



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Tulsa District

TULSA

DISTRICT RECORD

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District helps meet nation's military challenges



Pipeline Dorm – One of the four dormitories Tulsa District is involved in programming, designing, and constructing at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Military equipment being loaded on rail cars at Fort Sill, Okla.

Tulsa District leads the Corps in the number of employees who have volunteered and deployed to support Central Command in Operation Restore Iraqi Oil. Meanwhile, back on the home front, the district continues its legacy of invaluable performance for the nation during hostile times.

A sampling of Tulsa District projects directly tied to supporting the effort in Iraq are highlighted in this issue. See "Meeting military needs at home and abroad" on pages 2 and 3.



COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.
District Commander

It has been nearly three years since my arrival in Tulsa. What an opportunity it has been to be a part of a district that continually strives to do great things! The outstanding reputation of the Tulsa District is well deserved. Your selfless service to your nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Djibouti, Guam, and New York is well known throughout the Corps. The continued high marks for military customer service to our bases is unequalled. Your response to the I-40 bridge collapse was most impressive. Partnerships and associations with hydropower interests, lake associations, communities, and local citizenry are exemplary.

My initial impressions of the Tulsa District three years ago have not changed: your work remains consistently exceptional and you reflect all that is good in our great nation. It has been my pleasure to serve you and our nation here in this district.

You have a great incoming commander. Col. Miroslav Kurka will take command of the Tulsa District on the 30th of June. I know that your support to him will be exceptional and you will welcome his family as you did mine.

We have made it together through some difficult times over the past three years. The district is strong and second to none in the Corps. My best wishes and thoughts will always be with you.

Essays,
Bob Suthard



This is Fort Sill's new Unit Movements Facility which is associated with and constructed next to the railhead project (see page 3 for story). It plays an integral part in troop deployment and will work hand in hand with the adjacent rail facility and Directorate of Logistics.



One of the dorms being built at Sheppard Air Force Base as part of an ongoing program to provide nine new and replacement dorms there.

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District Commander COL Robert L. Suthard, Jr.	Public Affairs Officer W. Ross Adkins	Editor Mary Beth Hudson	

Meeting military needs at home and abroad

Contributing: Burl Ragland, George Lumley, Kevin Weber, and Todd Hughes of Tulsa District; Rick West of Army Times; Dan Pearson of The Benham Companies; and Tim Bennett of HDR.

Fort Sill Army Post Railhead, Container Storage Facility, and Unit Movement Facility

As forces and equipment were marshaled just prior to the start of Operation Enduring Freedom, a railhead project at Fort Sill became a shining example of the vital support Tulsa District provides the Army and the nation.

Because of its role as the U.S. Army's main artillery training facility and one of 15 Army Power Protection Platforms across the country, Fort Sill is responsible for receiving, storing, and loading railcars for unit deployment and the transfer of heavy equipment. Faced with a rail system dating to even before World War II, the post needed to increase its loading capabilities by nearly 300 percent in a limited amount of time.

Fort Sill's Directorates of Public Works and Logistics, Tulsa District, and the contractor worked together to design and build a military facility that processes three times more cars than the old infrastructure allowed. The new \$14 million railhead depot helps soldiers ship equipment to stateside and overseas locations more efficiently. The site can handle 546 combat vehicles at one time. According to a March 3, 2003, story in *Army Times*, the facility is considered an example of the country's more mobile, swifter, and more efficient Army operations.



Aerial view of Fort Sill railhead project.

The Railhead and Container Storage Facility were placed into service early last year and were instrumental in the initial equipment mobilizations to the Middle East. Since its opening, the facility has reduced the time required for railroad loading and unloading operations by as much as two-thirds.

Sheppard Air Force Base Dormitories

The district is involved in the programming, design, and construction effort for four dormitories and two dining facilities at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. The work is part of an ongoing program to provide nine new and replacement dorms at the base. Two 1,500-person dining facilities are also included to support the dorm campus.

The fourth dormitory will enhance the living conditions of permanent party personnel. It will have an atmosphere similar to that of an efficiency apartment, and will offer residents all the facilities, information, equipment, and services generally available in an apartment complex.

Fort Sill Army Post Urban Assault Training Course

Tulsa District is beginning the design on this interesting project. The course will include a city street, a two-story building with basement, an underground tunnel system, and other stations used for assault training.



At Fort Sill Army Post, a railroad wye extension is being constructed that flattens the curve radius, allowing greater entry speeds and decreasing equipment deployment time. It accommodates today's longer rail cars and reduces the potential for derailment. The project is scheduled to be completed this December.

Employees support post-war recovery

By March 1st, Tulsa District had deployed 51 employees in support of CENTCOM and Operation Iraqi Freedom; five remain deployed at the time of this printing. Following are some of their stories and photos.

Tulsa District Information Technology Specialist Kris Graves had never been overseas before – but when she went the first time, she did it in grand style, going to Kuwait and Iraq for four months.

Graves was assigned to duties at Camp Doha, Kuwait and then in Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Task Force RIO (Restore Iraqi Oil). That Corps of Engineers group is charged with helping the Iraqi people and oil industry restore their petroleum production capability to the pre-war benchmark of 2.5 million barrels per day.

The oil industry is especially critical to Iraq, providing more than 95 percent of its foreign exchange earnings which in turn underlie virtually all of the Iraqi economy. Iraq possesses the second largest known reserves of oil in the world – second only to Saudi Arabia.

“I thought I could help,” Graves answered when she was asked why she volunteered to take on the long hours in a potentially hostile environment. I wanted to show support for the United States and to help this mission. I saw it as an opportunity to do something for my country.”

Graves work, supporting the computing and communications needs of the Task Force RIO organization, spreads more than 500 miles. It has taken her to Kuwait as well as all the major Corps work sites in Iraq: Kirkuk, Basra, and Baghdad.

Her lasting impressions from her travels are of a land of extremes – desolate deserts in the south, lush fields in the higher lands of the north, crushing poverty in many places, and obscene opulence in Baghdad for a favored few of Saddam’s regime.

“It came as a real cultural shock the first time I saw a donkey and cart on a street and saw people carrying heavy loads balanced on their heads,” she said. “The faces of the kids, barefooted and begging for anything – even clean water – are always going to stay with me,” she added.

“I have seen people living in mud huts with no grass and only a couple of goats. It makes one realize just how fortunate we are in America.

“We normally feel safe in America. But here you get used to hearing explosions and gunfire all hours of the day. We are relatively safe behind military protection, but they live in that environment. I only hope that somehow we can help get them on a path to a better, safer, and more prosperous future. This is potentially a very rich nation,” she affirmed.

How would she advise a prospective volunteer for duty with the Corps of Engineers?

“Let me tell you how I felt and feel now,” she replied. “I would tell them they could do this. Back when I started to get ready, the prospect of four months here seemed so long. But it has gone so quickly. I have been busy every day. I have been challenged ev-

ery day. It has not been boring, although the long hours and seven-day-a-week schedule makes the days run together.

“I had no military background before coming here, and I have learned a lot about their jobs and methods. And I am amazed. I also have discovered that even though I have worked nearly 30 years for the government, 19 for the Corps, I didn’t know much about what other people did. Here, I have worked, taken my meals, traveled, and spent what little off-duty time we have with these people. I have come to know them as individuals and how their contributions fit into the big Corps picture.

“One more thing I have learned about has been the oil industry. I’ve lived my life near the oil fields in Oklahoma. But here I have learned more about the entire industry – getting it out of the ground, refining, and distributing it. And I have learned that it is done differently here than back home. I will look at oil in Oklahoma with a different perspective now.”

As she neared the end of her tour in Iraq, Graves noted how unpredictable the future can be. “A year ago I would never have dreamed that today I would be sitting on a veranda overlooking the Tigris River in the middle of Iraq. So we can never know what the future holds.”

In one respect she has been a little closer to home than many Americans in Iraq. “I think we have had 48 people from the Tulsa District over here. We’re leading the way in the Southwest Division and RIO.” In fact, as she spoke, Col. Leonardo Flor, former Tulsa District Engineer, leaned out of a nearby door and shouted, “Make sure you tell them how great Tulsa is!”

Kris thanked her husband and family for letting her come here. “They got the tough end of this bargain. They have all of the same



Kris and the Camel – The pair obviously had different ideas for how this photo op should play out.

work to do, and I am not there,” she said. But soon she will be with them again. And she is anticipating something else besides the reunion with him and their three children. “My husband is a great cook. I am really looking forward to that first steak and baked potato. We don’t need to go to a restaurant for a great meal.”

“I’m also looking forward to the new Active Directory and Windows Server 2003 software we will be installing in Tulsa and throughout the Corps of Engineers. I have worked with it here since Baghdad is a test site. It will be new, exciting, and challenging,” she said with anticipation.

Six thousand miles is a long way to travel on one’s first trip overseas. And it will be a long trip home. But Kris Graves will return with a new appreciation for what it means to be an American and live in that nation. “It’s not something we should ever take for granted,” she concluded.

For her service to the Corps of Engineers and the nation, Kris Graves has been recognized by award of the Department of the Army Superior Civilian Service Award.

Graves returned to the United States Nov. 2, 2003.

*by Alan Dooley
FEST-RIO Public Affairs*

When Everett Laney, a quiet park ranger turned wildlife biologist from the Corps’ Tulsa District, arrived in Iraq back in August he was ready to go to work cleaning up the oil spills caused by the war. He quickly realized that his role as an environmental specialist also came with a crash course in cultural differences beyond language barriers and religion.

“The environment is not a primary concern of Iraq. They did not want us to come in and clean up the oil spills,” he said. “In our job, we have to look at all sides of the issue – prudence over right. Our mission is to help the Iraqi people, and if they don’t want us to clean it up, we shouldn’t force U.S. standards on them.”

“It didn’t turn out to be as bad as we thought it would be. There were only five wells on fire. We were expecting a lot more,” he said speaking with the southern drawl of a man from Muskogee, Okla. “The well fires were out by the time I got here, and there wasn’t as much spill damage as anticipated.”

However, years of environmental neglect was scattered throughout the desert collecting into oil lakes and saturating the soil around the refineries, wells, and pipelines.

So Laney spent his first two months shuttling between the tents of Camp Commando and the RIO main office in Kuwait to the 140-degree heat of the desert in Southern Iraq. He went from spill to spill, documenting location, significance, and size. He filed enough paperwork to eventually close out that portion of the environmental project. His job as an environmental specialist was finished, and he was only halfway through his 120-day tour.

Being able to adapt to any situation, he immediately accepted a position as project engineer for the ports. He moved into the relocated RIO main camp at the Basrah International Airport, a

British Royal Army Base Camp. His job was to work with the contractors to ensure the ports were functional enough to import and export product.

The route Laney has driven, usually solo (save for his security), to the port is typical – children along the roadside, donkey carts crossing the road, patches of gardens here and there. The port, which is also a British Base Camp, has become a secondhome to Laney. He sometimes stops to give guards water or to take a few pictures. Occasionally he’ll stop to buy souvenirs from his friends, the “bucca boys,” a couple of Iraqi boys that have set up a primitive stand near the entrance to Camp Bucca.

In his time on the job, he has formed valuable working relationships with those onsite, who greet him before he even removes the key from the ignition of his white Suburban.

“The ports were only set up to export. Before the war, the refineries were producing enough to provide fuel and heat to their



Everett Laney and the “bucca boys.”

homes,” he said. “Now, the refineries are not able to do that because of the vandalism and sabotage that took place after the war. These lines are very important,” he said. “The people need the kerosene to heat their homes during the winter.”

Laney would like to see diesel or kerosene imported before he goes home. His crew has finished one of the two import lines they’ve been tasked, but so far Baghdad hasn’t brought in a ship. The other line should be completed within a few weeks after he leaves.

“It’s like any other Corps job. You do whatever you can to get the mission done even if you have to get out of your area of expertise,” he said speaking of his time in Iraq.

And Laney’s 24 years with the Corps spans a wide variety of expertise. For 12 years, he was a park ranger in the Tulsa District where he dealt with recreation and resource management, contracts, construction, inspections, navigation, public relations, and anything else that needed to be done at the lakes. Eventually, he decided it was time for a change and transferred to the district office as the wildlife biologist for Operation Division.

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After a few years in the district office he decided, 20 years after getting his bachelor's in wildlife biology, to go back to school where he earned his master's in environmental science.

As biologist in Tulsa, Laney works to ensure that the natural resources and the Corps projects co-exist amicably along the 38 lakes situated on the nearly 1.2 million acres of land and water in his home district. While he has enjoyed his mission here, working with contractors and Iraqi Nationals towards the overall goal of getting oil production restored, he is ready to return home. There, he says, he looks forward to seeing his wife and two sons.

"I also miss vegetation," he said while staring into the miles of endless desert during one of the many drives he has taken to the Kohr Az Zubayr Port. "I miss trees. I want to spend time in the woods and do some serious deer hunting."

He is also ready to resume his position as an adjunct instructor at Bacone College where he teaches night classes in ecology, biology, general physical science, and environmental science.

"I am definitely going to tell my students about my experiences here," he said. "I have already put together a slide show of various photos that illustrate the years of environmental neglect."

Laney returned to Tulsa on Dec. 9, 2003.

by Carolyn Vadino
FEST-RIO Public Affairs

Following is a first-person account by Pam McNeely, Information Management Office, on her time with the FEST. She returned to Tulsa on Nov. 6, 2003.

My deployment was from June 1 through Nov. 6 last year. I provided administrative support to task force RIO. I arrived at Camp Doha, Kuwait, on June 10. On Aug. 11, I moved forward to provide admin support to the Baghdad office, and I was there until I redeployed back to Kuwait on Oct. 30.

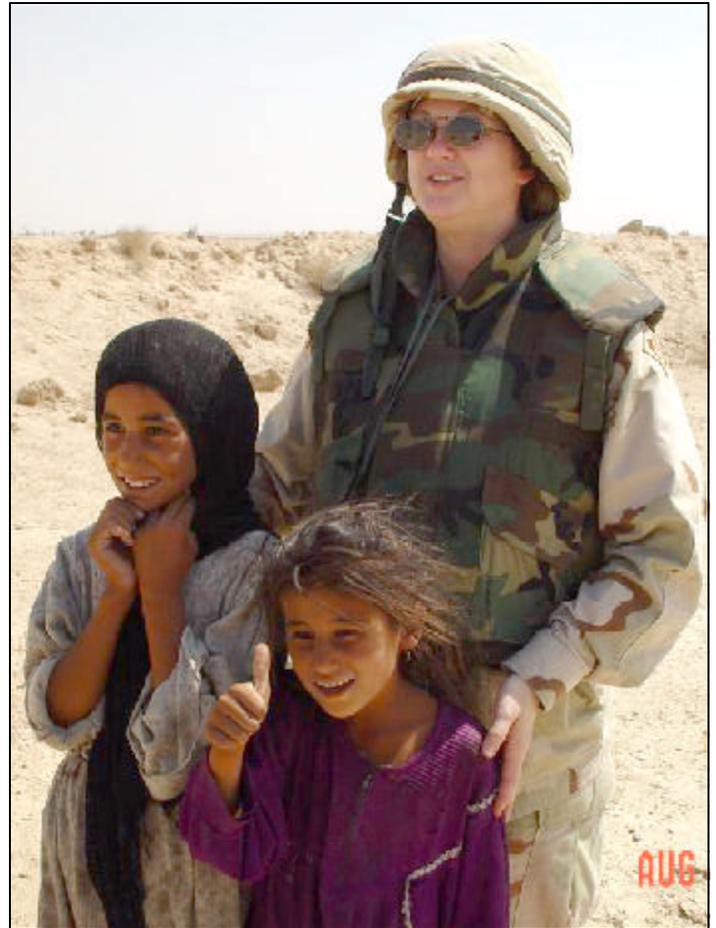
Each day in Baghdad was a new day. No two were alike. Every morning, I would begin the day with a thought about what the day would bring. Then, hours later as I returned "home," I would be totally amazed at how fast the time had flown and what work I had done.

I was totally shocked at the difference between the opulence of Saddam's palaces and the extreme poverty of the Iraqi people. Saddam lived so richly while his people struggled each day to just survive. I cannot imagine the heart of someone who would not even share water or food with anyone who needed it.

I enjoyed every minute of my deployment. When I was 16 years old, with all of my heart I wanted to graduate high school and college, join the Peace Corps, and work overseas. This was in 1973, and the Vietnam war was still in full force. My family offered no support or encouragement, so I let my desire fall by the wayside.

But, 30 years later with my children grown and gone, this dream returned. After my Granny passed away in May 2002, I began to think again about working overseas. When the opportunity came up in December 2002 to volunteer for a FEST assignment, I saw it as the fulfillment of something I had wanted to do for three decades.

With all of my heart, I want to return someday to Iraq to visit with all of those wonderful people I met there. I have received e-mails from several Iraqi friends since I have returned. There hasn't been a day that has gone by that I have not thought about Iraq and those great friends. Who would have thought that a few short months would influence me the way it has?



Thumbs Up! – Pam McNeely and a couple of friends are shown in this August photo. "These are two little girls in southern Iraq that I met on my first trip up into the southern area. They were the sweetest little girls. I do not know their names. They were barefooted. The temperature had to be around 130 degrees. The sand was very hot, but they seemed not to even notice how hot it was. They ran down the road barefooted in the hot sand and rocks without even flinching. These two little girls were the very first Iraqis I met.

"About two months later, I had an opportunity to return to southern Iraq. I made a special effort to try to find these same little girls - and I did. They were still sweet little girls. I really wanted to take them both home with me."

If you were to travel past the British security checkpoints at the gates of the Basrah International Airport in Iraq and turn into the clay and rock entrance to Camp Pioneer, you'd have a difficult time finding Russell Holeman, the area engineer, during the day. You may luck out and knock on his white trailer where he works and lives and find him transcribing notes. Or you may catch him during the nightly 7:00 p.m. meetings where his staff of 20 gathers to discuss significant activities. But your best bet to catch this man on the go is to drive to a site like the Basrah Refinery or head north to the Rumaila oil fields.

"My primary job is to manage the contractor and coordinate with oil companies to get work accomplished," Holeman said. "I try and keep everything flowing in the same direction."

And work is flowing from the four major oil fields, all the way south to the ports in Khor Az Zubayr. Corps work is even flowing about 60 miles into the middle of the Arabian Gulf at the two offshore loading terminals. In all, Holeman oversees his staff in the rebuilding of 556 key pieces to the Iraqi oil infrastructure – three refineries, 40 gas oil separation plants, six major pump stations, three major gas handling facilities, two water systems, two offshore loading terminals, and 500 oil wells. He is always on the go and has logged at least 50,000 kilometers on his land cruiser.

In his office, and thanks to the Corps very own geographic information system, there are maps taped to the wall that depict all these facilities. A giant status board lists all the ongoing work, contractor information, and notable activity – what needs improved, what is functioning, and, more importantly, what isn't.

"We have definitely made a lot of progress. We have facilities that are operational now and several that are close, like the NGL plant," he said gesturing to the breakdown on the wall behind him.



Russell Holeman served as the area engineer for South Area Office located at a Marine Camp, "Camp Commando," in Kuwait. He says, "Here we are modifying the layout in our work tent to accommodate additional workstations. Where is the systems furniture when you need it?"

"I have to step back periodically and look at how much progress we have made. I get so wrapped up in the day-to-day that it doesn't seem like we are going anywhere."

Stepping back to July would find Holeman in an entirely different country, in entirely different living conditions. At Camp Commando, Kuwait, he lived in 20-man tents and endured temperatures well over 120 degrees. "It was very long days, with the lights coming on at 5:00 a.m. and shutting off around 10:00 p.m. with long daily drives into Iraq," he said. "Getting accustomed to actually driving in Iraq was interesting. You never know when a dump truck will be coming at you head on in the same lane," he said laughing at some of his first-hand experiences.

Throughout this entire mission, Holeman has found himself in interesting and challenging situations. He has traveled north to Baghdad for meetings, driven the Iraqi Oil Minister around, and had a dinner meeting in downtown Basrah with the heads of the Iraqi oil industry. "It was unique being in a two-hour session and not understanding anything going on," he said laughing. "The entire meeting was in Arabic and I was fortunate that an individual from the southern oil company was taking the time to help translate. James Holder and I were the only Americans. I definitely felt isolated and didn't know what was happening but was able to tell that the oil minister was trying to present the vision."

Holeman makes his rounds to the job sites to identify items that may need fixed and also to monitor progress. Prioritizing the issues has been one of his biggest challenges, with enormous amounts of work needed at most of the sites.

"We aren't totally renovating," he explained. "Right now, we are trying to put a band-aid on to get the sites operational and func-



In October, site visits were made by auditors from the General Accounting Office on an orientation trip to view the work in Iraq. At this site, a well which had been set on fire during the war was being restored. In the photo, the Halliburton project manager is explaining to auditors the process to rebuild a well. Pictured, left to right, are Holeman, auditors Sherry Masters and George Forestor, and Halliburton Project Manager Lyle Nelson.

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Gulf Nuclear clean-up team wins quarterly award

by Lori Hunnihake, PPMD

Congratulations to the Gulf Nuclear Radiologic Cleanup Project Delivery Team which was selected as the Tulsa District Project Delivery Team of the Quarter for the fourth quarter.

The team responded to the imminent threat to human health and national security by removing high-level radiological waste from a suburb of Houston, Texas.

The highly adaptive team adjusted the original plans for removal of 12 sources to the ultimate successful removal of more than 360 high-level radiologic sources – an unprecedented achievement for this type of site.

The team completed the complex, dynamic project by successfully implementing principles of the Project Management Business Process. Team expertise came from members representing six Corps districts and two divisions, two other federal agencies, and several agencies from two states. Region VI, EPA, was the customer. The goal was to “clean up the site for unrestricted future use.” That became the foundation of the Project Management Plan, providing a focus for the PDT throughout the discovery of a seemingly endless stream of unanticipated lethal contaminants and waste material.

There were more radioactive waste shipments from the Gulf Nuclear project in the past year than from all other waste generators in the U.S. combined.

Selection of cost-plus, emergency-response contract in Omaha District by the PDT proved to be the best choice when 360 sources were identified at the site. The original estimated project cost was \$1 million for removal of 12 sources, approximately \$83,000 per source.

The Gulf Nuclear PDT implemented an innovative approach of investigation running concurrently with removal actions in order to meet the customer’s goal of immediate removal of high level

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Who’s on the PDT?

Jonna Polk, Project Manager

Tulsa District Members

Guy Green	Supervisory Engineer
Clif Warren	Chief, HTRW Branch
Terry Murphree	Project Engineer
John Weatherly	Contracting Officer
Arlene Smith	Contracting Officer
Randy Bratcher	Contracting Specialist
Bob Vandegriff	Safety Officer
Brad Hull	Project Engineer

Southwestern Division Members

Larry Leahy	EPA Coordinator
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Galveston District Members

Ana Gordon	Real Estate Specialist
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Fort Worth District Members

Joe McCoy	Construction Representative
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Rock Island District Members

Rich Conley	Contract Specialist
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Northwestern Division Members

Julie Petersen	Certified Industrial Hygienist
Marvene Seaman	Program Analyst
Tom Simmons	Supervisory Project Engineer

Kansas City District Members

David Hays	Certified Industrial Hygienist
Tom Urbaniak	Project Engineer
Sandeep Mehta	Project Engineer



Angie Short

Tulsa District’s Project Delivery Team members pose with District Commander, Col. Suthard (left) with their awards.

(Left to right) Gene Lilly, Jonna Polk, Randy Bratcher, Terry Murphree, Clif Warren, Jean Eberhardt, Brad Hull, and Arlene Smith were recognized Jan. 9 at the Project Review Board meeting. Col. Suthard presented each member a plaque and golf shirt sporting the “Excellence in Teamwork” emblem.

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radioactive material to quickly reduce a potential risk to the community and national security through the possible use of site waste as a "dirty bomb." Standard clean-up protocols were modified to reduce project duration to 16 months, rather than the normal 5-10 year process. Costs were similarly controlled as the initial estimate indicated a unit source cost of \$83,000 versus the final cost of cleanup at \$16 million, averaging \$44,000 per source, an estimated cost savings of approximately \$15 million.

Project quality was evaluated by a team of experts to ensure that industry practices were implemented to prevent spread of contamination and protect workers. The experts determined that, despite the technical challenges due to schedule demands and the daily discovery of unknown waste hidden behind false walls, the project was being accomplished with appropriate engineering controls for protection of site conditions and workers.

The multi-disciplinary, multi-district team, supported strongly by the Southwestern Division EPA liaison, persistently pursued the project goal by developing innovative waste handling and disposal solutions. Constantly changing conditions were communicated to customers and stakeholders to ensure all team members participated in implementing solutions for unique situations. Issues and challenges were tracked to ensure that the project improved through lessons learned.

The PDT also worked closely with the states of Texas and South Carolina, proposing and gaining approval for innovative handling and disposal practices developed to minimize handling of the radioactive waste and exposure to workers.

The work accomplished by the team was truly phenomenal; there were more radioactive waste shipments from the Gulf Nuclear project in the past year than from all other waste generators in the U.S. combined.

Rangers win quarterly honor

James Montgomery and Darvin McClellan, park rangers at the Fort Gibson Lake Office, have been named Customer Care Employees of the Quarter for the fourth quarter FY03.

The nomination for the pair states, "It is obvious that they believe in what they do and thoroughly enjoy their roles as public servants ... These two gentlemen are always looking to meet customer needs."

The following two events were given as examples of how the pair "patrol the parks with the intention to serve their customers."

One night while working the swing shift, Montgomery and McClellan discovered that an elderly woman camper had stepped into a sinkhole. Concerned for her wellbeing, they went to the campsite to check on her. After assuring themselves that she was uninjured, they immediately rolled up their sleeves and went to work. They took it upon themselves to haul some fill material to the park and fill each of the sinkholes. The camper was so impressed, she contacted the office the next day to compliment their efforts and express her gratitude about their sincere concern for her safety.

While patrolling a few days later, they learned there was a water leak in a park and that the main had been shut down. Campers were without water. Once again, they took action. They dug out the area of the broken line and repaired it. That same evening, they were able to restore the water supply to the park. The camp host and several campers praised their efforts.



Darvin McClellan



Jim Montgomery



Give the gift of life.

**Corps of Engineers
Blood Drives**

**May 27
Aug. 12
Nov. 10**

**American
Red Cross**

Black Engineers Conference honors Corps

by John Roberts
Deputy District Engineer for Project Management

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear received the prestigious 2004 Professional Achievement in Government Award at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards Ceremony in Baltimore, Md., on Feb. 21. The award was presented by the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers.

Gen. Crear's achievements included commanding the 3,000 person Southwestern Division, which includes Tulsa, Little Rock, Fort Worth, and Galveston Districts. The division covers all or part of seven states with annual programs totaling just over \$1 billion.

His most notable recent achievement was leadership of the mission to Restore Iraqi Oil, including the fighting of oil well fires, responding to oil spills, assessing damages to the oil system, conducting emergency repairs, and producing and importing product and fuels for the Iraqi people.

Tulsa District's own Michael Ware was honored at the Technology Leadership Luncheon on Feb. 20 in conjunction with the conference. Ware, of Regulatory Branch, was recognized as being a Modern Technology Leader for his innovations as a regulatory project manager. His scientific skills brought technological advances to wetland protection, using up-to-date computer hardware and software including personal digital assistants and global positioning system units.

The theme of the Black Engineers Conference, "A Salute to the Soul of Achievement," recognized how the black experience made America the great country it is today. The program included a journey beginning with images deeply rooted in the imaginations of generations of people, unfolding in the stories of everyday

"It is not the strongest that survive, not the most intelligent. It is the person who is the most adaptable to change."



Glen Wood Photo

Brig. Gen. Robert Crear, commander of Southwestern Division, poses with his wife, Reatha. The pair hold the 2004 Professional Achievement in Government Award presented at the Black Engineer of the Year awards ceremony in Baltimore, Md., in February.

women and men who beat the odds to overcome their difficult environment. Their courage created a legacy of free enterprise: hard work, integrity, and education.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attendees at the conference also had the pleasure of attending the eighth annual USACE Workshop on Feb. 19. The theme of this workshop was "Communication During Transformation." A quote from Robert Likert explains, "The greater the loyalty of a group toward the group, the greater is the motivation among the members to achieve the goals of the group, and the greater the probability that the group will achieve its goals."

Participants include a Who's Who list of USACE leaders including Lt. Gen. Flowers, Maj. Gen. Ronald Johnson (by videotape), Maj. Gen. James Cheatham, Brig. Gen. Crear, and a host of civilian senior leaders. Gen. Crear's inspiring keynote address told of people who were important motivators in his life, including his grandfather, mother, wife, and previous Tulsa District commander, retired Col. Otis Williams.

As we discussed the many changes in the Corps, such as USACE 2012 and moving from an established project management automated information system (PROMIS) to P2, we were left with this thought: "It is not the strongest that survive, not the most intelligent. It is the person who is the most adaptable to change."



Training keeps responders ready

Note: A new first-aid responder dispatch system has been implemented in the Tulsa office. Employees can dial 7575 and reach all “first responders” immediately. These responders are trained and undergo regular routine refreshers. They learn to use external automatic defibrillators, administer oxygen, perform CPR, and provide first aid care. Following is the story of one such training course.

by Yolane Hartsfield, first responder

One day I was out and about and noticed that some people – not you and I of course – but some OTHER people around here are growing older. And let’s face it, the world is not as safe as it used to be. Wanting to build upon my experience as one of the district’s Emergency/First-Aid Responders, I enrolled in an Emergency Medical Technician course last fall. My goal was to improve my skills and ability to be of service when called upon to respond.

The emergency medical service has evolved since the Vietnam War from the old ambulance “load and go” to today’s sophisticated system of triage and pre-hospital treatment. This is a good thing, a very good thing.

Emergency medical treatment begins on scene; today’s responders have at their fingertips equipment and drugs that were restricted to emergency room trauma suites just a few years ago. Training and certification programs have changed and improved. Field communications and intervention technologies are improving daily due in part to the advance of wireless technology and expanded communications capabilities.

In cases of trauma or medical emergencies, there is much talk about the Golden Hour – that first hour that begins at the onset of trauma. There is also a lesser-known 10-minute interval referred to as the Platinum Ten – the first 10 minutes after medical help arrives. The processes in place today for pre-hospital treatment during the Platinum Ten and the Golden Hour make all the difference in patient outcome and their future quality of life.

I saw first hand during my training the different strategies in Oklahoma for managing these two intervals of time. We should all be aware of what we might be in for should the need for emergency help arise.

See Responders, page 16

Gulf Region Division activated

Editor’s Note: The Gulf Region Division has begun publishing newsletters to continue the information dissemination begun in RIO Update. Issues are to be published every two weeks and will be posted to the GRD website. To view the newsletters, click on the Updates link at the GRD site, <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division (Provisional) has been activated in Baghdad to bring under one structure some 20 separate Corps offices and organizations. The new unit is designed to provide a more enduring and efficient base of support to both U.S. and coalition operations in Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, commanding general of the Combined Joint Task Force - 7, was the presiding officer at activation ceremonies. He said the new division “underscores the coalition’s absolute commitment to working hand in hand with the Iraqi people, their ministries, and national government to improve the quality of life for all Iraqis and establish an endur-

ing, safe, and secure environment in which a democratic government may thrive.”

Under the command of Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, the provisional division will include three districts, the North, Central, and South. The strength of the division will emphasize the principle of deploying forward only what is required while taking maximum advantage of the USACE “reach back” capability to use the talents of all 35,000 Corps of Engineers employees worldwide. Johnson, former director of military programs and G3 of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, said the reach back support will enable the division to focus on “deeds, not words.”

The result will be tangible improvements to the Iraqi infrastructure, whether oil facilities, electric generation, water and sewer treatment plants, and support bases for the Iraqi military. Ports, airports, roads, bridges, schools, and health clinics will also continue to be created and improved with the oversight of the division team.



GULF REGION DIVISION



People, process, and communication needed for buoy line work



This past November, the Fort Gibson Lake staff removed and replaced the downstream buoy line. The existing buoy line cable had deteriorated and been patched many times. It could no longer withstand the pressure of water releases from the dam.

Since entry isn't allowed between the structure and the buoy line, it establishes a safety zone for the structure as well as for individual boaters and fishermen. These safety zones are present on both the upstream and downstream sides of the dam.

The replacement of the downstream buoy line is no easy task and requires precise coordination and communication throughout the process. A request is made that no water be released for an eight-hour period while the task is completed.



See Buoy, page 13

Attaching buoys on land and in the water.

. . . Buoy

from page 12

The main buoy cable consists of 7/8 stainless steel cable with a run of approximately 1,600 feet. The process began when the ranger staff reattached a 5/8 stainless steel cable from the center wing wall of the structure. This cable was later attached to the newly placed downstream buoy line to help relieve the stress associated with high releases.

The new cable was attached to the old one on the west side of the bank, and it was all pulled across the river to the east side parking lot. This was done using a winch truck on loan from Gerald Brostek from the navigation system.

A project-owned backhoe was also used to help pull. Part of the work crew worked diligently from a gravel bar placing new buoys on the new cable as it was stretched across the length of the river. Others worked to remove the old cable on the east side of the bank while the crew on the west bank had to monitor the reel spool to ensure the cable spooled off properly.

It was a start/stop process, but the work went smoothly. As the old cable was pulled onto the bank, it was cut into manageable lengths and disposed of along with the waterlogged buoys.

Park Ranger Jeff Seward took the lead role on the project. He was instrumental in planning what tools and materials were needed as well as how to complete the work. His efforts and the hard work of all employees involved ensured the safe and relatively speedy completion of the project.

It was originally thought that the task would take eight hours or longer. It was completed with six hours of non-stop work.

The following employees were responsible for the project's success: Dan Bentley, Beth Cruzen, Kirt Curell, Cheri Dixon, Bobby Gann, Tom Heathcock, Darvin McClellan, Tommy Mannon, Jim Montgomery, Guy Phillips and Jeff Seward. Thanks also to Jim Croston and Ray Harrison for coordinating with Southwest Power Administration.



Attaching center cable to wing wall.



Family News

Condolences to . . .

Family and friends of Jo Ann Barnett, retiree, who passed in Nov. Jo worked in the training area of the old personnel office and in other district offices prior to retiring in 1996.

Betty Wylie and family on the Nov. 8 death of Joe Wylie, retiree. Joe was a Corps employee for 31 years.

G. B. Phillips on the death of his mother in December. G. B. is a maintenance worker at Fort Gibson Lake Office.

Betty "Rusty" Roberts on the accidental death of her grandson in December.

Ron Barker, retiree, on the Dec. 20 death of his wife, Ann.

Bernard Schoats on the Jan. 1 death of his mother. He is a lock and dam operator at Chouteau Lock and Dam 17.

Earl Groves and family on the Jan. 3 death of his 47-year-old brother, Neal.

Jim Snyder on the Jan. 11 death of his mother, Elinor Snyder. Jim is a mechanical engineering technician at Fort Sill Resident Office.

Nancy Crenshaw on the Jan. 22 death of her mother, Delois Atkins. Nancy is the administrative officer in Operations Division.

Christine Roye, Resource Management Office, on the Feb. 6 death of her mother, Dora Murphy.

Family and friends of David Rozzell, recent retiree, who passed away Feb. 9. He worked as an operator at the Robert S. Kerr Powerhouse for many years.

Marie Buster, Resource Management Office, on the Feb. 12 death of her brother, Denny Webb.

Communication 101

by Ross Adkins, Public Affairs Officer

We began this series by identifying our role as communicators. Then we addressed *why* we communicate. Now we get to the heart of this series. *How* do we become communicators?

I thought Gen. Flowers' 30-second personal commercial idea was a stroke of genius. Remember when you last attended a meeting where people had to stand up and introduce themselves to the rest of the attendees? Some people told enough about themselves to make you want to get to know them better, to find out more about them. Those were 30-second commercials.

Now, if you take your 30-second commercial and expand it to 5, 10 or even 15 minutes, you have the ideal way of telling the Corps story.

What? You want me to stand up in front of people and do what?!!?

The idea that you have to give a presentation usually causes one of two reactions, anxiety or – for most people – absolute PANIC!!!

Wait a minute! Don't hit that panic button just yet. Remember that every time you speak to a friend or co-worker, you are making a presentation. When you talk with one or two people over a cup of coffee, you're giving your views on a particular subject. Whether you realize it or not, you are making presentations all the time. Maybe not to a large number of people, but the techniques you use with your friends are the same as for a larger group of people. Probably the only difference is the size of the room.

So, what are those basic techniques you unwittingly use talking to friends that can be used in giving an un-panicked presentation to a larger group? You probably unconsciously use these next steps already.

Ask yourself:

- What exactly is the point I want to get across?
- Who is it I have to get the point across to?
- What do they need to know to understand what my point is?
- What are they expected to do as a result of their understanding?
- How long will I have to pound it into their heads?
- When and where will I corner them to tell them?

Now that you know what you want them to do, move on to the second step – preparation. Plan your attack, uh, excuse me, presentation.

First, you get their attention – “tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em.” Then, you “tell 'em.” Next, you sum up – “tell 'em what you

told 'em.” The final step in the formula is the action step – “tell them what you want them to do.”

Once again, the only difference between convincing your friends to do something and getting a group of people to do something is the size of the room.

That may be the only difference, but it's a big one, right?

Not really. The big difference is really just in your mind.

But, because you do have more people to corral and sway to your way of thinking, you will have to add a few steps.

- Ask yourself if there is an issue, problem, or challenge surrounding your subject. Are there misconceptions about the subject? What does the subject mean to the audience? What is the problem? What is the solution, and why is your solution the preferred one? Once you have answered those questions, you're ready to go.
- Prepare any visuals you want to support key points. (Thank you, PowerPoint.) However, many of the most successful presentations do not involve audiovisuals. There are times it is logistically impossible; other times, visuals can actually detract from what you are trying to accomplish.

Now comes the really hard part. You rehearse, rehearse, and then rehearse some more.

This guide can help you make a successful presentation to anyone, anytime. You are now a communicator.

Now wasn't that easy? It's a good thing to have a little anxiety about speaking to a group or organization. It makes you prepare more thoroughly, but you really don't need to panic. A little practice and some preparation and you will be in demand as a speaker.

For refinements and to become a proficient speaker, join a Toastmasters organization. Call Public Affairs Office at extension 7366 for information. In the meantime, if you feel you need help making your next presentation, call that same number, and we'll be glad to help.

You *will* improve with practice.

Commentary

By Mary Beth Hudson, editor

Words to give by

How would you like to save as many as 18 lives each year? Well, if you're at least 17 years old, in good health, and weigh more than 110 pounds, you can. In fact, please do. Give blood.

Every two seconds, someone in America needs blood. In the United States, more than 38,000 blood donations are used every day to help save the lives of cancer patients, accident victims, and children with blood disorders, among others.

With a shelf life of only 42 days, the supply constantly needs to be replenished. Donors can give six times a year, and just one unit can help save as many as three lives.

The Red Cross stresses that each donor makes a difference. You could make a tremendous one.

I've given blood for as long as I've worked for the federal government – sometimes for altruistic reasons, but just as often because I wanted a bit of time away from my cubicle. Even though I had been donating for years, the first time I really gave any thought to who might be receiving my blood was the day the Murrah Building was bombed. That afternoon, the connection was quite clear, and the “blood leave” was of absolutely no consequence.

A couple of years ago, I started making aphaeresis donations. These took longer, but the resulting blood product was able to help even more patients and, hey, it kept me away from the cube even longer, so why not? They treat you good at the Red Cross, and I was perfectly willing to watch a video or read a book for an hour and a half while they drained blood from one arm and at the same time put it back in the other. Sometimes they mentioned the cancer patients who needed the blood and an image of very, very ill children or hollow-eyed, bald women would flit across my mind.

Then I became one. The image no longer flitted; it took up residence. About midway through chemotherapy treatments, a rather grey-green, ghoulish-looking gal stared vacantly back at me from the mirror. IF I managed to stand up long enough to look in one. By that stage of the battle, I was dragging to the point that my daughter put a chair in the middle of my kitchen so I could rest when crossing the room.

Having the energy level of a limp dishrag, I would only pick my head up from the couch if someone gave me a really, really good reason.

Well, you know kids, they'll give you one. As luck would have it, this was the same time that my daughter was planning her wedding. As I lay on the couch and envisioned the day, I'd picture myself having to grab each pew as I slowly, very

slowly, made my way down the aisle. I wondered if I'd even be able to attend – much less enjoy – the reception. I knew it would take every bit of reserve I had (if any) to get through the day.

That's when I learned that the phrase, “Give blood, give life,” didn't necessarily refer to actually saving someone from the brink of death. It might just as easily mean making the difference between someone simply existing or truly living.

The wedding was scheduled for a Saturday. Twelve days before the big one, I went for chemo, and my counts were so low I was sent for a transfusion. I joked with the nurse, “Try to give me some blood from somebody energetic. I could use the help.” They gave me two units.

Goodbye, couch potato! First, I raised my head. Then, I walked across the kitchen without a rest stop. Soon, I was back at work. Next, I went shopping (always a good sign) for a mother-of-the-bride hat. By the actual wedding day, I babysat in the morning for the offspring of the wedding party, travelled 65 miles to the church, helped the gals get ready, strode down the aisle grinning from ear to ear, thoroughly enjoyed the reception (even the part where I was given the clean-up detail), traveled back to Tulsa, and then joined friends and family for dinner out.

The blood had made all the difference, and the difference was amazing!

Whoever donated those two units may not have literally saved my life, but they did give me life.

On behalf of recipients everywhere, I thank all of you who donate, and I encourage any of you who are eligible but hesitant to please take the plunge.

You have the potential to save a life and the absolute certainty that you can make someone's life worth living again.



. . . Responders

from page 11

First, Tulsa and other larger Oklahoma towns and cities are twice blessed. One blessing is that most if not all of the city-level firefighters have at least a basic emergency medical technician certification; many firefighters have paramedic-level certification. Most of the time the first responders to local emergency calls are



Tulsa firefighters who are well trained and know how to provide safe, rapid extrication, if necessary, and can and do initiate pre-hospital treatment until the ambulance arrives.

The second blessing is that most if not all of the ambulances dispatched locally have at least one paramedic on board with the Advanced Life Support

training and capabilities with all equipment and supplies needed to provide quality patient care.

Rather than execute the old-fashioned “load and go,” these emergency medical professionals are our first line of defense and our first wave of offense in getting our bodies and our lives back to “normal.”

What I learned within Tulsa’s Emergency Medical Service system is this: most of the Paramedics and EMTs work four 12-hour shifts per week. Each weekly shift has a mandatory eight-hour overtime load. To meet the needs of the moment, work shifts are frequently extended beyond the 12-hour duty time. The pay is low and stays low. Many work extra shifts each week to help make ends meet. A high percentage of emergency medical professionals burn out and leave the service in just a few years. Most of the shifts are so filled with responses that there is no time for meals or breaks.

However, all of those I met and talked with could not dream of doing ANYTHING else with their lives. It was amazing. It was humbling.

When we need them, they will respond as quickly as is humanly and safely possible. Some of the things they might do when they are treating a patient include the use of a cervical collar (a handy device whose major purpose is to remind you continuously to keep your head still). In Tulsa, the Paramedics/EMTs will probably start an intravenous line on scene. Why? In case the hospital staff needs immediate access to an IV port, one will be already in place, saving precious time



(remember the Platinum Ten and the Golden Hour). The Paramedics/EMTs will probably hook you up to a monitor that records and reports your heart rate and rhythm as well as your carbon dioxide output, blood pressure, and temperature. They will probably provide oxygen to you using masks or nasal cannula. If you have not experienced this type of service before, it is more than a little overwhelming and can be more than a little frightening. Remember, the responders are working on you to ensure that you are past the worst part and are on the way to getting better, starting the moment they arrive.

Outside the urban areas, in small cities, towns, and rural areas, response times are longer. Coupled with that is the reality that funding shortfalls usually result in less equipment on board for emergency treatment care. Where I live, the one countywide ambulance service has only one paramedic on staff, so he responds to emergency calls in his personal vehicle from wherever he is in the county. The plan for multiple responses involves a lot of scurrying and is heavily dependent on rural fire departments. In rural settings the response time to the scene can take longer than 45 minutes, and the trip to the hospital in the ambulance can take longer still. Remember the Platinum Ten and the Golden Hour? In many rural settings the ambulances do not carry the Advanced Life Support equipment and supplies. The service is not the old “load and go,” but it is closer than anyone involved would care to admit.



For those of us who live in rural areas and commute to work, let us spend a moment talking about helicopter provided life flights. Emergency air transport should not be considered only for the rich and famous or just on television dramas. Yes, they are costly, about \$4,000 for the “bird” just to lift off. Then there are additional costs such as mileage both directions. But there are reasonably priced annual memberships that cover the costs of life flight. The value of life flight for rural residents is quite simply this: The on-board crew are medical professionals. They have advanced life support equipment and supplies. Life flights shorten the time between the trauma event or medical emergency and arrival at a medical facility, often reducing it significantly. They save lives. One caveat, especially in rural areas, is that in order to properly direct the helicopter to the scene the requestor has to know exactly where the patient is; driving directions are usually meaningless.

Congratulations!

Is there a doctor in the house?

Yes!

In February, Tony Clyde successfully defended his dissertation and completed all remaining requirements for his PhD in biology from the University of North Texas, Denton.

The degree itself will be conferred at the graduation ceremony in May. Clyde is a limnologist in Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division.



... FEST

from page 7

tional. It will be interesting to see the long-term repairs. With guidance, the Iraqis will eventually be able to handle it.”

In the future, Holeman believes the major oil companies can help provide professional advice on how to optimize the system. The Corps, along with the contractors, can provide the contracting and construction expertise during the transition.

“The Corps is pushing hard right now. While some aspects aren’t coming along as fast as we would like, we are still helping the Iraqi oil industry. We are producing and exporting,” he said.

“Now, we have money coming in through exports which is a key aspect to what we are trying to establish here.”

Holeman attributes success to repairs like the improved loading arm at the export terminal. Additionally, he believes the overall project success, so far, is due to the true partnership that the Corps, contractors, and Iraqi workers have formed.

“During my time here, we have developed a teamwork approach. The teams are composed of members of the Corps, the contractors, and the Iraqi oil companies,” he said. “This is a true team project effort.”

While he has seen many changes and accomplished a lot during his deployment, he would like to see certain plants, like the

LPG facility and the water injection plant operational before he returns to the United States.

“We set a goal to get LPG product within the country, so the Iraqis could supply their own cooking fuel so the don’t have to import product.”

But at the end of they day, Holeman is happy with what he has achieved as area engineer. “I saw this deployment as a challenge. My goal was to try to handle everything as best as I could. Fortunately, there weren’t many distractions or outside activity; I was either working or sleeping,” he said. “It has been years since I was involved in construction management. I looked at the overall program and saw a lot of activity for a short period of time; hopefully we are making a difference in what we are doing.”

Holeman, who achieved the Meritorious Civilian Service Award and a Commander’s Coin for his work here, returned to Tulsa in time for the holidays. Holeman has been with the Corps for more than 22 years working on various water projects including flood control and flood studies on areas throughout the state. Currently, he serves as the chief of Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch at the Tulsa District.

by Carolyn Vadino
FEST-RIO Public Affairs

News from EEO

A revised Equal Employment Opportunity Discrimination Complaints regulation (AR 690-600) went into effect Feb. 9. Following is a summary of the changes in the revised regulation:

- Contains extensive new and updated information on how to file, counsel, process, investigate, settle, and decide discrimination complaints.
- Requires Army activities to establish an alternative dispute resolution program to facilitate early resolution of a complaint of discrimination (Chapter 2).
- Sets forth policy and procedures to be followed in processing complaints of discrimination involving Civilian Personnel Operations Center actions (Chapter 3).
- Incorporates current address and telephone information for the Department of Defense Office of Complaint Investigations, Merit Systems Protection Board, and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, regional and field offices (Appendix B).

Tulsa District’s EEO Office may be reached at 918-669-4943.

Special Emphasis Programs

April 12

Black History

Keynote Speaker:

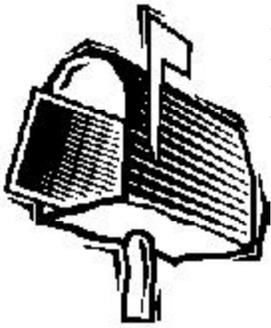
Brig. Gen. Crear

April 22

Take Our Daughters & Sons to Work Day

April 29

Women’s History



From the Mailbox

To: Col. Suthard
From: Col. David F. Bird Jr.
The Civil Engineer, U.S. Air Force

Thanks to you and your staff in awarding the construction contract for the Sheppard Dorm MILCON project in the first quarter of FY04. While AETC was successful in having a number of FY04 MILCON projects ready for award in the first quarter, your team delivered first!

This early award marks our continued progress in the execution of our MILCON projects as we continue to develop and implement new business practices together. Our partnering efforts have built strong project delivery teams to meet Air Force performance goals and we need to recognize the benefits of our spirited teamwork.

Let us continue to maintain this momentum and work toward future successes in delivering AETC FY04 Congressional inserts and FY05 President's Budget MILCON projects. Please extend my appreciation to your staff for a job well done.

To John Roberts, deputy district engineer for project management
From Col. Darrell Sims:

...we wanted to thank Ms. Hunninhake for her outstanding support during the SERG hosted here at Sheppard ... big Kudos ... thanks again for the great support.

To: Helen Williams, Regulatory Branch
From: Michael Machis, chief, Planning and Management Division, Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Thank you for helping OWRB teach "Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program" at the University of Oklahoma last week. You did an excellent job and we sincerely appreciate you contributing your time and expertise to this class. The

course evaluations showed that the presentation you gave was appreciated and needed. We look forward to working with you in educating our floodplain managers in the future. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the work your division does complements the work our floodplain managers do in the state of Oklahoma.

From: Rose Zeiler, Longhorn site manager

As I am sure you are aware, Army BRAC hosted a meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Service at Longhorn last week to discuss transfer. The meeting was a huge success and Army is now scheduled to transfer approximately 6,000 acres on May 5 of this year. This is way beyond expectations.

Although we at the installation level certainly cannot claim to be responsible for this achievement, we did play a major

role in the process. Specifically, support from Tulsa District, under Andy's (Obrochata) lead, resulted in a meeting with all the props, planning and coordination that left nothing to chance. The centerpiece of the meeting was a set of maps, produced by the contractor, Shaw, under the direction of Tulsa. I asked for a lot of detail that required significant research, input and review by multiple sources. Every bit of what I asked for (and more) was provided. The Longhorn Team (LHAAP, Tulsa and Shaw) looked good to the BRAC Office and the Army looked good to FWS. I appreciate the hard work by Andy and Cliff (Warren).

Andy is already busy working his magic on funding challenges identified during the meeting (getting the right money to the right place yesterday). I appreciate all his hard work and talent.

Just wanted to let you know.

Congratulations!

Melonie Zincke of Budget and Manpower Branch in Resource Management Office recently completed a college career begun – well, begun long enough ago that she doesn't want to say exactly when. What she will share is when it ended.

In December 2003, Zincke was presented a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Northeastern State University. She earned the degree through years of determination and dedication. "It wasn't always easy, but it has been worth every bit of the effort to finally be able to say I have a degree."

Following high school, Zincke attended Oklahoma State University where she majored in journalism. For 2-1/2 years, she attended OSU fulltime, but the path changed when her daughter was born.

In 1995, she changed her major to business and started taking night classes at University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. She has continued to take from one to three classes each semester since then.

In 1997, Zincke moved to Tulsa, and took advantage of the area's higher education opportunities by attending classes



Melonie Zincke

at Rogers State University in Claremore, Tulsa Community College, and the Broken Arrow campus of Northeastern State University.

Zincke says, "It seems odd to have a degree from NSU when I have never taken a class on the Tahlequah campus."

Odd or not, she adds, "I am so glad to be finished!"



New Additions

Isabella Garrison, Dec. 21, 2003, daughter of Ryan and Theresa Garrison. Ryan is a park ranger at Big Hill Lake.

Matthew Browning Echols, Dec. 23, 2003, son of Brian and Charlotte Echols. Brian works at the Texoma Remote Hydropower Plant.

Matthew Keith Kirk, Jan. 25, 2004, son of Kimberley and Jimmy Kirk. Matthew is the younger brother of Luke Allyn Kirk and the grandson of Jan Morris, Real Estate Division.

Korean service honored by new medal

The Defense Department recently announced the creation of the Korean Defense Service Medal to give special recognition for the sacrifices and contributions made by members of the U.S. armed forces who have served or are serving in the Republic of Korea.

Members of the armed forces authorized the KDSM must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

For more than 50 years, U.S. Armed Forces defended the Korean Peninsula and helped maintain democracy and preserve the spirit of freedom.

The medal may be awarded posthumously. Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for administrative processing, awarding, and wearing of the KDSM and ribbon for their servicemembers, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin.

Blues Cube

Mary Beth Hudson
Public Affairs Office

You may think of her as an administrative assistant in HTRW Design Center or as a peer supporter in Southwestern Division's Critical Incident Stress Management program, but in her "real" life, she's an accomplished blues/rock artist who is about to release her first album.



courtesykarenvance3220.com

Karen Lichtenberg and her band, Karen Vance & 32/20, are eyeing March for the release of "Escape from the Brick House."

Karen wrote two of the six original songs on the CD. Three were written by Lloyd Price, producer/arranger/guitarist, and one by Jack Wolfe who also plays keyboards on the album. Four classic songs are included, "Please Send Me Someone to Love," Percy Mayfield; "Muddy Water," The Cats and the Fiddle; "32/20 Blues," Robert Johnson; and "Just Kiss and Say Goodbye," the Manhat-tans.

The recording experience was quite emotional, according to Karen. "I was completely astonished by the group of musicians who showed up to participate in the project. Their support and professionalism made all the difference in the recordings. . . . At one point, I was so overwhelmed by the music I was hearing, I got teary-eyed. I cannot believe these guys came together and did this very nice work all for my project."

The CD is geared to the blues audience, and most likely will receive radio airplay on American blues radio shows and also in parts of South America, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and England, where blues music is very popular right now, according to Karen. She says the group's demo CD, recorded in 2001, has received airplay in those markets with a positive response.

Known to co-workers as Karen Lichtenberg, she's Karen Vance to blues aficionados. Karen goes by Vance as a tribute to her first fan, her mother, who passed away in 1984, when the young singer was 14 years old.

"Years prior to her death, she became my first musical supporter, swearing I'd someday be a famous singer. Her favorite at that time was Anne Murray, and she always thought I'd be another Anne.

"I didn't begin singing professionally until after her death, but I took her name to honor her support and encouragement. I've never performed before a large audience under any other name – and it's easier to spell than Lichtenberg."



Flash from the past

Colonel, congressman, others opened gate house

Sometimes looking out for customer safety can call for construction. At Fort Gibson Project, the entrance and exit road to Taylor Ferry South used to go out onto State Highway 51. Campers had to leave the park going up a hill and enter onto the highway where traffic was traveling very fast.

There had been some accidents at this location, so meetings were held to look for a solution. The first meeting seeking a fix for the problem was at Wagoner City Hall.

A new road in a different location was needed, and the Corps undertook the project, surveying and clearing the road area.

A new fee station/visitor center was constructed at the park entrance. Tom Heathcock, Fort Gibson ranger, says, "From my understanding, this is the largest fee station/gate attendant building in the district."

On May 13, 1988, dignitaries turned out for the ribbon cutting at the new Taylor Ferry South fee building and visitor center.

There are 99 campsites at Taylor Ferry South. Last year's visitation total was 45,082 and in FY03 \$76,574 was collected in camping fees.



May 13, 1988 – Col. Frank Patete, district engineer; Jim Gizzi, lake manager; the president of the company that built the new entrance road; Scott Landon, president of Fort Gibson Lake Association; and U.S. Representative Mike Synar cut the ribbon opening the new, large fee station/visitor center at Fort Gibson Lake.