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LRDispatch

Construction begins on C-130J flight simulator

by Laurie Driver
LRDispatch staff

The Corps of Engineers and the Air Force broke ground for the new C-130J flight simulator April 17 at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Little Rock District awarded the \$8.3 million construction contract to CWR Construction Inc. of North Little Rock earlier this spring.

The simulator is just one of several construction projects valued in excess of \$40 million necessary for the complete C-130J bed-down and modernization program at the base, said John Balgavy, resident engineer for military construction at LRAFB.

A bed-down program encompasses many activities, including projects needed to support a new mission.

"This is going to be a real challenge to meet the schedules on all of the C-130J projects," said Balgavy.

To support the C-130J flight simulator mission, a \$2.5 million fuselage trainer, an \$8.1 million maintenance training facility, a \$12.9 million two-bay hanger, and a \$2.1 million engine/prop storage facility also must be constructed.

"The Project Delivery Team had to look at any and every way possible to tighten our delivery schedules on these projects without sacrificing safety, quality or going over budget," said Project Manager Jim Pfeifer.



Col. Butler participates in C-130J ground breaking ceremony.

The team was looking ahead to make the projects run smoothly even before funding arrived.

"We knew the funding was coming so we had a team working together to ensure that everything would go as smoothly as possible," said Pfeifer. "When the funding did arrive, we all knew what our challenges would be to keep us on schedule."

Lt. Col. Michael Falino, LRAFB's civil engineer commander, said the team has taken a number of different approaches from the beginning.

"We actually have three teams working on these projects," said Falino. "The Corps team, one here at the base and another at headquarters."

The teams have had to look at these projects differently to ensure success.

"If it wasn't for the great cooperative effort from all the team members these projects would not have a chance to be successful," said Falino. "We began by looking at the end goal, the actual need date for each of these facilities, and worked back from that date to set out milestones and look at what types of contracts would be needed to meet these milestones."

The two-bay hanger is a design-build project. The engine/prop storage facility will use an 8A small disadvantage contractor with the Corps doing the design in-house and the other two are typical design, bid, build contracts.

The Corps is also crunching the construction schedule on the simulator to meet the customer's needs, said Balgavy.

The flight simulator is not the only project on a tight schedule. The schedule for the fuselage trainer will also be watched closely.

"Our biggest challenge on these jobs will be to have as few work-arounds for the Air Force to deal with as possible," said Pfeifer. "Because the program plan for the facilities hasn't moved as fast as the aircraft production phase, we're behind the power curve."

Should construction fall behind, it could cost the air force base more money.

"If the Fuselage Training Facility isn't completed on schedule then we'll have to look at our different options to keep our training schedule on track," said Falino. "Most of those options would cost the base additional money."

The teams are making the difference in the
(See "C-130J" on page 12.)

Summer brings projects, changes to District

Spring is here and change is in the air. The weather certainly has been changing from cold to hot and back again. Lots of rain has filled our lakes so that all are above conservation pool level. There is also change in other areas.

Brig. Gen. Melcher will change command on May 31. As I write this, his replacement has not yet been named. Just like the weather, this is a normal change. Melcher has done a great job as our Division Commander, and we are much better for his leadership. His successor has enormous shoes to fill, but I'm confident that the Army will send us someone up to the challenge. Once the new commander is on board, we will invite him to visit and show him all the great things that you do for the nation.

Bill Dawson, Melcher's Deputy for Civil Works, will also be moving this summer from SWD to USACE headquarters. His replacement has not yet been announced.

Tulsa District Changes

Change is also in the air at Tulsa District. The Tulsa commander has just announced a Reduction-in-Force of 128 positions. Tulsa District's mission and organization are a lot like ours, and some of you may be concerned that we will be doing something similar.

I want to put that concern to rest. I have reviewed our district and see no need to do anything similar. There are a few authorized positions that we are making a conscious decision not to fill at this time and others are being realigned at lower grades. I'm confident that we are currently balanced enough that we will not require any RIF actions to stay within our expected funding.

As SWL staff members prepared plans for a capable workforce the past two years, they have not aimed at the high end of the project workload. Rather, they have been conservative in case the national budget is changed and actual funding does not meet projections. My predecessors made some hard calls in the past, and I am thankful for them because I do not have to answer questions about needing to RIF personnel. I am much happier having to answer questions about how we can improve our furniture and facilities.

Summer Safety Concerns

As we change from a winter to a summer mindset, let us remember safety. As you get outdoors more, I want you all to be safe. I'm not just talking about wearing a personal floatation device, but also about not getting sunburned, preventing possible skin cancer. Avoid bites from insects, snakes, spiders, ticks, alligators and rabid animals. Know the signs to prevent

From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler
District Engineer



dehydration, sunstroke, heat exhaustion and so forth. The bottom line is to be safe this summer.

New Construction Projects

We are continuing to start new projects. On April 18, we had a ground breaking for a C130J simulator building at Little Rock Air Force Base. We are also continuing with the development of plans for \$25 million in construction at LRAFB in FY 03. This is a new requirement that we had not planned for last fall.

At Pine Bluff Arsenal, we are not doing business as normal. We have partnered with them to assist in the operations and maintenance of their facilities and infrastructure. They have "hired" us to help them execute their budget and supplement their workforce. I am extremely grateful to members of **Contracting, PPMD and E&C** who reacted quickly and professionally to meet this emerging need.

This gives me another opportunity to remind us all that we are here to meet our customer's needs. We have responded extremely well with respect to PBA, and we need to do the same for all of our customers.

We are designing a pedestrian walkway over Murray Lock and Dam for Pulaski County. In our design, we originally included a security requirement that was not exactly aesthetically pleasing. After hearing the concerns of our customer, we redesigned the walkway to meet both the security requirement and the aesthetic concern.

We found a solution that met both while being cheaper than the original. ***This is synergy.*** I need each of you to be attuned to your customers whether they are within the district or outside of it. Look for possible ways to better meet their needs and expectations while helping ourselves at the same time.

Remembering Those Who Came Before

Memorial Day is at the end of the month. Please do not look at this day as just another day that we get paid for not working. (See "Colonel" on page 12.)

LRDispatch



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District

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District Engineer
Col. Benjamin Butler

Public Affairs Officer
Robert G. Faletti

Command Information Officer
Laurie Driver

Issue Editor
Jamie Oliver

Writer
Hollye Acker

Loos welcome back speech inspires employees

(Editor's Note: This is the speech Keith Loos delivered at a ceremony held in his honor upon his return from the Middle East. It is being run at the request of district employees who were moved by the speech and wanted to share it with those who couldn't make it to the ceremony.)

I'd like to thank Col. Butler, PAO, Mark Moore and everyone else involved with this welcoming event. I'm overwhelmed and flattered over the effort and thoughtfulness of this special event and only wish every soldier overseas could get this kind of reception when returning home.

I would, however, like to think of it as celebration of what this district has done in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I'd like to thank Real Estate Division because throughout the last four and a half months, many in Real Estate had an increased workload due to my absence, especially Ron and Rick in Appraisal Branch. I also want to thank Emergency Management Office for their help in travel order, passports, etc.

My thanks to those who prayed for me and my family and who sent e-mails of support, prayers, thanks and encouragement, even to the extend of offering to help buy Christmas presents for my family.

I want to especially thank my wife Lisa and two sons Adam and Matthew for their ability to pick up the slack around the house during my absence, without complaining. Lisa and I e-mailed regularly, but I only remember one e-mail from home about a problem, which if I would have been there, could have had something done with it. There were no e-mails about the kids fussing or the inability to get them at a certain event because I wasn't home or other problems around the house. If I were to receive those kinds of e-mails, I would have had a hard time focusing on our mission.

With everything fine on the home front, I spent December in Kuwait, surveying available housing for the military. I left Kuwait on New Year's Eve and arrived in Kyrgyzstan on Jan. 2. American soldiers had arrived for the first time two weeks prior to us. While in Kyrgyzstan, the Air Force, with the help of CREST, established a new air base at Manas International

Airport. The Air Force trusted us in some high level meetings, once with the ambassador to Kyrgyzstan. The Air Force commonly referred to us as the toothpaste boys.

While I was there, the base grew to 1700 soldiers and involved seven coalition forces. The role of CREST was to acquire land in and around the airport, to support up to 3000 soldiers and all the functions of an air base.

This proved to be challenging, but by March, we were flying missions over Afghanistan. This was especially rewarding because Kyrgyzstan was a part of the former Soviet Union which most of us grew up being afraid of and never would have imagined that this kind of cooperation could ever happen within our lifetime.

This is not to say there were not challenges, but they would have been the case in establishing an air base at an international airport on any foreign soil. The Air Force had a lot of "lessons learned" in an establishment of a new base. One of those "lessons learned" was that next time, the CREST team will be on the ground at the same time if not before the first soldiers arrive.

Before you go to bed tonight, just take a minute to think of the many blessings you have as an American. I met many people who wished they could come to the US or wished their system of government was like ours. They envied Americans.

We truly take our good fortunes for granted. Also, pray for our leaders, soldiers and the commanders of the armed forces for safety and success in their endeavors to eliminate terrorism.

Once again, thank you for all you did for Operation Enduring Freedom and I encourage those who can serve their country to do so, and one possible way to do so is by volunteering for CREST or FEST-A.

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 that request.

Comments and Family News submissions must be received by May 15 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to laurie.driver@usace.army.mil or mail them to the 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.

Engineer Day

2002

*Join us June 21 at
Sherwood Forest for a
day of food, awards,
and plenty of fun!*

*For more information please call
Theresa Morris at 324-5532 or
Patty Watford at 324-5652. Hope
to see you there!*

Family news

Births

Jakobe Kenyotta Gilbert was born April 5 to Joma and **Jiovanni Gilbert**. Gilbert is a budget technician in Information Management Office.

Mary Elizabeth Moore was born April 11. She is the granddaughter of **Lou Ann Stewart**, administrative support assistant at Table Rock Project Office.

Congratulations

Cliff Day, a contractor in Information Management Office, married **Somer Renee Clark** on March 9.

James Griffin, student aide in the Technical Resource Center, was selected as a Donaghey Scholar at UALR beginning fall semester 2002.

Hollye Acker, a student aide in the Public Affairs Office, graduated from the University of Central Arkansas May 18 with a degree in Mass Communication / Journalism.

Clint Johnston has accepted a position as the Superintendent of Bunker School in Missouri. Clint is the son of **David Johnston**, chief O&M Branch at Clearwater Lake.

Shane Alan Conner and LaDonna Lacey Earls were married April 13. Shane is the son of **Cari L. Conner**, an administrative support assistant at Clearwater Project Office.

Michael Simpson graduated from North Little Rock High School May 24. He received an Army ROTC scholarship and will be attending the University of Central Arkansas, majoring in nursing. Michael is the son of **Lissa Simpson** of IMO.

Aaron Young was accepted to graduate school at Harvard University where he will be studying urban architecture. Aaron is the son of **Gary Young**, an architect in Architectural and Facilities Design Section.

Deaths

Joe Nowell, retired chief Engineering Section, died in February.

Lana Mae Staggs, mother-in-law of **Bonnie Crank**, died April 5. Crank is a technical support assistant in Contracting Division.

Celebrate
Memorial Day 2002

Farewell

Bob Harris accepted a position as the chief of Navigation Branch at Pine Bluff Project Office. His last day in the Maintenance Engineering Section was March 22.

Hollye Acker, a student aide in the Public Affairs Office, accepted a position as Communications Director for the Arkansas Medical Society. Her last day was April 19.

New Faces

Christin Dzurick is the new student aid ranger at Table Rock Lake.

Promotions

Greg Oller was promoted to chief ranger at Table Rock Lake.

Speaker's Bureau

Alan Bland, park ranger at Beaver Lake, presented a program on Beaver Lake wildlife and water safety to 21 children at Kid Corner Day Care in Bentonville on March 12. He later presented a program on the construction of Beaver Dam to 96 senior citizens in Lowell on March 19.

Movie goes beyond battlefield, explores homefront issues

by **Joe Burlas**
Army News Service

While war films can be counted on to depict heroics on the battlefield, "We Were Soliders" goes a step or two beyond by also showing family members fighting their own battles at home.

Several hundred veterans, soldiers and Department of Defense officials saw a special screening of the film in Washington, D.C., Feb. 27. The movie opened in theaters March 1.

The film is based upon the book "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young," written by retired Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and Joe Galloway. The film and book follow the soldiers and spouses of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, as the unit prepares to deploy to Vietnam in the mid-60s and through its first battle. The story is based upon the authors' personal experiences at the time when Moore was a lieutenant colonel and the unit's battalion commander, and Galloway, a United Press International

correspondent covering the war from the front lines.

The battle, in the Republic of Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley, was the first major engagement between U.S. and North Vietnamese forces. It was also the first combat test of the Army's new airmobile tactics.

The three-day battle started Nov. 14, 1965, when the 1-7th Cav was airlifted via helicopters into the valley "to find and kill the enemy." While military intelligence reported there were enemy units in the area, it didn't know the size. It turned out the 1-7th Cav established its landing zone in the middle of a North Vietnamese division.

Surrounded and under constant attack for most of the battle, the 400-man U.S. battalion suffered more than 50-percent casualties in dead and wounded. The enemy suffered worse — more than 1,500 dead.

"These people did what they did, not because of the opinion of others, but because of a voice in their souls that called on

(See "Movie" on page 11.)

Happy to help

To Donna Glascock, Tommy Park, Win Hargis,

What number do we call when we need help: 362-2416! You all knew the answer to that question right off, didn't you? I do want to tell you how much we appreciate getting to use the conference room in the Visitor Center for our recent interviews; it was so nice.

And Donna, I must tell you how much help you were in handling our appointments for us. What sweet professionalism portrayed. Thank you again. Friends, Barbara Arnold.

Project Support

Dear Tommy Park:

I am the Conservation Officer for the Arkansas Fly Fishers club. Our club participates in the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Stream Team program and our designated home water is the Little Red River. We are very active in promoting trout habitat improvement, bank stabilization, and catch and release practices to assure the protection and propagation of the river's resources.

Recently, 30 volunteers from the AFF joined with state and federal agencies to work on a trout habitat restoration project on the Little Red River below the bridge on Highway 110. I am writing to thank you and the Corps for supporting the project by providing the large rubber-tired front-end loader and allowing Dan Bailey to operate that equipment. Mr. Bailey worked continuously and in a most professional manner. I cannot remember when I have seen anyone work as consistently and tirelessly while demonstrating such proficiency with equipment of this nature. When he stopped for lunch, Mr. Bailey interfaced with all the resources and was a credit to his profession and the Corps. Kudos to you for allowing this gentleman to work with us, and we could not have completed the task in the allotted time without Mr. Bailey's assistance.

I would appreciate you conveying our appreciation and thanks to John Kielczewski in the Little Rock office of the Corps who coordinated the generation schedule with the Southwestern Power Administration officials. That coordination enabled us to work on Friday and Saturday and complete the project by Sunday at noon. I would also appreciate you conveying our thanks to the officials of the SWPA who, faced with rising water in the reservoir due to run-off, delayed generation until Sunday noon allowing the teams to complete the project. That was a great example of cooperation by all agencies and individuals to assure success of a very worthwhile project. Thank you for your total support, and if we can be of assistance to you or the Corps please do not hesitate to contact me. Sincerely, Robert Bays

Beautiful bird-watching

I'm a native of Arkansas who has lived outside of the state for the last ten years. While I do return occasionally to visit my parents, it is rare that I have the luxury of

spending a lot of time in the state these days. However, I managed to have a bit more time off birding the month of January and had the pleasure of spending two days birding at Millwood Lake.

I only became interested in birds during the last two years. When I was younger, I assumed that the diversity of bird species in Arkansas couldn't be remarkable. I never bothered to notice how many birds are unique to the forests and lakes of my home state. That is, until this vacation. As my own awareness has increased, my appreciation of the natural habitats (even those that are man-made) has grown as well.

During the last week of December and the first two weeks of January, I managed to see 100 species of birds wintering in Arkansas, but the majority of these were or could be seen at Millwood Lake. As you all must know by now, Millwood is one of the birding hot spots not only in Arkansas (where it reigns supreme) but also in the South. Most of the credit is due to the work of that slavish birder Charles Mills. I was fortunate enough to spend an entire day with him at Millwood, and of the 82 bird species that we saw that day, 15 were new for my Arkansas list.

I'm writing you to thank you for the birding habitat that Millwood provides. It's a treasure, and I pray that you'll do everything you can to support birding and birding awareness in Arkansas. You can bet that I'll be telling all the birders in New York City that Millwood Lake is the place to go.

Woodrow Bynum, The Julliard School, New York.

Career fair appreciation

Dear Joel Epperson,

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Hospitality Administration, I would like to thank you for your participation in the Career Fair on Thursday, Feb. 21 at the Young Center Ballroom. All of us were pleased with the turnout of the students and agencies. I hope you were pleased with the attendance and had an opportunity to visit with potential employees.

This is the second year of what we hope will be an annual event to help bring students and agencies together for seasonal and full-time employment, as well as internships and work experiences. It also gives Tech an opportunity to showcase our new facilities to alumni and friends of the university.

Again, we appreciate your support of our programs. I hope you found your time was well spent. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Sincerely,

Theresa Herrick, Ph.D & Allen F. Powell, Arkansas Tech University

Customer
Care Corner

Program aims to improve Hispanic relations

by **Hollye Acker**
LRDispatch staff

As the Hispanic population in Arkansas grows, so does the need for accurate communication by Corps staff district-wide.

Programs are being implemented to improve communication and recreation awareness concerning Hispanics.

Tachany Evans began a six-month student co-op position in Natural Resources as Hispanic Coordinator for the district in March.

Evans is attending Arkansas Tech University in Russellville to obtain a masters degree in Spanish and expects to graduate in 2004.

Evans said her position was created to help improve Hispanic relations at visitor centers, parks and lakes in the district.

"It's a wonderful program," Evans said. "I'm glad the Corps cares enough to bring someone in who can work to improve the situation for our Hispanic customers. This position will open more doors for our Hispanic consumers, and it should increase the number of Hispanics who visit our parks and lakes."

Evans' primary focus is to create and implement five-year plans for each of the project offices in the district. Beaver

Project Office will be the first to have a plan implemented, and Millwood Project Office will follow.

The five-year plans aim to improve Hispanic visitor relations at the project offices.

They will include teaching project office employees the Spanish language, performing community outreach activities and advertising to attract Hispanic visitors.

"We want to let Hispanics know there is something for them to do and that we want them at our parks," Evans said.

Evans already is working on providing Spanish lessons to project office staff and park rangers. Three different sessions will be given in May. They will be held May 6-11, May 13-18 and May 20-25. Evans said this should accommodate most everyone.

She said the class will focus on outdoor recreation vocabulary such as "trees," "grass," "drowning" and "swimming."

They also will discuss culture practices such as eye contact, touching and respect for females, and will cover "attack and alarm" vocabulary and colloquiums to be aware of.

Evans said these Spanish sessions are not required of all project office staff yet,

but could be in the future.

Evans said she always had a love for the Spanish language.

"I've been intrigued by it since seeing lessons on *Sesame Street*," she said.

Evans' mother is a native of Panama. Her father met her there while he was in the military.

Evans also said that as a child she enjoyed reading the Spanish books her father would purchase while traveling with the military.

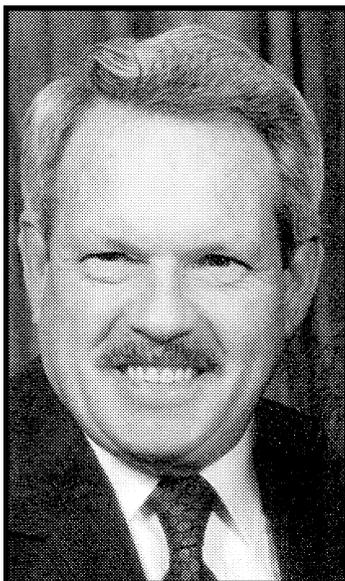
Evans said her mother would play Spanish games with her to teach her basic words when she was young.

Throughout high school, Evans excelled in her Spanish classes and decided to further her knowledge of the language in college. Although she is working on her master's degree right now, Evans hopes to one day obtain a doctorate in Spanish.

Evans' current position as Hispanic coordinator is not permanent since she is a co-op student, but said she hopes she can return to the position after graduating with her master's degree.

"I want to continue working on bringing more Hispanic visitors to our parks and lakes, and keeping the lines of communication open and friendly," she said.

Motor vessel named after former employee Paul M. Bacon



Paul Bacon

Motor Vessel Paul Bacon was christened April 4 at the Dardanelle Marine Terminal next to Dardanelle Lock and Dam on the Arkansas River.

The motor vessel is named in honor of Paul Marion Bacon, a former Army Corps of Engineers employee who worked at the Russellville project office for 27 years.

"Bacon's dedication to the Corps' mission over the years at the Russellville project office is held in high regards," said Aaron

McGhee, chief of construction survey branch at Russellville Project Office.

Bacon began his service with the Corps in 1964 at the Pine Bluff Project Office. He then moved to Dardanelle in 1970 where he began working for the Russellville Project Office, and became survey boat operator there two years later.

During his 33-years of service with the Corps, Bacon received a safety award for 20 years of accident-free work. He retired in January 1997, and died seven months later.

McGhee said Bacon's many years of dedicated service to the Corps made him the perfect person to name the motor vessel after.

Motor Vessel Paul Bacon will be used to monitor 186 miles of the Arkansas River navigation channel from Murray Lock and Dam in Little Rock to the Oklahoma state line. It will provide hydrographic surveys and monitor readings of the navigation channel.

Bacon's wife of 34 years, Becky, christened the motor vessel.

Gutierrez teaches Spanish to Corps employees

by **Hollye Acker**
LRDispatch staff

With a growing Hispanic population, many district employees are expressing a desire to learn the Spanish language to better communicate not only with the general public, but also with Corps customers.

In response to this concern, Donald Dunn, chief of Engineering Division, asked Jorge Gutierrez, chief of Cost Engineering and Support Section, to begin teaching Spanish to district employees last November. The lessons began as part of Hispanic Heritage Month, and evolved into an on-going class.

"The purpose is to provide a working level so our employees may be able to communicate with new customers at our lakes and parks," Gutierrez said.

Employees are able to gain a conversational level of Spanish that can help them better enjoy their visit to Hispanic countries, he said.

Gutierrez is a native of Puerto Rico. He took English as an academic requirement from first to twelfth grades, and continued with four semesters in college.

"I could read and write English, but I spoke with a heavy accent," he said. "It was not until I joined the U.S. Army and took a course in English as a Second Language that I learned conversational English and lost my accent through the years."

Gutierrez also has given Spanish lessons to U.S. soldiers and English lessons to migrant workers over the years. He said everyone should aspire to learn other languages and cultures.

His current class meets once a week during lunch, and Gutierrez teaches them basic conversational Spanish. He said he will take it to the next level of learning basic grammar as the students progress and show interest.

"The students have gained proficiency every week," he said. "Two students already have gone on vacation to Mexico. Although they were not 100 percent fluent, they had a working knowledge and were able to enjoy their

vacation more."

Gutierrez added that many of his students have had interaction with Hispanics at Corps facilities, at church and in local businesses.

"We are just trying to make these encounters more memorable by attempting to speak Spanish," he said.

Rita Atkinson, a realty specialist, said knowing basic Spanish has given her the opportunity to communicate better with Hispanics.

Atkinson was deployed to work hurricane disaster relief in Puerto Rico, and said her basic Spanish helped her communicate.

"I enjoy learning new things and I know what it feels like to be in a country and not know how to communicate," she said.

Atkinson said learning Spanish involves a lot of practice and effort, and that Gutierrez is a dedicated teacher who goes over and above his job duties.

Rose Garrett, a mechanical engineer, said she decided to take the Spanish lessons because she noticed more people speaking Spanish locally and wanted to be able to communicate with them.

"I've also thought about going on mission trips to Mexico with my church but had reservations due to the language barrier," Atkinson said.

"By learning some Spanish, I have the opportunity to talk with people about Jesus Christ that I wouldn't have been able to before."

Atkinson said she would encourage others to attend the classes because learning Spanish is

easy, and the classes are informative and flexible.

Mike Biggs, a study manager in Programs and Project Management Division, said knowing a second language such as Spanish will make him more profitable in the job market.

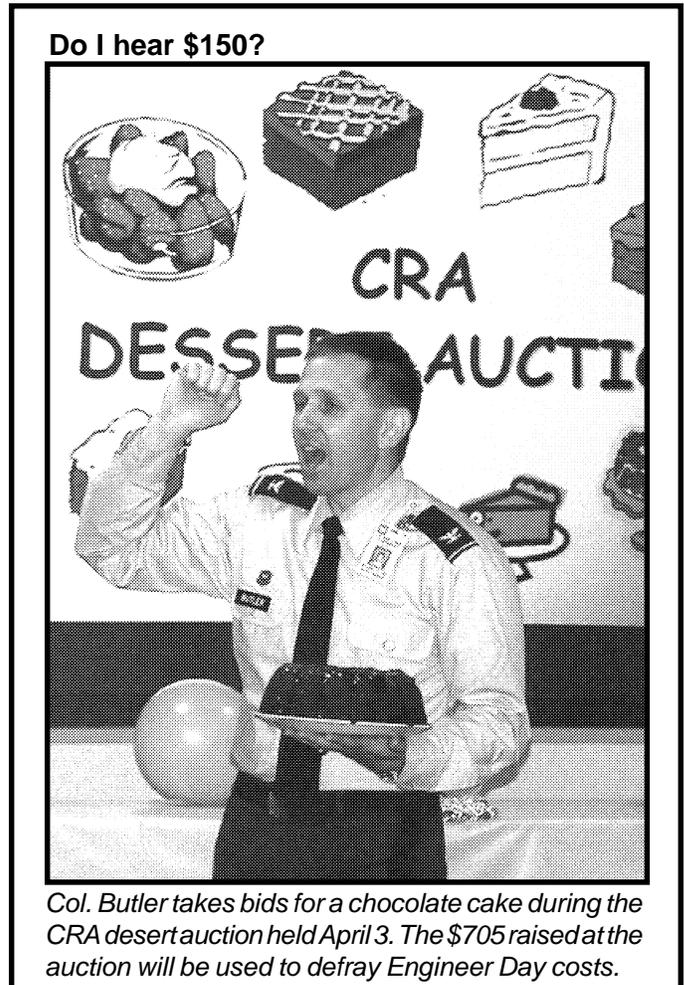
"Learning another language takes a lot of effort, but it is fun," Biggs said. "It also helps me to order at Mexican restaurants."

LaTasha Rideout, a realty specialist, said she is taking the class because she rushed through Spanish during college and wanted to improve her skills.

Rideout said what started out as a review has turned into a practical skill.

"At Wal-Mart, a Hispanic gentleman was trying to exchange an item," she said. "He and the clerk seemed frustrated because they could not understand each other. I was able to pick up on a few words and explain it to the clerk and help

(See "Spanish" on Page 11.)



Col. Butler takes bids for a chocolate cake during the CRA desert auction held April 3. The \$705 raised at the auction will be used to defray Engineer Day costs.

Many kinds of 'heroes' to thank on Memorial Day

by **Jamie Oliver**
LRDispatch staff

I've always found it strange that people take Memorial Day as a holiday in which to get excessively drunk and hop in a boat. It seems to me that the very name of the holiday would be a signal that it should be observed with reverence, respect, love and probably even quiet.

Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, or maybe it's because my dad is in the military that I feel this way.

Memorial — the very word evokes images of fallen heroes, of the young men who stormed the beaches at Normandy. This year, it will probably go on to include the faces and names of the men and women who died Sept. 11.

It's a story we know all too well now: ordinary men and women trying to lead ordinary lives who were caught in the unfortunate and extraordinary circumstances on that day that made them heroes.

My question is what really makes a

hero. Ask my dad or any other service man or woman and I can say, without a moment's hesitation, they will not tell you they are heroes. They will probably tell you the "real heroes" are the ones who died in service to this country.

I'm a daddy's girl, so to me, my father has always been a "hero." That image was reinforced in my mind when he went to Desert Storm and his unit left in a blaze of red, white and blue ribbons and had to wade through a sea of reporters, cameras and people.

To me, the fourth grader who didn't quite grasp the entire concept of what was really happening, that was pretty exciting. At that age, who doesn't want to see their daddy on the news, right? Thus, the hero image held.

When the war started and Dad called from Saudi Arabia, telling of bombs falling all around the place he was staying, it was both scary and cool, cool because I could tell the kids at school about it.

That year he became the entire fourth grade's hero. He had his own star

hanging in our hallway. We made a banner and had all the kids sign it. Our English classes wrote him letters, as composition practice I'm sure, and he wrote back to each and every one of them. More hero points there.

Dad still has those letters packed away in a foot locker in his garage.

When he was preparing to return home, I mentioned in a letter one time that he was a hero, to which he responded that he was not and that he was only doing his job. He has maintained that policy to this day.

My dad recently returned home from a stint in the Middle East that started soon after Sept. 11 on the island of Diego Garcia, an Air Force base off the southern tip of Turkey. Upon his unit's return to Barksdale AFB, the newspapers and television stations still turned out. The balloons, the roses and the families were there, too, mine included.

I'm older now, and maybe a little wiser, but this Memorial Day, more than any other in recent years past, I'm beginning to fully understand the real meaning of the word "hero" and what this holiday is really about.

I can't tell you definitively what makes a hero because no one I've asked can give me an answer I'm really happy with. I can't tell you why my sentimental dad still holds on to all those letters.

What I can tell you is that my dad is still my hero, regardless of what he says.

Anyone who is willing to stand up and fight for their nation, for a country full of people they don't know, and not ask for anything in return is a hero.

Heroes happen every day in one way or another. Memorial Day is just another paid holiday to some, just another day at the lake to others, but that's exactly what the day shouldn't be.

Those rows of neat, white headstones in Arlington National Cemetery should serve as a reminder of what this day is about, and I can tell you without a doubt it's not about beer and boats.

Memorial Day is about remembering the sacrifices made everyday by ordinary people who rose to this country's call. Today we honor all heroes, living or dead. Today we honor our country.



Katy, Dee, Linda, Kevin and Jamie Oliver pose with Michael Oliver upon his return from Diego Garcia in January.

PPEP program emphasizes importance of team efforts

Participating in the PPEP program has been a goal of mine for several years. When I completed my application packet and interviewed, little did I know of the tremendous impact this program would have on me.

At our first team meeting, I recognized that the PPEP class of 2002 was a strong team. As each team member maneuvered through some of the challenges presented to our team at our first meeting, I heard "How can I help you?" uttered over and over.

As I worked through the ROPES portion (sometimes upside down), I again heard those five words. At the time, I did not realize how powerful those words were.

As part of the PPEP program, we must complete a minimum of 100 hours of independent study. One of my favorite books I have read is *Yes Yes Living in a*

No No World, by Neil Eskelin.

In this book he challenges us to use the five magic words, "How can I help you?" on a daily basis. By using these words, you can open the door to touch someone's life.

If you attend one of our meetings you will no longer hear, "How can I help you?" Instead, you will hear, "How may we help you?"

The assistance these words has brought from my fellow team members has helped me achieve heights I never thought I attain.

One of my goals while participating in the PPEP program is to grow both personally and professionally.

As I reflect back on the first six months of the program, I realize I have completed this goal.

The biggest reward that I have received while participating in this



PPEP 2002
High Performance
Leadership
by Michael Richards

program, however, has been gaining new friends and raising my relationships with existing friends to a new level.

Henry Ford once said, "Destroy all of my buildings and equipment and I will rebuild my company. Take my employees and you will destroy my company."

Being a part of the PPEP class of 2002 team has given me a better picture of the Corps of Engineers team. What a great team we are!

How may we help you?

District employee helps paint piece of American history

by **Jamie Oliver**

LRDispatch staff

A painting by a group of northwest Arkansas college students has made it all the way to New York.

Elizabeth Bowen, computer assistant at both Beaver and Table Rock lakes, played an active part in helping to create a painting depicting the events of Sept. 11 as part of an art appreciation class she took last fall at North West Arkansas Community College.

After the attacks, the 18 students in the class collaborated with instructor Tom Edwards on the painting. Bowen, who is pursuing an Associate's Degree, said she felt compelled to participate in this project simply as a way to deal with her emotions.

"It was a way to express our feelings about the event and to create a piece of art," Bowen said.

The painting that began as a class project has now evolved into a piece of history. In April, Edwards flew to New York to help dedicate the painting at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Using red, white and blue for the principle colors of the painting, Edwards painted what he saw on television.

"When I was watching TV that day, they kept replaying the flames, the Twin Towers burning," Edwards said. "I painted what I saw."

Upon close inspection, a pastel outline of the Statue of Liberty, the words "NYPD," "FDNY," and several symbols of peace can be seen against a background of the American flag.

Bowen praised Edwards and said the painting was a complete team effort by all involved, though the original idea was his.

"Mr. Edwards invited all of his students to his studio to see works in many areas of art," Bowen said. "When I saw the completed piece for the first time, I stood back with my mouth open. It made me want to cry."

According to Bowen, the painting is only a small representation of what America stands for and how the country has come together.

"I am proud of this nation and this group of people for their ability to deal with whatever is handed to them," Bowen said.



Elizabeth Bowen and art instructor Tom Edwards display the painting prior to the dedication in New York.

Tick safety important during summer months

With the relatively mild winter, don't be surprised if you see more ticks this summer. Ticks are mostly a nuisance and cause you to suffer only minor discomfort, but if infected ticks are left on the skin, they can cause serious illness or death.

According to Arkansas Department of Health Epidemiologist Becky Rush, about one percent of all ticks carry diseases that could harm you or your pets. The 2001 nationwide statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 24 cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever, seven cases of Lyme disease, 22 cases of Ehrlichiosis and 23 cases of Tularemia were reported. All of these are tick-borne diseases.

The most serious of these is Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Some of its symptoms include severe headaches, high fever and a red rash in the bite area. These can appear three to 12 days after the tick bite.

Related to Rocky Mountain spotted fever is Ehrlichiosis, a much milder tick-borne disease. Unlike Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Ehrlichiosis does not produce a rash in adults, but does in most children. Symptoms of Ehrlichiosis appear five to 10 days after the tick bite, and include fever, headache, malaise, muscle aches and nausea. While Ehrlichiosis is seldom fatal, it can suppress the immune system and cause extreme susceptibility to other infections or diseases.

Another tick-borne disease, Tularemia, is often referred to as rabbit fever and may cause fever, muscle aches, pain and a feeling of general discomfort. These symptoms can occur any time from two to 12 days after the tick bite. You also may develop pneumonia or a severe infection from Tularemia.



Lyme disease is the most written about form of tick-borne disease since it was discovered in 1975 in Old Lyme, Conn. Symptoms of Lyme disease can incubate from three to 32 days. A rash two inches in size will develop at the tick bite area. The center of the rash will remain clear and the red edges will spread outward, giving a bull's eye appearance. This symptom is different and much larger than the red inflamed area that often results from a tick bite. Other symptoms of Lyme

disease include fever, fatigue, muscle aches and headaches. The advanced stage may cause joint swelling and neurological disorders.

To help reduce ticks from getting on you, Rush said those who plan to be outside for an extended period of time should wear light-colored clothes, long-sleeved shirts and tuck pant legs inside their boots. She also recommended using tick repellent before going outdoors, and then checking yourself for ticks once back indoors.

If you find a tick on yourself or a pet, remove it by placing your index finger and thumb as close to the skin line as possible and steadily pull straight up. You also can use the same method with tweezers. When removing a tick from your pet, use tissue paper or rubber gloves so the blood will not get on your hands. Always wash your hands thoroughly with antibacterial soap after removing a tick.

If you develop any of the symptoms described above after a tick has bitten you, contact your physician immediately. Left untreated, tick-borne diseases can be debilitating or fatal. With prompt antibiotic treatment, this risk is greatly reduced.

Calculating lists easy with Excel subtotal feature

The Excel *subtotal* is a useful tool in calculating values grouped together in a list and is comparable to *group by* and *store break* in other applications. When entering data into the list you can turn on extended formats and formulas, and new data will automatically be formatted.

The list must be sorted on the value that you want to calculate subtotals and several fields can be sorted. Grand total values are calculated from the list and not from the subtotal values.

To subtotal, click on the cell in the list. Then select *Data and Subtotals* from the tool bar. In the *At each change in* box select the field you sorted on and want subtotals. In the *Use function* box, select the function for the calculation such as sum, count, average, max, min or standard deviation. In the *Add subtotal to* box select the columns that hold the values you want to subtotal.

Subtotal is useful on filtered data because it calculates just the filtered data in the range.

Subtotal also can be inserted within another subtotal with multiple columns sorted and the *Replace current subtotals* box selected. When you create multiple subtotals, the totals can appear in the wrong order and may be missing grand totals. To



By Teresa Thompson
Customer Assistance
& Applications Section

correct this problem, click to select the *Summary below data* box in the *Subtotal* menu. For more information on nested subtotals on the Excel help menu, enter *insert subtotals into a list*.

Subtotal also can be used in *PivotTable* reports. Double click the field you want subtotaled. Under *Subtotals* select *Automatic* for the outer row. For the inner row select *Subtotal* and *Custom*.

To use a different function, click the box to the right of *Custom*.

To remove subtotals, click on a cell being subtotaled and select *Remove all* from the *Data, Subtotals* list. The data will return to its original form.

For more help with any Office product, call the Help Desk at extension 6824, or send an e-mail to **Helplog**, which will generate a help desk ticket. Please describe the problem in the body of the e-mail message.

Government website back online after revamping

The new FirstGov.com now accesses 22,000 federal web sites containing more than 35,000 pages. The site also accesses millions of pages through Internet portals of the 50 states. The improved search engine provides easy access through the site. The site stands as an excellent resource for government employees as well as the public. You can access the site through the Library website under Helpful sites, Frequently Used Federal Resources and Legislative, Legal and Regulatory Sites. This direct link is <http://www.first.gov>.

The site is organized for easy access by the public, but sidebars link to federal agencies as well as state agencies. An alphabetical list of agencies creates quick access and the search engine checks through all sites.

Lay Guidance to the National Preservation Act

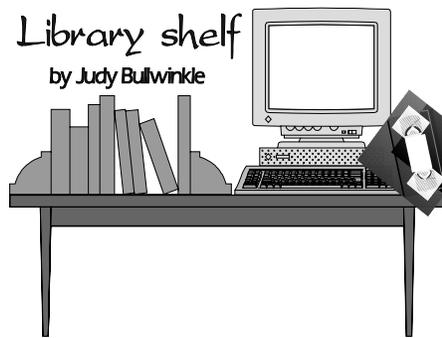
“Federal Planning and Historic Places: the Section 106 Process” (KF4310.K565 2000) explains the sometimes origins and application of the National Preservation Act in layman’s terms. Witty prose turns this complicated subject into readable material.

More Safety Videos

“Safety and the Human Factor” (T55.S245 1993) examines the human involvement in accidents, near miss incidents, injuries and mistakes in the workplace.

Federal Employees Almanacs Available

The “2002 Federal Employees Almanac” (JK671.G385 2002)



is now available for District employees. The popular work is available for check out as well as in the reference collection. Topics include pay, leave, retirement, health benefits and more.

New Engineering Materials

“Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-volume Local Roads” (TE228.5.G85 2001) “addresses the unique design issues highway designers and engineers face when determining appropriate and

cost-effective geometric design policies for very low-volume local roads. A new approach to geometric design of these types of roads stemming from research on the safety and cost-effectiveness of geometric elements and site-specific safety conditions is incorporated into this work.”

“2002 National Electrical Code Handbook (TK223.N37 2002), the triennial updating of the National Electric Code has arrived.

“2001 ASHRAE Fundamentals – SI version” (TH7011.A83 2001)

provides metric guidance on mechanical topics. The new “Bridge Welding Code,” AWS D1.5 is available in Structures.

Hot Web Site of the Month

www.hooah4health.com

Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

Spanish

(Continued from page 7)

both of them out.”

Rideout said Gutierrez makes the class fun, and learning another language is always a good thing.

Margaret Morehead, a project manager, said she has traveled to Spain and Mexico before, but had a desire to learn more of the Spanish language.

“Learning Spanish was one of my goals for retirement,” Morehead said. “This class has made it possible for me to attempt that goal sooner than I had expected.”

Morehead said she has learned that it is OK to speak less than perfect Spanish, and that the important thing is to try to communicate with verbal and non-verbal gestures.

Each of the class members said the

class is fun and easy, and that they would encourage others to join. As the Hispanic population at Corps facilities increases, it becomes important for employees to be able to communicate

Movie

(Continued from page 4.)

them to serve others and this nation,” said Randall Wallace, the movie’s screen writer and director.

“The book written by Hal Moore and Joe Galloway should be read by everyone in the country of voting age. They could learn something about service and sacrifice, and to finally come to respect the veterans of the Vietnam War.”

Wallace wrote the screen plays for a number of box office hits in recent years.

with them.

The class members also said it takes a lot of practice to learn Spanish, but the rewards outweigh the work.

Those movies include “Braveheart,” “The Man in the Iron Mask,” and “Pearl Harbor.”

“I hope those who read the book or see the movie take away two things,” Galloway said. “First, I hope they come away with a better understanding of war and what a terrible thing it is. Second, that the American public come to respect and embrace Vietnam veterans who served honorably — many of them came home to no welcome and closed ears.”

C-130J

(Continued from page 1.)

success of these projects.

Of all of the construction projects, the maintenance training facility is the most complex.

“The base will be moving in large sections of the plane for students to train on and the facility is designed to have a removable wall to accommodate this,” said Balgavy. “But the real challenge will be getting the facility finished on schedule. Right now, it will be constructed on the site of the present Physical Fitness Center. We just broke ground on the new fitness facility in October and it will be turned over to the

user in March 2003.”

To keep the project on schedule, the Corps is keeping a close eye on the schedule.

Construction is currently on target with all of the project milestones.

“As problems arise, the teams will look at the options we have to help us keep on track with our milestones,” said Falino. “One of our options would be to relocate our fitness facilities to different locations on base, but that is the last option we would consider when and if the time comes.”

The Corps goal is to minimize those inconveniences for the base’s personnel.

“We know we won’t be able to avoid all of these types of problems, but our goal is to have as few as possible,” added Balgavy.

Teamwork has been the key to solving these problems.

“The Little Rock District has shown what true teamwork is,” said Falino. “I am confident that the combined team efforts from the district, the base and headquarters, will be able to overcome any obstacles we will encounter over the life of these projects.”

The last of the fiscal year 2003 projects should be completed by February 2005.

Colonel

(Continued from page 2.)

Rather, remember those who came before us and gave of themselves, many paying the ultimate price, so that we may live as well as we do today.

If you compare yourself to your neighbor living down the street, you may not feel as blessed as you would if you compare yourself to people who live in other countries.

Our forefathers fought and many died so that each of us would have conditions set for our success. The opportunities here to be successful are like nowhere else on earth. Reflect upon this and the contributions your ancestors made to our country, whether in the armed forces or in some other meaningful way.

I personally am proud that my great, great grandfather

fought in the Revolutionary War. I had uncles that fought in the Civil War (War of Northern Aggression for you Southerners), some on one side and some on the other.

My grandfather fought in France in World War I, and my father was deployed overseas during WWII. My father-in-law fought in Vietnam, was shot down twice and earned two Purple Hearts. I’m sure each of you has your own family heroes that should be remembered on this hallowed day.

As you reflect on the past, think about how your descendants will remember you years from now.

Continue to work so that they will have lots of reasons to be proud of you. You don’t have to die for your country to make a significant contribution to it. Just work each day trying to make your corner of the world a better place, and you will succeed.

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