Vol. 19, No.9
September 2002

Inside this issue

Page 4
CREST team member returns home

Page 5
Few infected with West Nile fall seriously ill

Pages 6-7
Army speech remembers Sept. 11

Page 8
USACE develops educational website

Read the LRDispatch*Online* by visiting www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire at home or work.

LRDispatch

SWD Commander visits district

by Jamie Oliver
LRDispatch staff

Southwestern Division Engineer Col. (P) Robert Crear visited Little Rock District Aug. 27-29 as the last stop of his tour around the division.

Since becoming division commander in May, Crear has traveled around SWD meeting employees and becoming familiar with his new command. He said during the Aug. 27 town hall meeting with employees that he visited Little Rock last for one very specific reason.

"I saved the best for last," Crear said, noting that SWL has achieved many things to brag about.

"You've got a lot to be proud of," he said. "You all have accomplished so much with not a lot of resources."

Crear pointed to the district's consecutive USACE Project of the Year awards as an example. Beaver Project Office won in 2001 and Russellville picked up the award earlier this summer.

"At the Senior Leader's Conference, I was so delighted to be seated at the table with the folks who came from Russellville to pick up the award for Little Rock District," Crear said.

"But you know what's even better? This district won Project of the Year last year too. When it comes to synergy, you guys are writing the book."

Prior to the town hall meeting, the colonel met with staff members and had lunch with the Emerging Leaders and PPEP classes of 2001 and 2002.

After fielding questions from district employees during the town hall meeting, Crear awarded the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to CREST team member Pat Bennett.

"It was a real honor to receive the award," Bennett said. "It always just makes you feel good when you're recognized."

Bennett said she was impressed by the colonel's speech during the meeting.

"He seems genuinely concerned about the Corps and our district," Bennett said. "I think he'll do some good things for our division."

Crear traveled to Montgomery Point Lock and Dam and to the dewatering of locks 1 and 2 on Aug. 28.

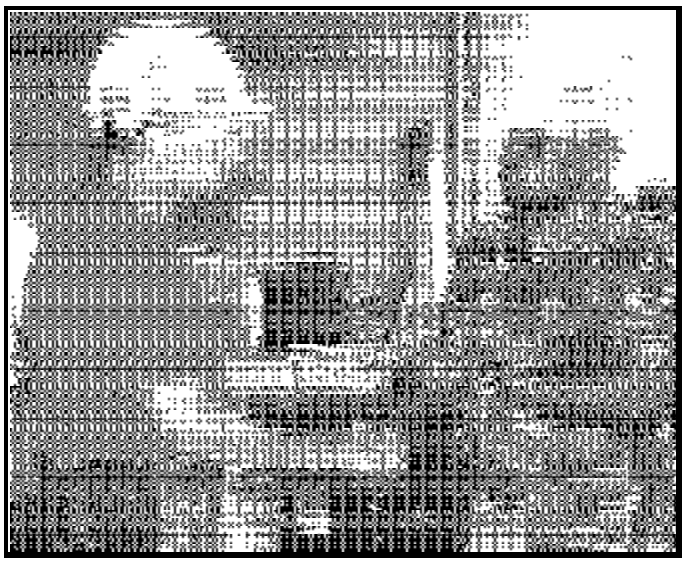
The following questions were presented to the colonel during the Aug. 27 town hall meeting.

Q: I've heard SWD offers the 59-minute incentive for people to join fitness programs. Is there any way you can inspire our leaders to offer the same thing?

A: I'm not sure about that last part. Keeping people healthy is all part of taking care of people. But as part of that commitment to taking care of people, we formed a fitness committee.

The committee then formed a plan that involved both give and take – we are willing to give employees 59 minutes three times a week in conjunction with lunch or at the end of the day if they take up a fitness program.

(See "Crear" on Page 8.)



Dale Green, an electrician at the Pine Bluff Marine Terminal, receives a commander's coin from Col (P) Crear. He was acknowledged for a being member of the district dive team, which has been accident free for 30 years. Hooah!!

Security a district priority one year after 9-11

From where I sit

by Col. Benjamin Butler
District Engineer

It's been a year since terrorists viciously attacked the United States, taking several thousand innocent civilians to a horrible death. America has changed since then. Many individuals have changed and even Little Rock District has changed.

We once thought we were untouchable. We thought that problems such as terrorism existed only overseas. We believed that the FBI and the CIA were powerful enough to stop any weapons of mass destruction at our borders.

But little did we know that they would turn our own vehicles of convenience, pleasure and even necessity into weapons that could kill thousands in a single act. We failed to believe that someone was so hateful and vengeful that they could and would take so many innocent lives.

The acts of last September have caused us to rethink what we believe, what we know.

We now know that the unthinkable can happen. We realize that we must stay prepared, for both natural disasters and the heinous acts of powerful, evil men.

Little Rock District has taken steps to reduce the likelihood that we become targets, and to reduce the effects if one of our facilities does become a target.

We have a system based upon intelligence reports that increases our protective posture as the likelihood of an attack increases. This system exists because we could go to such a high level of alert that we would become unable to complete our primary missions.

Conversely, we could become so lax on security while concentrating on our missions that we become easy targets, resulting in catastrophic effects if hit. By changing our defensive posture based upon the threat, we can balance productivity with security over a wide range of possible threats.

We are currently at FPCON ALPHA (+). This is a low level of security that is easy to sustain for a long period of time.

The highest level is DELTA, which requires us to take several measures daily, even hourly, to support our security. At the DELTA level, many things such as parking away from the building, having roving guards and periodic inspections, are implemented to reduce our vulnerability.

DELTA is hard to maintain for a long period.

Over the last year, we have taken steps to reduce risks at our facilities. We had a team go to our critical facilities to determine their level of vulnerability and find a way to reduce that vulnerability.

They did a great job.

That report is now complete, and we have started receiving funds to increase the security and reduce the vulnerability of our critical infrastructure.

While this assessment and subsequent security upgrades are required, they are not sufficient to make us invincible. Each of us must practice good security measures.

We must stay situationally aware. Be aware of your surroundings and who is in the area. Talk with new people in your area. Help visitors get to where they need to be.

Take the time to get to know new employees. If they are someone who should not be in the area, you interest in them is likely to make them go elsewhere. Terrorists generally do not like to attract attention.

The bottom line here is that you should talk to others and remain aware.

We are at war. Bin Laden declared war and struck at us. We have struck back, but the war is far from over. Years may pass before it is over.

It may escalate if we decide to go after other tyrants that have weapons of mass destruction. If these despots can produce weapons of mass destruction and the vehicles to deliver them before we stop them, it will escalate.

The outcome will likely be many thousands more dead innocent civilians. America faces some hard choices ahead.

But not all of our dead have died because of terrorists. In Arkansas this summer, we have seen many senseless drowning deaths.

They are senseless because the simple act of donning a life vest would have saved them.

Again, I ask you to be situationally aware. If you are on the water, have a life vest handy for everyone. Those under 14 must wear a life jacket at all times.

Everyone on a personal water craft must wear a vest. If you see others that are not being safe, remind them.

(See "Colonel" on Page 3.)

LRDispatch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Little Rock District

LRDispatch is an unofficial monthly publication authorized under AR 360-1, published under supervision of the Little Rock District Public Affairs Office and printed by the Defense Automated Printing Service on recycled paper. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. News items are solicited. Publication depends on general interest as judged by the editors. Submitted articles will be edited to meet standards of the Associated Press Style Guide. Circulation is 1,300. Correspondence should be addressed to *LRDispatch* Editor, Public Affairs Office, Little Rock District. P.O. Box 867, Little Rock, AR 72203-0867. The PAO telephone number is (501) 324-5551. Fax number is (501) 324-6699.

District Engineer	*Public Affairs Officer*	*Command Information Officer*	*Issue Editor*	*Writer*
Col. Benjamin Butler	**Robert G. Faletti**	**Valerie D. Buckingham**	**Jamie Oliver**	**Dorothy Seals**

Family news

Births

Luke Thomas Fischer was born July 22 to Amy Rebecca Fischer, daughter of Russellville Project Office forester **A.J. Brigance**.

Ethan Carter Mercer was born July 27 to Clint and Rachel Mercer. Ethan is the grandson of **Foster McConnell**, a civil engineering technician in Survey and Data.

Congratulations

Trish Anslow shot a hole-in-one July 31. Anslow is environmental section chief, Planning Branch, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division.

Bill Jackson married Janice Church July 27 in Little Rock. Jackson is an architect in Design Branch.

Rod Garner was selected as the Deputy Area Engineer at the Central Arkansas Area Office.

Twala Maresh, wife of **Joe Maresh**, a mechanical engineer in Mechanical-Electrical Section, Design Branch, graduated from the University of Central Arkansas Aug. 16 with a doctorate of physical therapy degree.

Mitch Eggburn, resident engineer at the Montgomery Point Lock and Dam Resident Office, obtained Level II certification in the contracting career field after completing the four required courses.

Joyce Perser received the Outstanding Support Award for her support of Arkansas waterways during the 2002 Governor's Conference on Waterborne Transportation Aug. 7-9 in Little Rock. The conference was hosted by the Arkansas Waterways Association, the Arkansas Waterways Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Perser is the chief of Evaluation Section of Regulatory Branch.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nimrod Project Office, in cooperation with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension, U.S. Forrest Service sponsored a four-day Youth Aquatic Workshop July 17-20. During the workshop, scholarships worth $1000 and $600 were awarded to Zachary Hallum of Sherwood, Joshua Cates of Adona and Michael Yates of Huntsville.

The **Personal and Professional Enhancement Program** selected 12 district employees for the Class of 2003. They include:

Ellyce Best
Kyle Clark
Eugene Cover
Gena Fielder
Susan Hickam
Karyn Higgins
Michael Johnson
John Kielczewski
Randy Prentice
Albert Rein
Lori Spath
Travis Stanford.

The PPEP Class of 2002 will graduate in September.

Deaths

Dale Daley's mother, Melba, died July 24. Daley is a power plant senior electronics mechanic at Dardanelle Powerhouse.

Theresa Morris's grandson Tony was killed in an automobile accident July 20. Morris works in Real Estate Division.

New Faces

Sabina Penrod is the new clerk at Mountain Home Project Office.

PPEP Phase I welcomed the following people to the district during an orientation class Aug. 5-6:

Zane Snider, Operations Division, Russellville Project Office
Gwen Davis, Contracting Division, Procurement Branch
Debby Woodward, Contracting Division
Cherilyn Gibbs, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division
Dorothy Seals, Public Affairs Office
Robert Crighton, Operations Division, Mountain Home Project Office
Lance Hutchinson, Operations Division, Pine Bluff Project Office
Wes May, Information Management Office
Scott Walker, Operations Division, Reservoir Control Branch
Perry Rhoden, Operations Division, Pine Bluff
Sarah Harden, Engineering and Construction Division, Survey Branch
Valerie Buckingham, PAO
Dana Simmons, Executive Office
Rachel Smith, PER
Ann Dixson, IMO
Sarah Usdrowski, PER
Judy Barker, Safety
Kyle Green, PER
Kevin Bechhold, Operations Division, Beaver Project Office

(See "Family News" on Page 4.)

Colonel

(Continued from Page 2.)

Safety is not just for the water. Wear your seatbelt when driving. They truly save lives.

Today's vehicles are designed so that if you remain in you seat, you can survive a horrendous crash. But if you are displaced from that safety cocoon, you will most likely die.

Safety on the job is also important. Protect yourself from simple accidents.

Be careful where you step and what you step over. Be aware of tripping hazards, and watch out for others.

We have taken steps since last September to reduce our vulnerability to terrorists attacks. Many of the steps are actions the government is taking.

Other things are changes individuals should make. However, we should remember that not all senseless deaths are at the hands of terrorists. Some are due to lack of safety awareness.

Please do not let yourself or those around you suffer needlessly. Be alert and be safe.

Bennett returns home from CREST deployment

by Dorothy Seals
LRDispatch staff

Imagine winds reaching speeds of 100 miles per hour constantly blowing across the desert land, thrusting sand and dust into your skin and covering your every possession.

Bennett

Imagine staring into the eyes of a man, who values human life as much as the life of a fly, and attempting to negotiate with him the price of land.

Imagine walking down the street with small children at your heels desperately begging for water to quench their thirst.

For Pat Bennett, a senior realty specialist in Real Estate Division, this was not just imagination. This is what she endured each and every day of her two-month deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, as part of the Contingency Real Estate Support Team in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The CREST team is made up of volunteers to support overseas troop movements during wartime and military operations. They are responsible for providing on the ground real estate services for any branch of the United States Armed Forces. The Southwest Division is responsible for the Central Command Region in Asia. Bennett joined the team in early 2001.

"I volunteered for the experience because I felt like it was something that I could do for the United States and the military personnel being deployed to these countries," she said. "I thought it was something worthwhile and important."

After the Sept. 11 tragedy, Bennett said she knew she would be deployed. "I was a little nervous, but I didn't let myself think about it all of the time," she said. "I wanted to help."

She is not alone in her support of the United States. Little Rock District CREST team has four members, all trained and ready to be deployed when needed.

Bennett's turn came on May 26 when she said good-bye to her family and left for Kabul, Afghanistan, under the command of the Combined Joint Task Force 180.

While in the region, Bennett was responsible for negotiating real estate contracts in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. She became a precedence for sending women to handle lease negotiations in this region.

"I don't like to fail at anything, so I felt a little pressure," she said. "It was kind of interesting to see how the Afghans reacted to a female that had some authority."

She added that despite the intimidation from working in a male-dominated society, she had no trouble negotiating much-needed contracts and completing all of her assigned duties.

Having gained experience with situations such as this from being in the Marine Corps as well as from other Corps deployments, Bennett was prepared for this assignment. However, she was not completely ready for day-to-day life in Afghanistan.

From camel spiders, to sand covered cots, to an unregulated travel system, Bennett said that she experienced it all.

"It was everything that you could ever imagine about a third world country," she said. "But the poverty really struck me. It was like going back in time. There were little kids begging for water because they knew we had bottled water. I have two kids, and I can't ever

(See "Bennett" on Page 10.)

Family News

(Continued from Page 3.)

Speaker's Bureau

Ozark Field Office Park Rangers **Jennifer Hoban, Jason Gramlich** and **Jordan Price** conducted a tour of Trimble Lock July 18 for 15 youths.

Brent Jasper presented a PowerPoint presentation updating the Corps' wetland regulatory program to 120 members of the Arkansas Environmental Federation at the group's annual water regulation update seminar. Jasper is a project manager in Regulatory Branch.

Elaine Edwards spoke to 12 first and second grade students about wetlands at Woodruff Elementary School in Little Rock on June 27. Edwards is an engineer and project manager in Regulatory.

Rocky Presley presented a program on the Corps' regulatory program to engineers, local developers and University of Arkansas-Fayetteville students June 19. He also presented an overview of the program with emphasis on permit requirements at canoe launch sites on Buffalo National River to the National Park Service July 10 in Harrison. Presley is an environmental engineer in Regulatory.

Thank You

I am writing to express my gratitude for selecting me to receive the Society of American Military Engineers Scholarship. Receiving this scholarship helped completely reduce the burden of college expenses. It will greatly assist my financial and academic needs. Without your scholarship, I would be deep in student loan debt. I appreciate the time you took to review my application. I am a very blessed person to be able to receive a scholarship of such great honor.

I am confident that God has blessed me with the skills needed for this scholarship and look forward to receiving it. I am very excited about your scholarship and the opportunities for growth that it will provide me.

Once again, thank you for selecting me and please realize it is deeply appreciated. I will be attending Alabama A&M University.

Sincerely,
Christopher Payne

Few feel serious affects of West Nile Virus

by Jim Caldwell
Army News Service

As reports of deaths from the West Nile Virus make headlines, an Army surgeon wants soldiers, family members and civilian employees to know that those who become seriously ill from the virus represent less than 1 percent of all people bitten by virus-carrying mosquitoes.

"According to the Centers for Disease Control, in areas that have shown to be positive for the virus, in terms of birds and mosquitoes, there's less than a 1 percent chance that someone will become seriously ill from any one mosquito bite," said Col. Bernard DeKoning, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command surgeon.

Still, as the five deaths reported from the West Nile Virus this year indicate, there can be serious complications.

"They tend to occur in people who are older, say in their 50s, and those with disorders of the immune system where you tend to see complications, such as encephalitis, which is an inflammation of the brain and then all the complications that go with that," DeKoning said.

Of the people who died from West Nile Virus so far this year, most of them were in their 60s and 70s, he said.

If symptoms do occur they will appear in three to 15 days after a bite from a West Nile Virus-carrying mosquito. Young, healthy people who are infected usually experience "self-limited symptoms."

"That's a little fever, headache, some body aches," DeKoning said. "They'll feel like they have the flu. A virus causes flu; West Nile is a virus.

"The treatment is rest and fluids until you get over it, which can be anywhere from several days to a week, maybe 10 days."

The virus was first reported in the United States in summer 1999. From then through 2001, 149 cases were reported with 18 deaths. As of Aug. 5, 2002, there are 71 reported cases, including five deaths.

The dramatic reporting of deaths from the West Nile Virus and the unsolved mystery of how the virus arrived in the Western Hemisphere may have some people on edge.

West Nile Virus is normally found in Africa, western Asia, the Mediterranean region of Europe and the Middle East. DeKoning said how the virus first came to Western Hemisphere has not been established.

Mosquitoes get the virus from dead birds as they scavenge for blood. If a human is then bitten, that person receives the virus. However, a young and healthy person's chances of becoming seriously ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small.

"We don't want to raise the panic level," DeKoning said. "That's always a balance for public health authorities. You want to inform the public and don't want to create a panic.

So far there have been no infected humans, horses or birds on Department of Defense installations.

However, there are large populations of virus-carrying birds and mosquitoes around Forts Myer, Va.; McNair, Washington, D.C.; McPherson, Ga.; Andrews Air Force Base, Md.; and the Pentagon.

"There have been no reports from TRADOC installations of infected birds or mosquitoes," said Col. Steve Guthrie, assistant deputy chief of staff for operations at TRADOC. "We've encouraged commanders to have an active command information program to tell people on their installations the actions they can take to reduce the mosquito population in their area, if required, and how to protect themselves if they are exposed to infected mosquitoes.

"We have asked commanders if they find they have infected birds and mosquitoes around their installations to report it to us. The headquarters can assist them in determining the next steps to take to help, as well as assisting any impacts on the rest of TRADOC or The Army."

Guthrie said abatement procedures against mosquitoes that might be infected with the West Nile Virus are the same as those taken to control mosquito populations anywhere. They include spraying standing water to kill mosquito larva.

Aerial and ground-level spraying can be used to kill adult mosquitoes. However, local authorities need to determine if such abatement procedures are required.

People should get rid of standing water in areas around work places and their homes to get rid of possible mosquito breeding sites.

Stronger measures include issuing soldiers tubes of DEET, and insect repellant, and permeating BDUs with permethrin, another repellant.

Recognize any of these people?

Little Rock District's newest employees participated in the PPEP Phase I orientation program in August. For a full list of names and offices, please see Family News on page 3.

One year after Sept. 11, U.S. Army remembers sacrific

On Sept. 11, Americans gathered at the Pentagon, near the site of the New York World Trade Center, at Bagram and Kandahar in Afghanistan, here, and at hundreds of other places around the country and the globe.

United in purpose, we gathered to remember the victims of last year's horrific terrorist attacks against this nation. We also gathered to remember those in and out of uniform who continue the fight against those who would harm us for no other reason than the United States stands as a bright shining light of freedom in the world.

When the al Queda terrorists struck at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, they sought to topple the world's mightiest symbols of military power and economic prosperity. And while those blows hurt, they did not cripple the far reaching capabilities or the effectiveness of our Armed Services and our financial institutions.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS

United, we grieve for the 3,000 innocent people who perished in those surprise attacks against our nation. They came from all walks of life, all races, all ages.

Among the youngest victims were three sixth-graders from the Washington, D.C. area.

Bernard Brown, Asia Cottom and Rodeny Dickens took American Airlines Flight 77 from Washington's Dulles Airport on their way to California on a National Geographic-sponsored education trip to learn about the Channel Islands near Santa Barbara.

Their young lives were cut short when their hijacked jetliner flew into the west side of the Pentagon.

Among the oldest victims was retired Master Sgt. Max Beilke. Max was recognized as the last combat soldier to leave Vietnam in 1973.

Hanging up his uniform after a 22-year career as a soldier, Max returned to the Army family as a Department of the Army civilian. For the next 20-plus years, he championed Army retirees rights on Capitol Hill and at military installations across the country until a hijacked jet ended his life at the Pentagon. He was 69 years old.

Max was meeting with the Army's top personnel manager, Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude, the deputy chief of staff for personnel, when Flight 77 hit the building. A 30-year Army veteran, Gen. Maude was the senior serviceman killed in the terrorist attacks.

In fact, Gen. Maude is one of the highest-ranking U.S. officers ever killed in an attack.

And while most of those who perished in the terrorist attacks were U.S. citizens, we must not forget that the victims at the World Trade Center included citizens of dozens of other nations. Terrorism threatens all civilized nations, not just the United States.

REMEMBERING THE HEROES

From the tragedy of the 9-11 attacks, America has found scores of new heroes.

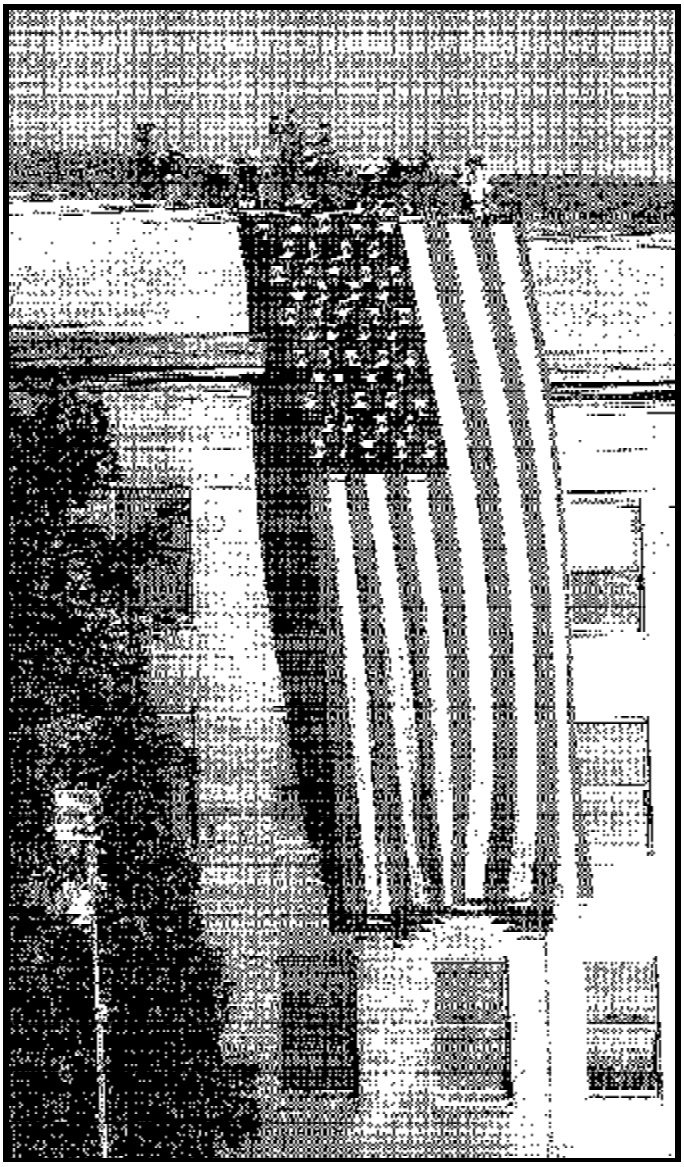
Heroes like retired Lt. Col. Rick Rescorla, a 7th Cavalry veteran of the Vietnam War and chief of corporate security for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Company at the World Trade Center.

Reminiscent of his infantry platoon leader days when his soldiers relied upon his calm demeanor under fire in Vietnam, Rick led evacuation efforts from Tower Two that saved all but six of the 2,700 Morgan Stanley employees working in the building one year ago today. Sadly, Rick was last seen re-entering the building in an attempt to find stragglers just minutes before the tower collapsed.

Rick had coordinated the evacuation of the World Trade Center Tower Two, in 1993, when terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden detonated a truck bomb in a parking garage beneath the building.

Ironically, he predicted the next time the World Trade Center was attacked, it would be from the air.

The Pentagon attack also produced its share of heroic deeds. The Army recognized more than 70 soldiers and Department of the Army civilians as



As a solemn tribute to the victims, the American flag is draped on the Pentagon following the Sept. 11 attack.

made by impromptu heroes, victims during attacks

heroes last October for numerous valorous acts in rescuing people from the burning Pentagon last September. Many of those soldiers also received Purple Hearts for wounds sustained in the attack or while attempting rescues.

America has new heroes like the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93. Flying out of Newark, N.J., with a scheduled destination of San Francisco, the plane was hijacked like the passenger airliners that flew into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

However, we know from cell phone calls they made that passengers knew about the terrorist attacks and they were determined their airliner would not be used as another missile – and it wasn't.

Todd Beamer, a passenger on Flight 93, called his wife to let her know about the hijacking and to tell her that he and his fellow passengers were not going to allow their plane to hurt anyone on the ground.

He left his cell phone on after saying goodbye. He was heard saying, "Let's roll" just prior to the passengers attacking the terrorists aboard their plane.

Flight 93 crashed about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, Penn., killing everyone aboard.

And America has found heroes in the 343 New York City policemen and firefighters who sacrificed all when the World Trade Center towers collapsed around them as they struggled to get everyone out.

RECOVERY

We can mark our recovery efforts from the day after the attacks when thousands of Pentagon workers – everyday heroes – returned to their jobs in a still burning building. Those workers – active duty military, reservists, Department of Defense civilians and contractors – sent a signal around the world that Americans will not be intimidated by those who would do us harm.

We can mark our recovery progress by the work that has been done at the World Trade Center.

Initial estimates indicated that it would take at least a year to remove the two million tons of concrete rubble and steel debris left by the two fallen towers.

However, thanks to round-the-clock work by thousands of workers from dozens of local, state and federal agencies, the World Trade Center recovery effort officially ended July 15.

A number of construction plans for what will eventually replace the World Trade Center are currently under consideration. All of the plans include a 9-11 memorial.

And, we can mark our recovery progress by the accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Brian Birdwell. Brian's office was in the area where the Pentagon plane hit.

The ensuing flames killed both of Brian's office mates and burned more than 60 percent of his body before he staggered toward the center of the building where he was rescued.

He remained in intensive care for 26 days and spent more than three months in the hospital before being released on convalescent leave.

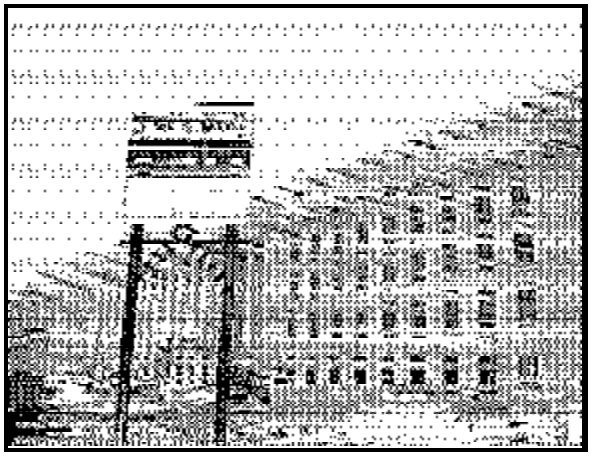
Six months and a day after being grievously wounded, Brian reported back for work at the Pentagon, scarred but unbeaten.

The day Brian returned to work, he told a group of reporters that he just had to come back. "You always do best the thing you love -- I love the Army," he said.

We will never forget Sept. 11, 2001, as America's darkest day. But out of the darkness of that horrible day has risen a national resolve to make this world a safer place.

United in purpose, we continue to grieve for the victims. We will remember the heroes who emerged from the tragedies, and we will fight the good fight against global terrorism as long as it takes to end its threat to us.

(Article courtesy of Army Public Affairs.)



(Top) Damage to the Pentagon after the attack was extensive. (Bottom left) This February photo shows rennovation progress. The rennovations were near completion in June (Bottom right).

Crear

(Continued from Page 1.)

The committee devised programs that are designed to keep people committed to the program. Headquarters used a similar program. Supervisors gave their OK for the employees to participate. However, there was no gym in the Federal Building so the employees took the 59 minutes to workout at local gyms in the area.

Right now, it's still in the "good idea phase," but it has proven to enhance the fitness level of employees. In the Army, you take a PT test every six months and you must pass it. It's just a standard thing, and it was not acceptable to merely pass it.

I know it will be time for me to get out when I can't max my PT test.

Q: President Bush is pushing for privatization. What can we do to dissuade customers to not turn to private companies for their needs?

A: There's an easy answer to this – performance. We have to continue being faster, cheaper and better than the rest.

When I leave and people ask the inevitable question, 'What was your biggest accomplishment at SWD,' I want to be able to tell them it is our impressive relationship with the Air Force. SWD does a lot of work with the Air Force; we do a lot of good work with the Air Force.

Gen. Robert Flowers brought in critics to talk to us and they were not very bashful. A three-star Air Force general said that 40% of our work would be competed out. They are looking for the benefit of the best people doing the best job at the best price. Sometimes I think districts forget about that.

The three-star general didn't care if we had to fire people because we lost project money. That did not matter him, he just wanted his project completed in a timely, cost-effective manner. He said point blank that he wanted the best work he could find and if we couldn't provide that, he'd look elsewhere.

We need to provide our customers solutions without boundaries. We have to make them remember what makes SWL so good. We must explain to them how to do it right, then get out and prove it to them. The challenge facing us right now is how to do both effectively.

Q: I've heard talk of raising the O&M ceiling. Do you see that happening?

A: That's a tough one. With nothing ventured, you have nothing gained.

I have no doubts that when Col. Butler takes his staff to Congress, he's going to show them exactly what $100,000, $10,000 or even $5,000 would do in improvements. We're talking about just basic stuff, not anything elaborate. We're talking making 30 amps to 50 amps at our campgrounds to help support our campers' needs. This would include increasing the capacity of pump out stations at campgrounds.

We are continuing to work on the ceiling and other means as well. My advice to you is not to give up. If that channel doesn't work, we'll look some place else, then give it another try.

Crear asked the audience members this question: What do you know about P2? When no one responded, he answered the question himself.

"The Corps of Engineers has a bad track record of creating information management systems and becoming slaves to them. CEFEMS is only one example, but the good thing about CEFEMS is that with 35,000 people contributing to the system, it can't help but be good. (He laughed at this)

P2 is the automated arm of PMBP. With P2, we will have all the project data in the machine and it can be used for all kinds of things by anyone in the Corps.

Southwestern Division has been given the lead by headquarters to get both PMBP and P2 established with Tulsa and Fort Worth districts in charge of working out the bugs.

Right now, though, funding is a big issue with the Corps. The funding issue will determine how many bells and whistles are put on P2. We'll see."

Q: What does the Corps have to say about its critics?

A: The fact is when they want something done, they call us. In the past, we've always looked at environmental groups as the enemy, when really we all just want the same things – clean air, clean water and the chance for our offspring to enjoy the Natural State of Arkansas like we can.

The challenge here lies in finding the common ground. They don't trust us, we don't trust them, and it's very hard to get anything accomplished without trust.

Videotaped copies of the town hall meeting are available at all project offices or by contacting the public affairs office.

Emerging Leaders share progress, begin development throughout SWD

The Emerging Leader Class of 2002 has been busy during our first year. In a very short time, we've learned that one of the best ways to connect with our organization is to get involved.

Roderick Gains and Jim Sandberg from Little Rock District are members of this Emerging Leaders class.

During our six months as EL's, we have been involved in various missions throughout Southwestern Division.

Some of these have included Project Management Business Process training facilitation, Forward Engineering Support Teams in support of the war on terrorism, various developmental assignments and shadowing experiences, maintenance of the EL program, website and newsletter.

Through active participation, we have expanded our understanding, appreciation and support of the Corps' diverse missions beyond our expectations.

In the next few months, the class will support a campaign to increase awareness of the importance of mentoring and leadership development throughout SWD.

Also, we will be offering tools that engage your interest and involvement in further developing your career and leadership potential.

USACE develops new education web site

by Judy Bullwinkle
Special to LRDispatch staff

The USACE Education Center now offers educational resources for students, teachers, librarians and other educators on the web.

The interactive site focuses on various missions of the Corps of Engineers and includes over 250 experiments and demonstrations as well as unit lessons plans on specific topics.

USACE employees will find the site useful for classroom outreach, teacher assistance and employee orientation.

Many Corps districts have contributed to this website. The section on water safety links to Little Rock Districts web page.

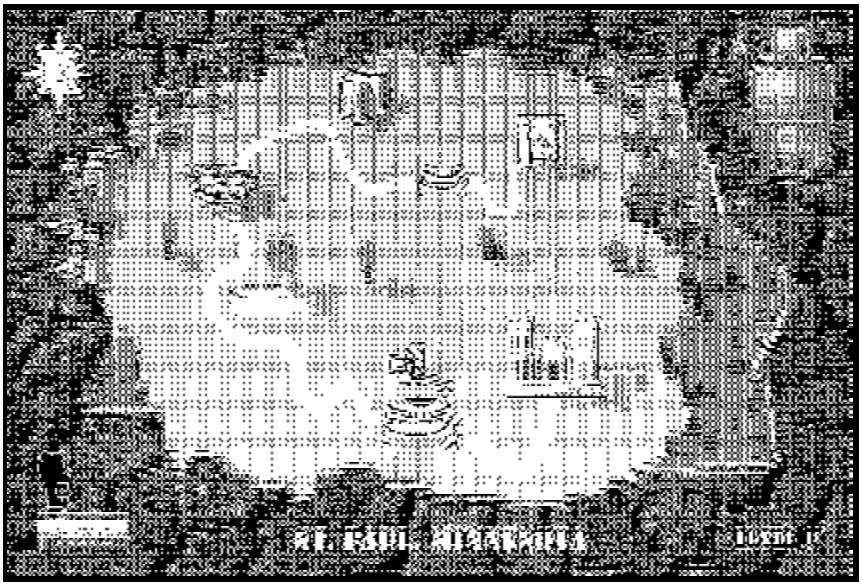
The site is divided into four main components. The Young Engineers Club targets K-Early elementary age. Icons on the sites link to a reading room, art room with pictures to color, science and engineering room with nature activities and fun experiments.

Classroom Resources emphasizes resources not Corps specific and links to other government education links for kids. Corps Classroom Connection provides hundreds of Corps specific lessons and reference links in the areas of engineering, environmental biology, archaeology, geography, safety and more.

Activities stressing the USACE missions include crossword puzzles and interactive quiz games. A strong section on Navigation focuses on dredging, hydrographic surveys, port importance and channels.

The Mississippi River Adventure makes learning about the river lots of fun. The lessons outlined on the site include unit objectives, materials and detailed plans.

You can check out this website at *http://education.wes.army.mil*.



The website mixes games with learning about the Mississippi River.

E-mail sizes should be checked prior to sending message

Several recent e-mail messages containing large attachments have been sent. When large files are sent by e-mail the attachment may load so slowly that the recipient thinks that Microsoft Outlook is locked. This can be avoided, however, with a few simple steps.

Before sending an attachment, check the size of the file through Windows Explorer. Right click on *start* and select *explore*. When you find the file, highlight it and right click *properties* to display the size.

If the size is indicated by "b" then the file size is bytes, the smallest size. A "kb" file is kilobyte and 1 kb = 1000 bytes. The mb file size is megabytes and 1000 kb = 1 mb. Therefore, a file size of 750 kb is much smaller than a file size of 2 mb.

To be on the safe side, it is preferable if attachment sizes are kept under 1 megabyte. Anything over 2 megabytes is too big.

Another option is placing the folder on a shared drive so just the link can be e-mailed. However, the shared drives can be viewed by many users and if access needs to be controlled, you must ask to have the file restricted to only the users that need to view the file. Visual Information can burn CD's for large manuals to distribute to field offices and for files that are security sensitive.

Teresa Thompson
Customer Assistance & Applications Section

For scanning text to a pdf file, open Adobe Acrobat. The software settings vary for different models of scanners. If your scanning software is HP Precision Scan, select black and white output type. Start with a resolution of 100 dpi or less.

Before scanning, be sure to select just the area of the page. Click on the upper left corner of the preview document at the spot where you can select and draw a rectangle indicated by dashed lines around just the page so that the whole scanner bed will not be scanned in.

This setting can be saved to use again. Then scan to Adobe.

Before saving, print the document and check for borders that may have black edges that should be cropped by selecting *document* on the Acrobat toolbar. Click *crop* to decrease any unnecessary margins. A dashed line indicates the area to crop.

PowerPoint files with a .ppt extension are often large and load very slowly. If not already present, a file size indicator can be added to your inbox list by selecting *view, current view, customize current view*. Next, click the fields box and select size.

Writer offers different view of PPEP program

PPEP 2003
High Performance Leadership

by Travis Stanford

I have enjoyed a diverse and challenging career to date.

Thirteen years in the heavy construction industry as a reinforcing steel ironworker and crew foreman included work on a variety of industrial and civil works projects. Five years in college led to a degree in civil engineering, followed by a year with the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Division performing hydrologic data collection.

My eight years with the Corps of Engineers has been in the area of technical design and analysis.

While I continue to enjoy my technical work in Hydrologic & Hydraulic Engineering Branch, but recently, I began questioning my desire to spend the remainder of my career doing the same. The Corps climate with regard to opportunities for moving into other career fields, or simply up the ladder in a current career field, may never again be as good as it promises to be in the next few years as retirements reach an all time high.

Phase II of the Personal and Professional Enhancement Program provides a means of exploring other career fields without committing to them, and offers opportunities to develop the professional and personal skills often critical to successfully moving into a new career field or advancing in a current one.

It emphasizes development of team building and teamwork skills such as communications, thinking beyond the box, values, ethics, professionalism and networking. This offers training and study pertinent to career development, corporate decision making, and enjoying personal and professional life.

Exposure to Corps of Engineers leaders is an integral part of the program.

Each class of approximately 12 individuals selected to represent the diversity of the Little Rock District team and mission. Early in the program, each participant develops a PPEP individual development plan in conjunction with their mentor and immediate supervisor, and works the mentor to develop a "Learning Contract."

The IDP specifies how formal training and developmental work assignment requirements are to be met, and the contract identifies courses, methods of instruction and activities to be used to develop or enhance knowledge, skills and abilities.

These documents serve as a blueprint for participation in Phase II. The program curriculum is dynamic and continues to evolve based on the experience of participants and overseers.

The current Phase II curriculum requires a one-year combination of formal classroom training, developmental work assignments, team projects, monthly meetings and independent study. Formal training includes 160 hours of specialized training.

Sixty day developmental assignments provide opportunities to gain information and on-the-job experience helpful for long-term career planning and enhancement goals.

Team projects include two respective team efforts resulting in products useful to the Little Rock District as a whole, and a third team effort documenting the history of the team, its activities and accomplishments.

Each month, a different team member coordinates a two-day meeting that provides a venue for guest speakers, and

(See "PPEP" on Page 11.)

Bennett

(Continued from Page 4.)

imagine them begging for water."

But being secluded with 40 other Americans at a base surrounded by mountains, Bennett said it was sometimes difficult for her to feel like she was out of the United States.

"I actually realized that I was in Afghanistan when we left the base and went into Kabul," she said. "You could hear the call to prayer and about 2.5 million people would gather in the city to pray.

"I realized just how few of us there were."

Through the entire 67-day deployment, Bennett was able to keep in touch with her family through e-mail.

"We had one computer for 40 people to check e-mail and the news," she said. "My family always worried. They would listen to the television and check the Internet. If a plane went down somewhere, my very first e-mail would be asking if I okay."

On July 15, the mission dropped and Bennett returned home to her family. She sums up her entire experience in Afghanistan as simply interesting and eye-opening.

"I was very impressed with the military personnel with whom I met and worked," she said. "They sacrifice a great deal on a daily basis for the people of the United States. I was very moved by their patriotism and teamwork."

Throughout the entire mission, the district was offering support to Bennett and her family.

Her co-workers came together and willingly took on extra work to cover her duties at the office because they knew how important it was for her to serve the country, said Mark Moore, chief of Real Estate Division.

He added that when any district employee goes on a mission, Little Rock District Engineer Col. Benjamin Butler personally writes a letter to the family to encourage them and thank them for being supportive of the deployed individual.

Bennett was presented a Commander's Award for Civilian Service by Southwestern Division Commander Col. (P) Robert Crear during his Aug. 27-29 visit to the district.

She said that she is glad that she had an opportunity to serve her country, and even with knowledge about conditions in Afghanistan, she would do it all again if asked.

Any district employees interested in learning more information about volunteer opportunities such as this should contact Charlie Tobin in Emergency Management Office.

Library adds sets for improving the workforce

Additional Library Catalogs Added to Website

The library web site (http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/library/index.html) now contains links to both the HQUSACE and ERDC libraries. ERDC (Engineering Research and Development Center) includes all Corps laboratories such as Waterways Experiment Station, Construction Engineering Research and Cold Regions Research and Engineering.

All Corps labs now only produce reports in electronic format and this catalog provides access to those electronic reports.

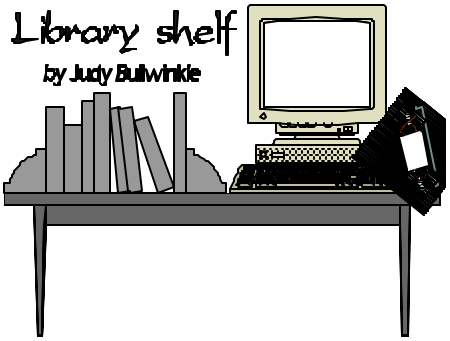
New Engineering Materials

"Construction Databook" (TH 151 .L48 1998) offers dozens of tables, specifications, charts, diagrams and illustrations covering materials and components of construction.

These include lumber, masonry; concrete, steel, and mechanical and electrical hardware.

"Building Design and Construction Handbook" (TH 151 .B825 2001) contains mission critical information for architects, engineers and contractors.

The work details technical standards and materials, provides building codes and legal standards, and highlights "best practices."



Published by the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute, the "Manual of Standard Practice" (TA683.42 64 2001) explains the industry practice for reinforcing steel.

The work includes both metric and inch-pound units.

Produced by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, "Industrial Ventilation" (TH7684 .F2 A5 2001) serves as a guide to design and test ventilation systems.

The book addresses general principles of ventilation and industrial ventilation as well as specific components, such as exhaust hoods, air cleaning devices, fans, and more.

"Rising Tide" in Audio Available

The library has purchased an audiotape of the popular book on the 1927 Mississippi River flood, "Rising Tide" (F354 .B472 1998).

Starting with the attempts to control the Mississippi in the 19th century, the work covers the greatest natural disaster in America.

The author makes the argument that the flood changed the face of America and laid the groundwork for the New Deal.

New Video on Hiring

"Recruiting and Hiring: a Manager's Guide to Staying Out of Court" (HF 5549.5 .R427 2001) answers common questions managers have about the hiring process.

Part of a series called Legal Briefs, the video illustrates pitfalls and legal dangers in the recruitment and hiring process.

Our EEO office reviewed and selected this video for the library collection.

Hot Website of the Month

http://www.alltheweb.com

New powerful search engine for the World Wide Web

PPEP

(Continued from Page 10.)

time for the team to work on group projects and discuss items of interest. Monthly meetings include a group social or recreational event allowing team members to learn more about each other in an informal setting.

Through 100 hours of independent study, individuals use books, journal articles, audio and videotapes, computer-aided programs and other resources to enhance their knowledge of a wide range of personal and professional development topics.

Total time invested by each individual is equally divided between duty hours and non-duty hours.

Phase II requires a dedicated effort on the part of all concerned. It should also provide each participant with experience and knowledge that will help them contribute to the evolving Corps mission while positioning themselves to take advantage of a diversity of career opportunities which can be expected to increase in the next few years.

Need a phone directory?
Find one at:
www.swl.usace.army.mil/thewire

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 September 15 for publication in the next issue. Send your comments to valerie.d.buckingham@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.

Cell phone use should be limited while driving

SAFETY FIRST

Little Rock District Safety Office

by Peggy Paulsen

Like drinking alcohol and driving, talking on a cell phone & driving do not mix.

The New England Journal of Medicine conducted a recent study on use of cell phones when driving. They found a direct relationship between motor vehicle incidents and drivers who use cell telephones while operating a vehicle. The study also found:

✍ Drivers making a cell phone call were at four times the collision risk when not making such a call. This is comparable to when a driver's blood alcohol level is at the legal limit.

✍ Motorist ages 25-29 and 40-54 were at higher risk than those under 25 or over 55 years old.

✍ The risks involved were similar at different times of the day and of the week. Those drivers with more years of driving experience actually had a higher collision rate than those with less overall driving experience.

Suprisingly, the study showed there is little to no safety advantage when using a hands free phone versus the traditional hand held units.

You might be asking yourself what you can do to ensure a safer ride if you are going to drive and use a cell phone. The answer is simple: use the same attitude when utilizing overall defensive driving skills.

Concentrate on your personal driving skills and those around you, not your phone conversation. It is difficult to apply safe driving principles while talking on a car phone. A vehicle going 55 miles per hour travels the length of a football field in about 3.7 seconds.

That is about 80 feet per second, so even a momentary lapse of attention during a call can be critical. Again, top priority dictates that you focus your attention and concentration on your driving.

Should the cell phone rings while you are driving, don't answer the call until you find a safe place to pull over and park the vehicle. If you feel you must answer the phone, let the caller know that you are going to pull first and then talk.

If you miss the call, don't fret; use the caller ID to return the phone call.

Cell phones are affordable and most everyone owns one. For frequent travelers, cell phones have increased productivity. Having a cell phone nearby gives us peace of mind. This study should be a signal to vehicle cell phone users. If you aren't careful, good driving habits can decline and bad driving habits, sooner or later, will affect you and other drivers on the road.

The last thing you want is to suffer a vehicle accident that could have been avoided had you not been distracted by talking on the cell phone. It is one thing to damage your own vehicle, but to damage another vehicle or cause injury to someone is irresponsible. Depending upon severity of the vehicle accident it may cost you many hours of worry, not to mention, money, time, effort, energy or possibly your life.

You can avoid the potential vehicle accident hazards associated with using a cell phone while driving simply by taking responsibility for your behavior.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 867
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-0867
- -
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
CESWL-PA

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

Hot Web Site of the Month

www.medlineplus.gov

The National Library of Medicine's Consumer Health Web Resource

By Jim Sandberg

life: Little Rock District employees share thei

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

PRESORTED STANDARD
RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR

PERMIT NO. 54

xperiences with organ donations