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of Engineers®
Tulsa District

TULSA

DISTRICT RECORD

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Winter storms damage Kansas parks

See page 3





Col. Miroslav Kurka
District Commander

Commander's Corner

It is the middle of winter. The joyous holiday period is fading into a distant memory, and the groundhog indicates that we'll have at least another month of cold, grey weather. Nonetheless, it is a very exciting time as we begin to see the positive results of almost two years of effort in Iraq, and as we begin to make real progress towards our vision of Tulsa's future.

The progress toward a more flexible, regional-focused, and project-management based Tulsa District comes none too soon. Economic competition from globalization, rapidly changing technology, the information revolution, and national security priorities focused on a Global War on Terrorism have given us a very rapidly changing environment.

(We) ... are living in the period of time that will produce more change for humanity than any previous era in history. It is a time of extraordinary importance that will fundamentally reshape almost every aspect of your life during the next two decades. Wholesale change is taking place in almost every segment of your reality – and the pace will only increase in the coming years.

John Peterson, "The Road to 2015"

The environment of change described by Peterson in "The Road to 2015" is commonly referred to as **VUCA** – Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. **VUCA** is affecting everyone. We face real challenges in the very near future that will require flexibility and innovation from all of us.

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Division commander brings a look at the future

Starting in April, the Southwestern Division will launch the first regional electronic news service in the Corps. The service, named in honor of all the dedicated employees throughout the region who prove themselves Pacesetters on a daily basis, will also display the division and all district logos directly under the name, the "Pacesetter."

This electronic news service is another step forward in our Corps 2012 process of improving as a region. Due to downsizing and budget restraints, the ability to produce district newsletters was already inconsistent. And, as Southwestern Division goes to one regional overhead rate, our corporate bodies, the Board of Directors and the Regional Management Board, composed of leadership from all districts and the division, had to look at alternatives that would assure that we would keep everyone in the region informed in a timely, professional manner. In November, the Board of Directors approved the electronic news service as the vehicle to make that happen.

A regional Project Delivery Team composed of public affairs specialists in each district and the division office will produce the Pacesetter electronic news service nine times per year. Although the service will be web based, the Pacesetter will be a flexible product. In consideration of our employees, as well as retirees, the Pacesetter will be formatted so that it can easily be run off in hard copy using a printer at work or at home. If retirees have any problem getting a copy, they should contact district Public Affairs Offices for assistance accessing the new service. District PAOs may also produce excerpts as needed.

The Pacesetter, the voice of the entire Southwestern Division, will provide a regional focus for news, assure consistent messages, save money, incorporate the tenets of the Corps' 2012 philosophy, and symbolize our unity as a regional team. I am proud that Southwestern Division is taking the initiative to adopt innovative approaches to improving our regional processes and positioning itself to retain the title, Pacesetter Division!

Brigadier General Jeffery J. Dorko
Division Commander

Tulsa District Record

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District Commander
COL Miroslav Kurka

Public Affairs Officer
Edward Engelke

Editor
Mary Beth Hudson



Ice storm damage at a public use area at Marion Lake. Several Kansas projects were damaged by the storms.

Ice hits Kansas projects, what's next?

*By Pete Navesky
Kansas Area Manager*

The ice storms that hit the Kansas area in January caused power outages across the central part of the state. Several employees were without power in their homes for several days, as was the Marion Reservoir Lake Office which was closed.

We instituted the liberal leave policy for those who did not dare venture out on icy roads. Unfortunately, however, several employees had the misfortune of slips and falls on the ice at their homes resulting in some back problems. Everyone has healed, and we are now hoping to dodge the flu!

Big Hill and Elk City are apparently in the Kansas Tropical Zone. They only had rain, but enough to take Elk City about 40 percent into flood pool.

Trees received the most damage, and there was isolated campsite damage from falling limbs. Marion, Council Grove, and John Redmond had the most tree damage. Any Public Use Areas roads that were borderline going into the storm experienced accelerated deterioration from the freeze/thaw cycles.

A request for supplemental funding has been submitted through Southwestern Division for documented damages totaling \$462,000. Status of the request is unknown at this time.

Witnessing history

Reflections on an election

Editor's Note: Tulsa District employees currently deployed to Iraq were asked to share some of their thoughts on being in that country at the historic time of its first election.

A message from the Iraqi people by way of Public Affairs Officer

By Ross Adkins

Public Affairs Officer, Gulf Region Division, Baghdad

I feel extremely privileged to have been here when Iraq sent the world a message about what freedom means to them. As a kid, I remember an old-time CBS radio program, "You Are There," that recreated an event in history. Now I can say I was in place to witness a bit of history instead of reading about it, hearing about it on radio, or seeing it on television. I was there!

You know, we came here thinking we could do a good thing and help rebuild a country. I think it has to do with our Boy and Girl Scout influence we receive at an early age. We thought we could bring a message of freedom and hope to a country that suffered under a tyrant for many years. We came with a message about democracy and freedom.

Sure, there are those in Iraq who want us out of here. If it was my country, I would probably feel the same way. It's not that they hate us; they just want to be free to make their own determination. But they also admit they do not want us to go just yet. They know they still need help. We need to give them that

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U.S. Army photo

Iraqi National Elections - Iraqi residents of eastern Baghdad's Nine Nissan district read polling instructions outside a local polling site Jan. 30, as an Iraqi Army soldiers provides security to the site on a nearby rooftop.

An Army officer's perspective

By Lt. Col. Brett Perry

Deputy District Engineer Forward, USACE, GRN, Kirkuk

We are all pretty much elated here about the success of the elections. In retrospect, I think we were pretty confident about the security piece; a lot of effort went into ensuring that piece was taken care of, but no one really knew what the voter turnout would be like. I, for one, underestimated how important the election and the act of voting is to these people who have never been allowed to have a say in their own government. It was inspirational.

Locally, people turned out to vote in their "Sunday Best" attire and many brought their whole family. Despite what some have said, this was a BIG DEAL. People were smiling and openly celebrating. Today, the Iraqis that work for us here returned to work, and each time I greeted one, he smiled and proudly showed me his ink-stained finger.

Sixty percent voter turnout may sound low to some, but these people did it under the threat of death (also knowing that afterwards the ink on their finger would mark them as having voted), and some had to walk miles to the nearest voting station and often stand in long lines. Sunday the Iraqis proved they are capable of democracy and will stand up to the terrorists to get there.

Witnessing this event first hand gives me a renewed sense of hope that they will have a bright future and a renewed sense of commitment to help them realize that future.

Editor's Note: Lt. Col. Perry, deployed Tulsa District deputy district engineer, is serving as the DDE-Forward for Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah Provinces. He performs construction management for a variety of projects funded and managed through the Project and Contracting Office. On-going and planned projects in that area of operations include oil infrastructure; power transmission and distribution; water treatment and distribution; roads; new health care clinics; hospital and school renovations; train station, fire station, and courthouse renovations; new army base; construction of border patrol forts along the Iraq/Iran border; and police training facilities. The total program is currently budgeted at about \$350 million for Kirkuk and \$250 million for Sulaymaniyah.



These pictures, furnished by Rusty Roberts, show some of the work being done by the Corps of Engineers in Iraq. Above is an existing school. The interior shot on the right is an existing school with its mud floors. Bottom right is a classroom in a newly constructed school.

An American civilian's sentiments

*By Rusty Roberts, Mission Specialist
Camp Blue Diamond, near Ar Ramadi, Iraq*

As much security as there always is, more was added. The fighter planes were heard and seen more each day. The Marine ground patrols were increased to include M-1s along with the regular presence of manned Bradley machine guns. We feel the presence of the predator, but it was flying lower and was visible if you looked hard. Guard points were increased as well as foot patrols within Camp Blue Diamond walls. Security level was U3: wearing battle rattle and carrying gas mask at all times if outside the door and within reach when working or sleeping.

Camp Blue Diamond is located in Ramadi, Al Anbar Province which is considered a very sensitive area and primary target. Election Day threats and tensions were high. Efforts were made to eliminate unnecessary group gatherings. The dining facility had become a "Git 'N Go."

As an American, I admit to mixed emotions. There have been times when it seemed all American efforts were being abused and even taken for granted. If you are an honest person working here, it is a waste of time to deny that thought has occurred. You think things get fouled up when you are trying to get projects implemented in the civilized states? You have no clue how bad it can get here. People in the states have no idea how many times road blocks jump up out of nowhere and for no apparent reason. It can be very frustrating!



"Pictures say it all. If anyone questions some of the reasons behind the U.S. being here, please look at the feet of the children in the old school room. There are many projects ongoing but the one closest to my heart is schools.

Rusty Roberts

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An American civilian's sentiments

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In our office, the satellite TV came on about 5:00 a.m. when the first employee set foot in the office area. We all continued to trudge through our assignments with one ear glued to the 24-hour news stations. Very few seconds during the day ticked away without one of us stopping for a few minutes to concentrate on the words and pictures from the TV. There was an aura of apprehension and concern all day.

Flashbacks of bombings, invasions, suicide bombers, the faces of our very young people in military uniforms carrying guns nearly as big as they are, schools with mud floors, hospitals with operating rooms that wouldn't be used for anything except maybe a broom closet in the states, the fabulous palaces with gold and crystal chandeliers 40 feet tall and 30 feet wide, rural families living with no water, children selling bread on the streets for a few cents were some of the pictures that crossed my mind.

I waited to see if any of these things meant anything to any of the local Iraqi people. Sometimes I worry and wonder just what do these people want anyway? We're American civilians. We volunteered to come here and offer help. Do they think we should stay around and protect them for the rest of their lives? Don't they realize we get rockets and mortars fired at us much more than the average Iraqi individuals? We are busting our butts to help them. What are they going to do to protect this new life?

On Election Day, I realized the intensity of my feelings. Emotions mounted as each hour passed. Could it actually be real? Voters continuing to show up even against the odds. My feeling of major concern was magically fading a fraction at a time. I was starting to feel like a cheerleader at an event. By the time the polls closed, it was an exhilarating feeling. The locals fought the odds. They took a stand even while being threatened. Old and young, men and women – there was pride in their appearance and a beam in their eyes as they walked in to mark

There are 38 schools contracted and under construction in Gulf Region South District. In Gulf Region Central District, under the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force alone, we have 124 schools underway in Al Anbar, Province. About 800 schools were first targeted throughout the Gulf Region Division. That total continues to increase as existing schools are located and needs assessed."

Rusty Roberts

A message from the Iraqi people

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extra bit of help. In the years to come, I can see it being a benefit for everyone.

But right now, I think the roles have been reversed. They have a message about freedom – not just for us, but the entire world. They have sent a message to everyone on what it is to want freedom – a freedom that you and I enjoy without even thinking about it.

How many of us would have gone out to vote after receiving death threats? The Iraqis did! They came out by the millions and thumbed their noses at the insurgents. Some paid dearly for that act of defiance.

I have talked with some who made that daring trip to the polls. They are not bragging about it. They feel that they have finally started to take charge of their lives. They have sent a message to all nations that are not free – and to those that are.

Their courage and determination powerfully demonstrated the rights and responsibilities of people in freedom-loving countries. The Iraqi people sent me a clear message of what it means to be an American, and I'm taking that message to heart.

I can't think of a more powerful message about freedom than the one the Iraqis sent Sunday, January 30th.

their choices. When exiting, a purple finger was waved as a trophy. It showed they had taken a stand and were setting aside some of their differences.

The war isn't over. Unfortunately, bombs and more deaths will occur. The elections held January 30 chose those whose responsibility, among other things, is to write a constitution by October 31. The voters sent a vibrant signal to insurgents. They proclaimed their willingness to set aside some of their differences and work together.

Now that Election Day is over, I have a new respect for many of the local people and a lot more respect for all our American efforts here. It isn't going to come fast but I feel certain it is going to come. Iraqi people will eventually take care of themselves. We will have succeeded. Iraq's Election Day January 30, 2005, was the start.

Congratulations!

Russell Holeman achieved a Program Management Level II certification for the Army Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Workforce. This certification program has been initiated under the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act.

Jan Morris is once again on the transplant list for a kidney through Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. The health problems that had caused her to be removed from the list have been resolved.

One Army builds for another

As a member of the Kandahar team, Don Hendrix of Tulsa is helping rebuild Afghanistan, one brick at a time, according to Maj. Don Ollar, resident engineer, Kandahar Resident Office. The first construction challenge was to build a temporary camp. According to Ollar, once all the material for the temporary camp were on site, it was constructed and turned over to the Afghanistan National Army in three weeks.

The next milestone was to design and construct the force protection perimeter – 13 guard towers and about five kilometers of rock wall or chain link fencing.

Other milestones were:

- √ Preparation of a site topographic survey and master plan. The topographic survey dictated the location of the waste water treatment facility and the final elevations of every structure in the ANA permanent camp.
- √ Construction a dining facility capable of feeding 4,000 soldiers in a two-hour period. The dining facility is designed to use wood burning stoves for cooking.
- √ Completion of the water distribution system; waste water treatment facility; prime power plant; the garrison, brigade, and corps headquarters complexes; and two infantry battalion complexes.

A typical battalion barracks complex consists of a battalion headquarters building, eight billeting buildings, one battalion storage building, and one toilet/shower building. The ANA was to take occupancy at the end of February.



Don Hendrix, Tulsa District, inspects the formwork on guard tower number eight. The camp will be occupied by the Afghanistan National Army.

Project Delivery Team of the Quarter

Phone system team honored

The Internet Protocol Telephony Deployment Team was named Project Delivery Team of the Quarter. The team was nominated for the successful design and implementation of an IP-based telephone system for the Tulsa District Office. According to the nomination, this new phone system enables the district to serve customers better and do so at reduced cost.

The nomination stated, “This was an outstanding effort by a dedicated group of individuals. This success story was made possible by the diligence and personal efforts of Corps of Engineers and contractor personnel.” They are Larry Flenniken (team lead), Janice Coy, Kris Graves, Steven McCarn, Patricia Smith, Vickie Schiffner, Pam McNeeley, Kari Barr, and Willie Grimes, Information Management Office; Trudy Cooper, Contracting Division; Roni Jamesmeyer, Carla Doty, Brian Cochran, and



Angie Short

Col. Kurka with some members of the PDT of the Quarter. From left, Steve McCarn, Kris Graves, Team Leader Larry Flenniken, Janice Coy, Willie Grimes, Vickie Schiffner, and Pam McNeely. Awards were presented at a recent PRB.

Tony Skinner, InterNetwork Experts; Mel Booth, US Robotech; and Glen Albertson, DataCom Sciences.

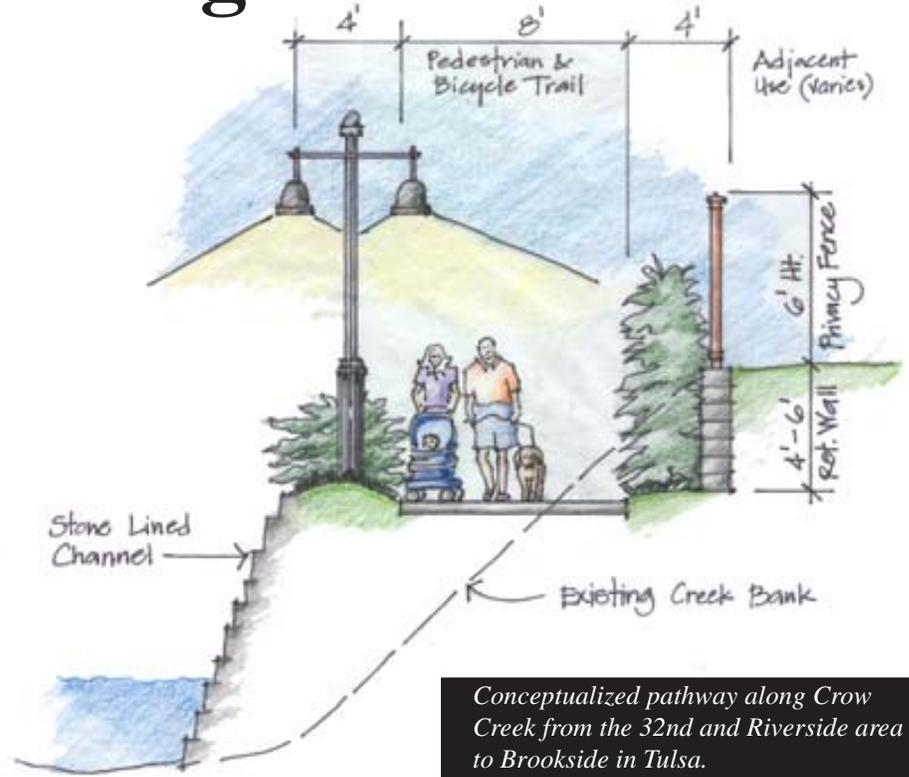
The team’s goal – to install and cut over to the new phone system during the summer dry season and prior to the fiscal year end – was met.

A river runs through it

Vision is a word that's been used frequently around Tulsa the past couple of years. Terms such as Mayor's Vision, Vision 2025, the Tulsa Vision, the Vision Vote, Vision Plan, etc., crop up on billboards, websites, and campaign ads as well as in news reports and conversation. Last September, voters approved the landmark Vision 2025 initiative which seeks, in part, to capitalize on the potential that exists thanks to the river that runs through Tulsa.

The Arkansas River Corridor Study is underway to identify the most appropriate use for all parts of the river and bordering lands. Phase I was completed in July 2004, and Phase II is now underway. The study is funded by multiple private and public sources at local, state, and federal levels. It is being directed by the Indian Nations Council of Governments, and more than 50 Tulsa County organizations are involved in an advisory capacity. The Tulsa District and INCOG are targeting this June for completion of the Master Plan.

The study looks at long term economic and environmental planning issues for the 42-mile stretch of the Arkansas River from Keystone Dam to the Tulsa/Wagoner County line. Its intended purpose is to weave technically sound ideas



that are supported by the community into a vision plan for the 42-mile corridor.

In Phase I, public participation, base mapping, and inventory and analysis helped create a plan for the project area that would enhance the river and the citizens' lives. It is the basis for the technical evaluation taking place in Phase II.

Cynthia Kitchens, project manager, and Andy Kmetz, senior planner, are working with INCOG and the Phase II contractor, C.H. Guernsey. And they've been busy.

Opportunities and constraints are both being determined. Infrastructure, environmental, and cultural resource data is being identified to generate possible improvement opportunities. The eight potential dam locations and several other possible major public improvement sites identified in Phase I are being evaluated. Phase II also examines eight key development sites and will generate conceptual plans for them. Siltation problems and other environmental concerns are being addressed. All concepts are assessed to insure that flood damage protection is, at a minimum, maintained or perhaps improved.

Vision 2025 will help fund two low water dams, an upstream catch basin for silt, and beautification projects along the river. The corridor Project Delivery Team has identified the sites just below Highway 97 in Sand Springs and just below the Creek Expressway in Jenks as the top two potential dam locations. As such, they will be subject to more rigorous evaluation.

January was a milestone for the project with public meetings on Jan. 25, 26 and 27 in Tulsa, Broken Arrow, and Sand Springs respectively. At each meeting, the public was shown the study's progress. One participant living along the Crow Creek Corridor said she felt much better about security after seeing the preliminary plans and conceptual drawings.

Kitchens said the public was quite pleased with the concepts presented. "The meetings were a resounding success, and the



Artist's rendering of a dam for the identified low water sites. The gates would be functional, allowing water and silt to pass through at appropriate times.

additional public input was greatly appreciated by all members of the Arkansas Corridor team," she said.

Kmetz said that developers and other business interests in Tulsa County can see the potential economic impacts and are doing what they can to provide input and track the schedule.

"The positive feedback we got at all three meetings gave everyone high anticipation for the final planning report which is due June 30," Kitchens said. "We are right on schedule with preliminary reports already being reviewed by our internal team."

From the excitement exhibited by the public and the INCOG/Corps/Guernsey PDT, everyone is keen to see what the results will be. Kitchens and Kmetz both said that every team member wants a plan that improves the ecosystem of the river and satisfies the public and private constituents.

Another series of public meetings will be held throughout the study area when the final Master Plan is disclosed. Once it has been developed, either individual elements or entire phases will be implemented, depending upon their funding and complexity. When completed, the river improvements will be a complete, coherent, and vibrant system.

Kmetz added: "If just a few of the economic and environmental development ideas come to pass, it will truly be the home run that will make every Corps employee proud to have been a part of it."

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.



Angie Short

From left, Maj. Robert Coralles, PPMD; Wendy Moore, EC; Carol McConnell, OD; Melonie Zincke, RM.

Customer Care Award goes to group

Customer Care Employees of the Quarter for the fourth quarter were named. According to the nomination, Maj. Robert Corrales, Carol McConnell, Wendy Moore, and Melonie Zincke carried on the functions of employees deployed to hurricane response and recovery efforts in

Florida and Alabama from Sept. thru Nov. 2004. Maj. Corrales compiled the list of volunteers, made sure they were nominated for a tasker, and made the travel arrangements. Melonie Zincke accepted funds in the district and made sure that approvals were done so work items could be created. Carol McConnell was the responsible employee for the work items. She made sure that there were adequate funds for labor numbers and travel orders. Wendy Moore created travel orders for the employees and made sure that any changes were done immediately. All the work was in addition to normal duties, completed on very short notice, and happened during the busiest time of the fiscal year – year end.

Kerri Stark, Emergency Operations, said, "Because of their hard work, I was able to support the power missions for Hurricane Ivan in Alabama and Hurricane Jeanne in Florida. They did a fantastic job!"

Why should you visit the TEAM PAGE?

- √ Bomb threat checklist
- √ Tulsa District Record Archive
- √ Speakers Bureau Reports
- √ PMBP Portal
- √ Newsclip Archive
- √ Unity of Command Slides
- √ Plate 1
- √ GIS Info
- √ Environmental Operating Principles
- √ Human Resources Calendar
- √ District Calendar
- √ Organizational Homepages
- √ Union Agreements
- √ Directories
- √ Employee Processing Forms Checklist

And so much more!!!!

<http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/teamtulsa.htm>

Lake hosts cook-off

Colonel's Column

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The winners – from left, Kyle Dunlap, Pauline Nichols, Lynn Walkup, Lois Richie, Robin Parks, and Ron Stephens.

Keystone Lake employees and volunteers held a Chili & Soup Cook-Off Jan. 19, to raise money for UNICEF to be used for tsunami relief. The event was a huge success according to lead ranger, Robin Parks. The benefit raised \$225.

Nine pots of chili and seven of soup were entered and then consumed by 45 hungry people who each gave a \$5 donation to test the entries. Judges included park rangers Travis Miller and Mark Cazier, Keystone volunteer Jack Walkup, and retired lead ranger Mike Schrick. Four of the six winners were Keystone volunteers.

During the get-together, Kent Dunlap, lake manager, was given a congratulatory send-off to his five-month assignment at headquarters. Employees, volunteers, and his family were all on hand to wish him well. The Dunlap family even won third place for their OSU-inspired “Eddie’s Scowling Good Chowder.”



The Dunlap Family – Kent is shown here with his mother, his wife, Corde, and their two sons, Kyle and Bryce (in front).

The FY 06 Civil Works budget is austere. The Corps applied performance-based guidelines in an attempt to ensure the maximum efficient use of the dollars provided for the Civil Works program. In an era of constrained resources, only the highest-return projects were funded. The allocation of funds among construction projects was determined through the application of seven objective, performance-based guidelines. In this application, regions with high population and economic densities fared better than those that were more rural.

The president’s budget provides Tulsa District \$81,541,000 for the Civil Works program in FY 06. This budget will enable us to continue moving forward with our contributions to the nation’s efforts to win the war on terrorism, protect the homeland, revitalize the economy, and to effectively protect and sustain the environment.

Although this budget represents an increase in General Investigation and Construction General funding over the FY 05 President’s Budget request, the Operations and Maintenance request is about \$9 million less than the FY 05 O&M appropriation. We are carefully analyzing this budget to determine how best to apply the limited FY 06 O&M resources to fund operations and maintenance of 38 multipurpose projects, eight hydro-power plants, and five locks on the McClellan-Kerr Navigation system.

Preliminary analysis indicates that we will be able to adequately fund operations and pay for district labor at existing staffing levels, but will be very constrained in the amount of major maintenance work items (lock dewatering, tainter and sluice gate rehabilitation, etc.) that we will be able to perform. Therefore, FY 05 O&M execution is key. We must perform as much long-term work on our critical infrastructure as possible in FY 05, because FY 06 will be very lean.

Despite the budget constraints, we will continue our work of promoting customer satisfaction in our Civil Works program. Tulsa District employees have and will continue to contribute much to the development and protection of our nation’s infrastructure and the safety and security of our citizens.

Switching gears, the military program actually represents a much larger proportion of Tulsa District’s overall budget. We have great capability and unique expertise in military programs. In this program, the Corps, Southwestern Division, and Tulsa District are facing what could be the “perfect storm.” The combination of existing and planned Future Year Defense Program military construction, BRAC, Army modularity construction, and construction resulting from the Global Posture Initiative (return

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of forces from Europe and Korea) will stress our military construction capabilities to the utmost. For Tulsa District, this means a potentially very large near-term workload. This large military program will provide the program flexibility we need to weather the austere Civil Works Operations and Maintenance budget. It will also require us to work regionally – much of the work will be in other districts – and help us develop the tactics, techniques, and procedures for sharing workload and capabilities across district boundaries.

Our strategic planning efforts and our bilateral planning efforts with Little Rock District focused on regionalization are very timely indeed. Through partnerships with Little Rock, Fort Worth, and Galveston, we are finding better ways of sharing both work and capabilities. Little Rock District has even offered to share O&M resources in FY 06 to help us perform some major maintenance work on our critical infrastructure. This new environment of shared workloads will require flexibility on everyone’s part and will require many of us to work “outside our comfort zone” on new and different types of projects, in new areas, and with streamlined methods.

I ask that everyone be patient, flexible, and open to new ideas and methods as the district’s leaders sort through the budget, the workload, and regional priorities to develop and implement both a near-term and a long-term strategic plan. As always, our priority will be to sustain and support our very highly capable workforce, while delivering the best design and construction products in the world to our customers.

Your continued efforts every day on all aspects of Tulsa District’s mission are outstanding; we continue delivering projects better, faster, and at a lower cost despite VUCA. Because of your exceptional abilities and motivation, the Tulsa District was once again identified as one of top two districts in the Corps in overall customer satisfaction in the 2004 survey of military customers. It’s because of you that I’m so very confident in the future.

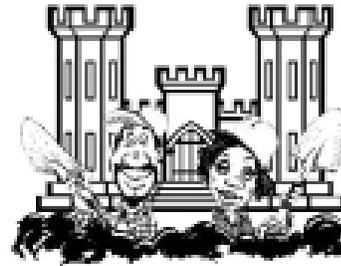
ESSAYONS!



New Additions

Chad, Jenni, and four-and-a-half-year-old Tyler Biggs welcomed Jentry Rhea Jan. 7. Jenni is the daughter of Patty Smith, IMO. She says Taylor thinks his little sister is pretty special.

Brittany Engelke is proud to announce the Feb. 8 birth of her sister Ashley. Parents are Greg and Andrea Engelke, and proud grandparents are Janice and Ed Engelke of PAO.



Family News

Condolences

Rick Smithers, Eufaula Lake Office, lost his father, William Smithers, Jan. 3.

Willie Diggs passed away Jan. 18. He was the father of Michael Diggs, environmental biologist in Operations Division.

In January, Jan Hotubbee’s mother, Bette Griffin, passed away.

Curtis Eugene Weddle Jr., retired resident engineer on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, died Jan. 29. He married Patsy Ruth McLemore on April 8, 1955, in McAlester. A 1955 graduate of Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater, Weddle received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and was commander of the Corps of Cadets. He received his master of science degree in civil engineering from Missouri School of Mines in 1957. A member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, Weddle was a Naval aviator during World War II. He served the Corps of Engineers from 1957 to 1994. He was a Boy Scout leader from 1966 to 1984 and was a recipient of the Silver Beaver award, the highest honor given by a Boy Scout council. Memorial contributions may be made to the Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library, 101 E. Cherokee, Sallisaw, OK 74955.

Emmett Ray Graves died Feb. 4 at the age of 100 years. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1923, and spent four years on active duty. He became champion of the enlisted men’s tennis team at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Graves attended business college in Missouri where he met and married Margaret Owings. He re-joined the Navy during World War II and was assigned to Guam before being honorably discharged in 1945. He worked for the Corps from 1945 until 1973, when he retired from his position as chief of the Audit Branch in Tulsa. Margaret Owings, his first wife of 41 years, died in 1968. Graves then married Esther Driskill who predeceased him in 2000 after 31 years of marriage. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to South Tulsa Baptist Church Building Fund, 10310 S. Sheridan Road, Tulsa, OK 74133-6726.

Sometimes the best fishin' story isn't about catchin' 'em

Paul Roberts, *Keystone Lake*

A couple of summers ago, several park rangers gathered around as Oklahoma Lake Patrol Trooper Tony Richardson told about his previous evening on Keystone Lake. As I listened, I knew that this was one for the record books and began to make mental notes for this story – a fish tale like no other.

About 6:00 p.m., the Duncan Police Department gets a 911 cell-phone call from a lady who says she's standing on a remote beach at Keystone Lake looking at the dismembered body of a person on the shore. It is not understood how Duncan PD gets the call, but once she gets the correct county, Pawnee, she quickly convinces the dispatcher that she knows a human body when she sees one, and what she is looking at is for real. The dispatcher puts her on hold and calls Richardson at home.

Now, Trooper Richardson has just finished a very hot, eight-hour tour on the lake and is looking forward to grilled steaks and an evening with his family. The dispatcher quickly briefs Trooper Richardson about the nature of the call and the approximate location on the upper Arkansas arm of the lake. Richardson responds that it will be 30 minutes to an hour before he can be on scene as he must put on his uniform, drive 12 miles to the Corps yard below the dam to pick up the jonboat, and then drive to the boat ramp nearest the scene. Goodbye steaks!

The dispatcher requests authority to send deputies and extra boats to the scene. Richardson tells the dispatcher to hold the cavalry until he has reached the scene and has seen the body. The dispatcher, a bit edgy now, replies that the lady is very convincing, "knows a body when she sees one," etc. etc., but Richardson isn't ready to commit county, state, and federal resources yet.

By now, Richardson has hooked up the jonboat and is running red (lights and sirens) up Highway 412 through evening westbound traffic. He meets a Pawnee County deputy and a Corps ranger at the boat ramp, and he and the ranger launch the boat and head east.

In a few moments, they spot the caller on the beach. Richardson runs the bow up into the sand, greets the woman, and follows her lead. As they walk in the direction of the body, the woman is quick to assure Richardson that they have disturbed nothing, that they know to protect the crime scene, and everything is just how they found it.

As they continue their approach, Richardson takes particular note of some freshly painted pentagrams on several large pieces of driftwood. He visualizes images of some sort of cult sacrifice.

The woman directs Richardson to a tree where pieces of the victim are hanging from a rope. "This is where they cut his guts out" she says, and draws his attention to the water's edge. She points her finger to the remainder of the dismembered body and states, "and there's the rest of him."



The trooper breathes a sigh of relief and, with all the professionalism he can muster, points to the pile on the beach. "Ma'm those are fish guts; you can even see the pile of fish eggs there." He walks to the water and says, "Uh, ma'm, these are the remains of catfish someone has cleaned and dumped here."

The woman cocks her head and, with a condescending attitude, looks Richardson straight in the eye and says, "I don't know how long you have been doing this job, but fish do not have intestines! I am an anthropologist at OU, and I ought to know!"

Richardson grabs a stick, wades into the water, and drags the "cadaver" up on the sand, one fish at a time. He then patiently identifies to the woman the various body parts of a catfish.

The anthropologist from OU looks at the fish, looks at Richardson, and asks, "How was I supposed to know that fish have intestines?!"

Those of us in the office were howlin' and hootin' by then. Matter of fact, I could tell which of us were OSU fans 'cause we were laughing the loudest.

"How was I supposed to know that fish have intestines?" Har har. "Protect the crime scene." Har har har. "Know a human body when I see one – because I'm an anthropologist at OU!!" Uncontrollable hars!!!

If the fishermen could only know! The best fishin' story was not of their success but the chain of events that they set in motion – a trooper's ruined steak dinner, a race across parts of two counties, the complete mortification of an OU anthropology professor (who must have slept through human anatomy), and a couple of OSU fans who fell out of their chairs laughing.

To this day, we still use her phrase and get a laugh. "I know a human body when I see one!!"