



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Little Rock District

# LRDispatch

Vol. 20, No. 8

August 2003

## **FEST members return from overseas missions** *After two months in the Middle East, employees from Little Rock District received a warm welcome home from reporters, family, friends*

by **Valerie Buckingham**  
LRDispatch Staff

Being away from family and friends can be difficult, but some Little Rock District employees made that sacrifice in order to serve their country in time of war.

Since May, 10 district employees who are members of the Forward Engineer Support Team have returned home from duty in the Middle East. From across the country, Corps employees have volunteered to help restore Iraqi oil.

Although the employees missed their families and friends, they wanted to do something to help their country. At first, after arriving in country, some didn't know what to expect.

"We knew the war was about to start, but we were apprehensive because we didn't know when," said Tom Miller, information technology specialist in Information Management Office.

Maj. John Brown, former deputy district commander, said this deployment was a new experience for him because he worked beside civilians in an actual military deployment. Brown said he thought this was a good opportunity for civilians to see first hand what their military does.

Brinda Jackson, project manager in Programs and Project Management Division, agreed and said the general public doesn't realize what the military does.

"I think the deployments are really good because it teaches people things about the military," Jackson said. "The things you see on television don't show everything."

Brown said he believed that the American presence in the Middle East was the right thing to do, but until the Iraqi people know for a fact that Saddam Hussein's regime has ended, they are

hesitant to fully embrace the United States.

"Those people have been oppressed for so many years," Brown said. "They're happy that we are there, but are apprehensive about it."

Team members said that overall it was wonderful to have been a part of the liberation of Iraq, and this makes them even prouder to be Americans.

"I'm proud to have been part of history," Miller said.

Currently, more than 400 Corps employees are still deployed helping to restore Iraqi oil.



Jamie Oliver



Laurie Driver

(Top) Chester Shaw, former operations manager at Pine Bluff Project Office, is welcomed home from Iraq June 25 by his wife and daughter. (Above) Bruce Johnson, engineering equipment operator at Nimrod Project Office, is greeted by reporters July 21 when he arrived home.

# Diversity Day is opportunity to learn, celebrate

On July 30 we celebrated Diversity Day. We had Equal Employment Opportunity training for supervisors in the morning and, in the afternoon, a celebration in the conference room.

The intent of Diversity Day is not only to have us celebrate our diverse pasts, but to focus on building a united future. I want each of you to be proud of your roots, but I also want to encourage you to be prouder still of our combined fruits.

## America is like stew

America has often been called a salad bowl, where we mix several different items into one combined product — a salad. I prefer a different analogy; that is a stew. Both the salad and the stew use diverse ingredients to produce a single tasty dish. The difference is that in the salad, the initial ingredients remain unchanged, but ingredients in a stew are altered in the process. In a stew, each individual ingredient has absorbed something from the other ingredients and is forever changed.

That is what America is, and what it should be. Each of us should improve ourselves as we interact with those different from ourselves. We should learn from our group's diversity, striving to develop individually and to progress collectively due to the enriching experience of learning from others that are different from ourselves.

I, having been in the Army all these years, have had the opportunity to experience many different cultures around the world. I grew up in the 60's in the South where we had brave men and women, bringing into the public eye that our Land of Opportunity, was not a land of opportunity based upon merit, but in many cases, it was a land where success or failure depended upon one's heritage. Thankfully we have come a long way from those days, but we are not yet where we should be, where we truly celebrate others' pasts and

## From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler  
District Engineer



work in unison, indifferent to any peculiarities, as we strive toward a common, better future.

We as a country, as a great nation, must get past judging others because of their heritage. Instead, we must focus on utilizing different experiences, strengths and abilities to develop a better world for all.

## Different is good

Let me take a few minutes to tell about how differences are good.

I am an engineer. If the world was full of engineers and no architects, think about how boring our world would be. Roads would be straight and level. Buildings would be efficiently plain and without wasteful adornment. Things, in general, would be totally efficient, but spectacularly boring!

What if the world was full of architects and no engineers? We would have fantastic designs that would inspire all, but may not be constructible or safe to use. When we take the best of both, we get superb products that are beautiful and functional, inspiring and efficient.

I personally am thankful for diversity in my diet. I grew up eating Southern cooking (and I love Southern cooking). However, meat was always well-done, often overdone. Vegetables were cooked to almost a mush, and of course cooked with bacon fat saved from breakfast. Lots of things were fried. I knew nothing about Mexican or Italian dishes. Korean or Chinese foods were unheard of.

Today I love all sorts of foods (except Thai). A mess of fried catfish is hard to beat, but blackened catfish, Cajun style, is also a treat. I really appreciate diversity in my diet. I think my acceptance of foods different from my upbringing has made me healthier and happier (I do enjoy eating).

The strength of our country is its willingness to learn from and accept others. We all have something to contribute. Democrat or

(See "Colonel" on page 12.)

## Inside this issue

Plans in play for Bull Shoals Nursery Pond 3

Opportunity for park managers, rangers to grow professionally 5

Everyone can benefit from cholesterol screenings 6

Read the LRDispatch online at home or work:  
[www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire](http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire)

# LRDispatch

- Col. Benjamin Butler . . . District Engineer
- P.J. Spaul . . . . . Acting Public Affairs Officer
- Valerie Buckingham . . . Command Information Officer
- Dorothy Seals . . . . . Issue Editor
- Raini Wright . . . . . Writer
- Jamie Oliver . . . . . Writer

LRDispatch is an unofficial monthly publication authorized under AR 360-1, published under supervision of the Little Rock District Public Affairs Office and printed by a civilian contractor on recycled paper. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. News items are solicited. Publication depends on general interest as judged by the editors. Submitted articles will be edited to meet standards of the Associated Press Style Guide. Circulation is 1,500. Correspondence should be addressed to LRDispatch Editor, Public Affairs Office, Little Rock District. P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867. The PAO telephone number is (501) 324-5551. Fax number is (501) 324-6699.

# Cutoff offers grim outlook for Arkansas, White

by Raini Wright  
LRDispatch Staff

A narrow landmass spanning more than 10 square miles between the Arkansas and the White rivers is the primary area of concern for the Arkansas-White River Cutoff Study.

Historically, this area is where water from the Arkansas and White rivers forms a cutoff – a channel of unrestrained water flow between rivers. Since closure of the natural cutoff in the 1960's, water has continued to flow between the two rivers following several different flow paths. If ignored, this uninhibited flow of water will cause irreparable damage to the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and to the natural resources in surrounding areas.

In the beginning, the cutoff was perceived as creating problems for navigation, according to Tricia Anslow, chief of Environmental Section.

Navigation officials were concerned, because constant flow of water between the two rivers created dangerous crosscurrents in the Arkansas Post Canal. The Corps built a sand levee in 1963 to prevent unrestrained water flow, but the

rivers reacted creating a new path through Owens Lake at Melinda.

During the 1970's, the Corps built a concrete containment structure to separate the river basins. The Melinda Structure was constructed in 1989 to prevent headcutting – the beginning formation of a cutoff. To date the headcutting continues at the Melinda Structure and has become a maintenance problem.

“Over the years, the Corps has had to do continual maintenance, and now we want a long-term solution,” Anslow said.

Without a long-term solution, the cutoff will expand possibly causing the Arkansas River to capture the White river, the White River to capture the Arkansas River or the Mississippi River to change course and capture both rivers. If any of these scenarios occur, there will be adverse impacts to navigation as dangerous crosscurrents again become a problem to the environment as terrestrial habitat is lost and natural flood regimes are altered.

“The design life for a solution is at least 50 years,” Nathaniel Keen, hydrologic engineer in Hydrology and Hydraulics Section, said. “We will aim for longer than that.”

In 1999, under the authority of the U.S.

Congress, the district undertook the Arkansas-White River Cutoff Study. The study will assess the negative and positive impacts of prevention alternatives, including the environmental and socioeconomic aspects.

Six alternatives have been identified, but none has been selected. The alternatives include: no action, alterations to the relief channel, constructing a dam on the lower Arkansas River, creating a non-overflow structure, modifying existing levees and making operational changes.

The favorable alternative will decrease erosion on the White River Containment Structure, reduce the degradation of the landmass separating the White and Arkansas Rivers and ensure the maintenance of the McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System.

In addition to navigation interests, numerous public and private companies have interests in this area. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and timber companies all own property in the area. The area is also a popular spot for hunting.

“This is a relatively undisturbed area,”

(See “Cutoff” on page 10.)

## Nursery pond will benefit lake's fish population

by Dorothy Seals  
LRDispatch Staff

After two years of planning by Little Rock District and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, construction is set to begin on Bull Shoals Lake Nursery Pond.

This 21-acre multi-species fish nursery is expected to provide 568-acres of spawning fish habitat on Bull Shoals Lake.

“The lack of suitable nursery and rearing habitats for predatory fish species is one of the most limiting factors within the lake,” Project Study Manager Dana Needham-Kirby said. “This is an important factor in maintaining the overall fishery productivity, diversity and ecological balance.”

For the past several years, fish population samplings by AGFC have shown an extreme decline in the number of predatory fish in the lake. For example, reproduction of crappie declined from the 1990 sampling of 150 young per acre to only one young per acre in 1999.

The list of other fish species showing decline includes large-mouth bass, walleye and bluegill. These predatory species are needed to control the rough fish populations, such as carp, buffalodrum and river suckers.

“There is a need to balance all ecological systems,” Mark Case, natural resource specialist at Bull Shoals, said. “A lake is

actually an easier place to measure the many ecological variables than in other environmental systems. Game fish play a huge role in this balanced system. They are the top predators in the lake with large mouth bass being the alpha species. They maintain the populations of many other fish species.”

The reasons for the declining fish populations are hydropower, operation and reservoir maintenance, according to Needham-Kirby.

“The trees, shrubs and plants that were impounded in the lake when it was created 50 years ago provided a natural fish nursery habitat for both predatory and rough fish species,” Needham-Kirby said.

“However the fluctuating lake levels due to flood control and hydropower releases have led to a decline of the actual ecology of the lake. The natural fish nursery habitat has now degraded leaving behind a lake ‘desert.’”

The nursery habitat is needed for the survival of many species, Needham-Kirby added.

“It's a classic case of ‘survival of the fittest,’ only more odds are stacked up against certain types of fish species, in this case the predatory species,” she said. “The decline of one species and the rise of another causes problems for the entire ecosystem

(See “Nursery Pond” on page 6.)

# Keane announces overseas rotation schedule

by **Spc. Bill Putnam**  
AR News Service

When he announced the unit rotation schedule July 23, Gen. Jack Keane said that most units deploying to Iraq over the next few months can expect stays of up to one year.

“What we have done is taken (Gen. John Abizaid’s) requirements and his needs, and looked at the forces in Iraq, and devised a plan to meet those needs,” said Keane, the acting Army chief of Staff. Abizaid is the commander of Central Command.

Deployments beyond that one-year period are still being looked at, said Keane and Maj. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the vice-director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Keane said it was important to understand the three guidelines that are driving the new Iraq rotation policy.

Abizaid needs a force large enough to defeat the guerilla movements that threaten securing Iraq.

To do that, a predictable number of soldiers on the ground are needed. An intended rotation plan of 12 months was the solution to that, Keane said.

Recognizing that most units deploying to Iraq will come from the Army, the military wants to use active-duty units from all branches of the U.S. military, said Keane.

Engineer units from the Air Force or Navy might be deployed in place of Army engineer units, he explained. The schedule will also allow the use of Reserve volunteers and reserve-component units that haven’t been mobilized recently to “balance the stress across the board,” Keane said.

The Army also wanted to have units ready for the war on terrorism and other contingencies like North Korea, Keane said.

Eliminating or reducing participation in exercises and other commitments is a part of that, he said.

“Internationalizing” the force in Iraq is also a goal of the U.S., he said. British and Italian army units are already on the ground with more nations contributing later.

Other nations like Poland and the Netherlands are sending troops, and more nations can be expected to contribute later this year, said Keane and McChrystal.

The new U.S. units sent to Iraq will also assist the Coalition Provisional Authority in developing the new Iraqi police force, provincial defense force and national army, he said.

Once those Iraqi units are established, most of the security tasks will be handed over to them as quickly as possible, Keane said.

Contractors will also be used to provide logistical and training support and reduce the numbers of troops as well, Keane said.

Although he didn’t say specifically what they were, Keane said that quality of life and incentive issues to support the year-long rotations will be established. The plan, as envisioned, “will allow time for the security situation to improve” in Iraq, Keane said.

Keane also announced the rotation schedule for Bosnia, Kosovo, the Sinai and Afghanistan. Deployments to those theaters will continue to be six months. Currently the Army has 368,000 soldiers deployed to 120 countries around the world, Keane said.

There are 133,000 soldiers in Iraq with another 34,000 soldiers in Kuwait supporting them.

## Family News

### Births

Mason James Camp was born July 9 to Becca and **Jamie Camp**. Jamie is a park ranger at Millwood Tri-Lakes.

Joseph David Miller was born June 20 to Christie and **Joey Miller**. Joey is a power plant trainee at Bull Shoals Powerhouse.

### Congratulations

**Larry Hurley** graduated May 16 from Southwest Missouri State University with a bachelor’s degree in wildlife and conservation management. Hurley, a cooperative student, accepted a park ranger position at Table Rock Project Office.

**Gil Wooten** was selected chief of Navigation and Maintenance Section for a one-year assignment.

Carol Potter was promoted to Branch Manger at Southern Missouri Bank in Van Buren. Carol is the wife of **Phillip Potter**, a facility maintenance inspector at Clearwater Project Office.

Eric Eggburn, son of **Mitch Eggburn**, resident engineer at

Montgomery Point Lock and Dam, and grandson of **Doug Eggburn**, facility manager at the Pine Bluff Marine Terminal, played in the U.S. Specialty Sports Association World Series with the Sheridan Yellowjackets, a baseball team for 11-year-olds. The Yellowjackets finished 47th in the nation and were ranked as high as ninth during the season.

### New Faces

**Chris Burroughs** is the new engineer intern in Reservoir Control Branch.

### Speaker’s Bureau

Russellville Park Ranger **Jennifer Hoban** and Summer Ranger **Andrea Henson** presented a water safety program and junior ranger program to youth at Aux Arc Park on July 4. Henson also presented the programs at Clear Creek.

Russellville Park Manager **Greig Moe** and Park Ranger **Jennifer Hoban** gave PowerPoint presentations to the Ozark Chamber of Commerce on May 14 and to the Ozark Rotary Club on July 1. About 70 people attended these presentations on past, present and future Army Corps of Engineers partnerships.

# Rangers, managers have opportunity to excel

*Program offers those from the field a new Corps perspective*

by **Raini Wright**

LRDispatch Staff

Professional developmental assignments are part of the Army Corps of Engineers tradition to create and implement programs that improve employee's job performances and understanding of overall operating procedures.

In 1981, Dale Leggett, chief of Natural Resources Management Section, created a professional development program for park rangers and managers. Twice a year, a park ranger or manager joins the district office for six months to learn about management of Corps' facilities from a different perspective.

"I established the program because I participated in a similar program at Headquarters while working in the Vicksburg District," Leggett said. "I wanted to give our rangers and managers the same opportunity to work within and become more familiar with the chain of command.

"The program also helps project office managers gain an advocate in the district

office to speak on their behalves."

Participants are selected through a competitive application process open primarily for GS 9-11 rangers and managers. Each project office is asked to send one nominee per assignment period. The nominees are those the project offices feel are the most promising young professionals and are at a point in their career where the experience would enhance their future development, according to Leggett.

On average, there are two or three nominees per assignment period. The district office takes a week to review the nomination forms and make a decision. Once notified, the selected candidate is given 30 days to report to the district office.

On the first day, each participant goes through orientation. Part of the orientation process involves reviewing the district's program objec-

tives and the participant establishing his or her own personal and professional objectives.

Each participant is required to keep a journal of daily activities and encouraged to compile a notebook containing examples of completed assignments, accomplish the majority of his or her professional and personal objectives, and partic-

(See "Program" on page 8.)



Valerie Buckingham

*Dale Leggett helps Caleb Brunson, a park ranger from Pine Bluff, with paperwork. Brunson just completed a six-month developmental assignment in Natural Resources.*

## Patterson takes reins as deputy district engineer

by **Valerie Buckingham**

LRDispatch Staff

Maj. Trina C. Patterson is the new deputy district engineer for the Little Rock District.

Patterson said she is excited to be in the district and eager to begin her work.

"I've heard nothing but good things about Little Rock District," Patterson said. "It feels like everyone is part of the team, and I hope to add to the team."

While learning the district and getting acquainted with the employees, Patterson said she hasn't set any goals for the district at this time, but wants employees to know that she is a people's leader.

"I try to be a good listener, so that I can identify and be able to take the best course of

action," she said.

The cornerstone and foundation of her work ethic is communication. "Communication is the key to everything we do," she said. Patterson believes it's important to get to know the

employees, so that everyone will know what each expects from the other.

With all the work that's involved with her Army career, Patterson said she always has time for her favorite hobby — her children. Her eldest son Gregory is a plebe (freshman) at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. Patterson said she's very proud of all her children, and because of them, she's a better person.

Patterson's mother and three of her children accompanied her to Little Rock. She also has a son Joshua, 12, and 8-year-old twins Ashley and Alex.

Patterson comes to the district with more than 13 years experience. Prior to her assignment in Little Rock district, she completed the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.



MAJ Patterson

### **OOPS**

**Missed an issue of the LRDispatch?  
You can view past editions on our web site  
<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire>.**

# Everyone benefits from cholesterol screenings

by Dorothy Seals  
LRDispatch Staff

For many, the risk of developing heart disease is not enough reason to get their cholesterol levels checked. But fortunately for Jonathan Long and Randy Hathaway, it was.

"I had my cholesterol checked when I was about 25 because my family has a history of heart disease," Long, a study manager in Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division, said.

"My uncle died from a major heart attack at 29, my father died from a heart attack at 55, and my aunt had many, many bypasses before she died at 74. If I had not caught my high cholesterol, I might have ended up like my uncle."

Long is among 20 percent of the American population at risk of developing heart problems because of elevated cholesterol levels, according to the American Heart Association, and so is Hathaway, chief of Planning Section.

"My grandfather died of a heart attack at 41 and my dad has had two bypass and two carotid artery operations in the past ten years," Hathaway said. "My total cholesterol reading was over 200."

So what is cholesterol? Cholesterol is a fatty substance that helps the body build and protect cells and produce hormones such as estrogen and testosterone. However, too much cholesterol causes plaque to build on arteries and increases a person's chances of having a heart attack or stroke.

High-density lipoprotein cholesterol, sometimes called 'good' cholesterol, is made up of more protein than fat and helps the body remove the 'bad' cholesterol, or low-density lipoproteins that contain more fat than protein, from the bloodstream by binding with it and carrying it to the liver for disposal.

"My total cholesterol reading was not too high, but the HDL rating was low," Hathaway said. "These results gave me a ratio in the 10 to 12 range indicating a very high risk of heart disease."

There are several genetic factors, as was the case with both Long and Hathaway, that can contribute to a person having elevated cholesterol levels. But there are factors that can be controlled such as lack of physical activity, obesity, smoking, diet and untreated diabetes or hypertension.

Both men now have their cholesterol levels in control by eating a diet low in saturated fats, maintaining an exercise

regime and taking cholesterol-lowering medication. But Long said it is not always easy.

"I am not as good as I should be at watching my diet," Long said. "But I do eat more salads than I used to. I still can't resist a good rib-eye or prime rib now and then."

It is also important that a person taking cholesterol medications keep their liver enzymes monitored by a physician to make sure they can tolerate the drug, according to Federal Occupational Health Nurse Teresa Perciful.

But she added that no-long term effects associated with cholesterol medications have been found, aside from some people not being able to tolerate them.

September is National Cholesterol Awareness Month, but Perciful will be offering screenings this month (Aug. 7, 13 and 14) for all Corps employees.

Cholesterol is checked by having a blood sample taken from the arm. In order to take part in this screening, a person should not eat or drink anything except water for at least 10 hours before having their blood drawn.

While not everyone may exhibit one of the risk factors, Perciful suggests that

everyone have their cholesterol checked.

"Everyone should have their cholesterol checked once to get a baseline, even if you are a healthy individual," Perciful said.

"If you are a healthy individual with no personal or family history of high cholesterol, you will only need it checked every five years. If you have the risk factors, you should get it checked every year."



## Nursery Pond

(Continued from page 3.)

ranging from environmental to recreational issues."

In an attempt to relieve the problem, AGFC stocked Bull Shoals Lake with walleye fingerlings. This produced a more active fishery for the species, Needham-Kirby said, but the AGFC can not maintain high-density stockings indefinitely. Stockings this large are beyond the capabilities of existing hatchery systems.

The nursery pond will have the capabilities of producing large numbers of fingerlings for direct release into Bull Shoals Lake. AGFC estimates that the pond could produce up to one million crappie fingerlings or up to 800,000 walleye fingerlings annually.

"The earthen embankment of the pond will have an outlet structure so that once the fish become of age, they will be released directly into the lake," Needham-Kirby said.

"In other words, the fish will have their very own 'fish slide' into the lake. There are plans to transport some of these fish to other areas of the lake, but the majority will be released through the outlet structure."

The nursery pond is being constructed in a natural setting on the West Sugarloaf Arm of the lake. Once the pond is completed it will be operated and maintained by AGFC.

"The Bull Shoals Nursery Pond project is only a step in trying to remedy the problem in the lake," Needham-Kirby said. "It is a hope that this will contribute to being a permanent solution to this on-going problem."

# Military Web site online to help diagnose SARS

by Staff Sgt. Michele Hammonds  
AR News Service

The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has launched a new Web site designed to address diagnostic issues surrounding the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, better known as SARS. The new site, [www.afip.org/Departments/Pulmonary/SARS/](http://www.afip.org/Departments/Pulmonary/SARS/), is designed for physicians as well as the general public to receive an overview of SARS, said Dr. Teri J. Franks, who led the development project.

"The SARS Web site follows in the footsteps of AFIP's anthrax Web site," said Franks, associate chair of AFIP's Department of Pulmonary and Mediastinal Pathology.

Frank said his staff created a template that enables AFIP to develop Web sites "on emerging diseases in a timely manner."

The site is also specifically designed to assist radiologists who are often the first asked to diagnose a disease after a clinician sees the patient. Dr. Jeffrey Galvin, chief of AFIP's Division of Pulmonary and Mediastinal Radiology, collaborated with Franks to provide an understanding of the imaging of SARS.

"I felt it was very important for a radiologist to understand what the findings were in SARS because recognition is crucial," Galvin said. "It spreads so rapidly and having a radiologist recognize and raise the possibility of SARS could be the difference

between it being contained in the emergency room or spreading throughout the country."

AFIP radiologists and pathologists teamed up with experts from the Department of Telemedicine to create templates for the anthrax and SARS websites.

"The new SARS site is even easier to navigate and has the capability for users to look at slides as well," Galvin said.

Dr. Aletta Ann Frazier, a radiologist and medical illustrator for the Department of Radiologic Pathology, created all of the illustrations on the SARS and anthrax sites.

"I have very visionary doctors who know the value of teaching through illustrations," she said.

Frazier spent several weeks creating many illustrations and overlays for both sites. While some medical illustrators base their drawings from others or medical textbooks, Frazier looks no further than AFIP. Through her work at the Institute she has access to images, photomicrographs and radiology cases within the Department of Radiologic Pathology.

"Medical illustrations fill out the essential information that doctors need to know," Frazier said.

"I feel so fortunate that I can carve out this special part of my career because this is just as important to me as the practice of medicine."



# Corps bowling league completes 65th season

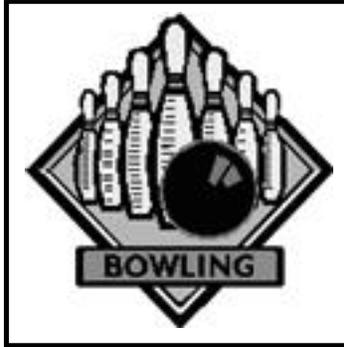
by Foster McConnell  
Special to LRDispatch

The Army Corps of Engineers Bowling League completed its 65th season in May. The team Just for Fun dominated this year becoming the undisputed league champion.

Members of the winning team included Jerry and June Harris, Joe and Debbie Craig, and Steve and Jane Robinson. All these men work or worked together in Regulatory Branch.

Team Pin Busters qualified for second place with 69 wins in both halves of the season. This team was made up of Clint and Rachel Mercer, Tim and Becky Scott, Rick Amos and Jack Stanley.

The X-tremes team consisted of all retirees including: Jerry and Bonnie Noggle, Wayne and Anne Bryant and Leon Gray. Elmo Webb, a project manager in Programs and Project Management Division, was a substitute for this team.



When the league formed in 1937, the team names were taken from the offices the members worked in. Team Survey is the only team still holding to this tradition.

This team included Foster and Shirley McConnell with their son Robert McConnell and Charlie Blagg.

League bowlers who garnished awards include: Jerry Noggle and Jane Robinson for High Scratch Series, Steve Robinson and Bonnie Noggle for High Scratch Game, Joe Craig and June Harris for high handicap series, and Jack Stanley and Rachel Mercer for high handicap game.

Jerry Harris and Rachel Mercer had the most improved averages this year. The Noggles had the highest averages this season.

The league will begin a new season in August. Any employee, retiree or family member of an employee or retiree interested in joining the league can contact Foster McConnell at 324-5661 or Foster.W.McConnell@USACE.Army.mil.

## Program

(Continued from page 5.)

ipate in an exit interview with the chief of Operations Division.

During the exit interview, a panel of several department heads within Operations interviews participants. The panel highlights their accomplishments, strengths and weaknesses. They are then given a rating by the panel, which they must show to their project office managers.

Participants are asked to assess the program's effectiveness. Those who excel are presented with a certificate and an honorary dinner. Exceptional participants are given a cash award.

One of this year's participants was Caleb Brunson, a park ranger at Pine Bluff Project Office. He was the 28th participant in the program.

During his six months, Brunson visited seven project offices, served as an alternate representative for the National Recreation Reservation System, worked on memorandums, and responded to congressional inquiries.

"Observing how different projects operate, different management styles and how the district office operates gave me a better understanding of the Corps," Brunson said.

One of the assignments Brunson said he was particularly proud of was his assistance in the development of an official application for the public to complete when requesting permission to conduct peaceful demonstrations at Corps parks.

"Caleb's performance and overall actions have been highly successful," Leggett said.

"After six months, he has created a firm niche here that will be difficult to replace. He was a great help to us, and he will be greatly missed."

Some of the key project managers in the district have participated in the program according to Leggett.

"We make a contribution by teaching and enlightening them," Leggett said.

"It's a commitment, requiring time, planning and schedule adjustments, but it definitely pays off.

"We at the district office gain more from the program than we put in. Participants leave here and perform at a higher level, benefiting everyone involved."

### Farewell



Laurie Driver

*Dale Leggett, chief of Natural Resources Management Office, presented Maj. John Brown a model boat to remember the district by at Brown's farewell luncheon on July 24. Other offices also presented Brown with Arkansas mementos including hunting apparel and razorback souvenirs.*

# Sacrifices of many contribute to one's success

Writing a PPEP article for the LRDispatch is really hard to do. After several years of the program, people have already covered all of our leadership topics. So choosing something new to write about was not easy. I decided the best thing for me to write about is how my perceptions have changed since I began PPEP.

Before starting the program, I was sure that I knew all I needed to know. Heck, after ten years in the Army, what else could I learn?

The eye opener was, "yes, an office can survive without you or me." There may have to be adjustments made for a few days or weeks, but business will continue as usual. We are not the puzzle, just pieces of it, and we all have to work together to form the big picture.

Also, a person's job description is only a guide. We are expected to step outside that guideline, better known as "the box." (If you didn't know what 'the box' meant, now you do.)

Our supervisors really do want each of us to excel in our personal and professional lives, and they make sacrifices for us to do so. I understand that I'm not the only person making a sacrifice by committing my life to this program for a year. The office I work in, Information Management Office, also made a sacrifice by picking up the slack and doing the work that was my responsibility. This sacrifice is very humbling and respectful. I also think it shows the ultimate commitment to the Army Corps of

Engineers and Little Rock District.

I witnessed this a few months ago when I was working on my developmental assignment in Real Estate

Division. Four people from that office were in the PPEP program.

Not only has their boss given up the time for them to attend meetings and site visits, he has agreed to allow them to do a developmental assignment as well. If you add up the time their boss gave to help each of them become better people, it totals over four months of the year, per person.

I really think each of our supervisors should be commended for their understanding and commitment to their workers and the program.

Overall, many of my views have changed since I started the program. I never realized how much team effort, from supervisors, co-workers, family and my PPEP class it would take to make it through this year. But together, we are all growing and learning, and I'm realizing just how important a piece of the puzzle I can be.



**PPEP** 2003  
High Performance  
Leadership  
by Randy Prentice

## Boating safety makes lake visits more enjoyable

When visiting one of the Corps' beautiful lakes, we often throw caution to the wind. While taking the boat out is a special time to relax and have fun, we must remember to make safe boating practices a priority.

One way to be safer on the water is to take a safe boating course. These classes are usually offered through the U.S. Coast Guard, the American Red Cross or the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

It is also important to have proper emergency equipment onboard. Prior to leaving home, check each piece of equipment. If it is in disrepair, throw it away and replace it. Keep a fire extinguisher onboard at all times.

Make sure you have a life jacket on board for everyone in the boat. Children ages 12 and under are required to wear a fitted life jacket.

The child's life jacket should be fitted and adjusted prior to getting in the boat. It is strongly recommended that all boat patrons wear a life jacket.

Thoroughly inspect your boat before going to the lake to make sure it is in good operating condition.

Do not use a bumper hitch to pull your boat. The hitch should be rated for the load you'll be pulling and fastened securely to the tow vehicle frame. Make sure the coupler on the trailer matches the size of the ball on the hitch. A 2-inch coupler will fit over a 1 7/8-inch ball, but the coupler could disengage itself from the ball if you hit a bump.

The tongue weight of the loaded trailer should be 7 percent to



10 percent of the combined weight of the boat and trailer. If it is less, the trailer may sway. But if it is more, the tow vehicle will drag, making your headlights point skyward.

Check out the trailer manufacturer's load capacity and stay below 90 percent of the recommended load limit to allow room for the weight of fuel, gear, anchors, lines and other carry-on items.

If the trailer has brakes, check the fluid level periodically. Check the bearings annually and pack or replace when necessary. At least once a year, tighten all bolts and other trailer hardware.

Alcohol and boating do not mix. If alcoholic beverages are on board, select a designated driver prior to leaving the dock.

Have communication devices such as a referee's whistle, radio and telephone on hand and ready to use in case of emergency.

Appoint one passenger to watch for other boat traffic and listen for trouble.

Have an emergency plan. Let someone remaining on shore know your destination and plans should you not return by appointed time.

At least one other crewmember should know how to operate the boat in the event you cannot. Drownings have occurred when the non-swimmer operator fell overboard without a life jacket, and no one onboard knew how to operate the boat.

If you keep safety in mind with each recreational boating activity, you will make your boating experience fun and enjoyable for everyone on board.

# Engineering materials added to TRC shelves

## New Engineering Materials

“Designing Floor Slabs on Grade” (TA 683.5 .S6 .R54 1996) provides step-by-step procedures, sample solutions and commentary on the topic. Offering practical answers to design questions, the work is arranged in the following major parts: getting ready to design, design examples and resource information.

“Excavation Safety; Understanding and Complying with OSHA Standards” (TA730 .S87 1993) includes the “OSHA Construction Standards for Excavation” with text explaining what each section means and how it is interpreted.

Examples of common errors help to illustrate how easy it is to get in trouble. The work includes the basics of excavation, soil classification, and specific techniques.

“Tilt-Up Building: Methods and Marketing” (TA 683.7 .T54 2003) contains the best 28 articles from the archives of “Concrete Construction” journal. From 1984 through 2003, these articles addressed the major areas of tilt-up construction. The first article provides a historical overview.

## New “Type” Book

Built around the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator Test, “What Type Am I?” (BF 698.3 B37 1998) explores the 16 personality types. The work provides an explanation of the Myers-Briggs followed by a brief description of the types grouped in four categories of duty seekers, action seekers, knowledge seekers and ideal



seekers. Each type includes a description, that type at work, typical occupations, that type in relationships and leisure and suggestions for that type.

## Additional PM Material

“PM 102; According to the Olde Curmudgeon” (T56.8 .W42 2002) offers an introduction to the basic concepts of project management. Written by Project Management Institute Fellow Dr. Francis Webster, the work is a fascinating, readable “guide to getting your project right the first time.” The author covers four aspects of quality in projects and sixteen ways to reduce project duration.

## Improve Virtual Teams

“Working Virtually; Managing People for Successful Virtual Teams and Organizations” (HD30.2122 .H63 2001) offers practical guidance for preparing people, systems and structures to transition into the virtual environment. This includes virtual conferencing, e-learning, telecommuting and more. The detailed discussion provides a valuable roadmap to virtual teaming.

## New Engineering Works

“Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures” (TH 851 .M56 2003), the revision of ASCE 7-23, provides the current requirements for dead, live, soil, flood, wind, snow, rain, ice and earthquake loads suitable for inclusion of building codes. Additional commentary address information to assist building code and regulatory committees.

“Design Loads on Structures During Construction” (TH 420 .D47 2002), also ASCE37-02, provides minimum design load requirements for buildings and other structures. Applicable to all construction methods, the work also addresses partially completed structures and temporary structures.

“National Fire Alarm Code Handbook” (TH 9271.N37 2002) covers the latest in fire alarm technology, including performance-based designs. The volume includes the complete text and illustrations of the 2002 NFPA 72 (in black print) along with formal interpretations (in red).

## Hot Web Site of the Month

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Students/Food\\_Family/index.html](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Students/Food_Family/index.html)

**Food, Family and Fun!**

# Cutoff

(Continued from page 3.)

Johnny McLean, a biologist in Environmental Section, said. “There are few permanent residences here, and this makes the land valuable from an ecological standpoint.”

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality designated this portion of the Arkansas River an “extraordinary resource,” because it is the only free flowing portion of the river in the state. The National Parks Service listed the Arkansas River on its Nationwide Rivers Inventory as a scenic waterway.

Several endangered species reside in the surrounding area, which has a great expanse of relatively undisturbed bottomland hardwoods, some of the state’s oldest trees. If the cutoff area remains uncontrolled, the normal migration of the rivers could be accelerated causing terrestrial habitat loss that is environmen-

tally unsustainable.

“A cutoff changes a river’s course and flow patterns,” Keen said. “As the river cuts through landmass, land elevation lowers and eventually washes away, forming a new channel of water.”

If the rivers and the landmasses change too quickly, the environment cannot sustain itself. Wildlife and trees will not be able to adapt.

The projected end of the study is Spring 2005.

“No solution is permanent,” Anslow said. “Our environment must change, but we want things to change at a rate that is sustainable and beneficial to both our society and our natural resources.”

# AKO accounts are essential for all employees

Many in Little Rock District registered with Army Knowledge Online two years ago, but have not accessed their accounts since. So, why exactly do we need this system?



**Lissa Simpson**

Customer Assistance & Applications Section

AKO is the Army's worldwide Intranet. All Army Corps of Engineers employees are required to have an AKO account. This account is the default e-mail account for the Common Access Card, which will replace the current Corps identification badge. The CAC is used to gain access to buildings and to send and

receive encrypted e-mail. Future uses of the card will include replacing the current CEFMS signature card and logging onto the network.

The AKO e-mail account will also serve as the primary e-mail system in the event of a disaster. For example, if the Microsoft Exchange server fails, and we do not have access to Microsoft Outlook, we can use the AKO e-mail instead. The format for this is username@us.army.mil.

AKO is a web portal that can be accessed from any Internet connection. Web portals provide access to information sources,

services and applications. The portals are divided windows called channels.

The AKO portal provides standardized, encrypted e-mail capability and the ability to search millions of documents through various search engines. These portals can be personalized to display information particular to you suitable for your interests.

The website to access AKO is [http://www.us.army.mil/portal/portal\\_home.jhtml](http://www.us.army.mil/portal/portal_home.jhtml). If you haven't logged in to AKO in a while, you should check your account. There is a link on the portal home page to send a request to the AKO help desk if you have forgotten your user name or password.

The help desk will respond with an e-mail to the e-mail account you registered with, most likely your Corps account, that contains a link to reset your password. AKO passwords must be eight characters long and contain at least two numbers or special characters and at least one letter.

If you never set up an AKO account, go to the website mentioned above and click on the link to register. There are two types of AKO accounts, full and guest. Department of the Army civilians get a full account, but authorized contractors should register for a guest account. Follow the instructions on the screen for creating an account.

## Surprise!

*Several Mountain Harbor S Dock "dock buddies" at Lake Ouachita, to include Patty (right) and Ed Watford, had a going away brunch for Sue Buring (left) on Saturday, 21 June.*

*Sue and her husband Steve Buring are active members of the S-Dock neighborhood, and it was a struggle to keep the event a secret. She had become upset when she noticed everyone on the dock bringing food by their houseboat and assumed there was a party that she had not been invited to!!*

*But the secret was kept, and the surprise worked. In fact, Ed Watford reports that if not for her sunglasses in this picture, you would see the tears (of joy) in Sue Buring's eyes.*

*Those attending were very proud of their "neighbor," especially a civilian going to Iraq to support our nation.*



photo courtesy Ed Watford

# Colonel

(Continued from page 2.)

Republican, physicist or poet, Christian or samurai, city dweller or country folk, ISTJ or ENFP, black or white, Hispanic or Eurasian, young or old, supervisor or secretary, blue collar or white collar, we all must be contributing members, or we will never reach our true potential.

## Community is like the body

Look at the diversity of our bodies. Hands are not the same as feet (even though I have seen people walk on their hands and others feed themselves with their feet). The sensors on your tongue are different than the sensors on your skin. The membrane over your eardrum cannot perform the task that the membrane over your eye performs.

Our bodies are miracles that perform so well by taking advantage of the diversity of their parts. Without taking advantage of those differences, we would be limiting ourselves needlessly.

So, today I ask you to celebrate our differences. Learn from different cultures and different pasts. Take advantage of different experiences and different opinions, exercising the best of each. Look to those who are different from you that you may gain from their strengths and they from yours. Embrace diversity on your team. Assemble your teams to be the best, regardless of background. Diversity is not the goal. It is an important means to a goal.

## Why "Diversity Day?"

I was asked why we are calling this celebration "Diversity Day," and why we shouldn't call it "American Day" instead.

That was a very good question. As I thought about it, as I thought about what diversity meant and what being American meant, another word came to mind — synergy.

Synergy is where the total effect is greater than the individual effects. That is what I think we are celebrating today. We are celebrating being American where we are creating synergy by using our diverse pasts to build a better future.

So should we call it "Synergy Day?" No! Someone pointed out to me, and I agree, that sounds pretty lame. Is there a better name than "Diversity Day?" Maybe. How about "All Americans Day?"

That is what we are celebrating today, that we are all Americans using our diversity as our strength, working toward a truly united America, not just a collection of disparate entities.

So let us celebrate our diverse pasts, let us collaborate on our collective present, and let us meld into a united future.

## Tell us what you think

*Editor's note: The LRDispatch staff welcomes your opinions. Letters must be signed. If you choose to have your name withheld from publication, we will honor your request.*

*Comments and Family News submissions must be received by June 15 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to valerie.d.buckingham*

*@usace.army.mil or mail them to Public Affairs Office at P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867.*

*We reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter that is deemed libelous. Remember to keep the criticism constructive and the questions coming.*

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 867  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-0867

.....  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
CESWL-PA

PRESORTED STANDARD  
RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
LITTLE ROCK, AR  
PERMIT NO. 54