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LRDispatch

Corps support makes DOE expansion at Chaffee possible

by Jennifer Wilson
LRDispatch staff

In just 24 months, the Department of Energy's Transportation Safeguards Training Center doubled in size and went from one employee to 62.

"If projections hold true, we will be able to double in size again in the next 24 months," said Lynn Pincumbe, training center manager. "The only constant here is change, and the Corps of Engineers has been able to meet our needs and keep up with all of our changes."

DOE's training center is located outside of Fort Smith, Ark., just along the Arkansas-Oklahoma state line on Fort Chaffee, which was closed in the 1995 round of base closures.

The center trains federal agents who are responsible for providing security for DOE-owned nuclear weapons and special nuclear material that is transported across the country.

"This facility is mission essential for the DOE," said Mike Gillespie, the on-site training manager. "We have 57% of the work force eligible for or retiring in the next three to five years. We must train new agent candidates to replace retirees, and we must enlarge the agent work force to meet new mission requirements. This facility is very valuable.

"Our agents in the field are a little less dependent on the facility, but it is also used for the senior agent's refresher and support



This classroom includes state-of-the-art production equipment and computers for training. Since the agents are learning to drive tractor-trailer rigs, they have scale models to work with.

training on a continual reoccurring basis."

DOE began operating a satellite-training center at Chaffee in 1985.

"It wasn't meant to be a permanent training site," Pincumbe said. "There was one employee, and very minimal facilities." But about the time base closures hit Chaffee, DOE began to face increasing restrictions at their main training site
(See "DOE expansion" on Page 9.)



One of the specialized features that DOE needed was a pad to park the tractor-trailer rigs that are used for agent training.

Relationships, responsibilities are priorities for Corps

As I write this, I have just finished a week of the Commander's Course at Ft. Belvoir, Vir. During this course we had several guest speakers, talking about various aspects of our job. Our Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Robert Flowers, spent several hours with us and had a lot of good information.

What I found most interesting was his emphasis on relationships. Not only did he talk a lot about the importance of developing good relationships, his staff did the same. Relationships are important for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, because we receive our funding from reimbursable work. If we do not build strong relationships with our customers, the public in general and members of Congress, we will not have work and will be out of a job.

In addition to relationships, he stressed the four individual responsibilities that are part of his philosophy. The four responsibilities are: Know your job; Be situationally aware; Be healthy; Treat every individual with dignity and respect.

These two points of emphasis, relationships and responsibilities, mesh with amazing fluidity. Relationships are important at all levels, and if we practice the chief's four individual responsibilities, we will go a long way toward building those relationships.

Treat every individual with dignity and respect

We must treat everyone, not just our supervisor, not just their boss, not just the members of Congress, but everyone with dignity and respect. We should have a kind word for the guards who are helping keep us safe. The cleaning team who comes in every night appreciates recognition that they also are contributing to our efforts. When anyone calls, they should always be treated as if they are the boss, because, as a taxpayer they are. Building relationships is not just how we treat the "important" people, it is how we treat all people.

Be healthy

There are a lot of things that comprise being healthy, one of the most important is having a positive mental attitude. Scientific data shows that happy people are physically healthier than people with overly negative attitudes. Not only does a positive attitude help your health, it is also contagious and helps those around you have a positive attitude and better health. This affects relationships, helping to build strong, trusting, and long-lasting relationships.

Know your job

When we deal with others, with our bosses—the taxpayers—

From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler
District Engineer



they expect more of us than just our being respectful and cheerful. They expect us to know what we are talking about. To build solid trust in our professional relationships we must know our jobs, and the limits of our jobs. We must be able to respond timely and accurately to concerns that are within our lane, and we must be able to connect people to knowledgeable people when they have concerns that are outside our lanes.

Be situationally aware

Often the people we deal with do not have the knowledge to be able to ask the best questions to get their true concerns answered. We must be situationally aware so that we are better able to understand the real intent of questions. Often the unasked question is the most important one, and we must try to ensure we do answer these questions.

Relationships with the public are more than just doing our jobs well. It is doing other things like supporting our community. Lt. Gen. Flowers said that he would be very pleased if every employee spent at least one hour a month in our schools, in front of our children's classes. He also said that studies have shown that the best classes to visit are the fifth and seventh grades. Go out and let them know what you do for America.

Our relationships with members of Congress are very important. This is something I will continue to develop. But Little Rock District's relationship with the public is the key to truly developing a good relationship with Congress. Each one of us needs to remember that each time we interact with others, we are affecting our relationship with the public, either positively or negatively. If we keep the chief's four individual responsibilities in mind, each interchange should be positive, and Congress will be comfortable that the money they finance us with is money well spent.

I have learned a lot at this course. I also have learned a lot from each of you. I have been able to get around and meet

(See "From where I sit," on Page 4.)

LRDispatch



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Little Rock District

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Colonel holds first brown bag with employees

About 40 employees attended Colonel Benjamin Butler's first brown bag lunch with employees on Sept. 26 in the D.E.'s Conference Room. He invited employees to ask questions about anything, from his hobbies and interests to the Corps' response to the terrorist attacks.

Here is an abbreviated list of the questions and the colonel's answers. For a full list, visit the colonel's brown bag site on The Wire, www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire.

Office issues

Q. In spring when the Chief of Engineers was here, he talked about different things that were being done to make the personnel system, and specifically the CPAC/CPOC organizations work smoother. What has happened to that?

A. No one is really happy with the system now, and the CPAC office staffs are viewed as being unresponsive to our needs. I know this is a concern with Brig. Gen. Melcher and Lt. Gen. Flowers, and I know this issue is still being worked at many levels of the Corps.

If there is a need for CPAC personnel to visit the district or field offices to train or assist you, they are available to do that. If you are interested in this, talk

to Major Brown.

Q. Are we going to continue the new employee orientation program that was started the last quarter of fiscal year 2001?

A. Yes, Major Brown and the Emerging Leaders will continue developing that program. Our plan is to have an orientation for new employees once a quarter.

I think it's important for employees to get started out properly in their career, and I think it's equally important for employees to end their career properly. There are semi-annual pre-retirement seminars available from the Federal Executive Association. The FEA has tentatively scheduled a pre-retirement seminar for Nov. 9. Employees within three years of retirement are eligible to attend with supervisor's permission. Interested employees should contact Laurie Driver in Public Affairs.

Q. Sir you've been with us for a couple of months now, what are your initial impressions, both good and bad, of the district?

A. I am so impressed with the diversity of work here in the district. I am elated in this job because of the diversity. I also am impressed with Southwestern Division. They give broad directions, and we just have to stay within the lines.

Initially I didn't know how I would like Arkansas, but I like it more and more, especially the mountain lakes. So far, I've been to Beaver Lake and Dardanelle for National Public Lands Day.

On the downside, sometimes it's difficult for me to feel comfortable with these tough regulatory decisions that put an individual's livelihood against protecting the environment. These are not as much fun as the other things that I do. I work really hard at listening to the issues and making these decisions.

Union issues also are taking up more time than I would like them to. My opinion of unions is that we should not need them if management is doing what it's supposed to do. But everybody

makes mistakes, and the union is there to point out areas where we've missed the boat. I would like to see the relationship become more of a partnership.

Q. What are your goals for your tour here?

A. I want the Corps and especially Little Rock District to be thought of very highly by our community. I want us to be thought of as good stewards of taxpayer money. I want to make our area of responsibility, our corner of the world, a better place to live. Whatever we are doing, I want to do it as well as possible.

I want all of us to believe in and live the Army values. I believe in strong teams and teamwork to accomplish our missions. I also want employees to get into the mindset of staying ahead of the game by anticipating the needs of customers and coworkers and striving to meet those needs, even before they are asked.

I want a place where employees are glad to come to work and are able to accomplish things while they are here. But I also want our employees to leave their work here and enjoy their time away from the office.

Family matters

Q. How are you adjusting to life away from your family?

A. My family chose to stay in Georgetown, Texas, which is just outside of Austin, so my youngest son could finish high school. We did the same thing for my older son when we were stationed in Hawaii. I went to Korea, and they stayed in Hawaii. So, this is nothing new.

We are all adjusting fairly well. I will see them once a month between now and Christmas. Since I'm not living with them right now, I do stay in the office more because there's no one to go home to. The biggest adjustment is the financial issues, because I have to maintain two households. Needless to say my home has just the basics, no cable, no daily newspaper.

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 must be received by Nov. 14 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to jennifer.l.wilson@SWL02.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.

Family news

Births

Facility maintenance inspector for the Dardanelle Field Office, **Robert Wenger**, and wife, Lou, are the proud grandparents of their first grandchild. Amelia Katherine Wenger was born Sept. 22 to Bob's son, Robert Jr., and his wife, Elizabeth, of Fayetteville.

Deaths

James "Dude" Hurst, a former surveyor in the Russellville Project and district offices, died Sept. 25.

News briefs

FEHB premiums to jump again

Premiums in the Federal Employees Health Benefits program will increase by an average of 13.3 percent in 2002. This will be the fourth straight year of increases in or around the double-digit range.

For 2002, the average self-only biweekly premium will rise \$4.32 to \$40.89, while the average family coverage biweekly premium will rise \$11.57 to \$92.10.

Twenty-eight HMOs are dropping out of the plan in 2002, following the loss of some of 140 plans in the three prior years. Also, Aetna and Prudential are ending coverage in certain areas. Five HMOs are joining the program for 2002.

The open season for enrolling in FEHB or changing plans, levels or types of coverage will run Nov. 12 – Dec. 10, with elections effective Jan. 1.

From where I sit

(Continued from Page 2.)

many of you, and I have been impressed with how well you do your jobs. I also have met many of the public who we work with. They have spoken well of you and your ability to do your jobs. I am thankful that you have worked hard to develop these relationships, and your hard work is apparent.

Have a great month, and a nice Thanksgiving. After looking at the things going on in the world these days, it is clear that we all have a lot to be thankful for.

Tom Rogers, a retiree from Engineering and Construction Division's Geotechnical Branch, passed away.

Lily Banning, step-mother of **Jerry Banning** died Oct. 15. Banning works in Russellville's Construction and Survey Branch.

Durwood Harris, father of **Mark Harris** in Engineering Division's Geotechnical Branch, died Oct. 15.

Farewell

Maggie Durley of Real Estate Division left the district in September to work for the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Mechanical Engineer **Kurt Kueter** transferred from Engineering's Mechanical-Electrical Branch to the Central Arkansas Area Office at the Little Rock Air Force Base.

Darrell Argenbright, facility maintenance inspector at Dierks, began working as an engineering technician for Millwood Lake in October.

New Faces

Russ Cooper began working as an engineering technician in the Contract Operations and Maintenance Branch at Clearwater Lake in October.

Nathaniel Keen and **Catherine Funkhouser** joined Engineering and Constructing Division in October.

Blake McCord began working in October as a civil engineer in Pine Bluff Project Office's Navigation Branch.

Marriage

Marcy Deloach, of the Real Estate Division, married Howard Short in an Oct. 6 ceremony in North Little Rock.

Speaker's Bureau

Park Ranger **Alan Bland** presented a program about the mammals of Beaver Lake to 31 students at Elm Tree Elementary in Bentonville in October. He also presented the program to the 34 participants of the Retired Military Officers of Northwest Arkansas.

Park rangers **Don Henson** and **Jason Wilson** facilitated a wildlife habitat program for middle school kids from South Iron School in Missouri. The program, which had 65 participants, was held at Highway K Park at Clearwater Lake.

Park Ranger **Allison Smedley** gave a talk to 35 Arkansas Tech University students about the Corps of Engineers in the Introduction to Parks and Recreation class on Oct. 15.

A tribute to New York



Rangers Beverly Glanville, John-Virgil Sanders, Bonnie Vickers and James Stewart hold posters that people signed with notes and thoughts for the people of New York. The posters, which were part of Millwood Tri-Lakes' booth at the 4-States Fair, are being sent to New York District.

Army meets recruiting goal early

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command reached its recruiting goals early for Fiscal Year 2001.

This is the second consecutive year that the Recruiting Command has achieved its Army Reserve and Regular Army goals. USAREC's Regular Army mission achievement was announced by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White during a Sept. 4 Pentagon press conference.

"These remarkable achievements are a testament to the effort of a number of people and organizations," White said. "I mean think about this -- the Army accesses 75,800 people every year. There is not a corporation on the face of the Earth that comes anywhere close to that kind of manpower recruiting on an annual basis, not to mention what we do in the Guard and the Reserve."

The Army met all its recruiting goals, including 80,000 recruits for the active Army, just days prior to the close of fiscal year last year, following several years of failing to hit one or more of its marks in the active and reserve components.

While the secretary recognized many groups for their contribution in making this year's recruiting goal, including its marketing partner, Chicago-based Leo Burnett Company, he gave the lion's share of credit to the recruiting command and the new "Army of One" advertising campaign which replaced "Be All You Can Be" in January. He called recruiters dedicated professionals and the vanguard of "motivated missionaries" who promote the Army and its many opportunities all across America.

"I like to say I'm a recruiter; the chief's a recruiter. We're all recruiters in the Army of One," White said. "We're out spreading the good word, recruiting in big cities, small towns, wherever (we) can appeal to young Americans who want to join a winning team—the United States Army."

As far as the new ad campaign goes, White said, "the proof is in the pudding," or in this case, in independently verified

statistics:

Internet activity at the Army's recruiting website, www.goarmy.com, is up 238 percent over the previous year with an average of 26,000 visits daily.

Valid recruiting leads from the website are up 81 percent compared to 2000.

Total leads are up 21 percent from 435,000 in 2000 to more than 530,000 this year.

The number of enlistment contracts resulting from recruiting leads are up 43 percent over last year.

Major General Dennis D. Cavin, USAREC commander, attributed the Army Reserve mission success to a number of factors.

"Foremost were the efforts of our competent, confident and hard working recruiters who spread the word on the life-changing opportunities the Army and Army Reserve provides," he said.

"Additionally, the Army Reserve and our recruiting force are an integral part of the local communities across this nation. As an Army of One, we have not just reconnected with America; we are America in the truest sense of the word. Nowhere is this more evident than in our reserve units where fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters serve as citizen soldiers epitomizing the best America has to offer," Cavin added.

Cavin also said the Internet is changing the way recruiters do business.

"Two years ago we initiated a cyber-recruiting program," Cavin said. "Recruiters answer questions that have been posted to our GoArmy.com and GoArmyReserve.com Web site, and operate a chat room where people learn about the 180 ways to become a soldier in the Army Reserve. The cyber-recruiting initiative has been so successful, we now have 30 cyber-recruiters working the Web site full time."

This story was compiled from Army News Service stories.



www.goarmy.com

Customer Care Corner

Please know that Richard and I have had a truly enjoyable experience, both this year and last year. The ranger staff at Table Rock have been in a large part responsible for that. We want everyone to know that we appreciate all of you and the job that you are all doing.

We also want you to know that the only reason that we are not coming back next year is because we are planning to take a trip into Canada and Alaska and just do not feel that this trip would be enjoyable during the winter.

We will be looking forward to visiting with all of you in the future when we come back.

I know that we cannot remember everyone's name that we need to thank, but a few names that come to mind (not necessarily in this order) are:

Tim Peters, Stephanie Barlow, Fred Esser, Greg Oller, Rich Reiter, Clint Moore, Bob Henderson, Malcom Fortson, George Culbrith, Allen Cook,

Renee Sanchez (sorry about running over your car), **Janna Powell, Gary Hill, Jeff Farquahar, Rick Thompson** and **Rick Hightower**. Believe it or not Rick, you were our first experience with the Corps, and it was a very positive one because of you.

If there are any other names that we have omitted please forgive us. You have all been great and we love you all.

God bless and keep you all, Richard and Peggy Danahy, Baxter Park gate attendants at Table Rock Lake

District hosts two national work days at projects

by Hollye Acker
LRDispatch staff

National Public Lands Day was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 29. In Little Rock District, Russellville and Nimrod-Blue Mountain project offices participated in this year's "Keeping the Promise" National Public Lands Day efforts. Volunteers at the projects put in 1,700 man-hours of work combined. Thousands of volunteers across the nation spent the day working to improve public lands. The event gives local agencies, families and groups of all ages the chance to volunteer and do something for their local public lands and facilities.

Russellville Project Office began some of their major work projects in June, and it culminated at this year's work day. Russellville park ranger and National Public Lands Day coordinator, Joel Epperson, said bio-engineering techniques were used at Lake Dardanelle to stabilize 300 feet of shoreline around Bullock Cemetery. Russellville's Eagle Scout Troop 214 helped by planting cattails and using several types of wave breaks.

"The bank stabilization project was needed," Epperson said. "It saved the government thousands of dollars."

Russellville Park Ranger Allison Smedley said the Eagle Scouts also assembled and placed 25 fish attractors in Lake Dardanelle to enhance fishing.

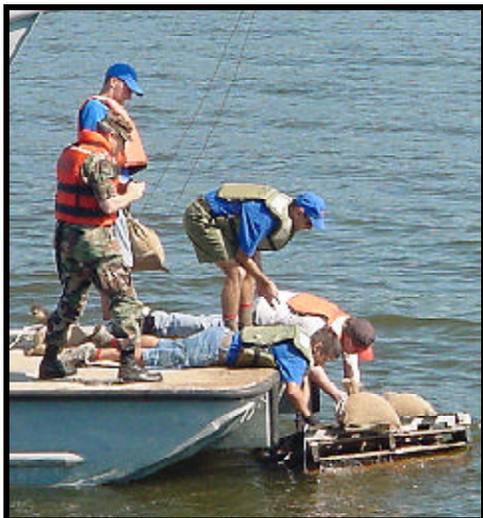
"This is the third year we have placed fish attractors, and it will be an on-going volunteer project," Smedley said. Students studying parks and recreation, and fish and wildlife at Arkansas Tech University volunteered to landscape Bona Dea Trail and clean up its entrance.

Bike enthusiasts repaired erosion damage at the Old Post Road bike trails after a fun ride in the morning to introduce newcomers to the trails, Smedley said.

The 239th Engineer Company of Boonville partnered with the

project office and did dozer work to help reclaim two acres of land at Six-Mile Creek in Paris. Four unauthorized roads also were closed there, Smedley said.

Epperson said National Public Lands Day was combined with the Great Arkansas Clean-Up this



Colonel Butler takes a photo of Boy Scouts as they sink fish attractors in Lake Dardanelle.



Volunteers at Nimrod Lake helped improve Forest Hills Nature Trail.

year. He said a total of five miles of trails and two miles of roads were cleaned.

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism director, Richard Davies, was on hand to speak at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Lake Dardanelle State Park educational/interpretive visitor center and weigh-in facility at noon.

A memorial tree was planted for Belinda Byrns, a Russellville park ranger who died in September. Byrns was considered the "mother" of the National Public Lands Work Day.

This year was Nimrod-Blue Mountain's first time to participate. Nimrod-Blue Mountain park ranger and National Public Lands Day coordinator, Mark Green, said the project was a huge success there.

Green said the Forest Hills Nature Trail south of Nimrod Dam was renovated.

"Forest Hills Nature Trail was chosen because it needed some repairs done, and we also wanted to include the identification posts so hikers would not have to take a pamphlet with them on their walk," Green said.

"This trail renovation will be a major asset to this lake and will benefit visitors to the project."

Much work was done to improve the appearance of the one-and-a-half mile trail. Brush was pruned back from the trail paths, brush damaged during the December 2000 ice storm was removed, gravel and wood shavings were spread on the path at erosion spots and trash was picked up along the trail. Benches were replaced, the trail bridge was repaired and new identification posts with interpretive placards also were repaired. Placards were selectively placed to interpret special trail features.

Renovation to the trail was completed in phases and took several days, Green said. Volunteers from Future Farmers of America, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and area colleges helped renovate the trail. Trail biological, geological and botanical features along the trail were identified by Jerry Heath, a U.S. Forest Service sivilculturalist; Pat Jordan, a district geologist and Mary Mentz of the U.S. Forest Service.

It wasn't all hard work at both of the sites, however. At

(See "NPLD" on Page 7.)

NPLD

(Continued from Page 6.)

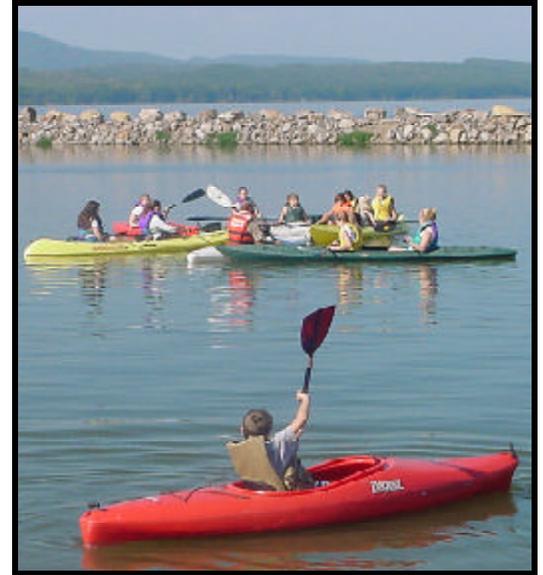
Russellville, fishing derbies were held to throw in some fun. The Russellville Police Department hosted a fishing derby for participants in their "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" program. Friendship Community Care, a local organization for handicapped individuals, hosted a disabled-access fishing derby.

The Holla Bend Bow Hunters performed an archery demonstration at Russellville. Kayak and barge tours also were available.

Both sites treated the volunteers to lunch and door prizes provided by sponsors including Whattaburger Drive-In, Coca-Cola, Inc. and Tyson Foods, Inc. An awards ceremony honoring volunteers was held at each site as well. Colonel Benjamin Butler handed out award certificates at the Russellville event.

Lisa Owens, Nimrod-Blue Mountain park ranger, said an oral history of the

Civilian Conservation Corps workers was presented by Harold Blalock during their lunchtime ceremonies. Blalock is a local retired teacher interested in history. He was a summer park ranger at Nimrod from 1970 to 1993. Eighteen former CCC and National Youth Administration workers from the 1930s were honored during the presentation. Groups from Lake Dardanelle State Park, Russellville Chamber of Commerce, Russellville Recreation and Parks Department and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission also participated at the Russellville event. At the Nimrod-Blue Mountain site, Family Career and Community Leaders of America, Future Business Leaders of America and science clubs were involved. National Public Lands Day is coordinated by the National



Kayaking demonstrations were part of the water safety program at the NPLD events in Russellville.

Environmental Education and Training Foundation. It began in 1993 with three sites in three states. There are now 250 sites in all 50 states, with more than 50,000 volunteers.

The roots of the event trace back to the Public Lands Cleanup Act of 1987 which is based on the Greers Ferry Lake and Little Red River Cleanup.

A visitor from the past



An exact replica of the Nina, one of Christopher Columbus' ships that was used to make his famous voyage, traveled up the Arkansas River in September.

TSP Stock Report Stock funds continue to suffer

All three stock-related funds of the Thrift Savings Plan suffered losing months in September, the third straight month of losses for each of the funds.

The Common Stock Fund dropped 8.05 percent, the Small and Mid-Capitalization Fund lost 12.5 percent and the International Stock Fund was down 9.95 percent.

During the last 12 months, funds have lost 26.57, 34.25 and 28.84 percent, respectively.

To keep track of TSP earnings and news, visit the web site at www.tsp.gov.

Corps of Engineers helps New York recover

by **Bernard Tate**
USACE Public Affairs

Many employees of the Army Corps of Engineers are still supporting recovery operations in New York City following the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center.

Corps employees have completed a debris operations plan for New York City and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Part of the challenge, officials said, was to determine what material can be recycled, and what can be placed in landfills or offshore disposal areas.

The Corps of Engineers provided emergency electrical power for the recovery operation and the opening of the financial district.

Structural experts and surveyors from throughout the Corps have been on-site in New York to help the city evaluate some of the more complicated building situations. Those who were skilled at urban search and rescue

evaluated areas that were safe for rescuers to enter, and recommended ways to secure the unsafe areas.

At the height of the operation, more than 900 Corps personnel were supporting recovery efforts, including employees of the Corps' North Atlantic Division and New York District who normally work in the area, and 164 others deployed from around the nation.

From the first hours after the hijackers crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have worked on the scene and behind the scenes to assist in the recovery effort, officials said.

Seven Corps vessels joined a spontaneous armada that evacuated people from Manhattan who had no other way home. The Corps boats evacuated more than 2,000 people.

"Everyone was so great," said Liz Finn, assistant vessel master aboard the *Gelberman*, a converted tugboat used for drift collection. The crew provided

assistance minutes after the towers were hit.

"No one got hysterical, there wasn't any pushing or shoving, and every small boat in the harbor was helping," Finn said. She and other crew members had been attending a training class at the district's Caven Point facility at the time of

the attack. They ran out onto the pier and hopped aboard vessels berthed there.

That day, Corps boats also carried more than 200 firefighters and emergency personnel from New Jersey to Lower Manhattan, and refueled New York City fireboats with 3,300 gallons of fuel, much of it transferred by hand in five-gallon buckets.

The Corps' mission during a disaster is to provide public works and engineering assistance.

To date, FEMA has assigned the Corps of Engineers missions to assist New York City with emergency power, technical assistance, debris-removal assessment, and structural safety assessment.

The Corps of Engineers sent two Deployable Tactical Operations Centers to New York City for command-and-control. DTOCs are 37-foot tractor-trailers designed to function as a field office for a 38-person staff working at a disaster site. FEMA is using one of the units. The Corps also deployed two Rapid Response Vehicles to New York City. RRVs are self-contained mobile command-and-control centers packed with communications and computer gear to support a seven-person staff. FEMA and the Corps used the DTOCs and RRVs to form a linked communications network around the area of destruction in New York City.

The dredging mission for the Corps concluded after around-the-clock operations. Greater barge access will significantly speed the removal of debris, officials said.

The Corps' New York District set records granting emergency dredging permits to provide vessel access to the World Trade Center area and financial district.

On Sept. 13, New York City requested a permit to dredge 120,000 cubic yards of material from around Pier 25 to allow large boats to support rescue and recovery operations. Brig. Gen. Stephen Rhoades, North Atlantic Division commander, gave permission in record time to dredge and place material in the Newark Bay Confined Disposal Facility.

(See "World Trade Center" on Page 12.)



Corps of Engineers employees from all over the nation responded to the call for help at the World Trade Center disaster site.

DOE expansion at Chaffee

(Continued from Page 1.)

located just outside of Albuquerque.

“We recognized that Chaffee was centrally located between our regional facilities in Amarillo, Texas; Oak Ridge, Tenn.; and Albuquerque. We already had a presence here, we just needed to develop it.”

That’s when the Corps’ Little Rock District was called on to help. The district had an indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity Job Order Contract with Del Jen, Inc., in place to service organizations that remained at Fort Chaffee.

Recently, Del-Jen completed the local JOC. Now they will be working at Chaffee through the district’s regional JOC.

“We ask for things that others don’t: 13-foot fences, special conduits for equipment, vault rooms, extensive security measures. They are strange requests, and I can’t imagine trying to handle all the construction issues that are associated with these by myself. The Corps has been our saving grace here,” Pincumbe said.

Pincumbe said she appreciates working with another federal agency that understands and operates under similar regulations and bureaucracy. She said Little Rock District also is quick to pull from other expertise areas within the Corps of Engineers when they don’t have a particular skill in-house.

“I don’t have to be concerned with extensive overhead charges either. Little Rock District is affordable, and they do quality work.”

DOE recruits are trained to the level of a police SWAT team. They have physical requirements to meet such as a timed run and qualifying with a handgun, and they must complete computer-based classes on safety and hazardous material handling.

They also must learn to drive tractor-trailer rigs and obtain a commercial drivers license. DOE’s sensitive cargo is transferred in these rigs.

“We have specific requirements for each of our facilities, and we get our users involved in their design,” Pincumbe said. “When we are designing a mechanics bay, our mechanics are consulted. If we are designing an arms vault, our armor specialists are consulted. That way each of our facilities is made to the specifications of the users. This would not be possible without the Corps.”

Joe Holden, the district’s representative at Chaffee, and



A controlled entry point and 13-foot fencing are some of DOE’s special security requirements at Chaffee.

representatives from Del-Jen, Inc., meets weekly with Pincumbe to discuss project issues and changes. But it’s the ongoing service that Pincumbe really appreciates.

“Joe doesn’t just come by once a week. He drops by throughout the week. He watches the work that’s going on, and he is constantly asking if we are pleased with the work. If we aren’t, he works with the contractor and us to fix it.”

Holden said Del Jen, Inc. is one of the big reasons that DOE receives such outstanding customer service.

“They maintain an office on-post, so they are able to provide immediate assistance and consultation,” Holden said. “DOE changes their minds almost daily because of their changing mission requirements. If we had to wait for a contractor to travel to the site for meetings, we couldn’t be as responsive or involved.”

That continuing level of customer service gives Pincumbe a confidence to plan for the future.

“I keep a wish list of things I want to do here. As long as we have the list in place and prioritized, when the money comes in from our headquarters all I have to do is attach it to a project. Our management knows when they give us money, we will spend it wisely and quickly.”

Work is progressing well on an exercise control center at the site, which includes main offices, a reception area, state-of-the-art conference center and a monitoring area for activities at the campus.

Future plans call for the construction of a firing range and skid pad where recruits can practice their marksmanship and tractor-trailer driving skills. A simunitions building, running track and hand-to-hand combat training building also are on Pincumbe’s wish list.

“This is the only federal training center for agents who move special nuclear material,” Pincumbe said. “Managers at other DOE facilities are noticing what’s happening at Fort Chaffee. They say whatever we have going on here with the Corps and the contractors, is definitely working. Customer service and the ability to change as the mission changes is a need of all our facilities.”

This monitoring room will allow controllers to view activities all over the DOE compound.



Simple precautions can help hunters avoid tree stand falls

The tree stands that hunters – boy hunters especially – use to increase their chances of bagging a buck could instead bring a trip to the emergency room if hunters are careless or the stands are improperly installed, according to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission officials.

“Research shows that one out of three hunters will fall from a tree stand sometime during his or her hunting career,” said Joe Huggins, hunter education coordinator for the AGFC. “Two-thirds of the hunters who fall from tree stands do so while they’re climbing into or out of a tree stand, so it’s particularly important to use caution during those times,” he explained.

Huggins recommended hunters always maintain three points of contact – two hands and one foot, or one hand and two feet – on the ladder when climbing into or out of the stand.

“Often people start climbing up the ladder, and at some point, they only have one hand and one foot connecting – that



isn’t good,” Huggins said. “Three points of contact give you greater stability and balance,” he added.

Falls also occur for other reasons, including weakness in the stand’s structure, incorrect installation of the tree stand, failure to use a safety harness and hunters dozing off while on the stand, he said. Tree stands also figure in other hunting accidents, such as when hunters shoot themselves with their guns while climbing into a tree, or when bow hunters fall on their arrows.

Huggins suggested hunters using tree stands follow these precautions to avoid accidents:

- ✍ Check permanent tree stands every year before hunting from them, and replace any worn or weak lumber before it breaks.
- ✍ Read, understand and follow the factory recommended practices and procedures when installing commercial stands.
- ✍ Inspect portable stands for loose nuts and bolts each time the stand is used. Use either a safety belt or harness.
- ✍ Know what you should do if you slip while using a safety device.
- ✍ Use a haul line to raise and lower equipment. Keep firearms unloaded and arrows in a covered quiver.
- ✍ Select a tree – one large enough to support your weight – before the season. Some mishaps occur as hunters are hurrying to set up their stands on opening morning.
- ✍ Make sure someone else knows the location of your tree stand and knows when you will be hunting there.
- ✍ Stay awake.

Changes coming to government credit card program

by Eileen Grant
Chief of Logistics Management Office

Changes are coming to the Department of Defense travel card program because Bank of America has been forced to write-off a significant amount of bad debt due to high delinquency rates for individual DoD employee travel card accounts.

The travel card program falls under the Smart Pay Contract administered by General Services Administration. Executive agencies such as the DoD issued task orders for travel card services to NationsBank, now Bank of America, which was effective Nov. 30, 1998, with two basic contract years and three one-year options. DoD exercised its first option on Nov. 30, 2000, and we are currently in that first option year.

In early December, the Bank of America sought to renegotiate the existing DoD task order, citing unacceptable delinquency rates, debt write-offs totaling \$48 million and high account maintenance costs. Later that month, representatives from DoD, GSA and Bank of America began talks to address these concerns and prevent any disruption in DoD’s travel program. After three months of negotiations, DoD and Bank of America reached an agreement.

On April 11, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, on behalf of the DoD, signed a task order modification with Bank of America. The task order is intended to encourage DoD employees to pay their travel charge card bills in a timely manner and reduce the financial risk to the contractor. These

revisions will be included in the DoD Financial Management Regulations.

The task order modification includes several very important changes, which have already gone into effect. The DoD must now:

- ✍ Reduce the number of active cards in the hands of infrequent travelers (Military members or DoD civilian employees).
- ✍✍ Implement default split disbursements (a portion of the travel claim settlement is sent directly to the travel card contractor with the balance going to the employee).
- ✍✍ Establish procedures for salary offset for accounts that are delinquent. The contractor will request DFAS to collect on accounts that are more than 90 days past due.
- ✍✍ Strengthen in- and out-processing requirements to ensure travel card issues are addressed in a timely manner.
- ✍✍ Reduce ATM cash and credit limits to \$250 cash and \$2,500 credit for standard cards and \$125 cash and \$1,000 credit for restricted cards. Cash/credit limits may be raised with approval of cardholder’s supervisor on a case-by-case basis.
- ✍✍ The ATM cash fee will be three percent of the amount withdrawn, or \$2, whichever is greater. This fee is a reimbursable expense to the traveler.
- ✍ Establish a \$20 fee for the expedited delivery of cards.
- ✍ Increase the fee for late payment from \$20 per month to \$29 per month when an account is delinquent by 75 calendar days or more.
- ✍ Increase the fee for returned checks from \$20 to \$29.

(See “Program” on Page 12.)

District adds training materials for crane operators

Russellville Project Office houses new videos for crane safety. From the Crane Institute of America, these videos provide the trainees live-action examples of real-life situations. "Hand Signal Communication" (TJ1363 .C .C72 1993) shows how to use mobile crane hand signals accurately.

"Crane Work Rigging Techniques" (TJ1363 .C72 1998) illustrates the three basic types of hitches and their variations.

"Preoperational Inspection for Lattice Boom Cranes" (TJ1361 .P 1995) provides step-by-step guidance for this fundamental safety step. "Working Cranes Near Power Lines" (TJ 1363 .P73 1995) addresses emergency procedures as well as safe operating procedures.

Reprinted classic on Military History

Re-issued by the Center of Military History, "American Military Heritage" (E181 .H375 2001) presents the history of the U.S. Army in "a readable and attractive format, the stories, individual experiences and traditions from which the Army has drawn inspiration." The work covers major battles, significant



leaders and details about Army daily life, uniforms, and equipment.

New reference work on language

"Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins" (REF PE 1689 .H47 1997) contains more than 15,000 work and phrase origins. Arranged alphabetically by word, the book contains a detailed index to people, categories, information and anecdotes relating to the words and phrases in the work.

Updated engineering materials

Two additions have been made to our collection of engineering materials. "Design of Reinforced Masonry Concrete" (TA 683 .T25 2000) compares masonry materials units and

bond patterns, features all latest relevant codes and summarizes up-to-date seismic research. "Masonry Designers' Guide" (TH 1199 .M37 1999) assists engineers in applying building code requirements for masonry structures.

Partnering kit

The USACE Institute of Water Resources has published "Project Partnership Kit" (TC145 .I5 Report 96-R-10 2001) as an update to the "Sponsor's Partnership Kit" of 1987. The work provides an introduction to explain to the sponsor about the USACE organization and authorities, the scope of the civil works missions, the project development process and the structure of the Project Delivery Team. This is the guidebook the Corps provides to its civil customers. Both Donald Dunn and Chris Hicklin contributed to the work.

Hot Website of the Month

At *Time* magazine archives, you can search for articles and request from the library.

www.time.com/archives

Delete unneeded files to speed up weekly virus scan

In today's environment, new computer viruses crop up every day and occasionally, the virus creator sets out to specifically target U.S. government automated information systems. Therefore, we must do our part and remain diligent about fighting off computer viruses. One tool we use in that fight is to schedule the anti-virus software, McAfee, to automatically scan all files on the hard drive for viruses.

The district's computer workstations are scheduled to automatically scan all files. Another folder that can become quite large if you don't delete files from it on a regular basis is the temporary internet files folder. This folder stores web pages you view on the Internet for quick viewing later. By default, it is located on the computer's hard drive. Most users have



very little if any use for the information stored in this folder, and therefore may want to delete the files from the folder on a regular basis. To do so, open Explorer and click on the "tools" menu, then select "internet options." Located at the middle of the general tab is the temporary internet files section. You see a "delete files" button, click on it then click on "OK" button to delete all files in the temporary internet files folder. Do this on a regular basis to keep the folder small.

Also notice that located to the right of the "delete files" button is the "settings" button. Click on the "settings" button and it shows you the maximum amount of disk space allowed for the temporary internet files folder. By default, its size is calculated to be a percentage of the hard drive space. For many computers, the size is quite large and can be reduced. It would be good practice to reduce the size down to anywhere between 50 and 100 MB. To reduce the amount of disk space, click on the down arrow till the number is reduced to what you want it to be.

If you have any questions or need assistance with McAfee or Internet Explorer settings, please call the Help Desk at ext. 6824 or 1-877-885-6675.

World Trade Center

(Continued from Page 8.)

Five days later, the city sought permission to dredge 60,000 cubic yards of material between the Governor's Island ferry terminal and the downtown heliport. At that point, the existing eight-foot deep East River was not enough to accommodate boats operating there after the attack. Again, the district granted permission quickly.

Corps boat crews in New York also continue to support rescue and recovery efforts in New York City. Their work has included: fueling support, providing antifreeze and lubrication oil for New York City fire trucks, transporting 1,000 gallons of potable water for the New York Fire Department, transporting shovels and two forklifts to Lower Manhattan, and ferrying emergency personnel to Lower Manhattan.

The survey boat Hatton has ferried respirators from Pier 40 on New York's west side to North Cove near the World Trade Center. The respirators protect searchers at Ground Zero from heavy dust, asbestos, and other contaminants.

The 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power), the only Army unit assigned to the Corps, deployed 31 personnel to New York City—16 from Fort Belvoir, Va., and 15 from Fort Bragg, N.C. The 249th soldiers were led by their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Kevin Wilson, but worked under the direction of FEMA.

Consolidated Edison, New York City's utilities company, asked the soldiers to help install 50 1,500-kilowatt generators supplied by the city. They were used to power medical triage facilities and transient housing to support the relief effort.

On Sept. 17, a team of nine ConEd personnel augmented by five 249th soldiers installed generators at Water Street to provide power for buildings in the financial district, including New York Mercantile Exchange and the NASDAQ Electrical Hub.

"This is a temporary measure until ConEd gets reliable commercial power established," Wilson said. "This is typical of what our unit has done at all disaster sites."

Soldiers from the 249th also provided technical assistance in evaluating the city's power grid.

The federal missions continue to decrease, officials said, as the city takes over full responsibility for the response and recovery operations.

On Sept. 19, Secretary of the Army Thomas White visited Ground Zero (the rubble area where the World Trade Center collapsed) in a group that included Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, the Chief of Engineers.

"Everything the President said about this country being at war, that we are in a new security environment, and that we are in a fundamental change to a new

way of life, is true," White said.

"To the Corps of Engineers I would say...while your history is impressive, given the current situation, your finest hour is a chapter yet to be written. The nation will look to your extraordinary capability to protect and sustain our infrastructure against a wide variety of threats."

Justine Barati and Wayne Stroupe contributed to this article.

Program

(Continued from Page 10.)

- ⌘ Permit individual DOD activities to negotiate with the contractor to establish debit cards (vice travel cards) for use by their travelers.
- ⌘ Pay-by-phone service with a charge to the cardholder.
- ⌘ Revise and distribute the travel card application and cardholder's agreement to include all changes.

While these changes will impose some costs and burdens, not having a travel card program would cost much more. An effective travel card program is in our own best interest. It is up to all of us – cardholders and managers – to make the program work the way it is intended.

Check the Logistics Home Page at www.swl.usace.army.mil/logistics for more details on travel card changes.

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