

# TULSA

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## DISTRICT RECORD

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US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Tulsa District



Col. Miroslav Kurka  
District Commander

## Commander's Corner

Two months have passed since my last column, and I've spent most of that time traveling to visit our many projects and military customers. These visits have reinforced my firm belief that our greatest strength is our people.

Our people possess the key values and capabilities that are critical to our future success. They exhibit a CULTURE that is customer focused, caring, and takes great pride in serving the nation and in providing true value to community, state, and country. Many of our members have served overseas in the Global War on Terrorism, with seven (Ross Adkins, Ron Cuff, Randall Lewis, Randy Moe, Rusty Roberts, Jamie Hyslop and Ed Parisotto) currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, more than 23 Tulsa District members recently volunteered and deployed to the southeastern United States to support hurricane relief efforts.

Our people are also highly TECHNICALLY COMPETENT. Our district has both depth and breadth in technical skills with the ability to solve multifaceted engineering and environmental problems. This is readily evident to me when I visit great projects like the Chloride Control Project at Truscott Brine Lake where engi-

neers are developing software and electronics to remote their operations, while also testing various plant life to determine optimal transpiration, and operating heavy engineering equipment to maintain and upgrade their project.

Tulsa people are also LEADERS who are experts at building RELATIONSHIPS. Great Tulsa project managers are daily leading complex and diverse Project Delivery Teams with numerous partners. These partners each have their own authorities and funding sources, and our PMs must coordinate these authorities, funding sources, and differing motivations in order to develop and deliver projects the nation needs. A prime example of this is the terrific work being done by the Tar Creek PDT under the leadership of Jonna Polk and Gene Lilly.

Tulsa people are true PROFESSIONALS. They are selfless, trustworthy, and possess great integrity. They are seen by most as honest brokers.

If we properly focus our efforts and empower our people, these core strengths of CULTURE, TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, LEADERSHIP, and PROFESSIONALISM will carry us into the future. We live in a volatile, highly competitive world. Continued transformation towards the vision of USACE 2012 is vital to the future health and vitality of the Tulsa District.

I am currently reading "Good to Great: Why Some Organizations Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't" by Jim Collins. In the book, Collins looked at 11 companies, including Fannie Mae, Gillette, Walgreens, and Wells Fargo and found common threads of success. The key to success appeared to be a corporate culture that found and promoted disciplined, ethical people with entrepreneurial spirit. The best companies also avoided radical changes and focused on core competencies. "Good to Great" reinforces my optimism about the Tulsa

**Continued on page 18**

## From the Cover



*Pictured are Corps personnel sandblasting the end of the upstream river wall miter gates so they can apply Belzona. The man at the top of the gate is helping guide the basket controlled by a crane.*

# Dewater delights districts

Locks on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System are supposed to be dewatered every 12 years to perform maintenance and repairs in areas not accessible under normal conditions. Due to budget constraints, Webbers Falls Lock 16 was the first project of its kind in Tulsa District since 1998.

*See story on pages 10-12*

### **Tulsa District Record**

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Photo by Alicia Embrey

Michelle Wilson does double duty during Day of Caring work at the Tall Chief Girl Scout Camp.

placed a deep layer of mulch protection around tree roots and under some of the course elements, and painted the pipe fencing and corrals at the rodeo arena. Everyone worked hard, ate well at lunch provided by the camp, and enjoyed being out of doors on a beautiful day doing manual labor.

Each person working was asked why they volunteered for Day of Caring. Almost to a person, they replied that they like to help others and they enjoy working with others on the district team in a different environment. Ed Rossman summed up the thoughts of many when he said, "I always think it's a good idea to get out and see what's going on with the United Way funds, the wonderful things they do. I've done this for several years, and it's always a different place and a different set of needs that the community has, and the people that are providing it are doing a great job."

He added, "It's a good exercise in teamwork for Corps people – working with people from different places that you don't usually work with. And, it's kind of fun to do!"

Kimberly Harley, resident camp and challenge course director, worked alongside two of the teams. She said, "We really appreciate the Corps of Engineers coming out to help. I'm the only paid staff in charge of this facility, and it's nice to have other hands and other muscle . . . There's no way I could unload 150 railroad ties by myself or an entire dump truck load of mulch! So we really appreciate your help."

Rick Gardner coordinated the day. It was such a success, that the volunteers hope to return to the girl scout camp next year to face whatever challenges are in store for Day of Caring 2005.

# Who cares? We do

By Mary Beth Hudson  
Public Affairs Office

If any of you are wondering what sort of guy our new colonel is, I can now tell you he's the type who will show up early, pick the hardest job, stick with it until it's done, and doesn't mind getting dirty, really dirty.

If you've wondered about Pam Chronister, Michelle Wilson, or Sarah Harris, let me assure you they are three women who will take on an overwhelming task and work patiently and steadily in situations where others (for instance, me) would have been screaming for help.

If you've thought that family time and work time should be kept separate, Steve and Pam McCarn and Cathey and Ryan Williams think differently.

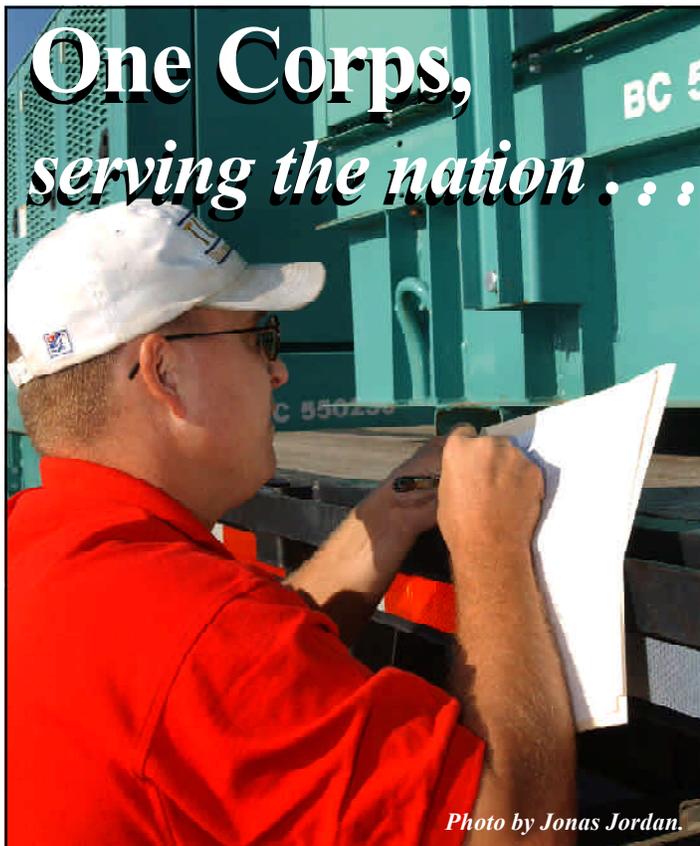
And if you're sure that grades and titles make a difference when working on a project away from work, then Day of Caring could change your opinion.

When 22 employees from the district headquarters office and two family members met at the Tallchief Girl Scout Camp at John Zink Ranch Friday morning, Sept. 10, nothing mattered except getting the jobs done. And there were three big jobs to do, each one of which took a crew and a lot of team effort. The teams lined sections of the challenge course with railroad ties,

## Participants in this year's Day of Caring were:

Dan Birnbaum  
Capt. Bob Corrales  
Alicia Embrey  
Sarah Harris  
Col. Miroslav Kurka  
Pam McCarn  
Chuck Miles  
Richard Murdock  
Lt. Col. Brett Perry  
Ed Rossman  
Cathey Williams  
Michelle Wilson

Pam Chronister  
Dot Danley  
Rick Gardner  
Mary Beth Hudson  
Dana Linduff  
Steve McCarn  
Linda Minter  
Steve Nolen  
Greta Perry  
Louis Vogele  
Ryan Williams  
Joyce Yarbrough



*Photo by Jonas Jordan.*

*Mobile, Ala. – Patrick Beard, emergency power team specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, checks in a power generator at a the staging area during Hurricane Ivan Relief Operations in Southern Alabama. After check-in, the generators are distributed throughout the region based upon the results of Corps of Engineers and Federal Emergency Management Agency needs assessments. The industrial generators provided power to critical public facilities such as hospitals, emergency shelters, and water treatment plants. Beard and his fellow Corps of Engineers members deployed to Alabama from around the country and have supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency with 24-hour recovery operations.*

More than 1,300 employees from across the Corps have deployed to hurricane-ravaged areas in Florida, Alabama, and surrounding states affected by Hurricanes Charley, Francis, Jeanne, and Ivan. The recovery operation is the largest of its type ever undertaken by the Corps of Engineers, and it extends to areas flooded by the storms' aftermath. The Corps emergency response to the destruction has been to provide ice, water, power, temporary roof covering, and technical oversight of debris removal at various locations hit hard by hurricanes. All of the Corps effort is carried out in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Officials said the mission is a complex and tiring logistical operation shared by FEMA, Corps personnel, and numerous other organizations such as the Red Cross and state and local emergency responders.

Col. Bob Carpenter, commander of Jacksonville District and leader of the Hurricane Charley recovery effort for the Corps, said, "I see One Corps here. I don't know where anybody is from!" He said the seamless teamwork among members of the Corps and between the Corps and other federal, state, local

government, and volunteer organizations is a hallmark of our culture.

The response by the Corps was immediate, as preparations were being made before Charley blew ashore. As of early October, Tulsa District had deployed: Roberta Lewis, Vicky Weatherly, Scott Henderson, Peter Navesky, Ernest Martin, Robert Stubbs, Mike Wingfield, Gina Arteche, Carol Niceley, Kerri Stark, Janet Hotubbee, Laura Long, Diane Cianci, Patrick Beard, Bill Barnhart, Pam McCarn, Edwina Poole, DeeDee Hurd, Jim Leach, Andy Kmetz, Russell Wychoff, Jim R. Miller, Pat McLaughlan, Arthur Baldwin, Willie Grimes, Stanley Spirlock, Bobby Perryman, Terry Venable, Tracey Jordan-Ham, Michelle Wilson, and Bob Vandegriff.

Following their Hurricane Charley recovery deployments, Scott Henderson and Vicky Weatherly were two of the first to return to the district. Both worked on "Operation Blue Roof," a Corps mission to place free tarps on 10,000 roofs damaged by the ferocious hurricane.

A hydraulic engineer with the Tulsa District, Henderson did quality assurance work in Florida. "I was very impressed with the folks of southwest Florida," he said. "The people were almost always positive. They would say, 'God bless you for coming!' and I often heard, 'I am OK; go help someone who needs it more.' What a great attitude!"

Henderson is no novice to emergency management work. He had also deployed when the Corps responded to Hurricane Andrew in 1992, but he said this job was personal. "My wife's family lives there, and I stayed with her grandmother in Arcadia, which was hit very hard. Her aunt and uncle lived in Port Charlotte, but Charley devastated their home. Praise God, the family was not hurt." Henderson said the mission faced many challenges, "Hurricane Frances damaged about a third of our tarps, and then everyone was chased away by Hurricane Ivan."

"I felt great pride in those red Corps shirts," Henderson said. "I felt like I represented the millions of Americans who wanted to help but could not. With that feeling, it was a joy to serve."

Weatherly only returned to Tulsa for a short stay before she was called up again for duty following Hurricane Frances. While



*Vicky Weatherly is furthest left in this line of Corps employees working disaster recovering following Hurricane Charley in Florida. One house already covered with the temporary blue roofing can be seen in the background.*



**Mobile, Ala.** – Laura Long (middle), emergency power team specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, manages power generator distribution and installation during Hurricane Ivan Relief Operations in southern Alabama. The industrial generators provided power to critical public facilities such as hospitals, emergency shelters and water treatment plants. Long and her fellow Corps of Engineers members deployed to Alabama from around the country and have supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency with 24-hour recovery operations.

she was in the district, she spoke about her work during the Charley clean up.

“A majority of the homeowners I worked with were elderly,” she said. “Many of them, despite their severe losses, simply needed someone to talk to and a shoulder to cry on, and I was glad to be there for them.” She added, “Being there really gave me a greater appreciation for my own grandparents, in that I hope there would be someone like the Corps there to help them during a time of crisis.”

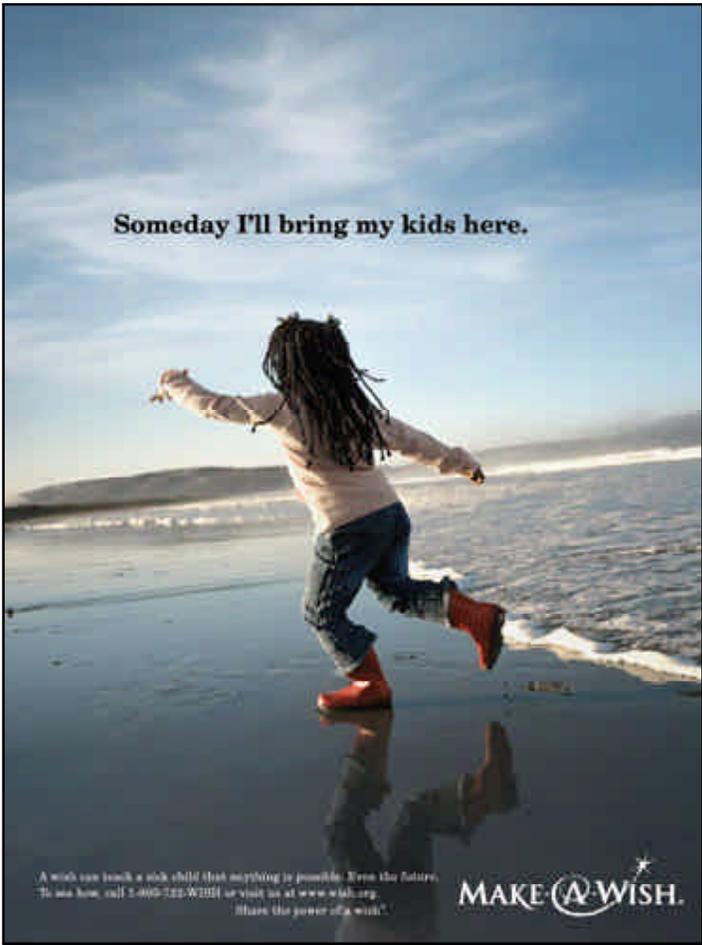
“The temporary roofing mission has been going full force,” Weatherly said. “We’ve been knocking out a lot of homes during the past 30 days and will continue on until all the homes that need assistance receive it.”

“If we could just stay hurricane free for a few weeks, it would greatly help out with our progress. Unfortunately, since I arrived in Punta Gorda, we seem to be getting a hurricane every weekend,” she said.

Despite the problems, she was ready to go back. “I’m looking forward to returning to Florida to complete the temporary roofing mission and making a great reputation for the Corps of Engineers by standing by our promises to help.”

# Lids put on open shafts

Communities in the Tar Creek area have identified the safety hazards associated with open mine shafts as being of significant concern. The Corps of Engineers, under the Restoration of Abandoned Mines Program, will be closing many open shafts as work continues in the nation’s largest Superfund area. The first two, capped in mid-August, were of particular concern due to their proximity to residences, lack of fencing, and signs of illegal dumping.



**Thank You to those who deployed in support of the Hurricane Relief Efforts!**

Roberta Lewis	Vicky Weatherly	Scott Henderson
Peter Navesky	Ernest Martin	Robert Stubbs
Mike Wingfield	Gina Arteché	Carol Niceley
Kerri Stark	Janet Hotubbee	Laura Long
Diane Cianci	Patrick Beard	Bill Barnhart
Pam McCarn	Edwina Poole	DeeDee Hurd
Jim Leach	Andy Kmetz	Russell Wychoff
Jim R. Miller	Pat McLaughlan	Arthur Baldwin
Willie Grimes	Stanley Spirlock	Bobby Perryman
Terry Venable	Tracey Jordan-Ham	Michelle Wilson
Bob Vandegriff		

# Meet the DDE

**Editor's Note:** We're pleased to introduce you to Tulsa District's deputy commander at long last. Further biographical information can be found on the team page.

A native of Natick, Mass., Lt. Col. Brett T. Perry took command as Tulsa District's deputy district engineer in April. He obtained an undergraduate degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in May 1985. In addition to his bachelor's degree, he holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Florida.

Before this assignment, Lt. Col. Perry had only driven through Oklahoma one time, but he was pleased with the prospect of the Tulsa District tour. "I chose the assignment. When they offered me a deputy job at a district, I felt very fortunate." His initial reaction has proven true. "Now, I can't imagine a better district to be in. I think the world of this district and the people and the area. And, when you compare us to other districts which, you know, some of us have a habit of doing, we always fare well in those comparisons. And that's due to the folks in this district."

When asked what he saw as the deputy's role, Lt. Col. Perry said, "Part of it is the quasi chief of the support staff, and other



**Lt. Col. Brett T. Perry**

parts of my role are evolving. The objective is to ensure that I, as the deputy, understand the commander's intent, and then that my actions and decisions carry out that intent. And we've been pretty successful with that so far. I fully understand Col. Kurka's intent – what his goals and objectives are for the district – so I try to act within that framework."

In his role as chief of the support staffs, Lt. Col. Perry had this to say, "Every division and every office in this district is integral to the success of the district. Everyone is a critical player and every office is a critical part of the district, of the region, of the Corps. If they weren't, the office wouldn't be around. The work is appreciated."

"I've really appreciated the welcome I got all around from the district people and continue to appreciate the hard work I see every day. I'm very glad to be here," he said. "I like to come in every day that I come in. I'm one of those people that's pretty happy to get in in the morning."

When not at work, our deputy is a busy family man. "I have young kids, so almost everything I do away from the office involves the kids." His wife Greta is a full-time mother and wife. "She's got her hands full," he said. "Most of our weekends are taken up with kids' sports." The Perrys have three children, four-year-old Savannah, six-year-old Scott, and eight-year-old Drew. The guys in the family like to target shoot and are also looking forward to riding four-wheel ATVs, which they say they will drive to Bob Vandegriff's house for a safety briefing.

## *He expanded on a few of the commander's objectives, saying:*

"We need to look hard at areas to take advantage of for future business. That's why the planning chief position now carries a strategic planning responsibility. We've got to continue to get more efficient and better at doing things we do now. We need to make sure we're maximizing our potential in any new markets that are out there or even getting more into the markets we're already in."

"Another objective, that's more people related, is to continue to look at the needs of the workforce in terms of training and recruiting. Also, as we go along and people retire, we need to look at those positions and see how we might adjust the organization to keep from getting in the Reduction in Force situation the district faced a couple of years ago."

"The district went through a lot of turmoil the last couple of years, so there are some wounds that need healing. Ultimately, the objective is that everybody gets up every morning and wants to go into the office or go to the project or wherever it is they work each day. When we reach that state, the district will be doing extremely well."



*Photo by Alicia Embrey*

*Water stored each spring to provide downstream flood protection leaves shorelines with standing dead and dying trees destined to become driftwood.*

## Don't let this opportunity *drift away*

**By Mike Schrick**  
*Keystone Project Office*

**H**ave cool nights started you thinking about the wood you will need to keep the family warm this winter or at least add that cozy wood fire atmosphere to your home?

Keystone Lake is an excellent source of driftwood for the fireplace. It is true that driftwood burns very quickly and without the best heat potential. However, it starts very quickly, is readily available around the lake, and is free of charge. How can you take advantage of this free wood? All you need to do is visit the Corps of Engineers Area Office below Keystone Dam, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. It is a good idea to have an area in mind where wood is available. If you are not sure where to find a good supply of driftwood, one of the Corps rangers may suggest some good locations. The Corps will issue a driftwood-cutting permit at no cost. The original permit must be issued at the main office, is

good for two weeks at a time, and can be renewed as needed by phone.

As with all good deals, there are a few conditions. All vehicles must remain on established roads; no off-road operation is allowed. Only down and dead timber is cut. No standing timber shall be harvested even if it is dead. Brush should be stacked so critters can use it for escape and nesting cover.

Why does the Corps offer the opportunity to harvest driftwood and require a free permit? Each time the river rises with floodwater, it floats thousands of board feet of driftwood. Keep in mind that any limb that falls in the river anywhere below Kaw Dam on the Arkansas River eventually finds its way down river to Keystone Lake. The same is true for the Cimarron River system. Whether the cause is decay, storm damage, or the ever-diligent beaver, there is always a ready supply of driftwood floating downstream. Protecting and preserving the beautiful timbered shoreline of the lake is one of the Corps' responsibilities. By issuing permits, the Corps can easily verify if an area of a reported timber cutting is a permitted driftwood harvest.

Neighboring homeowners take protecting adjacent public land very seriously. They realize that public land means their land, so they notify the Corps when they suspect someone is abusing it. They realize this thin wooded corridor along the lake's edge provides cover and protection to wildlife. They also realize the thousands of feet of root systems the trees and brush provide hold the soil in place to prevent erosion, preserve their private property, and prolong the usable life of the lake for recreation. The driftwood permits are just an additional means of ensuring the protection of our natural resources.

The floodwater stored each spring to provide downstream flood protection has left Keystone's shoreline with numerous standing dead and dying trees which will also become driftwood in the future. Even though they are dead or dying, they provide valuable habitat for area wildlife. Standing dead trees or snags are used by 85 different species of North American birds. These birds excavate nesting holes, use cavities created by decay, or use holes created by other species. These cavities also provide homes to numerous other critters such as squirrels, raccoons, tree dwelling lizards and snakes, and hundreds of insect species. To some, snags may look unsightly standing along the lake's edge; but imagine how they will look this winter with a majestic American Bald Eagle sitting in them waiting for a fish, then swooping to snatch it up, and returning to the snag to perch and consume the meal.

Many of these dead trees exist in our parks as well. We continue to evaluate their safety risk, and – where they don't present a safety hazard – will leave some standing as snags. In some cases, we will remove the limbs and leave the trunk to retain some wildlife benefits. We also try to wait until late fall or winter to cut these trees to decrease the loss of baby birds and mammal species that may already be living in the trees' cavities.

If you have questions concerning the harvest of driftwood or the driftwood permit, call the Keystone Area Office at (918) 865-2621.

**Editor's Note:** *Mike Schrick himself is drifting away (in the form of retirement). He will be missed.*

# Tulsa District DDE travels to Iraq



*Lt. Col. Brett T. Perry*

In November, Lt. Col. Brett Perry, deputy district engineer, begins a six-month deployment to Iraq to support efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

Col. Miroslav Kurka, commander, said, "I know that all of you will join me in wishing Lt. Col. Perry well and praying for his safe return. Lt. Col. Perry is truly an outstanding officer who will no doubt advance our efforts in Iraq significantly. We will miss him here very much."

During the deployment, John Roselle, district counsel, will be the acting deputy district engineer and John Sturges will act as the district counsel.



## *On Counsel's advice*

### **What to do (and not do) if you receive a subpoena**

**by Doug Beck**  
*Office of Counsel*

When is a good time to use your "Just Do It!" card? NOT when you're faced with a subpoena! Any employee of the district who receives a subpoena related to their position as a government employee should immediately contact Office of Counsel. No matter how badly you want to, do not ignore the subpoena or attempt to handle it on your own. This includes subpoenas for both the person and for government documents.

Generally, most subpoenas we receive in the district originate from a state court and involve third-party litigation. Usually, one party suing another wants a Corps employee to testify or provide documentation that they believe supports their side of the case. Although these types of situations involve, on their face anyway, "third party" matters, the Corps must proceed cautiously to insure that the federal government does not end up adversely affected by the testimony of its employees.

Consequently, requests for documents and requests for government employees to appear as witnesses are closely governed by Army Regulation 27-40. This regulation covers many intricacies and possible scenarios, and establishes rules that must be

followed by both the requesting party and the affected employee.

The regulation states that the employee must immediately contact their "legal advisor," i.e. Office of Counsel. Our office number is (918) 669-7178 and our fax number is (918) 669-7576. Further, the party requesting the witness or documents must submit, at least 14 days in advance, a specific written request setting forth the nature and relevance of the information sought. So when, for instance, a process server hands you a subpoena at Lake Texoma on Friday afternoon for your testimony in Cimarron County District Court at 9:00 Monday morning, chances are we can help you out.

This 14-day requirement is mandatory and can only be waived after review of Office of Counsel. However, being released from the subpoena is not "automatic," and failure to respond could leave the employee in contempt of court – not a good thing. Most often, though, Office of Counsel can contact the U.S. Attorney's Office and have the subpoena quashed (dismissed) if necessary.

The regulation also draws a critical distinction between expert (opinion) and factual testimony. Generally, although everyone has an opinion, the regulation prohibits you, as a government employee, from giving your opinion in court.

So, on second thought, if you receive a subpoena, you should "just do it!" – you should contact Office of Counsel immediately.



# Employees support Iraq's recovery



*This picture of Corps employees at Basara South Area Office was taken at a "South Camp" barbecue during the last week of Aaron Goldner's deployment. He is second from the right in the back row.*

**Editor's Note:** Some co-workers who have returned from their deployments have agreed to share first-person accounts of some of their experiences. We asked them to include not only memories of their work, but also perceptions of the land and its people. In this edition of the TDR, Aaron Goldner tells a little of his work with Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil.

**By Aaron Goldner**  
Tulsa Resident Office

I arrived in Iraq on March 1 this year and did not really know what to expect or what to do right away, but all that changed pretty fast. I was a construction rep and was stationed at the Basrah International Airport until August 2. For the Corps RIO mission, I was partnered with an electrician, Jeremy Draggoo out of the Walla Walla District, a pretty good match with my mechanical knowledge. Almost every day, we set out on the highway called Hexagon and Tampa. Periodically we'd turn off onto dirt roads that took us out into the desert of Iraq to the South Rumaila area Cluster Pump Stations 6-10. We'd check on the daily production being accomplished by Kellogg Brown and Root, prime contractor, and the local subcontractors.

Walking onto one of the sites, you always shook the local security guard's hand, saying, "Ah Salama Lakum (How are you?)," and he would come back with, "Ah Lakum Salam (Fine, and you?)." One guard at CPS 7 almost begged us to have tea with them. Well, finally we did, and that is a story in itself. All I

can say about that is it's not that bad. They will drink right after you if you don't finish your tea and put it down on the table.

The electrical subcontractor, Al Meer, was installing temporary electrical generators at each site to operate the instrumentation and power the motors that ran the water injection pumps. There were four of these pumps at each site; the Corps made three of the four operational to bring each CPS up to 75 percent of its capability.

The mechanical subcontractor, Kharafi, was installing motors, piping, roofing, and siding, and refurbishing the inlet and outlet water manifold systems. For a plumber, it was heaven looking at all the big piping and massive pump systems. What was sad was seeing the sites after the looting and destruction happened after the war began.

As you left the sites, you would say "Ma Sa Lamma." You guessed it – it meant, "goodbye." If you put, "sa ti ik," at the end, that meant "friend." Then we'd jump in the old trusty Suburban and go off to another site with the Gurkas in front and behind as security. Most of them were from Nepal. I called them my LBGs which meant my "Little Blue Guys." I really loved them; they are some real good people.

On my tour, I was able to view one CPS of the 10 come on line. That was a very satisfying day for the Corps, KBR, and the local Iraq South Oil Company.

**Continued on page 13**



# Dewater delights districts

*Looking upstream at the stoplogs that have just been placed so the lock can be pumped dry. Behind the stoplogs are the Mr. Pat towboat and crane. Visit the team page to view the photos in color.*

By Larry Prestien, *Navigation Project Office*  
Mary Beth Hudson, *Public Affairs Office*

What 12-day project takes a year to plan and literally stops traffic? What job requires communication at least nine months in advance, uses crews and equipment from two districts, and attracts so many spectators that an observation deck with interpretive specialists is needed? It's the dewatering and major maintenance of a lock chamber.

Thanks to preparation and teamwork, Webbers Falls Lock 16 is back in service and operating as designed following its first dewatering and major overhaul in 14 years. Locks on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System are supposed to be dewatered every 12 years to perform maintenance and repairs in areas not accessible under normal conditions. Due to budget constraints, this was the first project of its kind in Tulsa District since 1998.

And a major project it was – requiring 15 teams, three towboats, eight barges, and five cranes. First, stoplogs are placed by crane above and below the lock, and then the lock chamber is pumped dry. These preparatory steps usually take about 24 hours.

Once the chamber is dry, the teams can go to work and the maintenance can begin. The list included:

- Check tension and plumb miter gates (This reduces water leakage and stress on the miter gates.)
- Inspect and repair bottom seals on miter gates (This stops excessive water leakage at the bottom of the miter gates.)
- Inspect and repack pintle balls (Miter gates pivot on the pintle balls; the balls are inspected and repacked with grease.)
- Sandblast miter gates and apply Belzona (Belzona is a two-part material applied to the edges of the miter gates to ensure a good seal.)
- Replace anodes (Anodes provide cathodic protection for metal components submerged underwater.)
- Repair or replace air and grease lines (Grease lines lubricate submerged equipment, and air lines are used to remove debris when operating the miter gates.)

- Perform tainter valve maintenance (Tainter valves are used to fill or empty a lock chamber. Maintenance is performed on the seals.)
- Apply Prime Resin to tainter valve culverts (In the tainter valve culverts, holes were drilled at the concrete joints and filled with Prime Resin to stop water leaks.)

Little Rock and Tulsa districts partnered on the Lock 16 work, and everything was done by in-house labor. At the same time that Corps crews were working at Lock 16 (Monday Aug. 30 to Friday Sept. 10), contractors were painting Lock 15 downstream miter gates. All barge traffic ceased in that portion of the navigation system while the jobs were being done. The maintenance schedule is decided in concert with the towing industry, and the time of year was chosen at the industry's request.

Bob Portiss, port director of the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, stressed the value of the navigation system to our state and especially to northeast Oklahoma. "Maintaining this waterway is critically necessary if we are to retain our competitive edge in the international marketplace. With the advent and continued existence of waterway transportation, our transportation costs are about 15 percent lower than without it, a significant factor in continued enhancement of the economic development of our area and state. As an example, the waterway area between and including the Ports of Catoosa and Muskogee have already realized over \$3 billion in private and non-federal public investment creating over 5,000 jobs to date."

Towboats "Shorty Baird" and "Ozark" from Little Rock and "Mr. Pat" from Tulsa arrived with their crews, barges, cranes, and equipment. Tulsa District brought in just about everyone on the navigation system plus groups from Chloride Control, Civil Maintenance Section, and Hydropower. Almost everyone worked 12 hours a day for 12 days straight, no days were lost to injury, and the work was finished ahead of schedule.

Dan McPherson, Tulsa District's navigation project manager at the time of the dewatering, said, "Greg Barnes, the navigation system manager, and Bud Phillips, his counterpart in Little Rock District, were in charge of the overall planning effort, and it was excellent." He

added, "Each person from the Navigation Project Office and the Major Maintenance Unit worked hard to pull this off, and their work paid off with a very successful operation."

Leon "Bud" Phillips agreed. "It was an excellent dewatering, and we've been on several of them. The temperature was good, work conditions and safety were excellent, and the leadership was great. Any project like that's got to be laid out and planned out, and when it all comes together, it sure looks good." Phillips is the facility operations specialist at the Dardanelle Marine Terminal, Russellville Project Office.

A job of this magnitude didn't go unnoticed. Many people watched from the observation deck, and 97 visitors signed in at the Safety Booth.

Commanders from both districts visited the site for a walk through. Tulsa District Engineer Col. Miroslav Kurka said, "I

was very impressed with the organization and teamwork on such a large, complicated, and important project. It was especially encouraging to see folks from across Tulsa District and also from Little Rock all working together. I commend all for an excellent job – one that was truly executed in the spirit of USACE 2012."

Several district office "tourists" showed up on site during the two-week period. One of those was Sue Haslett, chief of Planning Branch. She said she's glad she saw the operation in progress. "It was really cool to see the lock completely empty, but the thing I was fascinated with was that the crews that were there were from all different areas. One of the things they did was replumb the massive gates. To know that we have the in-house capability and in-house expertise to accomplish this was really impressive."

---

***...the waterway area between and including the Ports of Catoosa and Muskogee have already realized over \$3 billion in private and non-federal public investment creating over 5,000 jobs to date.***

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*Colin Clark replacing the J bulb rubber seal on the bottom of the upstream land wall miter gate.*



*Lock 16 after the stoplogs have been placed and the water pumped out.*

Maintenance teams worked simultaneously until it was time to apply Belzona; then all other projects ceased while everyone focused on Belzona application. “It was described to me as a relay race,” Haslett said. “They used an

epoxy to repair some areas, and there was a limited period of time from when it was mixed up to when it had to be applied. It was quite a team effort. There were folks mixing, folks applying, and runners in between.”

Vic Heister, a field engineer in Operations Division Civil Maintenance Section, served as leader of the Tension and Plumb Miter Gates Team. “What made it fun was actually being able to do it all in house. It was Corps employees doing Corps work. There’s a lot of satisfaction in being able to say you did it yourself,” he said.

Greg Barnes, who has been involved with the project for about a year, said he was pleased with its outcome. “Due to the planning and teamwork between the Tulsa and Little Rock districts this was the most successful dewater ever to occur in the Tulsa District. All scheduled work was completed and the lock was re-opened to navigation traffic eight hours ahead of time,” he said.

All information gathered from this year’s dewatering will be useful since Tulsa plans to dewater W.D. Mayo in the fall of 2005 and Newt Graham and Chouteau together the following year.

And, although Bob Portiss is happy to rattle off other facts and figures about the benefits of the system, he is quick to point out that its true value is immeasurable. “The inland waterways are highways to our heritage and to our future.”

# How hot is it?

David Hudson and Dennis Johnson are happy to reach their finish line of the Hotter ‘N Hell Hundred held in Wichita Falls, Texas, Aug 28. The annual event has several distances that can be entered, and the pair rode the 100k (which should have been 62.2 miles but was 67). Johnson is already planning for next year’s ride. “Maybe we will be in shape to ride the 100-mile route next year,” he said. He’s also hoping that Ahmad Santina of Fort Sill Resident Office who rode last year but is recuperating from a heart attack will be back in the ride next year.





*Photo by Brent Bristow, USFWS*

*Everett Laney, Tulsa District biologist, places a sampler from Pier 51 marina at Keystone Lake.*

## Samplers placed to monitor population spread

**By Everett Laney**  
*Planning Division*

For 10 years, Tulsa District has coasted along with zebra mussels struggling to survive in the navigation system. Then, in June of 2003, they were found in Oologah Lake, and later that summer, they turned up in El Dorado Lake. At El Dorado, the pool was even drawn down during the winter months to attempt to kill any mussels along the shoreline.

To compound the problem, this summer's pleasant, mild weather has also been good for the zebra mussels. Populations have reached record numbers, and the high releases from El Dorado Lake have washed their larvae into Kaw Lake. None of this is good news.

Zebra mussels vary from 1/8 to two inches in length and have a yellow-brown shell with alternating color bands. They are very prolific and can form colonies of thousands per square foot on any submerged hard surface. They have been responsible for clogging intake systems and cause millions of dollars in damage each year. "Infants" are extremely small and may not be visible. They can feel like grains of sand to the touch.

With the expansion of their range happening at an alarming rate, Tulsa District is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to set out samplers at several district lakes. The samplers will give us specific sites to see if zebra mussels are in the lakes. They will be checked monthly by Operations Division lake personnel and reported to the USFWS and Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division. If zebra mussels are found, the public will be notified and educational information will be provided to water users.

## Trained to respond

Gary Simmons, Fall River Lake park ranger, completed the 21-hour Community Emergency Response Team training sponsored by the Coffey County Emergency Preparedness Department. Simmons participated in the training as a scoutmaster with Troop 139 out of Burlington, Kan. Two other scoutmasters and 10 boy scouts from Troop 139 also completed the training.

The CERT program is designed to train citizen responders to prepare for and respond to anticipated disruptions and hazards following a natural or man-made disaster. The teams are prepared to be self sufficient for a period of up to 72 hours and to provide support to the professional emergency response agencies when they arrive on the scene.

## Employees support Iraq's recovery

*Continued from page 9*

I also worked on the port which was called Az Zubayr, KAZ for short; the marine terminal; the bulk storage tank facility, LPG Central; Shaiaba storage tank facility; Al Faw 42-inch and 48-inch pipelines; went to Majnoon once to view the installation of another generator and instrumentation; and helped QA the South Camp where we stayed.

I was very fortunate to have an engineering staff from KBR that I followed all over the place and worked with, and the Corps staff became my family away from home. We did – we became a family that helped, laughed, and at times cried together. The military knew what they were doing when they sent Maj. Patterson from Little Rock District over there. She taught me a whole lot on the way she constructed, implemented, performed, and executed the tasks set before us. We had a very professional staff at the Basara South RIO camp.

Each day was an adventure. We went to some local schools and dwellings when we could and handed out supplies. Things that we take for granted, they had to be taught to use, such as a toothbrush, a hair brush, and bandages. There are some very nice and good people that I came across, both locals and people that were deployed there, either by the government or by choice. I could go on forever about all the times I experienced in Iraq, and would go back in a second to help.

I definitely know that I am a changed man in my outlook on other countries and their cultures, and I can truly say that I am very proud to be an American and very blessed to have been able to experience what I did and get back safely.



*Give the gift of life.*

**Blood drives  
scheduled at the  
Tulsa Corps office:  
Nov. 10 & Feb. 18**



**Getting the brush off** – On Saturday, Sept. 11, 50 volunteers headed to Oologah Lake for Brush Pile Day, held each year in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. They placed 70 fish attractors at the south end of the lake and took GPS readings of each. The coordinates will be plotted on an aerial photo of the lake. The locations and a list of the coordinates will be placed on the Oologah Lake website. The park ranger staff coordinated the event, and volunteers were also helped by fisheries biologists from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

## National Public Lands Day

# A Success for Third Year in a Row

On Sept. 18, many volunteers arrived at Canton Lake to be part of the nationwide, one-day event known as National Public Lands Day. More than 600 places throughout the United States planned events recognizing the day in which volunteers help our nation's public lands.

At Canton Lake, new trees and shrubs were planted to continue to beautify the public use areas around the lake. Once all planting, mulching, and watering were completed, the work groups called it a day – an unseasonably hot day.

Volunteers who worked in the Canadian Campground were Don and Pat Cosper of Hennessey, Danny and Phyllis Mastalka of Kingfisher, Gene and Charlie Sibit of Enid, and Joe, Amber, and Dakota Allison and Tim Coffey of Canton.

Big Bend campground volunteers were Dennis and Joy Lambert of Kingfisher, Clifton Willeford of Perryton, Texas, and Eldon Reinhardt of Enid.

Park Rangers Ray Robertson, Debbie Chaloupek, and Johnie Dudley led the work groups. Summer Park Rangers George Mayfield of Canton Lake and Dee Hayden of Fort Supply Lake also helped out as needed.

The Canton Lake staff wants to thank everyone who participated.

## National committee sponsors photo contest

The HQUSACE National Water Safety Committee is sponsoring a Corps-wide photo contest, with a focus on promoting water safety. This contest is open to all Corps employees. Submissions should depict the promotion of water safety, demonstrate safe water practices, and/or showcase water-based recreation

facilities. All uniformed employees shown in the photos should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the activity in which they are engaged. Photos will be judged for clarity, composition, originality, visual impact, and theme.

If you are interested in competing contact PAO at 918-669-7361 for details.



## *Not every hero wears a medal*

*... but every child like Ben deserves one.*

**Ben is just one of the thousands of children who are facing a battle they didn't choose - a battle against a disease that could rob them of their lives. You can help these children win. You can help find a cure.**

**Join the fight against childhood cancer.**

**800-822-6344 [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)**



**St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital**



*Michael P. Schrick picked a batty way to spend his birthday.*

## How to celebrate a birthday

**By Michael P. Schrick**  
Keystone Lake Office

September 18<sup>th</sup> was my 55<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I am so proud to tell the world I have lived that long and hope for 55 more! I have had people tell me their birthday is just another day. Ouch! Well not I, buddy. Mine is a big day, and the missus, all my children, and grandchildren join in. This year, since it fell on a Saturday, we had the celebration on Friday evening, and that left Saturday for a very special treat.

I got up early Saturday morning and met with Steve Hensley, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at his office in Tulsa. We loaded gobs of gear and hooked up to the four-wheeler on its trailer and set out for Eucha Lake. At 9:30 a.m., we met several other volunteers at the base of a forested, shale hillside and started to carry large sections of steel up to the mouth of a cave. The day was spent finishing a grate to keep people from loving the cave to death. The land is owned by the city of Tulsa, and an agreement exists to help protect the cave, its bat population, and its archeological significance.

We spent the entire day helping volunteers run lines for the welder and generator from the bottom of the mountain to the

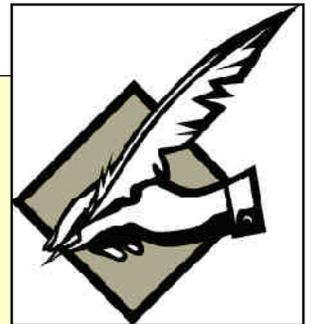
cave. The steel was then welded and set into the cave's ceiling and floor. The heat index that day was 103 degrees, and the cool of the cave was a welcome relief after the many trips to bring up all the steel, cement, water, wheelbarrow, and tools.

While working, a lady stopped to say she had visited the cave more than 18 years earlier, and it was full of bats at the time. The current population is small due to the people who visit and abuse the cave because of its proximity to the lake.

I watched huge cave crickets feeding on the organics of an abandoned Phoebe (bird) nest. I saw big black tree ants crawl over the lip of the entry and drink from the drips of condensation on the cave's ceiling.

It was great day of hard work, meeting and working beside some of America's finest citizens, its volunteers, and protecting a tiny part of the beauty God has given us. What a grand birthday gift!

## Notes from EEO



The Employee Assistance Program 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 provides a maximum of four counseling sessions per calendar year to each employee and immediate family members. Referral services are provided employees to identify available resources and inform employees of applicable health insurance coverage.

The EAP service provider for the Tulsa District is:

**DAVID G. SMITH, Ed.D.**  
**and ROSEMARY PRIEST**

**Brittany Park Counseling Services**  
**5512 South Lewis**  
**Tulsa, OK 74105**

**Phone: 918-747-1649**

**Email: CorpsEPA@aol.com**

If you reach the answering service, let them know if you need emergency assistance.

For additional information contact, the EEO Office at extension 4943, 7358, or 7348.

# Are you at risk?

## Prevention Plus stroke screenings scheduled

By Cathey Williams, *Wellness Committee*

Are you over 40? Do you have high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or an inactive lifestyle? Are you overweight? Do you have a stressful occupation or lifestyle? Do you smoke or are you exposed to second-hand smoke?

If you answered YES to two or more, you should seriously consider taking advantage of a new Tulsa District initiative.

The Wellness Committee is offering three health screenings to interested Corps Family members. All three screenings take a total of about 20 minutes and can be in-

strumental in detecting life-threatening conditions.

After surveying employees to determine interest, an educational program was held in August. Appointments for the first two screening days went quickly with 55 employees and 15 family members taking part. Subsequent screening days are planned for the Tulsa office.

Field offices are now being surveyed and, if there is enough interest, the committee hopes to offer screenings in locations

around the district. Retirees could also take part.

Cost of each screening for family members is \$35, or all three for \$95. Employees pay \$50 for the three screenings, with the Wellness Committee picking up the remainder of the cost. The screenings are not considered routine and are generally not covered by insurance. However, if you are diagnosed by your doctor and require further treatment, you could be reimbursed by insurance.



Stroke	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	Peripheral Vascular Disease
<p>This screening uses ultrasound to visualize the buildup of fatty plaque in the carotid arteries that can lead to stroke, 75 percent of which could be prevented with screening.</p>	<p>This screening uses ultrasound to visualize the existence of an aneurysm in the abdominal aorta that can rupture and be fatal.</p>	<p>This screening, Ankle Brachial Index Test, checks for blockage in the legs by checking blood pressure on the arm and ankle, and using Doppler.</p>
<p><i>Symptoms:</i> Sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the face, arms, or legs. Sudden loss of vision, slurred speech, dizziness or severe headaches, transient ischemic attacks (TIAs), or mini strokes.</p>	<p><i>Symptoms:</i> Vast majority are without symptoms.</p>	<p><i>Symptoms:</i> Numbness or tingling in the legs, loss of hair on toes and feet, cramping in the legs that is relieved with rest.</p>
<p><i>Risk Factors:</i> High blood pressure, smoking, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, physical inactivity, family history, or TIAs.</p>	<p><i>Risk Factors:</i> Family history, smoking, high blood pressure, is a white male.</p>	<p><i>Risk Factors:</i> Diabetes, high blood pressure, history of coronary artery disease.</p>

**For information or to place your name on the list for future screenings, call Cathey Williams at 918-669-7383.**



*Left to right - Max Frauenthal, Frank McStay, and Tulsa District's Carol Wies in the Corps booth at the Joint Services Environmental Management Conference and Exhibition.*

## Regional team shares Corps capabilities

The Joint Services Environmental Management Conference and Exhibition was held Aug. 16-19 in San Antonio, Texas. Southwestern Division was represented by Mark Simmons, Joe Paxton, and Bobby Shelton, Fort Worth District; Max Frauenthal, Little Rock District; Tracey Jordan, Lori Kruse, Carol Wies, and Jeff Brewer, Tulsa District; and Frank McStay, SWD.

They attended presentations and took the opportunity to present the Corps capabilities to military customers by manning an exhibit booth representing the entire Corps. Bob Fenlason, USACE Headquarters helped establish the booth and man it.

## Corps Environmental Operating Principles

Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.

Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.

Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.

Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.

Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.

Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

## Life saver honored at work

Wayne "Windy" Rudd of Ardmore, Okla., is very grateful that Robert Huff was at Waurika Lake on June 4. That's the day Huff saved the life of 77-year-old Rudd, who found himself in a desperate situation.

Rudd was launching his vessel at the Chisholm Trail North ramp. He failed to tie his boat off, so it drifted away while he was parking his car. Although he wasn't wearing a life jacket, he tried to swim to the boat, but soon tired out.

Fortunately, Huff was nearby. He noticed Rudd's struggle, boated over, and pulled him from the water. By the time he was rescued, Rudd had already submerged and resurfaced twice. When he could speak, Rudd said he was exhausted, had no means to stay afloat, and surely would have drowned if Huff had not saved him.

Bob Vandegriff, chief of Safety Office, recently visited Huff's workplace in Duncan, Okla., to present him with a Tulsa District Life Saving Award.



*Left to right - Bob Vandegriff and Robert Huff shortly after the presentation of the Tulsa District Life Saving Award. In June, Huff saved the life of Wayne "Windy" Rudd at Waurika Lake.*

## Commander's Corner

*Continued from page 2*

District. We are a very good organization with great people, and we have the potential to be truly great!

We have two big challenges. First we must empower our great people, release their strengths, talents, and energies so that they can innovate and develop new and better ways of meeting the nation's needs. Our second challenge is to make gradual, gentle organizational changes using retirements and natural attrition as well as recruitment to move our district into the future. In my travels these past few weeks, I've spoken with many of you about these challenges and I know you understand the need to adapt and change.

My focus on people is directed towards the first challenge – to empower our people and to work with the Board of Directors to find, hire, and promote those disciplined, ethical, and entrepreneurial leaders who will lead this district into the future.

### ***We are approaching this challenge on several fronts.***

- A PDT led by Marjorie Courtright is developing the specific polices to implement 38 separate recommendations coming out of an analysis of the 2003 Civilian Morale Survey results.
- Lt. Col. Brett Perry is leading an effort to review and update district personnel policies to provide more flexibility to supervisors and bring them in line with Southwestern Division policies.
- Our emerging leaders are working with SWD to update our leadership development and emerging leader programs to ensure they develop the leaders we will need in the future.
- As part of the Transition Conference, we are reviewing our recruiting and new employee training programs.
- I am working with the district's leaders to improve COMMUNICATIONS at all levels.

My second focus is to work with the district leadership, the SWD Board of Directors, and focus groups throughout the district to develop a coherent vision of the district's future in the next five to 10 years. That vision will not be an end state, but rather a journey down a road of continuing innovation and change.

### ***In developing this vision of the future, we must:***

- Identify our critical functions that we must be capable of executing to meet national security needs (field force engineering, emergency relief operations, etc.)
- Identify our core competencies (solve large, urgent engineering problems, world class project delivery capability, unmatched water resource expertise, etc.)
- Identify future needs of our current customers.
- Identify future regional engineering and water resource needs and potential partners/customers.
- Define regionalization – how will we work with the other districts and SWD to realize the vision of USACE 2012?
- Determine what work is inherently governmental, what work can potentially be automated, and what work should be examined for outsourcing.
- Determine the optimal organization to execute critical national security missions, perform core functions, and rapidly meet customer needs.

This vision of our future will take some time to develop. I expect to spend most of FY 05 forming it, and I welcome everyone's input. Once worked out, this vision combined with updated, flexible PEOPLE policies and open, honest COMMUNICATIONS will guide our district through the gradual, modest changes needed to meet the challenges of the future.

Although change is never easy, I am confident that we can effect small, moderate changes that over time will move the district in the direction it needs to go. The possibilities are immense and the end result will be an even brighter future for the Tulsa District.

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# History

## Native American Contributions to American Indian Program

Tulsa District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/IRS  
November 16<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Speakers: Wallace Coffey, Comanche Nation Tribal Chairman  
and Rob Mills, Lewis & Clark Volunteer for Corps  
Followed by \$6 Indian Taco Lunch, drinks & dessert included

**\*\*\* Door Prizes \*\*\***

\*For lunch tickets, call Sue Morris at 918-669-7612





## Family News



## New Additions

**Taylor Grimes** is the proud sister of a new little brother, Jesse Leo, born Aug. 27. Parents are Kent and Terri Grimes. Kent is the environmental specialist at Hugo where they are still waiting for him to come back down to earth.

**Congratulations to Chad Ford** and his wife Kristen on the birth of their daughter. Kaylin Lynda Rose Ford was born at 9:00 p.m. on Aug. 18. Ford is a park ranger at Lake Eufaula.

## Condolences

Don W. Hall, 80, died Aug. 18 at home. He was a retired professional civil engineer. He was a veteran who served during World War II in the Pacific Theatre, stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines. During his duty, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Engineers. He was an avid sportsman who enjoyed both hunting and fishing. For those who wish, memorials may be made to Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in Tulsa.

Gay Worsham Rychel, a member of an Oklahoma pioneer family, passed away on August 21. She was the wife of retiree, Robert J. Rychel. At one time, she was active in the Army Corps of Engineers Wives Club serving as president. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Akdar Hospital Transportation, 2808 S. Sheridan, Tulsa, OK 74129.

Garold Dene Wilmott, 71, died Sept. 2. Wilmott was born Aug. 5, 1933, in Glenpool, Okla., just seconds after his twin brother, Harold. He served in the Army during the Korean War and worked for nearly 35 years as a draftsman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Bokoshe — Harrell Dean "Harry" Molthan, 71, rancher and former Texas Instruments and Corps of Engineers employee, died Sept. 5.

Sallisaw — Edgar J. Rouell, 79, retired Air Force master sergeant and Army Corps of Engineers employee, died Sept. 5.

Norine Robinson passed away Sept. 7. She was mother-in-law of Linda Robinson, program analyst in Construction Branch.

Edna LaVon Frasure passed away Sept. 7 in Levelland, Texas. She was mother of Ellen DeVonne McKee who works at Keystone Lake Office. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made in the name of "LaVon Frasure" to Hospice of Green Country, 2121 S. Columbia, Tulsa, OK 74114.

Gary Cannon of Real Estate Division lost his father, Jim Cannon, on Sept. 7.

Retiree Jean (Morgan) Madden, age 73, died Sept. 9 at Muskogee Regional Medical Center, Muskogee, Okla.

Design Branch is sorry to report that Stephen Walters' mother, Florence Walters, passed away Sept. 10. Stephen, a mechanical engineer, works as a specifications writer.

Sue Morris' sister, Martha Wereyavah, passed away Sept. 10 in Lawton, Okla. Morris works in the Administrative Support Unit.

Ralph Wesley Hicks Jr., retiree, died Sept. 16. He served as a civil engineer at Tinker Air Force Base for 25 years. Prior to his work at Tinker, he was involved in the McClellan Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. He also worked disaster response efforts on hurricane and earthquake cleanups.

## Congratulations!

Blue Creek, Spencer Creek, and Hawthorn Bluff campgrounds at Oologah Lake were voted as three of the Top 100 Family Campgrounds in America for 2004. Every year more than 3,000 campgrounds are reviewed by park staff, rangers, and by consumers who provide testimonials. From that list, ReserveAmerica selects the "100 Best" campgrounds that provide their consumers outstanding locations to bring their families for a fun, safe, educational, and memorable family-bonding experience.

Scottie Fiehler and Guy Green have earned Contracting Level 1 Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Workforce certifications while Gary Mezger, Joe Skelton, and Wade Woodham have earned Contracting Level 2 certifications. These are critical certifications for staff members who manage construction contracts, and are part of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act.

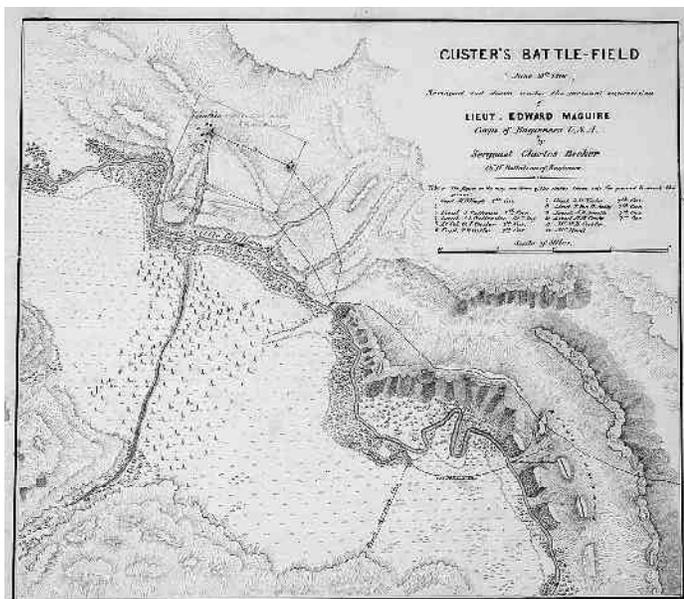


John Marnell, northern area manager, was re-elected for a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Society for Park Resources, a professional branch of the National Recreation and Park Association. He was sworn in for his new term at the NRPA Conference in October.

# FLASH FROM THE PAST

DID YOU KNOW

## Army Engineers were at Little Bighorn?



*Maguire's Map of Custer's Battle-Field*

**Not only were they with Custer,  
they were all over the West.**

*Abridged from an Office of History vignette*

After the Civil War, the Corps of Engineers placed officers on the staffs of the division and department commanders in the West. As staff officers they had dual missions: support field operations and collect topographical data for the Engineer Department in Washington.

In 1873, the War Department ordered the Engineer Department to make an itinerary of every reconnaissance for posting on a master map in Washington. Thus, Capt. William Ludlow, chief engineer, Department of Dakota, accompanied Lt. Col. George A. Custer's 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry into

the Black Hills in July 1874. When Ludlow's report, noting small amounts of gold, reached eastern newspapers, prospectors flowed into the Hills. When the Sioux refused to sell the Hills, the Grant administration gave them until February 1876 to evacuate and move onto reservations. After that, any Sioux found off a reservation would be considered hostile and an Army responsibility. Thus began the 1876 campaign, to include Custer's demise on Little Bighorn.

There were three columns in Gen. Philip Sheridan's plan to drive the Sioux onto reservations. Col. John Gibbon's Montana column left Fort Ellis on April 1 with 2d Cavalry Lt. Edward McClernand as acting engineer. Brig. Gen. Alfred Terry's Dakota column left Fort Lincoln on May 17 with Lt. Edward Maguire, chief engineer, Department of Dakota, and a detachment from the Battalion of Engineers. Brig. Gen. George Crook's column left Fort Fetterman on May 29 with Capt. William Stanton, chief engineer, Department of the Platte. Crook fought a large force of Sioux and Cheyenne on June 17 along the Rosebud River. Terry, knowing nothing of Crook's fight, sent Custer south along the Rosebud with 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Lt. George Wallace as acting engineer. Maguire and the engineer detachment went with Terry's staff in Gibbon's column southwest to the mouth of Little Bighorn. When Custer and five companies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry perished on June 25, 1876, Wallace was with the remainder of the regiment and survived the fight.

Maguire reached the battlefield on June 27, and while the relief force tended the wounded and buried the dead, he mapped the field and the burial site. All engineer reports on the Rosebud and Little Bighorn fights are recorded in the Annual Reports of the Chief of Engineers. Maguire's map became the basis for all maps of that historic battlefield.