



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Tulsa District

# TULSA

## DISTRICT RECORD

March/April 2002  
Vol. 26, No. 2

**Sheppard MILCON  
program returns  
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# Commander's Column

## Reprogramming the way we do business

Over the past several months, I have visited many of our dams, locks, and recreational areas. The needs of our aging infrastructure became glaringly apparent to me. The district's Operation and Maintenance real dollars have not increased since 1988, and many of the district's major structures have or will soon be approaching their design life.

National Economic Development Benefits of our facilities equate to \$2.6

billion in navigation, \$128 million in hydropower, over \$800 million in recreation, and significant water supply benefits for many local communities as well as all of the major metropolitan areas. Without these magnificent dams all of the benefits mentioned above plus the protection against loss of life and property due to flooding -over \$136

million in annual-benefits -will be foregone.

The aging infrastructure and flat line of our budget dollars since 1988

necessitate

reprogramming the way we do business. Our number one priority is to maintain these vital structures to ensure the safety



**Col. Robert L. Suthard, Jr.**  
**District Commander**

of our employees and to prevent the loss of life and property of the American people whom we serve. We must balance services to the public with infrastructure maintenance, while identifying organizational/business improvements

versus reduction in services.

While all agree to the priority, the decisions on what to forego to meet the priority will be difficult. We will continue to set standards of achievement for the Corps with the resources we have due to the dedication and most capable workforce in the Corps.

Thank you for your support and ideas that are shaping the transition of our district to better serve the nation.



## Labor Management agreement signed

by Kay Hoover, Office of Counsel

The new Labor Management Agreement between the Tulsa District and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 3266 was signed April 16. Col. Robert Suthard, district engineer, and Daniel Gibson, president, AFGE Local 3266, signed the agreement. Also present for the official signing ceremony were members of the negotiation teams: Lt. Col. Lawrence Norton, chief negotiator for CESWT Billy Banks, Dennis Johnson, Steve Graham, and Charlotte Stockwell. Duane Braxton, Human Resources and Kay Hoover, Office of Counsel served as staff advisers during the negotiations. Not pictured are Robert Walker, Guy Brinker and Phil Weger who served as members of the AFGE negotiation team.



\*\*\*Cover picture of Joe Kelhoffer, Santa Fe Concrete Constructions owner. Santa Fe Concrete Construction is a subcontractor of McMaster Construction, Inc. Picture taken by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs Office.

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**District Commander**  
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# Operations Division

# Reorganization Plan

## Tulsa District Area Offices Change Boundaries

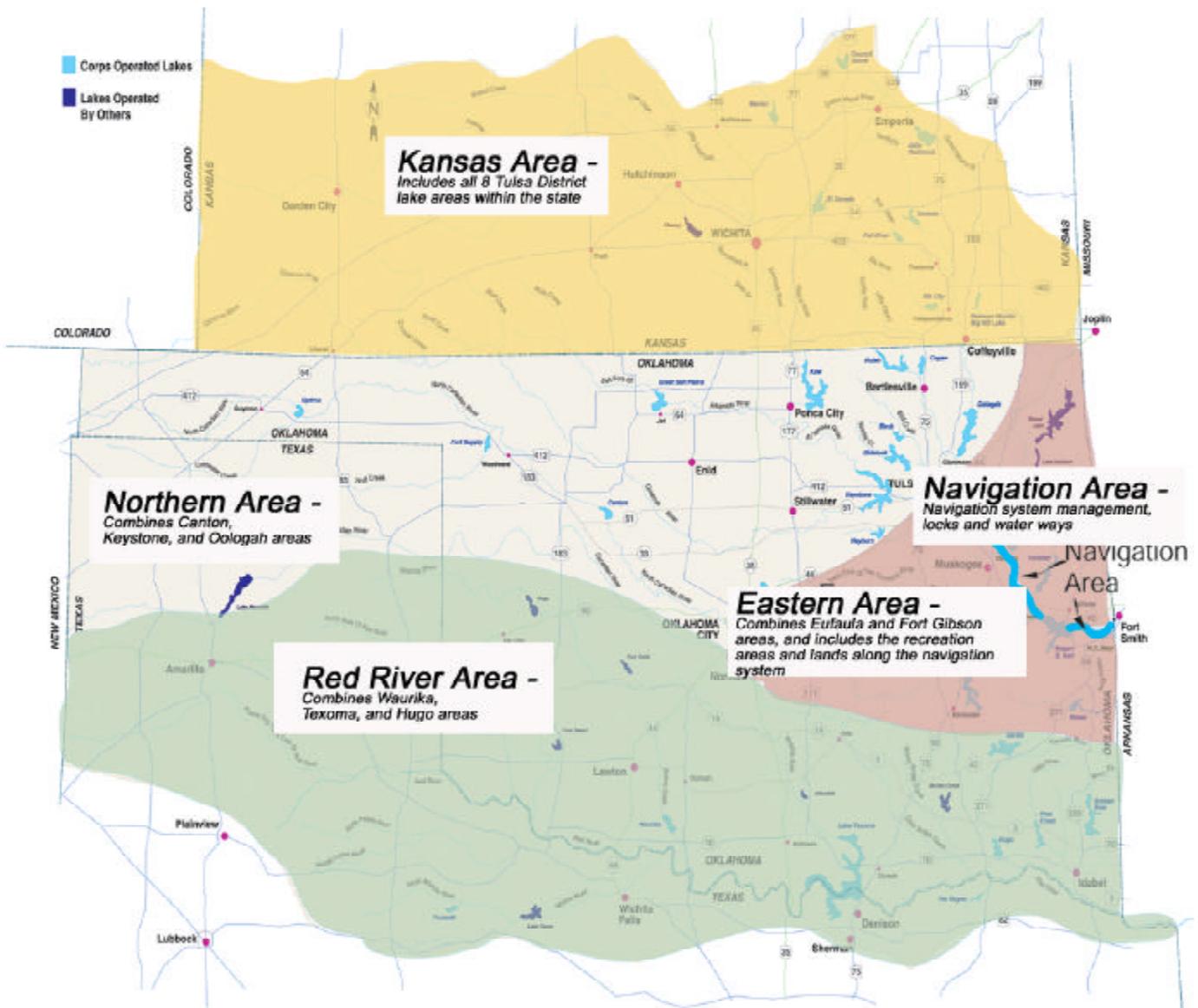
By John Marnell, Operations Division

In a move to provide additional funding for maintenance and repair of our deteriorating infrastructure, Operations Division has developed a plan to realign its area office boundaries and restructure staff to meet future manpower needs. The reduction

of management, administrative and other staff would free up about \$6.3 million for infrastructure needs.

The current 11 area offices will consolidate to five, which includes the navigation system office. The 24 fully-staffed lake offices will be reduced to 13. An additional 10 offices will be maintained as ranger stations. Ranger stations will be under the oversight of the lake offices and staffed by permanent park rangers and supplemented in the summer with temporary employees.

We are continuing to evaluate the plan and coordinate with congressional offices and stakeholders as we move toward implementation.



# MILCON



## Snow Hall rises from the ashes

by Burl Ragland, Program Manager

**M**uch like the mythical Phoenix raised from the ashes, Snow Hall stands as a shining example of accomplishment.

With the entry of the U. S. into World War I, the great need for a Field Artillery officers training center was recognized with the appointment of Maj. Gen. William J. Snow, a commandant of the Ft. Sill Field Artillery School from July 27, 1917 to Sep. 26, 1917. Starting with practically no personnel or facilities, Gen. Snow evolved plans for an institution and plant capable of fulfilling the

requirements. While the wartime school, dubbed Snow Hall, was under construction classes were held wherever possible, frequently in the open under trees.

Finally finished in the early 20's, Snow Hall was a two-story white clapboard building with a roofed porch on the front and housed the Assistant Commandant, directors and indoor classrooms. Only nine years later, in 1929, Snow Hall burned down and, combined with a previous fire in 1925 that destroyed most of the officer quarters, caused a great instruction facility and housing shortage on the post.



**Snow Hall, built in the 1920s, was as a two-story white clapboard building with a roofed porch on the front that housed the Assistant Commandant, directors and indoor classrooms.**



**Today, Snow Hall is Fort Sill's premier teaching facility, housing the Deputy Commanding General, advisors/staff, liaison officers from other countries, and training classrooms.**

After the fires, a larger number of officers' quarters were built, but training continued in old tarpaper covered World War I buildings. In the early 1950s, the current Snow Hall was constructed. Initially it contained only the southern half of the building known as wings C and D. Later wing B, the auditorium was added and finally wing A was added with a breezeway covered by a glasswork roof making it one contiguous building.

Today, Snow Hall is Fort Sill's premier teaching facility, housing the Ft. Sill Deputy Commanding General, DCG advisors/

staff, Liaison officers from other countries, and numerous training classrooms.

Snow Hall is now one of two critical key artillery-training facilities in the Army. In addition to a training facility, it hosts a series of large conferences annually. In recent months it has hosted the Senior Fire Support conference, a meeting for senior field artillery leaders and contractors, the MACOM CSM conference, the Joint Close Air Support class and graduations on a weekly basis.

## Tulsa District

# Life Safety Project a

# Success

**D**uring the final evolution of Snow Hall, critical safety upgrades needed to be added to bring the building up to current standards.

These include fire escapes, sprinkler systems, and removal of the combustible products from much of the walls. The project needed to be accomplished in phases with the school continuing to operate during the entire renovation. In addition, a Fire

Support Conference was scheduled in the middle of the construction period. This required a significant part of the halls and conference rooms to be completed in a very short time. The upgrades were accomplished ahead of schedule and under budget.



Construction of the new fire escape stairs required for both the east and west wings.



The ceilings of a classroom under construction and sprinkler systems installed to meet fire code and safety standards.



Snow Hall's main hall after completion while Fire Support Conference exhibits were being put in place.



The Library was renovated as part of the overall safety upgrade.



# MILCON



## Sheppard Air Force Base MILCON program returns

by Marshall S. Boyken,  
MILCON Design Section, Design Branch, E&C Division

Rendering of new dining facility

Sheppard Air Force Base is located in Wichita Falls, Texas, and is home to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Training Command and the 80<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Wing. The primary mission of Sheppard is to train new airmen and pilots for the Air Force. Throughout the nineties, Sheppard went through a large military construction program that enhanced the educational mission of the base. However, by 1999, the construction projects were completed. Therefore, the Corps' construction office closed, and the MILCON program went dormant.

Due to Base Realignment and Closure, and Interservice Training Review Organization initiatives, the population steadily increased without any increase in facilities to house and feed the expanding student population.

This led to many space deficiencies at Sheppard. Now, after a three-year hiatus, the MILCON program at Sheppard is beginning to pick up again. One project is already under construction, and several others are working their way through the design process.

A phrase often heard is: "An army travels on its stomach." This holds true for the Air Force as well. The number of troops - to be fed on a daily basis is overwhelming the dining facilities at Sheppard. The long wait often leads young students to engage in the unhealthy and demoralizing practice of skipping meals. To alleviate this problem, a new dining hall is already under construction. The new facility is 25,000 square feet, and will serve 1,500 students. This facility was designed in Fiscal Year 2001, and the construction contract was awarded in the fourth quarter of

Fiscal Year 2001. The process of site adapting a second dining hall of the same design is underway, and the construction contract for the second dining hall will be awarded by Aug. 1.

Adequate housing that encourages an educational environment and is conducive to proper rest and relaxation is essential to the Sheppard's mission. Some of the existing student dormitories are deficient in space and beleaguered by broken plumbing and unreliable electrical service. This has led to mildew growth and damage to student property (televisions and computers). A 300 room, 600-person student dormitory is being designed to improve the student living conditions. The new dormitory will meet Air Force minimum space requirements and

provide a modern setting for the student population of the base. The design will be completed in May, and the construction contract will be awarded by Aug. 1. The design of this student dormitory will be site adapted four times over the next eight years for

a total of five new student dormitories.

Facilities that help promote the overall fitness and health of the base population are needed at Sheppard AFB as well. Sheppard has three existing fitness facilities. The oldest was built in 1968 and is undersized and in poor condition. Another asset Sheppard has that promotes the health of the base population is a Health and Wellness Center or HAWC. The HAWC facility provides the services of nutritional guidance and health counseling. The current HAWC, like the old fitness center, is undersized and needs more room to adequately service the

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**Facilities that help promote the overall fitness and health of the base population are needed at Sheppard AFB as well.**

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growing base population. A Request for Proposals document is being prepared for a design/build project that will lead to the construction of a new facility to house both a state of the art fitness center and a new HAWC. This project has a contract award date of Sept. 12, 2002.

The Air Force recently developed a new standard for permanent party dormitories. The segment of the base population that inhabits the permanent party dormitories are E-1 through E-4 personnel. The current housing for the enlisted population is deficient, and the need for more housing is also great, again due to the increasing base population. A 144 room, 144-person permanent party dormitory is being designed. The project will be ready to advertise by Sept. 30, 2002, and should be awarded late in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2003.

The projects described so far, with exception of the fitness center and HAWC, will mainly enhance the functions of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Training Command. The 80<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Wing has needs as well. The current flight simulators will be replaced in 2005, and the new flight simulators are too large to fit in the current flight simulator building. The solution to the lack of space for the new equipment is to build a new flight simulator building. The 80<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Wing is very unique. It has a partnership with our Europe NATO allies, which means they have input into the design process. There have been numerous meetings with the customer to guarantee a solid design, and these meetings have produced many synergistic solutions to design challenges for the new flight simulator building. This project will be ready to advertise by Sept. 30, 2002, and should be awarded late in the first quarter of 2003 too.

The Corps returned to Sheppard in February 2002, and reopened our base construction office. The office is in building 1216 and is located on the north side of the base hospital, just across the street from the Base CE office. Spearheading the return of the Corps to Sheppard is David Hudson. He provides construction oversight, survey and geotechnical permitting, and



Rendering of new student housing

the day-to-day office operations. A project engineer will join the Sheppard Construction Office in the near future, and the Fort Sill Resident Office will provide technical support when needed. If you are making a trip down to Sheppard, please contact David and let him know of your upcoming visit.

Tulsa Districts' project manager for the MILCON work at Sheppard is John Forslund. He functions as the Sheppard Team Leader. The Corps' construction, program management, and design capabilities coupled with the expertise received from the Sheppard Base Civil Engineer and Sheppard customer input ensures that the approaching MILCON projects at Sheppard will be great successes!

The FY 2001 through 2003 projects described have a construction cost of about \$67 million. The anticipated FY 2004 projects have a construction cost of \$66 million alone, and the anticipated work beyond should be sizeable. The Corps is looking forward to reestablishing a good working relationship with the Sheppard Base CE and the various Sheppard customers. Sheppard has positioned itself to be part of the Air Force of the future and a valuable customer for quite some time.

A banner for Corps Day 2002. On the left, there is a black and white photograph of an eagle's head in profile, looking towards the right. Behind the eagle is a stylized American flag. The word "Corps" is written in a large, elegant, cursive font across the middle. To the right of "Corps", the word "Day" is written in a similar cursive font, with "2002" in a smaller, sans-serif font above it. Below "Corps Day 2002", there is a white rectangular box with black text that reads: "RETIRES, CALL DAN MCPHERSON AT 669-4361 FOR PICNIC TICKETS." At the bottom of the banner, the text "FOR INFORMATION, CALL 918-669-4361" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. On the far right, the word "JUNE" is written vertically in a bold, sans-serif font, with the number "7" below it.



# “Turn Out the Lights” Follows January Ice Storm

by Jan Holsomback, Power Team Mission manager

Just when it looked like the 2001-02 winter season was going to be a mild one, a ferocious ice storm hit the south central and southeastern regions of Kansas and the west and north central areas of Oklahoma. Some areas received a glaze of ice more than an inch thick causing extensive damage to trees, telephone lines, and power transmission lines. About 31,000 power poles were destroyed, leaving 255,263 Oklahoma homes and businesses and several Corps facilities without power.

The state immediately set up an emergency operations center, deployed state and National Guard generators to the impacted areas, and submitted a request for federal disaster assistance.

Under the Federal Response Plan, the Department of Defense is responsible for Emergency Support Function 3, “Public Works and Engineering.” The Corps of Engineers is designated as DoD’s operating agent for ESF#3 planning, preparedness, response and recovery. One mission is to provide emergency power. This is generally accomplished using Federal Emergency Management Agency generators.

President Bush declared the ice storm a major disaster for Oklahoma Feb. 1, and released public assistance funds. The declaration raised Tulsa District’s Emergency Operations Center activation level to 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, with extra staffers.

Two members of the emergency power Planning and Response Team were deployed to Oklahoma City. Jan Holsomback of Programs and Project Management Division served as mission manager and staging officer while Roger Eakle of Eufaula Project Office served as action officer. The operations manager for the USACE emergency power, Advance Contracting ~~Initiative, and two team from the 249<sup>th</sup>~~ Engineering Battalion at Fort Lewis, Wash., were also deployed.

The Power Emergency Response and Recovery Office staging area was set up at the Air National Guard facilities, Will Rogers

Airport, Oklahoma City. FEMA shipped 44 generators, and communities in need of assistance started picking them up Feb. 2.

Along with the power mission, Tulsa District was also given a water mission that would normally have been handled by Little Rock District. Because only 75,000 gallons of water were needed, Little Rock, rather than activate its Power Response Team, agreed to let Tulsa District do the purchasing. Sue Morris from Logistics Management Office, Bill Parkerson from Operations Division, and Larry Stringer from Engineering and Construction Division deployed to accept the water deliveries at various shelter locations in and around Oklahoma City.

Logistics Management Office’s Lucy Spaulding, Engineering and Construction’s Kerri Stark, Programs Project Management Division’s Joyce Yarborough and Burgin Towe, and Operations Division’s Jim Harris staffed the Emergency Operations Center. They coordinated phone calls and communications and prepared daily reports to keep higher headquarters aware of unfolding events. Melonie Stahlman, Resource Management Office, entered funds into CEFMS as they were received, while Glenda Gallaway and Shirley Rolison of Programs Project Management Division ensured that CEFMS’ travel orders, PR&Cs, and labor account transactions were handled in a timely manner.

Engineering and Construction’s Patrick Beard joined the team towards the end of the mission to perform quality assurance of the installed generators, and Steve Lucas deployed on an on-call basis to monitor the contractor’s generator service and maintenance activities.

In all, the Emergency Power Team had 37 missions and deployed 26 generators. These generators provided power to public emergency shelters, water wells and lifting station pumps, and water supply treatment plants. One was used to support airport operations.

By Feb. 11, the power companies were gaining the upper hand and restoring power grids. The Emergency Power Team and the 249<sup>th</sup> Engineering Battalion were released Feb. 13.

# Drought plagues Hulah Lake

by Alicia Embrey, Public Affairs

**W**ater is our most vital natural resource. Whether too much or too little, its presence-or absence—defines quality of life. The drought that has plagued northeast Oklahoma for more than a year has dramatically affected Hulah Lake, a 51-year-old lake on the Oklahoma-Kansas line northwest of Bartlesville, Okla. The lake that serves as a water supply source for the city of Bartlesville and the surrounding area has less than 20 percent of its water storage remaining. The rest was taken by contracted water users with much higher than normal demands or lost to extremely high evaporation rates.

The lake's potential for water storage has also been reduced due to heavy siltation over its long life. Current sedimentation projections estimate that Hulah has lost 11,310 acre-feet of conservation storage to sediment. This volume of sediment placed on a football field would be more than two miles high.

Concern over the conditions at Hulah surfaced November

2001 when the lake reached 50 percent of its conservation pool and the Corps convened its agency drought management committee. By April 2002, the lake had dropped to 25 percent of its conservation pool, and an interagency drought management committee was convened. It met twice in April and will continue to meet as long as conditions warrant. The Corps serves as facilitator for the committee of federal, state, and community representatives. It provides a means for to share concerns, address solutions, and make recommendations on drought-related problems ranging from the price of water storage to potential fish kills.

At the April 19 meeting, Col. Robert Suthard, Tulsa District commander, offered the city of Bartlesville an emergency drought relief package using water from nearby Copan Lake. He said the city is expected to follow up the good-faith agreement with long-term solutions to their water supply situation.

Copan Lake is currently 30 percent below normal.



**Hulah Lake buoy separating the swimming and boating areas. Picture taken in early April by Mary Beth Hudson.**



**Boat dock resting on the dry lake bed at Hulah Lake. Picture taken in early April by Mary Beth Hudson.**



**Picture of Hulah dam taken at what was the deep end of the Wah-Sha-She State Park swimming area. Picture by Glenda Vincent.**



**The sign "Help Keep Our Water Clean" posted near the dry lake bed. Picture taken in early April by Mary Beth Hudson.**

# The North American Safe Boating Campaign wants to get something off its chest...and onto yours.

## *A life jacket!*

Life jackets can be the determining factor between life and death in many boating accidents. Each year between 700 and 800 people die in boating-related accidents – 9 out of every 10 victims were not wearing a life jacket. According to Virgil Chambers, executive director of the National Safe Boating Council, “Thousands of people would be alive today had they taken the simple precaution of wearing a life jacket when they went out on the water.”

In an effort to combat these statistics, the National Safe Boating Council, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, will launch the annual North American Safe Boating Campaign during National Safe Boating Week, May 18-24. The campaign is designed to reach more than 80 million boaters around North America and communicate this year’s life saving message: “Boat Smart from the Start. Wear Your Life Jacket.”

“We will again stress the importance of wearing life jackets. The Coast Guard has a goal to eliminate deaths, injuries and property damage associated with recreational boating,” said Kenneth T. Venuto, rear admiral, U.S. Coast Guard. “The Coast Guard and its partners are committed to a Safe

Boating Campaign that reaches from shore to shore across the North America continent. Our neighbors to the north, the Canadian Safe Boating Council and the Canadian Coast Guard, will also observe Safe Boating Week on May 18-24. Boating smart is an essential part of any day on the water regardless of where you boat.”

During National Safe Boating Week, the National Safe Boating Council, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the Canadian Safe Boating Council, along with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Power Squadrons, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other groups, organize local exhibits, provide special programs on safe boating and generate extensive media coverage.

Although the 2002 campaign kicks off during National Safe Boating Week, it’s a year-round crusade that counts on grassroots activities and the support of many volunteer groups. More than 18,000 action kits will be distributed to local campaign coordinators throughout the country to spread the message of safe boating.



## Eufaula rangers teach water safety

The Eufaula Water Safety Team, composed of Eufaula Rangers and Oklahoma Lake Patrol Officers, have finished their annual Water Safety Education Programs at area schools. The scheduled programs began the last week of January and continued through the second week of April. The programs offered Water Safety Education to 2,500 students at 24 schools in the Eufaula area. Corps members of the team were park rangers Rick Smither, Aimee Jordan, and Randy Shannon.

**NOTICE** - The Coast Guard is requiring that children under age 13, aboard recreational vessels wear personal flotation devices or lifejackets. During 1995-1998, 105 children under 13 died in the water, 66 of them by drowning.



# First Quarter Customer Care

## A Winning Combination

*Editor's note: Thanks to Maj. Dominic J. Sparacio for allowing us to publish his letter to Col. Suthard.*

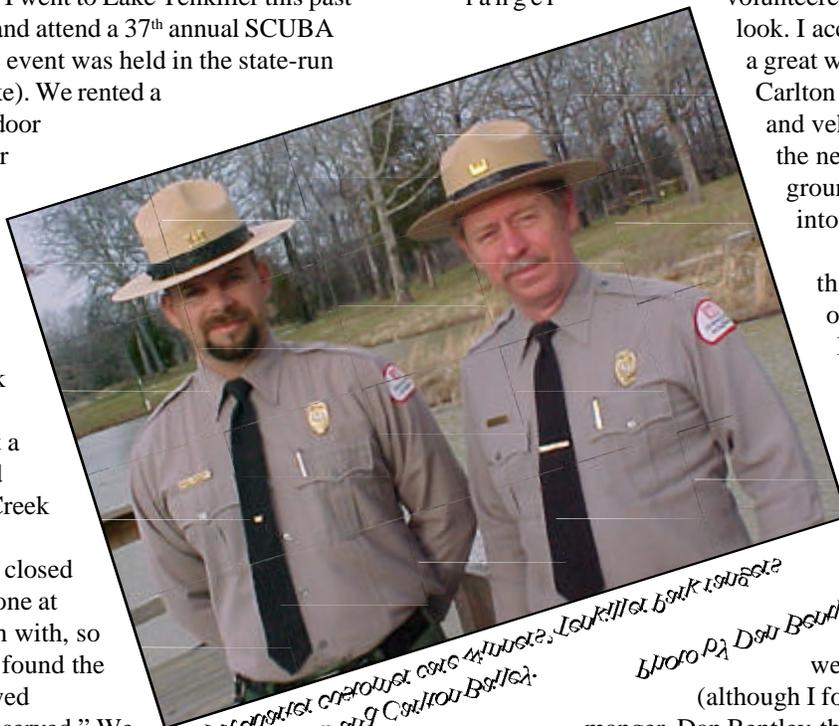
Sir,  
I have a great Tulsa District customer service story to share about two of our outstanding park rangers:

My wife, Jennifer, and I went to Lake Tenkiller this past weekend to go camping and attend a 37<sup>th</sup> annual SCUBA marathon at the lake (the event was held in the state-run Pine Creek area of the lake). We rented a camping trailer from Outdoor Recreation here on Tinker and made a campsite reservation online through the National Recreation Reservation Service website for a waterfront campsite in our (SWT) Chicken Creek area of the lake.

We, unfortunately got a late start from Tinker and didn't arrive at Chicken Creek until 9:50 p.m., about 10 minutes before the gates closed at 10 p.m. There was no one at the gatehouse to check in with, so we drove to our site and found the signpost at the site showed "available" instead of "reserved." We also realized that the site, which was supposed to be "partially shaded" according to the website, only had one tree which was not near the trailer pad.

As we discussed our situation, two SWT park rangers pulled up in their pickup. We believe their names are Carlton Bailey and Dean Roberts. We told them that we were concerned with the sign and asked how we could confirm if our reservation was still good. We had our reservation number from online. The rangers called into their station to verify the reservation. While the station was checking on the reservation, the rangers noted that "our" site had no shade and that we may want to look for another site with some shade and that we may want to look for another site with some shade to provide some protection from the heat of the sun. The site adjacent to ours (which said "no shade" on the website) was vacant and actually had a tree next to the trailer pad. The rangers called into the station again to find out if that site had been reserved. Since the gatekeeper was not at the gatehouse and did not respond to a call from the station, the rangers volunteered to drive up to the gatehouse to check the computer themselves for reservations. About 5-10 minutes later, one of the rangers, Carlton, returned to tell us the adjacent site was available.

But, while we thought about taking the adjacent site, Carlton suggested that we consider driving through another waterfront campsite area in Chicken Creek, which was first-come-first-served to see if a better site might be available. As my wife and I looked at each other to decide whether we should do that, the ranger volunteered to drive me over there to look. I accepted the offer and we found a great waterfront site with shade. Carlton then took me back to my wife and vehicle, and then led us back to the new site. He also assisted as a ground guide as I backed our trailer into the site.



The best part about this is that they had no idea I was part of the District of Corps of Engineers until we found that great site (not that we should have received any special treatment as members of the district). As far as the rangers knew, we were just average customers who got there late.

Since it was after 10 p.m., we figured they were there after their duty hours (although I found out today from their lake manager, Dan Bentley, that they were on night shift).

Regardless of their duty hours, they were exceptionally helpful.

After I told Carlton that I was with the district, I asked him about our lake office, manpower and maintenance situation there. He told me he had either been at Tenkiller or been a ranger or both for over 20 years (I can't quite remember which). He also mentioned that it was hard for him to watch as the maintenance funds dwindle and reduce his ability to really help and support the customers. It was painfully obvious how seriously he takes his job and how he almost personally takes the dwindling maintenance funds to heart. I'm sure anyone would agree when I say that I wish we had more employees, or co-workers, or leaders for that matter, who take their job so personally.

Maybe that's just what our rangers do and who they really are and I haven't met enough of them to realize that. But we were incredibly grateful and, as a result of their dedication, had a great and comfortable weekend.

Jennifer and I just wanted to let someone know how dedicated and helpful our rangers were.

Dominic J. Sparacio, Major, U.S. Army, Project Engineer  
Tinker AFB

# Volunteer Fire Department receives award

Louis Holstead, Waurika Lake Project manager presented the members of the Waurika Volunteer Fire Department a certificate of appreciation during the fire departments' monthly meeting March 18. The certificate was presented to say thanks for the department's participation in numerous events at the lake throughout the past year. Several members of Waurikas' department have volunteered their free time to help with controlled burns; they have brought equipment to flush out the project's water storage tank, and have filled pit toilet storage vaults so they could be pumped out. The entire department worked with the Waurika Project in coordinating the first Fourth of July fireworks display held on Corps property at Waurika Lake. They have expressed interest in holding the event at the lake again this year and the project employees are looking forward to another opportunity to work with the local department.



Johnny Berry, assistant fire chief and Chuck Brown, fire chief, accepting the certificate of appreciation from Louis Holstead, Waurika Lake manager.



## Recognizing Excellence

### The Service to America Medals

Office of Personnel Management

In the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11, Americans got a rare chance to witness their federal government in action. As OPM Director Kay Coles James told federal employees last fall, "your response during this emergency has helped raise public awareness of the integrity, courage, and unwavering commitment of our federal workforce." Unfortunately, positive stories about federal workers are not told often enough and it is all too easy to lose sight of the important contributions they make every day.

To pay tribute to the dedicated employees in the federal workforce and to send a powerful message to the American people about the importance of the civil service, the Partnership for Public Service, Government Executive, National Journal and The Atlantic Monthly have created a prestigious national awards program called the Service to America Medals. Awardees will be announced annually in September and honored at a gala awards ceremony in the nation's capitol. Awardees will receive a significant monetary award (\$3,000-\$10,000) and be profiled in Government Executive, The Atlantic Monthly and National Journal.

#### Nomination Process

All nominations to the awards program must be submitted on-line at: [www.govexec.com/pps](http://www.govexec.com/pps) Nominations will be accepted until May 1, 2002. Nominations may be submitted by any person familiar with the nominee and his or her work. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Awardees will be chosen by a selection committee of prominent national leaders representing government, business, media and the non-profit community.

The Service to America Medals will honor those who have shown a strong commitment to public service and have demonstrated significant accomplishment within their government field that is innovative, high impact, and meets a critical need for the nation. Award categories include:

#### Federal Employee of the Year Medal

This medal will recognize the nominee who exemplifies the best and brightest of the federal workforce.

#### Career Achievement Medal

This medal will recognize the nominee who demonstrates lifetime achievement in public service.

#### Call to Service Medal

This medal will recognize the nominee who has made a significant contribution to the country as a recent entrant to the federal workforce.

#### Heroes of September 11th Medal

This medal will recognize a nominee who has made a significant contribution during or after the events of September 11th.

#### Medals recognizing achievement in specific government fields

Several medals will recognize nominees who have demonstrated significant accomplishment within a particular government field (e.g., education, health, space, national security, commerce, environment, etc.)

# Corps judges Science Fair projects

By Peter Navesky, Readiness Team Leader

The Tulsa District was proud to continue the tradition of sponsoring special awards in Science and Engineering Fairs on behalf of the U.S. Army at the 2002 Tulsa Regional Science Fair, the 45<sup>th</sup> annual event in Tulsa.

The Army awards program recognizes freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior high school students, and team projects in the six categories of engineering, mathematics and computer science, environmental sciences, life sciences, and physical science. The projects were judged based on overall creativity, thoroughness, scientific thought or engineering goals, demonstrated skills, and clarity of information presented.

Judges at this year's event, led by Glenna Wheatley, were Cynthia Kitchens, Daniel Birnbaum, Andy Obrochta, Rusty Roberts, and Randall Lewis. Kerri Stark and Burgin Towe prepared the awards.

Lt. Col. Stephen Zeltner recognized the students and their projects as the winners of each respective category with the assistance of Dawn Knight and Burgin Towe at the March 10 awards ceremony. The awards consisted of a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Secretary of the Army, Mr. Thomas E. White, and an Army Science Fair backpack.

Life Sciences: **Alicia McDermott**, sophomore, "Ethics and Teens: Is it possible to detect troubled youth?"

Earth, Space & Environmental Sciences: **Melissa D. Hannan**, sophomore, "What absorbs oil best?"

Math, Computer Science: **Vangie M. Rocha**, freshman, "Binary numbers and a magic game;"

Engineering: **Melissa N. Martinek**, freshman, "Would vehicle deceleration lights improve the responsiveness of a trailing driver?"

Physical Science: **Jessika H. McCarver**, freshman, "pH in tap water;"

Team Category: **Bonita E. Franklin, Kelsey W. Lunsford, and Ryan W. Ward**, 3 freshmen, "Are 'U' sleeping drosophila?"

Lt. Col. Zeltner also recognized one student as the most outstanding Army project winner of the 2002 Tulsa Regional Science Fair. In addition to the Certificate of Achievement and



Dan Birnbaum, Andy Obrochta look over a students science project while Rusty Roberts gives it her rating.

backpack, this student received the Bronze Army Medallion for Science and Engineering Excellence.

Overall Winner: **Matthew J. Schillaci**, sophomore, "Electronic mass accelerator."

The Tulsa Post of the Society of American Military Engineers recognized the following three top scoring projects in the 2002 Tulsa Regional Science Fair using the Army Science Fair judging criteria.

**Matthew J. Schillaci**, sophomore, "Electronic mass accelerator;"

**Alicia McDermott**, sophomore, "Ethics and Teens: Is it possible to detect troubled youth?"

**Melissa N. Martinek**, freshman, "Would vehicle deceleration lights improve the responsiveness of a trailing driver?"

The Department of the Army, through the U.S. Army Research Office, has sponsored special awards in Science and Engineering Fairs across the United States since 1960.

## May - July

# District Events

**Memorial Day** -May 27

**Corps Day Picnic, Corps Day Awards Ceremony**  
June 7

**Independence Day**-July 4

# Endangered Species Act creates interest, controversy

by Keith Francis, District Counsel Assistant

Federal agencies must comply with numerous environmental statutes. One that often creates great controversy and significant public interest is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1531-1544).

Congress enacted the ESA for the express purpose of conserving species of plants and animals endangered or threatened with potential extinction in the U.S. The protection also extends to the ecosystems on which the species depend. At present, 418 animal and 404 plant species are listed as protected. The determination on what species to list is made by the Department of the Interior and is to be based on the best scientific and commercial data available.

One of the earliest and most famous ESA cases involved the snail darter, a small fish declared endangered and dependent on a restricted habitat. The Tennessee Valley Authority was sued to stop the closure of an essentially complete, multi-million dollar dam that would have destroyed the snail darters' critical habitat.

Proponents of the dam argued that since congress authorized and continued to fund the dam's construction, it surely did not mean for the ESA to halt completion and result in millions of wasted dollars. Opponents argued that the language of the act mandated compliance with the ESA as the premiere concern, regardless of the circumstances.

The case, TVA v. Hill, eventually reached the Supreme Court. The court majority wrote that the "plain intent of congress in enacting [the ESA] was to halt and reverse the trend towards

species extinction, whatever the cost." It further stated that "Congress intended protection of endangered species to be afforded the highest of priorities," and that congress made a "conscious decision...to give endangered species priority over the 'primary missions' of federal agencies." Subsequent cases have not deviated from this basic premise. Other cases have clarified that federal agencies should not only avoid causing harm to species, but have a responsibility to be involved in helping the species recover. Although Federal agencies must

comply with the ESA, there is always some discretion on the specifics of that compliance. Good faith and reasonableness are standards which must be considered.

As a result, the ESA is one of the most significant environmental statutes for

federal agencies to consider when undertaking any action. Failure to meet ESA requirements can obviously result in serious consequences to agency plans. Non-Compliance can also carry civil penalties of up to \$25,000 or criminal penalties of up to \$50,000 and/or a year in prison. Individual federal employees have been held liable for violations of the ESA. In one instance, GS-11 and 12 employees at an Army installation were indicted for intentionally failing to note the presence of critical habitat for an endangered bird when considering timber lease requests.

Much careful thought and consideration must be given to the implementation of an agency's actions so that they fully comply with the ESA. Employees are invited to contact Office of Counsel whenever questions arise over the act's requirements.



Least Tern



Snail Darter

## New Identification in Your Future DoD Common Access Card

Prepare for your new identity. Coming soon is a new identification card — the Common Access Card. Nearly 4 million active duty military members, selected reservists, DoD civilians, and eligible contractors will receive a CAC. CAC issuance began in October 2000 and is scheduled for completion in 2002. This card can serve many purposes including identification, access to buildings, and access to computer systems. Local commands will determine the extent of the functions used. The CAC website is available at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard>

## Employee assistance available

The Employee Assistance Program or EAP is a voluntary program which helps employees and their families obtain professional guidance in dealing with personal, family or health-related problems, or any situation causing emotional distress. You are guaranteed that all information related to your participation in the EAP will be kept strictly confidential. The EAP service providers for the Tulsa District are David G. Smith, Ed.D, and Rosemary Priest. For more information call 918-625-9024 or email them at [CorpsEAP@aol.com](mailto:CorpsEAP@aol.com).



# Departing Mayor receives award

Col. Robert Suthard, commander presented Tulsa's Mayor Susan Savage, with the Commander's Award March 26 in recognition of her outstanding leadership and innovative partnering while serving as mayor of Tulsa.

The Tulsa District has had a remarkable relationship with the city of Tulsa over the past 63 years. Mayor Susan Savage's 10-year tenure has been some of the most active for the district.

During her term our relationship with

the city has become even stronger with the economic benefits brought with the control of flooding in the Mingo Creek basin area. Under the leadership of Mayor Savage, the city's Mingo Creek project became the winner of several national awards and she presented this jewel to the national public on a CBS "Eye on America" project.

The district also worked with the city on Arkansas River Least Terns Management, Tulsa and West Tulsa Levees Rehabilitation, Fry Creeks Local Flood Protection; and the Oologah Lake Water Quality Study.

Programs we have partnered with the city include Project Impact and Pride Partner. We've built our relationship with the city into the very model we use to



Mayor Susan Savage accepting the Commander's Award from Col. Robert Suthard.

manage the business we have with other customers.

## Help needed for Corps Day events

by Dan McPherson and Cathey Williams, Operations Division

Operations Division stepped up to the plate for another year by planning the 2002 Corps Day picnic, June 7 at River City Park, Sand Springs. The reason may be that there is not much going on down here in Ops anyway, just the usual getting ready for the summer activities and waiting for the spring rains that we hope arrive (especially up around the Hulah Lake area!). Just kidding!

If we have bad weather and it rains, we will have the event at the District Office (no alternate rain date). That would be interesting. Anyway, let's hope for perfect weather at the park so

everyone can come and have a GREAT time! Plan for this day with your family, friends, and co-workers.

We're still in the planning stages and looking for volunteers to coordinate many of the activities. We know that many of you have assisted in the past and we really need your support again.

Although we haven't had a theme in the past we thought it would be a fun idea to try it this year. With all the difficulties our country has gone through in the past year, we would like to have a patriotic theme. We encourage everyone to wear Red, White, and/or Blue! Bring an American flag to wave or display on your vehicle. We would also like to have a "Parade" of bikes, wagons, people, whatever, decorated with red, white, and blue. Floats will be judged and prizes awarded for first, second, and third place. Offices, families, or individuals can enter a float. Come on! Let's show our pride and enthusiasm and have a great day and a great picnic.

The meal has not been decided upon at this time. You can expect to pay around \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids whatever we decide to have. It could be cheaper, but not much more.

So far plans are to have a clown, face painting, and Jupiter jump(s); the usual softball, basketball, and volleyball tournaments; a car show, music, and more.

Retirees may call Cathey Williams, 669-7383, for information.

**A successful day will depend on a little help from quite a few folks.**



## Women's History Program

# Committee announces "Women of the Year"

Congratulations to the nominees and award recipients of this year's Women's History Program. The winners are:

### The Woman of the Year

Phyllis Jordan  
Engineering and Construction

### Mentor of the Year

Janet Patterson  
Keystone Area Office

### Administrative/Clerical Employee of the Year

Kerri Stark  
Engineering and Construction

Nominees for administrative/clerical employee of the year were: Brenda Anderson, Jean Eberhardt, Lynda Hafer, Georgia Lewis, Mary Samuel, Kerri Stark, and Sally Van Winkle.

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# Long Term Care Insurance available

The U.S. Government is offering a new benefit-long-term care insurance-to civilian federal employees, their families and retirees. The program is designed to cover expenses related to long-term medical care in a nursing home or in a patient's home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including their parents. Federal retirees may enroll only themselves and their spouse in the program. The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and Metlife insurance companies to provide the benefit.

It is relatively easy for a federal employee to figure out if he or she is eligible to apply for this program. If you are a federal employee and you're in a position that conveys eligibility to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, then you are eligible to apply for enrollment in this program. It does not matter if you are actually enrolled in FEHB, only that you are eligible to enroll. If you have any doubts about your eligibility for FEHB, your Human Resources Office can help you.

There are only two exceptions — D.C. Government employees are not eligible to apply for enrollment in this program even if they are eligible for FEHB. And this "rule" doesn't apply to members of the uniformed services or others.

Premiums have not yet been announced, but rates will vary based upon coverage, inflation protection and current age of the person being covered.

Employees interested in learning more about long-term care insurance should visit the website [www.ltcfeds.com](http://www.ltcfeds.com). Employees can subscribe to a free, monthly bulletin, "Get Smart About Your Future" on the website. The bulletin features answers to questions about long-term care and the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. In addition, the bulletin will contain valuable tips and advice related to health, finances and lifestyle.

Early enrollment for the new program is open until May 15, followed by an open enrollment season beginning July 1 through Dec. 31. Enrollment information and other specifics on the program can be found on the Internet at [www.opm.gov/insure/ltc](http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc).

For more information on this and other federal benefits for civilians, visit the CHRMA website at [www.chrma.army.mil](http://www.chrma.army.mil).

# VISA CARD SCAM ALERT

VISA USA Fraud Control has learned of a scam designed to obtain cardholders personal data and account information. VISA reports this activity in Canada, but suspects it may spread to the United States. A member/cardholder may receive the following letter:

*"VISA Department of International Investigations.*

*Dear .....*

*We regret to inform you that your credit card is cancelled until further notice and this in accordance with article 205 of chapter 210 of the international fraud department. We suspect that your card has been involved in criminal activity. In the next two days one of our investigators will contact you on the phone and proceed to verify your customer information. The violation of this law is a serious criminal act and could bring you before the courts. Your bank will not be able to assist you until our investigation is over. We are advising you that our offices are open 24 hrs a day. For further information on the matter you may visit our web site at [HTTP/WWW>VISAFRAUD.COM](http://WWW.VISAFRAUD.COM)  
Yours truly, XXXXX.... Director Visa Corporation"*

VISA reports it is not sending this letter. Do not respond to this letter or any subsequent telephone calls. Also report to VISAUSA Fraud Control, if any of you receive this or a similar letter. Contact SCAM Alert at 1-800-637-2676, email us at [scamalert@cunamutual.com](mailto:scamalert@cunamutual.com), or fax the information to 608-231-8987.

# Operations and Maintenance

Notes by Johnny Bell

## Status of Hydropower Projects

### Robert S. Kerr Excitation Repair:

Initial submittals are in and being reviewed by Portland's Hydroelectric Design Center. FY02 events for this project will consist mainly of manufacturing and preparation for installation beginning in FY03.

### Robert S. Kerr Intake Crane Equipment Control Replacement:

Award of this contract is anticipated by mid-March.

### Webbers Falls/Keystone Excitation System Repair:

We are still in the evaluation process with potential contractors. Anticipate contract award by the end of March. Activities will consist of manufacturing and preparation for installation in FY03.

Since the last Tulsa District Record, I have moved. Contrary to the rampant rumors, I am not in Operations Division, but I am about as close as one can get without actually being there on paper. I now reside right next to the Chief of Operations on the first floor. Is that a good thing? Only time will tell!

## Ongoing Contracts

Work continues on the Eufaula tainter gate rehabilitation. Current contract completion date is anticipated in May 2002.

The Keystone tainter gate rehabilitation contract is virtually complete. We are waiting for the lake levels to rise to test the new seals before we completely buy off on the project.

## Upcoming Contracts

Negotiations are underway with the bidders for the Oologah Project Office roof. The two lowest bidders were disqualified as non-responsive and the remaining bidders were too high for award. We anticipate negotiations to be completed and contract awarded by the end of March.

Road upgrade packages for Fort Supply, Waurika, Texoma, Eufaula, Robert S. Kerr, and Skiatook projects are in advertisement at this time. Contract awards for these packages are anticipated in April. Approximately \$3.2 million in roadwork will be underway this summer.

## O&M Studies

### Birch Dam Safety Assurance Report:

The report will recommend no further action for this project. Additional erosion modeling studies indicate that erosion of the spillway will occur, however, the majority of the Probable Maximum Flood will be safely passed before loss (if any) of the structure. There is no loss of life and the incremental structural damage is not sufficient to warrant a major rehabilitation of the spillway.

### Lake Kemp Dam Safety Assurance Report:

Permission has been received from headquarters to continue with this report. Surveying and drilling contracts are underway at this time. The effort in FY02 will be to collect all the data needed to assemble the report in FY03 for submission to HQUSACE by mid-March FY03. This report is cost shared with the city of Wichita Falls, Texas, and the rural water district.

An organized site visit was held at Fort Gibson, Eufaula, and Texoma Powerhouses Feb. 20-21 for the power intake gate rehabilitation.



**Contractors and Tulsa District personnel viewing a power intake gate at Texoma.**

Bid opening is scheduled for March 14. The contract has a 240-calendar day timeframe.

After two attempts at request for proposals for manufacturing and installation of new service breakers at Broken Bow Powerhouse, a decision has been made to go to a Federal Service Supply contract through General Services Administration for the work at both Broken Bow and Tenkiller powerhouses. We anticipate that the contract will be awarded in March.

Customer-funded design effort is underway for the Webbers Falls powerhouse rehabilitation. Plans and specifications for rehabilitation of the powerhouse cranes, generator rewinds and service breaker installation, are underway with Portland's Hydroelectric Design Center. The designs will be completed by the end of the fiscal year. Currently, funding for the rehabilitation is anticipated in FY04, as the project is not in the president's FY03 budget. Effort is underway for potential customer funding of the project.

# Safety

## Hand and portable power tools tips

Compiled by Judy Baker, Safety Office

Tools are such a common part of our lives that we tend to forget they can pose hazards. All tools are manufactured with safety in mind, but accidents occur before we take time to find and eliminate the hazards associated with the tools. We must learn to recognize the hazards and how to prevent them before any tragic accidents can occur.

### HAZARDS OF HAND TOOLS

The greatest hazards posed by hand tools result from misuse and improper maintenance. Some examples of this include the following:

- Using a screwdriver as a chisel—may cause the screwdriver tip to break off and hit and injure a co-worker or yourself.
- A cracked, loose, or splintered wooden handle—the head may separate from the handle and injure anyone nearby. Don't tape the handle and think it is fixed. Replace the handle completely or discard the tool.
- A sprung jaw on a wrench—may cause slippage and should never be used.
- Using impact tools with mushroomed heads—could lead to shattered heads and sharp fragments, which can cause eye damage or sight loss.

### GENERAL RULES FOR PORTABLE POWER TOOLS

Handheld power tools can be hazardous when improperly used. Operators need to be properly trained in the use and care of tools before operating them. Recommended training includes understanding the potential hazards associated with power tools and observing the following precautions during use:

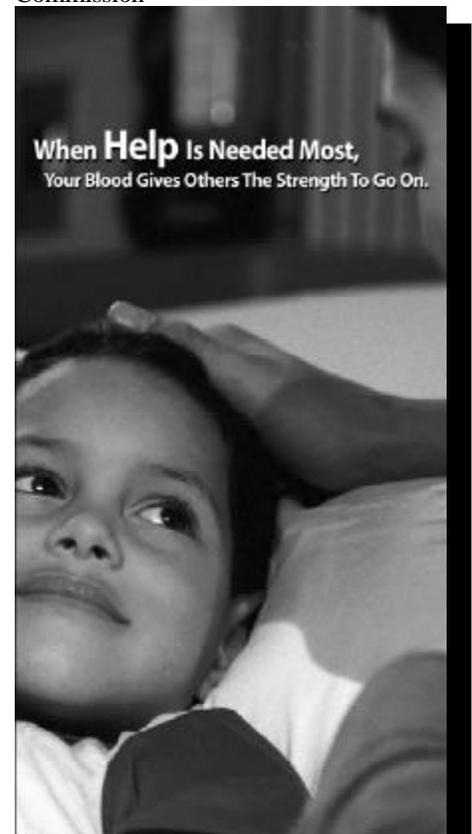
- Never carry a power tool by the cord or hose; never yank on the cord or hose to disconnect the tool from a power source. This can damage the cord or hose and cause the tool to malfunction.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil, and sharp edges.
- Disconnect tools when not in use, before servicing, and when changing accessories such as blades, bits, and cutters.
- Keep observers at a safe distance from the work area. Only the operators should be in the area in which tools are being used.
- Secure the work with clamps or a vise to keep your hands free. If the material being worked on breaks loose, it could cause a serious injury to the operator.
- To avoid accidental starting, keep your finger off the switch button when carrying a tool that is plugged in.
- Maintain all tools in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Keep the tool's instruction manual, which covers maintenance and recommended safety precautions.
- Wear manufacturer-recommended protective equipment (e.g. goggles, safety glasses, gloves, or hard hats) when using the tool.
- Maintain good footing and proper balance when operating tools and wear appropriate clothing (no loose clothing, ties, jewelry, etc.) to avoid becoming entangled in moving parts.

- Remove damaged power tools from service and don't use them again until they have been properly repaired.

Remember to safeguard hazardous moving parts of a power tool if you are exposed to them. The manufacturer should provide the necessary guards, which will protect the operator and nearby co-workers from the following:

- Point of operation—the point at which materials come in contact with the machine
- Rotating parts—protects the operator from becoming entangled in the parts.
- Flying chips and sparks—this is commonly used on a bench grinder to protect the operator's eyes.

References: Texas Worker's Compensation Commission



When Help Is Needed Most,  
Your Blood Gives Others The Strength To Go On.

 Together, we can save a life.  
1-800-GIVE LIFE | [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**Next Drive  
July 10**

# Tulsa District



## Family News

### Retiree Requests

Do you remember Lee Reeh?



Richard Reeh is looking for pictures of his father to prepare for a Fathers Day present. If you can help, call 405/231-4896 or mail your pictures to Richard L. Reeh, ALJ, OHA-US DOI, 215 Dean A. McGee Avenue, Ste. 820, Oklahoma City, Ok 73102.

#### Looking for Wanda Blackwell –

Corps retiree Pam Burgess is looking for Wanda Blackwell. If you can help, call 918-756-5406.

### Condolences

Earl Gill passed away Feb. 18. Earl was a former employee in planning during the sixties and seventies.

J. Lee Hogue, former chief Real Estate and former chief Appraisal Branch and his wife Eleanor have both passed. J. Lee passed away in December and Eleanor in February.

# Blast from the past



If you have information about this picture, call 918-669-7367.

Jack Lane passed away in December. He retired in 1972 as Realty Officer, M&D, and Real Estate Division.

Hal Capshaw's mother, Laura passed away Feb. 24.

Ledal Scott, Mother-in-law of David Mosley passed away Feb. 26.

Laurel Brown's mother passed away this past Feb. 24.

Jack Westland passed away Apr. 7. Westland was a Keystone Dam and Lock and Dam 18 employee from June 51 – January 81.

### Thanks You Notes

Brown sends appreciation- Wanted to let everyone know how very much I appreciated all the cards and kind words when my mother passed away, it

was such a comfort to know people were thinking about me, the Corps has been hit pretty hard in the last few weeks, with others losing loved ones and losing retirees, it's never easy, no matter how good a life or how long a life, we don't want to let them go.

Again, Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. -**Laurel I. Brown**

#### Blood Drive Results

Thanks to all that helped and those that donated or at least tried with our onsite blood drive.

- 48 - Number of donors presenting
- 3 - First time donors
- 47 - Units collected

The next onsite blood drive is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2002.

*Thanks a bunch  
Helen Williams*

*Wellness Committee Member*

# Giant Alligator Gar

## February 28, 1952

Caught by Druie Williams and Brod Overman, both of Fame, Okla., at the mouth of the Deep Fork River where it empties into the North Canadian River a few miles north of Eufaula, Okla. The fish weighed 170 lbs. and measured seven feet and five inches from snout to tail. It was caught when it became entangled in a three-inch mesh gill net, which the men were fishing with. They fought the fish for more than an hour and a half before they finally succeeded in lashing it to the side of their boat with the boat chain. Then they managed to beach the boat and drag the fish upon the riverbank and fastened a chain through the gills to hold it so they could drag it out on the bank.



## Eufaula's early days

Most of the 600-mile shoreline of Lake Eufaula lies within the boundaries of the old Creek Nation, with part of the southern portion in the old Choctaw Nation. Many of the reminders of the colorful history of this area—Indian life, outlaw gangs, and Civil War battles—remain for visitors to see.



The Battle of Honey Springs, the largest and most important of the battles fought during the Civil War in Oklahoma took place July 17, 1863, on a battleground site about 3 1/2 miles northeast of Checotah, Okla, presently owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The lake waters nestle across the old Texas Road over which in the 1830s more than a thousand covered wagons rolled in each week as seniors moved from the east into Texas. The much-used trade route was the forerunner of the present-day U.S. 69. When the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad—the Katy—built the first rail lines southward across Indian Territory in 1872, it also followed the route of the Texas Road.

Eufaula, the county seat of McIntosh County and former Record Town for Recording District No. 12, Indian Territory, was named after one of the historic Creek Indian villages in the Creeks' old homeland in Alabama. Just a half mile east of Eufaula was the site of North Fork Town, settled by the Creeks shortly after their arrival in this area in 1836. The Texas Road and a branch of the California Road crossed at North Fork Town, making it a center of traffic. This important tribal community now

under Eufaula Lake was the scene of a treaty making between the Confederates and the Creeks, Choctaws, and Chickasaws in 1861.

Near the north end of Eufaula Dam was the home of Belle Starr, fabled woman outlaw of early Indian territorial days. Here was the hideout of her gang, and at times of the Youngers and Jessie and Frank James.



Northeast of Eufaula is the site of Asbury Mission, a boarding school established by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1849 with the Creek Council. The original buildings burned in 1889 and were rebuilt by the Creeks in 1892. The Indian Journal, located at Eufaula, is the oldest surviving newspaper in Oklahoma. It was founded in Muskogee in 1876 as a Creek tribal organ. Alexander Pose the famous Creek poet and statesman once edited it.



One of the most famous landmarks of the area has vanished beneath the waters of Lake Eufaula. Standing Rock, which stood 63 feet above the waters of the Canadian River five miles east of Eufaula, was noted as a fishing spot by early-day settlers. Standing Rock was first recorded on papers of early day Spanish explorers. Spanish symbols carved on the rock were believed by some to have pointed to the location of

buried treasure. The rock also was mentioned in notes of Captain Bonneville, who led an expedition there from Fort Gibson in 1830.