



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District

# DistrictDigest

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June 2008



## *Volunteers Clean Up J. Percy Priest Lake*



Courtesy of The Tennessean

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## District Digest

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### On the Cover

Volunteers Clean Up J. Percy Priest Lake.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the local community to remove tons of debris. For complete story, see pages 8 - 9.

# Lindstrom Sends

Greetings and Wow! What a beautiful time of year!

One of the first tasks that I did when I arrived in Nashville was to engage with our senior leaders on how to improve and take our organization from good to great. To get us started we used the thought process provided by Jim Collins in the book "Good to Great."

Over the next five months we discussed the ideas and concepts of Level 5 leadership, First Who then What, Confronting the Brutal Facts, the Hedgehog Concept, a Culture of Discipline, and Technology Acceleration in the context of how the Nashville District operates.

Today I am happy to announce that through the efforts of many discussions, and afternoons of effort, we have collectively developed the new Nashville District's Business Plan (NBP). The NBP provides the organization with goals, objectives, measures, and initiatives that will enable all employees to focus our efforts towards making ourselves and our organization not only good but exceptional!

Listed below are our new organizational goals. I challenge every leader to take these goals and set achievable and challenging TEAM objectives so that every employee can understand how their contribution towards excellence and their willingness and ability to reach for that next objective promotes these organizational goals:

- 1st: Deliver Enduring, Innovative, and Sustainable Civil Works Operations Programs and Projects
- 2nd: Execute Consistent, Effective Civil Works Programs and Projects
- 3rd: Conduct Transparent Communication and Collaborative Approaches to Water Resource Problems
- 4th: Build the T.E.A.M. (Trust, Excellence, All about People, Motivating)

We will use these organizational goals and supporting TEAM objectives to measure the performance of our district, and the objectives can be used as a

tool to measure the performance of all employees. Your specific performance objectives that list the important work you do every day should directly relate and support these organizational goals. You are our most valuable asset. Your organization wants you to understand how you are a part of the overall mission success, so as a part of the business plan I am also pleased to publish our new mission statement.

Our Mission is to serve the region, the Corps, and the Nation by providing collaborative water resource engineering solutions, world class public infrastructure management, and environmental stewardship for the Cumberland-Tennessee River System.

And if all else fails please follow my intent: My intent is to Protect People from Water, Protect Water from People, and Make Water Useful.

Also incorporated into each and every goal you will find that there are Safety Objectives as a tool to assist in measuring our ability to protect and sustain our most valuable assets, our workforce. So, as we go out and enjoy the summer holiday season please remember to "Own the Edge" by taking personal Ownership of Risk. Focus on the composite risk management (CRM) process whether at work or off duty. Even in this nice weather there are hazards that are associated with outdoor activity. For example, increased sun exposure, congested roadways, uneven walking and running surfaces, unprotected swimming areas, to name a few. Before you set out, make sure you identify the hazards and implement appropriate control measures to mitigate risk. This is how you "Own the Edge" and take Ownership of Risk. We recently published a Safety Video that describes our new Safety Campaign Slogan... "Own The Edge!" ([https://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/media/Own\\_the\\_Edge.wmv](https://www2.lrn.usace.army.mil/media/Own_the_Edge.wmv)) I encourage you to view the video if you have not done so already and read our new Safety Campaign. The focus of the video and the campaign plan is to raise awareness of the things that you and I can do to increase our awareness of risk, and



through that awareness we can enjoy life to the fullest.

Speaking of people who are demonstrating a path to greatness, I want to recognize a few high performing folks:

- \* The Wolf Creek TEAM for working through the lake level public scrutiny while putting forth herculean efforts to continue to get to the first grout line closure.
- \* Steve Foshee, Ed Evans and the Public Affairs TEAM for going from good to GREAT in the information age to establish the first Nashville District Commander's BLOG.
- \* Chris Warren for conducting the invocation and singing a beautiful song for BG Berwick's Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony.
- \* Adam Walker and Mickie Porter for leading the new EAGLE participants.
- \* Bob Sneed and the Water Management Section...this time for getting Bob's picture on the front page of the Cumberland Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
- \* Courtney Wilson and the Operations TEAM who worked to make the Nashville Clean Water Project on J. Percy Priest Lake a HUGE success.
- \* Mr. Maurice Simpson for working as a member of the Operation and Real Estate Task Force concerning the development of a joint draft policy on non-recreational outgrants.

(See Lindstrom, page 5)

# “Wear It” Campaign at J. Percy Priest Lake

Article and pictures and by Ranger Mark Vaughan



Tennessee area waters.

Beginning Memorial Day holiday weekend, a Wear It Tennessee campaign boat will be cruising J. Percy Priest Lake, giving away inflatable life jackets in exchange for a pledge to Wear It. The campaign will take place throughout the summer, based primarily on J. Percy



Priest Lake.

Life Jacket Zone signs, Wear It! Banners, Boating Checklist

The Wear It Tennessee Campaign kicked off on May 23, 2008 at Elm Hill Marina. Wear It Tennessee! Campaign, a national effort to increase voluntary wear of life jackets among adults is sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety and the National Safe Boating Council. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are also joining forces to educate boaters on the importance of life jackets while recreating around



placards, and other reminders will be placed near area launch ramps around the lake.

For additional information relating to the Wear It Tennessee Campaign, visit <http://www.wearitennessee.com/>.

## Dale Hollow Water Safety

By: Park Ranger Bobby Bartlett and Allen Earhart



Dale Hollow Park Rangers Bobby Bartlett and Allen Earhart conducted a boating and water safety program for Overton County kids. More than three hundred fifth graders attended the program, held May 9 in Livingston, Tenn.

## Pam Schmaltz Joins Office of Counsel

Pam Schmaltz is the newest addition to the Office of Counsel team. Pam comes to us from the Kansas City District, where she worked for over seven years.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Schmaltz has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. She worked as a project engineer for Shell Oil Company designing equipment for offshore oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. Schmaltz received her law degree from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans. Schmaltz worked for several law firms, practicing environmental law, before entering the government. She credits her engineering background as helpful when working with clients to find legal solutions to technical problems.

While in Kansas City, Schmaltz worked on a variety of legal issues including radioactive waste disposal, a complex



Pam Schmaltz

construction claim involving the US Disciplinary Barracks at Ft. Leavenworth, environmental clean-ups in the FUDS and FUSRAP programs, Clean Water Act violations, construction delay claims, contract disputes, and EEO complaints. She has

served two details to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to assist the Louisiana Recovery Field Office with hurricane debris clean-up efforts.

While in New Orleans, she met and married her husband, Kevin Schmaltz. Kevin is a professor of Mechanical Engineering at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. They have a six-year old son and a seven-year old beagle.

# COUNSEL'S CORNER

By Pam Schmaltz

## What is the City-Pair Program?

The GSA City-Pair Program allows the federal government to obtain the best value for air travel for personnel traveling on official government business. For travel between certain destinations, known as "city-pairs," the government has competitively contracted to obtain the best value airfare for the government. The airline for a certain city-pair is known as the contract carrier.

## What are the advantages to the City-Pair Program?

Many advantages exist, including no blackout dates, fully refundable tickets with no charge for cancellations or changes, and no advance purchase required.

## Why doesn't the Program restrict City-Pair Awards to non-stop flights?

One of the reasons could be that there is no non-stop carrier for a particular route. Or, it's possible that

the non-stop carrier did not compete for the contract. Some carriers have so much traffic on certain routes that they do not want the government's business for that route! Another reason could be that the contract carrier offered a fare so low that it was the best overall value to the government, even considering the advantages of non-stop service.

## Do I have to use the contract carrier?

Unless certain exceptions apply, federal and military travelers on official government business must use the contract carrier. Exceptions include a situation where the contract carrier does not have a flight available to meet the purpose of your travel or where the contract carrier's flight would cause

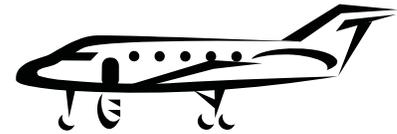


you to incur unnecessary overnight lodging costs. **Choosing not to use**

**the contract carrier due to personal preference or frequent flyer programs violates the government's contract. Putting one's personal interests ahead of the government's raises ethical issues!**

## Where can I get additional information on the City-Pair Program?

Try GSA's web site, <http://www.gsa.gov>, and click on "City Pair Program" under "Travel Resources."



You can also find information in the DoD travel regulations. If you would like to see a specific topic addressed in the Counsel's Corner, or have questions about this issue, you can contact Bill Hill in the Office of Counsel (OC).

## DoD Computer Monitoring

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

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

## Lindstrom (Continued from page 3)

- \* Tim Dunn, Mark Vaughn, Jeff Hancock, Craig Carrington for being nominated as the Nashville District's Emerging Leaders for 2008.
  - \* Kimberly Spicer and Reshea Norris for submitting a nomination for the new Chief of Engineers Coin of Excellence design contest. We think yours was the best.
  - \* Cheatham Rangers for partnering with TWRA, Nashville Zoo, and the Cumberland River Compact to conduct Environmental Awareness Day.
  - \* Danita Jones for diligently getting to GREAT by compiling all of the senior leaders comments and quotes into a readable comprehensive business plan
  - \* Charles Appleton and the contracting TEAM for exceeding the 3% Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business goal.
  - \* Avis Kennedy for being nominated for the FY2008 National Recreation Coalition's Legends Award.
  - \* Donna Davis for receiving an honorable mention that "set the standard" in the Personal and Real Property Audit.
- Your selfless-service and dedication to our mission is continuing to promote a legacy of engineering excellence that will serve the future of this region as it has since 1888. 120 years on 18 August 2008! For all of you listed above, you are setting new objectives and reaching for higher achievement that will take you and the district from Good to GREAT! Every day is a new day for achievers. I sincerely look forward to continuing to serve you with the passion and commitment to lead our organization and preserve our legacy of excellence and achievement that makes this organization GREAT. Again, Cara and I appreciate the opportunity to serve you. Spring is In, Summer is coming soon and God Bless! One team! Ready! Relevant! Reliable! Responsive! Essayons! Engineer Strong!"

# Volunteers Brave Weather To Clean Laurel Lake

Article and pictures by Adam James

Young and old alike took their chances with less than optimal weather to make the annual Laurel Lake Clean-Up a success. This year's clean up was on Saturday April, 19<sup>th</sup>, and over 450 participants showed up to do their part in cleaning this beautiful lake.

Heavy rains the night before and dark clouds moving in and out were not an omen for the day as the rain never came, and the sun even poked through at times. Despite being a bit chilly for some the weather was not

complained about by the participants.

Participants came from many local organizations including school groups, and scout groups. Several local businesses, including Wal-Mart and HSBC, sent a group of their employees and their families in addition to financial support for the day's efforts.

Some participants went out in boats to various coves and shorelines along the lake while others found trash from places they could walk and drive along trails and roads. Boats and op-



erators were provided both by private volunteers as well as the two marinas on the lake and government agencies. Among the government agencies operating boats were the USDA Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Corps Rangers Judy Daulton, Tasha Alexander, and Adam James from Lake Cumberland in addition to Student Aide Morgan Alsip from Laurel Lake helped out at the event.

Also helping at the event was a large contingency of USDA Forest Service employees and members of the Friends of Laurel Lake and various other groups and agencies.

Not all of the day was taken up with picking up garbage. The clean up time of 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. was followed by a lunch provided by a local phone company and a presentation of door prizes and an award for the most unusual item found. Also presented was the prestigious "Clean-Up Cup" given to the county from which the most people take part. Laurel County again won the cup which was received by Jim Ed McDaniels, the Laurel County Solid Waste coordinator.

## May Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Kathryn Firsching for being selected as Nashville District's Employee of the Month for May 2008.

While Kathryn Firsching produces outstanding results on a regular basis, she most recently was instrumental in having all parties involved in signing the settlement agreement, for the City of Smyrna litigation. Per the agreement the government will receive \$2.3 million that was actually due over 10 years ago. This was made possible, in large part, through Kathryn's efforts in federal court and in a mediation conducted in the Pentagon. The Corps will also receive regular operation and maintenance payments because of this settlement. Kathryn also was successful in the Evitts-Frye federal court litigation. This involved a wrongful death lawsuit against the government when

the plaintiffs sued for \$15 million. They were unsuccessful, primarily due to the efforts of Kathryn who filed a dispositive motion that won the case without a trial. Recently, Kathryn worked with the Department of Justice and filed a complaint against Maryland Marine to recoup more than \$300,000 for damages to the auxiliary lock at Wilson. Earlier, she filed an affirmative claim for more than \$4 million dollars for damages to the main lock at Wilson. She was also instrumental in resolving historic preservation issues, which allowed Alligator 1 Marina to relocate. As part of this process, she went out west and met in consultation with the Keetowah Band of Cherokees. Kathryn is currently working with Engineering-Construction Division to resolve a Notice of Violation Letter issued by the State of Kentucky.



**Kathryn Firsching**

Kathryn's performance of duty reflects great credit upon her, the Nashville District, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

# Shiloh National Military Park's Memorial Day Ceremony

At the invitation of the National Park Service, LTC Lindstrom was the keynote speaker at Shiloh National Military Park's Memorial Day ceremony - one of the oldest Memorial Day ceremonies of its type in Tennessee. Approximately 670 members of the public and veterans attended this event held in the National Cemetery. After the ceremony, the Park Superintendent, Mr. Woody Harrell, provided a tour for LTC Lindstrom of the \$5.5M stream bank protection project that the Nashville District recently completed for the National Park Service along the Tennessee River at Shiloh.



## Diane Parks is the new Chief of Operations

The Nashville District recently welcomed Diane Parks as its new Chief of Operations. Parks came to Nashville District in April from the Seattle District, but her experience with the Corps over the years has taken her all over the country.

Parks grew up in Atlanta, and graduated from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville with a degree in Forestry/Natural Resource Management. Since leaving Knoxville, she has moved extensively, eight times within the Corps alone. Her career began as a ranger with the Park Service, and after three years, she joined the Corps as a Park Ranger at Lake Sidney Lanier in the Mobile District.

After her years as a "pavement-pounding park ranger," as she puts it, Parks worked her way into management. She has held the Chief of Operations position in multiple districts, including Seattle and Savannah, the most recent stops on her circuit.

Moving so often has been tough for Parks, but she sees the benefits as well. "I really love all that the Corps does," she explains. "You can't get all that the Corps does in any one District, nor can you get all the people the Corps has in any one District." She says that experiencing the diversity of the Corps' work is what makes the moving fun, noting that

"every District is focused on something different, yet just as important as the last one."

Throughout all of her moving, however, Parks has kept the Nashville District in her sights. "The whole time I've been with the Corps," she says, "Nashville District has always been on that leading edge." When the Chief of Operations position opened, she saw it as her opportunity to get to know Nashville and to see how great the District's program and people really are. She says she



**Diane Parks**

has not been disappointed.

"I've only been here two months and you guys are shining," she says. The people of the Nashville District have impressed Parks with their support and eagerness to help her adjust to the new challenges of the District. "Half the fun of [moving] is learning new things!" Parks exclaims, citing the realm of inland navigation as one new area she is currently learning.

Parks is also charting new territory for Nashville as the first female Chief of Operations in the District. The designation,

however, does not mean much to her, and she speculates, "Maybe because it's my third time being the first female Chief of Operations in a particular District!" Parks emphasizes that while she wants to be an inspiration to women aspiring for leadership roles, she strongly believes her role is to ensure anyone of any gender or ethnic background can achieve her position if he or she desires it. "I think as a nation, and especially as an agency, we're really moving beyond whether you're male or female," she says, and that Nashville in particular has received her extremely well.

As passionate as she is about her work, Parks also invests in her spare time. Her first interest is her dogs, two retrievers whom she refers to as her "kids...four-footed and very hairy." She is also deeply interested in wine-making, a hobby that stems from her father's passion. Her retirement plan, she explains, will involve wine in some way, be it working in a winery or vineyard, or making wine herself.

In the meantime, Parks is looking forward to spending time here and getting to know the Nashville District. As she continues to learn more about the facets of the District's work, she says it's the people behind that work that really amaze her. "People here just have passion," she says. "I love that."

# Volunteers Clean Up Percy Priest Lake

On Saturday morning, May 3, 2008, an estimated 600 volunteers helped clean J. Percy Priest Lake. J. Percy Priest Lake is consid-

ered the most treasured and trashed lake in the area. The Army Corps of Engineers partnered with Team Green, Bridgestone Americas, the Cumberland River Compact, thinkMEDIA, Nashville Shores, Elm Hill Marina, Whole Foods, Publix, Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association, Metro Beautification, Metro Water & Public Works, Hands On Nashville, and local marinas to organize a city-wide clean-up of polluted islands on Percy Priest Lake.

Volunteers met at Nashville Shores and were shuttled by boat to different islands to remove beer cans, old coolers, grills, shoes, fishing lines, and other debris that people have left in and around J. Percy Priest. It was the largest clean up project in Nashville to date, collecting 15 to 20 tons of waste and debris left year-round by campers, boaters & recreationalists.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimate J. Percy Priest's 24 islands and 213 miles of shoreline are polluted with at least 200

tons of trash. An estimated one hundred times more has fallen to the bottom of the lake since it was created in 1968. All that

islands accumulate tons of human-imposed debris every season. The metals and plastics leach chemicals into the water and threaten the habitat for aquatic species and birds in Tennessee and beyond. It is conceivable that Percy Priest trash could flow all the way to the Gulf of Mexico and into the Dead Zone. Cleaner islands and shoreline will improve habitat and water quality, reduce mosquito breeding and populations of scavenger species (crows, squirrels, pigeons, rats) and provide more enjoyable recreation for all.

Free trash bags, gloves, sunscreen, snacks, hand sanitizer, T-shirts, and hats were given to the volunteers. To top off a beautiful day, a free private show was performed by Grammy winning recording artist Kathy Mattea.

Mekayle Houghton, with the Cumberland River Compact, said pollution has the expected negative impact on the lake's wildlife.

"You're talking about animals, fish and birds that will suffer and die because of this," Houghton said. "The response we get from people is, 'Thank God somebody is doing this.'"

Boatloads of trash were filled



Courtesy of The Tennessean

An Army Corps of Engineers boat with Army Corps Environmental Compliance Ranger Courtney Wilson and Mekayle Houghton of the Cumberland River Compact leaves an island after scouting the amount of garbage gathering in various locations on many of the islands.

waste has a dramatic impact on the integrity of Middle Tennessee's environment. Cigarette butts, for example, threaten wildlife and aquatic animals that mistake them for food. The filters block their digestive tract, and the animals become ill or starve. Animals will also ingest hazardous compounds such as cadmium, arsenic, lead, and nicotine that are absorbed by the filters.

Percy Priest Lake's



Volunteers collect debris from the islands.



up and transported back to the shore. By midday, the five dumpsters were almost already full -- and more people lined up and boarded boats to begin the process all over again.

Many of the volunteers enjoyed being a part of what was named the largest clean-up effort in Nashville.

Organizers say they hope to make this clean up effort an annual kick off to boating season.



**Courtesy of The Tennessee**

Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Compliance Ranger Courtney Wilson pulls fishing line out of the rocky shore of an island on J. Percy Priest Lake. The fishing line is a hazard to wildlife.



Volunteers wait for boats so they can be transported to islands on J. Percy Priest Lake to clean up trash.

Thanks to the Corps team that contributed to the success of the event:

**Courtney Wilson – Coordinator**

**Todd Yann**

**Mark Vaughan**

**Robert Davis**

**Lindsey Houchens**

**Chris Cantrell**

**Harry Newkirk**

**Janice Nelson**

**Brian Mangrum**

Assisted although not Corps employees:

**Beth Stinson (Admin contractor)**

**Chuck Beaty (USACE Volunteer)**

**Jim Neal (USACE Volunteer)**

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (GWOT) POSITION

To volunteer for a position, contact the Nashville District Operations Division, Readiness/Emergency Management Branch.

To see what is available, GWOT positions are posted on several sites, such as ENGLink, (<https://englink.usace.army.mil>), CPOL (<http://cpol.army.mil>), USAJOBS ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)), and the USACE homepage has a link to CPOL as well. (<http://www.hq.usace.army.mil>). Then look at GWOT Recruitment Page.)

Once you find a position for which you feel you can qualify, you must build a resume in the RESUME builder to link with the position you want. Without the resume being linked with the position, there is no way to be considered for the position. There are a number of ways to find a position overseas. You can use a vacancy announcement, a place-

ment from division or higher, or by word of mouth.

No matter how you find a position, paperwork must be processed through Readiness/Emergency Management Branch for processing. As with most Government processes, there is a large amount of paperwork to be completed. The Readiness/Emergency Management Branch has a step-step instruction to expedite the deployment paperwork. Due to the ever changing deployment requirements, please stay flexible during your pre-deployment preparation.

-- You can reach the staff at the Readiness/Emergency Management Branch at (615) 736-7037, email [kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil](mailto:kathy.a.grimes@usace.army.mil), or [jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil](mailto:jerry.breznican@usace.army.mil).



**Sammy Alley**

Sammy Alley, Wolf Creek Power Plant, recently deployed. He is stationed in Mazar-e-Sharif, in North Central Afghanistan, working on several construction projects including Afghan police training compounds and a logistics center. His tour is May 11 to November 6, 2008. His wife, Vicky Alley, is employed at Dale Hollow as a Civil Engineering Tech.

## June's Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Introduction by: **Victoria Hooper**

**M**ark Gibson is a determined man. He sees a task and makes it work. Mark has been supporting the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) for two tours (with an extension on each tour). His work has all been in Iraq's Gulf Region Division (GRD) Central as the Resident Engineer of the Victory South Resident Office. Mark left Louisville District to join the Nashville team in December 2001 as a Civil Engineering Technician at Engineering-Construction's Kentucky Lock Project Resident Office in Grand Rivers, Kentucky.

His wife, Paula, and two daughters, Laura and Ashley, have been a great support team for

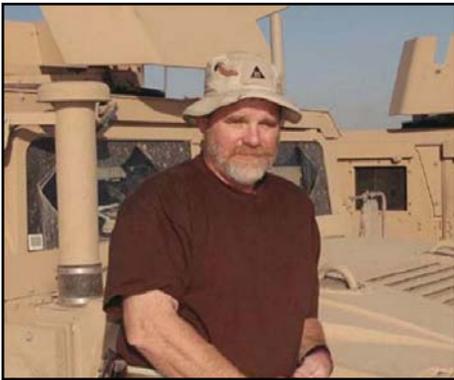
Mark and his work. Laura has just graduated cum laude from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, IL, with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry. While in school, she worked as a teacher's assistant and conducted undergraduate research. She will be continuing her education at Southern where she has been accepted into the PhD program in Chemistry. She will be continuing as a graduate assistant in chemistry and conducting graduate research. Laura also received her MRS when she married Steven Walkup after her college graduation! Daughter Ashley has also just graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, IL, summa cum laude, with a bachelor's de-

gree in Accounting. She also was recognized as SIU Alumni Association's Top 25 Most Distinguished Senior Award, College of Business Outstanding Senior, and School of Accountancy Outstanding Senior. Ashley will be continuing her education at Southern, where she has been accepted into the Master of Accountancy Program. How proud can parents be!

Mark has shared his personal insight into the important work being accomplished through the GWOT mission. We are so proud of the changes that are being made everyday to improve the lives of the Iraqi people. Thank you, Mark. Here are Mark's words...

# Nashville District's Deployment Diary

Mark Gibson



"I get a lot of funny looks when I tell people how many times I have been to Baghdad. Occasionally I receive a negative comment, but for the most part all the comments have been positive. I have been asked to share some of my rewarding stories from my deployment and reflect on some of the high marks and the low marks covering those deployments.

Before I begin, I want to thank the people within the Nashville District for allowing me the opportunity to do what I really love to do. I know I have the greatest job working with the greatest people in the world. These are the people both military and civilians who make up the US Army Corps of Engineers. We are the premier engineering organization around the world. I also want to especially thank my wife Paula and our daughters, Laura Lee and Ashley Brooke for allowing me to continue to work in Baghdad more times than most.

I am starting my 5th tour here at, Gulf Region Central, Baghdad Iraq. All of my previous tours have been at GRC. I started out in September 2005 as a Project Engineer assigned to the 1-10 Mountain BEST Resident Office. As for second and third tours I was a Project Engineer assigned to the Victory Area Office. Some of you may know that near the end of my third tour my wife had to have open-heart surgery. In September 2007 I was contacted by then Area Engineer Terry Stuart if I would be interested in being the Resident Engineer over the Victory South Resident Office. After consulting with people at the Kentucky Lock Resident Office, District Office, my friends and family, I accepted the position. So my fourth tour started in November 2007 and ran to May 2008 and my fifth tour started in May and is scheduled to run through December 2008. I look at tours as being not continuous but with breaks every 6 months or so,

whatever works out.

Once your training is completed at TAC you are shipped out to what is referred to as down range. In the beginning everyone went through Germany. When I arrived in Germany all I wanted to do was sleep. One thing you will find out over here is that you can eat just about anytime you wish, but sleeping is in short order, good sleeping that is. Today you have direct flights from Washington to Kuwait... Once you have arrived in Kuwait there are people there assigned (RSOI) to assist you in your travels onto Baghdad. Roughly 30 minutes north of Kuwait City is Ali Al Salem



The Gibson Family

Air Base. This is where you will switch from civil aircraft to military aircraft. I refer to the Ali Al Salem as the place that never sleeps. Your wait here could be anywhere from a few hours to days. If your stay is longer than a few hours you are offered a tent for sleeping and there are facilities there for showering. Once you have been processed you are given your mil air flight time...

As a Project Engineer you are responsible for monitoring projects. Each Project Engineer has as many projects that he or she as can successfully monitor. There are a number of variables here, the individual, the magnitude of the project, and how complicated each project can be. All of the projects that our office, Victory South Resident Office, monitors are outside of Victory Base. The term used here is outside the wire. Presently this office monitors 29 projects with an aggregate amount of \$55 million dollars. The team is made up of an Officer in Charge, Resident Engineer, 3 Project Engineers and importantly 5 Iraqi Construction Representatives. These people put their very lives on the line daily rebuilding Iraq. I can say that because during my tours a number of

them did not make it. If you are monitoring a project and the wrong people find out that you are working with the US, you will not be around long. One of our projects, a school, was being monitored by one of the Iraqi Con Reps and he was kidnapped. A few days later an Army patrol found him in the river...

Our projects range from drinking water, sewer, electrical, and security. This office is also responsible for work being performed at BIAP, Baghdad International Airport. The airport is divided into two separate areas. One is totally civil and the other totally military. At one time BIAP was the premier airport in the Middle East. Someday in the near future it will return to that status due to the Corps of Engineers...

There are most definitely rewards. I can remember sitting on top of Building 1, that's a dormitory, one night and watching the lights get turned on at BIAP for the first time in years. Up until that time no aircraft could land at night at BIAP. The runway lights did not work. The Corps of Engineers made it happen. Drinking water is something we all take for granted. The Corps of Engineers has put on line a number of safe drinking water facilities and helped children get a chance at an education. How many kids in the US would attend school in buildings with hays roofs and dirt floors? Go to something that is nothing more than a barn in a village, then plan, construct, complete, and then go to a new completed school with kids laughing and learning. When a tribal member comes up to you and says to you it would not have happened if it wasn't for you, your reply is if not for the Corps of Engineers...



Have there been failures? Not failures, maybe shortcomings. Working with people to get them to understand how to build something that is going to last. Equality for all not just a chosen few."

# Jim and Diane Loy Receive Patriotic Civilian Service Award

Written by: Park Ranger Tyler Matthews

Over the past several years, Jim and Diane Loy have volunteered countless hours to their community, including many hours spent on Center Hill Lake and the surrounding public lands. In addition to participating in the annual shoreline clean-up, they also routinely remove litter from a section of State Highway 56, of which a large portion is located on public property and contains some of the most scenic viewing areas of Center Hill Lake.

In 2007, Mr. & Mrs. Loy received a grant from Dekalb County, Tennessee for use in reducing litter in the county. Mr. & Mrs. Loy decided to use the funds to encourage the public to take pride in America and not litter by designing and installing a display at one of the scenic overlooks that contains a map of Center Hill Lake, information on the

recreational facilities at the lake, and positive messages such as "Enjoy the Beauty", "Take Pride in America", and "Please Don't Litter". Through the local



Resource Manager's Office and the Nashville District's Audio/Visual Graphics department, Mr. & Mrs. Loy were able to obtain the necessary graphics to duplicate the same Center Hill Lake area map and recreational information used in the Corps' brochures.

On May 17, 2008, Tim Dunn, Resource Manager of Center Hill Lake

presented a Certification of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service to Jim and Diane Loy. This award, which was signed by LTC Bernard Lindstrom, Commander of the Nashville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, recognizes the Loy's sense of community pride, passion for the beauty of Center Hill Lake and the neighboring areas,



From left to right: Jim Loy, Tim Dunn, and Diane Loy

and their desire to protect and preserve the natural resources surrounding Center Hill Lake for present and future generations.

## Own the Edge This Summer

Written by: Park Ranger Tadd Potter, Natural Resources Branch

Summertime has long been regarded as the favorite season of the year. Lets face it, it's much more fun to camp at your favorite campground, fish your favorite lake, swim in the coldest swimming hole, and enjoy other outdoor activities when the weather is warm. However, with increasing activities come increasing risks and we must know what these risks are to avoid accidents.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the number one provider of recreation. In fact, Nashville District projects had more visits than any other Corps district last year with over 34 million visits. Most of our visitors are engaged in some kind of activity that may increase their risk of an accident, which in turn, may lead to injuries.

Camping is a great way to escape the concrete jungle and take in the beauty of Mother Nature. No one plans an accident as part of their camping trip. However, accidents do happen frequently when camping. Luckily, most of them are minor

such as bumps, scrapes, and insect bites. Pack and carry a first aid kit. Make sure the kit has bandages and gauze of various shapes and sizes. Sterile wipes and antiseptic cream should also be included. Burns are common when dealing with cooking and campfires so include a sufficient supply of burn relief cream or spray. Other handy items are insect bite and sun-burn cream, tweezers, and scissors. Don't forget to replace items that have been used so you may be safeguarded against your next camping trip.

Boating has gain increased popularity over the years. In fact, an estimated 74 million Americans enjoy the pleasures of recreational boating each year. Our public lakes and rivers provide excellent boating opportunities. With a recreation base that is primarily built around water, the Corps has a dedicated focus on water safety. By familiarizing yourself with the following basic boating safety tips, you can help prevent accidents:

- WEAR YOUR LIFEJACKET
- Learn to Swim
- Take a Boating Course
- Be Weather-Wise
- Avoid Alcohol
- Develop a Float Plan

One of the most important parts of boating safety is to use your common sense. This means operating at a safe speed at all times, especially in crowded areas. Be alert and steer clear of large vessels and watercraft that can be restricted in their ability to stop or turn. Don't forget to be respectful of buoys and always wear your lifejacket!

Everything we do has risks, including recreation. By taking possession of risks and perceiving the hazards we face, we can own the edge and avoid accidents this summer. Having fun is important but being safe is our concern.

# Colonel Jeffrey C. Smith

## Commander and Division Engineer

The Nashville District welcomes Colonel Jeffrey C. Smith as the new Commander and Division Engineer of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. Colonel Smith took command on May 12, 2008.

As Commander and Division Engineer, Colonel Smith directs all Corps of Engineers water resources development in the Great Lakes and Ohio River basins, an area of over 355,300 square miles including all or parts of 17 states.

Colonel Smith's most recent previous assignment was as Deputy Commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. His earlier assignments include: Chief of Staff, Strategic Effects Directorate, Multi-national Force - Iraq and Deputy Chief of Staff - Engineer for the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command at Red-

stone Arsenal, Ala. Instructor, Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va.; Commander, 44th Engineer Battalion in Korea; Executive Officer, 3rd Engineer Battalion at Fort Stewart, Ga.; Small Group Instructor at the Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer in the 39th Engineer Battalion, Fort Devens, Mass; Commander of Company D, 802nd Engineer Battalion in Korea; Area Engineer, Riyadh District, Taif, Saudi Arabia; and Battalion Assistant S-3, Company Executive Officer and Platoon Leader in the 52nd Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colo.

Colonel Smith is a 1980 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He holds a Master of Science - Civil Engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master of Strategic

Studies degree from the Army War College. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Virginia.

Colonel Smith's military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and seven Meritorious Service Medals.

Colonel Smith is from Londonderry, New Hampshire and is married to the former Laura Mills of Marion, Kentucky. Their 20-year-old daughter, Amanda, is a Junior at the University of Alabama and their Yellow Lab, Sandy, likes to swim in the Ohio River.



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## Earth Day - Lake Cumberland

Article and Pictures by Park Rangers Judy Daulton and Troy Hawks

Great weather made this Earth Day at Lake Cumberland an eventful one for seniors from Wayne County High School. Students participated in restoration activities at Mill Springs Mill on April 22 and 23. Their hard work and dedication on various tasks around the park helped to restore some of the natural beauty to this popular historical landmark.

The students gathered the first morning to be assigned their tasks and begin work. Before any work commenced, Park Ranger Judy Daulton and Park Contract Inspector Charlie McCormick gave a quick safety briefing to the fourteen students and four faculty members accompanying them. Safety was of most importance during all the activities.

First on the agenda was the placement of seven containers down the steep stone walk way leading to the mill. Bags of soil were hauled over the hill by a couple of eager students and flowers were planted in the containers to welcome the visitors to the mill upon their arrival. Next, Mr. McCormick lead another group of students who pressure washed the steep stone walk way and the steps past it. The



steps lead to the thirteen natural springs that flow year around and are remarkable to view. The mill was built in 1817 on its particular site because the natural springs power the water wheel. Mill Springs Mill is the largest overshoot water wheel in the United States that is still in operation today.

A few boards had been replaced along the bottom of the mill recently and needed painting. Students placed drop cloths on the stone walkway and painted two coats of antique white paint to match the rest of the mill's exterior. They also painted the bathroom doors and the frames that had

been replaced. In addition to all this, Mr. McCormick showed students how to sand the rust off of weathered trashcans and place a new coat of paint on them to make them look like new.

Another willing group painted the Civil War cannon, which is located at the end of a path along a peninsula near the mill. There the cannon over looks Lake Cumberland and provides wonderful views. There are ten picnic sites along the peninsula, all of which are great places to rest and enjoy the natural beauty of the area.

Throughout all these tasks, the students learned the importance of preserving historical sites and what's involved in the upkeep of historical places.

The two days were not all filled with hard work. The students and chaperones also toured the Victorian-age Brown-Lanier house built in 1830. This home served as living space, army headquarters, and military hospital before and after the Battle of Mill Springs, the first Union victory of the Civil War. The house is located next to Mill Springs Mill and is managed by the Mill Springs Battlefield Association.

# The Corps Crowd

## Congratulations to...

...Chickamauga Lock Operator Mike Owens who married on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to Patty McBride.

...Mr. Brook Brosi, Wolf Creek Resident Office, who married Jacqueline Begley on April 5, 2008.

...Josh Barker, Lock Operator at Cheatham Lock, on being accepted into the powerhouse training program. Josh reports on June 9, 2008.

...Ben Clark, son of Janis Clark, who graduated from Carson Newman College with a Business Management with marketing emphasis degree.

...Chris Clabough, Lock Operator at Cheatham Lock, on his transfer and promotion to Watts Bar Lock as a Lock and Dam Equipment Mechanic as of April 27, 2008.

...Jamie Holt, who was promoted to Power Project Specialist at Barkley Power Plant on April 27, 2008.



**Alfonso Banks (Center)**

...Alfonso Banks for being the 2X District 9-AAA Track and Field Championship in the 110m Hurdles, and 1X Champion in the 300m Hurdles. He also captured 3rd Place in the 300m Hurdles during the 3-AAA Regional Finals which qualifies him to participate in the TSSAA State Wide competition to be held on May 16th. Alfonso is the son of Charyse McDaniel, Human Resources.

...Jackson Carter, the son of Jimmy and Janie Carter of Livingston, Tennessee. Jackson recently graduated from Livingston Academy with a 4.0 grade point average and was chosen as the Valedictorian of his Class of 2008. Jimmy works at Dale Hollow Lake.

## Welcome to...

...Park Ranger Jamie Summers who transferred to Center Hill Lake from Old Hickory Lake.

## Welcome to...

...Tyler Matthews, Summer Ranger at Center Hill Lake. Tyler is a senior at Tennessee Technological University majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries Science.

## Baby Brigade to...

...Gary and Angela Bruce on the birth of their son, Landon Wayne Bruce. Landon was born at 12:35 a.m. on April 30, 2008.

He weighed 6 lbs 9 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. Gary is a Park Ranger at Center Hill Lake. **Landon Wayne Bruce**



...Carina Jolie Long was born April 14, 2008 at 2:14 a.m. to parents Brad and Katie Long.

Carina weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 21 inches long. Brad is a Civil Engineer in the Engineering-Construction Division, Dam Safety Section.



**Carina Jolie Long**

...Monte and Charlotte Wells on the birth of their son, Levi Monte Wells. Levi was born May 16, 2008. He weighed 8 lb. 12.5

oz. and was 20.5 inches. Monte is an Electrician at Wolf Creek Power Plant.



**Levi Monte Wells**

## Farewell to...

...Ron Toman, Lock Operator at Cheatham Lock, on his retirement May 1, 2008

...Melissa Sager, Hydropower Accountant, Finance and Accounting Branch, after 16 years with the Nashville District. She has accepted a job with the Veterans Administration in Murfreesboro. Her great wealth of knowledge will be sorely missed by the Nashville District and the hydropower community throughout the Corps. Her great friendship will be missed by those who know her best.

## Thank you to...

...everyone for their support and various donations after my accident. Working with such generous and caring people makes me proud to work here. I couldn't ask for better co workers and friends than the ones I have made in my time here as a student aide at the Cheatham Resource office.

I am doing much better now and have made a full and speedy recovery. Thank you once again for all that each of you has done for me. - Gabrielle Cannon

...everyone at the Corps for all of your kindness shown to me and my family at the passing of my father. I want to sincerely thank all my Corps family and team members for your prayers, kind words, cards, e-mails, and flowers. Your support and encouragement have helped and meant so much during this difficult time. - Bill Colvin

...for the wonderful retirement ceremony and the great gifts. It has been a pleasure working with all of you throughout the years. Your support, kindness and friendship have been a blessing to me and my family. Thanks to all that attended my retirement celebration (that meant a lot to me to see you there), thanks to everyone who contributed to the district gift, and thanks to all of you that have sent your best wishes - I truly love you all. Love, Carol Warren

## Sympathy to...

...Ms. Annette Watson whose father-in-law passed away. Mr. Cornelius Watson, age 87, was from the Dayton, Ohio area.

...the family of Mr. Tom McGhee. Tom passed away on May 22. He retired from the Environmental Restoration Branch two years ago.

...the family of Mr. Tommy Knight. Tommy passed away on June 17. He was a retired maintenance worker at Cheatham Lock.

# American Red Cross Quilt to Randy Myers



Randy Myers (second from left), Manager for Goodwill Government Services, was recently presented with an American Red Cross quilt, made by friends and co-workers. Myers has been a long-time platelet donor with the Red Cross, undergoing the 2-hour donation procedure on a regular basis. Julie Reeves (far left), Dee Rivera (far right), both of Operations; Anita Jarrett, Navigation Branch; and Allison Jarrett, Public Affairs (not shown); all assisted in gathering Red Cross donor T-shirts and assembling them into the quilt. They presented Myers with the quilt as a get well gift following a recent surgery, and to honor his contributions to the Red Cross and the Corps.

## Boat Smart Super Saturday

**B**oat Smart Super Saturday took place on May 17 to kickoff National Safe Boating Week and was a tremendous success at Nashville District lakes. The focus was to promote boating and water safety while having fun



at the lake. The "Wear It" Lifejacket promotion campaign was the primary message for boaters to follow to arrive alive after a day on the lake.

Volunteers and Corps staff teamed up to reach the public with the boating safety message at ramps. These contacts were one-on-one conversations, thought to have the most potential to effect safe behavior. Some lakes put up banners, some rangers were on local radio stations, and one county mayor proclaimed Safe Boating Week. Two marinas at two different lakes held special events with

Corps rangers, using it as a platform for the water safety message. Rangers were also on boat patrol to reach boaters out on the lake. The day coincided with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary promoting life jacket wear and trading in old life jackets at Bass Pro shops.

Volunteers were at boat ramps around the lakes on Super Satur-



**Peyton Ortin, Park Ranger  
Charlie Leath, and Dan Dowlen**

day to greet visitors and remind them of tips to be safe on the water. With the warmer weather, crowds are getting back out on the lakes.

In this powerful one-day event, thousands of people were reached through the media and banners, and over 2,400 one-on-one contacts were made at 80 boat ramps and on the water.

Area lakes that participated in



Boat Smart Super Saturday included Barkley, Cheatham, Old Hickory, J. Percy

Priest, Cordell Hull, Dale Hollow, and Lake Cumberland.



**Park Rangers,  
Charlie Leath,  
Tadd Potter, and  
retiree Jerry  
Strather**

Thanks to all the staff and volunteers that promoted boating and water safety.

### Some tips for boaters:

1. Expect the unexpected. Wear your life jacket.
2. Avoid drinking and operating a boat.
3. Keep a proper lookout - watch out for the "other guy."
4. Use courtesy and common sense.
5. Take a safe boating course.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Nashville District  
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# Annual Environmental Awareness Day

Article and Pictures by Park Rangers Robert Davis



On May 13, 2008, J. Percy Priest Lake held its Annual Environmental Awareness Day. Students from Southside and Watertown Elementary Schools in Wilson County and Ruby Major Elementary in Davidson County attended the event. Approximately 225 children and 30 adults participated.

All the students were amazed at Bobber the Water Safety dog as he assisted Carolyn Bauer, Natural Resource Management Branch, in giving water safety tips. The students learned why we should be good stewards of our natural resources.

Students were able to use a tranquilizer gun by shooting at a target and were given an opportunity to use a kayak while wearing a life jacket in the swim area.

The students got acquainted with the speakers who spoke about anything from conserving water to relocating wildlife. Many of the speakers were Nashville District employees, including Greg Thomas, Facility Manager at Percy Priest Lake; Richard Tippit, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch; and Carolyn Bauer.

Thanks to all who made this program a great success.