineers had proved it was equal to the task. Even so, the convoy crossed the generator



As the 198-ton generator and carrier roll off the bridge, at the other end its 220-ton turbine and carrier are beginning to cross the Tigris River in Baghdad, Jan. 26, 2003. (photo by Ed Evans)

and the turbine separately — the total package weighed 532 tons — while work crews and the Army's security detail walked.

Since all traffic had been stopped for the crossing beneath, a few Iraqis left their vehicles to see what was going on. Armed soldiers kept them at a safe distance. From the south bank side, a small crowd gathered at the foot of the bridge to watch. There were many questions about the contents of the two mammoth boxes, each as big as a house, but no one was answering any questions. It was vital these two critical pieces of machinery reach their destination without incident.

Once the entire convoy had crossed, turned left at the bottom of the bridge and began snaking its way through the darkened streets of Baghdad, there was quiet celebration among the uniformed men and women guarding the bridge and its approaches. In the overhead

lamplight, wide grins spread across everyone's face. Their team had moved the package forward, now it was up to the next team to take it home to the goal line. By message and by voice, the word spread across Iraq, "We got it across the bridge!"

Through the night and into the morning of the 27th, drivers, repair crews, and soldiers on security details in front, behind, and overhead, pressed on.

It was in that Tuesday dawn half light that guards at a certain Iraqi power plant looked up as the towering equipment came rumbling slowly toward them, through their gate, and came to rest at the targeted destination.

Now it has become the business of mechanics and electrical engineers. The additional 125 megawatts will mean more stable and reliable power for households, factories, and office buildings all across Iraq. The "big secret" is one

more step in the Coalition Provisional Authority's program to rehabilitate and restore the national electric grid, providing the means for Iraqis to rebuild. 🇮🇶

How Iraqis Feel

"What does the capture of Saddam Hussein mean to Iraqis?" The response below is from an Iraqi living in Florida, forwarded to Richard Johns, just one of many such sentiments received by email shortly after the capture of Saddam Hussein. The writer works with Mr. Johns' son-in-law. ("shookran" in Iraqi is "thank you.")

"God Bless America. Thank U to all our armed forces for this glorious day of Victory. I never thought I would live to see this day. U once wrote that U hope that U were doing a little something for the Iraqies. U are a part of the greatest gift any nation can obtain and that is freedom. Those young men dancing in the street never have to worry about dying for no reason, the greatest terror in their life has been captured. I graduated from the University of Baghdad College of Medicine and more than 1/3 of the males in my class have died either in the Iran/Iraq war or Desert Storm or they just did not please Saddam. Merry Christmas and Happy New. Thank U from my heart, Shookran from the Iraqie people. There is no greater gift than Freedom!!!"

Sincerely, Dr. Diane Hassan

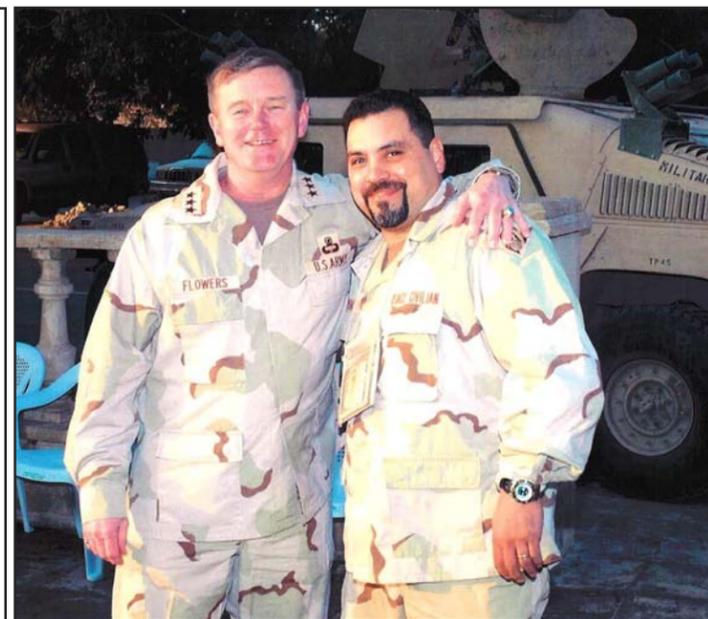


photo by Ed Evans

Ted Ryon, (right) IM Chief for Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity, greets LTG Bob Flowers, Chief of Engineers, during the Chief's visit with TF RIE Jan. 5 at the Baghdad headquarters. LTG Flowers received a briefing on TF RIE accomplishments as the task force winds down, after three months of rehabilitating power plants, upgrading 23 substations, replacing more than 200 400MW transmission towers and 3,000 kilometers of sabotaged transmission lines, training and equipping 12,500 power police, and installing telecommunications, logistics maintenance management, and computer control systems. Several projects underway will continue to add megawatts to the national electric grid. LTG Flowers told TF RIE members they should be proud of their accomplishments. When they arrived in September amid hostile fire and 120 degree heat, no one else stepped up to do the job. 🇮🇶

Team Member Provides First-hand Account From Al Basrah

by Kathy Grimes, Al Basrah, Iraq

Our team departed Nashville January 4. We were immediately split up when we arrived in Kuwait in the middle of the night. Major Bob Pegg, Bill Bennett, and Jared Gartman were picked up by the FEST-A (Forward Engineering Support Team — Advanced) and taken to the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Al Basrah. They hit the ground running, according to all reports.

Jim Beaujon was picked up in Kuwait by the Task Force Restore Iraqi Electricity (TF

RIE) team and taken to the Multi-National Division Compound at the airport in Basrah. He serves as a project engineer.



Grimes and Foust on the 'deck'.

Jason Foust, Mark Hallar, and I waited at Camp Wolverine in Kuwait for transport. We landed in Baghdad at midnight aboard a C130 and were whisked away to Camp Victory where we waited for a convoy to take us into the 'Green Zone'. The ride into Baghdad was quite exciting.

We were taken to the Iraqi Provisional Command (IPC) headquarters where Hallar was immediately taken away by the USAID (United States Agency for International Development). He is still in Baghdad, managing projects. Over the course of two days, Foust and I eventually made contact with John Restey, Mike Enschede, Ed Evans, Ted

Ryon, and General Hawkins. Charles Ogle was on a two-week turn around.

I spent two nights in the IPC building and Foust spent two nights in the palace next door dubbed the "white house". Photos on display in the Emergency Operations Center on the 6th floor were usually taken on the 'deck' of this building. 'Palace' doesn't mean glamorous. These are just houses that belonged to the king deposed in 1958, so they aren't the opulent buildings erected by Saddam. There are more rats **For complete story, visit <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/>**