



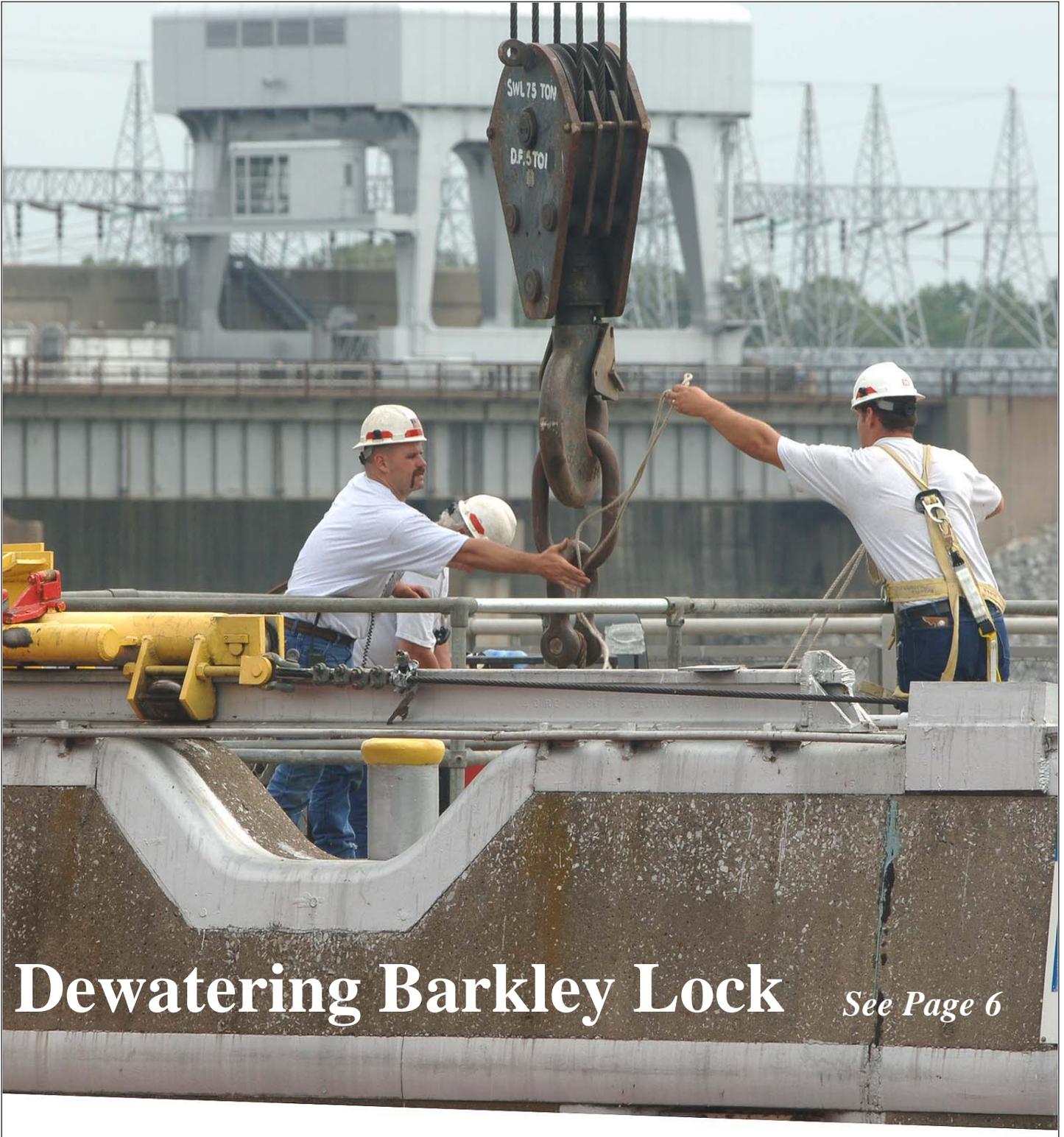
US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Nashville District

DistrictDigest

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Relevant-Ready-Responsive-Reliable

August 2006



Dewatering Barkley Lock

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Tennessee Plans Crackdown on Speeding Drivers

District employees would be wise to pay more attention to their speed as they travel on Interstates in Tennessee during August.

The State of Tennessee plans to put more emphasis on issuing traffic tickets to those guilty of speeding.

The 30-thrust began July 31. Reportedly 57 state troopers will be on duty at all times to patrol I-24, I-40, I-65, and I-75. Officials estimate that \$9 million may be

generated by the increased focus on speeding motorists. Most drivers believe five miles per hour above the posted speed limit is safe territory, but now that buffer may be gone and troopers have been told that only five mph above the posted speed limit can justify writing a ticket.

The State has equipped policemen with 30 new unmarked Crown Victoria cruisers and are bringing all part-time troopers on full time to enforce the new policy. 🚓



photo by Dave Treadway

On the Cover

TROC Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic Ryan Johnson, (from left) CROC Lock & Dam Equipment Mechanic Carl Winfree, and CROC Maintenance Worker Brandon Masiongale secure a cable to an overhead crane July 11 as they prepare to place the upstream cofferdam so the chamber can be dewatered. For complete story, and other photos, see pages 6 and 7.

District Digest

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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>.

Commander's Corner

I would like to provide insight on an issue that is critical to how we function and accomplish our mission, but one of which many of us have little knowledge.

I recently spent three days in Washington, D.C., visiting various congressional offices and providing updates on our projects. Members of Congress request these updates on projects in their area and we discuss funding levels and the effects of anticipated funding toward progress on those projects. We also discuss the District's capabilities and how requirements in the congressional districts match our capabilities. Based on these discussions, we receive priorities and intent from congressional representatives. Congress provides both authorization and appropriations for projects.

Authorizations and appropriations are separate and both are necessary for initiation of a project. Many of our projects fall within our Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) which utilizes established authorizations and consequently only appropriations are required to advance the project. Examples of our CAP categories include Section 14 (Stream Bank Protection), Section 205 (Flood Damage Reduction), and Section 206 (Ecosystem Restoration).

Communication

At any given time, the District operates or develops planning using three Fiscal Year budgets. We are currently executing from the FY06 budget. We are anticipating the FY07 budget and currently building our workforce and priorities to this budget. The President announced his proposal for the FY07 budget in February. Congress held hearings on this proposed budget and the House passed their version of the Appropriations Bill in May. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed their version in June. After the Senate passes their bill, (expectation is September) a joint committee will work on the final bill and our project funding levels for FY07 will become a compromise between the House and Senate versions of the Appropriations

Bill. Hopefully, this joint committee will determine a final bill which the President will sign into law during September, before the start of the next FY. Failing that, Congress will initiate a Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) providing guidance on spending while signing of the Appropriations Bill is pending. Once the Bill becomes law, the District will receive work allowances sometime between October and December, within thirty days of the President's signature.

We are concurrently formulating our FY08 budget. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides guidance for submission of requirements in January. The District completed an analysis of our requirements and submitted that to HQUSACE in May. Currently, HQUSACE and the Department of Army are utilizing these requirements as part of their budget package, which they will forward to OMB in September. OMB provides a draft version of their proposed budget in December, receives comments, and their final version ultimately becomes the President's budget submitted to Congress the first Monday in February. The whole process then starts over again.

Our relationships with the congressional offices are critical as they attempt to match funding with their priorities and our capabilities. We tend to visit these offices about three to four times a year as each visit corresponds to



different aspects of the budget cycle. This very interesting aspect of our District operations is vital to our ability to meet the requirements of this region.

As always, I would like to close with a note on safety. Now that it is August, we must remember that school will be starting up again soon. This means the return of school buses and a change in pedestrian traffic patterns. I would like to provide a few important safety tips. First, ensure your child has a safe place to wait for the bus, away from traffic. Second, instruct your child to stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals to enter. Third, beware of school bus stops, take note that when a bus flashes its red lights this directs all vehicles to stop. Fourth, take notice of changes to pedestrian traffic patterns especially in school zone areas.

Make returning to school a safe experience and remember; Safety – because you are important! 🇺🇸

July Employee of the Month

Michael Zoccola, chief of the Civil Design Branch, Engineering-Construction Division, was named Employee of the Month for July.

Zoccola is recognized for his technical competence, his leadership skills, and his contributions to the Wolf Creek and Center Hill rehabilitation studies. Under Mike's technical direction, Civil Design Branch employees produced a unique reliability analysis for seepage problems through a foundation. Timely completion and submission of these two studies have allowed these projects to successfully compete for funding to accomplish

necessary repairs. He has been a key contributor during public meetings designed to inform communities and individuals about these two structures.

Senior Leaders select the employee of the Month from those identified by the District's chain of command. Selectees personify the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. 🇺🇸



Mike Zoccola

Chief of Engineers Pays First Visit to Music City

Chief of Engineers LTG Carl Strock recognized a number of District employees during his July visit to Nashville and presented each with a Chief's Coin.

Daphne Jackson, Engineering-Construction Division, for her contributions and expertise in preparation and approval of the Wolf Creek Dam Safety Rehab Report. Daphne's personal attention and knowledge of the project resulted in a report that met with timely approval and recommended a viable fix for the project.

Robert Franklin, Internal Review, for 60 days of service as Internal Review Evaluator for Gulf Region Division (GRD) in Iraq. Robert identified potentially \$63M unliquidated obligations, \$3.6M S&A revenue, and planned and evaluated \$318M on four delivery orders. His persistent and technical approach resulted in resolution of many challenges associated with the new work environment of GRD and the reconstruction mission.

First Sergeant Charles D. Szostecki, Emergency Management, who went beyond the call of duty in lending a helping hand to SSGT Jason Pepper, an injured soldier who was blinded in Iraq, with getting things in order at his new home in Tennessee. The Army Reserve First Sergeant has also been invaluable in his work with the New Madrid Earthquake Planning Exercise.

Donna Davis, Real Estate, for her work in support of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She deployed to the Waveland, Miss., area in support of the debris removal mission from October 1 to November 17, 2005. Donna is also the Real Property Accountability Officer for the Nashville District and has been instrumental in efforts to bring the District into compliance with Executive Order 13327 concerning Federal Real Property Asset Management. She has contributed substantially on a Corps-wide basis to the Real Property Accountability effort as a prominent sub-cop team member.

Brenda Simpson, Logistics Management, for her work in support of hurricane relief for hurricanes Katrina and Rita. She deployed to Keesler Air Force

Base in Biloxi, Miss., from September 9 to October 26, 2005. She served in the capacity of senior logistician responsible for tracking, storage, and issuing of FEMA-supplied roofing materials.

Jim Deal, Programs Branch, for tireless hours in assembling the FY08 budget. He accompanied the Hydropower Business Line Manager along with the DPM to present LRD's Hydropower budget to the MSC staff. He presented the budget to senior leaders and produced a spreadsheet that had all the details, yet could easily roll up totals by increment, by appropriation, by business line, and various other categories. This is the first year the O&M budget was entered via P2 and then converted to PRISM. It then could be downloaded to a spreadsheet and then uploaded back from the updated spreadsheet. He helped troubleshoot data to ensure everything made it into PRISM.

Tim Higgs, Project Planning Branch, extensive experience with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as water quality and water management, made him the perfect choice to tackle the controversial topic of lake levels at Lake



LTG Carl Strock presents a coin to Brenda Simpson, Logistics Management.

Barkley and Kentucky Lakes. At the request of Congressman Whitfield, the District considered changing operations to maintain summer pool later into the summer before beginning drawdown. Tim prepared the NEPA document evaluating the environmental consequences. The EA provided a discussion of the inter-relationships of pool levels on the various resources and involved extensive coordination with TVA and other public and government groups.

Kathryn Firsching, Office of Counsel, handled several large Tort claims this year, one valued at \$15 million. The government prevailed in each case. She has spearheaded work on the \$7 million Hydropower contract. As a result of the retirement of Robert Smyth, she has taken an additional workload in the regulatory area. She also handled controversial matters in the permit and water supply arenas.

David Landis, Lake Barkley, was selected by ReserveAmerica, which manages campsite reservations for the Corps, as "Ranger of the Year".

Travis Claud, Operations Division, who is temporary Operations Project Manager for the Western Kentucky Area and temporary Power Plant Superintendent at Cheatham Powerhouse. While engaged in these temporary assignments, he contributed significantly to the satisfactory and timely resolution of a number of budget issues for Operations Division.

Robert F. Flood, Operations Division, for 54 years of superior service to the Corps of Engineers as Lock Operator, primarily at Barkley Lock. During this period, Flood was personally responsible for thousands of safe, incident-free lockages. He provided outstanding customer service and contributed to excellent facility maintenance and repair.

Chester Lowery, Old Hickory Power Plant, for service as a Power Project Manager at Haditha Dam, located in Al Anbar Province in western Iraq. While there he was the key liaison between the U.S. Marine security force at the dam and the Iraqi engineers operating the facility. Circumstances prevented LTG Strock from making the presentation in Iraq. 🇺🇸

A Hero Returns from Iraq to Live in Tennessee

An American hero is home with his family after serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom but life will never be quite the same.

U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Jason Pepper's road back has been anything but easy. He was injured more than two years ago while on a mission in the city of Karbala.

After many months of rehab at Walter Reed Army Hospital and 25 surgeries to rebuild most of the bones in his hands and wrists, the 29-year-old Sergeant is home with those he loves, those who motivated him to hang on when that seemed impossible. He is now blind and without his sense of smell.

The young sergeant gives much of the credit to his family, wife Heather and mother-in-law Denise, for getting him through the recovery and the surgeries. Both have been by his side through it all and his 3-year-old daughter Naomi has even started helping guide him around unfamiliar places.

The Peppers make their home in Primm Springs, Tenn.

Sergeant Pepper's story is perhaps best told in his own words.

"I was injured on May 7, 2004, while on a mission in Karbala, Iraq. We were sent out as a presence patrol, and upon reaching downtown Karbala an RPG hit the lead tank and an ambush began. While bounding out of the sector another M1 Tank pulled up on my left side and took away my field of fire. I turned to the right as an RPG was fired at us from behind, so I jumped to the other side of the vehicle."

His actions that day may have saved the lives of his men. When he saw the RPG headed toward him, Pepper's first instinct was to push them out of the way.

"They were young guys, and they had families and their whole life ahead of them, too," Pepper said. "I protected them because it was the right thing to do. Leaving my upper body exposed, I moved to the vehicle's troop hatch and I returned fire as another RPG went over us. At that time an explosive in a nearby tree was command-detonated and hit my vehicle. The blast threw me onto the vehicle's floor and I immediately found myself in darkness, totally blind. All I heard was

gunfire and a ringing, piercing noise. I thought, 'Oh my God. This is it. What about my wife and our daughter?'

"My fellow soldiers thought I was dead. I couldn't move or speak. The only way they knew I was still alive was the blood bubbles coming out of my nose. I was taken back to base camp to be flown to a hospital in Baghdad. While waiting for the bird (a Black Hawk

Helicopter) I regained my ability to speak and I asked for morphine. A medic told me I would be okay, and the next thing I knew I felt the rotor wash from the helicopter and my body went into severe shock and I passed out.

Sometime later when I regained consciousness the surgeon told me I was blind because I'd lost both eyes — shrapnel had shredded them and there was nothing left for the surgeons to work with or salvage. Shortly after this, a chaplain came to me and asked if I wanted to call my wife. He held the phone to my ear and I reassured my wife Heather that I was okay. We spoke for about 20 minutes and I just joked around and listened to our daughter in the background. After that I guess the medication kicked in because everything is a blur until we were reunited in Landstuhl, Germany, on May 9. My first words to her were 'Happy Mother's Day.'

"Later that day I was taken in for surgery and informed of my other injuries. My right arm was shattered and my left hand was severely mangled. Both were in external fixators to keep them together. I was later transported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C."



photo by Dave Treadway

Division Engineer Brig. Gen. Bruce Berwick presents a Teddy Bear to Naomi Pepper, a Commanders Award for Civilian Service to Heather Pepper, and a District Coin to SSGT Jason Pepper, during a Townhall July 19.

While at Walter Reed, Pepper lost his left index finger, was told he had a subdermal hematoma, a left side skull fracture, a bruised brain and a silver-dollar-sized piece of shrapnel embedded in his skull behind his right eye socket. Besides his sense of smell, he also lost part of his senses of taste and touch. It was there that he realized his hearing is now more acute. He learned to read Braille and how to get around with the aid of a guide dog.

"Mentally," said Jason, "this has always been a back and forth battle. I've lived in darkness (since that day) and it's a very lonely place. It's difficult to know that I'll never see my beautiful wife or my daughter, the cutest little girl in the world, ever again. I'll be with my daughter as she grows up, but I won't see her grow up. Heather and I would like to have more children, and it takes a toll on me to know that I won't see her through the pregnancy or see those children either. I would give both legs and my left arm to be able to see again. But after learning that I'll never see again I didn't go into depression or self-pity. Right away I

(See Hero on page 10)

Barkley Lock Dewatered, Repaired

Story and photos by Dave Treadway

Barkley Lock was dewatered by District employees in July and repaired in areas where time and the elements, plus a few barges, had taken its toll.

As work began on July 11, Project Manager Joe Faustina explained the work to be done.

“The Lock looked pretty good when we did our diving inspection earlier this year,” said Faustina. “Right now, we know we have some airline replacement in the vertical shaft that runs down and goes through the crossover, which has been in there, I guess, since the Lock was built. They are updating it and bringing in new shaft and water lines through there.

“Up on the upper river wall behind the gate, we have some armor plating that needs to be repaired. On the lower gate we have a few of the fenders that the barges bump into that have to be repaired. We have some old cathodic electrical lines on the gates and pipes that have to be removed and we will spot paint those back. We have the transition seal on the upper gate

that needs to be replaced because it’s worn out. We have some welding on the gates that we know of now that needs to be done, hopefully not a lot like we did last time. We have strut pins on the upper end, that help keep the gate closed, those will be replaced, both the pins and the bushings. Those are the things we know of now, until we get the lock dewatered (for closer inspection).

“When the divers went down for their inspection in April, we really didn’t find anything wrong with the valves but then the water was muddy. From what we could feel and can see on our video, it looks good. And if anything occurred since that time, we can fix it. But we don’t think there is because we can’t hear water rushing above it.

“Our grating up here is bad and bent over the years (on top of the lock wall) and, for safety reasons, we are going to try to get some grating that is better designed, so it is not sticking up and creating a safety hazard. Right now,” smiled Faustina, “it looks like it will be a pretty easy dewatering.”

Under a cloudy sky and the threat of rain, workers then set the upper bulkheads, transferred heavy equipment to the other side of the lock, then dropped the water in the chamber to position equipment to put the lower caisson in place.

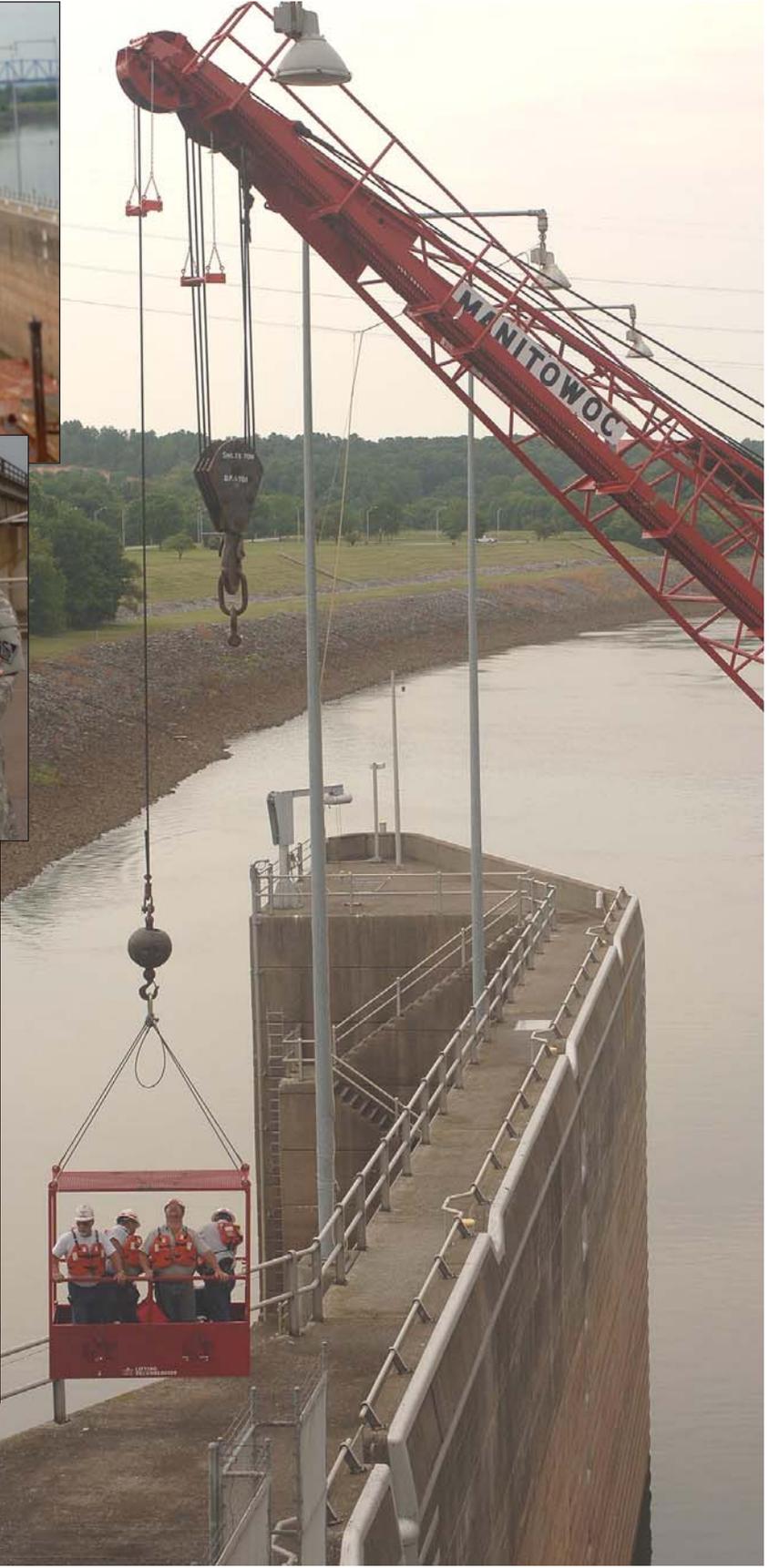
Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and heavy dark clouds moved in with thunder booming nearby as the time drew near to place the caisson that would keep water from flowing back into the chamber from downstream. That crucial step was then postponed until July 12.

Just ahead of the falling rain, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works John Paul



Donald Dean, a lock & dam equipment mechanic from Wilson Lock, secures a cable to the wall of the lock (above) before disconnecting the cable from the overhead crane while Lockmaster Gerald Cunningham is interviewed (right) by a reporter from Paducah NBC affiliate WPSD TV Channel 6 about the impacts of the dewatering on navigation barge traffic and the projected date of re-opening.





Woodley and Director of Civil Works Major General Don T. Riley, visited the Lock while en route to Paducah and a seat on the International Waterways Users Board.

Lockmaster Gerald Cunningham showed them the Lock and work in progress.

The maintenance crew completed all major repairs ahead of schedule and re-opened the Lock to Navigation traffic at 3:30 p.m. on July 27.

Operations Chief Mike Enschr (top left) briefs ASA John Paul Woodley, Roy Joines speaks with the ASA and Director of Civil Works Maj. Gen. Don T. Riley, Carl Scott hooks a cable to an overhead crane to perform a critical lift, and four workers get a ride via a chair lift (above) from the work barge to the Lock wall at the end of the day.

Barkley Employee Serves in Afghanistan

by Dave Treadway

Robert Jarrett, Lake Barkley Power Plant, is currently serving his second deployment in Afghanistan.

The Barkley senior electrician is overseeing the construction of a base for the Afghan National Army. The project consists of barracks, offices, power plant, maintenance buildings, sewage plant, and all other features of a small city. When Jarrett arrived there last October, "home" was a collection of tents near where a well was being drilled in the desert. Now, only 10 months later, there are more than 200 buildings in various stages of completion and new people are arriving every day to replace those ready to return home.

"Our office is responsible for three road projects between Gardez and the Pakistani border," said Jarrett, "and a police station complex in downtown Khost." He said the Afghan Engineering District has hundreds of such projects underway throughout the country and is still in need of people willing to deploy and help out in the effort.

The western Kentucky electrician feels the work he is accomplishing there makes a difference to the Afghan people.

"I feel we are doing good things for and bringing peace to a country that has been at war for 25 years and I am

grateful for the opportunity to experience this culture and work with the dedicated Corps employees here in Afghanistan."

Jarrett not only helps build critical infrastructure in Afghanistan but he also is involved in a project to put smiles on the faces of some school children there.

"About once a month," Jarrett explained, "we convoy to nearby schools or orphanages and distribute packages to the children. These packages consist of school supplies, toys, and candy and are provided by various church groups and friends and family members of Corps of Engineers employees deployed to this area. On one particular visit we distributed 85 backpacks and when those ran out we gave the children pens, paper, and candy; hopefully everyone got something. The people here live in the



Children of the Montezi tribe (right) pose for a photo with Robert Jarrett and his translator, Akbar Ali, during a recent visit to their village.

worst imaginable conditions and anything we can give them is needed. Sadly, the day we visited the school it was burned by an unknown arsonist."

District employees who would like to contribute to the children of this area may send packages to:

Major Robert Corrales, US Army Corps of Engineers, FOB Salerno, APO AE 09314.

Jarrett and fellow employees will work hard to put smiles on the faces of more Afghani children. 🇺🇸

photos courtesy of Robert Jarrett



Robert Jarrett distributes 85 backpacks along with pens, paper, and candy to school children on a recent visit.



What Robert Jarrett found to be a typical school in Afghanistan.

Contract Specialist Gives a First-hand Account from Iraq

by Dave Treadway

Contracting Specialist J. W. Purcell recently returned from Iraq after spending 16 months, broken up by two interludes, once for annual leave and another time for a school in Huntsville, Ala.

Purcell shared some of his experiences from that war-torn country.

“In some respects, I did much the same kind of work there as I do in Nashville as a contract specialist. In other respects, it was totally different. I think the most expensive project I worked on was just prior to my departure, a water project in Kirkuk estimated at between 6.5 and 8 million dollars. The project involved building a ground storage water tank, a large reinforced concrete structure, just one component of an existing water system in Kirkuk that would also be part of capacity upgrades for the system to allow it to adequately serve the people. I worked mostly on water projects, although my sector covered water and public works. Public works could include sewer projects, landfills, even the infrastructure for an incinerator, basically getting them into the 21st century.”

Purcell stayed in Iraq so long because he was needed there.

“I don’t think they were getting a lot of volunteers. Within a couple weeks of the time I left, the chief of contracting redeployed to the states, two contract specialists redeployed, followed by another the next week and only one has come in to replace those. There is a lot of contracting action still going on, new contracts for infrastructure and administering existing contracts so it is quite a workload. In the couple of months before I left I was working up to 14 and ½ hours a day, seven days a week. I’m sure people hear a lot about how much money is available to spend via the supplemental appropriation and the funds allocated for the rebuilding effort. A lot of the funds we worked with were called CERP funds, short for Commander’s Emergency Relief Program, which is money available to the local commanders for them to spend in their area of operations to relieve the situation as they see fit and it may be



The Mayor of Tal' Afar tests the water at the completion of a water project there.

building a soccer field for the kids, it might be repairing a school or clinic, a water system, digging a well, anything along those lines that helps the civil infrastructure. Of course, a lot of these things we try to coordinate at a higher level so we’re not working at cross purposes.

“When I first got there, some of that uncoordinated effort was going on and there is a lot better coordination now in the rebuilding effort. Getting back to the CERP funds, we are familiar with funds being available at the end of the year and trying to spend them all at once, and it’s no different there. Last August and September we were working those hours I just described in preparation to award the contracts and make things happen for local commanders. We were looking at \$1.6 million just in CERP funds. These were for small projects valued at perhaps \$30,000 or \$40,000 all the way up to \$300,000. So spending that much in small increments equates to a lot of contracts.

“The well project in Tal’ Afar was part of a comprehensive effort to rebuild the civil infrastructure there after the 3rd ACR liberated the city from foreign terrorists last September. In the water sector, we

initially supplied nine water trucks (6000 liter capacity), to get potable water to neighborhoods while we repaired and expanded the water distribution network. Part of the work involved rehabilitation of a drinking water treatment plant and repair of the distribution pipe some distance away, the repair and installation of water towers, and repair of the city’s valves. Engineers discovered that some of the distribution pipes had been filled with concrete to prevent certain sections of the city from getting water. We also made repairs and improvements to the electrical grid and provided maintenance supplies, equipment, and boom trucks to the city’s electrical ministry.

“The city mayor became famous (as much as the media is willing to publish such good news) for his letter to the Regimental Commander of 3rd ACR (COL McMaster), GEN Casey, and everyone involved, thanking the US forces for liberating his city. The whole situation reminded me of the scenes from the movies *High Noon* or *Tombstone* when Gary Cooper and Kirk Russell ran the outlaws out of town.

“One of the big things we had to do was determine where the need was or what level of effort was needed. We might know a water treatment plant in a community was deficient, was damaged or worn out but we didn’t know what was needed to get it up to speed. Therefore we needed an assessment. I came up with a contract mechanism to employ an Iraqi firm to go do the assessments for us. That was very successful. That’s because, when we go out to a site, we do so with four vehicles and a 14-man security team just for one man to go out and look at something. When an Iraqi drives his vehicle out to a site, it’s just one vehicle and nobody raises an eyebrow. It shifted the focus from, ‘Hey, Americans are doing this,’ to ‘Some local is getting it done.’ This doesn’t attract a lot of attention and it is helping the Iraqis get back on their feet. I am proud to say that not once while I was over there did I contract with an American firm to do any of the work, it was always Iraqi firms. I was glad I was able to do that because it employs them,

(See Iraq, page 11)

The Corps Crowd

Congratulations to...

...Robert Flood, lock and dam operator, was presented with a Chief of Engineers coin at a toolbox safety meeting at Barkley Lock. During the shift change for Barkley's dewatering team, Gerald Cunningham, Navigation Facility Supervisor, gave Flood the coin on behalf of Chief of Engineers Carl Strock. Flood has worked for 54 years on Nashville District's Locks 1 through 8, A through F and all



Robert Flood accepts a Chief of Engineers coin from Lockmaster Gerald Cunningham.

current locks except Guntersville and Watts Barr.

...Carol McDaniels, administrative assistant at Western Kentucky Area Office, on the marriage of son Jason McDaniels to Laura Wachter on July 29 in St. Louis, Mo.

Welcome to ...

...Jessica Sloan, student aide for the Old Hickory Power Plant. She is from Gallatin, and will be going to Tennessee Tech in the fall to be an LPN.



Chester Lowery

...Chester Lowery, instructor for the Hydropower Training Program, located at the Old Hickory Power Plant. Chester transferred from his position as senior mechanic at Cheatham Power Plant.

Baby Brigade ...

...Sandra Breault, systems accountant, Finance and Accounting Branch, who became a grandmother again when daughter Eva and son-in-law Ronell Gibbs welcomed Ronell Gibbs, Jr., on July 26, weighing in at 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

Thank you...

... "I wish to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to my fellow Corps employees for the donation of their valuable leave time on my behalf during my time of need. Thank you so much to all involved. Your generosity will not be forgotten by myself and my family. We are very grateful for your kindness. Thank You!" *Jaye McAllister, Maintenance Mechanic, Lake Barkley*
...To my dear Corps family, words are so inadequate at times like this. The Corps

family is truly a family. I want to thank each of you for your prayers, thoughts, hugs, and the cards I received after my husband's death. Your kindness helped make a difficult time much easier. May God bless you, *Valerie Carlton, Contracting*
...fellow employees for their concerns and condolences due to the death of my sister's husband, John Wesley Black on July 20. *Hugh Lowe, Electrical Engineer*

Upcoming events...

Program dates have been established for three upcoming Special Emphasis Programs Committee events. So that management and employees are aware of each event, and perhaps schedule around the following programs, dates are:
August 22-Women's Equality Day
October 11-Hispanic Heritage Month
October 25-National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Are You Prepared for an Earthquake?

The central United States is vulnerable to damaging earthquakes. With little or no warning, a damaging earthquake in the New Madrid, Wabash Valley, or East Tennessee seismic zones, could strike.

First in a Series



Depending on its magnitude and location, it could impact multiple states, causing major physical, social and economic disruption in a region that is home to more than 11 million people. While most people associate the New Madrid seismic zone with the great earthquakes of 1811-12 (which produced four temblors near magnitude 8 and

thousands of aftershocks), the central U.S. continues to have the highest level of seismicity in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains.

Earthquakes of estimated magnitude 6.4, 6.8, and 5.5 occurred in 1843, 1895, and 1968 respectively. Moderate sized earthquakes also occur in the central U.S. In 2002, Evansville, Indiana experienced a magnitude 4.6 earthquake that toppled chimneys and caused other minor damages.

Fortunately, no one was hurt in *this* instance. Another magnitude 4.6 in Ft. Payne, Ala., in 2003 shook a 12 state area and was felt by more than 17,000 people. This clearly validates the regional impact an earthquake in the central U.S. could have.

Hero (cont. from page 5)

started making jokes about my injuries and about being blind. When people visited me they left feeling good because I've had a positive attitude about this since Day One. They'd say they came to lift my spirits but instead it was me who uplifted them.

"I have a great wife who keeps me going. My in-laws also have played a very important role in my recovery."

While recovering at Walter Reed Jason met Gary Trudeau, the creator of *Dooniesbury*, and was later featured in the comic strip. *(Compiled from reports at Andrews McMeel Publishing and Stars and Stripes Newsmagazine)*

Lending A Helping Hand at Camp Dream

by Steven Foshee

A Corps employee and his son recently volunteered their time at Camp Dream, the nation's most comprehensive program designed especially for persons affected by brain injury. Following the experience, they felt they gained much more than they gave.

Regulatory Specialist Richard Graham became involved after hearing a plea for volunteers on WMBW 91.7 FM in Chattanooga via the Moody Broadcasting Network.

"I needed to give something back to somebody but didn't know who until I heard the radio announcement seeking volunteers," said Graham. He called the toll free number for Joni and Friends International Disability Center (www.joniandfriends.org), the organization which hosts 17 camps around the nation.

Armed with a desire to help but only a limited knowledge of disabilities, Graham first traveled last year more than 300 miles to the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute (http://www.birf.info/support/events/camp/camp_vol.html) one hour south of Atlanta. He volunteered as an "STM", or short term missionary. This summer Graham was accompanied by son Chris when he again visited the institute to help any way he could. The father/son duo performed a variety of tasks ranging from assistance with meals, to social and recreation activities like swimming, boating and fishing.

Each brain injury is different and requires caregivers to draw upon their physical and emotional reserves, according to the Brain Injury Resource Foundation.

The Corps regulatory specialist felt strongly about his volunteer role as a caregiver at Camp Dream.

"I began to realize the daily hardships and challenges associated with either having a disability or having a family member with a disability," said Graham. "Moving out of my



Chris Graham (right) uses a cigarette as an incentive to get Vladimir Merkulov to pay attention during camp.

comfort zone and coming to Camp Dream was a life-changing experience."

Not all disabilities begin at birth, many are acquired later in life. Chris' camper and friend, Vladimir Merkulov, was a renowned physicist who earned his doctorate from Penn State and was presented with a grant to work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He became disabled four years ago. Merkulov's parents came to America from Russia to care for him.

"I hope others will be moved out of their comfort zones and consider helping where they are needed," said the College Grove, Tenn., resident, "Chris and I are taking away a new respect for the disabled, and are already making plans for next year's memories."

Iraq, (Cont. from page 9)

gives them ownership of what is going on."

Communication with Iraqis was not a problem for Purcell.

"We had interpreters who worked in the office. Surprisingly most of the Iraqi engineers speak English depending on where they had their training.

"One of the first challenges we had was discovering who the Iraqi contractors were. We had to start from scratch to put together a list from our field offices, our resident offices, those who they had worked with before. Our list grew on a district level and then we shared it with GRD and others. Our solicitations went out via Email, and those to whom we sent them would share it with others, who

would do the same. We quickly started receiving requests from many Iraqi contractors who were looking for work, so our list of potential contractors grew to nearly 300. We made some progress."

Paying those Iraqi contractors for the work they did proved to be a challenge.

"When I first got there, we were just beginning to transition from a system of paying contractors in cash to having them be paid by electronic funds transfer. This was a challenge because they were not familiar with getting paid this way. They liked cash. We helped a lot of them to get into the 21st century. This required them to have a bank account to be paid. Since none of the Iraqi banks do business in the states, they have to use a routing method for the payments, a U.S. bank whom we can pay through CEFMS in Millington had

to transfer funds to a bank in the Middle East, maybe in Lebanon, Kuwait, Turkey or Jordan. It was a challenge.

"Originally I was doing business in Mosul where the GRN was located. As part of the restructuring of the US forces there, the forward operating base we were on closed in July. So starting as early as April, GRN began transitioning folks to move the headquarters to Contingency Operating Base Speicher in the Tikrit area. So in the later part of April I moved down there. The headquarters moved the later part of May, or first part of June."

The first time Purcell was in Iraq he slept on the hood of his HUMVEE, during OPERATION DESERT STORM. This time was much better. He lived in 'wet hooch' – a duplex trailer arrangement, each side with its own restroom!

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Just To Be On The Safe Side . . . Combating the Heat

by John Tibbels

Excessive exposure to a hot work environment can bring on a variety of heat-induced disorders. Constant attention to dangerous conditions is critical to avoid heat related injuries.

Heat Stroke is the most serious of health problems associated with working

in hot environments. This occurs when the body's temperature regulatory system fails and sweating becomes inadequate to cool the body. A heat stroke victim's skin is hot, usually dry, red or spotted. Body temperature is usually 105 degrees F or higher and the victim is mentally confused, delirious, perhaps in

convulsions, or unconscious. Unless the victim receives quick and appropriate treatment, death can occur. Any person with signs or symptoms of heat stroke requires immediate hospitalization. However, first aid should be immediately administered. This includes removing the victim to a cool area, thoroughly soaking the victim's clothing with water, and vigorously fanning the body to facilitate the cooling process. Further treatment at a medical facility should continue the cooling process while also monitoring complications which often accompany the condition. Early recognition and treatment of heat stroke are the only means of preventing permanent brain damage or death.

Heat Exhaustion includes several clinical disorders with symptoms which may resemble the early signs of heat stroke. Heat exhaustion is caused by the loss of large amounts of fluid by sweating, sometimes with excessive loss of salt. Drinking lots of water during the day with normal salt intake from your food will generally prevent the onset of heat exhaustion. Normally, drinking five to seven ounces of water every 15 to 20 minutes is adequate to keep someone's water level normal. It is important to remember that drinking water is your best defense against heat-induced disorders.

Sluice Gate Releases Planned at Center Hill Dam

Nashville District began releasing water through the sluice gate at Center Hill Dam July 24 to increase the dissolved oxygen content of the water released into the Caney Fork River. This action will benefit aquatic life downstream.

Releases through the sluice gate will be made concurrent with generation of electricity in the hydropower plant. By scheduling sluice releases during periods of power generation, the District will be able to meet downstream water-quality objectives and minimize impacts to fishermen and power interests. The measures are considered the best way to maintain the State water quality standard.

"Our objective," said Bob Sneed, chief of the Nashville District Water Management Section, "is to maintain beneficial dissolved oxygen levels and ultimately improve the aquatic life in the Caney Fork River. This operation was

very successful last year. We were able to mix the highly aerated sluice release with turbine discharge that was, at times, quite low in dissolved oxygen, to produce a blended project release that met our goal of 6.0 milligrams per liter. We are trying to meet the State water quality standard which is 6.0 milligrams per liter for a cold-water environment like the Caney Fork below Center Hill Dam."

In 2005 this reach of the Caney Fork experienced the best oxygen conditions it had seen since the impoundment of Center Hill Lake. As a result, more aquatic life, including stocked brown and rainbow trout, were able to thrive during this critical period.

Officials plan to schedule discharges between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and to only two hours on Fridays, weekends and holidays. 